



FairWild Operator Support Fund

The FairWild Operator Support Fund (OSF) seeks to support FairWild's mission by providing a range of financial and technical support measures to wild plant collection businesses ("operators") who are already FairWild certified or who wish to implement the FairWild Standard. Typically, these businesses and the collectors who supply them are vulnerable to disruptions to their livelihoods from environmental, social and other factors, usually more so than other actors in the value chain, as well as being more severely impacted by them. Eligible businesses may receive technical and financial support to increase operator resilience by conserving biodiversity and managing their natural resources sustainably through FairWild certification.

Eligibility

Funds may be applied to a range of interventions, including training, technical services and support, support for initial audit preparation and costs, purchase of equipment (e.g. driers or other equipment for partial processing), risk underwriting, conservation interventions to secure landscape integrity and ongoing productivity, or direct financial assistance in the case of disruption to livelihoods.

Any legally registered entity (commercial or not-for-profit), which engages in the sustainable use of wild-harvested plant ingredients or its related supply chain, and which supports and promotes the vision and mission of the FairWild Foundation, may apply.

Application process and selection criteria

Selection criteria

- Applications must be made by a legally registered entity, which may be commercial or not-for-profit
- Projects must support a business that is currently FairWild certified, or actively pursuing FairWild certification
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the mission and vision of FairWild
- Applicants must demonstrate availability of co-financing (in cash or in kind) of at least 50% of the requested grant amount

Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate commitment to sustainable supply chain engagement (e.g. organic certified) and business feasibility (availability of a business plan including FairWild certification; trade partnership or purchase commitment in place with a fair trade buyer).

Application process

An application must be submitted including:

- Name and details of the registered entity (ID number, country of registration)
- Description of entity's core business, and its relation to FairWild vision and mission
- Contact details of the applicant
- Project description, including key data (harvested species, landscape and collection sites, people and communities impacted / engaged)
- Description of needs (technical and/or financial support requested)
- Intended project outcomes
- Relevant attachments (Business plan, resource management plan).

Applications are processed on a rolling basis, with responses usually received within 28 days. Potential applicants are welcome to contact FairWild Foundation for an informal discussion prior to submitting an application, at secretariat@fairwild.org.