

# Protocol for Wild Harvesting Assessment and Benchmarking

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## Background

Wild Harvesting is fundamentally different from Agriculture, and the Sustainable Agriculture Code is therefore not adequate for wild harvesting situations.

## Protocol

### Use of the Risk Assessment Template

Control Union, with the help of the Sustainable Agriculture Team, has produced a Risk Assessment Template for Wild Harvesting. This identifies the sustainability issues that are most relevant and requires the risk to be assessed and managed. If the material is to be considered sustainably sourced through self-verification the process is as follows:

1. A completed risk assessment scoping the availability and corporate reputational aspects of the proposed wild harvested material must be carried out for each location from which the raw material is collected (Appendix 1 to this document).
2. The risk assessment needs to be undertaken by an acknowledged expert or an organisation with an undisputed reputation as determined by Unilever. Suitable organisations can also be proposed by suppliers or other external stakeholders.
3. If the risk assessment finds the risks of the wild harvesting process to be MEDIUM or HIGH then management practices need to be implemented to reduce those risks to the point at which they are considered LOW.
4. The completed risk assessment needs to be assessed and signed off by the Sustainable Sourcing Assurance Committee (SSAC).
5. The calculation of the volume 'sustainably sourced' should be done according to the Wild Harvesting section of the scheme rules.
6. In cases where management practices have had to be implemented to reduce risks, Suso status is valid for 12 months. The auditor needs to return the following year and submit an updated risk assessment to the SSAC for Suso status to be maintained.
7. In cases where only minor risks are identified, and no such management practices are required, Suso status is valid for 36 months. An updated risk assessment needs to be carried out and submitted to the SSAC before the 36-month expiry date.

## Appendix 1. Wild Harvesting Risk Assessment Template

# Template for Risk Assessment on Wild Collection

**Name supplier:**

**Country:**

**Province:**

**Crop:**

**Primary Processor:**

**Address:**

**Assessor:**

**Accompanied by:**

**Assessment date:**

**Executed by:**

[Insert general photo if available]

## **Index;**

1. Summary of findings
2. Region description
3. Region mapping - Sourcing / wild collection area
  4. Harvest and Crop description
  5. Collectors profile
6. Supply Chain information and structure
  7. Laws and legislation
  8. Scope assessment
  9. Risk assessment
10. Improvement Action Plan

## 1. Summary of findings

Insert text to indicate that this should summarise findings including main risks and improvements recommended.

## 2. Region description

Insert text to indicate geography, size and ownership of the land.

## 3. Region mapping - Sourcing / wild collection area

[Insert appropriate maps to show the sourcing area]

## 4. Harvest and Crop description

Insert relevant information about the crop (including its IUCN status) and the cropping cycle should be included here. Add any appropriate photos.

## 5. Collectors profile

Insert information on the number of collectors in the area, gender and age profile and further relevant information e.g. whether local, indigenous or immigrant workers etc. Add any relevant photos.

## 6. Supply Chain information and Structure

Include information on the chain from field to consumers, harvesting rate, number of traders, processors etc. involved. And any certifications held etc.

## 7. Laws and legislation

Include information on relevant legislation and enforcement activities, requirements for permits, licenses and/or other restrictions.

## 8. Fundamental Requirements<sup>1</sup>

	Compliance		
	Yes	No	NA
If required by legislation, an authorisation or license to harvest from local responsible department (State forestry, management of the wild areas) is presented. Date of issue cannot be older than 1 year if expiration is not stated.			
<b>* Laws, regulations and permits relating to harvesting are understood and respected by supplier, processors and collectors</b>			
Conservation status of the area and wild harvest material has been assessed			
Remarks:  [Insert any relevant comments on the above requirements, particularly if any are marked N/A. Comments should describe what form the assessment of conservation status takes.]			

## 9. Risk assessment<sup>1</sup>

Users of this template need to consider both the SEVERITY of the hazard and the LIKELIHOOD of it taking place when coming to a conclusion on the final level of risk. Those risks marked with an \* indicate a hazard of highest severity.

9.1 Risk related to cultivation practices	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.1.1 Chemical fertilizers are applied in the target area for wild harvesting.				
9.1.2 Crop Protection Products are applied in the target area for wild harvesting.				
9.1.3 Cultivation practices are performed in the wild harvest area such as seeding, planting or tillage				
9.1.4 There is a risk of high level of heavy metals, imbalanced macronutrient and PH levels in the soil of the wild harvest area				
9.1.5 Irrigation is done in the wild harvest area				
<b>Risk assessment</b>				
<b>Weaknesses</b>				

<sup>1</sup> Requirements marked with an \* and in bold text show areas that are mandatory in the Unilever SAC

Remarks:

[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]

9.2 Risk of damage to the environment and biodiversity	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.2.1 Collectors and supplier have insufficient knowledge of national legal obligations with respect to biodiversity				
9.2.2 Collectors and supplier have insufficient knowledge of direct or indirect impact of harvesting on other species and habitats				
9.2.3 Collectors and supplier are unaware of prohibitions around hunting and the protection of biodiversity in and around the wild harvest area				
9.2.4 Collectors and supplier are unaware of available government support for biodiversity work and access to such support is not facilitated				
9.2.5 No assessment of biodiversity issues in and around the land area where the Unilever crops are collected has been performed				
<b>* 9.2.6 Collectors hunt or poison rare or endangered species in or around the wild harvest area</b>				
<b>* 9.2.7 Collectors gather rare or endangered species in or around the wild harvest area</b>				
9.2.8 Collectors gather wild harvest material outside the designated wild harvest areas				
<b>* 9.2.9 Rare, threatened and endangered species and habitats that are likely to be affected by wild collection and management of the wild harvest crop are not identified and protected</b>				
9.2.10 The collection area is known to contain important habitats for wildlife and is destroyed or harmed by wild harvest practices				
9.2.11 Conservation status of the wild harvest material is threatened (local, national and/or global)				
9.2.12 Wild harvest collection negatively impacts biodiversity in or around the area				

9.2.13 Management activities supporting wild harvest negatively affect ecosystem diversity, processes and functions				
<b>* 9.2.14 Fuel is taken from important habitats or protected natural areas (high conservation value forest or peat bogs) where this is forbidden or constitutes a threat to the size or integrity of the area?</b>				
9.2.15 Wild harvest material does not meet the requirements of CITES (www.cites.org). Species are directly or indirectly endangered by the collection process if the IUCN (www.iucn.org) red list classifies it as 'critically endangered'.				
9.2.16 Areas are cleared to facilitate access to the wild harvest area and use of mechanised transport off-road in forest				
9.2.17 Fire is used in land preparation				
9.2.18 Collectors are not aware of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) guidelines				
9.2.19 Wild harvest collection practices do not consider the local/national Biodiversity Action Plan (found on the CBD website)				

Risk assessment	Weaknesses
Remarks: [Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]	

9.3 Risk related to waste	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.3.1 Wild harvesting of the target crop results in major waste streams				
<b>* 9.3.2 There is risk of liquid fuels and lubricants spillage during transport, storage, handling and disposal of wild harvest crop</b>				
9.3.3 Waste streams related to wild harvest are entering and damaging the environment				
<b>* 9.3.4 Collectors dispose of wastes or chemicals in or around the wild collection area</b>				
9.3.5 Fire is used for the disposal of harvest residues				

<b>* 9.3.6 Hazardous waste is stored in areas where unauthorised people have access</b>				
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Risk assessment	Weaknesses
Remarks: [Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]	

9.4 Risk of natural resource depletion	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.4.1 The collection rate exceeds the species' ability to regenerate over the long term				
9.4.2 The target material is harvested at inappropriate times (just before pollinating, breeding, etc.)				
9.4.3 Scale and trend of use and trade in the wild harvest material is high or increasing				
9.4.4 Crop or plant is damaged or destroyed by collection practice				
9.4.5 Harvesting and removing crop from the area leads to severe nutrient loss in the soil				
Other:				

Risk assessment	Weaknesses
Remarks: [Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment. Add any relevant photos.]	

9.5 Risk of non-compliance with local or international legislation and regulations	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
* 9.5.1 Children are hired or contracted as collectors				
9.5.2 Young collectors perform hazardous work				
9.5.3 Children helping with collecting are not well supervised; the amount of work they do is unclear				
* 9.5.4 Collectors or workers are forced or perform compulsory labour related to the wild harvest material				
9.5.5 Terms and conditions, and payment for contracted collectors are not well defined				
* 9.5.6 Payments for harvested materials do not comply with national regulations				
* 9.5.7 There is lack of clarity on legal situation for collectors and workers				
9.5.8 Collectors do not comply with rules and regulations in relation to the wild harvest area or the wild harvest crop				
Other:				

Risk assessment	Weaknesses
[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]	

Risk exists

9.6 Risk of social inequity		No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
<b>* 9.6.1 Land tenure, ownership, use rights and management authority of crops or wild harvest area are not well defined</b>					
9.6.2 Local communities traditional use and practice, access rights and cultural heritage of land and material is disturbed or threatened					
9.6.3 Benefit-sharing with local communities has not been arranged with appropriate agreements according to the Nagoya Protocol					
9.6.4 Particular social groups, tribes, castes etc. are excluded from participation in harvest practice					
9.6.5 Age, gender, sexual orientation, religion etc. exclude people from participation in harvest practice					
9.6.6 There is potential for conflicts between collectors or groups and lack of local agreements to avoid conflict					
9.6.7 There is potential for physical, sexual, psychological or verbal harassment, abuse or other forms of intimidation					
9.6.8 Grievance procedures are unavailable or people are not confident to use them					
9.6.9 Evaluation has shown there to be a case for benefit sharing (as related to the Nagoya Protocol)					
<b>* 9.6.10 There is no individual responsible for ensuring workers' rights and fair pay</b>					
Other:					
Risk assessment	Weaknesses				
[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]					

9.7 Risks to/from the local economy	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.7.1 There is no fair system of payment for collectors or workers				
9.7.2 There is lack of transparency in terms of payment for collectors or workers				
9.7.3 There is no timely announcement of prices for the harvested material				

9.7.4	Untimely payment for collectors or workers				
9.7.5	Harvesting makes other local businesses lose viability				
9.7.6	Harvesting is becoming unsustainable because more lucrative opportunities are opening up locally				
9.7.7	There are potential conflicts between harvesting and other seasonal activities.				
9.7.8	There is lack of transparency in pricing				
<b>Risk assessment</b>		<b>Weaknesses</b>			
Remarks: [Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]					

9.8 Supply chain and traceability	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.8.1	No traceability or uncertainty on where the material is harvested from			
9.8.2	Supplier has no direct contact with or influence on harvesters			
9.8.3	Size of the collection area is too big to be effectively checked and controlled			
9.8.4	Number of collectors is too high to be effectively checked and controlled			
9.8.5	Wild harvest material under scope of this assessment is mixed with <i>conventional</i> material			
9.8.6	Traceability of material is lost during transport			

9.8.7 Record keeping of volumes harvested per collector or collector group is none existent or unreliable				
<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>			
Remarks:				
[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment. Include any relevant photos.]				

9.9 Health and Safety	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.9.1 Dangerous practices involved in harvesting (tree climbing, working on steep slopes)				
9.9.2 Harvesting is done with tools or sharp implements				
9.9.3 Harvesting is done by using ladders and working at heights				
9.9.4 Appropriate safety equipment either not provided, not used or collectors did not receive training on how to use				
<b>* 9.9.5 Agro-chemical application is done by untrained personnel</b>				
9.9.6 Road worthiness of vehicles in poor condition or not checked				
9.9.7 Spraying or fumigation (DDT, Synthetic pyrethroids) by the local agency for the for the management of contagious disease like malaria, cholera etc.				
<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>			

Remarks

[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment. Include any relevant photos.]

9.10 Food Safety and Quality	Risk exists			
	No	Yes - Low	Yes - Medium	Yes - High
9.10.1 There is risk of contamination in the field from nearby areas under agricultural cultivation				
9.10.2 Personal hygiene of harvesters to ensure cleanliness of products is insufficient				
9.10.3 There is risk of poor quality or degradation of harvested crop entering the supply chain				
9.10.4 There is risk of contamination of product during storage				
9.10.5 There is risk of contamination during harvest season because wild harvest and cultivated materials are harvested simultaneously				
9.10.6 There is risk of contamination because collection points for wild harvest and cultivated materials are the same				
9.10.7 There is risk of contamination during transport				

Risk assessment		Weaknesses
<p>Remarks:</p> <p>[Insert any comments related to this section, in particular any weaknesses identified by the risk assessment.]</p>		

## 10. Improvement Action Plan

Weakness	Improvement action	Deadline
Risks related to cultivation practices		
Risk of damage to the environment and biodiversity		
Risk related to waste		
Risk of natural resource depletion		
Risk of non-compliance with local or international legislation and regulations		
Risk of social inequity		
Risks to/from the local economy		
Supply chain and traceability		
Health and Safety		
Food Safety and Quality		

