

# Keeping Track of Our Changing Environment



From Rio to Rio+20 (1992-2012)



- **Transformative Change:** The world has significantly changed due to rapid globalization fueled by unforeseen breakthroughs in **Information and Communication technologies**
- Since Rio many developments took place which were not foreseen in 1992. **Attention to climate change (no mention in OUR COMMON FUTURE, 1987)**
- Progress on environmental issues has been rather limited.
- Our knowledge about the state of environment is relatively poor to promote '**evidence based policies**' due to lack of adequate monitoring capabilities at the national level.

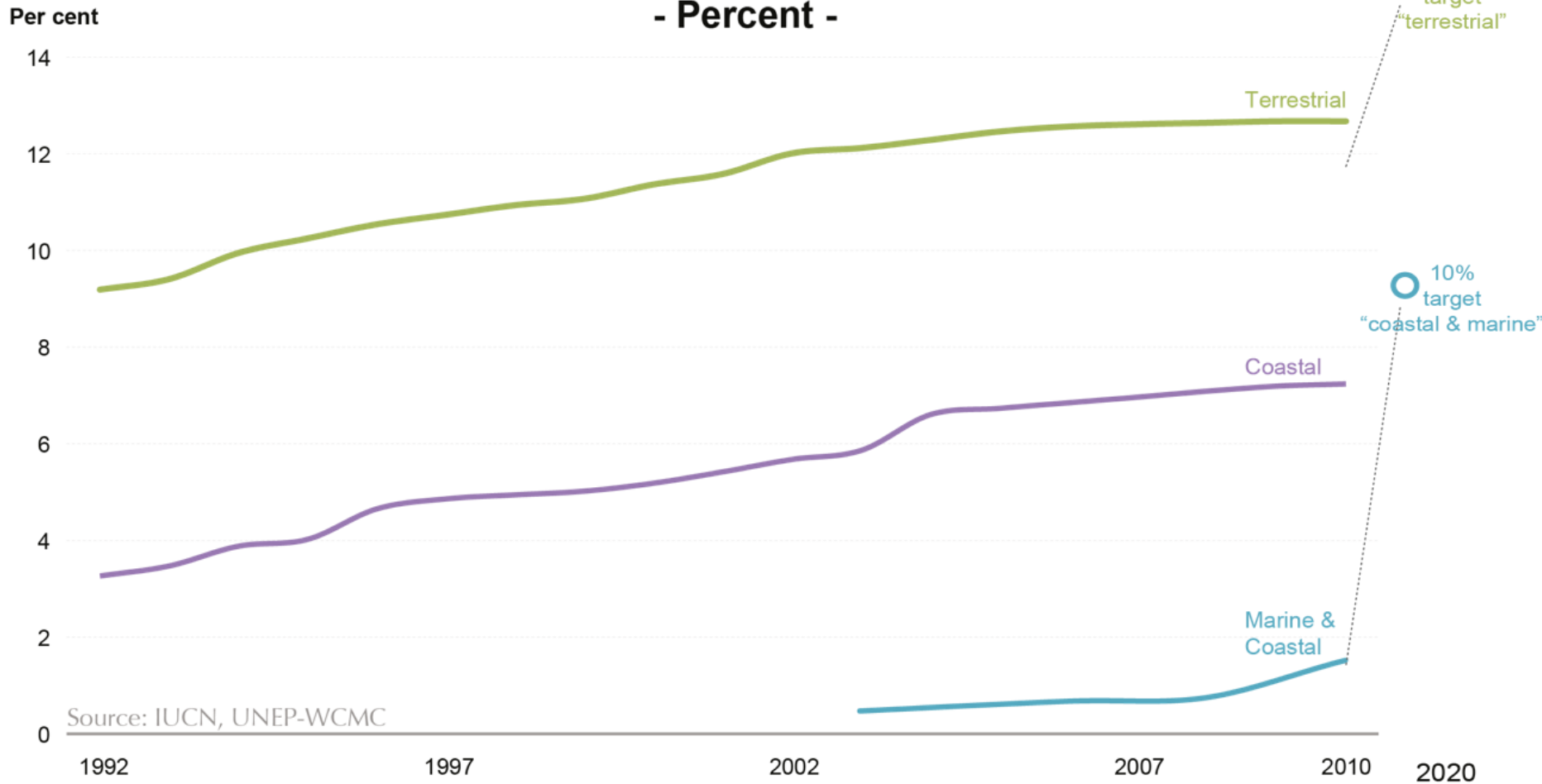


### Goals and Targets in Environment

- Only a few numerical targets in environment
- MDGs 7 indicators are good for monitoring progress
- Numerical Target setting seems to work i.e. Phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances, 13% under Protected Areas – 10% Target set in 1963



# Protected Areas - Percent -

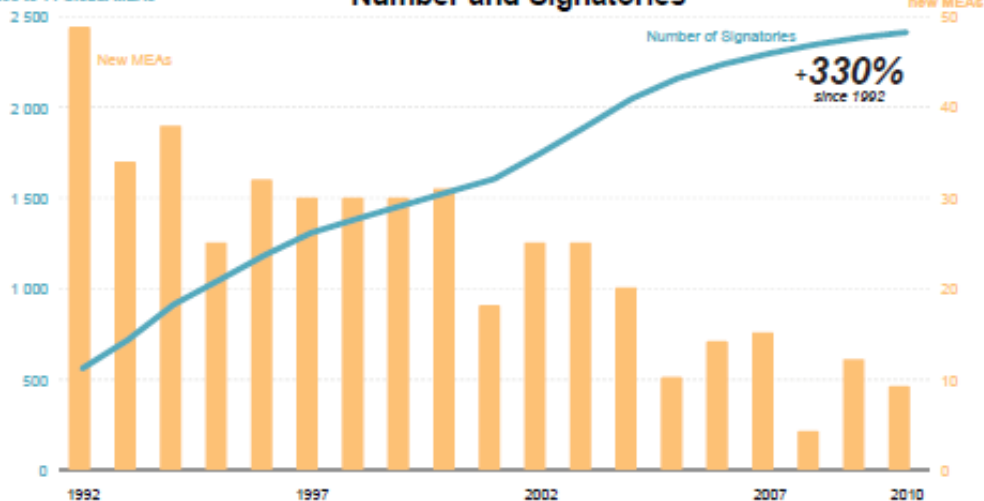


*Numerous international agreements were negotiated in the two decades following the Rio Conference in 1992*

## Multilateral Environmental Agreements - Number and Signatories -

Accumulated Number of Signatories to 14 Global MEAs

Number of new MEAs



Source: UNEP GEO Data Portal, as compiled from various MEA secretariats, IEA Database Project

## Number of MEAs Signed



Source: UNEP GEO Data Portal, as compiled from various MEA secretariats

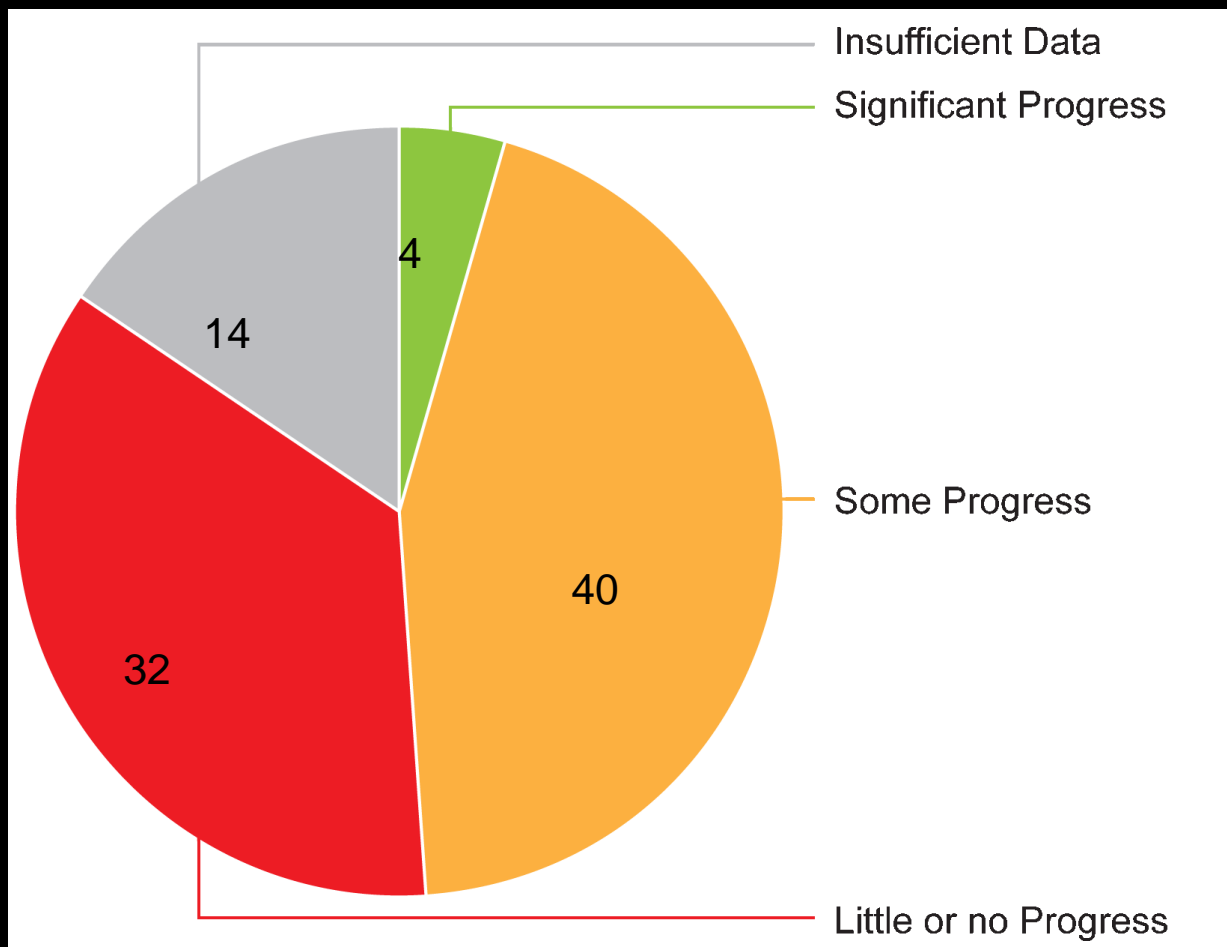
# GEO 5 report: Failing to Meet Agreed Goals



## Progress and gaps in meeting 90 internationally agreed goals (WSSD 2002) :

MDG-7 On track to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015

UNFCCC not on track to avoid crossing the 2 degrees target



# Post 2015 Development Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals



**SDGs = ?? \* MDGs**

**Reformulate MDG 7 ??**

**Some Criterion:- (Rio Principles)**

- **Precautionary Principles**
  - **Common and Differentiated Responsibilities**
  - **Equity**
-



A lack of **reliable data** is one of the major barriers to addressing environmental issues



## Integrating three pillars of SD

**Goals relevant to both developed and developing countries**

- **Green Economy : Green GDP ...(Rio+20?)**
- **Climate change : Copenhagen Accord (2009) , limit the temperature to 2 degree C**

**(Low carbon economy, migration, peace security, Forests)**

**Limit 2 degree C temp. means 350 ppm Co2 in atmosphere, as a **common** goal but as an **equity** issue Co2 per capita**

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## Integrating three pillars of SD

- **Sustainable Consumption and production (more for developed countries)**
  - **Technology transfer and financing (developed countries)**
  - **Protection of Natural Resource base: Reverse the loss of natural habitat by 2030 (Aichi Target : Convention on Biological Diversity , 2010)**
  - **Water : Basic Human Needs :50 (??) liter per person (developing counties)**
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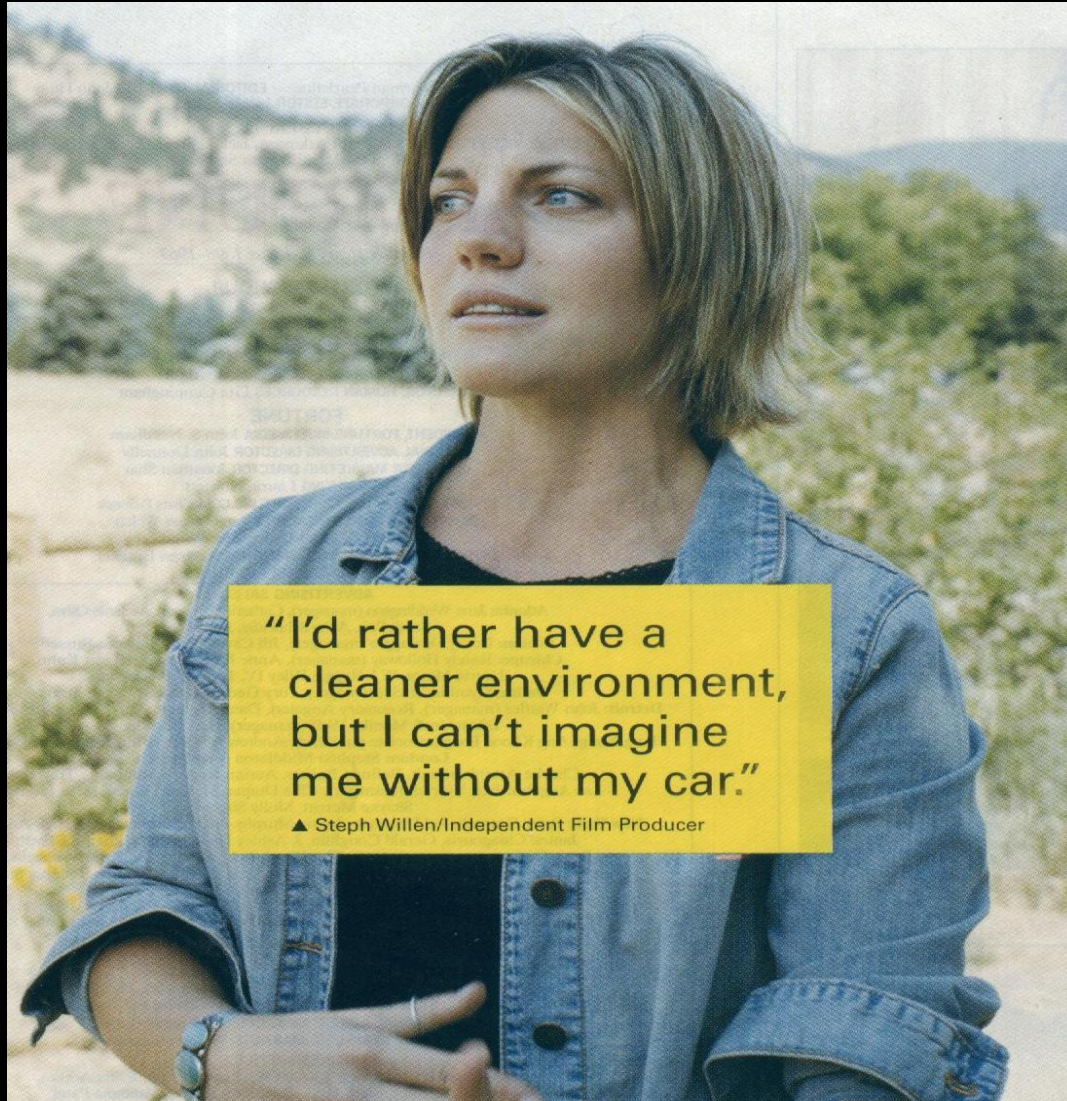
# Highlights of Solutions

## *Water as a Human Right*



South Africa's Free Basic Water Policy, which benefits many impoverished households by guaranteeing access to 25 litres of water per person per day for domestic use within 200 m of their homes.

# Paradox of Modern Environmentalism: **Developed countries**



"I'd rather have a cleaner environment, but I can't imagine me without my car."

▲ Steph Willen/Independent Film Producer

***An advertisement  
in the Fortune  
magazine by BP***

# Paradox of modern environmentalism – Developing countries : No where to go



**THANK YOU**