

## What is a Biodiversity-Check?

The Check does not substitute a biodiversity impact assessment, but it will provide arguments for decision making regarding the company's strategy on biodiversity. It assesses, according to the procedure of environmental management systems EMAS III and ISO 14001, potential negative impacts of individual business units, manufacturing facilities, products and processes on biodiversity and identifies potential risks and opportunities. The Check is based on the UN convention on biodiversity (CBD).

## What is assessed?

The Check examines direct impacts on biodiversity, for which the company is clearly responsible and which can be influenced by the company itself. It thus gives an overview and a basis to include biodiversity in the management. The Check also takes indirect effects, which the company can influence through dialogue with its stakeholders, into account. It is less detailed than an environmental impact assessment and by itself does not result in a certification. This is provided by ECOVIN, which, as a brand, stands for state of the art in European organic vine growing.

The Check and its results are strictly confidential, so that obstacles and challenges can be discussed openly. With the Check, the company does not pledge itself to treat the issue of biodiversity further. The results are for free use of the company, e.g. for internal and external communication.



**Interested in the Biodiversity-Check?  
The Check is open for any organic vineyard.**

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# BIO DIVERSI TY CHECK

for Organic Viticulture



# BIO DIVERSITY CHECK

## Why do we need a Biodiversity-Check for organic viticulture?

Ecosystems nourish human kind with many natural resources and services. In Europe and elsewhere, two thirds of all ecosystems are endangered due to overexploitation. Experts estimate that species loss nowadays occurs at a rate 1,000 times greater than the natural extinction rate. All enterprises rely on ecosystem services and natural resources and thus depend on biodiversity.



Talking about biodiversity: viticulturists and biologists seek opportunities for patches of wilderness in the vineyards. If this is not successful, many vine-growers use set-asides or extensively used orchards as biodiversity offsets.

In organic viticulture high levels of biodiversity in the soil and between the rows are essential for healthy vines and good, tasty wine. There are many opportunities to support biodiversity, in the vineyards, in the cellar, in distribution and marketing, and to minimize and mitigate the negative effects of human activities. Together with Global Nature Fund and Lake Constance Foundation, the Federal Association of Organic Viticulture Germany ECOVIN wants to measure and develop the potential to protect and promote biodiversity in the member wineries.



A project of Global Nature Fund, Lake Constance Foundation and ECOVIN



## What do we look at?

The Biodiversity-Check identifies direct and indirect impacts of viticulture on biodiversity. Plant cover, cultivation management, and conservation measures in the vineyards are examples of direct impacts, whereas bottling, packaging, distribution and marketing indirectly affect biodiversity. Many of these impacts can be avoided by the enterprise itself, others in dialogue with partners, suppliers, and clients.



Casks from certified regional, sustainably managed woods are an obvious example of beneficial effects on biodiversity in the supply chain. Carbon dioxide-neutral production of steel storages is another, less apparent one.



Cork and oak woods are an example of a look beyond one's own nose. What effects on biodiversity does organic viticulture impose outside the company itself? Good ones, if you use natural cork and therewith safe Spanish Dehesas and Portuguese Montados.



Clearance cairns as well as other ecological structures in the vineyard are refuges for many species and thus foster biodiversity. Simultaneously, beneficial organisms, which serve the health of the vines, are supported.



Insect houses, e.g. for wild, solitary bees are a visible example for the protection of biodiversity in organic vineyards. Many vine-growers focus on defining target species and measures to support these to focus their activities.



Some patches of green grass do not lead to more biodiversity. ECOVIN viticulturists thus bring forward diverse, nature-orientated greening in the vineyards. Spontaneous vegetation has a distinctive value in this regard.

**MARKETING**  
**STRATEGY HUMAN RESSOURCES**  
**DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTION**  
**STAKEHOLDER**  
**LOGISTICS ENERGY SUPPLY**  
**PREMISES SUPPLY CHAIN**  
**GRAPES VINEYARDS**  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**  
**PACKAGING WINE**  
**TRANSPORT**



To dispense from chemical poisons is not a matter of course and results in a lot of extra work, e.g. under the vines. The necessary use of copper and sulfur is still not satisfying in both organic and conventional winery.

## What are the results?

In the framework of our sectorial Biodiversity-Check we visited and analyzed 30 ECOVIN-companies. As a result, the organic vine-growers received a report and an action plan on how to promote biodiversity in their businesses and how to reduce negative implications for species diversity and ecosystems. Based on the collected experiences the ECOVIN guidelines and recommendations for practice in all ECOVIN member wineries are continuously adapted.