



United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRAINING MODULE

*Introduction to Capacity Building
for Environment, Trade and
Sustainable Development*



Implementing Sustainable Development
*Building capacity for integrated policy
design and implementation*

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Sustainable Development***

Implementing Sustainable Development:

Building Capacity for Integrated Policy Design and Implementation

Training Module:

Introduction to Capacity Building for Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development

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UNCTAD work on trade, environment and development: see UNCTAD WEBSITES at www.unctad.org
www.unctad.org/trade_env/index.htm

UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development: see CBTF WEBSITE at www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/index.htm

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Acknowledgements

It is widely accepted by the international community that enhancing the effectiveness of capacity building activities is imperative if countries are to address the challenges of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and sustainable trade promotion.

In working towards this goal, the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) has facilitated a comprehensive consultation process with a range of international, regional and national institutions, notably UNCTAD, over the last several years. This consultation process has been conducted through a series of international and regional workshops and meetings focused on developing mutually supportive environment, trade and economic policies. Its aim has been to explore ways to enhance capacity building efforts by identifying gaps, key elements, successful delivery mechanisms, and substantive areas for capacity building that reflect national needs and priorities.

Similarly, UNCTAD through its intergovernmental process and numerous capacity building projects has had extensive consultations. Of particular relevance is a comprehensive needs assessment in the context of the project *Building Capacity for Improved Policy Making on Key Trade and Environment Issues*. In addition, UNEP and UNCTAD have jointly organized consultations through a series of regional workshops under the auspices of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). At UNCTAD, work on capacity building on trade, environment and development has been designed and implemented by the Trade, Environment and Development Branch in the Division on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC).

This introductory training module is designed to support capacity building for trade, environment and sustainable development and is part of UNEP's larger initiative for capacity building on integrated policy design and implementation. It has drawn on a number of background papers reflecting the main messages from the consultation process. It also draws on UNCTAD's capacity building work on trade, environment and development and the CBTF.

The UNEP project has been initiated and led by Hussein Abaza, Chief, UNEP Economics and Trade Branch. Mary McCabe (Mary McCabe Publications, Canberra, Australia) developed and designed the training module. The module was based on two UNEP background papers entitled, respectively, *Capacity Building on Trade, Environment and Development: Trends, Needs and Future Directions* (Hussein Abaza and Robert Hamwey) and *Capacity Building for Integrated Policy Design and Implementation for Sustainable Development* (Evelynne Change and Matthew Stilwell). From UNEP Charles Arden-

Clarke and Fatima Chaudhri, and Rene Vossenaar, Ulrich Hoffmann, Sophia Twarog and Nuria Castells from UNCTAD reviewed and provided valuable input to the training module. Vera Weick also provided valuable input to the background papers and the module and coordinated its publication. Desiree Leon was responsible for processing the publication and provided administrative support.

United Nations Environment Programme

Economics and Trade Branch

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the overall coordinating organisation for environmental activities within the United Nations system. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) is one of the branches of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). ETB examines how economics, trade and finance interact with the environment at local, regional, and global levels, and how these linkages in turn affect development. Through an increased awareness of these relationships, the Branch encourages decision makers in governments to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations when developing policies for sustainable development. Its primary mission is to assist governments, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to enhance their institutional and human capacities for integrating environmental considerations in development planning and decision-making.

The work programme of the Economics and Trade Branch consists of four main components: economics, trade, financial services and integrated assessment and planning. These elements are underpinned by a capacity building effort that covers the main elements of the ETB's work programme.

- The economics component focuses on enhancing the capacities of countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to develop and implement assessment tools and economic instruments.
- The trade component focuses on integrated assessment of trade-related policies, enhancing synergies between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the WTO, and capacity building for environment, trade and sustainable development.
- As policies in the financial and insurance sectors play an increasingly important role today in influencing sustainable development, ETB's finance component seeks to research, catalyse and support proactive initiatives within these sectors.

- The component on integrated assessment and planning focuses on review of macroeconomic policies and trade and agricultural policies in particular. It seeks to enhance the design and implementation of integrated policies to maximize sustainable development gains with a focus on environment, poverty alleviation and trade promotion.

ETB is strengthening its work to enhance the capacity of developing and transition countries to alleviate poverty and to holistically address the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. In this context, it is working closely with governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, NGOs and affected communities, to build capacity for integrated policy design and implementation.

This effort builds on UNEP's trade and environment capacity building program and its country-based work on assessment and policy design. It responds to requests by governments for capacity building on policies to secure sustainable development, with a focus on poverty alleviation. In undertaking this work, UNEP is building on existing partnerships, in particular the joint UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF), as well as its collaboration with the Secretariats of the MEAs and the WTO.

UNEP's goal is to work closely with a broader range of partner organisations – at the national, regional and international level – to promote a cooperative, coordinated and cost-effective approach to capacity building that is demand-driven, and meets the specific needs of its recipients. The overarching aim is to help implement the outcomes and recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the UN Millennium Declaration, and other important international meetings and conferences.

Further information on UNEP's assessment and policy design tools and training materials is available at the website www.unep.ch/etu and through the Online UNEP EarthPrint Bookshop.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNCTAD is the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Agenda 21, UNCTAD X and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg have all called upon UNCTAD to promote the integration of trade, environment and development policies. UNCTAD's mandate has been implemented through intergovernmental deliberations, policy analysis, empirical studies, briefings, workshops and seminars, using both budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. UNCTAD's activities span a full spectrum of trade and environment issues, which are being addressed from a development perspective. An overview of UNCTAD's work is published in the new annual *Trade and Environment Review*.

Since the early 1990s, UNCTAD has conducted a specific capacity building programme on environment, trade and development. In recent years, the TED TC/CB (Trade, Environment and Development, Technical Cooperation, and Capacity Building) programme has undergone a major change in structure, size and strategy. Activities are increasingly carried out in the framework of longer-term projects, which facilitate follow-up and appropriate sequencing of activities to obtain the desired results. A recent UNCTAD publication (TD/B/WP (XLI)/CRP.1) outlines UNCTAD's vision and strategy concerning the TED TC/CB programme, including: objectives; characteristics; geographical and substantive focus; the integrated set of activities offered; steps taken to secure sustainability of impacts; communication; cooperation with other providers of TC/CB; and the use of indicators of performance and impact. The growth in the programme responds to the UNCTAD X mandate and to growing demands from developing countries following the inclusion of some trade and environment issues in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiating agenda at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001, as well as taking practical initiatives to follow-up recent recommendations by UNCTAD's Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and

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