



# FairWild Standard

## Version 3.0



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This document, and other documents related to this Standard are available on the FairWild website: [FairWild.org](https://www.fairwild.org).

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## Acknowledgements

The development of the FairWild Standard 3.0 has arisen from the combined efforts of many organisations and individuals who have contributed knowledge, time, and expertise to considering how the harvest, use, and trade of wild resources can be made more sustainable, and business practices can be more responsible and ethical throughout the value chains for these resources.

A wide range of stakeholders have contributed to the revision: participants in the FairWild certification system, our advisory panel, industry, civil society organisations, and many others. The revision was conducted through a public consultation process bringing in a multitude of experience and perspectives, and with financial support from our Friends of FairWild.

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# 1. Background and overview

## 1.1 Applicability and purpose

FairWild Foundation's mission is to enable transformation of natural resource management and business practices to be ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable throughout the value chains of wild-collected products.

**Our vision is a fair and wild world where biodiversity is conserved through sustainable harvesting; collectors, workers, and their communities are respected and treated fairly; and resilient businesses participate in responsible value chains.**

We contribute to this vision by providing the FairWild Standard, which includes principles and guidance for use throughout these value chains, and FairWild certification, which provides third-party assurance to stakeholders of adherence to this Standard. We strive to strengthen value chains through participating in supplier development projects, providing technical support and market connection services, and engaging in policy and public discussion to promote our vision.

The FairWild Standard 3.0 applies to businesses in the value chain for wild-harvested products that wish to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable collection, social responsibility, and ethical business practices. This Standard replaces Version 2.0 of the FairWild Standard (FairWild Foundation, 2010), incorporating the contributions and experience of the many stakeholders who have engaged in its implementation.

The purpose of the FairWild Standard is to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity through sustainable use. Together with its system of certification, it provides assurance of ethical and responsible practices across three dimensions of sustainability – ecological, socio-cultural, and business. Wild harvesting has the power to promote positive relationships between nature and people, and to preserve species in their natural and semi-natural landscapes and ecosystems.

Adherence to the FairWild Principles ensures that businesses in value chains for wild harvest ingredients act ethically and sustainably and make a positive contribution to the conservation of biodiversity within a range of different contexts and landscapes.

### The FairWild Principles

1. Wild harvesting supports conservation of the collected species
2. Wild harvesting has a neutral or positive impact on the collection area and broader landscape
3. Human rights of wild collectors and workers are respected
4. Arrangements between operator, wild collectors, and workers are fair
5. Benefits and respect for customary rights for wild collectors and their communities are ensured
6. Harvest and trade of wild resources are legally compliant
7. Responsible business practices are applied

The **scope** of the FairWild Standard (3.0) includes natural products and ingredients originating from the wild collection of non-animal species:

- **Wild plants, plant parts, and plant products** collected from natural and semi-natural terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and low-intensity agricultural production landscapes;
- **Wild fungi and lichens** collected from natural and semi-natural habitats, and low-intensity agricultural production landscapes; and.
- **Wild seaweed and other algae** collected from terrestrial, freshwater, and marine areas.

Animals, animal parts, and animal products, including beeswax and honey, are excluded.

The applicability of the FairWild Standard to collection scenarios that include previously cultivated, naturalised, invasive, and reintroduced species, as well as habitats and landscapes with varying degrees of modification, may be determined with reference to the FairWild Foundation's current guidance on scope<sup>1</sup>.

The FairWild Standard is designed to be generally applicable to the wide array of geographic, ecological, cultural, business, and trade conditions in which wild collection of plant, fungi, lichen, and seaweed resources occurs. As a certification standard, it primarily addresses the collection of wild materials for commercial purposes, rather than for subsistence or local small-scale use.

It should be noted that FairWild certification is species-specific; while certain criteria apply to the entire scope of the business operation concerned, many of the requirements are specific to the species and sites that have been included within the certificate scope.

The FairWild Standard is an evolving document. Periodic revision will be based on implementation experiences and carried out with full public stakeholder consultation.

## 1.2 Structure of Version 3.0

Version 3.0 has 7 Principles and 24 Criteria addressing three themes: the ecological, socio-cultural, and business requirements for sustainable wild collection. These are summarised in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3 provides guidance including key indicators to demonstrate compliance. The indicators serve as the basis for assessment of progress towards implementation of the Standard and are translated into control points in the provision of assurance that the Standard's requirements have been met. This is done through third-party audit and certification processes. The control points and full set of indicators for the FairWild Standard are available in the accompanying audit checklist.

Chapter 4 briefly describes the role of management planning in the implementation of the FairWild Standard.

The Standard follows a functional hierarchy of components as described in the following table:

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<sup>1</sup> Updated supporting documentation for Version 3.0 is coming in early 2024. Supporting documentation includes the audit checklist and detailed control procedures and requirements for certification and product labelling. See: <https://www.fairwild.org/knowledge-hub-tools>

<b>Element</b>	<b>Description</b>
Principle	A fundamental truth or value proposition which describes a desired outcome. Principles form the highest point of integration in a Standard
Outcome	A statement of the desired outcome from adherence to the principle
Criteria	Conditions that must be met to comply with a principle
Indicator	A measurable state which allows the assessment of whether a particular criterion has been met
Control Points	Detailed aspects of the indicators that are verifiable and allow for compliance to be verified with operator performance, as set out in the audit checklist

### 1.3 FairWild certification across value chains

Implementation of the FairWild Standard requires the cooperation and commitment of all actors in the value chain for wild-collected products. Certification to the FairWild Standard 3.0 is a requirement for wild collection operations wishing to supply FairWild certified ingredients to the market.

The FairWild Foundation also operates a registration system<sup>2</sup> for businesses in the value chain involved in the trade, processing, and manufacturing of products with FairWild certified ingredients. With the introduction of FairWild Standard 3.0, certification is now also available to businesses across the value chain for certified products.

With Version 3.0, FairWild is now supporting accountability through the Chain of Custody (CoC) across the value chain. CoC is the process of tracking materials and products through every step of the supply chain as they go through various stages of sourcing, production, processing, shipping, and retail. This is primarily achieved through transparent and complete records and third-party audits of the operators along the supply chain. Demonstrating that a product/material has been properly handled through an unbroken CoC is a cardinal requirement of buyers in major markets, and proof of proper CoC has become a crucial factor for business reputation and product integrity. FairWild certification supports this requirement.

Increasingly, businesses are facing stricter legal regulations regarding their due diligence in the upstream supply chain, and consumers are demanding ethical conduct and support for sustainability initiatives. With Version 3.0, the FairWild Foundation is widening its scope by integrating auditing and certification throughout the value chain for wild-harvested products, on a voluntary basis. FairWild Standard 3.0 can be adopted by businesses at all stages of the value chain, enabling certification with the objective to guarantee transparency and full traceability. FairWild certification further ensures that businesses in the value chain are adhering to fair and ethical practices in

<sup>2</sup> For details, see FairWild Trading Rules, *to be updated in early 2024*. See: <https://www.fairwild.org/knowledge-hub-tools>.

their contractual relationships related to the harvest and trade of wild products and acting in an environmentally responsible manner.

Businesses that want to demonstrate their sustainability efforts will be able to apply for independent FairWild certification, according to the FairWild Standard 3.0 and audit checklist for businesses in the CoC for FairWild-certified ingredients. Certification for these businesses will cover some or all the Principles of the FairWild Standard, with a particular focus on Principle 7 on responsible business practices.

## 2. Summary of the FairWild Principles

<b>THEME I: ECOLOGICAL</b>
<p><b>Principle 1: Wild harvesting supports conservation of the collected species</b></p> <p><i>Harvesting of wild resources is conducted in a manner and on a scale that maintains populations and species over time</i></p> <p>1.1 Collected species clearly identified and conservation status known and respected</p> <p>1.2 Location, tenure, management authority, and use rights of the collection area are clear, legitimate, and recognised</p> <p>1.3 Resource management planning is adaptive and ensures that populations will be maintained over the long term</p>
<p><b>Principle 2: Wild harvesting has a neutral or positive impact on the collection area and the broader landscape</b></p> <p><i>Wild harvesting avoids negative impacts and supports, as far as possible, the conservation of other species, habitats, and the broader landscape</i></p> <p>2.1 Impact of collection activities on habitat and the broader landscape including non-target species assessed through a risk analysis and serves as the basis for implementing and monitoring appropriate measures</p> <p>2.2 Management planning and implementation for the harvested species support neutral or positive impacts on the collection area and the broader landscape</p> <p>2.3 Sustainable collection and post-harvest practices monitored to ensure they are implemented effectively</p>

## THEME II: SOCIO-CULTURAL

### Principle 3: Human rights of wild collectors and workers are respected

*Wild collectors and workers are treated in accordance with internationally accepted human rights norms*

- 3.1 Non-discriminatory hiring and treatment of collectors and workers
- 3.2 No forced labour or sign of practices which represent modern slavery
- 3.3 Women and vulnerable groups are treated fairly and equally
- 3.4 No harassment or other abusive practices of workers or collectors
- 3.5 Children and young workers protected

### Principle 4: Arrangements between operators, wild collectors, and workers are fair

*Wild collectors and workers are treated fairly and in accordance with internationally accepted labour norms*

- 4.1 Provision of a safe and healthy work environment for collectors and workers
- 4.2 Documented fair arrangements for collectors
- 4.3 Fair pricing and timely payment for collectors
- 4.4 Fair employment practices and basic labour rights for workers

### Principle 5: Benefits and respect for customary rights of wild collectors and their communities are ensured

*Agreements and harvesting practices respect local communities' and indigenous peoples' customary rights to wild resources and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits for all parties involved*

- 5.1 Traditional use and practice, access rights, and cultural heritage respected and procedures in place for fair and equitable sharing of benefits with stakeholders
- 5.2 FairWild Premium Fund management is fair, accountable, and respectful of customary rights

## THEME III: BUSINESS

### **Principle 6: Harvest and trade of wild resources are legally compliant**

***Wild harvest and trade of products are conducted under legitimate tenure arrangements and in full compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements at local, national, and international levels***

6.1 Laws, regulations, and administrative requirements respected

6.2 Access and benefit-sharing practices in compliance with national and international law

### **Principle 7: Responsible business practices are applied**

***Operators apply responsible, sustainable, and ethical business practices in their interactions with other stakeholders of wild-harvested products***

7.1 An operator's management plan defines adaptive, practical management processes and good practice

7.2 Traceability and product integrity supported throughout the supply chain

7.3 Communication with stakeholders is transparent, clear, and truthful

7.4 Ethical conduct addresses asymmetries of power and influence in the supply chain

7.5 Honest marketing and advertising practices followed

### 3. Guidance for the FairWild Principles

#### **Principle 1: Wild harvesting supports conservation of the collected species**

***Desired outcome: Harvesting of wild resources is conducted in a manner and on a scale that maintains populations and species over time***

The **goal of Principle 1** is to ensure that a FairWild-certified operation will support conservation of the target species being harvested and will not lead to a decline of populations in the collection area over the long term. In principle, any species that may be harvested legally may be put forward for FairWild certification – including those with a threatened conservation status – as long as the local population size and structure is sufficient for sustainable harvesting, and an appropriately rigorous harvest management programme is in place.

Wild harvest management must be underpinned by knowledge-based collection practices defined in a written resource management plan. Requirements include accurate identification of the species being harvested **and** an understanding of its conservation status, e.g., as understood in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and by relevant international and national conservation authorities.

FairWild certification requires that the rigour applied to harvest management is appropriate to the risk of unsustainable wild harvest of the target species. Level of risk is classified based on intrinsic biological characteristics (e.g., reproduction and regeneration rate; population distribution, size and structure) as well as on extrinsic factors (e.g., trends in trade). The FairWild Foundation will undertake a risk classification of the species proposed for certification to determine whether it is at low, medium, or high risk of overharvesting, the outcomes of which should be integrated into the resource management approach. High risk species may require the application of additional indicators.

The operator's resource management plan is adaptive and defines species-specific collection rules to guide the harvest. These must be periodically revised based on information from site-based resource assessment and regular monitoring practices, which inform the total quantities that can be harvested as well as other parameters such as collection period, frequency, and biological size/age class. The operator's staff and collectors must demonstrate familiarity and compliance with the management plan, or its relevant aspects. The operator must ensure that only trained and knowledgeable collectors are engaged, that the collectors follow the collection rules in practice, and that consolidated harvest records are kept.

#### **Criteria**

1. Collected species clearly identified and conservation status known and respected
  - 1.2 Location, tenure, management authority, and use rights of the collection area are clear, legitimate, and recognised
  - 1.3 Resource management planning is adaptive and ensures that populations will be maintained over the long term

## Key indicators

- A species risk classification (carried out by the FairWild Foundation, as appropriate with member of IUCN Commissions)
- Information on ownership, tenure, and user right details of the collection area
- Accurate map(s) of the collection area
- Sufficient information on the target species, including an inventory of the health, status, and distribution of the species within the collection area
- Clear definition of parameters for collection, ensuring regeneration and sustainability of the target species' population, e.g., maximum quantity, frequency of collection, timing/seasonality for collection, minimum biological age / size class that may be collected, collection methods

## Principle 2: Wild harvesting has a neutral or positive impact on the collection area and broader landscape

***Desired outcome: Wild harvesting avoids negative impacts and supports, as far as possible, the conservation of other species, habitats, and the broader landscape***

The **goal of Principle 2** is to ensure that wild harvesting has a neutral or positive impact on the collection area and on the broader landscape. It recognises that wild harvesting practices should contribute to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity and prioritise conservation. Operators must employ methods that minimise damage to non-target species, habitats, and ecosystems. By promoting responsible collection techniques, such as selective harvesting, avoiding of collection within sensitive areas, and adjusting the timing of harvest to minimise impact on other species, the Principle aims to mitigate any actual and potential harm to biodiversity and ecosystems within collection areas, and ensure the long-term health and resilience of the landscape. The Principle also promotes the potential for beneficial impacts on the collection area and the broader landscape by contributing to broader area management objectives for sensitive species, habitats, and other ecosystem values.

The FairWild Standard requires operators to include area management objectives in the adaptive resource management plan that guides their sustainable wild collection practices. The management plan should identify sensitive species and habitats within the collection area and ensure that harvesters will apply optimal harvesting methods to protect these ecosystem elements. Any wider environmental risks associated with the harvesting operation must also be identified and mitigated. This proactive approach helps to mitigate the risks of wild harvesting at the habitat and ecosystem level, supports biodiversity conservation, and promotes the responsible and sustainable use of wild resources within the broader landscape context.

Importantly, Principle 2 also requires that the wild collection operation's resource management planning is integrated, to the extent possible, with other planning processes within the landscape, including consulting with authorities and relevant stakeholders in the development of the plan, and ensuring that key aspects of other relevant management plans are integrated to the collection operation's own management plan.

## Criteria

2.1 Impact of collection activities on habitat and the broader landscape including other species assessed through a risk analysis and serves as the basis for implementing and monitoring appropriate measures

2.2 Management planning and implementation for the harvested species support neutral or positive impacts on the collection area and the broader landscape

2.3 Sustainable collection and post-harvest practices monitored to ensure they are implemented effectively

## Key indicators

A risk assessment has been carried out and includes consideration of:

- Areas of potential contamination
- Potential negative impacts of the collection activities of the target species on any rare, threatened, or endangered species in the collection area at habitat ecosystem, or landscape level
- Potential negative impacts of intensive target species management practices, i.e., enrichment planting
- An operator management plan is in place and updated annually, which includes an evaluation of the conservation health of the collection area and the broader landscape
- The management plan includes collection rules and integrates the outcomes of consultations with key stakeholders in the area
- Precautions or mitigation procedures are in place to avoid, negate, or minimise identified negative impacts, such as separation of collection from intensively cultivated agricultural lands which use pesticides and fertilizers
- Regular monitoring of identified impacts, e.g., exclusion of contaminated areas, credible confirmation that no inputs prohibited by relevant organic standards (e.g., synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides) have been used in past three years
- A register of collectors is maintained

## **Principle 3: Human rights of wild collectors and workers are respected**

***Desired outcome: Wild collectors and workers are treated in accordance with internationally accepted human rights norms***

The **goal of Principle 3** is to ensure that a FairWild certified operator respects the human rights of wild collectors and workers involved in the collection and processing of FairWild certified ingredients and that operators promote initiatives that ensure children, women, and other vulnerable groups, who are often more susceptible to exploitation and abuse, are protected from any form of discrimination, violence, or unfair treatment.

FairWild aims to support certified operations in which individuals are treated with fairness, kindness, and respect. The FairWild Standard emphasises respect for the human rights of wild collectors and workers by ensuring the well-being of children, women, and other vulnerable groups, the prevention of modern slavery, and the absence of harassment and other abusive practices such as bullying.

FairWild recognises that the participation of children in wild collection activities is not uncommon. The FairWild Standard follows the minimum age definitions according to the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) as it relates to non-industrial work.

Before the first audit, the operator must submit a social self-assessment as part of the management plan, which will be verified through the audit. The management plan must identify and establish mechanisms for reporting and addressing any instances of harassment, discrimination, or abusive behaviour. These could include a human resources policy, an employment code of conduct, or policy regarding the hiring of collectors.

### **Criteria**

- 3.1 Non-discriminatory hiring and treatment of collectors and workers
- 3.2 No forced labour or sign of practices which represent modern slavery
- 3.3 Women and vulnerable groups are treated fairly and equally
- 3.4 No harassment or other abusive practices of workers or collectors
- 3.5 Children and young workers are protected

## Key indicators

- A documented human resources policy, employment code of conduct, or policy regarding the hiring of collectors is applied
- Absence of any evidence of discriminatory hiring or treatment of collectors or workers
- Absence of any evidence of forced labour or modern slavery
- Absence of evidence of harassment or other abusive practices
- Children in collection activity:
  - Children (under 15) have not been contracted as collectors
  - Children (under 15) who accompany their family members enjoy protection in terms of restricted duties, parental supervision, and access to their education; the viability of the collection activity must not depend on the children's participation
  - For young persons (15-17) who are contracted as collectors, the collection activity is not dangerous to their health, safety and does not jeopardise their development
  - Young persons (15-17) who assist family members in collecting are protected through the application of policies and procedures as required, including the management of risks to their health, safety and development, safeguarding, and their right to education
- Children as employees at workplaces:
  - Children (under 15) have not been employed as workers
  - Young persons (15-17) who have been employed as workers, are protected through the application of policies and procedures as required, including the management of risks to their health, safety and development, safeguarding, and their right to education

## **Principle 4: Arrangements between operators, wild collectors, and workers are fair**

***Desired outcome: Wild collectors and workers are treated fairly and in accordance with internationally accepted labour norms***

The **goal of Principle 4** is to ensure that FairWild certified operators have fair and just employment and management systems that respect the rights of both collectors and workers. Operators have a responsibility to ensure good working conditions for all workers involved in the wild-collection operation. This means ensuring fair employment practices, basic labour rights for workers as stipulated by the ILO and national labour laws, non-discriminatory hiring and treatment, fair arrangements for collectors, as well as training of collectors and workers which fosters skills development, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their work effectively and safely.

By fostering a supportive work environment, operators can cultivate a motivated and productive workforce. Additionally, upholding good working conditions promotes worker satisfaction, enhances the overall quality of the collected materials, and contributes to the long-term sustainability and integrity of the wild-collection industry.

Before the first audit, the operator must submit a social self-assessment as part of their management plan which will be verified during the audit. Operators are required to identify risks to health and safety of collectors and workers, and to implement measures that protect the well-being, health and safety of collectors and workers. Operators must provide fair remuneration, appropriate protective gear, and access to resources necessary to work in a safe and healthy environment

### **Criteria**

- 4.1 Provision of a safe and healthy work environment for collectors and workers
- 4.2 Documented fair arrangements for collectors
- 4.3 Fair pricing and timely payment for collectors
- 4.4 Fair employment practices and basic labour rights for workers

## Key indicators

- Working and collection conditions:
  - An assessment of risks to health and safety has been carried out in relation to the work or collection environment
  - Key safety equipment and measures are in place for workers and collectors, as appropriate
  - Ventilation and lighting are adequate, noise and dust are controlled, workers have access to adequate toilet facilities, drinking water is provided
  - Pregnant or nursing women and other vulnerable persons accommodated
  - Any accommodation provided is adequate and, safe offering reasonable levels of dignity, hygiene, and comfort
  
- Fair arrangements for collectors:
  - Documented agreements – written or verbal – are in place which promote fair and sustainable arrangements
  - Agreements include the right of collectors to resign from collection without being penalised or discriminated against
  - Collectors receive information about the quantities they can sell to the wild-collection operator before the beginning of the collection season
  - The collection operation supports long-term relationships with the collectors, and provides transparent communication and consideration of their interests
  - Price-setting procedures are fair and transparent
  - Prices are fair and can be demonstrated to be at least equivalent to minimum wage income for the local context
  - Purchases and payment procedures are clear, well recorded, and payment is made in a timely fashion in legal tender to the collectors
  
- Fair employment practice and labour rights for workers:
  - Basic labour rights for workers are contractually provided and respected, such as associative activities and collective bargaining rights.
  - Respect for legal minimum wage
  - Wages are paid regularly and documented, overtime remunerated, and no systemic difference between wage and bonus rates between permanent and temporary workers doing the same work
  - Working conditions, such as maximum hours and rest periods, are provided as required

## **Principle 5: Benefits and respect for customary rights of wild collectors and their communities are ensured**

***Desired outcome: Agreements and harvesting practices respect local communities' and indigenous peoples' customary rights to wild resources, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits for all parties involved***

The **goal of Principle 5** is to ensure that certified operators recognise, respect, and protect the customary rights of communities and indigenous peoples to use and manage collection areas and the wild resources they rely upon. FairWild acknowledges the vital role of local communities and indigenous peoples in the sustainable management and conservation of these resources and the broader landscape, based on traditional knowledge and practices that have been passed down throughout generations.

It is essential that operators engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration with these rights holders, allowing for the inclusion of local perspectives and traditional knowledge in decision-making and ongoing management processes. By respecting these rights, operators can build trust, promote social equity, and ensure the sustainable and responsible management of wild resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

FairWild certification requires operators to include consideration of traditional uses/practices, customary access rights, and complementary species/area protection initiatives in their management plans. This is to ensure these resources remain available and accessible for local and traditional use, and that local priorities and perspectives are respected.

Buyers of FairWild-certified ingredients are required to make a Premium fund contribution – an additional payment made as an investment to improve the social and environmental context for wild collection. The recommended level of the contribution is either 10% of collectors' individual selling price, or 5% of the final sales price.

The Premium fund recognises efforts made by the collectors and other stakeholders in the supply chain to strive for sustainable wild collection, production, and sales of FairWild certified products. Upon receipt of Premium payments, the funds must be promptly administered in a transparent manner, ensuring accountability and responsible use.

The Premium fund is managed by an accountable body, such as a collectors' organisation, collectors' representative committee, or a FairWild premium board composed of diverse stakeholders. Where feasible, an inclusive approach ensures that decisions regarding the utilisation of the fund are made collectively, considering the interests and needs of all involved parties. By upholding transparency and accountability, FairWild ensures that the Premium benefits directly support the well-being and development of collectors and their communities, promoting fair and equitable distribution of resources within the FairWild supply chain. Premium Fund disbursements must be properly reported.

## **Criteria**

5.1 Traditional use and practice, access rights and cultural heritage respected and procedures in place for fair and equitable sharing of benefits with stakeholders

5.2 FairWild Premium Fund management is fair, accountable, and respectful of customary rights

## **Key indicators**

- If relevant, there is a demonstrated awareness of and respect for the cultural and religious significance of the species and traditional collection practices, and these are reflected in procedures for sharing of benefits with stakeholders
- Customary access and use rights of local communities and indigenous peoples are integrated in the operation's resource management plan
- A FairWild premium fund arrangement is in place, appropriate to the situation of the collection practices and the socio-economic context of the collector community
- Premium Fund arrangements demonstrably reflect FairWild's mission to improve the social and environmental context of the operation, and ensure accountable, fair, and transparent management of such funds
- FairWild Premium Fund use has been properly accounted for and applications are transparently reported upon
- The use of the FairWild Premium Fund is in accordance with FairWild expectations, i.e., for development projects in the collectors' communities, and other local needs and priorities. In the first three years of certification, it may also be used to improve the capacity of collectors to collect

## **Principle 6: Harvest and trade of wild resources are legally compliant**

***Desired outcome: Wild harvest and trade of products is conducted under legitimate tenure arrangements and in full compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements at local, national, and international levels***

The **goal of Principle 6** is to ensure that collection operations and other businesses in the value chain of FairWild-certified products, and all subcontracted organisations related to the sourcing, management, and processing of the harvested resources, are legally entitled to do so, and are in compliance with legal requirements related to these activities.

On a local level, the wild harvesting operation is required to have clear knowledge of the legitimate ownership of the land in which the wild collection of the targeted species takes place. Written permission from the appropriate authority for the wild harvesting operation to collect the targeted species within the collection site is also required.

Business entities, and all subcontracted organisations involved in the collection, management, and trade of the targeted species, must comply with all relevant local, national, and international legislation regarding collection and trade of the species targeted for harvesting. Resource access and benefit-sharing (ABS) agreements with local communities and / or indigenous peoples, where appropriate, must be developed and implemented as required in national law and international policy.

### **Criteria**

6.1 Laws, regulations, and administrative requirements respected

6.2 Access and benefit-sharing practices in compliance with national and international law

### **Key indicators**

- There is a demonstrated awareness of local, regional, national, and international law as it might apply to collection and trade of wild resources, and evidence of compliance therewith
- Evidence of access and harvesting rights, including legally required collection permits and/or other permissions
- Resource access and benefit-sharing (ABS) agreements with local communities and / or indigenous peoples, where appropriate, have been developed and implemented

## **Principle 7: Responsible business practices are applied**

***Desired outcome: Operators apply responsible, sustainable, and ethical business practices in their contractual relationships and interactions with other stakeholders of wild-harvested products***

The **goal of Principle 7** is to ensure that businesses in the value chain for FairWild-certified products (harvesting, managing, processing, and trading) contract with partners and other stakeholders in a responsible and ethical manner. These include wild collectors, employees, business partners, service providers, clients, and consumers. The business practices of the company, including contracts, pricing regulations, and payment terms, must be fair and based on a sustained and long-term cooperation strategy.

Wild collection operations must develop and implement a comprehensive management plan, which addresses the ecological, socio-cultural, and business factors relevant to the operation. All certified businesses in the value chain must establish structures and mechanisms to ensure stakeholder identification, communication and conflict resolution, and business processes such as consolidated purchase records, correct labelling, to ensure transparency and traceability of purchase and payment, and safety and integrity of the product from harvest to consumer.

### **Criteria**

- 7.1 The operator's management plan defines adaptive, practical management processes and good practice
- 7.2 Traceability and product integrity supported throughout the supply chain
- 7.3 Communication with stakeholders is transparent, clear, and truthful
- 7.4 Ethical conduct addresses asymmetries of power and influence in the supply chain
- 7.5 Honest marketing and advertising practices followed

## Key indicators

- A management plan demonstrating responsible business practice
- A purchase system which ensures that purchases are only made from registered collectors, purchase invoices/receipts are issued to the collectors, and payment is made correctly and timeously
- Consolidated harvest and purchase records confirm compliance
- The management plan includes sufficient documentation of product flow to ensure full traceability of product, e.g., using a batch numbering system and processing ratios
- Products are labelled correctly
- There is no risk of contamination of products during processing or storage at the central collection operation or the collection points or during storage or processing by the collectors
- Operators have identified their primary and secondary stakeholders with regards to the harvest and trade of wild products, maintain regular communication with them, and address conflicts through functional systems and structures
- Operators demonstrate commitment to long-term cooperative trade relationships, through a partnership framework agreement between buyer(s) and wild collection operations
- The collection operation has a business strategy/plan which ensures financial viability, e.g., that revenue received from selling the collected resources is sufficient to cover the costs of collection, processing and transport, certification, resource management activities, and any required conservation measures
- Operators make truthful, up-to-date claims in their marketing and advertising practices relating to their FairWild-certified product(s)
- Operators and suppliers must agree on a fair sales price for FairWild certified products covering full cost of production for the collection operation, including sustainability measures and fair prices paid to wild collectors
- Operators must agree on an adequate amount for contributions to the FairWild Premium Fund. The payment mode for the Premium fund is to be specified in either individual sales agreements, invoices, or in underlying MoUs
- Operators provide their suppliers with favourable trading conditions, including due consideration of any pre-financing requests received, and suppliers are paid in a timely manner

## 4. Management planning

Central to the implementation of the FairWild Standard is the development of a comprehensive management plan for wild collection operations. This management plan is submitted in advance of the first audit and must include the operator's self-

assessment of the ecological, socio-cultural, and business factors relevant to their operation, as well as the management of wild resources on a species-area basis.

Certain processes are integrated into the management plan framework for wild harvesting, including a risk classification of the target species (to determine whether it is at low, medium, or high risk of over-harvesting), and procedures for resource assessment and monitoring. It includes a description of the species/area management measures applied to address the impacts of wild harvest on target species, and on the collection area and broader landscape. Expectations for the level of rigor and effort invested into the resource assessment and monitoring approaches will vary depending on the species risk classification, as well as on the sensitivity of the other species, habitats and landscape in which collection takes place.

The comprehensive management plan also includes a business/strategy plan. This plan identifies the social and business risks to the harvest operation and includes procedures to mitigate these risks. The business/strategy plan also includes procedures, such as consolidated purchase records and correct labelling, to ensure transparency and traceability of purchase and payment, and safety and integrity of the product from harvest to consumer.

The management plan will be reviewed prior to the certification audit, to verify the availability and content of the operator's policies and procedures and ensure that they are ready for the audit. A template for the management plan is available from the FairWild Foundation; the operator may also use their own document if it covers all the required information.

## Glossary

Term	Definition	Source
Access and benefit-sharing (ABS)	Access and benefit-sharing (ABS) refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers).	CBD
Adaptive management	Adaptive management is defined as a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of previously employed policies and practices and by taking in account the intrinsic changes in the system being managed over time. In active adaptive management, management is treated as a deliberate experiment for purposes of learning by doing.	IPBES
Biological diversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.	CBD
Chain of custody	The custodial sequence that occurs as ownership or control of the material supply is transferred from one custodian to another in the supply chain.	ISEAL
Conservation	Conservation: The management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. Thus, conservation is positive, embracing preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilisation, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment.	IUCN
Criterion	A state or aspect ... which should be in place as a result of adherence to a principle. The way criteria are formulated should give rise to a verdict on the degree of compliance in an actual situation.	Lammerts van Bueren and Blom 1997.
Customary rights	"Customary rights" to lands and resources refers to patterns of long-standing community land and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to land and resources issued by the State.	CCBA
Discrimination	Any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation, including such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.	ILO

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source</b>
Ecosystem	“Ecosystem” means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.	CBD
Forced labour	All work or service that a person has not offered to do voluntarily and is made to do under the threat of punishment or retaliation or that is demanded as a means of repayment of debt.	SAI
Habitat	The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.	CBD
Harvest	The intentional gathering of plants, animals, and natural resources.	IUFRO/CPW
Indicator	A measurable state which allows the assessment of whether or not a particular criterion has been complied with in accordance with the related Principle.	
Operator	An individual or business enterprise, responsible for ensuring that production meets, and continues to meet, the standard on which certification is based.	UNCTAD
Principle	A fundamental law or rule, serving as a basis for reasoning and action. Principles are explicit elements of a goal.	Lammerts van Bueren and Blom 1997
Risk classification	In implementing the FairWild Standard...a distinction is made between species considered to be at high, medium, or low risk of unsustainable collection [based on] factors related to the general biology of the species (intrinsic factors) and some external variables (extrinsic factors).	FWF
Slavery	Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.	Slavery Convention, 1926
Species	Groups of actually or potentially interbreeding natural populations, which are reproductively isolated from other such groups.	Mayr 1942
Standard	Document that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory.	ISEAL
Strategy	A plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major or overall aim.	
Supply chain	Documenting chain of custody describes the list of all organisations (supply chain) that take ownership or control of a product during production, processing, shipping, and retail (physically and/or administratively).	ISEAL
Sustainable use	The use of components of biological diversity in such a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.	CBD

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source</b>
Tenure	Tenure rights with regard to natural resources refer to the social relations and institutions governing access to and use of land and resources. Tenure rights determine who is allowed to use which resources, in what way, for how long and under what conditions, as well as who is entitled to transfer rights to others and how. Tenure rights are often described as a “bundle of rights” comprised of rights to access, use, manage, exclude others from, and alienate land and resources. Different rights in the bundle may be shared or divided in a number of ways and among stakeholders, along with the obligations and responsibilities associated with rights.	Larsen and Springer 2016
Traceability	The ability to verify the history, location, or application of an item by means of documented recorded identification.	ISEAL
Traditional knowledge	Traditional knowledge refers to the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples. Developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is often transmitted orally from generation to generation. It tends to be collectively owned and can be expressed in stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, cultural values, beliefs, rituals etc. It is also the source for the traditional use and management of lands, territories, and resources.	UN
Value chain vs supply chain	The concept of “value chain” [describes] the full range of activities, which are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of production, distribution to consumers, and final disposal after use... Whereas supply chain thinking is suitable for commodities and commodity markets, value chain thinking is more applicable to differentiated products and segmented markets.	Zamora 2016
Wild collection	Practice of gathering a non-cultivated native or naturalised resource from its natural habitat (which may be forest, meadow, pasture, agricultural field, desert, or any other environment in which non-cultivated species are present).	
“Wild” versus “cultivated and “domesticated”	“The term ‘wild’ when applied to plants or plant species refers to those that grow spontaneously in self-maintaining populations in natural or semi-natural ecosystems and can exist independently of direct human action. The term is contrasted with ‘cultivated’ or ‘domesticated’ plants or plant species that have arisen through human action, such as selection or breeding, and that depend on management for their continued existence.”	FAO 1999

Term	Definition	Source
Young worker	The minimum age specified in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years. The minimum age for admission to any type of employment or work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons shall not be less than 18 years.	ILO

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