

Development of an International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)

Britta Pätzold
WWF/TRAFFIC Germany

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



TRAFFIC

IUCN
The World Conservation Union



MEDICINAL
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Uses of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants



Food

Medicines

Cosmetics

Spices



Important facts

- 50,000 – 70,000 medicinal and aromatic plants are estimated to be used world-wide.
- Some 3,000 MAP species are traded internationally.
- Ressource under pressure:
About 15,000 medicinal plant species may be threatened with extinction world-wide (IUCN).

!Make wild collection sustainable!

Only a few hundred MAP species are commercially cultivated.

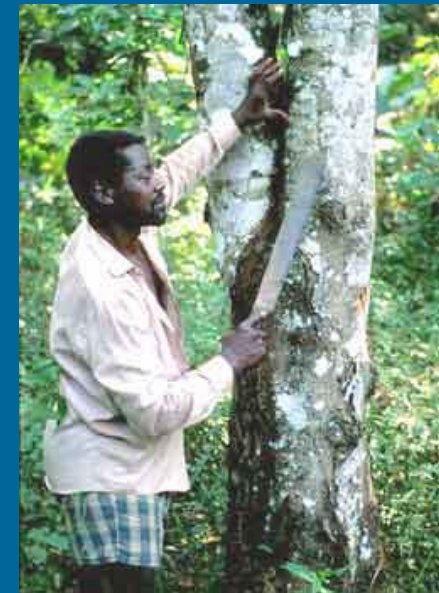


Photo: Yan Zhijian

- **Most MAP species are now – and will continue to be – wild collected!**
- **Cultivation cannot be the principal solution to over-harvesting!**

Challenges for a standard on sustainable wild collection of MAP

- Unique circumstances of ecology, habitat, and pressures on resource for each species
- Harvesting techniques:
Questions about “how to” collect wild MAP sustainably
- Uncertainty about annual sustained yield

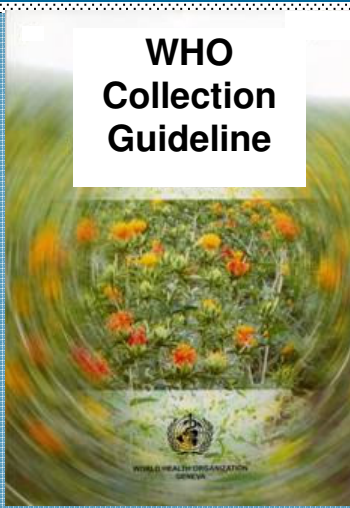


Challenges for a standard on sustainable wild collection of MAP

- Large number of products, uses, and markets
- Proliferation of labels and claims regarding sustainability without means for validation
- Long and complex supply chains – difficult to trace product back to its source

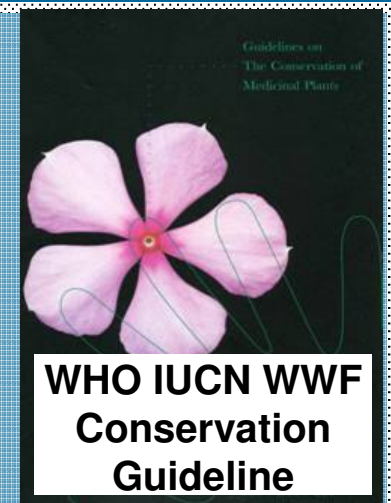


WHO
Collection
Guideline



Guidelines for MAP Conservation, Production, Quality Control

(= general recommendations)



WHO IUCN WWF
Conservation
Guideline

The missing link:
Standard =

set of rules to define, implement, and
evaluate good management practices

Devils Claw
Namibia

Arnica
Romania

Boldo
Chile

Aquilaria
SE-Asia

Management Plans for Species and Regions

ISSC-MAP Development Process

2004

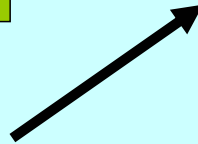
2006

Testing

Selection of existing projects and use situations

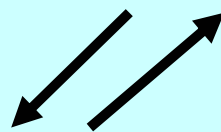


Case Studies



Drafting

Iterative Drafting of the Standard



Consulting

Advisory Board
Major Players



Conferences

Advisory Group

- International and interdisciplinary
- Relevant stakeholders from ecological, social, economic sector (e.g. UNCTAD, IMO, FRLHT, IDRC, SIPPO)
- Support design, promotion and implementation of standard
- Spokespersons
- Representatives of their networks

ISSC-MAP – Mission

To **ensure the long-term survival** of medicinal and aromatic plant 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 provide **guidance** for sustainable wild collection of MAP, and a basis for audit and certification.

10 Principles

Compliance with Laws & Regulations

social

Respect for Customary Rights

Transparency

Assessments & Data Collection

Management Plan

ecological

Regular Monitoring

Collection Practices

economical

ecological

Minimizing Environmental Impacts

Market Requirements

social

Maintenance of Good Workers' Relations

Principle 7: Collection practices

The collection of MAPs is conducted at a scale and rate and in a manner that:

- a) Does not undermine the long-term availability, viability, and quality of MAP species and populations; and
- b) Does not exceed the target species' ability to regenerate over the long term.

Challenges for implementation of the ISSC-MAP

- Stakeholder awareness of issues, perception of need
- Stakeholder buy-in → PROCESS
- Confusion among various standards
- Credibility of standard overseers
- Accountability of participants in standards
- Willingness of industry and consumers to support additional costs

Challenges for implementation of the ISSC-MAP

- Simplicity
- Practicality
- Flexibility

Who benefits from a widely accepted, credible standard?

- **Industry** → “communication tool”
- **Resource managers** → guidelines for MAP protection, harvest, and monitoring
- **Collectors** → insurance against resource and market failures
- **Consumers** → reliability of claims about ecological and social sustainability
- **Species and habitats** → maintain biodiversity

ISSC-MAP – Implementation



ISSC-MAP Project website:

www.floraweb.de/map-pro

MPSG website: www.mpsg.org

Steering Group:

Danna J. Leaman (IUCN-SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group) (MPSG)

Susanne Honnef, Britta Pätzold (WWF Germany and TRAFFIC)

Uwe Schippmann, Frank Klingenstein
(German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)

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