



NRSC GUIDELINES

October 8, 2010

PREAMBLE

The Members of the Natural Resources Stewardship Circle:

Conscious of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and its importance for evolution and for protecting life-sustaining systems of the biosphere,

Recognizing that a great number of local entities and, in particular, a great number of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles closely depend on biological resources,

Embracing the importance of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, and, more broadly, for humankind,

Acknowledging the various relevant international bodies, instruments, programs, strategies, standards, reports, and processes and the importance of their harmonization, complementarity, and effective implementation, in particular:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992);
- The UN Global Compact (July 2000);
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (September 13, 2007);
- The Natural Resources Stewardship Circle Declaration (NRSCD) (2008);

Conscious of the positive contribution the Circle members can have on biodiversity through biological resources, sustainable valorization, and especially through partnership with indigenous and local communities,

Determined to support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as regards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its elements, fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the use of those elements, and, more broadly, determined to strive for improvement in the standard of living of indigenous and local communities and, more generally, of stakeholders in biological resource supply chains,

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We strive to integrate and implement the following practices in all collective actions undertaken by the NRSC:

1. Biodiversity understanding

To encourage greater knowledge and understanding of biodiversity so as to improve the ways in which it is protected and utilized, doing so through contributions to multidisciplinary research, notably in partnership with relevant local and indigenous communities, and through efforts to increase awareness on the part of all relevant stakeholders.

2. Resource Collection

To define resource collection rates and methods which guarantee the preservation of local ecological processes and of species and genetic variability. To aim to bring about more widespread application of agricultural husbandry which respects local natural conditions (seasonal variations, climate, soil, water).

3. Traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices

To respect the traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and which respect human rights.

4. Socio-economic impact

To ensure that the supply chains established protect indigenous and local communities' access to the resources concerned (for food, health, etc.), and to consider the risk of large-scale dependency on these chains.

5. Business initiation

To comply with ad hoc procedures for obtaining free, prior and informed consent from relevant parties supplying biological resources or sharing traditional knowledge.

6. Benefits sharing

To fairly and equitably share the benefits arising from the utilization of biodiversity components and related traditional knowledge with all those who have been identified as having contributed to the resource management, as well as with the rest of the value chain.

To define terms and methods for benefit sharing which take into account the stakeholders' various expectations, giving priority to biodiversity conservation, sustainable local development, and improvement of living conditions. To further generate added value at a local level by encouraging the processing of raw materials in the producer countries and by building technical and commercial capacity-building on a local scale.

7. Shared corporate social responsibility

To raise awareness about social and environmental responsibility of every actor along the value chain and to favor shared commitments to progress. In particular:

- to pursue traceability of raw materials, their processing, and of all those involved in these domains;
- to encourage sustainable partnerships between all those involved in the supply chain.

The NRSC invites each member to give appropriate importance to the experience and learning arising from NRSC collective actions and, in a continuous progressive approach, to include ensuring sustainable principles in their own policy and actions."

Signed in Paris, France, this 8th day of October, 2010

Surname _____

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Company _____

Signature

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