



## EXPLORING THE FUTURES OF VEGETABLE OILS

Erik Meijaard – Co-chair, IUCN Oil Crops Task Force



- Task Force established in 2017 (Resolution 061)
- Currently 26 members, two co-chairs (with Malika Virah-Sawmy)



- 2018: Publication of Situation Analysis
- 2023: Study on **social, environmental and nutrition/health contexts** of all oil crops – which futures are better than others and what can we do to get there



## Oil palm and biodiversity

A situation analysis by the IUCN Oil Palm Task Force

Meijaard, E., Garcia-Ulloa, J., Shell, D., Wich, S.A., Carlson, K.M., Juffe-Bignoli, D., and Brooks, T.M.

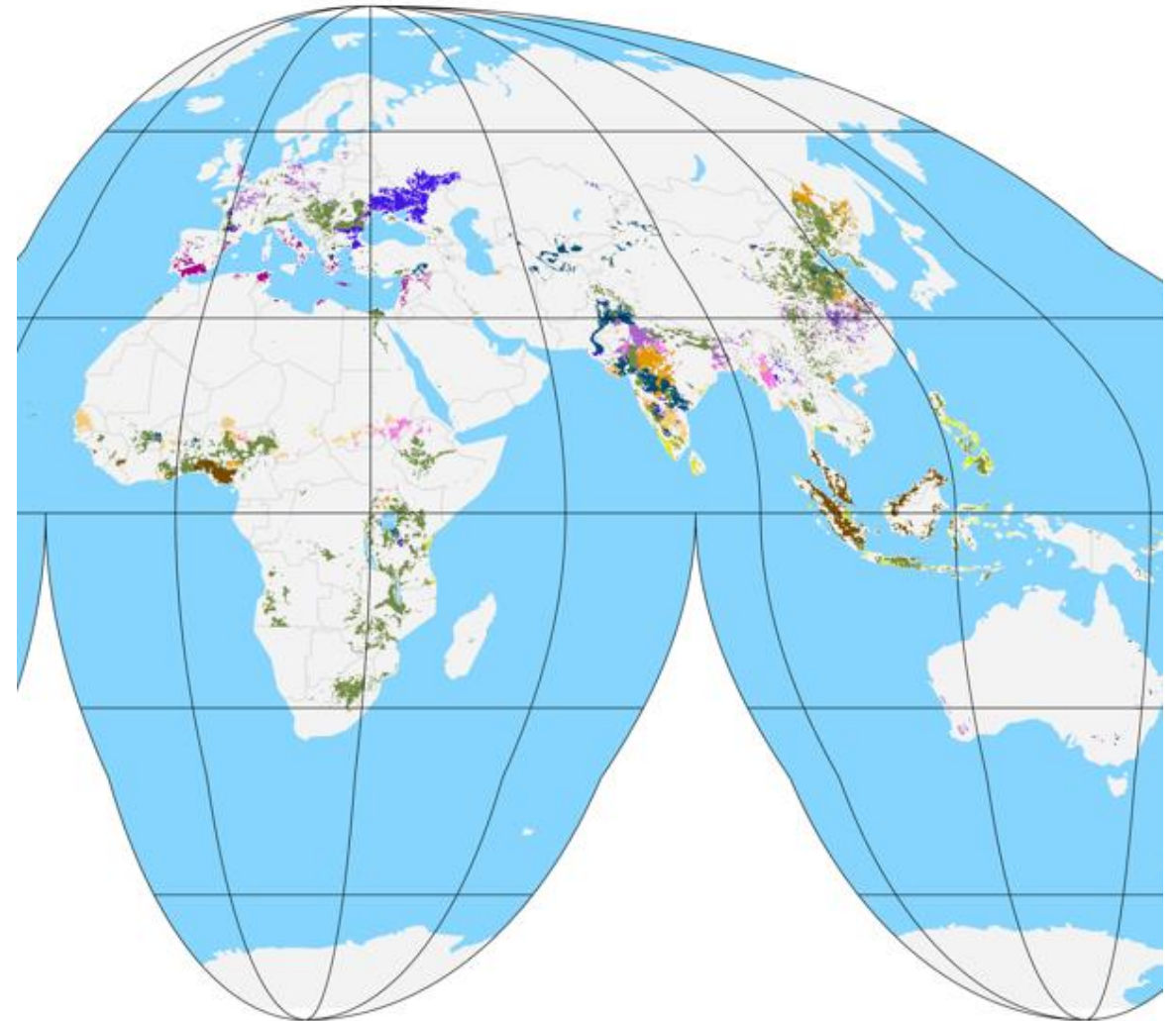
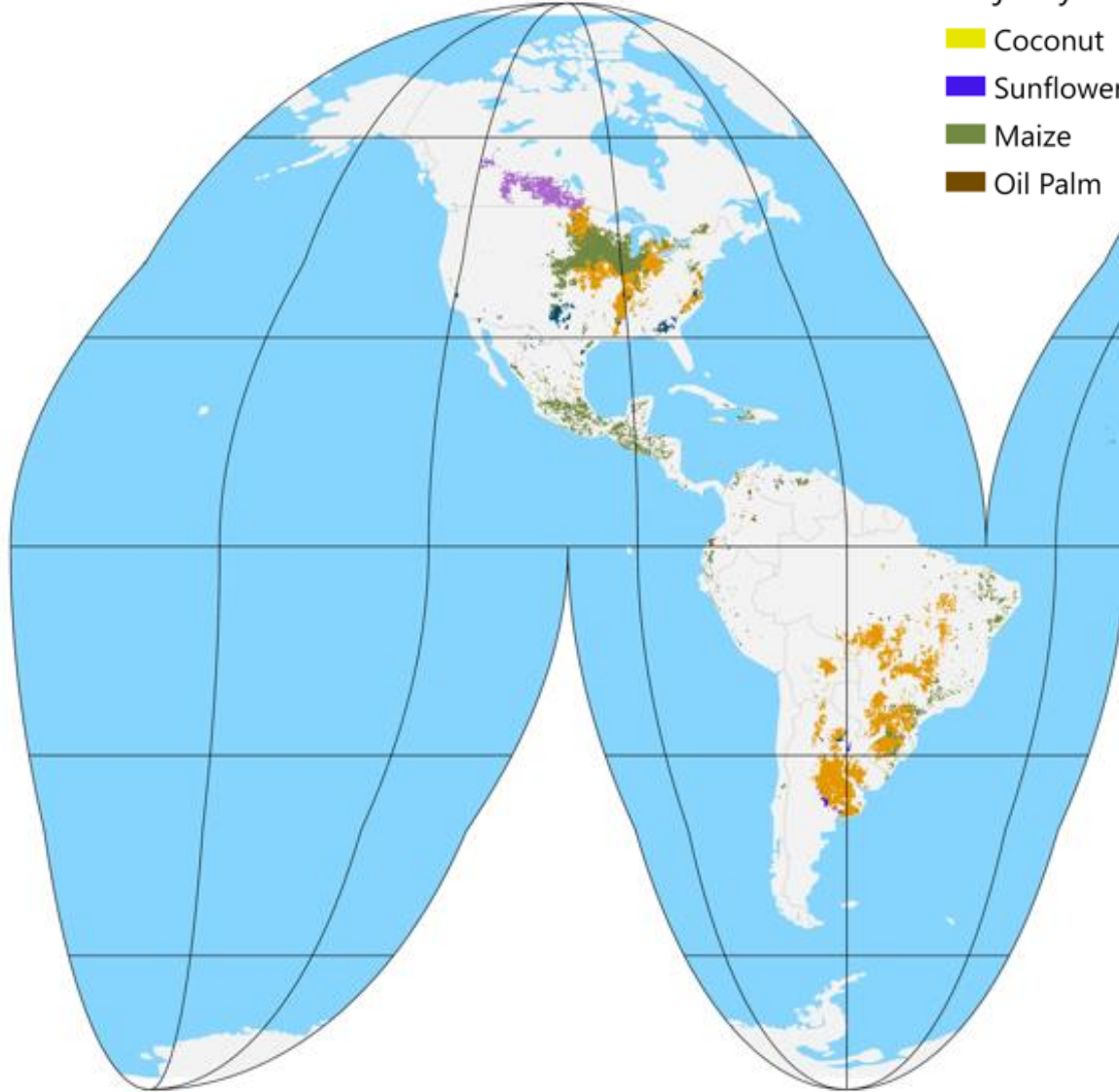


# Where oil crops are grown

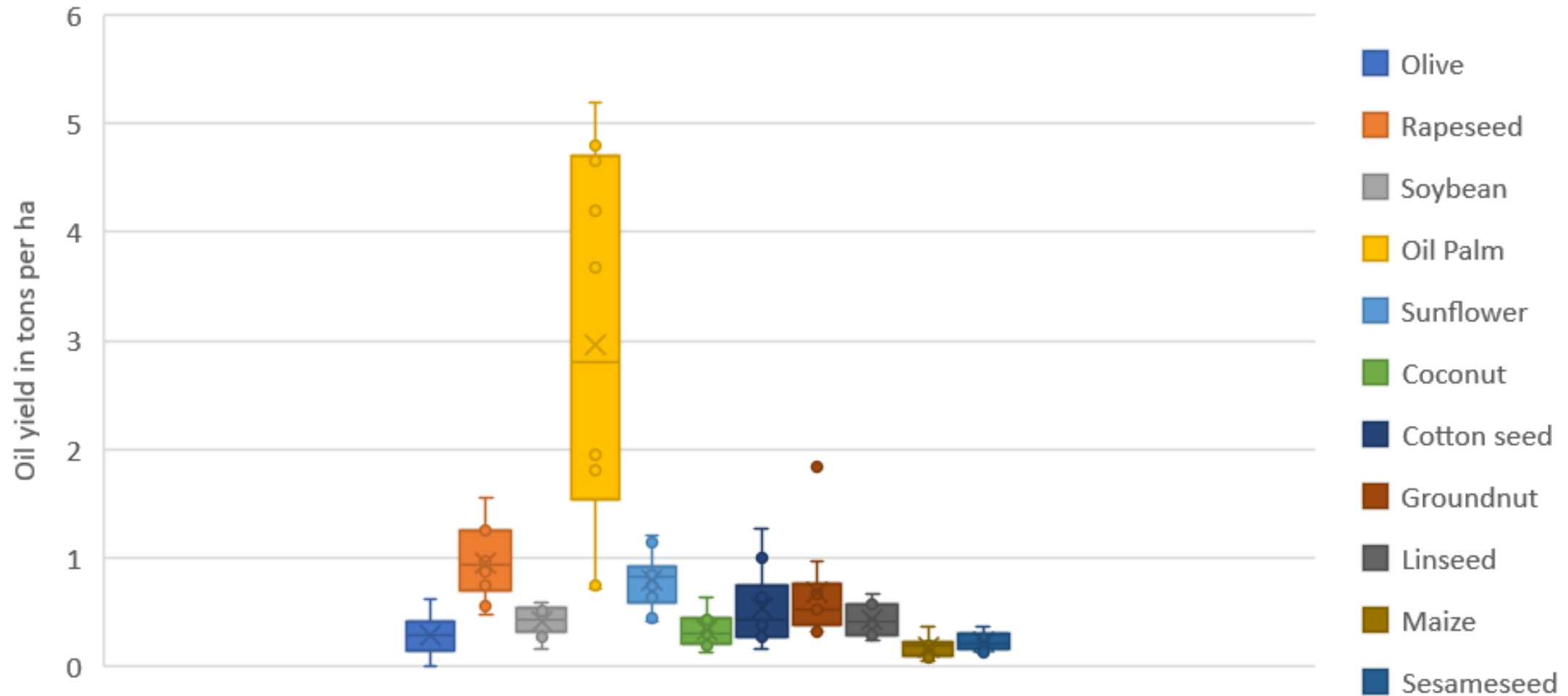
## Legend

Majority Oil Crop per 10km<sup>2</sup> Grid Cell (area coverage of >500 ha)

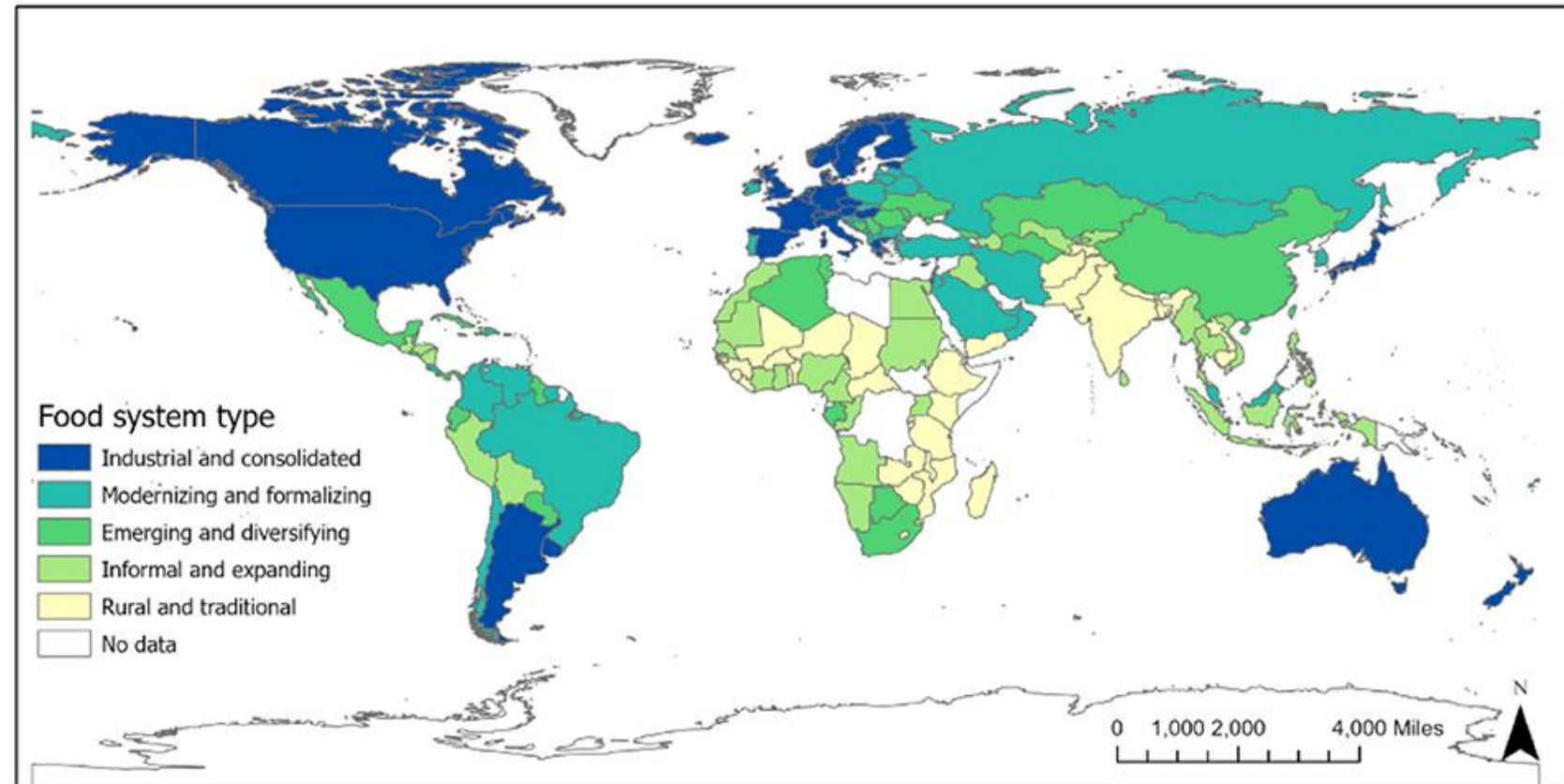
- |           |           |         |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Coconut   | Olive     | Sesame  |
| Sunflower | Rapeseed  | Cotton  |
| Maize     | Groundnut | Linseed |
| Oil Palm  | Soybean   |         |



## OIL CROP YIELD VARIATION FROM TEN LARGEST PRODUCER COUNTRIES



- Systems are more relevant than crops
- Futures analysis to identify desirable state in each food system or transformation between



- Determining boundaries between systems is tricky and somewhat arbitrary. Expert-driven process (Task Force members and other experts)
- Focus on recommendations. How can vegetable oil production be more sustainable?

- People need oils and fats. Oils will be produced, mostly in the tropics. This is where population growth is fastest. More people means more oil production.
- Vegetable oils are better than animal fats.
- Tree crops are better than annuals for the environment.
- Mixed crops and agroforestry are better for people and environment.
- It is good that the EU sets standards. But India, China and Pakistan are major importers....
- It is important that we maintain open dialogue with oil producing countries, especially smallholder producers.

