

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAUREATES
FREIBURG, GERMANY - 15 - 18 MARCH 2018



Laureates' Symposium



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◆ Marion Hammerl
Germany

“Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for
the Food Sector”

Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Sector



Main objective:

Effective protection of biodiversity by standards and labels as well as sourcing requirements of food companies



Continuous dramatic loss of Biodiversity

From 1970 to 2012 the WWF's Living Planet Index shows a 58% overall decline in vertebrate population abundance.

Population sizes of vertebrate species have, on average, dropped by more than half in less then 50 years.



Figure 2: The Global Living Planet Index shows a decline of 58 per cent (range: -48 to -66 per cent) between 1970 and 2012
Trend in population abundance for 14,152 populations of 3,706 species monitored across the globe between 1970 and 2012. The white line shows the index values and the shaded areas represent the 95 per cent confidence limits surrounding the trend (WWF/ZSL, 2016).

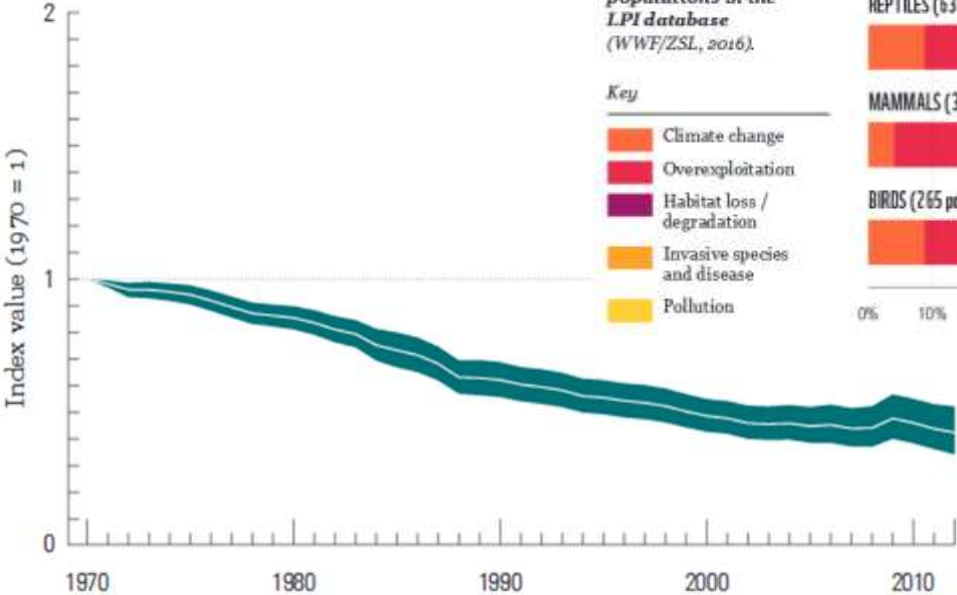
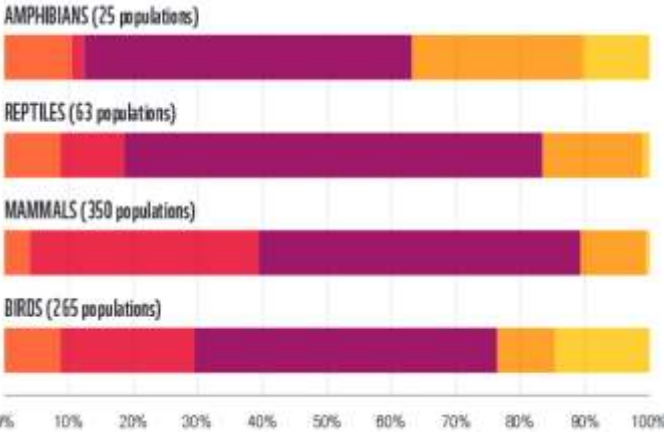


Figure 7: Taxonomic differences in threat frequency for 703 declining terrestrial populations in the LPI database
(WWF/ZSL, 2016).



Continuous dramatic loss of Biodiversity

International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

Main target: Stopp the loss of biodiversity by 2020

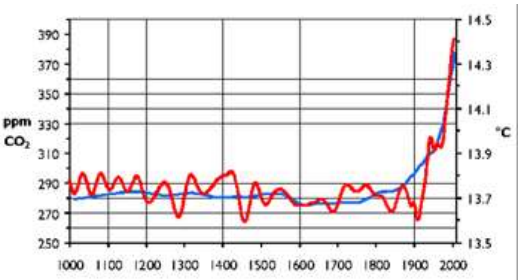


Destruction of ecosystems



Overexploitation of natural resources

Five main drivers of loss of biodiversity



Climate Change



Alien invasive species



Contamination



Food and Biodiversity

Intensification of agriculture: vast exploitation of agricultural land and highly intensive production systems. Responsible for:

Loss of Agro-Biodiversity:
Only 30 plant species are used to produce 95% of vegetable calories globally. Wheat, rice and corn alone account for more than 50% of all plant calories produced globally

FAO Food Wastage Food Print: Agriculture is defined as one of the main influencing factors that threaten biodiversity worldwide.

*“Farming, including conversion of wild lands and intensification, is a major threat for biodiversity worldwide. (..) Threats to biodiversity are considerably higher in developing countries than in developed countries: on average, crops are responsible for 44 percent of all species threats in developed countries, compared with **72 percent in developing countries***

Improvement of biodiversity protection in food production – **Options for action**

European Union
National governments
Regional governments



- **Legislation:** Increase biodiversity protection
- **Subventions:** Eliminate subventions for harmful production methods
- **Market regulations:** No trading with countries destroying ecosystems; Tax incentives for biodiversity products
- **Regional development programmes:** Support biodiversity friendly practises; support reseach, implement monitoring systems
- **Consumer protection:** Prohibit use of harmful pesticides; information campaigns on value of biodiversity

Voluntary Standards
International, national,
regional



- **Include biodiversity into policy and strategies**
- **Improve criteria /requirements with relevance for biodiversity**
- **Training of farmers and advisors**
- **Support regional biodiversity projects**
- **Implement monitoring system**
- **Inform and sensitize food sector regarding value of biodiversity**
- **Inform and sensitize consumers regarding value of biodiversity**
- **Request more strict legislation; implementation of legislation, better governance**

Food retailers
Food producing companies

European Initiative – project partner in four EU countries

Core Initiative of



The project is supported by



Measures

- **Support standard-setting organizations and food companies to include efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and sourcing guidelines.**
- **Provide training for farm advisors and standard certifiers as well as product and quality managers in companies**
- **Biodiversity Performance Tool to support farmers regarding sound biodiversity management**
- **Implement a monitoring system for biodiversity used by all standards and food companies.**
- **close communication and the dissemination of results to the food sector.**

Support the creation of an European initiative on “Biodiversity Performance in the Food Sector” to continue working after the project ends in 2020 (e.g. Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria)

Exchange of Information



www.food-biodiversity.eu



Recommendations for effective biodiversity criteria in standards and sourcing requirements

Target groups

- Standard organisations and companies with sourcing requirements
- Cooperatives, suppliers
- Political decision makers, administrations on regional, national, European level

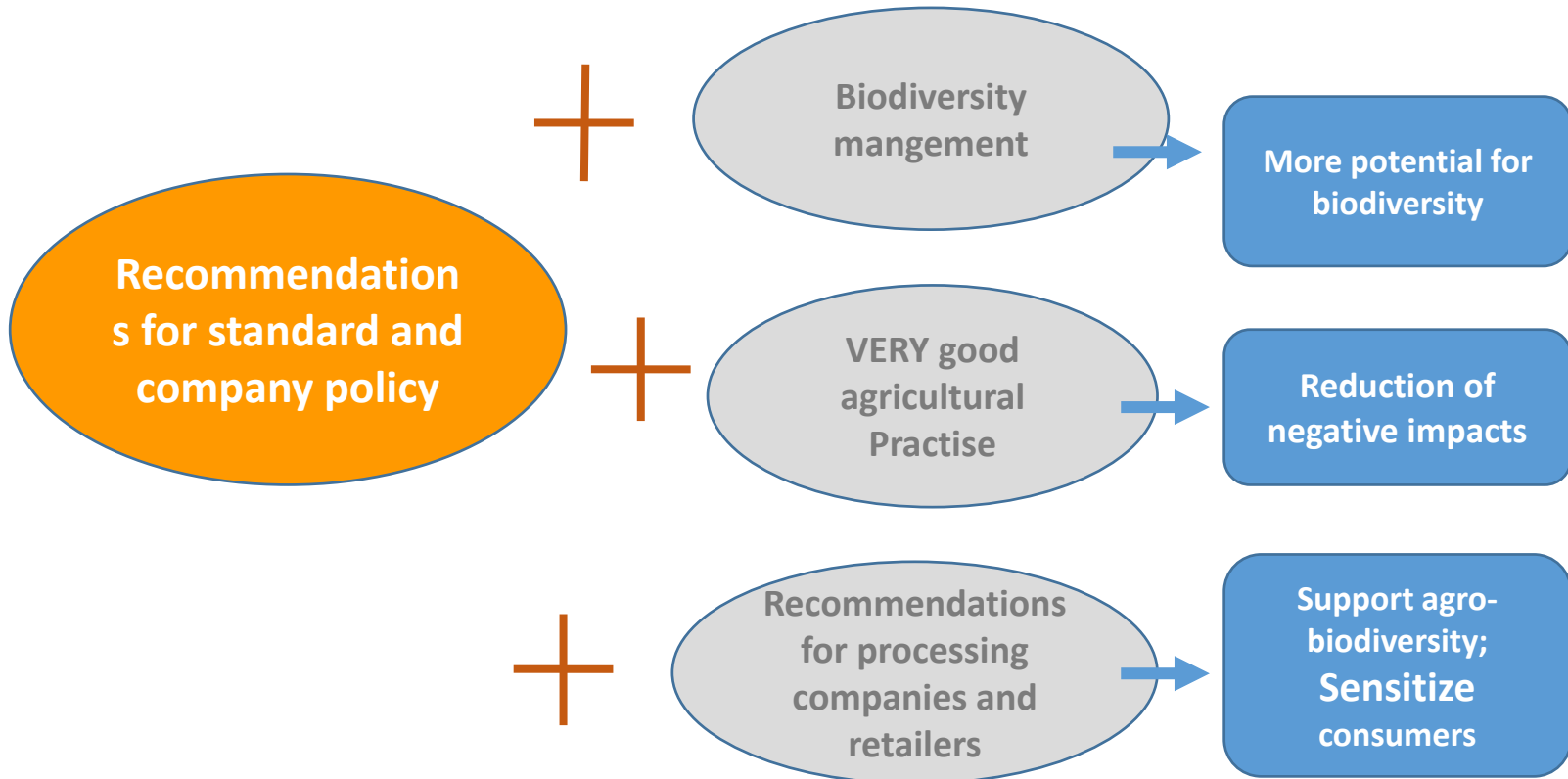
Input

- Results and conclusions from Baseline Report (54 Standards und Sourcing Guidelines screen)
- Studies, model projects, agri-environmental programmes
- Two workshops with standards, companies, certifiers, scientific institutions, NGOs
- Comments from many organisations

Recommendations in English, German – and soon in French, Spanish, Portuguese



Recommendations for effective biodiversity criteria - **Structure**



Next steps

Recommendations in five languages and dissemination

Supporting standards and companies in the improvement of criteria

Easy Guide for product and quality manager

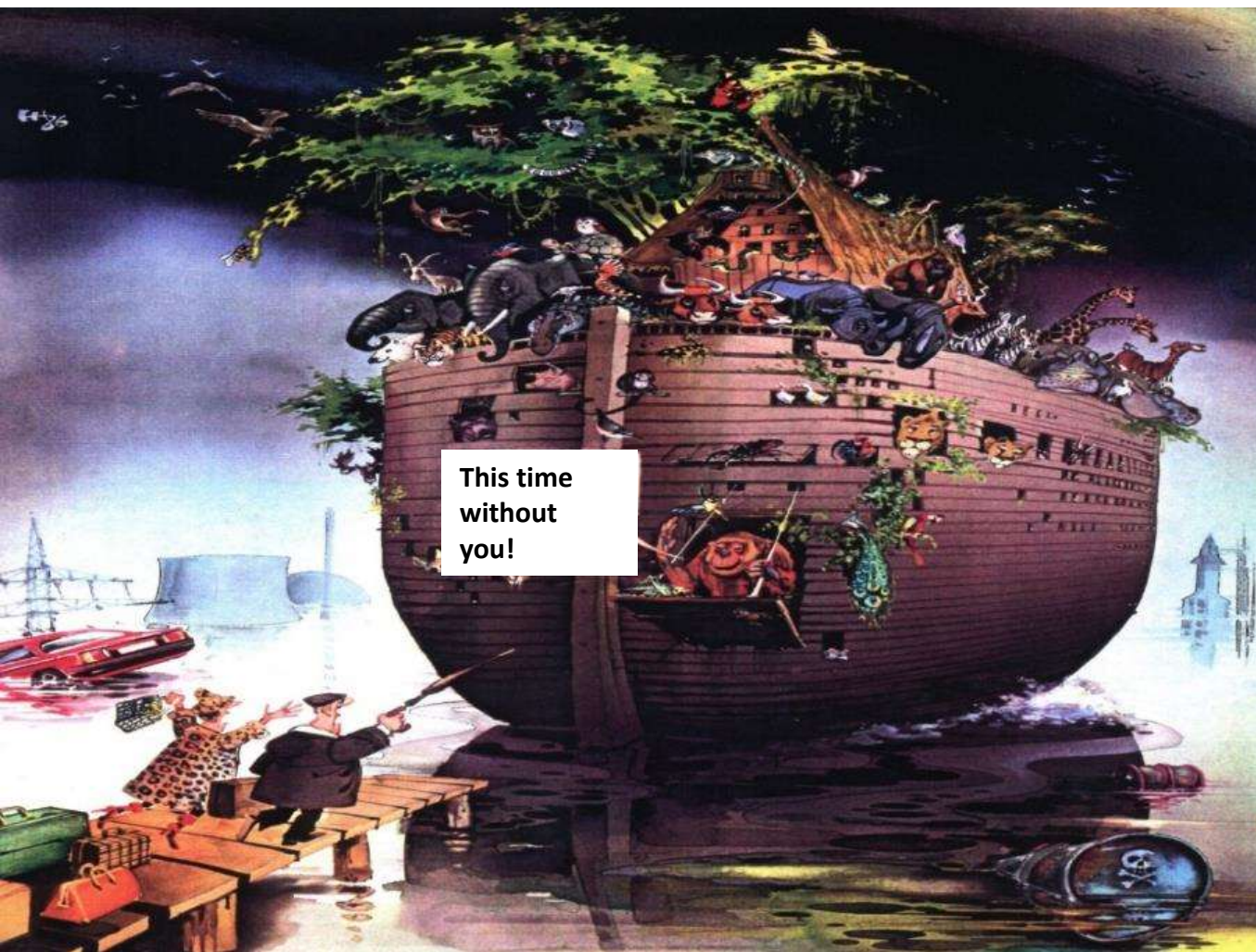
Lessons learned for EU Commission, national and regional governments

Food Sector Initiative on Biodiversity – Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria



Thanks for the contribution of our Partner-Standards and Companies





Thanks for your attention!

hammerl@globalnature.org

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