UNCTAD and CITES collaboration
- Background -

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UNCTAD is the programme of the United Nations dedicated to promoting the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

The BioTrade Initiative of UNCTAD – Launched in 1996 – aims to promote trade and investment in biodiversity derived products and services to further sustainable development.

BioTrade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity (species & ecosystems) under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability.
• 2010 – MOU which is the basis for the close working relationship between CITES and the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative.

Long standing collaboration to ensure the conservation of species, enhance the livelihoods of the poor in remote and marginal areas and promote business opportunities for entrepreneurs that comply with CITES requirements and national legislation.

Studies & workshops on CITES-listed fauna spp.

Studies & workshops on CITES listed flora spp.

Traceability studies for CITES-listed species: medicinal & ornamental plants and on pythons.
Current support on traceability

• Increased importance is being placed on developing umbrella guidelines and adoption of standards for traceability for CITES-listed flora and fauna species, and at CoP17 Parties resolved to establish a CITES Traceability Working Group (WG) at CITES 68 Standing Committee meeting (Decision 17.152)

• Decision 17.154 Parties will be submitting information on projects and national experiences related to traceability which needs to be analyzed to support a focused discussion in the WG and to prepare recommendations

In collaboration with CITES Secretariat, WG Chairs (Mexico and Switzerland), UNCTAD is supporting the development of this study:

– Analyze the information submitted by CITES Parties under Decision 17.153 to support development of recommendations for CITES traceability
– Compile all existing definitions of traceability and provide recommendations on how it could be considered for CITES purposes
– Provide inputs for discussion and consideration under the CITES Traceability WG

The initial findings of this consultancy are presented in this side event
Questions and answers

Thank you

For further information: www.biotrade.org

UNCTAD gratefully acknowledges the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO in the development of the work on traceability systems for CITES listed non-timber forest plant species under the BioTrade Facilitation Programme III (BTFP III).