



VALUING NATURE

Soil natural capital valuation needs for agri-food businesses

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The importance of soil

- Food provision
- Water regulation
- Support biodiversity
- Nutrient cycling
- Climate regulation



Soil in agriculture

- Soils are a key asset - vital component of agrifood business
 - Medium for plant growth
 - Nutrient and water availability
 - Crop productivity
- Management of soils changing soil health
- Soil value is often overlooked
 - Flows of ecosystem services to economic benefits are not direct
- As a result over half of agricultural soils are degraded



Soil issues

- Erosion
 - Decreasing soil depth and reducing soil function
- Decrease in SOC
 - Reduced water storage capacity
 - Carbon source
- Compaction
 - Reduced water storage
- Excess nutrients and pollution
 - Fertilizer runoff
 - Heavy metal pollutants
- Salinisation
 - 20% irrigated land threatened by salinization
- Desertification

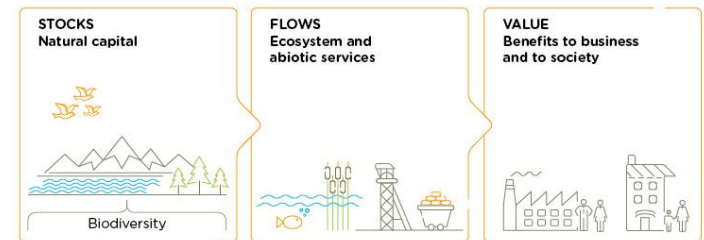


The need for soil natural capital

- We need to manage soil sustainably to ensure future food provision
 - Changing climate will increase existing pressures on soils
- Knowledge of soil natural capital is poor
 - We don't understand the current value of soil stocks
 - Limited understanding of complex flows of ecosystem services
- No standardised metrics for measuring/monitoring soil stocks

Addressing the call

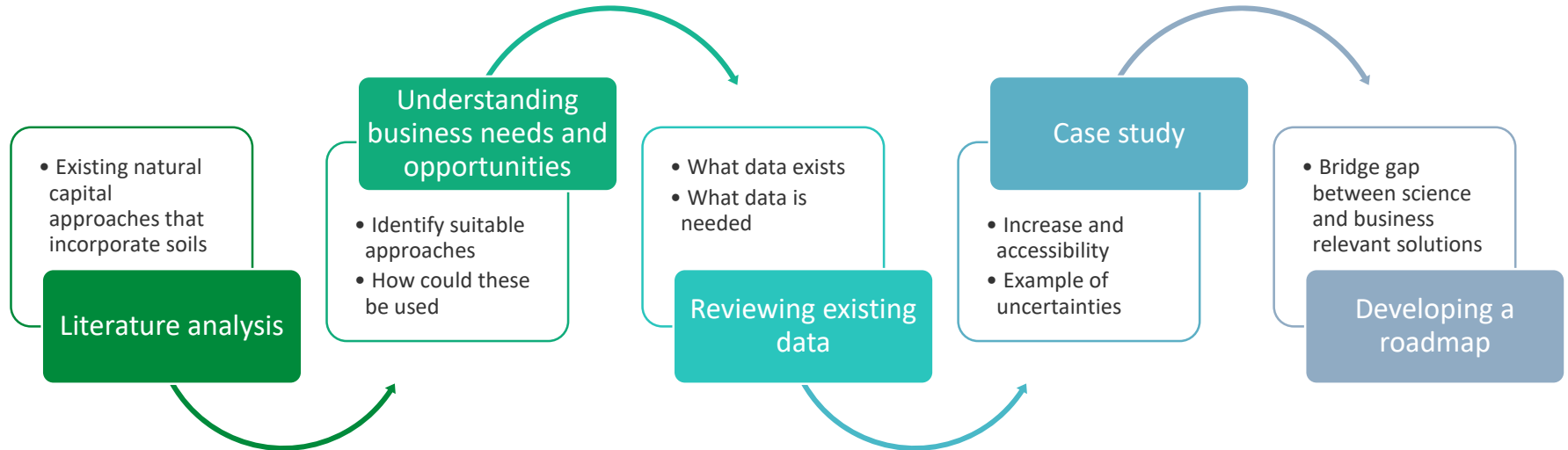
- Pathways between soil as a natural asset, and benefits to humans within the agri-food sector
- Business needs
 - How is soil natural capital currently accounted for?
 - What is needed to integrate soil natural capital in decision making?
- Roadmap for soil natural capital valuation
 - What currently exists?
 - What is needed?
 - Recommendations for future research



Aims of the project

- Summarise the current state of knowledge surrounding soil natural capital valuation relevant to the agri-food sector
- Identify key gaps in this knowledge that should be addressed by further research and collaboration

Methods



User engagement



- Project partner Olam International – agri-business operating from seed to shelf in 70 countries.



- February meeting in London to discuss business needs
- Workshops in March with crop specific focus to discuss soil natural capital roadmap

Reporting

- Synthesis report
 - Current state of knowledge
 - Required future direction
- White paper document
- Wider external engagement
 - WBCSD
 - Natural Capital Coalition



World Business Council for
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Thank you

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