



UNION FOR
ETHICAL
BIOTRADE

SOURCING[®]
WITH RESPECT



SOURCING
BOTANICALS
WITH RESPECT
FOR PEOPLE AND
BIODIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2022



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¹Sections include new data from UEBT not published before

WHO IS THIS DOCUMENT FOR?

The document provides guidance on trends and good practices for companies sourcing botanicals for use in food, beverages, fragrance compositions, cosmetics, and a range of other sectors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiversity is high on the corporate agenda and the loss of biodiversity is a significant concern among consumers¹. At the same time, a new global framework on biodiversity is set to galvanise action across public and private sectors².

Companies are working to understand and measure the impact and dependencies on biodiversity. Targets are set and action is underway to ensure supply chains do not involve deforestation or human rights violations. Increasingly, companies are also looking at how their raw materials and supply chains can contribute to restoring nature and improving livelihoods.

Botanicals, biodiversity-derived raw materials used as strategic ingredients in high-value sectors from natural pharmaceutical and flavor and fragrance to beauty, and herbs and spices, are an essential part of the biodiversity agenda.

UEBT research shows:

- the high biodiversity importance of botanicals and the ecosystems in they grow,
- their key role in the livelihoods of local and often marginalized people around the world, and
- the remaining biodiversity risks and challenges in botanicals, coupled with opportunities for positive impact.

A UEBT review of more than 100 botanical supply chains around the globe reveals that insufficient attention is paid to biodiversity in sourcing practices. For example, agrochemicals are often misused, waste is poorly managed, and the links with surrounding landscapes are ignored. In addition, farmers' and pickers' pay is often too low to ensure good practices or provide a living income.

This review, based on local assessments conducted by UEBT and its member companies, shows that assessing practices on the ground and developing improvement plans jointly among supply chain stakeholders, stimulates positive change. Sourcing practices get better and the relationship between people and biodiversity improves. Botanical supply chains prove to have significant potential as a driver of sustainable development.

Botanical supply chains prove to have significant potential as a driver of sustainable development

Botanicals provide a compelling and strategic opportunity for companies to act on biodiversity. Companies can take steps to elevate the importance of botanicals in their biodiversity and sourcing strategies.

More attention and investment is needed to address risks and harness opportunities for people and biodiversity along botanical supply chains.

Plants, oils, extracts, and other biodiversity-derived raw materials have long offered unique stories and benefits to products. This is now a chance to further enhance their contributions by linking them even more to people and biodiversity.

¹ UEBT Biodiversity Barometer 2022

² The UN Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at the UN Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Montreal, Canada, December 2022

Lavender being grown in France | Image courtesy of UEBT

1 INTRODUCTION

THE BIODIVERSITY AWAKENING

Business knows that its customers, including end consumers, are growing more and more aware of the biodiversity crisis. According to UEBT's 2022 consumer research that surveyed 6,000 consumers across six countries¹, **loss of biodiversity was the second most important global environmental issue of concern, after climate change.**

The research also showed a high level of understanding of what biodiversity is. 87% of consumers surveyed had heard of the term 'biodiversity' and 82% could select the correct definition of biodiversity.

This is part of a longer-term trend. **In the last 2 years, biodiversity awareness has considerably increased, and significant progress has been made since 2009.**

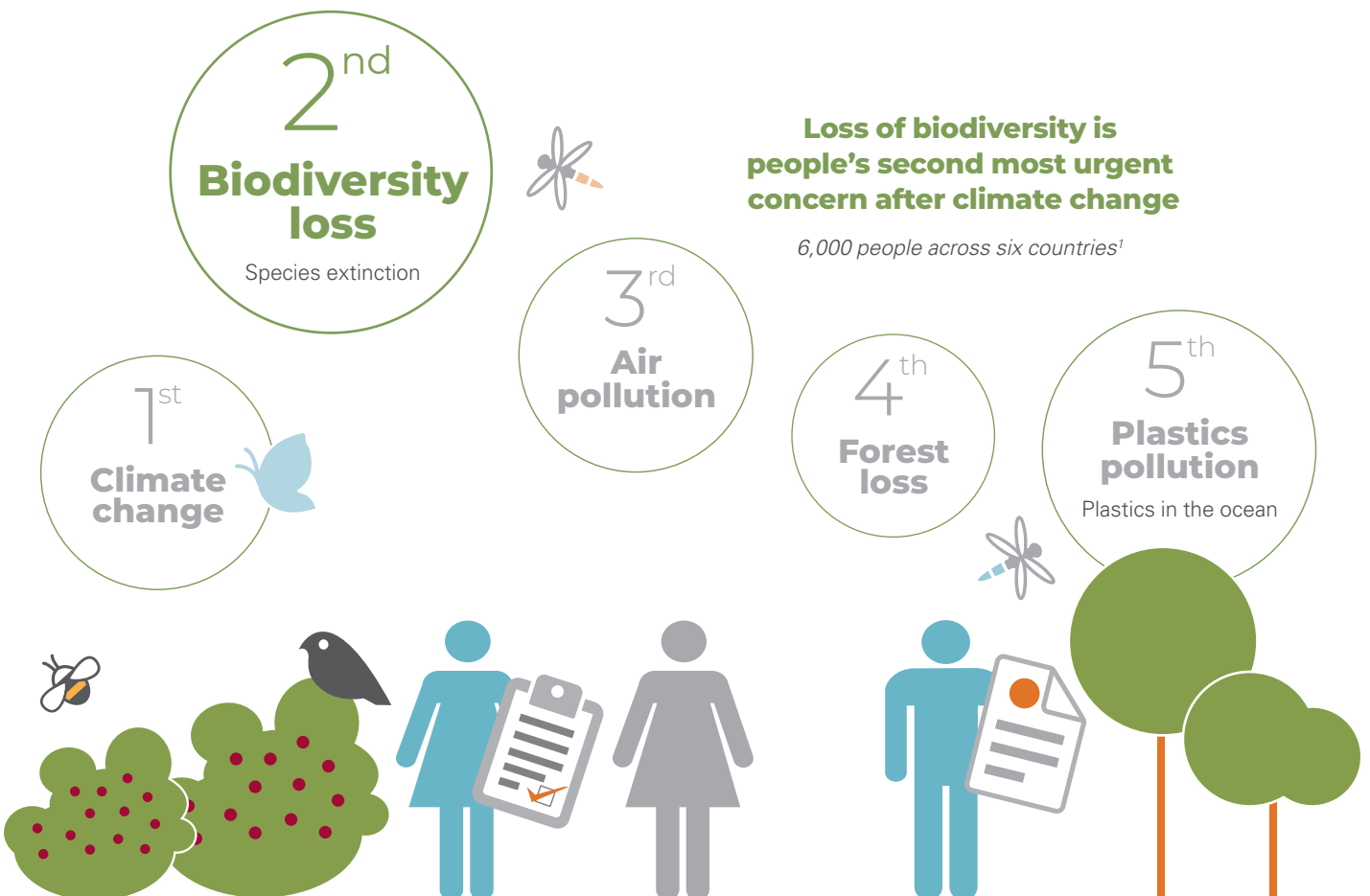
CONSUMERS WANT INFORMATION ON HOW BUSINESS IS RESPECTING BIODIVERSITY

82% of those surveyed said they would like companies to inform them about the actions they take to respect biodiversity and people, but **only 57% said they feel confident that companies are paying serious attention to sourcing with respect for biodiversity.**

86% of those surveyed said it was important to them to have information on a product's impact on biodiversity

Clearly biodiversity is of significant interest to consumers. **In fact, 86% of those surveyed said it was important to them to have information on a product's impact on biodiversity listed on the product package or product web page,** only slightly lower in importance than the list of ingredients.

¹ US, UK, Germany, France, Brazil and China



REGULATION IS ON THE RISE, AND ALL EYES ARE ON THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Policymakers are also clearly concerned, as shown by developments at international, regional, and national levels. In 2021, the United Nations Secretary General noted that “biodiversity is collapsing—and we are the losers”. He said the world is counting on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, now likely to be adopted in December 2022 in Montreal, to transform humanity’s relationship with nature, and fully reflect the value of biodiversity, including to the global economy.

The adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to galvanize urgent action to stabilize biodiversity loss by 2030 and allow for its regeneration by 2050. Often compared in importance to the 2015 *Paris Agreement* related to climate, this global framework for biodiversity sets targets on protected areas, pesticides, wild species, agriculture, fair and equitable benefit sharing, business reporting on biodiversity dependencies and impacts, and more. Indicators will be established for countries and other stakeholders to report on progress.

As a result, this is an opportunity for business to align with its goals and to contribute to its targets, signaling support for what may become the clear beacon for nature worldwide. Business is already engaging in the process and raising its voice to advocate for ambitious global targets, including through initiatives such as *Business for Nature*¹.

¹ UEBT is a member of the business action working group of Business for Nature.

Box 1

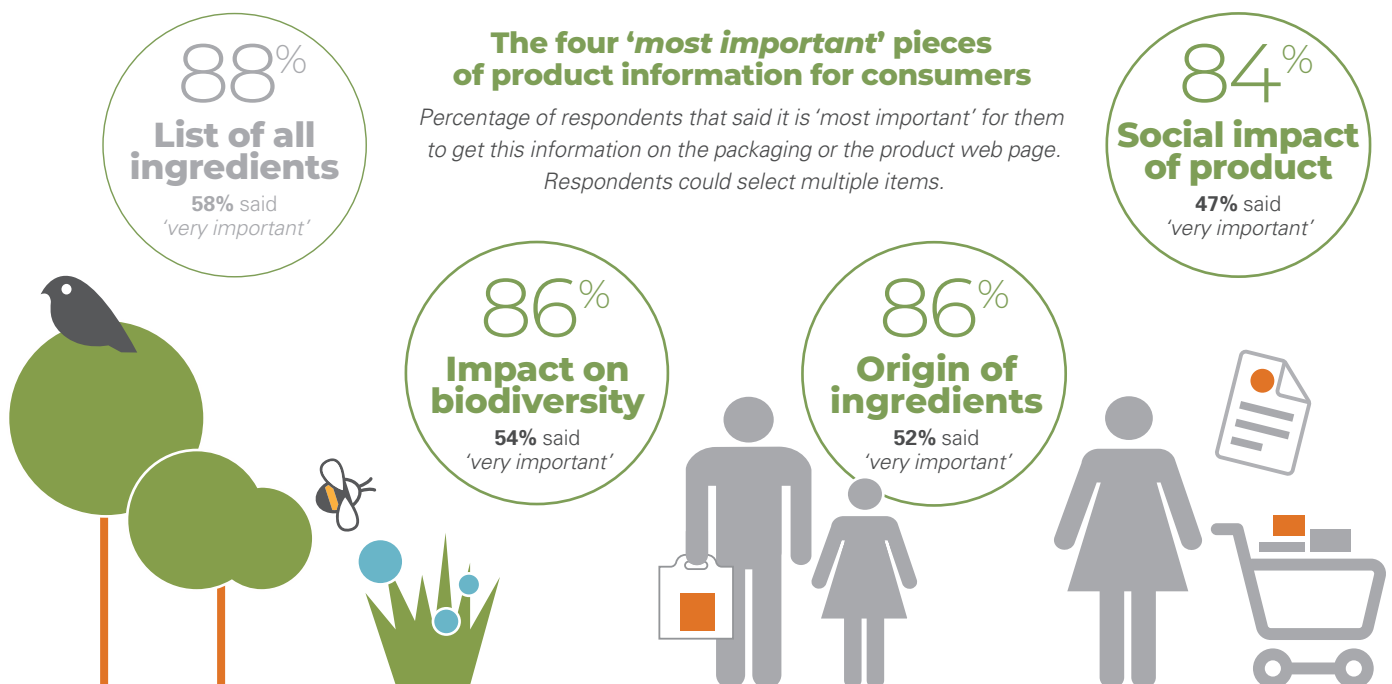
Rise in due diligence regulation will stimulate action on biodiversity

Sourcing with respect for biodiversity has additional benefits for business, through supporting compliance with the growing number of legal frameworks that seek to ensure that companies carry out due diligence along their supply chains. These include the European Commission proposal for a directive on human rights and environmental due diligence (proposal issued in 2022), and the German supply chain due diligence act (enters into force in 2023).

See a summary of these in the Annex.

At the regional level, key policy developments include the European Green Deal launched in 2020 with the aim to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent. As part of this, the European Commission has proposed new rules on deforestation and waste and presented a new soil strategy. The European Commission is also proposing a directive on human rights and environmental due diligence. At the national level, a number of countries are adopting or strengthening their own due diligence requirements. As biodiversity-related rules and policy continue to evolve, companies will need to be aware and ensure they are complying, where required, and aligning wherever possible.

See the Annex for a table summarizing key policy developments, with links and how business could engage.



2 THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTANICALS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

Botanicals are sourced by a diverse array of companies in the cosmetics, functional foods, natural pharmaceuticals, personal care, fragrances and flavour, and herbs and spices sectors, among others.

They are found in sports and soft drinks, table spices, energy bars, lipsticks, skin care products, perfumes, dietary supplements, herbals teas, and much more.

THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT REASONS FOR INCLUDING BOTANICALS IN RESPONSIBLE SOURCING STRATEGIES

Botanicals are some of the most evocative and interesting raw materials used in the world.

Companies need to include botanicals in their responsible sourcing strategies for a few clear reasons.



These include **2.1** high levels of biodiversity in these supply chains, **2.2** significant reliance of local people on botanicals, and – paradoxically considering the high biodiversity found in them – **2.3** significant challenges needing improvement in these supply chains.

Box 2

What do we mean by botanicals?

UEBT defines **botanicals** broadly, including plants and other unique raw materials derived from biodiversity. That is, we use the term to cover plant parts – such as roots, flowers, fruits – or other material or compounds from animals, fungi, or microbial organisms.

These ingredients may be used as herbs and spices or in compositions and ingredients used for medicinal, flavor, fragrance, dietary, cosmetic, or other purposes. We distinguish botanicals from **commodities**, which also derive from nature but are grown and traded in large scale, often interchangeably.



2.1 High biodiversity importance

The number of botanicals in use has been estimated in the range of 50,000 to 70,000. This is more than 10% of the plant species documented worldwide¹. In commodity agriculture, a limited number of species are relied on, eroding biodiversity. However, in sectors that rely on botanicals, there is often a larger range of plant species used, growing in different ecosystems around the world. These botanicals are linked to their ecosystem as well as to the cultures and livelihoods of the local communities that rely on them.

Botanicals are also often collected in the wild. This means botanicals are at the heart of many well-functioning ecosystems, and good sourcing practices can have a positive impact on the entire ecosystem. Working with botanicals can offer opportunities to generate positive impact and to act in ecosystems and upon species of high ecological relevance.

Box 3

Why are botanicals often left out of sustainability strategies that are tackling biodiversity?

Companies are often focused on larger-scale agricultural commodities with significant negative pressure on land and water.

This work is crucial but it means that sometimes companies do not take enough action on the other tens of thousands of plant-based raw materials. These botanicals are important for specific ecosystems and local communities and many of them are endemic or threatened.

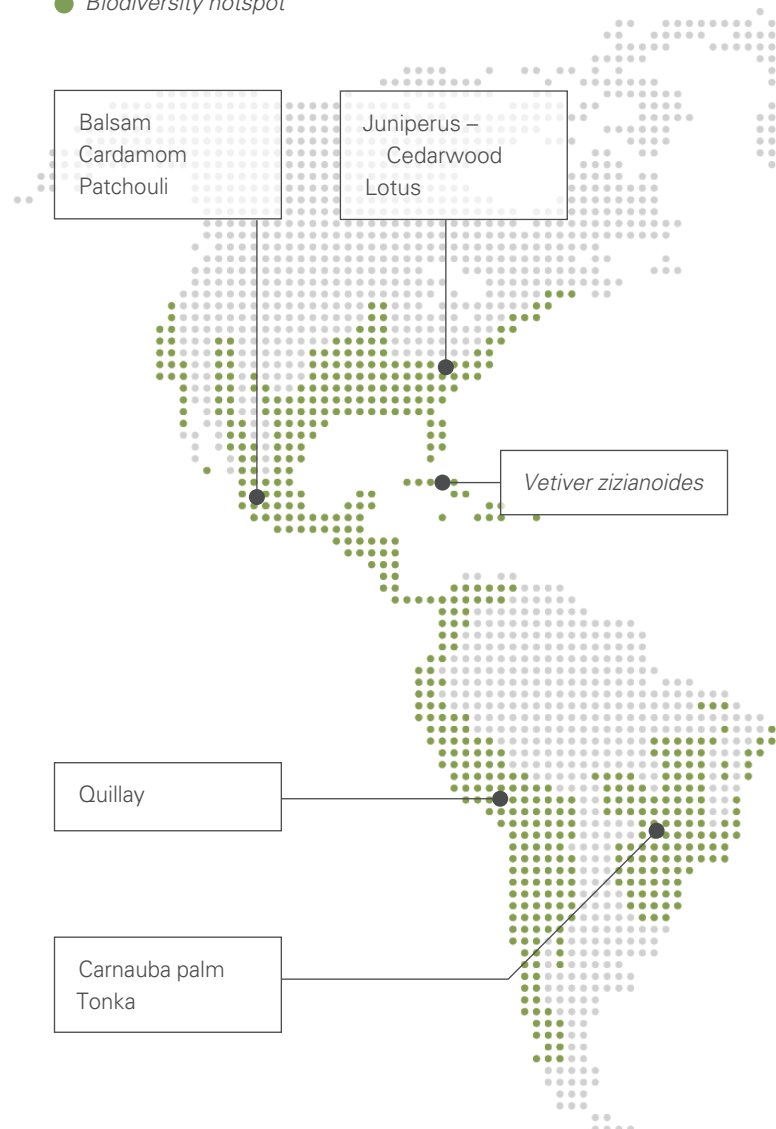
Botanicals are often produced in places rich in biodiversity. Figure 1 (below) shows known biodiversity hotspots in the world with UEBT's own information on where botanicals are sourced by UEBT member companies.

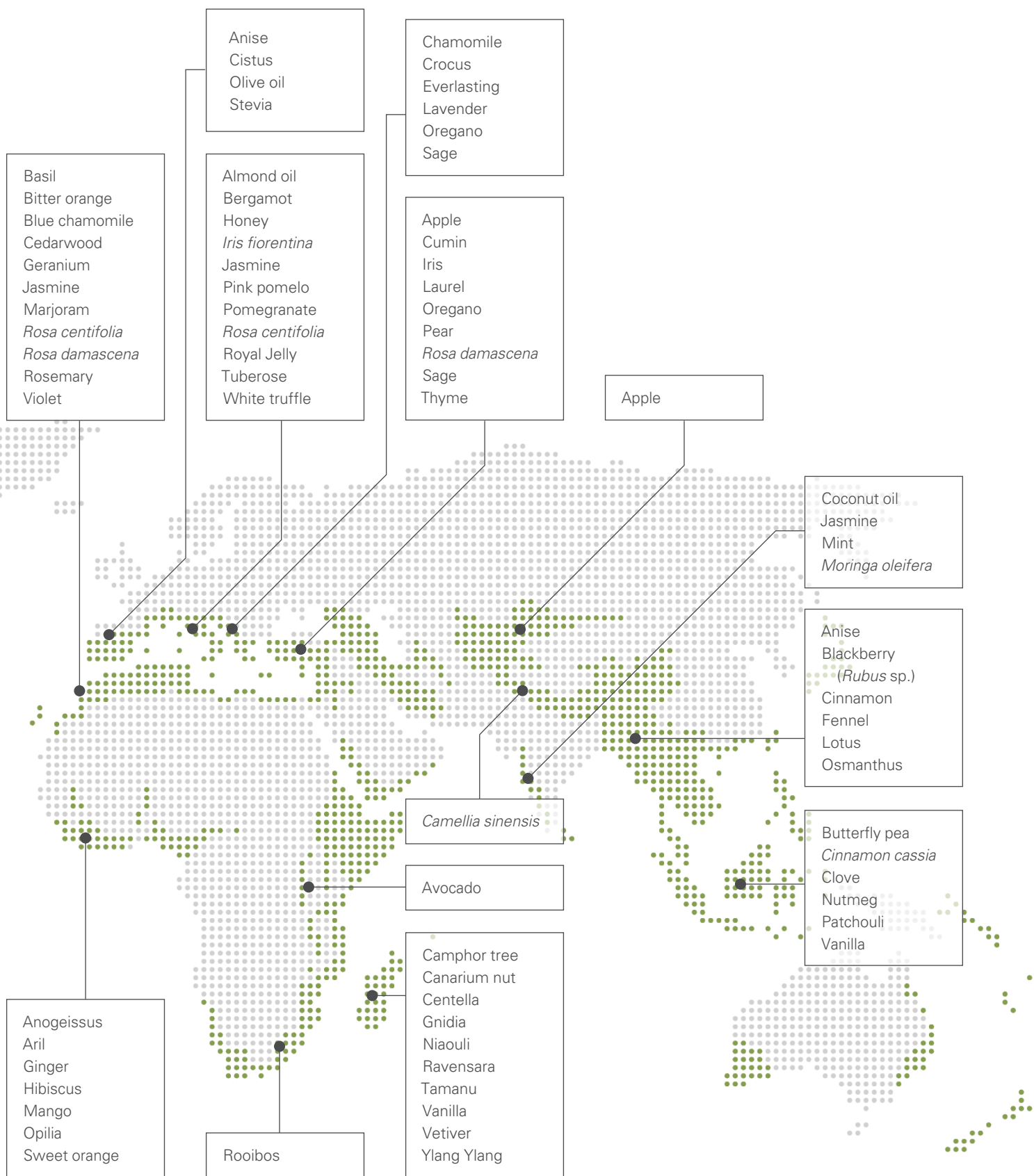
This demonstrates that sourcing of botanicals can support the maintenance of a high degree of natural biodiversity by ensuring sustainable management of sourced species and measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity in surrounding areas.

¹ Schippmann et al. 2006

Figure 1 Botanicals sourcing and biodiversity hotspots

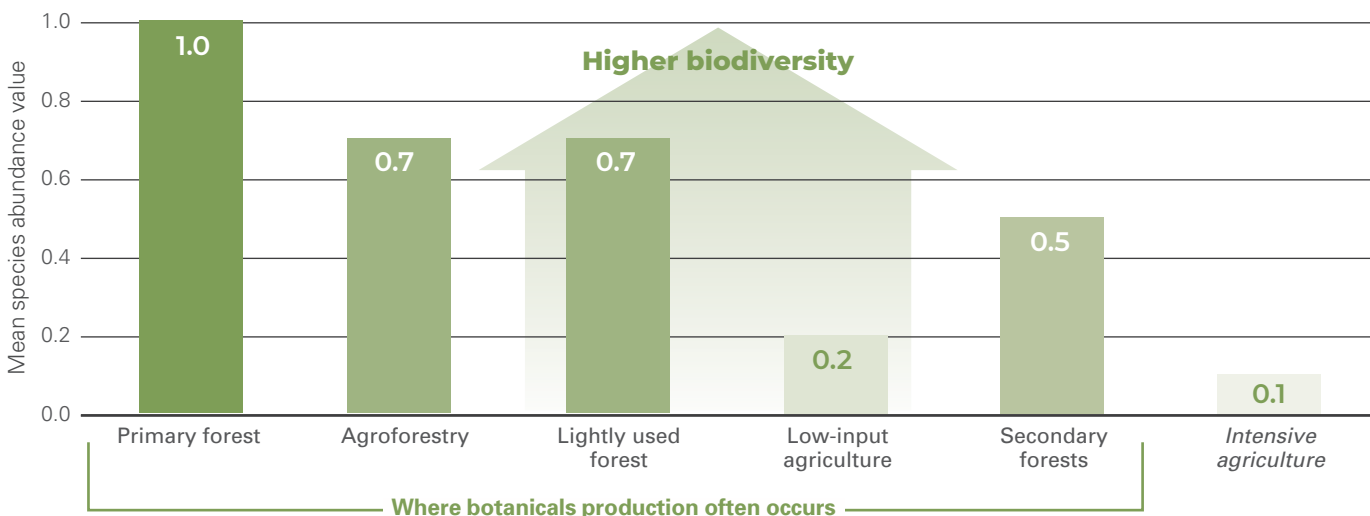
● Biodiversity hotspot





Source: Map of biodiversity hotspots adapted from Conservation International. Botanicals sourcing map from UEBT membership (100 companies, Sep 22 figures)

Figure 2 Abundance of original species in land use categories where botanicals are grown



Source: Mean abundance of original species value for land use category (Rob Alkemade, Mark van Oorschot, Lera Miles, Christian Nellemann, Michel Bakkenes, and Ben ten Brink, 2009 GLOBIOS: A Framework to Investigate Options for Reducing Global Terrestrial Biodiversity Loss)

Working with botanicals can offer opportunities to generate positive impact and to act in ecosystems and upon species of high ecological relevance. At the same time the work with botanicals allows tackling issues that, even if not having the same scale as those found in larger commodities, are threatening biodiversity nonetheless and are negatively affecting the resilience and profitability of many sectors, including many small and medium enterprises in sourcing areas that rely on botanicals. (See section 3 on page 16 about challenges and opportunities.)

The abundance of diverse original species is significantly higher in agroforestry than that of intensive agricultural settings

Botanicals are also produced in ecosystems that are not intact anymore and have been changing over time due to farming, among other economic activities. This is when botanicals are produced in farming landscapes in Europe, North America and similar.

In both intact and non-intact ecosystems, ethical sourcing of botanicals in these areas contributes to:

- sustainable use of relevant and highly diverse species,
- maintenance of soil conditions and functions, and
- maintenance of the water cycle.

The production of most botanicals follows practices that are embedded in the natural environment and usually small in scale.

Two-thirds of botanicals are being sourced from the wild, and relatively few of the remaining one-third that are farmed, are farmed on a large-scale¹

Botanicals are largely shade tolerant, because they often grow spontaneously under forest cover. So, when farmed, this often takes place in some form of agro-ecological system, supporting healthy soil, water conditions and its cycle. What botanicals have in common in their most common production systems are that:

- **They have a high degree of natural biodiversity**, especially in terms of original species abundance (species that would only be in place in case of no human intervention) and therefore are sometimes close to 'intact' status. This is significantly higher than more intensive agricultural systems such as where larger-scale commodities are grown² (see figure 2 above.)
- **They ensure good soil and water conditions** due to their focus on higher diversity of crop rotation, minimum tillage of the soil, more direct seeding, and higher efficiency in water use³.

Promoting sustainable sourcing of botanicals promotes working with production systems that mimic natural ecosystems and ensure high levels of on-site biodiversity and good conditions of natural resources. Sometimes botanicals grow in larger and more intensive farming systems and, in those cases, ethical sourcing can provide many positive impacts such as restoring the more natural production environment that is typical of those plants.

¹ Canter 2005, Schippmann 2002

² From figures on farmland biodiversity from semi-natural systems to intensive agriculture systems in, ECA 2019

³ Mitchel et al, 2018

2.2 Botanicals support local livelihoods

Production of botanicals is crucial for the livelihoods of local communities. Although botanicals are also produced in more developed contexts and by industrial farmers, local people in lower-income countries rely especially on botanicals for food, cash, medicine, and more. Promoting ethical sourcing of those plants contributes to sustainable and resilient communities.

Botanicals provide valuable income for many rural households, especially in lower income countries, and botanicals are important in many local economies¹. The production and trade of botanicals can also play a vital role in income diversification for marginalized populations living in remote areas, especially when they are connected to quality markets (such as found in ethical sourcing schemes). Income from botanicals is also an incentive for the conservation and sustainable use of forests and other ecosystems in which plant species grow.

While many of these markets for botanicals are not yet delivering fair prices or price premiums for products (*see Box 4*), they are generally more stable markets than other crop's markets that are influenced by quantity more than quality. In addition, for some rural communities, botanicals are often the only cash income option².

Finally, about 80% of the population of most lower income countries still use traditional medicines derived from botanicals to treat human diseases³. Ensuring ethical sourcing of botanicals can support local people's health, while also protecting and valuing their traditional knowledge. It is an important tool for fair and equitable benefit sharing.

¹ Schippmann et al. 2006, Barata et al. 2016

² Woda, 2022

³ de Silva, 1997

Box 4

Conditions in botanicals production are often informal and need improvement

The cultivation and wild collection of botanicals is often carried out by small producers who lack the political or economic power to influence supply chains in such a way as to secure the rights of access to and use of resources and fair share of benefits from this use.

In addition, botanicals and derived products are often sold to quality markets that can generate high value. However, benefits have often been for large scale operations downstream in the supply chain and not for producers, including indigenous peoples and local communities.

Source: Fromentin et al, 2022; Woda, 2022

A village in Vietnam where people live that collect ingredients for the perfume sector | Image courtesy of UEBT



A village in Madagascar where women live that collect *Centella Asiatica* for the beauty sector | Image courtesy of UEBT

2.3 There are significant challenges to address, and opportunities for positive impact

In 2022, UEBT analyzed the results of more than 100 field-based assessments of more than 80 different botanicals. These were in supply chains where UEBT experts or external UEBT-accredited auditors visited the sourcing area (the farm or wild collection area) and observed the sourcing activities (cultivation or wild collection) and interviewed business stakeholders, including producers and workers, as well as any field collectors (pickers) about the conditions for both biodiversity and people¹.

In 2022, UEBT analyzed the results of more than 100 field-based assessments of over 80 different botanicals

The challenges found are based on *where requirements of the UEBT standard were **not** reached in the assessment.*

The most frequently occurring areas for improvement were:

- Insufficient attention paid to biodiversity
- Overuse or misuse of agrochemicals
- Unfair pay

Details on these are described in section 3.

¹ UEBT assessments also often look at other local entities in the supply chain, such as local warehouses, processing operations, and similar. The primary focus, however, is on the cultivation and wild collection practices.

² The UEBT Standard is published in six languages, and available to download at uebt.org/resource-pages/standard

Box 5

The UEBT Standard

The UEBT Standard² is a blueprint for ethical sourcing of botanicals. Its focus is on sourcing with respect for people and biodiversity.

Requirements include:

Respect for biodiversity

- Biodiversity conservation and restoration
- Cultivation and wild collection practices for sustainable use of biodiversity

Respect for people

- Human and worker's rights
- Community wellbeing and local development



3 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED SOURCING OF BOTANICALS

UEBT draws the lessons in this section from the work it does with member and partner companies of all sizes across several sectors such as food and beverage, pharmaceutical, beauty, fragrance and flavors, herbs and spices, and more. Member companies commit to integrating the UEBT standard across their activities and supply chains.

UEBT members prioritize certain botanicals supply chains, where actions are taken to advance more quickly on sourcing with respect for people and biodiversity.

As part of this, some, but not all, UEBT members also request verification and certification assessments in one or more of these prioritized supply chains. The data analysed here comes from these voluntary assessments. UEBT member and partner companies use assessments to then set plans for continuous improvement.

In this review, UEBT experts and auditors from UEBT-accredited certification bodies looked at more than 100 supply chains of over 80 different botanicals over a period of four years

Box 6

Some botanicals in the analysis

- Aloe Vera
- Apple
- Arnica
- Cardamom
- Carnauba
- Centella
- Cinnamon
- Clove
- Coconut oil
- Fennel
- Hibiscus
- Jasmine
- Lavender
- Lemon balm
- Lotus
- Pink pomelo
- Rose
- Rose hip
- Sage
- Shea nut
- Spearmint
- Stevia
- Tonka beans
- Vanilla
- White truffle

Some countries in the analysis

- Albania
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Chile
- China
- Egypt
- France
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Romania
- US
- Vietnam

Everlasting (*Immortelle* ou *Helichrysum italicum*), cultivated in Croatia and used for essential oils | Image courtesy of UEBT

THE MAIN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 Insufficient attention paid to biodiversity

On biodiversity, more specifically UEBT found that:

- Biodiversity is not assessed at all, or the assessment needs to be improved (see figure 3.1)
- If biodiversity actions are taken, they are not monitored (see figure 3.2)
- The regeneration of wild collected botanicals and the impact of collection activities is not a focus (see figure 4)

Figure 3 Conservation of Biodiversity | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

Figure 3.1 Information gathered

Information is gathered on the ecosystem the botanicals are produced in

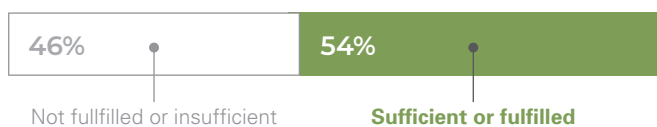


Figure 3.2 Targets are set and monitored

Targets are set to support maintaining ecosystems where botanicals are produced, progress is measured

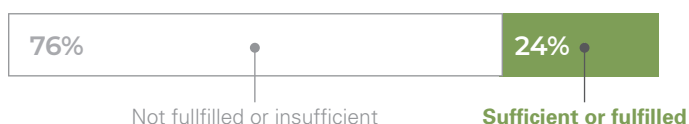
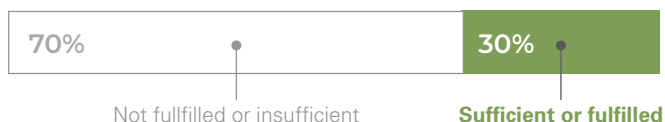


Figure 4 Regeneration | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

If collecting wild botanicals, information is known about the regeneration rate and conditions of the collected species, and the impact of collection activities



¹ Percentage (%) shown is the percentage of 100+ botanicals supply chains reviewed that met the scoring level.

Box 7

What do we mean by 'not fulfilled' or 'insufficient'

The terms **improvement required** and **not fulfilled/insufficient** are used interchangeably in this section but all refer to the scoring in a UEBT assessment against the UEBT standard (specifically against its criteria and indicators).

When a requirement to be met is deemed 'not fulfilled or insufficient' it means that the particular supply chain under assessment did not meet the UEBT scoring level for satisfying the requirements (e.g. in the case of certification this would be called 'non-compliant.')

“UEBT assessments shine a light on the challenges, but they also have a practical purpose: to support UEBT members in defining and implementing improvement measures.

Rik Kutsch Lojenga, UEBT Executive Director

3.2 Overuse or misuse of agrochemicals, and poor waste management

Agrochemicals are still widely used in botanicals, even in these delicate land use systems that are often where botanicals are cultivated or collected.

Related to chemical use, UEBT found that:

- Agrochemicals are used inappropriately, especially for restricted chemicals (see figure 5)
- Agrochemicals are not stored or disposed of properly, with significant risks to human health, water and more (see figure 6)
- Contamination and emissions from waste is also not sufficiently assessed (see figure 7)

Figure 5 Mitigation of agrochemicals | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

Appropriate practices are followed if agrochemicals used are considered to be of Restricted Use

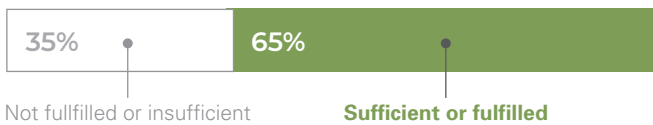


Figure 6 Storage of agrochemicals | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

Agrochemicals are stored in their containers and disposed of in ways that do not threaten the environment

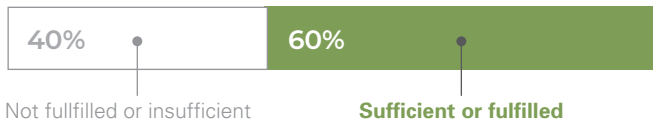
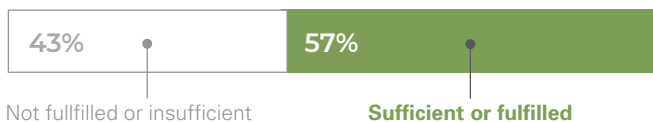


Figure 7 Waste management | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

Actions are assessed to reduce emissions and contamination from waste disposal



¹ Percentage (%) shown is the percentage of 100+ botanicals supply chains reviewed that met the scoring level.

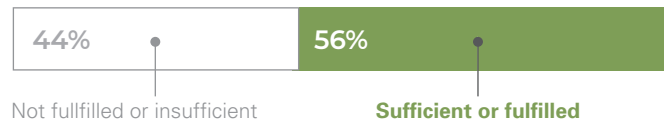
3.3 Unfair pay

Botanicals supply chains often have informal practices when it comes to wages and prices. Minimum wage equivalents are often not met when prices are paid to pickers or farmers, and almost no actions are yet seen to move towards living wages. Almost one-half of the UEBT assessments show improvements needed on wages and prices paid.

- Prices paid do not at least ensure a minimum wage equivalent
- Actions are not taken to reach living wage equivalent (see figure 8)

Figure 8 Unfair pay | Supply chains reviewed (%)¹

Prices are paid that at least ensure a minimum wage equivalent and actions are taken to reach a living wage equivalent



A SILVER LINING: VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION PROVIDES A STRUCTURE THAT SEEKS AND STIMULATES IMPROVEMENT

When UEBT looks at these assessments over time (most are done annually, with auditors or experts returning to the same production areas), there are some positive trends.

Specifically, the process of getting assessed for certification or verification motivates commitment and triggers actions for improvement.

Over time, more requirements are met ('non-compliances' are closed or removed). Other interesting observations include:

- When a UEBT assessment is done for verification purposes (the UEBT verification programme provides an assessment against the same requirements as certification but does not

have a pass/fail approach and no on-pack claims or certification labels are allowed), the results show a larger number of improvements required¹.

This demonstrates that a programme that allows flexibility in making improvements has value for companies, even without a consumer-facing labelling opportunity, and allows companies to understand the challenges without fear of a 'failed audit.'

- During a typical first assessment done for certification purposes, there is a fairly steady or medium rate of improvements needed ('non-compliances' in certification language), however by the third-year's assessment UEBT sees the lowest rates of non-compliances/improvements needed. (UEBT verification is newer, and so UEBT cannot yet track changes over three years' time).

This illustrates that the voluntary tools of verification and certification are having an influence on decisions or actions taken to both see the realities of challenges on the ground and improve environmental and social outcomes in these supply chains.

¹ 23% total non-compliances for verification, 16% total non-compliances for certification.



4 CALL TO ACTION: TOWARDS ETHICAL SOURCING OF BOTANICALS

Long-term benefits exist when botanicals are part of business strategies related to sustainability, and particularly when they are part of a robust biodiversity strategy.

These include access to long-term supply of specialty ingredients, reduced costs and better transparency into botanicals supply chains, and the potential for many direct positive outcomes and impacts for local communities and high biodiversity ecosystems.

Biodiversity is crucial for business and so its recovery and restoration must be integrated into the business. Biodiversity, and specifically botanicals, are the source for specialty ingredients in a wide range of sectors. However, the world has reached a level of biodiversity loss and species in danger of extinction where merely conserving biodiversity is not sufficient. The climate crisis and biodiversity loss together are pushing species to the brink.

For companies, this means when thinking of impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, they should look at practices linked to the cultivation or wild collection of natural raw materials, including plants and other biological resources. These include not only large-scale agricultural commodities but also the wide range of botanicals.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank our members, certificate holders, their suppliers and supplier communities, and local organisations that work with them for sharing their willingness to undergo assessments of their botanicals operations, including farms and other supply chain entities, and that provided the aggregated data for section 3. We also thank our members for their commitment to continuous improvement in their sourcing systems and practices.

We also acknowledge the support and collaboration for UEBT's work on ethical sourcing of botanicals and for our annual consumer research from the following: the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – UNCTAD, UEBT's funding partners and NGO partners, the UEBT staff and Board, and our accredited certification bodies.

Simona D'Amico

Lara Koritzke

Rik Kutsch Lojenga

Maria Julia Oliva



ROSEHIP COLLECTED FROM THE WILD IN ARGENTINA | IMAGE COURTESY OF UEBT

Annex 1 | Rise of regulatory frameworks and initiatives on biodiversity

Initiative	When	What	Description	How to align
At the global level				
The Global Biodiversity Framework www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020	Adoption at COP15 December 2022	International Framework that guides targets, measures and reporting for governments, business and other actors	<p>The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework constitutes the blueprint for action on biodiversity. It is negotiated under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and expected to be adopted in its upcoming conference in Kunming, China. It sets out targets on issues such as protected areas, use of pesticides, sustainable collection of wild species, sustainable practices in agriculture, fair and equitable benefit sharing and business reporting on biodiversity dependencies and impacts. These targets are complemented by indicators that measure progress and promote accountability.</p> <p>In developing this framework, governments recognise that its implementation will require partnerships and actions involving a range of actors at the global, national, and local levels. Business is already engaging in the process and raising its voice to advocate for ambitious targets on reversing nature loss and integrating biodiversity in broader policies. Business for Nature is an initiative bringing together hundreds of companies in a 'Call to Action' to governments negotiating the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	Follow UEBT or <i>Business for Nature</i> updates on COP 15 and related meetings.
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration www.decadeonrestoration.org	2021 to 2030	<p>Platform for action to restore biodiversity</p> <p>Raises the focus on restoration on an increasingly important part of biodiversity strategy</p>	<p>The United Nations proclaimed 2021 to 2030 as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this platform aims to promote efforts to reverse the degradation of landscapes, lakes, and oceans and establish common approaches. Ecosystem restoration does not replace conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but it is fundamental if we consider that only 3% of the world's land remains undisturbed.</p> <p>Ecosystem restoration is also becoming an integral part of biodiversity strategies and targets – both for governments and business. UEBT has a partnership with the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER), a world-wide network of experts, to further promote and monitor regenerative practices as part of its Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) and other tools. The UEBT BAP is a tested, effective approach to biodiversity regeneration, set to a recognised international sustainability standard</p>	<p>Explore how BAPs might help biodiversity regeneration along your supply chains</p> <p>Follow #GenerationRestoration on social media</p>

Initiative	When	What	Description	How to align
IPBES Assessment on Business and Biodiversity ipbes.net/business-impact	Scope to be approved in 2022, report to come later	Authoritative study on business and biodiversity links and indicators	<p>Among its activities, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assesses science and knowledge on biodiversity, contributing to more effective and meaningful policies. IPBES is currently in early stages of an assessment focusing on business.</p> <p>This assessment aims at categorizing business impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, identifying criteria and indicators for measuring them, and consider how such metrics can be integrated into other aspects of sustainability. The scope and issues to be covered by the assessment will be approved in July 2022.</p>	Read study or a summary and take some of its main messages and learnings into a review of your biodiversity strategies and targets
IPBES assessment on the sustainable use of wild species ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment	Published in June 2022	Authoritative study on wild species and their importance for biodiversity	<p>This report explores the policies and actions that should be in place to address the over-exploitation of wild species including the 25,000 plant based species used by people around the globe and is a must-read for sourcing professionals working with wild-collection supply chains.</p> <p>UEBT recorded a Digital Dialogue on this report in August 2022 you can view here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtR6E53vRxM</p>	Read study or a summary and take some of its main messages and learnings into a review of your biodiversity strategies and targets
IPBES assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature ipbes.net/the-values-assessment	Published in 2022	Authoritative study on the economic values of nature	This report with its full name of 'Methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services' carries a main message that valuing nature based on economic values is too narrow and choices based on this are what underpin the biodiversity crisis. This is a must-read for decision-makers in companies looking at strategic raw materials sourcing.	Read study or a summary and take some of its main messages and learnings into a review of your biodiversity strategies and targets
Proposed treaty on business and human rights www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/binding-treaty/	Ongoing draft; revision continues in October 2022 meeting	Negotiations towards an international, legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights	<p>Negotiations on a legally binding treaty on business and human rights have been taking place since 2014. A third revised draft was released in late 2021, which moves towards closer alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Its focus is on accountability and remedies for human rights violations.</p> <p>However, provisions would also address prevention, requiring countries to, for example, adopt mandatory human due diligence laws. Among other topics, discussions touched upon the human rights involved, the definition of 'business activities', and the need for political will to make more significant progress. Negotiations continue at the October 2022 meeting.</p>	Monitor discussions at the link or via the UN working group on business and human rights

Initiative	When	What	Description	How to align
At the regional or national level				
<p>Supply chain due diligence</p> <p>EU proposal ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/1_1_183885_prop_dir_susta_en.pdf</p> <p>German supply chain due diligence act www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Gesetze/Wirtschaft/lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz.html</p>	<p>EU Proposal adopted in February 2022</p> <p>Germany Entering into force in 2023</p>	<p>Growing number of legal requirements on supply chain due diligence</p> <p>These aim to create a level playing field on how companies gather information and address risks</p>	<p>In Europe, a growing number of legal frameworks seek to ensure that companies carry out due diligence along their supply chains. In 2020, the European Commission announced the development of a directive on human rights and environmental due diligence. The proposal for this was adopted in late February 2022. This still needs to go through parliamentary review.</p> <p>This directive, building on some of the national efforts on due diligence, would require companies to gather, assess and act upon information on potential and actual impacts of their activities and those of their supply chains on human rights and the environment. European Parliament and European Council will define the final legal text.</p> <p>Several European countries have already enacted or are developing national laws mandating supply chain due diligence. For example, the 2017 French Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law requires large companies to improve due diligence systems, requiring measures to map and mitigate risks, prevent severe impacts, and set up a monitoring system, for their activities and those of their suppliers.</p> <p>The German Supply Chain Due Diligence Law will enter in force in January 2023, with staggered dates for implementation, depending on company size. This law requires companies to assess and mitigate human rights risks and specified environmental risks in their own operations, the first tier of their supply chains, and, in certain circumstances, along their supply chains.</p>	<p>For botanicals, UEBT offers a supply chain due diligence platform</p> <p>Write to us at info@uebt.org for more information</p> <p>The platform will be launched in 2023</p>
<p>Access and benefit sharing – the Nagoya Protocol</p>		<p>Evolving rules for biodiversity-based research and product development. They ensure legal compliance and respect for rights of countries and communities</p>	<p>With the Bahamas acceding to the Nagoya Protocol in March 2022, there are now 133 countries committed to implement rules on access and benefit sharing or ABS. ABS requirements and procedures vary from country to country.</p> <p>However, the aim is generally to ensure that access to plants, microorganisms or other biological resources for research and development into their genetic or biochemical composition is done with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, including on fair and equitable sharing of resulting benefits. ABS rules are still evolving, with countries like Peru having recently updated its regulation and countries like India currently discussing possible amendments.</p>	<p>Check the ABS Clearing House, which contains official information on ABS rules</p> <p>Stay up to date with UEBT tool on ABS and fact sheets on countries like India, Peru, and France</p>

Initiative	When	What	Description	How to align
Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN)	<p>First targets, on freshwater only, will be ready in early 2023 for companies to work with.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Land-use will come later.</p>	<p>Ongoing work to guide biodiversity target setting</p> <p>Why? Align corporate commitments to available science and international goals</p>	<p>Science-based targets aim to align corporate commitments and actions with internationally agreed environmental goals. This approach allows companies to set specific, proportional targets that contribute to achieving that shared global goal. Organisations such as Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) provide companies with a path to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN), which brings together leading international organisations and experts, including UEBT, is now developing science-based targets for biodiversity-related issues. Initial guidance for science-based targets for nature, released in 2020, outlines steps and possible tools to assess business impact and dependencies on nature and prioritise potential areas of action. Interim targets, such as zero deforestation from 2020 in supply chains, have been identified, in line with methodology currently being developed.</p>	<p>Join SBTN Corporate Engagement Program</p> <p>Gather and assess biodiversity information in operations and supply chains</p>
Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)		<p>Integrated framework to guide biodiversity-friendly business strategies and investments</p> <p>Why? Consistent approach to report and act on nature-related risks</p>	<p>This international initiative, modelled on the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures, seeks to provide a framework for organisations to report on risks from biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.</p> <p>It will not create a new disclosure standard, but rather develop an integrated risk management and disclosure framework that aggregates the existing tools. Such a framework would promote worldwide consistency for nature-related reporting. It would also enable organisations to integrate nature-related risks more accurately and reliably into decision making. And it would support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Join the TNFD Forum to contribute to TNFD mission and work</p> <p>Follow #TNFD</p>
IUCN Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions		<p>Good biodiversity practices as basis for broader sustainability solutions</p> <p>Why? Projects and supply chains that respect people and nature</p>	<p>The concept of nature-based solutions emphasises the role of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in solving related social, environmental, and economic problems, such as climate change, food security, etc.</p> <p>The IUCN standard provides common parameters for defining nature-based solutions and allow governments, companies, and others to design more solid and effective projects. IUCN is currently working with several standard systems, including UEBT, to explore how existing supply chain certification integrate and assess nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>Follow IUCN and its partners in their work on nature-based solutions</p>

Initiative	When	What	Description	How to align
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)		<p>Guidance for corporate reporting on biodiversity</p> <p>Why? An updated framework to communicate on biodiversity impacts</p>	<p>GRI standards are used for corporate sustainability reporting. In 2021, GRI started the process of revising its Biodiversity Standard (GRI 304), which allows companies to report on biodiversity impacts and good practices.</p> <p>The review of the GRI Biodiversity Standard, which was first released in 2016, will bring its content in line with international agreements, recent scientific developments, and evolving good practices. UEBT is part of the technical committee involved in the review of the GRI Biodiversity Standard, which will be finalised in late 2022.</p>	<p>Contribute to consultation on revised GRI Biodiversity Standard</p> <p>Follow GRI guidance in corporate reporting on biodiversity</p>
One Planet for Biodiversity (OP2B)		<p>Impact indicators for regenerative agricultural practices</p> <p>Why? Consistent reporting on regenerative agriculture</p>	<p>OP2B is a business coalition on biodiversity with a focus on agriculture. Its focus areas include scaling up regenerative agricultural practices. An OP2B framework identifies key impact indicators companies can use in reporting on regenerative agriculture. Indicators refers to topics such as soil organic carbon content, water footprint, pesticide use, and protection of natural habitats. This framework is still evolving and OP2B is collaborating with members and partners in on-the-ground experimentation.</p>	<p>Consider OP2B framework in agricultural practices</p> <p>Find out how UEBT BAPs guide and monitor regenerative agricultural practices</p>
Global Living Wage Coalition (GLWC)		<p>Work towards living wages and incomes</p> <p>Why? Ensure decent standard of living for workers along supply chains</p>	<p>GLWC is an international partnership supporting research and action on wages and incomes that provide a decent standard of living for workers and their families. It uses the Anker methodology to establish benchmarks for living wages, as well as for living income for farmers and other local producers.</p> <p>For example, living wages have been sent for citrus workers in Brazil, tea workers in Sri Lanka, and floriculture workers in Kenya. The Ethical BioTrade Standard includes reference to both living wages and living incomes and, in 2021, UEBT joined GLWC as a supporting member.</p>	<p>Work with GLWC partners</p> <p>Support living wage and income benchmarking</p>
World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) Nature and Biodiversity Benchmark		<p>What? Benchmarking biodiversity practices in influential companies</p> <p>Why? Promote good biodiversity practices</p>	<p>WBA was launched in 2018 to assess how companies contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Companies are benchmarked on their practices on various sustainability topics. In 2022, WBA's Nature and Biodiversity Benchmark will start to assess 1,000 companies across 22 sectors.</p> <p>Draft indicators address governance and strategy, biodiversity management (e.g., assessment of biodiversity impacts and dependencies, biodiversity targets and specific topics such as ecosystem conversation, soil health and invasive alien species), and social inclusion.</p>	<p>Monitor findings and lessons learnt in benchmarking process</p>

Annex 2 | Bibliography

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UEBT is a non-profit association that promotes sourcing with respect. Its mission is to regenerate nature and secure a better future for people through ethical sourcing of ingredients from biodiversity.

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