

Our Planet

HELLE THORNING-SCHMIDT UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY SHA ZUKANG THE FUTURE WE WANT
 MAURICE STRONG CHANGING COURSE RICHARD BRANSON GOOD BUSINESS




WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY | 05 JUNE
Green Economy: Does it include you?

2012



ONLY ONE EARTH
 The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet
 by Barbara Ward and Hazel Doolittle

1974



World Environment Day 1992
 Only one Earth
 Care and share
 United Nations Environment Programme

1992

40 years of WED



WANTED!
 SEAS AND OCEANS
 DEAD OR ALIVE?

2004



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
 5 JUNE
 Forests: Nature at Your Service
 In support of the UN International Year of Forests

2011



We the Peoples
 United for the Global Environment

1995



MELTING ICE - A HOT TOPIC?
 ask...

2007



**GREEN CITIES
 PLAN FOR THE PLANET!**
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
 5 JUNE 2005

2005



**KICK 2
 THE HABIT!**
 TOWARDS A LOW CARBON ECONOMY

2008



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2006
 DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION
 DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!

2006



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PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (254 20) 762 1234

Fax: (254 20) 762 3927

e-mail: unepub@unep.org

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Editor: Geoffrey Lean

Coordinator: Richard Crompton

Distribution and Marketing Manager: Mohamed Atani

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2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
FOR ALL**

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Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies: Taking Action Together

The Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies, developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the financial support of the European Commission, provides a non-exhaustive review of policies and initiatives that are promoting the shift towards SCP patterns. This report identifies examples of effective policies and initiatives being implemented worldwide. It reviews 56 case studies ranging from global multilateral agreements and regional strategies to specific policies and initiatives and shows progress achieved in promoting SCP, highlighting best practices and offering recommendations to scale up and replicate these important efforts.



Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN: The UN System's Footprint and Efforts to Reduce It (2011 edition)

The most recent analysis of the UN's performance in implementing the UN's Climate Neutral Strategy. The report includes the details of the greenhouse gas emissions for 54 entities in 2010, as well as a breakdown of emissions by activity. It also details progress in reducing emissions and plans for the future. With a Foreword by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and a Preface by the UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, this report is the first and last word in the UN's sustainability performance to date.



21 Issues for the 21st Century:

Results of the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues

The UNEP Foresight Report contains a description of the 21 emerging environmental issues identified through the UNEP Foresight Process.

The process, which was led by the UNEP Chief Scientist with support from UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment, involved the identification of emerging issues by UNEP colleagues and a Foresight Panel comprising of 22 distinguished members of the scientific community cutting across a wide spectrum of environmental related disciplines and world regions; the debating and prioritisation of the identified issues by the Foresight Panel; the scoring of prioritised issues via an electronic consultation involving more than 400 scientists worldwide; and a further debating and ranking of the final list of issues by the Foresight Panel, putting into consideration the outcome of the electronic consultation.



Towards a Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment: Making informed choices on products

Every day, unsustainable patterns of consumption, unsustainable production methods and population growth challenge the resilience of the planet to support human activities. At the same time, inequalities between and within societies remain high, leaving billions with unmet basic human needs and a disproportionate vulnerability to global environmental change.

To counteract this trend, UNEP and SETAC have worked together to develop

Towards a Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment. This has been achieved through the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative.



Green Growth, Resources and Resilience: Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific

This UNEP report describes an evolving policy landscape characterised by a changing economic reality, rising demand for resources, increasingly apparent impacts of environmental and climate change, and increased risk and uncertainty.

The report provides new insights into Asian and Pacific resource use trends and outlines key actions, including reforming economic incentives and promoting more inclusive and adaptive governance approaches, that governments can pursue to help bring economic growth strategies in closer alignment with the objective of sustainable development. It also provides examples of strategies for improving resilience to help deal with the increasing levels of risk faced by societies and economies.



Achim Steiner

UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UNEP

For 40 years World Environment Day (WED) has been the United Nations' principle vehicle for raising awareness across communities, cities, countries and continents on environmental issues, after being established at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment – which also founded UNEP.

And for 40 years WED has brought to the world's attention evolving and pressing challenges that everyone faces as a result of rising environmental degradation, pollution and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

In 1974 – the first year WED had a dedicated theme, with the banner *'Only One Earth'* – the headline underlined a simple but still relevant fact: humanity has only one home, and thus it is prudent to look after it.

In 1989 the issue of climate change was raised through the WED theme *'Global Warming: Global Warning'*.

In the 1990s WED made the links between poverty and the environment and expressed rising concern over the seas and oceans.

In 2003 a key Millennium Development Goal was brought to the fore under the hard hitting slogan *'Water—Two Billion People are Dying for It!'*

Recent WEDs have perhaps changed in character, reflecting much more sharply the urgency of bringing the environmental, social and economic strands in the DNA of sustainable development far closer together through the lens of a Green Economy.

Take *'Kick the Habit—Towards a Low Carbon Economy'* in 2008 and *'Forests—Nature at Your Service'* in 2011 for example.

The banner for WED 2012 represents not only one of the overarching themes for Rio+20 – a Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication – but it speaks to the issue of equity that any transformation of the global economy must address.

'Green Economy—Does It Include You?' is also addressed to nations preparing for Rio+20 – two decades after the Rio Earth Summit.

It urges all leaders – alongside ministers, companies and civil society delegates – attending to join in delivering an outcome that generates opportunity and work for the underemployed and unemployed in a way that keeps humanity's footprint within planetary boundaries. Rio+20 needs to be a defining moment that puts in place the action and the pathways to realise a sustainable 21st century.

Everyone on this planet has a stake in that. So let us make this year's WED, happening just weeks before the Summit, the moment when citizens everywhere get out and act for a positive outcome.

So that 20 and 40 years from now the WED themes are less warnings of environmental decay and more celebrations of the way the prospects for seven billion people – rising to over nine billion by 2050 – on our *Only One Earth* have prospered since 2012.



HELLE THORNING-SCHMIDT
Prime Minister of Denmark



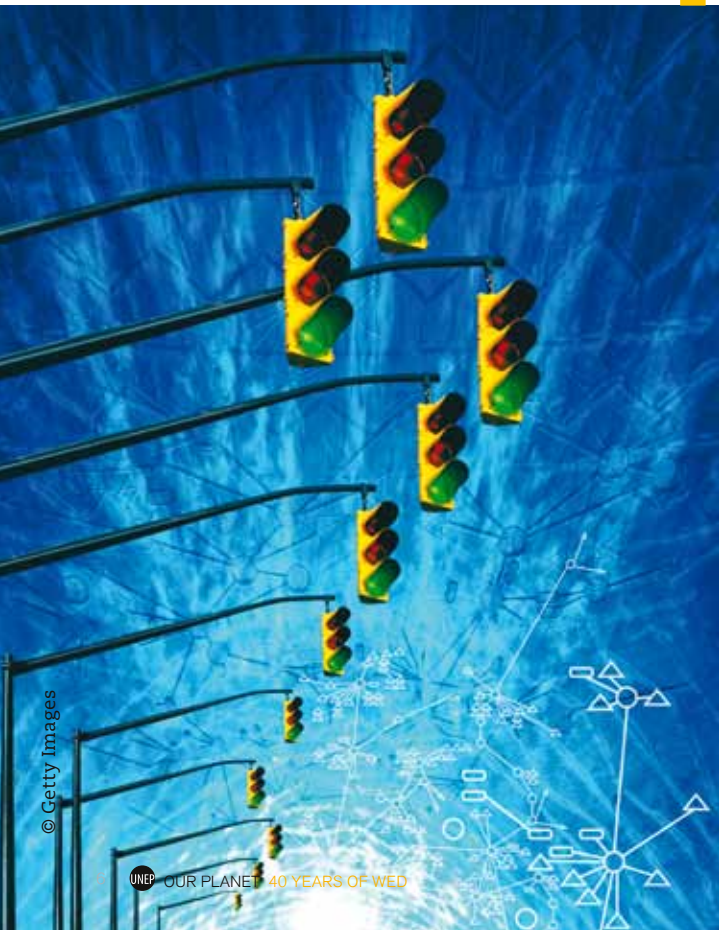
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Unique opportunity

Twenty years ago the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro placed sustainable development on the international agenda. Now the world convenes again at the Rio+20 Conference in the same city to bring sustainability into a new era.

The world population passed 7 billion last year. By 2050 we expect that count to rise to 9 billion people. In the course of the next 20 years, it is estimated, the global demand for resources will grow 40-60 per cent. The pressure on our global natural resources and ecosystems will be enormous. If we do nothing, the basis of our economy will begin to erode. At the same time climate change and environmental degradation will present challenges to people everywhere on our planet.

The EU and its member states see the Rio+20 Conference as a unique opportunity to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development and to achieve concrete and ambitious results. The EU has been proactive in advancing an ambitious agenda for Rio+20.



© Getty Images

The EU has proposed a green economy roadmap as an operational outcome in Rio. This should include deadlines for specific goals, objectives and actions as a significant contribution to sustainable development and poverty eradication, covering a broad range of areas such as energy, water, agriculture, oceans, cities and chemicals. Cross-cutting issues such as eliminating harmful subsidies, green tax reforms and innovative finance should also be addressed. A green economy roadmap will be a set of routes to sustainable development, where some pathways are in common, but where countries take individual tracks in accordance with their particular needs and circumstances. Individual countries will receive coordinated advice and technical assistance from the UN system and international financial institutions to help them carry out their tailor-made plans for greening the economy. We see this proposal as holding serious potential for advancing the global transition towards green economy.

But governments cannot advance a global green transition on their own. It requires dedicated involvement and commitment from all stakeholders. The EU emphasises that private sector and civil society play key roles in delivering green growth and promoting sustainable consumption and production through investments, public-private partnerships and research and innovation.

Substantial participation from civil society and the private sector is also expected in Rio. These groups will make important contributions at the Conference and facilitate new insights, new inspiration and new partnerships among all stakeholders. The Brazilian hosts have set up nine roundtables with prominent representatives from the business world, the scientific community and NGOs, tasked to come up with

recommendations for the high-level segment in areas such as food security, sustainable development for poverty eradication and energy.

We also need a new way to measure economic growth that fully takes into account the use of our planet's resources and which integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced manner. If we cut down all our forests and catch all our fish we may see immediate economic growth, but at the same time we will be undermining our future growth potential. This is why the EU believes that we must agree to develop indicators complementing GDP, which integrate all dimensions of sustainability in a balanced manner. We need a measure that gives us a true illustration of progress. We need to know if we are on the right track towards sustainability.

In order to establish global sustainability goals and tackle future challenges we need a strong international governance structure. Reforming the institutional framework for sustainable development is necessary and a high priority for the EU in Rio. The EU has suggested upgrading the status of the United Nations Environment Programme. This will enable the UN system to respond more effectively to environmental needs in the context of sustainable development.

Denmark has demonstrated that economic growth does not necessarily lead to an increasing use of resources. During the past three decades the Danish economy has grown significantly while energy consumption has remained virtually

“A Green Economy roadmap will be a set of routes to sustainable development, where some pathways are in common, but where countries take individual tracks in accordance with their particular needs and circumstances.”

constant. Since the 1980s the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption has been steadily rising and now amounts to approximately 22 per cent. Recently, we approved a new national energy strategy which entails a 34 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (measured in 1990-levels) and provides for the construction of major new wind farms whose combined effect will be equivalent to the energy consumption of 1½ million Danish homes. Our goal

is that Denmark's energy consumption will be 100 per cent renewable by 2050.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has put forward an initiative to achieve “Sustainable Energy for All” by 2030. It is an ambitious plan with concrete goals for renewable energy, energy efficiency and

access to energy. I hope that other countries, private companies and civil society organizations will find inspiration from Denmark's example in this area and commit to the Secretary-General's initiative in Rio. And commitment is needed if we are to secure a global transition to a green economy – a transition that all countries stand to gain from, regardless of their level of development.

We do not want a world where competition for scarce resources creates strife and conflict among countries or in countries. We want a world where we create and share economic growth based on sustainability principles and on harnessing the opportunities inherent in a future of ever more scarce resources – for our own sake and for the sake of future generations.



SHA ZUKANG
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Conference on Sustainable Development

The future we want

Twenty years ago, in June 1992, world leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro for a landmark event: the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Earth Summit).

and do business has been significantly revolutionised. Information and communication technologies have opened new pathways and channels for education, communication

and unsustainable consumption and production patterns have accelerated, causing damage that, in some cases, is irreversible to our natural heritage.

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