

Amazon Region

Biotrade Initiative

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as part of its BIOTRADE Initiative will assist countries in the Amazon region to seize new investment and trading opportunities arising from the increasing interest in biodiversity-based products and services.

The Amazon Project will be implemented over a three-year period (2000-2002) and will help boost the capacity of the developing countries in the region to produce such

products and services for both domestic and international markets.

Examples of pilot activities that could benefit from the support of UNCTAD are the development of eco-tourism and the use of medicinal plants for cosmetic or pharmaceutical purposes. Financial backing amounting to \$1.7 million has already been approved from the United Nations Foundation (UNF). (MJ)

