

**Partnerships/Initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21
(World Summit on Sustainable Development for launching at the Summit)**

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

The Andean BIOTRADE Programme of CAN, CAF and UNCTAD

Expected date of initiation: September 2002

Expected date of completion: September 2006

Partners Involved:

Principal partners

1. Andean Community (CAN)
2. Andean Development Corporation (CAF)
3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Other partners

Governments:

- Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela

Intergovernmental organizations:

- United Nations Foundation (UNF)

Major groups:

- BIOTRADE focal points:
 - Bolivia (under discussion)
 - Alexander von Humboldt Institute (Colombia)
 - Export and Investment Promotion Corporation, CORPEI / NGO EcoCiencia (Ecuador)
 - Export Promotion Board, PROMPEX (Peru)
 - Venezuela (under discussion)
- Associations of local and indigenous communities
- Programme Bolsa Amazonia
- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- Trade Promotion Organisations in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela

Leading Partner:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is paying increasing attention to the issue of linking nature conservation and development. It encourages policy makers to focus on the use of market mechanisms and financial incentives to capture the numerous external benefits provided by diverse eco-systems in support of biodiversity conservation. However, biological resources have the potential to become an important tool for sustainable development, they are often being 'mined' to generate short-term economic benefits, instead of being 'managed' to achieve long-term sustainable development.

UNCTAD BIOTRADE has established a number of partnerships with national and regional organisations with the aim of setting up programmes that enhance the capacity of developing countries to produce value-added products and services derived from biodiversity in line with objectives of the CBD. These programmes are promoting sustainable development through the establishment of a creative public-private partnership environment that reduces transaction costs, promotes regional trade and cooperation, and facilitates improved biotrade market access for individual producers.

UNCTAD assists governments in the development of BIOTRADE country programmes, which provide inputs to policies and strategies, and implement pilot projects to promote trade and investment in products and services derived from biodiversity. Regional programmes support and complement the BIOTRADE country programmes. They promote the dissemination of national experiences and knowledge at the regional level, develop regional activities, and support regional cooperation.

A small-scale pilot phase was successfully completed in 2000-2001. The Andean Committee of Environmental Authorities (CAAAM), which consists of the Ministers of Environment of the five Andean countries, subsequently requested a full-fledged programme to support sustainable development, particularly Agenda 21 and the UN Millennium Declaration. In light of WSSD, the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN-Lima, Peru), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF-Caracas, Venezuela), and UNCTAD agreed to enter into a partnership to establish the Andean BIOTRADE Programme.

The general objective of the Andean Programme is to strengthen the Andean BIOTRADE country programmes (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), while promoting the implementation of the newly adopted Andean Biodiversity Strategy and developing biodiversity related sectors and bio-businesses.

The Andean BIOTRADE programme has the following specific objectives:

- Support the implementation of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy of CAN
- Support national BIOTRADE programmes in the Andean region
- Promote the development of biodiversity markets under sustainable use principles
- Strengthen the capacity of technological development for conservation and use of biodiversity
- Support the establishment of an institutional environment adequate for the development of markets for biodiversity products and services
- Financing of bio-businesses.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

This partnership was brokered in light of the WSSD. This initiative will strengthen institutional capacity in the Andean region to promote the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, and implement national and regional biodiversity strategies. It contributes to poverty alleviation, local and national development and ensures mechanisms of benefit sharing by generating tangible economic, social and environmental benefits to people living in rich biodiversity areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as NGOs, local and indigenous communities, academia, and private sector, among others.

The following chapters of Agenda 21 are relevant to this partnership: Chapter 3 (Combating Poverty), Chapter 8 (Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-making), Chapter 11 (Combating Deforestation), Chapter 15 (Conservation of Biodiversity), Chapter 33 (Financial Resources and Mechanisms) and Chapter 34 (Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology, Cooperation and Capacity-building). Moreover, it addresses the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), in particular §66 (l) (fifth session), which stresses the urgent need “to provide incentive measures at national, regional and international levels to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, by enhancing developing countries’ capabilities to compete in the emerging market for biological resources, while improving the functioning of this market”.

In relation to the CBD, the programme responds to the trade related aspects of CBD’s Art. 10 on “Sustainable use of components of biological diversity” and Art. 11 on “Incentive measures”.

In relation to the UN Millennium Declaration, this partnership addresses the following goals: 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 7) Ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) Develop a global partnership for development.

Expected results:

By the end of the joint programme the outputs will be:

- Implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy will have been supported and sustainable use of biodiversity will be a development priority for the Andean governments, private sector, local and indigenous communities, and other relevant stakeholders.
- National BIOTRADE country programmes will be consolidated in the whole Andean region.
- Local and national capacity for the development of bio-business will be strengthened and biodiversity markets under sustainable criteria will be enhanced.
- National and regional technological developments to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity will be encouraged.
- Finance for bio-businesses will be available from private and public sources. A large number of ventures will have successfully accessed these sources of finance.
- South-south cooperation and regional integration and coordination in the area of biotrade will have been promoted.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:2002/2003:

- Consolidation of BIOTRADE country programmes in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru
- BIOTRADE country programmes in Bolivia and Venezuela well established
- Joint BIOTRADE project of Andean Trade Promotion Organisations executed
- Strategic alliance with organisations of local and indigenous communities
- South-south and regional cooperation and sharing of experiences promoted
- Implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy supported

Targets for 2004-2006 will be set at a later stage.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

The Programme will be coordinated by a regional coordinator, under the supervision of CAN, CAF, and UNCTAD BIOTRADE. Annual work plans will be developed by the three organisations. The programme will be implemented jointly by CAN, CAF, and UNCTAD BIOTRADE through the BIOTRADE focal points in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Arrangements for funding

Funding has been obtained for the first years of this partnership. CAF has reserved funding for this joint programme under its biodiversity programme, BIO-CAF. UNCTAD has obtained support of the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the Government of Switzerland for the implementation of some activities. To date, total funding committed by the three partners is US\$ 2 million. An additional US\$ 1 million has been pledged. A credit facility of US\$ 5-10 million is under discussion. At the national level, Governments, NGOs, private sector, UNDP and GEF are supporting the national BIOTRADE focal points to carry out the activities. Partners are expected to obtain additional funding from private and public sector sources.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Beneficiaries of this initiative will receive technical assistance through trainings, workshops and technical missions. Furthermore, south-south cooperation will be fostered with the aim to share experiences and lessons learned among BIOTRADE programmes.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any) Please provide a brief description:

This partnership is linked to:

- The biodiversity programme of CAF, BIO-CAF
- The implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy for the Andean Region
- The BIOTRADE Initiative of UNCTAD
- BIOTRADE Focal Points in the Andean Region and their networks
- Programme Bolsa Amazonia

This partnership will be linked to at least two other WSSD partnerships:

- The BioTrade Facilitation Programme for Biodiversity Products and Services
- The New Ventures: Andean-Amazonian Bio-business Contest of WRI, CAF and UNCTAD

Monitoring Arrangements

- This initiative will be subject to the following monitoring arrangements:
- Annual progress reports
- Independent evaluation
- Updates on web-sites of partners organisations.

Other relevant information:

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