



20 January to 15 February 2014

Background

Biodiversity is the source of many products and services utilized by society and its sustainable use is thus fundamental for long-term sustainable development. Natural resources are located mainly in rural areas, where over 70% of the world's poor live and directly depend on those resources to cover 90% of their needs in terms of food, fuel, medicine, shelter and transportation¹.

The BioTrade Initiative² of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) seeks to generate additional economic opportunities and income through the commercialization of biodiversity based products and services. The term BioTrade refers to activities of collection/production, transformation, and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity, under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Introduced by UNFCCC, REDD+ offer financial incentives to Developing Countries for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through conservation of forest carbon stocks

¹ Estimations from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

² For more information on the BioTrade Initiative: www.biotrade.org

and sustainable management of forests. It therefore represents an opportunity for integrating BioTrade activities into climate-friendly policies, thereby strengthening local economic activities in forest buffer zones.

In order to build the capacity of BioTrade partitioners and policy makers in harnessing the joint benefits of REDD+ and BioTrade, the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative with the support of the United Nations Development Account has developed the e-Learning course on: *Integrating REDD+ Projects into BioTrade Strategies*.

Course objective

Participants will learn about the key concepts and methodologies related to both BioTrade and REDD+. They will also develop their ability to identify synergies between REDD+ and BioTrade as well as the capacity to assess the potential for combining the two approaches. Additionally, they will start building their capacity to develop and implement joint BioTrade and REDD+ projects through step by step guidelines.

After completing this e-Learning course, participants will be able to:

1. Define the BioTrade Initiative and REDD+ activities
2. Recognise the synergies between BioTrade and REDD+
3. Outline the steps to implementing BioTrade and REDD+ projects
4. Assess joint BioTrade and REDD+ project designs

Target audience

This e-Learning course has been specifically designed with project proponents and developers in mind. The detailed information on BioTrade and REDD+ along with the explanation of the synergies between the two concepts will also benefit to policy advisors and stakeholders involved in either type of activity at a project or national level.

Course dates and workload

The course will be conducted from 20 January to 15 February 2014. The estimated workload for completing this online training is 5 hours per week.

Course structure

The course is divided in four modules. It starts with an introduction to the BioTrade Initiative and to REDD+ projects. It then presents the synergies between BioTrade and REDD+ projects along with the challenges for creating coherence between these two types of activities. Finally, the online course provides a set of key considerations and a step by step methodology for integrating BioTrade and REDD+ projects.

Module 1: Introduction to BioTrade: Principles, Criteria, Approaches, Methodologies and Guidelines

A summary of the BioTrade initiative

Learning Objectives

1. Define BioTrade and its principles as well as its social, environmental and economic benefits; and

2. Describe the methodologies (value chain, resource assessment and management plans for wild collected species) and approaches (ecosystem, adaptive management, value chain, livelihoods).

Module 2: Introduction to REDD+: Project Design, Implementation and Carbon Trading.

A summary of REDD+ projects, standards, methodologies and commercialization

Learning Objectives

1. Define REDD+ and its benefits in terms of climate, community and biodiversity;
2. Describe its standards, methodologies and requirements; and
3. Identify potential market opportunities for REDD+ projects.

Module 3: Synergies between REDD+ and BioTrade

A presentation of the relationship between REDD+ and BioTrade and how the synergies between the two can be incorporated into good project design and implementation.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognise the similarities between REDD+ and BioTrade;
2. Identify differences between the two initiatives and how these affect project design; and
3. Analyse the opportunities for the implementation of both initiatives.

Module 4: Implementing REDD+ and BioTrade projects

A step-by-step guide to designing and implementing joint REDD+ and BioTrade projects.

Learning Objectives

1. Outline the steps to implementing REDD+ and BioTrade projects;
2. Identify a viable project; and
3. Define technical terminology in project design.

Course Methodology

The e-course has been designed taking into account the needs of professionals working on a full time schedule. It will be delivered in an asynchronous manner to facilitate free access to learning resources and participation in interactive online activities.

Each learning module includes an interactive lesson, also available in downloadable text version, comprising a presentation and an audio recording. Modules also include a set of key resource documents, an online discussion forum and an automated learning assessment. The course is also complemented by a Training Manual for developing joint BioTrade and REDD+ Project.

At the end of the course, participants will complete an interactive case study.

Portuguese Translation

The course will be conducted in English.

To improve the learning experience of Portuguese speakers, each e-Lesson will be made available in Portuguese in the form of a PDF transcript. Assessment questions will also be translated in Portuguese.

Contact and Registration

This e-Learning course is organized by the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative and is opened in priority to participants from Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador. Registrations are made upon invitation by the BioTrade Initiative. For more information please contact **biotrade@unctad.org**

Registration is opened from 16 December 2013 to 13 January 2014.