



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



UNEP

UNCTAD

Capacity Building Task Force on Trade Environment and Development

CBTF Projects Now Underway (*November 2001*)

Since the CBTF was launched in 2000, national institutions (both governmental and nongovernmental) from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, submitted over 40 project proposals to the CBTF on thematic research, country projects, training and policy dialogue. Evaluation of this first round of proposals was completed in early 2001, and seven projects were selected as the initial CBTF activities. Short descriptions of these projects, which began implementation in 2001, are provided below.

Two Policy Dialogues

► **Mexico:** *International Conference on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean, 19-21 February 2001.*

Implementing Organisations: National Autonomous University of Mexico and the Mexican Council for Sustainable Development with the collaboration of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP-ROLAC) in Mexico.

Summary: Underpinned by analytical studies from selected developing countries on trade and environment issues of priority to the region, implementing organisations provided an open forum to develop ideas and analysis relevant to ongoing trade liberalisation processes involving Latin America and the Caribbean countries. The project brought together a wide range of stakeholders working on trade, environment and development issues in the region, providing an opportunity for participants to share perspectives, experience and expertise. A Conference report provides recommendations for future policy development in the region.

► *International Workshop on Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products, scheduled for February 2002 in Brussels, Belgium.*

Implementing Organisations: UNCTAD and UNEP in collaboration with other intergovernmental organisations, national experts from developing countries, and private sector representatives.

Summary: Supported by analytical studies, the workshop will explore opportunities for promoting production and trade in organic agricultural products by developing countries. Focus will be given to examining the role organic agriculture can play to simultaneously meet developmental and environmental objectives, and to identifying ways to enhance market access for developing country exports of organic agriculture products. The workshop is funded by the European Commission, and is being held in Brussels to maximise attendance of ACP countries.

One Thematic Research Project

► **Indonesia:** *The Utilisation of Economic Instruments to Encourage the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and to Internalise Environmental Impacts Resulting from Globalisation Processes.*

National Implementing Organisation: Indonesian Ministry of Environment (IME)

Summary: Through this research project, the Government of Indonesia seeks to more effectively manage its natural and environmental resources using economic instruments, simultaneously enhancing its competitiveness in international markets through an improved environmental image. The project explores opportunities, benefits, challenges and costs of wider use of economic instruments at the national level, and examines implications for Indonesia's international trade relations. The project involves cooperation between the IME, other government institutions, universities, NGOs, and major private sector stakeholders.

./.

website: www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf

Economics and Trade Unit
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
15, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-917-8298
Fax: +41-22-917-8076
E-mail: cbtf@unep.ch

Trade, Environment and Development Section
Division of International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22- 917-5760
Fax: +41-22- 917-0247
E-mail: cbtf@unctad.org

Three Country Projects

► **Costa Rica and Venezuela:** *Environmentally Sound Management of Spent Lead-Acid Batteries in Central America and the Caribbean.*

National Implementing Organisations: National teams from the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Venezuela, in cooperation with teams of other countries in the region.

Summary: In order to reduce the risk of damage to human health and the environment, the Basel Convention restricts trade in hazardous wastes, encouraging domestic management of such wastes and minimisation of their transboundary movement. However, the small size of domestic markets in Central American and Caribbean countries, each lacking economies of scale, does not justify their establishing domestic recycling industries. Through the project, countries in the region are exploring policy options that will facilitate trade of lead-acid battery waste under specific conditions, under the Basel Convention, to permit the development of “regional recycling hubs” in order to enhance protection of the environment and human health.

► **Lebanon:** *Promoting and Monitoring Synergy between Trade and Environment in Lebanon: a Case Study for the Mediterranean Region.*

National Implementing Organisation: Lebanese Ministry of Environment (LME)

Summary: This project will develop a model to evaluate the impact of increased trade on the environment, allowing for a better identification and understanding of emerging trade-environment problems, and to design policies to address them at both the national and regional level. Through the project, LME is extending its initial work in this area by: formulating a national action preparedness plan to manage trade liberalisation processes; building national capacities to assess and address the environmental impacts of trade liberalisation; and developing a monitoring and assessment mechanism that can be shared by countries in the region.

Three Training Projects

Implementation of the CBTF Training Package in Cuba, in Vietnam on a sub-regional basis including Cambodia, and Laos, and on a regional basis in Africa for LDCs.

Having identified training on various aspects of trade and environment as national capacity building priorities, numerous developing countries have made requests to the CBTF for national implementation of the *CBTF Training Package*, which is based on UNCTAD’s *TrainForTrade* programme. Cuba and Vietnam have been selected for implementation starting in 2001. Resources have also been allocated to deliver the package in Africa on a sub-regional basis.

► Vietnam

National Coordinating Organisation: Ministry of Commerce of Vietnam (VIETRADE)

Summary: A training workshop will be held in Hanoi, from 12 to 14 December 2001, in cooperation with VIETRADE and the Directorate for Standards and Quality. Training is initially being provided by experts from UNCTAD and Vietnam. Subsequently, training will be delivered solely by Vietnamese experts and training institutes. A series of studies will be commissioned to support the training project in Viet Nam.

► Cuba

National Coordinating Organisations: Ministries of Environment and Trade of Cuba.

Summary: The training workshop, scheduled for 10-14 December 2001, will be provided by experts from UNCTAD and from the Ministries of Environment and Trade. The week-long programme for initial training includes delivery of all six *CBTF Training Package* modules and a seminar on organic agriculture. A series of studies will be commissioned to support the training project following a selection of priority topics by lead national authorities that will be discussed during the last day of the workshop. The Cuba workshop will launch the Spanish-language version of the *CBTF Training Package*.

► Africa

Summary: A number of countries in Africa have requested training to help build national capacity to manage trade, environment and development issues. UNCTAD and UNEP are working with interested countries to launch the programme on a sub-regional basis. Beneficiaries will include regional government officials, the business community, academic institutions and NGOs. Training will initially be provided by experts from UNCTAD and UNEP. Subsequently, training could be delivered by regional experts and training institutes through national training projects to be supported under future rounds of CBTF activity.