



International  
Resource  
Panel

## Response to FIDO-report

Research and analysis of the megatrend  
'increasing scarcity of important raw materials'  
and the impact of this trend on the achievement  
of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Presentation at the  
Side-event of the World Resources Forum „Increasing  
Scarcity of Raw Materials – what are the effects on  
achieving the SDGs?“

Organized by FIDO / IFDD

Antwerp, Belgium  
27 February 2019

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## Aim of report

- mapping and describing Megatrend Increasing scarcity of Raw Materials and subrends
- analysing impacts of this Megatrend on SDGs
- formulating recommendations
  
- from a Belgian perspective

## Mapping Megatrend „Increasing scarcity of raw materials“

- Megatrend: Resource use will increase, translated into supply risk represented by „resilience“ approach
- Comment: Resource scarcity is a risk, but is not equal to resource use
  - for most resources, geological stocks are still large
  - substitutes may be developed in many cases
  - „use“ is not the same as „extraction“
  - „scarcity“ is a concept that is highly debated among geologists
  - scarcity can also be an opportunity (as this report shows)
- Comment: Environmental impacts may be a stronger reason to reduce resource extraction. This could be emphasised in the report and is supported by its results.
- Could we call this megatrend: increasing resource extraction?

## Impacts Megatrend on SDGs

- Very valuable work, in great detail and quite transparently done
- Very interesting translation of megatrends in terms of national accounting, could be useful for other studies as well
- Some comments on the set-up:
  - Framework figure is difficult to understand
  - „double negative“ is difficult to keep in mind (lack of resources, minus score)
  - focus on Belgian society and environment is constraining
  - time perspective is relatively short – in line with SDGs but longer term view has added value

## Impacts Megatrend on SDGs

- Some comments on the results:
  - Environmental aspects benefit from resource scarcity, economic aspects are constrained by it, social aspects score zero – what about trade-offs?
  - The major beneficiary from resource scarcity is SDG 12: sustainable production and consumption – this seems a profound conclusion that could be more elaborated
- Systems approach could be more emphasised:
  - SDGs are not independent
  - Many linkages between different resources, has this been included?
  - Relations with other megatrends?
- Territorial system constraining:
  - What about impacts of Belgian consumption on SDGs in other parts of the world? Supply chain perspective and burden shifting cannot be ignored!

## Recommendations

- Recommendations are not explicitly addressed in the report
  
- Some relevant aspects to include in „Recommendations“:
  - SDGs are presented by UN as a global development agenda – guidelines for how to use these at national level?
  - Would it be possible / a good idea to link SDGs to a national accounting system in this manner?
  - Recommendations for Belgian policy regarding the very important SDG12 „sustainable consumption and production“?