MAKING TRADE A POSITIVE FORCE IN THE WORLD
THE CHALLENGE
The trade in wild and farmed species has amazing potential for creating long-term jobs and boosting economic growth, particularly in countries with a lower income.

However, it’s often difficult to make this potential a reality. Collecting too many wild animals or plants causes populations to crash, while demand for agricultural land for crops removes natural habitat for wildlife. This degradation has very real knock-on effects for marginalised people – if a forest empties of wildlife or is cleared for farms owned by large corporations, there is nothing left to live upon. Over-use and unequal distribution of resources also makes the world unlikely to reach international ambitions such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

OUR SOLUTION
Revealing trade links
The UK Research and Innovation’s Global Challenges Research Fund is funding the UKRI GCRF Trade, Development and the Environment Hub, led by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre. It is the first research hub of its kind, bringing together over 50 organisations from 15 different countries to make trade a force for good in the world.

Together, these partners from industry, trade agencies, academia, governments and civil society will study all stages of the supply chain, revealing damaging links and pathways for lasting change.

We will investigate the trends and impacts of trade in:

- wildlife
- wild meat
- agricultural goods

Their trade will be traced across Brazil, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Republic of Congo, and Tanzania, as well as globally.

The impacts of trade
Mapping each good’s journey, all the way from their origin, through trading companies and to the consumer, will reveal their full impact on people and the natural world. When combined with our analysis of the underlying economic systems, we will be able to provide recommendations on how to sustainably produce, trade and consume wild products and goods, as well as help companies to understand their products’ full environmental impact.

A POWERFUL TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW OUR DECISIONS AS CONSUMERS AFFECT THE PLANET
Modelling the future
We will inject all this information into a global model which predicts how shifts in trade routes will affect both people and nature. Working alongside companies, as well as including trade rules and investment guidelines, will make this model a powerful tool for understanding how our decisions as consumers affect the planet.

Beyond the Hub
Using the latest technologies and strong partnerships, we will develop tools for countries, companies and decision makers so they can take this work forward – helping to make trade a positive force well into the future.
PARTNERS

AB Sustain
Asda
Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
Beijing Normal University (China)
Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia)
BonSucro
Brazilian Center of Analysis and Planning (Brazil)
Centre for Conservation and Sustainability Science (CSRio) at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Centre for Mountain Ecosystem Studies, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)
Chatham House (UK)
China Chamber of Commerce of Metals Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (China)
CIFOR (Indonesia)
Congo Basin Institute (Cameroon)
École régionale post-universitaire d’aménagement et de gestion intégrés des forêts tropicales, University of Kinshasa (DRC)
Efeca
Fundação de Estudos Agrários Luiz de Queiroz (Brazil)
ICRAF (Indonesia)
Imaflora (Brazil)
Ingredion
International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (China)
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria)
International Institute for Market Research, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (China)
International Institute for Sustainability (Brazil)
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Kering
London School of Economics (UK)
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Mars
Research Institute for Tropical Ecology (Gabon)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (UK)
Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania)
Stockholm Environment Institute (Sweden)
UN Environment Finance Initiative
UN Environment Trade Hub
UNEP-WCMC (UK)
University College London (UK)
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University of Cambridge - CISL and Zoology (UK)
University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
University of Kent (UK)
University of Lampung (Indonesia)
University of Oxford (UK)
University of Reading (UK)
University of Southampton (UK)
University of Stirling (UK)
University of York (UK)
Wageningen University (Netherlands)
Wildlife Conservation Society (USA)
World Resources Institute (USA)
WWF-UK (UK)
WWF-Br (Brazil)

THE TRADE HUB PROJECT WILL RUN UNTIL 2024 AND IS FUNDED BY THE UK RESEARCH AND INNOVATION’S GLOBAL CHALLENGES RESEARCH FUND.

GET IN TOUCH:

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