

**First National Workshop “Exploiting the Potential of Biotrade for
Transitioning to a Green Economy”, regarding the Biotrade Green
Economy Study in Namibia.**

Minutes



Held at Safari Hotel Windhoek, Namibia

**24th August 2010
09:00 -13:00**



CBTF
*Capacity Building Task Force
on Trade Environment and
Development*

Present: See Annex A for the List of Participants

Agenda

1. Welcoming and opening
2. Presentations and discussions
 - i. The Capacity Building for Biotrade (CBBT) project: International activities
 - ii. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Biotrade initiative: Initial views on the Biotrade implications of the Green Economy
 - iii. Introduction to Biotrade Capacity Development Project in Namibia
 - iv. Introduction to Green Economy Study on Biotrade and Linkages to Rapid Trade and Environment Assessment (RTEA)
 - v. Draft Green Economy Findings & Brainstorming session
3. Closing

1. Welcoming and opening

- Dr Juliane Zeidler, Managing Director and Senior Consultant of Integrated Environmental Consultants Namibia (IECN) chaired the workshop and she introduced herself to the participants.
- The chairperson introduced the draft agenda to the participants and asked for comments/changes to the agenda.
- The Chairperson opened the workshop by welcoming all the participants and informed the participants that there would be two workshop sessions held back-to-back on related biotrade issues. The morning session is convened on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Industry on the Capacity Building for BioTrade (CBBT) project. Especially the so-called National Green Economy Study, whilst the afternoon session is organized by University of Namibia (UNAM), focusing on the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative. She urged the participants to remain and attend the afternoon session.
- Juliane asked Eduardo Escobedo from UNCTAD to give an overview of the afternoon session. Eduardo stated briefly that the afternoon session would be looking at issues such as how to overcome trade barriers and EU sanitary requirements when dealing with the development of BioTrade products, and how best to share knowledge about such issues.
- The chairperson requested the participants to introduce themselves, including the organizations they represented.

2. Presentations

Note that all discussion points are summarized in one section, “3. Discussions”, in the minutes.

2.1. The Capacity Building for Biotrade (CBBT) project: International activities by Asad Naqvi from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (see full presentation in Annex B)

- Asad gave a brief introduction and background of the joint CBBT project of UNEP and UNCTAD, which was launched in 2000. The project provides support to countries on issues at the interface of trade, environment and development.
- He highlighted the reason for focusing on biotrade, by stating that a major international initiative led by UNEP had been initiated to draw attention to the global economic benefits of

biodiversity, highlighting the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation - linking science, economics and policy.

- He further said that investing in green economy provides competitive economic returns and additional development benefits such as employment and poverty reduction. He highlighted the importance of CBBT by stating that the annual economic (financial) loss of services that ecosystems provide is around €50 billion.
- Biotrade is very important for poor people and food security in sense that it contribute to income generation, poverty reduction, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems services, thus sustainable development. Finally, he pointed out some of the challenges for Biotrade both at international and national level.

2.2. The UNCTAD Biotrade initiative: Initial views on the Biotrade implications of the Green Economy – “*Biotrade a development strategy of biodiversity rich countries and regions*” by Eduardo Escobedo (UNCTAD) (see full presentation in Annex C)

- Eduardo started his presentation by defining the term “Biotrade”, which to the UNCTAD definition, refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- He stated that Biotrade project creates multi-stakeholder platforms where actors have successfully engaged on this important issue. This has led to Biotrade been seen increasingly as an important component in development cooperation.
- He highlighted that the UNCTAD Biotrade initiative contributes to conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources by promoting trade and investment in Biotrade products and service as in line with the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) objectives and principles, i.e. the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity.
- He indicated that Biotrade market opportunities are there and are necessitated by the increasing demand for natural products e.g. for “wellness”, and also an increased search of deeper values, including for natural products.
- Eduardo also pointed out the challenges of developing Biotrade products and generating and penetrating market, e.g. limitations to market access, complexity of the national and international policy context, as well as the complexity of Biotrade, and confusion of consumers.
- He said that about 193 Member States of UNCTAD recognise that sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity provides new opportunities for developing countries, and that trade of products and services related to biodiversity can be an important tool for preserving biodiversity and enhancing development.

2.3. Introduction to Biotrade Capacity Development Project in Namibia: *CBBT in Namibia Creating a National Environment and Trade framework mechanism* by Pierre du Plessis (CRIA SA-DC) (see full presentation in Annex D)

- The third presentation was given by Pierre du Plessis of CRIA SA-DC. His presentation provided an overview of Biotrade activities in Namibia and the CBBT by UNEP facilitated and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) supported CBBT project in Namibia.
- He mentioned that the CBBT project is been implemented by the MTI while technical assistance is been provided by CRIA SA-DC. He also pointed out in brief the issues to be taken forward by the project, including: ABS/prospecting, branding and labeling, intellectual property, local value-adding, eco-tourism, Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), quality control, and technical barriers to trade.
- He presented suggested actions based on the previous related project conducted in Namibia in 2009, the Rapid Trade Environmental Assessment (RTEA). A key activity is the establishment of the Namibia Environmental and Trade Forum (NEAT) as a sub-body of the National Trade Forum, building on the RTEA National Expert Advisory Panel (NEAP), which steered the 2009 project. According to the 2009 discussion, the MTI supposed to chair the NEAT and act as secretarial services.

2.4. Introduction to Green Economy Study on Biotrade and linkages to the RTEA by Juliane Zeidler (IECN) (see full presentation in Annex E)

- Juliane firstly gave a recap on the RTEA, which was conducted in 2009 under the leadership of IECN. In her presentation, she highlighted the recommendations of the previous study, and handed out a one page summary of the RTEA findings and key recommendations to all the participants.
- She shared the four sector summary papers and the final Namibian National RTEA report with all participants. Four case studies were prepared, namely: (i) Green labeling, eco-certification and fair trade: threats and opportunities for Namibia; (ii) Eco-tourism and the informal carbon market: is the climate rights for change; (iii) EU sanitary demands for red meat trade: impact on sustainable development in Namibia (iv) Biochar in Namibia: opportunities to convert bush encroachment into carbon offsets. Lastly, she shared a summary policy brief: Trade and environment: emerging dynamic for Namibia's sustainable development. All publications can be found on the following websites <http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/> and <http://www.iisd.org/publications>
- She introduces the Green Economy study in the Namibia context. The study is conducted as an element under the Namibian CBBT project. She stated that a Green Economy can be characterised by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that build on and enhance natural capital and investments that lead to reduced environmental risks. According to Juliane, Green Economy opportunities need to be look at or should be considered in context of Namibia's national development vision, Vision 2030. Vision 2030 is aiming to transform Namibia to an industrialised country by 2030, with a majority of people living in urban centres and a substantially reformed agriculture sector.
- She explained the process involved in the Green Economy study, including stakeholder consultations at today's 1st National Workshop, which should lead to the refinement of study scope as well as serve the collection of expert information. The draft Green Economy study report is expected by the end of September 2010, and is then to be reviewed at national and international levels. The final draft study is to be presented at a 2nd National workshop planned for November 2010.

- Juliane presented propositions of how to define the scope of the Green Economy Study in Namibia context, by introducing a diagram that described five Biotrade sectors as *Natural resource based production sectors, industrial sectors, climate change resilience investment, biodiversity, and ecosystem services sectors* (see in the presentation- Annex E).

2.5. Draft Green Economy findings: “Exploring the potential of Biotrade for transitioning to a Green Economy: An economic perspective” by Klaus Schade (independent Economist for IECN) (see full presentation in Annex F)

- Klaus Schade started with reading out the definition of Biotrade included in the Terms of Reference¹ for the study and provided an interpretation of it. According to discussions in Namibia, sectors that relate to Biotrade include: agriculture (traditional e.g. livestock, grain and horticulture), novel products e.g. medicinal plants, oils, Mopane worms, Kalahari silk worm and grapes, fisheries (marine and inland fisheries, mariculture and potentially aquaculture, if native species are being farmed), and tourism (use/export of ecosystem services) e.g. landscapes, wildlife viewing, hunting and conservancies.
- Furthermore, he pointed out the number of people employed by various sectors in the year 2008 and 2009, and he tabled discussion points on the contribution of the various sectors to employment and contributions to poverty alleviation.
- He highlighted the challenges that are hindering the development of some of the biotrade sectors, i.e. “permit” restrictions. For example, one needs a permit to collect, trade and export Devil’s Claw. Such permit systems can be supportive or hindering for the development of biotrade products.
- Klaus set out discussion points for workshop participants to elaborate on as follows::
 - Relevant products
 - Production volume and value
 - Employment
 - Investment in novel products
 - Trade opportunities and barriers (licensing, permits, export-import restrictions, SPS requirements).

3. Discussions

As pointed out earlier, the key discussion points presented below are from all presentations.

- The major part of the discussion revolved around the definition of “biotrade” and which part of biotrade the Green Economy Study should integrate in its assessment.
- Workshop participants had different perceptions regarding the definition of Biotrade. It was discussed if a narrow “Biotrade” definition should be used for the Green Economy Study or if

¹ Biodiversity based businesses or Biotrade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. For the Biotrade initiative, this definition will be used with the understanding that it only includes “native” biodiversity resources, which means that only species which develop, occur naturally, or have existed in a country for many years. The meaning of « native » species thus differs from the meaning of « endemic » species, which are unique to one area/ country.

the broader definition of “biodiversity based business” should be applied. Some participants felt that international definition should be followed while others were not supporting the idea, but to follow the local definition, which reflects the needs of the country – defining Biotrade more broadly. The latter was seen to be favorable for dealing with policy makers and for being able to make a strong economic case for a Green Economy.

- Eduardo Escobedo emphasized the importance of the narrower Biotrade definition as this is internationally agreed to. Each country would still have the flexibility to interpret the definition to suite their own context, however it must be in line with the original definition of Biotrade.
- It was pointed out that in the Green Economy Study, the definition of Biotrade should be stated clearly and represented throughout if a local definition is to be used in order to clarify this and set it apart from the international narrower definition.
- In essence it was debated that the sectors presented in Klaus Schade’s presentation were quite broad and a stronger biodiversity product focus should be added.
- Participants were asked to voice their inputs and insights regarding additional relevant sectors/products that should be considered in the Green Economy Study. Participants identified e.g. Game products especially venison, Marama beans and Mbambara nuts (cowpeas), both minor indigenous crops not yet commercially developed, Pearl Millet (Mahangu) which has a potential to be marketed especially in Europe, and plants such as !Nara. In terms of indigenous fisheries products it was discussed whether e.g. the indigenous West Coast Steenbras and its contribution to the economy could be specifically examined. Specific wood/tree species for making wood products including crafts, thatch and charcoal from invader bush were proposed as suitable biotrade products to be examined.
- Discussions continued with participants keen in knowing what should be regarded as “native” biodiversity resources or what should not be regarded as native (e.g. in terms livestock, of which numerous breeds have been domesticated in Namibia for a number of years and would fall well into the definition of Biotrade, as stated in the TORs (“Native means that only species which develop, occur naturally, or have existed in a country for many years”). The meaning of “native” species thus differs from the meaning of “endemic” species, which are unique to one area/ country.
- It was agreed that National Agriculture Forum, as steering body for the Green Economy Study, lies with the responsibility of deciding which definition should be applied, and the study authors were encouraged to keep a broader outlook, whilst adding biodiversity product information to the study in particular, investigating products noted above. It should be noted that Biotrade starts nationally and then becomes an international issue.
- Participants from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) were asked if it is possible to get data and information on West Coast Steenbras (specific species) in order to untangle this. It emerged that there are data from The MFMR, and the study authors should contact the Ministry for such information to check its suitability.
- One participant highlighted the importance of meat (sheep, goat and cattle) as another sector or product for Biotrade in Namibia. This is because “the competition is very high globally for meat, that’s why meat is important for us” and we need to find a niche for our product. For instance at the moment, about 30% of live livestock are exported; farmers in South Africa are getting better prices compared farmers in Namibia. Branding the Namibian produce e.g. via the Farm Assured Namibia (FAN) Meat initiative could be one innovative way of “greening” the livestock production sector.

4. Closing

The chairperson closed the workshop by thanking all participants for coming to the workshop and providing their insights and inputs. She further stated that in order to complete the Green Economy

study, the study team will be soliciting further inputs from the participants through face-to-face consultations as needed throughout the course of the study.

Workshop adjourned at 13:00

Annex A: List of Participants/ attendees

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Annex B: The Capacity Building for Biotrade (CBBT) project: International activities by Asad Naqvi (UNEP)

Annex C: The UNCTAD Biotrade initiative: Initial views on the Biotrade implications of the Green Economy – “*Biotrade A development strategy of biodiversity rich countries and regions*” by Eduardo Escobedo (UNCTAD)

Annex D: Introduction to Biotrade Capacity Development Project in Namibia: *CBBT in Namibia Creating a National Environment and Trade framework mechanism* by Pierre du Plessis (CRIA SA-DC)

Annex E: Introduction to Green Economy Study on Biotrade and linkages to the RTEA by Juliane Zeidler (IECN)

Annex F: Draft Green Economy findings by Klaus Schade (independent Economist for IECN)

DRAFT AGENDA

1st National workshop, “Exploiting the Potential of BioTrade for Transitioning to a Green Economy,” regarding the BioTrade Green Economy Study in Namibia

24 August 2010, 09:00 – 13:00
Safari Hotel, Windhoek

Time	Agenda item	Responsible person
08:30	Registration	Laudika Kandjinga, Asellah David, Festus Kapembe
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome	Ministry of Trade and Industry
9:05 – 9:20	The Capacity Building for Biotrade (CBBT) Project: International Activities	Asad Naqvi, UNEP
09:20 – 09:35	The UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative: Initial views on the BioTrade implications of the Green Economy	Eduardo Escobedo, UNCTAD
9:35 – 9:50	Introduction to Biotrade Capacity Development Project in Namibia	Pierre du Plessis, CRIAA
09:50 – 10:15	Overview: Draft Green Economy Study on Biotrade	Juliane Zeidler & Klaus Schade, IECN
10:15 – 10:45	Brainstorming session on the Study Outline and Case Studies selection	Juliane Zeidler & Klaus Schade, IECN

10:45 – 11:15 TEA BREAK

11:15 – 12:15	Working groups: (to be confirmed) 1. Existing barriers to trade 2. Macroeconomic Indicators: Employment, Income and Poverty 3. Markets: Exports, Local Market and Contribution to the local economy 4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Group facilitators
12:15 – 12:45	Working Group report backs	Group rapporteurs
12:45 – 13:00	Wrap-up and study road map	Juliane Zeidler