



# Sustainable Resource Management

## Introducing key UNEP activities

*Bas de Leeuw*

*UNEP DTIE*

*March 2009*

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# Thematic priorities UNEP

- Climate change
- Disasters and conflicts
- Ecosystem management
- Environmental governance
- Harmful substances and hazardous waste
- **Resource Efficiency/ Sustainable Consumption and Production**

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## Global Environmental Outlook and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

- 4 million PCs discarded every year in China;
- In US, **e-waste is increasing at 3-5% each year - 3 times the normal rate of waste;**
- Doubling of food production (past 35 years): **6.87-fold increase in nitrogen fertilization and a 3.48-fold in phosphorus fertilization**
- In past 50 years **60% of all studied ecosystems** damaged...
- **...10-30% of mammals, birds and amphibians** threatened to extinction.

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## Risks of unsustainable resource management for our economies and societies:

- **state of our environment**
- **security of supplies**
- **price stability**
- **efforts to eradicate poverty**



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# Doing more with less!

Consuming and producing **more efficiently** and differently ...



... and **providing opportunities** for the poor

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## Global context of SCP and Resource Management

- **JPol - Chapter II: Poverty Eradication**  
→ Resource use contributing to MDGs
- **JPol - Chapter III: Consumption and Production**  
→ **delinking economic growth and environmental degradation** through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste.



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## International, regional and national initiatives

- **UN** Marrakech process on SCP
- **OECD**: Material Flows and Resource Productivity
- **G8, spearheaded by Japan**: Kobe action plan of the '3R' initiative, aimed at reducing, reusing and recycling resources
- **European Commission**: Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- National strategies aimed at closing the loop, including **China's circular economy approach**.



## Influencing consumption and production patterns ...

- improve processes, products and services -> **business**
- modernize infrastructure and policy frameworks -> **governments**
- awareness, dialogue and reflection -> **consumer and other groups**



# The World Behind the Product

- “Consumers are increasingly interested in the world that lies behind the products. They want to know **how and where and by whom** the products have been produced”
- “This increasing awareness is a sign of hope. **Business and governments** must build on that”

*Klaus Toepfer – former ED of UNEP*



## Business role?





## Brands have power ...

“People around the world are today connected to each other by **brand name consumer products** as much as by anything else.

Product and service logos are **global banners**, instantly recognisable by millions who could not tell you the colour of the UN flag.”

*Roberto Goizueta, Former Chairman, Coca-Cola*

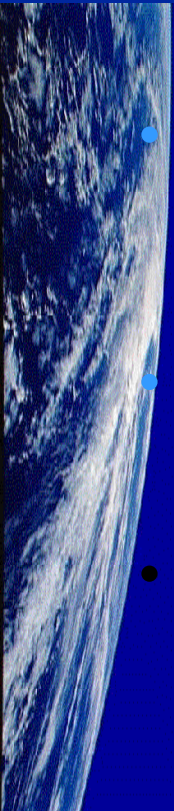
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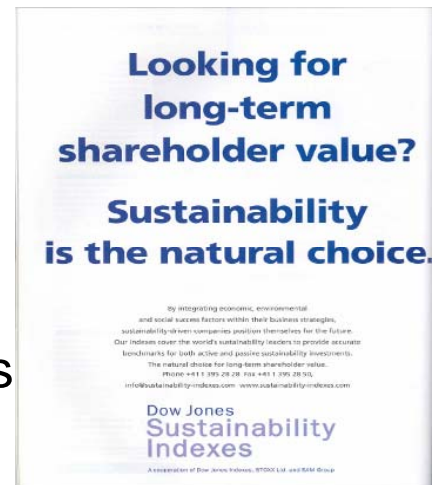
*“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and 5 minutes to ruin it.”*

*Warren Buffet*



## What Opportunities for Business?

- **New markets** through an improved understanding of consumer needs
- **New products** through the application of new technologies
- Greater **investor confidence** in company's ability to manage change



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## Sustainable Innovation

- Start from basic human **needs**
- Optimize economic, environmental and social aspects in **systems approach**
- Involve new **out of the box** thinking
- Come up with mainstream and cool **solutions**, rooted in local traditions and values
- Report and **communicate**



## International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management in a nutshell

- Launched in November 2007 by UNEP, with support of EC, 13 governments and 3 Civil Society Organisations.
- Aims at decoupling environmental impacts from economic growth by increasing resource efficiency through the production of policy-relevant scientific assessments.
- Composed of eminent experts in sustainable resource management, and two reputed co-chairs, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker and Ismail Serageldin.



International Panel  
for Sustainable  
Resource Management



# Objectives and activities

- The objectives of the Panel are to:
  - a. provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance on the sustainable use of natural resources and in particular their environmental impacts over the full life cycle;
  - b. contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
- Four thematic working groups have been formed:
  - Decoupling
  - Biofuels
  - Prioritisation of products and materials
  - Global metal flows
- Developing synergies with the Green Economy Initiative, the Marrakech Process, as well as international partnerships with the OECD, G8 Environment Ministers, EC and regional activities.



International Panel  
for Sustainable  
Resource Management

# Resource Panel: Milestones

November 2007: Launch of the Panel



International Panel  
for Sustainable  
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April 2008: Joint OECD-UNEP on Resource Efficiency

May 2008: 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Panel  
(Themes of the Working Groups & procedures)

June 2008: Green Week at the European Commission

November 2008: 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Panel  
(Draft Reports and Peer Review Procedure)

Since April 2008: informal meetings  
of the Working Groups

Feb 2009: Side Event at 25<sup>th</sup> Governing Council

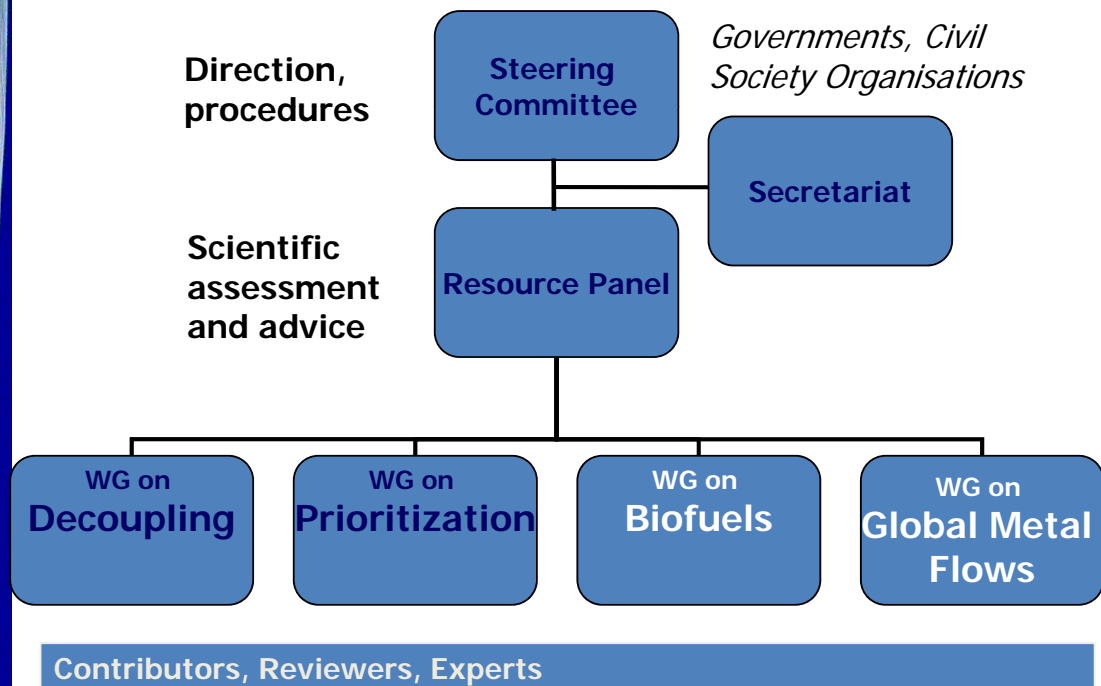
March 2009: Asia Seminar on  
Sustainable Resource Management

June 2009: 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Paris)

Nov 2009: 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Beijing)



# Panel Organization



## Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker Co-chair, Resource Panel

- Ex-Dean and Professor, University of California Santa Barbara, USA
- Author of Factor Four: Doubling Wealth, Halving Resource Use (1995) and Limits to Privatization.
- Founder and president (1991-2000) of the Wuppertal Institute
- Member of the Club of Rome since 2001.
- Takeda Award in 2001, Umwelt Prize (2008)
- Former member of Parliament in Germany





# Ismail Serageldin

## Co-chair, Resource Panel

- Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Ex-World Bank Vice-President for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (1993-98)
- World Bank Technical Director (1990-92)
- 50 books and over 200 papers on biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, water, the value of science to society...



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## Panel Composition

- Panel Members:
  - Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Co-chair
  - Ismail Serageldin, Co-chair
  - Ashok Khosla, President, IUCN
  - Jacqueline McGlade, ED, European Environment Agency
  - Lea Kauppi, Director, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
  - Yong Ren, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), China
  - Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Former UNEP Assistant Executive Director
  - Stefan Brinzeu, Wuppertal Institute, Germany
  - Tom Graedel, Yale University, USA
  - Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN
  - Anna-Bella Siriban-Manalang, De La Salle University, The Philippines
  - Edgar Hertwich, University of Science and Technology, Norway
  - Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Institute of Social Ecology, University of Klagenfurt, Austria
  - Mark Swilling, University of Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa
  - Sanit Aksornkoae, Thailand Environment Institute
  - Yuichi Moriguchi, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan
  - Yvan Hardy, Former chief scientist, Natural Resources Canada

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## Steering Committee Composition

- Governments: Canada, China, EC, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Africa and Tanzania.
- Civil Society: ICSU, IUCN, and WBCSD.
- Observers: OECD, Switzerland, UK and USA.



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## 2009 meetings calendar

- Governing Council, Nairobi, 16-20 February 2009.
- Expert meeting/policy dialogue on sustainable resource management, 10-11 March 2009, Tokyo
- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Resource Panel, June 2009, Paris.
- World Resource Forum, Davos, September 2009.
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Resource Panel, China, November 2009.



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make a difference!*



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*Arigatou!*