

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift van Chih-Ching Lan

1. Global forest governance should include the adjacent agricultural sector and form a broader landscape or land use governance concept.
2. Palm oil has the highest yield per hectare among all vegetable oil crops and it is one of the most economical options for people in burgeoning countries. Nevertheless, this research does not claim that the production of palm oil should be encouraged more than other vegetable oils or that palm oil is a “good” oil.
3. The recent trend of “reposition of producer countries in the global value chains” goes beyond the traditional NGO-producer competition but involves a complex North-South divide in international environmental politics.
4. Despite the long term effects of legality schemes on private sustainability standards, the good governance of the producer countries would anyway have to start from the legality threshold and gradually increase their stringency.
5. Forest transition that occurred in countries is in general accompanied with land-use displacement abroad. Local level policies to regulate deforestation are, although necessary, definitely not sufficient to halt tropical deforestation at a global scale.
6. To tackle tropical deforestation, measures from all fronts need to be taken simultaneously: rigid land use planning and enforcement, sustainable yield intensification, private sector’s investments and improved sourcing practices, increase in sustainably produced commodities demand, reducing overall consumption of tropical forest risk commodities, dietary shift, population planning, and possibly an overall transformation in the global food production system.
7. The majority of export-oriented agricultural commodities are luxury and leisure goods that benefit little to global food security but have significant negative ecological impacts.
8. Tropical deforestation risk commodities that are linked to health issues, such as meat and fat, should be regulated by public health policy.
9. Heavy taxes or control on meat and dairy products and (ultra-)processed foods are not only a necessary means to avoid catastrophic ecosystem collapse but also critical to solving global human health crisis.
10. The amount of natural resources is finite and there are physical limits to how efficiently humans can use resources. Technology advancement is not the solution, especially when coupled with rebound effects. To decouple economic growth and natural resource consumption under the framework of sustainable development and green growth are wishful idealistic myths.
11. Welcome to the age of Anthropocene to witness and participate in the ongoing global biological annihilation and the sixth mass extinction. Enjoy!