

Critically Endangered Species Consultation Context document

Background

The protection of biodiversity is a central principle of organic food production. The Soil Association has higher standards in areas where we know organic licensees can go further than required by legislation.

We recognise that sustainable wild harvesting can have a positive impact, helping protect biodiversity by supporting rural livelihoods and incentivising conservation. Conversely, if not sourced with care, trade in wild harvested species can lead to negative impacts, such as endangering vulnerable species or habitats.

We would like to strengthen our assurance that critically endangered species are safeguarded by aligning the requirements of our food and drink standards with our farming standards.

The aim of this consultation is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment and input into this proposal.

The SA products where this proposal is likely to be most relevant include:

- Teas,
- Dried herbs & spices
- essential oils,
- supplements, capsules & tinctures
- Pulps, purees, powders & concentrates
- Fats & oils
- fruits, nuts

Proposed standard in full

SA GB and SA NI Standard	Guidance
<p>Products and ingredients derived from critically endangered species may only be used if:</p> <p>a. they were cultivated and organically grown (not harvested from the wild).</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b. they were organically harvested from the wild and are certified to a</p>	<p>This requirement applies to all species classified as globally ‘critically endangered’ on the IUCN’s red list of threatened species www.iucnredlist.org including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commiphora wightii</i> (Indian bdellium-tree) • <i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i> (Spikenard)

<p>standard that the Soil Association recognises for its protection of threatened species.</p> <p><i>Soil Association higher standard</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chlorophytum borivillianum</i> (Safed musli) <p>You will need to provide confirmation from the farms certifier that it is not wild harvested, or, if it is an organic wild harvested source, you will need to provide your immediate supplier's FairWild certificate.</p> <p>Critically endangered species harvested from the wild are not eligible for re-certification to Soil Association standards unless they hold FairWild certification https://www.fairwild.org/.</p> <p>All legal requirements, including CITES legislation https://cites.org must also be met.</p> <p>(S) If you source products certified to other organic standards they must meet this Soil Association requirement.</p>
<p>Why?</p>	
<p>Organic standards already require that wild harvesting does not affect the maintenance of the species in the collection area. However, given the vulnerability of Critically Endangered species, the Soil Association requires an additional verification/assurance that the species' conservation is actively supported with sustainable harvesting approaches that protect and enhance biodiversity, support rural livelihoods, and respect traditional cultures. Your supplier's FairWild and organic certificates provide you with such an assurance.</p>	