



**G20**  
SOUTH AFRICA 2025



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# BUILDING A VISION: A NATURE-POSITIVE TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Key outcomes from the Regional Multistakeholder Consultations in Asia, Africa and Latin America

### GIB MEETING

United Nations Environment Programme

27 May 2025

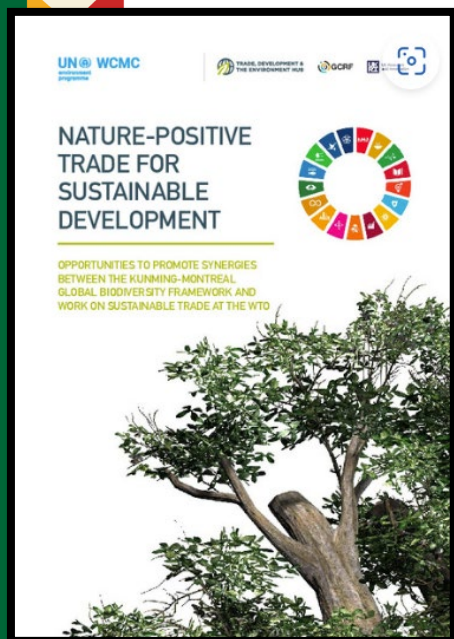
# GLOBAL/INTRA-REGIONAL VISION: TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Reports and more information:  
Regional stakeholder consultations in  
[Latin America and the Caribbean](#)  
[Asia and Africa](#)



# A MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE COLLABORATION: TRADE, THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (1/2)



**TARGET 7 | POLLUTION:** reduction of pollution from all sources (e.g. nutrients, chemicals, pesticides), and preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution

Sustainable trade can contribute to reducing pollution, e.g. regulating plastics trade can reduce risks to plastic pollution, removing trade-distorting subsidies linked to the use of fertilizers and agrochemicals can reduce agricultural pollution etc.

**Import and export restrictions** on known pollutants (e.g. harmful pesticides, hazardous chemicals, and plastic pollution)

**Mandatory or voluntary environmental requirements** for products or production (e.g. minimum pesticide residue limits, plastics related packaging requirements, sustainability requirements for timber products, fair trade, and/or organic certification)

**Trade preferences or market access concessions / removing tariff and non-tariff measures** on products and services that meet environmental standards such as those related to sustainable agricultural practices or the use of pesticides and fertilizers, etc.

**TARGET 8 | CLIMATE CHANGE:** minimising impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches

Sustainable trade can contribute to reducing pressures on key ecosystems (e.g. deforestation) and can incentivize conservation of areas important for climate mitigation, adoption, and/or resilience

**Trade preferences or market access concessions / removing tariff and non-tariff measures** for products and services that meet climate standards and/or those that support nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation or mitigation

**Removal, repurposing, or redirecting of subsidies** undermining climate action that also distort trade (e.g. fossil fuel subsidies, subsidies to extractive industries causing deforestation, subsidies linked to emissions by the agriculture sector), as per Target 18

**TARGET 10 | SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE:** sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity-friendly practices

Sustainable trade can contribute to reducing pressures on biodiversity, incentivizing sustainable land- and resource use, and facilitating circular economy actions that are also “nature-positive” and can contribute to reducing pressures on biodiversity (e.g. reduce extraction of primary raw materials)

**Import and export restrictions** on harmful pesticides and hazardous chemicals

**Mandatory or voluntary environmental requirements** for products and production practices to ensure compliance with national environmental regulations or standards (e.g. wildlife and habitat protection, acceptable level of nutrients and pollutants, etc.)

**Mandatory requirements or voluntary standards for due diligence** for companies in importing countries to, for example, ensure compliance with local environmental regulations or standards in the supply chain (e.g. regulations or standards linked to organic agriculture, compliance with access and benefit sharing requirements, or deforestation-free supply chains)

**Mandatory or voluntary circular requirements** for products and production, in line with efforts to increase resource efficiency and promote sustainability in the extraction of primary resources to reduce pressures on biodiversity

**Removal, repurposing, or redirecting of environmentally harmful subsidies**, as per Target 18

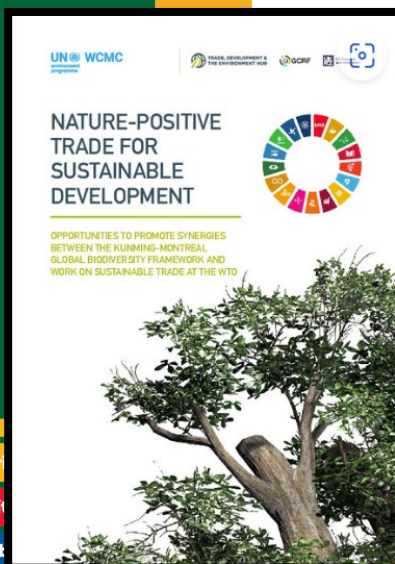
**Trade preferences or market access concessions** on goods and services complying with specific biodiversity-related sustainability requirements, such as biotrade products and services, sustainably produced food products, and certified ecotourism

**Removing tariff and non-tariff measures** on environmentally preferable products and services

Policy brief  
UNEP (2023). [Nature-positive trade for sustainable development](#)

# A MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE COLLABORATION: TRADE, THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2/2)

TARGET	TRADE (POLICY) INTERLINKAGE	EXAMPLES OF TRADE-RELATED POLICY OPTIONS, WHICH CAN BE USED TO SUPPORT TARGET
<b>TARGET 20   CAPACITY BUILDING AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY:</b> strengthened capacity, technology development, innovation, and technical and scientific cooperation, particularly in/with developing countries	Possibilities to increase aid for trade and finance to activities that support conservation and sustainable use	<b>Trade-related technical assistance, training and capacity building</b> (e.g. aid for trade) to support sustainable production in sectors with significant impacts on biodiversity, including through support for economic diversification and transitions that reduce pressure on biodiversity (e.g. biodiversity-friendly technology), or to support countries to carry out trade impact assessments with biodiversity as one element, etc.
<b>TARGET 21   KNOWLEDGE BASE AND DATA:</b> best available data, information and knowledge accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public	Trade-related decision-making can be supported by best available biodiversity data and, in return, it can also spur the production of new data and/or drive demand for biodiversity data	<b>Trade (sustainability) impact assessments</b> can be used by WTO members to improve data on both actual and potential impacts of trade on biodiversity, including risks and opportunities linked to multilateral trade  <b>Harmonized Systems (HS) codes</b> , i.e. the standardized system for classifying traded products used by customs authorities, can support data gathering on biotrade and/or biodiversity-friendly trade
<b>TARGET 23   GENDER EQUALITY:</b> gender equal implementation of the global biodiversity framework	“Trade and gender” is a theme integral to sustainable trade, including a dedicated focal area in the WTO context. Synergies can be created between biodiversity and gender objectives to support sustainable trade.	<b>Trade-related technical assistance, training and capacity building</b> to enhance sustainable biodiversity-related trade (e.g. biotrade) through dedicated focus on the participation of women.  <b>Trade finance</b> , e.g. financial instruments that facilitate trade in biotrade products and services and/or other biodiversity-friendly products and services, with dedicated gender-oriented targets.



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# GLOBAL/INTRA-REGIONAL VISION: TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2/2)

## 1. Challenges

- Lack of safety nets, unfair pricing structures
- For smallholders: Competition with multinational companies - limits commercialization of traditional and sustainable products.
- Land tenure legality: High costs and bureaucracy, impacting access to financing mechanisms (e.g. bank loans)
- Traceability systems: High costs for maintenance and lack of accessibility for all stakeholders
- Lack of knowledge and opportunities for information exchange

## 2. Priorities

- Greater inclusion and national/regional strategies: Women, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Youth.
- Regional and national strategies for reforestation and carbon management.
- Affordable and accessible traceability systems
  - Digital and technology access to all producers, including smallholders, IPLCs, senior producers, youth
  - Supporting pilots and scale up of sustainable production systems in agriculture, protective of biodiversity and facilitating socio-economic development.

# GLOBAL/INTRA-REGIONAL VISION: TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2/2)

## 3. The Way Forward

### 3.1 Trade policies enabling market access for all stakeholders

- Trade agreements reflect priorities, challenges and opportunities at national, regional and international level.
- Leveraging trade agreements, e.g. AfCFTA, for inclusive, sustainable and green(er) economies, supporting the global biodiversity agenda.
- Assist countries in seizing opportunities from changes in market regulations.
- Public policy reform: Fiscal policies to differentiate between smallholders, family farms & industrial farms; Reforming conventional subsidies and repurpose them to incentivize sustainable production systems.

### 3.2 Unlocking access to credit and financial mechanisms

- Revitalize a type of 'environmental trust fund' that includes agri-commodities
- Prioritizing small and medium sized borrowers: financing banks, technical assistance and rural extension resources to sustainable production projects.
- Payments for ecosystem services; right metrics to measure progress.

### 3.3 Innovative solutions for sustainable production systems in agriculture

- Agro-forestry systems: biodiversity protection, inclusion of smallholders/producers at the core.
- Platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration among all stakeholders across the value chain.
- Technology solutions: satellite monitoring to signal issues in the agri-production areas and focus on re-forestation at-risk areas





# GLOBAL/INTRA-REGIONAL VISION: TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Trade preferences or market access concessions on goods complying with specific biodiversity-related sustainability requirements - through tariff rate quotas or duty-free quota-free preferential schemes, such as biotrade products and services
2. Removing tariff and nontariff measures on environmentally preferable products and services – such as sustainable agricultural or deforestation-free products, "nature-positive" circular products, biotrade products
3. Facilitating voluntary and/or private standards and environmental labelling that support sustainable use, conservation and restoration of biodiversity
4. Promoting green government procurement rules, targeting biodiversity-friendly and/or biotrade products
5. Payments for practices, services, or production methods that support biodiversity objectives (e.g. sustainable and biodiversity-friendly management practices, R&D and advisory services supporting sustainable agriculture etc.)

## GLOBAL/INTRA-REGIONAL VISION: TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

6. Regional trade agreements (RTAs) integrating provisions for preferential access for biodiversity-friendly products and/or cooperation (e.g. regulatory cooperation for harmonizing requirements, mutual recognition agreements for labelling schemes)
7. Trade impact assessments (ex ante and ex post) improving assessment of opportunities for biotrade trade and/or wider biodiversity-friendly products Trade (sustainability) impact assessments can be used to improve data on both foreseen and occurred impacts of trade on biodiversity, including both risks and opportunities.
8. Trade related technical assistance & capacity building (e.g. through Aid for Trade) to promote sustainable production methods and technologies as well as economic diversification, meet environmental requirements in export markets, and support countries to assess trade related opportunities that can also help to deliver biodiversity objectives.





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Thank you