



Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation

Can trade and development policies become mutually supportive to enhance environmental stewardship ?

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Has Trade Policy contributed to Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Protection ?



How to Reconciliate and Better Articulate Trade, Development and Environment Policies ?



Step 1 : Differentiate areas which can be opened up to exploitation, from those which, need to be the subject of conservation and sustainable use in a non-commercial environment.

- i) Apply a precautionary approach and systematically carry out a sustainable impact assessment of trade agreements - ensure SIA conclusions command negotiations,
- ii) Promote an international regime which values the preservation of the forests and makes it economically attractive.

To this end, establish at international level and stimulate through the economic co-operation :

Alternatives to the most destructive industrial activities, a global network of forest protected areas, and permanent funding mechanisms for forest protection.

Step 2 : Establish optimum conditions to ensure that traded resources contribute effectively to sustainable development.

The Equation : poor management, poor governance and trade liberalisation is an explosive cocktail. Trade can be an instrument of sustainable development if, and only if, several pre-conditions are established :

- i) Good governance and a solid regulatory framework, guaranteeing participatory and sustainable forest management, respecting the rights of local and indigenous populations,
- ii) Land use planning and independent monitoring of forestry activity and agriculture, as well as reliable traceability systems to ensure the legal and sustainable sourcing of products,
- iii) A strong and active civil society as well as an independent judiciary system which guarantees proper law enforcement and fights against corruption,

Mainstream these aims in the development aid policy and accelerate the implementation of bilateral and regional FLEG/T Agreements.



Step 3 : Act on the demand-side to reduce the ecological footprint of trade on the world's forests.

i) Adopt legislation to ban illegal timber and ensure the legal and sustainable sourcing of wood products put on the market.

ii) Accelerate the implementation of an ecologically and socially responsible procurement policy, which favours public purchasing of FSC eco-certified products.

iii) Promote international rules and control mechanisms to reduce the impact of trade on the world's forests,

Stop using the spectre of the WTO in the public debate to justify inaction or the defence of vested interests.



Rethink collectively the international trade rules, work towards reforming global governance and strengthening environmental institutions