



Trade in biodiversity-based products: UN Trade and Development’s Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) statistical tool

Background

Biodiversity is at the center of many economic activities and directly supports the livelihoods of more than half the world’s population –over 4.3 billion people–, with 70% of the world’s poor and vulnerable living in rural areas being directly dependent on it. Biodiversity-based resources are also traded globally with more than half (55%) of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) being dependent on nature to some extent.

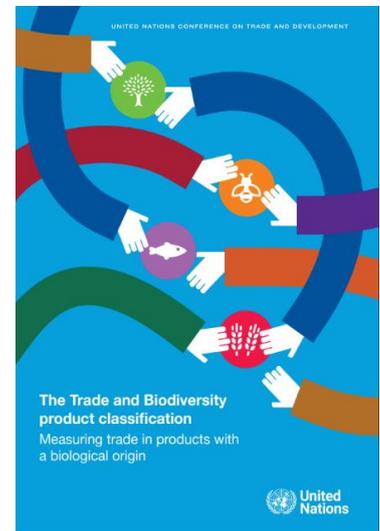
However, trade data –particularly related to biodiversity-based products and services– is scattered, not always comparable nor easily accessible to all stakeholders. This affects decision-making not only at government level but also for businesses and civil society.

That’s where the UN Trade and Development’s Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) statistical tool comes in

To fill this gap, UN Trade and Development’s [BioTrade Initiative](#) and the [Statistics](#) developed the Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) statistical tool with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO under the [Global BioTrade Programme](#): *Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development.*

The [Trade and Biodiversity \(TraBio\) database](#) contains information on global trade flows of biodiversity-based products. It provides access to consistent and complete data on imports and exports of biodiversity-based products and other relevant indicators. It thus aims to contribute to establishing a harmonized and internationally accepted statistical framework for biodiversity-related trade.

“TraBio” statistical tool facilitates a common understanding and comparable analysis of the dynamics underpinning biodiversity-related trade



In September 2022, TraBio was launched including:

- [Product classification](#) of biodiversity-based products covering over 1,800 biodiversity-based products;
- [Database](#) on trade flows in these products and related indicators updated annually from 2010 onwards; and
- [Visualization tool](#) with interactive maps and charts.

TraBio is freely available online for users worldwide to access, use and download from UN Trade and Development’s statistics portal UNCTADStat: <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/>



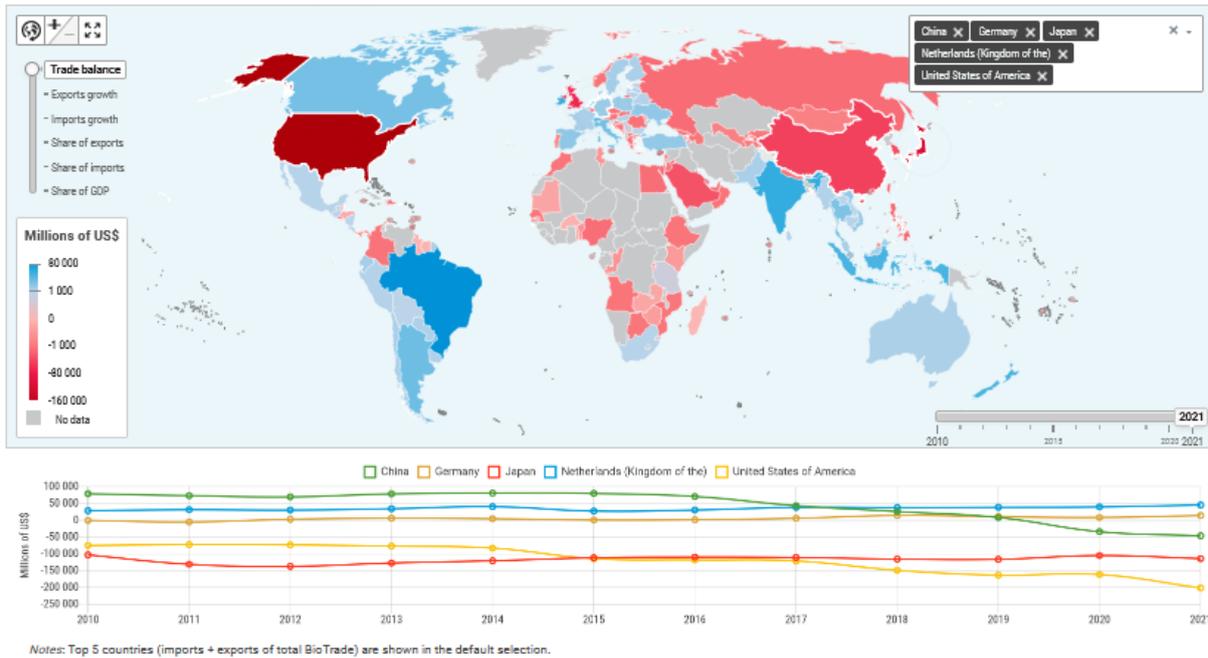


How TraBio contributes to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

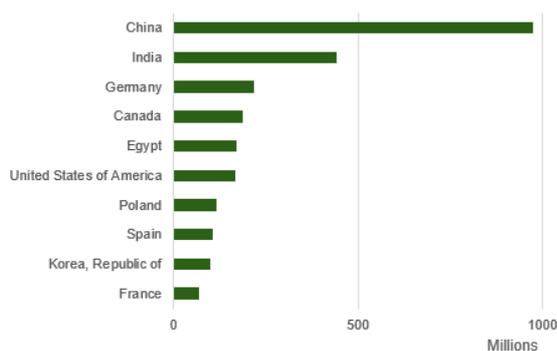
The information provided by the tool is relevant to reporting and tracking progress on biodiversity-relevant goals and targets. For instance, it provides data for the complementary indicator on *Trends in the legal trade of medicinal plants* under Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) [Goal B](#) as shown below.

World map – Trends in biodiversity-based indicators

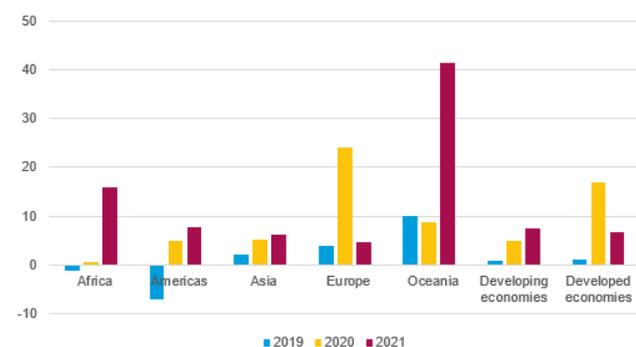
This map allows to visualise several trade indicators by selecting the desired indicator from the dial on the left: trade balance, growth in exports and imports of biotrade, biotrade as a share of total trade, and biotrade as a share of GDP. The map will show each country with a different shade based on the scale on the left for the selected year. A time series will be shown below the map for the selected indicator and countries over the past 10 years.



Top 10 exporters of medicinal plants in 2022



Growth rate exports of medicinal plants 2019-2021



Source: TraBio/UNCTADstat, <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Biotrade.html>

What's next: UN Trade and Development's ongoing work on Trade and Biodiversity Statistics

Since 2023, UN Trade and Development enhances its collaboration with other organizations by coordinating the informal [working group of on trade and biodiversity statistics \(iWG\)](#) to improve data for informed decision-making by addressing data gaps, enhancing definitions, integrating new data sources and technologies, and identifying and assessing indicators for socio-economic and environmental impact. By increasing data interoperability, such as linking TraBio with other biodiversity and broader supply chain data, the iWG contributes to improving the understanding of the trade-biodiversity nexus and helps fill information gaps for enhanced monitoring of Multilateral Environmental Agreements' objectives and targets.

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