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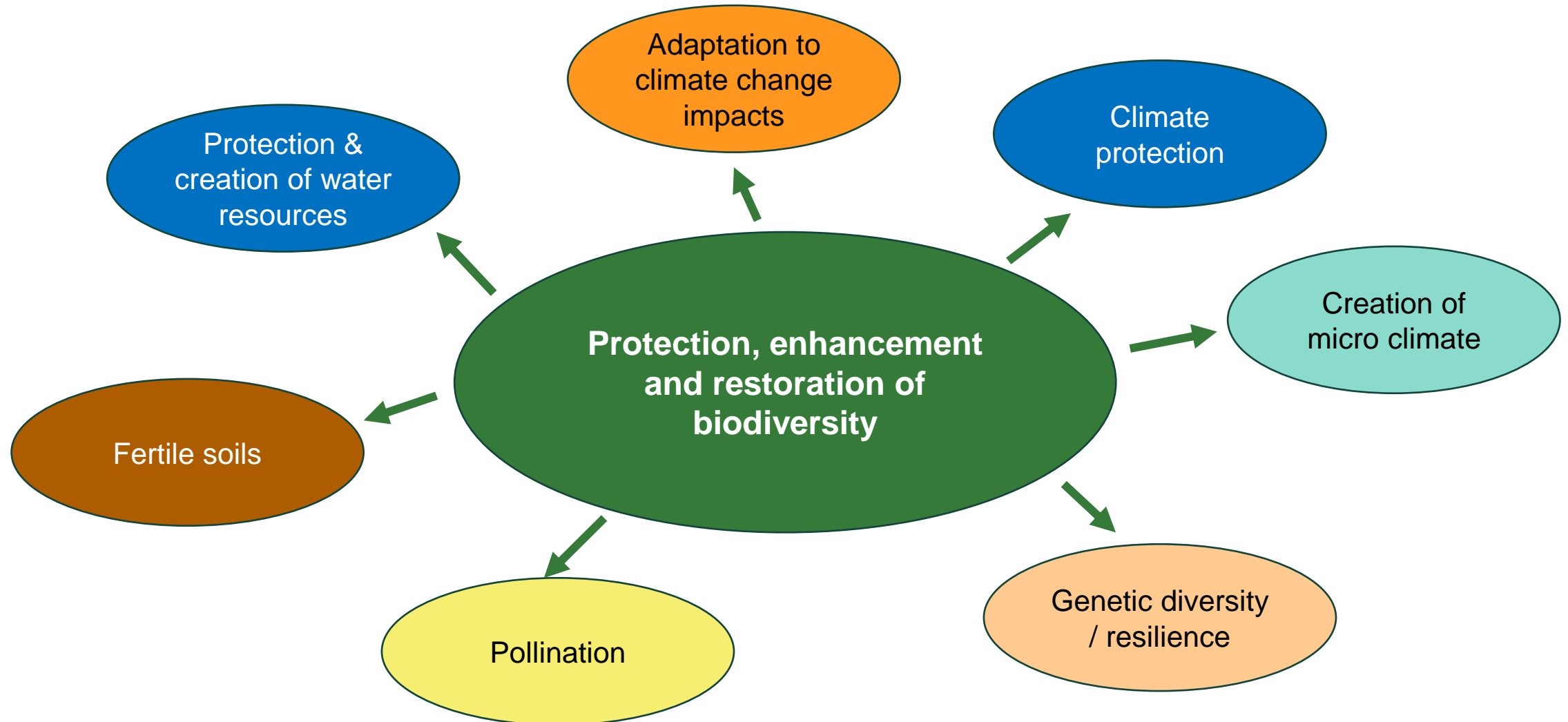
Improving biodiversity - enhancing the basis for coffee
cultivation and preventing deforestation



Improving biodiversity – enhancing the basis for coffee cultivation and preventing deforestation

Marion Hammerl
Lake Constance Foundation
4 December 2023

Important arguments to protect biodiversity: Protecting our basis for livelihoods and economy



Protecting and enhancing biodiversity – Preventing deforestation

Deforestation and forest degradation are important drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss. The worsening state of global forests is reaching dangerous tipping points with devastating effects on health, lives, and livelihoods for millions of people around the world.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that 420 million hectares of forest — an area larger than the European Union — were lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020.



European Union: Preventing deforestation

EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products

Requires companies trading in cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood, as well as products derived from these commodities, to conduct extensive diligence on the value chain to ensure the goods do not result from recent (post 31 December 2020) deforestation or forest degradation.

Any operator or trader who places these commodities on the EU market, or exports from it, must be able to prove that the products do not originate from recently deforested land or have contributed to forest degradation!

Adaptation period until end of 2024.

Smallholders who do not place these products on the EU market themselves are under no direct legal obligations. However, they might be asked by their business partners, for example buyers, to provide information on their production, especially on the land of production. Business partners need this information to fulfil their own obligations under the regulation.

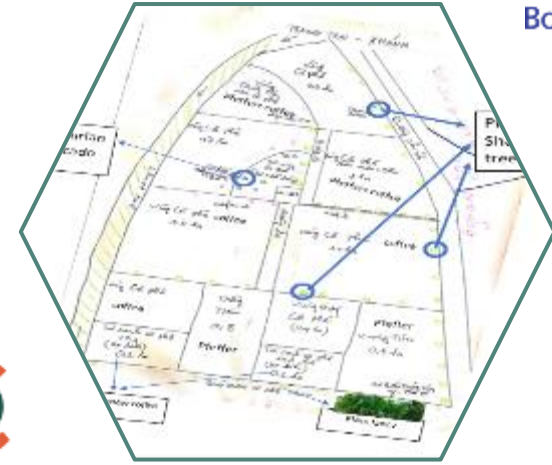


Protecting and enhancing biodiversity =

- * Preventing deforestation
- * Protecting forest

International Standards requesting a Biodiversity Management Plan:

Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, Global G.A.P 6.0, Demeter, UEBT, 



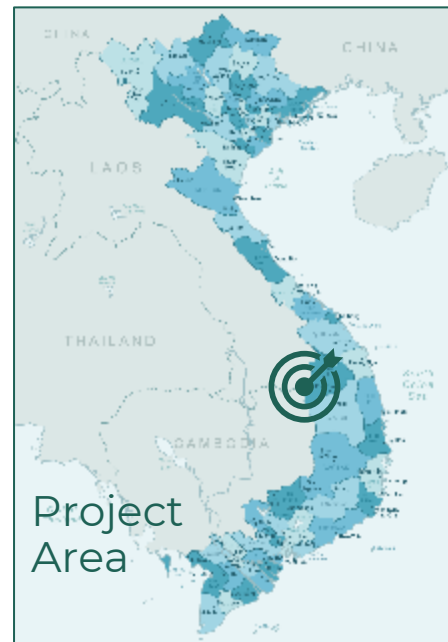
Sound Biodiversity Management Plan

- Based on an assessment of the current situation on the farm
- Measures to protect and enhance existing biodiversity
 - * habitats = protection, restoration
 - * buffer zones
 - * biotope corridors
 - * support to species
 - * control of invasive species
- Measures to avoid negative impacts by agricultural practises



Pilot Project in Vietnam

Sustaining biodiversity in coffee production

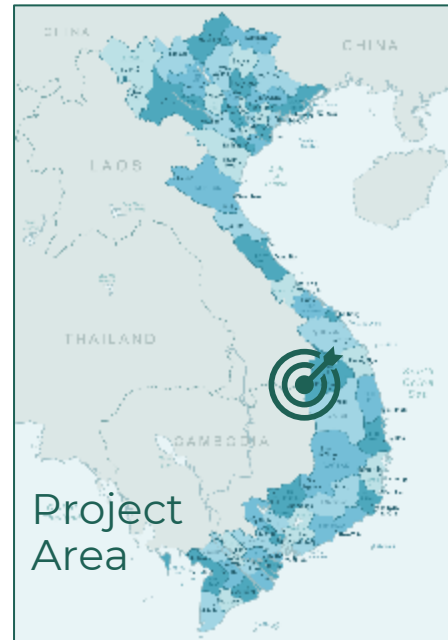


Project Objective:

To improve biodiversity in coffee production in Vietnam by setting up and implementing biodiversity action plans, using the Biodiversity Performance Tool.

Pilot Project in Vietnam

Sustaining biodiversity in coffee production



Project Overview:

- Implementation time: Jan. 2021 – End 2022. **Initiative will go on thanks to Vinh Hiep!**
- Project location: Gia Lai Province, Vietnam
- Project partners:
 - Project management and coordination: 4C
 - International partners: Lake Constance Foundation and Fundación Humedales
 - Local implementation partners: Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Center for Mountainous Region (ADC) and Vinh Hiep



The BPT is

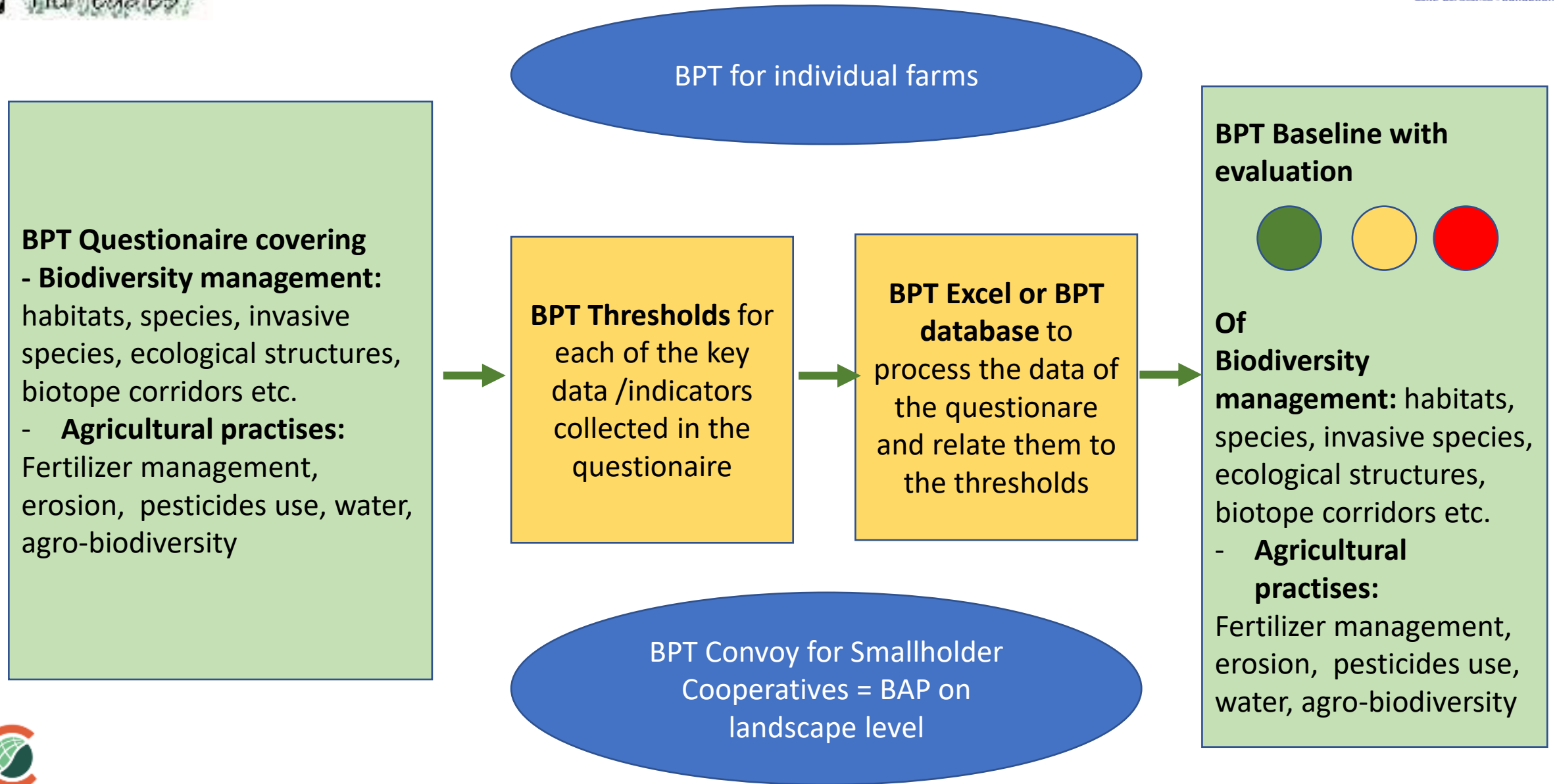
- Support for farmers to realize the baseline on biodiversity on the farm:
in a structured way and covering all relevant aspects
- Basic evaluation of the baseline situation:
Aspects are evaluated into green, yellow, red - according to thresholds of the BPT key data and indicators
- Valuable input for a sound Biodiversity Action Plan
- To basically monitor the implementation of the BAP and document improvements
- **To better comply with the criteria of 4C Standard related to biodiversity**

The BPT supports 4C Unit managers and auditors in evaluating the Biodiversity Management of the farm:
Are all relevant aspects considered? Are the weaknesses addressed? Does the farmer achieve continuous improvement?

The BPT is not

- An 4C audit
- Replacing the requirements of the 4C Standard
- For blaming the farmer

BPT elaborated in the
frame of the initiative
Food for Biodiversity



Project steps



Baseline assessment and Farm mapping using the BPT



Biodiversity Action Plan based on:

- Identification of potential for improvement
- Recommendations for measures



Aligning with international and local regulations on biodiversity protection. Training for farmers.



Implementing Biodiversity Action Plan and regular monitoring. Elaboration of a BAP on a landscape level = cooperative level



Lesson learnt sharing and replication

Pilot Project in Vietnam

Sustaining biodiversity in coffee production



Sound
Biodiversity
Management

No
deforestation,
no degradation
of forest

Setting targets for biodiversity outcomes:

Targets are focused to increase potential for biodiversity:

- improve and create habitats
- reduce negative impacts of agricultural practices

Targets are based on the evaluation of the baseline
= current situation and potential

Targets are achievable

- tailored recommendations for measures
- Increase of knowledge by training and support of biodiversity expert
- Farmer decides which measures to include into the BAP



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Sustaining biodiversity in coffee production



OBJECTIVE

To improve biodiversity in coffee production in Vietnam by **setting up** and **implementing biodiversity action plans**, using the **Biodiversity Performance Tool**



Implementing measures - Results (1):

Significant changes on the ground after 1 year of implementing measures:

- **Intercropping** with fruit trees or other perennial crops, breaking the monoculture system
- **Increased vegetative layers** to cover soil surface
- Maintaining and planting flowers/shrubs to **protect beneficial insects** (pollinators), bee populations were increased
- **Shade tree maintenance and incrementation**
- **Good farming practices** widely implemented (zero-pesticide farm, compost organic waste and return it to farm, etc.)
- **Buffer zones to protect water bodies, surrounding area and allowing movement of wild animals**

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Sustaining biodiversity in coffee production



Results (2):

- **Awareness Raising and Capacity Building:**

- Practical skills to establish the micro-ecosystem of coffee farms, eliminate bad practices and risks of decreasing biodiversity performance
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Weed Management (IWM), incorporation of plants that attract beneficial insects and pollinators
- **Promotion of shade trees – especially fruit trees - and intercropping**

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Results (3):

- **Further potential impacts at larger scales:**

- Inclusion of 4C requirements in Vinh Hiep trainings, with focus on the importance of biodiversity and its role in climate change resilience
- Adjacent farms are the next subject of expansion of the project (building a network of cooperation on landscape level)



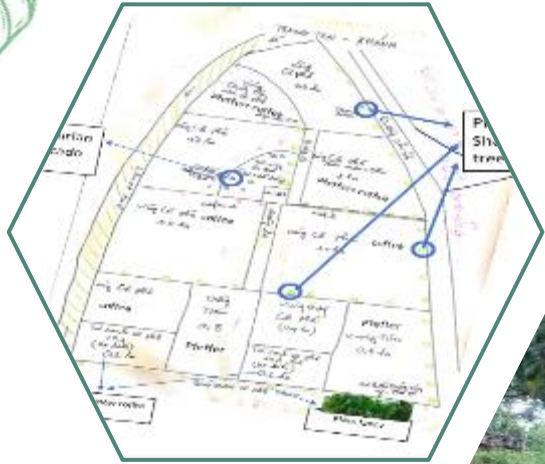
Roll out:

Training on biodiversity by Vinh Hiep for all farmers in 10 communities of Dak Doa district

Improvement of 4C criteria with relevance for biodiversity

Work in progress: Implementation of monitoring

Significant changes achieved on the ground



Farm planning

Bee keeping



Composting



Shade trees



More living space for beneficial insects



Intercropping



Cover soil surface



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Challenges specially for small holder farmers

- Creation of habitats and buffer zones need space = reducing agricultural production surface;
- Biodiversity compatible agricultural practices need knowledge and realistic alternatives, e.g. use of beneficial insects instead of pesticides;
- Landscape approach is much more effective and beneficial for biodiversity, but requires collaboration of all farmers of the cooperative
- Some measures need financial resources (e.g. seedlings, seeds) = smallholder farmers cannot cover these costs;
- Added value of coffee produced more biodiversity friendly is not paid by the market; positive impacts are not immediately = why should farmers be committed?



Key Takeaways

Practical, cost and time-saving solutions are piloted and ready to be implemented!!!



Farmers' awareness on protecting and improving biodiversity can be effectively increased through a practical easy to use tool and participatory baseline assessment



Many improvement actions on the ground are **feasible** and **affordable** for farmers. Additional costs for certain measures need to be covered.

The cooperation of local companies and/or NGOs is crucial



The BPT tool is voluntary and ready for use. Can be used as an internal assessment tool vs 4C requirements on biodiversity for being certified. Monitoring tool to proof protection and enhancement of forest.



Sound protection, enhancement and management of biodiversity is key for a successful Regenerative Agriculture as well as prevention of deforestation and degradation of forest

Current and upcoming legislation of the European Union

Relevant for Biodiversity – Relevant for Food – Relevant for Coffee

EU No-Deforestation Regulation

Currently included coffee, cacao, palm oil, cattle, soya, rubber, wood

EU Taxonomy

Orientation for financial institutions to invest and support more sustainable economic sectors

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

require large companies and listed companies to publish regular reports on the social and environmental risks they face, and on how their activities impact people and the environment. E4 Standards = Biodiversity

EU Supply Chain Legislation (in preparation)

Companies operating in the EU need to implement certain due diligence obligations to prevent that their business activities have negative implications on human rights and the environment in their chains of activity within and outside Europe.

EU Green Claims Directive (in preparation) to avoid greenwashing. Only claims will be allowed supported by scientifically based data and third-party certification.





Thanks for your attention!

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Please have a look also to

Food for Biodiversity
<https://food-biodiversity.de/en/>

Biodiversity in Standards for the Food Sector
<https://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/food-standards>



This time
without you!