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Capacity Building Task Force
on Trade, Environment and Development

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES 2007 REVIEW

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2007, UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF provided capacity building assistance to over 675 individuals through sixteen workshops in eight countries over four continents and finalised seven studies and reports. The year's major achievement was the completion and official launching of the East African Organic Products Standard adopted as a voluntary standard by the East African countries. In addition, four new country projects to build capacity for wildlife trade policy reviews were launched in Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam.

List of Events *(click to skip to section or event)*

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Environmental Requirements and Market Access Symposium, Geneva, 3 October 2007
East African Organic Conference, Dar es Salaam, 28 May-1 June 2007
East African Organic Products Standard Approval, Arusha, 16 March 2007
UNEP Governing Council, Nairobi, 5 February 2007
Studies and Reports

TRADE - MEAS RELATIONSHIP

Viet Nam Wildlife Trade Policy Review Workshop, Hanoi, 20 October 2007
Madagascar Wildlife Trade Policy Review Launch Meeting and Training Workshop, Antananarivo, 30 August 2007
Uganda Wildlife Trade Policy Review Launch Meeting and Training Workshop, Kampala, 7 August 2007
Wildlife Trade Policy Review Discussion at CITES Conference of the Parties Committee II, The Hague, 6 June 2007
Side Event at CITES Conference of the Parties, The Hague, 5 June 2007
Nicaragua Wildlife Trade Policy Review Launch Workshop, Managua, 17 May 2007
Viet Nam Launch of the Wildlife Trade Policy Review, Hanoi, 30 March-1 April 2007
Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews International Workshop, Geneva, 26 February 2007
Studies and Reports

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Organic Agriculture

Great strides were made in the building of national capacities to secure market access and sustainable development benefits for organic agriculture in East Africa. The East African Organic Products Standard, developed with the support of UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), was finalised and launched by the Honourable Edward N. Lowassa, Prime Minister of Tanzania. In addition, three thematic research studies and three country reports on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were completed.

Symposium on “Environmental Requirements and Market Access: Turning Challenges into Opportunities” in Geneva, Switzerland, 3 October 2007

The symposium on environmental requirements and market access was organised by the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF to provide a platform for dialogue on concrete ways to help developing countries seize market opportunities that arise from environmental issues and standards. Attendees invited from eleven developing countries participated in the discussion along with representatives from government, international organisations, private enterprises, and civil society organisations.

The two main objectives of the symposium were (1) to address the challenges and constraints facing developing countries’ access to organic agriculture and consumer electronics markets due to increasingly complex environmental standards; and (2) to identify market opportunities created by environmental standards and technical requirements in the export market.

The symposium was divided into four sessions on the importance and relevance of environmental requirements and standards in the context of market access for developing countries’ products; concerns, challenges and opportunities for organic agriculture in developing countries; waste, recycling and energy efficiency requirements of electrical and electronic goods; and the main issues and findings that arose from the meeting. [More...](#)
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East African Organic Conference, “Unleashing the Potential of Organic Agriculture” in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 28 May-1 June 2007



UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, in partnership with IFOAM, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs), organised the East African Organic Conference to mobilize support for organic agriculture as a market access and sustainable development opportunity. Over 250 participants from 25 countries were in attendance. Representatives from local, regional, and international organisations and institutions offered perspectives on organic agriculture markets and the advancement of organic agriculture in the region. Especially of note, the East African Organic Products Standard and its associated East African Organic Mark were launched on Day Two of the conference.

Specific workshops and events are outlined below:

Workshop on Developing Local and Regional Markets, 28 May 2007

The workshop stressed the need to focus on the local market as a means to support the export sector market, and discussed how a public-private partnership could enable African farmers to meet demand in the growing organic agriculture market. Presentations of local organic market case studies were followed by various sessions on organic integrity guarantees. A platform was also provided for practitioners, policy makers and the relevant stakeholders to share knowledge about local and regional organic marketing.

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Launch of the East African Organic Products Standard, 29 May 2007

The East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) was approved by the East African Standards Committee in March 2007 and was officially launched by the Honourable Edward N. Lowassa, Prime Minister of Tanzania, in the presence of the media and dignitaries at the East African Organic Forum, the main event of the conference.



EAOPS joined the European Union Organic Standard as one of the only two regional organic standards in the world, and is the first to have been developed through a collaboration between the public, private and



NGO sectors. EAOPS and its associated East African Organic Mark will ensure consumers that labelled produce was grown in accordance with standardised methods based on eco-system management and the non-use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides. The new standard is expected to boost organic trade and market development in the region, raise awareness about organic agriculture among farmers and consumers, and create a unified negotiating position that will help East African organic farmers gain access to export markets. [Final version of EAOPS](#). [More...](#)

East African Organic Exhibition, 28-29 May 2007

An exhibition of East African organic products organised as part of the conference was officially inaugurated by the Honourable Stephen Masatu Wassira, Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives. The growth of organic agriculture markets was underscored by the theme of organic agriculture as an opportunity for producers to remain competitive in increasingly complex, standard-driven markets.

Workshop on Moving the Organic Agenda Ahead in East Africa, 30-31 May 2007

The workshop was organised for a small group of select participants to allow for in-depth discussions and forward planning on the advancement of an organic agenda for the five East African countries. The workshop also served as a means to seek commitment from stakeholders and to identify their roles for future action. A plan was formulated to develop the future plan for the promotion of organic agriculture on the basis of recent integrated assessment projects. Presentations were made on the processes and recommendations from the integrated assessment projects on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The progress and plans of East African governments, private sector programmes and policies, African and international institutions, and development cooperation partners were also discussed.



Field Trips to Organic Farms, 30 May-1 June 2007

Conference participants were provided an opportunity to participate in two field trips to organic farms: the Mikese Farm and the Premier Cashew Factory. These visits gave participants a first-hand perspective on organic agriculture and production. [\(back to top\)](#)

Approval of the East African Organic Products Standard by the East African Standards Committee in Arusha, Tanzania, 16 March 2007

The East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), developed with the support of UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and IFOAM, was approved by the East African Standards Committee on 16 March 2007 and was submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption. When UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF started its East African Regional Initiative on Organic Agriculture at the beginning of 2005, at least five public and private standards existed for organic agricultural production in East Africa. EAOPS was developed in response to

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stakeholders' concerns that multiple standards systems would eventually become a technical barrier to trade within the region and place unnecessary restrictions on regional collaboration.

The standard effectively integrates the many organic standards systems in the region into one comprehensive set of requirements for organic production. By catering to local ecological, social and economic conditions in the region, EAOPS is expected to facilitate national and regional trade of organic products, and exports to major markets.

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Exhibition of Organic Products at the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, 5-9 February 2007

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and the East African Organic Team organised a successful exhibit on organic agriculture in East Africa at the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP GC/GMEF) in Nairobi. The 2007 forum focused on the themes of "Globalisation and the Environment" and "United Nations Reforms." UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and local experts provided an opportunity for delegates to learn about the initiatives to promote organic agriculture in the region. Interestingly, an organic agricultural shop near the conference centre experienced a tripling in sales during the UNEP GC/GMEF.

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Studies and Reports

Three Thematic Background Studies

"Overview of the Current State of Organic Agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and the Opportunities for Regional Harmonization," February 2007

The first of the set of three background studies on organic agriculture in East Africa was published and released at the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The overview study provides information about the organic sector stakeholders, production, domestic markets, exports, standards, and certification policies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The potential benefits of increased regional cooperation in the area are highlighted, including an analysis of opportunities for harmonisation of organic standards. The study makes a number of recommendations to support further development of the sector. [Full-text.](#)



"Best Practices for Organic Policy: What Developing Country Governments Can Do to Promote the Organic Sector," January 2007

This report offers guidance on the development of appropriate policies for the organic sector. A number of policy recommendations are made using seven country cases (Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Malaysia, Thailand and South Africa) with a range of conditions and levels of government involvement. Best practices are explored in several contexts, followed by a set of 29 recommendations in the areas of general policy, standards and regulation, markets, production, and training, education and research.

[Full-text.](#)

"Organic Agriculture and Food Security in East Africa," May 2007

The final background study explores the potential for organic agriculture to enhance food security in East Africa. Evidence is provided that shows integrated organic agriculture can increase agricultural productivity and can also raise incomes with low-cost, locally available technologies without causing environmental damage, making it ideal for many poor, marginalised smallholder farmers. An

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analysis of East African case studies is followed by a discussion of the limitations and challenges for the spread of organic agriculture in East Africa. [Full-text](#).

Three Country Project Reports

Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania

National integrated assessment country projects focused on the organic agriculture sectors of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were finalised. These studies cover the current state of the sector, identification of major stakeholders, reviews of relevant current policies, development of policy options, assessments of potential environmental, economic and social impacts of policy implementation, and evaluations of capacity-building requirements. These assessments were carried out by national institutions under the leadership of lead government agencies and with the technical support of UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF. Various workshops and training seminars were included as a part of the project process.

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Trade - MEAs Relationship

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, in partnership with the CITES Secretariat and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (University of Geneva), launched four country projects to build capacities for wildlife trade policy reviews in Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam. A draft framework for trade policy reviews that provides tools for countries to review wildlife trade policies was also completed. Under this initiative, nine workshops, meetings and discussions were held around the world to facilitate the project's implementation.

Workshop on Viet Nam's Wildlife Trade Policy Review in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 20 October 2007

The CITES Scientific Authority of Viet Nam (Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) organised a workshop to discuss the draft report from Viet Nam's national wildlife trade policy review project. The workshop provided an opportunity for the national researchers to receive feedback from interested stakeholders on preliminary project results.

A summary of the report's findings was presented, and UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, CITES and national stakeholder representatives then provided initial feedback on the draft report with regards to its structure, content and recommendations. A number of critical issues were raised, including the importance of obtaining the best available data and discussing institutional constraints in terms of wildlife trade management and policy implementation. UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and CITES representatives also held bilateral meetings with representatives of the Government of Viet Nam to discuss the next steps regarding the implementation of recommendations of the project.



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Launch Meeting and Training Workshop for the Madagascar Wildlife Trade Policy Review Project in Antananarivo, Madagascar, 30 August 2007



Advancing in the wildlife trade policy review project initiated with the assistance of UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, Madagascar held a launch workshop on 30 August 2007 in Antananarivo. The event was organised by the CITES Management Authority in consultation with the members of the Madagascar National Steering Committee.

The decentralisation process and the restructuring of the Ministry of Environment were identified as the two main axes of the government's new environmental policy. Three presentations were made on the project and its implementation in Madagascar. Participants were divided into small groups to discuss the positive and negative aspects of the existing policies as

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well as potential solutions for current problems. Lack of communication, legislative gaps and overly procedure-heavy processes were identified among a wide range of practical concerns for effective implementation of wildlife trade policies.

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Launch Meeting and Training Workshop for the Uganda Wildlife Trade Policy Review Project in Kampala, Uganda, 7 August 2007

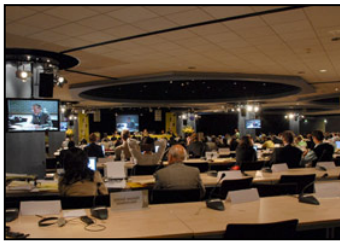
The launch and capacity building workshop for the wildlife trade policy review project in Uganda was held in Kampala on 7 August 2007, marking forward progress by the country team. The workshop was organised by several governmental and private institutions and included over 30 representatives from the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED), sectoral government agencies, district environmental offices, universities and research institutions, the private sector and environmental NGOs.



During the capacity building segment, presentations and group discussions covered national and international aspects of the project, as well as the key components of the draft framework for reviewing wildlife trade policies. The workshop was characterised by free and open debate on a variety of topics. At the end of the day, the launch ceremony was chaired by the Minister of State for Trade, who emphasised the role of sustainable trade in eradicating poverty and conserving Uganda's rich biodiversity.

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Discussions on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews at CITES Conference of the Parties Committee II in The Hague, The Netherlands, 6 June 2007



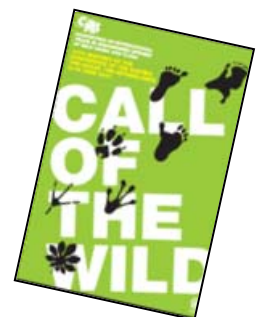
UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF noted its continued support for wildlife trade policy reviews during the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP) Committee II negotiations. The CITES Secretariat briefed CITES Parties on the implementation of the policy review project, which was followed by discussions on the topic. CITES Parties were generally supportive of the project and also noted the importance of ensuring that the policy reviews remain voluntary, country-led and funded through extra-budgetary sources. Based on this discussion, a new COP decision regarding wildlife trade policy reviews was adopted by the CITES Parties. [COP decision](#). [More...](#)

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Side Event at the CITES Conference of the Parties in The Hague, The Netherlands, 5 June 2007

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, in conjunction with the CITES Secretariat and IUED, organised a side event on the wildlife trade policy review project at the 14th Meeting of the CITES Conference of Parties. The event highlighted UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF's interest and support for the joint project.

The side event was attended by approximately 50 participants, composed primarily of representatives from CITES Parties, but also including members of civil society. The occasion provided an opportunity for representatives from the four pilot countries to make presentations on the status of their project implementation. In addition, UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF and the CITES Secretariat organised a meeting between the project's International Advisory Group and the country project representatives, which is described below:



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Meeting of the International Advisory Group at the CITES Conference of the Parties in The Hague, The Netherlands, 5 June 2007

An informal meeting was organised between the wildlife trade policy review project's International Advisory Group (IAG, comprised of international wildlife trade policy experts) and the national project teams during the CITES Conference of the Parties. This meeting facilitated discussion between the two groups on project implementation and modalities for ensuring the contribution of the IAG on a national level. The discussion also provided an opportunity for representatives from the pilot countries to receive feedback on project implementation from IAG members. Suggestions included the establishment of regular updates on national project implementation through either an e-mail list or a web-based approach, and a redistribution of the IAG Terms of Reference to clarify the expectations of IAG membership.

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National Launch Workshop for the Nicaragua Wildlife Trade Policy Review Project in Managua, Nicaragua, 17 May 2007



The Nicaraguan CITES authorities and Central American University (Universidad Centroamericana) organised a launch meeting and training workshop in Managua for the wildlife trade policy review project. Over 25 participants from sectoral government agencies, the private sector, environmental NGOs, the indigenous population and the scientific community participated in the workshop.

Mr. Jacobo Charles, Vice-Minister of Environment for Nicaragua, chaired the opening ceremony and emphasised the importance of incorporating social realities into MEA implementation, and placing a greater emphasis on the human aspects of CITES policy implementation. Participants were able to exchange views about national wildlife policies and the methodological framework developed to assist Nicaragua in conducting its policy review.

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Launch of the Pilot Wildlife Trade Policy Review Project in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 30 March-1 April 2007

The Vietnamese Forest Protection Department and the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies jointly convened a one-day launch meeting and a two-day training workshop in Hanoi for the wildlife trade policy review project. The launch meeting, which was attended by 24 representatives from government ministries, non-governmental organisations, academia, and the private sector, provided an opportunity for discussion on project implementation with experts working on wildlife trade issues in Viet Nam. The two-day training workshop was attended by the eight wildlife trade experts that are leading the national wildlife trade policy review.



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International Workshop on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews in Geneva, Switzerland, 26-28 February 2007



UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, the CITES Secretariat, and IUED organised an international workshop on the implementation of their joint initiative to support national wildlife trade policy reviews. Three representatives from national research institutes and government agencies in each of the four participating countries (Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam) attended the workshop, which focused on methodologies for conducting wildlife trade policy reviews, stakeholder participation, and challenges in project implementation. The workshop was designed as a training-of-trainers, with participants in the workshop leading future national-level capacity building activities related to the initiative. [More...](#)

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Studies and Reports

Framework for Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews

The framework for wildlife trade policy reviews was completed and is now being applied in the four pilot trade policy review projects in Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam. The framework was developed by the international project partners (UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF, CITES Secretariat, UIED) with the consultation of the International Advisory Group members, and provides guidelines and optional assessment methodologies and indicators for conducting policy reviews. The framework is designed to be adapted to fit local conditions and needs. [Draft framework](#).

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About UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF):

Launched in 2000 at UNCTAD X in Bangkok, the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) is a collaborative initiative between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to provide capacity building and technical assistance to countries on issues related to trade and environment in pursuit of national sustainable development and poverty reduction goals. The CBTF is an extra-budgetary initiative and its current activities are funded primarily by the European Union, United States of America and Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN).

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