



Transformative Change for Biodiversity & Equity Project



Project Summary

Demand for agricultural commodities from European Union (EU) agrofood systems is driving land use change in biodiversity-rich countries in the Global South, leading to major biodiversity losses. Globalisation processes have led to increases in EU imports of commodities such as soya and palm oil. EU trade has become increasingly 'telecoupled', i.e. characterized by distant, coupled human and natural systems via highly inequitable global value chains, which have extensive socioeconomic and environmental impacts.

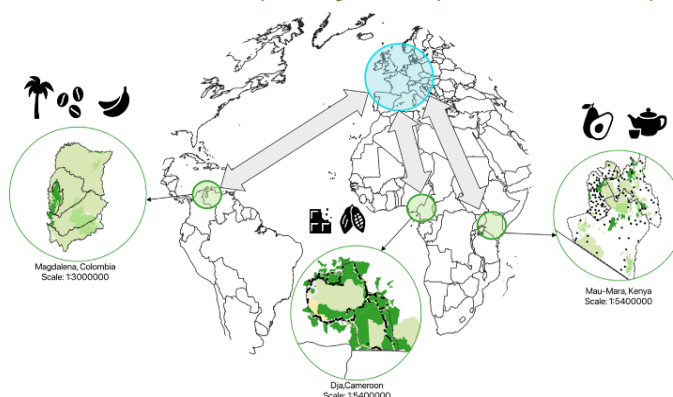
Tackling the EU's global biodiversity footprint is a top EU policy priority. Transformative change pathways are needed for safe and just transitions; but there are plural perspectives on what might constitute transformative change for food territories and systems, including telecoupled ones, and how to achieve it. New EU policies, such as Farm to Fork, may significantly re-shape agro-food trade between the EU and producer countries, with a range of potential implications for employment, livelihoods, but also equity, justice, and biodiversity. Much depends upon the purpose of the food system or territory, but there is contestation on potential food futures at different scales. There are increasing calls for systemic levers, but barriers to action are significant.

The Transformative Change for Biodiversity and Equity (TCforBE) project (2022 – 2027) supports transdisciplinary research to co-generate transformative change pathways in the context of telecoupled agrofood systems. It engages diverse stakeholders and explore plural perspectives within the EU and partner countries of Cameroon, Colombia and Kenya, including European and national policymakers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The project aims to strengthen stakeholder capacity on transformative change pathways leading to enhanced biodiversity and equity outcomes.

Underpinned by multi-stakeholder social learning cycles and attention to plural values, the researchers will seek to co-generate and co-analyse transformative change pathways at different scales for highly telecoupled landscapes and to facilitate dialogues between landscape actors and national and EU scales.

To inform these learning cycles and dialogues, researcher driven activities will enrich the landscape and national learning processes and contribute to an overall analysis of transformative change pathways in telecoupled contexts.

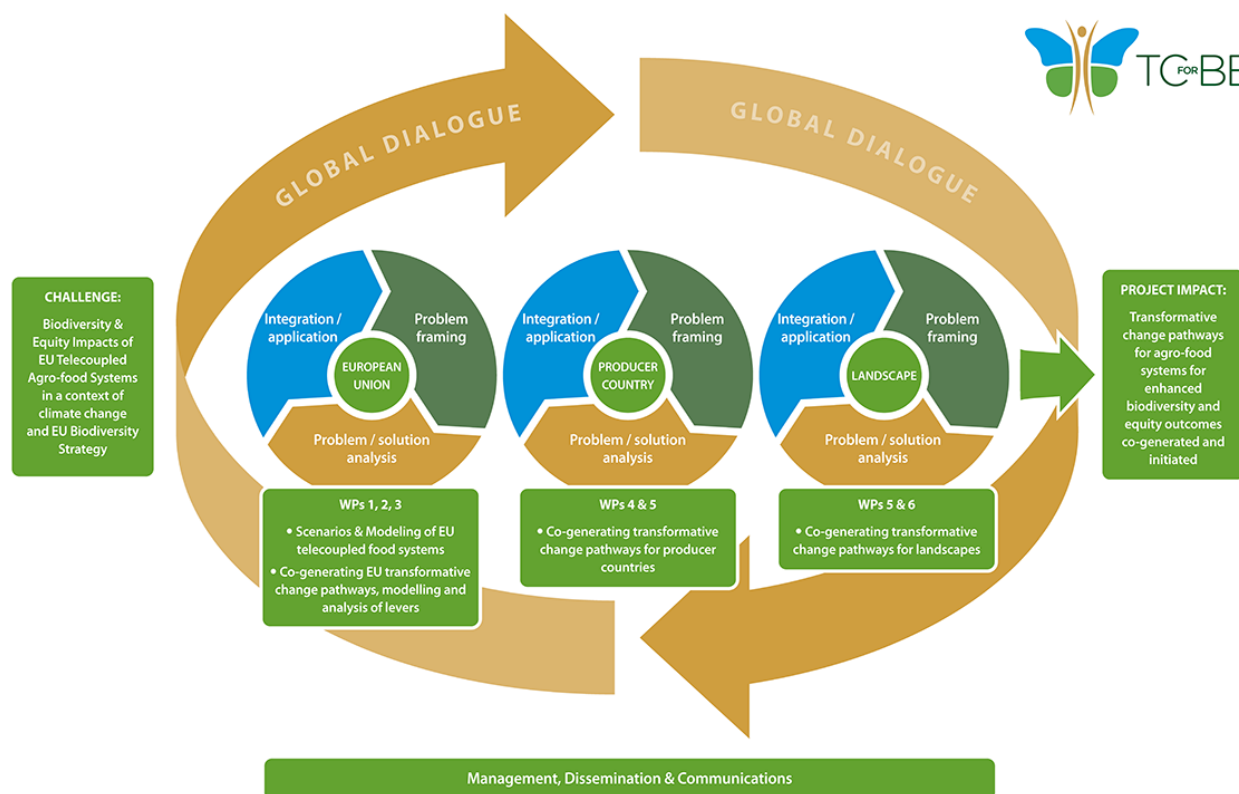
TCforBE telecoupled agri-food producer landscapes



Research and learning activities include:

- Conceptual work on transformative change and biodiversity and equity pathways in telecoupled food and agriculture contexts, and synthesis and analysis of findings.
- Exploration of plural perspectives on transformative change at EU, national and landscape scales through qualitative and spatial research.
- Social learning cycles at landscape scale: participant-driven learning to co-generate transformative change pathways for food systems and territories (creative learning activities) and to inform/reflect upon planned researcher-led activities (e.g. rural imaginaries, Bayesian tool, case studies of corporate and regenerative enterprises). Analysis and social learning on plural perspectives on transformative change at national scale and identification of land use change drivers (e.g. commodity impacts, at-risk biodiversity hotspots, and sustainable landscape initiative impacts).
- A global dialogue, facilitated by the Global Landscapes Forum, will link the transdisciplinary processes between the scales, supported by additional dissemination and communication activities.
- Generation of scenarios and modelling of EU agrofood systems transformations.
- Analysis of interconnected processes and levers including EU biodiversity governance, trade, legal, consumer, collective action and sustainable finance levers and social innovations.

Landscape	Landscape characteristics	Communities & Administrative focus
Dja Cameroon	- High biodiversity forested landscape, centering on Dja Biosphere Reserve, Community forests and logging concessions, connected to TRIDOM Congo Basin lowland forest. - Increasing production of agroforestry cocoa, timber, non-timber forest products (NTFP), oil palm (national, regional and export trade) with subsistence agriculture - Encroachment, fragmentation, and degradation of Dja Biosphere Reserve, restrictions to customary use by Baka ethnic groups, illegal logging, ivory and wildmeat hunting, increased infrastructure, mining and agro-plantations (rubber, oil palm), social inequities, weak state presence. - Indigenous communities, community forest associations, timber and agro-plantations and conservation organizations shaping land, forest and wildlife governance amid land use pressures. - Conservation & Sustainable landscape initiatives: Dja Green cocoa landscape and Roadmap to deforestation free cocoa; REDD in Southern humid forested plateau (ERPI); Forum of Dja Actors; Synergy Platform between Ngoyla-Mintom Actors (SYAMINGO); Technical Operational Units (TOUs) and Model Forests. - Regenerative enterprises active in cocoa and NTFPs - Medium-high levels of telecoupling of cocoa and timber to EU	Lomié, Somalomo & Messaména (Haut-Nyong Department)
Magdalena Colombia	- High biodiversity landscape, centering on Caribbean coast to lowlands with dry tropical forest remnants in Sierra Nevada foothills, with agriculture, protected areas and Indigenous reserves, forming part of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains and the Magdalena River basin. - Long history of agricultural expansion of coffee, cocoa, with increasing banana and oil palm exports, with fishing and subsistence agriculture. - Agricultural enterprises and co-operatives, communities and conservation organizations shaping land, water, forest and wildlife governance amid land use pressures, violence, illicit drug economies, labour inequities, poor working conditions, and weak state presence. - Conservation projects and Sustainable landscape initiatives: Cesar, Huila and Magdalena, Colombia PPI compacts with IDH; SAN, ISEAL & Swiss State Secretariat Blueprint for Sustainable landscape - Regenerative enterprises active in cocoa, tourism, banana, fruits and vegetables - High levels of telecoupling of palm oil, bananas, cocoa and coffee to EU	Cordobita (Municipio de Ciénaga) Macondo & Candelaria (Municipio de Zona Bananera) Buenavista (Municipio de Sitio Nuevo)
Mau forest Kenya	- High biodiversity landscape centering on mosaics of montane forest and agriculture, forest reserves, community forests and conservation areas. connected to savannah and wetlands, a major water catchment feeding Mara, Nyando and Yala basins. - Dominated by tea, expanding avocado and horticulture, alongside livestock, timber and Non-Timber Forest Products with subsistence agriculture - Indigenous communities, community forest associations, water resource user's associations and agricultural co-operatives shaping land, water, forest and wildlife governance amid land use pressures. - Conservation & Sustainable landscape initiatives: IDH and MaMaSe program - Regenerative enterprises active in dairy, avocado and tea - Medium levels of telecoupling of tea, avocado and horticulture products to EU	Maramara & Nyangores (Bomet County) Masaita (Kericho County)



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Learn more about TCforBE:
<https://bit.ly/4ioZfN3>

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