



Transformative Change for Biodiversity & Equity Project



Summary

Demand for agricultural commodities from 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'¹, i.e. characterised 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) project², (2022 – 2026), will support transdisciplinary research to co-generate transformative change pathways in the context of telecoupled agrofood systems. It will engage diverse stakeholders and explore plural perspectives within the EU and partner countries of Cameroon, Colombia and Kenya, including EU and national policymakers and 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. Envisaged research and learning activities include:

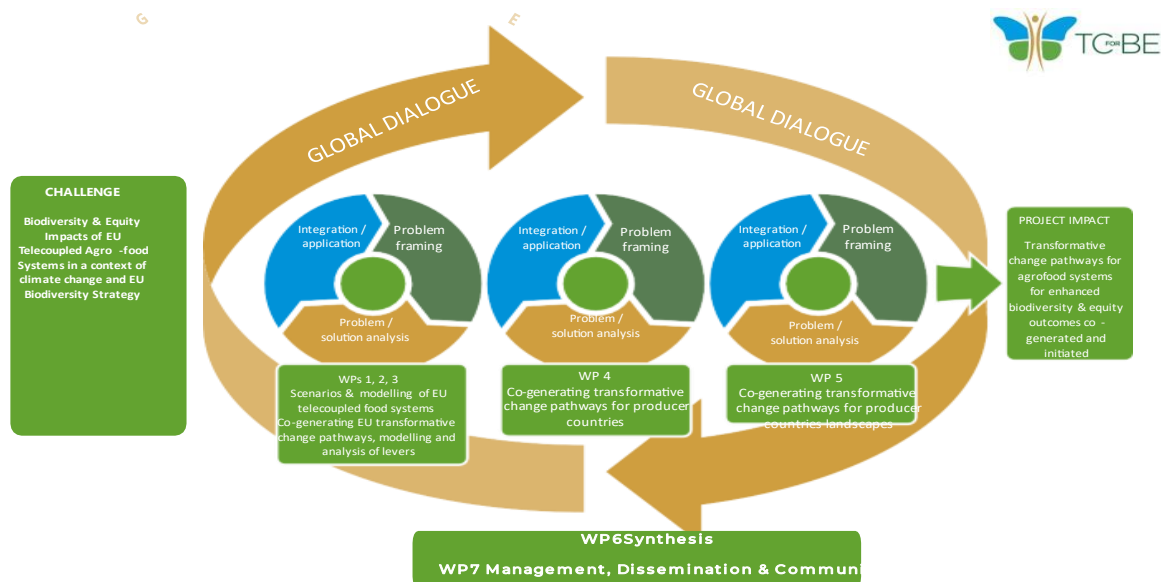
- Conceptual work on transformative change and biodiversity and equity pathways in telecoupled food and agriculture contexts, and synthesis and analysis of findings.
- Exploration of plural perspectives on transformative change at EU, national and landscape scales through qualitative research.
- Social 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 research, Bayesian tool development, 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.

1. Liu, J et al. (2013) 'Framing Sustainability in a Telecoupled World'. *Ecology and Society* 18 (2): 26

2. Call: HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01 (Biodiversity and ecosystem services) Topic: HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01-08 Type of Action: HORIZON-RIA Proposal number: 101082057 Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based

Partners





TCforBE Producer Countries & Landscapes

Country	Landscapes	Landscapes characteristics
Cameroon	Dja-Tridom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High biodiversity forested landscape with conservation area: Dja Biosphere Reserve, with indigenous ethnic groups Increasing agroforestry cocoa, timber, non-timber forest products (NTFP), oil palm (national, regional and export trade) Encroachment, fragmentation, and degradation of Dja Biosphere Reserve, restrictions to customary use by Baka ethnic groups, illegal logging, ivory and bushmeat hunting, increased infrastructure, mining and agro-plantations (rubber, palm) Conservation & Sustainable landscape initiatives: Dja Green cocoa landscape and Roadmap to deforestation free cocoa; REDD in Southern humid forested plateau (ERP1); Forum of Dja Actors; Synergy Platform between Ngoyla-Mintom Actors (SYAMINGO); Technical Operational Units (TOUs); Model Forests. Medium-high levels of telecoupling to EU
	Magdalena Department, Caribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High biodiversity from sea, dry tropical forest remnants to Sierra Nevada foothills Long history agricultural expansion for banana, cocoa and oil palm export trade Violence, illicit economies, labour equity and working conditions, and weak state presence. Conservation projects & Sustainable landscape initiatives: Cesar, Huila and Magdalena, Colombia PPI compacts with IDH; SAN, ISEAL & Swiss State Secretariat Blueprint for Sustainable landscape High levels of telecoupling to EU
Kenya	Mau forest – Masai - Mara river basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High biodiversity forests, savannah and wetlands with protected and conservation areas, important water catchment area with indigenous ethnic groups, community forests and water users associations Expanding rice and fish farming lower Yala and Nyando Basins, grasslands with grazing systems, tea-avocado-fruit-livestock-timber-NTFP, horticulture national and export trade Large areas of high biodiversity forest ecosystems & extensive agriculture Regenerative, conservation & SLIs: MaMaSe program Medium levels of telecoupling to EU
	Mt Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High biodiversity forests with conservation area: Mt Kenya National Park, Masai Mara National Reserve with indigenous ethnic groups Grasslands (grazing systems) and tea-fruit-livestock-timber-horticulture systems, national and export trade Large areas high biodiversity forests, protected areas & extensive agriculture Conservation & Sustainable landscape initiatives: Mt Kenya Forest Landscape Restoration Medium-high levels of telecoupling to EU

Website: <https://www.wur.nl/en/project/transformative-change-for-biodiversity-and-equity-tc4be.htm>

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