

## Happy 2010, International Year of Biodiversity



### Latest News



#### Accomplishments of 2009 and what we can look forward to in 2010

Looking back over 2009, one realises how much the Union for Ethical BioTrade has matured in the course of the year. We have grown into a solid team with an international presence, and gained full membership of the ISEAL Alliance, which underlines the credibility of our approach to verification.

Almost 20 prospective members from three different continents went through independent audits, coming from all stages of the supply chain, including brands, processing companies and community cooperatives. They are now translating the outcomes of the audits into concrete biodiversity policies and practices – a precondition of UEBT membership.

This year, we witnessed a growing interest in ethical sourcing of biodiversity in the personal care and beauty sector. Awareness rose following the attention generated by continued deforestation worldwide and associated biodiversity loss, such as the cutting of Indonesian forests for palm oil plantations. But it is also telling, that less well-known biodiversity notions such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) have started to become better understood by industry. Publicised biopiracy allegations involving the beauty industry contributed to this awareness, and the international negotiations around the upcoming International Regime on ABS have also not gone unnoticed.

The Ethical BioTrade Barometer was launched in spring 2009, to measure consumer and industry awareness of biodiversity. Over the next year, the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity is likely to put biodiversity higher on the agenda of both consumers and industry. This will encourage industry to advance the ethical sourcing of biodiversity and is likely to increase the push to gain membership in the UEBT.

In 2010, we will work towards a significant upscaling of verification efforts. The UEBT is also set to follow and contribute to ABS negotiations as they wrap up in 2010. At the same time, we will step up our business guidance and advice on ABS. In the run-up to the CBD COP X in Japan in October 2010, the UEBT will shift into even higher gear and work with its members to unleash the potential of Ethical BioTrade to make concrete contributions to the CBD objectives.



#### Launch of the Ethical BioTrade Awards for Biodiversity

To celebrate the UN 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the UEBT and United Business Media (UBM) announced the Ethical BioTrade Awards for Biodiversity at the Food Ingredients Europe fair 2009, in Frankfurt. The awards – the first of their kind – recognize the efforts of companies that promote the objectives of the CBD throughout their supply chain in the categories of biodiversity leadership and biodiversity innovation. They will be presented in November 2010 at the Health Ingredients Europe fair in Madrid.

“Involving the Union for Ethical BioTrade in an event of such scope presents an immense opportunity for us to extend our work to the food sector, and continue to promote the importance of Ethical BioTrade”, said the UEBT’s Executive Director Rik Kutsch Lojenga.

Food Ingredients and Health Ingredients Europe are two of the leading events in the industry, bringing together key stakeholders and showcasing a diverse range of new and innovative ingredients and services.

#### Montreal meeting on Access and Benefit Sharing

The Convention on Biological Diversity Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), met in Montreal from 9 to 15 November. The Working Group is negotiating new international rules on access and benefit sharing that would build on the existing CBD principles. At the Montreal meeting, the Working Group produced a consolidated text of these new rules. The text is heavily bracketed, which reflects the lack of agreement on issues such as objectives, scope and main components. Nevertheless, this text now constitutes the basis for the new international rules, which the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) is expected to adopt in October 2010 in Japan.

The UEBT participated as an observer in the Montreal meeting, monitoring negotiations and engaging in informal discussions with negotiators and other stakeholders. The UEBT will continue to engage in discussions on the new international rules on ABS on the road up to the COP in Japan.

### EcoFlora secures UEBT membership

The UEBT welcomes the membership of EcoFlora, a company based in Antioquia, Colombia. Since its creation in 1998, EcoFlora has adopted the BioTrade philosophy by offering products derived from Colombia's rich biodiversity. It has been recognised for its innovative approaches and the development of sustainable products derived from biodiversity.

EcoFlora's products include natural plant-based repellents, insecticides and fungicides for agricultural uses, and a range of natural ingredients for food and cosmetics such as oleoresins, essential oils, and natural dyes.

In the poverty-ridden Chocó region of the Colombian Pacific Coast, EcoFlora sources from 13 different Afro-Colombian communities. One of the ingredients necessary to EcoFlora's work is the jagua fruit, which it transforms into a colouring extract. Villagers pick jagua fruits from the *Genipa americana* tree, welcoming the work as a valuable addition to the family income. The audit report noted: "Picking jagua fruit in the Atrato area is considered one of the most profitable economic activities in the region."

Find out more at <http://www.ecoflora.com/>



### Companies in food and cosmetics sector discuss patents and biodiversity

A UEBT seminar on ABS, patents and natural ingredients, took place on 22 October in Geneva. Members of the legal, research and development, and other departments of several companies in the food and cosmetics sector attended to learn why the links between patents and biodiversity are so important – and often so fraught with difficulty.

Although corporate policies on patent applications play a relatively minor role in putting ABS into practice, they are nevertheless closely watched by civil society and biodiversity-rich countries wary of biopiracy. Taking a strategic approach to patents is even more critical in light of recent developments. Furthermore, ongoing CBD negotiations on new international rules for ABS could very well change the rules of the game.

Even if it is not yet a legal imperative, addressing ABS in patenting policies is now widely recognized as essential to the ethical sourcing of biodiversity. Yet, few guidelines are available that address natural ingredients in the food and cosmetics sector. The UEBT plans to continue exploring the links between patents and biodiversity through more workshops of this kind.

### UEBT expands network of Verification Bodies

In October 2009, the UEBT held a training workshop for auditors in Brazil. This was the last in a series of auditor-training sessions that the UEBT organized this year in Latin America, Africa and Europe. The workshops prepare auditors to apply the UEBT's standard, and build a good understanding of its verification system.

Representatives from Imaflora, Instituto Biodinamico (IBD) and IMO Control participated in the October training in Brazil. "The training workshop helped to expand the number of local auditors in Brazil, a country where Ethical BioTrade initiatives are poised to grow significantly in the coming years", said Pierre Hauselmann, the Union for Ethical BioTrade's Technical Director.

To date, the following verification bodies are qualified by the UEBT: Imaflora (Brazil), SGS Qualifor, IMO Control, NaturaCert, Control Union Certifications, Ecocert-Afrisco and SGS del Peru. Next year, training efforts will be further scaled up.



### Events

- **2010 is the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity**  
Look out for IYB 2010 activities taking place all over the world and in particular for the UEBT's work related to this significant year.
- **The Beauty of Sourcing with Respect conference, 16 April 2010**  
For the second year running, the Union for Ethical BioTrade will be holding its own conference back to back with the In-Cosmetics Paris trade fair. The event will feature prominent speakers in relation with the International Year of Biodiversity, and the results of the 2010 Barometer will be presented.
- **Health Ingredients Fair, 16–18 November 2010, Madrid**  
The Union for Ethical BioTrade will be presenting the Ethical BioTrade Awards for Biodiversity at the Health Ingredients Europe Fair 2010. Don't miss it!

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