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Contact:
Ecosystem Restoration Standard
25 Rue de Frémicourt
75015 Paris, FRANCE
info@ers.org

GUIDELINES

Non-Timber Forest Products Guidelines

SUMMARY

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) play a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of local communities while promoting sustainable resource management. When integrated into an ERS-certified project, the exploitation of NTFPs must be carefully managed to ensure that ecological restoration objectives are not compromised.

These guidelines aim to provide detailed instructions to local communities on how to responsibly exploit NTFPs within the context of an ecosystem restoration project, minimizing harm to the restoration area. Any NFTP-related interventions in the Social Additionality Plan must adhere to these guidelines.



REQUIREMENTS

1. Identification and Inventory of NTFPs

- 1.1. Before any exploitation, The Developer must conduct a thorough assessment of the NTFPs available in the restoration area.
 - 1.1.1. Prioritize NTFPs that have been traditionally harvested by local communities, ensuring that these practices do not threaten the ecosystem structure & components.
 - 1.1.2. ERS encourages the Developer to establish a database documenting the available NTFPs, their ecological importance, and traditional harvesting methods.
- 1.2. If NTFPs are banned from the restoration area, a plan to compensate or replace such activity must be developed in the [Social Additionality Plan](#).

2. Sustainable Harvesting Protocols


- 2.1. Develop species-specific harvesting protocols to ensure the sustainable collection of NTFPs.
- 2.2. The protocols must include:
 - 2.2.1. The collection sites and the buffer zones around the restoration area where limited, controlled harvesting can occur.
 - 2.2.2. Safeguards to ensure that the regeneration rate of the NTFPs used surpasses its extraction rate. This includes the parts of the plant that can be harvested, frequency, and quantity.

3. Capacity Building and Training

- 3.1. Organize regular training sessions for local communities on the sustainable harvesting protocols and the ecological role of NTFPs.



- 3.2. Promote local ownership by involving communities in monitoring use of NTFPs and data collection processes.
- 3.3. Encourage community members to report any unethical or illegal harvesting activities.

 To achieve this, ERS encourages the establishment of community-based NTFP management committees.

4. Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptive Management

- 4.1. The health of NTFP populations and their ecosystems must be monitored annually and reported in the [Annual Report](#).
- 4.2. Review the NTFP intervention every five years in the [Social Additionality Plan](#) to account for changes in the ecosystem, community needs, and global best practices.



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