

Online workshop on trade and biodiversity for post-2020

24 March 2021 13:30 – 15:00 CET

Background document for participants **-> third draft version, any input is welcome.**

1. Purpose of the workshop

This online workshop aims to convene not only the negotiators, but also business representatives and other stakeholders who are actively involved or interested in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and in the role trade can and should play in it.

→ In order to prepare for the workshop, participants are encouraged to take some time to prepare for the sessions by thinking about possible further questions, responses, reflections and ideas for the guiding questions which are provided below. Please bear in mind the overall objective of the online workshop: to explore the role legal and sustainable trade could take within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation.

This document is available on the meeting website: <https://unctad.org/meeting/online-workshop-trade-and-biodiversity-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

2. Trade and biodiversity

Trade, an indispensable component of national economies involves businesses, societies, and biodiversity, as approximately 40% of the world's economy is dependent on nature and its services (WEF 2020). The shift to legal and sustainable trade is an important transformation called for by IPBES and the Global Sustainable Development Report. Trade, underpinned by social values and behaviours, may either be considered an indirect driver of biodiversity loss or an important factor in solving sustainability challenges (2019 IPBES Global Assessment) and can contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The legal and sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services creates incentives for the sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit sharing, supports cross-sectoral cooperation, mobilizes resources, and increases awareness for biodiversity. Furthermore, trade in sustainably sourced products (or services) promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns and provides long-term livelihood opportunities for communities which rely on natural resources. Trade can strengthen engagement of private sector actors and trade policies can support phasing out incentives which are negative for biodiversity but also create positive incentives.

Reference materials on trade and biodiversity

4th BioTrade Congress, Trade and Biodiversity Conservation, UNCTAD 2017:

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2017d2_en.pdf

Trade and Biodiversity, EU Policy Department for External Relations 2020:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/603494/EXPO_IDA\(2020\)603494_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/603494/EXPO_IDA(2020)603494_EN.pdf)

Expertise France: Expertise on #17: Biotrade:

<https://4post2020bd.net/resources/expertise-on-17-biotrade/>

3. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Currently, a new Global Biodiversity Framework is being negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This framework will define targets and pathways for the conservation and management of biodiversity for the next decade and beyond. Since early 2019,

consultation workshops and meetings involving all stakeholders have been organized at the national, regional, and global levels before its adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Kunming, China in 2021.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the process of developing and approving the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is delayed. However, informal meetings are being organized to maintain the momentum and prepare for the formal meetings which are expected to commence in the first half of 2021. The next formal meeting of the post-2020 process will be the third meeting of the Open-ended Working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (OEWG-3). This meeting will, for the first time, negotiate the full text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This text is being prepared by the co-chairs of the OEWG, supported by the CBD Secretariat and informed by thematic workshops as well as the 24th CBD Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the 3rd Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) meetings. These subsidiary body meetings are very critical contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Links related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process

- UNCTAD BioTrade website on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process: <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/biotrade/Post-2020-framework>
- SBI-3 meeting documents: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-03>
- SBSTTA-24 meeting documents: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-24>
- CBD Website on post-2020: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>
- UNEP-WCMC post-2020 timeline tool: <https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org>

4. The contribution of BioTrade to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative and its partners aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the promotion of legal and sustainable trade and investment in biodiversity-based products and services. If conducted under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria, trade can be sustainable. UNCTAD has been promoting legal and sustainable trade through its BioTrade Initiative since 1996 and the Oceans Economy and Fisheries Programme. UNCTAD coined the word “BioTrade” which promotes the legal and sustainable production and trade of biodiversity-based products and services, such as quinoa, marula and birdwatching. BioTrade adds economic value to biodiversity by providing incentives for its conservation, e.g., through benefit-sharing among actors, generation of livelihoods and promotes private sector engagement. With its partners, the BioTrade Initiative is also working to create an enabling policy environment that supports BioTrade/legal and sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services. This has created incentives for biodiversity-friendly harvesting and production at the community level, as well as opportunities for companies to transform their business models by adopting biodiversity-friendly practices. Over the years, 5 million jobs have been generated and sales of BioTrade companies, associations and initiatives sustainably sourcing products in 2019 amounted to Euro 5,15 billion.

BioTrade refers to activities related to the collection or production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from biodiversity (genetic resources, species, and ecosystems) under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria. These criteria, known as the BioTrade Principles and Criteria (P&C) are the guidelines used to implement activities of the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, the BioTrade programmes and other related activities since their inception in 2007.

The contribution of the BioTrade Initiative, including UNCTAD and BioTrade partners, to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process centers on:

- 1) differentiating between legal, sustainable and traceable trade with illegal trade, the latter contributing to the loss of biodiversity.
- 2) reaffirming the importance of sustainable use and the central role that the private sector can play in curbing biodiversity loss and in achieving a transformational change in consumption and production patterns and in the sharing of benefits.

3) fostering legal and sustainable trade as an incentive to drive global trade patterns in a direction that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the CBD by providing positive incentives for and promoting private sector engagement in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4) emphasizing how legal and sustainable trade is a driver for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies and in allocating resources for biodiversity.

Links related to the BioTrade Initiative

BioTrade Principles and Criteria 2021:

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2020d2_en.pdf

20 Years of BioTrade: Connecting People, the Planet and Markets:

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2016d4_en.pdf

Presentation on the contribution of BioTrade to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

<https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/99CDF67B-59AA-B2B8-221A-8D0BC18830C2/attachments/UNCTAD.pdf>

5. Workshop sessions

The workshop sessions will take place in parallel. You will have signed up for one of the sessions. Each session starts with a brief opening by the facilitator (2-3 minutes) and then swiftly moves to the discussion. Each question is first addressed to the experts (2-4 per session) and then to all the participants of the group. The first question intends to enable a round of introduction: How and to which extent are you engaging in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework? The other questions depend on the group. The session concludes with a round of proposals on how to reflect trade in the design and the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Group 1: Legal and sustainable trade as a way for business engagement

Group 1 will discuss how businesses could be engaged in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework through trade, what narratives the connection between trade and biodiversity could provide and to which extent trade needs to be embedded in the framework. It will do that along the following **guiding questions**:

Guiding Questions

Regarding the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- *How can the post-2020 global biodiversity framework further promote the legal and sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services, including BioTrade, as a means for the business community to contribute to conservation, sustainable use and local livelihoods?*

- *How can international business and biodiversity platforms use trade and biodiversity as a lever to engage in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework?*

In relation to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- *How can the business community through the legal and sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services, including BioTrade, and the sustainable use of biodiversity support the implementation of the post 2020 GBF?*

- *How can companies involved in the legal and sustainable trade of biodiversity-based products and services, including BioTrade, lead the way towards the broader involvement of the business community in supporting the implementation of the post-2020 GBF? (e.g. sharing of good practices etc)*

- *What role can sustainable trade play in providing incentives and opportunities for biodiversity-based and biodiversity-friendly business practises?*

- *How can trade be an entry point to enlarge the group of businesses interested in and concerned with biodiversity?*

Relevant links

The Big Shift: Business for Biodiversity:

<https://bit.ly/3uyYdoZ>

The Business of BioTrade: Using Biological Resources Sustainably and Responsibly:

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcbcc20094_en.pdf

Report of the III BioTrade Congress Biodiversity and Trade: Promoting Sustainable Use Through Business Engagement

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcted2015d2_en.pdf

Group 2: Measuring trade and biodiversity

During the ongoing preparations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework it was very much emphasized by governments and stakeholders that monitoring, reporting and reviewing mechanisms will play an essential role in the implementation of the framework. A global stocktake is foreseen to assess the progress. Group 2 will explore what role trade-related information can and should play along the following guiding questions: *How can the impact of trade on biodiversity be measured and monitored? What trade-based information is available and how can it be used to monitor progress towards the implementation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework? Is there any necessary/important trade and biodiversity-related information which is not available yet that would allow for better monitoring of implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework from a trade and biodiversity perspective?*

Relevant links

Webinar on Biodiversity and Trade Statistics (Mekong region, India and Europe):

<https://unctad.org/meeting/webinar-biodiversity-and-trade-statistics-mekong-region-india-and-europe>

Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Information document prepared for SBSTTA-24 by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

<https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-24/post2020-indicators-en.pdf>

Group 3: Standards and guidelines for trade and biodiversity

International standards and guidelines for trade and biodiversity are being applied and are constantly evolving. Could they benefit from recognition in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to which extent could the post-2020 global biodiversity framework lead to enhancing their application? This discussion will be held by Group 3: *How can guidance materials support countries / companies in applying biodiversity-friendly business practises? Are guidelines and standards effective in contributing to reducing biodiversity loss? How can the post-2020 global biodiversity framework be used to enhance access of small farmers and producers to information on standards and guidelines? How can standards and guidelines contribute to implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework across different sectors? What role could the post-2020 global biodiversity framework play in supporting stakeholders to work with standards and guidelines?*

Relevant links

UNFSS 3rd Flagship Report on voluntary sustainability standards, trade and sustainable development:

<https://unfss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/UNFSS-3rd-Flagship-Report-FINAL-for-upload.pdf>

Outcome of the UNFSS Roundtable “Elevating environmental governance with sustainability standards requires a mélange of political powerplay”

<https://unfss.org/2021/02/16/elevating-environmental-governance-with-sustainability-standards-requires-a-melange-of-political-powerplay/>

GIZ publication on standards and labels for the promotion of biodiversity-friendly production and commercialization:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/assets/pdf/2017_Standards_and_labels_study-GIZ.pdf

Group 4: Achieving legal and sustainable trade through the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework process aims to be transformative, meaning that it leads to shifts in the way societies work to achieve biodiversity objectives. This includes the shift to legal and sustainable trade. Group 4 will explore what the necessary traits of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be to achieve this, along the following guiding questions: *How can trade and trade policy support the achievement and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework? What role could the post-2020 global biodiversity framework play in the shift to legal and sustainable trade? Who are the most important actors and how can they be involved? How can the trade angle in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework be strengthened? What role could the BioTrade Principles & Criteria play?*

Relevant links

Updated zero draft to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3064/749a/0f65ac7f9def86707f4eaefa/post2020-prep-02-01-en.pdf>

BioTrade partners' submissions to the post-2020 process are available on the UNCTAD BioTrade website on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process:

<https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/biotrade/Post-2020-framework>