



Task Group on catalysing science-based policy action on SCP

1st call 16th December 2019

MINUTES

Attendees:

Government:

- Finland: Ms. Merja Saarnilehto
- The Netherlands: Mr. Arthur Eijs

Business/private sector:

- Centre for Responsible Business, India: Mr. Rijit Sengupta, Ms. Devyani Hari
- Saudi Green Building Forum, Saudi Arabia: Mr. Faisal Alfadl

Civil Society:

- WWF: Ms. Martina Fleckenstein
- WRF: Mr. Baas de Leeuw

United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations

- UN-Habitat: Mr. Christophe Lalande
- European Union: Mr. Javier Arribas-Quintana, Mr. Jesus-Maria Alquezar-Sabadie

Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel

- Ms. Izabella Teixeira, former Minister of Environment, Brazil

Expert of the International Resource Panel

- Mr Jeffrey Herrick, Soil Scientist USDA-ARS Jornada Research Unit New Mexico State University

UNEP representatives

- Mr. Steven Stone
- Ms. Claire Thiebault

MANDATE OF THE TASK GROUP

- The Task Group is created following the request of UNEA 4 resolution on “Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production” ([UNEP/EA4/Res1](#) – OP 12) to establish a “*time-limited task group comprising the International Resource Panel and the One Planet network*”;
- Purpose of the task group: “*to provide insights on the management of natural resources and raw materials in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable consumption and production, as well as to identify, taking into account national circumstances, technical tools, best practices, policy options, sustainable technologies and innovative business models, and finance flows in this regard*”;
- Timeline: present the results at UNEA5 in February 2021.



WHO IS THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE PANEL (IRP)?

- IRP was established to create a science-policy interface on the sustainable use of natural resources and in particular on their environmental impacts over the full life cycle
- IRP is composed of: Scientific Panel with over 35 scientists; Steering Committee with 28 governments, European Commission and UNEP; and the Secretariat based in UNEP-DTIE
- IRP interacts with a variety of strategic partners, coming from: Academic networks; Economic, Intergovernmental, Regional, and Private Sector platforms.

WHO IS THE ONE PLANET NETWORK?

- One Planet network is an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12, mandated by the Member States.
- It is a multi-stakeholder partnership that leads the shift to sustainable consumption and production, providing unified and coherent direction, tools and solutions
- The Network has over 700 partners and is focused around 6 thematic programmes on: Sustainable Food Systems; Sustainable Lifestyles and Education; Sustainable Buildings and Construction; Consumer Information; Sustainable Tourism; and Sustainable Public Procurement

FOCUS OF THE TASK GROUP

- The Task Group aims to achieve **increased uptake of the IRP reports by the One Planet network (governments, business, and other stakeholders) and beyond.**
- It is envisaged that the IRP is the “supplier” of the scientific evidence and data and the members of the One Planet network represent its “users”.
- It is foreseen that the Task Group will focus on:
 - 1) Natural resource use trends in key sectors and value chains: Construction, Agri-Food and potentially textiles;
 - 2) Strengthening the understanding on addressing sustainable resource management in climate, biodiversity and socio-economic development

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS OF THE TASK GROUP

- Identify information to prioritise action on SCP and natural resource management
Output: Key messages that are action oriented and evidence based
- Role of natural resources in strategic high-level agendas
Output: 1 to 3 briefs on natural resources & climate and/or biodiversity and/or socio-economic development
- Dissemination and Advocacy
Output: Communication products
- Members of the Task Group will:
 - provide inputs and information on the identification of priority information,
 - represent the stakeholder group / programme / organisation they are nominated for and ensure consultations within that group,
 - champion the key messages within their stakeholder group and relevant events.
- **All materials and reports of the Task Group are to be finalised by October 2020** (except for communication materials)



DISCUSSION – KEY POINTS

- It is proposed that G20 is considered as a potential platform to engage with.
- The members called for targeted and focused approach to make the outputs of the Task Group as practical and actionable as possible.
- The members stressed the need to transform IRP reports from theoretical to practical evidence-based actions linked to specific sectors that can be applied at national level
- Overall the 3 sectors and value chains proposed – Construction, Agri-food and textile – were seen as very relevant to the task group.
Task group members urged to focus and to build on existing data and information, in consideration of the limited timeline.
The IRP highlighted that the Panel has not undertaken a specific study on textiles. Other task group members however recommended that further analysis on what data is available on textiles and from whom. It was agreed that UNEP will look into this analysis and report back at the next task group meeting.
- The members raised the importance of defining: who we want to influence and for what type of action to be undertaken as a result of the outputs of the Task Group. This will be discussed during the 2nd call of the Task Group.
- Alternative streams such as space waste was suggested as potential point of interest for the Task Group.

Further suggestions received via email following the call:

Centre for Responsible Business:

- In addition to ensuring that the messages get adopted as part of Official text of Multilateral processes/policies, from an impact perspective their in-country application would be critical. So, application at the National Level in some of the key Emerging Markets (BRICS + NextEleven, Big Emerging Markets, FTSE, MCI Index), would be key success factor, especially given these countries/markets are trade and investment hotspots, and therefore have considerable SCP implications
- User-friendliness of the generated Brief/Messages for busy and influential Politicians, Technocrats, Business Leaders, Influencers. So, it would be great if the Task Force can work with the Secretariats (OPN and IRP) on templates/formats of how these messages would be communicated to the busy influencers
- Each of the sectors (for example Agri-food and Textiles) has a considerably long and complicated value chain. So, it would be an imperative for the messages to be focused on specific parts of the value chain that has most significant implications on SCP indicators
- It is important as I mentioned during the call (sorry for some reason my internet connection wasn't that great), uptake in emerging economies would entail communication of the 'business case' for application on SCP/circular approaches in each of these sectors. It would be great if some of the existing knowledge in this area can be shared through this Task Group.

European Commission

- for the European Commission it is now very important to have reliable data on the actual mitigation results of resource efficiency/circular economy policies and measures. Publications and models, such as the recent IRP report presented at the COP25, focus on potential results.



This is good for advocacy, but do not help much to integrate resource efficiency/circular economy into climate policy, based on very strong models and data. Do you think it is feasible?

- Of course, for us the main success indicator is the actual use of the reports/policy briefs for policy- and decision-making. This implies that the briefs have to be practical, as one or two colleagues explained.

World Resources Forum

- Condition for success would be to focus.
- In this limited time and this immensely broad topic we may even wish to focus on only one (1) clear deliverable. An action that speeds up SCP in some area based upon clear science, so far neglected, from one of the IRP reports. It seems to me that the Hotspot Tool for SCP comes closest to the core of what our taskforce is set up for, we may see whether we can pick up some of those findings and give 1 – 2 of these some extra attention and work on them.
- After all, the IRP are thinkers and writers, the One Planet Network are doers. So another list of recommendations and issues to address is not what will shake the world. A practical suggestion on what that one golden action would be will be reflected upon in the shift to the New Year.

Finland:

The success could be linked to the

- innovative pathways / innovation
- high potential measures (assessment, evidence)
- links between sectors, textiles – chemicals, construction/textiles – plastics, etc.
- clear interest by the societies and citizens; so-called positive approach
- effective best practice policy instruments

About sectors: ok, even though plastics very much integrated on them

NEXT STEPS

- Key messages in key IRP reports – Each member of the task group:
 - Volunteer for 1 of the 7 IRP reports by Thursday 19 December (see below)
 - Extract key messages that are action oriented and evidence based – i.e. messages that would help you in your work?
 - Present the key messages you have identified from your perspective at the next call end of January/Early February.
- Further defining the deliverable on the briefs – the secretariats of the IRP and One Planet:
 - integrate the key points discussed during the call – in particular the common aspects raised on focus, actionable deliverables, defining how we want to influence and for what type of action.
 - propose preparatory actions in early January to frame the discussion at the 2nd call.
- The next call will take place end of January / Early February – please provide your availability in the poll [here](#).



Key International Resource Panel Reports

1. Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want. [GRO 2019](#)
2. Resource Efficiency: Potential and Economic Implications, 2017. [G7 report](#)
3. Resource Efficiency for Sustainable Development: Key Messages for the Group of 20, 2018. [G20 report](#) – **Volunteers: CRB, SGBF**
4. Global Material Flows and Resource Productivity, 2016. [MFA report](#)
5. Food Systems and Natural Resources, 2016. [Food systems report](#) – **volunteer: WWF**
6. The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future Urbanization, 2018. [Weight of Cities report](#)
7. [Resource Efficiency and Climate Change, 2019](#)