



UNION FOR  
ETHICAL  
BIOTRADE

SOURCING  
WITH RESPECT

# UEBT ETHICAL BIOTRADE STANDARD

Companies that use the UEBT standard are primarily active in the cosmetics, food and natural pharmaceutical sectors.

The UEBT standard was revised in 2020. It is based on the UNCTAD BioTrade principles and criteria and covers important social, environmental and economic issues.

## Scope of the UEBT standard

The UEBT standard applies to ingredients from biodiversity, including plant parts and compounds. Examples include flowers, leaves, roots, stems, fruits, extracts, waxes, colorants and flavours. Companies may also work with microorganisms, algae or beeswax.

The UEBT standard is oriented towards specialty ingredients that are used in relatively small volumes. This is different than commodities such as coffee, palm oil or timber that other standards systems focus on.



## GLOBALLY CONSISTENT, LOCALLY APPLICABLE

The UEBT standard can be applied anywhere in the world and focuses on taking action that is specific to the local context.

## THE UEBT ETHICAL BIOTRADE STANDARD



Conservation of biodiversity



Sustainable use of biodiversity



Compliance with legislation



Fair and equitable sharing of benefits



Socio-economic sustainability

## Respect for people



Clarity about land tenure



Respect for rights of actors

The UEBT standard is applicable to many production systems and stages in the supply chain including:

- Cultivation and wild collection
- Small and large farms, collectors
- Farms, cooperatives, processing companies
- Product manufacturers and brands



### What is new in the standard?

- Better defined practices and detailed guidance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, with an increased focus on regeneration of biodiversity.
- A more outcome-based approach, emphasising monitoring of actions taken, assessing results and implementing improvements.
- More guidance on cost calculation so that fairer prices are paid to farmers and wild collectors.
- Better alignment with legal and policy developments related to access and benefit sharing (ABS) and the Nagoya Protocol.
- Further alignment with United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and International Labour Organisation conventions.
- A continuous improvement (stepwise) approach, with some actions that can be prioritized in future stages.

### Why use the UEBT standard?

The UEBT standard can be used to guide risk mapping and supplier due diligence, as well as improvement, verification or certification of natural raw material supply chains.

Companies often use the standard to:

- Fulfil commitments on sourcing with respect for people and biodiversity.
- Establish good practices along the supply chain.
- Align in-house sourcing programs to a credible, independent standard.
- Obtain external verification or UEBT certification.
- Achieve UEBT/UTZ herbal tea certification.

### UEBT'S CERTIFICATION MARK

UEBT member companies that achieve certification may use the UEBT label on their products.

In 2021 we intend to publish the new UEBT and Rainforest Alliance Herbs and Spices Program, replacing the current UEBT/UTZ herbal tea program. The new Rainforest Alliance certification seal may be used for this program.



Learn more at [www.ethicalbiotrade/setting-the-standard](http://www.ethicalbiotrade/setting-the-standard)

Write to us at [certification@uebt.org](mailto:certification@uebt.org)

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Published June 2020