

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD



TRAINING MANUAL

ON DEVELOPING JOINT BIOTRADE AND REDD+ PROJECTS



UNITED NATIONS

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For further information on the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, please consult the following website: <http://unctad.org/biotrade>; or contact: biotrade@unctad.org.

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Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared by Lorena Jaramillo and Malick Kane (UNCTAD), Lawrence Rimmer and Beatriz García (Forests Alive), Isaura Frondizi (UNCTAD consultant) and Fernanda Siqueira.

This publication benefited from inputs and support from Mariona Cusi, David Vivas Eugui, Ivonne Paredes, Lalen Lleander and Henrique Pacini (UNCTAD), Verena de Almeda, Angela Duque, Giovanni Ginatta, Catalina Sosa and Daniel Valenzuela (UNCTAD consultants), José Antonio Gómez and Diana Mejía (Corporacion BioComercio Sostenible) and Pedro Soares (IDESAM).

UNCTAD gratefully acknowledges the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland for funding this publication.

UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2015/1
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Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| List of acronyms..... | 5 |
| Background..... | 6 |
| Module 1 Introduction to BioTrade: Principles, criteria, approaches, methodologies and guidelines..... | 7 |
| 1.1 What is biodiversity? | 7 |
| 1.2 What is BioTrade? | 7 |
| 1.3 What is the Convention on Biological Diversity and how does it relate to BioTrade? | 7 |
| BioTrade and the Convention on Biological Diversity | 8 |
| 1.4 The BioTrade principles and criteria | 8 |
| 1.5 Who are the BioTrade stakeholders/actors? | 9 |
| 1.6 What are BioTrade sectors? | 9 |
| 1.7 What are BioTrade products and services? | 10 |
| 1.8 What is a BioTrade value chain?..... | 10 |
| Definition | 10 |
| The value chain approach..... | 10 |
| 1.9 Overview of UNCTAD BioTrade methodologies for the sustainable management of wild-collected species | 11 |
| 1.10 How are BioTrade activities monitored? | 12 |
| 1.11 What are the biodiversity-related, social and economic benefits of BioTrade? | 13 |
| Module 2 Introduction to REDD+: Project design, implementation and carbon trading..... | 14 |
| 2.1 What is REDD+? | 14 |
| 2.2 Who is involved in REDD+ projects? | 15 |
| 2.3 Where do REDD+ projects take place? | 15 |
| 2.4 What are the basic requirements for REDD+? | 16 |
| 2.5 What are the basic steps of a REDD+ project? | 16 |
| 2.6 What are the existing carbon markets?..... | 17 |
| 2.7 How are REDD+ carbon credits commercialized? | 17 |
| 2.8 What are the existing standards for REDD+? | 18 |
| Main voluntary market standards | 18 |
| Capturing co-benefits..... | 19 |
| 2.9 What are the existing methodologies for REDD+? | 20 |
| Verified Carbon Standard methodologies | 20 |
| The American Carbon Registry and Plan Vivo | 20 |
| 2.10 What are the outcomes of a REDD+ project? | 21 |
| 2.11 How are the benefits of REDD+ projects shared among the stakeholders? | 21 |
| 2.12 How are REDD+ projects monitored? | 22 |
| Module 3 Synergies between BioTrade and REDD+..... | 24 |
| 3.1 Why combine BioTrade and REDD+? | 24 |
| 3.2 What are the synergies between BioTrade and REDD+ goals? | 24 |
| 3.3 Implementing BioTrade and REDD+: National or project-level approaches..... | 25 |
| BioTrade | 25 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| REDD+ | 26 |
| Guidelines for combining BioTrade and REDD+ | 26 |
| 3.4 What are the key differences between BioTrade and REDD+? | 26 |
| 3.5 What are the opportunities in combining BioTrade and REDD+? | 27 |
| Combining costs and benefits | 27 |
| Offsetting the value chain | 27 |
| Integrating capacity-building and workshops | 28 |
| Module 4 Developing and implementing BioTrade and REDD+ projects | 29 |
| Step 1 – Identify project area and species/ecosystems with BioTrade potential..... | 29 |
| Step 2 – Identify stakeholders and the community engagement strategy | 30 |
| Step 3 – Define the baseline and methodology | 31 |
| Step 3.1 What is the baseline scenario? | 31 |
| Step 3.2 How is a methodology selected?..... | 32 |
| Step 3.3 What are risk, leakage and additionality? | 32 |
| Step 3.4 How are carbon stocks assessed? | 33 |
| Step 3.5 What are the statistical requirements? | 34 |
| Step 3.6 How is BioTrade integrated into the REDD+ baseline work? | 35 |
| Step 4 – Define the project activities and monitoring plans | 38 |
| Step 4.1 What is the project scenario? | 38 |
| Step 4.2 How does the Climate, Community and Biodiversity standard fit into the project scenario? | 38 |
| Step 4.3 How is the BioTrade strategy developed?..... | 39 |
| Step 4.4 How does the project ensure good practices? | 41 |
| Step 5 – Validate the project | 41 |
| Step 5.1 What is validation? | 41 |
| Step 5.2 What are non-conformity responses? | 42 |
| Step 5.3 How is a validator selected? | 42 |
| Step 6 – Monitor the project, and commercialization | 42 |
| Step 6.1 What is verification under REDD+?..... | 42 |
| Step 6.2 How are carbon credits issued? | 42 |
| References..... | 46 |
| Annex I Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Nagoya Protocol..... | 47 |
| Annex II REDD+ project timeline..... | 48 |

List of acronyms

| | |
|-----------|--|
| ACR | American Carbon Registry |
| ADPML | Avoided Deforestation Project (Manaus) Limited |
| BTIAS | BioTrade organizations |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CCB | Climate, Community and Biodiversity standard |
| CDM | Clean Development Mechanism |
| CIFOR | Centre for International Forestry Research |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| CSD | Commission on Sustainable Development |
| Ecam | Amazon Conservation Team |
| ERT | Emission reduction tons |
| ETS | Emissions Trading Scheme (European Union) |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FPIC | Free prior and informed consent |
| FUNBIO | Brazilian Biodiversity Fund |
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH |
| IDESAM | Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IPPN | Instituto Peruano de Productos Naturales |
| MEA | Multilateral environmental agreement |
| NCRs | Non-conformity responses |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| PDD | Project design document |
| PNPB | National BioTrade Promotion Programme (Peru) |
| PNBSE | National Sustainable BioTrade Programme in Ecuador |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks |
| REDD+ SES | REDD+ social and environmental standards |
| UNCDD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| VCS | Verified Carbon Standard |
| VCUs | voluntary carbon units |
| VVB | validation/verification body |

Background

Biodiversity is the source of many products and services utilized by society and its sustainable use is thus fundamental for long-term sustainable development. Natural resources are located mainly in rural areas, where over 70 per cent of the world's poor live and directly depend on these resources to cover 90 per cent of their needs in terms of food, fuel, medicine, shelter and transportation.¹

The BioTrade Initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) seeks to generate additional economic opportunities and income through the sustainable commercialization of biodiversity-based products and services. BioTrade encompasses activities ranging from the production to the sale of products and services derived from native biodiversity. Its implementation is based on compliance with a set of environmental, economic and social sustainability criteria aimed at generating economic growth and sustainable livelihoods for rural populations while conserving biodiversity.²

Introduced by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD+ offers financial incentives to developing countries for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the conservation of forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests. It therefore represents an opportunity for integrating BioTrade activities into climate - friendly policies, thereby strengthening local economic activities in forest buffer zones.

The present training manual is intended to support the development and implementation of joint BioTrade and REDD+ projects in order to maximize benefits and synergies. It includes a step-by-step project methodology that has been specifically designed for project proponents and developers. The manual also provides policy advisers and other interested stakeholders with key concepts and practical considerations on BioTrade and REDD+, the synergies between the two approaches and the potential for combining them.

The content of the manual draws on the experience of the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative in promoting trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development. It also integrates Forests Alive's experience in developing REDD+ projects. Finally, the manual builds on the findings of the project "Strengthening the capacity of policymakers and business leaders in three BioTrade beneficiary countries [Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador] in integrating REDD+ projects into BioTrade strategies" which was formulated and implemented by UNCTAD between 2010 and 2012 under the United Nations Development Account programme.

¹ CBD (2009).

² UNCTAD (2012b).

Module 1 Introduction to BioTrade: Principles, criteria, approaches, methodologies and guidelines

Learning objectives

This module will provide the reader with the necessary information to:

1. Describe BioTrade and its principles and stakeholders
2. Define a value chain and recognize the key elements of the UNCTAD value chain development methodology
3. Outline the social, environmental and economic benefits of BioTrade

1.1 What is biodiversity?

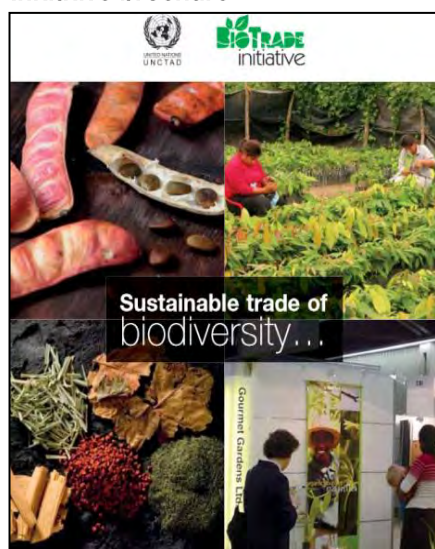
“Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”.³

Article 2 of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

In addition to ecosystems and species, biodiversity also includes genetic resources.

1.2 What is BioTrade?

Figure 1: Cover of a BioTrade Initiative brochure



UNCTAD defines BioTrade as those activities related to the collection, production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity (species and ecosystems) according to environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria⁴ known as the BioTrade principles and criteria.

The BioTrade Initiative was launched by UNCTAD in 1996 to stimulate trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with the objectives of the CBD.

The BioTrade Initiative operates through partners at the national, regional and international levels to implement its concept, principles and methodologies. It places a particular emphasis on supporting the creation and strengthening of biodiversity-based sectors, value chains and businesses that fulfil its principles and criteria. The operationalization of the Initiative has been supported with funding from donor countries and agencies, especially SECO of Switzerland.

1.3 What is the Convention on Biological Diversity and how does it relate to BioTrade?

The CBD was one of the treaties adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference) in 1992.⁵

The CBD has three main objectives:

1. The conservation of biological diversity;
2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

³ An ecosystem can be defined as “a system of complex interactions of populations between themselves and with their environment” or as the “joint functioning and interaction of these two compartments (populations and environment) in a functional unit of variable size” (FAO (2003)).

⁴ UNCTAD (2007).

⁵ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992. Also known as the Earth Summit. For more information, see <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>.

BioTrade and the Convention on Biological Diversity

The activities of the BioTrade Initiative aim to support the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD at the ecosystems and species levels.⁶ Moreover, BioTrade supports article 11 of the CBD on incentive measures:

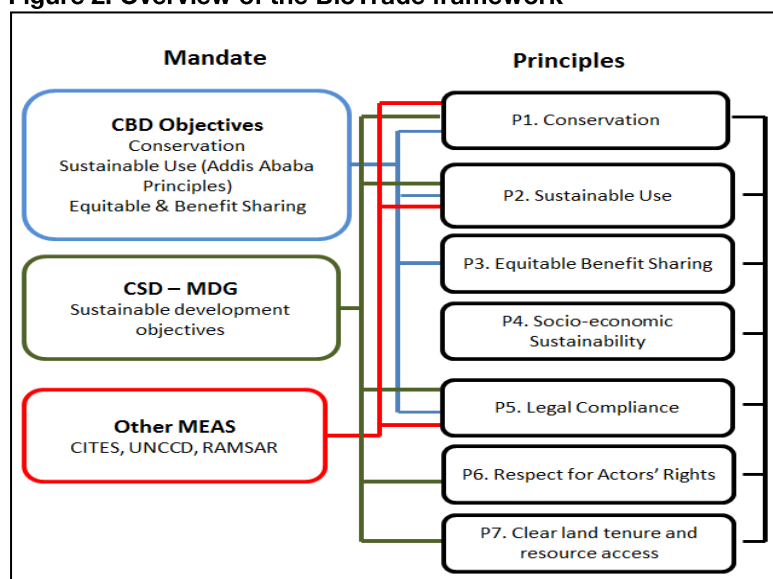
“Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity”.

Subsequent decisions adopted by the Parties to the CBD at the sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) also provide guidance to BioTrade activities such as the Biodiversity Strategic Plan (2011–2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (see annex I). Finally, given the contribution of the BioTrade Initiative to CBD objectives, it has also been referenced in several CBD COP decisions related to incentive measures, promoting business engagement, biodiversity and poverty eradication and development and sustainable use, among others.

1.4 The BioTrade principles and criteria

The BioTrade principles and criteria provide guidance to BioTrade partners and practitioners on how to promote biodiversity conservation through sustainable commercial use. They were developed following extensive consultations with stakeholders and BioTrade partners.⁷ The principles are linked to the objectives of the CBD, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals and other multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as outlined in figure 2.8

Figure 2: Overview of the BioTrade framework



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