



— ISCC Regional Stakeholder Dialogue Latin America

An NGO's Point of View:
Opportunities and Challenges for Latin-American

Mauricio Mejia
Food Production Senior Officer
WWF Mesoamerica
June 29, 2021

EU Renewable Energy

RED II:

- By 2030 , 32% of energy consumption sourced from Renewable Energy Sources
- 14% of the energy consumed in road and rail transport by 2030 as renewable energy
- RED II introduces sustainability for forestry feedstocks as well as GHG criteria for solid and gaseous biomass fuels.

A garden scene with a sign that says "EU RENEWABLE ENERGY" and "BIOFUELS". The sign is yellow and blue with the word "BIOFUELS" in large, pixelated letters. The background is a lush garden with various plants, including corn stalks in the foreground and yellow flowers. The text "EU RENEWABLE ENERGY" is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

EU RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Biofuels helps the EU to meet its greenhouse gas reductions targets
- Biofuel production typically takes place on cropland that was previously used for other agriculture such as growing food or feed.
- It may lead to the extension of agriculture land into non-cropland, possibly including areas with high carbon stock such as forests, wetlands and peatlands.

Indirect land use change (ILUC)

- May cause the release of CO₂ stored in trees and soil
- Indirect land use change risks negating the greenhouse gas savings that result from increased biofuels.

Renewable Energy Sources

Solar energy.

Wind energy.

Hydro energy.

Biomass energy.

Geothermal energy

Tidal energy.

Opportunities for LAC

Biomass energy:

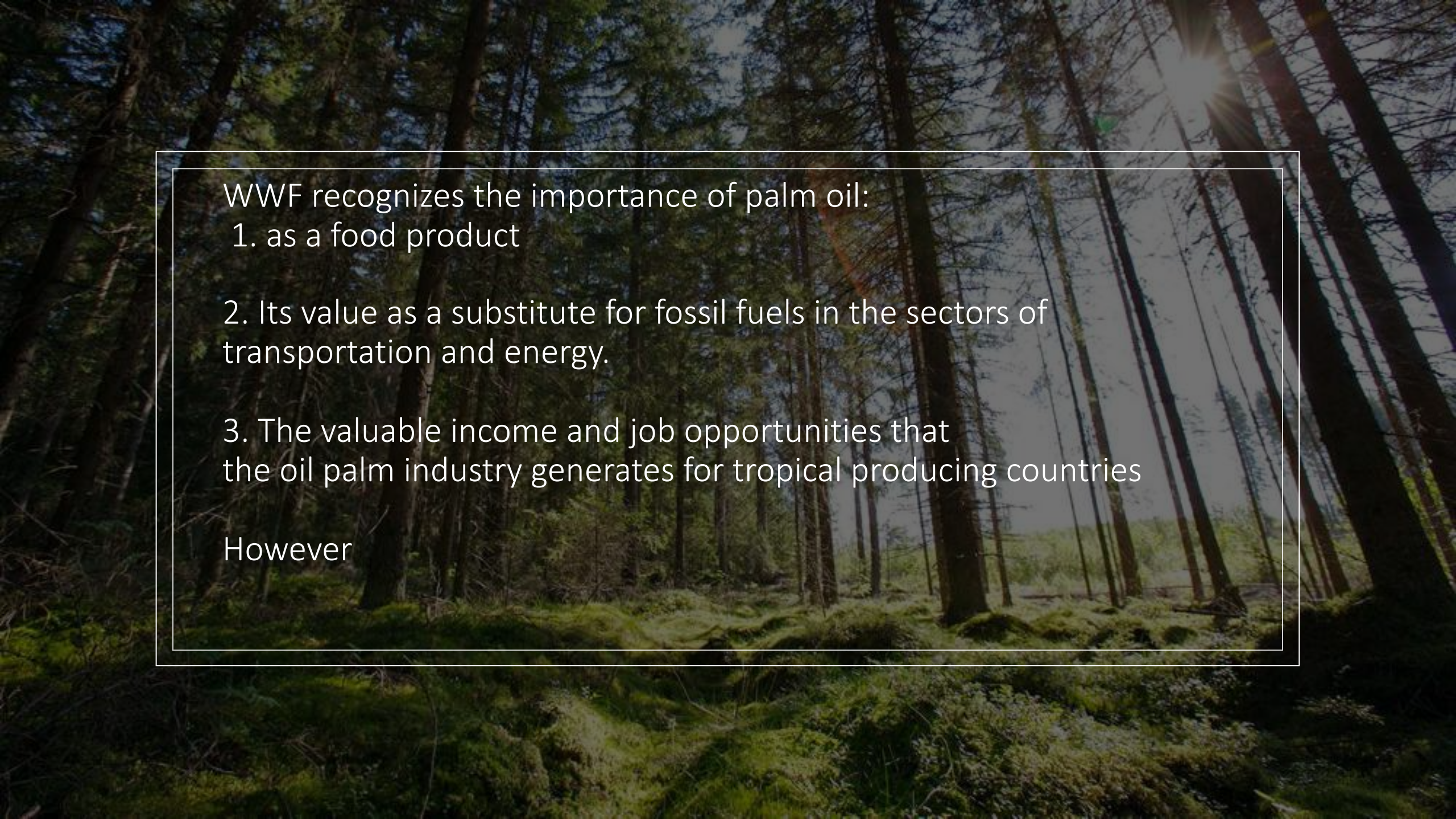
Biofuels: Sugar cane, soybean, palm oil, corn.....

Voluntary schemes help to ensure that biofuels are sustainably produced by verifying that they comply with the EU sustainability criteria. As such, the schemes check that:

production of biofuel feedstock does not take place on land with high biodiversity

land with a high amount of carbon has not been converted for biofuel feedstock production

biofuel production leads to sufficient greenhouse gas emissions savings



WWF recognizes the importance of palm oil:

1. as a food product

2. Its value as a substitute for fossil fuels in the sectors of transportation and energy.

3. The valuable income and job opportunities that the oil palm industry generates for tropical producing countries

However

An aerial photograph showing a hilly landscape with green vegetation and winding dirt roads. The terrain is uneven, with roads curving across the hills. The overall scene suggests a rural or undeveloped area.

WWF is concerned that palm oil will continue to expand and operate in an unsustainable manner

The growing demand for palm oil may be an incentive to:

- expand crops into natural ecosystems
- threatening areas with high conservation value (HCV)
- Expand to territories and livelihoods of populations that depend on forests

An aerial photograph showing a network of dirt roads winding through a landscape of green vegetation and brown soil. The roads are light brown and contrast with the darker green and brownish ground. The terrain appears to be hilly or uneven. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WWF seeks to prevent an increase in the production of palm oil for energy if it brings other effects such as shortages or increases in the price of food, or displacement from agricultural production to new areas of natural ecosystems

Our work in Mesoamerica:

WWF works with key commodities to minimize negative environmental impacts and ensure responsible production.

Oil Palm among our priorities:

- Deforestation driver

- Encroaching into protected areas

- Loss of Biodiversity

- Social issues

- Land Use Change (forest, wetlands)

Challenges

Biodiversity:

- The reduction of species and the high risk of extinction.
- Although the rate of habitat loss in Latin America and the Caribbean has slowed, this degradation remains high.
- Accelerated economic growth and high rates of social inequalities are putting pressure on the region's natural resources.
- Extensive livestock farming has been one of the most important drivers of this degradation.
- The extraction of resources for minerals and hydrocarbons has led to local devastation due to the reduction of forest cover and the contamination of water and land.
- Air pollution, both local and transboundary, affects human health and that of other species.
- The impacts of climate change such as ocean acidification accelerates the loss of life in coral reefs

Challenges:

Agricultural expansion continues to be the main driver of deforestation and forest degradation
With the associated loss of forest biodiversity.

Large-scale commercial agriculture (primarily cattle ranching and cultivation of soybeans and oil palm) accounts for tropical deforestation

Latin America and the Caribbean are home to almost 60% of the terrestrial life on the planet, along with a diverse marine and freshwater flora and fauna (UNEP, 2016)

Natural cover of this region, made up of biomes ranging from wetlands and desert to coastal ecosystems, to tropical forests, and savanna grasslands

Challenges:

Region	Forest in 1990 (km2)	Change 1990-2016
East Asia and the Pacific	6,280,253	2.24%
Europe and Central Asia	10,199,848	2.34%
Latin America and the Caribbean	10,242,342	-9.68%
Middle East and North Africa	199,293	16.47%
North America	6,507,240	1.02%
South of Asia	789,187	5.84%
Sub-Saharan Africa	6,515,615	-6.14%

An aerial photograph of a hilly landscape. The terrain is covered in dense green vegetation, likely scrubland or low-lying forest. Several winding dirt roads, appearing as light brown lines, crisscross the hills. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with some areas of the vegetation appearing slightly yellowed or brown, possibly due to dry conditions or the angle of the sun. The overall scene depicts a natural, somewhat rugged environment.

The conservation and sustainable management of forests within an integrated landscape approach is key to the conservation of the world's biodiversity and to food security and well-being of the world's people.

Sustainable production

a) Voluntary certification schemes

b) Agri-businesses should meet their commitments to deforestation-free commodity chains and companies that have not made zero deforestation commitments should do so.

WWF Mesoamerica is inviting the agro sector to commit to the Accountability Framework Initiative for conversion free commitments

<https://accountability-framework.org/#:~:text=the%20accountability%20framework%20supports%20the,other%20ecosystems%2c%20and%20human%20rights.>

• Sustainable production

c) Commodity investors should adopt business models that are environmentally and socially responsible. These actions will, in many cases, require a revision of current policies and financial incentives.

WWF Mesoamerica is inviting the agro sector and other stakeholders to commit to the Science Base Targets to meet the GHG Paris agreement

<https://sciencebasedtargets.org/>

An aerial photograph of a hilly landscape. The terrain is covered in dense green vegetation, likely scrubland or low-lying trees. Several winding dirt roads, appearing as light brown lines, crisscross the hills, following the contours of the land. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with some areas of the vegetation appearing slightly yellowed or brown, possibly due to dry conditions or the angle of the sun. The overall scene depicts a rural or undeveloped area with significant natural cover.

Commitments to AFI or SBTs will take time, in the meantime WWF promote the adoption of internationally accepted voluntary certification scheme that, with third party audits, proves compliance with sustainability milestones such as HCV, HCS, and Biodiversity and social impact assessments

An aerial photograph of a hilly landscape. The terrain is covered in dense green vegetation, likely scrubland or low-lying trees. Several winding dirt roads, appearing as light brown lines, crisscross the hills, following the contours of the land. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with some areas of the vegetation appearing slightly more yellowish or brownish, possibly due to the angle of the sun or the type of plants.

We need bioenergy, but with appropriate sustainability criteria to demonstrate emissions reduction

GRACIAS