



UNION FOR
ETHICAL
BIOTRADE

SOURCING[®]
WITH RESPECT

BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS

ROSE HIP IN LATIN AMERICA

A Case Study

A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides guidance in designing and implementing concrete practices on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity when growing and sourcing natural raw materials.



ROSE HIP *Rosa canina*

The Facts

- Native to Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus
- Introduced to several countries in Latin America in the fourteenth century
- Easily adapted to the local climatic and soil conditions
- Considered invasive because it competes with native plants
- Grows wild in mountains, meadows and along creeks, often occurring in land with low agricultural value
- Commonly used in herbal teas, and also for rosehip oil, as well as in foods such as jams and jellies

Wild patches

The areas where Rose hip grows wild are made of naturalised meadows and scrubland surrounded by woody areas and secondary forests. The main vegetation is made up of perennial and annual grasses, legumes and broadleaf species.

Soil conditions

Most of the soil is not arable. It has low fertility and is under various degrees of erosion. It is therefore often used for grazing or tree plantations.



PATO.NUJOVA

Biodiversity actions also help productivity.

Better collection and transportation of Rose hip means less spreading of the invasive plant but also reduced waste and increased efficiency.

GOAL 1 REDUCING THE EXPANSION OF ROSE HIP

Possible Actions

■ **Collection practices that reduce the risk of spreading**

Collectors are trained to:

- harvest all the fruits on the plant,
- reduce or avoid accidental loss (dropping) of fruits during the collection and transport by not filling the containers full and closing them without any gaps, and
- not dispose of the plants and fruits (or their parts) in water bodies.

■ **Prevent the establishment of new populations and eradicate newly established ones**

Collectors are given income incentives tied to the removal of newly established plants. They are compensated to eradicate new Rose hip plants, removing the complete root system.

Once these have been removed, managed sites have to be monitored for re-colonisation.

Seeds remain viable in the soil for over two years and only a few individual seeds are sufficient to establish a new population.

Rose hip is a valuable source of income in areas not suitable for farming.

In some places, it is the only source of income. But companies can create alternative income opportunities for collectors by compensating them for the removal and monitoring of invasive Rose hip.



UEBT

GOAL 2 RESTORATION OF NATIVE VEGETATION

Possible Actions

- **Awareness raising on biodiversity aspects**—Rose hip is food for some animals. Collectors are informed about this and other possible conflicts with nature that may arise from the collection of Rose hip. They are trained and required to not collect in those areas used to support animals. They are given information on the native flora and fauna, especially if there are species under threat.
- **Habitat regeneration**—Forests will be replanted to create habitats for native vegetation that has been threatened by the spreading of Rose hip over the years. Especially those species that are mostly endangered.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

A 2017 comprehensive literature synthesis¹ that reviewed multiple scientific studies on biodiversity conservation techniques shows that:

- Fauna colonises replanted forest; its abundance is similar to that found in natural sites.
- Areas with plantings of native species hold more species than other areas/habitats.
- Removing invasive grass or weed species increases understory plant biomass or tree seedling height.

HOW TO BEGIN?

Acting for biodiversity means acting in a systemic and context specific way. You can:

- Assess opportunities and threats to biodiversity in the context of your sourcing.
- Implement actions that focus on conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.
- Plan different measures and coordinate with different actors along the supply chain.



Rose hip was not introduced by the companies that now make use of it. Nonetheless, Rose hip has had a negative impact on native species.

By taking the extra step to regenerate vegetation that has been competing with Rose hip, endemic flora can soon repopulate.

REGENERATION



The UEBT Standard

UEBT's Ethical BioTrade Standard – through its requirements in Principles 1 and 2 (Conservation of Biodiversity/Sustainable Use of Biodiversity) – guides its members and their suppliers to define and implement systemic approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. To facilitate this process, UEBT recommends companies adopt Biodiversity Action Plans as a strategic road map for businesses to contribute to reversing the loss of biodiversity on Earth.



Roles and responsibilities

- Local processing companies work with people in the field, including external experts on biodiversity.
 - A biodiversity assessment is carried out by external consultants.
 - Actions are discussed and agreed with UEBT based on the result of the assessment.
- Local processing companies are put in charge of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Provides support to the collector by training and offering economic incentives.
 - Sets up a monitoring system.

Specific actions and a work plan are defined for each collection field. Monitoring begins one year after implementation.

Learnings to share

It took six months between biodiversity assessment and implementation of actions. The process demanded coordination with the local processing company to ensure that the biodiversity goals and actions were clear. The starting point was compliance with the UEBT Standard.

Expertise was not easily found in the company and it took time to find the external experts.

It was a challenge to find the commitment for the economic resources and this lengthened the time required to establish plans and actions, and local partnerships.

About UEBT and this work

This case study is one of many examples of plans and types of actions that can be taken to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity or promote positive impacts. UEBT has drawn this material from its work with various companies and provides these cases to inspire companies to take concrete actions in their own supply chains.

The UEBT Standard was the initial motivation



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References

¹ Smith, R.K., Meredith, H. and Sutherland, W.J. (2017) in: W.J. Sutherland, L.V. Dicks, N. Ockendon and R.K. Smith (eds) *What Works in Conservation 2017*. Open Book Publishers, Cambridge, UK. (Smith et al; 2017)

Picture references

OVERLEAF: *BOMBUS DAHLBOMII* COVERED IN CARDOON POLLEN (*CYNARA CARDUNCULUS*), CHILE. COLLECTING ROSE HIP (*ROSA CANINA*). *NOTHOFAGUS DOMBEYI*, KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE COIHUE OR COIGUE (FROM KOYWE IN MAPUCHE LANGUAGE). THIS PAGE: DRYING ROSE HIP, LESOTHO. GAUDY ALTINOTE BUTTERFLY (*ALTINOTE NEGRA*), SAN MARTIN, PERU. OTHER IMAGES ARE ROSE HIPPS.



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