



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES

SUPPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING
SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION AND
LOGISTICS SERVICES



GLOBAL CONTEXT

The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and driver of social development cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, the adverse impacts of freight transport activity on human health, the environment and climate are a cause for concern. If left unchecked, unsustainable freight transport patterns will undermine the effective achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNCTAD has mainstreamed sustainability and climate resilience considerations in its work programme on transport and trade logistics. The overall objective is to assist the effective integration of developing countries into trading networks and transport systems. This will facilitate their participation in value chains through efficient, reliable, cost-effective, well-connected, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient freight transport systems. With over 80 per cent of world merchandise trade by volume carried by sea, maritime transport is a particularly crucial catalyst for sustainable development.



HOW DOES THE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT PROGRAMME WORK?

The Sustainable and Resilient Transport Programme consists of several components, with an emphasis on providing the following services:

- **Promoting a supportive legal framework to facilitate transport and trade**, through advisory services on transport law and policy. UNCTAD has been extensively involved in rule-making and standard-setting in the field of maritime transport law, with an emphasis on the economic and commercial aspects of shipping. Relevant international conventions and model rules cover the economic aspects of shipping, liability for carriage of goods by sea and multimodal transport, as well as the enforcement of maritime claims. In addition to providing legal advice upon request, UNCTAD prepares analytical studies on transport law and policy, aimed at assisting developing countries in assessing the merits of ratification of relevant international legal instruments or in their national implementation. Related reports have covered a wide range of topics, including the carriage of goods by sea and air, multimodal transport, road safety, ship-source oil pollution, maritime and supply-chain security, maritime cabotage and the implications of climate change.
- **Analysing climate change impacts and adaptation for seaports and other key coastal transport infrastructure**. UNCTAD has been working on the implications of climate change for maritime transportation for over a decade, with an increasing focus on climate change adaptation and resilience-building for global seaports and other key coastal transport infrastructure. Following the successful implementation of a project on climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean, UNCTAD is delivering a project on climate-resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade, tourism and development in small island developing States, implemented jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme and funded by Germany.
- **Assisting developing countries in better managing and operating their transport corridors**. Relevant work by UNCTAD includes building institutional capacity through corridor management arrangements and regulatory framework. The aim is to strengthen the operational performance and management of corridors and to promote coordination and collaboration among corridor stakeholders, regulators and private operators, for example. It also builds capacity to promote sustainable transit and transport corridor operations. Relevant principles include economic efficiency, such as seamless transport and trade movements, cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, reliability, smooth and effective operation, energy efficiency, safety, environmental sustainability (i.e. environmentally friendly, low-carbon, clean energy use, climate resilient) and social inclusiveness (i.e. affordable, accessible, supports rural areas and key sectoral development).
- **Fostering sustainable freight transport systems and freight transport finance**. UNCTAD supports developing countries in their efforts to move towards sustainable freight transport systems (e.g. road, rail, maritime and ports, urban). To this end, UNCTAD has developed a sustainable freight transport and logistics toolkit, which includes a dedicated comprehensive training package, covering various modes of transport, including multimodal transport. Specific topics include sustainable shipping and ports, corridor management, finance, public-private partnerships, environmental performance and port performance indicators.



The training can be tailored to suit the needs of a wide-ranging group of stakeholders from developing countries. The toolkit also includes the *UNCTAD Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport*, an online web-based methodology and documented processes, together with practical tools and guidance that help users to plan, design, develop and implement sustainable freight transport strategies. These tools are as follows:

- Self-assessment questionnaire.
- Filterable list of key performance indicators.
- Catalogue of sustainable freight transport solutions and measures.
- Emissions calculation model that quantifies carbon dioxide emissions and air pollutants across corridors.
- **Maintaining a maritime transport knowledge hub.** UNCTAD informs and builds the capacity of developing countries to design and implement evidence-based maritime transport policies and strategies. Instruments include research, analysis and data on key maritime transport issues; statistics and indicators; and maritime transport expert discussions through expert meetings, seminars and workshops. Issues covered include maritime trade, shipping and ports, transport costs, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in maritime transport, port performance and connectivity, as well as regional maritime transport developments. The knowledge hub builds upon the UNCTAD flagship publication *Review of Maritime Transport*, maritime country profiles, extensive online statistics and key performance indicators.



RESULTS AND IMPACTS AT A GLANCE

East Africa – Northern and central transit and transport corridors (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania):

- In 2017, UNCTAD, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, supported the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority in developing a green freight programme, which was later integrated into the Authority's master plan. The ultimate objective is to mainstream the programme in the Authority's long-term sustainable freight transport strategy, which is being developed by making use of the tools and guidance of the UNCTAD sustainable freight transport programme.
- In 2018, UNCTAD provided support to the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency in drawing up a sustainable freight transport strategy for integration into the Agency's master plan.

Caribbean – capacity-building in sustainable shipping and ports, as well as finance; and capacity-building in climate-resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade and development:

- In 2018, UNCTAD supported the region, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank, in developing its sustainable freight transport strategy, as well as a regional sustainable logistics observatory, in collaboration with the Port Management Association of the Caribbean. The observatory will enable informed and evidence-based transport policymaking in the region, as well as sound resource allocation and priority setting. Partnered with the All Island Truckers Association of Jamaica, the Ministry of Transport and Mining of Jamaica and Natural Resources Canada, UNCTAD delivered a national training workshop on eco-driving in Jamaica and developed a curriculum for the All Island Truckers Association to train its members.
- Under the project on climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean, UNCTAD, in collaboration with a range of partners, has achieved the following key outcomes: assessment of potential operational disruptions and marine inundation risk to coastal international airports and seaports of Jamaica and Saint Lucia, under different climate scenarios; a transferable methodology to assist in adaptation planning and a series of capacity-building workshops bringing together stakeholders from 21 countries and territories in the Caribbean.



PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Scope: all regions

Start date: 2014

Projects to date: 7

Persons trained: more than 360

Countries assisted: more than 50

Websites: Trade Logistics Branch:
unctad.org/ttl

Climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean:
SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org.

UNCTAD Sustainable Freight Transport Portal:
unctadsftportal.org.

UNCTAD Framework for Sustainable Freight Transport: sft-framework.org.

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

Directly: 8, 9, 13, 14

Indirectly: 1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17



DONORS/FUNDING SOURCE (2014–2019)

Germany, Republic of Korea, European Union, Islamic Development Bank, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, United Nations Development Account, World Bank