

ANZ Fertilizer Industry Conference 2013
Palmer Coolum Resort, Sunshine Coast,
15 October 2013

**The Environmental
Imperative & Actions:**

Fertilizer and the Great
Barrier Reef

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WWF

Where are we coming from?



WWF IN BRIEF

+100

Active in over
100 countries on
5 continents



+5000

More than
5,000 staff
worldwide

1961

Founded
in 1961

+5M

Over 5 million
supporters globally

Photo: © Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon

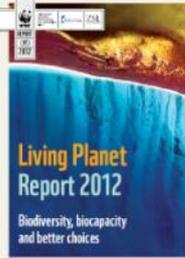
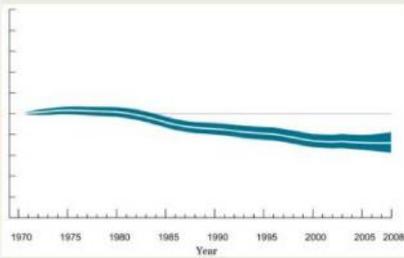


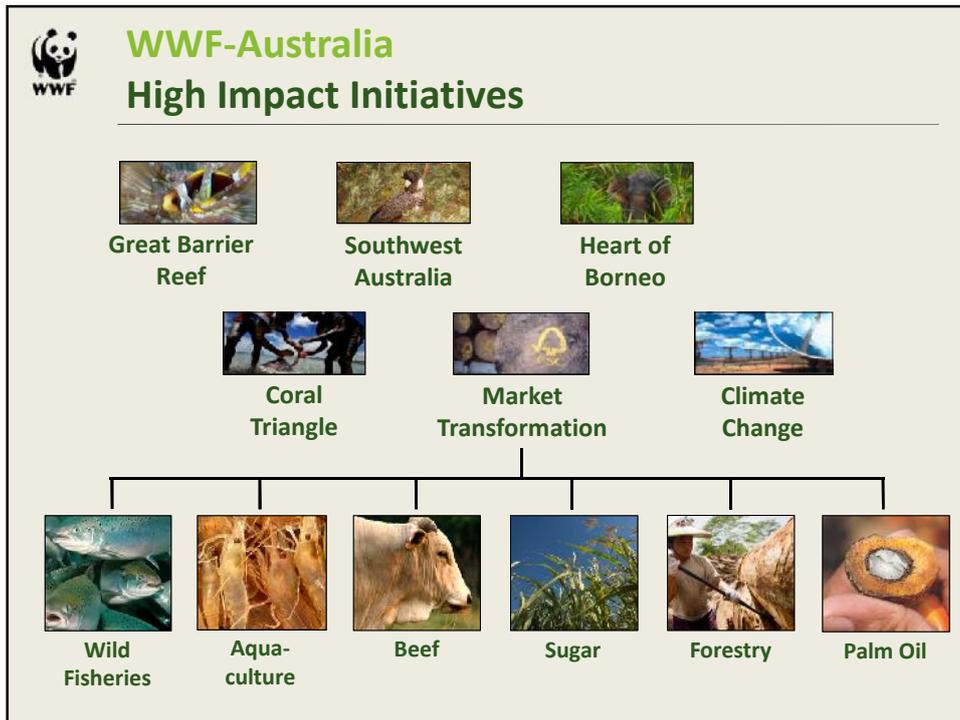
WWF Conservation Strategy

Stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity
- Ensuring that use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

Global Living Planet Index (LPI)



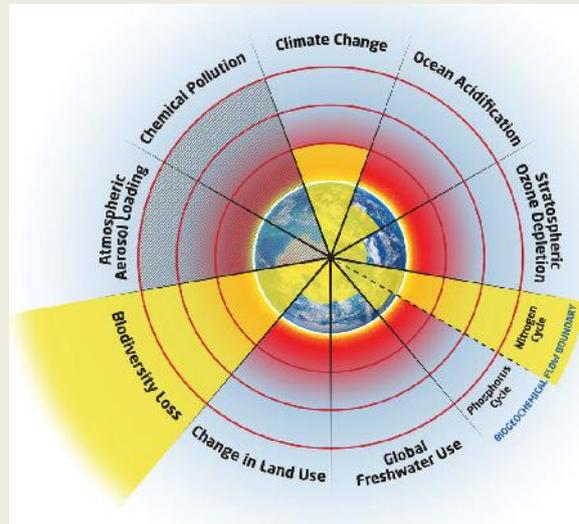
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Why are we interested in fertilizer?





Growing awareness of planetary boundaries



“Human activities now convert more atmospheric nitrogen into reactive forms than all of the Earth's terrestrial processes combined...”

Fertilizer production and application is the main concern.”

Source: <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/21/research/research-programmes/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries/about-the-research/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html>

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Increasing impacts of fertilizer misuse

- Anoxic ‘dead’ zones in Gulf of Mexico, algal blooms in Baltic Sea, China, Mediterranean, Murray-Darling, NZ rivers, etc.
- NO_x is a potent greenhouse gas
- And the decline of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR)





How excess fertilization damages the GBR

- Fertilizer in farm runoff (“N surplus”) increases Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
- DIN feeds microalgae
- Microalgae feed Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) larvae
- Leads to higher frequency of COTS outbreaks
- COTS estimated to have caused ~40% of coral cover loss since 1985
- Increased algae also reduces light availability, depresses corals, sea grass and other species

Source: Scientific Consensus Statement (2008, 2013); De'ath et al. (2012); Furnas (2003)

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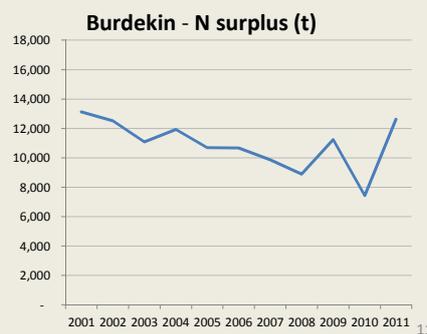
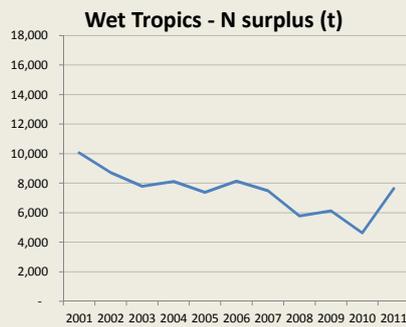
Where to from here?





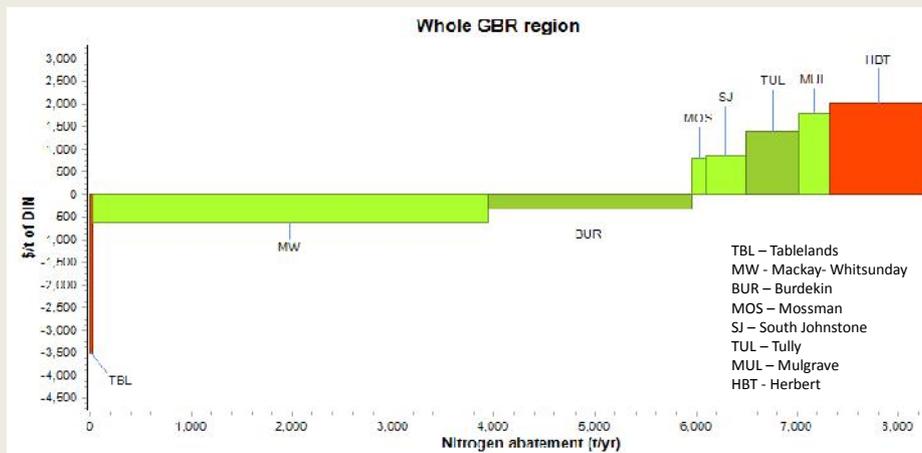
How can we reduce the N surplus?

- Potential to cut N pollution up to 50% by moving from current 'best practice' to N application rates based on 15-year block yield averages
- Increase efficiency of fertilizer use (kg N / t cane)



Looking for cost-effective change

Relative costs and potential magnitude of Nitrogen abatement (Stuart Whitten et al., 2013, CSIRO)





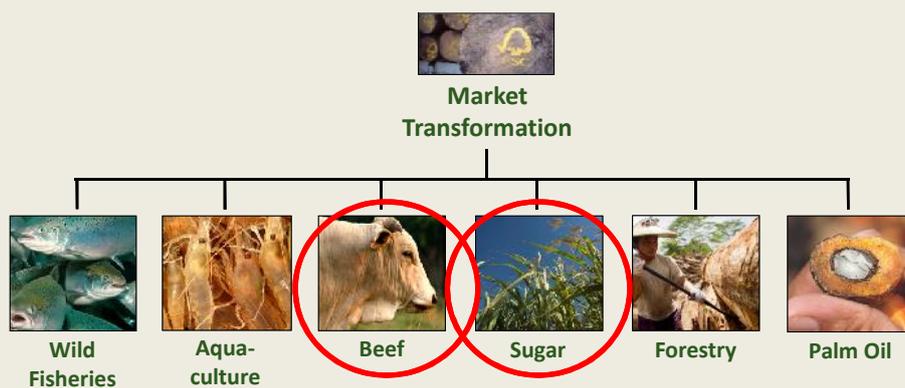
Solutions – require partnership

- Government
 - all levels
 - Industry
 - entire value chain
 - Academia
 - research & teaching
 - Civil society
 - NGOs, peak bodies
 - Consumers
 - Media
- Set SMART targets
 - codes of practice/standards
 - continuous improvement
 - Encourage change
 - extension support
 - targeted incentives/taxes
 - Research new methods
 - on-farm & in-laboratory
 - Ensure good governance of decision-making processes
 - transparent, independent
 - inclusive, efficient
 - Monitor, evaluate & report

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What can WWF offer?



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Market Transformation Strategies

1. Roundtables, certification and multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs)
2. One-on-one corporate engagement
3. Private sector finance
4. Public policies (e.g. incentives, regulations)
5. Consumer work and campaigns
6. Research and development
7. Best management practices (BMPs)



Corporate commitments to sustainable sourcing (a few examples)



100% sustainable sourcing of paper products



100% sustainable sourcing of all agricultural raw materials by 2020

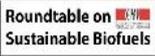
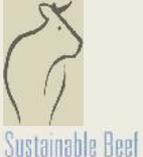


Committed to trading 100% sustainable palm oil by 2015, in US/EU, and globally by 2020



100% of top 20 wild-caught seafood products are sourced from sustainable fisheries, or from fisheries on a pathway to sustainability, by 2015

 **How to prove that production is sustainable?
The role of voluntary standards**

<u>Mature</u>	<u>Developing</u>	<u>Emerging</u>
  	    	

 **Market uptake of WWF-supported standards
(Percent as of August 2013)**

Commodity	% of Market Certified	Standard	Commodity	% of Market Certified	Standard
Timber	14.25%	FSC	Tuna	12.7%	MSC
Pulp & Paper	6.6% (virgin) 53.4% (recycled)	FSC	Whitefish	52.9%	MSC
Soy	0.4%	RTRS	Farm Salmon	0%	ASC
Palm Oil	16.4%	RSPO	Farm Shrimp	0%	ASC
Cotton	4%	BCI	Dairy	NA	none
Sugar	2.6%	Bonsucro	Beef	NA	none
Biomaterial	<3%	RSB			

 **Partnership in practice:
Project Catalyst** 



<http://reefcatchments.com.au/land/project-catalyst/>

