

Innovative resources for sustainable land management

What?

The GM conceived the Market Access & Trade strategic programme (MAT) to support its regional programmes in the development of comprehensive country engagement strategies looking at innovative opportunities for SLM financing, with a view to sharpening its focus at country level and increasing its capacity to mobilize resources for UNCCD implementation in the context of the new financial architecture.

Why?

The MAT programme aims to draw on trade and markets related issues, to engage new stakeholders in UNCCD implementation, leverage innovative sources for SLM financing and establish links with overarching development plans and budgeting processes.

How?

Using mainstreaming, dialogue and partnership-building as its main instruments, the MAT Programme envisages coherent and coordinated interventions on three levels:

At international level, it analyses policies and promotes dialogue on how existing trade regimes impact agricultural production, SLM and the development of markets for sustainably-traded dryland products.

At national level, it provides guidelines and technical backstopping to identify investment opportunities and develop coherent incentive frameworks to encourage policy-makers, institutions and financing mechanisms to foster an enabling environment for increased investment in SLM through trade and markets, facilitating their integration into national strategies for SLM financing.

At local level, it supports small projects to identify the type of incentives and enabling conditions that lead private actors and local communities reinvest the profits generated through market activities, in sustainable land and natural resource use.

Expected outcomes

More dialogue, better understanding – enhanced discussions between UNCCD, trade and markets stakeholders on the constraints and opportunities for SLM financing under current trade regimes and on potential instruments to make the regimes more supportive of SLM.

Informed policies, increased investment – coherent incentive frameworks to channel investments towards production practices, productive sectors and business models which encourage the sustainable use of natural resources with enhanced participation of the private sector and local communities.

New partnerships, new resources – closer collaboration and systematic interaction between UNCCD and trade institutions as well as with synergistic Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), particularly at national level.

Special initiatives & partners

The GM is analysing the implications of the present trade regimes for SLM, with the **International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)**. An exploratory dialogue was recently co-organized to discuss ways of promoting investment in SLM through market access and trade in the context of the new financial architecture.

Ongoing collaboration with the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** BioTrade Initiative includes mainstreaming SLM into BioTrade's National Programmes, based on a case study conducted in Uganda, and the establishment by BioTrade of an informal working group, to streamline the market access and trade strategies of various MEAs, and facilitate joint implementation of such strategies. The organizations involved to date are: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species, Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the GM, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ICTSD.

With the **Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA)** the GM is exploring opportunities for mobilizing resources and increasing investment in SLM by developing markets for and supporting trade of gum Arabic and other natural dryland resources. Resource mapping and stakeholder analyses are being conducted in Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The GM is preparing the national resource mobilization strategy for UNCCD implementation in Lebanon looking at innovative sources of financing for SLM. In this context the GM and the **Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture** are developing a project for the vine and wine industry, to establish a national association for vine and wine products and their sustainable trade, particularly on international markets.

An opportunity study is in the pipeline with the **Export-Led Poverty Reduction Programme (EPRP)** of the **International Trade Centre (ITC)**, which will provide recommendations on how to use the ITC network with national trade institutions, to engage trade stakeholders in UNCCD implementation and encourage interaction between the UNCCD and trade stakeholders at national level.

The partnership with the **Small Grants Programme (SGP) of UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF)** supports small community and grassroots organizations' projects and aims to identify the conditions under which communities reinvest trade profits in SLM. This knowledge will guide policy and decision-making and promote the establishment of incentives. Joint activities are starting in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Jordan, Mali, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

For more information:

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