



Press Release

27 May 2009

ETHICAL BIOTRADE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

GENEVA – The Union for Ethical BioTrade has announced the launch of its Ethical BioTrade Community Programme aimed at supporting the deeper engagement of local and indigenous communities in the ethical sourcing of biodiversity. The effective implementation of Ethical BioTrade principles will help to generate local income and ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity ingredients sourced from these communities.

“This new programme will contribute to promoting practices at the community level that support biodiversity conservation, respect traditional knowledge, and ensure an equitable sharing of benefits,” said Rik Kutsch Lojenga, Executive Director for the Union for Ethical BioTrade.

In conjunction with the programme’s launch, the Union is announcing its first call for applications for Ethical BioTrade Community Grants. Proposals focused on helping local community suppliers meet Ethical BioTrade principles are now being solicited from small and medium-sized Union Trading Members or applicant Trading Members.

The Community Grants should cover costs related to the design and implementation of Ethical BioTrade practices. This includes, among other activities, scientific research focused on sustainability aspects of used species and their ecosystems; community consultation processes; knowledge development at the community level; and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Union for Ethical BioTrade plans to award a total of 200,000 Euros in 2009 in targeted grants to support suppliers of Union members. Proposals for this first round must be submitted by 19 June 2009. An independent committee composed of non-private sector institutions will review the grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Union for Ethical BioTrade. Selection of the grantees will be announced on or before 2 July 2009. A second round of grant allocations is planned for autumn 2009 for which a separate call for proposals will be announced.

###

The Union for Ethical BioTrade is a non-profit association that promotes the ‘Sourcing with Respect’ of ingredients that come from native biodiversity. Members commit to gradually ensuring that their sourcing practices promote the conservation of biodiversity, respect traditional knowledge, and assure the equitable sharing of benefits all along the supply chain.

For more information, please contact:

The Union for Ethical BioTrade
32 Rue de Berne
1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.566.1585
Fax: +41.22.731.0240
Email: info@ethicalbiotrade.org
www.ethicalbiotrade.org

The Ethical BioTrade Community Grants are part of the Ethical BioTrade Community Grants Programme, which is financed by the Dutch DOEN Foundation and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).