

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

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

BioTrade Facilitation Programme for Biodiversity Products and Services (BTFP)

Expected date of initiation: January 2003

Expected date of completion: December 2008

Partners Involved:

Principal partners:

1. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)
2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Other main partners:

1. Dutch Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI)
2. Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO)
3. Programme Bolsa Amazonia (Amazon Region)
4. Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (SANProTA)
5. Andean BIOTRADE Programme
6. Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Other partners:

Governments:

- Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

Intergovernmental organisations:

- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- Andean Development Corporation (CAF)
- Andean Community (CAN)

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)

Leading Partner:

UNCTAD BIOTRADE

Name of the contact persons:

Lucas Assunção, Rik Kutsch Lojenga

Address:

Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Phone:

+41 22 917 57 31 / 917 56 07

Fax:

+41 22 917 05 04 / 917 01 22

E-mail:

lucas.assuncao@unctad.org, kutsch@unctad.org

Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

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. However, specific technical assistance is needed in the commercialisation of, and trade in, biodiversity products and services, both at national and international levels.

These products include among others: edible plant products (e.g. fruits, nuts), food ingredients (e.g. colouring and flavouring materials); cosmetic and pharmaceutical ingredients (e.g. medicinal plants, essential oils, fatty and aromatic oils); fibres; latex, resins, gums and products thereof. These products have a high value-adding potential, and also have the potential to generate local income by involving local and indigenous communities, while contributing to biodiversity conservation.

To respond to above-mentioned needs, UNCTAD approached the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), which supported UNCTAD in the formulation of the BioTrade Facilitation Programme for Biodiversity Products and Services (BTFP). In close consultation with key stakeholders in developed and developing countries, a programme was conceptualised and formulated.

The general objective of this partnership is “to facilitate sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services, through innovative collaborative arrangements that will enhance sustainable bio-resources management, product development, value-adding processing and marketing”. The BTFP is expected to support developing countries to access new markets, therewith diversifying their production base in a sustainable manner.

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:

The BTFP contributes to poverty alleviation, local development and ensure benefit sharing by creating alternative income sources for families living in areas with rich biodiversity resources that are involved with wild collection, forest garden production and small-scale cultivation. It provides an incentive to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably as tangible economic, social and environmental benefits will be generated to BTFP beneficiaries. It also enhances the productivity and competitiveness of developing countries in accessing sustainable biodiversity markets and reduces the pressure on biodiversity resources.

This partnership addresses a number of Chapters of Agenda 21, particularly Chapter 3 (Combating Poverty), Chapter 15 (Conservation of Biodiversity) and Chapter 11 (Combating Deforestation). It particularly addresses §66 (l) of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), that 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 UN Millennium Declaration, this partnership addresses mainly 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 programme:

- Developing countries will have accessed new markets and, therewith, diversified their production base in a sustainable manner.
- Capacity for the sustainable development of biodiversity products and services will have been built up among local and international service organisations and institutions through innovative collaborative arrangements.
- As a result of BTFP technical assistance at local, national and international levels and the support to national service organisations, local SMEs, will have entered the market or have strengthened their market position.
- The BTFP will have benefited numerous families living in areas with rich biodiversity resources that are involved in wild collection, forest garden production or small-scale cultivation. It will also have contributed to sustainable use of biodiversity, reduced pressure on biodiversity and provided an incentive to biodiversity conservation.
- The BTFP will be a tested example of how sustainable trade can benefit the environment and help conservation of biological diversity with local population's support.
- The BTFP experiences will have had strategic implications on public and private sector strategies towards poverty alleviation and local livelihood development in biodiversity-rich areas.

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

- First years BTFP programme fully funded
- Product groups identified by partner organisations participating in the BTFP

January 2003 onwards:

Initiation of activities BTFP including:

- Management of the implementation of the BTFP and facilitate coordination of organisations involved
- Identification of priority product groups in BTFP regions to be included in the BTFP
- Ensure the optimal deployment of services and resources from the BTFP to the right products and product groups
- Match action-plans for selected product groups with BTFP portfolio in order to identify suitable BTFP services required and service providers
- Assist the implementation, in order to realise the trade potential of selected product groups, of action-plans for BTFP activities listed in modules 1 to 5:
 1. Assure incorporation of sustainability criteria and, where relevant, to take full benefit of the certification and labelling in the commercialisation of biodiversity products and services with verified sustainability
 2. Collect market information and disseminate this systematically to producers of biodiversity products and services
 3. Enhance product development and quality improvement of biodiversity products and services and systematically support these by pooling scarce product development funds and providing sufficient training on all levels
 4. Design and implement efficient trade promotion strategies and export development programmes for biodiversity products and services
 5. Provide practical trade facilitation and marketing assistance for biodiversity products and services to support actual trading

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

UNCTAD, through its BIOTRADE Initiative, will coordinate the BTFP. ITC will assume the role of a technical advisor to UNCTAD BIOTRADE in the implementation of the BTFP. The project coordinator will meet regularly with a coordination unit composed of representatives of UNCTAD and ITC. The BTFP will receive general guidance from an Advisory Board composed of regional partners, collaborating organisations, and interested donors. UNCTAD will sign MoUs with ITC, collaborating organisations and partners.

The activities of the BTFP will be decentralised as much as possible, leaving, to the maximum possible extent, decision-making responsibilities with implementing partners at the national and regional level.

Arrangements for funding

The total six-year (2003-2008) budget of the BTFP is estimated to be US\$ 10.5 million. This will be partly funded through programmes of collaborating and partner organisations, and partly through donor contributions.

Partners and collaborative organisations mentioned in this partnership information sheet have committed to support the BTFP programme with their contribution estimated to be US\$ 2.5 million for six-years. The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has committed US\$ 2.5 million to the programme, which will be released after additional funding is leveraged from other donors.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

The purpose of the BTFP is to provide technical assistance through, for example, training, counselling, trade fair participation, and expert advice. This assistance will be provided through partners, collaborating organisations, and other international or national service providers, etc. South-south cooperation will play an important role in the BTFP.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

This partnership is linked to relevant programmes of:

- UNCTAD BIOTRADE Initiative
- BIOTRADE Focal Points and their networks
- Programme Bolsa Amazonia
- Dutch Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI)
- Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO)
- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- Andean Development Corporation (CAF), particularly its biodiversity programme, BIO-CAF
- Andean Community (CAN)

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

- Andean BIOTRADE programme of CAN, CAF and UNCTAD
- The New Ventures: Andean-Amazonian Bio-business Contest of WRI, CAF and UNCTAD
- Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (SANProTA)

Monitoring Arrangements

The programme will be subject to the following monitoring arrangements:

- Annual Progress Reports
- Advisory Board meetings
- Independent evaluation
- Up-dates provided through the web-site of UNCTAD BIOTRADE

Other relevant information:

Contact person at ITC:

Mr. Jukka Tissari
Market Development Officer
International Trade Centre
Phone: +41 22 730 01 91
Fax: +41 22 730 04 46
E-mail: tissari@intracen.org

- Web-site: www.biotrade.org

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

Name: Rik Kutsch Lojenga
Position: Project Officer, BIOTRADE Initiative/UNCTAD
Address: Palais de Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 917 56 07
Fax: +41 22 917 00 44
E-mail: kutsch@unctad.org