CLEVER

Creating leverage to enhance biodiversity outcomes of global biomass trade

Find out more!

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About the project

Global trade has made Western societies wealthier and provides access to diverse products and services. Unfortunately, the production or extraction of many such products – including biomass for non-food uses, such as wood or soy – often has negative impacts on the biodiversity of ecosystems, including tropical forests. In other words, trade can become a mechanism that links our consumption habits to environmental damage abroad. **Is it possible to benefit from trade and conserve biodiversity at the same time?**

The CLEVER project adopts a novel holistic approach to investigate **how international trade in agricultural and forest products affects biodiversity**, particularly for animal feed, energy crops, tropical timber and aquaculture products.

Based on this knowledge, **CLEVER aims at discovering new opportunities for biodiversity conservation.** The final goal is to develop solutions for more sustainable production and consumption and support decision-making, in collaboration with stakeholders from politics, the private sector and civil society.

Scope of the project

- 12 organizations
- 9 countries involved
- Case studies focusing on trade in soy and/ or forest products produced in South America and Africa.

Objectives

- Inform business, policy and media based on improved indicators of biodiversity loss.
- Quantify the environmental impacts of global biomass trade and the interdependencies of the related sustainable development goals (SDG) with the modelling platform GLOBIOM.
- Support public and private decision-makers in choosing governance instruments that enhance biodiversity and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Strengthen IPBES and IPCC with new knowledge and tools.
- Foster stakeholder interactions and create partnerships with projects working on related topics.
- Promote science-industry cooperation for sustainable bioeconomic transformation.