



INSTITUT

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Les opinions exprimées dans ces présentations sont celles des intervenants et ne reflètent pas nécessairement celles des organisateurs, l'Agence Française de Développement et l'Institut Veolia Environnement.



**Poverty eradication and the quality of
the environment in urban and peri-
urban areas**

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Is there good news on urban poverty?

- Almost no urban poverty in China, Middle East, North Africa, East Europe & Central Asia? (World Bank)
- Almost no urban poverty in Kenya, Ghana & many other African nations?

- Set poverty lines unrealistically low and poverty disappears; \$1 a day poverty line very unrealistic for most cities
- Many poverty lines make little or no allowance for non-food needs in cities *and costs faced by low-income groups for rent, water, using toilets, keeping children at school, health care, transport....*
- Often no association between official figures on urban poverty & those living in poverty

How we define a problem influences how we address it

- Dharavi (Mumbai) with 650,000 inhabitants in 2 km² - Do we see this as a slum that needs replacing?
- Or as a place providing homes & livelihoods for 650,000 people – and generating \$500 million worth of economic activities a year
- Where there is a need to help improve homes & provide infrastructure and services





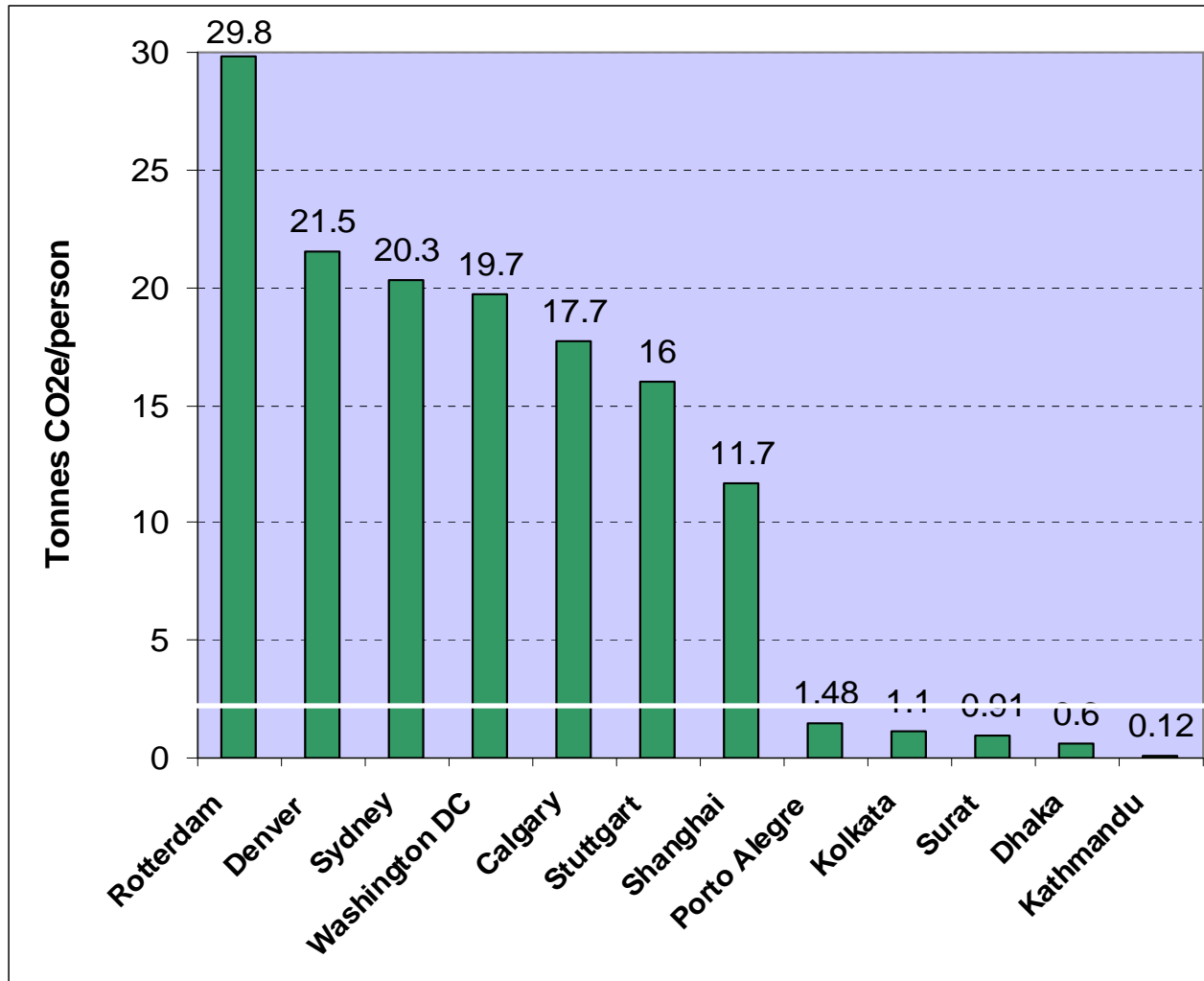
How do we define environmental degradation?

- Some say that wealth causes environmental degradation
- Others say poverty causes environmental degradation
- Both cannot both be right

Environmental degradation with three meanings:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • <i>Degraded living & working environments</i> | Strongly associated with poverty |
| • <i>Over-use & degradation of scarce natural resources (fresh water, soils, forests...)</i> | Strongly associated with wealth |
| • <i>Generation of ecological damaging wastes (including greenhouse gas emissions)</i> | Strongly associated with wealth |

GHG emissions/person/year, for range of cities



NB remember differentials within each city population

'Fair-share' global average



Poverty-environment in urban/peri-urban areas

- Poverty associated with:
 - *very low consumption/use of resources*
 - *very poor quality living & working environments*
 - *Very inadequate provision for water, sanitation, drainage.....*
 - *Poor quality overcrowded housing*
 - *Dangerous sites (floodplains, slopes....)*
 - *Very large preventable health burdens*

So poverty strongly associated with very poor environmental health, not with high resource use or waste generation



Environmental degradation driven by high consumption

- Wealthy use most resources, generate most wastes
 - *Wealthiest half billion (1/14th of the planet's population) cause half greenhouse gas emissions*
 - *1000 fold difference in GHG emissions between wealthiest and poorest 2%?*
- Consumption levels of wealthy drive resource scarcities & ecological destruction
 - *But drive these in 'distant elsewheres' not where they live*
 - *Wealthy cities importing almost all resource/energy/water/ pollution intensive goods its wealthy inhabitants consume*

Urban poverty reduction & environmental improvement needs engagement with urban poor

- May sound obvious but very few aid agencies do so
 - *Most have no interaction with urban poor*
 - *Most have no urban policy*
- Now national federations of slum/shack dwellers in many nations
 - *At their foundation, women-managed savings groups*
- All are active in addressing poverty & offering local government partnerships
- Two funds that support them
 - *The Urban Poor Fund International*
 - *The Asian Coalition for Community Action*
- How much can be done with limited resources when urban poor organizations and federations work with local governments
 - *And aid agencies learn to work with them*

