

## Principles for collection of wild plants – requirements of Balkan Biocert and IMO

### I. Principles for collection of wild plants – herbs, fruits, etc.:

Wild collection means the collection of plants/ plant parts that grow naturally in forests and nature. The following requirements should be fulfilled according to Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 to assure sustainability:

- The collection should take place in well – defined areas.

- The collection area should not have been treated for at least 3 years with:

- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- GMO

- The area should be distant enough from contamination sources such as:

- Intensive agriculture
- Industry
- Main road ways
- Garbage depots

- All necessary measures should be taken during collection to assure sustainability, so that it is possible to collect the plants during the next several decades without endangering their population.

- Saving plant species population:

The interference with ecosystem should be minimal. Regeneration of collected species should be ensured, no endangered species should be collected:

- The collected species should not be treated agriculturally (cutting of branches for plant regeneration)
- Collecting should be done according to particular methods (blueberries should not be picked using combs, no branches of trees or bushes may be cut).
- Sustainability of collection should be guaranteed by correct rotation plan to ensure natural regeneration of plant population and constant monitoring of population density.
- There should be only partial collection of roots (only 30% of population plants and only those in crop - rotation from 5 years)
- No more than 70% of one plant population may be collected.
- No more than 70% of the parts of one plant may be collected.

- There should be no damage to the ecosystem:

- No other species should be disturbed save for the collected ones (animal or plant species)
- No collection should be done in bird reproduction areas
- No other plant should be picked save for the collected ones

- Collectors training:

Collectors should be well trained in accordance with the requirements.

- The criteria for collection of all plants should be given and explained to all collectors.

## II. Documentation to be presented during inspection:

During inspection, please give general information about your company and all company activities; constantly document all activities concerning collection, processing or marketing. The necessary documentation for certification is:

### - Collection area:

- Collection License – obligatory!
- Red Book of endangered species in the area – copy.
- Information about area ownership and presence of farms/ settlement
- Details about contamination sources in the area as well as agricultural production in and around the collection area
- Confirmation from the owners that no pesticides, fertilizers and GMO have been used in the collection area (during the last 3 years and in future)
- Maps of the collection area (scale 1:50000 and cadastral maps) including indications of distance to contamination sources
- Habitat description in the collection area and collection potential of each plant (may be filled in during inspection)

### - Collection organization:

- Organizational structure of the company/ organigramme
- Specification of collected plants, botanic names included
- Detailed description of the collection system, collection period, collection methods and intensity (for long term sustainability, period of second collection, “crop- rotation”, etc.).
- Collection responsibility, collectors supervision (in regard of collection criteria, allowed quantities etc.)
- Updated collectors list, including addresses and code numbers
- Updated list of all collection areas
- Information about collectors training – instructions book signed by all collectors and collectors’ contracts
- Information about other companies collecting in the area (if any)

### - Purchasing and processing:

- Description of the product flow including all stages in it (from collection to marketing) with the corresponding activities, responsibilities, documentation, labeling;
- Details about own or contracted processing (drying, cleaning, extraction) and all stages of processing including corresponding ingredients used;

### - Full documentation for all stages of product flow:

- Documentation concerning collection activities and collected quantities
- Purchase documentation (for deliveries by the collectors)
- Documentation about incoming and outgoing goods, transportation, processing, storage and marketing
- Correct separation from non-certified activities should be guaranteed throughout the entire product flow

### - Marketing:

- Document all sales (local and export) with delivery documents and invoices
- Apply for export certificates at EC and keep copies of the export certificates for the next inspection.