



# Insecta Standard



ProTerra envisages a world where all businesses contribute to the protection of biodiversity by switching to sustainable production, conserve natural resources and ensure that local communities are treated with dignity and respect. We are living through a man-made crisis of climate change – leading to irreversible global warming. Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. There is an urgent need to make changes to how we consume, feed the world's growing population and farm in order to minimise the damage we are doing to the environment. Boosting the consumption of insects as a protein source is one way to reduce the impact on the environment of agriculture and human consumption.



## Why insects?

Humankind cannot continue consuming as it is. It must make a switch to less carbon-intensive protein sources. Sustainable diets, based on increasing the use of alternative protein sources, are needed. Insects may offer a sustainable alternative to conventional meat products.

Insects can be part of a sustainable, nutritious diet and they contribute much fewer greenhouse gases and have less of an impact on our natural resources. And there is an appetite amongst consumers to make more ethical choices when it comes to food; many people are seeking to make more food purchases which are less wasteful and less harmful to the environment.

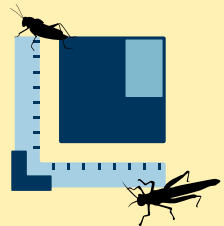
Insects can provide a local source of valuable nutrients in agri-food chains as feed for farm animals and they have huge potential for growth. In animal feed, insects have been shown to lead to strong growth rates, containing a high content of digestible protein as well as other essential vitamins and minerals.

## The climate positive impact of insects

Insects offer huge potential in terms of making a switch to less carbon intensive food and feed. Producing insects uses less land and fewer resources and can help companies have a lighter impact on their communities and the planet, because:



❖ Their production requires a significantly smaller area of land than other types of protein, therefore reducing the impact of land conversion and deforestation.



❖ There is a reduced emission of greenhouse gases (associated with the enteric fermentation from cattle)

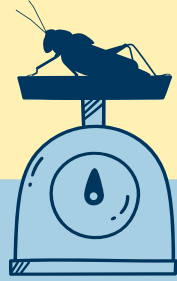




Producing insects emits much less CO<sub>2</sub> (up to 100 percent less) than other types of protein.



Consuming insects is much less wasteful: the edible proportion of most insect species is 80 percent



Insects have a high feed-conversion. Crickets, for example, require only 2 kg of feed for every 1 kg of bodyweight gain.

## The nutritional benefits of insects

Insects offer huge potential in terms of nutrition: They contain a high proportion of protein and so they fill you up more quickly. Insects have traditionally been used as food and feed in many parts of the world. In fact, 2,000 species of insects are eaten worldwide and they are a highly nutritious food.



**Did you know? Some locusts contain more than twice as much protein as beef or chicken meat.**











## The protein switch challenge

There are challenges to scaling-up production, including the current high price of producing insects. Despite these challenges, shifting consumer behaviour and moves to further loosen regulation around insect production, mean that big scaling up of insect production is on the horizon and producers need to be ready in order to boost production in a responsible and sustainable way.

ProTerra's Insecta Standard supports the sustainable and ethical production of insects, by laying out industry best practice.

## The Insecta Standard

ProTerra's Insecta Standard aims to:

-  **Foster good production practices associated with the insect industry** 
-  **Secure the supply of sustainably produced insects, whose provenance is fully traceable;** 
-  **Protect the environment** 
-  **Promote the fair treatment of workers and communities** 

The Insecta Standard lays out a series of fundamental principles which will help ensure best practice in the industry covering, for example:

-  **Fundamental human rights**
-  **Workers' health and safety**
-  **Good relationships with local communities**
-  **Control of the release of pollutants into the air and water**



## The ProTerra label

Brands can communicate their commitment to sustainability and ethical agricultural/production practices through the ProTerra product labelling. It's a stamp of quality showing consumers and stakeholders that the product has been produced in a sustainable and traceable way.

Like to know more about ProTerra's Insecta Standard?

For more details: [www.proterrafoundation.org](http://www.proterrafoundation.org)





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