

## 1st EU Seminar on Responsible Soy Production

*Environmental objectives of  
responsible soybean production*

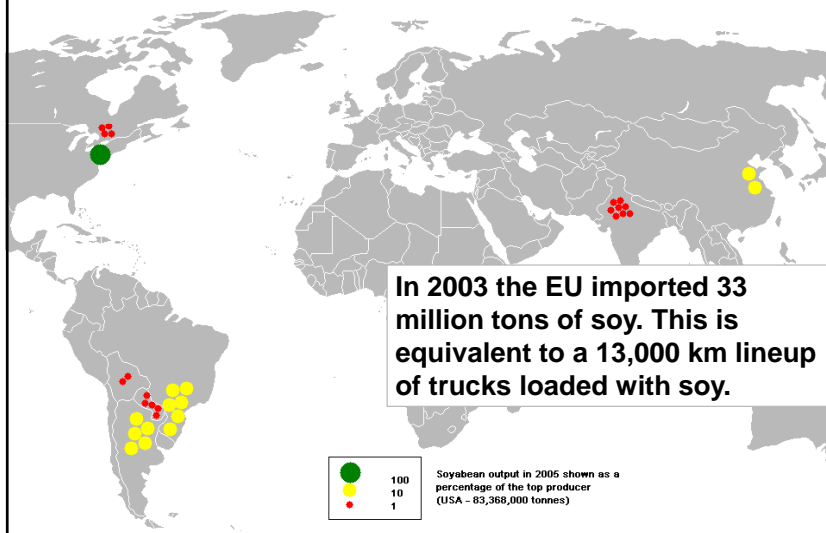
Tamas Marghescu  
IUCN Regional Director for Pan Europe



## IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

- Founded in 1948, the world's first global environmental organization
- 1000 member organizations in 140 countries
- Largest professional global conservation network
- 200+ government and 800+ NGO members
- 62 offices around the world, international secretariat in Gland, Switzerland
- Official observer status at the United Nations General Assembly

## Soybean output in 2005

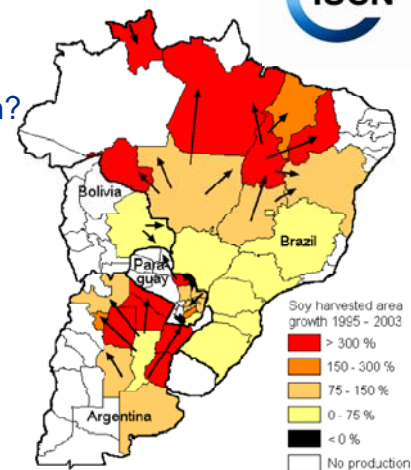


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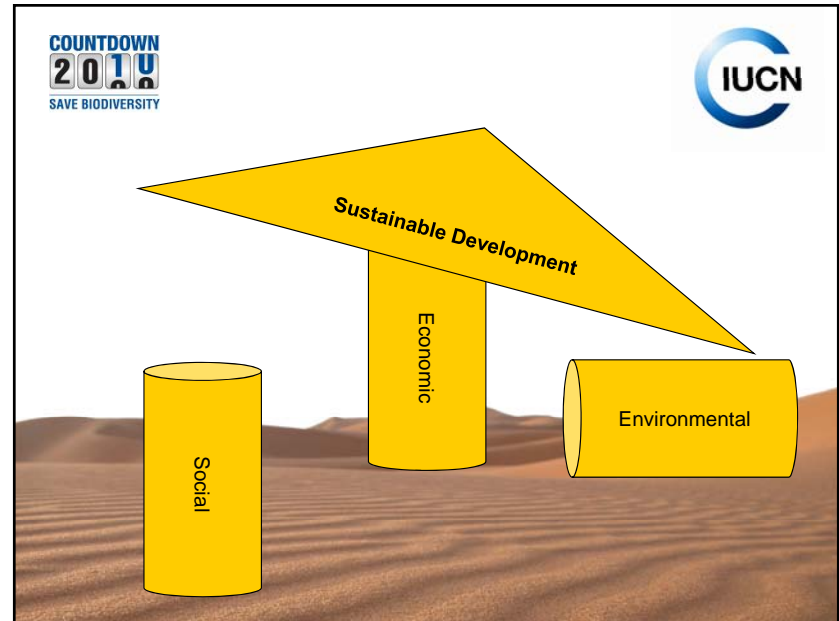
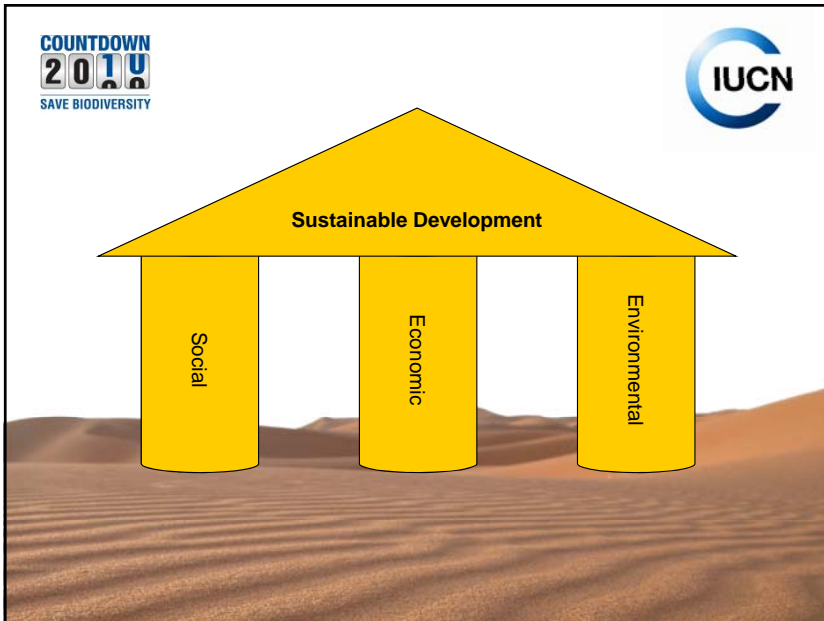


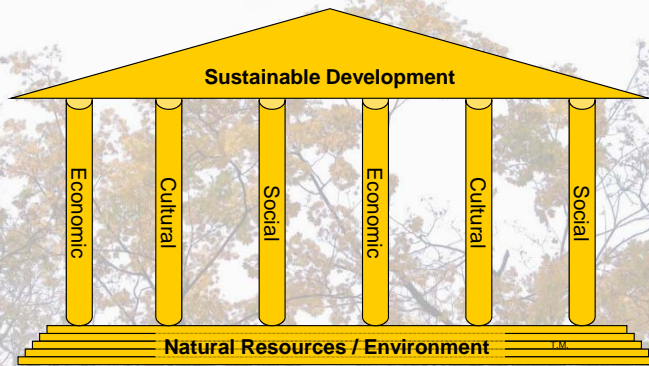
## Quo vadis soy production?

- Exporting & importing unhealthy environments
- Soy prize does not capture environmental cost
- Destroying high value habitats



International Union for Conservation of Nature





## Key environmental issues

1. Habitat conversion and biodiversity loss
2. Soil degradation and erosion
3. Contamination and health effects of agrochemicals on man and environment (also off-farm)
4. Hydrological changes
5. Infrastructure



### Key social issues

1. Workers rights – violation of ILO standards
2. Loss of livelihoods – natural landscapes, small scale land use systems
3. Migration – rural to urban; rural to forest
4. Land rights conflicts: illegal acquisition; use rights violations, indigenous land rights

### General issue

1. Poor governance



Illegal deforestation for soy production, Brazil

### IUCN and soy

- Aiding business in **determining biodiversity impact**
- Forming **partnerships with industry** to balance biodiversity and business
- Providing input from its members and partners in the region to **sustainability schemes and processes**
- Developing a **toolkit for High Conservation Value Areas** to help safeguard biodiversity while conducting business



Soy harvesting machines at work

## Responsible Soy

- No conversion of high conservation value areas (HCVAs) or other vital habitats and corridors
- Respect to workers rights (ILO standards) and traditional rights of local communities
- Good agricultural practices
- Respect to local laws and international agreements
- Traceability
- Market access for small soy farmers
- Contribute to local development



## Steps toward solutions

- Recognize problems as a sector
- Commit to finding mainstream solutions
- Creation of a level playing field through broad participation in multistakeholder processes
  - Transform problems into opportunities and goals
  - Establish criteria for responsible production, processing and trade
  - Develop a certification structure
  - Progress standards
  - Internalization of costs
  - Consumer awareness
- Pilot projects and good practices. Be a first mover.



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European Initiative on

**Business &**  
Biodiversity

Thank you

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