

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE WILD COLLECTION  
OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS  
(ISSC-MAP)

1. This document has been prepared by the German Scientific Authority for Plants.
2. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), WWF/TRAFFIC, and the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group are presently developing an *International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* (ISSC-map).
3. An introduction to this process was given at the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, 2005): [www.cites.org/common/com/PC/15/X-PC15-10-Inf.pdf](http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/15/X-PC15-10-Inf.pdf).
4. After two meetings of the international Advisory Board and field tests in Ecuador, China, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Namibia, and Brazil, the current version 3 has been condensed to now 6 principles and 18 criteria (see Annex). Indicators, verifiers, and relevant guidance will complement the standard. The working document of the ISSC-map will be ready for use in September 2006. A pilot implementation phase is planned for 2007-2008.
5. An operational standard for sustainable wild collection with criteria and verifiers will be an important contribution to the implementation of Art. IV 2 (a) and the non-detriment finding.
6. Documents related to this project are available on the project download website at [www.floraweb.de/map-pro/](http://www.floraweb.de/map-pro/). For further information please contact [map-standards-criteria@wwf.de](mailto:map-standards-criteria@wwf.de).

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE WILD COLLECTION OF MEDICINAL  
AND AROMATIC PLANTS (ISSC-MAP)

Draft 3, April 2006

This document is a preliminary version of the principles and criteria proposed for the ISSC-MAP. Indicators, verifiers, and relevant guidance will complement this set of principles and criteria.

**Purpose:** to ensure the continued use and the long-term survival of MAP species and populations in their habitats, while respecting the traditions, cultures and livelihoods of all stakeholders.

**Objectives:** to provide a framework of principles and criteria that can be applied to the management of MAP species and their ecosystems, to serve as a basis for monitoring and reporting, and to recommend requirements for sustainable wild collection of MAP.

Sections	Principles	Criteria
<b>I. WILD COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>1. <i>Maintaining Wild MAP Resources</i></b> Wild collection of MAPs shall be conducted at a scale and rate and in a manner that maintains species and populations over the long term.	1.1 Conservation of target MAP species The conservation status of target MAP species and populations is assessed and monitored.  1.2 Knowledge-based collection practices MAP collection and management practices are based on adequate identification, inventory, assessment, and monitoring of the target species / populations and collection impacts.  1.3 Collection intensity and species regeneration The rate (intensity and frequency) of MAP collection does not exceed the target species' ability to regenerate over the long term.
	<b>2. <i>Preventing Negative Environmental Impacts</i></b> Negative impacts caused by MAP collection activities on other wild species, the collection area, and neighbouring areas shall be prevented.	2.1 Sensitive taxa Rare, threatened, and endangered species and habitats that are likely to be affected / impacted by MAP collection and management are identified and protected.  2.2 Habitat (landscape level) management Management activities supporting wild MAP production and collection do not adversely affect ecosystem diversity, processes, and functions.
<b>II. LEGAL AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>3. <i>Complying with Laws, Regulations, and Agreements</i></b> MAP 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 recognized right and authority to use and manage the target MAP resources.  3.2 Laws, regulations, and administrative requirements Collection and management of MAPs complies with all international agreements, and with national and local laws, regulations, and administrative requirements, including those related to protected species and areas.
	<b>4. <i>Respecting Customary Rights</i></b> Local communities' and indigenous peoples' customary rights to use and manage	4.1 Traditional use, access rights, and cultural heritage Local communities and indigenous peoples with legal or customary tenure or use rights maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over MAP collection

Sections	Principles	Criteria
	collection areas and wild collected MAPs shall be recognized and respected.	<p>operations.</p> <p>4.2 Benefit sharing Agreements with local communities and indigenous peoples are based on appropriate and adequate knowledge of MAP resource tenure, management requirements, and resource value.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>III.</b> <b>MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>5. Applying Responsible Management Practices</b> Wild collection of MAPs shall be based on adaptive, practical, participatory, and transparent management practices.</p>	<p>5.1 Adaptive management A species / area management plan defines and enables Good Practices that are revised as needed to guide wild collection of MAPs.</p> <p>5.2 Inventory, assessment and monitoring Management of MAP wild collection is supported by adequate and practical resource inventory, assessment, and monitoring of collection impacts.</p> <p>5.3 Transparency and participation MAP collection activities are carried out in a transparent manner with respect to management planning and implementation, recording and sharing information, and involving stakeholders.</p> <p>5.4 Documentation Procedures for collecting, managing, and sharing information required for effective collection management are established and carried out.</p>
	<p><b>6. Applying Responsible Business Practices</b> Wild collection shall be undertaken to support quality, financial, and labour requirements of the market without sacrificing sustainability of the resource.</p>	<p>6.1 Quality specifications Buyers of MAP resources provide clear and unambiguous quality specifications.</p> <p>6.2 Traceability Storage and handling of collected plant material is managed to support traceability to the collection area.</p> <p>6.3 Financial viability Mechanisms are encouraged to ensure the financial viability of systems of sustainable wild collection of MAPs.</p> <p>6.4 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.</p> <p>6.5 Worker safety and compensation MAP collection management provides adequate work-related health, safety, and financial compensation to collectors and other workers.</p>

# Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Development of an International Standard

Medicinal and aromatic plants are an important resource for mankind. Unsustainable wild collection threatens the survival of many of these species. An *International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)* is being developed by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), IUCN, WWF and TRAFFIC.

Medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) are offered in a wide variety of products on the market. An estimated 50,000 – 70,000 plant species are used in traditional and modern medicine throughout the world. The great majority of MAP species is provided by collection from the wild. This trend is likely to continue over the long term due to numerous factors, including high costs of domestication and cultivation. Moreover, cultivation is not necessarily the most beneficial production system for some MAP species. Wild collection secures valuable income for rural households, especially in developing countries, may provide incentives for conservation and sustainable use of important habitats, and can strengthen local economies. Approaches to sustainable wild MAP

collection that engage local, regional, and international collection enterprises and markets are urgently needed to provide specific guidance for industry, collectors and other stakeholders on sustainable sourcing practices.

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) has provided start-up funding for the development of an *International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)*. The project is implemented by the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) through IUCN-Canada, and by WWF and TRAFFIC. This standard will bridge the gap between existing broad conservation guidelines, and management plans developed for specific local conditions.

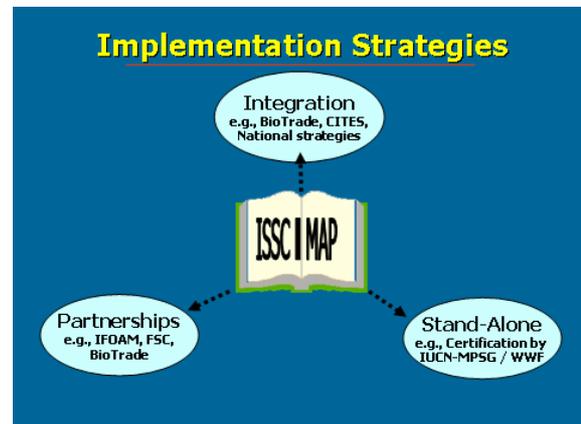


Stakeholders involved in wild collection of MAP require clear principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers that will enable them to assess and monitor the sustainability of wild resources and collection practices. ISSC-MAP addresses social and economic factors, but focuses on ecological aspects that are often neglected: resource assessments and sustainable yields.

The development of the ISSC-MAP builds on existing principles, guidelines, and standards for sustainable forest practices, organic production and good agricultural practices, fair trade, and product quality.

An international advisory group has been established bringing together the medicinal plant / herbal products industry, small-scale collection enterprises, non-government organizations, conservation and certification organizations. So far two drafts of the ISSC-MAP have been circulated for discussion. Field consultations of the 2nd version were conducted in autumn 2005 to test its relevance and practicability. A third and final working draft of the ISSC-MAP is currently in preparation and will be available in autumn 2006.

Potential implementation scenarios and strategies have been discussed at an international workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2006 and will be further developed. An extended pilot implementation phase is planned for 2007-2008.



All process related documents are available on the project website [www.floraweb.de/map-pro](http://www.floraweb.de/map-pro)

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 for the development of an  
 International Standard  
 for the Sustainable Wild Collection  
 of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants



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