



## UN Trade Forum

Biotrade

12 September 2019

400 words

### Do we need the private sector and sustainable trade in the CBD?

A number of BioTrade partners, both companies and organizations as well as UNCTAD, presented [a paper](#) for the UN Trade Forum's BioTrade Congress calling for sustainable use and sustainable trade to be included in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) [due for adoption next year](#).

They also reported they are developing an objective monitoring indicator to track progress on sustainable biotrade.

Their argument for revising the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD): "Approximately 40% of the world's economy is derived from direct use of biodiversity". The note pointed out: "Meeting the three objectives of the CBD will require a transformational change in consumption and production patterns, in which the private sector will necessarily play a central role. This creates a strong incentive for Parties to facilitate private sector involvement in the implementation of the post-2020 GBF."

They claim that including sustainable trade in the framework could encourage governmental authorities to cooperate with the private sector to develop methods for sustainable use. "It could foster the interest of global financing facilities, investors, and businesses sourcing biological resources in developing and implementing biodiversity-friendly practices and in allocating resources to conservation and sustainable use," they underlined.

As one of the participants in the Forum debate observed: "Risk-averse bankers do not know biotrade product" and are reluctant to invest in projects. Several company representatives working in biotrade told the Congress they had difficulties getting the loans they need to grow their business or finance small suppliers.

The 11 partners, including the UN's International Trade Centre, called for "raising ambition on meeting the second objective of the CBD, the sustainable use of components of biodiversity" in order to improve the balance in the convention, They noted that participants in regional consultation workshops "pointed out that the objectives of sustainable use and benefit sharing could be better reflected in the new Framework."

The group, which submitted its paper to the CBD at the end of August, includes two organizations certifying ethical biotrade (PromPerú and UEBT) and others promoting these ideas, such as the German-funded ABS [Asset and Benefit Sharing] Capacity Development Initiative and PhytoTrade Africa.

As the Forum organizers observed, BioTrade principles and criteria are being developed or followed in over 50 countries in Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe, covering personal care, phytopharma, food, fashion, ornamental flora and fauna, handicrafts, textiles and natural fibers and sustainable tourism. The Congress closed with informal presentations and exchanges on biotrade products from several developing countries.