

MDG 7: Environmental Sustainability

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B A N G L A D E S H

a civil society think-tank

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1. INTRODUCTION

- **MDG 7 is divided into four targets that emphasize sustainability principles:**
 - Reversing natural resource degradation
 - Reducing biodiversity loss
 - Increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation
 - Improving slums

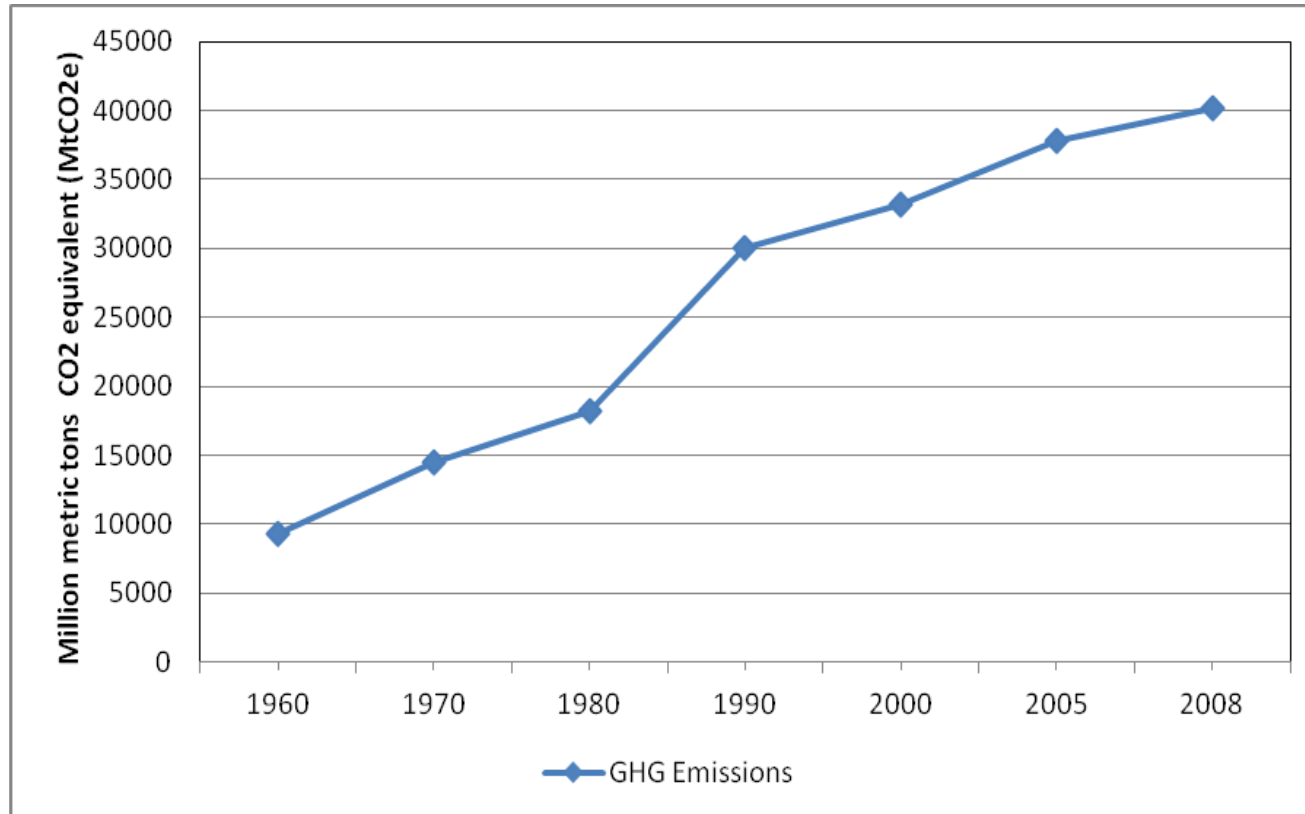
- **Environmental themes also cut across several MDGs**

1. INTRODUCTION

Targets of MDG 7	Indicators for Monitoring Progress
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per US\$ 1 of GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

2. PROGRESS ON MDG 7

World GHG emission trend Million metric tonnes CO2 equivalent



Source: World Resource Institute

2. PROGRESS ON MDG 7

- **In case of bio-diversity there has been partial improvement**
 - Increase in designated protected areas;
 - Increasing recognition of indigenous community managed areas;
 - Regulating sustainable harvests and reducing pollutions;
 - Equitable access and benefit sharing of genetic resources
- **However, in most cases there has been a deterioration**
 - Biodiversity loss continues at a dangerous rate
 - The rate extinction of species range from 13-63%
 - The condition and extent of natural habitats are declining;
 - The proportion of overexploited, depleted marine fish stocks has more than tripled between 1974 and 2008.

2. PROGRESS ON MDG 7

In case of increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation

- The world is currently on track to achieve the MDG target of providing 87% of the global population with access to an improved water supply by 2015;
- However, in 2015 1 in 10 people will still be without access to improved water sources;
- 3.5 million people still die from water-borne diseases each year;
- Over 2.5 million people still lack access to improved sanitation; MDG goal for improved sanitation by 2015 will be unfulfilled;
- It is estimated that USD 72 billion is needed in developing countries per year to meet water supply and sanitation;

In case of reduction of slums there have been little success as well

- Some 2.4 billion people live without access to modern cooking and heating services, and 1.6 billion have no access to electricity.

2. PROGRESS ON MDG 7

Region	Status	Remarks
Africa	On track: Improved water supply	Few countries have reforestation plans; Emissions minimal for most countries with little increase; Most countries reduced consumption of ozone depleting substance by more than 50%
Asia	On track: Improved water supply	High coverage of halve proportion of population to improved drinking water; Low coverage of halve proportion of population without sanitation; High proportion of slum dwellers
Latin America	On track: Improved water supply	Moderate proportion of slum dwellers; High coverage on improved drinking water

3. POST-MDG ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

MDGs do not have well thought out and comprehensive targets on environmental protection;

However, at present environmental concerns have become a far more severe challenge than even before;

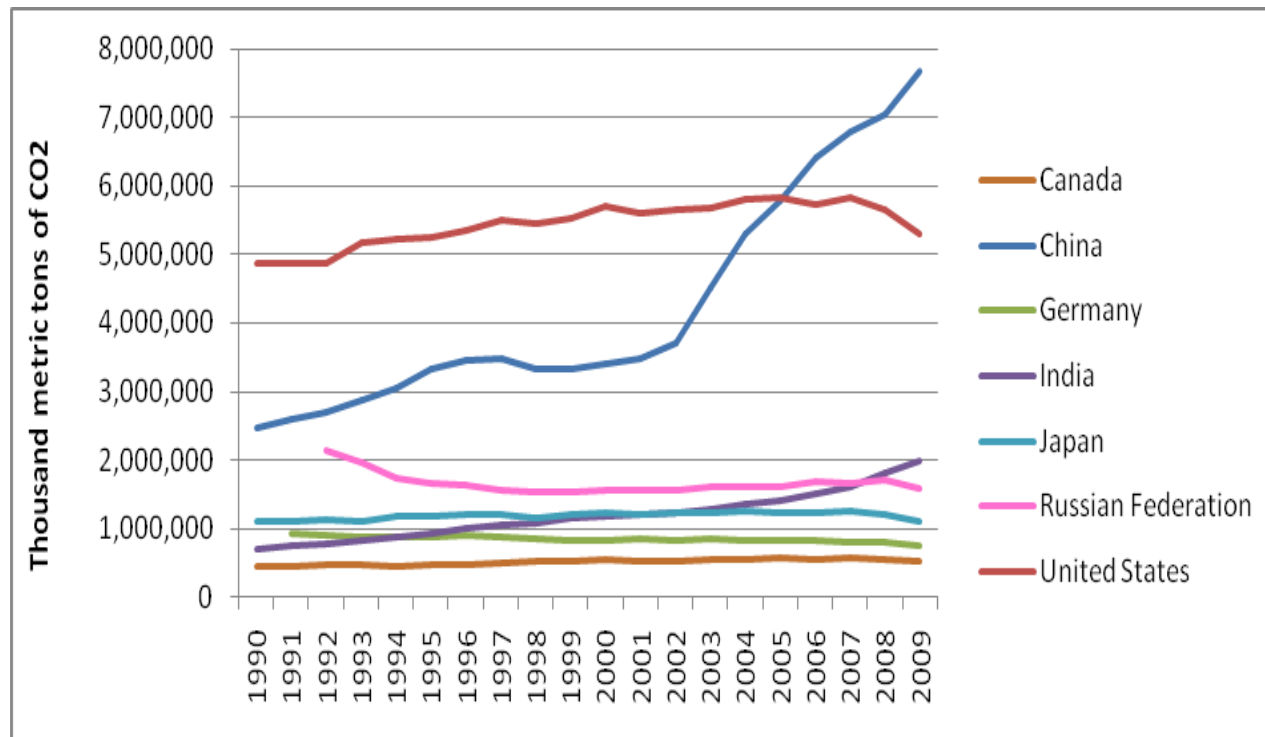
The sustainability of economic progress is jeopardised due to the challenges of climate change;

The apparent progress of developing countries cannot ensure food and energy security and improved quality of life;

3. POST-MDG ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

Though in some developed countries carbon emission has decreased to some extent, CO₂ emission has increased in a number of developing countries. This is because of the fact that developed countries have begun to outsource many natural resource based and carbon intensive production process;

Carbon dioxide emissions by country



3. POST-MDG ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

The scope of environmental sustainability has be expanded;

- initially MDG 7 included only access to drinking water and reduction of slums. Later other targets such as bio-diversity was included.

MDG 7 should be expanded to include a number measureable indicators;

- **GHG emission and climate change;**
- **Renewable and low emission energy sources;**
- **Access to modern energy sources;**
- **Reduction of chemicals and hazardous waste;**
- **Sustainable production and consumption pattern**
- **Improved air quality;**
- **Desertification**
- **Chemical and hazardous waste**

3. POST-MDG ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

Environmental sustainability has been defined by several experts; a debated issue

- **Strong sustainability vs weak sustainability**
- **Strong sustainability – carrying capacity and resilience – biological aspects of the nature and environment – very difficult to achieve, particularly by countries which rely of natural resources;**
- **Weak sustainability – taking into account the depreciation of natural resources and environmental degradation and adjust it to national income or saving to get net national income or genuine savings or green national income.**

Therefore, the challenge for the post 2015 environmental agenda will be define environmental sustainability in a more explicit manner with measureable and monitorable indicators.



THANK YOU