

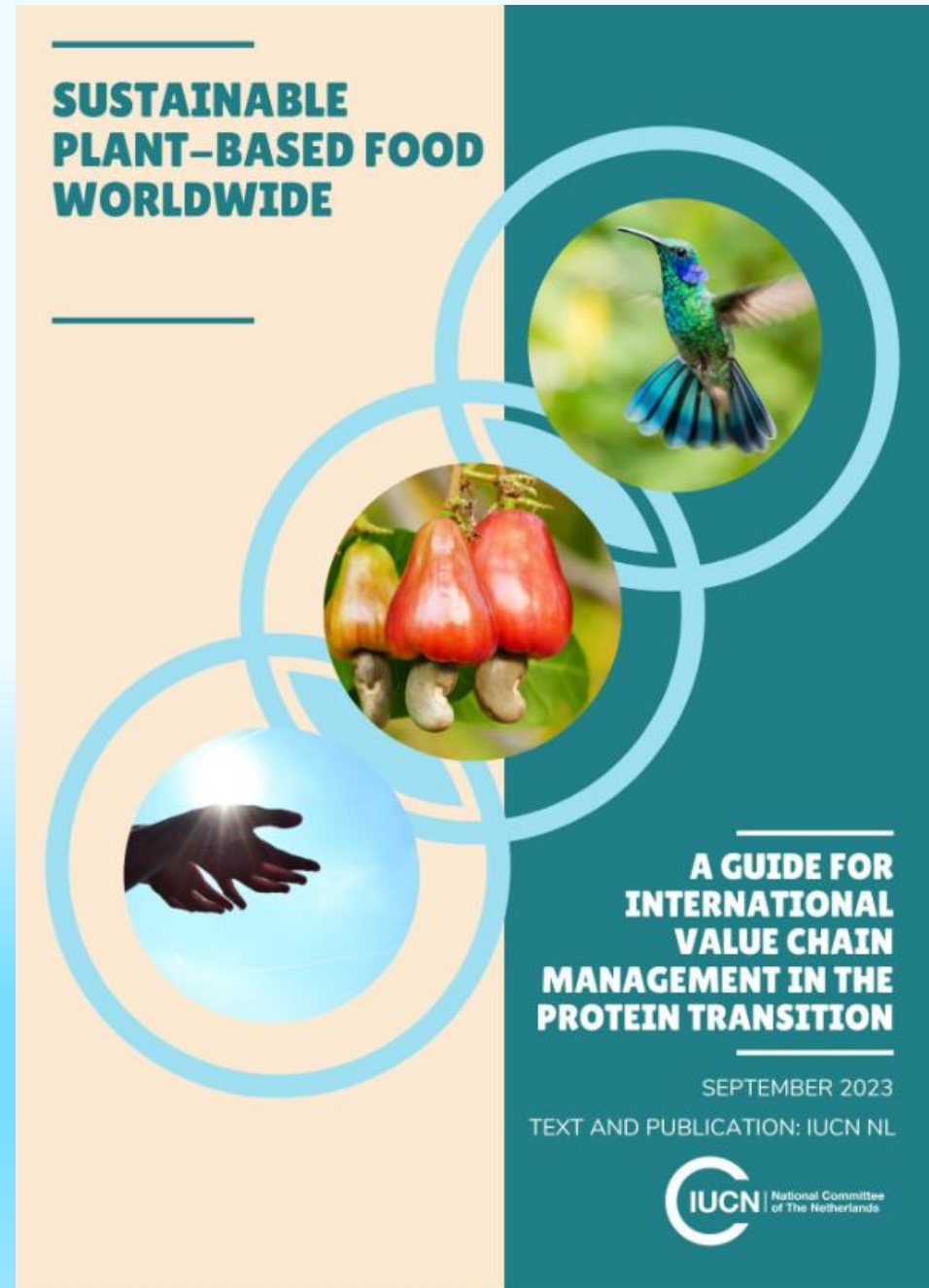
# **SUSTAINABLE PLANT- BASED FOOD WORLD WIDE**

A guide for international  
value chain management in  
the protein transition.

an invitation to read the  
publication by IUCN NL

A just world that values and conserves nature.

# Google and find:



# Perceptions or reality? Also plant based needs to be sustainably produced

Good checks are needed on sustainability for all origins and destinations of soy.... and 15 other value chains that play a role in the protein transition.



# Scaling up... sustainably

Prevention of damage is better than cure, especially if we want to scale up the protein transition towards (much) more plant-based food.

Chickpeas without child labour, soy without loss of nature, almonds without water depletion, and cashew nuts without pollution are just a few examples. In this guide, we cover 16 value chains. These are not all protein-rich chains (such as coconut), but are ingredients that play a role in vegetarian products to make them not only protein-rich, but also diverse, appealing and tasty.



# Origins and potential risks in 16 value chains

Almonds

Cashews

Coconut

Chickpeas

Cow beans,

Dry beans (aka kidney and white beans)

Fababeans

Hazelnuts

Lentils

Oats

Palm oil

Peas

Quinoa

Soy

Tapioca

Wheat

# Examples of risks found in the factsheets

- **Kidney beans and white beans**, deforestation risks (Brazil, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and India).
- **Almond drink** production, be alert to water depletion and a risk of growing use in chemicals in almond cultivation, and associated health risks to workers and (among others) bee populations (Spain, US).
- **Cashew nuts**: health risks (Vietnam, West Africa). Cashew shells and husks contain a toxic substance that can pollute water and soil, as well as cause serious health problems for workers, such as skin, eye and respiratory problems.
- **Hazelnut production**, there is a risk of abusive migrant labor and child labor with exposure to heavy labor and chemicals (Turkey)
- **Lentils or chickpeas** (from, say, India or Turkey). Alert to labor rights and child labor.
- **Coconut**, we find potential corruption or labor safety risks in the Philippines, among others, as well as deforestation in various origins the recent past

# Five minimum requirements for sustainability standards

1. Complying with the local law. Good ground control is often indispensable.
2. Care for nature. "No deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems" is a clear requirement, even if rigid.
3. Responsible agricultural practices. This means, for example, no use of chemicals or only responsible handling of chemicals, and a proper management of soil, water and waste. Is it in the requirements?
4. Fair labor conditions
5. Respectful relations with local residents.

# Guidance through label jungle

ISEAL, a platform for quality of which standards such as Fairtrade International and Rainforest Alliance are members, speaks on optimal requirements for sustainability standards<sup>8</sup>. Those who want to deploy a quality standard first check this website and the sustainability standards that meet the ISEAL standards.

Unfortunately, no organic standard can be found at ISEAL, while organic is so well known in the vegetarian and vegan sector. Organic standards have their own partnerships and even a standard established at the European level, but usually do not have the integral social and environmental requirements that ISEAL requires.

.An example of a standard that is useful in terms of soil management and chemicals is EU Organic but it does not pay any attention to deforestation, human rights or labor rights. For many of the international chains we examine this is inadequate



# Back to soy, some examples of policies

- **Vivera** buys non-GM soy, promotes European cultivation and also supports RTRS with certification in Latin America.
- **Schouten Europe** buys non-GM soy from various origins, but not from Latin America. However, they do support responsible soy production in Latin America according to RTRS standards to compensate their soy footprint. They also have broader due diligence policies, including on child labour, and are diversifying their protein sources.
- **Alpro** certifies its soy with ProTerra
- **Ojah, Mein Veggies Tag- The Wonder Chunks/ALDI, Vantastic Foods/EDEKA, Vemondo/LIDL, Lunter/EDEKA** use Donau Soja/Europe Soya certified soy ingredients in meat alternatives, tofu and more.
- **LikeMeat** uses organic soy.
- *(disclaimer : last year's info, some things may have changed)*

# Examples of additional landscape or social support

+extra care for health and safety, living wage support, education

+ restoring nature according to a landscape conservation plan in a sourcing area, collaborating with nature conservation organizations? → let us know!

Just do it or work on  
positive storytelling  
as well? We would  
love to hear.



# The full guidance, and 16 fact sheets to be found here:

<https://www.iucn.nl/en/publication/a-guide-for-international-value-chain-management-in-the-protein-transition/>

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