

Translating the outcome of Rio+20 into Action

*Wood energy for a sustainable
future*

COFO/2012/5.2

FORESTS:
A GREEN PATHWAY
FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

COFO 21
WORLD FOREST WEEK





INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011



2012
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development



Traditional wood energy

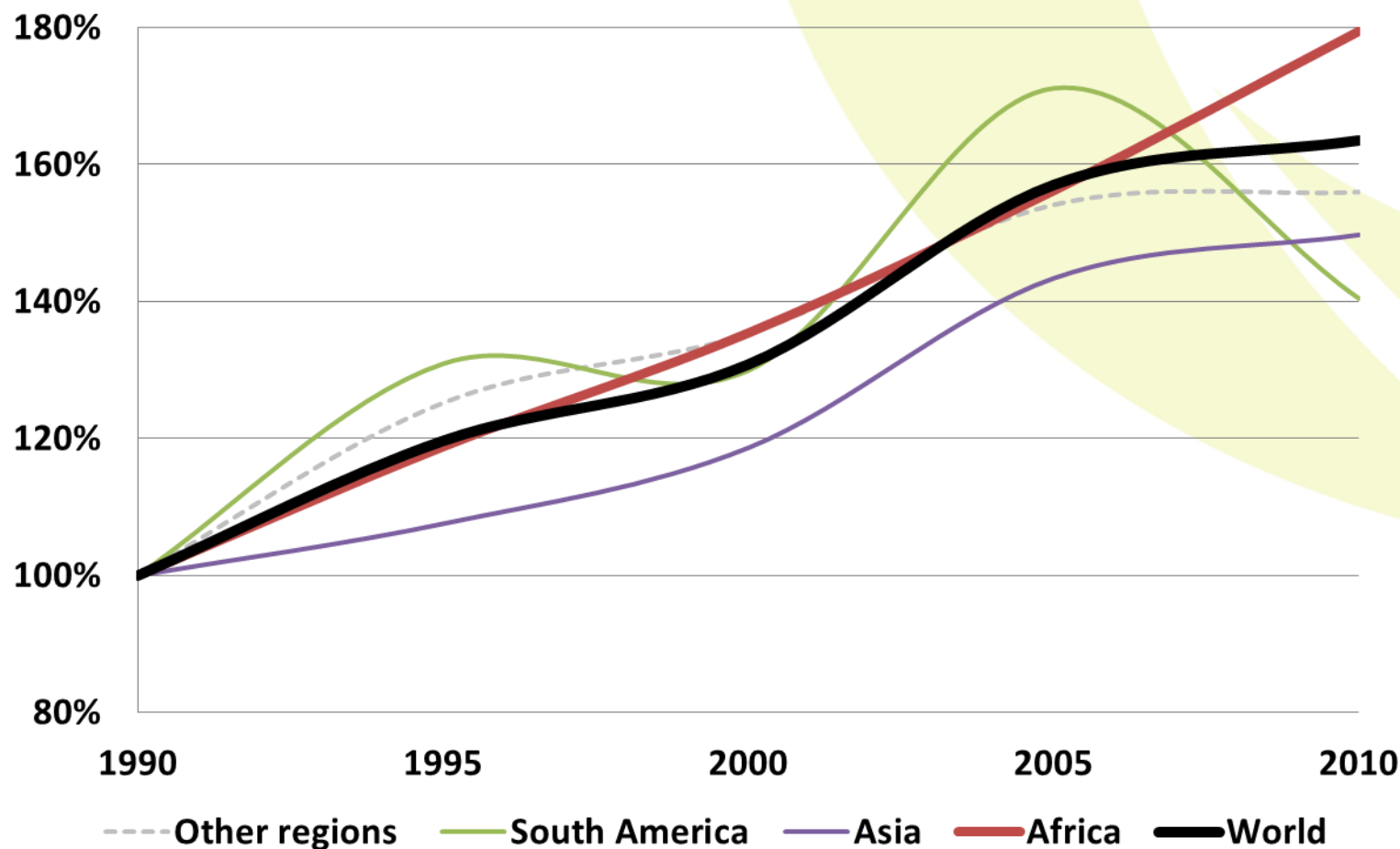


- + Up to 90% of energy supply
- + Affordable and available
- + Crucial for nutrition & food security

- Inefficient
- polluting
- health problems

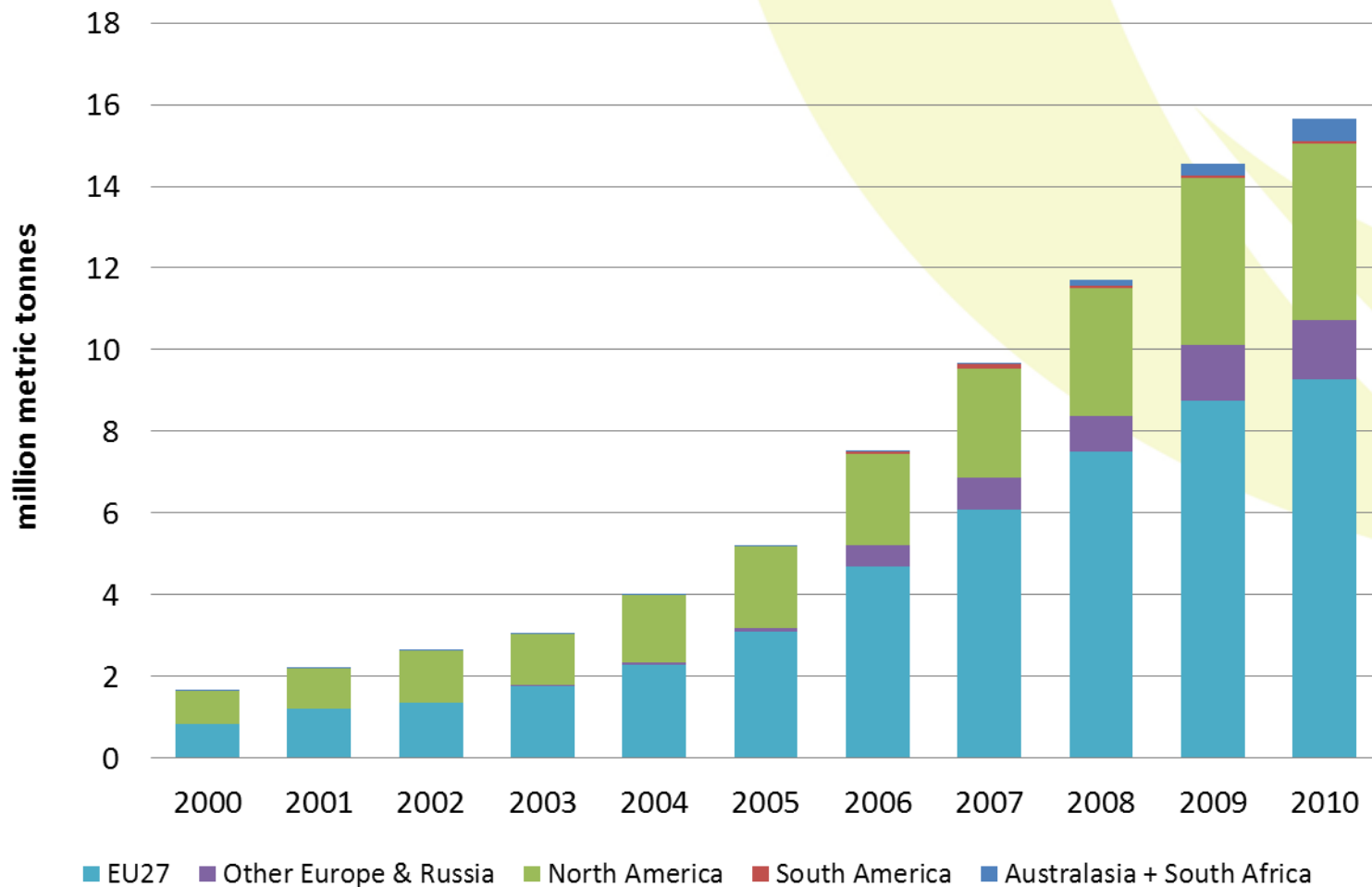
Traditional wood energy

Charcoal production index
[1990 = 100%]



Modern wood fuel

Global production of wood pellets



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Modern wood fuel

- Pellets, briquettes and chips
- Role of forest based industries crucial
- Carbon taxes and feed in tariffs
- Commercial heat and power producer gain market share



Where is the link?



Global trade !



Technology transfer

- Access to modern energy services?



WOOD FUEL
PROCESSING

COOKING

power & HEAT



Challenges ahead

- Sustainable forest management
- Cross-sectoral policy development
- Sustainable consumption
- Improved information

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

The Committee may wish to invite countries to consider how the development of wood energy can improve access to sustainable and modern renewable energy services and strengthen sustainable forest management.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to support countries to achieve their development goals for wood energy, especially in relation to:

- Improve information
- Develop holistic wood energy policies
- Cross-sectoral communication & collaboration
- Optimized use of wood



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www.fao.org/forestry/energy

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Wood is considered humankind's very first source of energy. Today it still is the most important single source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the global total primary energy supply. Wood energy is as important as all other renewable energy sources altogether (hydro, geothermal, wastes, biogas, solar and liquid biofuels).

More than two billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating, particularly in households in developing countries. It represents the only domestically available and affordable source of energy. Private households' cooking and heating with woodfuels represents one third of the global renewable energy consumption, making wood the most decentralized energy in the world.

Woodfuels arise from multiple sources including forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests, co-products from wood processing, post-consumer recovered wood and processed wood-based fuels. Wood energy is also an important emergency backup fuel. Societies at any socio-economic level will switch easily back to wood energy when encountering economic difficulties, natural disasters, conflict situations or fossil energy supply shortages.

Woodfuels are a very important forest product. Global production of fuelwood exceeds the production of industrial roundwood in terms of volume. Fuelwood and charcoal production is one of the predominant uses of woody biomass in developing countries and economies in transition.

Today wood energy has entered into a new phase of high importance and visibility with climate change and energy security concerns. Wood energy is considered as a climate neutral and socially viable source of renewable energy, but only when meeting the following conditions:

- Wood coming from sustainably managed resources (forests, trees outside forest, etc.).
- Appropriate fuel parameters (water content, calorific value, shape, etc.).
- Efficient incineration or gasification minimizing indoor and outdoor emissions.
- Cascade use of wood fibres – favouring material use, re-use and recycling before energy use.



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Data & information

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