



PART I: SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP

Developing a Regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon Region

Objectives

This informal workshop brought together BioTrade partners, representatives of the Amazon countries, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to discuss and provide inputs, in an informal setting, to the formulation process of a joint BioTrade Programme in the Amazon region.

Methodology

The discussions were organized in the following sessions:

- Session 1: Raison d'être of an Amazon BioTrade Programme
- Session 2: Core elements & approach
- Session 3: Structure of an Amazon BioTrade Programme
- Session 4: Next steps in the formulation of an Amazon BioTrade Programme

The workshop opens with an invitation from OTCA and UNCTAD to discuss the opportunities that a regional biotrade program can offer based in aspects like the following:

- Sustainability vision
- Regional vision
- Create a space for cooperation (economic, knowledge, and other levels)
- Develop complementary actions or activities to the development of Biotrade
- Foster the exchange of knowledge for the countries
- Capture economic resources
- Represent the uniqueness of the Amazon
- Open a visible space for the countries integrating existent initiatives
- To work from a holistic standpoint of the Amazon basin that allows the integration of Andean themes and concerns according to regional interests

Session 1: Raison d'être of an Amazon BioTrade Programme

What could be the objective of a partnership between ACTO and UNCTAD?

- Design a comprehensive strategy based on the national experiences, which can result in a regional work plan aimed at benefiting the local communities
- Support political, technical actors and local communities to consolidate the production and commercialization on value added biodiversity products

- Help put biotrade more firmly on the Amazon countries' national agendas and facilitate the activities already underway in the Amazon region, such as those undertaken by the BioTrade national programmes
- Facilitate strategic alliances at local, national and regional levels

What would be the value added of an Amazon BioTrade Programme.

- Work together in aspects that are difficult to be tackled unilaterally by the countries

How could the regional programme complement national initiatives such as the national BioTrade Programmes?

- It must be complementary and not to compete (for funds and activities). This means that the regional programme shall not duplicate national biotrade activities
- Effectively include the private sector
- Ensure the effective coordination amongst actors and existing programmes (Andean and Amazon region, national and regional programmes like REDLAC)
- Take into consideration differences in the level of development of the initiatives in the Amazon countries
- ACTO must provide a space for cooperation to internalize biotrade in the regional level

Session 2: Core elements & approach:

- *What should be the core elements of an Amazon BioTrade Programme?*

Based on the priorities defined by the participating countries these are the main elements for the development of an Amazon programme:

- Develop and improve capacity of producers and service providers (such as universities, research centers, local networks, among others)
- Identify potential markets and assist in the formulation of market promotional strategies and improve local, regional and international markets
- Define a regional geopolitical agenda to be advocated at national and international levels
- Provide inputs for issues related to intellectual property rights in such a way as to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of natural resources
- Promote alliances amongst local communities, associations, and commercial partners based on these actors' knowledge and experiences
- Address the legal aspects pertaining to biotrade: identify legal barriers to national and regional biotrade activities and existing incentives to its promotion and minimization of negative impacts
- Help promoting policies to stimulate biotechnological development

- Facilitate access to capital investment to institutional programmes and direct beneficiaries
- Exchange of information and experiences and regional capacity building
- Help combating wildlife illegal trafficking

For each of the above-mentioned points, there was a brief discussion about the priority of each theme in the regional agenda. Each country has different priorities vis-à-vis the regional work. This issue must be further discussed during the programme formulation phase.

Would the adaptation of a value chain approach be appropriate for an Amazon BioTrade programme?

The countries agreed that a regional biotrade programme should adopt a value chain approach.

Session 3: Structure of an Amazon BioTrade Programme

How could effective participation of national and regional players be ensured in a regional BioTrade programme?

How should an Amazon BioTrade programme be structured?

A clear definition of three essential questions must be elaborated:

- How to put the formulation and implementation phases in operation?
- Who is responsible for the policy-making and its implementation?
- How will the programme be implemented?

The initial proposal for roles is the following:

- *ACTO*: Articulating the implementing entities with the technical expertise of UNCTAD, ACTO is responsible for the decision-making
- *UNCTAD*: Technical facilitation of the process in coordination with the countries
- *National Biotrade Programmes*: Put the programme in operation at national level

Aspects to take into account:

- It is advised that the national biotrade programmes work with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to foster decision making processes
- Analyse expected results and the value added of an Amazon programme that allows to define indicators of impact

Session 4: Next steps in the formulation of an Amazon Biotrade Programme:

What could be the next steps to develop a BioTrade regional programme in the Amazon?

Take into account the three principles that shall guide the biotrade Amazon programme

1. International recognition
2. Generate explicit benefits for all parties

3. Define the results (and specify indicators to evaluate the desired outcomes)

Next Steps:

- Define coordination to enable the formulation of the regional biotrade programme
- Elevate consultations at ministerial level
- Provide inputs at the national level to enable the political acceptance of ACTO in each Amazon country
- Formulate a concept note outlining the components of a biotrade regional programme
- To obtain information about biotrade in the region.
- Organize national and regional workshops
- Promote cooperation with other regional organizations
- Fundraising to enable the formulation and implementation of the programme

Part II: Agenda



- 09:30 – 10:00** **Inscripciones y café**
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Bienvenida e Introducción**
Sra. Rosalía Arteaga, Secretaria General del OTCA
Sr. Lucas Assunção, Coordinador de la Iniciativa Biocomercio y Cambio Climático de la UNCTAD.
- 10:30 – 12:00** **Justificación del Programa Amazónico de Biocomercio, con el soporte de la OTCA y la UNCTAD.**
- *¿Cuáles podrían ser los objetivos?*
 - *¿Cuál podría ser el valor agregado?*
 - *¿Cómo podría este complementar las iniciativas nacionales?*
- Presentaciones Introductorias**
- *Perspectiva regional [OTCA]*
 - *Antecedentes de la Iniciativa Biocomercio y programas asociados [UNCTAD]*
- 12:00 – 13:30** **Elementos fundamentales y enfoque del Programa Amazónico de Biocomercio**
- *¿Cuáles podrían ser los elementos fundamentales del Programa Amazónico de Biocomercio?*
 - *¿Sería apropiado adoptar un enfoque de cadena de valor para el programa?*
- Presentaciones Introductorias**
- *Elementos factibles & el enfoque de cadenas de Valor [UNCTAD]*
- 13:30 – 14:30** *Almuerzo*
- 14:30 – 15:30** **Posible estructura del Programa Amazónico de Biocomercio**
- *¿Cómo podría ser asegurada la efectiva participación de los actores nacionales y regionales en el programa regional de Biocomercio?*
 - *¿Cómo podría ser estructurado el programa Amazónico de Biocomercio?*
- Presentaciones Introductorias**
- *Explicación estructural de la OTCA*
- 15:30 – 16:15** **Próximos pasos para el desarrollo de un Programa Amazónico**
- *¿Cuáles podrían ser los próximos pasos para desarrollar el programa regional de Biocomercio en la región Amazónica?*
- 16:15 – 16:30** **Clausura**

PART III: DISCUSSION PAPER

Prepared for the Workshop

Developing a Regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon Region

Sao Paulo, 13 June 2004

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to serve as a background for the workshop 'Developing a Regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon Region' to be held in Sao Paulo on 13 June 2004. This informal workshop offers an opportunity for BioTrade partners, representatives of Amazon countries, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to discuss and provide inputs, in an informal setting, to the formulation process of this joint BioTrade Programme.

I. Background

1. The Importance of Cooperation in the Amazon

The Amazon region comprises eight South American countries, including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela and Suriname, over an area of approximately 7.5 million km² (two times bigger than the EU-15 territory), which corresponds to 44 per cent of the South American territory. The Amazonian ecosystem encompasses a wide range of natural resources, including the largest tropical rainforest on the planet (which holds carbon stocks of some 80-90 billion tons above-ground), the world's largest freshwater hydrographical basin, and a shelter for some 200 mammal species, 950 bird species, 2,500 fish species and 300 reptile species offering the greatest genetic diversity in the world. Last, but not least, the Amazonian region is a major depository of mineral resources, including iron ore, oil and natural gas.

Despite its natural wealth, the Amazon as a whole faces high levels of illiteracy, precarious access to basic sanitation, high rates of deforestation and a predominantly predatory exploitation of its natural resources. The great challenge in the Amazon region as a whole is to achieve an appropriate balance between the exploitation of its natural resources, the creation of opportunities to improve the living conditions

of its over 22 million inhabitants and securing a sustainable development for the region¹.

Amazon countries face the challenge of promoting sustainable development of this vast region and, at the same time, better understand and use the wealth of Amazonian ecological and natural resources, shared among the eight countries. This challenge has motivated the discussions between UNCTAD BIOTRADE and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization on the possibility of establishing a joint regional programme in the Amazon for the promotion of trade and investment in the emerging sector for biodiversity products and services. This programme would complement the efforts already underway in Amazon countries such as the national Biotrade programmes.

Amazon countries still lack basic scientific knowledge on the functioning of the Amazonian ecosystem, as well as the application of this knowledge for the sustainable use of its natural resources. The plethora of scientific and technical disciplines required, as well as the funding involved emphasize the need for international partnerships and cooperation.

¹ This was pointed out by Ambassador Sergio Sanchez, first Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. See Editorial, www.tratadoamazonico.org.

2. The Regional Cooperation Mechanism in the Amazon

As an international legal instrument, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) provides the underlying framework for cooperation in the area of biotrade promotion. The ACT was adopted on 3 July 1978 by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela "to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories in such a way that these joint actions produce equitable and mutually beneficial results and achieve also the preservation of the environment, and the conservation and rational utilization of the natural resources of those territories" (ACT, Article 1)². Until 2002, the Treaty held a ProTempore Secretariat that rotated among its Parties following alphabetical order.

In late 2002, the ACT Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to give new impetus to Amazonian Cooperation by creating the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, with its permanent secretariat based in Brasilia. The creation of this new international organization, with its own legal identity, renews the need to institutionally strengthen this regional cooperation mechanism as a strategic instrument that serves the common interests of the eight contracting parties and forges a common vision of sustainable development for the Amazon region.

During 2003, the ACTO secretariat conducted a consultative process for the setting up of a medium term strategic plan and a realistic and focused Biannual Plan of Action limited to a few tangible initiatives. This process resulted in a Plan structured on a basis of four strategic axes: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Technological Transfer and Knowledge Management, Regional Integration and Institutional Strengthening and on the identification of six "programmatic areas" (water resources, forests, biotrade, human settlements, social infrastructure and transport/energy). The Strategic Plan has been submitted to the formal approval by the ACTO member countries.

3. The Idea of a Partnership between ACTO and UNCTAD Biotrade

The ACTO Secretariat has identified, as mentioned above, the promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity as one of its programmatic areas and included biotrade in the organization's Strategic Plan 2004-2010. The BIOTRADE Initiative of UNCTAD has been recognised in the strategic plan as an important partner to support sustainable use of biodiversity by promoting trade and investment in biodiversity products and services. UNCTAD is assisting ACTO with the formulation of a regional programme which promotes biotrade in the Amazon region and builds on existing national Biotrade programmes in operation primarily in the Andean countries, and more recently also in Brazil. Taking advantage and at the occasion of the UNCTAD XI conference in June 2004 in Sao Paulo, UNCTAD and ACTO are organizing an initial workshop involving a selected number of national and regional partner organisations to discuss the possible contents of a regional BioTrade programme, taking into account the interests and aspirations manifested by the Amazon countries.

² Brasilia, 3 July 1978, in force 2 February 1980, 17 ILM 1045 (1978).

The Organization of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACTO)

What is ACTO?

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is a multi-governmental entity with the main purpose of implementing the guidelines and objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), which are set by the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers. ACTO has a Permanent Secretariat established in Brasilia since 2003, which prepares, in coordination with the contracting parties, its work plans and programme of activities. It acts as a catalyst and promoter of efforts throughout the region, imprinting dynamism on the exchange of experiences, spreading scientific and technical information and encouraging the formulation and implementation of regional projects.

How does ACTO work?

The institutional framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, within which ACTO operates, is as follows:

Meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers:

The Treaty's highest body is responsible for establishing the basic guidelines for common policies, for assessing and evaluating the general development or the process of regional cooperation and for taking decisions designed to carry out the aims set out in the ACT.

Amazon Co-operation Council:

The ACC is composed by high-level diplomatic representatives of each contracting party and carries out the decisions taken at the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers, recommends to the parties the appropriateness of convening such meetings, takes under consideration initiatives presented by the Parties, and decides on the undertaking of bilateral or multilateral studies and technical cooperation projects.

Amazon Cooperation Coordination Commission:

This Commission is composed of the Ambassadors of the Member Countries in Brasilia, and serves as a consultative and auxiliary body of the Amazon Cooperation Council. It carries up the follow-up of the planning, programming and budget execution of the Permanent Secretary. It also evaluates the activities developed within the frame of the ACTO, making recommendations to the delegates of the ACC.

Permanent National Commissions:

The Permanent National Commissions, established in each contracting country, are charged with enforcing in their respective territories the provisions set out in the Treaty, as well as carrying out the decisions taken at meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

Special Commissions

The Special Commissions, formed by entities designated by the contracting parties, are set up to study specific topics. They have already been created in the areas of environment, science and technology, transport, communication and infrastructure, health, indigenous affairs, tourism and education. The Commissions involve competent national institutions of each sector; thus making up an active subregional network.

The programmes, projects and technical activities are carried out through the Special Commissions and the Permanent National Commissions. The Secretariat is in charge of the follow-up and takes necessary action for their prompt execution.

The BIOTRADE Initiative

What is Biotrade?

The UNCTAD/BIOTRADE Initiative aims at promoting trade and investment in biodiversity-based products and services in developing countries to foster sustainable development according to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It assists these countries and partner organizations to create an enabling environment for the development of biodiversity-related sectors by building partnerships with key public and private actors, promoting sustainable business ventures, and providing inputs to policy making.

How does BIOTRADE work?

The UNCTAD/BIOTRADE Initiative assists the development and implementation of BIOTRADE country programmes. In each country a policy focal point and a technical focal point are established. The former is typically a government entity, such as the Ministry of Environment, which can assist with the development of policies and legislation that facilitate and promote biodiversity-based development. The latter executes the national programme and undertakes concrete interventions that facilitate investment, national commercialisation and trade in 'biotrade' products. BIOTRADE national programmes are currently being developed in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Uganda.

UNCTAD/BIOTRADE has developed regional and international programmes to complement the activities carried out by the national programmes. At regional level, the Andean BIOTRADE Programme of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and UNCTAD assists the implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy.

At the international level, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (ITC) have initiated the BioTrade Facilitation Programme (BTFF). This programme is a response to the many challenges faced by developing countries in exporting "natural products". It helps enterprises in developing countries (for example small, medium, and community-based enterprises) with export promotion. To achieve this, it joins several partners in developing and developed countries. The programme supports products that have market potential and can be produced without harming biodiversity. To develop and trade these products, export plans are formulated and then implemented through a set of practical trade promotion services, including market information collection, products development, quality improvement certification, labelling, trade fairs participation and matchmaking. Selected countries from Latin America (the Andean and Amazonian regions), Africa (the Eastern and Southern regions) and Asia are currently part of the BTFF. This programme counts with the financial support of the governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The BIOTRADE Initiative is developing various activities in the Amazon, for instance the Andean-Amazonian Bio-business Contest, together with The World Resources Institute (WRI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF). This Forum brings together small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and investors interested in 'green' investments. The forum will boost investments (risk-capital and loans) in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that build their core business around the sustainable use of biodiversity. The 2004 Forum will be held in Lima, Peru. By November 2003, over 50 enterprises were selected from more than 200 initial applicants interested in benefiting from the forum. Selected enterprises receive technical assistance through the national BIOTRADE programmes, in order to upgrade their business plans following business and biodiversity criteria. The Forum in June 2004 will be an opportunity to reward the best business plans developed during a rigorous selection process and help the matchmaking with potential investors, venture capitalists, institutional creditors, as well as other potential partners interested in this emerging sector.

II. Workshop: Developing a Regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon Region

The outcomes of the workshop 'Developing a Regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon Region', will serve as a basis for ACTO and UNCTAD Biotrade to further develop the programme. Invited participants to the workshop include:

1. representatives (of the embassies) of the ACTO countries in Brasilia which form part of the Amazon Cooperation Coordination Commission;
2. representatives of the BioTrade country programmes in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, as well as representatives of Funbio (the Brazilian focal point of BioTrade in the UNCTAD BioTrade Brazil partnership);
3. representatives of BioTrade partners (e.g. Netherlands, United Nations Foundation UNF, Andean Development Corporation CAN, Global Environment Facility GEF);
4. representatives of ACTO and UNCTAD.

The workshop discussions will be divided in four sessions. For each session a limited number of guiding questions have been formulated to direct the discussions. The sessions and their respective questions are described as follows:

Session 1: Raison d'être of an Amazon BioTrade Programme

- *What could be the objective of a partnership between ACTO and UNCTAD?*
- *What would be the value added of an Amazon BioTrade Programme.*
- *How would it complement national initiatives such as the national BioTrade Programmes?*

In response to ACTO's strategic plan, ACTO and UNCTAD are joining forces to establish a regional BioTrade Programme to promote regional development based on sustainable use of its biodiversity.

It is expected that a regional programme would help put biotrade more firmly on the national agendas of ACTO countries. This would facilitate the activities already underway in the Amazon region, such as those undertaken by the BioTrade national programmes.

It is envisaged that the programme would complement initiatives that are undertaken at the national level through regional activities. The

programme is therefore expected to focus on those activities that cannot be properly dealt with at the national level or on those areas in which clear synergies can be achieved by regional action (see next session).

With assistance of UNCTAD, Andean countries have established BioTrade country programmes, with a clear national character. The Amazon BioTrade Programme is expected to have a regional character. The national BioTrade programmes, together with other relevant national actors, are called upon to assist UNCTAD and ACTO in defining the priorities and main lines of actions of the Amazon BioTrade Programme. They are also expected to actively participate in its implementation.

Session 2: Core elements & approach:

- *What should be the core elements of an Amazon BioTrade Programme?*
- *Would the adaptation of a value chain approach be appropriate for an Amazon BioTrade programme?*

The outcome of question 1 will determine the discussion in this session. If it is agreed that the Amazonian programme would be of a regional character, this session should discuss the most important elements to be addressed by a regional programme.

The following suggested elements could be considered:

- Regional policy and legal framework, regional strategies;
- Identification of regional trade opportunities (supply and demand);
- Regional exchange of experiences and technology;
- Joint trade promotion;
- Enhancement of regional positions in international trade and environmental negotiations.

The experience acquired with BIOTRADE programmes shows that in order to prioritise activities one could consider to focus efforts on a select number of services or product groups and adopt a value chain approach.

Session 3: Structure of an Amazon BioTrade Programme

- *How could effective participation of national and regional players be ensured in a regional BioTrade programme?*
- *How should an Amazon BioTrade programme be structured?*

A number of national and regional players should be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of a biotrade regional programme. They include, for example, BioTrade National Programmes, ACTO National Permanent Commissions, Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, civil society, CAN, and other relevant organizations.

Within the ACTO institutional framework, its Secretariat is responsible for the overall coordination of activities undertaken by the countries under the jointly approved strategic plan. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs establish the basic guidelines for the conduct of the Treaty. The ACTO National Permanent Commissions (NPCs) implement in each country the decisions and activities agreed upon at the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

The NPCs are multisectoral groups composed of a number of Ministries, such as Ministries of Environment, Education, Agriculture, among others. The NPCs also serve as focal points for civil society participation, which are normally involved through seminars and workshops conducted by ACTO.

In the context of BioTrade, the national programmes are constituted of national policy focal points and technical focal points. The policy focal point assists with the development of enabling policy and legal framework for biotrade. The technical focal points oversees the implementation of the national programme, through a network of partners providing a wide range of services ranging from business development to the adaptation of sound environmental practices.

The Amazon BioTrade programme is expected to be structured in such a way that active participation of relevant actors is assured, and that national BioTrade programmes are complemented and strengthened through regional activities.

Session 4: Next steps in the formulation of an Amazon Biotrade Programme:

- *What could be the next steps to develop a BioTrade regional programme in the Amazon?*

This session focuses on the activities that should be developed to formulate the Amazon BioTrade programme. Activities could among others include:

- Drafting of a general programme concept based on the outcomes of this workshop;
- Obtaining information relevant to biotrade in the Amazon region;
- Organising national and regional workshops to discuss the set-up of the programme (main areas of work, activities, partners);
- Drafting of the biotrade regional programme proposal;
- Fund-raising for the project formulation phase and implementation of fully-fledged programme.

PART IV: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUMMARY

MOU Objective

The partnership agreement between ACTO and UNCTAD aims to formalize an alliance that allows the setting up of a technical coordination programme to foster the sustainable use of biodiversity in the Amazon region. The objective of this programme is to help Amazon countries promote trade and investment on biodiversity products and services through regional activities in such a way as to complement the existent activities in the region.

Areas of Cooperation

To achieve the objectives of this partnership agreement, UNCTAD and ACTO will jointly develop the following activities:

1. Formulate a regional biotrade programme in the Amazon
2. Put the regional biotrade programme in operation
3. Initiate joint fundraising activities required for the formulation and implementation of the regional biotrade programme in the Amazon
4. Invite actors concerned with the sustainable use of biodiversity to participate in the regional programme
5. The Parties shall invite each other to meetings that they organize, which are related to this agreement.



Memorándum de Entendimiento

entre la Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) para impulsar el comercio sostenible y las inversiones en productos y servicios de la biodiversidad en la región amazónica

Considerando que la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) es el órgano central de las Naciones Unidas para el estudio integrado del comercio, el desarrollo y las cuestiones conexas en las esferas de las finanzas, la tecnología, las inversiones y el desarrollo sostenible;

Considerando que la UNCTAD lanzó en noviembre de 1996 la Iniciativa Biocomercio con el fin de estimular en los países en desarrollo el comercio y las inversiones en productos y servicios derivados de la biodiversidad para impulsar el desarrollo sostenible, de acuerdo con los objetivos del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica (CDB), y que desde entonces esta Iniciativa ha ayudado a desarrollar programas nacionales de biocomercio e impulsado programas regionales y de promoción de exportaciones en la mayoría de los países miembros de la OTCA;

Considerando que la OTCA fue creada a finales del 2002, a fin de fortalecer institucionalmente el mecanismo de cooperación regional como instrumento estratégico al servicio de sus países en la defensa de sus intereses comunes a través de las posiciones regionales y de una visión común sobre el desarrollo sostenible para la región Amazónica;

Considerando que la OTCA estableció el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad como una de las cinco áreas programáticas e incluyó el biocomercio en su Plan Estratégico 2004-2010; que en dicho plan, la Iniciativa BIOTRADE de la UNCTAD se catalogó como un socio importante para apoyar el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad mediante la promoción del comercio y las inversiones en productos y servicios de la biodiversidad.

Reconociendo el interés de la OTCA y de la UNCTAD en promover el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad mediante el comercio, las dos organizaciones en el marco de la XI UNCTAD celebrada en Sao Paulo, Brasil, acuerdan, a través de la firma del presente Memorándum de Entendimiento, establecer el siguiente Acuerdo de Asociación:

Objetivo del Acuerdo

El Acuerdo de Asociación entre la UNCTAD y la OTCA busca formalizar una alianza que permita poner en marcha un programa de cooperación técnica encaminado a impulsar el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad en la región amazónica de los países miembros de la OTCA. El objetivo de este programa regional será ayudar a dichos países a promover el comercio y las



inversiones en productos y servicios de la biodiversidad, a través de acciones regionales, complementando las actividades que ya se desarrollan en la región.

Áreas de Cooperación

Para alcanzar los objetivos del presente Acuerdo de Asociación las dos entidades realizarán conjuntamente las siguientes actividades:

- 1.- Formular un programa regional de biocomercio sostenible para la Amazonia.
- 2.- Poner en marcha el programa regional de biocomercio sostenible para la Amazonia.
- 3.- Realizar gestiones conjuntas que permitan conseguir los recursos financieros necesarios para la formulación y puesta en práctica del programa regional de biocomercio en la región amazónica.
- 4.- Invitar a los distintos actores involucrados con el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad en la región a participar en este programa regional.
- 5.- Cada una de las partes se compromete a invitar a la otra a los eventos de cada organización relacionados con el tema de este Acuerdo.

Modalidades administrativas y financieras

El presente Memorándum de entendimiento se aplicará de conformidad con las disposiciones presupuestarias y de las reglas y reglamentos administrativos de las Naciones Unidas.

Entrada en vigor y rescisión

El presente Acuerdo entrará en vigor en la fecha en que se firme y permanecerá en vigor hasta que una de las partes manifieste por escrito, con tres meses de anticipación, su deseo de terminar el Acuerdo. Sin perjuicio de lo anterior, se deberán dar los pasos necesarios para asegurar que la terminación del presente Acuerdo no perjudique las actividades que se estén promoviendo.

Solución de diferencias

Cualquier diferencia resultante del presente Memorándum de Entendimiento o en relación con él, con inclusión de la interpretación o aplicación de cualquier disposición que contenga, será resuelta amigablemente por las Partes.

Nada de lo especificado en el presente Memorando de entendimiento ni relacionado con él se considerará una renuncia, expresa o implícita, de cualquiera de los privilegios e inmunidades de las Naciones Unidas, con inclusión de sus órganos subsidiarios.



Enmiendas

El presente Memorándum de Entendimiento podrá ser enmendado por acuerdo mutuo escrito de las Partes. A menos que se convenga lo contrario, las enmiendas sólo se podrán aplicar a actividades que no se hayan realizado aún.

Para constancia y conformidad del presente documento, las partes lo suscriben en dos ejemplares, de igual validez cada uno, en la ciudad de Sao Paulo, Brasil, a los 15 días del mes de junio de 2004.



Rosalia Arteaga
Secretaría General de la OTCA



Rubens Ricupero
Secretario General de la UNCTAD

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