



Chairman's Summary

1. Over 1,000 participants coming from 40 countries and international organisations attended and actively contributed to World Resources Forum 2014 in Arequipa, Peru, on 20-22 October 2014.
2. Participants, representing governments, businesses, thinktanks, scientific communities and civil societies, as well as students and young researchers, exchanged their views on strategies to increase resource productivity, to fight climate change, to decrease the environmental and social burden of current consumption and production patterns, and to achieve a high quality of life for the current and future generations.
3. Strongly committed representatives of stakeholders from many countries, in particular from Peru, highlighted the need to address the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security, as well as other crucial issues of our society. This should be done through technical and financial assistance and through engagement of key stakeholders.
4. New concepts of wealth and prosperity are emerging. The precautionary principle is a key concept when defining a safe operating space for socioeconomic activities in all three dimensions of sustainability. The role of governments in mitigation and adaptation actions was emphasised, as was the need for solid research in order to enable evidence-based policymaking.
5. Participants formulated global, national, regional and local policy recommendations (“resource wisdom” for cities) and proposed strategies for further action and research.

International policies

6. Political and individual power need to be mobilised to push a wedge between economic growth, resource use and environmental and social impacts (decoupling). Priority measures include amendments in legislation, adjustment of financial instruments, promotion of investments in technological and social progress, transparency and accessibility of information, and encouragement of solidarity.
7. A “ping-pong” between resource productivity and resource prices, which is to be achieved through fiscal policy, is at the heart of a smart policy framework, based on systemic thinking. Decoupling offers opportunities for leapfrogging, shortcutting and tunneling through for developing countries.



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8. Traditional values and technologies need to be revived for sustainable use of resources and safeguarding the environment as participants learned from the representatives of indigenous Peruvian Andean and Amazonian peoples.
9. International organizations (such as UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank, World Resources Forum and many others) need to establish closer cooperation in order to alleviate poverty and to provide opportunities for sustainable development. Synergies with different national and international organizations working on similar goals (North-South, South-South) need to be strengthened. Cooperation between government bodies will foster coordinated and effective interventions. One such example is the agreement signed between the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and the National Council for Science and Technology, during WRF 2014.

Connecting brilliant ideas to people with power

10. Brilliant ideas originate from people who are dissatisfied, curious, hopeful and open for change. Connecting innovative ideas to people with power has a higher chance of success when not only rational approaches are used but also when emotions, in particular love, fun and laughter, are also taken into account.
11. Walking the talk and rethinking the way we live and work is crucial for both developed and developing countries. Rich people need to create space for the poor.
12. The 10-year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production was highlighted as an instrument to achieve tangible and measurable progress on all levels.
13. Information and education alone do not guarantee a sustainable life styles. Brands and retailers have the power to influence consumers with product design and marketing. Governments should encourage initiatives from civil society instead of undermining.
14. Technical and social science approaches need to take a more practical solution oriented approach through early involvement of stakeholders (NGOs, governments, industries). The launch of the Latin American chapter of the Global Research Forum on SCP at the WRF 2014 was welcomed.

Cleaner production, climate change and circular economy



15. National Cleaner Production Centers have shown that adopting Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (REDCP) strategies goes hand in hand with creating business value, generating local employment and addressing social and gender issues.
16. The need to implement recycling policies was emphasized, for environmental, social, and health reasons as well as for securing the supply of critical resources, among which metals that are essential for renewable energy technologies. The development of sustainable recycling industries needs to be driven by legislation and the institutionalization of processes. As was shown by a number of successful projects in Peru, such as the Chiclayo Limpio project, recycling begins locally in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.
17. Code of practices and Chain-of-Custody standards for larger small-scale and medium-scale mines and the Fairtrade and Fairmined standard for artisanal and small-scale mining have been acknowledged as two appropriate certification schemes in the mining sector.
18. The potential of the ICT industry as well as full electrification of society were among the business opportunities presented as new ways for mitigating climate change. Concepts and tools discussed include the concept of circular economy, to be achieved by system thinking, using tools and concepts such as life cycle thinking, eco-industrial parks and zero waste approaches.
19. Sustainable water management including economic incentives through pricing and internalizing of externalities was recommended.

Resource Policies essential for Climate Change

20. At WRF 2013 delegates stated that governments must move rapidly to combine resource and energy policies, since neither can be successfully achieve its objectives without close coordination with the other. This recommendation was supported and further discussed at WRF 2014.
21. Emissions causing climate change are mostly associated with the use of fossil fuels. Yet, little attention is paid to the contribution of the use of non-energetic resources (e.g. metals and minerals) towards climate change, although those resources are coupled to energy use throughout their life cycle (extraction, manufacturing, consumption, end-of-life treatment);



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22. Renewable energy technologies (e.g. photovoltaic, solar, electrified mobility) need to address related material resource supply risks (e.g. lithium), through resource efficiency, diversification of materials used and by improving global resource governance.

Measuring progress

23. Performance standards are essential elements of solid policy packages and should be accessible, fair, credible, and aligned to the economic context.
24. Indicators should be developed and improved for biomass, abiotic materials, water and land use which can then be differentiated according to regional, temporal and qualitative aspects.

Closing and next steps

25. The next World Resources Forum will be hosted by the Swiss government, in Davos, Switzerland, on 11-16 October 2015.
26. The Asia-Pacific World Resources Forum will be hosted by the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and UNSW Australia with support from CSIRO, in Sydney, Australia, on 1-3 June 2015.
27. Participants expressed their great appreciation and gratitude for the warm hospitality of the Peruvian organizers, the hosting Ministry of Environment MINAM, as well as the local community of Arequipa.

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