

# THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Rio+20, IUCN, planetary boundaries  
and living within the doughnut

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# Context

- Rio+20 - UN Conference on sustainable Development - June 2012
- 40 years after Stockholm UN Conference on Human Environment - June 1972
- 20 years after UNCED - UN Conference on Environment and Development
- 10 years after WSSD World summit on Sustainable Development

# Rio+20(UNCSD) purpose

- Intention to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development
- Assess progress and implementation gaps
- Address new and emerging challenges
- Focus on a green economy in context of SD and poverty eradication
- The institutional framework for sustainable development

# IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

- Oldest and largest environment and conservation network - States and NGOs, global reach and expertise
- Nature-based solutions to meet world's challenges...use nature's infrastructures and processes...requires restoring, valuing and accounting for nature. Major initiatives like Bonn Challenge

# Rio+20 Outcomes

Zero Draft - Outcomes document w input from:

- State Parties and Major Groups (women, Children and Youth, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Business and Industry, Workers and Trade Unions, Science and Technology, Farmers)
- UN SG's High Level Panel
- Sustainable Development Dialogues
- World Social Forum
- 11 parallel events

# Rio+20 Outcomes

- Negotiated over three Preparatory Committee meetings, intersessionals, informal informals...
- State leaders confirmed at actual Conference final document negotiated then finalised by Brasil following 11 Round Tables

# What came out?

- Reconfirmation of past commitments, SDGs, some outcomes for Oceans
- Lacking in ambition, urgency and political will
- No High Commissioner for Future Generations nor Governments to require corporate sustainability reporting
- No reference to reproductive rights for women
- Identification of rights but not responsibilities

# Support for new approaches and concepts

- Consumption the killer
- Inequality affects us all
- Poverty and social justice and environmental degradation - interconnected
- Planetary and human dignity limits
- Access for information
- Responsibility - including for business
- Non-regression principle
- Alternatives to GDP



# Bitter truths and new initiatives

- Failure of democracy and social contract = failure of Governments
- New focus on responsibilities seen in parallel events and seeds sown for
- Rio+20 Colloquium on Environment Law; UNEP Chief Justices and Attorneys General Summit; Local Government and Cities; Business
- Partnerships such as Avoided Forestation, Natural Capital Declaration

# Seeds may yet germinate

- Heightened focus on sustainable development
- On issues like sustainable production and consumption, supply chains
- Niadaros Declaration on green growth and food security - Nordic Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# What can we do here?

# What can we promote?

- Move from information to action
- Greater coordination to create impact
- Call for alternatives to GDP
- Increased incentives - end perverse subsidies
- Transparency, accountability, reporting
- Develop alliances and find new partners
- Change consumption patterns
- Reward and celebrate sustainable innovation
- Watchdogs