



Creating perspectives

for a sustainable future

Quality assurance of sustainable products.

Milestones
2012





Step by step

*„The only reliable quality assurance is based on individual responsibility.“
Dr. Rainer Bächli, Founder of IMO*

IMO places people at the centre of its activities. Why? Because we are convinced that sustainable development can only be achieved by enabling people to follow ethical principles while producing or consuming goods. Certification, defined as a bridge between producers and consumers, plays a particularly important role in this context. The vision for sustainable food production has resulted in the organic agriculture movement, starting 50 years ago. At the same time the desire grew to make the efforts behind this movement visible and transparent to everyone: Step by step the organic certification system was developed. The market for organic products has experienced explosive growth over the last few years. Today, most organic products carry many different labels. Regulations are getting more detailed and require more control. The certification system is becoming ever more complex and expensive.

Organic is developing and constantly capturing new segments – worldwide. With its activities the IMO reflects the diversity of the sector. Certification services are offered according to more than 70 different ecological and social standards. In 2012 again innovative milestones were achieved: IMO is proud to be the first certification body to have achieved accreditation for all final ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) standards for sustainable aquaculture available on the market. Our clients were the first certified according to the guidelines on natural detergents, purifying agents and care products developed in cooperation with IMO. Pioneering work continues by developing a certification of natural leather, covering all stages of production. Exciting new products were Fair for Life certified by IMO demonstrating its role as one of the most recognized and high bar fair trade certifiers. E-Train, the IMO online training platform, was further extended and now offers its expertise to companies and organic control bodies. The IMO website has been redesigned.

2012 was not an easy year for us. Even though we achieved positive growth in almost all of our sectors due to an increased number of contracts worldwide, we had to face many challenges. At our location at Weinfelden (Switzerland), the number of staff has doubled within the last four years posing serious logistical challenges. Moreover, the development of the CHF/EUR (USD) exchange rate has been extremely unfavourable. To move forward, we've completed a number of internal restructuring measures.

I would like to thank the IMO team for its dedication, support and tireless efforts in building IMO. I also thank all our esteemed customers and partners for their continued support and trust. Let us continue to create perspectives for a sustainable future – together.

Dr. Peter Schaumberger, CEO IMO Switzerland



Innovations ensure IMO is one step ahead!

Together we create individual solutions to serve our customers current and future needs.

The Institute for Marketecology (IMO), Switzerland is a highly experienced international body for the inspection, certification and quality assurance of sustainable products. IMO has been active in the field of organic certification world-wide for more than 20 years. Today, IMO is also renowned as a pioneer in the sectors of fair trade & social accountability monitoring, natural textiles, timber & forestry, fisheries & aquaculture and wild collection.

IMO aims to establish trust between producers and consumers. Therefore, we regard our clients as long-term partners and support their efforts to produce high-quality products for national and international markets. Together we create individual solutions to serve our customers current and future needs.

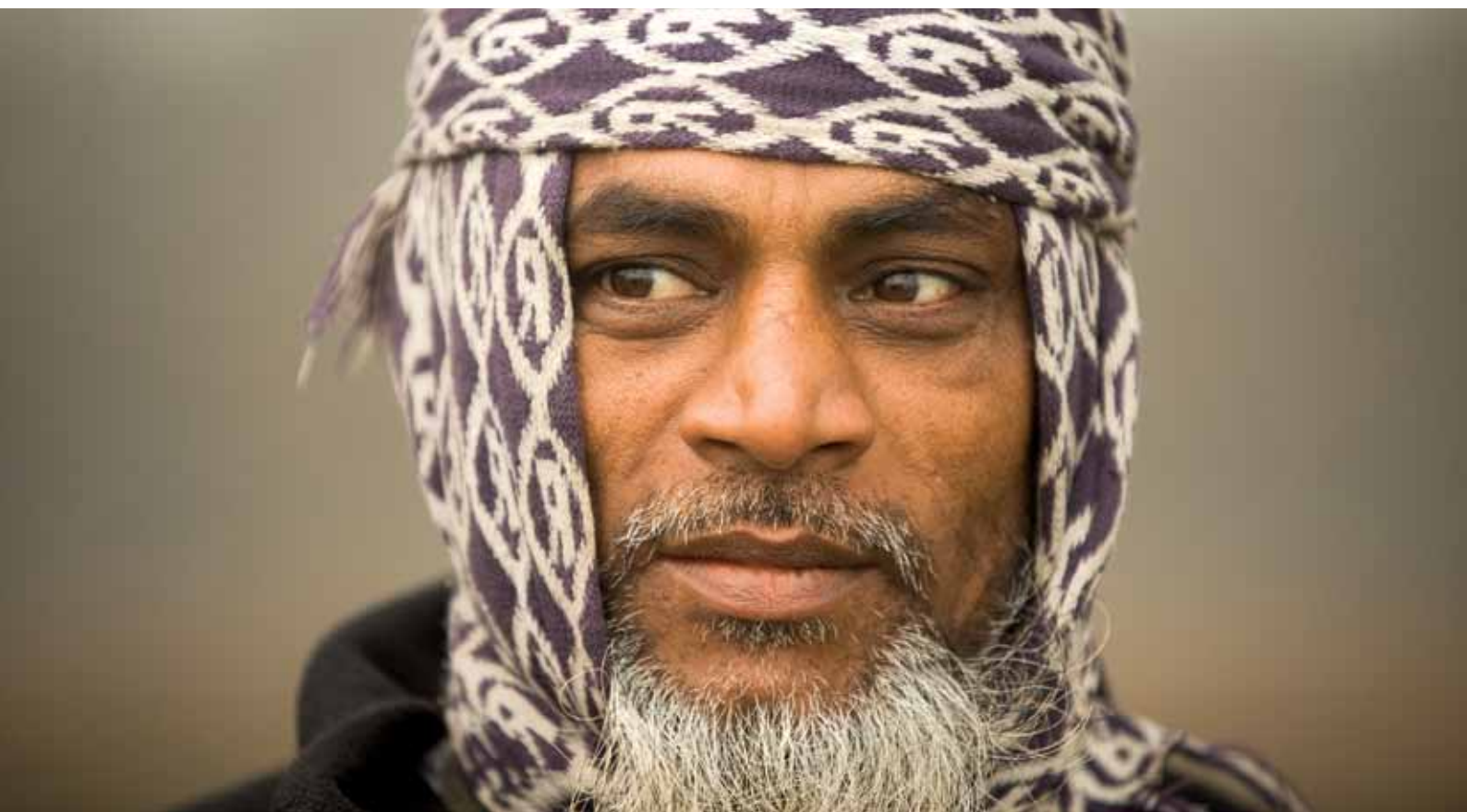


IMOgroup AG

We build bridges between regional suppliers and discerning consumers across many languages, cultures and expectations.

IMO's philosophy has always been to collaborate with the people living in the countries where IMO is operating. Today all IMO companies are part of the IMOgroup AG based in Weinfelden, Switzerland. The umbrella organization includes 9 full fledged international companies and more than 20 smaller offices, mainly in developing countries. The IMOgroup AG employs more than 400 experts worldwide for the certification of operations in more than 90 countries. Certification services are offered according to about 70 different ecological and social standards.

In October 2012 a shared common strategy for the entire IMO Group was developed. The combination of actions & best practices, including restructuring activities, will prepare the IMO Group to successfully meet the requirements of the future.



Organic Agriculture

From its creation, IMO has specialized in the certification of organic agricultural products. By winning the confidence of both professionals and consumers, IMO has become a benchmark for quality in organic certification worldwide.

IMO offers certification according to national organic legislations such as Regulation (EC) N° 834/2007 (Europe), NOP (USA), JAS (Japan), Swiss Organic Ordinance, NPOP (India) and inspection/certification according to private organic labels such as Bio Suisse (bud), Naturland, Demeter, KRAV and Soil Association.

For many years IMO has specialized in the certification of smallholder farmers groups. IMO was one of the first certifiers to develop an adapted control system for organic groups with their own Internal Control System (ICS). The external inspection focuses on an evaluation of the efficiency of the ICS by selecting a representative sample of farmers. This means that large groups of small (and often remote) farmers can benefit from reduced certification costs. Presently we certify more than 325 smallholder farmers groups worldwide. These groups vary in size from 20 to 25,000 farmers and produce a great variety of crops.



Certification of good practices

Good Agricultural Practices are a collection of principles to apply for on-farm production and post-production processes, resulting in safe and healthy food and non-food agricultural products, while taking into account economical, social and environmental sustainability.

IMO is currently accredited for certification according to the GLOBALG.A.P Integrated Farm Assurance Standard for the following scopes: Fruits and Vegetables, Aquaculture and Chain of Custody for aquaculture products. The number of GLOBALG.A.P projects certified by IMO increased slightly in 2012.

Sustainability-certification is more and more important, especially in the coffee and cocoa sector. IMO has gained a lot of experience in the Chain of Custody Certification of UTZ: IMO is certifying Chain of Custody entities that are active in import and in end consumer production in Switzerland, Spain, UK, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Czech Republic as well as in Canada and the US. Due to its unique market position IMO can offer UTZ certification along the whole supply chain from UTZ-Certified primary production and processing in Africa, Asia and Latin America through all import activities to end consumer product production. We have experts in each sector and country allowing a competent and effective audit process. Many clients also request an UTZ audit in combination with their organic inspection.



Analysis & Off-farm inputs

The IMO Competence Center for Analysis offers a centralised and systematic analysis of residues. To meet the high quality requirements of off-farm inputs for use in organic farming, IMO offers certification and registration services.

The IMO Analysis Centre, coordinated from Weinfelden, deals with all the issues related with sampling, analysis and residues of IMO certified products. Our key responsibilities are the development of the IMO annual sampling plan, handling of residue cases and evaluation / recognition of laboratories for analysis of organic products. The services of the center were expanded in 2012. IMO has consolidated its experience in this area and regularly cooperates and exchanges information with certification bodies and authorities.

The various organic standards have different requirements regarding inputs permitted for use in organic farming. In most cases it is impossible to determine from a product label whether an input is allowed. This leads to difficulties for input manufacturers wanting to sell their products to a wide spectrum of organic farmers. To meet the requirements of these manufacturers, IMO offers certification of off-farm inputs for use in organic farming. The demand for this certification has grown slightly in 2012 and we expect this trend to continue in 2013.

In order to improve the quality of the evaluation of off-farm inputs, IMO has expanded and improved the procedure of registration of off-farm inputs: The number of registered clients and products in Chile, where this service is available since 2011, significantly increased in 2012. In Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru first products were registered in 2012. The registration procedure greatly facilitates the approval of off-farm inputs for organic operators certified by IMO. The demand for this service is expected to grow in 2013.



Quality assurance

Certification by IMO grants high quality to you and your customers. All staff of the IMO worldwide network is bound to the same quality principles and their work is closely monitored and interlinked to grant maximum quality assurance.

Certification is subject to supervision and certification bodies themselves are continuously audited by the relevant authorities as part of the approval and accreditation process. IMO's quality management system is continually improved to ensure the reliability of certification decisions as well as conformance to all accreditation requirements. The quality system includes a complex system of internal and external control procedures, which are valid for the whole IMO Group worldwide.

In 2012 the Swiss office in Weinfelden successfully retained the re-accreditation audits conducted by the Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) and the US Department for Agriculture (USDA). The Swiss office was also audited by the Japanese authority (FAMIC) and the Accreditation Services International (ASI). IMO inspectors were accompanied during inspections by the SAS in Uganda, the IOAS in Chile, the US authorities in China and Peru, by ASI in Germany and by GLOBALG.A.P in Germany. In addition, various local authorities audited IMO offices. All audits confirmed the high overall quality of IMO's performance, the high qualifications of IMO's inspectors and the efficiency of IMO's worldwide quality management system.



Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture

As a response to the drive and requirements in this sector IMO has established a very strong department offering a wide range of services for sustainable aquatic products. IMO also contributes its specialized knowledge to trade fairs, international congresses, publications and expert panels.

In 2012 the department was able to grow by another 20% and added further local auditors in countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and the US, as well as adding key experts to our profile.

IMO was once again able to demonstrate its role as a pioneer in the aquaculture sector by performing the first audits worldwide according to the new ASC Standard for sustainable aquaculture. IMO is proud to be the first to have achieved accreditation for all three final ASC standards available on the market 1) ASC COC, 2) ASC tilapia, 3) ASC pangasius; accordingly, IMO has carried out and handled the majority of all ASC certifications to date. This standard is expected to become a benchmark for aquaculture practices in the future.

The AquaGAP standard owned by the Swiss Bio-Foundation and developed in cooperation with IMO was revised in 2010 and is now well established. AquaGAP opens new possibilities for aquaculture operations implementing good practices and companies wishing to confirm the high quality of their aquaculture products by using this label on the international market. AquaGAP offers certification for all species globally.

Other important new services implemented in 2012 included the fulfilment of our first three Naturland Wildfish assessments and commencing of our first full assessment for MSC fisheries; certification expected for early 2013.



Social Responsibility & Fair Trade

Fair for Life is a flexible and not product-specific programme that considers the whole chain of custody. With its complementary benefits to existing fair trade systems it has gained very good acceptance within different markets worldwide.

In 2012, many new clients chose to become Fair for Life or For Life certified coming predominantly from Africa, South- and Latin-America and North-America including Canada. At the end of 2012 there are about 170 companies certified according to Fair for Life and For Life, with many more projects in the application process. Exciting new products that have been certified in 2012 include biodegradable bags and pacific white shrimps.

IMO strengthened its role as one of the most recognized and high bar fair trade certifiers: New activities have taken place in the domestic fair trade sector. Fair for Life has been accepted by IDH (Initiatief Duurzame Handel) in the Netherlands into their sustainability program. Fair for Life is continuously promoted by Whole Foods Market as one of the certifications accepted in their Whole Trade Guarantee Program. Fair Trade Towns recognized Fair for Life as an approved certification scheme. In line with our commitment to transparency Fair for Life has been included by the ITC (International Trade Center) in their ITC Standards Map in order to enable the easy comparison and reviews of sustainability standards. IMO and Fair for Life have been actively participating in training programs organized by COLEACP-PIP. In order to further strengthen Fair for Life's acceptance in the retail sector, a GSCP (Global Social Compliance Programme) benchmark process has been started in 2012, which will be finalized in 2013. Collaboration with other fair trade schemes has been widened, in order to make the fair trade system more applicable worldwide.



Wild collected plants

IMO is highly experienced in quality assurance of natural ingredients used in food, cosmetics and medicine. Numerous projects entrust IMO with the certification of wild collected plants worldwide; e.g. in the Balkan states, the Caucasus, Central, East and South East Asia, Latin America and Africa.

In 2012 about 50 wild collection projects were certified by IMO according to organic standards (EU and/or NOP). This figure demonstrates a modest growth over the last year. To fulfil the rising demand for plants from fair and sustainable wild collection more and more wild collection projects are interested in FairWild and Fair for Life certification of their products. Currently, IMO is the only approved certification body for these standards.

The FairWild standard version 2.0, released in August 2010, combines the principles of fair trade/fair working conditions with the management system laid out in the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC MAP). The FairWild standard focuses on the correct identification of the collected plants, its protection status as well as the implementation of adequate harvesting practices. In 2012 new projects started FairWild certification in different countries; e.g. sustainable collection of wild cocoa in Bolivia.

IMO also offers fair trade certification of wild collected products according to the Fair for Life Programme. In 2011 a new module specific to wild collection was developed. In 2012 projects in Ghana, Ethiopia, Mexico, Chile and Brazil were certified including different product groups like wild herbs, wild coffee, mate, jojoba and essential oils. In 2012 IMO developed a special training module for wild collection in the framework of the E-Train online training platform.



Forest management, wood & paper products

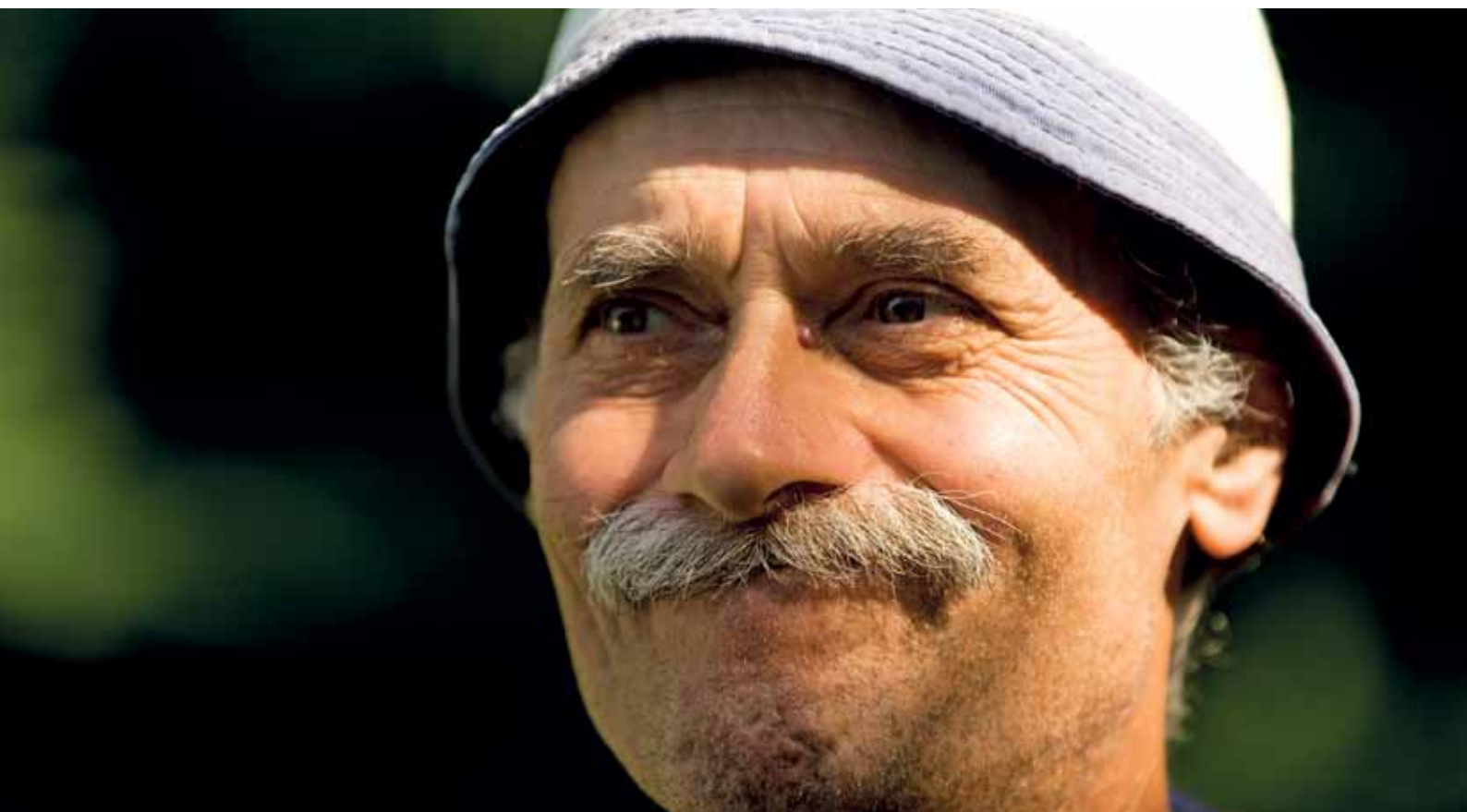
Responsible forest management helps to ensure that forests can continue to perform all of their ecological, economic, and social functions.

In 2012, numerous timber industry projects were certified by IMO in Europe and Asia. Due to restructuring of the department the number of certificates issued according to the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) standard slightly decreased. There are two reasons for the new structure: A) FSC standards are strictly controlled by the accreditation body, which focuses on difficult projects or new countries and the auditors for the FSC standard require a high effort and a lot of training in each single country, independently whether there are one or many projects. Experience over the years has shown that former investment in a number of projects, countries or auditors was no longer cost effective. B) IMO was suspended from March to October 2012 due to a severe bottleneck created primarily from personnel issues in the office. When working on lifting on suspension and training new staff in parallel, IMO refrained from continuing with high risk projects. The process of reorganisation is near completion and IMO has started to gain new clients and will continue with growth in 2013.

IMO also certifies projects in accordance with the Naturland's Guidelines for Ecological Forest Management and the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes). Many timber processors, printers and traders request a combined audit according to both FSC and PEFC. The number of PEFC certificates for this scheme remained static.



1996 Forest Stewardship Council
A.C. akkreditiert, FSC-ACC-006



Natural Textiles

IMO has been inspecting textile operations since 1992 and offers a wide range of services worldwide for organic and sustainable textile production from the field to the runway.

In 2012 the demand for independent quality assurance for textiles from organic fibres remained stable. The world-wide demand for textiles certified according to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and Organic Exchange OE Blended/OE 100 Standard no longer benefits from the boost in certification during the initial years, though brands and retailer's interest is still increasing. Greenpeace Germany recommends GOTS together with IVN Best as the strictest labels available.

The GOTS is still recognised as the leading processing standard for organic textiles. In 2006, IMO became the first certification body to be approved for GOTS certification but had already been involved in supporting the development of GOTS for many years. Proper assessment of the chemical inputs is the key to enabling GOTS-conform textile processing. IMO's service includes a unique and innovative web platform to improve access and availability of GOTS-compliant chemical products for organic textile manufacturers. The system gives access to almost 1000 dyestuff- and pigment preparations and more than 1300 textile auxiliaries from different suppliers. Furthermore, IMO offers inspection and certification according to IVN Best and the IVN Natural Leather Standard.

Some of the most important organic textile standard organisations (such as IVN, Soil Association, Demeter and Naturland) value the high quality of IMO's textile auditing and have approved IMO as an inspection and certification body for their schemes. These partnerships with some of the largest textile processing and manufacturing groups, retailers and long-term organic pioneers, foster both the sustainable processing of textiles and the organic agriculture that supplies the natural fibres for these textiles. IMO is currently engaged in the revision process of the Global Recycle Standard (GRS) owned by Textile Exchange and in the development of quality assurance for other materials such as natural leather.



Natural Cosmetics

The natural and organic cosmetic sector has experienced a massive boost recently and further growth is expected. Show your commitment to environmental friendly, socially responsible and fair production.

In 2011 IMO and EcoControl decided to share their expertise in the field of natural cosmetics certification and to assure quality and transparency in this field together. We offer a straightforward and competent processing of the NATRUE control and certification, both nationally and internationally. If your company is certified and interested in adding certification of organic (i.e. EU organic, NOP, JAS) or social and fair business practices along the supply chain (i.e. Fair for Life, FairWild) we offer combined tailor made audits to save time and costs. This cooperation was successful in 2012 and we will be pleased to support the certification of natural and organic cosmetics in the future.



Africa & Middle East

In 2012 the number of Africa-based agricultural producers that chose to be certified by IMO increased: IMO enlarged its organic certification activities in Rwanda and performed the first ever audits according to the Fair for Life standard in Madagascar and Senegal. Consequently IMO inspectors are now based in more countries/regions and qualified for further standards. IMO's organic certification work in Africa was again successfully assessed by third parties in 2012. Since July 2012 IMO is listed as an Equivalent Certification Body according to EU organic regulations: This means that most of the organic clients of IMO in African countries can export without an Import authorization of the importer. We are especially pleased that there is an increase in inspection requests for organic private labels like Demeter or Naturland. The EU-NOP Equivalency agreement has not caused a decrease in the total number of NOP organic certifications of IMO in Africa: This is due to the fact that most commodities certified by IMO in Africa either directly go to the US or Europe without a processing step.

IMO's activities in the UTZ Certified standards for cocoa and coffee have also increased: In West Africa the focus is clearly on cocoa certification. Certification by IMO according the UTZ coffee standard in East Africa has been expanded both in the number of clients as well as in countries.

Our outstanding competence in planning and reliably performing audits according to various organic and many private standards is highly demanded especially by cooperatives and other forms of smallholder units. The Africa Department is always eager to find a tailor-made solution for each requested standard-combination whilst keeping our high quality approach. Next to IMO's core competence in smallholder ICS certification, the certification of farms and processing units for both cocoa and coffee is gaining importance over the last two years. IMO provides certification along the full supply chain for some of our clients from the source in Africa to the destination country in Europe.

IMO certifies 50 companies in Jordan according to international organic regulations. The BioJordan Project is part of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development. Organic and Social & FairTrade certification is also offered in Palestine and Israel. The certified projects include a remarkable number of smallholders.



America

IMO Control Latinoamérica Ltda. located in Bolivia is accredited according to EN 45011/ISO 65 via DAKKS. The office is active in almost all countries of Latin America (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay). The client base increased by about 12% in 2012. This was especially evident in Peru where the office gained new clients in the fair trade and cocoa sector. In Paraguay nearly 80% of the organic cane sugar production is now certified by IMO. In 2012 the first FairWild client in Latin America has been certified by IMO who produces wild cocoa by indigenous Yuracaré in Bolivia. IMO Latinoamérica not only issues EU certificates under their own accreditation DAKKS, but also certificates UTZ and Bird Friendly. Since 2012 the office is accredited by FUNDEPPO for the small producers scheme “Tu Simbolo” and for performing verifications according to the CAFÉ Practices Program.

At IMO Caribe the ongoing economic crisis this year had a less severe impact on the customers, as expected. Due to the active acquisition of new customers the number of projects was maintained at the previous year's level. Since September 2011 IMO Latinoamérica performs certification services for IMO Caribe according to the EU organic regulation under their own accreditation.

IMO Brasil has kept steady growth in the organic sector with around 20-30 clients focused on wild collection and beekeeping. Since its implementation in 2010 the Brazilian Organic Regulation (Brasil Orgânico Lei 10.831) has attracted many clients worldwide, adding new revenues. However, the primary business with the highest market share remains in coffee standards (UTZ, 4C, etc.).

The growth in the acquisition of new clients continued for IMO Chile in 2012, with an overall annual increase of more than 10%. The main reason for this positive result is due to its efficient client services which allowed IMO to speed up the issue of certificates. Important was furthermore the higher demand of Fair for Life certification by fruit growers and wineries. In 2013 approval for the Canadian organic standard and the IFOAM Global Organic System Accreditation (IGOSA) is expected.

Activities through our IMO US office have continued to grow at a steady pace. Social & FairTrade certification remains the main focus of this office, but other services are growing quickly in the US, such as sustainable aquaculture & fisheries, UTZ and organic certification.



Asia

IMO is represented in Asia by two offices with local staff members in India and China. In Indonesia and Sri Lanka IMO's services are offered by local representatives. IMO is also active in Afghanistan and in several countries in central Asia.

IMO China was founded in 1995 and is now one of the largest certification bodies active in the Chinese organic sector. In order to further improve quality assurance in 2010 IMO introduced in China the online traceability system, WorldTrace. About 40 companies have benefited from this service. The inspection and sample taking for analysis before shipment (ConCert) has continued. During 2012 IMO has been engaged in the activities of the European Organic Certifiers Council (EOCC) with regard to the discussions between the EU and China considering mutual acceptance of each other's organic standards and certification systems.

IMO India, also founded in 1995, is now the most renowned certification body in India in the field of organic agriculture and sustainable products. IMO India is accredited according to NPOP-India and was the first Indian organic certification agency to obtain international accreditation under ISO 65. The European Union, Switzerland and the USA have also approved the Indian production methods and inspection systems as being equivalent to those required by their own regulations. Therefore IMO India is able to certify organic products according to NPOP-India, EU and NOP standards. As in previous years, 2012 was marked by an increase in the number of clients especially in the areas of tea, cocoa and coffee production as well as smallholder groups.

We are happy to now offer UTZ certification in Indonesia and many other Asian countries. IMO can draw upon highly qualified staff and very good connections to relevant stakeholders in the cocoa and coffee sector.



Europe

IMO is active in many countries of Eastern Europe. Certification of wild collected plants such as mushrooms is a main field of activity in Bosnia, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Macedonia. In the Ukraine and Russia IMO is collaborating with the Organic Standard, a certification body developing since 2006 as part of a joint project between FIBL and IMO, and financed by SECO. In Croatia the cooperation with Bioinspekt (IMO Croatia) was continued successfully, as with Balkan Biocert (BBC) in Bulgaria. IMO has a local representative in Uzbekistan and single projects are certified in Georgia, Serbia and Kazakhstan. Textile companies in several eastern European countries are certified according to GOTS and OE.

In Western Europe IMO cooperates with commonly named Partner Control Bodies (PCBs) for certifications according to the NOP standard. IMO Spain is expanding in the areas of wine, aquatic products and cosmetics and offers NOP and JAS certification in Spain and Portugal in cooperation with several PCBs. UTZ Chain of Custody certification is increasing very rapidly in Europe. Large cocoa and coffee processing companies are UTZ certified by IMO in Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and UK.

IMO Germany (IMO Institut für Marktökologie GmbH, IMO GmbH) has consolidated its market position in 2012. IMO GmbH certifies about 2.750 companies, most of them producers. This represents about 10% of all organic companies in Germany. IMO GmbH also certifies companies in South Tyrol and Turkey according to EU Regulation No 834/2007. IMO GmbH is accredited according to EN 45011 by the Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) and approved by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) for nationwide organic inspections since 2006.

IMO Turkey is one of the 24 approved certification bodies in Turkey. In 2010 their status was changed from a licenced office of the IMO GmbH into an independent Turkish company called IMO-CONTROL Sertifikasyon Tic. Ltd. Sti. Since December 2011, they are accredited by an independent accreditation body (TÜRKAK) according to the Turkish organic regulation as well as to the Regulation EU No 834/2007. IMO GmbH continues to certify products from Turkey according to the EU organic regulation, ensuring a smooth import of products from Turkey into the EU. In 2012 the number of clients was increased by approximately 10%. The main fields of activity remain in fruits, olives, vegetables and tea, however livestock and bee-keeping are also becoming increasingly important. IMO-Control Ltd. is expected to be added to the EU Equivalency list in 2013.



Sustainable Development

Facing global challenges and developing the world together. IMO and its partner organizations have always been very actively involved in new developments.

IMO can draw upon over 20 years of experience supporting sustainable approaches around the world. Our expertise has been proven in various projects funded by organizations like DEZA, FLO, the European Commission, GIZ, IFOAM, ITC, SECO, SIPPO, Swisscontact and UNCTAD.

Our sustainable development projects include:

- development of new modules of the Fair for Life Programme which now additionally cover wild collection, mining operations and touristic service providers
- verification of dyes and auxiliary agents in textile treatments
- supporting the development and implementation of the guidelines on natural detergents, purifying agents and care products
- the Pesticides Initiative Programme (PIP) by COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee)
- developing an independent certification body, called Organic Standard, in Ukraine since 2006
- involvement in a PPP in Uzbekistan for FairWild and facilitation of the certification of producers of wild collected plant material from the Caucasus
- supporting the economic analysis of certification systems for organic food and farming (CertCost)
- production of an IFOAM manual and training material for Internal Control Systems (ICS)
- production of the SIPPO training manual for improving aquaculture practices in smallholder shrimp farming

More about our projects at the IMO Website: www.imo.ch



Consultancy

IMO - in cooperation with partner organizations - is offering its expertise in quality assurance for sustainable production in all fields of our activities.

In 2012, IMO decided to develop consultancy as a new service sector and assign staff with the responsibility to build up the department Development and Innovations. The main aim is to make use of the knowhow of many IMO experts world-wide, especially in the sectors of organic agriculture, social responsibility, fair trade, fisheries, aquaculture, textile products, analyses, product traceability, and producer training. In the past years, IMO has received numerous requests from companies for consultancy and training services in these sectors, but as an ISO 65 accredited certifier IMO has been restricted with regard to the scope of consultancy services that can be offered. For this reason, IMO has started cooperation with partner organizations, which have been active in international consultancy and development cooperation for many years.



E-Train platform

IMO provides professional, practical training for inspectors, consultants and other professionals related to their understanding of relevant standards by developing effective materials, in workshops and webinars, since its beginnings. E-Train, a new IMO Online Training Platform developed since 2009, extends this training even further.

The IMO Online Training Platform E-Train offers a complete e-training programme for organic control bodies, inspectors and experts wishing to develop or improve their in-depth understanding of the requirements of organic regulations and effective organic inspection procedures. The trainings are optimised to be used world-wide and can be offered online or as blended learning courses, i.e. as a combination of workshop and online modules. The trainings involve many practical exercises and challenge the trainees to apply and test their gained knowledge in various real life examples. After a successful written final exam, the trainee receives an IMO Training Certificate.

In 2012 E-Train was further extended: About 30 IMO inspectors e.g. in Africa, Turkey, Croatia, Ireland, Switzerland, Iran have been trained using the online self-study programme. Two generic courses for non IMO organic inspectors were developed, in addition to several shorter training courses in selected organic inspection scopes. Furthermore IMO can now offer short online training courses for organic companies (e.g. an initial JAS training course and an overview on requirements for importers and handlers in the EU and Switzerland). More of these short industry courses will be launched next year, some in cooperation with IMO Chile and IMO Turkey. The first face to face seminars have been successfully organised and others will follow in 2013. The E-Train online modules are met with great interest among organic agriculture associations and regional control bodies.



Trust in
Quality.
World-
wide.





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