INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE : DESTROYING THE PLANET

Major driver of resource use and environmental degradation

LIVESTOCK REVOLUTION: DEVELOPMENT OR DESTRUCTION

CIWF: 1999-2001

Detrimental impacts in socio-economic, health, environmental, biodiversity and animal welfare fields

Research & Advocacy
International & Country:
India, China, Thailand, South Africa and Brazil

Poverty & Livelihoods

WSPA
World Animal Protection
2007

Industrial Animal Agriculture - part of the poverty problem

Promoted by some international organisations, development agencies and national governments

- Devastating livelihoods of local family and small-scale farmers
- Destroys rural structures and communities (rural-urban migration/migration)
- Impact on food security (technology and import dependent)

“A battle is beginning to rage for control of farming in poor countries…

Farming increasingly dominated by large corporations, will leave the poor further marginalised…

Too little is done to help small farmers grow food in sustainable and organic ways.

False promises about ending hunger mean a fundamentally flawed approach to farming could rapidly take hold around the world, because of the lobbying and marketing power of the companies involved.”

Christian Aid

DEFORESTATION

Agriculture estimated to be the direct driver of around 80% of deforestation worldwide

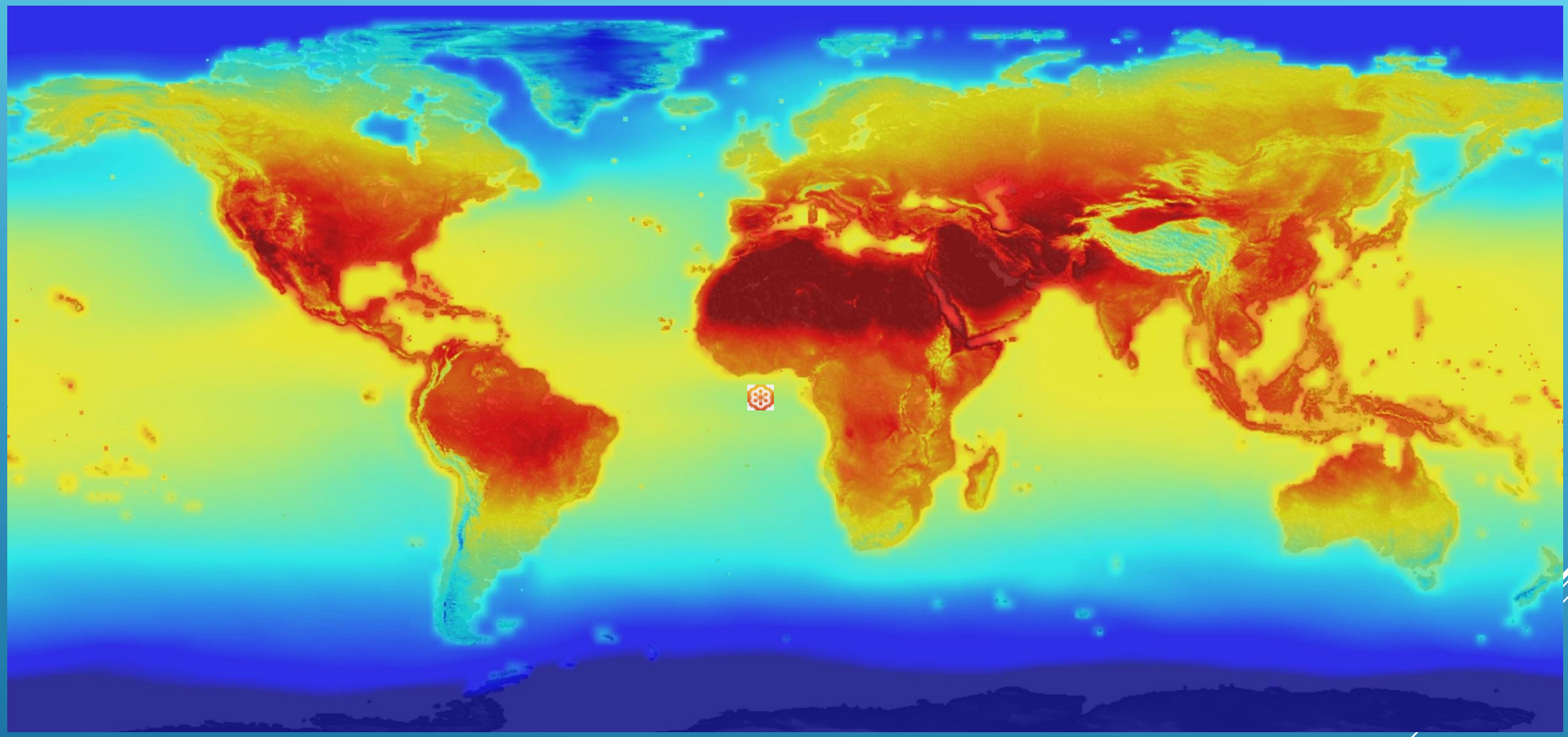
BIODIVERSITY

We have wiped our almost 70% of our wildlife since 1970

Drivers linked to agriculture account for 70 per cent of the projected loss of terrestrial biodiversity

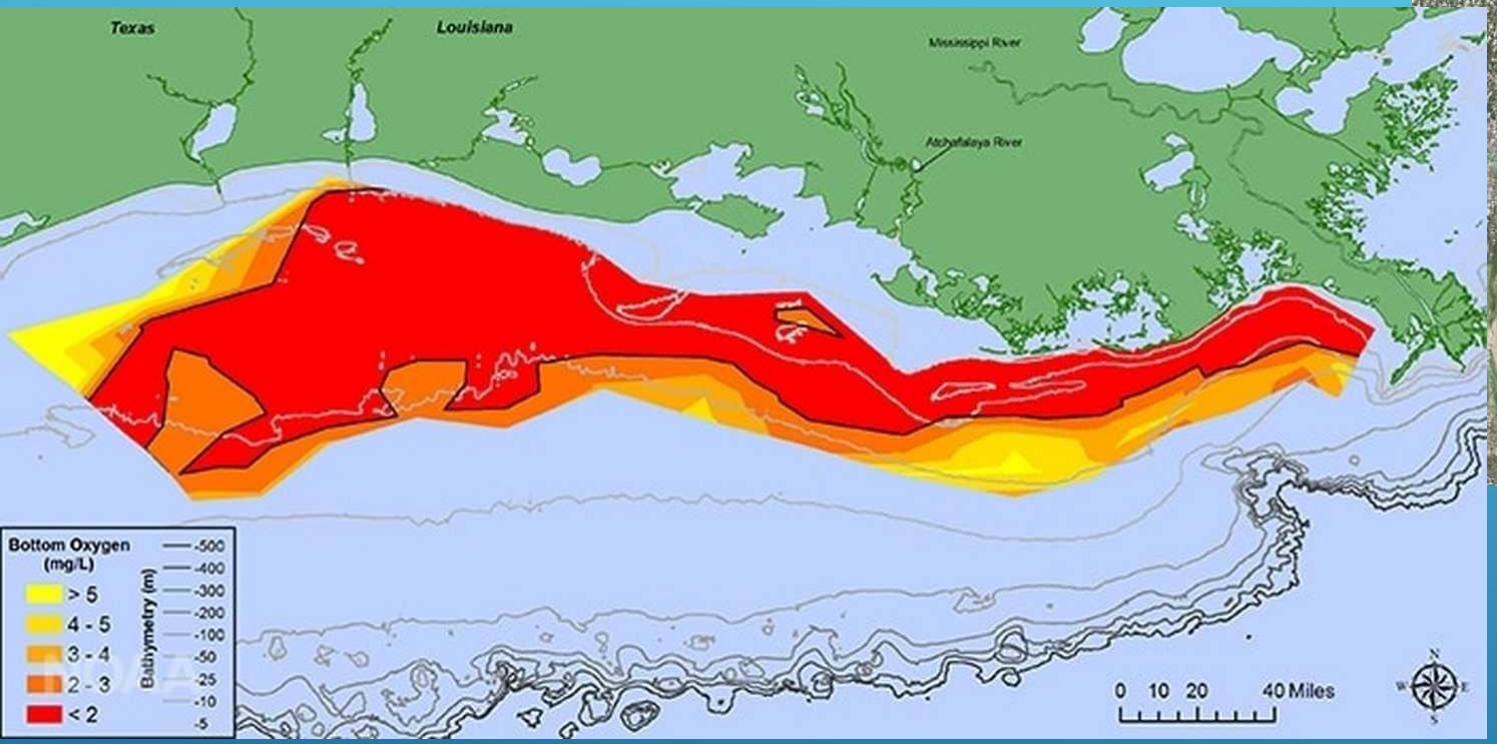
Global Biodiversity Outlook

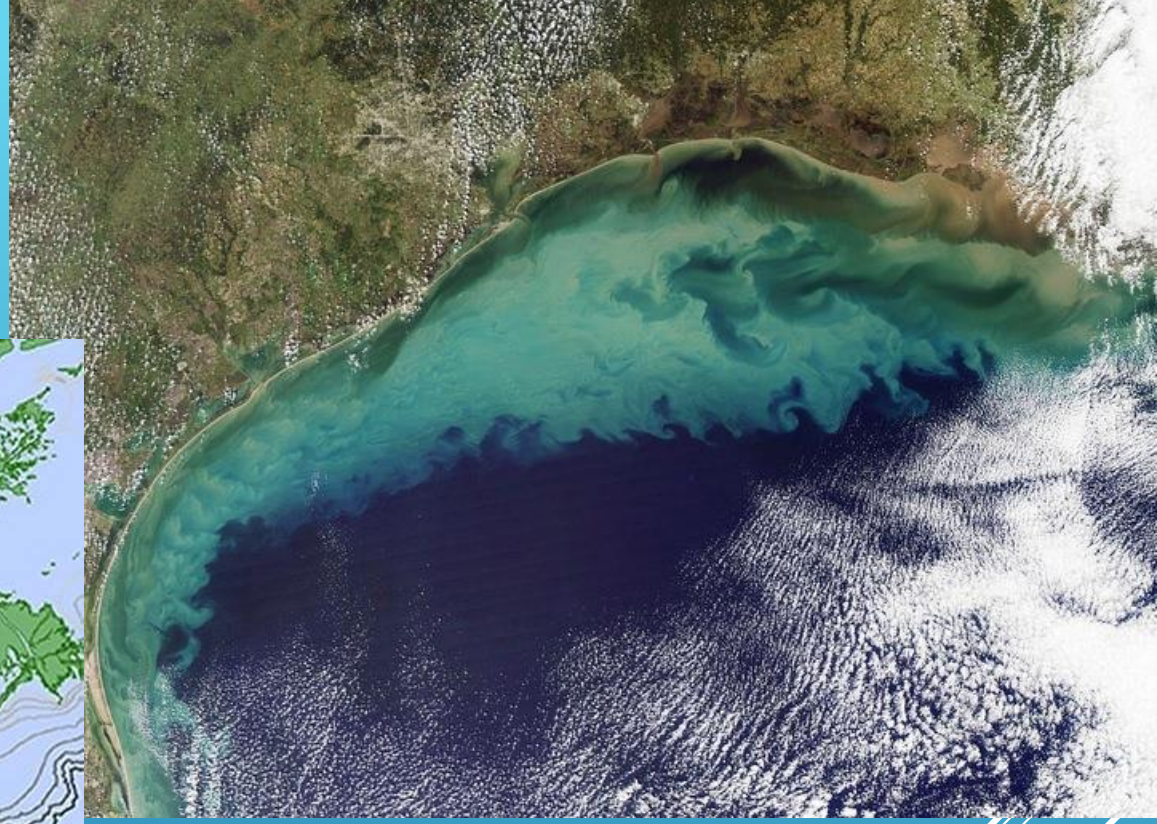
NASA GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE



Livestock - 14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions

DEAD ZONES IN OCEAN





Dead zones from farm run-off

E.g. Gulf of Mexico – size of Portugal

KNOWN AND PROVEN

- Brundtland Report 1983
- Rio Summit 1992

Principles: 2 – transboundary harm, 4 – environment in development, 8 reduce/eliminate unsustainable CP, 15 precautionary, 16 internalising costs

- FAO's "Livestock's Long Shadow" report (2006):

"The livestock sector has such deep and wide-ranging environmental impacts that it should rank as one of the leading focuses for environmental policy".

- UN website on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):

A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed

FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

- **Global Environment Outlook (GEO)**
- **IRP report on Food Systems and Natural Resources**
- **Global Biodiversity Outlook**
- **FAO: Future of Food and Agriculture**

in-depth coverage of serious resource use implications and destructive impacts of industrial food production.

Recognise the importance and urgency of addressing these in order to achieve the SDGs.

Need to transform food systems to achieve sustainability, and includes

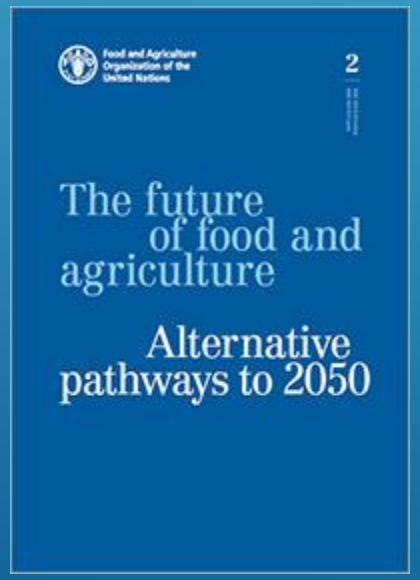
food waste

dietary change (including global convergence to moderate levels of calorie and meat consumption)

improved management of agriculture and aquaculture.

FAO: FUTURE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- ""“Business as usual” is no longer an option if the targets set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and specifically those directly concerning food and agriculture – are to be met



Unsustainable Consumption & Production

Joyce Msuya Tweet, 26 February:

"The way we produce food is not sustainable.

We need to integrate nature into decision making at every level to ensure food production does not destroy the basis on which it depends."

MAXWELL GOMERA, DIRECTOR OF UNE'S BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - BLOGS

"Our food systems need an overhaul."

"Agriculture emits more greenhouse gases than all our cars, trucks, trains, and airplanes combined. It consumes a whopping 70 percent of all freshwater on earth. Runoff from fertilisers pollutes lakes, rivers, and coastal ecosystems. Agriculture also causes approximately 80 percent of forest loss. *With human population growing and life expectancy increasing, these impacts are set to worsen*."

HEALTH PROBLEMS

Myriad of health problems

EAT-Lancet Commission Report on
Healthy diets from sustainable food systems
"Radical transformation"

Slashing current global red meat consumption in half
… while calling on developed countries
to cut back consumption by 80%.

PAYING THE PRICE

Pay **at least** three times for our food:

- Taxes: subsidies, policy work, development aid, export/trade promotion
- Social and environmental costs: resources, environmental degradation, waste, social and health costs etc.
- Cost of buying food itself

FIXING FOOD SYSTEMS

- DG of IFPRI, Dr. Shenngen Fan:

Mentions aspects such as:

- New and potentially transformative technologies, such as lab-grown meat to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and resource use.
- The need for meat taxes.
- Governments should eliminate subsidies for nutrient-poor foods and convert those funds to investments for more nutritious crops such as fruits and vegetables.

NEEDED

Over-consumption

Eat further down food chain

Cut down meat and dairy

Plant-based and cellular alternatives

Food waste (1/3)

Agro-ecological production (small-scale, local, humane)

Palatability: Need to address externalities - plus disincentives and incentives

What we need more than anything is **political will** and a **sense of urgency**