

# CBTF

## Update on Activities

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### Introduction

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF (Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development) is a demand-driven programme that works in cooperation with and responds to the needs and requirements expressed by governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies. Due to the increased demand for work in the area of trade and environment, and especially capacity building, as expressed at a number of meetings and workshops, CBTF is currently focusing its activities on the following thematic areas:

- \* Sustainable Agriculture
- \* Environmental Goods and Services
- \* Trade and MEAs

Thanks to the financial contributions provided by the European Commission, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the United States, CBTF has been able to continue with outstanding projects initiated in Phase I (2000 - 2003) and launch a number of new activities under Phase II (2004-2006).

### Country projects

#### **New initiative: Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in East Africa**

This project aims to contribute to sustainable trade, environmental protection, food security and poverty reduction in Kenya, the Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. It has three components:

- \* Background studies;
- \* National integrated assessments of organic agriculture including national multi-stakeholder consultations;
- \* Regional cooperation, including the possible development of an East African organic agriculture standard that facilitates access to overseas markets.

Background studies have been commissioned on the following topics:

- \* Overview of the current state of organic agriculture in East Africa and opportunities for regional harmonization;
- \* What developing country governments can do to promote production and trade in organic agriculture;
- \* Organic agriculture and food security in Africa.

The following preparatory activities have been undertaken:

- \* Broad consultations on overall project concept, including national multi-stakeholder consultations in the three beneficiary countries during CBTF mission in September/October 2004;
- \* Identification of the government focal point and the designated national institution that will carry out the study in each country. These are:

| Country              | Government focal point   | Designated national institution                                       |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Kenya                | National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)                     | Bridge Africa   |
| Republic of Tanzania | Crop Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security | Environmental, Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (Envirocare) |
| Uganda               | Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB)                                 | Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)           |

Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with the designated national institutions and preliminary national consultations have been held in the three countries.

[More information](#)

## Policy dialogues

### **CBTF Side event at SIDS: Trade Liberalization, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States, Mauritius, 11 January 2005**

This second high-level policy dialogue was convened as a side event during the *International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*. The objective of the policy dialogue was to discuss the relevance of trade for SIDS and analyse which sectors offer opportunities for sustainable trade promotion and achieving sustainable development.

The event was chaired by the Chairman of the Group of 77 Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, delivered a keynote statement which was followed by presentations by Ministers from Cape Verde, Jamaica and Mauritius. The presentation covered the following issues as win-win options for trade and environment in SIDS:

- \* Sustainable Tourism Development;
- \* Sustainable Fisheries Management;
- \* Organic Agricultural Products.

The proceedings of the side event and its recommendations were reflected in the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.207/CRP.7, 13 January 2005). The strategy stated that:

- \* The relationship between trade, environment and development is among a number of issues of special concern to SIDS in seeking to integrate into the global economy (paragraph 67(h));
- \* In the section on capacity development, it called for the delivery of coordinated, effective and targeted trade-related technical assistance and capacity building programmes for SIDS including taking advantage of existing and future market access opportunities and examining the relationship between trade, environment and development.

A special edition of the CBTF [newsletter](#) was prepared for the meeting . The [meeting report](#) is available on the CBTF web site.

[More information](#)

### **CBTF at UNCTAD XI: Round Table on Promoting Trade for Sustainable Development Sao Paulo, Brazil, 17 June 2004**

The objective of this high-level policy dialogue was to bring experts and decision makers from developed and developing countries together to exchange views and enhance understanding of the critical issues on the trade-environment-development policy interface.

The major issues discussed included:

- \* Opportunities arising from niche markets for environmentally preferable products;
- \* Challenges arising from foreign environmental requirements, as well as benefits that could be derived from proactive adjustment policies;

\* Capacity building needs and responses.

Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP delivered a keynote address and Ministers from Angola, Brazil, Cambodia and Mauritius addressed the round table. The discussions and recommendations contributed to the proceedings of UNCTAD XI which, in paragraph 103 of the Sao Paulo Consensus recommended that the CBTF should be strengthened.

A special edition of the CBTF [newsletter](#) was produced and disseminated, as well as a [meeting report](#).

[More information](#)

## **Capacity Building Events**

### **Workshop on Post Doha Trade and Environment Issues, Manila, Philippines, 16-17 June 2005**

The workshop was held back to back with the WTO Regional Seminar for Asia and the Pacific and was attended by 60 trade and environment officials who had attended the WTO regional seminar, plus some 15 participants from government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in the Philippines.

The meeting focused on three subjects:

1. liberalization in environmental goods and services trade;
2. integrated assessment of trade liberalization; and
3. environmental requirements and market access for developing countries.

[More information](#)

### **Stakeholder Workshop on the Definition, Criteria, Issues and Identification of Environmental Goods, Manila, Philippines, 8-9 June 2005**

The workshop discussed the conceptual and practical issues of the current negotiations in the WTO and their implications and requirements for the Philippines, as well as a CBTF background note on the current trade patterns of environmental goods from the Philippines. Various policy measures and practices were elaborated upon, such as mandatory environmental impact assessment for environmentally sensitive projects, which might have a bearing on trade in environmental goods.

Participants drafted a list of issues that should form the basis for further discussions on trade liberalization in environmental goods and services (EGS) and a list of goods that are of particular interest to the country. It was also recommended that a working group under the joint guidance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Trade and Industry should be established that further looks into the conceptual and practical issues. This group would be serviced by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) and draw the various stakeholder groups into the debate. CBTF was asked to assist the working group with empirical information on trade and provide conceptual guidance.

[More information](#)

### **Advisory mission: Policy and Technical aspects of the negotiations on environmental goods, Amman, Jordan, 8-12 May 2005 (co-financed by CBTF and Canada)**

At the request of the Government of Jordan, CBTF sent an advisory mission to assist the Jordanian authorities concerned in assessing their offensive and defensive interests in the negotiations conducted under the mandate provided for in paragraph 31(iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and, in the process, build their capacity to deal with the problems relating to product coverage, negotiating modalities as well as with the implementation issues handled by the Customs.

The mission was conducted as a three-day meeting between the two teams of experts – national and international – with the following four lines of expertise represented on both teams: (1) environmental

industry, (2) environmental policy and regulations; (3) trade policy and negotiations, and (4) Customs, more specifically tariff classification.

[More information](#)

### **Workshop on Environmental Goods and Services for the Andean Community Countries** *Lima, Peru, 12-13 April 2005*

The workshop was convened to discuss the issues of key interest for Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) in the WTO trade and environment negotiations, in particular on environmental goods and services (EGS). In addition, the workshop was designed to strengthen the link between trade and environment representatives, thereby improving the effectiveness of national positions on trade and environment to be defended in international negotiations.

Two working groups on environmental services and environmental goods developed a series of recommendations to strengthen the capabilities of the Andean region in both areas. An interregional meeting is now planned for September 2005 and an inter-institutional committee has been formed to work on EGS. CBTF prepared a background paper for discussion on Environmental Goods and the ANDEAN Countries.

[More information](#)

### **Workshop on Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP) for Sustainable Development** *Geneva, 14-15 February 2005*

This two-day workshop aimed at addressing the main challenges identified in the first year of a UNEP Initiative on Capacity Building for Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP) for Sustainable Development. Combining input by resource persons with group work on the participant's own country cases, it covered the following topics:

- \* Clarification of the relationship of IAP to other assessment methods
- \* Tools to be used for IA including economic valuation of the environment
- \* Strategies to influence policymaking and ensure the monitoring of results.

For more information about this UNEP initiative please visit the [UNEP website](#)

### **Subregional Seminar for Portuguese Speaking African Developing Countries, Luanda, Angola, 8-10 November 2004**

The objectives of the seminar were to strengthen awareness of trade, environment and development linkages and start identifying priority issues and modalities for a subregional CBTF component. The seminar covered a broad range of issues and a number of recommendations were made for implementation by CBTF and/or national governments. In follow-up, CBTF will prepare a work programme to include further activities for Portuguese-speaking African Developing Countries (PALOPs).

[More information](#)

[Meeting report](#)

### **Enhancing Policy Coordination on Trade and Environment Issues: Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Containing Trade-related Measures, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 5-6 October 2004**

The aim of this training workshop was to assess needs, build capacity and enhance national coordination on trade and environment issues related to the implementation of four multilateral environmental agreements – the Basel Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Montreal Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosafety Protocol.

A number of priority issues were highlighted: the need to enhance national coordination for the effective implementation of MEAs; the need for training on the application of environmental impact assessments to determine the impact of economic activity on sustainable development; the need for technical assistance and capacity building for government officials and customs officers on issues related to MEA

implementation; and the need to study the potential and risks of promoting organic agriculture in Cambodia. A national consultant prepared a study on policy co-ordination at central and local level for the targeted MEAs.

[More information](#)

[Meeting report](#)

### **Training Workshop on Integrated Assessment for African Countries, Nairobi, Kenya, 19-20 July 2004**

This training workshop was designed for African research and training institutions that are in a position to train others or initiate integrated assessment in cooperation with their respective governments.

The capacity building needs were identified during the *CBTF Regional Workshop on Post-Doha Issues on Trade and Environment* held in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2003, in which integrated assessment was highlighted as a priority. The 25 participants from 11 African countries (Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda) included university professors, directors and senior staff from national cleaner productions centres, environmental, economics and policy research institutions, as well as a representative from the EC (DG Trade).

[More information](#)

### **Current priority issues**

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF is a demand-driven programme that works in cooperation with and responds to the needs and requirements expressed by governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies.

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