

The importance of ecosystems

The Ecosystem Approach to natural resource management

Why are ecosystems important?

Plants, animals and microorganisms interact to form complex webs which supply the ecosystem services upon which all life depends. With climate change a real and present danger and natural resources increasingly over-exploited, human well being is ever more dependent on the remaining pockets of resilience and ecosystem health.

Why do we need to engage and give a 'voice' to the most vulnerable?

Access to land, clean water, adequate food and fuel is essential for people to escape poverty and prosper. Rural and coastal communities are most dependent on a healthy environment, and thus best placed to take a stewardship role in resource management.

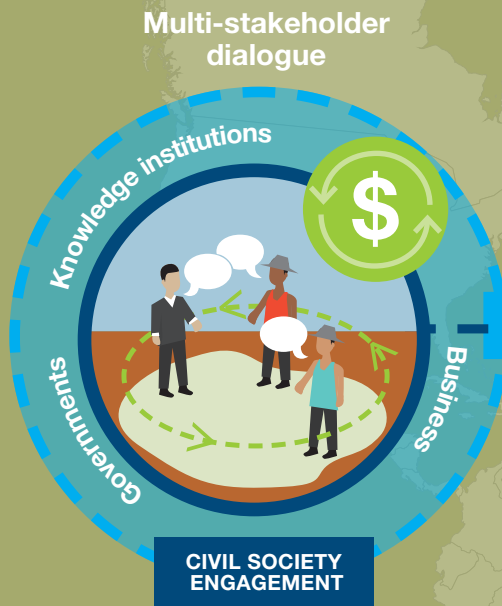
Why apply the ecosystem approach?

Taking an integrated, equitable approach to sustaining or restoring ecological systems will allow nature itself to provide society's most basic needs and the very foundations of our global economy.



The link between ecosystem health and sustainable development

The Ecosystem Alliance approach to influencing policy and practice toward enhanced ecosystem services



To ensure a **participatory** approach to **inclusive, equitable** development

Three themes

GREEN ECONOMY

LIVELIHOODS

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

This will deliver the outcomes targeted by the Sustainable Development Goals*



THRIVING ECONOMIES



IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS



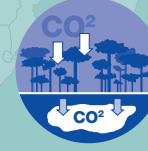
FOOD SECURITY



WATER SECURITY



HEALTHY BIODIVERSITY



CLIMATE RESILIENCE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>



POLLUTION



CLIMATE CHANGE



LAND CONVERSION



INADEQUATE LAND USE PLANNING



OVER- AND DESTRUCTIVE EXPLOITATION

Restoration of natural capital

Restoring nature's innate ability to support all living things

Restoration of natural capital, which improves the flow of ecosystem goods and services in degraded environments, is a cost-effective and essential tool for restoring security on a range of basic human needs such as clean water, food, energy and income.

PROBLEMS

- Climate change brings more frequent and destructive storms
- Uncontrolled fires make land more susceptible to erosion
- Unsustainable land use reduces soil nutrient content
- Land conversion for roads, mining and commercial crops and livestock leads to deforestation
- Local voices not heard in relevant decision making processes



RESULTS

- Increased human adaptive capacity
- Disaster risk reduction
- Livelihood and food security
- Sustainable water management
- Carbon sequestration
- Community empowerment
- Enhanced biodiversity



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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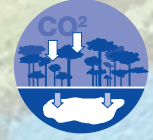
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OVER- AND DESTRUCTIVE EXPLOITATION

Ecosystem based adaptation

EbA is sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help people adapt to both current climate variability and climate change.

Establish effectively managed protected area systems

Empower communities to apply ecosystem based adaptation practices and use local indigenous knowledge

Restore coastal habitats such as mangroves, using indigenous knowledge

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

Advocate policy makers to support local people having a voice in decision making and access to climate finance

Manage river basins, aquifers and flood plains for water storage and flood regulation

- RESULTS**
- Increased human adaptive capacity
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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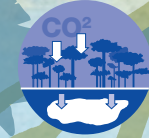
FOOD SECURITY



WATER SECURITY



HEALTHY BIODIVERSITY



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

PROBLEMS

- More frequent and intense storms and droughts
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Ocean acidification and sea level rise
- Land conversion for unsustainable infrastructure, mining, agriculture and aquaculture
- Mismanagement of river basins and watersheds
- Local voices not heard in relevant decision making processes

Green economy with sustainable value chains

From habitat to home – responsible agro-commodity governance – palm oil

CHALLENGE: Agricultural output is expected to double and resource efficiency increase tenfold in the coming decades. Only a rapid transformation in the way products and services are produced and consumed will ensure the continued delivery of essential ecosystem services provided by a healthy environment while meeting the demands of the world's growing population. Local communities must have a voice in this transition.*

*Source: WBCSD Vision 2050 report.

Civil society participates in integrated land use planning for the benefits of communities and nature

Possible local value-add from palm oil mill, located near plantation

All parties in supply chain ensure transparency, accountability and social-ecological sustainability

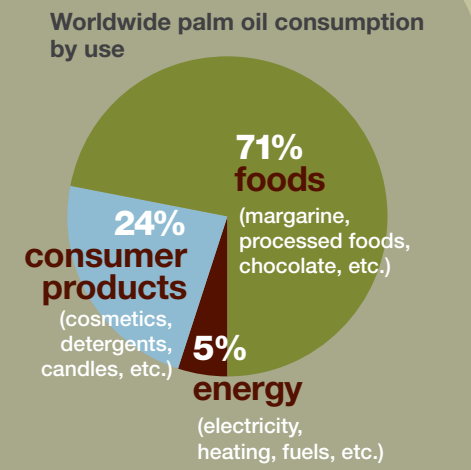
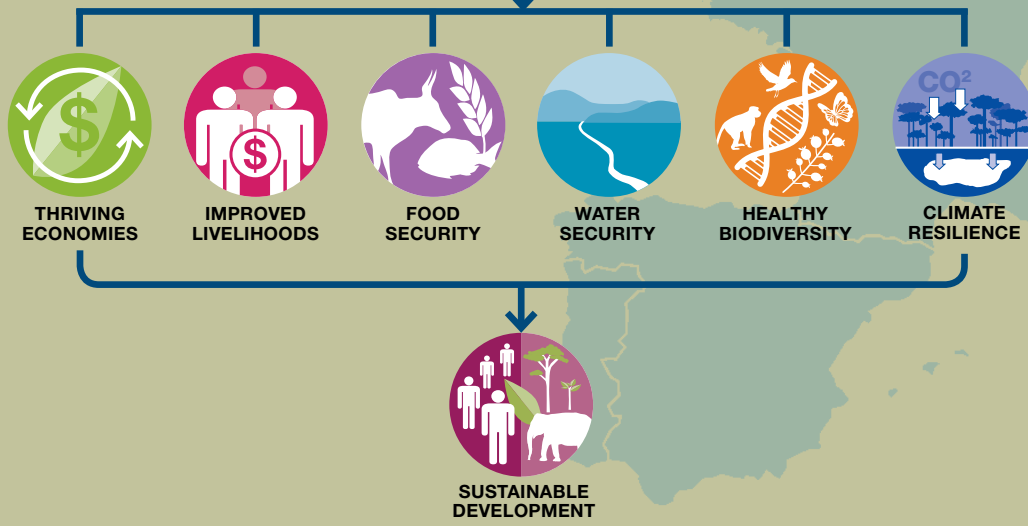
Only import Certified (RSPO) palm oil: zero net deforestation and zero land grabbing

Retailers only offer certified, responsibly sourced products

Consumers choose certified, responsibly sourced products



CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT



(2010), Source AGEB

Palm oil is found in over 50% of products in our supermarkets

Exporting brings financial security to communities

50 per cent

MAP: COURTESY FREEPIK

Green economy with sustainable value chains

From habitat to home – responsible agro-commodity governance – soy

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Integrated land use planning with civil society participation, for the benefit of nature and people

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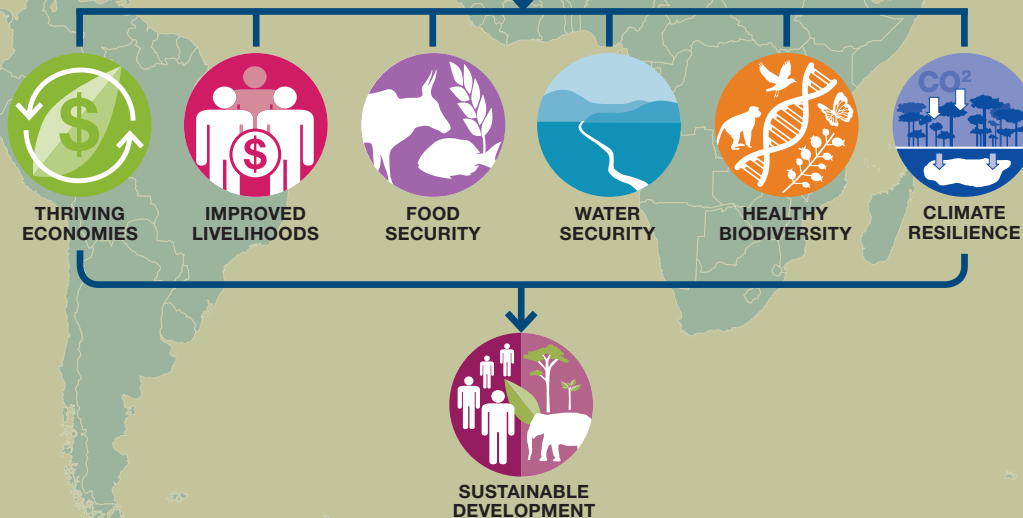
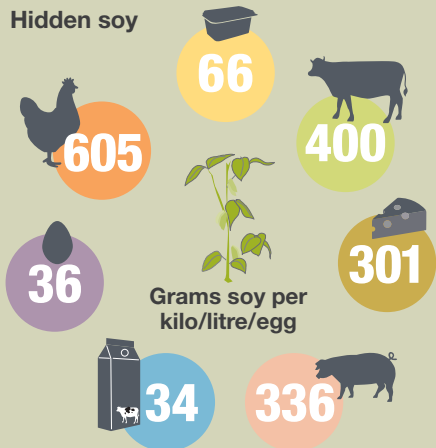
- Import only responsible soy
- Embed sustainability in law and rules
- Financial stimulus for sustainability

Retailers only offer certified, responsibly sourced products

Consumers choose certified, responsibly sourced products and lower animal protein consumption



Hidden soy



276 million
Global soybean production has more than doubled in the last 20 years, up to 276 million tonnes in 2013. Only 2% was certified under a sustainability standard.

Source: Dutch Soy Coalition, Soy Barometer 2014