



Food for
Biodiversity

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das Bundesprogramm

BASIS-SET

of BIODIVERSITY CRITERIA

for tropical and subtropical
growing regions



IMPRINT

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BASIC SET OF BIODIVERSITY CRITERIA FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL PROCUREMENT REGIONS

Introduction / Preamble

The following basic set of biodiversity criteria is a fundamental component of the Food for Biodiversity association (see the last chapter for information about the association). It was developed together with representatives of food companies, agriculture, voluntary food and / or sustainability standards (VSS), scientific institutions, and environmental organisations. The criteria were adapted to the framework conditions of agriculture in tropical and subtropical cultivation regions. In particular, the necessity that the criteria can be implemented by smallholder farmers and smallholder cooperatives was taken into account, without diluting the goals of the criteria.

The Basis Set is not a new „biodiversity standard“! Rather, food standards and companies should compare their specifications with the basis set and – if necessary – revise their own criteria and / or integrate further criteria and measures.

The association’s agreement to implement the basic set of biodiversity criteria is an essential contribution to halting the dramatic loss of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services. Furthermore, unfair competition to the detriment of the environment and nature is avoided. The general goal is to improve the biodiversity performance of the entire industry.

All actors in the food sector are addressed to implement the requirements and measures of the basis set, or to promote and support the implementation:

- Agricultural holdings and producer groups
- Voluntary standards at international, national, and regional level
- Companies in the food industry with their own procurement requirements
- Associations of the food sector
- Policy makers responsible for agricultural legislation, policies, programmes and subsidies.

The implementation of the basic set ensures basic protection of existing biodiversity on agricultural land, creates a potential for more habitats and species and contributes to avoiding or reducing negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity (VERY good practice).

High environmental and social standards are an investment in the future. But just like the protection of biodiversity, they do not come for free. Responsible implementation entails costs. These costs should not be borne by the farmer alone. All actors along the supply chain, up to and including the food trader or manufacturer, must bear an appropriate share of the costs and reward the added value of food produced in a biodiversity-friendly way. This is part of corporate responsibility and duty of care towards producers and biodiversity as a valuable common good. It is also becoming a duty of care under ever more national and international laws (cf. EU Deforestation Regulation).

Requirements for standards / companies and farms

The basic set contains two levels. The first level clarifies / describes requirements for a standard or a company’s procurement guidelines. At this level, standards and companies are encouraged to consider overarching aspects of biodiversity protection. An example would be to demand the implementation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) from the farmers and to support them with training, guidelines, etc. The timing of these criteria refers to how quickly a standard or a company should take these criteria into account in their own systems.

The second level deals with concrete requirements for farms. Here, content is formulated for criteria of standards and procurement guidelines that focus on agricultural production and are intended to reduce and avoid negative impacts of agricultural practices, as well as to protect ecological structures. In many cases, this level builds on the first level. The timing of this level refers to the implementation of the proposed measures on the farm after the standard or the company specifies these measures. To verify the implementation of the measures, key figures and indicators were defined and listed in the table.

Further development and accompanying programme to the basic set

The members of the Food for Biodiversity association will continue to develop the basic set for the tropics and subtropics on a regular basis and take into account new findings, legal requirements and practical experience. Furthermore, the sector initiative is implementing / developing an accompanying programme to achieve a broad implementation of the basic set. This includes training and technical support for farmers, as well as attractive incentives for farmers to improve their biodiversity performance. This also applies in particular to supply chains in the Global South. In addition, the Food for Biodiversity association advocates for biodiversity-friendly framework conditions in the European Union and for raising awareness among consumers in Germany.

Supporting smallholder farmers in implementation

For smallholder farmers, meeting demanding environmental and social standards is a particular challenge. This is particularly true for biodiversity protection measures, which often entail additional costs and / or yield losses. The assumption of costs and compensation for yield losses by actors in the supply chain is a prerequisite for supporting smallholder farmers in their transformation towards more sustainable agriculture. Moreover, tropical regions in particular often still have a high level of biodiversity that can be protected and promoted through prudent management and responsible practices. The commitment of farmers beyond the legal requirements and the resulting added value of the products should be promoted and rewarded by the food industry through special incentives.

We must act quickly and comprehensively now if the dramatic loss of biodiversity is to be stopped. The stakeholders of the sector initiative encourage all those involved in the food industry to take action: by implementing the requirements from the Baseline Set and as a member of the Food for Biodiversity association.

Recommendations for effective criteria for the protection of biodiversity

The basic set for the tropics and subtropics was selected from the „Recommendations for effective criteria for the protection of biodiversity in standards for the food industry and procurement guidelines of food companies“. You can download the publication under the following link:

English edition:

<http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/recommendations-biodiversity-in-standards>

German edition:

<http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/de/empfehlungen-biodiversitaet-in-standards>

There is also a **Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria for temperate latitudes**.

German and English edition:

<https://food-biodiversity.de/en/criteria-and-tools/#basic-set>

ROADMAP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC SET

- The members of the association want to make a concrete contribution to achieving the Biodiversity Targets 2030.
- They commit to implementing the basic set of biodiversity criteria in as many as 3 pilot projects. The focus is on biodiversity-relevant raw materials, and for each focus raw material, at least 95 % of the relevant basic criteria should be implemented. These pilot projects will be completed within a maximum of three years after accession.
- The members aim to implement pilot projects jointly where possible. Members from the fields of NGOs, science and associations support the implementation. The members implement high-quality pilot projects in one or more regions. The pilot projects should cover as many focus commodities as possible to generate a high level of experience in the sector initiative. Members are willing to share the information and experience from the pilot projects in the sector initiative.
- Within three years after the founding of the association, the basic set of biodiversity criteria will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised on the basis of the experience gained from the pilot projects.
- After three years, the members of the association agree on further goals for the implementation of the basic set beyond the pilot projects (further raw materials, further regions, etc.).

Background:

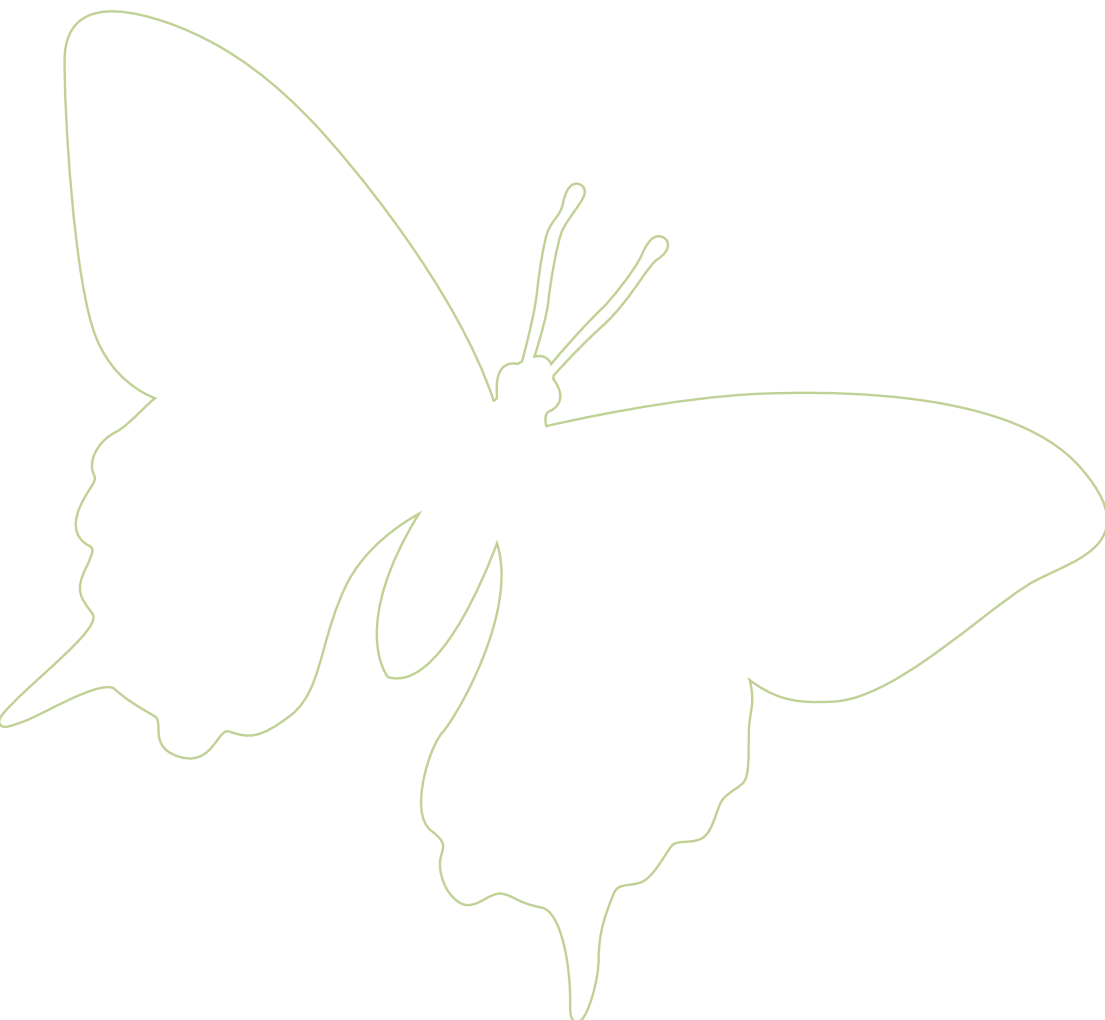
Concerning the selection of biodiversity-relevant focus commodities, an approach is favoured that particularly takes into account the relevance for actors along the supply chains of agricultural commodities, e.g. volume. Furthermore, relevance refers to focus commodities whose production is associated with particular risks and negative impacts on biodiversity. For the classification as a focus commodity, existing databases, studies, hotspot analyses of companies and expert knowledge can be used.

Procedure:

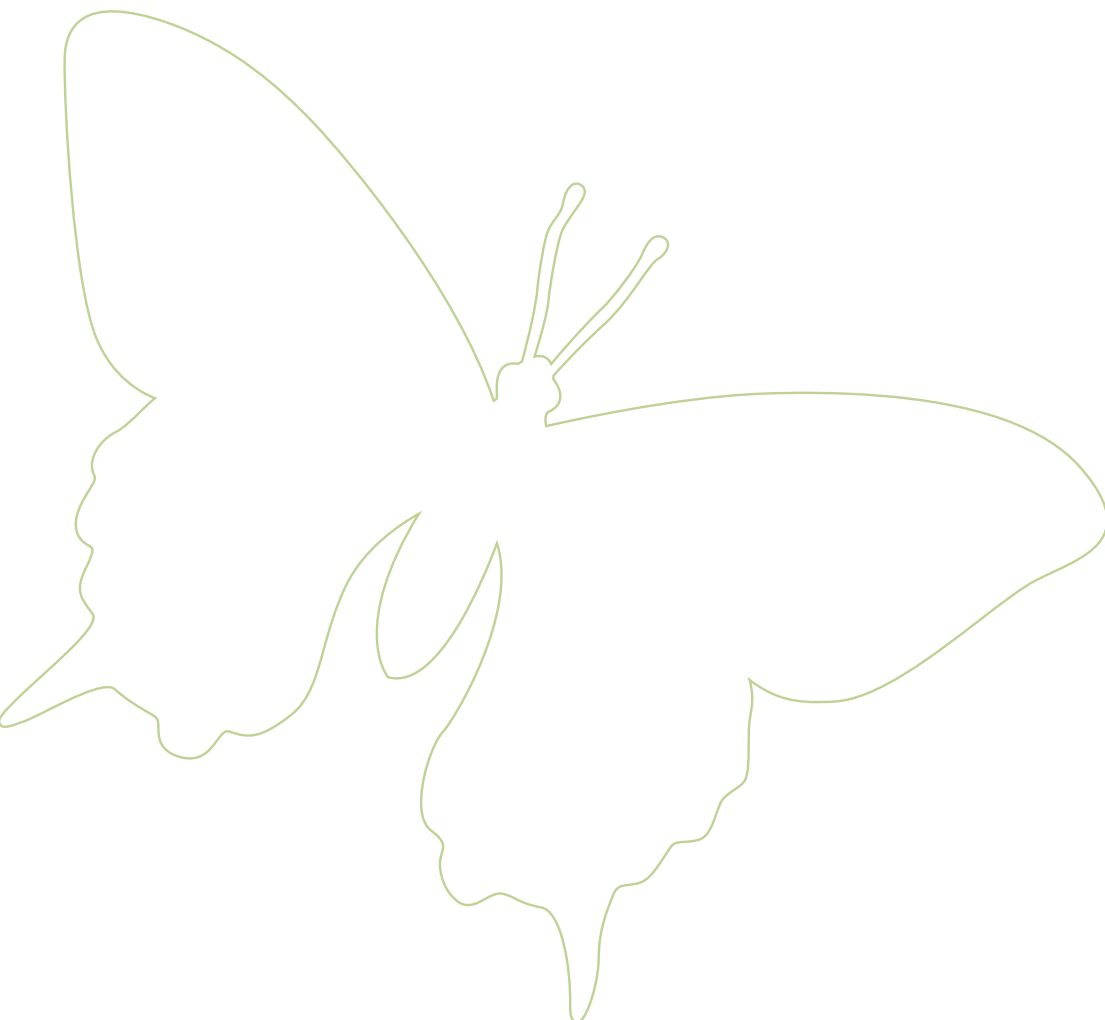
- The participating companies and standards name their focus raw materials to the Food for Biodiversity association. The association compiles a list of all focus commodities from the companies' perspective.
- A group of experts from the sector initiative assesses the relevance of the focus raw materials for biodiversity. This assessment is made according to comprehensible criteria.

THE BASIC SET OF BIODIVERSITY CRITERIA FOR THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS

The basic set is divided into two areas. Area A comprises the criteria for improving the potential for biodiversity. This ensures the protection of existing biodiversity on agricultural land and creates a potential for more habitats and species. Area B comprises criteria for VERY good practice. These help to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity. The two areas are subdivided into further categories with associated criteria:



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BPT	Biodiversity Performance Tool
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention
CPP	Cast Polypropylene
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FEFAC	European Feed Manufacturers' Federation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HCV Areas	High Conservation Value Areas
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN Red List	International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species
LU	Livestock Unit
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PPP	Plant Protection Products
SNH	Semi-natural Habitat
UAA	Utilised Agricultural Area
VSS	Voluntary Sustainability Standard



A. CRITERIA FOR IMPROVING THE POTENTIAL FOR BIODIVERSITY

1. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR THE FARM

A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) contains a description of the current situation, an overview of the potential for improvement, and measurable goals and measures for the protection of biodiversity on a farm and in its surroundings. The measures must be oriented towards the respective agricultural land use and adapted to the ecosystems in the region. The implementation of the results should be accompanied by monitoring. Suggestions for key figures and indicators are listed in the basic set. Food for Biodiversity can provide data-based monitoring tools and simple Excel tables for documentation and monitoring.

Smallholder farmers in the Global South

Smallholder farmers are often organised in cooperatives. The standard / company should therefore require a BAP at the cooperative level (landscape approach). In the case of cooperatives with a very large number of members farming in different regions, several region-specific BAPs should be developed. All members of the cooperative should commit to taking action to achieve the objectives of the regional BAP.

1.1. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> calls for the establishment of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) by certified / supplying farms, alternatively one or more regional BAPs at the smallholder cooperative level. formulates quantitative and qualitative contents / objectives of the BAP that can be practically implemented on site (e.g. proportion of natural / semi-natural habitats, the width of biotope corridors, selection of at least 2-3 indicator species for monitoring). 		YES		BAP, based on the recording and evaluation of the actual situation with measures and time planning, available? Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports farmers in the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan; among other things with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and guidance. Provide expertise on aspects of biodiversity. In countries of the Global South, it may be difficult to find experts.* free provision of tools, such as the Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT) or the Biodiversity Check Agrícola Convoy. regular exchange of experience on biodiversity measures. <p>* Furthermore, it must be taken into account that experts such as NGOs or local community experts may not be able to cooperate for free.</p>	YES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires continuous improvement of biodiversity potentials through the creation and protection of habitats / ecological structures, as well as the reduction of the negative footprint of agricultural activities on the environment. When all potentials for biodiversity have been exhausted, the focus is on maintaining good status. 		YES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determines average values and benchmarks (best in class) for biodiversity-relevant factors based on monitoring results in comparable rural areas / regions. These serve as orientation for a regional comparison of farms and cooperatives / companies / standards. 			YES	

1.2. DESCRIBE THE INITIAL SITUATION (BASELINE)

The measures of the Biodiversity Action Plan are based on the baseline of the farm or cooperative and cover all essential possibilities to protect and promote biodiversity. To describe the baseline, farm-specific data relevant to biodiversity are documented / mapped. A map of the farm or cooperative can be supported by GIS data, but can also be hand-made. It facilitates orientation and serves to raise awareness and motivation.

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports the farmer in developing an overview of protected and endangered species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or mediation of experts (NGOs, local experts with traditional knowledge, etc.). It should be borne in mind that this expertise cannot always be provided free of charge. This means that companies in particular are required to provide funding for the involvement of experts. • Organisation of exchanges between farms or cooperatives and nature conservation authorities and / or nature conservation organisations (if any). • Trained advisors from standards and companies who competently support farmers in all essential aspects of biodiversity. • Mediation in conflicts between species conservation and production. • Companies ensure that costs and yield losses are compensated and that smallholders and co-operatives are rewarded for special services that promote biodiversity on the land. <p>All standards require that protected species must not be hunted. However, a discrepancy between reality and criteria is often observed. The identification of particularly threatened species (key species) in the baseline is important in order to better target the measures and, if necessary, the argumentation aids. Furthermore, standards / companies / other actors in the supply chain should particularly reward the presence and support of endangered species on agricultural land.</p>		YES	

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year ¹	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> records all ecologically valuable structures / areas* on the farm (own areas and leased areas) or of the members of the cooperative. In addition, the valuable areas in the immediate vicinity are recorded**. These valuable areas include protected areas, primary (natural) ecosystems or other biodiversity hotspots, e.g. High Conservation Value Areas (HCV Areas). <p>* Every farm / cooperative has areas where wildlife is more abundant than the average area. These areas are considered hotspots of biodiversity on the farm. The perception of nature and natural landscape in the tropics differs from that in Europe, where there is a long tradition of cultural landscape development and management. In tropical countries, a stronger separation of (untouched) nature and cultivated landscape can be observed.</p> <p>** When creating maps of smallholder farms or cooperatives (landscape level), the map can also be drawn by hand. If mapping requires a lot of time, for example, because land ownership is not clearly regulated, then a simple representation of the structures and areas is also sufficient. See the example in the appendix.</p>		YES		<p>Baseline report available, e.g. by recording the current situation with the Biodiversity Performance Tool?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p> <p>Map with ecological structures / areas on the farm / cooperative and in the surrounding area?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collects further company-specific information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculturally used areas (grassland, arable farming, permanent crops, livestock) semi-natural habitats such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallow land Areas that are not used for agriculture and have greenery Boundary areas between fields, along roads or paths Hedges, shrubs and trees. existing biotope corridors. 	YES			<p>Map with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculturally used areas natural habitats and ecological structures on the farm / land of the members of the cooperative and in the surrounding area. <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p>

¹ Depending on the size of the cooperative, the creation of maps can also take longer than a year.

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year ²	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describes the farm-specific, potential risks to biodiversity: risks emanating from the agricultural activity as well as risks coming from the immediate surroundings (e.g. roads with heavy traffic, noise, pollution from untreated wastewater or (illegal) landfills. Furthermore, the farmer describes whether the farm has a direct or only indirect influence on the reduction of risks. 		YES		Risk analysis for biodiversity? <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the farm / cooperative is located in the vicinity of or in protected areas, the farm management has an overview of the protected and endangered key species and their habitats* occurring in the region. If necessary, experts are involved (e.g. nature conservation authority, regional NGO, scientific institution, experienced persons from the local community). <p>* As seen e.g. in National Lists of Threatened Species, IUCN Red Lists, and species lists of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas.</p>		YES		Is the farm / cooperative in or in the neighbourhood of a protected area or HCV Area? <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p> <p>If so: Does the management of the farm / cooperative have an overview** of protected / endangered species in the region? <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p> Is the farm / cooperative in regular contact with biodiversity experts, e.g. NGOs, nature conservation authorities? <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p> <p>**Detection: A list of species that occur in the surrounding area. There is no claim of completeness.</p> </p>

² Depending on the size of the cooperative, the creation of maps can also take longer than a year.

1.3. CHOICE OF MEASURES

The Biodiversity Action Plan contains measures to protect and promote biodiversity on the cooperative’s farm/land. The measures are based on the initial situation (baseline) and the assessment of the risks and cover all essential possibilities to achieve the set goals. In particular, the measures focus on reducing the identified risks.

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the farmer / cooperative in the selection of measures, e.g. through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets with the description of measures • Guidelines with measures for specific regions • Guidelines with measures for certain cultivation practices • Provision or mediation of experts (NGOs, local experts with traditional knowledge, etc.). It should be borne in mind that this expertise cannot always be provided free of charge. This means that companies in particular are required to provide funding for the involvement of experts. <p>An overview of already existing materials, such as guidelines for specific products and regions (e.g. guidelines from Rainforest Alliance or descriptions of measures for the cultivation of bananas and pineapples from the project „Del Campo al Plato“), is being compiled and regularly updated. Further fact sheets and materials are being developed step by step by the Food for Biodiversity association – initially for the most important raw materials in the most important cultivation regions.</p>		YES	

1.3.1. MINIMUM PROPORTION OF NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS

The standard organisation / company requires a **proportion of natural and semi-natural habitats above and beyond the legal requirements**, and specifies the quality of these areas.

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires a minimum proportion of semi-natural habitats (SNH) and ecological structures on farms / the cooperative's land. This minimum percentage goes beyond the legal requirements if any. Continuous improvement is required and a time frame is given in which the minimum percentage of SNH must be achieved. 	YES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rewards the areas of SNH and ecological structures beyond legal requirements. The company undertakes to assume the additional costs for measures to protect biodiversity and to pay fair prices that also honour the added value of the product. 		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines quality characteristics for SNH and ecological structures and develops training modules and materials with the help of experts. The standard also recommends the use of tools such as the Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT).* <p>* This requirement is a challenging task and cannot be realised for all semi-natural habitats. But standards and companies should develop quality aspects for the most common habitat types in the main sourcing regions.</p>	YES		

1.3.2. CREATION OF BIOTOPE CORRIDORS

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connects the natural and semi-natural habitats / ecological structures in its own areas through biotope corridors. Buffer zones can also be used as biotope corridors. 			YES	Interconnected habitats (in %) Verification: the biotope corridors are marked on the map with ecological structures / areas of the farm / cooperative. Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensures that – as far as possible – its own natural and semi-natural areas / ecological structures are connected with directly adjacent natural and semi-natural habitats. 			YES	Habitats on the farm / land of the cooperative are interconnected with habitats in the surrounding area (number). Verification: the biotope corridors are marked on the map with ecological structures / areas of the farm / cooperative. Yes / No

1.3.3. PRESERVATION OF MEADOWS OR GRAZED AREAS

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has a management plan for grazing with the aim of avoiding overgrazing. 		YES		Management plan for grazing in place? Yes / No

1.3.4. CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develops a catalogue of measures for the creation of regionally typical structures in combination with measures to promote keystone species. <p>International standards / companies with an international supply chain should proceed step by step and start developing a catalogue of measures for their most important sourcing regions and raw materials. Food for Biodiversity will collect and provide existing information material.</p>		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a methodology for prioritising measures that take into account the diversification of semi-natural habitats in order to achieve the highest possible ecological value. 		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements monitoring of the implemented measures. The monitoring is based on the recording of the initial situation (baseline), which should be realised in year one. Based on the monitoring results, the standard organisation / company identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> which measures are implemented and with what frequency. existing hurdles / challenges in implementing the measures. <p>The association Food for Biodiversity will prepare and make available results from pilot projects and other activities.</p>		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the implementation of effective measures with incentives and professional expertise. This requires training of the advisors of the standards / companies. 		YES	

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only native seeds for the seeding of flowering areas. Only native trees, shrubs and grasses are used to create or expand buffer zones. The natural development of linear structures and biotopes without active planting and seeding is also important and encouraged where possible. 	YES			<p>Evidence: site-typical seed? Yes / No</p> <p>Evidence of the use of native trees and shrubs Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carries out maintenance measures of ecological structures (e.g. hedge trimming, maintenance of living fences or barriers against wind and erosion) as well as management measures on the adjacent areas in such a way that the biotopes and the animals and plants living in them are not or as little as possible affected. 	YES			<p>Plan for the maintenance of habitats and ecological structures in place? Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not fertilise natural and semi-natural habitats and ecological structures or treat them with pesticides. 	YES			<p>Pesticides and / or fertilisers on natural / semi-natural habitats or other ecological structures? Yes / No</p> <p>If yes: On what % of the land?</p> <p>If yes: Does the farm have a plan to avoid the application of pesticides / fertilisers? Yes / No</p>

1.3.5.SPECIAL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company supports the farmer / cooperative in the protection of endangered and protected keystone species through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or mediation of experts (NGOs, local experts with traditional knowledge, etc.). It should be borne in mind that this expertise cannot always be provided free of charge. This means that companies in particular are required to provide funding for the involvement of experts. • Mapping • regular (at least once a year) exchange with the nature conservation authority and/or nature conservation organisations • Incentives / rewarding the effort for species protection and (pro rata) assumption of the costs and crop loss by the buying up food company / licensee. 		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibits the use, breeding and planting of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). 	YES		

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an overview of protected and endangered animal and plant species on the farm or farms and takes measures to sustainably secure their existence. The measures include both direct protection measures and nature-compatible adaptation of management. 		YES		List of protected and endangered animal and plant species present on the farmland? Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoids practices that disturb or endanger protected and endangered species. This includes, for example, activities such as pruning trees or hedges during bird breeding periods or cutting meadows during optimal bee flight weather. 	YES			In case of occurrence of protected / endangered species: Does the BAP contain measures to protect these species? Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implements measures to avoid or defuse possible conflicts with wildlife. The measures are developed together with experts. 	YES			Planning for the maintenance of habitats and ecological structures in place? Yes / No
				Measures in place to mitigate conflicts with wildlife Yes / No

2. PROTECTION OF PRIMARY (NATURAL) ECOSYSTEMS, SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
The standard organisation / the company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits the conversion of primary (natural) ecosystems (e.g. tropical rainforest, savannahs, wetlands, peatlands). A base year is defined. 	YES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports and defines sustainable use of semi-natural ecosystems, protected areas and High Conservation Value areas – if management is not explicitly prohibited by law. 	YES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the farmer / cooperative through, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> free provision of experts for counselling. In countries of the Global South, it may be difficult to find experts and pay for the costs. Even NGOs cannot cooperate for free in the long run. It may be possible to find suitable experts in the local community. regular exchange with the nature conservation authority and/or nature conservation organisations (at least once a year). 	YES		

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
The farm / the cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knows and respects any restrictions on the cultivation of land that is located in a protected area. 	YES			<p>Does the farm / cooperative cultivate land in a protected area? Yes / No</p> <p>If yes: Does the farm / cooperative take into account the management plan of the protected area? Yes / No</p> <p>Proof: The head of the farm/cooperative knows the management plan and the relevant regulations. Yes / No</p>

3. WATER PROTECTION; MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN STRIPS

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes buffer zones with native vegetation along the banks of permanently water-bearing water bodies, as well as periodically or occasionally water-bearing water bodies, whereby the minimum width of the buffer zones always exceeds the legal requirement. For permanently flowing water bodies, the minimum width of the buffer zone is 10 metres. 			YES	<p>Are there running waters and / or still waters on the cooperative's farm / land? Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, what % of the banks are protected with a buffer zone?</p> <p>If yes, what % of the buffer zone has a minimum width of 10 metres?</p> <p>If too little buffer zone exists, are measures taken in the BAP to expand it? Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensures that inappropriate material (such as oils of any kind, CPPs (cast polypropylene), CPP packaging or containers, medicines, animal manure) does not enter surface waters or ground-water. 	YES			<p>Evidence of responsible storage and disposal of materials and packaging? Yes / No</p>

4. PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (NEOBIOTA)

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
The standard organisation / the company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> informs auditors / certifiers and the farms about invasive alien species (IAS) and how invasive species can be introduced and controlled. 	YES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the agricultural business through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> training material on IAS and their control, as well as references to existing websites and further information. providing experts free of charge to advise on how to deal with IAS. In countries of the Global South, it may be difficult to find experts and pay for the costs. Even NGOs cannot cooperate for free in the long run. It may be possible to find suitable experts in the local community. regular exchange with the nature conservation authority and / or the nature conservation organisation. 	YES		

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
The farm / the cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies invasive alien species (IAS) on its farmland and reports the occurrence to the competent nature conservation authority and / or the regional NGO. undertakes measures to control or combat IAS on the farm land. 	YES			Have IAS been identified on the farmland? Yes / No If so: Has the authority been informed? Yes / No Does the BAP contain measures to control or combat IAS? Yes / No

5. WILD COLLECTION

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explicitly points out that threatened and protected animal and plant species (see IUCN Red List as well as the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES) must not be collected and protected areas must not be affected. 	YES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires the farm / cooperative to comply with all government regulations (e.g. licence for collection). If the state regulations do not provide sufficient protection, criteria must be developed and applied that go beyond the state regulations. 	YES			Is documentation on compliance with government regulations available? <p style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</p>



B. VERY GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR MORE BIODIVERSITY

6. SOIL

6.1. FERTILISATION

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	
The standard / the company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the farm / cooperative in the preparation of humus balances, through e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on methods, average nutrient amounts for certain raw materials Counselling and training. 			YES	

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
The farm / the cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> draws up nutrient balances according to a recognised method and documents all fertiliser applications and nutrient values of the fertilisers (at least N and P). Producer organisations / cooperatives offer appropriate training for their members.	YES			Current nutrient balance(s) and documentation available? Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carries out a humus balance on agricultural land. This is supported by a humus survey every six years. The humus balance should never be negative. 			YES	Current humus balance(s) available? Yes / No Result negative? Yes / No Humus test(s) not older than six years? Yes / No

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carries out a field-related fertiliser requirement assessment, if necessary with supplementary soil samples, before applying significant amounts of nutrients. complies with the maximum possible fertiliser rates according to the fertiliser requirement calculation. 	YES			Current fertiliser requirement determination? Yes / No Are fertilisers used based on the input / output balance? Yes / No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sees the nitrogen requirement values issued by standards, ministries, and institutions as the upper limit of nitrogen fertilisation. strives for continuous improvement in the efficient use of fertilisers towards optimal fertiliser management. 	YES			Are measures implemented to optimise fertiliser management? Yes / No No more than one-third of the total annual fertiliser quantity is applied in the pre-emergence period? Yes / No Continuous reduction of nutrient surpluses in the last five years? Yes / No

6.2. SOIL/EROSION

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
The farm / the cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintains a soil cover as long as possible, at least during periods of possible nutrient leaching. 		YES		Agricultural area with predominant land cover (share in %)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implements and documents measures to protect against erosion in areas of high erosion risk, e.g. planting living fences and vegetated barriers to retain sediments, windfalls through rows of trees, or paths with resistant vegetation as ground cover. 	YES			Erosion problems? Yes / No If so: Documentation of measures against erosion? Yes / No

6.3. CROP ROTATIONS, MIXED CROPS, PERENNIAL AND PERMANENT CROPS

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <p>Crop rotations in arable farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate crop rotation cycles with crops of different rooting depths and soil used to break pest and disease cycles and improve soil cover and health. • Integration of catch crops such as grasses, oilseeds or legumes into the crop rotation (at least 10 % of the agricultural area). • Cultivation of at least three different crops on the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) of the farm / cooperative. If possible, the main crop should occupy a maximum of 75 % of the total UAA of the farm. <p>Mixed crops, perennial and permanent crops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed cultivation is preferred to monoculture cultivation. • The cultivation of green manure plants is promoted in order to revitalise the soil and reduce fertiliser use. • To increase diversity on the field, the planting of crops between the rows (intercropping) is required in permanent crops. • Do not use PPPs (plant protection products) in the spaces between row crops. • The agroforestry approach is to be favoured. <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundnuts, beans, rice and vegetables are included in the crop rotation with pineapple after harvest to give the soil a break. To prepare the soil for pineapple cultivation, green manure crops such as cowpea can be grown. • Soil organic matter content is of great importance in tropical and perennial intensive crops. Cover crops such as legumes and herbaceous plants are suitable for improving soil structure. In banana plantations, the soil should be covered with banana leaves and these should be re-incorporated into the soil. Agroforestry systems have a great, natural capacity for self-sufficiency in nutrients. 			YES	<p>Are crop rotation cycles observed? Yes / No</p> <p>Share of legumes in the UAA (%)</p> <p>Number of crops on the UAA</p> <p>Share of UAA with green fertiliser plants (%)</p> <p>Proportion of UAA with intercropping (%)</p> <p>Evidence: one inspection on the farm, documentation, interviews with the farmer / farm staff.</p>

7. PLANT PROTECTION

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> excludes the use of plant protection products that have been proven to harm beneficial insects, pollinating insects, amphibians or fish* (see e.g. recommendations and Red Lists of the Pesticide Action Network). <p>* No application of paraquat.</p>		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines a negative list (list of plant protection products / active substances NOT allowed) and a strategy with a clear timeframe to reduce active substances that are dangerous for biodiversity. 	YES For standards	YES For companies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regularly informs farmers and cooperatives about alternatives to chemical pest control, e.g. the use of beneficial insects and bio-inputs (products based on beneficial microorganisms in the soil, especially bacteria and fungi). 		YES	

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The farm / the cooperative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently implements and documents Integrated Pest Management (IPM) according to FAO principles. IPM includes the following steps to prevent and control diseases and pests of arable crops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventive measures in the areas of crop rotation, sowing, soil cultivation, varieties, seeds, fertilisation, hygiene, natural regulation and ecological infrastructures Infestation detection Use thresholds and other decision-making tools Prefer non-chemical measures for disease, pest and associated weed control*. Use chemical plant protection products (PPPs) as specifically as possible and with the least side effects on human health, non-target organisms and the environment. Adhere to necessary / lowest possible level of chemical measures Carry out resistance management Record crop protection applications and check success. <p>* Use chemical remedies only when non-chemical measures have not worked.</p>	YES			<p>Regular training on IPM (at least one per year)? Yes / No</p> <p>IPM plan and documentation available? Yes / No</p> <p>Application of the eight IPM principles? Yes / No</p> <p>If no, how many principles are implemented? (number)</p> <p>Proportion of UAA on which alternative weed control measures are applied to reduce the use of herbicides (%)</p> <p>Proportion of UAA on which alternative disease and pest control measures are applied to reduce the use of pesticides (%)</p> <p>Reduction in the use of chemical plant protection products since the Baseline Report (year)?</p> <p>Reduction of the volume in percent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realises burning of vegetation as a plant protection measure only if there are no other alternative measures. This is demonstrated by documenting the possible avoidance and alternative measures. Farmers in or near protected areas may only burn vegetation if this is done in consultation with and with the professional support of the nature conservation authorities. 	YES			<p>Documentation proving that burning vegetation was the last alternative? Yes / No</p>

8. WATER USE

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	
The standard organisation / the company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continues to expand the advisory services for farmers on efficient irrigation where there is no official advisory service. 			YES	

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
The farm / the cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtains water for company-specific activities exclusively legally. The amount of water consumed is plausible in terms of demand and does not exceed the withdrawal quantities permitted by the authorities. 	YES			Valid permission to withdraw water? Yes / No Documentation of annual water withdrawal (in cubic metres). Yes / No Total annual water withdrawal (in cubic metres / year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> documents the amount of water consumed in all farm-specific activities and demonstrates efficient water use. 	YES			Reduction in the average amount of water used per hectare since the Baseline Report (year) (in %)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water used for production processes is properly purified before being discharged into the soil or aquatic ecosystems. 	YES			Proof of proper purification of the water.

9. AGRO-BIODIVERSITY

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
The standard organisation / the company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiates and supports projects and initiatives to improve market access for traditional cultivars and livestock breeds. Certified farms / suppliers are motivated to cultivate or breed traditional crop varieties and livestock breeds, e.g. through a bonus point system or other benefits. 			YES

10. FEED

International trade in feed puts pressure on ecosystems worldwide. Standard organisations and companies in the food sector can have a mitigating effect / influence on this.

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years
<p>The standard organisation / the company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for an increasing share of sustainably produced feed on farms / cooperatives. <p>The FEFAC (European Feed Manufacturers' Federation) listing can serve as an orientation on which standard systems can be used for this purpose.</p>		YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibits the use of genetically modified feed. 	YES		

Criteria for integration into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in X years	Key figures / indicators
<p>The agricultural enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strives for feed autonomy. All feed not produced on the farm should come from the farm region. The radius for the collection of feed is defined by the standard / company. 		YES		Share of on-farm feed (in %) Proportion of feed from the region? (in %)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an appropriate livestock stocking rate coupled with the farm's own forage area. Where recommendations for livestock units (LU) per hectare are defined for the country / region, these are adhered to. Farms with high stocking densities implement a plan to reduce livestock units within a certain period of time. 			YES	Livestock in LU / ha If LUs are too high: Is there a plan to reduce the stock? Yes / No In which year should the reduction of the stock be achieved?

11. FURTHER EDUCATION

	Key figures / indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The farm management regularly (at least once a year) participates in further training on aspects of biodiversity. 	<p>Regular further training? Yes / No</p> <p>How often do the training sessions take place? More than once a year? Annually?</p> <p>Continuing education certificate available? Yes / No</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees are trained regularly (at least once a year) on aspects of biodiversity. 	<p>Regular further training? Yes / No</p> <p>How often do the training sessions take place? More than once a year? Annually?</p> <p>Continuing education certificate available? Yes / No</p>

12. APPENDIX

References / Links

- **Recommendations** for effective biodiversity protection in food standards and sourcing requirements of food companies in the banana and pineapple sector (English, Spanish): <https://www.delcampoalplato.com/en/home-eng/responsible-biodiversity-management-2/>
- **Manual** on Biodiversity Action Plan for pepper, cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg as well as for chilli production (English): <https://www.globalnature.org/en/spices-india>

Biodiversity mapping

Exemplary creation of a map for mapping biodiversity measures (steps 1 to 4):





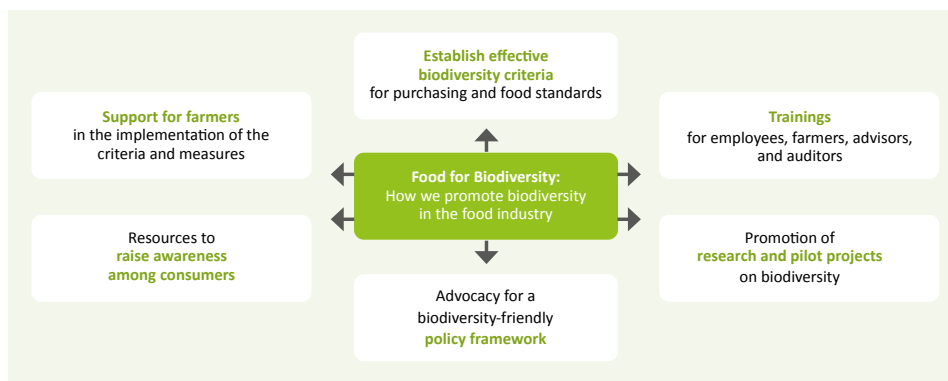
AN ASSOCIATION FOR ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME

With the founding of the Food for Biodiversity association in March 2021, representatives of companies, associations and standards from the food industry are making an ambitious statement: They want to make a decisive contribution to the protection of biodiversity and against species extinction.

Members commit to implementing measures that anchor the protection of biodiversity in the food sector and its upstream value chains.

OUR GOALS AND MEASURES

Based on an ambitious commitment, the actors work together to achieve these goals and measures.



FOOD FOR BIODIVERSITY: BECOME A MEMBER!

The association is pleased to have the support of organisations from the food industry:

- Manufacturers, dealers and their associations
- Suppliers, producer groups and agricultural associations
- Standards and certification organisations

Non-governmental organisations and institutions from the fields of science and education that are committed to the protection and promotion of biodiversity in the food sector are also invited to become members. There is also the possibility of supporting membership for organisations that are committed to the aims of the association.

www.food-biodiversity.de/en

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