

WHAT IS RIO+20?

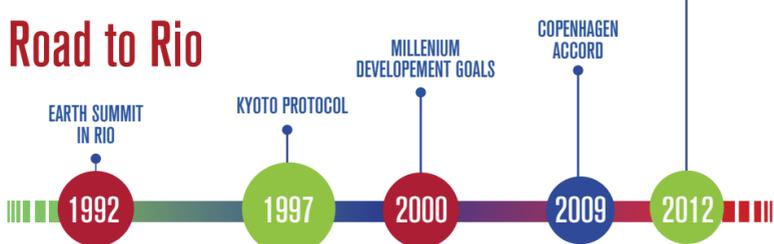
Rio+20 is an abbreviation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, due to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the 20-22 June 2012. The Conference is an historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all.

Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the UN is again bringing together governments, international institutions and major groups to agree on a range of smart measures that can reduce poverty while promoting decent jobs, clean energy and a more sustainable and fair use of resources.

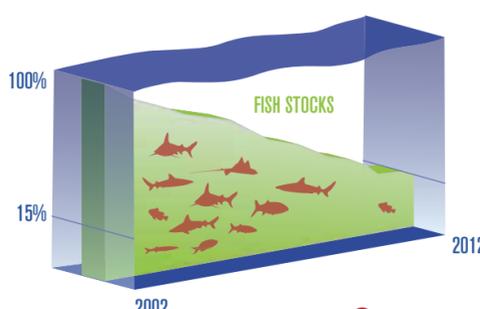
Rio+20 is a chance to move away from business as usual and to act to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future.



Road to Rio

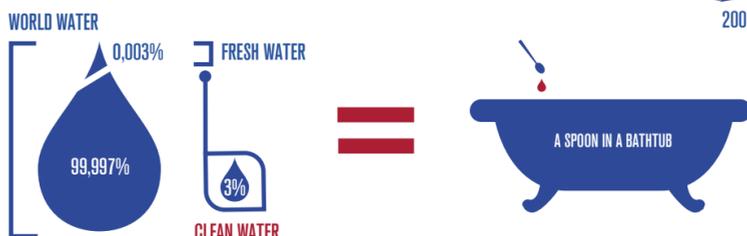


WHY DO WE NEED RIO+20?



Water

There are 1400 million km³ of water on earth. Only 0.003% are "fresh water resources", while just 9000-14000 km³ are available for human use, i.e. a tea spoon in a full bathtub.



Oceans¹

In the last decade, 85% of fish stocks have become either fully, or over, exploited, while 35% of mangrove forests and 20% of coral reefs have been destroyed. Only 15% of fish stocks are moderately or under-exploited.

Climate change²

CO₂ emissions keep on rising; they are up 40% from their 1992 figures. Two-thirds of this rise occurred in the last decade.

Food Wasted

The amount of food wasted by consumers in industrialized countries each year (220 million tonnes) is almost as high as the total net production of Sub-Saharan Africa (230 millions tonnes).

Biodiversity

Biodiversity fell by 12% globally, and by 30% in the tropics since Rio 1992.

Gender

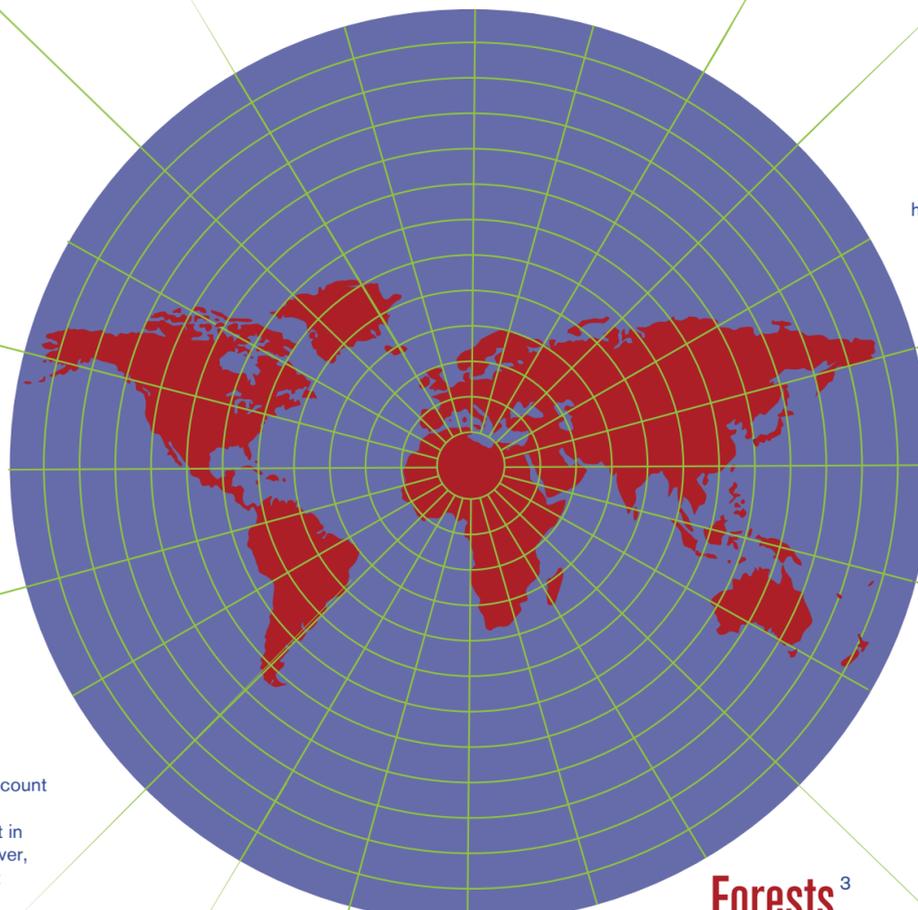
Women produce more than 50% of world's food but own only 2% of all land.

Energy

Solar and wind energy account for only 0.3% of global energy supply. Investment in sustainable energy, however, has skyrocketed in recent years: +540%.

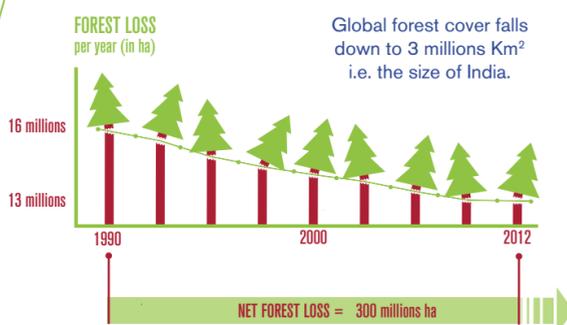
Cities

More than 50% of the global population now lives in urban areas. Urban population has risen by 45% since 1992. Urban residents are responsible for more than 70% of the global carbon emissions.

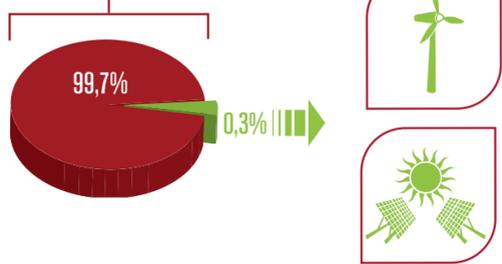


Forests³

Global forest cover falls down to 3 millions Km² i.e. the size of India.



ALL SOURCES OF ENERGY



- Oceans:** Excessive absorption of CO₂ remains a threat that could negatively impact coral and marine life.
- Greenhouse gas emissions** continue to rise and more than a one-third of all known species could go extinct if climate change continues unchecked.
- Forests:** Deforestation results not only in biodiversity loss but also contributes to 12-15% to global warming by releasing CO₂ in the atmosphere and hampering further CO₂ storage.

WHAT ISSUES WILL IT TACKLE?

Making the transition to greener economies while focusing on poverty eradication

Protecting our oceans from overfishing, the destruction of marine ecosystems and the adverse effects of climate change

Making our cities more liveable and more efficient

Broadening the use of renewable energy sources that can significantly lower carbon emissions and pollution, while promoting economic growth

Better managing forests to avoid climate change damages from greenhouse gas emissions and to protect biodiversity

Improving the way we conserve and manage our water resources, in order to promote development and guard against desertification

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE OR CONTRIBUTE?

Rio+20 is a major opportunity to form partnerships and to highlight work by all stakeholders. The official website www.uncsd2012.org provides a platform for civil society, business, academia and NGOs to share their preparatory activities for Rio+20.

Monetary and in-kind contributions are needed from donor organizations to fund the participation of all stakeholders in the preparatory process for the Conference.

For more information on how to contribute, please contact:

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