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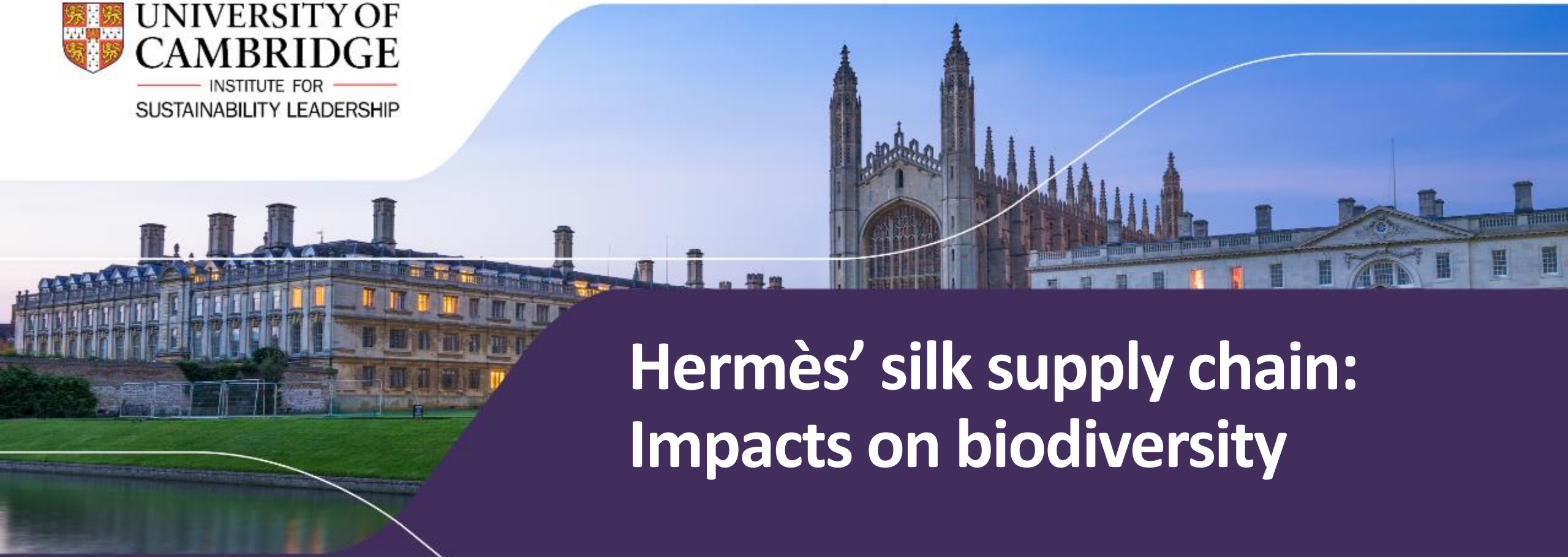


Hermès' silk supply chain: Impacts on biodiversity

Overview

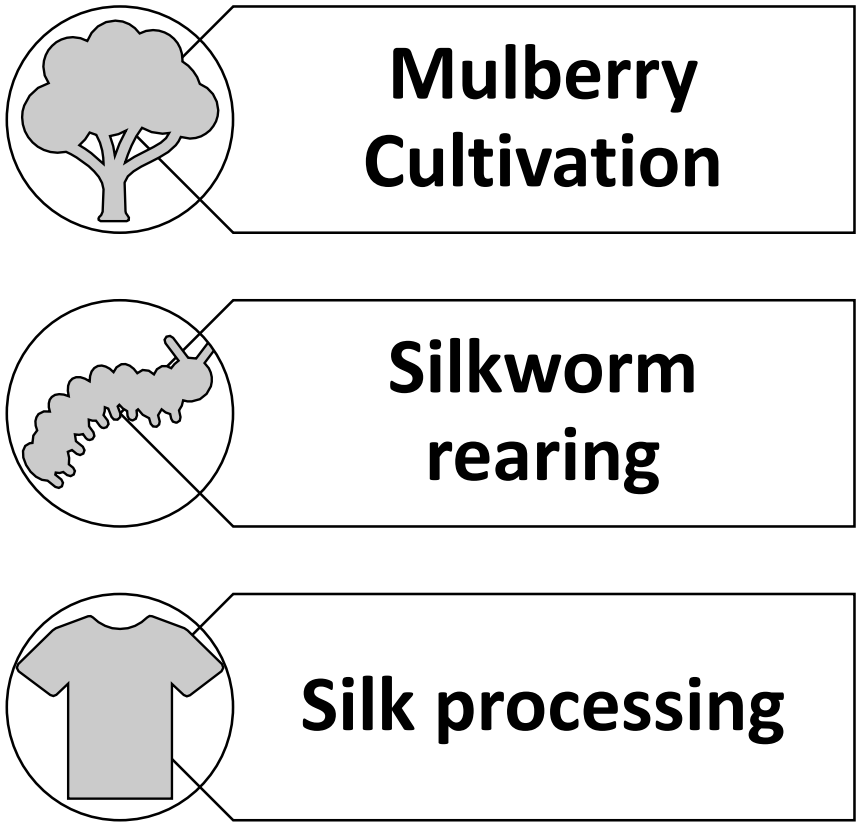
Assess Hermès' current supply chain management approach for silk with regards to biodiversity impacts

Aims:

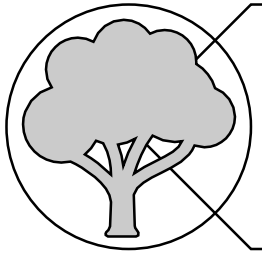
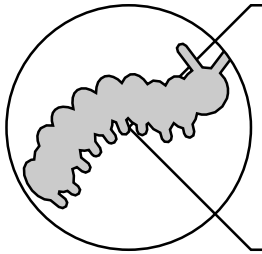
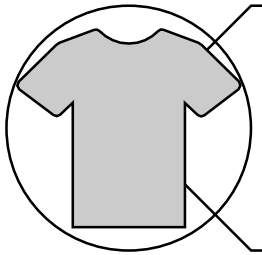
- Undertake an academic review of and expert consultation regarding silk production approaches both positive and negative for biodiversity
- Assess Hermès current interventions via questionnaire
- Identify possible additional interventions/prioritisation of interventions that could be appropriate for Hermès' silk supply chains.

Scope

A focus on the production stages:

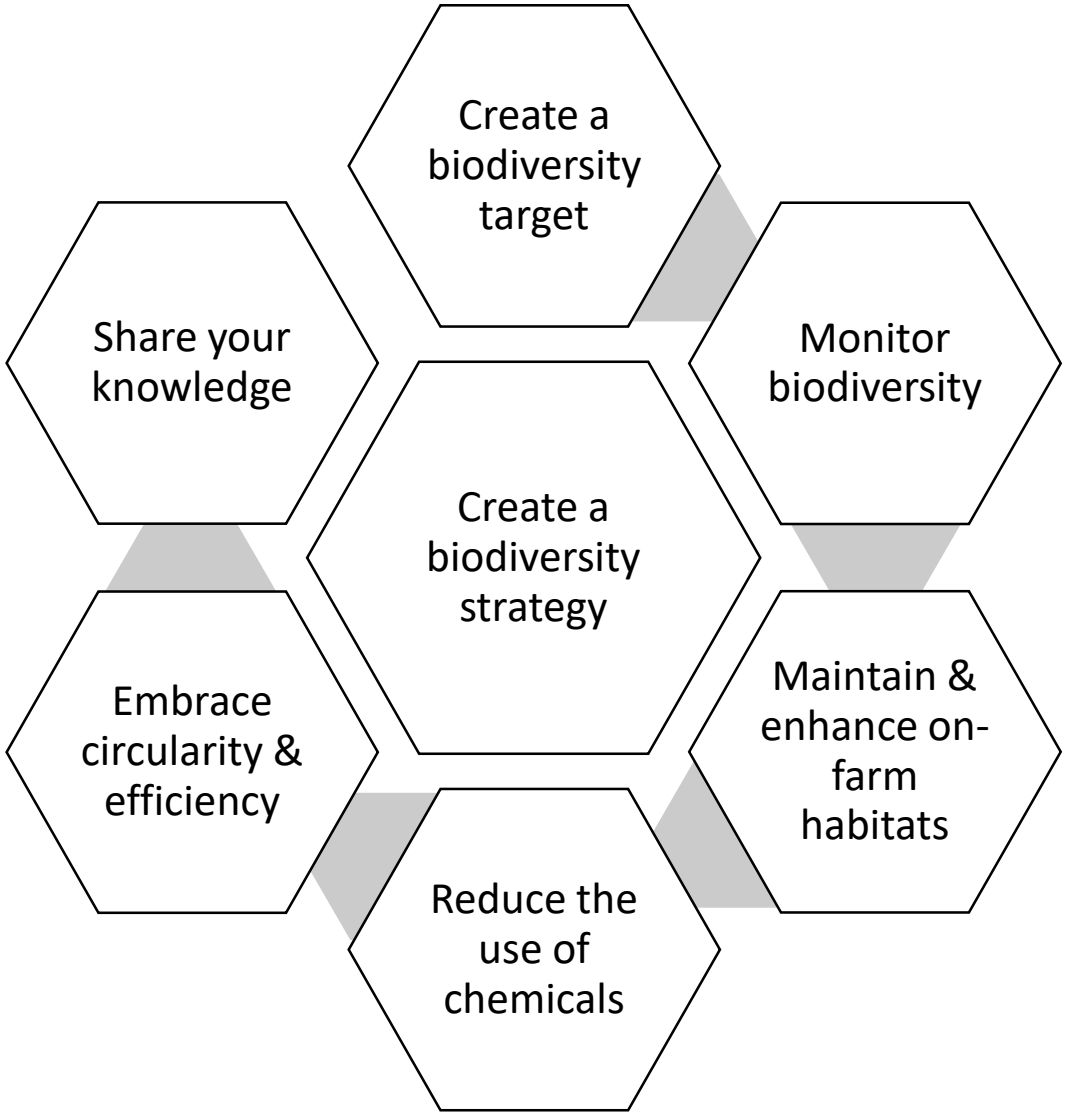


Potential Impacts of Silk Production

	Potential threat to biodiversity*	Degree of impact in Hermès supply chain	Positive interventions in Hermès supply chain
 **Mulberry Cultivation**	Land use change Pollution Invasive species	Limited	No loss of natural habitat Compliance with legal requirements for habitat reserves on farm Farming techniques adopted to conserve soils & reduce chemicals on mulberry farms & wider landscape
 **Silkworm rearing**	Land use change Pollution	Limited	Circular approaches embraced for resources, resulting in efficient use of mulberry and cocoons. Chemical pollution carefully managed, research undertaken to minimise application
 **Silk processing**	Land use change Pollution	Limited	Reforestation area managed to provide wood for heating water. Circular approaches embraced for water use and to reduce cocoon waste. Chemical pollution carefully managed

*As defined by the IPBES Drivers of Biodiversity Loss. Note: Direct exploitation of organisms – Not applicable; Climate change – Considered elsewhere

Recommendations



We consider that silk production is Brazil can be celebrated for its positive environmental benefits. However, there is still potential to create greater benefits for the biodiversity that persists in the Atlantic Forest region

Recommendations for Hermès silk sourcing (SBTN framework)

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Avoid	• Avoid sourcing from farms and systems where environmental impacts such as deforestation and chemical pollution are occurring. • Avoid any harm to remaining forest fragments, ponds and riparian areas within the silk farms and surrounding areas. • Avoid discharging any chemicals into the environment.
Reduce	• Embrace circular approaches to water and other resource use. Particularly as climate change increases the need for irrigation. • Minimise waste in the harvesting of the mulberry leaves. • Reduce the use of fertilisers in mulberry cultivation. • Reduce the use of other chemicals in silk production.
Restore & Regenerate	• Restoration of degraded areas and formation of ecological corridors in silk production areas. • Restoration of Permanent Preservation Areas (riparian zones, springs, hillsides and ridge tops) and conservation set-asides (known as Legal Reserves), which are required on all rural lands, through agroforestry practices. • Manage Eucalyptus woodlots for biodiversity by including native tree species. • Monitor soil biodiversity and adopt restorative approaches where needed.
Transform	• Work with the fashion industry to define environmentally acceptable standards for silk production. Sharing a roadmap for achieving a nature-positive silk supply chain. • Share knowledge on circular approaches to silk production. • Promote conservation of biodiversity in landscapes surrounding silk production areas through actions to reduce pesticide use and promote reforestation, for example, supporting research and engaging with the wider farming community and policy makers. • Invest in research to find even more efficient ways of producing silk by reducing key dependencies on water and chemicals

Expert Group Acknowledgements

Hermès

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