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## Basic set of biodiversity criteria for the food sector

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### Introduction /Preamble

The following basic set of biodiversity criteria is a fundamental part of the German Sector Initiative "Biodiversity in the Food Sector".

It was developed together with representatives of food companies, agriculture, food standards, scientific institutions and environmental organizations.

The basic set is not a new "biodiversity standard"! Rather, food standards and companies should compare their specifications with the basic set and - if necessary - revise their own criteria and/or integrate additional criteria and measures.

The sector initiative's agreement to implement the basic set of biodiversity criteria is a major contribution to halting the dramatic loss of biological diversity and related ecosystem services. In addition, unfair competition to the detriment of the environment and nature will be avoided. The general goal is to improve the biodiversity performance of the entire food sector.

All actors of the food sector are addressed to implement the requirements and measures of the basic set or to promote and support the implementation:

- Agricultural enterprises and producer groups
- Voluntary standards at international, national and regional level
- Companies in the food industry with their own procurement specifications
- Associations of the food sector
- Political decision makers responsible for agricultural legislation, policies, programs and subsidies.

The implementation of the basic set ensures the protection of existing biodiversity on agricultural land, creates potential for more habitats and species and helps to avoid or reduce negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity (VERY good farming practice).

Standards sometimes have different geographical focuses, are product-specific or are aimed at large producers or small farmers; food companies have specifications for regional and global supply chains. For this reason, the basic criteria must be adapted where necessary to the geographical or product-specific conditions or to the framework conditions of small farmers (e.g. agriculture in Europe or in the tropics, certification of smallholder cooperatives). However, these adjustments must not lead to a dilution of the objectives of the basic criteria or measures.

High environmental and social standards are an investment in the future. But just like the protection of biodiversity, they are not available for free. Responsible implementation results in costs and/or loss of earnings. These must not be imposed on the farmer alone. All actors along the supply chain, right up to the food producer or retailer, must bear an appropriate share of the costs or losses. This is part of the corporate responsibility and duty of care towards producers and biodiversity as a valuable public good.

The basic set contains two levels. The first level clarifies requirements for a standard or the procurement guidelines of a company. At this level, overarching aspects of biodiversity conservation are introduced to standards and companies. An example would be the implementation of a Biodiversity Action Plan in existing procurement requirements and criteria catalogs. The time of implementation of these criteria refers to how quickly a standard or a company should incorporate these criteria into its own systems.

The second level deals with concrete requirements for agricultural enterprises. Here contents for criteria of the standards and procurement guidelines are presented, which focus on agricultural production and aim to avoid negative environmental impacts of agricultural practices and to protect ecological structures. In many cases this level builds up on the first level. The time for implementation of this level refers to the implementation of the proposed measures on the farm after the standard or company has prescribed these measures.

The sector initiative "Biodiversity in the Food Sector" will regularly further develop the basic set and take into account new findings, legal requirements and practical experience.

Furthermore, the sector initiative is working on an accompanying program to achieve a broad implementation of the basic set. This includes further training and technical support for farmers, attractive incentives for farmers to improve their biodiversity, a favorable political framework and consumer awareness.

We must now act quickly and comprehensively if the dramatic loss of biodiversity is to be halted. The players in the industry initiative encourage all those involved in the food industry to take action: by implementing the requirements from the basic set and as a member of the sector initiative.

The basic set was selected from the "Recommendations for effective criteria for the protection of biodiversity in standards for the food sector and procurement guidelines of food companies". You can download the publication under the following link:

English version: <http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/recommendations-biodiversity-in-standards>

German version: <http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/de/empfehlungen-biodiversitaet-in-standards>

## The Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria

The basic set rests on two pillars. Part A comprises the criteria for improving the potential for biodiversity, ensuring the protection of existing biodiversity on agricultural land and creating room for more habitats and species. Part B includes criteria for VERY GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, which contribute to avoid and/or reduce negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity. These two pillars are themselves made up of a diverse set of categories with associated criteria:

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## A. Basic Set / Criteria for Improving the Potentials for Biodiversity

### 1. Biodiversity Action Plans at Farm Level

A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) includes measures for the protection of biodiversity on a farm and in its surroundings. It contains a description of the initial situation/baseline, an overview of potential for improvement as well as smart goals for protecting biodiversity that can be monitored against implementation.

#### Smallholder Farmers in the Global South

To demand individual Biodiversity Action Plans from smallholders is neither practical nor effective. In a smallholder-environment, the standard / company should request the agricultural cooperative to develop a BAP for affiliated farmers in the respective region (landscape approach).

#### Smallholder Farmers in Europe

In EU countries, smaller farms can develop and implement a BAP on the level of producer groups (landscape approach).

#### 1.1. Biodiversity Action Plan

Requirements for standard organisations / companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<p><u>The standard organisation /company</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requests a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) from the certified farms or suppliers.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in this context the standard organisation / company makes quantitative, qualitative and operationalised specifications for the content of the BAP (e.g. share of ecological priority areas beyond the legal requirements, width of biotope corridors, selection of indicator species for monitoring)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ supports farmers in the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan; among others with               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trainings and guidelines</li> <li>• free provision of expert knowledge on aspects of biodiversity</li> <li>• free provision of tools, such as the Biodiversity Performance Tool</li> <li>• regular exchange of experience regarding biodiversity measures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests a continuous improvement of the potential for biodiversity through the creation and protection of habitats/ecological structures, and the reduction of the negative footprint of agricultural activities on the environment.</li> </ul> <p>A continuous improvement is to be strived for until an optimum is reached. After that, the focus is on maintaining the optimum.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes regional average values and benchmarks (best in class) for biodiversity-relevant factors based on monitoring results. These serve as orientation for farm operators/companies/ standards for a regional comparison.</li> </ul>			

## 1.2. Describing the Baseline

The measures of the Biodiversity Action Plan relate to the baseline assessment of the farm and cover all major opportunities to protect and promote biodiversity. To describe the baseline, farm-specific data relevant for biodiversity are documented and mapped. In Germany this can be done in already existing farm maps, e.g. maps required to apply for subsidies.

<b>Requirements for standard organisations / companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation / the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supports the farm operator in developing an overview of protected and endangered species by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Free provision of experts</i></li> <li><i>Organisation of exchanges between farm operators and nature conservation authorities</i></li> <li><i>Mediation in conflicts between species protection and production</i></li> <li><i>Compensation for loss of income (e.g. by reduced harvest)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Documents all ecologically valuable structures/areas on the farm (own farmland and leased farmland) and in the immediate vicinity. These areas with high value include protected areas (e.g. Natura 2000 areas), primary (natural) ecosystems, hotspots of biodiversity*<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>* Every farm has areas where wildlife is more abundant than on average. These areas are considered hotspots of biodiversity on the farm. In Germany, these hotspots are not yet recorded on farm maps and descriptions and therefore need to be included manually.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> in countries outside Europe HCV (High Conservation Value) areas are among the valuable areas in addition</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes further farm-specific information in a second step, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• areas used for agriculture</li> <li>• aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, peatlands, lakes, streams, rivers ...)</li> <li>• semi-natural habitats e.g. (biotope corridors, fallow land, patches that are not used for agricultural purposes and have greenery, boundary areas between fields, along roadsides or water bodies, hedges, shrubs and trees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describes the real and potential risks to biodiversity arising from agricultural activity as well as risks arising from the adjacent environment (e.g. busy roads, noise, pollution from untreated wastewater or (illegal) landfills). The farm operator also describes whether the farm has a direct or indirect influence on the reduction of such risks.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has an overview of the protected and endangered species in the region (National Lists, IUCN Red List, Annex II, IV, V of the FFH Directive) - if the farm is located in the vicinity of or in protected areas*. If necessary, the operator will involve experts (e.g. nature conservation authority, regional NGO, scientific institution).</li> </ul> <p>* in countries outside Europe HCV areas are included</p>			

### 1.3. Selection of Measures

The Biodiversity Action Plan includes measures to protect and promote biodiversity on the farm. These measures are based on a baseline assessment and risk evaluation and cover all the main options for achieving this goal. In particular, the measures focus on reducing the identified risks.

<b>Requirements for standard organisations/companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation / the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supports the farm operator in the selection of measures, e.g. by                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets with the description of measures</li> <li>• Guidelines with measures for specific regions</li> <li>• Guidelines with measures for certain cultivation practices</li> <li>• Free provision of experts /nature conservation consultants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

#### 1.3.1. Minimum share of natural and semi-natural habitats

The standard organisation /company requires a share of natural and semi-natural habitats beyond the legally required minimum share, as well as specifications for the quality of these areas.

<b>Requirements for standard organisations/companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation / the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires a minimum proportion of semi-natural habitats and ecological structures on farms that goes well beyond the legal requirements.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the EU member states, a minimum share of 10% of semi-natural habitats on the entire farm area is mandatory (status 2020).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rewards the areas of semi-natural habitats and ecological structures on farms beyond legal requirements, e.g. by bearing a proportion of the costs and loss of earnings.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Defines quality characteristics for semi-natural habitats and ecological structures with the help of experts and/or by using the Biodiversity Performance Tool.</li> </ul>			

### 1.3.2. Creation of Biotop Corridors

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connects the natural and semi-natural habitats on its own land by means of biotope corridors.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures that - as far as possible - its natural and semi-natural habitats are connected to directly adjacent natural and semi-natural habitats.</li> </ul>			

### 1.3.3. Grassland Preservation

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must not plough permanent grassland</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must not convert permanent grassland into arable land</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a grazing-management plan</li> </ul>			

#### 1.3.4. Creation and Maintenance of natural habitats

<b>Requirements for standard organisations/companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation /company</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creates a catalogue of measures for the creation of regionally typical ecological structures in combination with measures to support indicator species.</li> <li>▪ International standards /companies should start with the elaboration of a catalogue of measures for the most important sourcing regions.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides a method for prioritization of measures taking the diversification of semi-natural habitats into account in order to obtain the highest nature values.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sets up a monitoring system of the implemented measures.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finds out which measures are implemented at what frequency</li> <li>• Identifies hurdles/challenges in the implementation of the measures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ support the implementation of effective measures with incentives and professional expertise</li> </ul>			

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only uses seeds of regionally native species for field margins and flower strips. The natural development of linear structures and habitats without active planting and seeding is allowed.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implements maintenance measures for linear ecological structures (e.g. pruning of hedgerows, clearing /cleaning of drainage channels) and other activities in adjacent areas in a manner that minimizes damage as much as possible for habitats, flora and fauna.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not fertilize or apply pesticides on natural and semi-natural habitats and linear ecological structures.</li> </ul>			

### 1.3.5. Special measures for the protection of species

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation / the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ supports the farmer in protecting endangered and protected animals and plants by                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Free provision of experts for consultation</i></li> <li>• <i>Mapping an monitoring</i></li> <li>• <i>Regular exchange with the nature conservation authorities</i></li> <li>• <i>Incentives for the protection of species and proportionate takeover of the costs and loss of earnings</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibits the use, upbringing and planting of any genetically modified organism (GMO's).</li> </ul>			

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies protected and /or endangered species of flora and fauna if they occur on the farm area and takes action to ensure their protection. The measures include both direct protection measures and a nature-friendly adaptation of the agricultural practices.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoids practices that interfere with or put in danger protected /endangered animals. This includes activities such as falling trees or trimming hedges during the mating /nesting season of birds or mowing grassland during times when bees are active</li> </ul>			

## 2. Protection of primary (natural) ecosystems, semi-natural habitats and protected areas

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediate ly	In a year	Long-term in x years

<p><u>The standard organisation /company</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibits the conversion of primary (natural) ecosystems (e.g. tropical rainforest, savannah, wetlands, peatlands) to farmland. A base year is defined.</li> </ul> <p>In the EU, only few primary ecosystems are remaining and they are legally protected. In addition to national legislation, the Habitats Directive and its annexes also apply here.</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports and defines sustainable use of semi-natural ecosystems, protected areas and HCV areas - where the agricultural use is not explicitly prohibited by legislation.</li> </ul>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibits the new (include reference year) drainage of peaty soils and the extraction of peat.</li> </ul>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports the farmer by, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ providing experts for free advice</li> <li>○ regular exchange with the nature conservation authority</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<p><u>The farm operator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knows and respects any restrictions on land use in a protected area (e.g. Natura 2000).</li> </ul>			

### 3. Protection of water bodies; management of riparian strips

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<p><u>The farm operator</u></p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeps a buffer zone of primarily native vegetation along each border of seasonal and permanent water bodies, hereby the minimum width of the buffer zones always exceeds the legal requirement. In the case of permanent water bodies, the minimum width of the buffer zone is not less than 10 meters.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures that inappropriate materials (such as oil, CPPs, CPP packing or containers, medicines, animal manure) are not disposed in rivers, streams or other surface or ground water.</li> </ul>			

#### 4. Invasive Alien Species (Neobiota)

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation / company</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>informs auditors /certifiers and farm operators about invasive, alien species and measures for preventing the spread of these</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the farm operator via               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>free provision of experts for advice on dealing with invasive species</i></li> <li><i>regular exchange with the nature conservation authority</i></li> <li><i>etc...</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies invasive alien species that appear on the farm and reports the presence to the responsible nature protection authority.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takes measures to combat invasive alien species on the farm according to the recommendations of the nature protection authority.</li> </ul>			

## 5. Wild Collection

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation /company:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibits the use and gathering of threatened and /or protected plants and animals (see Red List of IUCN and CITES) and underlines that protected areas are not to be impaired.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires that the farm operator strictly follows applicable law and government regulations (e.g. the requirement for a license to gather or harvest).</li> </ul>			

## B. Recommendations for VERY Good agricultural Practices for More Biodiversity

### 6. Soil

#### 6.1. Fertilization

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard/the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supports the farm in establishing a humus balance, e.g. by                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an experienced advisory service</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishes nutrient balances according to a recognized method and documents all fertilizer applications and nutrient values of the fertilizers (at least N and P)</li> <li>▪ Carries out a humus balance on agricultural land. This is complemented by a humus inspection every six years. The humus balance should never be negative. In Germany, the balance method recommended by the LFL (Bavarian State Office for Agriculture) is used.</li> <li>▪ Carries out an assessment regarding fertilizer requirements prior to the application of essential amounts of nutrients (N=50kg/ha, P=30kg/ha).</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considers the nitrogen reference values issued by agricultural administrations (e.g. regional official advisory body in Germany) as the upper limit for nitrogen fertilisation. In addition, the farmer aims at a continuous reduction of the fertilisers used towards an optimal fertiliser management.</li> </ul>			
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## 6.2. Erosion

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeps soils covered with vegetation as long as possible, at the least during the periods prone to nutrient leaching</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carries out and documents erosion control measures in areas with a high risk of erosion</li> </ul>			

## 6.3. Crop rotation (excluding permanent crops)

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In arable farming in temperate climatic regions, implements a crop rotation of at least four years on the same field. This includes the cultivation of four main crops, as well as the cultivation of catch crops such as grasses, oilseeds or legumes. (perennial or permanent crops are excluded)</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultivates at least three different main crops annually on the entire farm area. The most important main crop may not cover more than 75% of the total area of the farm. The two most important main crops must not cover more</li> </ul>			

than 95% of the total area under crops. Legumes or mixtures containing legumes are grown on at least 10% of the area.			
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## 7. Pest management

<b>Requirements for standard organisations/companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation/ the company</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits the use of pesticides, which are harmful for beneficial insects, pollinating insects, amphibians or fish.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defines a negative list for pesticides (list of prohibited pesticides) and a strategy with a clear timeline for reducing active substances that are dangerous for biodiversity.</li> </ul>	For standard organisations	For companies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks to harmonise its own negative lists of pesticides with already existing lists from other standards and organisations.</li> </ul>			

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consequently implements Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and documents the measures taken. IPM includes the following steps to prevent and control arable crop diseases and pests               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preventive measures in the areas of:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>crop rotation, sowing, soil preparation, varieties, seeds, fertilization, hygiene, natural regulation and ecological infrastructure</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>			

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. pest and disease monitoring</li> <li>3. use of economic pest-thresholds and other decision-making aids</li> <li>4. preference of non-chemical disease, pest and weed control measures</li> <li>5. use chemical pesticides as specifically as possible and with the least side effects on human health, non-target organisms and the environment</li> <li>6. apply lowest possible/necessary level of chemical measures</li> <li>7. prevents the buildup disease and pest resistances towards treatment measures</li> <li>8. records applications of plant protection products and checks their success</li> </ol>			
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## 8. Use of Water

<b>Requirements for standard organisations/companies</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation/ the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expands the advisory service for farmers on efficient irrigation where there is no official service to advice farmers.</li> </ul>			

<b>Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications</b>	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The farm operator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obtains water for farming operations strictly legally. The amount of water consumed is plausible in terms of demand and does not exceed the withdrawal quantities permitted by the authorities.</li> <li>▪ Documents the water used for each irrigation activity in order to prove efficiency.</li> </ul>			

## 9. Agro-Biodiversity

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation/ the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instigates or supports projects and initiatives to create market access for traditional crop varieties and livestock breeds. Certified farms/suppliers are motivated to grow traditional crop varieties and livestock breeds, e.g. through a bonus point system or other benefits.</li> </ul>			

## 10. Animal Feed

Global feed trade puts pressure on ecosystems worldwide. Standard organisations and companies in the food sector can have a mitigating effect on this.

Requirements for standard organisations/companies	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<u>The standard organisation/ the company</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuously increases the proportion of sustainably produced animal feed.</li> </ul> <p>The FEAC listing can serve as a guide for standard systems that prohibit the use of genetically modified feed.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prohibits the use of genetically modified feedstuff</li> </ul>			

Criteria to integrate into existing standards and procurement specifications	Immediately	In a year	Long-term in x years
<p><u>The farm operator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Is continuously improving towards feedstuff autonomy. Feed not originating from the farm itself should come from the farming region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In Germany, the region for receiving feed is defined as a radius of 100 km around the farm</li> <li>○ In other European countries or globally, the radius for feedstuff intake is defined by the standard/company</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connects livestock to the farm's own forage area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In intensive livestock farming systems, the maximum livestock unit (LU) is 2.0 / ha</li> <li>● For extensive livestock farming systems the maximum LSU/ha is 1.4</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Farms with higher stocking densities have to reduce livestock units to reach the corresponding maximum level within a certain time. Farms with lower stocking densities should maintain these lower densities.</p>			