

Position on Respecting Biodiversity

Background

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, including diversity of ecosystems, genes and species, and ecological practices that support them.¹ There is a growing concern about the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in many areas of the world, including the associated impacts on human health and economic development. Human health relies on functioning ecosystems, including water purification, the provision of food and medicines, moderation of the climate, and regulation of disease vectors, pests and pathogens.

Relevance

As the largest, most diversified healthcare products company, Johnson & Johnson recognizes the importance of conserving biodiversity and believes it is an important shared responsibility. Nature has long played an integral role in the discovery of new medicines and ingredients. Biological resources provide opportunities to develop lifesaving healthcare solutions and naturally derived product ingredients.

Guiding Principles

As stated in [Our Credo](#): “We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well ... We must be good citizens ... We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources.” These core principles guide our respect for and protection of biodiversity.

Our Position

Johnson & Johnson supports the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components. We also agree with the intent of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, which seeks to promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources.

Managing Our Impacts on Biodiversity

To minimize potential impacts on biodiversity upstream in our supply chain, we developed standards that guide our sourcing practices. All suppliers are expected to comply with our [Responsibility Standards for Suppliers](#), which include requirements for addressing sustainability and environmental responsibility.

¹ [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

With respect to natural products and naturally derived ingredients, we have established internal checkpoints for documenting and tracking the use of such resources to ensure that they are used in accordance with local laws and regulations as well as our own policies and standards. We source these ingredients from third-party suppliers who are required to provide documentation of their compliance with applicable biodiversity laws.

For materials we purchase that could potentially originate from forest-rich regions, we developed specific responsible sourcing programs. Our [Responsible Wood-Fiber Product Sourcing Policy](#) guides our purchasing of forest-based products, and our [Responsible Palm Oil Sourcing Policy](#) outlines sourcing requirements for our purchasing of palm oil derived materials.

We recognize that our operations may impact local ecosystems and biodiversity. To minimize our direct impact, our Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) Standards require that properties are assessed for potential risk to sensitive flora or fauna and that action plans are developed to conserve and protect identified species.

We understand that our large employee community can also play a role in the protection of biodiversity. WeSustain, our environmental sustainability employee engagement program, mobilizes employees who are passionate about environmental sustainability and seek to make an impact, collaborate through knowledge-building and idea-sharing opportunities, and community volunteerism, often including local biodiversity conservation activities.

Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#). We provide updates relating to biodiversity in our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#).

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