

#### THE TRUE COST AND TRUE PRICE OF FOOD STUDY

#### Science Group for the UN Food Systems Summit

Food price data Environmental impact data Health impact data Valuation data Diet scenarios Trade data



Impact of dietary

shifts

Food expenditure Environmental costs Costs to human life (unhealthy diets)

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Figure 6. Costs and benefits of potential dietary shifts

REF= Healthy Reference diet, PSC = pescatarian, VEG = vegetarian and VGN = vegan diets.

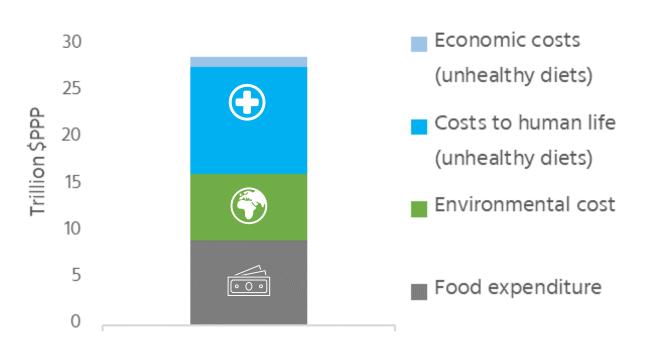
Figure 1. The annual true cost of food for the globe

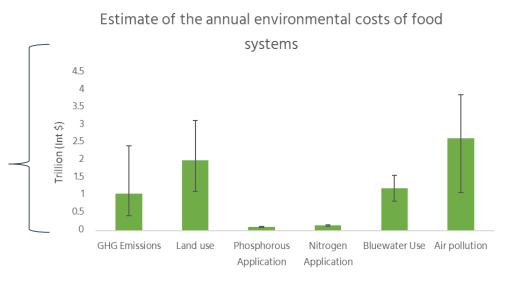
Note: the bar represents the range of possible costs.



## THE STUDY SHOWS HOW MUCH THE CURRENT FOOD SYSTEM ERODES NATURAL CAPITAL AND HEALTH

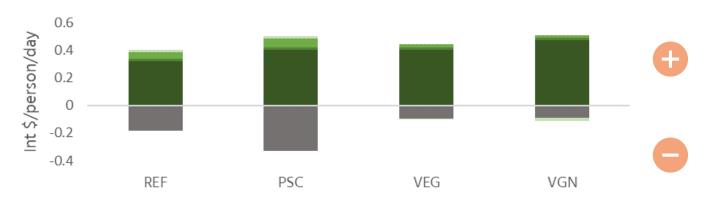
#### ESTIMATE OF THE ANNUAL TRUE COSTS OF FOOD

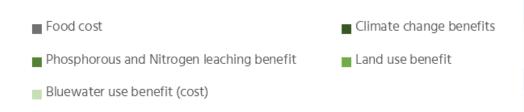




## DIETARY SHIFTS CAN REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF THE FOOD SYSTEM

Environmental benefits and additional costs of dietary shift compared to benchmark diet





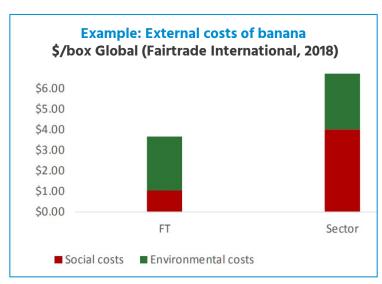
Benchmark	Current average diet
REF	Switch to EAT Lancet reference diet
PSC	Switch to pescatarian diet
VEG	Switch to vegetarian diet
VGN	Switch to vegan diet

## EXTERNALITIES ARE A BARRIER TO HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE DIETS FOR ALL

- Food prices do not take benefits of affordable or healthy food into account, nor costs of unhealthy or unsustainable food
- Business' profits do not reflect the value they create or reduce for society
- GDP contribution of food system does not reflect its contribution to welfare

#### As a result:

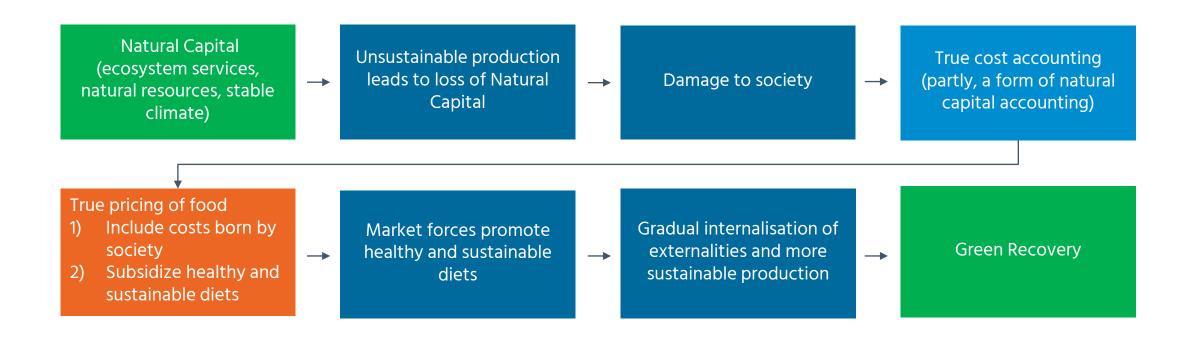
- Sustainable & healthy food is too expensive
- Unsustainable & unhealthy food is too cheap



#### **HOW TO IMPROVE DECISION MAKING?**

- Difficult to realize transition to sustainable food system as long as true costs and benefits are externalised.
- Proposed strategy to address externalities:
  - True Cost Accounting: Redefine the value of food
  - True Pricing: Use TCA to redesign the market economics of food
- This way consumers and business buyers can also improve their decision making through Natural Capital Accounting

### TRUE COST ACCOUNTING / TRUE PRICING IN RELATION TO NCA/ GREEN RECOVERY





# GET IN TOUCH

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