



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



UNCTAD

---

*Capacity Building Task Force on Trade Environment and Development*

---

## Support to LDCs through the CBTF

There are major opportunities to implement important elements of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (2001-2010) that address environment-related trade and development issues. These centre on providing coordinated support to LDCs to enable them to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable development by integrating environmental concerns in national development policies and strategies. Through UNEP Country Projects, and the UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Programme, UNEP and UNCTAD have already provided such assistance to some LDCs (Bangladesh, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda). The establishment in 2000 of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), will enable UNEP and UNCTAD to enhance their cooperation with LDCs within a programmatic framework, open to all interested LDCs.

The tailor-made CBTF Programme for LDCs proposed during UN LDC III fosters the creation of long-term partnerships between UNEP, UNCTAD and LDC government ministries and nongovernmental organizations to facilitate the implementation of country-driven training, research, policy analysis projects and policy dialogues at the national and regional levels. Taking into account the mandates of UNEP and UNCTAD, and the Plan of Action adopted at LDC-III, it is envisaged that this special programme will focus on issues including:

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Trade Liberalisation and the Environment

Programme implementation will start gradually in a relatively small number of LDCs that have expressed strong interest in the programme with the TrainforTrade training course on Trade, Environment and Development (Angola, Burkina Faso, Benin, Cambodia, Lao, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda). To support initial implementation, resources from the United Nations LDC Trust Fund are currently being sought. Following this, extra-budgetary funds will be raised from LDC development partners to respond to the growing LDC demand for this type of assistance. Some development cooperation agencies have already informally indicated their intentions to fund this LDC programme. It is hoped that a programme with a budget in excess of US\$1 million will be underway in a significant number of LDCs by 2002. More details can be found in the proposal for a CBTF Programme for LDCs, which is available upon request and via internet.

---

**website: [www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf](http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf)**

Economics and Trade Unit  
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics  
United Nations Environment Programme  
15, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-917-8298  
Fax: +41-22-917-8076  
E-mail: [cbtf@unep.ch](mailto:cbtf@unep.ch)

Trade, Environment and Development Section  
Division of International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22- 917-5760  
Fax: +41-22- 917-0247  
E-mail: [cbtf@unctad.org](mailto:cbtf@unctad.org)