Planet Planet



UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON ZERO HUNGER NOROVYN ALTANKHUYAG GREAT OPPORTUNITY JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA FOOD LOSSES MEAN HUNGER ERTHARIN COUSIN SOLVABLE PROBLEM





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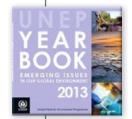
UNEP 2012 Annual report

The 2012 Annual Report details UNEP's wide-ranging activities in what proved to be the most momentous year in the organization's history. At Rio+20, Heads of State and governments decided to strengthen and upgrade UNEP; this was followed by the adoption of a resolution at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly later in the year that granted UNEP universal membership and called for increased resources.

The report details UNEP's work across its six thematic areas: Climate Change; Disasters and Conflicts; Ecosystem Management; Environmental Governance; Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste; Resource Efficiency; and Sustainable Consumption and Production. It also highlights the key role UNEP plays in providing environmental leadership to the UN system and the international community, showcasing dozens of collaborative initiatives that drive the agenda of international environmental governance.

ISBN No: 978-92-807-3323-5

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UNEP Year Book 2013 - Emerging Issues in Our Global Environment

Rapid change in the Arctic resulting from climate change is threatening ecosystems and providing new development opportunities including easier access to oil, gas and minerals. The UNEP Year Book 2013 shows that changes in the Arctic will have consequences far beyond this fragile region and that they require an urgent international response.

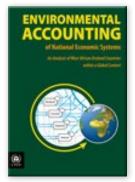
The volume of chemicals in the world continues to grow, with a shift in production from developed to developing countries. To meet the goal of producing and using chemicals in ways that minimize significant impacts on health and the environment by 2020, we need to step up efforts to reduce

the use of toxic chemicals, promote safer alternatives and build capacity for sound chemicals management. Adequate information for minimizing chemical risks is essential to support these efforts.

The UNEP Year Book series examines emerging environmental issues and policy-relevant events and developments. It also presents the latest trends using key environmental indicators.

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Environmental Accounting of National Economic Systems: An Analysis of West African Dryland Countries within a Global Context

Over the past several decades, increasing human population, economic development, and emergence of global markets, have resulted in immense pressures on natural resources, and these pressures are expected to intensify further over the next few decades. It is essential for sustainable policy that the costs of degradation of ecosystem services associated with development be incorporated into decision making and are not considered to be free. There is a growing need to include natural capital and ecosystem services in national accounting.

This report presents an environmental accounting framework based on a biophysical approach to quantifying values of ecosystem services. The foundation of the method (emergy analysis) is based on our understanding of energy and material flow through systems. Accounting for basic physical flows of energy and materials transformed in both environmental and economic processes permits a direct linkage with monetary valuation of environmental services and natural capital.

Detailed environmental accounting of 134 national economies is presented, with a strong emphasis on the dryland countries of West Africa, where the rural poor are especially dependent on environmental resources. Environmental accounting is used for: (i) understanding the comparative resource basis of nations, (ii) determining the value of global losses of natural capital, (iii) quantifying links between a nations resource basis and indicators of human welfare, and (iv) examining implications of biophysical valuation on international trade and debt.

ISBN No: 978-92-807-3301-3

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Elephants in the Dust - The African Elephant Crisis

The African elephant, the largest remaining land mammal on the planet, is facing the greatest crisis in decades. Reports of mass elephant killings in the media vividly illustrate the situation across many African elephant range States. This Rapid Response Assessment provides an overview of the current state of the African elephant alongside recommendations for action to ensure its protection.

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Message of the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UNEP

Achim Steiner

Every year on June 5th, people across the planet celebrate the United Nations World Environment Day. It is a day for action. Hundreds of thousands of activities take place in virtually every country in the world to improve the environment now and for the future.

This year's theme focuses on food waste and food loss. Think.Eat.Save.Reduce Your Foodprint is the new campaign that UNEP and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, in conjunction with a rapidly growing list of partners from the public and private sector, launched earlier this year. It draws attention both to the issue and the absurdity that high volumes of perfectly edible produce are never making it from the farm to the fork.

Indeed, at least one third of everything we grow on this planet is lost between the field and the consumer. It is an ethical, economic and environmental issue given the enormous waste of energy, water, fertilizers and other inputs as a result of food that is produced but never eaten.

Each one of us can do something about this and that's why, through the Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint campaign, we invite people across the world to join us in an effort to both raise awareness and to take practical actions whether in your home, whether on your farm, whether in the supermarket, in a canteen, in a hotel or anywhere else where food is prepared and consumed.

This year's global host for WED 2013 is Mongolia, one of the fastest growing economies in the world and one that is aiming for a transition to a green economy and a green civilization. It is not a big waster or loser of food, but the traditional and nomadic life of many of its people does have some ancient answers to the modern-day challenge of food waste.

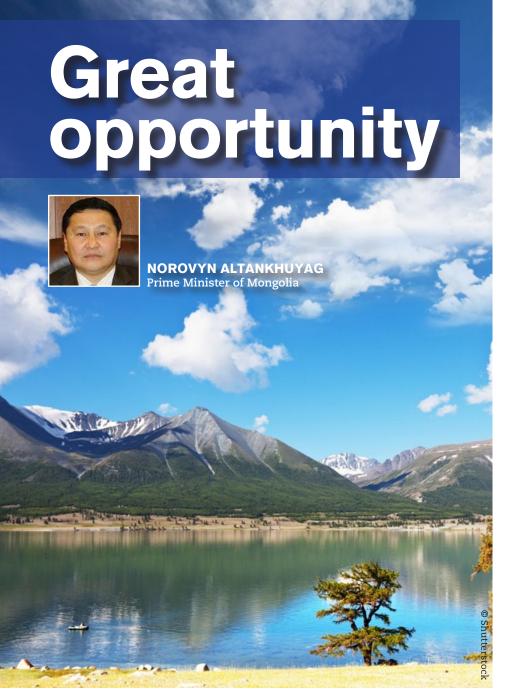
The Mongol general Chinggis Khan and his troops utilized a traditional food called borts to gallop across Asia without depending on elaborate supply chains. Borts is basically concentrated beef equal to the protein of an entire cow but condensed and ground down to the size of a human fist. This remarkable method of food preservation, without refrigeration, meant a meal equivalent to several steaks when the protein was shaved into hot water to make soup.

And the Mongolians have other secrets to share that may contribute to preserving and thus not wasting food — the aaruul, for instance, is a form of dried curds that can last as a perfectly healthy dish or snack for years, again without refrigeration.

UNEP has, in advance of WED 2013, been compiling similar examples of traditional and indigenous knowledge from familiar techniques such as pickling or salting fish to the smoking of meat, the drying of fruit and other techniques employed by the Inuits to preserve seabirds which are served later at feasts and weddings.

Mongolia is also aiming to green not only its mining sector but its energy and agricultural systems while developing its landscapes and national parks — home to such rare and iconic species as the przewalskii horse — for eco-tourism.

Join us on June 5th in Mongolia or wherever you are in the world and organize an event. It can be in your home, your school, your company and your community. Share what you are up to including photographs via the dedicated website — www.unep.org/wed And above all, Think Eat Save. Reduce Your Foodprint.



2013 marks the 40th Anniversary of World Environment Day. The date is significant for those who are working to save the environment as it was the first occasion on which world leaders met to discuss issues of global environment and development. It represents an important reminder that climate change continues to present a number of challenges to the global community.

This year Mongolia is delighted to be hosting World Environment Day. This event will provide a great opportunity to promote sustainable development both domestically and overseas. So why are we so excited to be hosting WED this year?

We have an environmentally friendly president. President Tsakhia Elbegdorj of Mongolia became the Champion of the Earth Laureate in 2012 in the area of Policy Leadership. President Elbegdorj has been honored for his political and environmental activities which include; leading the peaceful democratic revolution that ended communist rule in 1990 and chairing the Community of Democracies, a grouping

of countries that work to strengthen democratic norms and practices worldwide since July 2011. President Tsakhia Elbegdorj has also initiated many positive environmental policies. These include: submitting the Law on Decreasing the Capital's City Air Pollution; suspending the issuance of all new mining licenses; organizing tree planting days to combat desertification; and initiating campaigns to educate the young generation on the impacts of climate change and the importance of environmental stewardship.

By virtue of having an environmentallyconscious President, Mongolia has a 'green-friendly' government. Established after elections in June 2012, the current government has converted the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism into a new Ministry of Environment and Green Development, and elevated its status to one of four core ministries.

This ministry is working to develop a green development strategy, entitled "Green Civilization". It reflects Mongolia's renewed commitment to moving towards a low-carbon economy. It addresses economic. social, environmental, cultural and political pillars in order to drive positive change. The Mongolian Government is aiming to "lay the foundation of green development, to approve the 'Green civilization' development strategy and to build models of green development" during its current term which ends in 2016.

We are very excited about this year's World Environment Day and specifically about the global theme: Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your food print.

We hope that WED will provide us all with an opportunity to share knowledge and learn from each others' experience.

Welcome to Mongolia – host country of WED 2013!



Zero hunger



BAN KI-MOON Secretary-General of the United Nations

Growing up in war-time Korea, I knew hunger. Food shortages were common and we could not let a single grain to go to waste. Since then, many countries, including my own, have taken bold steps to end hunger, unlocking their potential for exponential growth.

Today, the world produces more than enough food for everyone, yet 870 million people are undernourished. Meanwhile, one third of all food produced is never eaten. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, approximately 1.3 billion tonnes is wasted each year.

That is why I am pleased that the theme for this year's World Environment Day is Think.Eat. Save. Reduce your Foodprint. This campaign, spearheaded by FAO and UNEP, is directly in line with my Zero Hunger Challenge, which calls for zero loss or waste of food at all stages of the food chain, from farm to table.

Infrastructure and technology can reduce the amount of food that perishes after it is harvested and before it reaches the market. Manufacturers and retailers can minimize the amount of food wasted during processing and storage. Regulators can make sure that product expiry dates reflect the maximum shelf-life possible within the limits of food safety. And individuals can take a tip from a

leaflet put out by the United States government in 1917: "Food - buy it with thought; cook it with care; serve just enough; use what is left".

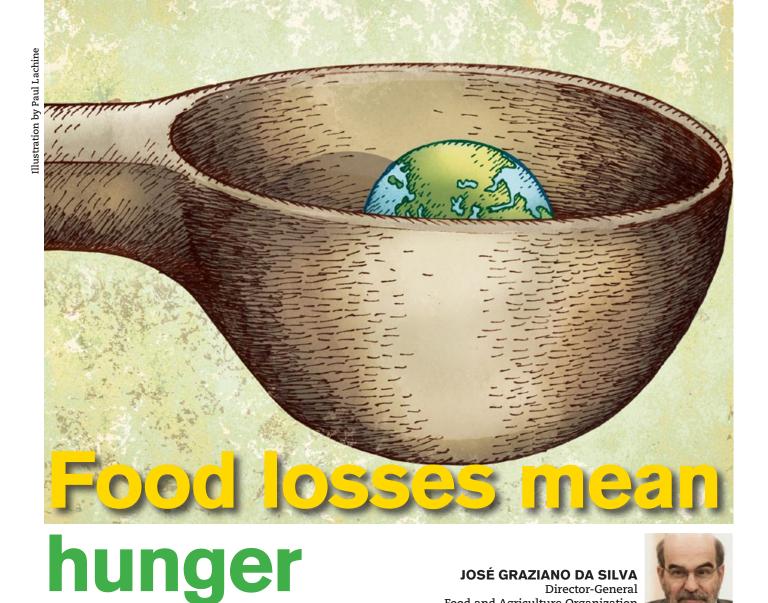
Of course, we cannot end hunger solely by eliminating food waste. The Zero Hunger Challenge calls on all actors to scale up efforts to create a world where everyone can enjoy the right to food and have access to adequate nutrition all year round. It means ensuring an end to childhood stunting, and doubling the productivity and income of smallholders, who grow the vast majority of food in developing countries. It also means building a world where all food systems are sustainable, particularly in the face of climatic and economic shocks.

This vision cannot be accomplished when we lose almost one-third of all the food we produce, and when resources are wasted in production and processing. When food goes uneaten and is spoiled, everything that went into its production is lost - from a farmer's time and effort, to the fuel used to transport it to market, and the land and water used to grow it. Besides being an affront to the hungry, food waste is a drain on natural resources and damaging to the environment.

Global hunger and the environment are intricately linked. We must ensure that food systems do not damage the ecosystem services they depend on. Think.Eat.Save -

Reduce Your Foodprint encourages us to become more aware of the environmental implications of our food choices and find ways to reduce our ecological "foodprint". That requires us to think across all sectors. Global food production is the largest single source of greenhouse gases, biodiversity loss and land-use change. It occupies a quarter of habitable land and uses 70 per cent of freshwater -- our most precious resource - often very inefficiently. The consequences include groundwater depletion and the salinization of arable land. Reliance on nitrogen-based fertilizers pollutes lakes, rivers and the marine environment. Monocultures and the widespread use of insecticides and herbicides threaten to disturb important ecological systems, such as pollination by bees.

This year's World Environment Day Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint campaign encourages each of us to make a difference, individually and collectively. Governments, businesses, farmers, civil society, scientists and consumers all have an important role to play. The current global population of seven billion is expected to grow to nine billion by 2050. But the number of hungry people need not increase. By reducing food waste, we can save money, minimize environmental impacts and make food production more sustainable and resilient. Most importantly, we can move towards a world where everyone has enough to eat.



Let's look at the facts.

Worldwide about one third of all food products -

Such losses need to be tackled by energetic and welltargetted development of the food and agriculture sector.

of the United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization

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