SDGs: Seeing the Forest for the Trees

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SDGs as a linked system

A view from scientists

Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
OWG Goal 15: targets 1 to 5

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation by [x] per cent globally.

15.3 By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world.

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
15.6 Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities
The “forest targets”

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore **water-related ecosystems**, including mountains, **forests**, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

... 

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of **terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests**, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, **promote** the implementation of **sustainable management of all types of forests**, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation by [x] per cent globally

... 

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to **finance sustainable forest management** and **provide adequate incentives** to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
Goal 15: linkages to other goals

Source: *idem.*
Global Annual Tree Cover Loss Remains High, 2001-2013

Trend line represents a three-year moving average. The trend may represent a more accurate picture of the data due to uncertainty in year-to-year comparisons.

All figures calculated with a 30% minimum tree cover canopy density.

Data generated as update to “High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change” by Hansen et al.
ANNUAL SOY AND BEEF PRICES AND DEFORESTATION
Credit, land use, supply chain restrictions help boost yields
Mix of measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agro-industrial expansion</th>
<th>Frontier governance</th>
<th>Territorial performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soy &amp; cattle expansion</td>
<td>Soy retraction &amp; herd reduction</td>
<td>Soy &amp; cattle expansion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cattle intensification</td>
<td>Low profitability</td>
<td>Improving profitability</td>
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<td>High profitability</td>
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<td>Interoceanic, BR 158 completed; BR 163 construction resumed</td>
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<td>Highway paving projects announced</td>
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<td>Hydropower projects begin (e.g. Belo Monte Dam, Rio Madeira)</td>
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**Government**

- Remote sensing-based monitoring
- Protected areas in remote regions
- Forest Code unenforced
- Private property registration (Mato Grosso, Pará)
- Property-level enforcement
- Credit & fiscal incentives for forest clearing

**Supply Chain Interventions**

- Grupo Amaggi IFIC loans
- Soy Moratorium
- Private monitoring for enforcement
- Cattle Agreement
- Commodity certification

Big but fragile gains

“Farmers are frustrated. They are tired of top-down approaches and big UN declarations, and they aren’t seeing price premiums from certifications ... . We’ve made great strides, but to lock them in we need to start integrating positive incentives too. We have to help farmers get on the right path.”

Less encouraging trend