



# LIFE CERTIFICATION PREMISES BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

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*In case of doubt and/or inconsistency between versions, the original document must be consulted (Portuguese version).*

Contact:

LIFE Institute

Rua Victor Benato, 210 – Bosque Zaninelli – Pilarzinho

ZIP Code: 82.120-110 – Curitiba – PR – Brasil

Phone: +55 41 3253 7884

[www.institutolife.org](http://www.institutolife.org)

[contato@institutolife.org](mailto:contato@institutolife.org)

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**OBJECTIVE**

To dispose the Premises that ground the LIFE Certification for Business and Biodiversity and its methodology.

**APPLICATION**

This document applies to organizations in diagnostic phase, preparation for LIFE Certification for Business and Biodiversity and formal audit processes, as well as to other parties interested in the LIFE Methodology.

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## 1. INTERPRETATION AND USE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document presents the Premises of LIFE Certification, being:

- Premise: the argumentation that defines a purpose or principle.

## 2. PREMISES OF LIFE CERTIFICATION

- a. To conserve biodiversity means to maintain favorable conditions for human life on Earth.
- b. Biodiversity conservation is crucial for human well-being and the maintenance of businesses.
- c. All business activities results in some sort of environmental impact through the use of natural resources which bears direct and/or indirect repercussions on biodiversity, regardless of their management system.
- d. All negative environmental impacts should be firstly avoided, but if unavoidable, should be minimized.
- e. Inevitable impacts (including those already minimized), should be compensated even if the compensation involves a limited action for conservation once that all forms of life and each ecosystem carries unique tangible and intangible values.
- f. Scientific research, as well as the contribution of traditional knowledge when applicable, is mandatory for monitoring and developing new technologies favorable to autochthonous biodiversity conservation and for compensating inevitable or residual impacts.
- g. Positive initiatives for nature conservancy and ecosystem services, based on cutting-edge scientific knowledge, should contribute immediately to reverse the current trend of biodiversity loss at all hierarchical levels – genes, species, ecosystems, biomes – as well as their interactions and integrations, and should be evaluated and recognized.

- h. The precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach, basic pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity, can be put into practice in different ways according to local, regional, national, and international conditions. These approaches always consider the rights of indigenous peoples, and local and traditional communities. Biological and cultural diversity are core components of the ecosystem approach.
- i. The management of conservation and biodiversity use should take into account the importance of fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

## **NOTES ON DEVELOPMENT OF THIS DOCUMENT**

Version 1.0: approved on 06/15/2012, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Initial issue of the document.

Version 1.0-R1: approved on 08/31/2023, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Change of document layout and insertion of the new LIFE Institute logo.