Certified Wildlife Friendly® Global Products
Master Standards

Certified Wildlife Friendly® is a program of Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network

These Standards should be used as a self-assessment tool for those who wish to gain Certified Wildlife Friendly® accreditation for some or all of the products they produce.

Program Mission

Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN) certifies enterprises that protect key wildlife species and their habitat. When consumers purchase Certified Wildlife Friendly® products, they can be confident that the enterprises are actively protecting *key species* (see below). By supporting WFEN and purchasing Wildlife Friendly® products, consumers provide incentives to producers and brands to protect key species and conserve habitat. Certified enterprises document how they are protecting key species and the steps they are taking to improve conditions for wildlife and economic benefits for local producers.

WFEN defines key species as the following: any species classified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened, plus other species of concern. Species of concern include **keystone** and **indicator** species, and **predators**. These are species that may not be classified by the IUCN, but which play a critical functional role in the ecosystem and/or may be important in a local context.

WFEN recognizes wildlife stewardship in a wide range of global habitats. Enterprises that participate in WFEN certification employ a mix of proactive practices and careful observation, and adapt their management in response to changing conditions to allow wildlife to coexist with livestock, crop farming and other activities. Products that result from approved applications and certified practices are eligible to bear the Certified Wildlife Friendly® seal.

Certified Wildlife Friendly® does not endorse, certify, or allow trophy hunting or commercial hunting under any circumstances. On a case-by-case basis, enterprises that operate in areas or sites where non-commercial hunting takes place on or near producer's or enterprise properties, or allow hunting of non-key species by indigenous peoples or local communities for subsistence or cultural use, may be certified where such use is legal, sustainable and contributes to ecological integrity. For those in this category, an additional level of scrutiny and monitoring will be required by WFEN. WFEN also recognizes enterprises that are working to achieve Wildlife Friendly certification, but which have not yet achieved the level of management required to meet the WFEN Standards. In such cases WFEN may provide a provisional recognition where enterprises accept WFEN standards and have practices in place that demonstrate adherence to all critical required standards (see below for more details on critical required). Enterprises would then develop a plan, in coordination with WFEN, to move toward meeting these standards over a set time period.

Certified Wildlife Friendly® is a voluntary program. Its requirements do not supersede national or state legislation**.**

WFEN

Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN) was formally established in 2007 to promote wildlife conservation through facilitation of responsible production practices, enterprise development, education, local engagement, and branding.

WFEN conserves threatened wildlife while contributing to the economic vitality of rural communities. Our mission is to protect wildlife in wild places and on agricultural lands by certifying enterprises that assure people and nature coexist and thrive. The Wildlife Friendly® Network includes conservationists, businesses, artisans, farmers, ranchers and herders, harvesters and indigenous peoples and local communities from around the world.

Understanding the Certified Wildlife Friendly® Global Products Standards

These standards for products apply to all production practices across the globe and are the overarching standards for enterprises seeking Wildlife Friendly® certification. Additional standards are available for enterprises focused on the conservation of specific species, for example the Certified Elephant Friendly standards apply to enterprises operating in landscapes where Asian elephants exist, and Certified Jaguar Friendly standards apply to enterprises sharing the landscape with jaguar. Please contact WFEN for confirmation of the correct standards for your product.

The Criteria for Certification

This document describes the criteria that must be met for certification to be granted. It is expected that enterprises who wish to gain *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* status for their product(s) will meet most, if not all, of these criteria. However, failure to meet some of the criteria need not be a barrier to certification if the enterprise can provide a plan and a timeline for resolving the situation.

Some criteria are marked with the symbol **C** and are considered to be **Critical;** failure to meet a critical criterion is considered a critical non-compliance and will result in certification being denied or suspended until corrective action is taken and the criterion is met.

Some criteria are highlighted as **Recommended** and reflect the aims and principles of the *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* program but are not mandatory for certification to be granted. **Recommended** criteria signpost best practice for enterprises seeking to gain *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* status for their product(s).

If an enterprise receives a critical non-compliance at the initial evaluation, it cannot be certified until corrective action is taken and the issue is resolved. If an operation receives a critical non-compliance at re-evaluation, it may be suspended from the *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* program and will have to stop using the label or logo until corrective action is taken.

Sections of the Standards

This document comprises a set of standards that is divided into three sections.

Section One includes standards applicable to **all** enterprises who wish to produce *Certified Wildlife*

Friendly® products regardless of what those products are. All enterprises must complete and comply with Section One.

Section One: General Wildlife Friendly® Standards (applies to all applicants)

Sub-section 1. The Agreement
Sub-section 2. Overall Wildlife Conservation Principles
Sub-section 3. Local Economy & Working Conditions
Sub-section 4. Cultural Protection

Section Two comprises additional standards for specific product types. Enterprises must carry out a self-assessment on **all** the standards defined in Section One and additionally on the standards for the specific product(s) that they wish to certify as *Certified Wildlife Friendly®.*

Section Two: Product-specific Standards

Sub-section 5. Livestock products to include meat, dairy, eggs, hides, skins, wool, cashmere, mohair and other fibers, and feathers
Sub-section 6. Honey and beekeeping products
Sub-section 7. Plant based products to include vanilla, spices, essential oils, raffia, rice, fruit, vegetables, nuts, tea, coffee, paper, and biofuels
Sub-section 8. Handicrafts and apparel to include beadwork, jewelry, woodcarvings, silk, apparel, and accessories

Section Three comprises the standards to be applied where enterprises are carrying out Regenerative Production Practices and are applicable globally to all produce whether from grazing, crop production, agro-forestry or other productive activities.

Note: Several of the criteria in Section One and Section Two of these Master Standards inherently embrace the principles of Regenerative Production Practices. Additional targeted criteria have been developed through collaboration with partners and field experts who have been implementing regenerative practices for a number of years.

Section Three: Regenerative Production Standards

Sub-section 9. Ecological Integrity (including soil health, biodiversity, synthetic inputs)
Sub-section 10. Livelihoods
Sub-section 11. Animal Welfare

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Section One. General Wildlife Friendly® Standards

1 The Agreement

1.0 The Agreement

1.0.1 **C** Anyone who wishes to produce and market *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products must be part of a formal agreement to do so. Agreements may be with individuals, co-operatives or communities.

Note: Whilst it is preferred that the formal agreement will be written, WFEN recognizes that some communities engaged in producing certified products may have literacy challenges and, in such cases, verbal agreements may be acceptable, or agreements can be verbal, and transcribed with producer affixing thumb prints or other means to verify their agreement with the terms and conditions.

1.0.2 **C** If anyone involved in the production of a *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* product fails to meet these standards, and/or misreports or misappropriates funds from the sale of *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products, enforcement action must be taken to correct the situation.

Note: Inability to make substantive corrections in a reasonable timeframe may include, but is not limited to, suspension of certification and loss of the ability to market products as Certified Wildlife Friendly®*.*

1.0.3 The agreement must clearly define the responsibilities of individuals and/or communities, NGOs, businesses and other partners to each other and identify the conditions under which any transfer of money, goods or services occur.

1.0.4 The consequences of failing to meet these standards must be pre-negotiated and documented in the agreement.

2 Overall Wildlife Conservation Principles

The overall principle is that enterprises who wish to gain *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* status for their product(s) need to demonstrate sufficient understanding of wildlife and ecology to identify and take action to reduce threats to wildlife and have a willingness to adapt their approach in response to changes in those threats.

2.0 Wildlife conservation

2.0.1 **C** A list of key species must be developed for the site of the certified enterprise and communicated to WFEN.

Note: WFEN defines key species as 'Any species classified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened plus other species of concern. Species of concern include keystone and indicator species and predators. These are species that may not be classified by the IUCN, but which play a critical functional role in the

ecosystem and/or may be important in a local context'.

2.0.2 **C** An adaptive conservation plan to protect the key species identified in standard 2.0.1 must be developed and implemented in coordination with WFEN and/or expert biologists, social scientists and conservationists. The plan must include:

2.0.2.1 Actions to improve habitat and overall ecosystem function for key species (see also section 2.1)

2.0.2.2 Actions to mitigate and reduce any risks to key species from the operation of the certified enterprise at site level.

2.0.2.3 Any regional, national or international threats to key species, their potential impacts and how the certified enterprise is addressing or will address these.

Note: It is understood that some threats may be outside the control of the certified enterprise. This standard asks for threats to be recognized, and for the certified enterprise to take actions relevant to their site. Threats could include poaching, human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss or degradation. Actions could include anti-poaching programs, community education, rehabilitation of critical habitat, hatchery programs and species re-introduction.

2.0.2.4 A map of the land managed by the certified enterprise showing boundaries, water features, woodland and other habitat, known den or nest sites, fencing, buildings, roads, any areas used for livestock, sites of any beehives and other points of interest including known wildlife corridors.

2.0.3 **C** Key wildlife species identified in 2.0.1 must be monitored. Records of monitoring and population numbers, where known, must be kept.

Note: Monitoring can be carried out by the enterprise or its conservation partner.

2.0.4 **C** Certified enterprises must not cause harm to key wildlife species.

2.0.5 **C** Those involved in the production of any *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products must not reduce or otherwise negatively impact habitat for key wildlife species.

2.0.6 **C** Certified enterprises must not participate in illegal activities that threaten habitats.

Note: This could include illegal timber harvesting, poaching or wildlife trafficking, unauthorized land clearing or deforestation, illegal water extraction or pollution, etc.

2.0.7 The certified enterprise cannot harvest, sell, display, consume, or distribute any animal (living or deceased), animal part, or animal product unless such parts and derivatives are **not** of key species and the display, sale, or distribution of such items is legal, with minimum negative conservation impact.

Note: The display of the remains of key animal species may be permitted as part of an

educational display as long as the collection of such remains did not impact on species survival. Harvesting, sale, or consumption of non-key animal species is permitted; however, these activities will be subject to additional scrutiny by WFEN's Certification Committee.

2.0.8 Living specimens of wildlife species must only be kept in captivity when this is necessary for their rehabilitation and only then by authorized or licensed facilities that are equipped with trained staff to house and care for them humanely.

Note: WFEN does not certify any enterprise where the primary activity involves animals being kept in captivity and marketed for tourism purposes, e.g., dolphinariums, tourism-focused sanctuaries and rehabilitation facilities, etc.

2.0.9 Certified enterprises must mitigate the introduction of non-native or invasive species.

2.0.10 **Recommended**
Educational opportunities that focus on key species and their conservation threats should be provided for community members and other audiences.

2.1 Certified site management

2.1.1 The area managed by the certified enterprise must provide usable habitat for native wildlife, including predators and their prey.

2.1.2 Wildlife habitat on the site(s) managed by the certified enterprise must be conserved.

2.1.3 Native plant growth that provides cover for wildlife must be encouraged.

2.1.2 Rangelands, prairies and other long-term grasslands must not be ploughed or otherwise cultivated.

Note: Long-term grasslands are areas that have been under grass for at least 15 years.

2.1.3 Woodlands and forests must be maintained to support key plant and wildlife species.

2.1.4 Linkages and corridors which provide safe passage for wildlife must be identified and protected.

2.1.5 Riparian and flood areas must be protected from degradation.

Note: Degradation can arise when water courses are artificially widened or straightened, when livestock break down the banks, when agricultural chemicals enter watercourses, where trees are removed, etc.

2.1.6 Human activity around nest or den sites must be avoided at critical periods.

2.1.7 Management practices must be in place to minimize unnatural attractants to wildlife, such as livestock feed, garbage or carcasses.

2.1.8 **Recommended**

Wildlife habitat on the site(s) managed by the certified enterprise should be restored and/or increased.

2.1.9 **Recommended**
Strategic seeding/planting of native botanical species to support native pollinators should be carried out

Note: Pollinators include bees, birds, bats, butterflies, beetles, moths, hoverflies and other animals.

2.2 Fencing to Allow Movement of Wildlife

Fences are barriers to wildlife movement and although they may be necessary to protect crops and livestock, they should be constructed and maintained to maximize wildlife movement across the certified area. If there is no fencing on land used by the enterprise this section can be marked not applicable.

2.2.1 The area managed by the enterprise must allow passage of native wildlife, including predators and their prey.

Note: The overarching principle is that land managed by certified enterprises should be "patchy and permeable". The "patchy" areas are habitat (see section 2.1 above) and "permeable" refers to barriers that allow wildlife to cross. Options for permeable barriers include gaps/unfenced areas, open gates or lay down sections of fencing, or fencing that is of suitable heights to allow wildlife to get over or under.

2.2.2 The extent of exclusionary fences must be limited to those areas where they are necessary and appropriate.

Note: Exclusionary fences are those that are impermeable to most wildlife. They may be temporary or permanent and can include: electric fencing; woven wire fences and flagging (fladry). Appropriate uses of exclusionary fencing include:

a) When livestock are concentrated in a small area for certain periods (e.g. for lambing or calving or night corrals)
b) When smaller sized livestock are kept on the farm or ranch (e.g. poultry)
c) To protect a valuable crop that is otherwise at risk of being raided by wildlife
d) When the risk of predation/crop raiding is high

2.2.3 Fencing must avoid excluding wildlife from riparian habitats, watering points and other high quality habitats and to avoid cutting off migration and travel corridors.

2.2.4 Old fence and wire must be removed whenever no longer needed.

2.2.5 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises should avoid topping woven wire fences with barbed wire.

2.3 Human-wildlife conflict

2.3.1 Certified Enterprises must contribute to the prevention of and to finding solutions to human-wildlife conflict.

Note: The IUCN-SSC Human Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group defines human-wildlife conflict occurrence 'when animals pose a direct and recurring threat to the livelihood or safety of people, leading to the persecution of that species and conflict about what should be done'.[*]

2.3.2 Detailed records of any conflict incidence, including date, location, species involved, and measures taken to address them, must be maintained. This information must be provided to WFEN during audits or otherwise on request.

2.3.3 **Recommended**
Those involved in the production of *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products should receive specific training on appropriate techniques for deterring crop raiding or damage by wildlife and appropriate protocols should be established for dealing with wildlife that may enter community land and pose a threat to crops.

2.4 Authorized Use of Lethal Control

In rare cases, lethal control may be used as a last resort. If a threat from a particular animal exists that proves unmanageable through non-lethal means, including live trapping, advice must be sought from WFEN regarding the use of lethal control. Lethal control may only be used when all options for non-lethal control have been exhausted, and when specific individual predators or crop-raiding species are causing a continuous or immediate threat to livestock, crops, and livelihoods. Any control of predators or other key species will be subject to careful review. If lethal control has not been used by the enterprise to date, the responses in this section should reflect the intent of the enterprise in the event that it occurs. It should be noted that any certified enterprise that must resort to lethal control will be placed on probationary status until a review of non-lethal deterrent methods attempted has been completed and any changes to wildlife managed reviewed and approved.

2.4.1 **C** Consultation with WFEN must occur prior to the use of lethal control for any key species including all predators.

Note: An exception may be made in the event of an active attack on livestock or humans. See guideline 2.5.1 below.

2.4.2 Lethal control for all key species may only be used when all options for non-lethal control have been exhausted, and when specific individuals are causing a continuous or immediate threat to livestock and/or humans.

[*] https://www.hwctf.org/about

2.4.3 Unless prior permission has been granted by WFEN, certified enterprises must not conduct, or authorize anyone else to conduct, any lethal control of key species (including, but not limited to meso predators, apex predators, birds of prey) on land, whether owned or leased, private or public, used for production under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® requirements.

2.5 Unauthorized Use of Lethal Control

2.5.1 Lethal control of key species without the prior permission of WFEN is only permitted in the case of an active attack by a predator.

Note: An active attack occurs when despite the best efforts of the farmer or rancher a predator is seen to chase, wound, or kill a domesticated animal or human. Evidence of predators consuming livestock is not evidence of an active attack.

2.6 Requirements in the Event Lethal Control Takes Place

This section covers any use of lethal control whether conducted with or without prior permission from WFEN. If lethal control has not been used by the enterprise to date the responses in this section should reflect the intent of the enterprise in the event that it occurs.

2.6.1 Lethal control must target the specific, individual animal(s) that is/are creating the conflict.

2.6.2 Lethal control of any animal must result in instantaneous unconsciousness and death.

2.6.3 Use of poison for lethal control through any means is prohibited.

Note: This includes a prohibition on poisoning carcasses to kill predatory and scavenging animals.

2.6.4 Use of lethal control of key species must be reported to WFEN within 72 hours.

2.6.5 Records of the lethal control of key species must be maintained.

2.6.6 In response to lethal control of any predator, re-evaluation of non-lethal deterrence methods in use must occur.

2.7 Hunting, trapping and snaring

2.7.1 Hunting, trapping or snaring on land owned or leased by the certified enterprise is prohibited.

Note: On a case-by-case basis, hunting of non-key species by indigenous peoples and local communities for subsistence or cultural use will be assessed and may be permissible, as long as the practices do not cause any potential harm to key species.

2.7.2 If permission is given for hunting of non-key species for subsistence or cultural use, records must be kept of numbers and species of animals hunted on land controlled by the certified enterprise.

2.7.3 Live trapping of specific predators engaged in predation is only permitted when all other options for livestock management and predator exclusion have been shown to be ineffective.

2.7.4 Live traps must be managed to target the specific problem animal.

2.7.5 Live traps must be checked at least twice every 24 hours.

2.7.6 There must be records of finds in live traps and the action taken.

2.7.7 Leg hold traps and snares are prohibited.

2.7.8 Glue boards are prohibited.

2.7.9 Any trapped animals must be treated humanely.

2.7.10 Any relocation of trapped animals must take place in accordance with the recommendations of local wildlife experts.

3 Local economy and working conditions

3.0 Human and Workers Rights

3.0.1 **C** Certified enterprises must uphold the highest standards of human and worker rights, ensuring fair and respectful treatment of all employees and stakeholders. This includes providing safe working conditions and fair wages.

3.0.2 **C** All enterprises must adhere to local labor laws and compensation requirements. Compliance with these regulations is essential to ensure that workers are treated equitably and that their rights are fully respected.

3.0.3 **C** There must be no child labor.
Note: Child labor, as defined by the International Labor Organization, refers to work that:

- *is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and*
- *interferes with their schooling by:*
  - *depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;*
  - *obliging them to leave school prematurely; or*
  - *requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work*

3.0.4 **C** Certified enterprises must have a policy against modern slavery and commercial, sexual or any other form of exploitation and harassment of or against anyone, particularly children, adolescents, women, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and minorities.

3.0.5 **C** Certified enterprises must not contribute to exploitation of women or disadvantaged communities or tribes.

Note: Exploitation includes any activity which promotes women or disadvantaged communities

without their full consent or without their full integration into the decision-making process and benefits sharing.

3.0.6 All certified enterprises must provide local employment opportunities, including management positions.

Note: Pre-employment training and work experience should be offered to those living in adjacent communities.

3.0.7 All certified enterprises must offer equal employment opportunities to women, local minorities and others, including in management positions.

3.0.8 **Recommended**
There should be action to empower women and disadvantaged groups to become involved in certified enterprises.

3.1 Local Economy

3.1.1 **C** Certified products must contribute to increases in local incomes and/or improvements to livelihoods.

Note: To help ensure communities living with wildlife adopt conservation-compatible practices, the associated benefits should be tangible and significant.

3.1.2 **C** Individuals or communities living with wildlife must participate in the production, harvest, processing or manufacture of certified products.

Note: A direct link between product and producer is essential for Certified Wildlife Friendly® accreditation. Products that donate a percentage of profits to conservation but do not abate threats to key species fall outside of the scope of these standards.

3.1.3 **C** The activities of certified enterprises must not jeopardize the provision of basic services, such as food, water, energy, healthcare or sanitation, to neighboring communities.

3.1.4 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises should purchase and offer local services, goods and materials, following fair-trade principles.

3.1.5 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises should promote other Certified Wildlife Friendly® products when they are available.

3.1.6 **Recommended**
There should be a documented and implemented code of conduct for activities in indigenous and local communities that has been developed and implemented with the collaboration and consent of the affected community.

3.2 Governance and Accountability for those producing *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products

This section refers to the governance of any entity (ie social enterprises, cooperatives, producer associations, etc) that has an agreement (see Section 1.0) to produce *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products.

3.2.1 **C** Any communication and/or agreements within the entity must be provided in the appropriate languages. For members who are unable to read, these communications must be clearly explained and understood through verbal discussions.

3.2.2 **C** The entity must have transparent and written criteria that outline how individuals or communities can qualify for participation in the certified enterprise.

3.2.3 Signed agreements must clearly define the responsibilities of individual and/or community, NGO, business and other partners to each other and identify the conditions under which any transfer of money, goods or services occur.

Note: It is recommended that the agreement includes stipulation on how the producers will be recognized by any other partner involved in the marketing of the product to consumers.

3.2.4 Any governance structures established within a collective effort for *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products must be representative of its members with clear and agreed internal regulations.

3.2.5 Any governance structures established within a collective effort for *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products must meet as agreed, keep records of these meetings and have them available upon request.

3.2.6 Those involved in producing *Certified Wildlife Friendly®* products must have a transparent process for keeping records and reporting earnings and fair distribution of profits among members/beneficiaries and have them available upon request.

Note: Records must be kept at the level of individual producers.

3.2.7 The certified enterprise must have a formal mechanism to act if community members or beneficiaries have claims of misreporting or misappropriation of funds.

3.2.8 **Recommended**
In-depth assessment techniques and tools for measuring and establishing good governance in enterprise beyond these core standards should be implemented.

4 Cultural Protection

Cultural heritage plays a vital role in preserving the identity and traditions of communities around the world. In recognition of this, certified enterprises are committed to upholding the protection of local historical, archaeological, culturally, and spiritually significant properties and sites.

4.0 Protection of properties and sites

4.0.1 Certified enterprises must not impede access to local historical, archaeological, culturally and spiritually important properties and sites.

Note: This guideline is about respecting the rights of all groups or communities to access and engage with their important cultural and historical landmarks.

4.0.2 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises should contribute to the extent possible to the protection and preservation of local historical, archaeological, culturally and spiritually important properties and sites.

Note: By participating in the safeguarding efforts, certified enterprises can further support the conservation of cultural heritage for future generations.

Section Two. Product-specific Standards

5 Livestock products

5.0. Operation Management Practices

5.0.1 All animals managed on any one property, or on contiguous lands (whether owned or leased) must be raised according to these standards.

5.0.2 Certified enterprises who maintain separate livestock herds on two or more non-contiguous properties (owned or leased) may certify the flocks or herds on properties which are managed according to these standards, and also maintain non-certified flocks or herds on properties which do not meet the standards. Such division of the certified enterprise's livestock into certified and non-certified flocks or herds is permissible only if:

5.0.2.1 The certified flock or herd resides on the property or properties that are managed in accordance with these livestock standards throughout the eligibility period required by section 5.1 below.

5.0.2.2 The certified enterprise maintains adequate records to document the location and status of each livestock group and property.

5.0.2.3 In the event that it is necessary to bring separate herds to the same property at particular management intervals during the year (e.g. shearing time, special feeding periods, etc.), all individual animals within a certified flock or herd must be identifiable and these standards must be followed on the property until the herds or flocks are separated.

5.0.3 In the event that a certified enterprise shares land with others, for example public or common grazing land, these livestock standards must be used for all livestock in the entire shared land area including non-certified herds or flocks. It is the responsibility of the certified enterprise to negotiate the use of Certified Wildlife Friendly® management with others that share the land.

5.0.4 Animals from which products are to be marketed as Certified Wildlife Friendly™ must reside on the property or properties described in the certification application.

5.0.5 Certified enterprises must educate themselves about local wildlife and ecosystems and how these interact with their livestock enterprises.

5.0.6 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises should follow organic practices and work towards organic certification wherever possible and feasible.

5.1. Eligibility of livestock for certification

Note: Breeding stock from non-Certified Wildlife Friendly® farms or ranches may be introduced to a Certified Wildlife Friendly® flock or herd.

5.1.1 Animals must be managed to meet Certified Wildlife Friendly® requirements from birth to slaughter in order for meat, leather, horn, and other products to be marketed under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® logo.

5.1.2 Dairy herds or flocks must be managed to meet Certified Wildlife Friendly® requirements for at least six months before dairy products can be marketed under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® logo.

5.1.3 Laying poultry must be managed to meet Certified Wildlife Friendly® requirements from day old in order for eggs and feathers to be marketed under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® logo.

5.1.4 Herds or flocks of animals kept for fiber must be managed to meet Certified Wildlife Friendly® requirements for at least six months in order for fiber to be marketed under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® logo.

5.2 Livestock Management Practices

5.2.1 Livestock grazing must not cause conflict with other wildlife.

5.2.2 Certified enterprises must employ a mix of management practices to protect livestock and enable wildlife to share the landscape.

Options for acceptable non-lethal predator management practices may include (but are not limited to):

a. Adaptive Grazing Planning. Certified enterprises schedule use of pasture to take advantage of seasonal lulls in predation pressure, when possible. Knowledge of dens and patterns of wildlife use is necessary to implement this strategy.
b. Using Stock Size and Vigilance. Certified enterprises mix larger animals with smaller livestock for protection.
c. Active herding. Certified enterprises always have a stock person accompanying livestock when they are out on pasture or rangeland.

d. Safe Zones: Certified enterprises gather at-risk animals in a secure location at night.
e. Adaptive Feeding Strategies. Certified enterprises gather livestock through feeding as part of collecting them in a secure location at night or at other strategic periods may function as a protective strategy.
f. Secure Lambing and Calving. Certified enterprises use protected pastures, fenced lots, or sheds to secure stock, if possible, during highly vulnerable periods.
g. Timing of birthing and hatching. Certified enterprises time calving, lambing, kidding, farrowing and/or hatching to reduce predation risk.
h. Use of Livestock Guardian Dogs, Llamas and Donkeys. Certified enterprises investigate and use livestock guardian animals where their presence has shown to add to predator deterrence.
i. Use of Barriers and Mechanical Deterrents. Certified enterprises use barriers such as electric fencing and fladry (fencing with special flags), and mechanical deterrents such as RAG (radio-activated guard) boxes to deter predators.
j. Use of Harassment techniques. Certified enterprises use harassment, as appropriate, to prevent acclimation of predators to livestock or home ranch areas. Predators should be discouraged from being around livestock whenever possible.
k. Night feeding. Certified enterprises feed animals at night, bringing livestock together for protection during a period of potential risk. Anecdotal evidence suggests this reduces night birthing.
l. Other action appropriate to the certified enterprise.

5.2.3 Certified enterprises must monitor stock closely, demonstrating increased vigilance during sensitive periods such as calving.

Note: In areas where livestock are pastured in remote areas, the use of herders or riders to provide frequent monitoring may be necessary.

5.2.4 If a predation event occurs, certified enterprises must take action to reduce additional events.

Note: Actions may include increasing monitoring, removing attractants and/or moving livestock.

5.2.5 If guardian animals are used they must be suitable for the duties expected of them.

Note: Suitability includes species, temperament and training.

5.2.6 If guardian animals are used they must be suitable for the climatic and topographical conditions of the farm or ranch.

5.2.7 Bone yards must be inaccessible to predators and scavengers.

Note: exceptions can be made for rats, mice and birds of prey unless these are a significant problem on the property.

5.2.8 If livestock die in an area where active grazing is taking place they must be removed from the area or otherwise made unavailable to predators.

5.2.9 Efforts must be made to make grain and other feedstuffs inaccessible to wildlife.

Note: Grain and feedstuffs do not include hay and other forage.

5.3 Livestock Management for Biodiversity Conservation

5.3.1 Enterprises must manage livestock in such a way as to conserve native plants, protect sensitive areas such as streams, and promote biodiversity.

5.3.2 Enterprises must have an adequate balance of pasture and feedstuffs to provide for the needs of wildlife and livestock.

5.3.3 There must be a grazing plan and evidence of a feed and forage balance that accounts for the needs of resident prey.

5.3.4 **Recommended**
Enterprises should use management techniques in order to restore and regenerate their land.

5.4 Animal Welfare

5.4.1 Enterprises should ensure that the welfare of all livestock is given absolute priority.

5.4.2 **Health and Veterinary Care**: Enterprises should ensure regular health assessments and access to veterinary care, and the following should be implemented by livestock ranchers:

- Livestock should receive appropriate vaccinations, treatments for parasites, and prompt attention for any injuries or illnesses
- Livestock should receive proper nutrition and sanitation, helps to minimize the risk of disease and ensures the overall health and resilience of the animals.

5.4.3 **Access to Natural Habitat**: Livestock should have access to natural habitat areas, allowing them to exhibit natural behaviors such as grazing, foraging, and socializing.

Note: Providing ample space for animals to roam freely promotes their physical and psychological well-being. Encouraging rotational grazing practices can also mimic natural ecosystems, benefiting both livestock and wildlife by maintaining diverse habitats.

5.4.4 **Livestock Handling:** Livestock should be handled in a calm and respectful manner to minimize stress and fear.

5.4.4.1 Staff should be trained on low-stress handling techniques

5.4.4.2 Facilities should be designed with animal welfare in mind to reduce the potential for injury and distress during handling procedures

6 Honey and Beekeeping Products

6.0 Eligibility of honey bees for certification

6.0.1 Bees must be managed to meet these standards for at least six months in order for honey and beekeeping products to be marketed under the Certified Wildlife Friendly® logo.

6.1 Honey production

6.1.1 **C** Beehives must be sited legally.

6.1.2 The location of beehives must not cause conflict with local communities.

6.1.3 There must be mitigation measures in place to prevent wildlife from raiding hives.

Note: Measures could include use of wildlife proof barriers around hive sites.

6.1.4 Smoking bees to collect honey or for other management must only be carried out by people competent to do so.

Note: Smoking bees is a risk for wild fires.

6.1.5 Honey must be collected and stored hygienically.

Note: Hygienic collection includes using clean equipment and storing honey in clean jars with tight fitting lids.

6.1.6 Honey must be compliant with relevant local regulations and/or codes of practice.

6.1.7 **Recommended**
Honey should be harvested without the use of fire or smoking.

6.1.8 **Recommended**
The date that different batches of honey is collected should be recorded.

7 Plant based products

Plant based products to include vanilla, spices, essential oils, raffia, rice, fruit, vegetables, nuts, tea, coffee, paper and biofuels. WFEN will not certify certain plant based products such as tobacco. If the product to be certified is not listed above, contact WFEN for guidance.

7.0 Location of plants

7.0.1 **Recommended** To the extent possible and in an attempt to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, cultivated plants that act as an attractant to wildlife should not be grown next to protected areas or reserves.

Note: For example, maize is very attractive to wildlife, so planting this crop close to the edge of a reserve is likely to encourage human/wildlife conflict.

7.1 Pesticides and other agrochemicals for plant products

7.1.1 **C** Pesticides and other chemicals must not be applied within 5 meters of any permanent water body.

7.1.2 Certified enterprises for plant based products should follow organic practices to the extent possible and work towards eliminating the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.

Note: Alternatives to synthetic fertilizers can include the following:

- *Composting made from organic waste materials can enhance soil fertility naturally, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and improve soil health.*
- *Manure & Green Manure (ie cover crops like legumes) enrich the soil naturally with nutrients and organic matter.*
- *Biofertilizers, such as nitrogen-fixing bacteria (e.g., Rhizobium) or mycorrhizal fungi, can enhance nutrient uptake by plants.*
- *Crop Rotation and Polyculture - can naturally manage soil fertility, reduce pests, and improve biodiversity.*
- *Vermicomposting to break down organic matter creates a rich, natural fertilizer that improves soil structure and nutrient content.*
- *Organic Mulching* the soil can retain moisture, suppress weeds, and add nutrients as it decomposes.

7.1.3 Certified enterprises should plan to phase out the use of synthetic pesticides.

Note: Alternatives to synthetic pesticides can include the following:

- *Biological Control - the introduction of beneficial insects (e.g., ladybugs, parasitic wasps) or predatory birds can naturally control pest populations.*
- *Botanical Pesticides - using plant-based insecticides, such as neem oil, pyrethrins (from chrysanthemum flowers), or garlic-based sprays, are effective but less harmful to ecosystems.*

- *Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - an IPM approach combines cultural, biological, and mechanical methods to control pests with minimal environmental impact.*
- *Companion Planting - growing certain plants together that naturally deter pests (e.g., marigolds to repel nematodes or basil to repel aphids).*
- *Physical Barriers & Traps - using physical barriers like row covers, netting, or sticky traps can protect crops from pests without chemicals.*
- *Natural Predators and Pollinators – Wildlife Friendly practices will attract birds, bats, and other predators that naturally keep pest populations in check, as well as provide pollination services.*

7.1.4 **Recommended**
Anyone using agrochemicals as part of the production of certified products must have appropriate personal protective equipment.

7.1.5 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises for plant based products should follow organic practices and work towards organic certification.

7.2 Plastic Wastes associated with plant products

7.2.1 Plastic waste associated with certified plant-based products must be collected and disposed of responsibly.

Note: Plastic waste could include the packages that tea seedlings are wrapped in, plastic from mushroom cultivation, polythene bags, empty chemical bottles and other plastics. Ideally, responsible disposal means recycling; however this is not an option in all countries and regions, and alternatives such as burial may also be acceptable.

7.3 Water for plants

7.3.1 **C** Certified enterprises must ensure the most efficient use of water to ensure conservation of the resource and that adequate water supplies are available to meet both production and essential human needs while not depriving the community of water for other essential needs.

7.4 Soil and land management for cultivated plant-based products

7.4.1 Crop rotations must be used to ensure that some fields provide food and cover for wildlife while others are cropped.

7.4.2 Those harvesting must be able to identify plants correctly to prevent mistaken collection of non-target plants.

7.4.3 Wild harvest must not exceed the sustainable yield of the area.

7.4.4 Wild harvest must not damage wildlife habitat in the harvest area.

7.4.5 Wild harvest must allow harvested plants to regenerate.

Note: Species that reproduce by seed must be permitted to mature before harvest; species that reproduce from corms, bulbs or rhizomes must have enough of these left to sustain the species in the harvest area.

7.4.6 There must be sufficient plants remaining after harvest to maintain wildlife habitat.

7.4.7 **Recommended**
Certified enterprises for cultivated plant based products should use terraces and/or plant trees and shrubs alongside rivers, streams and other watercourses to prevent soil erosion and run-off.

7.4.8 **Recommended**
Patches of unharvested crop should be left at harvest to provide wildlife forage and cover.

7.4.9 **Recommended**
Intercropping should be used in perennial crop systems

7.5 Harvesting wild plants

7.5.1 All wild harvested material must meet local, national and international legislation.

7.5.2 Harvest of species classified as "Critically Endangered" in the IUCN Red List (www.iucn.org) should be carried out following a sustainable harvesting plan.

7.5.3 **Recommended**
Enterprises involved in the wild harvest of plants should attain FairWild certification, where practicable (www.fairwild.org).

Note: WFEN maintains the right to refer enterprises that carry out wild harvesting to FairWild for review and/or consultation as deemed appropriate by WFEN's Certification Committee.

8 Handicrafts and apparel

This includes beadwork, jewelry, woodcarvings, silk, apparel, and accessories

8.0 Material for handicrafts

8.0.1 **C** Materials for use in handicrafts, woodcarving or jewelry, including materials for making dyes, must be collected legally and use sustainable harvesting practices.

8.0.2 **C** The production of handicrafts and apparel must involve the local community in the area where the key wildlife species identified in standard 2.0.1 are living.

Note: It is not acceptable to gather materials for handicrafts and apparel in the region where the key wildlife species live and then create the products for sale elsewhere without community involvement. See also guideline 3.1.2.

8.0.3 If plant-based materials grown or harvested by the certified enterprise are used for handicrafts,

the standards in section 7 must be met.

8.0.4 **Recommended**
There should be efforts to ensure a sustainable supply of materials for use in handicrafts, woodcarving, apparel and jewelry, including materials for making dyes.

8.0.5 **Recommended**
When plants are used for handicrafts and/or jewelry, replanting efforts should be implemented.

Section 3. Regenerative Production Practices Standards

Section 3 defines the standards and criteria for enterprises carrying out regenerative production practices.

Enterprises must self-assess against all the standards defined in Section One and those in Section Two pertaining to their specific product, and additionally self-assess against the following standards for the regenerative production practices.

Within this section, we outline the fundamental principles and key components of regenerative production practices, highlighting how these practices intersect with and complement the objectives of Certified Wildlife Friendly® certification. Outlining regenerative principles, methodologies, and benefits, this section provides certified enterprises practicing regenerative agriculture, for example, with actionable insights and standards for incorporating regenerative practices into their Wildlife Friendly® operations.

The following criteria have been developed through collaboration with partners and field experts who have been implementing regenerative practices for a number of years; they encompass a spectrum of practices aimed at enhancing the following five (5) key underlying principles: i) soil health, ii) biodiversity, iii) livelihoods, iv) synthetic inputs, and v) animal welfare. Incorporating regenerative agriculture principles into the Certified Wildlife Friendly® Global Standards not only reaffirms our dedication to wild species conservation but also broadens the scope of certification to encompass resilient and sustainable agro-biodiversity landscapes.

Note: (i) Several of the criteria described above in the overarching standards for Certified Wildlife Friendly® (Section 1) *inherently embrace the principles of regenerative agriculture*

(ii) detailed standards are described above regarding livelihoods (Section 3) and animal welfare (Section 5).

9 Ecological Integrity (soil health, biodiversity, and synthetic inputs)

Soil health refers to the ongoing ability of soil to act as a dynamic and essential ecosystem that supports plants, animals, and humans. A healthy soil ecosystem is crucial for providing clean air and water, abundant crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife habitats, and scenic landscapes. Additionally, maintaining soil health plays a significant role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

9.0 Vegetation studies

9.0.1 The certified enterprise should actively assess and document the condition of natural pastures that support livestock farming and other soil-based production activities.

9.0.2 Certified enterprises should carry out regular evaluations and implement expert-recommended sustainable and regenerative management practices for long-term soil and pasture health.

9.1 Receptivity

9.1.1 The certified enterprise should evaluate and monitor soil receptivity, soil condition, pastures, and productive systems.

Note: In regenerative agriculture, improving soil receptivity is a primary goal, as it supports healthier ecosystems and more sustainable farming practices. Techniques like cover cropping, composting, no-till farming, and crop rotation all aim to enhance soil receptivity by restoring the natural functions of soil. See Annex 3 for further information regarding soil receptivity.

9.1.2 The certified enterprise should promote sustainable productive systems that coexist harmoniously with wildlife.

9.2 Soil Carbon

9.2.1 Certified enterprises should establish a soil carbon baseline to determine the current carbon content percentage in the soils of each ranch or farm.

Note: soil carbon serves as an excellent indicator of soil health and provides a valuable opportunity to enhance the effectiveness and outcomes of Regenerative + Wildlife Friendly® practices.

9.2.2 Certified enterprises should implement practices aimed at increasing soil carbon levels over time, such as composting, cover cropping, and reduced tillage. Regular monitoring should be conducted to track progress and adjust practices as necessary.

9.3 Biodiversity

Ecosystems possess a complex structure where each component is crucial for maintaining a thriving and healthy system. The challenge of sustainable production lies in developing methodologies that ensure the conservation of biodiversity and its interactions. The following criteria address assessment, protection, enhancement, monitoring, community engagement, and research, providing a comprehensive approach to managing biodiversity in regenerative practices.

This includes the coexistence with, and monitoring of, wildlife. Enhancing biodiversity can also improve ecosystem resilience, promote natural pest control, and contribute to soil health. Certified enterprises should prioritize protecting native species, encouraging habitat restoration, and integrating biodiversity-friendly practices into their operations. See Section 2 above for further details and recommended practices.

9.3.1 Certified enterprises should conduct a comprehensive biodiversity assessment to identify key species, habitats, and ecological functions within their operational areas. This assessment should be updated regularly to reflect changes in biodiversity and ecosystem health.

9.3.2 Certified enterprises should implement measures to protect and enhance native habitats and species. This includes maintaining natural vegetation, creating wildlife corridors, and avoiding practices that could lead to habitat destruction or fragmentation.

9.3.3 Certified enterprises should promote biodiversity-friendly practices such as agroforestry, polyculture, and the integration of native plant species into production systems. These practices should be designed to support diverse ecosystems and improve habitat quality.

9.3.4 Certified enterprises should monitor and report on wildlife populations and interactions with production activities. This includes tracking the impact of agricultural practices on local wildlife and implementing strategies to mitigate any negative effects.

9.3.5 Certified enterprises should engage with local communities and stakeholders to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and involve them in the protection and enhancement of local ecosystems.

9.3.6 Certified enterprises should support or participate in research and conservation programs that aim to improve understanding of local biodiversity and promote effective conservation strategies.

9.3.7 Certified enterprises should establish and maintain biodiversity action plans that outline specific goals, actions, and timelines for enhancing biodiversity within their operations.

9.4 Synthetic Inputs

9.4.1 Certified enterprises should prioritize regenerative agriculture practices that minimize or eliminate the use of off-farm synthetic inputs, focusing instead on maximizing the use of on-farm resources and organic alternatives.

9.4.2 Certified enterprises should integrate all practices into a place-based management strategy aimed at reducing long-term reliance on synthetic inputs. This strategy should include comprehensive monitoring to track progress and adjust practices as needed.

Note: The use of synthetic inputs can undermine regenerative agriculture objectives, such as enhancing soil health, promoting biodiversity, and improving ecosystem resilience. Additionally, synthetic inputs may adversely affect local communities and human health.

10 Livelihoods

Regenerative livestock farming promotes a transformative approach to traditional economic models, focusing on the interplay between human and environmental health. It emphasizes the importance of respecting and enhancing livelihoods while encouraging sustainable and ethical practices.

10.0 Working Conditions

10.0.1 Certified enterprises should actively engage with local communities to ensure that their operations positively impact local livelihoods. This includes fair wages, safe working conditions, and supporting local economies through ethical business practices.

10.0.2 Certified enterprises should implement practices that enhance local community resilience and well-being. This involves supporting community-led initiatives, providing training and resources for sustainable practices, and contributing to the overall development of the community.

10.0.3 Certified enterprises should foster transparent and equitable partnerships with local stakeholders, ensuring that the benefits of their operations are shared fairly and that community voices are included in decision-making processes.

10.0.4 Certified enterprises should monitor and report on the social and economic impacts of their practices on local communities. This includes evaluating how their operations affect local livelihoods and adjusting practices to address any negative impacts.

10.1 Cultural Respect

10.1.1 Certified enterprises should support and promote traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices that contribute to sustainable land management and enhance the cultural heritage of the communities they work with.

10.1.2 Certified enterprises should ensure that their business practices respect and integrate local cultural norms and values, contributing to the preservation and appreciation of cultural heritage.

11 Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is intrinsically linked to the health of the environment where animal production occurs. In the context of regenerative agriculture, prioritizing animal welfare is essential not only for the well-being of the animals but also for the overall health and sustainability of the ecosystem. Detailed standards for animal welfare are outlined in Section 2, Sub-section 5.4.

11.0 Animal Welfare Standards

11.0.1 **C** Certified enterprises must provide information regarding the animal welfare criteria they follow and implement.

Note: This transparency provides a clear understanding for evaluation of the welfare practices in place.

11.0.2 **C** Regenerative management practices should include strategies and tools designed to enhance animal welfare. Improving animal welfare contributes to better overall health for both animals and humans and supports broader environmental conservation efforts.

Annexes

Annex 1: Key Species

Key species are defined as the following:

1. Any species defined by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened.

2. Species of concern including keystone species and predators. These are species that may not be classified by the IUCN, but which play a critical functional role in the ecosystem.

3. Other species that are important in the local context but may not have legal protection for a variety of reasons.

WFEN will maintain a list of current Key Species of concern and, where applicable, individual localized species.

Annex 2: Wildlife Friendly Fencing

Note: This Annex should be treated as a guide to the various options for wildlife-friendly fencing. Not all of these suggestions are appropriate for all farms – e.g. sheep farmers may require the bottom wire or rail of fencing to be closer to the ground than 16".

Some characteristics of wildlife-friendly fences:

- Highly visible to ungulates and birds, allows for wildlife to jump over or crawl under, and provides access to important habitats and corridors
- Fencing wire placed on the side of the fence posts where the domestic animals are located
- Smooth wire or rounded rail for the top, smooth wire on the bottom
- Height of top rail or wire should be 42" or less
- At least 12" between the top two wires
- At least 16" between the bottom wire or rail and the ground
- Posts at minimum 16' intervals
- Gates, drop-downs, removable fence sections or other passages where animals concentrate and cross
- Using a rail, high-visibility wire, flagging or other visual markers for the top
- Common configurations for sheep and cattle using 4-Stranded Barbed-wire Fence are:

	Cattle	Sheep	Cattle and Sheep
Top Wire	40-42" barbed	32" barbed	38" barbed
2nd Wire	28" barbed	22" barbed	26" barbed
3rd Wire	22" barbed	16" barbed	18" barbed
4th Wire	16-18" smooth	> 10" smooth	>10" smooth

(Additional guidance on fencing can be found in *Fencing with Wildlife in Mind (2009)* from the Colorado Division of Fish and Wildlife or *A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences (2008)* from Landowner/ Wildlife Resource Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.)

Common fencing modifications to make fences more wildlife-friendly:

- Replacing barbed wire with smooth wire
- Adjusting the height of the top wire to no more than 42" above the ground
- Reducing the total number of wires to three, or at most four
- Adding a rail, flagging, high visibility wire or PVC cover to the top wire to increase visibility
- Raising the bottom wire to at least 16" above the ground
- Making wildlife crossings at common use areas by using dropped wires, dropped rails, let-down fence or underpasses (raising the bottom, smooth wire between posts to 18" or gathering bottom wires in PVC pipe to create an underpass)
- Providing access to streams, wetlands, watering areas and migration corridors
- Removing old fence and wire wherever no longer needed.

Annex 3: Regenerative Production Practices

Regenerative production practices provide opportunities for the integration of Wildlife Friendly® production practices within the agricultural sector. This innovative approach goes beyond traditional methods of farming and livestock management by emphasizing **soil health**, **biodiversity conservation**, and **ecosystem resilience**. At its core, regenerative practices seek to restore and enhance the natural resources upon which agriculture depends, thereby facilitating the coexistence between human activity and the environment that underpins Wildlife Friendly® certification.

In regenerative agriculture, **soil receptivity** refers to the soil's ability to effectively absorb, retain, and support biological, chemical, and physical processes that promote plant growth and ecosystem health. It's the soil's capacity to be "receptive" to inputs like organic matter, water, and nutrients, while fostering beneficial microorganisms and maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

Key aspects of soil receptivity include:

1. **Water Infiltration and Retention**: Healthy, receptive soil allows water to infiltrate easily and retain moisture, reducing runoff and improving drought resilience.
2. **Nutrient Availability**: Receptive soil efficiently holds and supplies nutrients to plants, with organic matter and microorganisms facilitating nutrient cycling.
3. **Microbial and Faunal Activity**: Soil receptivity is enhanced by diverse microorganisms and soil fauna (e.g., earthworms, mycorrhizal fungi) that decompose organic matter and create healthy soil structure.
4. **Organic Matter Absorption**: High levels of organic matter increase the soil's receptivity by improving structure, aeration, and fertility, making it more conducive to regenerative farming practices.
5. **Resilience to Erosion and Degradation**: Receptive soils are less prone to erosion, compaction, and nutrient depletion, making them more resilient and sustainable.

In regenerative agriculture, improving soil receptivity is a primary goal, as it supports healthier ecosystems and more sustainable farming practices. Techniques like cover cropping, composting, no-till farming, and crop rotation all aim to enhance soil receptivity by restoring the natural functions of soil. These alternatives focus on natural, sustainable techniques to build soil fertility, structure, and resilience. Below are some key alternatives:

1. No-Till or Reduced-Till Farming

- **What it is**: Reduces or eliminates tillage to minimize soil disturbance.
- **Why it helps**: Helps maintain soil structure, preserves organic matter, and reduces erosion, improving the soil's ability to absorb and retain water and nutrients.

2. Cover Cropping

- **What it is**: Growing cover crops like legumes, clover, or rye during off-seasons to protect the soil.
- **Why it helps**: Increases organic matter, prevents erosion, enhances soil fertility, and promotes microbial activity, all of which improve soil receptivity.

3. Composting and Organic Amendments

- **What it is**: Adding decomposed organic material to the soil.
- **Why it helps**: Boosts soil nutrient content, improves water retention, and enhances microbial life, leading to better nutrient absorption and healthier soil ecosystems.

4. Agroforestry and Silvopasture

- **What it is**: Integrating trees or shrubs into farming systems or combining livestock grazing with trees.
- **Why it helps**: Enhances biodiversity, improves soil structure, increases organic matter, and reduces erosion, boosting soil health and receptivity.

5. Crop Rotation and Polyculture

- **What it is**: Alternating different crops on the same land or growing multiple crops together.
- **Why it helps**: Prevents nutrient depletion, disrupts pest cycles, and enhances soil fertility, creating a more receptive environment for plant growth.

6. Use of Biofertilizers and Natural Soil Amendments

- **What it is**: Using microorganisms like nitrogen-fixing bacteria or mycorrhizal fungi to improve soil fertility.
- **Why it helps**: Enhances nutrient cycling and uptake, increases soil biodiversity, and improves soil structure, leading to healthier, more receptive soils.

7. Holistic Grazing Management

- **What it is**: Rotating livestock in a way that mimics natural grazing patterns.
- **Why it helps**: Prevents overgrazing, improves plant regrowth, increases organic matter, and enhances water retention, promoting healthier, more receptive soils.

8. Mulching

- **What it is**: Applying organic or inorganic materials on top of the soil to protect and nourish it.
- **Why it helps**: Reduces moisture loss, suppresses weeds, adds organic matter as it decomposes, and regulates soil temperature, improving soil receptivity over time.

9. Green Manure

- **What it is**: Growing crops specifically to plow them back into the soil to enrich it.
- **Why it helps**: Adds organic matter, boosts nutrient levels, and improves soil structure, making the soil more receptive to water and nutrients.

10. Vermiculture (Worm Farming)

- **What it is**: Using worms to break down organic matter into nutrient-rich compost (vermicompost).
- **Why it helps**: Vermicompost improves soil texture, boosts microbial activity, and enhances water retention, making the soil more receptive to plant growth.

These regenerative practices, when applied collectively or individually, help restore the natural balance of soils, making them more fertile, resilient, and receptive to sustainable farming methods.