



Task Group on catalysing science-based policy action on SCP

6th Call 17th September 2020

MINUTES

Attendees:

Government:

- Argentina: Alicia Moreno; Nicole Makowski
- Finland: Merja Saarnilehto
- Netherlands: Arthur Eijs
- South Africa: Rhulani Baloyi

Business/private sector:

- Saudi Green Building Forum, Saudi Arabia: Faisal Alfadl
- Centre for Responsible Business, India: Rijit Sengupta

Civil Society:

- WWF: Martina Fleckenstein
- WRF: Bas de Leeuw

United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations

- European Commission: Jesus Alquezar Sabadie; Luca Marmo
- UN-HABITAT: Christophe Lalande
- UNEP: Ligia Noronha; Elisa Tonda; Claire Thiebault; Marina Bortoletti; Jonathan Duwyn

Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel

- Izabella Teixeira, former Minister of Environment, Brazil

10YFP Secretariat: Cecilia Lopez y Royo; Yulia Rubleva; Mauro Cordella; Samantha Webb; Gina Torregroza

IRP Secretariat: Maria Jose Baptista; Kirsten Virginia Glenn, Merlyn Van Voore

Full presentation prepared for the Call is available [here](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE VALUE CHAIN APPROACH – INPUTS & DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT NOTE

- In prior calls of the task group, the following were adopted:
 - The value chain approach as an interface between the data of the International Resource Panel and the actions of the One Planet network to strengthen science-based actions. This approach is the basis for the current analysis on food and construction, as well as textiles.
 - The structure of the report for UNEA5, which includes 3 sections: 1) Overview of the value chain approach; 2) the approach in practice: application to food, construction and textiles, 3) Natural resource management and Agenda 2030, including data needs and gaps to be addressed for an effective science-policy interface.
- A draft note on the value chain approach and related methodology, the basis for section 1, was shared in advance of the meeting for inputs and discussion. The note describes the methodology applied to the three prioritized sectors.



- The value chain approach considers the entire set of economic activities, by understanding what is happening at different stages of the value chain as well as how the value chain operates as part of a system. Adopting a value chain approach helps to identify strategic intervention points and shape corresponding actions that improve natural resource management and achieve multiple sustainability objectives. Although there is no standard methodology, extensive material and knowledge has been produced in UNEP and the Life Cycle Initiative.
- The application of the value chain approach in the three prioritized sectors required a series of steps that can be clustered in three main groups:
 1. Understand the value chain & identify key hotspots: Define the key stages and actors of the value chain; Map natural resource use & environmental impacts along the value chain; Apply a systems lens to the value chain; Identify key hotspots
Data source: IRP, complemented by other sources
 2. Consolidate existing action & define opportunities to address the hotspots: Map initiatives of all actors of the value chain in relation to the identified hotspots; Analyse mapping to uncover gaps and opportunities.
Data Source: One Planet network, complemented by others
 3. Reach a common agenda and prioritise action to address gaps: Define common agenda for alignment of all actors; Identify priority actions for all actors along the value chain
Source: consultations

DISCUSSION

The Task Group welcomed the information received and the note on the value chain approach. The overall methodology is approved, although some refinements or adjustments may be included on the basis of suggestions made and further application of this approach in the 3 sectors.

Suggestions made during the discussion included the following:

- The work done by the Task Group is very important globally, and there is a strategic momentum to leverage. Value chains are made of different players, and international/financial investors are now interested in better understanding the value chain approach and how they can use it. It is very important to highlight it.
- For example, discussion ongoing in Brazil on supply chains, pressures on Amazonia, how private sector can find solutions. Since the private sector is very interested in addressing and linking social and environmental aspects, it is important to reinforce that a robust value chain approach is needed, to understand better which are the requirements of the private sector (companies and financial sector), and to show how they can use such approach to influence other stakeholders
- It is important to acknowledge both the usefulness/relevance and limitations of the value chain approach. The value chain approach helps identify key impacts and relevant stakeholders, as well as shows that there is an asymmetry between the stages where the impacts are and the actors which can influence those stages. Importance of multinational companies was highlighted, but also financial players must be addressed.
- The importance of the political-economic considerations in the food analysis show that is important to complement the more environmental expertise of the IRP, with other areas of knowledge as such as economics and political sciences.
- Understanding of stakeholders is necessary to have a full understanding of the value chain, and related political-economic considerations. A proper analysis of stakeholders is necessary to understand their power, influence and interest on the value chain.



- It is important that all relevant stakeholders are identified and/or included – including financial actors, businesses, NGOs, civil society. The analysis of stakeholders can also support policy and regulatory analyses. Business behavior is driven by the quality of regulations and the institutional frameworks.
- “Co-responsibility” and “co-creation”: is a useful and/or important element of this approach, however it should not be a pre-condition to action. Its usefulness can be illustrated by, for example, the private sector that plays a key role in the decision process and has an interest in sustainability and transparency which could be leveraged to influence others towards co-responsibility and/or co-creation. Its limitations can be illustrated by, for example, that in a system analysis there may be the need to take away legal barriers and perverse incentives, which would be difficult to undertake with co-creation.
- For construction, some additional concepts may be needed to improve the understanding of value chains, especially for buildings and construction: “man-made”, “design-build”, “physical and virtual”, “steps adding to retail sale”, “reduce, recycle, recover principles”. A Task Group member expressed an interest in focusing construction on smaller and larger cities .
- Digital platforms can support reaching a common agenda and prioritising actions to address gaps.
- Messages and outcomes from the activity of the Task Group should reach UNEA and other global platforms. Task group members will play an important role for its dissemination and outreach.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS ON APPLYING THE VALUE CHAIN APPROACH IN THE 3 SECTORS

- Food value chain:
 - The analysis of the value chain and hotspots will be completed following integration of suggestions received prior and during this call.
 - The mapping of existing action is ongoing and was presented during the call
- Construction value chain:
 - Analysis of the value chain and its hotspots is still ongoing. Preliminary information was discussed during the call in July. Further bilateral discussions will take place with task group with expertise in construction
- Textiles value chain
 - A report “Sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain: a global stocktaking” was presented at the Task Group before summer and comments received from the external peer-review process are being integrated. The finalisation and release of the final report can be expected by the end of September
 - The multi-stakeholder consultation for Textiles is planned for the end of October. Details will be shared. The objective of this consultation is to engage with different stakeholder groups to identify opportunities, barriers and needs and define a roadmap
 - UNEP will build on the stocktaking report to develop a report outlining a roadmap for the Textile sector. This roadmap will identify key actions and opportunities by stakeholder group to support the delivery of the circular value chain.



STEP 2 OF THE VALUE CHAIN APPROACH IN FOOD: MAPPING AND CONSOLIDATING EXISTING INITIATIVES IN THE ONE PLANET NETWORK ON FOOD.

- A presentation was given on the analysis of initiatives and actions of the One Planet network on food in relation to the value chain and the three aims/points of intervention (how much food we produce; how much food we produce and consume; what type of food we consume) and with an emphasis on the “middle stages” of the food value chain
- Data shared by members of One Planet Network through the network’s annual reporting was used for this analysis. If necessary/relevant, it can be further complemented through consultation
- About 400 initiatives on food have been mapped across the value chain and analysed with respect to belonging One Planet network programmes, aim and type of activity
- All programmes of the One Planet network are working of food in a complementary way.
 - Sustainable Food System’s programme addresses food systems from a comprehensive system perspective, and within the value chain focuses mainly on primary production and individual consumption stages;
 - Sustainable Lifestyles and Education programme also addresses individual consumption and primary production;
 - Consumer information programme addresses processing& packaging, retail, food services and individual consumption, through its work on product sustainability information, labels and standards.
 - Sustainable Tourism Programme, and to a lesser extent the sustainable public procurement programme, address food services.
- Around 30% of activities address sustainable food systems comprehensively and as a whole; while about 60% of activities are very specific in terms of aim/point of intervention and value chain stage. For example: what type of food and how much food we produce and consume are both primarily addressed at food service and individual consumption stage.
- In terms of activities, some of the most relevant include information campaigns at the individual level consumption addressing sustainable diets and food waste; knowledge and resource tools targeting different stages of the value chain, trainings (mainly at the production stage) and, best practices (mainly for food services).
- On policies, reported through SDG 12.1.1 official reporting, preliminary results indicate that, beyond the 18% of holistic policies, most policies tend to focus either on primary production or on individual consumption.
- There is an opportunity to leverage activities at the middle stage building on the experience of programmes – in particular the work of the consumer information programme at the processing and retail stages and of the sustainable tourism programme at the food service stage.

DISCUSSION

- This mapping and consolidation of activities on food across programmes should inform new or strengthened strategies of the programmes, as well as any areas to change or let go of.
- The system analysis indicated that multinationals play an important role to shape production and consumption patterns. How do the activities reported for different stages of the value chain translate into engagement with different stakeholders?
- Part of the asymmetry between different stakeholders along the value chain, could also be addressed by working with the programmes that are already engaged at those stages of the value chain and with those actors.



- While addressing the value chain of food, there are 2 types of audience: agro-business/industries and small farmers. Sometimes, they work together (e.g. cattle farmers, grains, soybeans) or not (e.g. wines). There are different economic relationships in place before food is processed and made available to consumers. Could these aspects be investigated further to understand it better, and to identify opportunities and information gaps?
- It would be interesting to understand how effective the policies are/have been, and which are those to highlight as best practice and to focus on. For example, the EU Farm-to-Fork and Green Deal should be highlighted.
- This work is linked to the Sustainable Food Systems programme, through WWF as co-lead of the programme, and discussions are underway on its integration in the November SFS global conference, as well as in the UN Food Summit.

PLANNING FOR THE UNEA 5 REPORT

- An update on the sections of the UNEA5 report agreed during the last call was provided.
 - Section 1: Overview of the value chain approach as interface between science and policy action and therefore, as the interface between the work of the International Resource Panel and the work of the One Planet network
 - Overview brief circulated: basis of this section of the report
 - Section 2: The value chain approach in practice: applying it to Food, Construction & Textiles
1 subsection per sector, providing the general overview of the application of the value chain approach + 1 deep-dive each into 1 of the 3 steps of the process
 - Section 3: Natural resource management and Agenda 2030
Including data needs and gaps to be addressed for an effective science-policy interface.
- The final report has to be submitted by end of November
- Drafting and review of sections of the report will take place in October, and the review of the draft report in early November
- Task Group members are invited to provide written comments to the drafts circulated.
- Following the discussions at the G20 Environment ministers that took place on 16/09/2020, which highlighted issues among delegations on climate change and supply chains, showed that the climate change issue is a big problem in that context for some delegations, it will be particularly important that certain messages are underlined and transmitted at UNEA5.

WRAP-UP, NEXT STEPS

- Task group members are invited to provide suggestions and inputs to the minutes of the meeting and related working documents by Wednesday 23rd of September.
- Progress on the analysis of the construction value chain and on the consolidation of activities on the food value chain will be shared, as they become available, with the task group for further inputs and suggestions.
- The report on the textiles value chain and related consultations will be shared by UNEP.
- Draft sections of the UNEA5 report will be circulated sequentially, and task group members are invited to share inputs and suggestions while considering the November deadline for submission.
- The representative of WWF to inform the Task Group on the input needed for the preparation of the Global Conference of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.