



World Resources Forum 2011
September 19 - 21, 2011 • Davos Switzerland

**Umwelt
Bundes
Amt**
For our Environment



Outline for Workshop of the World Resource Forum 2011

19th Sept. 2011, 14.00 – 17.30:

“Sustainable resource management and poverty eradication in developing countries”

Objectives

The workshop should address some of the most urgent issues referring to poverty eradication and resource efficiency/sustainable resource management in developing countries. The focus will be put on the question of how a sustainable resource management and resource efficiency approach can contribute to poverty eradication and to building up sustainable societies and economies by leapfrogging the unsustainable developments of the industrialized countries. The workshop will be divided into answering two questions:

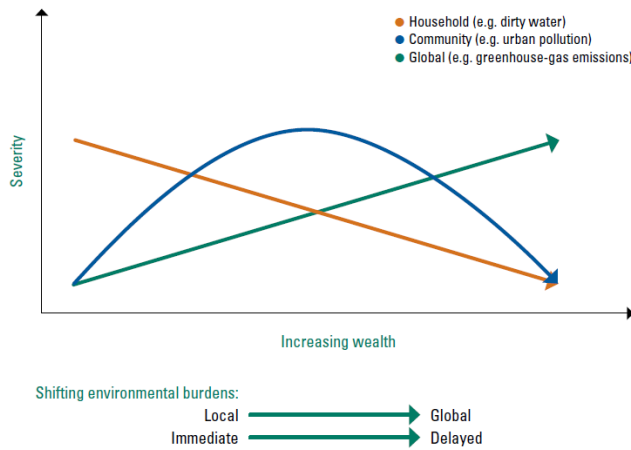
- 1) How can economies use their own natural resources most productively for sustainable economic development?
- 2) How can consumption sectors be shaped to meet the needs of people in poverty (shelter, food, energy) at early stages of development while leapfrogging resource intensive modes of consumption?

As far as appropriate it should deepen some aspects already addressed in the plenary session I “What do we need to achieve” (e.g. by the keynote address of Alice Kaudia). The workshop will discuss principles and concrete policy approaches (including show cases and good practice examples) aiming at improving the governance of natural resources in the developing countries.

The WS should result in actual recommendations (e.g. as a possible input for a final WRF conclusions and as a possible input for Rio+20) and will look at how this issue can be further promoted and dealt with in the international resource arena. The Workshop should motivate the participants by identifying promising approaches and highlighting successful examples.

Background of the Workshop

Assumptions about environment and development tend to reflect the hypothesis of the Environmental Kuznets curve. This hypothesis suggests that as economies develop, environmental problems initially increase in line with economic development, before decreasing in later stages of economic development (see the blue curve in Figure 1 below). Recent studies have suggested that this only relates to community level environmental problems, such as urban air pollution, where as household level environmental problems only decrease and global environmental problems only increase (see the orange and green curves respectively).



Source: Adapted from Wilkinson *et al.*, 2007

Figure 1. Environmental Kuznets curve

The International Resource Panel most recent report on decoupling has shown that metabolic rates, at least based on latitudinal data, follow the trend of the green line, continually increasing with economic growth¹.



Figure 2. Metabolic rates and GDP per capita

¹ UNEP, 2011, Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth, www.unep.org/decoupling

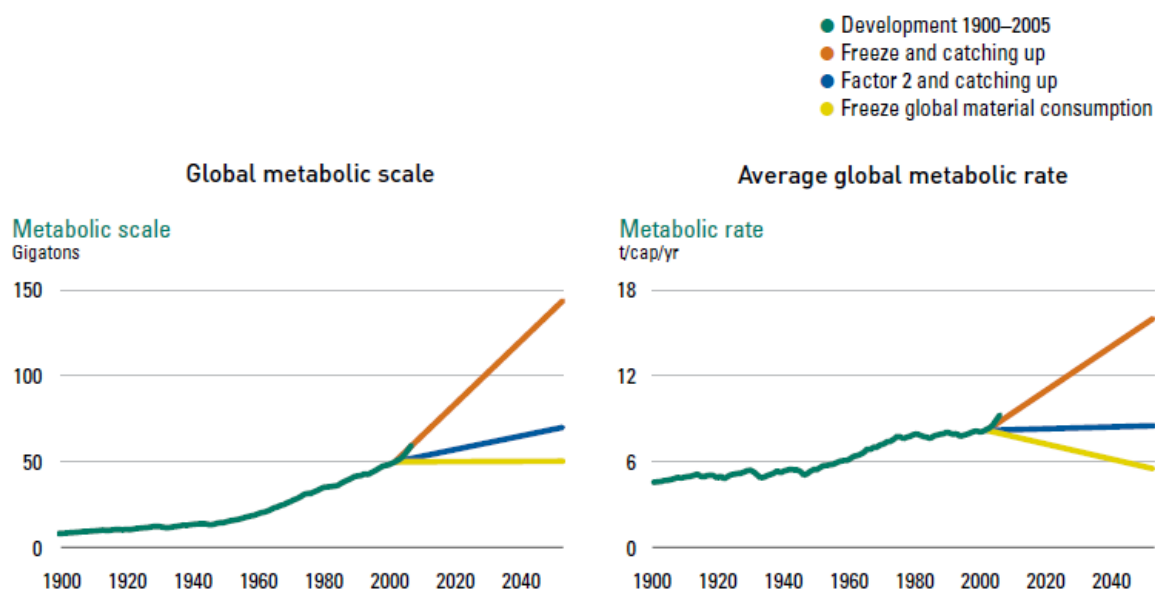
As GDP per capita increases, so does material consumption (DMC) per capita. It levels off at high income levels, though this might be skewed by outsourcing (to which DMC is less sensitive) or saturation. Figure 2 below shows data for over 180 countries.

The shift to sustainable resource management will be different depending on each country's resource use and development levels. **Developed countries** with high resource metabolisms will have an abundance of opportunities to restore their resource base, improve the quality of their environment and reduce GHG emissions through more efficient and better use of resources.

For developing countries with low metabolic rates, the foremost priority is to improve levels of material well being and access to services. For these countries, leapfrog opportunities need to be found to ensure better delivery of services and access to resources in a way that conserves their natural resource base². This workshop is about the latter case.

The Decoupling report also shows three scenarios for 2050, all of which assume social justice: equal DMC/capita, with adjustments for population density. The 'best case' scenario, which is considered "politically unattractive", only achieves a stabilisation of total global resource use, and is based on the scenario where developed and developing countries have metabolic rates of 5-8 tons/capita/year. For developed economies 'locked in' to resource intensive infrastructure and consumption patterns, a transition to 5-8 tons/capita/year will be difficult. **For countries with very low average metabolic rates, improvements in well being will be easier to achieve at lower resource intensities at earlier stages of their development trajectories.**

Poverty reduction (and elimination) is a major priority for developing countries and also in development policies of developed countries. Accordingly, major investments are ongoing and foreseen into poverty reduction. On the road to achieving adequate food, housing and fuel for all, humanity may run into major environmental and resource supply challenges if resource efficient opportunities are not taken. If we assume that it is in principle possible to achieve poverty reduction and equal access to resources by 2050 within resource and environmental boundaries – which policies and technologies will be needed?



Source: Krausmann *et al.*, 2009 (Development 1900–2005) and own calculations (see text)

Figure 3. Resource use according to three scenarios to 2050

² UNEP, 2011, Towards a Green Economy, Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, A synthesis for policy makers, p.4

Workshop outline

Part 1) focuses on the fundamental challenges and opportunities resource exporting developing countries are confronted with and try to answer how can economies use their own natural resources most productively for sustainable economic development.

Questions to be addressed include:

- How can developing countries make best use of their natural resources in order to mitigate and eradicate poverty within in their countries?
- How can negative developments like corruption, resource induced (social) conflicts, dependency on resource exports, resource depletion and so on, that may aggravate the way to sustainable development be avoided ? (e.g. the impacts of EITI and bilateral resource partnership agreements, sustainability certifications schemes)
- How can developing countries ensure that they get fair revenue for the exported resources and how can these revenues be best used for building resource efficient material and social infrastructures?
- What kind of support (e.g. for capacity building, establishing of good governance structures, supporting economic diversification, investment measures) do the developing countries expect/need from the industrialized countries?

Part 2) will look into how consumption patterns can be shaped to meet the needs of people in poverty (shelter, food, energy) while leapfrogging resource intensive modes of consumption at early stages of development (meso and micro level):

- What are the main principles that policy makers should apply to resource efficiently feed, shelter and fuel populations out of poverty? This would include countering the effects of land grabbing to produce food for export while famine is spreading (as in the Horn of Africa).
- What are the major policy instruments and investment channels for poverty reduction and how could they be shaped/adjusted to build in efficiency? (eg. UNDAFs, national SCP strategies, MDGs, UNDP...)
- What are top priorities (hotspots) for avoiding resource intensive consumption patterns?
- How can international institution and organisations support RE poverty reduction? What questions to policy makers need to have answered? What do they need to know?

The workshop should provide as much space as possible for vivid discussions and engage the participants into moderated debates (debates between speakers and debates between the speakers and the audience). The audience should also be involved by participatory approaches like electronic voting and fishbowl discussion. The moderator could engage the audience, e.g. by a "survey" in which people would be asked which are the main principles that policy makers should apply to resource efficiently feed, shelter and fuel populations out of poverty and/or what are the major policy instruments and investment channels for poverty reduction and how could they be shaped/adjusted to build in efficiency.

Workshop titles, inputs and speakers

Date/Time	Sept. 19, 14:00 – 15:30, 16:00 – 17:30	
Workshop Chair:	Shaoyi Li, Head of the Secretariat for the International Resource Panel, UNEP	
Workshop Moderator:	Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Member of the International Resource Panel and Former Director of UNEP DTIE	
<p>Part 1: Sustainable resource management and poverty eradication in developing countries: using natural resources productively for sustainable economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (5 min): chair • 3-4 inputs (10 min plus 5 min discussion each,) • Fishbowl discussion (ca. 30 min) • wrap up, final conclusions (20 min): chair 		
Name 1:	Heiko Warnken (Head of Division Environment and Sustainable Use of natural Resources, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany)	confirmed
Name 2:	Joerg Mayer (Senior economics affair advisor, UNCTAD)	confirmed
Name 3:	Antonio Pedro (Director, Subregional Development Centre – East Africa)	confirmed
Name 4:	Urs Rybi (Commodity Trading, Berne Declaration)	t.b.c.
<p>Part 2: Sustainable resource management and poverty eradication in developing countries: what types of consumption patterns could meet the needs of people in poverty (shelter, food, energy) at early stages of development while leapfrogging resource intensive modes of consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (5 min): chair • 4-5 inputs (10 min plus 5 min discussion each,) • Round table (selected input providers from part 1 and 2) • wrap up, final conclusions, policy recommendations (20 min): chair 		
Name 1:	Ashok Khosla (International Resource Panel Co-Chair, President, IUCN, and Founder, Development Alternatives, India)	confirmed
Name 2:	Mark Swilling (Professor, Sustainability Institute, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, South Africa)	confirmed
Name 3:	Mohan Munasinghe (Director General, Sustainable Consumption Institute, University of Manchester, UK)	confirmed
Name 4:	Alice Kaudia (Environment Secretary, Kenya)	confirmed
Name 5:	Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Association des Femmes Peuples Autochtones du Tchad, Indigenous Peoples Africa Coordinating Committee)	t.b.c.