



## Programme coordination desks meeting

29<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, UN Environment, Paris

### **MEETING REPORT**

This meeting gathered the coordination desks of the programmes of the One Planet network on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May in Paris. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss practical steps towards the implementation of the new 2018-2022 strategy of the One Planet network, share practices and lessons learnt on programme coordination, and define the programme's key messages for the One Planet network Executive meeting on 30-31 of May.

The meeting was composed of 6 main sessions: 1) Engaging partners through reporting; 2) Building the One Planet exhibition; 3) Joint resource mobilization – way forward; 4) One Planet platform: Online tools to advance the strategy; 5) Programme leadership renewal process; 6) Cross-programme collaboration on circular economy.

All presentations can be accessed on the One Planet network website [here](#).

### **ENGAGING PARTNERS THROUGH REPORTING**

This session aimed at exploring challenges and solutions for strengthened partner engagement, ways of using reporting to move programmes forward (e.g. identifying synergies, identifying best practices, engaging new partners, creating new partnerships, identifying gaps) and identifying key incentives for partners (from lessons learned and new ideas).

The following key point emerged from the presentations and discussion:

- Mid-term progress results show that the One Planet network now counts over 700 partners globally. Over 1800 activities were reported last year through the network, most of which were focused on communications, awareness raising, tools and solutions, as well as policy and instruments. What people are doing on the ground – implementation and changes in practice - is still to be captured.
- Reporting rates vary greatly from one programme to another: between 17% and 77% of programmes' partners have participated in the reporting exercise. In accordance with the strategy, the aim is to reach 75% of partners reporting within each programme, and to strategically use the data collected.
- Tangible actions to use reporting for programme development were identified:
  1. as inputs to key events such as the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
  2. further develop and identify highlights within programmes' portfolios, develop case studies to demonstrate real impact on the ground and use concrete figures to promote the network when recruiting new members;
  3. analyse trends, gaps and emerging issues as a basis for future work and fundraising, as well as to identify links to other One Planet programmes;



4. know more about partners' interesting initiatives, identify projects and activities for replication as well as opportunities for match-making;
  5. identify active partners and champions, including through virtual and face-to-face events;
  6. develop narratives and visualise the achievements of the programmes.
- Tangible actions and incentives to increase partner engagement through reporting were discussed:
    1. engaging partner early in the process, use deadlines and reminders;
    2. use behavioral tweaks and develop tailored messages;
    3. highlight the fact that reporting is expected from each partner and is condition to remain a partner, while also communicating better the added value of reporting;
    4. organise reporting webinars to provide guidance or call for reporting in every technical webinar;
    5. be available for one-on-one discussions and coaching sessions for those who need it;
    6. identify reporting focal points within partner organizations, but also send information to alternates and others in copy;
    7. show how the results are being used – e.g. One Planet network's website, magazines, advocacy;
    8. showcase champions' initiatives but also give visibility and feedback to the others.
  - The reporting process will be simplified, so that initiatives no longer needs to be uploaded twice (online platform of the One Planet network and reporting tool) – in the future, everything uploaded as an initiative by programmes' partners on the online platform will automatically become an input to their reporting.
  - Beyond reporting, engaging partners remains a challenge. The Sustainable Food Systems programme shared its experience in establishing a task force dedicated to collaboration, which can serve as a model to other programmes - reporting results were used to map partners and initiatives within the programme, identify opportunities for synergies and help new coalitions to form. For instance, a Nestlé partnership has grown to 15 members.

## **BUILDING THE ONE PLANET EXHIBITION**

This session had several objectives, in addition to enhancing the understanding of Camp One Planet and the visibility opportunity it offers: 1) to develop a more refined approach on how to share success stories with people who may not be overly familiar with the programmes' work; 2) to create the first iteration of 3 key messages per programme; and 3) to serve as effective preparation for brainstorming network-wide messages for HLPF and beyond.

Each programme coordination desk was requested to deliver a 60 second pitch to the audience. Participants then gathered in breakout groups to brainstorm on how to enhance their pitch and help other coordination desks improve theirs. The key learnings from this exercise with regards to how to pitch for the One Planet network and the programmes were as follows:

- Most efficient pitches include key facts and figures people can relate to (e.g. contribution of a sector to depletion of natural resources or GHG emissions, opportunities for job creation, etc.);
- Messages need to be clear, simple and appealing, and focus on elements people can easily related to (e.g. food consumption, three common products that can change everything through public procurement; etc.);



- It is not possible to say everything in a 60 second pitch or one would lose their audience. A few elements – products, projects, partners – should be selected as key highlights of the programmes / One Planet network, as the objective is to catch the attention of the audience and have people want to know more;
- A good balance between key facts and figures on the sector / area covered by the programme and its impacts, and the presentation of the programme itself – its partners, its activities, its portfolio – is needed for the pitch to be appealing and convey clear messages.

Each coordination desk was required to further work on their pitches in view of the Executive Meeting which took place the following day. All the pitches are available on the One Planet network's platform: <http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/10yfp-coordination-desk-executive-and-board-meetings/shared-documents>

## **JOINT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION – WAY FORWARD**

This session provided an overview of joint resource mobilisation opportunities in the strategy 2018-2022, including through the multi-agency Trust Fund currently being established to implement the strategy, as well as through the engagement of financial institutions and development banks. The discussion focused on lessons learned and concrete opportunities to join forces under the new strategy. The objective was also to reach a common understanding of the role of the coordination desk in resource mobilisation.

- In the context of “strengthening the Trust Fund as a means to implement SDG 12 and the strategy” (under objective 1), five UN agencies have joined forces to develop the One Planet Multi-partner fund for SDG 12. The following key points emerged from the presentation and discussion:
  - The One Planet Multi-partner fund for SDG 12 offers the network an opportunity to speak with one voice to implement the new strategy and to mobilise resources;
  - Funds will flow throughout the UN system, as opposed to being administered by UN Environment alone. Activities will be implemented with implementing partners, in cooperation with UN country teams in the case of country level activities. No call for proposals will be organised.
  - The One Planet Multi-partner fund for SDG12 will have two components: a global component, representing 35% of the funds, and a national component, representing 65% of the funds.
  - The global component will be dedicated to global priorities defined in the strategy: monitoring, knowledge management, communication, advocacy, core initiatives, global products etc. This component is based on the submission of programmes' annual workplans the Steering Committee of the Multi-partner fund.
  - The national component will be dedicated to supporting countries in SDG 12 implementation. Countries will be selected by the Steering Committee based on SCP readiness criteria, as stated in the new strategy (e.g. SCP mainstreamed in national policy frameworks, priority sectors identified, institutional coordination mechanisms in place). Thematic assistance teams – composed of representatives of relevant programmes identified by programme leads - will be established to work with the national focal points of such countries to define implementation plans at country level, which will reinforce the role of the coordinating desks.
  - Transitioning from a UN Environment Fund to a Multi-partner fund for SDG12 will come along benefits and opportunities, for instance: 1) enhanced management and cost-effectiveness,



building on the experience of the MPTF team hosted in UNDP and which has been administrating similar large-scale funds (e.g. SDG5 fund now representing 500 million USD); and, most importantly 2) a new audience within the SDGs space, open to development and cooperation financing mechanisms, as opposed to limited environment funds.

- Raising funds will be a collective responsibility of the One Planet network, including the leads of the programmes.
- In the context of “engaging financial institutions, development banks and development agencies to mainstream SCP in their financing and lending programmes” (under strategy objective 3), two other international funding mechanisms – the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the World Bank – were discussed. The following key points emerged from the presentations and discussion:
  - Since 1992, the GEF has been serving as the main funding mechanism for the Rio conventions and other environmental agreements at global level. It has provided \$17 billion in grants, mobilizing an additional \$88 billion of “financing”, for a total of 4,000 projects in 170 countries. The GEF strategy includes an impact programme on food systems and land restoration. In that context, the Sustainable Food Systems programme has started a dialogue with the GEF to align future projects with the objectives of the programme, and possibly access funds through its partners such as WWF, FAO and UN Environment, which are GEF implementing agencies. On the other hand, the GEF is interested in the multi-stakeholder dimension of the network, its programmes and its knowledge sharing platform.
  - The World Bank’s approach to Agenda 2030 is based on three complementary pillars: data (data collection, Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting); Finance (public-private, external – domestic); implementation (institutions, policy, inclusive growth). The World Bank works with the government sector, the private sector, civil society or non-governmental organizations and multilateral / UN organizations, at all levels. Financial leveraging is done through “blended finance” (capital, equity, bonds and investment) and financing for development (ODA). Funds are disbursed through multiple mechanisms: grants, concessional loans, loans, equity investment, guarantee, and are invested into development and poverty alleviation primarily. A number of priorities have been identified, in this context, including the environment and natural resources, energy, transports, urban development, water, climate change or agriculture. The strategy is also to help countries increase domestic resources through tax systems and spending, as well as to increase private finance by mobilising private investments. The World Bank’s support is driven by countries: it is therefore necessary to pitch project proposals to ministries of finance and planning for a formal request to be submitted to the World Bank.

## **ONE PLANET PLATFORM: ONLINE TOOLS TO ADVANCE THE STRATEGY**

This session focused on the tools provided by the One Planet network’s online platform with regards to both information sharing and programme management. This includes the use of the online platform to support the development of programmes’ portfolios. The following key points emerged from the presentation and discussion:

- The Sustainable Food System programme delivered a presentation to illustrate this process, the development of “core initiatives”, generated through collaboration, and the integration of “affiliated



initiatives” conducted by the programme’s partners, within the programme’s portfolio. All affiliated initiatives when through a due diligence process conducted by the coordination desk before being included in the portfolio.

- The portfolios of the programme need to be expanded in line with the objectives of the new strategy. This includes: support to country level implementation of SDG12, strengthening partnerships with the business sector, developing strategic products and promoting long-term benefits and impacts on SCP.
- The online platform can support this process through: 1) the dissemination of existing work, knowledge and tools; 2) the facilitation of match-making between the offer of the programmes and the needs and priorities of countries; 3) highlighting interlinkages with other SDGs, and joint initiatives to address strategic and transversal issues.
- Although the One Planet network’s platform is clearly dedicated to SDG12, linkages with other SDGs should be made more visible. For instance, it should be possible to search for initiatives also contributing to other specific SDGs, such as SDG7 on energy. Measures would need to be taken in order to have a meaningful approach to this (e.g. when uploading an initiative, one could only select a maximum of 5 other relevant SDGs).
- With regards to the technical aspects and interface of the portfolios on the online platform: 1) Following consultations with the programmes, a series of measures are being put in place to better respond to programme needs with regards to using the portfolios as tools to highlight and organise activities across their network; 2) the difference between initiatives included in the portfolios of the programmes and all the other initiatives uploaded on the online platform should be better explained for better transparency; 3) search options and filters will be developed in order to be able to explore programmes’ portfolios more easily; but it will not be possible for each programme to use different filters (e.g. according to work areas); 4) inactive initiatives (e.g. not updated since at least 2 years) should remain in the database to allow for progress monitoring, but options can be explored to hide these initiatives from the public view.
- With a view of increasing the user-friendliness of the platform and access to contents, the “resources” and “initiatives” will be brought together within one single searchable database.

## **PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS**

This session aimed at providing an overview of the leadership renewal process to the coordination desks of the programmes. The following key points emerged from the presentation and discussion:

- The renewal process includes four main steps: 1) leads and secretariat to agree on the need for a renewal process, specific steps and timeline; 2) open call for expression of interest; 3) review of applications conducted by the Secretariat based on established evaluation criteria, possibly with MAC expression of opinion on applications received; 4) submission to the Board.
- With regards to the review of applications and selection proposal, participants highlighted the importance of consulting the coordination desks as well, and to use their knowledge of the network’s partners. The Sustainable Food System programme indicated that in their case MAC members would elect the leads, as per their Terms of Reference;
- It was also suggested that, given the scale of the programmes and the ambition of the new strategy, one may want to consider bringing in more than 3 leads in the programmes, in order to improve their coordination capacities;



- It was suggested that the external review report be looked at again in order to make sure that all recommendations with regards to leadership have been taken on board during the renewal process;
- Although evaluating the leadership of the programmes may imply a heavy and discouraging process, it was agreed to consider ways of assessing the “health” of the partnerships within the programmes and the level of engagement among partners. The Consumer Information Programme proposed to put a mechanism in place to ‘review’ the follow through on the leadership commitment, especially to ensure that a full-time staff is provided by each lead for the coordination desk of the respective programme.
- The renewed leadership should also consider a “succession planning” up to 2030.

### **CROSS-PROGRAMME COLLABORATION ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

This session aimed at providing an overview of the current work on and links to circular economy in the programmes, discussing options for Circular Economy as a cross-cutting theme for the programmes and formulate concrete suggestions for collaboration.

The following key points emerged from the presentation and discussion:

- A survey among the six programmes was conducted to identify their specific approaches to circular economy. The summary of the consultation outcomes was shared prior to the coordination desk meeting and is available here: <http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/10yfp-coordination-desk-executive-and-board-meetings/shared-documents>.
- It was agreed that circular economy is currently very high on the agenda, and of high relevance to most of the programmes.
- A specific narrative, as opposed to a definition, on circular economy for the One Planet network and its programmes is needed to ensure a clear and innovative positioning. This is also important considering that circular economy is not mentioned in Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, although it is referenced in other key global documents such as the Urban Agenda. A common narrative will have a political value and ensure convergence among the programmes.
- As concrete collective action, participants agreed to develop podcasts, which are easy to produce, featuring 30 minutes conversation with renowned experts. This would also offer the opportunity to have more contacts with journalists.
- Collecting case studies on circular economies within each of the programmes was also highlighted, which could contribute to feed in the podcasts as well.
- It was agreed to establish a specific working group on circular economy bringing representatives of each programme, plus the Head of the Secretariat.