

“ We believe that transparency, comparability and trust are essential in global sustainable sourcing. Through the GSCP benchmarking, we demonstrate our sincere commitment to follow international best practice in Fair Trade and CSR certifications. ”



**PHILIPPE  
THOMAZO,  
CEO,  
ECOCERT  
GROUP**



## OUR POSITION

### Mission

Provide a framework within which each actor can engage to make CSR and fair trade principles a reality in its supply-chain by:

1. Defining clear requirements applying to each actor in a supply-chain;
2. Guaranteeing the sound and efficient control of these requirements, all while offering a flexible contextualised approach;
3. Ensuring that consumers receive truthful information about these requirements and their implementation.

### Focus Areas

The Fair for Life and For Life Programmes apply this framework to a wide range of natural products and handicrafts to ensure fair and sustainable working conditions along supply-chains down to farm level.

### Motivation

Transparency with consumers is essential in the realm of sustainable certification. By benchmarking our programmes against international standards, we demonstrate our commitment to best practices both in methodology and in social requirements. At the same time, we are inspired for new ways to continuously improve the standards.

## OUR ACTIONS - USING THE EP

The Fair for Life and For Life programmes were benchmarked against the Audit Process and Methodology Tool and the GSCP Reference Code.

The in-depth benchmarking process was a valuable exercise in our continuous efforts to strengthen and further improve the Fair for Life and For Life Programmes. The self-assessment served as an important checklist to identify strengths and weaknesses as well as gauge our performance compared to international best practices for sound social compliance requirements, and effective audit and certification procedures.

The independent EP review by third-party experts was especially helpful for the Fair for Life and For Life Standard Revision process that took place in 2016-17. Not only did it help to identify important topics for improvement, but also those that scored as being above-average to ensure that they were maintained. The results served as a discussion base for internal and external consultations in the revision process and parts of the standards have been adjusted accordingly in order to improve our performance

against the GSCP requirements in terms of Social Compliance and Audit Process and Methodology.

The EP review process provided invaluable information for the Fair for Life and For Life programmes to ensure better social and environmental protections, more meaningful local impact, respectful and long-term relationships in Fair for Life supply-chains, increased worker empowerment and improved transparency for consumers. Ultimately, it contributed to a more solid framework within which actors can make fair trade principles a reality, in order to work towards Fair for Life's vision of a world where trade is a driving force for positive and sustainable change, benefiting people and their environment.

## OUR RESULTS - AFTER THE EP

The benchmark results confirm that we meet our commitment to provide a fair and transparent framework to monitor Corporate Social Responsibility, Fair Trade and responsible supply-chains and that we are generally in line with international best practices for Social Requirements and Audit Methodology. Requirements and processes with potential for improvement were modified during the recent Standard Revision.

As an independent assessment of our performance, consumers are reassured that they have made the right choice in certifying with us. Likewise, the results facilitate the recognition of the Fair for Life and For Life programmes by market actors with varying

social codes and expectations, such as platforms for sustainable consumption and other certification standards. The positive results lead to increased consumer and business confidence which, in turn, contributes to more actors making the commitment to engage with responsible supply-chains.

The EP benchmarking results were a helpful tool to inform customers and partners of the then-upcoming Standard Revision and encouraged participation in the public consultation. It provided a valuable base for discussions within the Scheme Multi-Stakeholder Committee, representing both customers and partners, and will be considered for future adjustments to the programmes.