



**UEBT**  
SOURCING®  
WITH RESPECT

# WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UEBT CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION?

UEBT offers both certification and verification programmes for ingredients. This fact sheet summarizes some of the most important differences between the two approaches.

## UEBT certification

UEBT certification follows a well-recognised, structured process for assessing compliance with the UEBT standard.

Certification at UEBT involves an annual audit by an external (third-party) certification body that has been accredited by UEBT. When a company or organisation achieves UEBT certification of their ingredients, they can make consumer-facing claims and use the UEBT certification label. Certificates are renewed each year through an annual audit process.

Certification always looks at the full set of requirements (called the 'ethical sourcing requirements') inside the UEBT standard.

## UEBT verification

UEBT verification is more flexible than certification. Unlike certification, verification is offered using two different sets of requirements from the UEBT standard and companies can choose the approach that is best for their strategy:

- **Responsible sourcing requirements** – these are requirements in the UEBT standard that are good for mitigating negative impact, meeting due diligence programmes, or for managing risk.
- **Ethical sourcing requirements** – these include all of the responsible sourcing requirements plus requirements that promote positive impact for people and biodiversity.

If a company asks for an attestation of the level of performance against either set of requirements, UEBT can issue an official document and attest to the verification. However, this is not the same as an ingredient being 'certified.'

For more information on the details of the different sets of requirements download our fact sheet on [Assessing ingredient sourcing practices: UEBT verification](#)

## THE UEBT ETHICAL BIOTRADE STANDARD

UEBT has set an Ethical BioTrade Standard with good practices for people and biodiversity.



Sustainable use of biodiversity



Biodiversity conservation



Legal compliance



Fair and equitable benefit sharing



Systems for ethical sourcing



Clarity of land tenure



Respect for worker rights



LAVENDER LAVANDULA ANGUSTIFOLIA © SHAYON MCCUTCHEON

# SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES

## UEBT verification

Focuses on either the responsible sourcing requirements in the UEBT standard.

**OR**

Focuses on the full UEBT standard that includes all UEBT ethical sourcing requirements (similar to certification).

Audit is done by UEBT.

Attestation issued by UEBT with compliance information (optional, upon request).

Audit frequency more flexible, and can be valid for up to three years when all 'critical stepwise' indicators have been met.

Diagnoses or recommendations made directly to the company requesting the verification.

Limited off-pack text claims and internal communications allowed, but there are no labelling opportunities:

- Claims can be made of **UEBT verified responsibly sourced [name of ingredient]** linked to the ingredient and UEBT verification if UEBT issues an attestation for assessments focused on the responsible sourcing requirements of the UEBT standard). Claim must be off-pack and cannot be product-related (only for general or corporate communications). If the off-pack text claim is consumer-facing (such as in a sustainability report), additional conditions apply including UEBT membership.
- Claims can be made of **UEBT verified ethically sourced [name of ingredient]** linked to the ingredient and UEBT verification if UEBT issues an attestation for assessments focused on the full set of ethical sourcing requirements in the UEBT standard). Claims must be off-pack but can be product-related (such as a product web page). If the off-pack text claim is consumer-facing, additional conditions apply including UEBT membership.

## UEBT certification

Focuses on the full UEBT standard that includes all UEBT ethical sourcing requirements.

Auditor is from an external certification body accredited by UEBT.

Certificate of compliance issued by UEBT.

Certificate valid for one year, renewed through an annual audit by a certification body.

Decision on certification made by certification body, validated by UEBT certification committee.

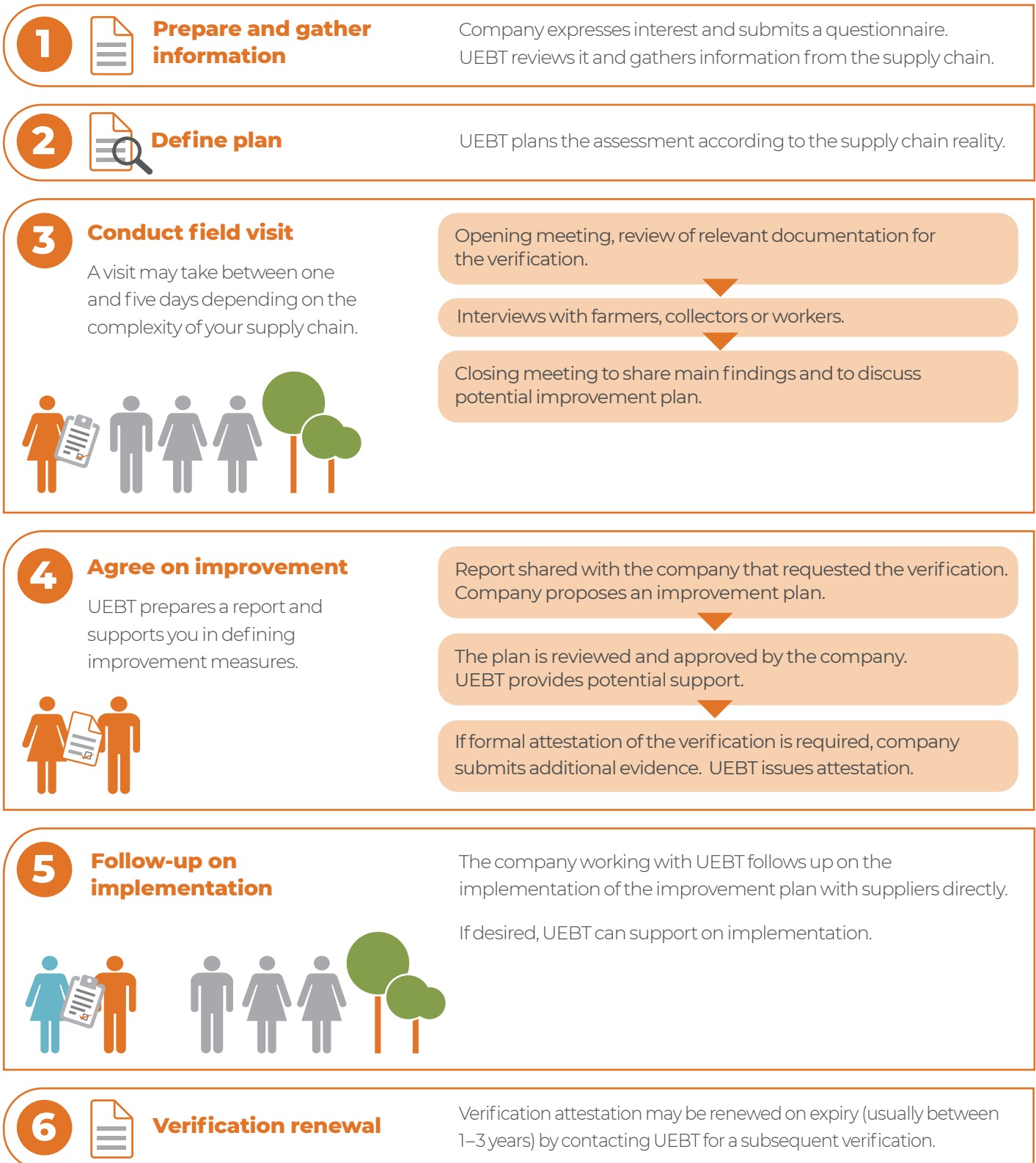


Consumer-facing claims of 'UEBT certified' or 'UEBT certified ethically sourced' allowed.

Opportunities to use the UEBT customisable certification label (shown left).

# CARRYING OUT THE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT

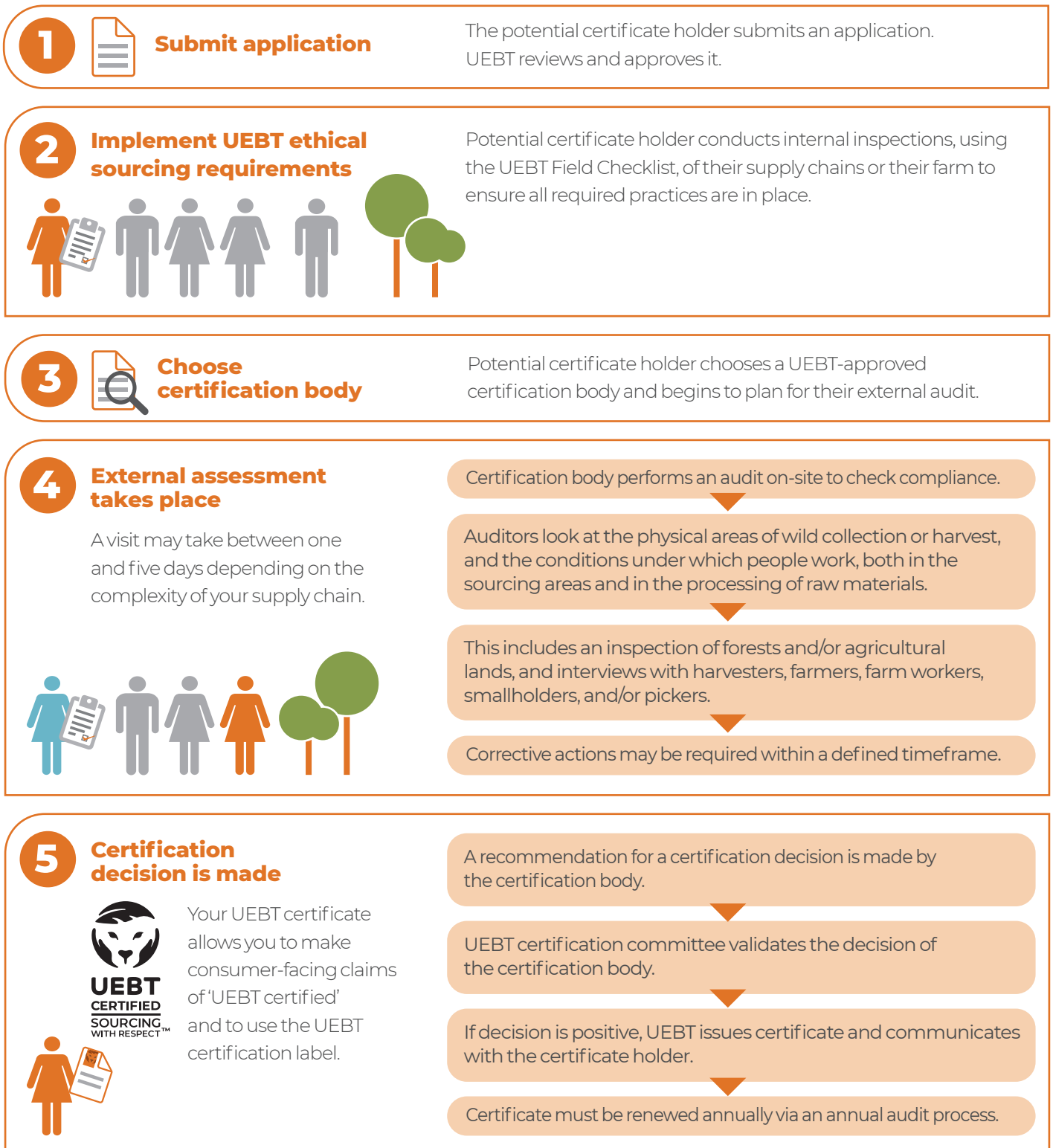
This work consists of the following steps:





# CARRYING OUT THE CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

This work consists of the following steps:



## Contact us

To get started or learn more, contact: [info@uebt.org](mailto:info@uebt.org)



**UEBT**  
SOURCING<sup>®</sup>  
WITH RESPECT

## UEBT

De Ruijterkade 6, 1013 AA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands | Telephone: +31 20 22 34567 | Email: [info@uebt.org](mailto:info@uebt.org)

**Representation in** Brazil France India Madagascar Vietnam

**Connect with us** [www.uebt.org](http://www.uebt.org) |  [www.linkedin.com/company/uebt](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uebt)

Published June 2021