



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Land Management: How Can Trade Help, not Hinder? ICTSD side-event, 5 September 2007, 18h00

At the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 8), Madrid, Spain,
3 -14 September 2007

The text of the UNCCD explicitly acknowledges the relevance of trade in pursuing the objectives of the convention. Under the “General obligations”– Art. 4 Par. 2(b) – the Parties are required to *give due attention, within the relevant international and regional bodies, to the situation of affected developing country Parties with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debt with a view to establishing an enabling international economic environment conducive to the promotion of sustainable development.*

Trade is also included in the draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)¹ that may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD at its eighth session in September 2007. This strategic plan aims to address some of the Convention's key challenges, to capitalize on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders. The text considers trade as a tool to achieve different operational objectives that will guide the action of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners. The document acknowledges the need for desertification/land degradation to be addressed in relevant international forums such as those pertaining to agricultural trade like the WTO. It also considers the identification of innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms to combat land degradation in market-based mechanisms and trade.

This workshop will provide different perspectives on how trade policies and processes could contribute to advancing the objectives of sustainable land management and sustainable development in dryland regions of the world. It aims to provide a forum for exploring opportunities and constraints of using trade as a tool for creating incentives to promote sustainable land management in drylands.

¹ UNCCD Secretariat (2007). Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and strategy development to foster the implementation of the Convention, Item 9 of the provisional agenda, eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, Madrid, 3-14 September, ICCD/COP(8)/10/Add.2, 9 July.

FINAL AGENDA (18h00-20h30)

Chair: *Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD*

- Welcome Remarks and Introduction
Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD
- Trade and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Sem Shikongo, Chair of the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group of the UNCCD
- Agricultural Production, Trade and Sustainable Land Management: Opportunities and Challenges in the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Marie Chamay and Moustapha Kamal Gueye, ICTSD
- Agricultural Trade Liberalisation, Poverty and Land Degradation in Rural Drylands
Marc Paquin, Executive Director, Unisféra International Centre
- New Markets and Emerging Opportunities in the Environmentally Sustainable Natural Products Industry: Perspective from PhytoTrade Africa
Maria Abad Jara, Research Associate, PhytoTrade Africa
- Combating Desertification in Lebanon: Promoting Trade and Innovative Market Approaches for Rural Dryland Development
Hussein Nasrallah, Project Coordinator and UNCCD Lebanese Focal Point, Lebanon Ministry of Agriculture