



Slow Food Foundation
for Biodiversity



Slow Food®



Ark of Taste

Slow Food and Biodiversity



**The defense of biodiversity is at the center
of Slow Food's work**



But what is biodiversity?



**If biodiversity disappears
what will happen to our food?**



Biodiversity is the **diversity of life**
and allows it to continuously adapt



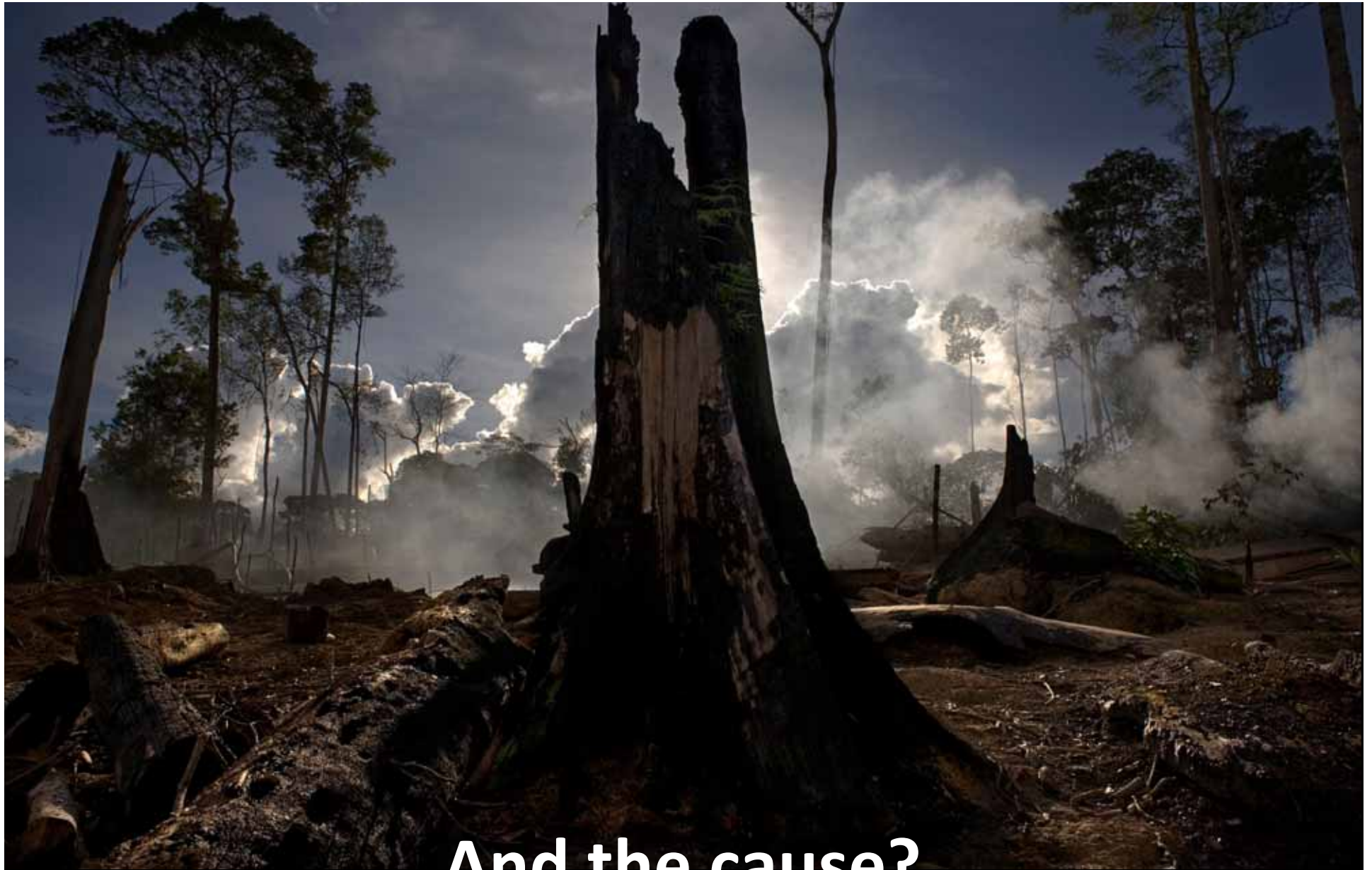
The rate of extinction
of species and varieties ...



... has increased
by more than 1000



The earth is undergoing
its **sixth mass extinction**



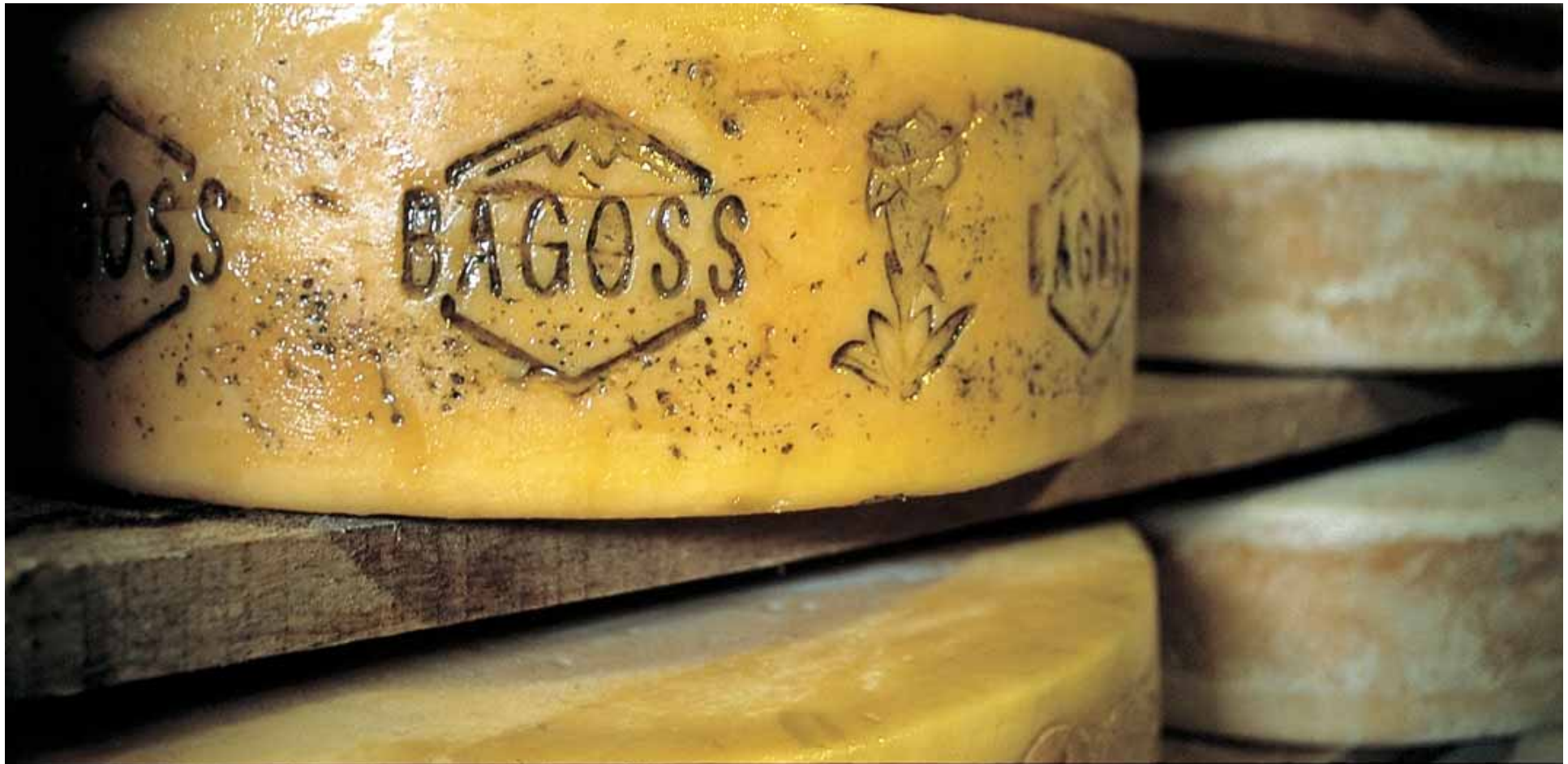
And the cause?
For the first time, the cause is man



Agriculture is one of the causes of this loss of biodiversity

Industrial agriculture is based on a handful of species and varieties:

- with standardized tastes
- able to be produced anywhere, without a link to the territory
- able to resist lengthy transportation



In the last 60 years thousands of **species, breeds and varieties** selected by humans have disappeared, but also breads, cheeses, cured meats and sweets....



**75% of plant varieties
have been irreversibly lost**

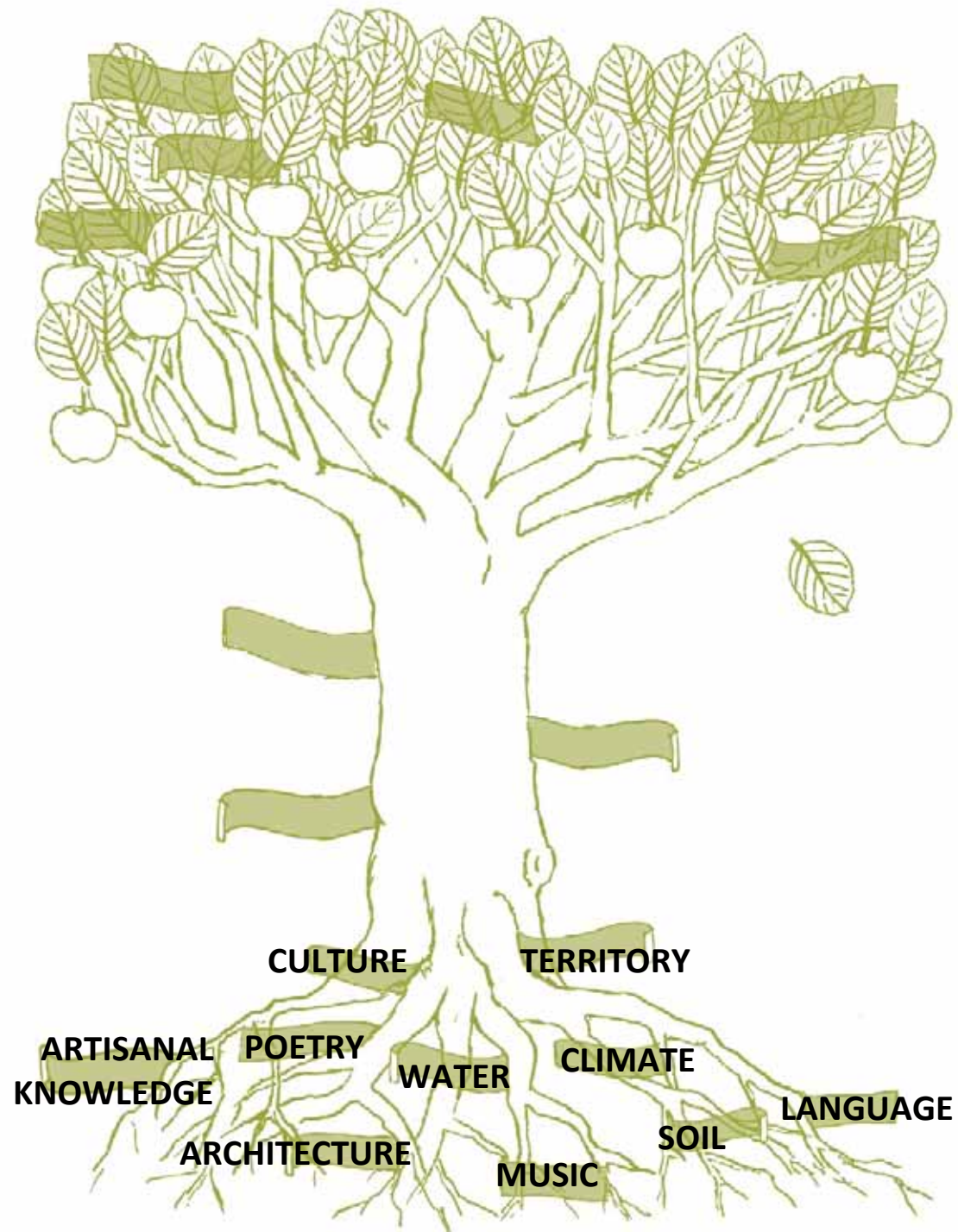


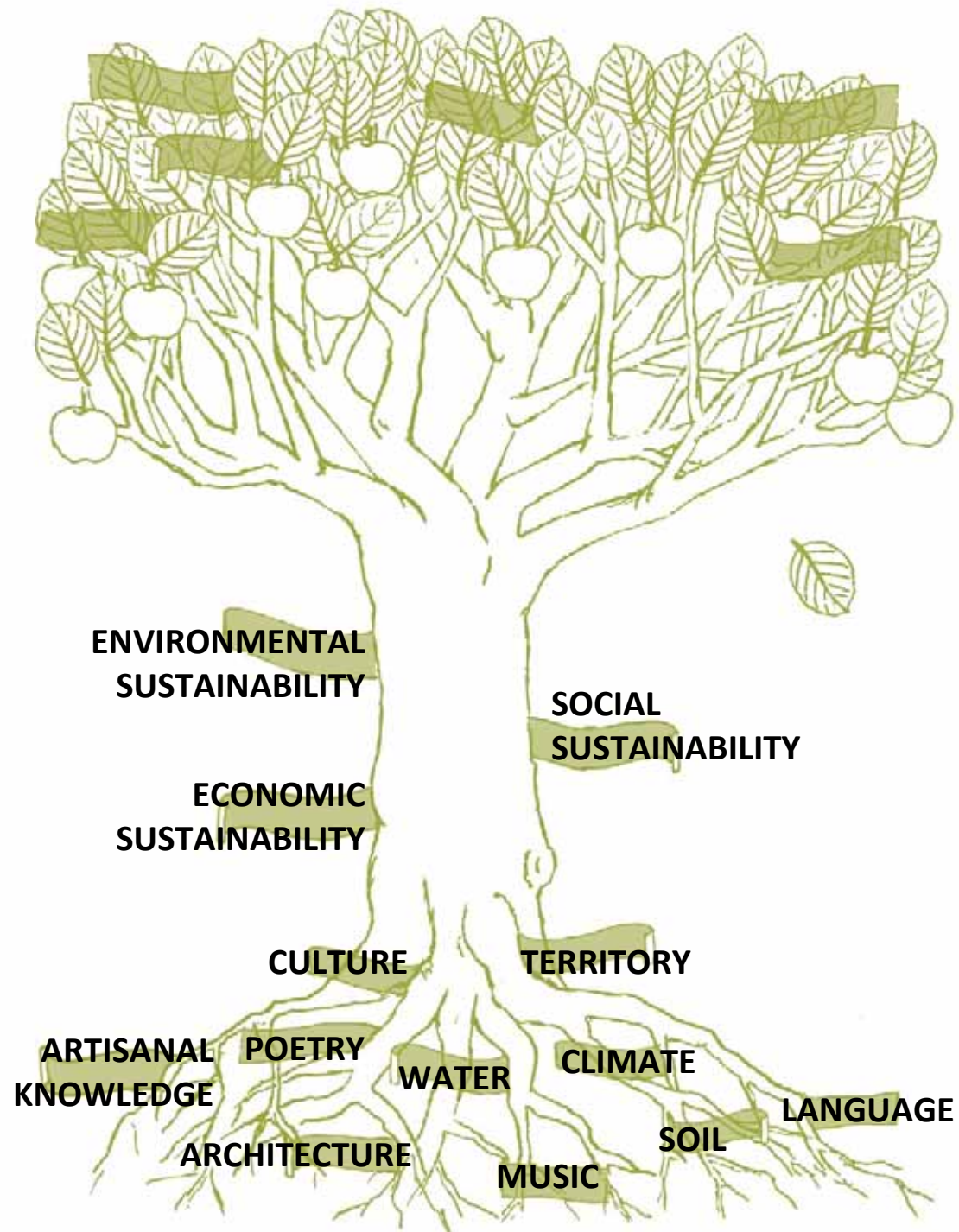
Why is it important to save local varieties and breeds?
Because they are often the best adapted to the territory
They require less water and chemical inputs
They are a priceless cultural heritage

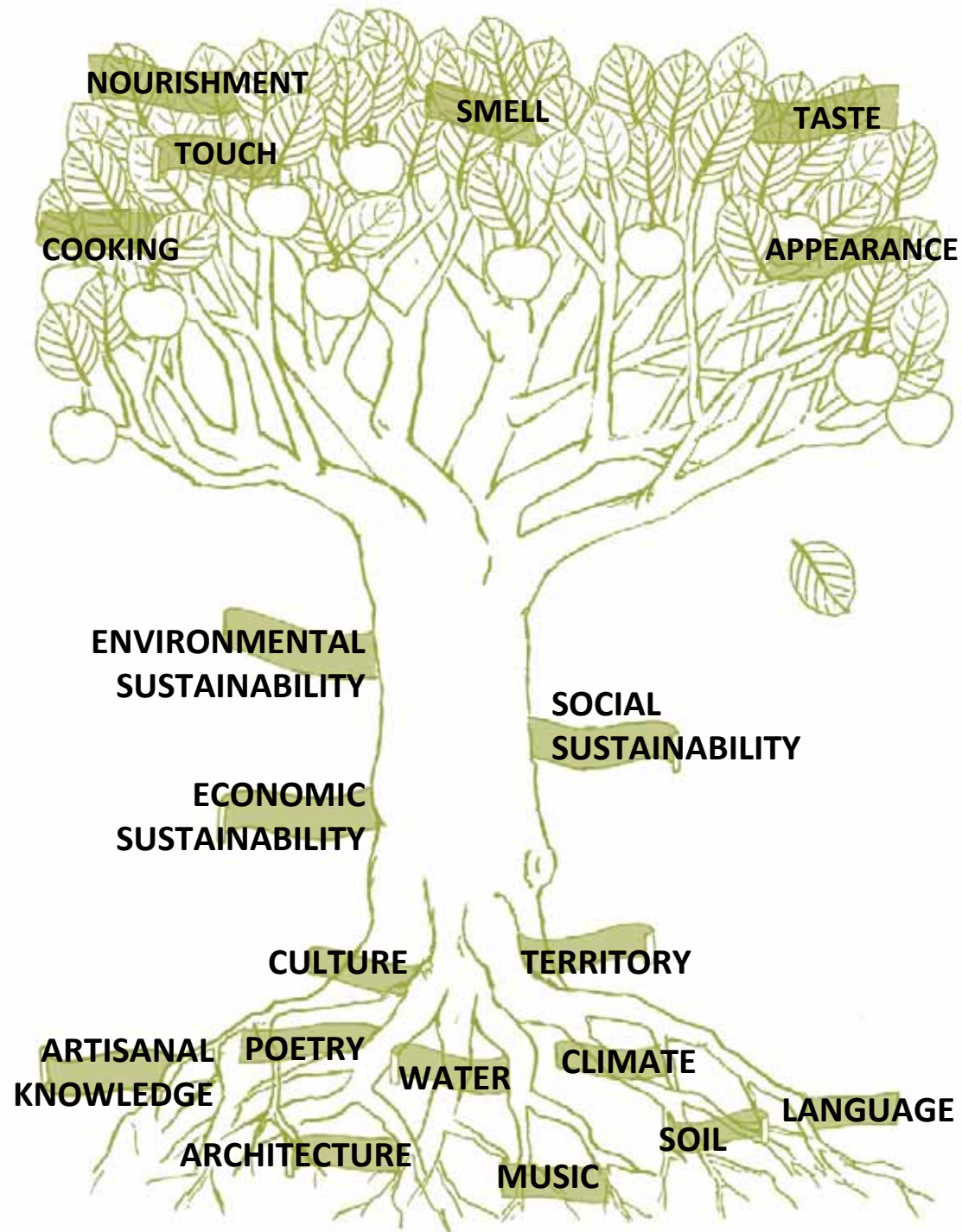


What we want to save is not just genetic material, **not just a catalogue of seeds**. Each product means seeds, land, culture, environmental and social sustainability, nutrition and taste.











Slow Food Foundation
for Biodiversity

To save this wealth, Slow Food
has a number of projects,
managed through
the **Slow Food Foundation
for Biodiversity**



Ark of Taste (1150 products on board)



Presidia (400)



Earth Markets (30)



What is the Ark of Taste?

A catalogue of products that are linked to the culture and traditions of a community: domestic species (breeds and varieties), wild species, and processed food products (e.g. breads, cheeses)



We must also nominate **processed products** (such as cheeses, breads)



What is the purpose of the Ark?

- to point out the existence of these products
 - to warn of their risk of disappearing
- to invite everyone to take action to save them



Taking action means:

- nominating, searching, eating, buying and promoting them
 - sometimes, as in the case of wild species, it means not eating them as they are at risk of extinction



Where do we start in identifying products for the Ark?

- catalogues and previous research
- farmers' markets
- chefs, journalists, experts, producers



We must ask lots of **questions**
and cross check information



We must **taste** the products



The most important element is the link
of these products to the **memory**
of a community, a **culture** and a **territory**



They must be artisanal products, produced
in **limited quantities**



They cannot be privately registered brands



The risk of **extinction** can be real,
but also potential

Anyone can save a piece
of the richness of our planet.

**We need your help too.
Tell us about the product
you want to save.**

You can fill out the form on the website
or send this postcard to:

Slow Food USA
68 Summit Street, 2B - Brooklyn, NY 11231
www.slowfoodusa.org
megan@slowfoodusa.org
Tel: 718 260-8000

 facebook.com/arkoftaste

 twitter.com/arkoftaste

The product I'm nominating is: _____

Description: _____

Historical production area: _____

Why is it at risk of disappearing? _____

Name of nominator: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Ark of Taste
Let's save the flavors of the world!

Who can nominate a product for the Ark?
Anyone, not just experts



Who can nominate a product for the Ark?
Anyone, not just experts



What is the difference between Ark and Presidia?



The battle to save biodiversity
is not just any battle.

It is a battle for the life of the planet.

And it must become the daily battle of every one of us.



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for Biodiversity



Slow Food®

www.slowfood.com

www.slowfoodfoundation.org