



UEBT
SOURCING[®]
WITH RESPECT

GOV 22

Standard Revision Process Terms of Reference

(Revision of STD01 - Ethical BioTrade Standard V. 2012-04-11 Terms of Reference
and process)

03/03/2018

UEBT

UEBT

UEBT is a non-profit association that promotes sourcing with respect. We work to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity. We aim to contribute to a world in which all people and biodiversity thrive.

GOV22 – Standardization Process Terms of Reference		
Current version:	Revision of STD01- Ethical BioTrade Standard v. 11-04-2012	
Previous version:	Revision of STD01-BioTrade Verification Framework for Native Natural Ingredients 20-09-2007	
Approval of the previous version:	BoD	16-10-2011
Approval of the current version:	BoD	03-03-2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Background	3
II. Need for revision	3
III. Objectives	3
IV. Specific guidance	3
V. Scope and Geographical application.....	4
VI. Social, environmental and economic outcomes that the Standard seeks to achieve	4
VII. Stakeholders outreach.....	6
VIII. Phases of the revision process.....	7

I. Background

The Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) is a non-profit association promoting the ethical sourcing of natural ingredients for the benefit of people and biodiversity. To fulfil its commitments the UEBT is relying on a set of principles called the Ethical BioTrade Standard which is internationally recognized and externally validated. The Ethical BioTrade Standard defines how to best implement sourcing practices of natural ingredients that respect people and biodiversity.

The Ethical BioTrade Standard builds on the BioTrade Principles and Criteria, developed by the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative over a period of nine years and adopted in 2007. The first version of the Ethical BioTrade Standard was subsequently adopted in 2007 under the title 'Verification Framework for Native Natural Ingredients'. The 2012 version of the Ethical BioTrade Standard was adopted after a comprehensive process of revision.

The Ethical BioTrade Standard defines the practices that UEBT member companies commit to promote, either as part of the membership commitments, as part of UEBT's Ethical Sourcing System Certification, and the UEBT certification of natural ingredient supply chains.

II. Need for revision

Since the publication of the Ethical BioTrade Standard 2012 version, UEBT and its members have gained significant additional experience with the applications of the standard, including through certification processes. The global regulatory landscape for BioTrade has also significantly evolved since 2012, particularly with regard to Access and Benefit Sharing. The revision process will allow UEBT to consider these experiences and changes. Furthermore, UEBT's procedures foresee that its standards are revised every 5 years, in line with ISEAL codes of good practice.

Revision of the standard was foreseen in 2017 but was postponed by the UEBT Board of Directors (BoD) in view of changes in the standard landscape.

III. Objectives

The objective of the revision of the Ethical BioTrade Standard is to ensure its continued effectiveness in meeting its goals. In particular, the revision will:

- Further improve the effectiveness and applicability of the UEBT standard and align it with the evolving UEBT vision and mission.
- Incorporate the views and experiences of companies and other stakeholders that have worked with the standard.
- Encourage wider stakeholder participation, acceptance and recognition of the standard.

IV. Specific guidance

The UEBT Board of Directors (BoD) and General Assembly have provided the following specific guidance for the consultation process:

1. The revised standard should support overall mission and vision of UEBT;

Vision: A world in which all people and biodiversity thrive.

Mission: We work to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity.

2. In addition to mitigating negative impacts, the revised standard should enhance biodiversity conservation and restoration and benefit sharing (Access Benefit Sharing, fairer trade, development projects);
3. UEBT will maintain one general overarching standard. Specific guidance will continue to be provided through specific checklists (e.g. for membership, Ethical Sourcing Systems (ESS) certification and Internal Monitoring System (IMS) certification);
4. UEBT assurance models will continue to include membership, IMS and ESS certification, and collaborative approaches with partner standards;
5. The consultation should include the UEBT theory of change, the UEBT standard, and key Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) areas;
6. If possible, the UEBT standard should be consolidated, rather than expanded. Changes should only be made if necessary, to minimise disruption of ongoing verification and certification efforts;
7. Impact is what matters. Any change towards output indicators and step-wise approaches is encouraged;
8. As a standard revision process is resource intensive, the revision should be as cost-effective as possible and combine with ongoing activities.

V. Scope and Geographical application

UEBT mission is to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity.

The UEBT standard is a global standard for all ingredients with a focus on specialty ingredients. It is applicable in the pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and herbal teas.

The UEBT Standard is used to:

1. Verify company commitment to sourcing with respect
2. Certify Ethical Sourcing Systems
3. Certify UEBT natural ingredients

VI. Social, environmental and economic outcomes that the Standard seeks to achieve

The UEBT Standard consists of 7 principles. It defines ethical sourcing practices for innovation and sourcing that contribute to a world in which people and biodiversity thrive.

The standard aims to achieve:

1. Conservation of biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of biodiversity
3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from use of biodiversity
4. Socio-economic sustainability (productive, financial and market management)
5. Compliance with national and international legislation
6. Respect for the rights of actors
7. Clarity about land tenure, right of use and access to natural resources

The below diagram represents what is at stake and aimed to be achieved by UEBT:



UEBT actively monitors the risks that might be associated implementing the standard as part of its M&E system. Issues that monitored include impact on local food security, over exportation due to increased demand, increased administrative burden for local companies and producers, and new conflicts in the sourcing areas. All these issues are included in the standard, but additional attention is paid as part of UEBT’s M&E system. UEBT also constantly seeks ways to reduce burden for local companies and procedures in its assurance approaches.

Various factors could have a negative impact on UEBT’s ability to achieve its intended outcomes include. The UEBT Board of Directors UEBT monitors such factors on a continuous basis and defines strategic responses to this. For instance, multiple standards operating in the same sector may slow down take-up of the UEBT standard. For this reason, UEBT actively seeks partnership with other standard setting organisations: the collaboration between UEBT and UTZ is an example of this. UEBT also encourages joint auditing, and has a policy to facilitate such audits, for instance joint UEBT/Rainforest audits, or joint UEBT/organic audits.

VII. Stakeholders outreach

UEBT is committed to consulting relevant stakeholder groups in its standard setting and revision processes. Its commitment is described in the UEBT standard development procedure (UEBT PRO06 – Standardization process), which is aligned with the ISEAL Code of Good Practices for standard development.

A multistakeholder consultation process will be undertaken with users of the UEBT standard, those subjected to the standard, UEBT partner organizations, as well as other interested stakeholders.

The Standard Committee needs to review UEBT’s stakeholder consultation plan. The following stakeholders are identified by the UEBT BoD:

- Cosmetics, pharmaceutical, and food companies in developed and developing countries
- Companies at all stages of the supply chain (producers, intermediaries, brands)
- UEBT members companies and organisations
- NGOs working on biodiversity and sustainable development
- Indigenous and/or local communities’ representative organisations
- Workers’ representative organisations
- The above identified target stakeholders should as much as possible be balanced according to the UEBT classification, as follows:

	Economic	Social	Environmental
Developed country economy	X	X	X
Emerging economy	X	X	X
Developing country economy	X	X	X

To give relevant stakeholders the possibility to participate, UEBT will:

- Widely announce the first consultation round, including through list-server service, announcement on the UEBT web, and UEBT newsletters.
- Establish various consultation possibilities for its members, both through group meetings and direct outreach.
- UEBT, in collaboration with partners, will organize workshops and meetings with local stakeholders in selected regions.
- During the second consultation period UEBT will test the draft standard in practical settings.
- In view of its experience with previous public consultations, UEBT aims to obtain inputs from around 50 stakeholders.
- Target regions are Africa, Latin America, and Europe, Asia which correspond to the countries where UEBT members are mostly implementing UEBT Standard.

VIII. Phases of the revision process

The revision process has the following phases:

- First consultation phase: **01.05.2018 to 31.08.2018**
- Second consultation phase: **01.01.2019 to 31.03.2019**
- Publication, after Board approval: **mid-2019**

Comments will be collected at each consultation phase and then introduced in the subsequent version of the document following the process outlined in the PRO06 – Standardization process.

The third and final draft shall be shared with the entire UEBT membership, which has 20 days to provide feedback and/or express sustained opposition to any particular issue. If no sustained opposition is found, the Standard Committee can deem the standard approved by consensus and shall recommend the UEBT Board of Directors to formally endorse and publish it.

The final draft shall also be circulated to the stakeholders that participated in the public consultation. Stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the revision process and its results, as well as on any additional issue that might require further work in future.

The UEBT Board of Directors shall formally endorse the standard upon recommendation from the Standard Committee, unless it has substantiated reasons not to do so (e.g. because the process has not been duly followed, or because opposition voiced by the members has not been duly addressed). The UEBT Board of Directors shall not base its decision on their opinion of the content of the standard, but only on the process of standard development or its revision.

A detailed description of the whole process can be found in the UEBT standardization procedure (PRO06 - Standardization Process), downloadable from the UEBT website (www.ethicalbiotrade.org).

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