

DIE Workshop
Bonn, 12th and 13th March, 2014
Green and social:
Managing synergies and trade-offs

**Will the SDG's be as ecology-blind
as the MDG's have been?**

Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker



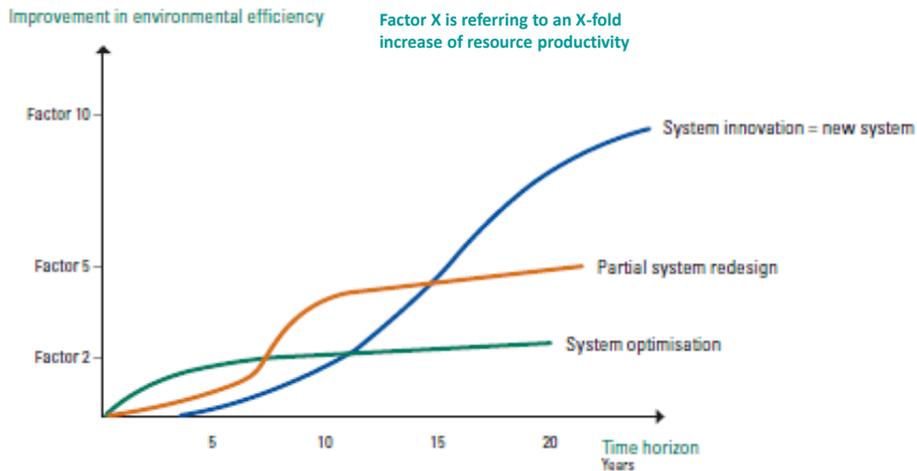
<„TST Issues Briefs“ are the very valuable analytical background documents for briefing UN OWG delegates on the issues under discussion.>

“Achieving SCP patterns and decoupling socio-economic development from rising resource use and environmental degradation require **major changes to production systems, employment patterns and technologies in every country,“ ...**

From: TST Issues Brief Sustainable Consumption and Production, including Chemicals and Waste 2013

So prepare yourselves to consider **major changes.**

Major changes mean System innovations
- and a tenfold increase of resource productivity.



Source: Weterings et al. 1997

“Most seriously, the MDGs fell short by not addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production.”

UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The MDGs, adopted ... in 2000 ... made tangible progress for different goals in different countries, although with little attention to resource use and related impacts on the environment.

Managing and conserving the natural resource base for sustained economic and social development. A reflection from the International Resource Panel on the establishment of Sustainable Development Goals. Nairobi, 2014



**MDG's were not by themselves ,ecology blind'.
But countries' ways of dealing with them were.**

So let us now examine the *ecological* state of affairs of the UN discussions of the SDG's.

Let us look for synergies and trade-offs in the 19 „Focus areas“ listed in the Co-Chair's letter of 21st February, 2014 (after the 8th Session of the OWG).

Focus area	Synergies	Trade-offs
1 Poverty eradication		XXX (growth)
2 Food security	X (improving efficiency of water use)	XXX (food growth)
3 Health & population	X (envir. causes of diseases)	XX (provision of big heath services)
4 Education	X (sustainability education)	X (focus on labour market)
5 Gender equality	XX (can curb population dynamics)	X (focus on growth)
6 Water, Sanitation	XX (address water efficiency, biodiversity)	X More dams etc.

Focus area	Synergies	Trade-offs
7 Energy	X (efficiency & renewables)	XXX (more, more, more energy)
8 Economic growth	X (efficiency)	XXX (growth, growth)
9 Industrialization	X (sustainable production)	XXX (also trade-offs between countries!!)
10 Infrastructure	X (sanitation)	XXX (always need land and cut biotopes)
11 Employment		XXX (focus on growth)
12 Equality	X?	X?

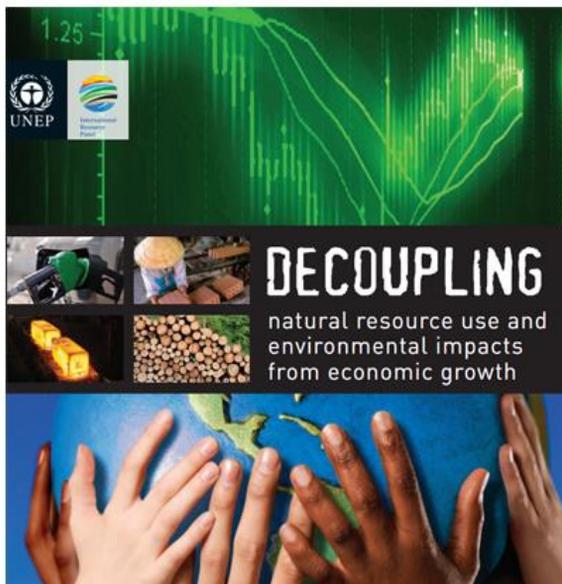
Focus area	Synergies	Trade-offs
13 Sustainable cities	XX (instead of sprawl & slums; water mgt.)	XX (growth emphasis)
14 SCP	XXX (if anybody follows)	X
15 Climate	XXX? (but in reality no progress!)	X (G77 focus on „loss & damages“ diverts focus)
16 Marine resources	XX (reduce subsidies, avoid pollution)	X intention: more catch
17 Biodiversity	XX (TEEB + , forest)	
18 Implementation	X (transfer of technology)	XX (Focus on growth)
19 Peaceful Societies	XX	X?

Let us be honest: Trade-offs dominate, synergies remain vague hopes. In other words: to achieve synergies, we need policy interventions. The trade-offs come from alone!

Overriding problems: Anthropocentric mindset, overpopulation, short term thinking. Markets are more powerful than rules. (A trend since 1990, - the end of the Cold War.)

Where is the real hope for synergies?

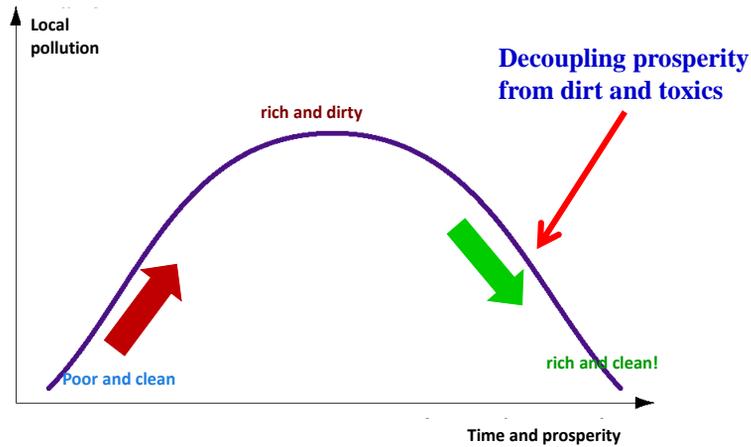
Well, I suppose it lies in **decoupling** economic well-being from resource consumption. It allows people to pursue their selfish economic preferences while still reducing pressures on the environment.



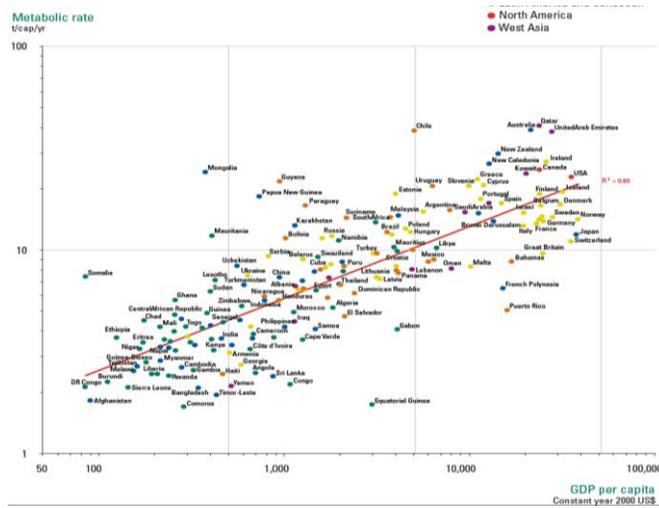
Decoupling
can be seen
as IRP's
signature



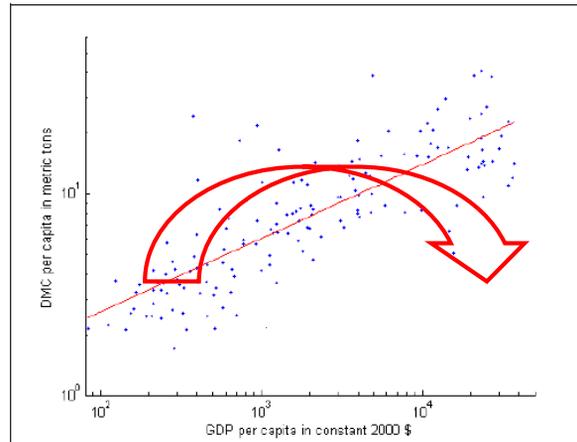
The paradigm for the decoupling idea: The Kuznets-curve of local pollution.



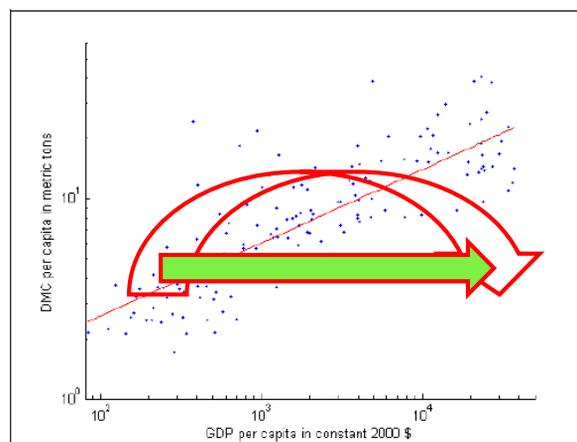
Alas, far hardly any decoupling on material consumption!



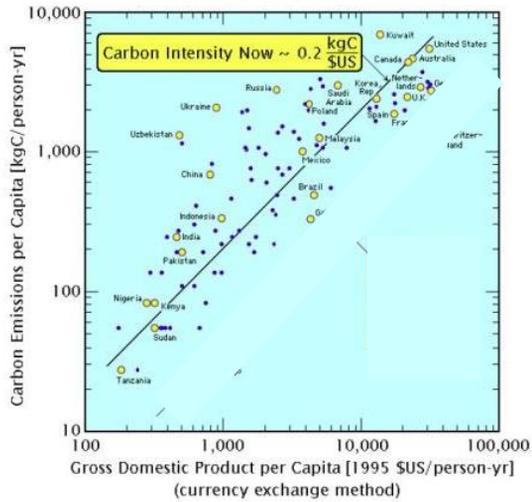
Decoupling means creating the Kuznets Curve for resources.



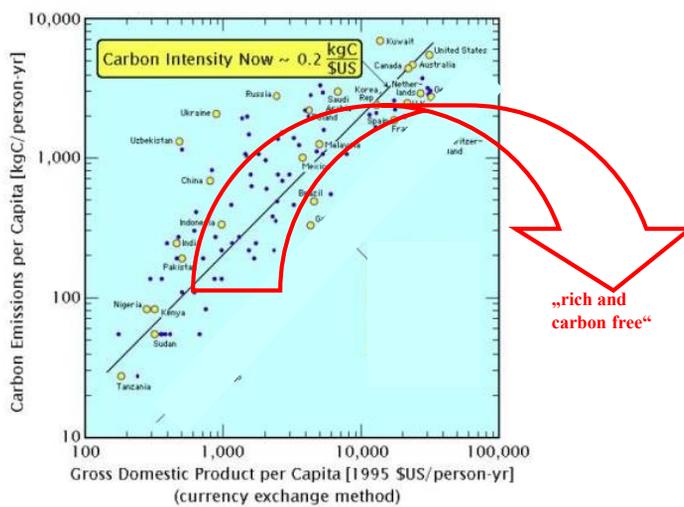
... and encourage developing countries tunneling through (avoiding costly clumsiness)



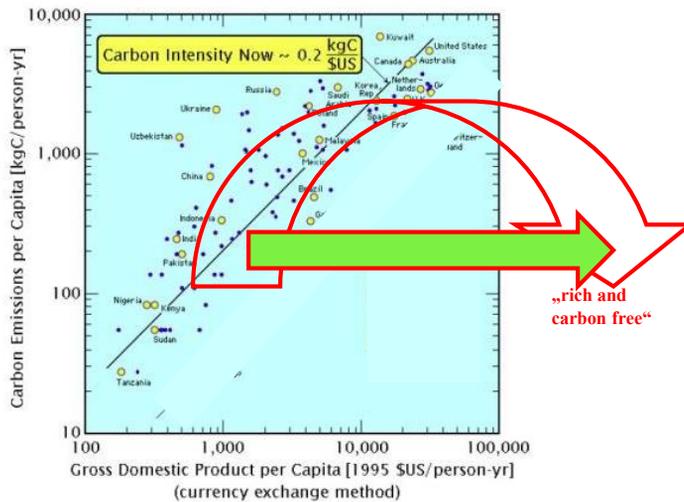
... very similar with CO₂ intensity.



... we need the Kuznets Curve of decarbonization.



... and the tunneling through .

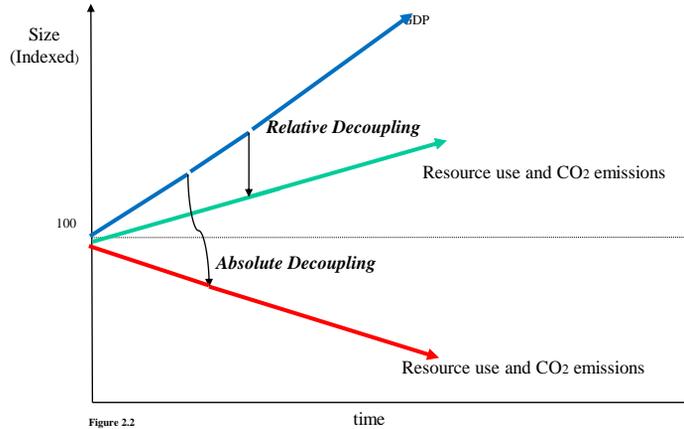


On CO₂ and energy many believe that renewable sources of energy will solve all problems. I beg to differ.

If the richest 1 b people achieve the heroic goal of 20% renewables by 2020, only 1/35 of the global job will be achieved!

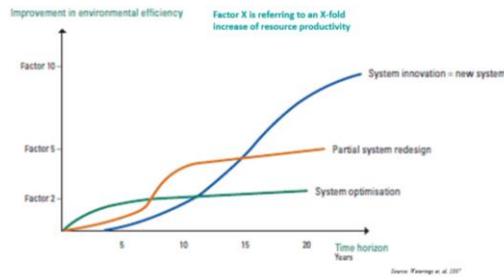
And I feel *greatly* concerned by the prospect of a 35 fold increase of renewable energies.

CBDR means: relative decoupling for the South, and absolute decoupling for the North; (and the North needs less growth, too!)

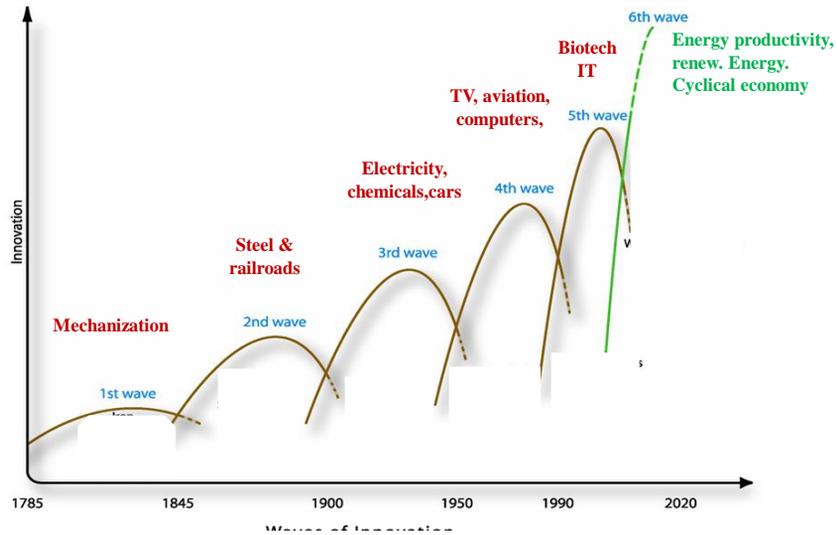


But with systems innovations, this can be done without sacrificing any well-being.

Major changes mean System innovations
- and a tenfold increase of resource productivity.



So the ambition is nothing less than creating a **Green Kondratiev Cycle**, after five **brown ones**.



Factor Five can be a bold beginning towards a **Factor Ten!** **Factor five** is a Report to the Club of Rome.



**The book shows the availability
of five-fold efficiency increases in
four sectors:**

- 1. Buildings**
- 2. Transport**
- 3. Industry**
- 4. Agriculture**

**The Japanese edition is
focussing on the post
Fukushima situation.
To appear 25 March.**



**The book also touches policy questions.
It comes up with a daring proposal:**

- (i) Raise resource prices yearly, in parallel with efficiency increases of the preceding year;**
- (ii) Offer „life line tariffs“ for the poor;**
- (iii) Offer revenue neutrality to resource intensive industries.**

In a world of basically scarce resources, countries and companies pioneering efficiency will be the game winners. Developing countries can actually advance faster than the old industrialized countries, which tend to be locked into wasteful habits and infrastructures.

To conclude:

The SDG‘ have a tendency to remain ecology blind.

Decoupling prosperity from resource and carbon intensity is an ecological necessity.

A five-fold increase of resource productivity is doable both in the North and the South.

Policies exist to accelerate the transition.