

# STANDARD REQUIREMENT FOR

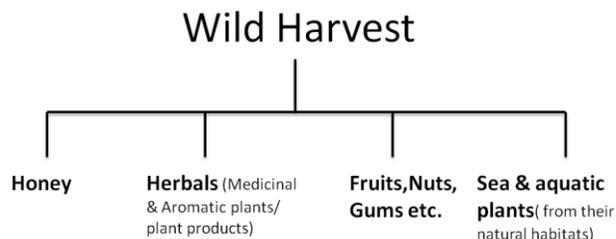
## WILD HARVEST COLLECTION



Millions of people live in and nearby forest area depends on the forest. They collect the forest produce for their livelihood without disturbing the forest.

The high consumer demand and steady growth in recent years demand of forest produce is gradually increasing in the world market due to use of forest products in food and medicinal industry. Therefore wild harvest certification offers opportunities for tribal communities or collectors whose livelihoods are depend to forest resources.

Wild harvest collection refers to the collection of medicinal and aromatic plants, honey as well as sea and aquatic plant products (like seaweed) from their natural habitats. The main purpose of certifying the collection of wild plants/crops is to show that the collection does not endanger the ecosystem, and that the stability of the plant population or the ecosystem is not threatened.



“A wild crop/product must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop”

Adopting the Principles & “best practices” for the following eleven key elements of sustainable wild plant collection:

1. Maintaining wild plant resources
2. Preventing negative environmental impacts
3. Complying with laws, regulations and agreements
4. Respecting customary rights and benefit-sharing
5. Promoting fair contractual relationships between operators and collectors
6. Limiting participation of children in wild-collection activities
7. Ensuring benefits for collectors and their communities
8. Ensuring fair working conditions for all workers of wild-collection operations
9. Applying responsible management practices
10. Applying responsible business practices
11. Promoting buyer commitment

### **Requirements for Organic Certification of Wild Harvest**

1. Wild Harvest products shall only be certified ‘Organic’ if derived from a stable and sustainable growing environment.
2. Harvesting or gathering the product shall not exceed the sustainable yield of the ecosystem or threaten the existence of plant or animal species.
3. Products can be certified ‘Organic’ only if derived from a clearly defined collecting area which is not exposed to prohibited substances and subjected to inspection.
4. The collection area shall be at an appropriate distance from conventional farming areas, pollution and contamination sources.
5. The operator managing the harvesting or gathering of the products shall be clearly identified and be quite familiar with the collecting area in question.
6. While harvesting or gathering the products, attention should be paid towards maintenance and sustainability of the ecosystem.

7. The operator must instruct the collectors, that:-
  - Defines the area of collection.
  - Informs them about the standards and other requirements for certification.
8. The collectors must sign the written statements that they have followed the instructions.
9. The operator must maintain the entire records of the collectors, also the quantities bought from them.
10. The area of production must properly be marked on maps, which should be large and distinct enough to minimize the risk of mixing up with non-certified production.

[Click the following link for Wild harvest registration.](#)