

PhytoTrade Africa Charter

PhytoTrade Africa¹ is committed to promoting the principle of conservation of biodiversity through sustainable commercial use of native natural ingredients, in fair trading relationships;

As members, we agree to embark on a path of continual improvement regarding environmental and social practices and express our commitment to the following principles through signature to a common Charter:

1. Conservation of biodiversity

- 1.1 Characteristics of ecosystems and habitats of managed species shall be maintained.
- 1.2 Genetic variability of flora, fauna and micro-organisms (for use and conservation) shall be understood and maintained.
- 1.3 Activities shall be developed taking into account national, local or traditional authority management plans for ecosystems and habitats.

2. Sustainable use of biodiversity

- 2.1 The use of natural resources shall be supported by a management plan addressing issues including harvest rates, monitoring systems and regeneration.
- 2.2 Workers and suppliers shall be trained in their implementation roles, including good collection, cultivation and quality assurance practices.
- 2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be implemented to avoid waste of raw material and to reduce the generation of waste.

3. Sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity.

- 3.1 Negotiations and implementation of agreements related to benefit sharing shall be transparent and based on dialogue and trust between all organisations along the supply chain.
- 3.2 Prices paid shall cover costs and include an adequate profit margin.
- 3.3 Use of traditional knowledge shall be recognised, promoted and adequately compensated.

4. Compliance with national and international legislation.

- 4.1 Local, regional, national and international legislation shall be complied with, related to use and trade of products derived from biodiversity.
- 4.2 The provisions of all international agreements (CITES, ILO Conventions, CBD) shall be respected.
- 4.3 Measures shall be taken to stop or report the illegal or unethical use of areas or resources.

¹ the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association

5. Clarity about land tenure, right of use and access to natural resources

- 5.1 Land and natural resources shall be used according to tenure regulations.
- 5.2 Natural resources shall be used with the prior informed consent of the parties that provide them.

6. Respect for the rights of actors involved in BioTrade activities

- 6.1 Human rights shall be respected.
- 6.2 The rights of local communities and indigenous peoples shall be respected.
- 6.3 No negative impacts on the health and safety of surrounding populations shall result from any activity.
- 6.4 Adequate working conditions shall be provided for all employees and suppliers.
- 6.5 Food diversity and food security shall not be threatened.

7. Fair trade relationships

- 7.1 Stable trading relationships shall be established in which rights and interests are mutually respected
- 7.2 Trading relationships shall be detailed in a contract.
- 7.3 Details of pricing, pre-financing and payment terms shall be included in the contract.

8. Capacity building and empowerment

- 8.1 Producers shall be enabled to understand more about market conditions and trends.
- 8.2 Producers shall be enabled to exert more control over their livelihoods and to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of their communities.

9. Education and advocacy

- 9.1 National and international policies and campaigns that will improve the living conditions of poor people shall be supported
- 9.2 Public and corporate awareness of fair trading practices shall be increased.

Appendix 1: Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Charter, the following definitions apply:

Biological diversity: variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Biological resources: resources, including genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Genetic resources: genetic material of actual or potential value. (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Member: organisations engaged in the trade and processing of natural products that have the responsibility to implement a management system that ensures compliance with the requirements of this Charter, as in the assessment matrix for members.