



5th ESDN Workshop

“From Green Growth towards a Sustainable Economy?”

UNEP: Green Economy Initiative/ Green New Deal

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Roundtable Objectives

- Update on recent green economy (GE) and global green new deal (GGND) developments
- Consider economic growth and its relation to sustainable growth in the context of GE and GGND
- Objectives and topics covered by GE and GGND
- Governance mechanism and tools for implementation



What is a **Green** Economy?

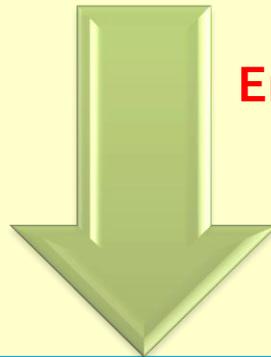
Decoupling unsustainable resource use & environmental impacts from growth



Green Investment

Quantity & quality of jobs in green sectors

Global/local environmental benefits



Energy-resource-material use/output

GHGs

Waste/pollution



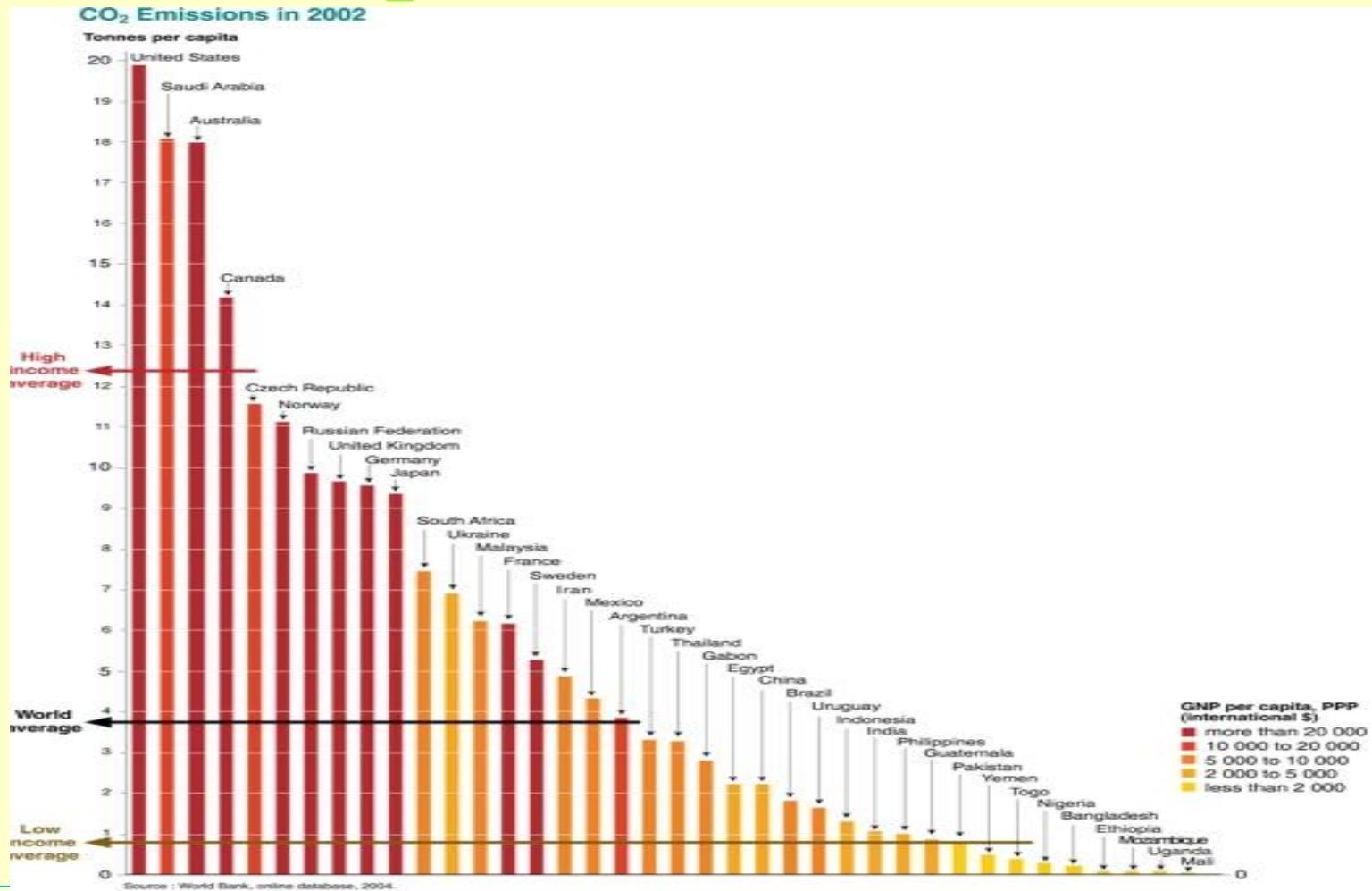
Shifting to a Green Economy

Why Now?

- Global crises provide an **opportunity to reconsider** traditional growth models
- Global momentum for **transition to a green economy**
 - UN CSD 2012 (Rio+20) : “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”
 - CSD 18/19 to examine priorities /needs for shifting to SCP
 - G20 reaffirmed commitment to “move toward greener, more sustainable growth” (Sept 2009)

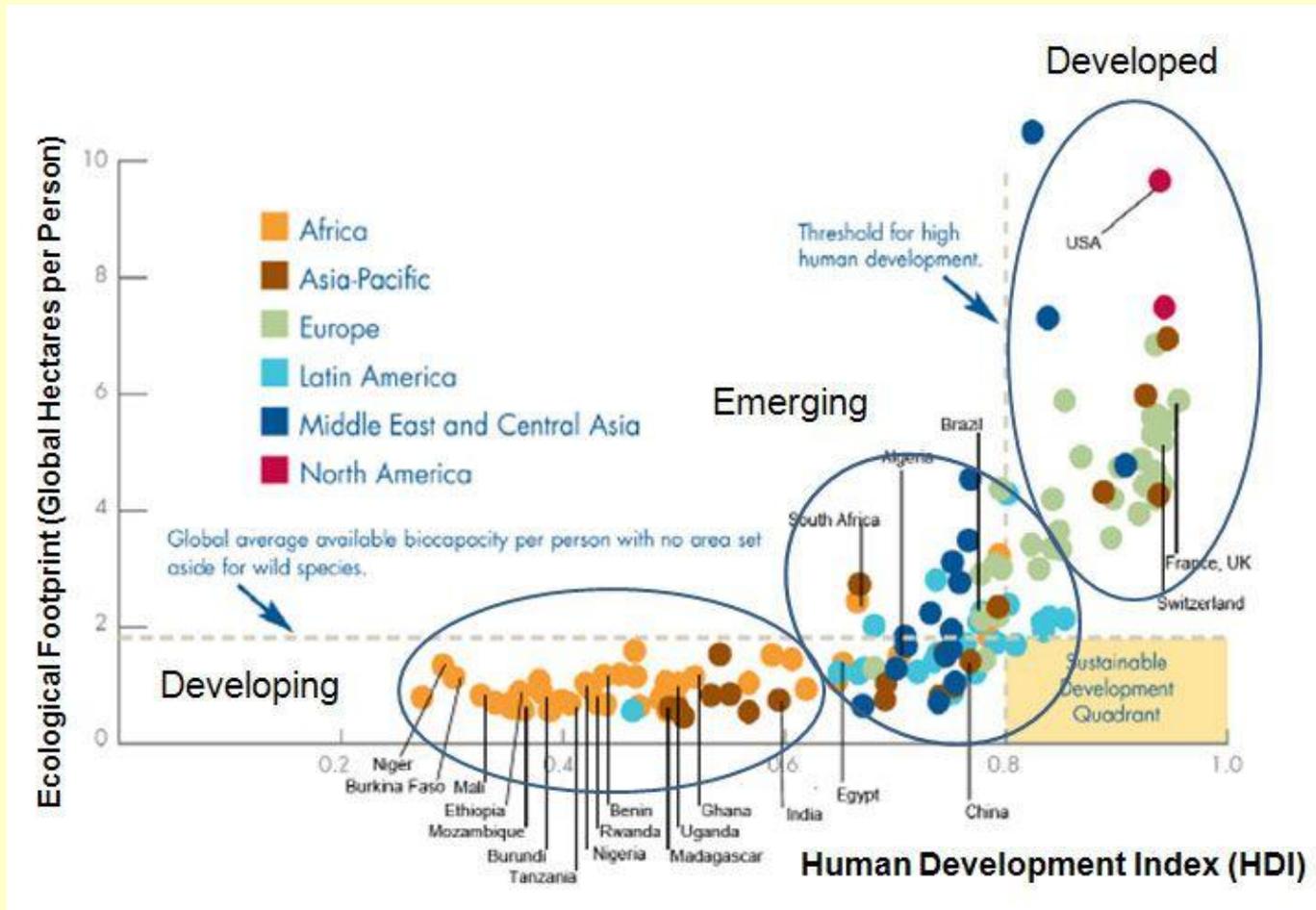


CO₂ Emissions and GNP





HDI and Ecological Footprint Index

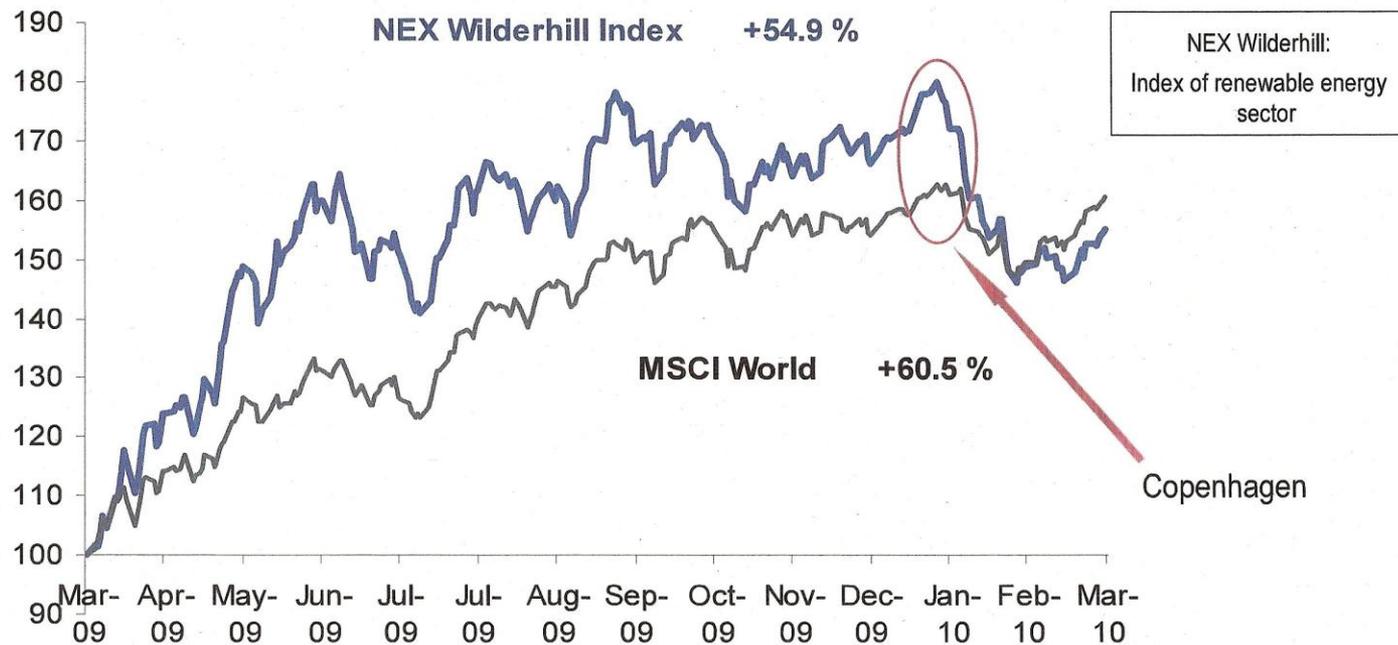


Source: Ecological Footprint Atlas, 2009



Copenhagen a turning point for renewable sector

Stock market performance over the last 12 months, World index versus Renewable Energy Sector Index

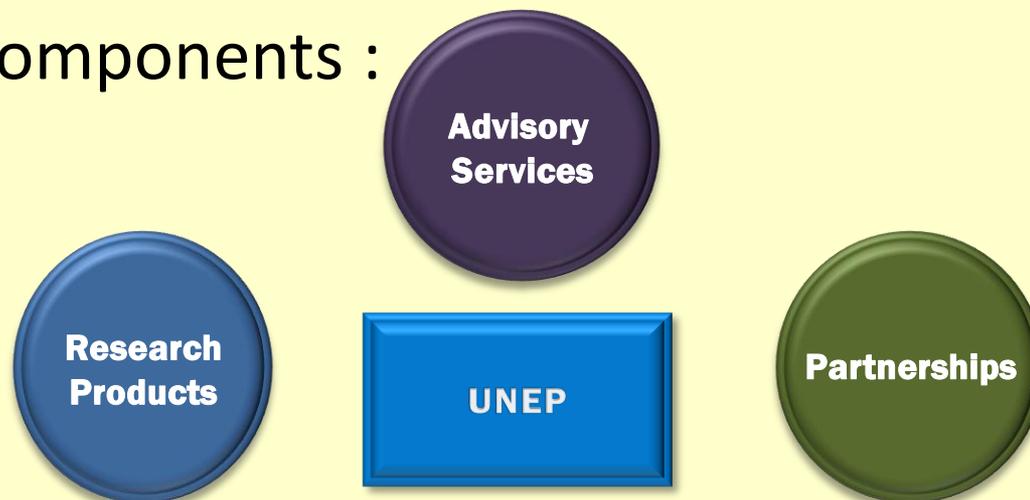


In USD, as of Mar 15, 2010; Source: Bloomberg



UNEP Green Economy Initiative (GEI)

- Launched in Oct 2008 – with partners – to motivate & enable governments to invest in green economies
- Focused on the *process* of transitioning to a green economy –countries will take different paths
- Three components :





Update

- The global Green Economy Report (GER) is progressing and draft chapters have been prepared on energy, transport, waste, fisheries, buildings, cities, water, enabling conditions, and modeling. The research involves over 70 institutes worldwide. These institutes are becoming active agents for promoting GE in their respective regions and countries.
- The GEI is included as one of the nine UN-wide Joint Crisis Initiatives (JCI). More than 30 agencies have been involved and a joint agency statement on green economy was issued in June 2009 during the UN high level conference on the financial crisis.
- The green economy work has been strengthened with the support of a Green Economy Coalition, consisting of a range of stakeholders. The coalition has written to G20 leaders and is prepared to facilitate regional level consultations to generate support.



Update (cont.)

- In S. Korea, UNEP has been requested by the government to review a national green growth strategy and to develop a low carbon green growth strategy for countries in East Asia.
- In China, an international workshop on green economy was carried out and additional outputs will include an overview piece on related concepts and practices in China as well as a survey report on green economy in specific localities or sectors.
- There has been an initial scoping effort in Indonesia. In addition, there have been a number of UNEP-supported workshops in the West Asia region.



A Global Green New Deal

Objectives:

- Contribute to reviving the world economy, saving & creating jobs, and protecting vulnerable groups
- Reduce carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation, putting economies on a path to clean and stable development
- Sustainable and inclusive growth, achievement of the MDGs and end extreme poverty by 2015



A Global Green New Deal

3 Elements:

- Sectorally targeted fiscal stimulus
- Domestic policy reforms
- International policy architecture and coordination



Decent Green jobs in Europe

- One of the main objectives of the GE is to create sustainable, decent jobs. The recent economic and financial crisis has both created an increased awareness of the need for diversifying employment opportunities including improved competitiveness in a globalized environment.
- Fiscal stimulus packages offer in most cases opportunities for investment in clean-tech, energy saving in sectors such as construction and transport, recycling renewable energy production.
- Trade unions can play a key role and in Europe some trade union leaders are concerned that Europe lags behind and many current public subsidies tend to favor the *status quo*
- Other governments outside the region are investing heavily in the above sectors and the future jobs they will generate; others are worried that exceedingly stringent and abrupt measures in favor of environmentally friendly low carbon measures will have a negative impact on jobs.



GEI WEBSITES and PUBLICATIONS

- GEI: www.unep.org/greeneconomy
- Green Jobs Report, September 2008
http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/PDFs/Greenjobs/UNEP-Green-Jobs-Report.pdf
- Rethinking the Economic Recovery: A Global Green New Deal, April 2009
<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/portals/30/docs/GGND-Report-April2009.pdf>
- Global Green New Deal: Policy Brief, March 2009
http://www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf
- Global Green New Deal: An Update for the G20 Pittsburgh Summit, September 2009
<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ciH9RD7XHwc%3d&tabid=1371&language=en-US>