



Fundación Natura - Ecuador, Proyecto Parque Nacional Sangay
Sustainably use alpaca fibers in the Sangay National Park, Ecuador
Photographer: Juan Diego Perez

“BIOTRADE” PROGRAMME – ECUADOR

The Sustainable Biocomercio Programme in Ecuador, managed by the Export and Investment Promotion Corporation (CORPEI) and the NGO “EcoCiencia” with the assistance of UNCTAD BIOTRADE, was officially launched in 2001. This programme aims to promote sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of trade and investments. The programme supports the development of pilot projects such as the one related to the production of alpaca wool, presented by the Ecuadorian NGO “Fundación Natura.”

In the buffer area of the Sangay National Park in its Andean paramo territories, Natura is working in a project that sustainably uses alpaca and is managed by two indigenous associations since 1999, namely ASARATY and Torre Picanquival. This project intends to establish good-management practices for high altitude soils — most now deteriorated by intensive cattle and sheep grazing — and at the same time, generate additional income for these poor communities.

Today, these communities own alpacas that produce high quality wool for export as fibers. The samples sent to Europe resulted in export contacts and the communities received training in artisan production of textiles and garments. However, the communities still have limited experience in establishing a formal micro-enterprise to manage the business and access finance, allowing them to expand and improve their product's quality. Also the communities need support to improve textile design and consolidate export markets.

The Sustainable Biocomercio Programme in Ecuador is addressing these needs and is providing technical assistance to review their business and export plans, with an emphasis on market evaluation and export promotion.

Due to the level of communal organization of these associations and others of the surrounding areas, there is a good possibility to replicate the project on a broader scale.

BOLSA AMAZONIA – BRAZIL

Bolsa Amazonia was launched in 1998 by the Brazilian NGO Poverty and Environment in Amazonia (POEMAR, Belem, Brazil) and UNCTAD BIOTRADE. Bolsa aims to support local and indigenous communities in seizing bio-business opportunities for natural products of the Amazonian region by forging links with the private sector and markets.

“BIOTRADE” PROGRAMME – COLOMBIA

The EcoFlora company produces flowers and has diversified its production to biological pesticides derived from chili, garlic and oleoresin extracts. The company is receiving support from the Programme Biocomercio Sostenible of Colombia in the development of their management plan (based on environmental and social criteria), market information and export promotion plan to position their products in national and international markets, thus taking advantage of the growing demand for this kind of biodiversity-friendly products.

The BIOTRADE programme in Colombia (“Biocomercio Sostenible”) is coordinated by the Humboldt Institute in Colombia, with the support of UNCTAD BIOTRADE. The Espavé Foundation is an NGO that supports the Network of Women Producers and Traders from Tanado (Choco region, Colombia). This Network has 15 afroamerican members that produce condiments/species based on aromatic plants through an ecological productive process. This project won the First Biocomercio Contest of the Programme Biocomercio Sostenible in Colombia and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). Biocomercio has supported the development of their business plan.



The production process and elaboration of condiments based on aromatic plants in Colombia.
Photographer: A. Orsco

The Ecofakto company produces, together with the indigenous community of Guainia, ecological handicraft from natural fibers of the Colombian Amazon. The Programme Biocomercio Sostenible of Colombia has supported the development of the company's business plan and Ecofakto was a finalist in the First Biocomercio Contest of the Programme Biocomercio Sostenible in Colombia and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).



The training workshop made by Ecofakto to the indigenous community of Guainia, Colombia.
Photographer: A. Orsco

UNCTAD ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Through its policy analysis, intergovernmental meetings and technical assistance, UNCTAD builds capacity in developing countries to deal effectively with issues such as:

- Making foreign direct investment (FDI) work for sustainable development
- Commodity diversification and management (ex: projects in Central America and the Caribbean to manage and recycle used vehicle batteries).
- Science and technology for development
- Enhancing domestic trade and environment policy coordination
- Ensuring full participation in international negotiations on trade and environment: understanding the trade-environment linkages and the impact of environment negotiations on agriculture
- Measures to protect and promote traditional knowledge
- Biotechnology: implications for trade and development
- Transfer of environmentally-sound technology
- Promoting exports of environmentally preferable products, such as organic and biodiversity-based goods (ex: the BIOTRADE Initiative to promote trade and investment in biological resources).

For more information contact:

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