FairWild Standard

Version 2.0

Approved by the FairWild Board on 26th August 2010

Unifies the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) Version 1.0, 2007 and the FairWild Standards Version 1, 2006

Cover images: Michler, Pätzold, Cunningham, Cunningham (top)
Strohbach, Schippmann, Schippmann (bottom)

This document, and other documents related to this Standard are available on the FairWild website: www.FairWild.org.

For more information contact:

FairWild Foundation Secretariat
CH-8570 Weinfelden, Weststr. 51
Switzerland
Tel: +41-(0)71-626 0 626
Fax: +41-(0)71-626 0 623
e-mail: info@FairWild.org

Comments on the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 are welcome. Please direct inquiries and comments to: info@FairWild.org

Citation: FairWild Foundation. 2010. *FairWild Standard: Version 2.0.* FairWild Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland.

©FairWild Foundation, Switzerland

Reproduction of this document for educational or other non-commercial purposes, or by users of the FairWild Standard for internal use, is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this document for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Acknowledgements

The development of the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 has arisen from the combined efforts of a large number of organisations and individuals who have contributed knowledge, time and expertise to considering how trade in wild-harvested resources can be made more sustainable.

The revision process was made possible through the generous financial support of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) and WWF Germany. We are grateful to the staff of the Institute for Marketecology (IMO) for their contributions to developing and testing performance indicators for the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0, and to the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany, for hosting several workshops contributing to this Standard.

Field testing of this Standard has profited from the experiences of projects supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit, BMZ), the EU-China Biodiversity Project (ECBP), the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), WWF Germany, Traditional Medicinals, Martin Bauer GmbH & Co., Forum Essenzia e.V., ProFound, Kuendig AG, Bahnhof-Apotheke Kempten, IUCN South America, the IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) India, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Nepal and TRAFFIC. The FairWild Foundation has worked with communities, collector co-operatives, research institutions, government agencies, and companies involved in collecting, processing and trading wild-harvested products. Their substantial inputs to the revision process are much appreciated.

The revision process was undertaken by members of the FairWild Foundation's Technical Committee, with guidance from the FairWild Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Contents

Acknowledgements iii
1 Introduction 1
1.1 Applicability and Purpose 1
1.2 Structure of the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 3
2 FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 4
2.1 FairWild Principles and Criteria for Collection Operations 4
SECTION I: WILD COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS 4
SECTION II: LEGAL AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS 4
SECTION III: SOCIAL AND FAIR TRADE REQUIREMENTS 5
SECTION IV: MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS 6
2.2 FairWild Principles and Criteria for Buyers of Wild-collected Products 6
References 7
Annex 1. Acronyms and Abbreviations 8

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Applicability and Purpose

The FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 applies to wild plant collection operations wishing to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable collection, social responsibility and fair trade principles. This Standard unifies the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) Version 1.0 (MPSG 2007), and the FairWild Standards Version 1 (MEINSHAUSEN et al. 2006) into a comprehensive FairWild Standard for sustainable wild collection.

The **purpose** of the FairWild Standard is to ensure the continued use and long-term survival of wild species and populations in their habitats, while respecting the traditions and cultures, and supporting the livelihoods of all stakeholders, in particular collectors and workers.

The increasing demand for natural products in the sectors of food, cosmetics, wellness and medicinal ingredients poses major ecological and social challenges. The high pressure from current and expanding commercial harvest on wild resources can threaten the survival of populations and species, and endanger local ecosystems. Governments, businesses and consumers are recognising that diminishing availability and loss of these wild resources threatens health and economies on a broad scale and undermines the livelihoods of collectors who often belong to the poorest social groups in the countries of origin. Ecological, social and economic objectives must be met, and best practices must be defined to make plant wild collection sustainable. The FairWild Standard is designed to meet these challenges.

The FairWild Standard bridges the gap between existing broad conservation guidelines and ethical codes on the one hand, and collection-management plans developed for particular species and local conditions on the other. Adopting the Principles and applying the Criteria of the FairWild Standard will help private companies, government agencies, research centres and communities to identify and follow good practices for the following eleven key elements of sustainable wild plant collection:

1. Maintaining wild plant resources
2. Preventing negative environmental impacts
3. Complying with laws, regulations and agreements
4. Respecting customary rights and benefit-sharing
5. Promoting fair contractual relationships between operators and collectors
6. Limiting participation of children in wild-collection activities
7. Ensuring benefits for collectors and their communities
8. Ensuring fair working conditions for all workers of wild-collection operations
9. Applying responsible management practices
10. Applying responsible business practices
11. Promoting buyer commitment

The **scope** of the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 includes ingredients of herbal drugs and other botanical products originating from wild collection:

- ✓ Plants, plant parts and plant products collected from natural habitats
- ✓ Fungi and lichens collected from natural habitats

The applicability of the FairWild Standard to species outside this scope (such as originally cultivated, naturalised, invasive, or reintroduced species) must be determined on a case-by-case basis.[1] Animals and animal products such as wax and honey are excluded.

The FairWild Standard is designed to be applicable to the wide array of geographic, ecological, cultural, economic and trade conditions in which wild collection of plant resources occurs. It primarily addresses the collection of wild plant materials for commercial purposes, rather than for subsistence or local small-scale use.

The FairWild Standard defines a framework of Principles and Criteria that can be applied to the management of wild species and their habitats, while promoting socially responsible business practices. The FairWild Foundation recognises that different implementation approaches will be required to have a substantial positive impact on sustainability of wild-collected plant resources and to support the broad range of health and livelihood benefits that depend on sustainable use of wild-collected species (Figure 1). These FairWild Principles and Criteria can be used to:

- provide guidance for resource management
- support implementation of existing regulatory and policy frameworks (such as national safety and environmental requirements and national commitments to international conventions)
- serve as a basis for internal monitoring and reporting (voluntary codes of practice)
- support the FairWild system of certification.

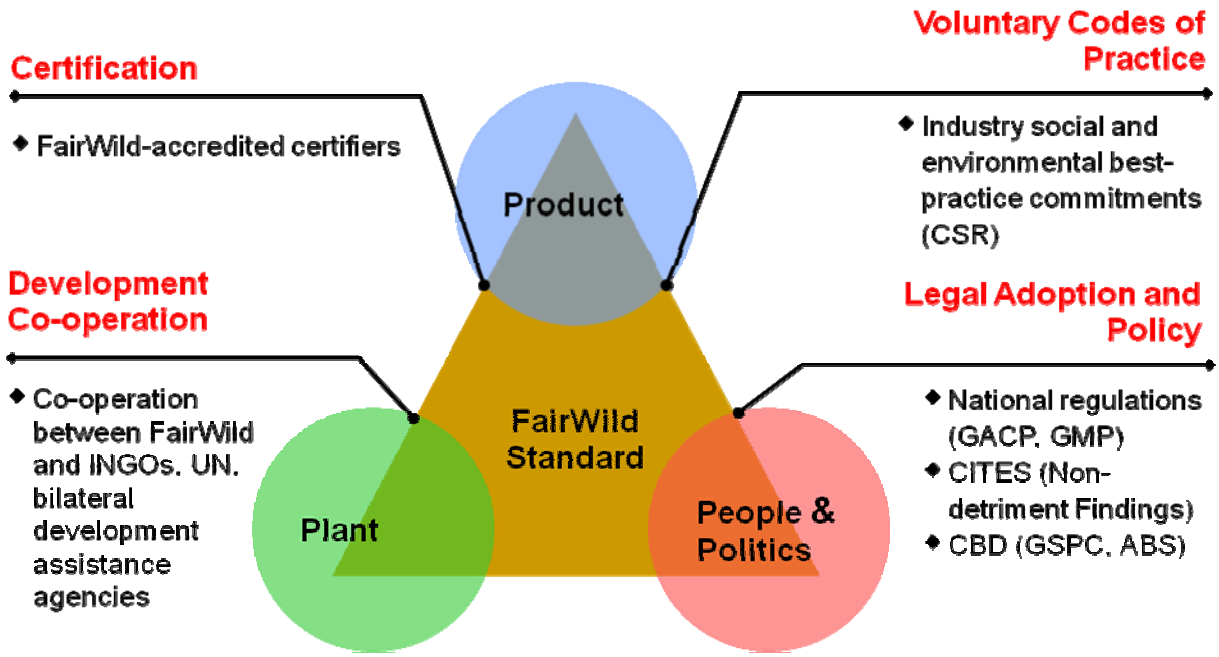

Figure 1. Implementation approaches for the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0

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

[1] Further guidance will be provided by the FairWild Foundation on its website (www.FairWild.org) or on request (info@FairWild.org).

1.2 Structure of the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0

Version 2.0 of the FairWild Standard follows a functional hierarchy of components according to the division outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Functional differentiation of Standard components

Element	Description
Standard	Set of rules developed for conceptualisation, implementation and / or evaluation of good management practices.
Principle	A fundamental law or rule, serving as a basis for reasoning and action. Principles are explicit elements of a goal.
Criterion	A state or aspect of a process or system, 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.
Indicator	A quantitative or qualitative parameter that can be verified to assess an operation's compliance with a criterion. In the FairWild system each indicator (control point) describes different levels of compliance to facilitate the control process and allow demonstration of gradual progress.

Adapted from LAMMERTS VAN BUEREN and BLOM (1997)

The FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 has 11 Principles and 29 Criteria addressing ecological, social and economic requirements for sustainable wild collection. These are listed in Chapter 2 of this document. Performance indicators outlined in a companion document (FWF 2010b) serve as control points for assessment of progress towards implementation of the Principles and Criteria of the FairWild Standard, as a basis for verification and internal auditing as well as FairWild certification through independent bodies accredited by the FairWild Foundation. Detailed external control procedures, minimum requirements for certification, and information on product labelling and use of the FairWild logo are available from the FairWild Foundation.

2 FAIRWILD STANDARD: VERSION 2.0[2]

2.1 FairWild Principles and Criteria for Collection Operations

SECTION I: WILD COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS	
Principle 1. Maintaining Wild Plant Resources *Wild collection of plant resources shall be conducted at a scale and rate and in a manner that maintains populations and species over the long term.*	
1.1	**Conservation status of target species** The conservation status of target species and populations is assessed and regularly reviewed.
1.2	**Knowledge-based collection practices** Collection and management practices are based on adequate identification, mapping, inventory, assessment and monitoring of the target species and collection impacts.
1.3	**Sustainability of collection rate** The rate (intensity and frequency) of target resource collection does not exceed the target species' ability to regenerate over the long term.
Principle 2. Preventing Negative Environmental Impacts *Negative impacts caused by collection activities on other wild species, the collection area and neighbouring areas shall be prevented.*	
2.1	**Sensitive taxa and habitats** Rare, threatened and endangered species and habitats that are likely to be affected by collection and management of the target species are identified and protected.
2.2	**Habitat (landscape level) management** Management activities supporting wild collection of target species do not adversely affect ecosystem diversity, processes and functions.

SECTION II: LEGAL AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS	
Principle 3. Complying with Laws, Regulations and Agreements *Collection and management activities shall be carried out under legitimate tenure arrangements and comply with relevant laws, regulations and agreements.*	
3.1	**Tenure, management authority and use rights** Collectors and managers have a clear and recognised right and authority to use and manage the target resources.
3.2	**Laws, regulations and administrative requirements** Collection and management of target resources comply with all international agreements and with national and local laws, regulations and administrative requirements, including those related to protected species and areas.
Principle 4. Respecting Customary Rights and Benefit-Sharing *Local communities' and indigenous peoples' customary rights to use and manage collection areas and wild-collected target resources shall be recognised, respected and protected.*	
4.1	**Traditional use and practice, access rights and cultural heritage** Local communities and indigenous people with legal or customary tenure or use rights maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights, traditional knowledge or resources, over collection operations.
4.2	**Benefit-sharing** Agreements with local communities and indigenous people are based on appropriate and adequate knowledge of target resource tenure, access rights, management requirements and resource value. The agreements ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits for all parties involved.

[2] A glossary of terms used in the FairWild Standard: Version 2.0 is included with the performance indicators in the companion document (FWF 2010b).

SECTION III: SOCIAL AND FAIR TRADE REQUIREMENTS

Principle 5. Promoting Fair Contractual Relationships between Operators and Collectors

Collectors have the structures and access to information needed to represent their interests and participate in FairWild Premium decisions. There is no discrimination against particular groups as collectors.

5.1	**Fair contractual relationships** The economic relation between company and collectors is fair and transparent and allows collectors to be involved in important decisions such as premium use or pricing agreements.
5.2	**No discrimination against collectors** There is no discrimination against collectors based on race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, sex or political opinion and encouragement of women as registered collectors.

Principle 6. Limiting Participation of Children in Wild-Collection Activities

Collection and processing by collectors is done without substantial work contribution of children.

6.1	**Children and young collectors** Children are not contracted as collectors. Young collectors never do any hazardous work.
6.2	**Collectors contracting children for collection work** Collectors do not contract children as workers to help them in collection or processing.
6.3	**Children helping their parents in collection** Children do very limited work in collection and only under supervision.

Principle 7. Ensuring Benefits for Collectors and their Communities

Trade intermediaries are minimised, collectors are ensured a fair price for the collected goods, and community social development is supported through means of a FairWild Premium fund.

7.1	**Fair pricing and payment of collectors** Collection operation ensures long-term fair prices are being paid to collectors by requiring transparent cost calculations, involving collectors in pricing decisions, keeping trade chains short and ensuring timely payment of collectors.
7.2	**FairWild Premium use and administration** As soon as any FairWild Premium is received, it is administered transparently in a premium fund and decisions on use of the fund are taken in an accountable way by the collectors' organisation, collectors' representative committee or an assigned mixed stakeholder FairWild premium board.

Principle 8. Ensuring Fair Working Conditions for all Workers of Wild-Collection Operations

The collection operation ensures good working conditions for all workers of the wild-collection operation.

8.1	**Basic labour rights for wild-collection operation staff** The wild-collection operation respects basic human values and fundamental rights at work of all workers.
8.2	**Safe work environment for wild-collection operation staff** A safe and hygienic work environment shall be provided, bearing in mind the prevailing knowledge of the industry and of any specific hazards.
8.3	**Fair employment conditions for wild-collection operation staff** The wild-collection operation acts as a socially responsible employer and provides good employment conditions.

SECTION IV: MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS	
Principle 9. Applying Responsible Management Practices *Wild collection of target species shall be based on adaptive, practical, participatory and transparent management practices.*	
9.1	**Species / area management plan** A species / area management plan defines adaptive, practical management processes and good collection practices.
9.2	**Inventory, assessment and monitoring** Management of wild collection is supported by adequate and practical resource inventory, assessment and monitoring of collection impacts.
9.3	**Implementation of sustainable collection measures by collectors** The wild-collection operation ensures that only trained and competent collectors collect the target resources and monitors the effective implementation of the applicable Collection Instructions by the collectors.
9.4	**Training and capacity building** Resource managers and collectors have adequate skills (training, supervision, experience) to implement the provisions of the management plan and to comply with the requirements of this Standard.
9.5	**Transparency and participation** Wild-collection activities are carried out in a transparent manner with respect to management planning and implementation, recording and sharing information, and involving stakeholders.

Principle 10. Applying Responsible Business Practices *Collection of wild resources shall be undertaken to support quality, financial and traceability requirements of the market without sacrificing sustainability of the resource.*	
10.1	**Market / buyer specifications** The sustainable collection and handling of the target resources is managed and planned according to market requirements in order to prevent or minimise the collection of products unlikely to be sold.
10.2	**Traceability** Storage and handling of the target resources is managed to support traceability from the collection area to sales.
10.3	**Financial viability and accountable trade relations** Mechanisms are encouraged to ensure the financial viability of systems of sustainable wild collection of target resources.

2.2 FairWild Principles and Criteria for Buyers of Wild-collected Products

Principle 11. Promoting Buyer Commitment *The buyer of wild-collected products (e.g. importer) strives for mutually beneficial long-term trade relations with the wild-collection operation based on respect, transparency and support for the supplier in quality aspects.*	
11.1	**Mutually beneficial trade relations** The buyer of wild-collected products endeavours to maintain long-term fair trade relations with suppliers, and supports suppliers by means of information, training and favourable trading conditions.
11.2	**Fair prices and FairWild Premium** The buyer of wild-collected products pays fair prices and a FairWild Premium to support social development of the collectors' communities.

REFERENCES

FWF. 2010a. *FairWild Standard: Version 2.0.* FairWild Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland.

FWF. 2010b. *FairWild Standard: Version 2.0. Performance Indicators*. FairWild Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland.

LAMMERTS VAN BUEREN, E.M., AND E.A. BLOM. 1997. *Hierarchical Framework for the Formulation of Sustainable Forest Management Standards*. The Tropenbos Foundation, Leiden, The Netherlands.

MPSG. 2007. *International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* (ISSC-MAP). Version 1.0. Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), MPSG/SSC/IUCN, WWF Germany, and TRAFFIC (BfN-Skripten 195), Bonn, Gland, Frankfurt, and Cambridge.

MEINSHAUSEN F, S. WINKLER, R. BÄCHI, F. STAUBLI, AND K. DÜRBECK. 2006. *FairWild Standards*, Version 1 (11/2006). FairWild Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland.

ANNEX 1. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and benefit-sharing
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz / German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
BMZ	Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit / German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ECBP	EU-China Biodiversity Project
FWF	FairWild Foundation
FRLHT	Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions
GACP	Good Agricultural and Collection Practices
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
GSPC	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IMO	Institute for Marketecology
INGOs	International non-government organisations
ISSC-MAP	International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAP	Medicinal and aromatic plant
MPSG	Medicinal Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN/SSC
SIPPO	Swiss Import Promotion Programme
SSC	Species Survival Commission
UN	United Nations