



## Blue BioTrade: Harnessing trade and investment for sustainable use

**UNCTAD/CAF/CITES/IOI**

**Official Side event to Un Oceans Conference 2017**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 ( 15:00 -16:30)

UN Headquarters New York

**Justification:** Latin America marine and coastal systems provide highly valuable resources and sites of inestimable beauty, yet investment in promoting sustainable coastal development in this region is modest and does not capitalize on its real wealth. The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and UNCTAD are leading an assessment on how to contextualize and adapt current BioTrade Principles<sup>1</sup>, which are aligned with the objectives and principles of relevant regulatory frameworks, including the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to the marine and coastal environment so they can contribute to the development of more ethical and competitive marine and coastal based value chains.

The introduction of these adapted BioTrade principles for marine and coastal environment (Blue BioTrade principles) and their application in international and domestic trade will contribute to and guide sustainable use of marine resources, ecosystem management and restoration, better distribution of wealth by promoting more sustainable production and commerce and add to the effective implementation of existing regulatory frameworks.

Opportunities for investing in Latin American marine and coastal ecosystems to increase development benefits exist across the continent, and can be found in mangrove forests, coastal wetlands, estuaries, coral reefs, rock reefs, seagrass beds, macroalgae assemblages, and upwelling areas. These habitats contribute to economic activity, food security, regional stability, livelihoods and wealth creation. Additionally, these coastal and marine habitats and their ecosystem services contribute to culture and identity: supporting fisheries and aquaculture, marine research, mitigating the effects of climate change, providing educational and leisure opportunities and sacred sites. Example of the application of BioTrade to the marine environment can be found in Ecuador with sustainable diving and ecotourism; in algae cultivation and product development in Peru; and in small scale fishers' products throughout the region.

Adapted Blue BioTrade principles can go a long way toward protecting the very habitats that support a variety of industries that depend on healthy marine and coastal ecosystem services by contributing to fisheries stock conservation and recovery, shoreline protection, broader biodiversity maintenance and environmental health. We identify which are the particularities and specificities applicable to the marine

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<sup>1</sup> See UNCTAD's BioTrade principles and criteria (2007) at: [http://unctad.org/en/Docs/ditcted20074\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/en/Docs/ditcted20074_en.pdf)

environment and ecosystems under the international Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) and other international agreements that need to be considered when adapting and applying BioTrade principles. CITES, for example, has a long, successful history of regulating international trade in species listed on its Appendices by setting a legally binding framework to ensure legality, sustainability and traceability and increasingly covers marine species, including commercially exploited shark and ray species. All countries in the Latin American region are Parties to CITES. Adapted BioTrade principles are directly related to marine and coastal economic activity and provide valuable guidance for international trade policy and investment practices.

**Objective:** This side event will allow discourse on adapting and contextualizing BioTrade principles for use in the marine realm to allow for an ecosystem-based, adaptive management approach which promotes conservation and improves livelihoods. The side event will showcase studies of blue BioTrade in Latin America, and proposals to better adapt BioTrade to the particularities of the marine environment. It will also highlight the synergies between adopting the blue BioTrade principles and the effective implementation of CITES provisions for marine species. This side event is part of a long standing partnership between UNCTAD, CAF, CITES and International Oceans Institute (IOI) in developing sustainable and responsible biodiversity-based value chains, products and services.

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Chairpersons:

**Mr. Guillermo Valles**, Ambassador, Uruguay / UNCTAD Advisor

**Mr. Rene Gomez-Garcia**, Head of the Green Business Unit, CAF

Key note speaker:

- Adapting BioTrade Principles to the marine environment (presentation on recent CAF-UNCTAD study on Blue BioTrade)

**Dr. Tundi Agardy**, Director, Mares Program of Forest Trends

Commentators:

- The role economic incentives such as BioTrade and its potential for fisheries and aquaculture

**Mr. David Vivas Eugui**, Legal Officer, TED/DITC UNCTAD

- Blue Biotrade and sustainable coastal tourism: the case of Latin America

**Mr. Federico Vignati**, Principal Executive, CAF

- Blue BioTrade and CITES: synergies in implementation

**Mr. Daniel Kachelriess**, Marine Species Officer, CITES

- The potential of Blue BioTrade in sustainable marine ecosystems: an issue of governance.

**Dr. Awni Behnam**, Honorary President, International Ocean Institute

Closing remarks