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LINKING TRADE & BIODIVERSITY



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5 BIOTRADE CONGRESS

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For further information on UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative please consult the following website: <http://unctad.org/biotrade> or contact us at: biotrade@un.org.

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COVID-19

This study was developed in November 2019. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all dates have been postponed.

Acronyms

ABS	Access and benefit sharing
B2B	Business-to-business
P&C	(BioTrade) Principles and Criteria
CAF	development bank of Latin America
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP/CoP	Conference of the Parties
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
DITC	Division on international trade and commodities, UNCTAD
FFEM	French Facility for Global Environment
GBF	Global biodiversity framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
ITC	International Trade Centre
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MINCETUR	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (Peru)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
Nagoya Protocol	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PromPerú	Export and Tourism Promotion Agency of Peru
PTA	PhytoTrade Africa
R&D	Research and development
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Switzerland)
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TED Branch	Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD
UEBT	Union for Ethical BioTrade
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WEF	World Economic Forum
WSO	World Spice Organisation (India)

LINKING TRADE AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is being lost at an accelerating rate which has direct impacts on the provision of essential resources for our human needs and economy. The BioTrade Congress provided a global platform to discuss the role of trade and private sector engagement in support of biodiversity conservation. This timely discussion also provided inputs to the negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15).

Biodiversity is the source of many products and services utilized by society and forms the natural capital base for a sustainable economy. It represents an important share of the world economy, making up at least 40 per cent of world trade¹ in 2013 and providing livelihoods for 4.3 billion people², particularly the most vulnerable and poor.

Over the years, the global market for sustainably sourced products and services has grown significantly, particularly for those derived from biodiversity. This is the result of growing consumer interest in natural, ethical and sustainable products and services, that has put pressure on companies and regulators to address, for instance through adopting circular and sustainable business models. There is also an evolving legal and policy framework alongside this development, particularly related to access and benefit sharing and the 2030 Agenda.

At the same time, countries rich in natural resources and biodiversity are witnessing high deforestation rates and increasing threats to

to collapse⁴. Consequently, there is an urgent need to foster best practices and learn from challenges, while replicating viable solutions which can address this paradox.

Trade in sustainably sourced products and services based on biodiversity could be part of the solution. Through trade, sourcing communities and SMEs can obtain revenue from sustainably sourcing and selling their products or services. This adds value to existing resources, which motivates their wise use and conservation. Thus, trade can bring several benefits, including providing economic incentives for biodiversity conservation, generating income, jobs and new businesses, as well as helping countries wisely use and transform their biodiversity into economic opportunities.

BioTrade Initiative

UNCTAD launched the BioTrade Initiative in 1996. It aims to promote trade and investment in biodiversity to achieve sustainable development. Its activities support the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including CBD and CITES. UNCTAD partner with national and international organizations to develop biodiversity-based sectors.

BioTrade refers to the activities of collection or production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from biodiversity, under

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