

Millennium Development Goals & Environmental Sustainability

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The Goals

- ▶ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ▶ Achieve universal primary education
- ▶ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ▶ Reduce child mortality
- ▶ Improve maternal health
- ▶ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ▶ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ▶ Develop a global partnership for development

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Environmental Sustainability: The Scorecard

Source: United Nations, The Millennium Development Goals Report (2013)

- ▶ Growth in carbon dioxide emissions accelerating
 - ▶ Emissions today are 46% higher than 1990 levels
- ▶ Forests continue to be lost “at an alarming rate”
- ▶ Overexploitation of marine fish stocks
- ▶ Birds and Mammals heading for extinction at ever faster rate

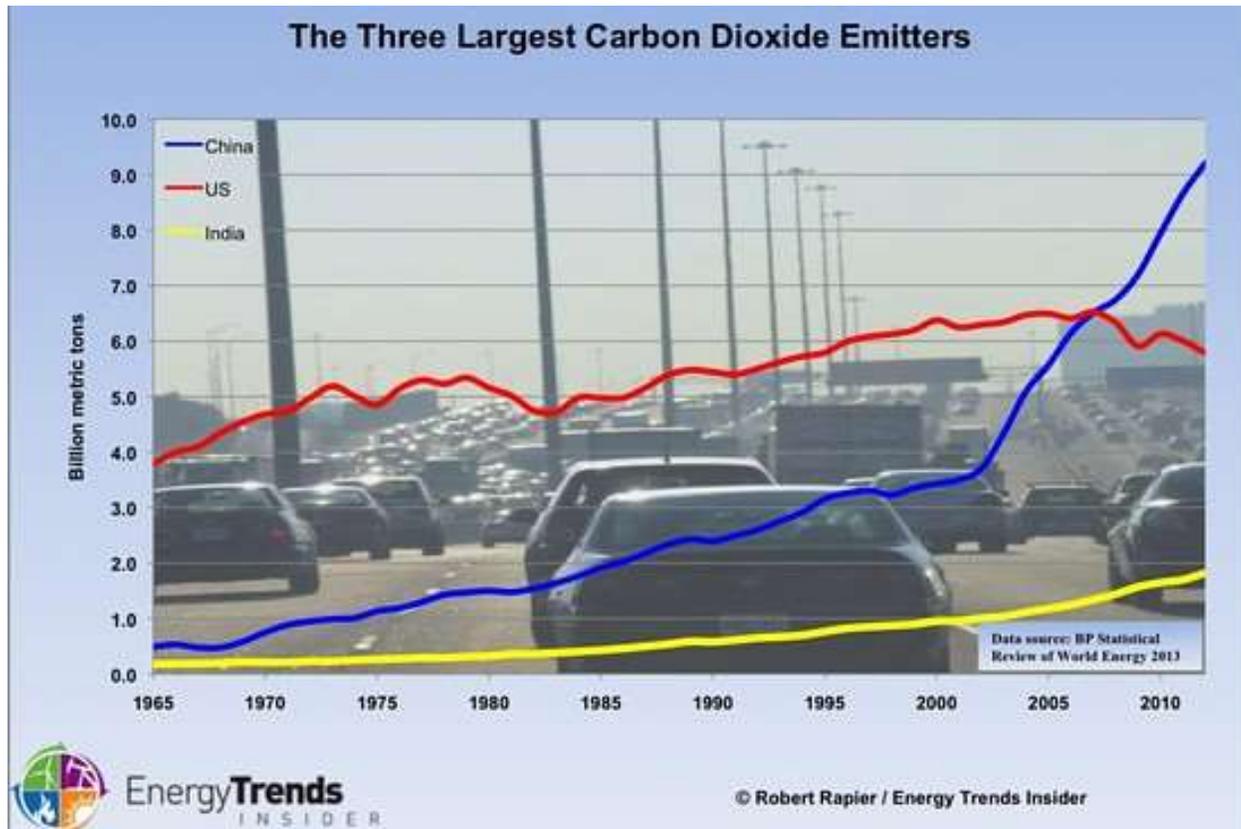
Development is sometimes key to health and poverty reduction

- ▶ Access to clean drinking water
- ▶ Ecosystem services
- ▶ Access to food
- ▶ Resilient ecosystems help protect against natural disasters

**Unmediated development also contributes
to environmental degradation...**

The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side and bottom of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.

Unmediated development also contributes to environmental degradation...



Development in developing countries is increasing carbon emissions at a greater rate than developed countries

Source: Robert Rapier, *Wanted: A Climate Solution for Developing Countries*, Wall Street Journal, <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2013/09/24/wanted-a-climate-solution-for-developing-countries/>

Unmediated development also contributes to environmental degradation...



Primary driver of forest conversion is for agriculture, but not just agriculture that will feed the hungry. Also for agriculture to feed demand in developed countries that does more than satisfy hunger, such as with palm oil plantations

Sources: EIA, *Help Us Stop Palm Oil Pushing Orangutans Over the Edge*, June 29 1012; EIA, *Illegal Fires Put "Sustainable" Palm Oil in the Hot Spot*, June 21, 2013

Unmediated development also contributes to environmental degradation...



Rhino horn consumption increase in Viet Nam is linked not to Traditional Chinese Medicine, but primarily to new uses related to conspicuous consumption

Source: Tom Milliken and Jo Shaw, The South African - Viet Nam Rhino Horn Trade Nexus (TRAFFIC, 2013)

Need Better Coordination and Intentional Development

- ▶ Focus on **adaptation** that enhances **resilience**
- ▶ Focus on **drivers** of environmental degradation
- ▶ Understand **connection** between healthy environments and human welfare **in the long-term**

What Role for International Law?

- ▶ **Establish coordinated frameworks**
 - ▶ Address sectoral fragmentation
- ▶ **Facilitate technical assistance**
- ▶ **Provide a check on unregulated marketplace for environmental destruction**
- ▶ **Enhance accountability for goals**