



Initial views on the discussion paper “Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1)”

- Contribution by UNCTAD BioTrade, CITES Secretariat, CAF, PromPerú, UEBT and FLEDGE -

1. Background

Biodiversity is being lost at significant rates, as stated in the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), due to both direct and indirect drivers such as deforestation, land fragmentation, land use change, climate change, pollution, or the overexploitation of natural resources. This calls for urgent action to ensure the conservation of our planet while not undermining prospects for long term prosperity and development. Innovative partnerships with all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, local communities and civil society, can significantly scale-up biodiversity protection, ecosystem conservation, restoration and sustainable use across the globe by building on existing experiences and mobilizing resources.

In this context, UNCTAD and other BioTrade partners welcome the opportunity to provide views on the discussion document on the scope and content of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1). We support the proposal for a comprehensive, knowledge based, participatory, and transparent consultation process. The Post-2020 framework will aim at generating transformational as opposed to incremental change. This will necessarily require the participation and engagement of public and private sectors actors, as well as, local communities and civil society representatives involved in biodiversity-based sectors.

2. The contribution of sustainable use and trade, including BioTrade, to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

It has been noted that trade as a form of indirect pressure on biodiversity was insufficiently reflected in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹. Under the submissions that proposed specific wording for targets were a “target related to the impacts of trade”.² In terms of implementation tools, some submissions also emphasized “the need for full and effective financing from all sources”.³ By contrast, the role of trade is well recognized under the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a critical means of implementation, supporting the achievement of several goals, such as doubling the exports of least developed countries (17.11), or removing harmful fisheries subsidies (14.6). As we move forward, it may therefore be relevant to address the role of trade, including its potential positive contributions, in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The BioTrade Initiative promoted by UNCTAD and its partners is one example of how trade can be used to make a positive contribution to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. BioTrade refers to the collection, production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from biodiversity under environmental, social and economic

¹ *The Preliminary Synthesis and Analysis of Views, UN Doc UNEP/CBD/COP/14/INF/16, para 25(d)(i)*

² *Ibid, para 16(g).*

³ *Ibid. para 18.*

sustainability principles and criteria – known as the BioTrade Principles and Criteria.⁴ These Principles and Criteria build on the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity* adopted by the CBD COP in 2004,⁵ and provide an important framework for guiding governments, the private sector, and civil society practices on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with Articles 10 and 11 of the CBD.⁶

Today, over 45 countries⁷ have developed BioTrade supply chains in the personal care, pharmaceutical, food, fashion, ornamental flora and fauna, handicrafts, textiles and natural fibers, and sustainable tourism sectors and in forestry-based carbon credit activities. These initiatives play a critical role in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources. They generate business opportunities, economic growth and sustainable livelihoods for more than 5 million people worldwide while ensuring the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity.⁸

UNCTAD and other BioTrade partners contribute to the development of biodiversity-based sectors through value chain, livelihood, adaptive management and ecosystem approaches. They also support and engage in biodiversity-based innovation in line with access and benefit-sharing (ABS) rules and principles.⁹ BioTrade thus has proven to be an effective model for advancing all three objectives of the CBD and further the implementation of the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD*, also known as the Nagoya Protocol. Given the recent CBD COP decisions calling for enhancing synergies between the Convention and its Protocols, BioTrade offers a good example that bridges the work programmes related to the Convention (for example sustainable use), the Cartagena Protocol (in relation to work on synthetic biology and the related) and the Nagoya Protocol (on ABS issues). Finally, BioTrade also plays a role in addressing the need to engage businesses in achieving CBD objectives.

These experiences highlight the critical role that the collection, production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from biodiversity under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria can play for local communities and business commitments to mainstream biodiversity, and as a means of jointly achieving the SDGs¹⁰ and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Incorporating trade and sustainable use into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework could therefore prompt countries, including CBD Parties to adopt laws and policies helping to achieve broader goals around the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Moreover, it could foster interest of global financing facilities in promoting ethical trade as driver for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

CBD COP decisions over the past decade have recognized that initiatives such as BioTrade are part of the solution, and can contribute to fostering communities and private sector interest for biodiversity

⁴ UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative: BioTrade Principles and Criteria, *UN Doc UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/4*.

⁵ *Decision VII/12, Annex II*.

⁶ *BioTrade Initiative: Inputs for its Strategic Direction 2020, UN Doc UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2012/7, p. 12*.

⁷ *The countries include: Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Asia: Indonesia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Turkey, Viet Nam. Americas: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America. Europe: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine.*

⁸ *20 Years of BioTrade: Connecting People, the Planet and Markets (2017), UN Doc. UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2016/4*.

⁹ *Biodiversity and Trade: Promoting Sustainable use through Business Engagement (2016), UN Doc UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2015/2*.

¹⁰ See e.g. *UNCTAD Annual Report 2017*, and the publication on *20 years of BioTrade: Connecting people, the planet and markets (2017), UN Doc. UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2016/4*.

conservation, restoration and engagement in mainstreaming biodiversity within the global economy. Annex 1 provides an illustrative list of the various COP mandates and decisions supporting the need to consider the potential role that trade can play in the biodiversity agenda. The positive role of trade has also been mainstreamed in the Resolutions and Decisions of the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), whose main objectives are to ensure that the international trade in specimens of listed species are legal, sustainable, and traceable. For example, Resolution 16.6 on CITES and livelihoods provides a particularly important entry point for BioTrade.

In conclusion, UNCTAD and its partners stand ready to continue contributing substantively and act as focal point for trade and biodiversity in the process leading to the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on the positive role that ethical and sustainable trade can play in implementing the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and achieving the 2050 vision of *“Living in Harmony with Nature”*. UNCTAD will also continue to consult and promote the engagement and participation of its BioTrade partners and practitioners in the process.

3. BioTrade partners supporting the present submission

- UNCTAD BioTrade
- CITES Secretariat
- Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
- PromPerú
- Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)
- Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE)

4. About UNCTAD BioTrade and partners

For over two decades, UNCTAD’s BioTrade Initiative and its partners have been building the business case for trade as a positive incentive to enhance the importance of biodiversity for economic growth in developing countries, particularly those endowed with rich natural resources.¹¹

UNCTAD has repeatedly affirmed the positive role of trade in sustainably sourced biodiversity products for development (e.g. the 2008 Accra Declaration, 2012 Doha Declaration and 2016 Nairobi Maafikiano). UNCTAD’s important role in promoting trade in biodiversity products and services produced in a sustainable manner has also been reaffirmed for over a decade, including at UNCTAD XIV in 2016, where UNCTAD’s 195 Member States recalled the need for UNCTAD to “[p]romote sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services to strengthen the sustainability of biodiversity and foster sustainable growth, in close cooperation with other relevant agencies where appropriate.”¹²

Formal cooperation exists between UNCTAD and biodiversity-related MEAs, including **CBD** and the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**. The collaboration between CBD Secretariat and UNCTAD on BioTrade goes back to October 1997, and has been affirmed and strengthened in numerous COP decisions since then. Similarly, the long-standing partnership between CITES and UNCTAD aims to ensuring the conservation of species, enhancing the livelihoods of the poor in remote and marginal areas, and promoting business opportunities for entrepreneurs that comply with CITES requirements and national legislation.

¹¹ *20 years of BioTrade: Connecting people, the planet and markets (2017), IV BioTrade Congress: Trade and Biodiversity Conservation (2017) UN Doc. UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/2.*

¹² *UNCTAD XIV Outcome: Nairobi Maafikiano and Nairobi Azimio, UN Doc. UNCTAD/ISS/2016/1 at para 76(q)*

The **Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)** is also a key partner under BioTrade and has implemented the CAF-GEF-UNEP regional BioTrade Project (see www.andeanbiotrade.org). Jointly with CITES Secretariat, UNCTAD and the International Oceans Institute, CAF is also fostering the development of Blue BioTrade to promote sustainable and equitable economic sectors and value chains based on marine and coastal resources¹³.

Other key partner is **PromPerú**, is an agency attached to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism. It seeks to promote the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability within the productive processes of exporting companies, increasing the competitiveness of the goods and services that are offered in international markets. The institution seeks to strengthen national capacities by contributing to the development of programs in regions that promote BioTrade, in compliance with the National BioTrade Strategy and Action Plan by 2021, articulating with other institutions.

In 2007, the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative supported the creation of the **Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)**, a non-profit association that promotes “sourcing with respect” of ingredients from biodiversity. UEBT supports and verifies companies’ commitments to Ethical BioTrade - innovation and sourcing practices that contribute to a world in which people and biodiversity thrive. Working with UEBT is a way for businesses to demonstrate impact to consumers, governments and other supply chain actors. A key initiative of the UEBT, is the Biodiversity Barometer which is used as an indicator under the Aichi Target 1 which measures how “*people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably*”¹⁴.

Finally, the **Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE)** based in India, is also a BioTrade partner. It contributes to issues of capacity building and awareness raising on issues including links with ABS.

¹³ Blue BioTrade: Harnessing Marine Trade to Support Ecological Sustainability and Economic Equity (2018), UN Doc UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2018/11

¹⁴ More information on the UEBT Biodiversity Barometer can be found in: <http://www.biodiversitybarometer.org/united-nations-target>

Annex 1.: COP Mandates

A. Business/Private Sector Engagement

The CBD COP has adopted numerous decisions on biotrade and the private sector for over a decade. These can be linked back to CBD Article 10(e), which calls on Parties to “as far as possible and as appropriate... encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.”

COP 8 noted “that further work on ways and means of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with environmentally sound products, such as that developed by the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, would help to promote good biodiversity practice among business and industry.”¹⁵ COP 9 called for the continued “compilation and dissemination of information on the business case for biodiversity, including experiences generated in the framework of the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative, through the clearing-house mechanism, the CBD newsletter on business, and mainstream business forums”¹⁶ and dissemination of “tools and best practice of companies involved in biotrade.”¹⁷ COP 10 recognized the relevance of existing developments and work processes under various forums and relevant international organizations, including the BioTrade Initiative, and invited Parties to “identify a range of options for incorporating biodiversity into business practices that take into account existing developments under various forums, including relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations, such ... the Biotrade Initiative of [UNCTAD].”¹⁸

COP 12 encouraged businesses to “increase, as appropriate, participation in and cooperation with the BioTrade Initiative of [UNCTAD], and initiatives of other organizations involved in biotrade, at the national, regional and global levels, that are committed to the sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable harvesting practices, and access and benefit - sharing under the framework of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.”¹⁹ Most recently, COP 14 acknowledged “the work of various international organizations, relevant partner organizations and initiatives to advance biodiversity-related practices by businesses, such as that of.. [UNCTAD] and its BioTrade Initiative.”²⁰

B. Cooperation

COP 10 requested the Executive Secretary to continue cooperation on biotrade and other trade-related matters with UNCTAD.²¹ COP 12 called upon the BioTrade Initiative to “continue to strengthen its technical support to Governments, companies and other stakeholders to enable them to incorporate biotrade, as well as sustainable harvesting practices within national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate, highlighting the importance of biotrade as an engine for sustainable use of biodiversity and its conservation through the involvement of the private sector.”²² COP 13 called upon the “Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, in close collaboration with.. [UNCTAD]... to continue to strengthen its work to enhance coherence and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and any follow-up to this strategic plan...”²³ COP 14 requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further coordinate the “Caring for Coasts” initiative

¹⁵ Decision VIII/17. *Private-sector engagement*, page 3.

¹⁶ Decision IX/26 on *Promoting Business Engagement*, Annex, para 2.

¹⁷ Decision IX/26 on *Promoting Business Engagement*, Annex, para 6.

¹⁸ Decision X/21. *Business engagement*, para 1(c).

¹⁹ Decision XII/10. *Business engagement*, para 2(f).

²⁰ Decision XIV/3. *Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors*, preamble.

²¹ Decision X/20. *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*, para 19.

²² Decision XII/6. *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*, para 18.

²³ Decision XIII/24. *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*, para 18.

with ... [UNCTAD] in the context of its Blue Bio Trade Initiative, in order to advance synergies in their work on the management and restoration of coastal ecosystems worldwide.”²⁴

C. Incentive Measures

The CBD COP has adopted decisions on biotrade as an incentive measure under CBD Article 11 for over a decade. In 2008, COP 9 invited the BioTrade Initiative to “continue its work on trade promotion for biodiversity-based products which are produced in a sustainable manner and compatible with the three objectives of the [CBD], through capacity-building, enhancing market access, promoting enabling environments and engaging relevant public and private actors.”²⁵ The COP also invited UNCTAD to “undertake... further studies on positive incentive measures at local, national, regional and international levels, their advantages as well as their potential limitations and risks, their cost-effectiveness, potential implications for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities, and their consistency with other international obligations...”²⁶ It also invited organizations such as UNCTAD to “promote scientific and technical cooperation among Parties on the design and implementation of incentive measures, including through international courses and workshops for the exchange of experiences, and to provide technical support, capacity-building and training... (c) For the promotion of biodiversity-based products which are produced in a sustainable manner ("biotrade").”²⁷

COP 10 welcomed UNCTAD’s work on incentives and called upon it “to support the efforts at global, regional and national levels ... in promoting positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in assessing the values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, and *invites* them to continue and intensify this work with a view to raising awareness on, and promoting common understanding of ... the promotion of positive incentive measures...”²⁸

COP 11 noted the “support of international organizations and initiatives, including... [UNCTAD] to efforts at the global, regional and national levels in identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, in promoting positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the [CBD] and other relevant international obligations, and in assessing and mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, and invites these and other relevant organizations and initiatives to continue and further intensify this work, including continued support for capacity-building at the national level.”²⁹

D. Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication

COP 10 encouraged “synergies between ongoing initiatives linking biodiversity, development and poverty eradication, such as the Equator Initiative, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa, the LifeWeb Initiative, the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Biodiversity Technology Initiative, and the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation.”³⁰ It also invited “Parties, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations to ... [w]elcome and strengthen initiatives that link biodiversity, development, and poverty alleviation, for example the BioTrade Initiative of [UNCTAD].”³¹

²⁴ Decision XIV/30. Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, para 16.

²⁵ Decision IX/6 Incentive Measures (Article 11), para 13.

²⁶ Decision IX/6 Incentive Measures (Article 11), para 15.

²⁷ Decision IX/6 Incentive Measures (Article 11), para 16.

²⁸ Decision X/44 Incentive measures, para 3.

²⁹ Decision XI/30. Incentive measures, para 10.

³⁰ Decision X/6. Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development, para 12.

³¹ Decision X/32. Sustainable use of biodiversity, para. 3.