

Revision of the Fair for Life Programme (2010)

In 2010, the Swiss Bio-Foundation as holder of the Fair for Life Programme will undertake to revise the Fair for Life Programme and bring it up to date with the latest developments in the sector. The revision process will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of ISEAL with regard to standard revision processes (ISEAL Code of Good Practice and Guidance for Setting Social and Environmental Standards; P005, Version 4; updates from draft version 5.1 from May 2009 are considered wherever possible).

Rationale

The Fair for Life Programme was launched in late 2006 under the name 'IMO Social and FairTrade Programme' and was updated in 2007/2008. The current version (Version February 2008) has been the basis for all certifications issued according to the Fair for Life Programme since February 2008. The Programme provides the basis for certification according to the 'for Life' and 'Fair for Life' Standards, including the respective checklist for auditing, verification of compliance, and certification.

Like all other standards, the Fair for Life Programme must be updated and revised at regular intervals to account for all new developments and requirements in the field of social responsibility, fair and ethical trading and environmental sustainability and sensitivity of production, processing and trade. The past three years of Programme implementation have shown the benefits of Fair for Life to the Biofoundation, IMO and all clients that have been certified, but they also revealed a number of inconsistencies and gaps. In addition, the world of social and fair trade certification has been rapidly evolving, which results in new fields of activity and challenges for respective standard setting and adaptation processes.

For these reasons, the Biofoundation and the certification body IMO Switzerland have decided to carry out a full revision of the Fair for Life Programme in 2010. Due to the complexity of the task, a full year is envisaged, from the first steps in January until the final approval of the revised Programme in December 2010. The new, revised version of the Fair for Life Programme will be implemented as from 01 January 2011.

Timelines

- January 2010:** Preparation of compilation table of suggested elements of revision / update / amendment that were received in 2008 and 2009 and collected by IMO Switzerland. Compilation of list of stakeholders for direct consultation.
- 26 February 2010:** 1 day expert workshop to collect ideas and requirements for the revision.
- 01 March – 15 May 2010:** Preparation of a first draft of the revised Fair for Life Programme.
- 16 May – 14 July 2010:** Public consultation of the first draft of the revised Programme (60 days, in accordance with ISEAL requirements).
- 14 July – 15 August 2010:** Preparation of a second draft of the revised Fair for Life Programme.
- Mid August 2010:** Expert consultation workshop on the second draft of the Fair for Life Programme and revision of the draft (availability of funds provided).
- 01 September – 31 October 2010:** Public consultation of the second draft of the revised Fair for Life Programme (30 days, in accordance with ISEAL requirements).
- By mid-November 2010:** Preparation of the final draft of the revised Fair for Life Programme.
- By end-November 2010:** Meeting of the Bio-Foundation technical committee and final approval of the revised Fair for Life Programme.
- December 2010:** Finalization of the revised FFL Programme (Version 2011) and preparation of the checklists relating to the revised Fair for Life Programme and translations as required.

Public Consultation

As indicated in the timeline above, there will be 2 rounds of public consultation during the revision process of the Fair for Life Programme. Both consultations will be announced through the Website www.fairforlife.net at least 4 weeks in advance and consist of 2 elements:

- 1) The draft revised Programme will be published on the Website www.fairforlife.net during the consultation periods. During these periods, the public, without restriction, will have the opportunity to comment on the draft revised Programme. Comments must be personalized, written in English language, and sent to the e-mail address provided on the website. Anonymous

comments or comments that are received after the end of the consultation period will not be included.

- 2) The Bio-Foundation, in cooperation with IMO Switzerland, will compile a stakeholder consultation list. This list will name individual experts from a wide range of stakeholders (government agencies and non-governmental organizations; certification agencies; private sector companies; producers, processors and traders of Fair for Life certified products; private consultants; representatives of indigenous peoples) and regions world-wide. However, the total number of experts on the consultation list will be limited to a maximum of 150. All people on this expert list will be personally invited by e-mail to comment on the drafts of the revised Fair for Life Programme. All comments must be personalized, written in English language, and sent to the e-mail address provided in the invitation. Anonymous comments or comments that are received after the end of the consultation period will not be accepted.

After the end of the public consultation periods, a compilation table of all comments received will be produced; this table includes remarks on if and how comments were included in the resulting draft of the revised Programme. Bio-Foundation and IMO reserve the right to deny comments that:

- Are not written in English
- Are received after the end of the public consultation periods
- Do not refer to the topic of the public consultation process
- Are disrespectful of any person or any stakeholder group
- Discriminate against any person or group of people, any religion, gender, ethnic origin or nationality.

Such comments will be deleted and not included in the compilation table.

Contact

In case of questions with regard to the revision process of the Fair for Life Programme, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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