

## Trade Day at CBD COP 16

**UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Secretariats of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly with thematic partners will host a thematic day on trade at COP 16 to spark and advance discussions on how trade and trade policy can play a role to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and support the mission of halting and reversing biodiversity loss.**

### I. Trade Day Objectives

UN Trade and Development, WTO and CBD Secretariats and UNEP in collaboration with thematic partners are co-organizing the first ever **'Trade Day'** on 26 October 2024. This thematic day will be held in the GBF Pavilion at the [Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP 16) in Cali, Colombia.

The 'Trade Day' aims to facilitate and advance discussions among negotiators and stakeholders on potential pathways, best practices and solutions for trade and trade-related policies to support delivering the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

The CBD COP16 'Trade Day' builds on the expertise and successful collaborations between UN Trade and Development, WTO and CBD Secretariats and UNEP, including the "Nature-Positive Trade" webinar series, co-hosted with UNEP, ITC, CBD, WTO, and UNEP-WCMC<sup>1</sup>; CBD COP 15 [official side event](#) co-organized with UNEP on the role of international trade to support the GBF - the only side event addressing the intersection of trade and biodiversity; and UN Trade and Development's [7th BioTrade Congress](#) in 2024 that deep dived into how to mainstream biodiversity into WTO Processes, impacts of [BioTrade Principles and Criteria](#), socio-bioeconomy and trade for a just transition, and nature-positive trade for sustainable development. This event also builds on the successful organization of the Trade Day and the Trade Pavilion at UNFCCC COP28 by UN Trade and Development, WTO and the International Trade Centre, hosted jointly with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The COP16 Trade Day is co-organized under the [Global BioTrade Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development](#) implemented by the UN Trade and Development with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.

### II. Context

More than half the world's population – [over 4.3 billion people](#) – depends on biodiversity for their livelihoods, with [70 per cent of the world's poor](#) and vulnerable living in rural areas depending <https://unctad.org/> directly on it. Also, [55 per cent of the world's gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#), around [\\$58 trillion](#), are dependent on nature. However, up to [40 per cent of world's land](#) is degraded, [one million plant and animal species](#) are at risk of extinction, and biodiversity loss is projected to accelerate through 2050.

International trade is an indispensable component of our global economy but has been traditionally associated with negative impacts on nature. With [55 per cent of the world's gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#), around \$58 trillion dependent on nature, trade can and should be harnessed to protect it. Specifically, trade policies must be crafted to the GBF objectives.

The adoption of the GBF provides new opportunities for exploring the role that trade and trade-related policies and measures could play in supporting biodiversity objectives. [Trade can support the delivery of all the 23 targets under the GBF](#). This can be achieved using various trade-related policy instruments as drivers for conservation and sustainable use within the global supply chains. For example, these range from preferential tariffs and market access for biodiversity-friendly products and services, to voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), guidelines (e.g. BioTrade Principles and Criteria) or mandatory environmental requirements to ensure compliance with sustainability criteria, to green government procurement practices and support sustainable and biodiversity-friendly management practices. The UN Trade and Development’s BioTrade Initiative has shown that sustainable, legal, and traceable trade can be a key element to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems while supporting local communities’ livelihoods, supporting all GBF targets.

### III. Trade Day Activities

- a. **26 October: Trade Day at the GBF Pavilion (Blue Zone)**
- b. **24 October: Informal exchanges on trade and biodiversity at the UN Hub at Place Quebec (Blue Zone)**
- c. **21 October to 1 November: Exhibition booth (Blue Zone)**

a. **The ‘Trade Day’ programme on 26 October** will include a high-level opening session with Heads of UN Agencies and other organizations followed by four thematic sessions as shown below.

<b>Time (COT, Colombia)</b>	<b>Session</b>
8:30-9:00	<i>Registration of participants – Breakfast</i>
9:00 -10:10	<b>Session 1:</b> Opening of the Trade Day: Leaders’ dialogue on Trade, Biodiversity and the GBF Co-organized by UN Trade and Development
10:20 -11:20	<b>Session 2:</b> Trade for inclusive and sustainable social development: Strengthening the participation of women, indigenous peoples, local communities and smallholders Co-organized by UNEP and UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE)
11:30 -12:30	<b>Session 3:</b> Trade Commodities with a focus on terrestrial ecosystems Co-organized by WTO Secretariat
15:00 -16:10	<b>Session 4:</b> Trade Commodities with a focus on marine and other aquatic ecosystems Co-organized by WTO Secretariat
16:20 -17:20	<b>Session 5:</b> Tapping into innovative and specialized markets to achieve biodiversity and social goals Co-organized by UN Trade and Development
17:20 -17:30	Closing followed by a cocktail reception

**Venue:** GBF Pavilion (Blue Zone)

b. **Informal exchange sessions at the UN Hub (24 October, from 9:00 to 17:30).** The informal discussions will take place among negotiators and other stakeholders on different topics related to trade and biodiversity supporting GBF implementation as shown below. This space will be hosted at the UN Hub coordinated by the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) Secretariat.

The informal exchanges will host 11 sessions, each lasting 40-minutes, covering the following topics:

<b>Time (COT, Colombia)</b>	<b>Session</b>
9:00 - 9:05	Opening ( <i>UN Trade and Development</i> )
9:10 - 9:50	<b>Trade-related policies and measures</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development, UNEP and Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS)</i>
9:55 - 10:35	<b>Nature-positive trade for sustainable agriculture supply chains</b> <i>Organized by UNEP and UN Trade and Development</i>
10:40 - 11:20	<b>Trade, biodiversity and private sector engagement</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development and partners</i>
11:25 - 12: 05	<b>Sustainable consumption and production</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development, Consumers International and Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework-EU support project</i>
12:10-12:50	<b>Trade-related standards for sustainable production</b> <i>Organized by WTO</i>
12:55-13:35	<b>Trade, biodiversity and circular economy</b> <i>Organized by WTO</i>
13:40-14:20	<b>Trade, biodiversity and finance</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development and NatureFinance</i>
14:25-15:05	<b>Trade, biodiversity and access and benefit sharing (ABS)</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development and partners</i>
15:10-15:50	<b>Trade and biodiversity statistics (biodiversity-based goods)</b> <i>Organized by UN Trade and Development</i>
15:55-16:35	<b>Trade, socio-bioeconomy and SMEs</b> <i>Organized by ITC</i>
16:40-17:20	<b>Trade, biodiversity and gender</b> <i>Organized by (TBC)</i>
17:20-17:30	Closing

**Venue:** Place Quebec (Blue Zone)

c. **Exhibition booth** during the entire duration of the COP16 (from 21 October to 1 November 2024). It will be used to showcase trade and biodiversity related material, including publications, guidelines, training material, videos and MS Power Point Presentations, infographics and other material.

**Venue:** Blue Zone

#### IV. Road to CBD COP16's Trade Day (2024)

25 – 26 March 2024 – [7<sup>th</sup> BioTrade Congress](#): focuses on how trade and trade policy can reverse the biodiversity crisis and support the delivery of the GBF's goals and targets, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

22 May 2024 – Biodiversity Day – [Trade Day is publicly launched](#).

18 July 2024 – Briefing on the Trade Day to WTO member States by WTO and CBD Secretariats, and UN Trade and Development.

18 July 2024 – A [WTO event](#) organised with UN Trade and Development, UNEP and other key partners and Members on the role of trade policies for promoting a sustainable bioeconomy.

11 October 2024 – Briefing on the Trade Day to WTO member States by WTO Secretariat and UN Trade and Development.

17 October 2024 – Briefing on the Trade Day to Geneva-based Delegates by UN Trade and Development.

24 October 2024 – A Hub on informal exchanges will host 11 short sessions on topics related to trade and biodiversity at the Place Quebec at COP16.

26 October 2024 – Trade Day is hosted at the GBF Pavilion at COP16.

#### V. Partners

- *Core partners:* UN Trade and Development, WTO and CBD Secretariats and UNEP .
- *Thematic partners/Collaborators:* International Trade Centre (ITC), UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE), Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), and others to be confirmed.

**UN Trade and Development** has been working on trade and biodiversity since 1996, when the [BioTrade Initiative](#) was launched to promote trade and investment in biodiversity-based products and services to further sustainable development in line with the CBD's objectives. The core of the Initiative is the [BioTrade Principles and Criteria \(P&C\)](#) - a set of guidelines for promoting sustainability across the entire value chain ([GBF's Target 5 complementary indicator](#)). These are implemented by governments, businesses and civil society across various biodiversity-based sectors in over 80 countries in Asia, Africa, America and Europe. Since its inception, BioTrade partners have been advocating for and demonstrating the positive impact of legal, sustainable and traceable trade in conserving biodiversity, generating livelihoods and promoting the economic diversification of countries. It has also organized a series of [events, webinars and other activities](#). Additionally, it developed the Trade and Biodiversity statistical tool (TraBio) ([visualization tool](#) and [online database](#)) that provides trade flows of biodiversity-based products and economic indicators for 189 economies, starting from 2010.

**WTO** recognizes sustainable development as one of its core principles, as reflected in its founding document, the Marrakesh Agreement. Since 2009, WTO Members have notified more than 1,800 trade measures pursuing the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems ([WTO Environmental Database](#)), such as grants to farmers and landowners to enhance biodiversity by creating optimum habitats, non-monetary support for promoting research on managing biodiversity loss, or technical regulations aimed to reduce marine litter with an adverse impact on biodiversity and the marine environment. Landmark disputes, such as *US – Shrimp*, have demonstrated that the objective of biodiversity protection can be

meaningfully embedded in the implementation of the multilateral trade rules. Relevant discussions on the trade and biodiversity interface are taking place across a number of WTO bodies, such as the Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Council) and the Committees on Trade and Environment (CTE), on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, and on Agriculture. There are also opportunities to consider the intersection of trade, biodiversity and sustainable development in the context of discussions underway as part of Member-led initiatives such as the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD), the WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution (DPP) and the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) initiative.

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** recognizes the need for policy and regulatory related actions in support of the global biodiversity agenda and acknowledges that trade can be an engine to catalyze solutions to effectively implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Plan (GBF). To deliver on this, UNEP currently implements the GEF Early Action Support (GEF EAS) project and GEF-8 projects focusing on national target setting and related indicators, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership. In addition, the Environment and Trade initiative launched in 2015 is the delivery mechanism of UNEP on trade and as a key partner in the global [Trade, Development and the Environment Hub project \(TRADE Hub\)](#), UNEP has been supporting countries to advance a nature-positive trade conducive of delivering the GBF targets and sustainable and inclusive development, through knowledge products and the delivery of the 2023 Regional Stakeholder Consultations on Nature-positive trade and sustainable development in [Asia](#), [Africa](#) and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), in collaboration with UN Trade and Biodiversity and ITC, as well as national partners. Under the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, UNEP also has a strong cooperation with a number of UN agencies to support the national implementation of the GBF and is partnering with UN Trade and Biodiversity to develop guidance and capacities for trade and biodiversity policies.

Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the **CBD** is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, through the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders.

## VI. Outreach - Relevant Links and Resources:

- Trade Day website: [Trade Day at Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 | UNCTAD](#)
- CBD's Trade Day webpage: [Convention on Biological Diversity \(cbd.int\)](#)
- Trade Day Trello board with ready-to-use communication assets: [Trade Day COP16 | Trello](#)
- News item: [UN biodiversity conference 2024 to feature first-ever 'Trade Day' | UNCTAD](#)

## VII. Contact Information

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<sup>i</sup> For further information, please visit: <https://tradehub.earth/en/news/nature-positive-trade-identifying-opportunities-for-sustainable-agriculture-and-biodiversity>; <https://tradehub.earth/en/news/nature-positive-trade-identifying-opportunities-for-the-sustainable-use-of-marine-resources-including-sustainable-fisheries>, <https://tradehub.earth/en/news/nature-positive-trade-how-can-trade-in-support-of-the-circular-economy-facilitate-the-delivery-of-biodiversity-targets>. The last session was held as part of the 7th BioTrade Congress: <https://unctad.org/meeting/7th-biotrade-congress-global-governance-trade-and-biodiversity>.