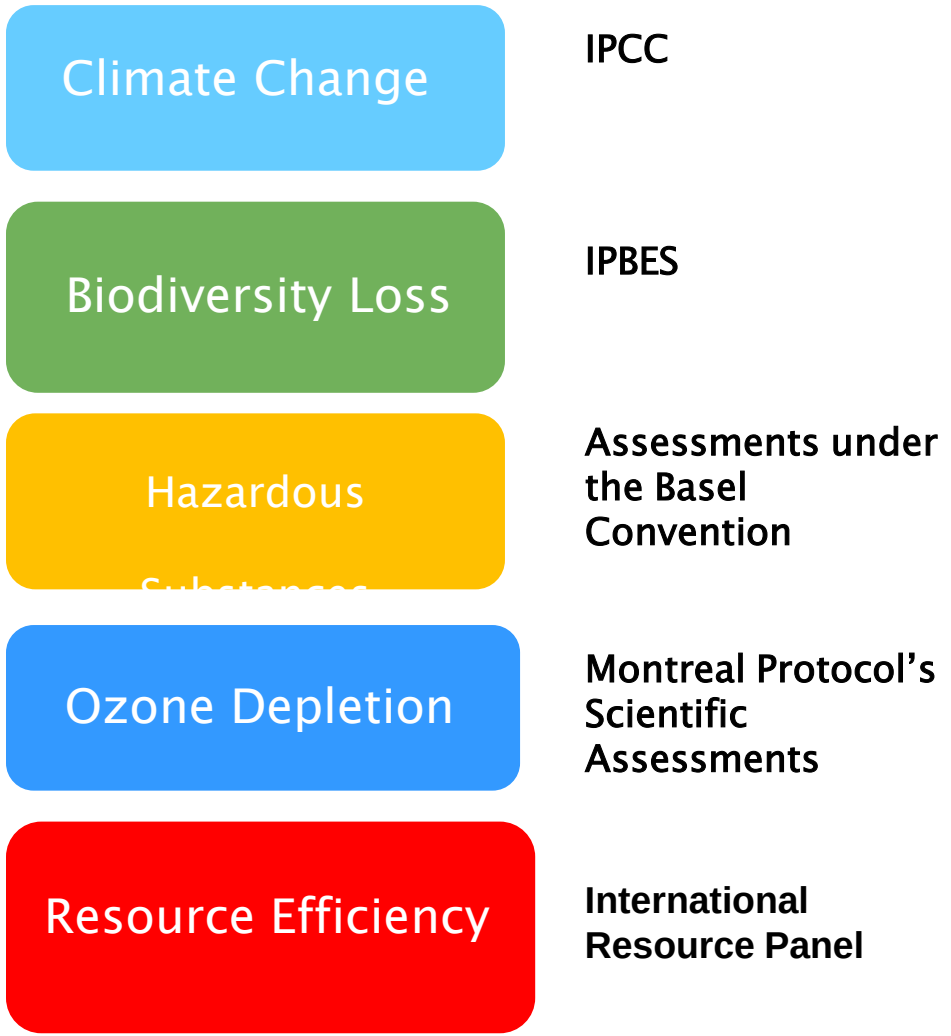
THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE PANEL

ERF-2014, 11 November 2014, Berlin, Germany

Shaoyi Li, Head, the Secretariat of IRP

International policy needs a science base

The International Resource Panel was created in 2007 as a science-policy interface in responding to economic growth, escalating use of natural resources and deteriorating environment and climate change.



“We need to break the links between economic growth and environmental degradation.”

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

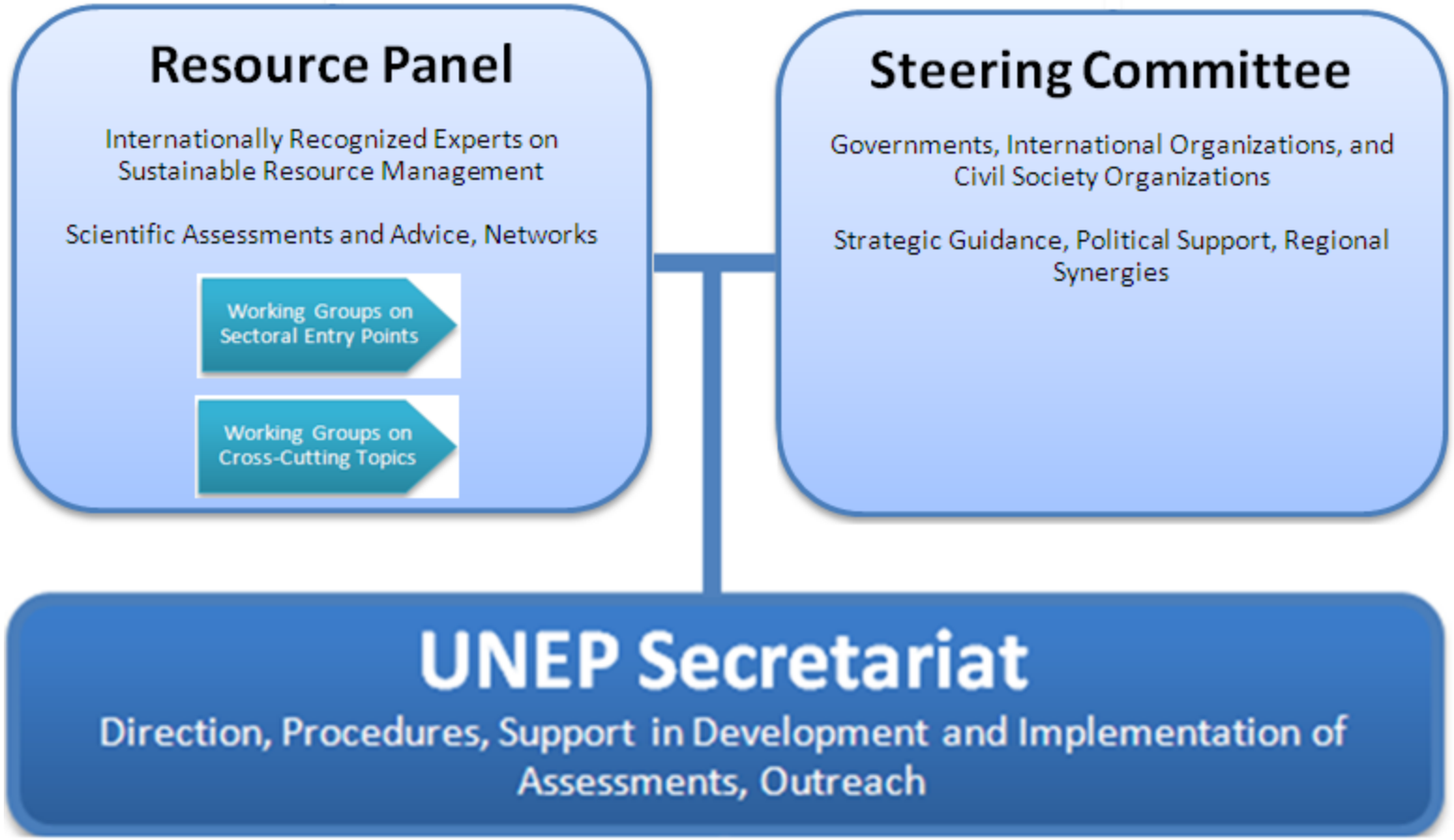
What's the IRP? What's its mission?

The International Resource Panel is an international scientific panel of experts that supports science based policy making on resource use and environmental sustainability through:

- Provide independent, coherent, authoritative and policy-relevant scientific assessments on the sustainable use of natural resources, and in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle; and

- Contributing to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation

IRP's Structure



Means and products

- Wealth of expertise, identification of critical issues and science-policy interface
- Assessment reports
  - Extensive research lead to full report
  - Summary and syntheses for policy-makers
  - Fact-sheet and PPT
  - E-book
  - On-line curriculum
  - Video messages, Op-eds in journals, media outreach
  - Syntheses on thematic cluster (biotic, abiotic, decoupling, etc.)
- Contribution to policy discourse
  - The Synopsis for Rio+20
  - The Think Piece for SDG
  - Events organized at global and regional levels

Criteria for selecting assessment topics

- **Magnitude** and **range** of challenge, solution and impact (global, continent, economy wide and eco-system)
- **Urgency and timeliness**
- **Policy relevance/Applicability/Practical Feasibility/Specificity, Conditions for implementation**
- **Scientific interest**
- **Data** availability, knowledge gaps and needs
- **People orientation**: social dimension, poverty, health, jobs, intra and inter generation equity, safety net
- **Limits**, **trade offs** between different options and impacts, P**revention and mitigation** of unintended consequences
- **Missing links** in scientific assessment landscape

Areas of Assessment

-Decoupling
-Cities

Decoupling

A-Biotic Resources

Metals:
-Impacts
-Stocks
-Recycling

-Land & Soils
-Water
-Food
-REDD+

Biotic Resources

Environmental Impacts

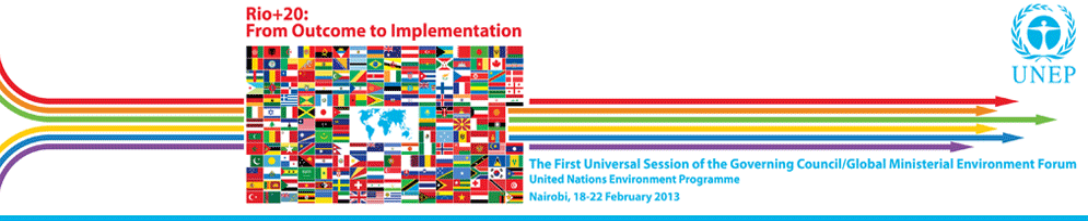
-Priority Products
-GHG
-Biofuel

-Material Flows
-Scenarios
-Trade

Systems Approach

Acknowledged by the international community

- The session of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) in February 2013 presented an opportunity to raise awareness of the Panel's work among policy makers. In his policy statement at the opening of the session, UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner drew attention to the work of the panel and cited findings from the decoupling report. In their decision, Ministers of the Environment called for strengthening science-policy interfaces inter alia by building on existing panels, and in this respect **acknowledged the work of the IRP**.



First Universal Session of UNEP's Governing Council, Nairobi, 18 February 2013

- "We recognize the important contribution of the scientific and technological community to sustainable development. We are committed to working with and fostering collaboration among academic, scientific and technological community, in particular in developing countries, to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries, **strengthen the science-policy interface** as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development."

The Future We Want
Outcome Document adopted at Rio+20

RIO 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Impact & Uptake

Impact on Policy Making:

- Global political processes and panels
- International Organisations
- Regional organisations
- National governments

Uptake from intermediaries:

- Think Tanks and research Institutions
- Scientific journals
- Business community
- Media

RIO+20

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

World Resources Forum

RESILIENT PEOPLE RESILIENT PLANET
A FUTURE WORTH CHOOSING

CSD-18 Review Session may 3-14 2010 DSD

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

DFID
Department for International Development

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

European Commission

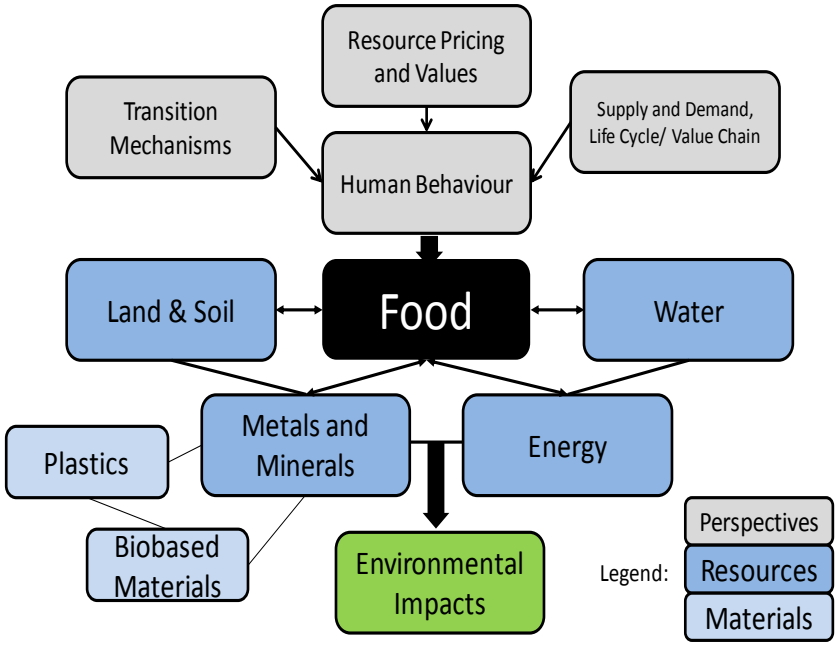
กระทรวงทรัพยากรธรรมชาติและสิ่งแวดล้อม
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan

What's next? From Individual Resources to Systems Thinking

INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

SYSTEMS THINKING



Integrated Scenario Analysis

Global Material Flows and Resource Productivity

Direct and embodied resources in traded goods

Sustainable Food Systems

Resource use in cities

Priority areas 2015-17

- Circular economy and innovation - focusing specifically on tools to extend product life, such as re-use and remanufacturing
- The resource nexus - focusing on restoration and resilience of land and biodiversity, and ecosystem services
- Governance of resources and poverty eradication - focusing on minerals development and improved environmental and social outcomes
- Marine resources - focusing on the interface between land and marine activities, and on linkages between the green and blue economy agendas.

Provide best science available for informed decision-making on sustainable management of natural resources for wellbeing of all people and our planet.

International Resource Panel

Thank You

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www.unep.org/resourcepanel