



**UEBT**  
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WITH RESPECT

# UEBT SUPPLIER DUE DILIGENCE PLATFORM

## A UNIQUE TOOL FOR ASSESSING AND MONITORING RISKS IN NATURAL RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY CHAINS

Companies are increasingly motivated to learn about potential social and environmental harm in their supply chains. Growing due diligence legal requirements around the world – policies and regulations that have been set up to address adverse impacts of business on people and the environment, require companies to make certain efforts in this regard.

In addition, ethical considerations and customer expectations demand that businesses take these steps, including identifying whether there are risks related to human rights, workers' rights and the environment, and managing those identified risks through prevention or mitigation.



### UEBT due diligence tools

- Supplier due diligence platform
- Responsible sourcing risk database
- ABS due diligence database

### Scope of UEBT due diligence tools

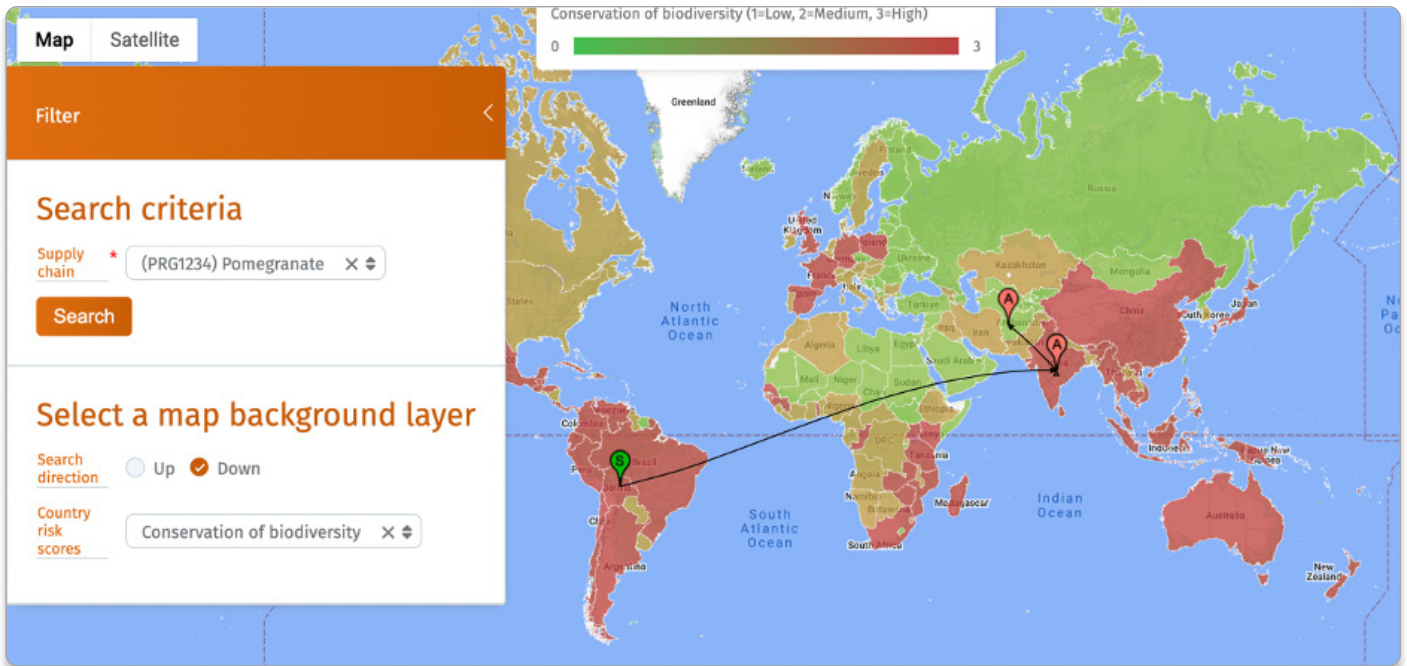
Due diligence is a process that allows companies to better understand the conditions along supply chains, identify risks and promote responsible sourcing practices. It consists of several elements and steps. UEBT has developed practical risk-based due diligence tools to help companies with some of the steps. Specifically, UEBT supports companies to identify and manage natural raw material supply chain risks.

These tools are unique because:

- Their scope is on natural raw materials supply chains that are frequently used in the UEBT target sectors, especially the wide range of botanicals used.
- They cover companies' operations and their supply chains up to the field level (sourcing area) – few due diligence systems include these important field-based risks related to workers, producers and their local environment.
- They reflect risks linked to 'critical' requirements in the UEBT standard that is internationally recognized and covers important issues such as:
  - Biodiversity conservation and restoration
  - Cultivation and wild collection practices for sustainable use of biodiversity
  - Human and workers' rights
  - Community well-being and local development



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Above: Example of a supply chain map with country-risk scores layer

Principles	Country risk score	Supplier risk scores	Minimum requirements met
Biodiversity conservation and restoration	Medium	Low	Yes
Cultivation and wild collection practices for sustainable use of biodiversity	Medium	Not applicable	Yes
Human and workers' rights	Medium	Low	Yes
Community well being and local development	Low	Low	Not applicable

Above: A sample results table for a completed supplier/ingredient form

UEBT's supplier due diligence platform is one of the UEBT due diligence tools available to companies<sup>2</sup>. It is an online system that UEBT is developing with UEBT member companies to support them to evaluate and track risks along their supply chains of natural raw materials. It allows companies to collect information as well as analyse and evaluate the potential risks associated with their production practices.

## How the platform supports companies

Supply chain due diligence requires companies to have an extensive database of suppliers and a risk assessment approach for each. Yet this information can be difficult to track and manage, especially for more complex supply chains.

UEBT's supplier due diligence platform addresses this gap by helping companies to map the supply chains down to the farmer or producer level and assess the potential risks associated with cultivation or collection practices for the natural raw material.

Using the platform, companies can ask their suppliers to identify their position within the supply chain, complete risk-based questionnaires tailored for natural raw materials, and also map lower tiers of the supply chain. This supports companies in monitoring the performance and risks of the (sub) suppliers throughout the supply chains.

The focus of the due diligence platform is on natural raw material supply chains and has been set up with full consideration of the need for business confidentiality. This allows companies to have a better overview of their supply chains down to the production level, where the risks of social and environmental issues are the highest.



### Collecting information on suppliers and evaluating risks are only the first steps of a due diligence system

UEBT due diligence tools are for these first steps, with further support for additional steps.

#### Benefits for companies

- A comprehensive risk assessment questionnaire that covers the responsible sourcing risks related to 'critical' requirements from the UEBT standard
- A way to map supply chains of natural raw materials
- An overview of the context of sourcing regions and countries, and the factual circumstances of the operations
- Flexibility to exclude certain topics that may be less relevant for your due diligence system
- An option to for your Tier 1 suppliers to keep their sub-suppliers (Tier 2, and etc.) confidential. This allows buyers to have a better overview of their supply chains down to the production level where the risks of social and environmental issues are the highest
- Options for an added layer of trust through [UEBT field verification](#)

#### Benefits for suppliers

- A self-assessment tool that can be used as an internal risk management system. Producers who work directly with the farmers or pickers are encouraged to use the platform as their internal risk assessment system. This allows for a faster process of collection of the information within the same system
- As use of the platform expands, a possibility to share the filled-out forms and external review results with multiple buyers
- A way to show the results of good (or improved) production practices
- A way to show buyers that you have identified risks and need further investments or support in your business to help address these
- A way to demonstrate responsiveness to the increase in regulations requiring companies to know and manage risks

In addition, the platform is integrated with another UEBT tool, the Responsible Sourcing Risk Database that provides specific risk scores on environmental and social issues at the natural raw material level and at the country level. This supports due diligence processes by providing targeted information about supply chain risks that will help to prioritise and define targets and relevant actions to manage the identified risks.

#### Costs

The supplier due diligence platform is available as an annual subscription service<sup>3</sup> to companies, with rates based on turnover. UEBT members receive special rates. Subscribers receive tailored support with online set up, as well as access to a toolbox with guidance and training videos.

#### For more information

Please contact [due-diligence@uebt.org](mailto:due-diligence@uebt.org) to learn more

#### REFERENCES

1 Some examples from Europe alone include as of May 2023: UK Modern Slavery Act (2015), French Law on Duty of Care (2017), German Supply Chain Act (2021), EU Deforestation Act (2023), EU Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (proposal submitted February 2022), and the EU Proposal for a regulation on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market (September 2022). 2 UEBT also offers a Responsible Sourcing Risk Database and an Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) due diligence database. Learn more at [uebt.org/due-diligence](http://uebt.org/due-diligence); 3 Subscriptions cover development and maintenance costs of the platform.

IMAGES: Arabian jasmine *Jasminum sambac*, Roselle hibiscus *Hibiscus sabdariffa*.



#### UEBT

De Ruijterkade 6, 1013 AA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands | Telephone: +31 20 22 34567 | Email: [info@uebt.org](mailto:info@uebt.org)

Representation in Brazil France India Madagascar Vietnam

Connect with us [www.uebt.org](http://www.uebt.org) | [www.linkedin.com/company/uebt](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uebt)

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