



The Trade, Development and the Environment Hub:

Our Relevance and Contribution to Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





Introduction

The UKRI GCRF Trade, Development and the Environment Hub (the TRADE Hub) is a five-year collaborative project funded until 2024, is the first research hub of its kind – bringing together over 50 organisations from 15 different countries to help make trade sustainable for people and the planet. Implemented in eight countries which include Brazil, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Republic of Congo, and Tanzania with nine thematic-based work packages. Together, these partners from industry, trade agencies, research, governments and civil society will study all stages of various supply chains, revealing damaging links and potential ways to make lasting change.

The TRADE Hub is configured to leverage partnerships and collaborations among research, public and private sector stakeholders, and institutions to deliver sustainable development in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The TRADE Hub contributes to 10 SDGs through research-driven trade policy solutions and best practices on major commodities including bamboo, cocoa, soybean, sugar, palm oil, coffee, rubber, wildmeat and bush mango.



The TRADE Hub's contribution to building back better

Scientific consensus mentioned that wildlife trade was the conduit for how the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) was transmitted from animals to humans, causing turmoil to all nations. The COVID-19 pandemic made it evident the interlinked connection between nature and economy, and as nations and economies rebuild it's time to rethink our "business as usual" and environmentally destructive investment patterns and activities to make recovery durable and resilient.

The TRADE Hub's expertise and experience in wildlife trade research took this opportunity to inform policies that would help address the risks we face today and build greater resilience for tomorrow. The TRADE Hub produced strong evidence on the intersections between wildlife trade and how to manage risks to people and nature posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; which made evident the urgent need to strengthen and implement a wildlife trade control as an easy-to-implement approach to prevent future pandemics, and to advance towards a sustainable trade of wildlife that supports conservation efforts and protects human livelihoods.

The result of our work is useful for informing fair policies that catalyze long-term benefits for trade and nature.

Outputs from the Hub's work help inform policymaking decisions to catalyze long-term benefits for trade and nature. Through the modeling work developed by the TRADE Hub partners, our research demonstrated that blanket prohibitions would result in negative contributions to achieving the SDGs and recommended a risk-based and holistic approach to wildlife trade policy that enhances public health and livelihoods, wildlife conservation and animal welfare; formulating a sustainable and resilient recovery post COVID-19, which tackles biodiversity loss and promotes circular supply chains.

TRADE Hub publications on "Building Back Better" can be found here: tradehub.earth/publications/



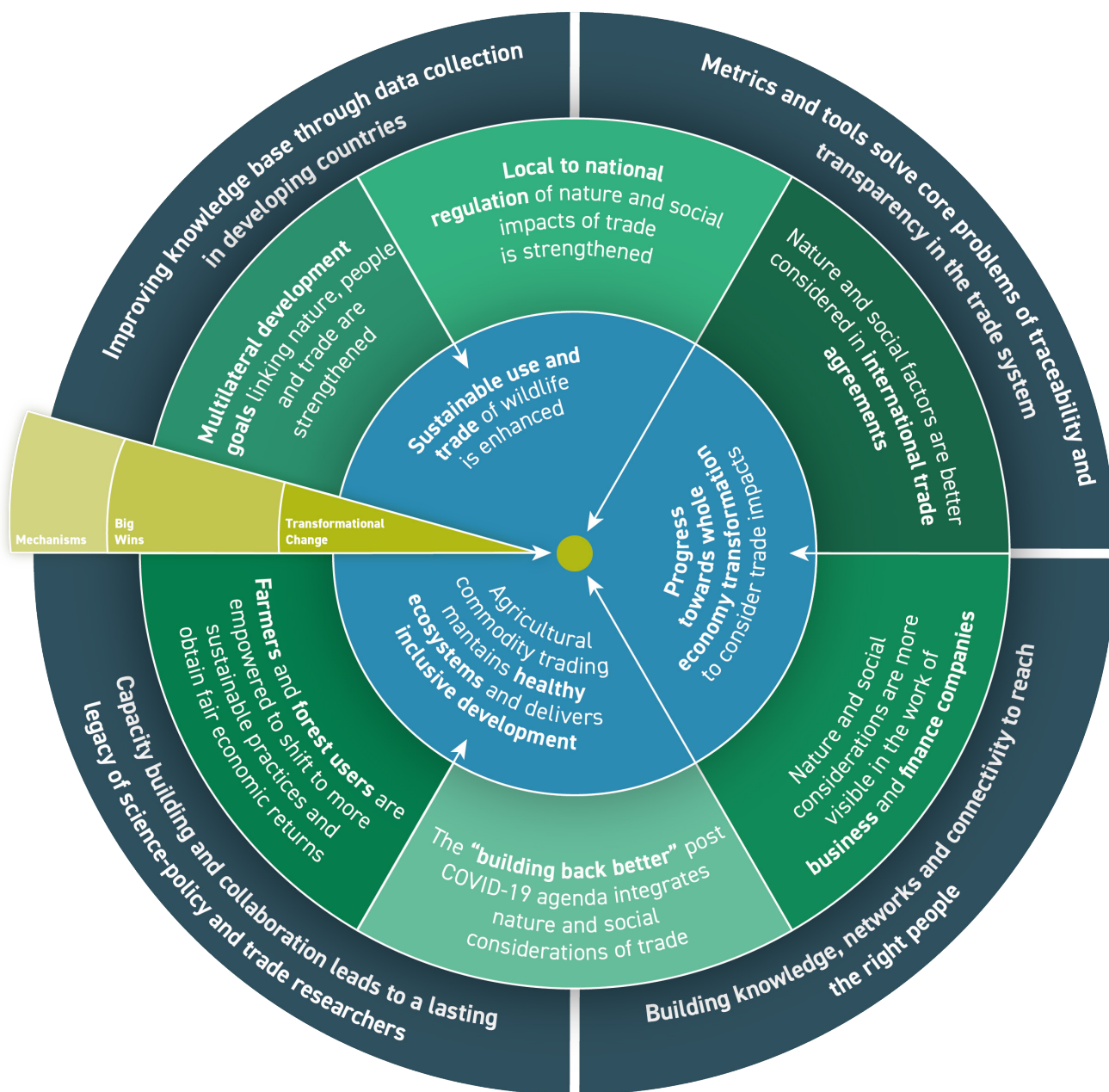


The main goal of the TRADE Hub is to influence policies and trade agreements to harmonise relationships between small-scale farmers and large traders, which will drive investment towards positive change for environmental, social and economic impacts of trade. The TRADE Hub aims to contribute to the balance of environmental, social, and economic sustainability involving the use of resources in trade. All the outcomes provide significant contribution to planning, management, and policymaking, to help ensure fair trade for all actors along the supply chain, while simultaneously safeguarding the integrity of resources and ecosystems for current and future demand. To achieve its main goal, the TRADE Hub identified 6 “Big Wins”, four (4) mechanisms and three (3) transformation changes which all the Hub’s research and activities are ultimately oriented.

The Big Wins encompass issues related to supply chain and trade from farmers and forest users, through local to national supply chains, and then into the regional and global trade systems as well as rules and drivers of the system. The TRADE Hub seeks to provide tools and means to manage trade in sustainable manners, linking it to the international mandate and UK government priorities. The four mechanisms direct the goals of the TRADE Hub whilst the three outcomes on the right contribute to the SDGs’ targets.



The TRADE Hub's 6 Big Wins





The TRADE Hub's Contribution to the SDGs



1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1 seeks to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 for all people everywhere.

Targets: 1.1, 1.b

The TRADE Hub aims to connect smallholder farmers and small-scale local producers to private companies to ensure they are involved in mainstream markets and the benefits from trade. Local producers, who are largely from low-income households, are supported with innovations and technologies that enhance their production systems, and their overall production of food and other tradeable agricultural commodities. The TRADE Hub is working on developing and informing policies and trade agreements in the supply chain of commodities such as sugarcane and soybean, to harmonise relationships between small-scale farmers, processors, and traders in Brazil, Central Africa, China, Indonesia and Tanzania. This work has the goal of opening opportunities for sustainable production and improved yields for smallholder farmers, in turn helping them generate income and lift themselves out of poverty. The TRADE Hub's work in Tanzania is also exploring the role of gender in crafting appropriate policies for coffee production and livelihood improvement.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2 seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 to achieve food security.

Targets: 2.3, 2.4

The TRADE Hub assessed the production techniques of bush mango and related agriculture crops in the Central African region, helping to fill gaps on current farming practices to improve production. This contributes to “zero hunger” as part of the aim was to support smallholder farmers in the sustainable production and trade of agricultural products such as soybean, cocoa, wild meat and wildlife, palm oil, coffee, and emerging commodities (e.g., bush mango, non-timber forest products). Knowledge and practices on sustainable production to address resilience have been improved through the creation of a recommendation report based on lessons learned from the boom-and-bust experience of rubber products to avoid loss-loss scenarios. In addition, the different studies on localised value chains, and understanding country-level trade systems with regards to deforestation, impacts on livelihoods, and land-use tradeoffs inform better regional and global practices. The TRADE Hub’s work on modelling possible interventions to support smallholder sustainability practices highlights opportunities for farmers to benefit from capacity building programmes and be included in sustainable supply chains, which improves productivity and long- term food and nutrition security.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3 seeks to ensure health and well-being for all by addressing all major health priorities including access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all.

Target 3.3

The TRADE Hub looks to contributing towards “Good Health and Well-being” by highlighting the value added to natural resource products grown and produced by smallholder farmers. The TRADE Hub also encourages the adoption of sustainable farming practices including the reduced or non-use of synthetic chemical inputs to safeguard the environment and welfare of farmers and consumers. Organic farming reduces the exposure of farmers, farm workers and their families to synthetic inputs (e.g., insecticides, herbicides and fungicides), with organic practices preventing the contamination of soil and water resources with chemicals, which can negative impacts on the health of farming communities. Additionally, supporting and encouraging farmers to practice sustainable techniques protects the welfare of the consumers, especially the susceptible sub-population of women, children, and infants, from developing chronic diseases from consuming toxic residues on food items sold in retail markets. Responding to target 3.3 on ending epidemics and neglected tropical diseases, the TRADE Hub’s work in Central Africa focuses on understanding wild meat and wildlife trade and its consumption, aiming to influence a change in consumption behaviour and to identify policy instruments to promote their trade in a sustainable manner.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Targets: 8.3, 8.4, 8.a

Smallholder farmers and producers in less developed countries are involved in primary production activities from which most of their livelihoods derive. The TRADE Hub helps support the improvement of farmers' working conditions, production and techniques which contributes to jobs creation, more efficient production, and better-quality products. This contributes to creating job opportunities and more efficient production, leading to better quality final products. For example, the TRADE Hub in Indonesia focuses on maintaining the integrity of the coffee production landscape by involving all key stakeholders in formulating strategies and approaches to support sustainable coffee production (8.4.1). In addition, the tools and knowledge products delivered by the Indonesian Hub aim to support fiscal and financial regulatory authorities, helping them to inform their decisions towards a sustainable trade of palm oil in Indonesia (8.a.1). In addition, the TRADE Hub work focuses on improving relations between rubber producers and manufacturers, to create new business strategies that deliver a sustainable future for natural rubber trade (8.3).

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

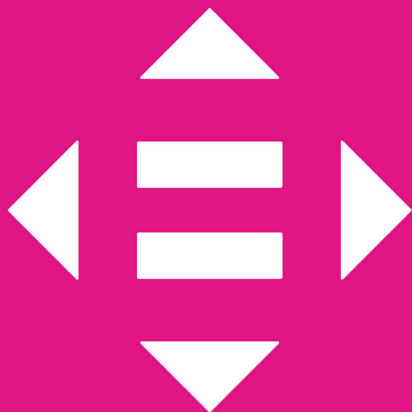


SDG 9 calls for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure which supports sustainable development and human well-being.

Target 9.a

The TRADE Hub contributes to SDG 9 through its scientific research developing trade market solutions and models and reviewing frameworks and protocols. This will lead to new innovations in how international trade can be enhanced to foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The TRADE Hub focuses on identifying the niche markets that allow trade between developing and developed countries including skills and technological transfers. Application of an early monitoring system model and Internet of Things (IoT) for wildlife trade in China and Indonesia are examples of technological innovation that can be adopted to increase the capacity to monitor illegal wildlife trade.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 aims at reducing inequalities within and among countries.

Targets: 10.2, 10.b

Equal opportunity for the trading of commodities leads to the achievement of inclusive development and growth within and among TRADE Hubs participating countries (e.g., Brazil, Central Africa, China, Indonesia, and Tanzania). The TRADE Hub in Central Africa is working on ensuring gender equality is integrated into regulation measures by understanding the experiences from women selling bushmeat in Kinshasa. In addition, coffee research carried out in Tanzania explores the drivers of gender inequality in the sector. Findings and lessons learned from the work in Central Africa are shared with policymakers and public sector stakeholders in the region, with the objective to help inform their work and formulation of trade policies that mainstream equal opportunities for a fair trading of commodities.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 aims at decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resources efficiency, and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Targets: 12.1, 12.8

The TRADE Hub is investing in commodity research and policies that can support circular economies across the world to achieve a balance between economic development and environmental protection. The TRADE Hub in China are aiming to promote bamboo consumption as a green material alternative to single-use plastics by using maps with focal geographies to help design rubber plantations in Southern China and Eastern Asia, while TRADE Hub Central Africa works on informing spatial planning for the sustainable development of cocoa.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 urges action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Targets: 13.2, 13.b

The TRADE Hub helps by promoting sustainable practices that do not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, while building resilience to climate stresses by conserving natural resources and biodiversity. Enhancing the resilience of production systems is achieved through the generation of new knowledge on climate resilient technologies to support primary producers towards strengthening their adaptive capacity and minimizing adverse effects on nature and environments. The TRADE Hub's partners across countries are investigating the implications of commodity production for greenhouse gas emissions and how this can be mitigated by innovating practices based on their research and dialogue with local farmers. For example, the TRADE Hub in Indonesia is investigating the adoption of bamboo and rattan plantations for carbon sequestration in Indonesia and Africa.

15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15 aims to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Targets: 15.2, 15.7, 15.c

The TRADE Hub is evaluating biodiversity in cocoa production in Cameroon, as well as mapping and assessing risks and opportunities from expanding cocoa production in the Congo Basin. The TRADE Hub is also working with partners in Congo Basin and Tanzania on understanding the consumer choices and impacts of wild meat consumption and trade on people and environments, with an artificial intelligence (AI) data management tool to help analyse wildlife data. The team in Indonesia is also working on identifying the distribution of world species traders based on big data analysis in online marketplace.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

Target 17.17

The TRADE Hub forms North-South collaborations across organisations and researchers, generating evidence, and developing solutions. With partners, the TRADE Hub is working with governments to provide better support in aligning trade and trade related policies via network building, facilitation of exchange discussions, and undertaking policy analysis. As an example, the TRADE Hub is building a collaboration with key industry associations in the Mekong Region to promote the adoption of sustainable rubber practices. In addition, analysis of existing trade agreements and the development of multilateral agreements for commodities such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soybean, sugar and wildlife and wild meat will contribute to the achievement of equitable trade.



Follow the link below, for all the outputs mentioned
in this document, and for further information.

<https://tradehub.earth/resources/>

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