

Workshop 3

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Worldwide Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species

In 2003 a survey on the sustainable sourcing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (MAP) species was initiated by TRAFFIC Europe and WWF Germany.

The main objective of the survey is to support and promote the development of internationally binding standards and criteria for the sustainable sourcing and use of MAPs, which refers to the third main objective of the EPCS (target 3.1). The intention is to link the EPCS process with best-practice projects on local or regional level for mutually benefiting from the experiences gained.

A worldwide register of more than 70 projects focusing on the sustainable sourcing of MAPs was established. An in-depth analysis of around 30 projects focused on the challenge of integrating social, economic and ecological aspects as well as communication and capacity building. The conceptual background is provided by the Ecosystem Approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity that is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources promoting conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. More than 15 projects from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America responded to a questionnaire distributed. The analysis of the feedback and an evaluation of the results will be presented at the Conference.

Keywords: In-situ conservation, medicinal and aromatic plants, nature conservation, poverty alleviation, standards and criteria, sustainable sourcing, traditional health care

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