

Towards sustainable food and energy production in transboundary basins: How can our biodiversity be conserved?

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The Global Context

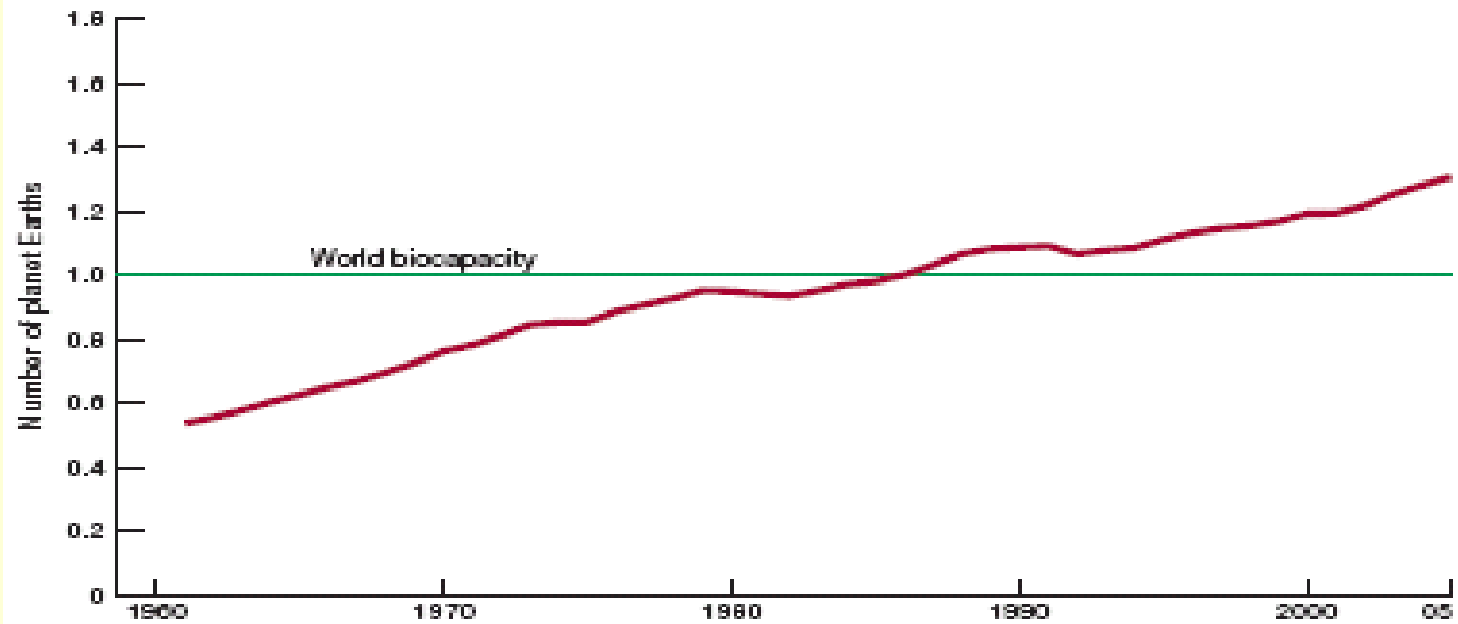
Crisis of the three “Fs”:

- **Financial** - 18 to 51 million unemployed over 2007 levels & the number of extremely poor increased by at least 100 million people worldwide
- **Fuel** - rising prices cost developing economies USD 400 billion in higher energy bills in 2007
- **Food** - rising prices cost developing countries USD 324 billion in 2007



The Global Context

Fig. 2: HUMANITY'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT, 1961-2005



LIVING PLANET REPORT 2008

UNEP – GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE



Why Conserve Biodiversity?

- Ecosystem services provide the fuel for national development
- Rate of species loss and ecosystems degradation is alarming (MA finding 2005)
- People are at centre of biodiversity loss, and conservation
- Vicious circle:
 - Biodiversity loss = Increase in poverty,
 - Increased Poverty = Increase in biodiversity loss



Biodiversity: a good business!

Investment in ecosystems is profitable!!

- USD 45 billion used to protect ecosystems could deliver up to USD 5 trillion per year in societal benefits (cost-benefit ratio = 100:1!)
- Establishing marine protected areas in 20% of fishing grounds could cost a one-off USD 270 M but lead to over USD 90 M per year in fisheries supporting 27 M jobs and secure food for 1 B people



Environmental Food Security

- Up to 25% of world's food production may be lost by 2050 due to environmental breakdown
- Fisheries landings have declined: mainly over-fishing and unsustainable fishing methods
- Only 43% of cereals produced is available for human consumption: harvest and post harvest losses & use of cereals for animal feed.
- 30 M t of fish needed to sustain the growth in aquaculture = exactly amount of fish discarded as sea
- With new technology & energy effic. Available cereals could feed additional 3B people expected by 2050



Wastewater and Biodiversity Conservation

- 2 B tons of wastewater discharged daily to rivers and seas: worse to come as we turn “homo urbanus”
- 245 000 km² of dead zones, with impacts on fisheries, livelihoods and the food chain.
- Recognising Wastewater as a Resource and turn it into an opportunity
- comprehensive and sustainable wastewater management can be central to food security, economic development and jobs.



Green Economy: turning challenges to opportunities

- Available knowledge is pointing towards a strong case for a green economy i.e.
 - Transitioning from a brown to a green economy for enterprises and workers
 - Greening national economies,
 - Creating new green jobs and greening existing jobs, and
- The economic case supports proactive investments and active labour market policies in key components of ecosystem management to preempt the environmental causes of conflicts, disasters, and poverty



We don't know everything....

**Can we pretend we don't
know enough to act?**

Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- A strong, effective, and globally inclusive science-policy interface needed to deliver the basis for measuring and evaluating progress towards the post-2010 framework.
- An IPCC for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services?
- Negotiations Meeting on IPBES will be from 7 - 11 June 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

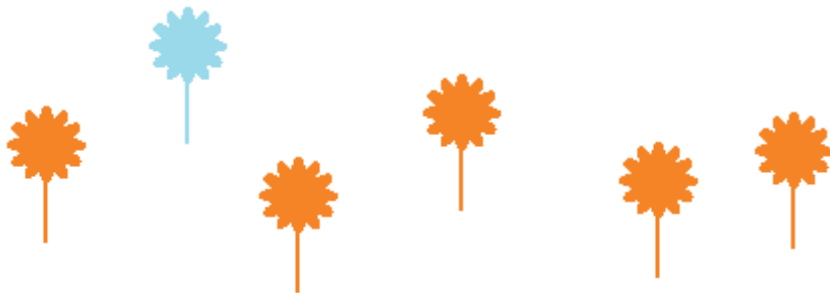


Conclusion

- MDG targets will not be met without serious actions on the Environment!
- Increased Risks of conflicts and disasters, notably with Climate Change
- Investing on the Environment is a good business!



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life





2010 International Year of Biodiversity