



Task Group on catalysing science-based policy action on SCP

2nd call 20th February 2020

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. Luca Marmo

Expert of the International Resource Panel

- Mr Jeffrey Herrick, Soil Scientist USDA-ARS Jornada Research Unit New Mexico State University
- Ms. Stefanie Hellweg, Professor ETH Zurich Institute of Environmental Engineering (IfU) Ecological Systems Design

UNEP representatives

- Ms. Elisa Tonda
- Ms. Claire Thiebault
- Mrs. Sandra Averous

RECAP ON WHAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- Building on the focus of the task group, whereby the International Resource Panel is the “supplier” of scientific evidence and data, and the One Planet network is the “user” of this scientific data; members of the task group reviewed a report of the IRP to identify which information contained in this report they would use in their work.
- The guiding questions for the review of the report and for the identification of actionable key messages are:
 - What are the most relevant messages for you and your work in this report?
 - Why do you consider these key messages as the most relevant?
 - Are these messages actionable? How will you use them in your work?



- Is there anything missing in the report that you would have expected to find and/or would have been useful to you in your work?
- The reports reviewed are:
 - Global Resources Outlook 2019. **Volunteer: WRF, EC**
 - G7 report - Potential and Economic Implications, 2017. **Volunteer: South Africa**
 - Key Messages for the Group of 20, 2018– **Volunteer: CRB**
 - Food Systems and Natural Resources, 2016. **volunteer: WWF**
 - The Weight of Cities Report, 2018. **Volunteers: Netherlands, SGBF**
 - Resource Efficiency and Climate change, 2019 – **Volunteer: Finland**

OVERVIEW OF THE INPUTS RECEIVED FROM THE TASK GROUP MEMBERS

- The consolidation of all reviews and inputs received is shared in Annex.
- The secretariats analysed the inputs submitted by the volunteers of the Task Group to identify main patterns common across all reviews.
- 5 main points emerged from the inputs:
 1. Data and trends on resource use is rich and useful
 2. The reports are useful for awareness raising and engagement
 3. Mostly the recommendations are too general and high level to result in action or prioritization
 4. The report introduces concepts and principles (e.g. decoupling and targets) but it seems difficult to visualize how to use these (e.g. requests for examples of concrete processes and cases, localized data)
 5. Sectoral reports seem to provide more specific recommendations
- IRP experts highlighted the quality of inputs received and indicated that it would be interesting to follow-up on the inputs received, for instance on actionability or pathways for resource efficiency. They also cautioned on the potential risk of interpreting the reports in an overly positive way.

DISCUSSION ON KEY POINTS EMERGING FROM THE INPUTS

- The discussion focused on further unpacking the 5 main points that emerged from inputs received from task group members: what data do we use for awareness raising? What type of information would be useful for prioritization and action?
- The discussion included the 3 priority sectors of agri-food, buildings and construction, textiles.
- While there is a reference to consumption of bio-based resources in IRP reports, there is very rarely a connection with textile production. Therefore, UNEP is providing inputs on textiles based on the [“Global Chemicals Outlook II”](#) and [“Global Environment Outlook 6”](#).

DATA AND TRENDS FOR AWARENESS RAISING:

- Task Group members underlined that the data and trends available in the IRP reports are useful. However, there is a need to clearly identify the target audience for awareness raising. Awareness raising approach will differ based on the audience defined.
- It was suggested to include cities and local governments as a priority for the awareness raising.



- IRP reports help to identify problems and opportunities and serve as inspiration for action. Identifying tools and solutions available in the One Planet network to address these problems and leverage the opportunities is the next step.
- It would be very useful to provide concrete guidelines to policy makers so that they can advocate for resource efficiency within their respective Ministries and between the Ministries. The data of IRP supports business and political case but the steps beyond that are not clear.

ACTIONABILITY AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE MORE CONCRETE:

- It was suggested that it is important to understand how to influence policy makers with the data that is available. Potential option could be getting the Member States at UNEA 5 to commit to an action plan developed based on the reports.
- UNEP highlighted existing reports that use science-based data as the basis to formulate actionable recommendations and pathways. The example referred to the work on marine plastics, and for which [mapping of global plastics value chain and plastic losses](#), as well as a [stocktaking report](#) had been undertaken. Example: [Addressing Marine Plastics: a systemic approach. Recommendations for action](#). This report recommends actions to be taken by different stakeholders to achieve a circular economy for plastics at the global level and provides recommendations for actions in specific priority sectors where losses of plastics are substantial and/ or impacts on the marine environment are high
- Such examples show the usefulness of identifying and prioritising actions required from different stakeholders of the value chain and make it easier to map and identify tools and solutions available through One Planet network.
- Guidelines on relevant explicit pathways/scenarios to implement resource efficiency strategies would be instrumental for each stakeholder group to take action.
- In order to have action-oriented recommendations, it is very important to define the targeted stakeholders, as well as to adapt the language to each stakeholder group.
- Task Group members represent different stakeholder groups, and as such have a key role to play in ensuring that the interest, needs and asks of the group they represent are taken into account.
- It was also suggested that, following the issuance of a report, the following advocacy at all levels and trainings be systematically considered – so that recommendations are considered and applied
- The IRP shared an example on pathways for resource-efficiency and inclusive urban development in the ASEAN region in its [“Sustainable urban infrastructure transitions in the ASEAN region: a resource perspective”](#) report.

PARTICIPATION TO IRP STEERING COMMITTEE AND ONE PLANET NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- IRP Panel and Joint meetings will take place on 5-7 May in Bangkok, Thailand. The IRP has 2 main meetings per year where scientists and countries meet to discuss progress in the preparation of IRP reports as well as other strategic matters. The meetings include three sessions, one with scientists only, another one with scientists and countries and a third session with countries only (this last one is for IRP country members only).
- One Planet network executive committee meeting will take place on 19-20 May in Paris, France. This is an annual meeting of the committee that is composed of the co-leads of 6 thematic programmes of the One Planet network, the 10YFP Board, as well as additional stakeholders depending on the thematic focus of any given annual meeting.



- All Task Group members are invited to join the Panel and Joint meetings of the IRP and the One Planet Executive Committee meeting. An update on progress of the work of the Task Group will be presented at both meetings.
- Participation of 2 task group members per meeting can be sponsored (2 One Planet members to IRP steering committee, 2 IRP members to One Planet executive committee). Selection will be made on the basis of regional and stakeholder group balance, as well as level of participation in the Task Group.
- Expressions of interest should be shared by 6th of March 2020.
- Agendas of both meetings will be shared with the Task Group members as soon as they are available.

NEXT STEPS

- Task group members to share examples of recommendations that they have found actionable (topic does not need to be related to resource efficiency) - **6th of March 2020**.
- Task Group members are requested to submit expressions of interest to participate in the IRP Panel and Joint meetings and One Planet network executive committee meeting by **6th of March 2020**, indicating whether they need to be sponsored.
- On the basis of this call and examples shared by the task group members, the secretariats will propose draft criteria with which to identify actionable recommendations from selected reports.
- Following that, the work on identifying actionable recommendations will initiate.
- The next call is proposed for the **8th of April**.