



Valorisation in different sectors and business models

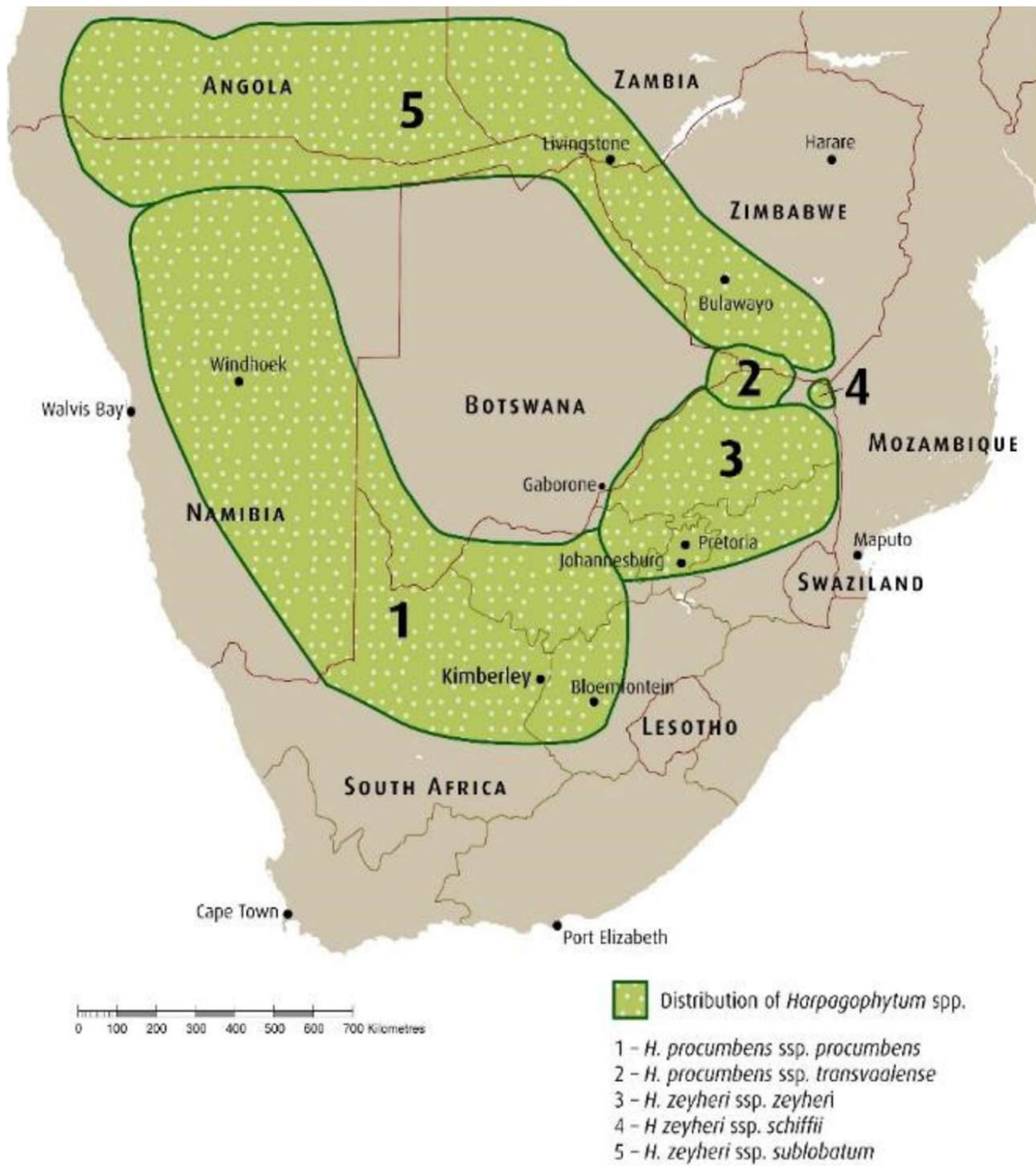
The Case of Devil's Claw in Namibia
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Devil's claw facts



- ✓ Devil's Claw = two plant species, *Harpargophytum procumbens* and *H. zeyheri*.
- ✓ Dried, cut tubers of Devil's Claw are used to produce extracts for joint health
- ✓ Naturally occurring in Namibia, harvested by ~12'000 harvesters
- ✓ Namibia = biggest supplier with an estimated total export volume of ~1,000 tonnes
- ✓ Resource is under pressure.





H. zeyheri
(photos: PL Cunningham)



H. procumbens
(photos: PL Cunningham;
Wikipedia)

(Source: Wynberg 2006, after Ihlenfeldt and Hartmann 1970)

Industry requirements



Industry ambitions

Strong commitment to sustainability

- **Ambition for Givaudan set for 2030** to source all our products in a way that respect people and the environment
- **Similar positioning for all companies** engaged in ESG initiatives
- **Industry willing to support financially** the cost of implementation of such initiative, but must be financed by the whole supply chain, not only for the GACP+ volumes
- **Long-term impact required**, supported by local institutions & policies



Expectations from the industry & end-users

Compliance & beyond

- Need for traceability, sustainability & good practices
- Main focus on sustainable collection practices, but also quality of dried root
- Resource assessment needed to measure the impact
- Clear governance needed
- To ensure local engagement, good level of conformity & effective checks
- Mandate given to an Organisation to follow-up on effective implementation & compliance with local regulations (ABS...)
- Giving an internationally recognised level of conformity against GACP principles



Concerns on Resource and Practices

Strong demand requiring long-term management

- Sustained high demand for export & increasing trend
- Local over-harvesting and unsustainable methods of harvesting
 - Frequent harvest of secondary storage tubers and taproot damage
 - Punctual over-exploitation due to poverty & low level of education/awareness
- *H. zeyheri* placed on the MEFT Schedule 9 'Protected Species List'
- However, ¼ of the production is already under sustainable management

Concerns about the resource & harvest



Photos: ECC Namibia, October 2021

Examples of quality concerns



Damages caused during harvest

Inappropriate post harvest handling



Photos: PL Cunningham, October 2021

Examples of quality concerns



Problematic processing techniques : slicing, drying and storage



Photos: PL Cunningham & ECC; October 2021

Existing good practices to be promoted





Filling the holes after collection



Drying on nets



Clean slicing



Trainings



Proper storage



Development of the GACP+ standard



Aim of the GACP+ standard

User safety

Appropriate quality standards

Sustainability of the resource

Socio-economic welfare along the full
supply chain

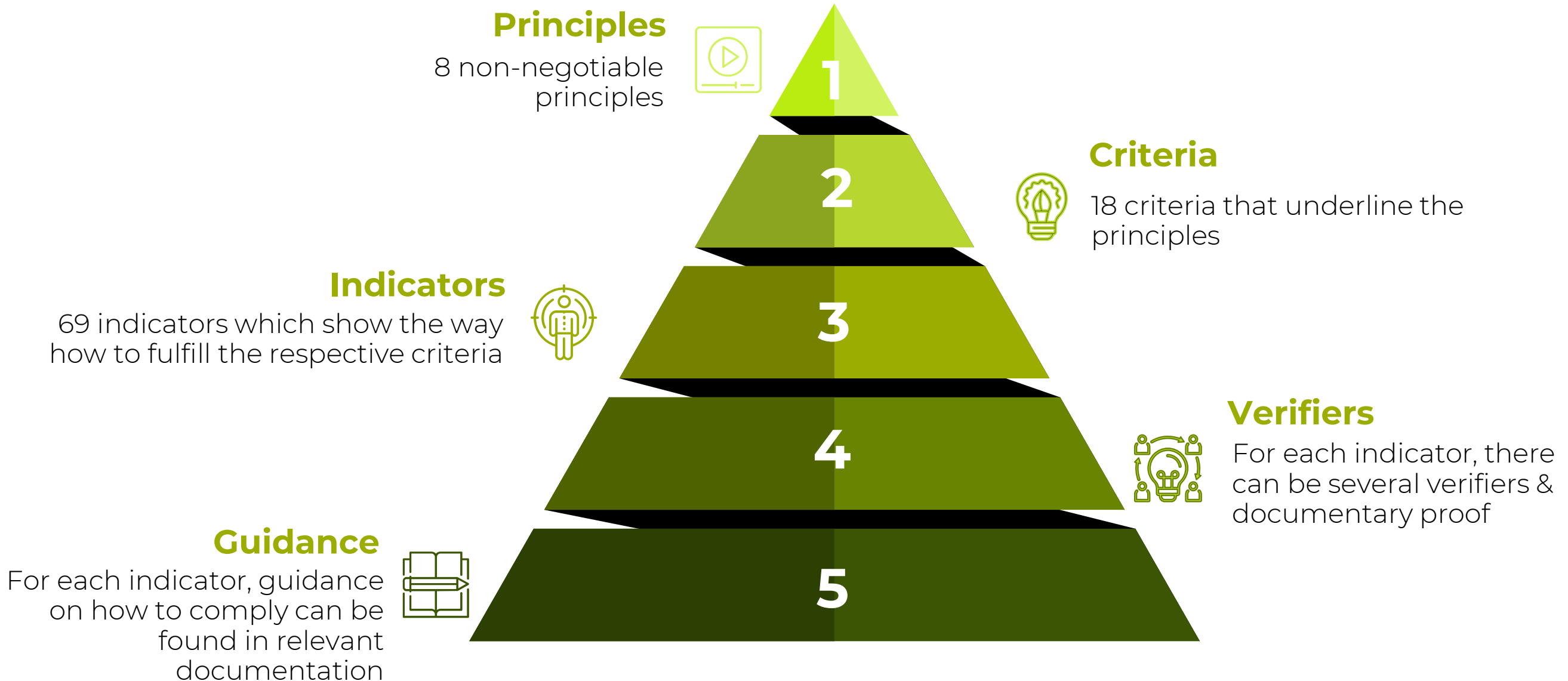
Key Components of GACP+ Guidelines for Namibian Devil's Claw



Introducing the GACP Plus standard and guidelines for devil's claw in Namibia for a fair and sustainable biotrade

- 1. Sustainable Harvesting Methods:** Training harvesters in best practices to ensure long-term resource viability.
- 2. Fair Benefit-Sharing (ABS Compliance):** Ensuring rural communities **receive equitable compensation**.
- 3. Quality Standards & Certification:** Supporting **GACP, organic, and fairtrade certifications** to increase market access.
- 4. Value Chain Strengthening:** Encouraging **local processing** and reducing reliance on raw exports.

Principles, criteria and indicators of the GACP+ standard



The role of NDCEAT in implementing the GACP+ Guidelines



- **Advocacy & Policy Support:** Ensuring a strong regulatory framework for ABS and sustainable bio-trade.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Equipping harvesters with best practices in **sustainability and business models**.
- **Market Linkages:** Connecting Namibian exporters with ethical buyers.
- **Monitoring & Research:** Tracking environmental and economic impacts to improve industry standards.



Valorisation Strategies for Devil's Claw in Namibia

1. Certification & Ethical Labelling

- Expanding **Organic, Fair Trade, and GACP+** certification.
- Developing **Namibia's identity as a premium supplier** of ethically sourced Devil's Claw.

2. Strengthening Local Benefit-Sharing Agreements

- Supporting **community-based harvesting groups** under ABS-compliant contracts.
- Empowering **harvesters with training, financial incentives, and long-term contracts.**

3. Sustainable Harvesting & Conservation Practices

- Regulating collection areas to prevent overharvesting.
- Monitoring **wild populations** and developing sustainable cultivation methods.

4. Expanding Markets

- Positioning Namibia as a global leader in sustainable **bio-trade and biodiversity valorisation.**



Call to Action

- Strengthen **national and regional policies** to support Devil's Claw valorisation.
- Encourage **investment in local processing and certification**.
- Enhance **traceability and ethical trade practices** to increase global competitiveness.
- Foster stronger **community engagement and benefit-sharing mechanisms**.
- Promote **Namibia's GACP+ model** as a best practice for sustainable biotrade.

Namibian Devil's Claw Exporters Association

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