



Task Group on catalysing science-based policy action on SCP

3rd call 8th April 2020

MINUTES

Attendees:

Government:

- Finland: Ms. Merja Saarnilehto
- The Netherlands: Mr. Arthur Eijs
- Argentina: Ms. Alicia Moreno
- South Africa: Mr. Lee-Hendor Ruiters

Business/private sector:

- 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
- UNEP: Ms. Elisa Tonda, Ms. Claire Thiebault, Ms. Sandra Averous, Ms Marina Bortoletti

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)

Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel

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

RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- The Task Group's aim is to increase uptake of the International Resource Panel's reports by the One Planet network, 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.
- The Task Group focuses on:
 1. Identifying natural resource use trends in key sectors and value chains: Construction, Food systems and textiles
 2. Defining and undertaking a consultative process that leads to actionable recommendations
- The following key points emerged following the last (2nd) call of the Task Group:
 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. For actionable recommendations: need for contextualization – per sector, per stakeholder group etc. Sectoral reports seem to provide more specific recommendations
6. Envisage a systematic process prior to issuing reports, that leads to actionable recommendations
7. Build on existing reports and process that have led to actionable recommendations – examples: [Addressing Marine Plastics: a systemic approach. Recommendations for action.](#)

DEVELOPING ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS: THE EXAMPLE OF THE REPORT ON ‘ADDRESSING MARINE PLASTICS: A SYSTEMIC APPROACH’

- An overview of the work undertaken to develop the report on “Addressing Marine plastics: a systemic approach. Recommendation for action” was shared.
- The report builds on the inputs gathered through multi-stakeholder approach that brought together experts in different fields, such as marine environment, lifecycle, resource efficiency, etc. The development of action-oriented strategy and recommendations built on these inputs and the guidance of these practitioners and experts.
- The project adopted systemic and value chain approach, addressing: 1) know your hotspots, 2) generate holistic solutions, 3) coordinate, 4) prioritise action, 5) reaching common goals.
- Initially desk study was undertaken to analyze key hot spots in the plastics value chain and identify the more problematic life-cycle stages where intervention would be most impactful. This information helped to generate holistic solutions through different stages of value chain.
- Two multi-stakeholder consultations pulled together knowledge of 50-70 experts of different stakeholder groups. The consultations allowed for the review of the information available, identification of the information gap and challenges, and the definition of the actions that need to be taken to address them.
- As a result and having “Addressing Marine plastics: a systemic approach. Recommendation for action” as the basis, an action-oriented strategy “[Addressing marine plastics: a roadmap to circular economy](#)” was produced. It identifies 4 clear blocks that are required to reach circular economy: Create cross-cutting enabling conditions; Eliminate all problematic and unnecessary plastic products; Innovate design, production and business models; Circulate all plastic products at their highest value within the economy
- Through these blocks, priority solutions are identified and proposed in relation to different stakeholders throughout the value chain, while considering geographical priorities.
- Key actions proposed are presented through a simple table, are linked to a set of indicators and timeframe, and are addressed to different stakeholder to assure holistic approach.

DISCUSSION

- The Task Group members expressed appreciation on the example presented and suggested that similar approach to develop actionable recommendations can be applied to other sectors.
- Geographical priorities, realities of the countries and their soft and hard infrastructure are important to consider in this approach.
- Relationship between SDG 12/Resource Efficiency and the impacts of COVID-19 could be further analysed. Relevant discussions are taking place within IRP as well as in UNEP on this matter.
- Concerning the follow-up on implementation of the recommendations: UNEP shared that the recommendations helped framing the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment led by Ellen McArthur Foundation. The signatories to the commitment, that represent various stakeholder



groups, are requested to report on the progress of their commitment. This allows the follow-up on the implementation of recommendations.

- In addition, following the release of the report, UNEP and other partners initiated collaboration with a number of national governments to identify the most relevant and impactful recommendations, as well as to support implementation and monitoring systems.

IDENTIFYING DATA NEEDS AND INFORMATION AVAILABILITY ON RESOURCE USE AND HOTSPOTS

- Building on the previous inputs of the Task Group members, the necessity to identify data needs and information availability on resource use and hotspots has become evident.
- The objective of this exercise is:
 - To identify where the problems and opportunities are (and therefore guide the solution)
 - To make it relevant to things people can relate to, i.e. countries, sectors, materials
 - To demonstrate what is at stake
- The data and information in this exercise will come from IRP Reports, UNEP reports, SCP-HAT, Material Flows database, WESR and possibly other sources. Members of the Task Group are invited to propose other sources that can be useful.
- 3 entry points for the data are being proposed to make it more relatable: Resources / materials; Sectors / value chains; Countries
- The focus will remain on 3 sectors/value-chains: food systems, construction, textiles
- Examples of type of information and data needed are provided in Annex to these minutes.

DISCUSSION

- Additional sources suggested by Task Group members included:
 - G20 factsheets developed by IRP for G20,
 - GGKP database
 - UN statistics as well as national/local statistics particularly for the construction sector.
- Task Group members suggested that it would be useful to have the outputs of the group be translated in different languages.
- For scientific data to influence decisions in supply chains, Task Group members stressed the importance of considering the following:
 - cross-sectoral connectivity of the outputs of the Task Group. This connectivity is key for scientific data to influence decision in supply chains, to help create a new language for international trade, and to connect resource efficiency to economic decisions globally.
 - Trade-off and co-benefits should be considered when applying cross-sectoral approach and looking into connecting with high-level political priorities.
- On the task group's work on food systems:
 - The outputs should contribute to the on-going work related to UN Food Summit. Potentially through the action track on nature positive production. The Food Summit is a good opportunity for synergies for the implementation of actionable recommendations.
 - Sustainable Food Systems Programme is an important actor in this process. SFS conference planned for November 2020 is an important opportunity to leverage.
- Advocating for the messages on resource efficiency outside of the Task Group through a joint statement to G20 was suggested by a member of the Task Group.
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DEFINING AND UNDERTAKING A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS THAT LEADS TO ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Following the example provided by UNEP to develop actionable recommendations, it is proposed to undertake a consultative process. Its objective is:
 - To define a process to extract and develop actionable recommendations, building on other initiatives' experience
 - To consultatively develop science-based actionable recommendations in the 3 sectors
 - To propose systematic process to develop actionable recommendations
- The recommendations are foreseen at levels of: sector, stage of the value chain, stakeholder, product category
- It is proposed to have 2-tier consultations
 1. Identifying gaps and entry points in the sectors/value chains – Consultation mainly with experts / Academia - Science / data driven
Online: May – July
 2. Identifying how stakeholders can help address these gaps
Multi-stakeholder consultations – participants to be identified
In-person or online: September-October

DISCUSSION

- The Task Group members are invited to propose ideas on who can be invited to participate in these consultations, as well as any other ideas on how to collect feedback from key actors.
- The two focus sectors of the Task Group are connected to the programmes of the One Planet network: Sustainable Food Systems and Sustainable Buildings and Construction. Along with experts from the IRP, experts in the networks of these respective programmes can participate in the consultation process. Consultations are value chain specific
- Task Group members reflected on the opportunity to provide timely advice to decision-makers that are faced with short-term decisions related to the post-COVID 19 recovery process. This is specifically relevant to such issues as single-use plastics to avoid its reintroduction where the progress to its elimination has already been made.

NEXT STEPS

- Task group members are invited to provide feedback and suggestions on the way forward by 22nd of April 2020, and in particular on:
 - Feedback on data needs identified in Annex 1
 - Data sources to consider
 - Organisations to invite for the 2 consultations
 - Opportunities to connect with relevant initiatives – e.g. SFS programme conference, UN food systems summit
- The ToRs of the task group will be revised accordingly
- The Secretariats will initiate identification of available data for the food systems and the textiles value chains.
- The next call will take place in the first week of May 2020. Data identified in the sectors of food and textiles will be shared, as well as further details of the consultation process building on the feedback received from the Task Group.



Annex I: Examples of data and information to be extracted under output 1. This list is non-exhaustive and will further be complemented.

Type of resources:

- What resources? Name the physical element: water, topsoil, land, minerals, nutrients, fossil fuels, rare earth minerals, forests, fish stocks, sand, etc
- Which are renewable / non-renewable
- What is the current state of degradation/depletion of each of these specific resources
- How much do we have left of each resource?
- How long do we have left based on current rates of resource extraction / use?
- How does this vary across countries / regions?
- How are each of these specific resources being used? In what industry? In the production of what tangible goods and services that are consumed?
- which resources are presently the most at risk
- Can these resources be substituted by another one with a similar result?
- which resources are being used the least efficiently / in which industries and for which products are specific resources are being used the least efficiently

Per sector and industry:

- Which sectors and industries are most resource-intensive globally?
- Which resources are used the most in each of the 3 sectors?
- Rate of virgin natural resource input to output for each sector and industry, in each country (material efficiency / resource efficiency by industry)
- How is this trending over time?
- Is resource efficiency in specific industries currently increasing or decreasing?
- Which industries are the least / most resource-intensive / efficient? Which are improving? Which are going backwards?
- What is driving these trends?
- How are these trends predicted to move in future?
- Which countries are producing / consuming the most unsustainably (based on sectoral information)
- Material footprint by sector, globally
- Material footprint by sector, trend over time
- Material efficiency by sector (material input / \$) (not economy wide)
- Material efficiency by sector by country
- Material domestic consumption by sector
- Material domestic consumption by sector by country
- Displaced material impact by sector by country (material footprint by sector by country – material domestic consumption by sector by country)

Per stage of the value chain:

- Which resources are required at each stage of the 3 value chains?
- What is the consequence of *extraction* of specific resource on:
 - Loss of forest cover
 - Degradation of soil quality / nutrients in land
 - Use of water
 - Loss of fish stocks
 - Pollution of chemicals etc into air, water, land
 - Use of energy
 - Release of CO2 emissions
- What is the consequence of *processing, production and transportation* on:



- Pollution of chemicals etc into air, water, land
- Waste (beyond hazardous waste which I assume will be covered in the above item)
- Use of water (including wastewater discharge, which is not only affected by chemicals, but also nutrients and temperature contamination)
- Use of energy
- Release of CO2 emissions
- What is the consequence of *use* on:
 - Pollution of chemicals etc into air, water, land
 - Waste (beyond hazardous waste which I assume will be covered in the above item)
 - Use of energy (energy used to run the product)
- What is the consequence of *disposal and post-use* on:
 - Pollution of chemicals etc into air, water, land
 - Waste (beyond hazardous waste which I assume will be covered in the above item)
 - Use of energy
 - Release of CO2 emissions
- Which countries/regions are extracting the resources?
- Which countries/regions are producing the products?
- Which countries/regions are consuming the products?