



UNEP-UNCTAD  
Capacity Building Task Force  
on Trade, Environment and Development

***CBTF Programme for LDCs: A Short Summary***<sup>†</sup>

This proposal presents a regionally-structured capacity building programme for least developed countries (LDCs) within the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF).

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<sup>†</sup> A full 25 page proposal is available upon request.

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## Executive Summary<sup>†</sup>

UNEP and UNCTAD are proposing a capacity building programme tailored to meet the needs of LDCs on trade, environment and development. The Programme will be implemented within the framework of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), which aims to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to effectively address trade-environment-development issues ([www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf](http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf)). The Programme will support regional and country-specific training workshops; thematic research, country projects and regional policy dialogues on selected topics of national and regional interest to LDCs.

By enhancing synergies between UNEP and UNCTAD, and drawing on the two organisations' technical expertise and comparative advantages, the CBTF aims to make resources available to a wide range of beneficiaries and significantly extends the United Nation's capability to respond to the growing need for capacity building on the complex trade-environment-development policy interface.

### ► Objectives

CBTF objectives are to help beneficiaries:

- raise awareness on, and undertake comprehensive analyses of, the relationships between trade, environment and development;
- assess the environmental and developmental impacts of trade policies, as well as the trade and developmental implications of environmental policies with a view to maximising the potential benefits;
- develop and implement policy packages to promote integrated national trade, environment and development policies;
- explore approaches to address trade-environment-development issues at the domestic level with national stakeholders, and at regional and global levels with international experts, practitioners and negotiators;
- participate more fully and effectively in international trade-environment-development deliberations, including negotiations on multilateral trade and environmental agreements;
- promote the interests of LDCs in the context of international negotiations on trade and the environment;
- access information from, and build cooperation with, relevant organisations working in the trade-environment-development domain.

The CBTF employs a partnership-based approach to capacity building, comprising five integrated and complementary activities (a) thematic research; (b) country projects; (c) training; (d) policy dialogue; and (e) networking and information exchange

### ► Beneficiaries

Direct and indirect beneficiaries of CBTF activities include:

- government officials from ministries of trade, finance, industry, transport, environment, agriculture, natural resources and foreign affairs, other policy-makers, negotiators for multilateral trade and environment agreements;
- private sector decision-makers and practitioners managing the production of goods, commodities and services for export and allocating human, natural and environmental resources for input to production and recycling/restoration processes;
- academic and nongovernmental organisation experts in trade, environment and development, including experts with focused experience on sectoral issues;
- local and community representatives from civil society seeking to maximise and balance social welfare for their constituents;
- intergovernmental, regional and bilateral development cooperation organisation planners, programme coordinators and practitioners seeking to promote sustainable development in countries undertaking CBTF activities.

<sup>†</sup> A full 25 page proposal is available upon request.

### ► Collaboration with other Organisations

The CBTF works closely with the WTO as well as other relevant organisations within the United Nations system in particular UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, UNU, UNITAR, as well as the regional UN Economic and Social Commissions. The CBTF also coordinates its activities with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, particularly from developing countries, and with regional and sub-regional organisations and trade agreements. Additionally, the CBTF promotes collaboration with national and regional institutions. Taken together, these efforts will eliminate possible redundancy of CBTF activities and projects, and also promote synergies between organisations, and enhance cost-effectiveness of spending on capacity-building.

### ► Issues

Following consultations with LDCs, it is envisaged that the programme activities will focus on:

- Poverty and the Environment
- Market Access
- Niche Markets including Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs)
- Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
- Harnessing Traditional Knowledge for Development and Trade
- Exports of Domestically Prohibited Goods (DPGs)
- Trade Liberalisation, Environment and Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Tourism

A brief description of these issues, and likely CBTF objectives and related activities for them, is provided in the Annex.

It is envisaged that activities will initially focus on regional training workshops and policy dialogues. These activities will help to raise awareness and identify priorities. Subsequently, thematic studies and country projects will be promoted, including in response to proposals from individual LDCs.

To provide a foundation for activities of the programme, CBTF training modules covering each of these topics have been developed within an UNCTAD *TrainForTrade* Package on Trade, Environment and Development. Currently in English, the package will also be available in French and Spanish in 2001, and in Portuguese in early 2002.

### ► Regional Approach

To respond to requests received for CBTF activities from LDCs, the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF – in close cooperation with UNDP and UN Economic and Social Commissions in each region, other intergovernmental organisations, regional organisations and civil society in LDCs (developmental NGOs, smallholders; small and medium-sized enterprises and others) – will implement Programme activities in a regional fashion (see table below). The Programme will support regional and country-specific training workshops of the UNCTAD TrainForTrade Programme and thematic research, country projects and regional policy dialogues on selected topics of national and regional interest to LDCs.

Region	LDCs
Africa Francophone	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Dem Rep of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo
Africa Lusophone	Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome
Africa Anglophone	Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Yemen
South Pacific	Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

It is envisaged that each regional component will focus on a limited number of key issues identified by the LDCs in each region. A preliminary selection is provided below.

### ■ Francophone LDCs in Africa

The CBTF, in cooperation with partners mentioned below, will focus on key issues, including:

- **Training and policy dialogue.** Organisation of a regional TrainForTrade workshop.
- **Market access.** Building capacities to respond to health and environmental requirements and to increase export competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional exports, including EPPs.
- **Economic, environmental and social implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation.** Case studies on potential environmental and social effects of trade liberalisation, focusing on environmentally sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and cotton. Promote pilot projects for the effective implementation of policies and measures identified.
- **Harnessing Traditional Knowledge (TK) for Development and Trade.** National and regional workshops to examine ways and means of harnessing TK for development and trade.
- **Domestically Prohibited Goods (DPGs).** Activities under the CBTF will aim at examining practical issues dealing with the export of DPGs such as, the lack of information and infrastructure to adequately monitor, and where appropriate regulate trade in these products.
- **Policy coordination at the national and multilateral levels.** Activities to promote and enhance policy analysis and coordination at the national and multilateral levels.
- **Sustainable Tourism.** Building capacity for enhancing and promoting sustainable tourism at the national and regional level.

Potential Partners: Développement Tiers Monde (ENDA), Solagral, UNDP offices, Agence Internationale de la Francophonie, French Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (Direction générale de la coopération internationale et du développement), Economic Community of West African States, Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA).

### ■ Lusophone LDCs in Africa

The CBTF, in cooperation with partners mentioned below, will focus on key issues, including:

- **Training.** Shortened version of the TrainForTrade package, adjusted to the conditions and needs of countries in the region and translated into Portuguese.
- **Market access and export diversification.** Building capacities to respond to health and environmental requirements and to increase export competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional exports, including environmentally preferable products (EPPs). This activity would initially focus on Mozambique.
- **Effective participation in international deliberations.** Strengthening capacity to participate effectively in international deliberations and negotiations on trade and environment issues. In the case of Angola and Mozambique this refers in particular to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the WTO.
- **Policy coordination.** Promoting trade-environment policy coordination at the national level.

Potential Partners: The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLC) has offered to assist in the translation of studies and training modules into Portuguese. The Government of Brazil is interested in supporting the project by identifying Brazilian institutions and experts with relevant expertise, through the ABC (Brazilian Agency for Cooperation).

### ■ Anglophone and other LDCs in Africa

The CBTF, in cooperation with partners mentioned below, will focus on key needs identified by LDCs in this subregion. These may include the following:

- **Training and policy dialogue.** Organisation of a regional TrainForTrade workshop.
- **Market access.** Building capacities to respond to health and environmental requirements and to increase export competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional exports, including environmentally preferable products (EPPs).
- **Traditional knowledge.** Exchange of national experiences of countries in the region concerning the use of traditional knowledge for development and trade.

- **Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs).** Possibilities for regional cooperation in the indigenous development of ESTs and in promoting access to and transfer of ESTs
- **Domestically Prohibited Goods (DPGs).** Activities under the CBTF will aim at examining practical aspects of dealing with the export of DPGs such as, the lack of information and infrastructure to adequately monitor, and where appropriate regulate trade in these products.
- **Economic, environmental and social implications of globalisation and trade liberalisation.** Country Projects on environmental and social effects of trade liberalisation in environmentally sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and where applicable, pollution intensive processing and manufacturing industries.

Potential Partners: Commonwealth Secretariat, Organisation of African Unity and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern Centre, and Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD).

### ■ LDCs in Asia

The CBTF, will focus on key needs identified by LDCs in this subregion. These may include the following:

- **Sub-regional training workshops.** Using the TrainForTrade package.
- **Sustainable development issues in the context of the built-in agenda of the WTO.** Workshops on sustainable development issues of particular interest to the region that arise in the context of the WTO negotiations on agriculture and services.
- **Traditional knowledge.** Exchange of national experiences of countries in the region on harnessing traditional knowledge for development and trade.
- **Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs).** Possibilities for regional cooperation in the indigenous development of ESTs and in promoting access to and transfer of ESTs to South Asian countries.
- **Building regional infrastructure.** Regional cooperation in building and strengthening infrastructure and strengthening capacities to move towards higher health and environmental standards, reducing compliance costs and promoting production of and trade in environmentally preferable products.
- **Exports of domestically prohibited goods.** Regional approaches to address the issue of exports to the region of domestically prohibited goods (DPGs).
- **Trade liberalisation.** Country projects on the environmental and social effects of trade liberalisation, focusing on environmentally sensitive sectors. Promotion of multi-stakeholder approaches to identify problems and packages of response policies and promote their pilot implementation.
- **Policy dialogues.** On key issues being discussed in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and workshops with the participation of major trading partners on issues of regional interest.

Potential Partners: Secretariat of the South Asian Agreement on Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Third World Network (TWN), Local UNDP offices, Commonwealth Secretariat.

### ■ LDCs in the South Pacific

The CBTF, will focus on key issues identified by LDCs in the region. These may include:

- **Training and policy dialogue.** Organisation of a regional TrainForTrade workshop.
- **Sustainable development issues in the context of the built-in agenda of the WTO.** Workshop on sustainable development issues of particular interest to the region in the context of the WTO negotiations on agriculture and services. This may include issues related to fisheries.
- **Traditional knowledge.** Participation of experts from the region in workshops aimed at promoting an exchange of national experiences concerning the use of traditional knowledge for development and trade.
- **Environmentally preferable products (EPPs).** Promotion of production and exports of niche products, including EPPs.
- **Sustainable Tourism.**

Potential Partners: The FORUM secretariat, The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Local UNDP offices, Commonwealth Secretariat, ESCAP, EPOC - ESCAP Pacific Operations Center, South Pacific Commission.

► **Programme Budget**

<b>Region</b>	<b>3-year Budget US \$</b>
Francophone African LDCs	Available from UNEP / UNCTAD
Anglophone African LDCs	
Lusophone African LDCs	
Asian LDCs	
South Pacific LDCs	
<b>Total</b>	

► **UNEP and UNCTAD Focal Points**

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## **Annex: Issues**

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The CBTF programme for LDCs will focus on the issues described briefly below.

### **■ Poverty and Environment**

There are close linkages between poverty and environmental degradation in LDCs. In cooperation with UNDP, the World Bank, other intergovernmental organizations and developmental NGOs, the CBTF seeks to help identify and enhance synergies between economic growth brought about through trade liberalisation, the eradication of poverty, and enhanced environmental protection. The CBTF will assist LDCs in:

- Promoting sustainable management of natural resources in export-oriented activities, through projects designed and implemented at the grassroots level and projects in favour of smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in close cooperation with the developmental NGOs;
- identifying of ways to address trade, environment and development issues in the context of national environmental management plans and similar programmes in LDCs.

### **■ Market Access**

It is important to ensure that initiatives aimed at providing larger and more secure market access to LDCs are not eroded by difficulties in meeting standards in international markets. The CBTF will cooperate with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Bank, the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO), UNDP and UNIDO to promote international cooperation and to help strengthen the capacities of LDCs to respond to health- and environment-related requirements. CBTF will assist LDCs in:

- creating awareness of health and environmental requirements in international markets among government ministries, producers and industry associations;
- improving institutional capacity to develop and/or strengthen domestic standards and regulations, as well as testing and certification facilities;
- exploring regional cooperation;
- enhancing understanding of relevant WTO principles and rules, in particular the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT);
- participating effectively in relevant international debates.

### **■ Niche Markets, including for Environmentally Preferable Products**

Niche markets, including for environmentally preferable products (EPPs), such as organic farming produce, may provide opportunities for LDCs to add value to their exports and achieve export diversification. The CBTF will assist interested LDCs in taking advantage of trading opportunities for several categories of EPPs as well as fairtrade products. CBTF will closely cooperate with other relevant international organisations, such as the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), producer associations in developing countries, buyer groups in developed countries, the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), NGOs and other stakeholders. CBTF will assist LDCs in:

- creating awareness among producers and industry associations;
- identifying existing and potential supply capacities for specific categories of EPPs;
- analysing international market trends;
- removing policy, market and technical obstacles, such as lack of information, technical capacity, and supportive policies;
- identifying policies and measures to make certification more affordable for small producers
- promoting regional cooperation;
- building partnerships between producers/exporters in LDCs and importers/consumer interests in developed countries.

### ■ Environmentally Sound Technologies

LDCs need access to and local adaptation of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) to promote sustainable development. In cooperation with UNIDO, the secretariats of MEAs, regional organizations and other partners, the CBTF will address a range of issues, identified by LDCs, to facilitate their access to and effective use of ESTs. These include:

- raising awareness of provisions in MEAs and other initiatives in favour of developing countries to facilitate access to ESTs and their local adaptation;
- improving knowledge of existing clearing house mechanisms and ESTs resulting for research and development sponsored by the public sector;
- supporting demonstration projects on transfer and efficient use of ESTs in LDCs.
- supporting interested LDCs in designing CDM project portfolios that facilitate access to energy and resource efficient ESTs and assist in promoting such project portfolios among overseas investors;
- assisting interested LDCs in assessing EST needs as they relate to health and environmental standards in international markets and environmentally preferable products;

### ■ Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Many LDCs are vulnerable to the effects of global environmental problems, such as loss of biodiversity, desertification, global warming and dumping of hazardous wastes. In cooperation with the secretariats of relevant MEAs and intergovernmental organizations, CBTF will assist interested LDCs in:

- enhancing domestic policy co-ordination to address trade and development issues that may arise in the implementation of MEAs at the national level;
- participating in the further development of MEAs and in the work of the Conferences of Parties related to the environment-trade-development interface; and
- making effective use of supportive instruments available under MEAs, in particular in the areas of finance, technology and capacity-building.

### ■ Harnessing Traditional Knowledge for Development and Trade

The knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities (referred to as “traditional knowledge”, TK) has many applications that can help in alleviating poverty in rural areas, providing food and medical care, generating incomes for local and indigenous communities, and conserving biodiversity. The UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Systems and National Experiences for Protecting Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices” (Geneva, 30 October to 1 November 2000) emphasised the important role of TK in the development process, in particular in sectors such as traditional medicine, traditional agriculture and folklore/handicrafts. CBTF will work in close cooperation with UNDP, the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO), with the full involvement of indigenous and local communities. The objectives of CBTF in this field are to help interested LDCs in:

- raising awareness of the importance of TK for development;
- identifying capacity building needs to harness TK for their trade and development;
- examining basic conditions for the possible commercialisation of TK (including TK-based innovations);
- examining key concepts relevant for access and benefit sharing and transfer of technology as they relate to TK;
- exchanging national experiences.

### ■ Exports of Domestically Prohibited Goods (DPGs)

LDCs lack the infrastructure (including testing facilities) and other capabilities to monitor and control imports of DPGs. There is a need to examine whether existing instruments, such as the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure embodied in the Rotterdam Convention, the Bio-safety Protocol and the Basel Convention, are sufficient from the perspective of LDCs. In the June 2000 meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, Bangladesh recommended that the DPG issue should be made one of the priority items of the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF (See WT/CTE/W/141). The CBTF, where relevant in cooperation with FAO and WHO, will assist interested LDCs in:

- identifying gaps in existing multilateral instruments and PIC with regard to product coverage and procedures, in particular in the area of human and animal food;
- identifying technical assistance needs;
- participating in discussion in the CTE and overall CBTF activities.

#### ■ Trade Liberalisation, Environment and Sustainable Development

The CBTF will work closely with LDCs to assist them to enhance their institutional and human capacities to assess the environmental impacts of national and multilateral trade policy as well as the impacts of economic development policies. Following such assessments, assistance is provided to develop complementary policies to reduce negative trade-related environmental impacts and enhance positive ones. Through country projects, CBTF will assist interested LDCs in:

- building capacity for Governments to carry out at the national level systematic integrated assessments of the impacts of trade liberalisation policies and multilateral trade rules on sustainable development;
- developing strategic policy responses to further sustainable development in the country and sectors studied.

#### ■ Sustainable Tourism

The CBTF, in close cooperation with the World Tourism Organisation, the Convention on Biological Diversity, national and regional institutions, the private sector, local and indigenous communities, NGOs and other stakeholders, could assist interested LDCs in:

- promoting an integrated approach to tourism, economic development, and environmental protection, in particular through multi-stakeholder approaches;
- assessing the environmental, social and developmental implications of policies aimed at promoting tourism;
- identifying possibilities for improving housekeeping practices and the wider use of environmental management systems (such as ISO 14001) in the tourist sector;
- promoting eco-tourism;
- identifying opportunities to promote the production and exports of niche products, in conjunction with tourism.