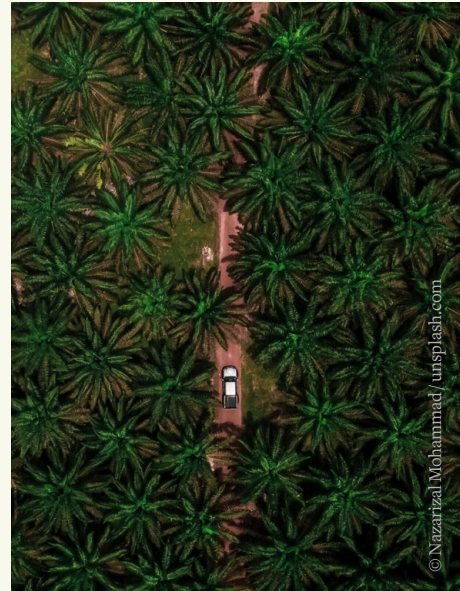




TRADE, DEVELOPMENT &  
THE ENVIRONMENT HUB



# GCRF TRADE HUB – 2021/22 INTERIM IMPACT REPORT



## CATALYSING A TRANSITION TO JUST AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE

March 2022





The UK Research and Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund (UKRI GCRF) Trade, Development and the Environment Hub is working with over 50 partner organisations from 15 different countries. The project aims to make sustainable trade a positive force in the world by focusing on the impact of the trade of specific goods and seeking solutions to these impacts.

**HOW TO CITE THIS REPORT:**

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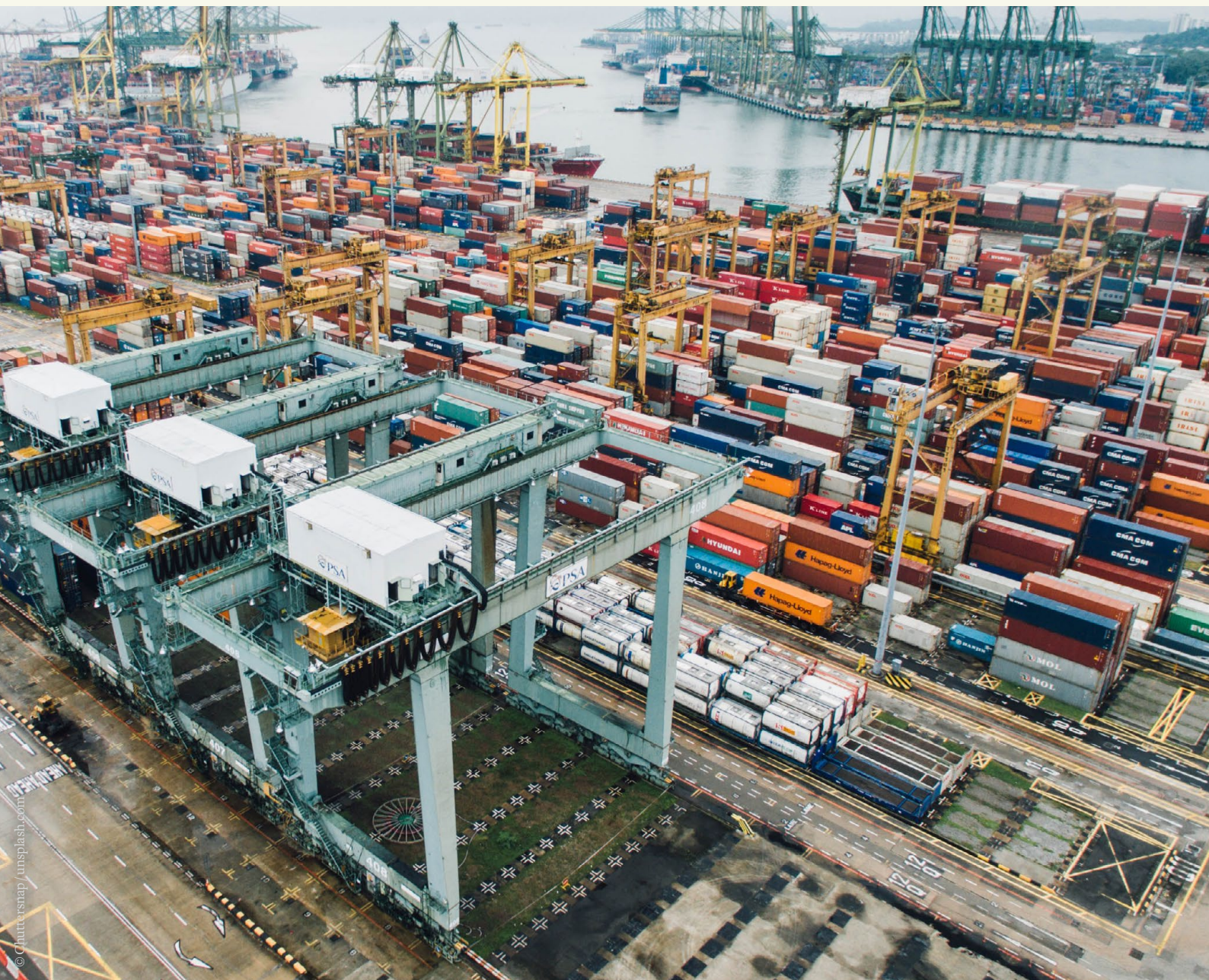


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# ADDRESSING TRADE AS A COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE



Higher volumes of international trade have contributed in significant ways to economic growth and development, while around 50% of the world economy is at least moderately dependent upon nature.

However, there is increasingly compelling evidence that global trade is associated with significant negative impacts on biodiversity and disadvantaged people. The intricate web of supply chains underlying our economies mean that negative trade-related impacts on nature and people can be shifted around the world, from exporters to importers and buyers to sellers. These impacts are difficult to trace and attribute due to complex market interconnections. Global supply chains can also amplify the impacts of the differences in regulatory environments and market incentives in varying locations. This creates a dilemma for development planners aiming to deliver progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also for businesses and importers aiming to reduce environmental and social risks across their supply chains.

The tension we see today between environment and development is inherent to the wider, systematic tension between the economy and the biosphere as also set out in the Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity<sup>1</sup>. Trade occupies a particularly significant place in this tension, given its role as an enabler of today's economic model. Trade can, thus, be viewed as the glue holding together the complex web of global and regional supply chains and economic processes, which makes trade an amplifier of individual decision-making across global supply chains and the impacts from these decisions on societies and the natural world we inhabit.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the world over the past 2 years, further shining a light on the interconnected nature of our world, and the delicate relationship between the stressors we impose on nature, and the risks this exposes us to. It has also highlighted the fragility of the global trade system, with many current supply chain challenges being faced around the world. However, even before the COVID pandemic, many countries were beginning to increasingly scrutinize their global impacts through product supply chains (box 1). Businesses and technology companies have also become increasingly interested in mechanisms to reduce supply chain risks associated with exposure to climate, nature, social impacts and dependencies. This issue is also now at the top of the political agenda.

### BOX 1: ACTIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRADE

In 2019, the Governments of Costa Rica, Fiji, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway launched an initiative for an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), which aims to demonstrate – in practical terms – how trade rules can support climate and broader environmental objectives and stimulate more multilateral action. The EU has announced its intention to integrate sustainability within trade deals, as part of the Green New Deal, and the UK last year announced, as part of the Environment Bill, that new due diligence legislation would be introduced, making it illegal for UK businesses to import commodities that have not been produced in line with local laws protecting forests and other natural ecosystems. In another important development, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure was also officially launched in June this year.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>



The UK Research and Innovation, Global Challenges Research Fund's Trade, Development and the Environment Hub (TRADE Hub) was established as part of a suite of hubs designed to address 12 development challenges of global significance. With a focus on trade in wild species and agricultural commodities, our Hub seeks to address the longstanding tension between trade-induced economic growth, environmental and social impacts, especially for vulnerable population groups. The work is supremely relevant to current global debates from farmers and forest users, through business and finance agencies, supply chain actors and consumers, to those setting national and global policy and laws. Collectively the TRADE Hub is working across the trade spectrum, providing and developing underpinning research and knowledge, and promoting its use in the context of a dramatic increase in the demands for change.

In this report we outline some of our work and how we are seeking to deliver impact, using illustrative case studies from the project. We describe the research and knowledge exchange work underpinning these case studies and show how it is essential to facilitate the delivery of impact.



# THE TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT HUB (TRADE HUB)



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## RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF UNSUSTAINABLE TRADE

The TRADE Hub has been established to deliver benefits to developing countries, through tackling the environmental degradation and increased inequality and social deprivation that is associated with trade in wild species and commodity crops.

Our approach is consistent with models of transformational change (e.g. Rudolf et al, 2020<sup>2</sup>) which highlight the need not only to recognise problems with the way current choices are made, but to challenge this, provide new competing approaches and also to change the cultural context / environment in which those choices are made.

For example, key elements of the TRADE Hub theory of change include increasing attention on the research recommendations from the TRADE Hub and incorporating them into international agreements. Both raise the profile of the connections between trade, biodiversity and inclusive development and in essence change the way in which decision makers think about their goals and the pursuit of them.

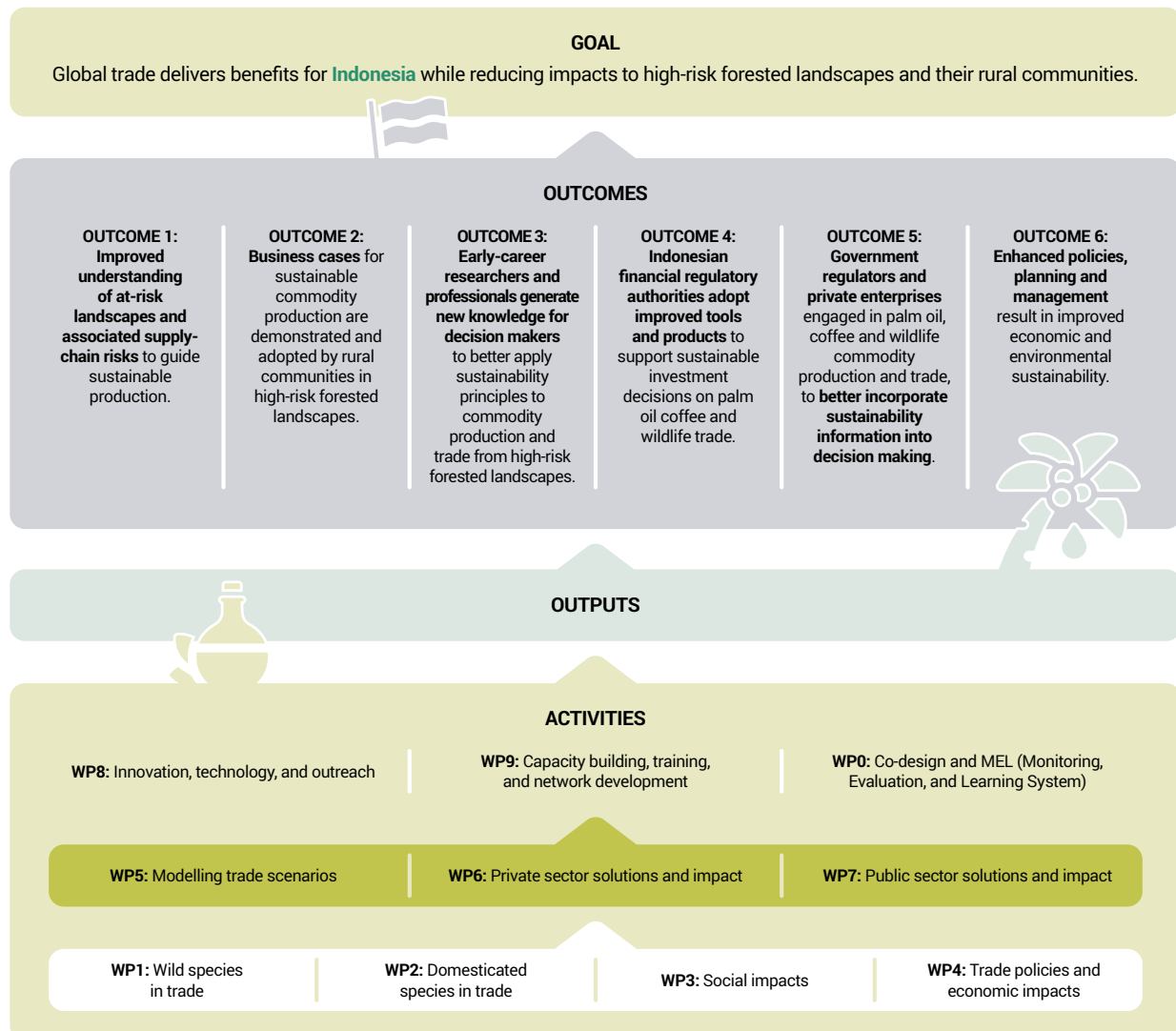


Figure 1: An example of a national-level theory of change from the GCRF TRADE Hub in Indonesia.

Source : <https://www.cifor.org/tradehub/research/theory-of-change-of-trade-hub-indonesia>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-17410-2>



Our approach:

1. aims to support efforts to shift mainstream practice, and make changes in trade rules, regional trade agreements, and national policies around sustainable production, identifying these as policies that are more likely to be implemented and to be influential
2. addresses different parts of the trade system as changes in practice need to take place at both ends of (and along/beyond) supply chains.

Our solutions will therefore aim to be applicable in both developing and developed countries. For example, we aim to incentivise uptake and interest in tools, metrics and approaches, for example, around supply chain transparency. Collectively, the TRADE Hub is working across this spectrum, providing and developing underpinning research and knowledge, and promoting its use in the context of a dramatic increase in the demands for change, and of increasing attention on the climate and ecological crisis facing planet Earth.

We are working towards six “Big Wins” – the leverage points that all our research and impact activities are ultimately orientated towards:

1. Farmers and forest users are empowered to shift to more sustainable practices and obtain fair economic returns for their traded products
2. Local to national regulation of nature and social impacts of trade is strengthened to impact both upstream and downstream aspects of trade
3. Nature and social considerations are more visible in the work of business and finance companies involved with trade
4. Multilateral development goals linking nature, people and trade are strengthened
5. Nature and social factors are better considered in international trade agreements
6. The “building back better” post COVID-19 agenda integrates nature and social considerations of trade



Figure 2: TRADE Hub's six "Big win" areas (centre), the four main mechanisms used to achieve them (left) and the transformational changes the TRADE Hub is aiming towards through these "Big wins" (right)

We have chosen these leverage points as they focus the effort of the Hub's expertise on transformations that are needed to achieve the broader societal goals of sustainability. These transformations have been identified in high-level syntheses such as the [IPBES global assessment](#) (2019) and the UK's Dasgupta review (2021), both of which are documents to which TRADE Hub researchers made significant inputs.

These Big Wins address supply chain and trade related issues from farmers and forest users, through to local and national supply chains, and then into the global trade system and the rules and drivers of that system. We also seek to provide the tools and means to better manage these trades in a sustainable manner and link our work solidly to UK government and international priorities.

## POLICY ALIGNMENT

As a project receiving Overseas Development Assistance funding, we aim to deliver against the SDGs, aligning our work to at least 10 of these goals - especially the goals of zero poverty; zero hunger; industry, innovation and infrastructure; responsible consumption and production; life on land; and partnerships to deliver the goals. There is strong overlap between these goals and the TRADE Hub Big Wins. For example, TRADE Hub work quantifying the effects of trade policies on biodiversity helps inform a shift towards more sustainable food production and resilient agricultural systems (SDG target 2.4) and feeds into TRADE Hub Big Win 5, enabling nature factors to be better considered in international trade agreements.

The TRADE Hub has aligned its work to deliver against the needs of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 26, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) COP19, the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference, and other major high-level events such as the UN World Food Summit. We have also provided material to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Parties on the impact of wild meat hunting on terrestrial species listed under CMS.

TRADE Hub researchers have also played an active role in the Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity<sup>3</sup>, which has made recommendations to:

- deliver a ‘nature positive’ future, in which we leave the environment in a better state than we found it, and reverse biodiversity loss globally by 2030; and
- ensure economic and financial decision-making, and the systems and institutions that underpin it, supports the delivery of that nature positive future.

These have been taken up by the UK and other G7 nations in similar commitments to deliver a ‘nature positive’ future.

Finally, we have tailored our work to address areas where the UK has committed to accelerate progress under 7 priorities for Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending<sup>4</sup> with a very strong focus on Climate & Biodiversity, Economic Development & Trade and Science & Technology.



Figure 3: Number of indicators that the TRADE Hub is contributing to under each of the Sustainable Development Goals that our work is linked to

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review-government-response.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> building from the Government’s [Integrated Review Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#) and confirmed in a [written statement to Parliament on 21st April 2021](#)

# DRIVING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE



The transformation of local to global trade to minimize negative impacts on nature and marginalised people has been intractable until now, because it requires changes in the way large parts of our economies work. At the TRADE Hub, we recognise we cannot change the world alone, but we can play an important role in promoting and catalysing change.

For systems to change we recognise that while improved knowledge and information is necessary to improve decisions, this is not sufficient – knowledge will not be taken up and used if it is not demanded or compatible with the decision-making processes of key actors.

Our big wins, and the underpinning research highlighted in our case studies, are stepping stones towards delivering the transformations needed to make the challenge more tractable than it is now.

Our Big Wins therefore lead to three transformational changes; our end goals. Achieving these would make a significant contribution to addressing the intractable challenge the whole Hub is working to address.



### 1. SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND USE OF WILDLIFE IS ENHANCED.

This relates to the trades in wildlife for various purposes, but including the international wildlife trade for pets and fashion as well as the use of wildlife as a source of meat at the local to national levels.



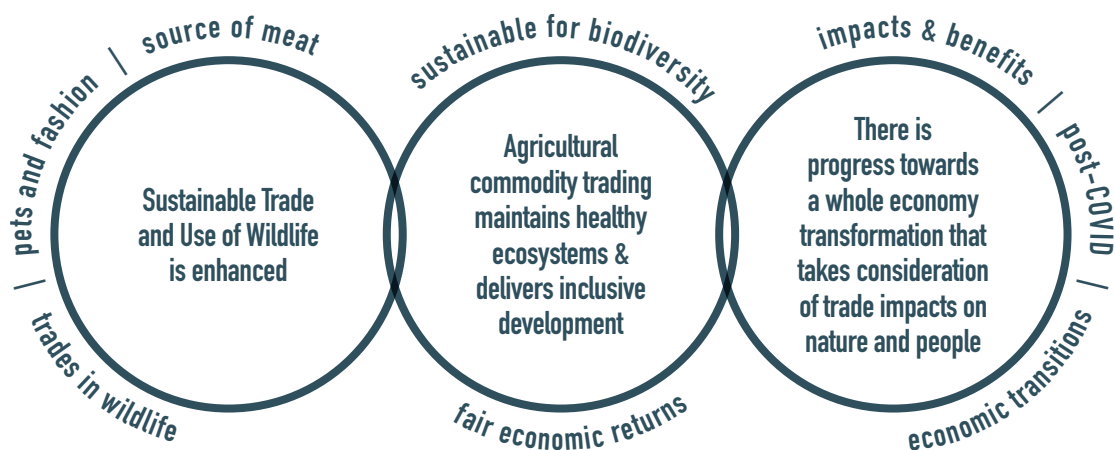
### 2. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY TRADING MAINTAINS HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS & DELIVERS INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

This relates to how the trade in agricultural commodities that deliver the greatest impacts on nature can be made more sustainable for biodiversity, and how supply chain interventions can provide fair economic returns to farmers, reducing negative and promoting positive outcomes for people and nature in both developing and developed countries.



### 3. THERE IS PROGRESS TOWARDS A WHOLE ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION THAT TAKES CONSIDERATION OF TRADE IMPACTS ON NATURE AND PEOPLE.

This is a broad-scale transformation of the entire economic system and how it relates to impacts and benefits on nature and people. But it also relates to the broader post-COVID ‘build back better’ agenda and the role of wildlife and agricultural commodity trades in the economic transitions implicit in this agenda.



To achieve these impacts, and to support the uptake of knowledge and data, TRADE Hub team members are working directly with policy makers and businesses; to present the case for change; to make changes in trade rules, regional trade agreements, and national policies around sustainable production ; to incentivise uptake and interest in tools, metrics and approaches to support sustainable transitions, for example around supply chain transparency and biodiversity monitoring; to provide the mechanisms to empower better choices; and to identify the breakthrough products / policies which – if taken to scale – could rapidly change how societies manage the interaction between trade, people and nature.





# ACHIEVING THE TRADE HUB BIG WINS: CASE STUDIES OF WORK AND IMPACT

Our set of case studies does not cover the whole of the TRADE hub's work. Rather, we have selected elements of our activities to demonstrate the work of the TRADE Hub along the supply chain, from producer to consumer.

The case studies show how we are addressing the challenges faced by different stakeholders, to align incentives and capacity in favour of a more just and sustainable trade system for agricultural commodities and wildlife.





## BIG WIN 1: Farmers and forest users are empowered to shift to more sustainable practices and obtain fair economic returns

**CASE STUDY:** Addressing the challenges in transitioning to sustainable practices for smallholder farmers in TRADE Hub's focal countries

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

Smallholder farmers play an important role in the production of commodities worldwide, driving national economies and feeding into global supply chains. Farms under 2 hectares are estimated to produce between 30-34% of globally traded foods<sup>5</sup>, yet smallholder farmers face ever increasing challenges including:

- Limited access to finance and advanced agricultural technologies,
- A lack of business skills,
- Limited access to secure property rights and sufficient land
- Difficulties in complying with more demanding sustainability standards, (including the benefit-sharing mechanism of certification and climate change mitigation measures)
- A lack of protection by their home governments against extractive/exploitative companies, alongside non-adherence to pledges around fair economic returns, modern slavery etc.

All these issues have led to widespread and continued high poverty levels among smallholder commodity farmers.

The TRADE Hub project is seeking ways to reduce barriers to enable smallholder farmers to access sustainable markets. We are also filling gaps in knowledge about current farming practices, their impacts on ecosystems and people, and direct impacts of high-level policy decisions. We also work to understand how trade can support more sustainable production, and how this can be made fairer and more supportive of farmer wellbeing.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211912417301293>

## WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

### TRADE AND FARMER WELLBEING

TRADE Hub has developed a conceptual framework for analysing the impacts of trade on different SDGs related to human wellbeing and ecosystem services. Reviews across palm oil, soy, and cocoa revealed the potential for trade to improve livelihoods and incomes of farmers, but also highlighted how these benefits are not universal, nor evenly distributed. For commodities like palm oil and cocoa, smallholder farmers can lose out where large agro-industries dominate. Even where improvements in income are seen, wider impacts of the expansion of commodity production can damage overall wellbeing, as a result of loss of access to ecosystem services – a universally negative impact – as well as other social and environmental conflicts stimulated, for example, as a result of land grabbing. It is worth noting that social impacts vary depending on commodity and local context, and therefore interventions need also be devised and targeted accordingly. For example, well-designed and context-appropriate trade-related policy interventions, such as supporting better agricultural practices, but also cooperatives, certification schemes and farmer training, can enhance the well-being of smallholder producers.

Our reviews show that the empirical evidence on the direction of the direct social impacts of commodity production is scarce and mixed. More tangible wellbeing aspects such as income, nutrition and living standards seem to be positively impacted by trade, while more intangible aspects such as freedom of choice and cultural value are found to be negatively affected. The empirical evidence for impacts on ecosystem services is more comprehensive and shows a clear picture of negative impacts associated with commodity production due to land use changes and deforestation, and agricultural intensification.

For rubber, our review showed that falling prices for farmers in China have resulted in a decline of living standards. This has resulted in farmers taking other work, often in cities, to continue to support their families. Looking across coffee, cocoa, soy and rubber has confirmed that whilst trade can provide increases in income for farmers, this can come at a cost, including exposure to increased uncertainty due to price volatility, loss of freedom of choice and loss of benefits from ecosystems which are converted to intensive agriculture. These results emphasise the requirement for importing countries to take responsibility for impacts on the ground – a finding that echoes the increased societal demand for more transparent and sustainable supply chains.



## GENDER DYNAMICS OF COMMODITY TRADE

TRADE Hub is exploring the role of gender and equity in trade systems. For example, a report on [gender and equity in coffee production in Tanzania](#), found a gender imbalance in the ownership and control of resources, the participation of men and women in the coffee supply chain and a gender pay gap in income earned from coffee production and trade. Similar findings were made in the work on cocoa production systems in West Africa. Our work highlights that empowerment via equal access to land and credit, and offering trade facilitation services, could bridge this gender gap. Moreover, in [Brazil](#), soy production expansion over 30 years has impacted women in family and corporate farming differently. This heterogeneity can be seen when it comes to classifying them by age, ethnicity, education, access to technical assistance and social involvement, and it is also apparent in the different regions of the country. In municipalities that have significant soybean production and women-run agricultural and livestock establishments, the creation of an affirmative agenda for gender equality needs to consider both this heterogeneity and the symbolic and material obstacles that breed inequalities. Additionally, work in China with rubber producers has also shown how falling prices over the past years have affected women more than men and forced lifestyle choices that may reduce options for sustainability in trade systems.

## IMPACTS OF CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

TRADE Hub is working to understand certification benefits and to make training materials more accessible to smallholders. Our coffee [global review](#) shows that certification schemes can have positive impacts; with schemes oriented towards environmental performance improving the incomes of coffee producers, and social certification schemes benefiting wellbeing of farmers on multiple dimensions. Yet TRADE Hub's primary research on coffee in Tanzania has found that many farmers are unaware of, or struggling to access, certification services. Related work on [cocoa](#) highlights a clear need to capture more social impacts in sustainable commodity certification schemes (e.g. <https://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/wurpubs/fulltext/450223>).

In [Brazil](#), we have assessed the governance structure and the composition of initiatives such as the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB), the Soy Moratorium, the Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Amazon and the Roundtable on Responsible Soybean (RTRS). Although these initiatives encompass a variety of stakeholders, offering them a space for discussing concerns, identifying priorities, and resolving disputes, their internal governance structures are not always sufficient to ensure a broad and inclusive participation and an equitable distribution of power across different member groups. At the same time, such initiatives are often seen as a response to the inefficiency of government agencies in implementing mechanisms for controlling and mitigating negative socioenvironmental impacts. However, the engagement of public authorities is crucial to ensure the monitoring of progress over sustainability commitments and to enforce decisions taken by different parties involved in private governance initiatives. The combination of different market mechanisms such as voluntary standards and public commitments, in domestic contexts as well as in international trade, can improve and amplify the outcomes of the decisions taken by stakeholders for the promotion of more sustainable commodity trade.

For oil palm, in Asia large numbers of smallholder farmers are certified, (through access to training, improved seeds/yields, access to markets, access to funding resources through the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification program), whereas farmers in Africa are largely left out. Currently, sub-Saharan Africa has tens of thousands of such smallholder farmers but <0.1% are certified. One of the biggest challenges that RSPO faces is how to translate its certification standards for use in Africa and how to motivate African farmers to join a certifications scheme. The TRADE Hub is helping the RSPO to translate the certification standards for smallholders so that they can be used in high forest cover countries such as Gabon and Liberia. The Hub is also helping farmers in Cameroon to understand the benefits of certification and encouraging them to join a scheme when it becomes available. This work is being carried out together with the IUCN task force on oil palm for more effective integration into the ongoing international policy discourse.



*Photos from the field: Meeting with palm oil farmers in Cameroon*

In Indonesia, demand for sustainable palm oil has increased dramatically, with traders and millers adopting stringent requirements for sourcing, and the government requiring smallholders to comply with the Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) policy. TRADE Hub work aims to understand how smallholder production systems link to the oil palm supply chain and global trade sustainability rules and standards. This includes smallholders' compliance with ISPO certification. In Cameroon, a government funded smallholder oil palm scheme has seen an increase in palm oil smallholder farmers. The TRADE Hub explored whether investment in oil palm plantations is a profitable business for smallholders and found that in general it is, but that financial viability can be limited by numerous factors, with the cost of land being the most significant.

## BOX 2: TRADE HUB INDONESIA IS AIMING TO “IMPROVE BENEFITS AND REDUCE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF OIL PALM AND COFFEE PRODUCTION AND TRADE ON FORESTS LANDSCAPES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.”

This is being done by:

- Improving understanding of forested landscapes at-risk and associated supply chains to **guide sustainable production**.
- **Developing a business case** for coffee to be demonstrated and adopted by rural communities in high-risk forested landscapes.
- Providing improved **tools and products to support sustainable investment** decisions in the palm oil trade to advise the Indonesian financial regulatory authorities.
- Generating **science-based recommendations** for decision makers to better apply sustainability principles for production and trade from high-risk forested landscapes.
- **Engaging government regulators and private enterprises** to support better incorporation of sustainability information into decision making for production and trade.
- **Improving the capacity** of students, researchers, and key stakeholders on how to better apply sustainable principles.

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

We have established our researchers' voices in the trade and environment space within our focal countries, particularly in Brazil for social and environmental impacts of production in the Brazilian Cerrado, oil palm in Indonesia and Tanzania, cocoa in Cameroon, and rubber and bamboo in China. They are now a part of regular consultations with policymakers and corporate sector surrounding trade in these commodities, and we aim to build on these established networks to build awareness and capacity on how to mitigate impacts of commodity trade on smallholders.

## FUTURE PLANS

In 2022, our work will continue to address issues affecting smallholder farmers and create an evidence base for the best ways to achieve change. Our research teams will work with:

- **palm oil** farmers in **Indonesia** seeking to enhance the sustainability of production systems;
- smallholder farmers in **China** to understand the socio-economic impacts of **rubber** price changes at farmer levels;
- coffee farmers in **Tanzania** seeking to understand the impacts of **coffee** certification schemes and to investigate the social and environmental effects of outgrower **sugarcane** supply chains;
- certified and non-certified **cocoa** farming systems in **Cameroon** to assess differences in ecosystem services in and to understand the extent to which financial gains influence smallholder decisions to invest in **oil palm** production;
- smallholder involvement on the **soy bean** farming system in **Brazil** and ways it might be improved;
- those involved with **bamboo** production systems in **China** and the impacts of commodity price changes on **rubber** farmers.

We will also start to synthesise the learning from these farmer-based research projects to develop general lessons that can be used to enhance impact at the farmer, national production, and supply chain scales. This synthesis is a priority for the next 2 years.



## BIG WIN 2: Local to national regulation of nature and social impacts of trade is strengthened

**CASE STUDY:** Understanding and influencing agricultural trade policies in DAC countries, and using lessons learned to drive changes in UK and EU trade systems regarding social and environmental impacts

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

The inclusion of safeguards around nature and social impacts of national trade regimes is an important way for nations to deliver impact on the trade agenda. Countries are increasingly calling for trade to be greened, with leadership being offered by trading blocs like the EU. Within the DAC countries there are different dynamics at play to those in the EU, in terms of developing their national and international trading regimes, but these are also influenced by the changes in approach of their trading partners. The TRADE Hub is responding to the global change in trade policy through studying and seeking to change commodity trading policies and laws in our focal DAC countries and in the trade systems in the UK and EU.

We aim to use our understanding of the national level of trade to help countries develop better policies, laws and regulations to enhance the environmental and social sustainability of commodity and wildlife trades. Our focus is on the trade systems from the farmer or hunter and links into global supply chains for commodities that have a global footprint.

### WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

#### DAC COUNTRIES

Across the DAC countries in the TRADE Hub, a series of activities are underway to look at how agricultural and wildlife trades relate to national laws and regulations and how these can be updated to deliver enhanced impact.

#### UK AND EU

The TRADE Hub has worked to include biodiversity and social issues within national level work relating to ‘environment in trade’, in particular with the UK Government, the EU and some of our DAC country partners. The TRADE Hub has already displayed and catalysed global leadership across a number of areas, for example, through our authorship of Chapter 15 on Trade and the Biosphere of the UK Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity. In summarising the state of knowledge around trade and the biosphere, TRADE Hub researchers identified how expanding trade could increase or decrease pressures and impacts on biodiversity. This also identified options for action in the context of the Dasgupta Review’s goal to balance human demands on the biosphere with the biosphere’s regenerative capacity. In particular, this shows the potential for trade to play a positive role in addressing biodiversity loss. The UK Government Response to the Dasgupta Review, identifies the need to better understand the impact of Free Trade Agreements on biodiversity and commits to accelerating the transition to sustainable supply chains. The impact of our work on the Dasgupta Review is not limited to the UK, e.g. Colombia is using the Review in their National Development Plan and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development picked up the importance of supply chain transparency in their summary of the Review for Business.

The Hub also contributes to climate-change specific agendas including the UK Government Resource Initiative Taskforce, and the development of indicators and methods to measure biodiversity change over time (Box 2). Our UK indicator work has been included in the UK GRI, EU footprint methodology and submissions to the WTO and WEF. We are also working to make our work relevant to the Targets 14 and 15 of the global biodiversity framework and the associated indicators that will be agreed at the CBD COP15.

## BOX 2: EXAMPLES OF TRADE HUB ADVANCES ON UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY IMPACT OF SUPPLY CHAINS AT LOCAL TO NATIONAL SCALES.

- Exploring the trade-offs between biodiversity, climate and social concerns in ‘footprinting’ approaches, which have been identified as important in [developing improved policy](#);
- Monitoring crop production landscapes to measure, for example, the climate change and biodiversity impacts of vegetable oils (incl. [coconut](#) and [palm](#));
- Research identifying biodiversity risks and opportunities for mitigation actions from cocoa-linked land use change in West Africa ([one paper](#) published in Agriculture, Ecosystems & the Environment and one submitted to Land Use Policy);
- Using novel remote sensing, based on time series and phenology, to identify rubber expansion and associated forest loss in South-East Asia;
- Analysis of the link between palm oil production dynamics, corporate activity and international trade;
- Assessing the deforestation footprint of Bamboo in China and ways to further promote this as a green product;
- Development of [discussion papers](#) on climate and agriculture for the UNFCCC COP26;
- Analysis of the [evolution of global soybean trade flows](#) and the related implications for society and environment, with short case-study on Tanzania, China and Brazil.

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

We have focused our efforts to help countries develop better policies, laws and regulations to enhance the environmental and social sustainability of commodity and wildlife trades. In DAC countries, work to deliver these changes is already underway with regard to bushmeat regulations in the Congo, and is starting for agricultural commodities in other Hub countries. With regard to the UK and EU, we have already seen our interventions taken up in legislation around deforestation free supply chains, and emerging rules and regulations around this aspect of national and EU policy. Considerable interest has been shown in this work and it was also showcased at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow.





*High-level dialogue at COP26, co-hosted by the GCRF TRADE Hub, on how cooperation on trade can support climate action and sustainable development (held at the Blue Zone of COP26, Glasgow (UK) 2021). The dialogue featured imminent experts on the subject, including heads of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Trade Centre (ITC), senior World Bank and World Trade Organization officials, several trade ministers, and leading representatives from International Chamber of Commerce, UNEP-WCMC, and the World Fairtrade Organization ([access recording here](#))*

## FUTURE PLANS

In 2022 we plan to do the following:

- Follow up with UK government on next steps with Dasgupta review, UK footprint indicator, and associated laws and regulations for business;
- Follow up via UNEP on plans for rolling out EU footprint work and seek to influence these to include considerations of biodiversity and social impacts of trade;
- Follow up at the national level within all Hub countries and all focal commodities to seek to influence the trading regimes to improve outcomes for biodiversity and people;
- Looking at evaluations of policy success, as well as the role of natural capital accounts in supporting the delivery of sustainable trade;
- Develop an original framework inspired by the Doughnut Economics to assess the sustainability profile of different tools and regulations and identifying policy gaps;
- In Brazil, we will be exploring the consequences of international trade rules and global round tables for soy production, and developing innovative methodological approaches analysing the impact of agricultural production on deforestation - used to assess the impact of soybean production on deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and the Cerrado.



## BIG WIN 3: Nature and social considerations are more visible in the work of business and finance companies

**CASE STUDY:** Metrics and tools that help businesses make the right decisions in exporting and importing countries

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

Businesses are facing increasing demands from national and international policy, consumers and investors to deliver core business goals without adversely impacting people or the natural environment. Businesses engaged in complex agricultural commodity supply chains face major challenges in understanding, measuring, and managing impacts and dependencies on nature embedded in supply chains.

### WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

TRADE Hub is supporting private sector action in 4 main areas:

- measurement of environmental and social impacts associated with supply chains;
- developing mechanisms that businesses can adopt to drive sustainable trade;
- supporting initiatives aimed to drive corporate action aligned with global goals and commitments; and
- raising awareness of the risks to business and finance associated with unsustainable production systems and trade.

Efforts include the following:

#### MEASURING IMPACTS

An initial [corporate needs assessment](#) was carried out to assess the challenges and potential solutions for measuring the biodiversity impacts associated with agricultural supply chains. TRADE Hub researchers are providing substantive input to the newly formed EU [Align](#) project to help deliver a recommended standard for corporate measurement of biodiversity, including measuring supply chain related impacts. This will contribute to future private sector focused guidance with the intention to align with metrics and approaches being developed for assessing the impacts of nation-to-nation trade.

#### CORPORATE ACTION

An [initial assessment](#) of barriers and enablers for corporate action to address the impacts of soft commodity supply chains was carried out to help identify the needs that Trade Hub could support. Following this, further investigation into potential interventions has taken place. A [Corporate Advisory Forum](#) event was held in March 2021 titled 'Innovative mechanisms to overcome barriers to ending deforestation in agricultural supply chains'. With the role of banks and traders in the centre, this looked at solutions such as the standardisation of anti-deforestation metrics and indicators, enhanced traceability, and the establishment of supportive policies and regulations.



## CORPORATE ASSESSMENT OF MATERIALITY

TRADE Hub researchers are bringing their expertise on trade models and commodity flows to improve the assessment of materiality for industries connected with agricultural trade. Collaboration with the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) will enable uptake of this research within future materiality assessments, helping ensure that areas identified for setting nature related targets include the supply chain impacts that are significant for those connected with production landscapes.

## CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

TRADE Hub engages directly with companies through the EU Business and Biodiversity platform and the One Planet Business for Biodiversity coalition. Companies such as IKEA, Bestseller, Nestlé, Waitrose, Tesco, Sainsburys have sought out TRADE Hub researchers advice to help understand and reduce their biodiversity footprints and find ways to become more nature-positive. Our work is also used by the [‘Science Based Targets Network for Nature’](#) which is engaging hundreds of companies – mainly in the USA – to reduce their supply chain impacts.

## SUPPORTING CORPORATE ACTION ON COCOA

TRADE Hub addresses both risks and opportunities for nature and people from cocoa cultivation. A review of the existing literature indicates that the increasing global demand for cocoa and potential reduction in production in West Africa, could lead to expansion of cocoa cultivation into the Congo Basin region. Trade Hub seeks to understand where are potential expansion areas for cocoa in the Congo Basin, and how this could impact biodiversity, but also where sustainable cocoa cultivation can be implemented (in light of national production targets) whilst minimizing biodiversity impacts. TRADE Hub also seeks to inform corporate and government sustainability efforts focussed on cocoa system design for both biodiversity and social benefits, and support the assessment of the impacts from of these efforts. For example, the prioritisation of areas for agroforestry promotion, now at the heart of cocoa sustainability efforts, taking into account agroecological, conservation and socio-economic factors. We have been approached by different companies (e.g. Nestle and Barry Callebaut) with questions on how to measure their impacts on biodiversity at the farm or landscape scale and are in discussion with them to better understand their needs and possibilities for collaboration.

## ADDRESSING DEFORESTATION RISK IN INDONESIA

TRADE Hub research in Indonesia is also revealing how companies are exposed to deforestation risks associated with their sourcing of commodities such as coffee and palm oil from key landscapes. Our research has discovered a disconnect between the expected outcomes of the global no-deforestation commitments and the intention and scope of the existing safeguards for avoiding deforestation for both company-led commitments and those within voluntary sustainability standards. Despite commitments, deforestation continues to happen in forested landscapes in Indonesia, posing a risk in tainted supplies of palm oil or coffee. However, TRADE Hub research has shown that, whilst production is dominated by small-scale farmers for some commodities, a lack of support for smallholders has exacerbated their vulnerability and the patterns of encroachment seen in the landscape. This research illustrates the need for farmer support and economic reward structures to meet policy commitments. The TRADE Hub is also supporting national and landscape level approaches through our country focused research and corporate engagement. For example, providing maps to inform corporate exposure to deforestation risk linked to Indonesian palm oil production and coffee value chains.

## AWARENESS RAISING WITH THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Trade Hub has been engaging with the Network for Greening Financial Systems – INSPIRE study group on biodiversity and financial stability to develop an understanding of the economic risk associated with land use change – focusing on Indonesia. This is aimed at central banks and regulators to build awareness for regulations and policies that help direct financial investment to support more sustainable land-use practices. A training event have also taken place for the Central Bank in Brazil and Paraguay to build awareness of nature related risks – in particular those associated with deforestation and land-use change.

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

Currently our impacts relate to the development and uptake by business of tools and metrics for measuring impacts and helping identify actions that can be taken to drive a transition to sustainable trade. Through direct work with selected companies we aim to facilitate actual change in their practices, and working through networks and synthesising our findings into tailored outputs we hope to influence companies globally. Ultimate success would be achieving greater sustainability in corporate agricultural supply chains through reduced negative impacts on nature and people and enhanced positive action to address conservation and poverty challenges in DAC countries.

## FUTURE PLANS

TRADE Hub will continue to identify and promote private sector uptake of effective solutions for sustainable trade. These include:

- **Digital technology and transparency.** We have already produced a report on the potential of digital technologies to improve the sustainability of agriculture supply chains, and are following up with providers of blockchain solutions to identify opportunities for TRADE Hub to integrate and upscale them. We are also engaging stakeholders and private-public platforms (particularly in Europe, but also internationally) that have been established to support supply chain risk monitoring and transparency to ensure that the trade-data and models produced by TRADE Hub meet the needs and disclosure requirements of supply chains actors.
- **Voluntary Sustainability Standards** to drive improved production practices for people and nature. This will combine country level research around smallholder participation and engagement of firms, and is already underway in Indonesia and Cameroon. Comparative evaluations are looking at how certification caters for social and environmental impacts, and the geopolitical understanding of the role of private sector standards in driving sustainability.
- **Guidance for companies.** Building on recent work, the team will contribute to the supply chain guidance under the Align project, further develop the SBTN guidance for companies and help build additional tools to assess materiality of supply chain impacts

- **Sustainable financial mechanisms.** Building on existing collaborations with UNEP FI, UNEP Climate Finance Unit, the CISL Banking Environment Initiative, and the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), the team aim to use TRADE Hub research to inform financial decision making. This is likely to include awareness raising, capacity building and guidance for financial institutions to identify and manage risks associated with commodity production and trade.
- **Zero-deforestation national agreement.** We also work with biodiversity outcomes in different land use scenarios in Brazil, such as the expansion of the Soy Moratorium to the Cerrado biome, allowing government agencies and interested civil society organisations to estimate which traders are expected to contribute most to future vegetation conversion, based on our model projections and transparency supply chains.





## BIG WIN 4: Nature and social factors better considered in international trade agreements

**CASE STUDY:** Leveraging our convening and research power to influence multilateral trade policy-making organizations to include environmental considerations in trade negotiations

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

Following its birth in 1949, the multilateral trade system has been instrumental in establishing a common set of rules based on equal treatment and non-discrimination, and thus contributed to securing peace after the two world wars. Today, with environmental problems on the rise, our challenge lies in understanding how we can learn from the earlier successes of the global trade system, while making trade fit for the 21st century. While the goal of successive trade liberalization has been at the heart of international trade negotiations since, we know today that a liberalized economic order is neither sufficient nor a guarantee for prosperity and wellbeing. Indeed, as the ambivalent impacts of economic growth and globalization are increasingly becoming visible, calls for a new approach towards the governance of international trade are growing louder. While international trade agreements have thus far mainly served the purpose of defining the rules according to which countries reduce barriers to trade, their role of fostering trade as a tool of sustainable development is increasingly recognized.



## WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

Our overall goal is to contribute to a systematic change in the rules that govern global trade in order to align international trade with the principles of sustainable development. To deliver change, we have identified key leverage points in the trade system that we seek to influence via outreach, engagement, and the provision of knowledge and capacity building. Among others, this has included the publication of targeted reports and policy briefs, the organization of webinars and expert meetings, as well as acting as trusted advisors to governments.

Raising awareness on the role of trade and trade governance in acting as a tool to reduce biodiversity loss and fostering better outcomes for nature has represented a central goal of the Hub's work: the strong presence and relations of the Hub among the Geneva trade community provided an excellent basis for targeted engagement, e.g. through the Geneva launch of TRADE Hub at the UN Trade Forum in 2019, panel sessions hosted during the 2019 WTO Environment Week, the 2020 Geneva Trade Week, and the 2021 IISD Trade and Sustainability Hub. Technical sessions were complemented by High-Level Engagement sessions on trade and environment, including a Panel featuring the WTO Deputy Director General, UNEP Executive Director, ITC Executive Director and the World Bank Managing Director, hosted by TRADE Hub, during COP26, sending clear signs on high-level leadership on trade and environment to the world.

UNEP, a partner of the TRADE Hub, supported the launch of the Trade and Environment Structured Discussions (TESSD), and provided inputs to the development of Ministerial Statements on Trade and Environment launched in December 2021. Launched in 2020 by +50 WTO members and co-founded by UNEP and the Friends for Action on Sustainable Trade (FAST), TESSD aims to intensify work on trade and environment, including dialogues with international organizations, academic institutions, civil society and the business community.

In addition, Informal Dialogues have been co-organized in 2021 by UNEP, the International Trade Center (ITC), and the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), convening ambassadors and senior officials of developing country members of the WTO to discuss priorities on trade and environmental sustainability in the multilateral setting. In 2021, the dialogues focused on the political momentum and member-led initiatives such as the TESSD, in the lead up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12).

With support from the TRADE Hub, UNEP and TESS, convened and provided inputs to high-level dialogues on Trade and Environment Sustainability at the WTO Public Forum 2021 to ensure a strong political momentum for environmentally favourable outcomes at the **12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO. Reports and policy briefing on trade and nature, published by and supported by the Hub** such as “Greening International Trade”, “Biodiversity and International Trade: Policy Primer” and “Trade, Development and Nature: an Introductory Learning Companion”, have provided important analytic guidance on trade and environment to policy makers and negotiators.

At the same time, TRADE Hub supported policy developments at a bilateral and regional level, including via engagement and consultation processes of the European Commission on the design of EU Trade Agreements, providing inputs to the [G7 Trade Ministers Communique](#) and the G20 Trade and Investment working group, also picking up the theme of sustainable supply chains, and trade policy's role in enabling coordinated action to address the global problems of biodiversity loss and climate change.

In 2021, the TRADE Hub presented outcomes of the project to the International Trade Follow-up Committee of the European Economic and Social Committee (ESSC), where civil society stakeholders provide advisory to official EU decision-making processes focused on trade as an effective driver of growth, job creation, and sustainable development. In addition, through UNEP, the TRADE Hub was presented to the Counsellor of the Mission of Colombia to the WTO.

A third important area within the global policy debate in 2021 has been the development of the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework**, and ensuring that the impacts of trade on nature are reflected in the agreement text that will be finalised in 2022. In this regard, TRADE Hub researchers contributed (as invited experts) to a negotiator-oriented [workshop on trade and biodiversity](#) in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD in March 2021.

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

Working with international governance and diplomatic processes is a slow process that can take many years to show results. However, as diplomats will know, global diplomacy is shaped at least as much by international agreements, as it is by customs, engagement and relations. As such, we understand the impact of the Hub to manifest in the time horizon of the project mostly in terms of the visibility of nature and environmental sustainability in trade circles, as well as the acceptance of a proactive role of trade governance in supporting better outcomes for nature and people, and the leadership demonstrated by countries and institutions in this respect. For example, in the past three years, TRADE Hub ensured that the specific issue of biodiversity gained visibility in various prominent trade conferences, in which a discussion on the latter would have been entirely absent otherwise.

This has contributed to raising the visibility of biodiversity-related issues among trade circles. At the same time, TRADE Hub can celebrate very substantial successes as regards to the leadership demonstrated by countries and institutions on trade and environmental sustainability more generally, with the Launch of Three historic WTO Ministerial Statements on trade and environment in late 2021, which have followed directly from the above-highlighted policy engagement processes. This indicates that countries' position on a new role of trade governance for nature and people is shifting, with a clear supportive role and leadership assumed by a growing number of countries. This indicates that a new, political consensus is crystallising, according to which trade and trade governance can no longer be separated from environmental sustainability. High-level leadership events such as the one hosted by the TRADE Hub during COP-26 served to reinforce and highlight this development. Given the slow pace of change in global diplomacy, more generally, and international trade governance, in particular, the political momentum gained on environment and trade since the inception of the TRADE Hub is remarkable. While far from sufficient, and of course influenced by many other factors than TRADE Hub's work alone, it is encouraging that the long stand-still on environment and trade governance, especially in a multilateral context, can be overcome by an enhanced sense of urgency on environment issues, and encouragement of the leadership of countries on sustainable trade.



## FUTURE PLANS

- In order to support the transformation of dialogues at the institutions that shape international trade governance, maintaining momentum is key. This means that the TRADE Hub will continue to raise the visibility and salience of biodiversity and nature in trade. It will do so by continuing to engage with processes such as G20 and G7, and WTO-related environmental processes. Here, a goal will be to bring biodiversity (as opposed to environmental sustainability more generally) into the main and ongoing discussions such as TESSD, which has thus far only received peripheral attention.
- At the same time, on the basis of its ongoing policy analysis work and networks it has established, TRADE Hub will intensify its work on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). Here, the TRADE Hub aims to continue engaging with the European Commission, building on the advice requested in relation to EU free trade agreements. The Hub will also aim to build on advances already made within data and models to define the biodiversity outcomes of EU-Mercosur trade agreement on land use change in Brazil, and use this data to engage with relevant stakeholders on how this can inform relevant policy responses. The Hub will furthermore seek to enhance its engagement with the UK and with national governments of the Hub countries around the environmental and social impacts of UK – trade agreements and how to mitigate these via its RTAs and national policy measures and international policy cooperation.
- The Hub will also build on its engagement with developing country governments on environment and trade via UNEP, ITC, and TESS, with the aim of bridging the divides between developed and developing countries in international trade governance.
- An important consideration for the Hub will furthermore be, how to transmit the analytical work of the Hub to policy makers and other influential stakeholders. As such, the capacity building and outreach activities will gain an increasingly important role during the Hub's second project stage, targeted towards the Hub's main stakeholder groups, including international and national-level trade and environment negotiators, policy makers and experts.



## BIG WIN 5: Multilateral development goals linking nature and trade are strengthened

**CASE STUDY:** Trade regulation and standards are mainstreamed within Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

The trade and nature agendas are linked in a number of different global multilateral environmental agreements. This global policy framework is also changing quite rapidly, with critical meetings that include aspects of the focus of the TRADE Hub happening every few months. Foremost amongst these have been the various declarations around deforestation free supply chains at the Glasgow climate COP26, and the ongoing negotiations around the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 meeting and the proposed targets that relate to sustainable use of species, and reducing the impacts of supply chains in business and nations. For wildlife in trade, the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Convention on Migratory Species provides the locations for TRADE Hub to deliver impact within key multilateral environment agreements.

### WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

We have completed a series of interventions targeted at the major international meetings that occurred during 2021. For example, at the **UNFCCC COP 26** meeting in Glasgow, TRADE hub staff attended and showcased the interconnection between the biodiversity and climate crises. This included contributions to the work of the Global Resource Initiative and the FACT dialogues in the run up to COP26, that were built from primary in country research and advances in measuring, mapping and modelling the impacts of supply chains and agricultural expansion. The TRADE Hub team developed a [tool](#), launched around COP in November 2021, that assesses deforestation risk in supply chains. We also delivered a [series of webinars](#) around the themes of COP26 – where we have been showcasing the work we are doing in country, on modelling and scenarios, and on the development of relevant platforms and tools for nations and companies. We have also contributed to papers that highlight key threats to species, including climate change ([Harfoot et al. 2021](#)), the global distribution of biomass and soil carbon, and how this relates to key areas for biodiversity and water supply ([Jung et al. 2021](#)), with data being made available on the [UN Biodiversity Lab tool](#) that was launched in October 2021.

With regard to the **CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**, TRADE Hub, has already given input to the indicators under draft Target 4 on sustainable use of species, and the draft Targets 14 and 15 on supply chain sustainability. This is presented in an [Information Document](#) for consideration by CBD parties. A post-2020 indicators tool ([see here](#)) has also been built for headline, component and complimentary indicators proposed by the CBD. We have also written a number of papers aiming to influence the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the level of Goals ([Nicholson et al. 2021](#)), Targets ([Milner-Gulland et al. 2021](#)), Indicators ([McRea et al. in press](#); [Marsh et al. 2021](#)).

Researchers in Brazil have contributed to the post-2020 CBD process, where there are mentions of work supported by TRADE Hub, (e.g. [Strassburg et al. 2020](#)), such as in the: “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of updated targets and targets, and related indicators and baselines” ([Marsh et al. 2021](#)). A post-2020 indicators tool ([see here](#)) has also been built for headline, component and complimentary indicators proposed by the CBD. Researchers in Brazil have contributed to the post-2020 CBD process, where there are mentions of work supported by TRADE Hub, (e.g. [Strassburg et al. 2020](#)), such as in the: “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of updated targets and targets, and related indicators and baselines”.

Although there was no large CITES meeting in 2021, we have produced trade fact sheets for each country in the TRADE hub and used these as the basis of conversations with CITES officers in China. The China team has also produced analysis of the trade flows of birds into that country over time ([Shi et al. 2021](#)). Indonesia is working on legal and illegal trade in songbirds in Indonesia by monitoring the online marketplace using machine learning technology. Tanzania has also looked at chameleon trade ([Isaac et al. submitted](#)), and is now investigating wildlife trade in other species. An overall tool for assessing wildlife trade has also been developed as the ‘CITES Wildlife Trade View’ tool that will be launched in 2022.

With regard to CMS implementation, TRADE researchers were invited to contribute to the implementation of CMS Decision 13.109, by assessing, to the extent possible, the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption for each of the CMS terrestrial mammal species covered by CMS Appendices I and / or II. The subsequent [report](#) was launched by the CMS in September.

## ONLINE BRIEFING

### WTO initiatives on environment & sustainable development: Windows of opportunity for biodiversity

📅 17th of March  
🕒 13:00 - 14:00 (CET)

“ This webinar provides an update on the state of play on environment-related discussions at the WTO, including new initiatives on environment and sustainable development. It focuses on exploring the opportunities these discussions and initiatives can offer in the intersection of **trade**, **SDGs** and the global **biodiversity** agenda.









Forum on Trade Environment & the SDGs




*The GCRF TRADE Hub regularly hosts webinars to share our research findings, and convene conversations at the nexus of trade, biodiversity, and social justice.*

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

Given the position of partners like UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, WWF, and Chatham House at the science policy interface - working directly with the secretariats and parties of the multilateral environment agreements outlined above - we are in a strong position to deliver impact. We believe this has already been delivered at the technical level of the work of UNFCCC COP26, CBD 15 planning, CITES and CMS. Particular impact has been delivered around the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, deforestation free supply chains that are relevant to UNFCCC and providing a means for parties in CITES and CMS to visualise wildlife trades and take action for trades they regard as unsustainable.

## FUTURE PLANS

The next 18 months will feature multiple international negotiations of relevance to biodiversity and trade, and the TRADE Hub is delivering materials to support all of these to varying degrees. Key meetings that link nature, people and trade issues are:

UNFCCC COP26 follow up:

- Support delivery of declarations on deforestation free supply chains against agreements made in Glasgow in October 2021
- CBD COP 15 which will agree a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework where we will
- Continue work to support development of targets and indicators (see later section in this report), especially around trade and sustainable use of species (Target X) and associated indicators related to the trade system under Targets 14 and 15.
- Continue to support the CBD through modelling of the potential outcomes of the post-2020 plan
- Define areas of work where TRADE Hub can support national implementation of post-2020 plans

CITES Animals and Plants Committees

- Launch the CITES Wildlife trade viewer tool
- Develop the CITES sustainability in trade assessment tool
- Support CITES decision making in relation to the sustainable use of species in trade.

CMS (although there is no immediate meeting coming up)

- Support CMS on linkages between wild meat, wildlife trade and linkages to the work programme of the convention



## BIG WIN 6: Influencing the discourse around COVID-19 and the wildlife trade

### PROBLEM WE ADDRESSED

As COVID-19 hit, in early 2020, the question of the origins of the virus emerged, and the wildlife trade was highlighted as a key driver of zoonotic infection. In the early days the wildlife on sale in Wuhan's wet market was assumed to be the source, and animal welfare NGOs in the USA and UK launched campaigns to shut down all trade in wildlife for food consumption. This was linked to campaigns to ban trophy hunting (an unrelated issue to pandemic risk). These campaigns gained enormous traction with the public and with government. In addition, the effects of COVID-19 induced impacts on economies at local, national and international levels, and the ensuring policy responses, on wildlife conservation and livelihoods are not well understood.

TRADE hub researchers have decades of experience in wildlife trade, working to ensure its sustainability and enhance its benefits both for nature conservation and for people, particularly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in DAC countries. We saw a major opportunity for policy impact by deploying our expertise to provide evidence to inform the discourse.

### WHAT THE TRADE HUB TEAM DID

The team's work included writing research papers synthesising the evidence about the role of wildlife trade and contributing to the public and policy discourses. Our papers made the following points: The papers covered both global policy perspectives, global-level evidence syntheses, national-level conceptual models and local fieldwork – these different approaches complemented and synergised with each other to produce a body of work that provides new and powerful evidence on how wildlife trade and pandemic risk intersect (and how to reduce the risks of both to people and to nature).



Roe et al. (2020) explored the complexities inherent in policy responses to COVID-19, and how simple bans on wildlife trade are likely to be counterproductive for people and wildlife. They highlighted that the major drivers of emerging infectious disease include land conversion and intensive livestock-rearing, and that these need to be tackled alongside the wildlife trade. This paper aimed to provide a more nuanced understanding of the issues for policy-makers in particular.

Booth et al. (2021a) demonstrated that wildlife trade contributes to the SDGs in diverse ways with synergies and trade-offs within and between the SDGs. Blanket prohibitions could result in severe negative outcomes for some SDGs, but with limited benefits for public health via pandemic prevention. Different wildlife trades pose varying degrees of risk for zoonotic pandemics, while some trades also play critical roles in delivering other key aspects of sustainable development, particularly related to poverty and hunger alleviation, decent work, responsible consumption and production, and life on land and below water. Our recommendation, therefore, was to take a risk-based approach to wildlife trade policy, that explicitly recognises the risks to public health, human livelihoods, wildlife conservation and animal welfare of any given policy action, for a particular species and context.



A broad look at 83 countries indicated that the risks of a ban on wildlife trade are greatest for food-insecure developing nations, where feasible, sustainable, and socially desirable wild meat alternatives are limited (Booth et al. (2021b)). However, some developed nations would also face shocks, and while high-capacity food systems could more easily adapt, certain places and people would be disproportionately impacted. This paper was also a collaboration between TRADE hub researchers and others in case study DAC countries as well as UK institutions. In order better to understand the potential impacts of the COVID-19 economic shock on the sustainability of wildlife hunting, we brought together researchers from across the TRADE hub to produce a conceptual model and test it qualitatively, using contrasting case study countries – Gabon and Ghana. This cross-Hub collaboration demonstrated how pervasive the impacts of COVID-19 are within local to national economies in DAC countries (McNamara et al. 2020), and showed that the end impact on hunting sustainability depends on the interaction of factors throughout the economy – with a country’s reliance on exports of commodities and fossil fuels being key, as well as the availability of work and food prices in urban centres.

The TRADE hub team won additional rapid response funding from Defra, which allowed us to team up with colleagues working in the Dja area of Cameroon to get a grounded understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on local people and wildlife hunting in a real landscape. This paper showed that the major impacts on livelihoods were due to the shut-down of trade into the area, and of schools, which led to a drop in demand for wild meat from urban centres.

Looking forward, Petrovan et al. (2021) built on existing and emerging research in carrying out a scan of potential approaches to tackling future pandemics, organised according to the key stages of the trade chain. Again, the absence of a single, simple “silver bullet” such as wildlife trade bans was clear.

Box 3 summarises some key lessons on the impacts of COVID-19 on global economies and how different response pathways have mitigated the economic impacts of the Pandemic (Box 3).

Alongside research papers, the TRADE hub team also contributed directly to the policy discourse, with the core aim of highlighting our insights that the wildlife trade is not a single entity, simplistic bans on the trade in wildlife for consumption are misguided and likely to backfire, and to underscore the importance of other threats (including agriculture) for wildlife and public health, as well as explaining the differences between the international legal and illegal wildlife trade, domestic trade for consumption, and trophy hunting. We wished to ensure that potentially damaging policy was not made in haste without the backing of evidence, and that the importance of sustainable wildlife trade for conservation and livelihoods was better understood.

Examples of these interventions include the discussion of results by Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland at a UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Conservation event on COVID-19 and the wildlife trade, and our team writing a piece on the origins and transmission of zoonotic viruses via wildlife for the UKRI’s Coronavirus Explained website. Various team members contributed to the UNEP ‘Preventing the next pandemic’ report, and input to the IPBES ‘Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment’, which will be endorsed and launched by 137 governments in 2022.

Results from our wildlife trade and COVID work have been, or will be, disseminated widely to key stakeholders and policymakers at the international level, including CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), UNEP and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature, and to national agencies including the UK, China, Gabon, DRC, Congo, Cameroon and Tanzania.

## WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, international conservation and animal welfare NGOs were strongly pushing the agenda that all wildlife trade for consumption should be banned. Following our interventions, these NGOs changed their position to saying that local consumption and IPLC use should be allowed to continue, and that the role of wildlife in livelihoods and human nutrition should not be ignored. This is an important (though unacknowledged) outcome of our work.

Additionally, more nuanced media coverage of the role of wildlife in the pandemic, and a better understanding within public policy of the need for targeted solutions, was expressed following our work.

We have also been asked to help with the drafting or updating of policies, laws and regulations in Congo Basin countries relating to wild meat trades.

## FUTURE PLANS

The COVID-19 response was built upon the foundation of our ongoing TRADE hub work in Work Package 1, which will continue to build the evidence-base on how to make wildlife trade sustainable, and engage with stakeholders to implement our plans. However we have several pieces of work related specifically to the pandemic still in the pipeline, including with new funding catalysed by our TRADE hub work:

- We will continue to explore the role of COVID-19 as an economic shock to wildlife hunting, with a new PhD studentship at the University of Reading
- We are currently analysing the results of a large-scale phone survey to understand discourses around COVID-19, changing attitudes and behaviours towards wild meat and views on the relationship between wildlife and public health in DRC and Cameroon,
- We have a paper in review on COVID-related changes in public attitudes towards wildlife consumption on a Chinese social media site
- A global survey of stakeholders (traders, private sector, government agencies, NGOs) to develop evidence base to inform wildlife trade regulatory reforms post-COVID-19 (e.g. fourth protocol under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - UNTOC).
- Assessment of the responses to COVID-19 impacts among hunters and farmers in different countries and supply chains that are a focus of the TRADE Hub, and how these impacts have affected the livelihoods of those involved
- Further research on how trade in species that might be vectors of disease transmission can be modelled within broad global models of the wildlife trade system.
- Further investigation of the whole economy impacts of COVID-19 and how appropriate responses at the national level facilitate recovery, leading to lessons learned synthesis (see box 3)
- Providing support to the Government of DRC to implement a behavioural change project where urban wild meat consumers are ‘nudged’ to reduce consumption of wild meat as a luxury product.
- Our new TRADE hub WP1 post-doc (Dr E Nana) is developing a manuscript with other African co-authors to give an African researcher’s perspective on wildlife trade policy post-COVID, and to explain how this differs from the “western” perspective that dominates the international discourse which has led to potentially inappropriate policy advice.



### **BOX 3: UNDERSTANDING HOW TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF PANDEMICS, BOTH IN TERMS OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE IMPACTS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD**

To understand the changes COVID and associated policy have on the context in which TRADE hub is operating, we have begun to assess whether and to what extent the public measures and responses to the pandemic contributed to (1) the changes in international trade at the country-level across the globe and (2) the changes in the spread of COVID-19.

Research to date has constructed and analysed a unique dataset by combining multiple secondary sources of global data, comprising of 70 countries from across the world with monthly observations covering the 9-month period from January to September 2020.

For international trade, findings illustrate the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 public measures on import, export, and total trade. Containment and health related measures had statistically significant and positive impacts on imports, exports and total trade values. On the other hand, stringency measures including lockdown and social distancing had negative impacts on imports, exports and total trade. Economic support measures (to reduce the impact of COVID restrictions on people and sectors) had no statistically significant effect on trade.

For the impact on COVID cases, preliminary results indicate that increased stringency measures led to a decrease in the number of COVID-19 new cases. Likewise, the Economic Support Index had negative effects on the number of new cases. Conversely, a surge in COVID-19 cases resulted in increased levels of the Stringency Index and Containment & Health Index, and decreased levels of the Economic Support Index.

Preliminary reflections from an international trade perspective, the findings suggest policy makers should carefully consider or reconsider the stringency measures such as business closure and movement restrictions, whilst they should be proactive in implementing containment and health-related measures.

# MECHANISMS TO ACHIEVING THE TRADE HUB BIG WINS



Within TRADE Hub, 40 organisations based in the UK, Europe, Brazil, Indonesia, China, Tanzania, Gabon, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo work across 10 work packages. Collectively everyone works to achieve the Hub's six "Big Wins" (Figure 1). Over the first two years of the project, much of the work has focused on four core mechanisms that position TRADE Hub for enhanced impact:

1. **Improving the knowledge base** through primary and secondary data collection in developing countries, and publishing material based on these data and analysis
2. Developing and synthesising **metrics, tools and models** to solve core problems of traceability and transparency in the trade system
3. Undertaking targeted **Capacity building** and collaboration that leads to the legacy of science-policy trade researchers
4. Building **knowledge, networks** and **connectivity** to reach the right people to implement results and achieve lasting impact



## IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

### PROGRESS

We have an active programme of field-based data collection and synthesis across all the developing countries where the TRADE Hub is focusing. This primary data collection underpins much of the TRADE Hub work and forms the foundations on which results and decision making is based. This was delayed or suspended in almost all countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is now operational – using appropriate safeguards – in all 8 countries. Field data collection includes work on agricultural commodities, working together with rural farmers in Africa, Indonesia, and China, work with forest users and hunters in the Congo Basin on wild meat harvest and sustainability, work on the wildlife trade and the traders involved in China, and work looking at the livelihood and gender impacts of trade in agricultural commodities on farmers and collectors and hunters of wildlife for trade.

The field work programmes are generating primary data on numerous trade related issues at the field level, and there are also active programmes of data collection through interviews and behavioural change research, both in person and remotely, as well as interviews to gather primary data from stakeholders, including policy makers and business employees.

In addition to data collection in the field, we also have active programmes of work to gather and synthesise data from existing databases, through online searches that start to use artificial intelligence routines, and through formal data synthesis approaches within and across disciplines. By applying a 'trade and supply chains' lens, we are able to extract a lot of new meaning and use from extensive areas of existing work.

### PLANS

Our plans are to continue with primary data collection in the field in Hub countries.

All these primary data will then be written up for publication in scientific journals, and will be used to inform the more impact facing work packages that are related to private and public decision making around trade rules and trade systems. This empirical data will also be used where possible in modelling work, and the creation of relevant tools and models to inform decision making.

We will also continue our work to synthesise datasets that are relevant to giving a greater understanding to the benefits and costs of trade on people and nature.



## METRICS, TOOLS AND MODELS TO SOLVE CORE PROBLEMS OF TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE TRADE SYSTEM

### PROGRESS

In order to measure, predict, understand and visualise the impacts of trade at all levels, the TRADE Hub has produced a comprehensive repository of the available metrics, tools, models and indicators, which will be launched in 2022.

Where gaps have been identified, the Hub has funded or contributed expertise to develop various further tools and models:

- **Wildlife and wildmeat trade:** We have focused our underpinning work on the development of metrics and tools related to wildlife ([Wildlife TradeView](#)) and wildmeat (WILDMEAT database) trades, and also those that can be used by nations and businesses to understand their supply chain impacts.
- **CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:** TRADE Hub is helping develop [a tool for all proposed post-2020 indicators](#), a spatial data platform ([UN Biodiversity Lab](#)) with UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the CBD, which was launched at the high-level CBD event in October 2021 in China. These tools will allow 196 CBD Parties to develop spatial plans and monitor progress to implement the post-2020 agreement. In addition, our team is working on a multi-criteria optimization modelling to analyse potential targets in global net restoration and yield gaps of the post-2020 GBF.
- **Private sector focused tools:** TRADE Hub research has advanced the delivery of metrics, datasets and tools to better assess the change in state of biodiversity in response to pressures such as land-use change (e.g [Duran et al. 2020](#), [Green et al. 2020](#); [Maney et al. 2022](#)), and the Species Threat Abatement and Recovery ([STAR](#)) Metric. We also input to the commodity trade-specific tool - <https://www.trase.earth/>, the [ENCORE](#) tool for the finance sector, the Sector-level Materiality tool being developed by the [SBTN](#) for companies, and are helping to standardise and drive uptake of the various [indicator approaches](#) that help the private sector measure, mitigate and reduce their supply chain impacts. These tools and all help investors and businesses, as well as governments and civil society, target investments to achieve conservation outcomes and reduce extinction risk.
- **Tools and data to support policy in importing countries.** TRADE Hub is also working with the UK Government and the EU on aspects of their trade agreements policy and implementation process, mainly around the considerations of nature and social factors in these agreements. In addition, we have contributed to the development of biodiversity and deforestation risk monitoring by the UK Government (a [UK overseas impact indicator](#) tool has been built together with UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee – JNCC - for this purpose) and been consulted by the Belgian government (two workshops held in 2020), and by the European Commission/ IEEP for the purposes of [free-trade-agreement \(FTA\) risk assessment](#).
- **Modelling and scenarios of future trade:** Examining the biodiversity impacts of different global trade and conservation policy scenarios is a key element of the TRADE Hub's modelling work. Research on pathways to '[bend the curve](#)' of biodiversity loss - published by TRADE Hub researchers (see Box) - has been integrated into national and international policy circles. There is now direct engagement between our modelling team and the CBD to look at the potential impact of the post-2020 agreement. We are also working on a new platform, [PLANGEA](#), available online that defines the impacts on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in different scenarios, helping to make decisions about restoration, conservation and conversion activities.

## BOX 4: BENDING THE CURVE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

TRADE Hub researchers were a part of the landmark “Bending the Curve” paper, published in Nature. The publication uses futures modeling to identify key actions needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss from land-use change. The findings show that if deployed immediately, bold conservation and restoration action, together with a transformation of consumption systems, could still provide the impetus necessary to reverse declining levels of biodiversity around the world. The work has already fed into key policy and implementation channels including the CD’s Global Biodiversity Outlook 5. TRADE Hub’s PI Neil Burgess presented work based on bending the curve to 200 govt. Officials on 28 Sep 2020, emphasising how better trade policy and practices could help the UK reach deliver domestic prosperity alongside international development and environment goals.

## PLANS

**Comparisons between commodities and countries:** One aspect of our work will involve intercomparison across biodiversity metrics and indicators for the Hub’s focal commodities. We will also compare trade modelling methods; critical for building confidence in results and facilitating their use in real world contexts. We will continue to link biodiversity metrics to agricultural trade models - in active collaboration with external partners - providing risk assessments built upon state-of-the-art datasets.

**Supply chains meeting:** We will bring together those building tools metrics and systems for supply chain mapping, alongside a selection of policy makers (EU, UK, and developing countries) and business users (agri-business, banks and investors etc) to look in detail at how supply chain impacts on nature and people are being measured, what the ‘state of the art’ is in terms of tools to support government and business, and what needs to be done to deliver impact at scale.

**Impacts of national trade:** Our priorities are to further integrate biodiversity information into the UK overseas impact indicator tool (and associated [public dashboard](#)), including using metrics already developed by TRADE Hub team members, and continued support for the French government’s ‘National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation’ [data platform](#).

**Supporting policy and practice for business:** We will continue a number of close collaborations within and beyond the TRADE Hub, e.g. linking to EU Business@Biodiversity [‘Align’ project](#). We are also developing a tool that will contain a searchable system of the many tools relevant for business use and their uses. In addition, Trade Hub will support private sector focused events at the [CBD COP-15](#), to convene private sector leaders and work with initiatives such as [Business for Nature](#) to support implementation of commitments made.

**Social impact metrics.** We will work to extend the assessment of social impacts of trade, which are relevant to the SDGs, ‘leave no one behind’ and the ‘build back better’ agenda. To do this, TRADE Hub will define and publish a set of **social impact metrics**, building on completed work (example, [this study for soy](#)). Additionally, new modelling techniques, including big data and machine learning, will be deployed to examine the social impacts caused by changes to ecosystem services caused by palm oil cultivation in Cameroon. This will combine land use and environmental datasets with large scale survey data from human participants, to link trade impacts on the environment to human wellbeing indicators. The teams engaging the private sector will then work with companies in these countries to assist them in mainstreaming use of these metrics to measure the socio-ecological impact of their operations.



**Sustainable wildlife trade:** We will work with the CITES Secretariat and 183 Parties to build a wildlife trade ‘sustainability tool’, which we hope will be used for all ‘non-detriment findings’. We are engaging with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife (CPW) and the EU Sustainable Wildlife Management project (EU-SWM) to create and suggest wild meat metrics relevant to the CBD 2020 Targets, and also provide methods and indicators for national and site-level monitoring of wild meat use, to facilitate adaptive management of wild meat resources at a national and local scale.

**Global and regional modelling.** We will use global models and scenarios to investigate the impacts on nature and people of changes in policy (for example global agreements around trade, nature, climate), and use agreed biodiversity and social-response metrics to assess what potential global or regional futures could look like. We are conducting regional modelling of wild meat hunting offtakes and consumption for Central Africa, using data collated in the WILDMEAT database, to further understand the levels of national and regional use and trade, and predictions of future use under different economic and social scenarios. We also produce maps (e.g. for West Africa and the Congo Basin) where we assess current and potential future risks to biodiversity (and people through ecosystem services) from further and new expansion of cocoa and oil palm, whilst at the same time considering where there may be opportunities for better outcomes if such developments take place (and they will, legally, in the CB).



## CAPACITY BUILDING AND COLLABORATION LEADS TO LASTING LEGACY OF SCIENCE-POLICY TRADE RESEARCHERS

### PROGRESS

Building the capacity, knowledge and skill set of all TRADE Hub members, is a core part of the Hub objectives. All TRADE Hub teams contribute to the Hub capacity building programme with one work package designed to coordinate the delivery of capacity building activities- including delivery of training events, coordination of a publication mentorship scheme and establishing a researcher network.

**Capacity building needs assessment:** To ensure co-design and equitability, TRADE Hub members from all career stages were asked to fill in a Capacity Building Needs Assessment. The 84 responses were used to identify and prioritise areas where training or support was needed.

**Publication mentoring scheme:** Scientific writing was identified by many researchers as a key area for capacity development, leading to the establishment of the TRADE Hub Publication Mentoring Scheme. The scheme is open to all Hub members to take part as both mentor and mentee, thereby promoting networking across the project and continued capacity and career development. Mentees are paired with more experienced mentor researchers to improve the mentee’s scientific writing skills, therefore increasing the potential for their research to be published in high impact journals. This gives direct benefits to the researchers involved in the mentoring scheme, and also increases the profile and wider impact of the work carried out by Hub members. In the longer-term, the scheme will embed a sustained legacy of improved capacity and ongoing scientific excellence among DAC partner institutions. In the Congo Basin countries, this training has been expanded to include researchers from other public and private institutions.

**Training programme:** The Capacity Building Needs Assessment has informed the development of a training programme for the Hub. Training sessions have been organised on a wide variety of topics, relevant to many aspects of the Hub’s work. This has included sessions on human research ethics in wild meat research, tailoring conservation messaging to different audiences, data visualisation, and trade policy analysis. These sessions were delivered online enabling participation by Hub members from numerous countries and subsequently recordings have been made available to all. In addition, there are also many individual training efforts being undertaken around the Hub in different countries. For example, in Indonesia partners have delivered training on Stakeholder Network Analysis and Qualitative Analysis. This training focussed on the use of specialised analysis and software to develop robust knowledge products, to underpin better decision-making processes, policy formulation, and effective science-policy implementation, focusing on its application in biodiversity-friendly oil palm production.

**Researcher network “meet ups”:** These monthly meet ups provide an opportunity for all of the Hub to hear the latest research from colleagues globally, and often are then used to feed material into our online newsletter, website, and series of blogs and social media posts.

**TRADE fellowships:** The University of Oxford runs a scheme of fellowships for researchers in ODA-eligible countries working within TRADE, or in an aligned field, to come to Oxford on research fellowships. Our first four researchers have been working online with their mentors, and accessing continued professional development via the university. They will come to the UK in early 2022 for intensive network-building and research activities. They work on wildmeat, cocoa and coffee supply chains and governance.

## PLANS

We will continue the series of researcher network “meet ups”, monthly webinars for an external audience, develop new tailored training sessions as part of the TRADE Hub training programme, and ensure all capacity building materials are easily accessible. The materials will then be made available externally through a dedicated place on the TRADE Hub website (<https://trahub.earth/>).

In addition, we will continue to mentor researchers to strengthen their academic and social media skills, so that their work is published, read, and used, to help inform trade related decisions.

A longer-term aim would be to use University and researcher networks to strengthen teaching and curriculum development on matters related to environment, people and trade. This would be possible across all Hub countries leaving a lasting legacy.







## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, NETWORKS AND CONNECTIVITY TO REACH THE RIGHT PEOPLE

### PROGRESS

Identifying and targeting key stakeholders through the appropriate channels is essential to ensure progress towards improving the sustainability of local, national and international trade. To this end, the TRADE Hub has worked extensively to develop Impact Pathway diagrams. For each commodity or major theme of work, the respective Impact Pathway shows the journey from TRADE Hub activities to outcomes, and notably identifies the points in the supply chain, and therefore supply chain actors, that should be targeted for different activities and intended outcomes. Using the unique contact networks of Hub members, and targeted communications and outreach, the TRADE Hub is able to engage the identified stakeholders and provide knowledge, tools and solutions to support decision making centred around just and equitable trade.

The structure of the Hub ensures relevance to different countries and their stakeholders, with country teams (each with a country coordinator) positioned to reach policymakers in-country, and conduct research and outreach at the local level. Specific work packages are aimed at influencing specific groups (e.g. private sector and public sector respectively), building on the expertise and network. For example, Hub partners Chatham House and UNEP are trade policy experts and represent the Hub when engaging with multilateral policy processes and negotiations. At UNEP-WCMC, private sector engagement is achieved via networks established for specific end-user tools, e.g. [ENCORE](#), or through the TRADE Hub Corporate Advisory Forum. These processes are supported by Hub workshops and webinars, policy briefs, face to face meetings with officials, or UN-level events and declarations.

A series of [virtual webinars](#), organised by the TRADE Hub each with a specific theme, is helping disseminate the project's key findings to the relevant audiences. The first webinar on "[Biodiversity and International Trade Policy: Issues, Opportunities and Challenges](#)" saw 160 participants and 285 registrants, with participation from UK Government (DEFRA, JNCC), as well as WTO representatives and the private sector (finance sector, extractives etc.).

### PLANS

We aim to further update our Impact Pathway diagrams and stakeholder mapping approaches to ensure the right networks are targeted.

We also aim to develop a role as knowledge brokers, providing briefings for officials, which will ensure that TRADE Hub becomes a trusted source of information and advice on matters related to sustainable trade.

By physical and virtual attendance at key global meetings around the trade and environment agenda we will further build our networks and seek to develop ways to influence what is being discussed and agreed.

At the local to national scale, all partners will continue to work with decision makers around trade flows of wildlife and commodities, seeking to develop and influence networks from farmers to traders to middle-men and financiers, and through to national decision-makers in the various ministries of government.

A targeted series of outreach events, such as the ongoing webinar series, will continue to bring messages to key stakeholder groups on the work of the Hub and its relevance for different networks.

# TRADE HUB OUTPUTS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Find a list of all completed TRADE Hub outputs, including journal articles, concept notes, policy briefs, databases, reports, theses, workshops, capacity building events and stakeholder engagement events here: <https://trahub.earth/>



Publications



Reports/ Theses



Data



Learning Resources



Blogs

# WHO ARE WE



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The TRADE Hub includes around 150 members from across 50 institutions and 8 focal countries, as well as the UK. TRADE Hub partner institutions are primarily Universities and research institutes but also include over 15 non-profit organisations, think tanks and intergovernmental organisations, which help tailor impact driven research with a focus on stakeholders and policy engagement.

Focal TRADE Hub countries are Tanzania, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Brazil and China. 59% of the TRADE Hub staff live and work in organisations in these focal countries, where most of the research is carried out. TRADE Hub staff cover a range of career stages, with 26% early career, 36% mid-career and 37% senior members of staff. TRADE Hub gender split is also fairly equal, with 56% male and 44% female. TRADE Hub members cover a breadth of disciplines and expertise, from conservation science, tropical ecology, ecosystem services and biodiversity management to environmental and agricultural economics, sustainable development, social sciences, supply chain and land use modelling, private sector and policy, to name the main ones. This vast set of expertise allows for a strong interdisciplinary approach in addressing the TRADE Hub intractable challenge, with a shared interest in eliminating the negative impacts of trade on people and ecosystems across developing countries.



*TRADE Hub focal countries*

## HOW ARE WE ORGANISED?

Collectively the TRADE Hub is managed across three dimensions, spanning geography, research focus and products or commodities: 5 country teams, 10 work packages (WPs), and 18 impact pathways. These allow researchers to interact in different crosscutting teams, depending on the impact sought. Responsibilities are divided into work packages, some (WP 1-5) are focused on primary research efforts and others are tasked to connect TRADE Hub research into public policy (WP7) and business (WP6) decision making processes at different points of supply chains, supported by technological solutions and tools (WP8) and of capacity building (WP9).



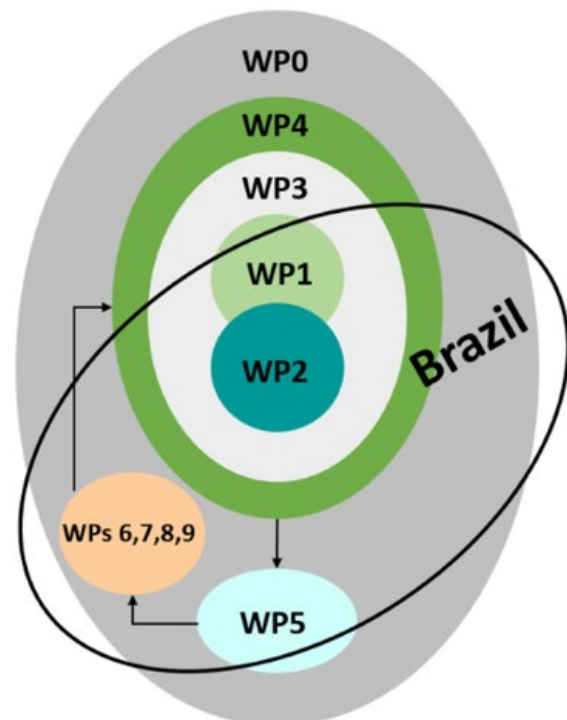
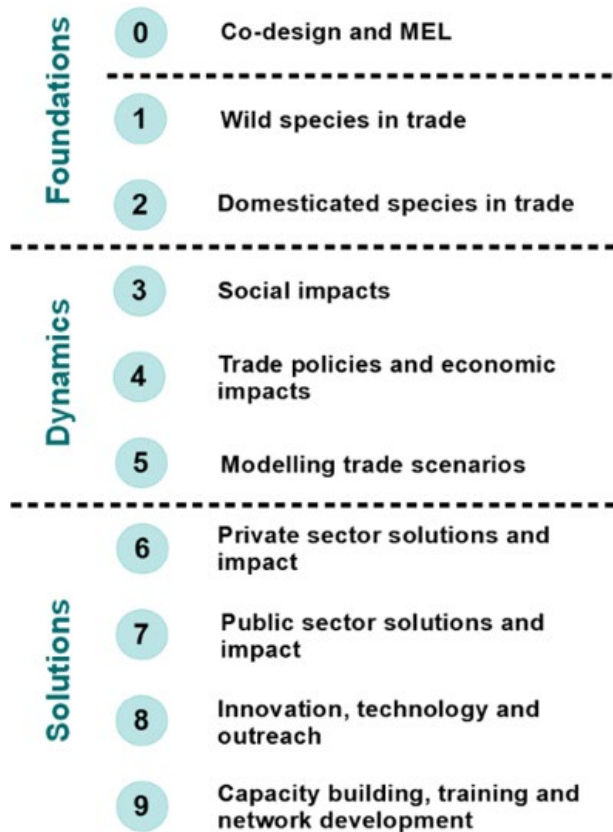
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*TRADE Hub Work Packages (WP) and how they interact*

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