

# BERACA

## ***Progress Reporting - Beraca***

*2011/2012 - On the Leadership Declaration of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative.*

### ***Leadership Declaration***

*All signatory companies acknowledge and support the three objectives of the international "Convention on Biological Diversity":*

- 1. Conservation of biological diversity*
- 2. Sustainable use of its components*
- 3. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that arise out of the utilization of genetic resources.*

*and commit themselves to:*

- 1. Analyzing corporate activities with regard to their impacts on biological diversity;*
- 2. Including the protection of biological diversity within their environmental management system;*
- 3. Appointing a responsible individual within the company to steer all activities in the biodiversity sector and report to the Management Board;*
- 4. Defining realistic, measurable objectives that are monitored and adjusted every two to three years;*
- 5. Publishing activities and achievements in the biodiversity sector in the company's annual, environmental, and/or corporate social responsibility report;*
- 6. Informing suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and integrating suppliers accordingly and step by step;*
- 7. Exploring the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and/or governmental institutions with the aim of deepening dialogue and*

*continuously improving the corporate management system vis-à-vis the biodiversity domain.*

*To demonstrate ongoing commitment, member companies will provide the Initiative with a progress report every two years.*

### **1. Analyzing corporate activities with regard to their impacts on biological diversity;**

*Beraca has a work philosophy and methodology for matters relating to biological diversity that aims to ensure economic feasibility and product quality, through its Biodiversity Enhancement Program®. The practices carried out by Beraca to minimize the environmental and social impacts caused by its activities include:*

- *Classification of productive groups (local communities that supply biodiversity products);*
- *Use of best field practices (related to harvesting and family farm agriculture);*
- *Workplace safety for harvesting activities;*
- *Proper processing of products and sustainable forest management;*
- *Management and organization of local cooperatives and communities.*

*As a consequence of its social and environmental commitment, and as a way of adding value to the supply chain, Beraca oversees, validates and defrays the cost of organic certification of community groups with which it works, and which involve some 1,600 people in 101 community centers, across five Brazilian states.*

*Beraca has fair pricing deals with its suppliers, maintaining public initiatives within the scope of the UEBT (Union for Ethical Biotrade), and is committed to purchasing the agreed produce before the beginning of the harvest. Beraca is also committed to the transfer of production processing technologies; providing packaging free of charge for use in the harvesting; and providing logistics support to communities, minimizing its impacts on the biological diversity and boosting its changing social role within the local communities where it operates.*

### **2. Including protection of biological diversity within its environmental management system;**

*Over ten years ago, Beraca created the Biodiversity Enhancement Program®, which sets out the company's guidelines on the use of biodiversity. Since then, there have been no significant changes in the environmental management system, which covers every aspect of its commitment to protecting the biological diversity. In 2014, Beraca will create a Manual on Procedures for the Use of Biodiversity, which will include topics related to biodiversity preservation and sustainability, providing a practical addition to our program and serving as a guide for the communities with which Beraca works.*

### **3. Appointing an individual in charge within the company, to steer all the activities in the biodiversity sector and report to the Management Board;**

*In 2012, Beraca hired two new managers for key company areas:*

- Malena Araújo for Biodiversity, responsible for managing all activities associated with the field of biodiversity, and;*
- Thiago Terada for Sustainability, responsible for coordinating all corporate actions of Beraca relating to sustainability, and assisting the area of biodiversity in creating policies, planning, and building institutional relationships.*

### **4. Defining realistic, measurable objectives that are monitored and adjusted every two to three years;**

*Beraca is a member of the UEBT, an international not-for-profit organization that promotes the ethical sourcing of biodiversity. In order to be a UEBT member, a company is required to take on public and transparent commitments to biodiversity-related goals. The commitments undertaken by Beraca are available at:*

*[http://www.ethicalbiotrade.org/news/wp-content/uploads/Beraca\\_Annual-report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ethicalbiotrade.org/news/wp-content/uploads/Beraca_Annual-report_2011.pdf)*

*In addition to the above, during the Rio+20 meetings, Beraca signed a cooperation agreement with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, German agency for*

international development cooperation) and L'Oréal for the next two years, for a significant amount. The objective of the agreement is to promote sustainable development in the Amazon and assist more than 300 families in 24 towns and cities, through technical training programs and monitoring of production processes.

**5. Publishing activities and achievements in the biodiversity sector in the company's annual, environmental, and/or corporate social responsibility report;**

Beraca's sustainability reports are prepared every two years; the next one is expected to be announced in May 2013. It will cover the 2011/2012 period, and will include information on the activities carried out, and the results achieved in the biodiversity field.

The 2009/2010 and 2007/2008 sustainability reports also contain information on biodiversity, and can be viewed, respectively, at:

[http://www.beraca.com/Relatorio\\_de\\_Sustentabilidade\\_2009a2010.pdf](http://www.beraca.com/Relatorio_de_Sustentabilidade_2009a2010.pdf)

[http://www.beraca.com/\\_files/relatorio\\_de\\_sustentabilidade\\_07-08\\_br.pdf](http://www.beraca.com/_files/relatorio_de_sustentabilidade_07-08_br.pdf)

**6. Informing suppliers about the company's biodiversity objectives and integrating suppliers accordingly and step by step;**

Each year Beraca holds the BERACOM (Meeting with Supplying Communities and Institutional Partners), aiming to stimulate a dialogue of engagement with stakeholders, giving the opportunity for all players to speak and be heard on topics relating to biodiversity.

The III Beracom took place on December 6 to 8, 2012, and was attended by around 80 professionals, including agro-harvesters, partners and Beraca employees. The meeting addressed topics such as production, commercialization, logistics, legal aspects, child labor, workplace safety, organic certification, ethical-based supply and forest management.

In 2011, the II Beracom was attended by over 50 delegates, and focused mainly on matters related to social and administrative organization.

*In addition to events aimed at engaging stakeholders, such as Beracom, Beraca makes its Biodiversity Enhancement Policy available to all suppliers, promoting sustainable development and preservation of the biodiversity in the regions where it operates. Beraca also holds regular meetings with community leaders to make price and production adjustments, allowing a transparent purchase process for all the families involved. Beraca also performs regular inspections that ensure the quality and sustainability of the harvesting process.*

**7. Exploring the potential for cooperation with scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and/or governmental institutions, with the aim of promoting dialogue and continually improving the corporate management system vis-à-vis the biodiversity domain.**

*Cooperating with its partners is one of Beraca's core values. In this sense, Beraca is continuously seeking new ways of doing things differently, better, and together.*

*The agreement with GIZ and L'Oréal mentioned in item 4 is one example of a partnership created by Beraca. Divided into three working fronts - organization and management; production and organic certification; and commercialization -, it is the task of each project partner to work within their established scope.*

*Beraca has also signed an agreement with the non-for-profit institution A Rocha for the purposes of environment preservation, research and education. A Rocha has collected data from the participants of the Biodiversity Enhancement Program, and carried out a quantitative and qualitative investigation on the characteristics of each supplying community.*

*In the area of government, Beraca has strengthened its relationship with the Ministry of Agrarian Development and the Ministry of Environment - the main contacts within the Brazilian Federal Government for topics related to biodiversity. Beraca has also partnered with the Brazilian Government to participate in the project "Organic and Sustainable Cup", which will promote the country's organic and sustainable products during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.*

