



BIODIVERSITY

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Biodiversity is underpinning our life support systems and wellbeing. As global biodiversity is lost, it becomes harder to deliver a sustainable future for all, so we must act urgently to stem the losses of species and ecosystems.

Agriculture is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss. Although there has been real progress in monitoring where forests are being cut down to make room for agriculture, we still lack the detail to inform more nuanced policy decisions.

Because of the complexity of life on earth, it's not possible to reduce biodiversity to a single, simple metric that we can include in national consumption-based accounts. We evaluated some of the biodiversity metrics and tools currently in use; these range from relatively simple representations of biodiversity, through to more complex - albeit still incomplete - ones.

We showcase a consumption-based account for Sweden's impacts on biodiversity that uses two simple representations of biodiversity impact to assess risks to species. These show us how the use and consumption of products in Sweden drives agricultural commodity production and its impacts on global biodiversity.

Using this kind of tool, we see that Sweden's international trade has significant environmental impacts around the world. These metrics give us a way to measure biodiversity impacts, so that we can design policies that effectively protect the natural diversity on which we all depend.

We recommend that Sweden moves ahead in the immediate term with incorporating simple, "fit for purpose", metrics of biodiversity impacts into their consumption-based accounts to allow biodiversity to enter into policy discussions and processes around trade and sustainability.

However, this is an active field of research, so we also recommend regular review to assess whether new data or metrics should be incorporated.

