

# Informal lunch event on trade and biodiversity statistics

17 Oct 2023

12.30–2.30 p.m.

Room VII and online

Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



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BioTRADE  
initiative

# Trade in biodiversity-based products UNCTAD's Trade and Biodiversity "TraBio" statistical tool

**By UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative and Statistics Service**

*The development of the TraBio was conducted under the "Global BioTrade Programme: Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development" funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO*



# Importance of biodiversity



**Biodiversity** supports livelihoods of nearly **half the world's population** (CBD, 2018)



**Half of the world's GDP is dependent on nature** to some extent (WEF, 2020)



BUT...



**Trade data** related to **biodiversity-based products and services** is **scattered** and not easily accessible to all stakeholders



## Filling the gap: TraBio statistical tool

Launched in Sept 2022

- Information on global trade flows of 1,814 biodiversity-based products (from 2010 onwards)
- Consistent, complete data on imports & exports of biodiversity-based products and other relevant indicators
- First step to harmonized and internationally accepted statistical framework for biodiversity-related trade



# UNCTAD's Trade and Biodiversity

## "TraBio" statistical tool

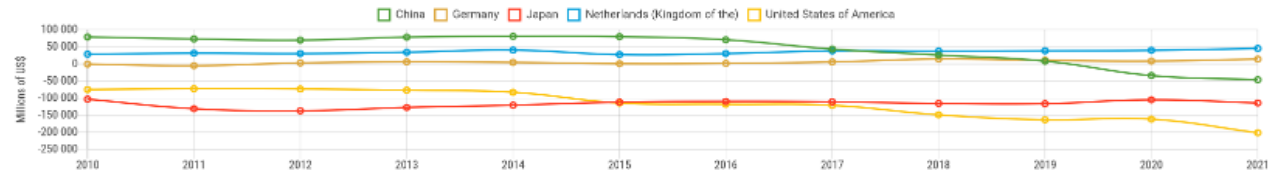
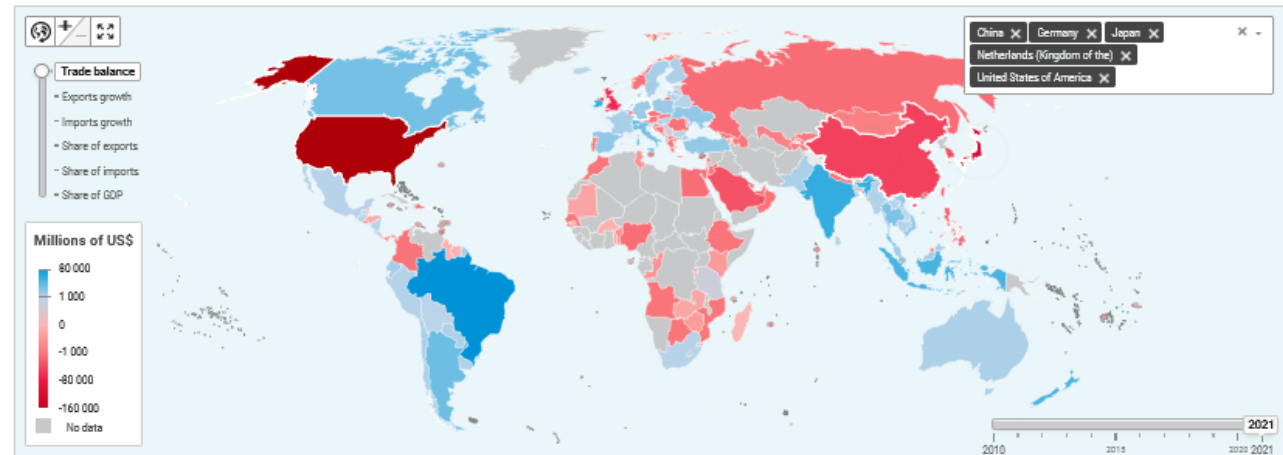


Groundbreaking data on global trade flows & related indicators of biodiversity products

- Facilitates understanding and analyses of biodiversity-related trade dynamics
- Informs policymakers on impact of biodiversity-based trade
- Helps monitoring progress on biodiversity-relevant goals & targets

### World map – Trends in biodiversity-based indicators

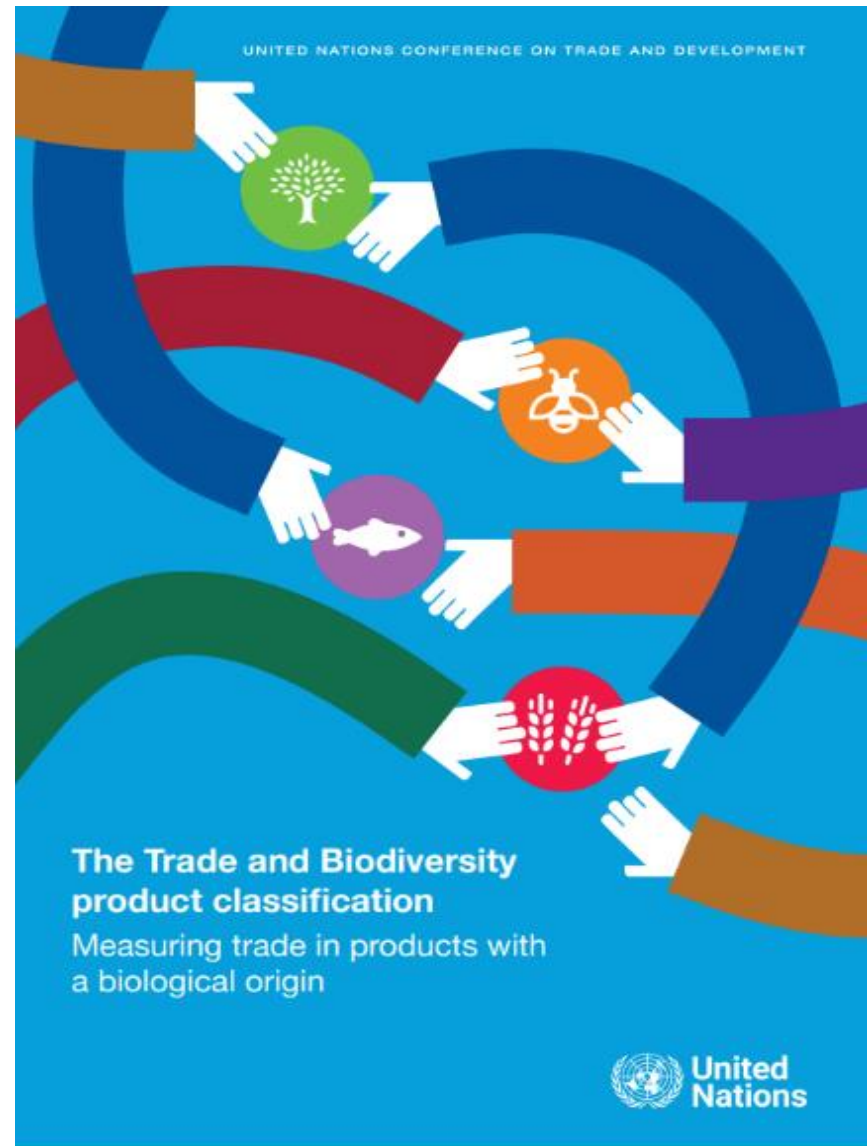
This map allows to visualise several trade indicators by selecting the desired indicator from the dial on the left: trade balance, growth in exports and imports of biotrade, biotrade as a share of total trade, and biotrade as a share of GDP. The map will show each country with a different shade based on the scale on the left for the selected year. A time series will be shown below the map for the selected indicator and countries over the past 10 years.



Notes: Top 5 countries (imports + exports of total BioTrade) are shown in the default selection.

## Component 1:

**Product list and product classification of biodiversity-based goods**  
(universe of biodiversity-based goods included in the TraBio statistical tool)



## Component 2:

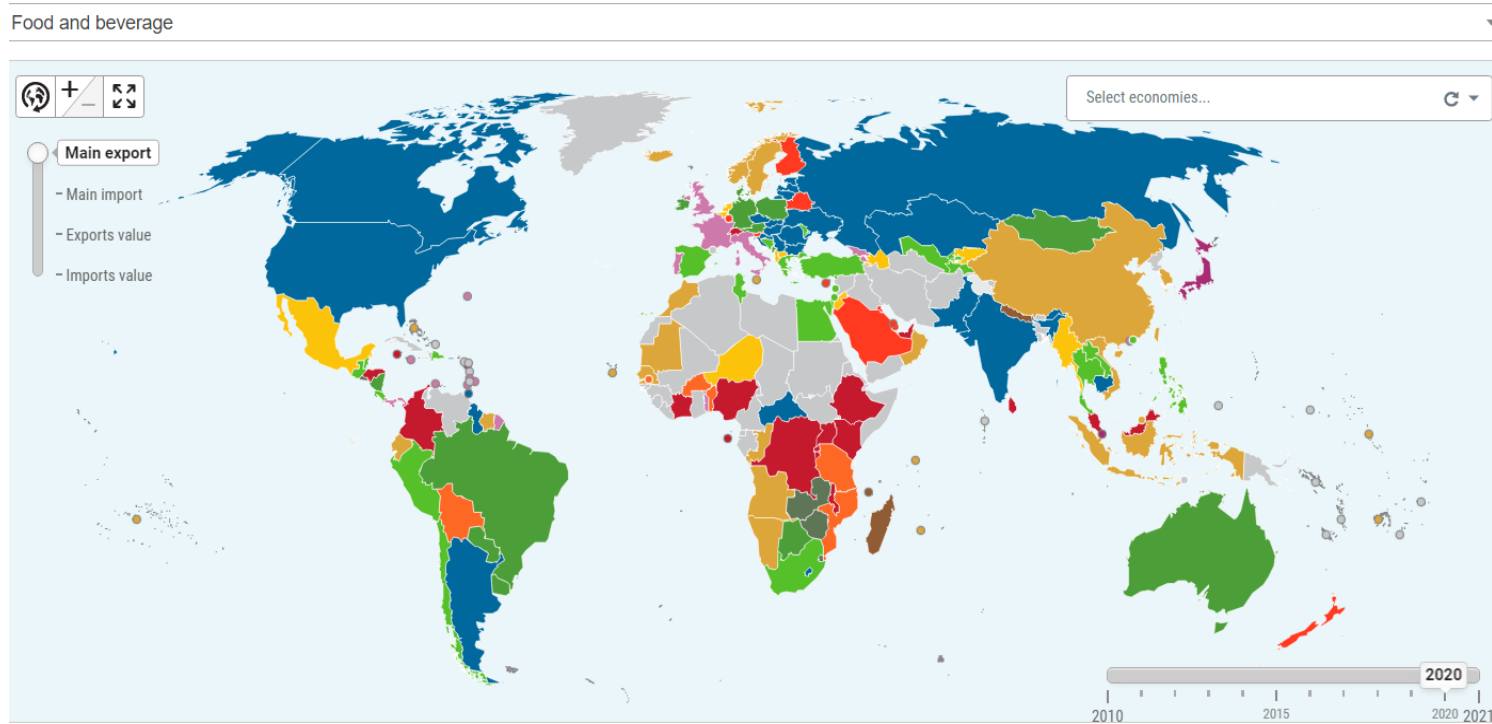
### Database

data on annual trade flows  
of biodiversity-based  
products & trade indicators  
since 2010

*(free access and download)*

Name
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade in thousands of United States dollars, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade, growth rates, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade balance in thousands of United States dollars, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade balance, growth rates, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade of priority products in thousands of United States dollars, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Trade of priority products, growth rates, annual
Trade and biodiversity - Biotrade as percentage of total trade, annual
Trade and biodiversity - Biotrade as percentage of Gross Domestic Product, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Product concentration indices of exports and imports, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Market concentration indices of exports and imports of products, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Market structural change indices of exports and imports of products, annual
Trade and Biodiversity - Revealed comparative advantage index, annual

<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/>



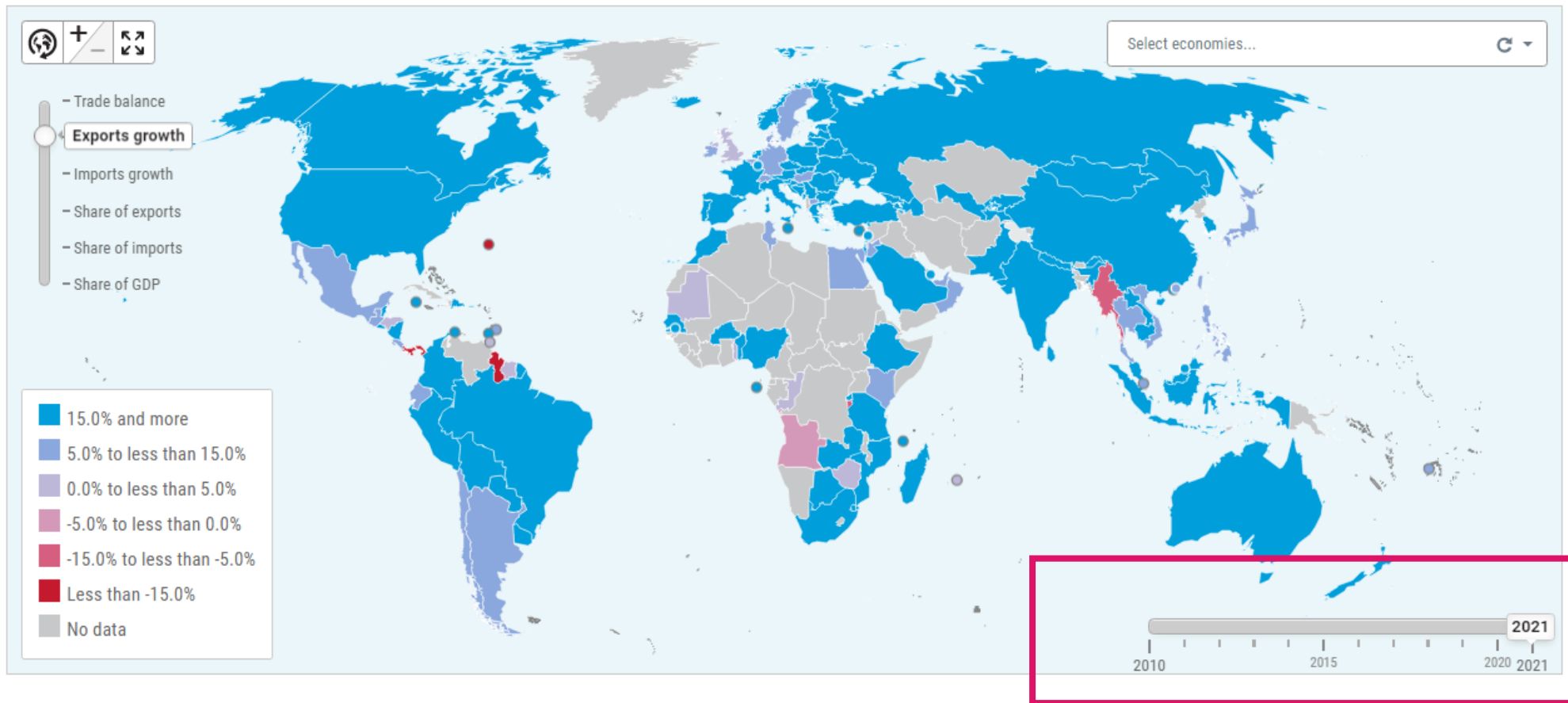
## Component 3: Interactive visualisation tools (e.g. maps and charts)

<https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/biotrade.html>



# From global analysis...

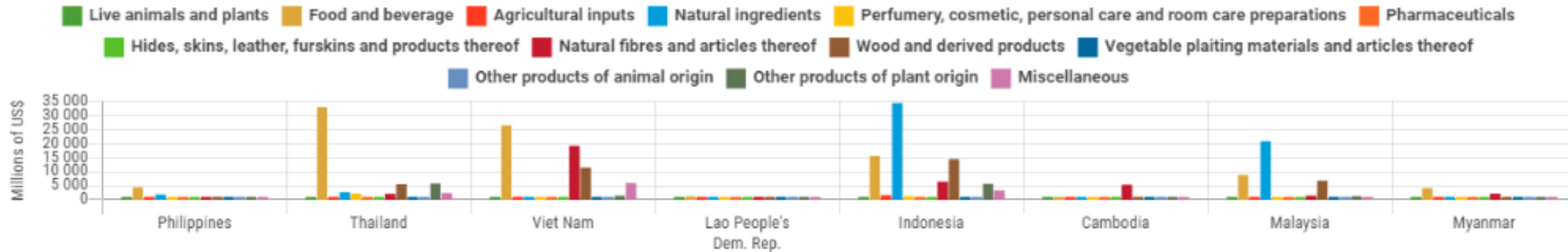
Export growth of biodiversity-based products in 2021



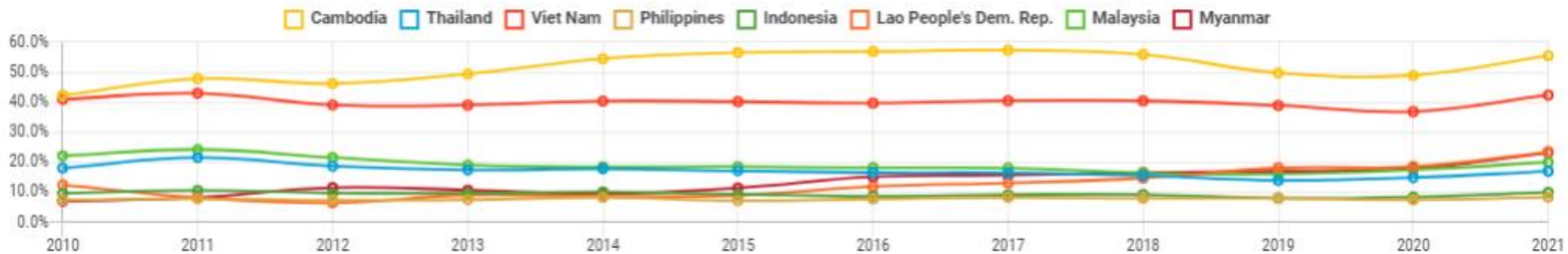
Source: TraBio/UNCTADstat, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/en/Biotrade.html>

# ....To regional, national, and by product level

Trade in biodiversity-based products in selected ASEAN countries (2021)

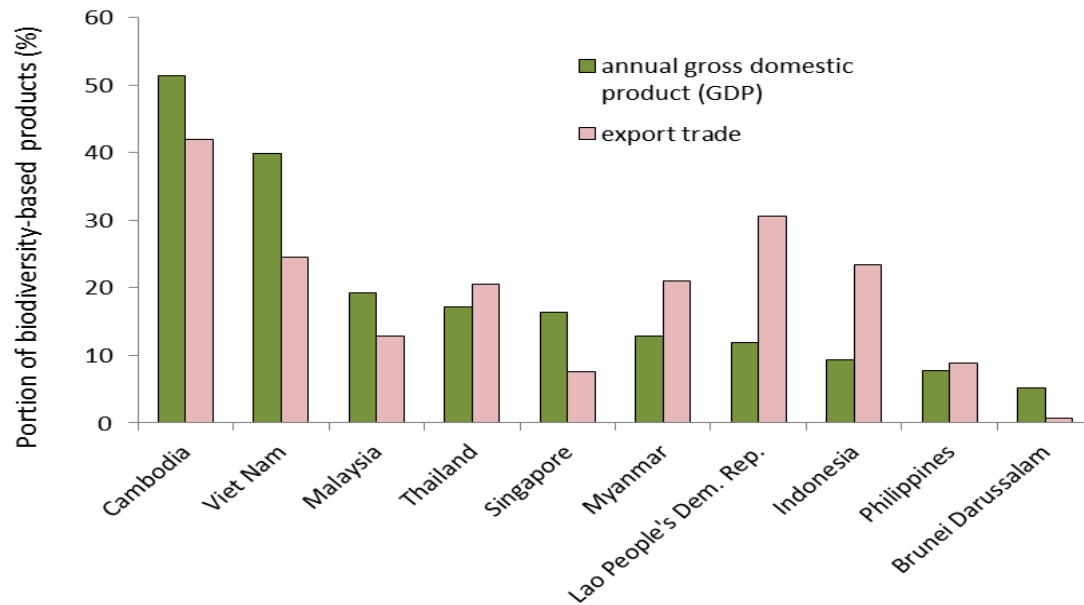


Trade in biodiversity-based products as a %GDP (2021)

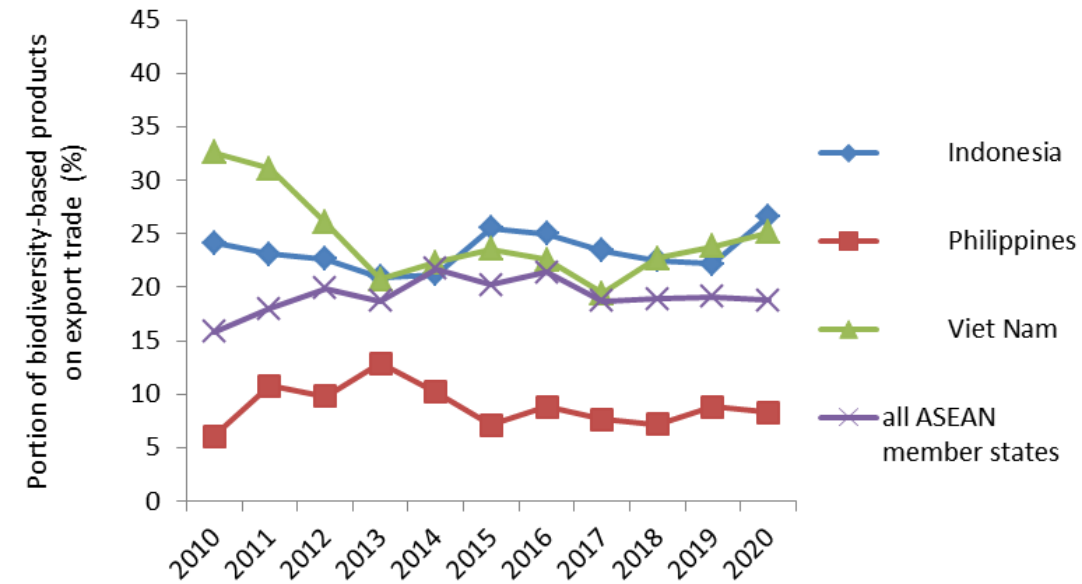


Source: TraBio/UNCTADstat, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/en/Biotrade.html>

# Economic relevance of biodiversity-based products in selected countries: % GDP and Exports (e.g. ASEAN countries)



Average share of biodiversity-based products in the annual GDP and export trade for ASEAN member states from 2010 to 2020.

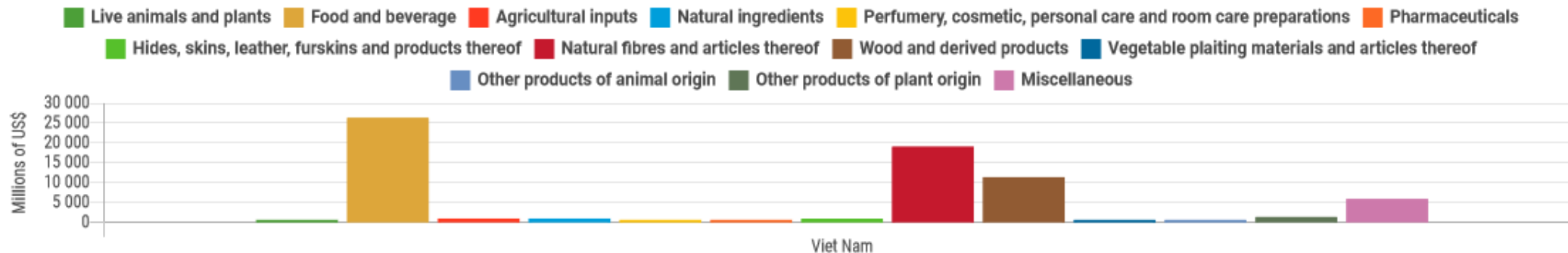


Share of biodiversity-based products in export for selected ASEAN countries and average for all during 2010 to 2020.

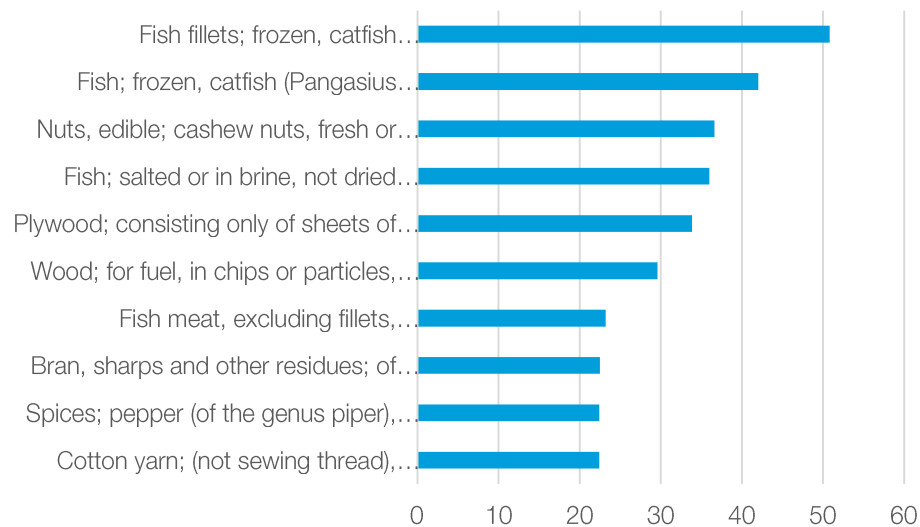
Source: prepared by C. Woda from TraBio/UNCTADstat, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/en/Biotrade.html>

# Tools to help policymakers (e.g. Viet Nam)

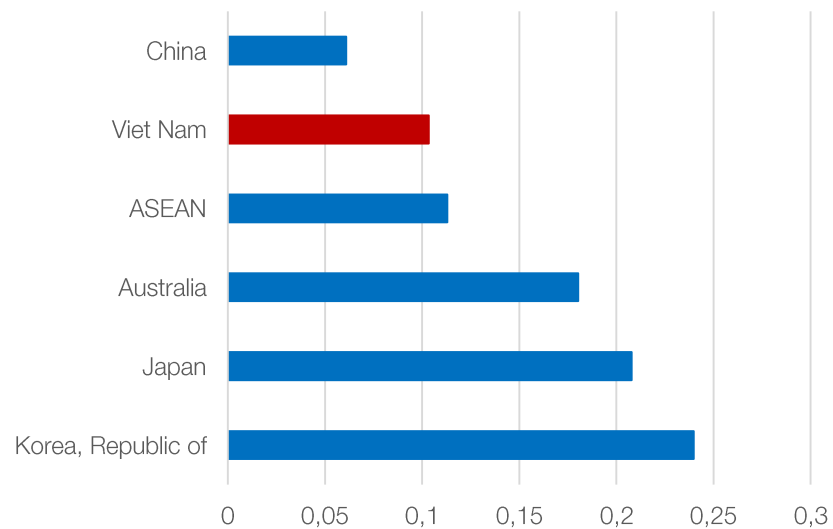
## Exports of biodiversity-based products (2021)



## Analysis of Revealed comparative advantage (2021)



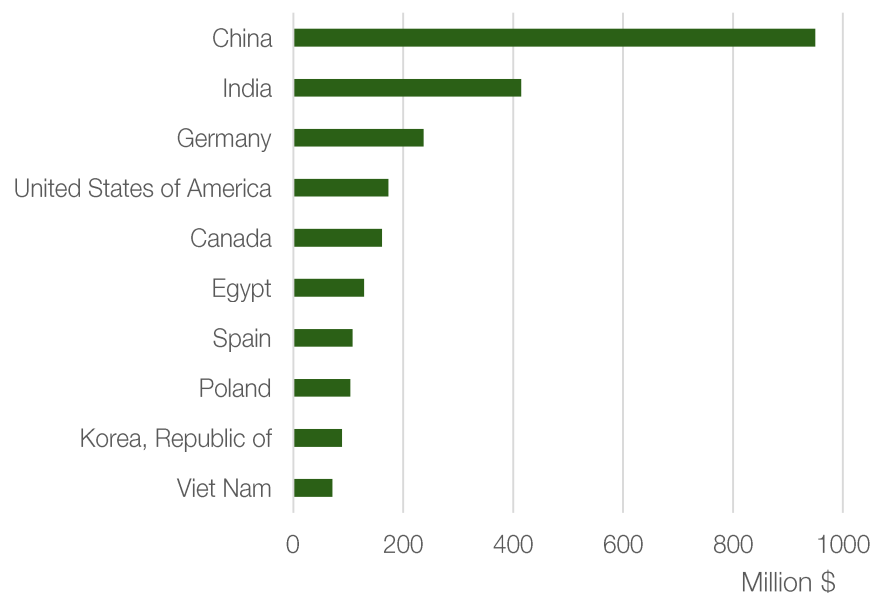
## Product concentration of exports (2021)



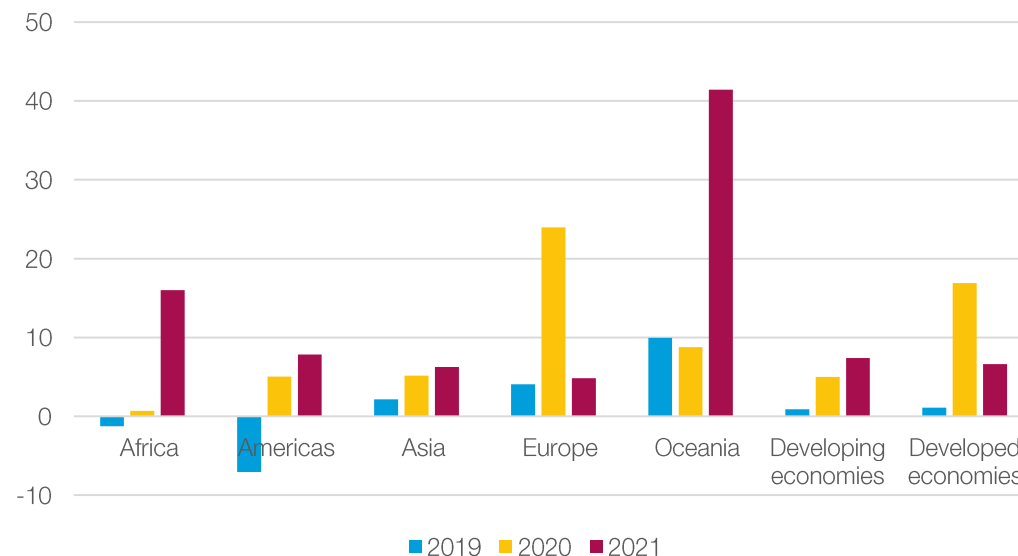
# TraBio information for the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Goal B, Complementary indicator in GBF's Monitoring framework:  
 "Trends in the legal trade of medicinal plants"

Top 10 exporters of medicinal plants in 2021



Growth rate exports of medicinal plants 2019-2021



Source: TraBio/UNCTADstat, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/en/Biotrade.html>





# How to access the information

**TraBio** is freely available online for users to access, use and download from at UNCTAD's statistics portal UNCTADstat:

- Database: <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/>
- Visualization tools web page: <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/biotrade.html>



# Taking the pulse of the SDGs: UNCTAD's SDG Pulse 2023



By UNCTAD Statistics Service





# UNCTAD's SDG Pulse 2023

## Sustainability and resilience

New data on sustainable oceans, plastics and trade of biodiversity-based products offer a tool for global action

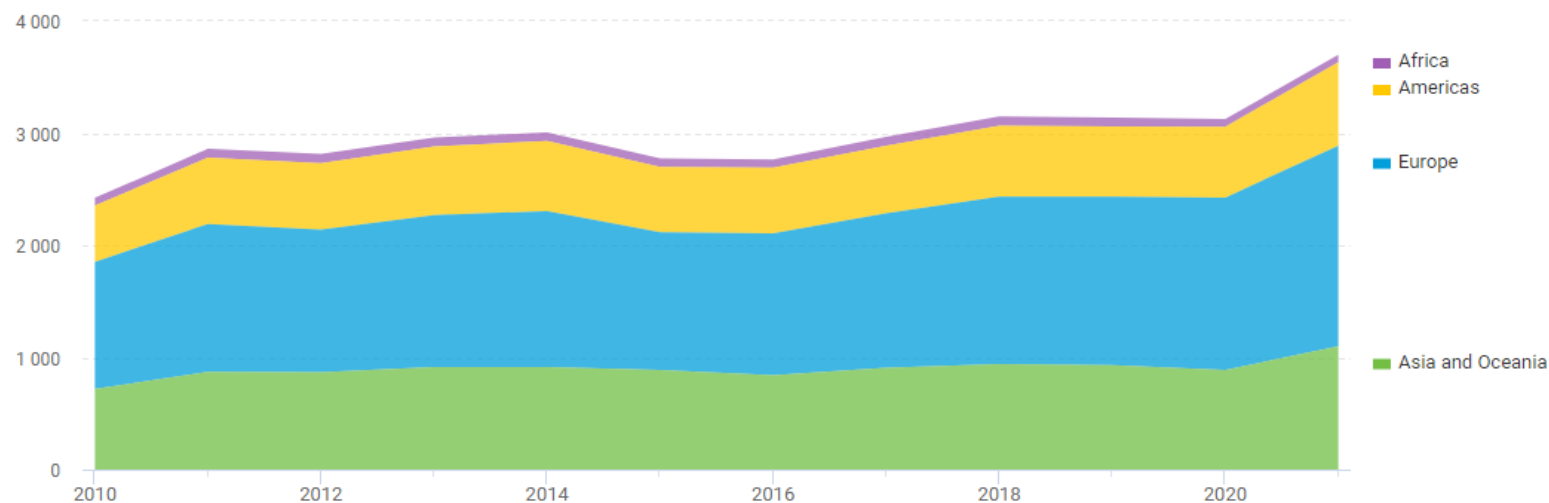
<https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/sustainable-trade/>



# Trade of biodiversity-based products is increasing with large discrepancies

Global export of biodiversity-based goods value at **US\$3.7 trillion** in 2021, led mostly by developed economies 


 **Figure 9. Over time, Europe has been the largest biodiversity-based products exporter globally**  
(Billions of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat (UNCTAD, 2023a).

Note: Data refer to biotrade goods as identified by UNCTAD (2022), based on HS codes.

# Trade of biodiversity-based products delivers essential goods across the world

 Table 1. Essential goods – food and beverages, medication and wood – at the core of exports of biodiversity-based products, 2021

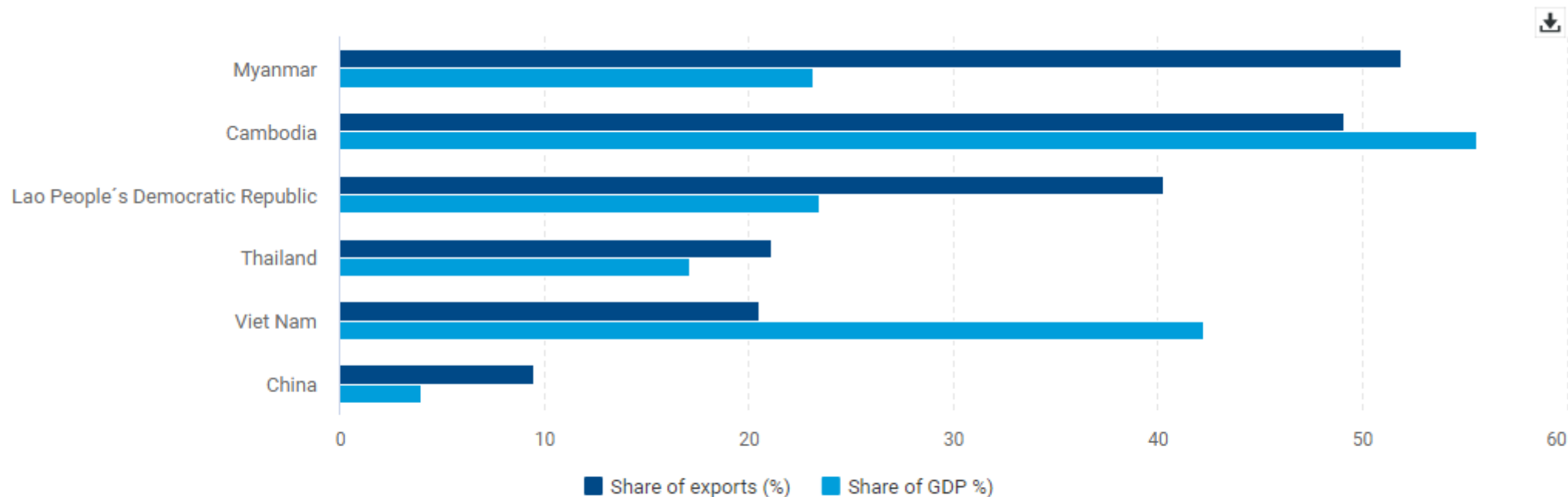
	US\$ millions	% of total trade of biodiversity-based products	Change from 2010
Food and beverage	1 358 261.6	36.7	2.5
Pharmaceuticals	563 271.3	15.2	2.7
Wood and derived products	486 842.7	13.2	-1.0
Natural fibres and articles thereof	394 077.3	10.7	-3.7
Natural ingredients	326 017.7	8.8	1.4
Perfumery, cosmetic, personal care and room care preparations	143 864.3	3.9	0.9
Miscellaneous	125 086.8	3.4	-0.9
Agricultural inputs	93 175.2	2.5	0.0
Hides, skins, leather, furskins and products thereof	68 096.0	1.8	-0.9
Other products of plant origin	60 389.3	1.6	-0.9
Live animals and plants	52 299.1	1.4	-0.1
Other products of animal origin	18 722.4	0.5	0.0
Vegetable plaiting materials and articles thereof	7 931.0	0.2	0.0

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat ([UNCTAD, 2023a](#)).

Note: Data refer to biotrade goods as identified by [UNCTAD \(2022\)](#), based on HS codes.



# Trade of biodiversity-based product is crucial for the economy and trade of many countries (e.g. Mekong region)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat (UNCTAD, 2023a).

Note: Data refer to biotrade goods as identified by UNCTAD (2022), based on HS codes.

# What's next?

## UNCTAD's ongoing work on Trade and Biodiversity statistics

- **Enhance collaboration** with organizations/experts working on data & statistics in related areas
- **Working group of experts** to:
  - 1) develop common approaches and ensure synergies
  - 2) expand the coverage, scope and use of TraBio liaising with other relevant online platforms.



# Thank you

Contact us: [biotrade@un.org](mailto:biotrade@un.org)



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