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Social Council**

Progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General transmits herewith the progress report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [67/203](#), [68/210](#), [69/214](#) and [70/201](#). The present report follows the annual reports submitted in 2015 ([E/2015/56](#)), 2016 ([E/2016/62](#)), 2017 ([E/2017/63](#)) and 2018 ([E/2018/60](#)). The objective of the present report is to inform Member States and stakeholders about progress on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework and its “One Plan for One Planet” strategy 2018–2022, highlighting key outputs and outcomes under each of its main objectives. The report is hereby submitted through the Economic and Social Council for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019.



I. Sustainable consumption and production: a systemic approach towards decoupling and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. Natural resources are at the foundation of our socioeconomic systems. They provide the essentials we need, from the food we eat to the buildings we live in. One thing is certain: natural resources are not limitless. Consequently, natural resources and our relationship with them lie at the core of our sustainable development challenge: meeting the needs of all people within the means of our planet.

2. Sustainable consumption and production is a systems approach to breaking the link between economic growth and increased resource use, while improving human well-being. This will happen only through a profound transformation of our economic systems that implies, among other things, changing the way we value the things that we consume and our production processes and practices.

3. Sustainable consumption and production is a systems approach that addresses the economic, social and environmental aspects of production and consumption by assessing benefits and trade-offs and focusing on the “win-win” gains that occur when there is complementary progress in addressing all three aspects. This is because sustainable consumption and production considers the entire life cycle of goods and services, making it possible to identify interventions with the most positive impacts on sustainability, while avoiding burden-shifting.

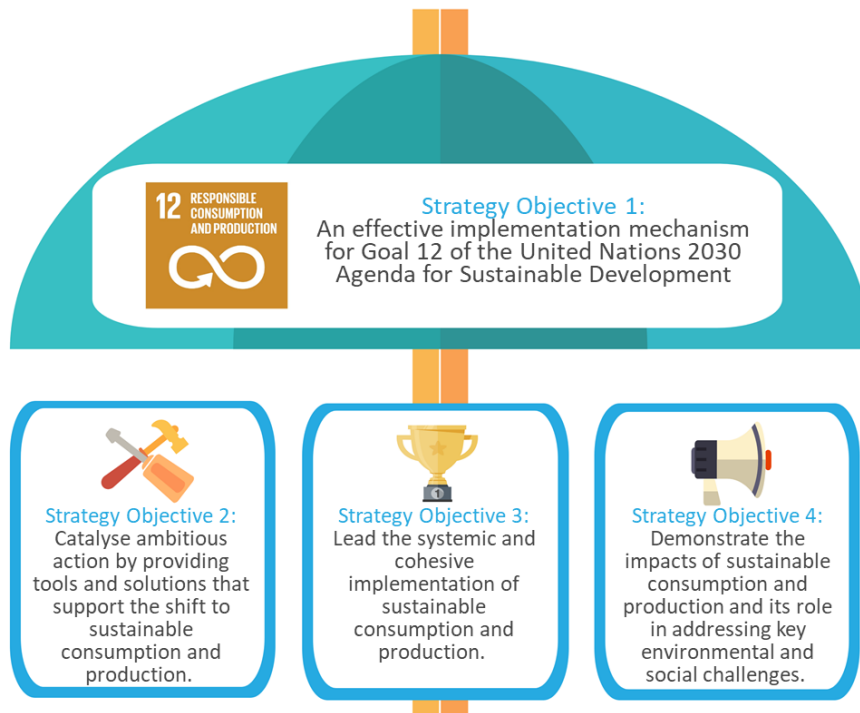
4. The One Planet network is an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12, to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, which formed to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership across stakeholder groups and regions, composed of more than 700 partners, including national and local governments, civil society, businesses, scientific and technical organizations, and international organizations. The One Planet network leads the shift to sustainable consumption and production by setting the agenda and providing tools and solutions to deliver on Goal 12.

5. Through its six programmes generating collective impact – Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Food Systems, Consumer Information, and Sustainable Lifestyles and Education – and the active participation of its stakeholders, the One Planet network has the potential to foster integrated and systemic approaches. The network creates joint value by scaling up and disseminating innovative solutions and successful practices.

6. The One Plan for One Planet strategy 2018–2022¹, adopted by the Board of the 10-Year Framework and launched at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, aims to support countries in delivering on Goal 12 through four strategic objectives, summarized in figure I.

¹ Available at http://spaces.oneplanetnetwork.org/system/files/strategy_one_planet.pdf.

Figure I
Objectives of the One Plan for One Planet strategy, 2018–2022



7. The strategy provides a clear way forward to implement Goal 12 and enables the strategic use of the diverse strengths of the network. Since the adoption of the strategy, the One Planet network has mobilized for its implementation, with programmes defining aspirational targets. Some of the targets are summarized in figure II.

Figure II
Summary of aspirational targets defined by the One Planet network programmes



8. The present report presents key activities in the implementation of the One Plan for One Planet strategy in 2018. It has been prepared, on behalf of the Board, by the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework in cooperation with the programmes. It

responds to General Assembly resolution 70/201, in which the Assembly requested the Board and the secretariat to submit updated reports for the consideration of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

II. The One Planet network: an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12

Recognition as an implementation mechanism for Goal 12

9. The 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development reviewed progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12. This presented the opportunity to position the One Planet network as an implementation mechanism for Goal 12; to launch new initiatives, such as the One Plan for One Planet strategy and the multi-partner trust fund for Goal 12; to showcase major achievements of the network over the first five years; and to mobilize political support.

10. The 10-Year Framework and its One Planet network were recognized as an implementation mechanism for Goal 12 in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2018 high-level political forum: “We acknowledge the midterm review of and progress achieved in the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including the development of the One Planet network, which is an important implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12” (para. 26; see E/HLS/2018/1 and A/73/3, chap. VI).

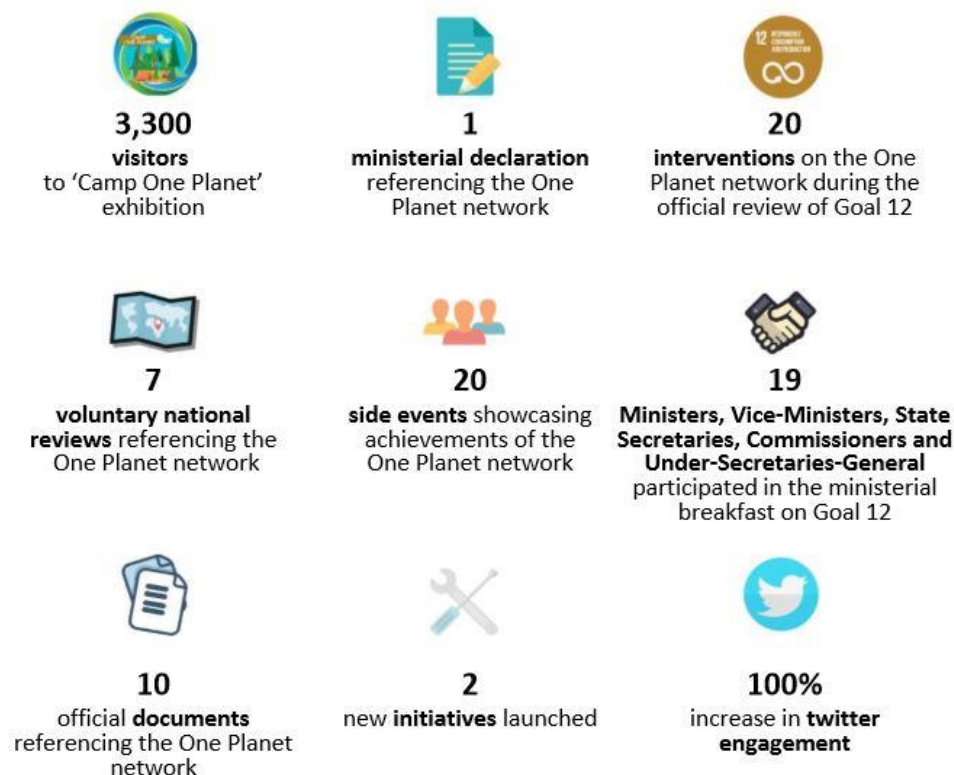
11. The review of Goal 12 considered progress, challenges and solutions in achieving it. At the forum, the chair of the Board of the 10-Year Framework, and one of the four panellists, stated: “a new strategy, One Plan for One Planet was developed to ensure even better implementation of [Goal] 12 over the next five years. The strategy and network clearly focus on implementation. ... Working with the One Planet network will help all the stakeholders including governments, and others, to do their job on the shift to sustainable consumption and production.”² Further to this, approximately 20 separate delegates and other participants referred to the One Planet network in their interventions.

12. In the context of the review of Goal 12, the One Planet network had a significant presence at the 2018 high-level political forum. Figure III provides an overview of the network’s outputs, which are also illustrated in a short report³ and video on the One Planet network at the Forum.

² The full recording of the 2018 session of the high-level political forum on Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns is available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=872&type=12&menu=1807&template=1042&play=3961>.

³ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/one_planet_network_at_hlpf_2018.pdf.

Figure III
The One Planet network at the 2018 high-level political forum



Identifying emerging trends on sustainable consumption and production

13. Monitoring the shift to sustainable consumption and production is critical in identifying emerging trends and strategic gaps, demonstrating and showcasing the benefits of sustainable consumption and production to build greater momentum for change, and guiding and supporting the implementation of policies and practices. The One Planet network tracks the progress on the shift to sustainable consumption and production through annual reporting on the Indicators of Success,⁴ the network's monitoring and reporting framework. The results presented in this report stem from activities implemented by partners of the network supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production at the local, national, regional and global levels.⁵

14. In 2018, more than 600 activities were implemented across the network, a higher number than in previous years. This constitutes a stable trend in the growth of reporting on the Indicators of Success and demonstrates the ongoing commitment by programmes and their partners to provide data that support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production.

⁴ One Planet network, *Indicators of Success: Demonstrating the Shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production – Principles, Process and Methodology* (Paris, United Nations Environment Programme, 2017). Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/indicators_of_success_2019march.pdf.

⁵ Data are reported by the network's partners through the One Planet network's annual reporting process. Data are dynamic and may vary from indicator to indicator. Annual progress updates and data quality assurance processes aim to ensure reliable and consistent reporting on the activities of the 10-Year Framework relating to sustainable consumption and production and target 12.1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

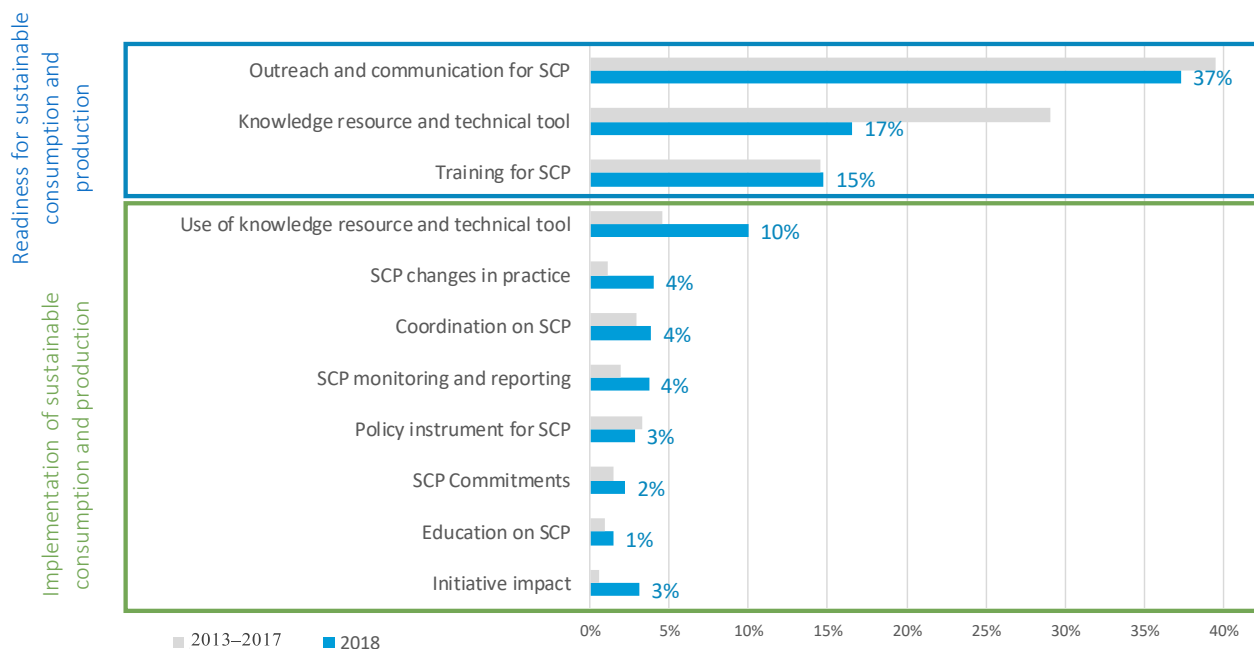
Key insights provided by the One Planet network reporting in 2018

15. Activities reported in 2018 indicate an initial shift to outcome-oriented activities, signalling progress towards the effective implementation and use of the resources, tools and solutions, resulting in concrete changes in practice. Activities reported at the outcome level increased to 28 per cent of the 2018 total, from the previous 16 per cent for the 2013–2017 period. It is important to note that this increase is driven by the Sustainable Tourism Programme and is not a reflection of a generalized trend across the whole network.

16. Progress on the number of activities reported at the outcome level seems equally distributed among indicators belonging to this category, with changes in practice presenting a higher increase than the other indicators. This is a positive and welcome trend, but still modest when compared with its weight relative to the total number of reported activities. Changes in practice are still a small percentage of the total number of reported activities (see figure IV), indicating an opportunity for improvement in identifying tangible solutions that result in concrete and measurable sustainability impacts.

Figure IV
Activities implemented by type of indicator, 2013–2017 compared with 2018 results

(Percentage)

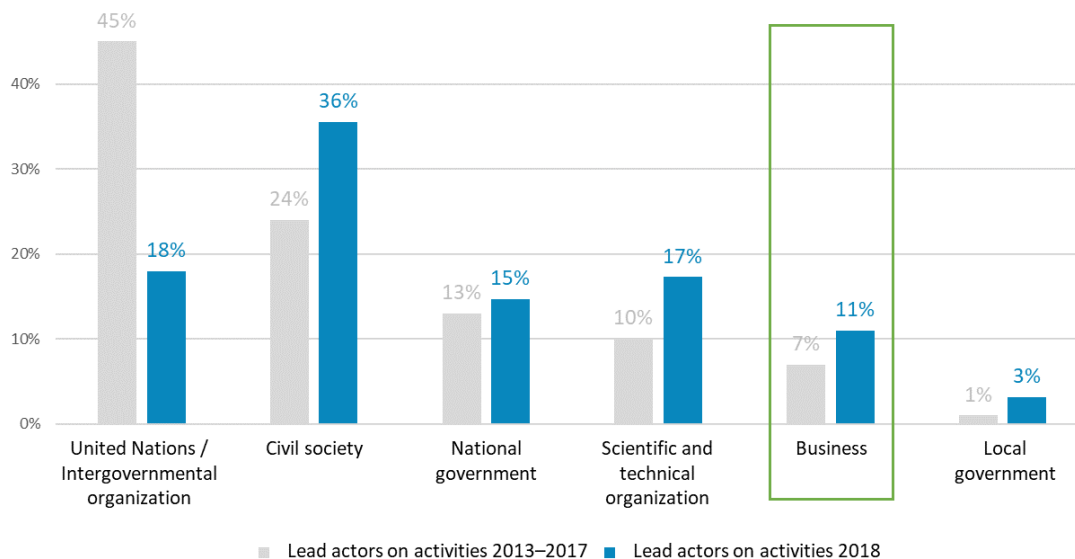


17. The adoption of the reported new or improved practices has overwhelmingly been led by businesses, representing 82 per cent of the total changes across the network, more specifically by businesses in the tourism sector, which make up 76 per cent of the total. Businesses play a key role in the shift to sustainable consumption and production by spearheading innovation and the implementation of new technologies, and have been prioritized in the strategy as a crucial stakeholder in identifying transformative new solutions.

18. In this regard, there has been no significant change in the composition of the types of organizations in the One Planet network when compared with the general

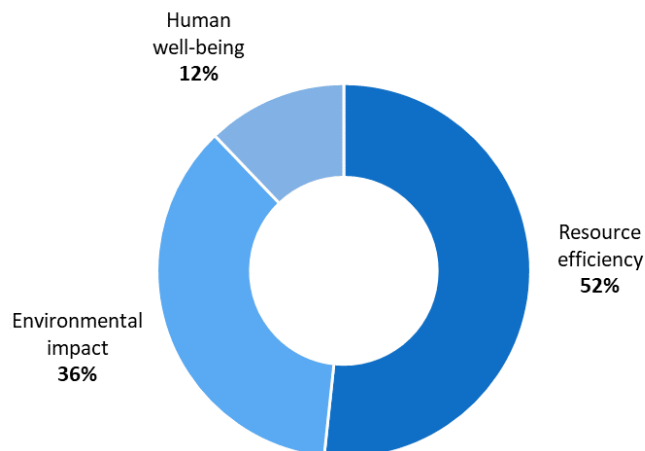
trend at midterm. That being said, businesses have increased their participation on reporting from 7 per cent of the total in the 2013–2017 period to 11 per cent in 2018 (see figure V), signalling an increased engagement of this type of actor.

Figure V
Reported activities by type of lead actor, 2013–2017 compared with 2018 results



19. In terms of the impact of the activities implemented by partners of the One Planet network, 52 per cent of the reported activities were identified as contributing to resource efficiency, 36 per cent to reducing environmental impacts and 12 per cent to human well-being (see figure VI). The high proportion of resource efficiency oriented activities underscores the central role that natural resource management plays in the sustainable consumption and production approach.

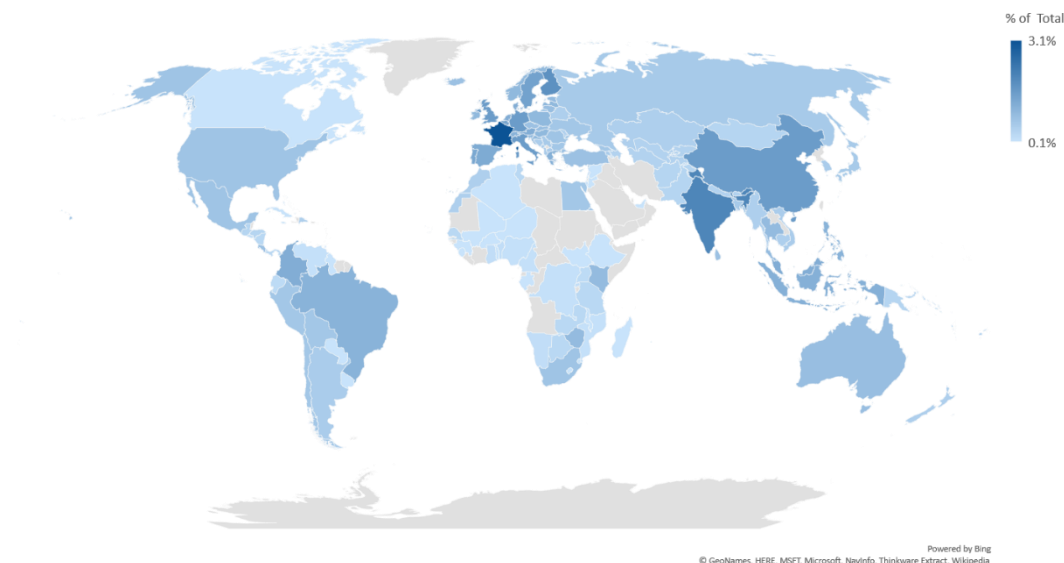
Figure VI
Activities implemented by type of impact, 2018 results



20. Reported activities were implemented in 164 different countries (see figure VII). The most active regions of implementation are Europe and Central Asia (19 per cent), Asia-Pacific (16 per cent), Africa (15 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (13 per cent), followed by North America (2 per cent) and the Middle East (1 per cent).

Figure VII

Percentage of total activities per country of implementation, 2018 results



Supporting national implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12

21. The new strategy of the One Planet network places emphasis on supporting countries in implementing national sustainable consumption and production-relevant policies and Sustainable Development Goal 12. In 2018, the One Planet network strengthened its support to national implementation by (a) advancing a better understanding of national enabling conditions and readiness on sustainable consumption and production; (b) establishing stronger communication channels between the national focal points of the 10-Year Framework and the six programmes; and (c) providing tools for identifying priority sectors and intervention areas in countries.

22. A review of existing conducive policies and institutional conditions needed to accelerate and scale up the implementation of sustainable consumption and production has been conducted on the basis of the readiness criteria identified in the One Plan for One Planet strategy.⁶ Those criteria consider key enabling conditions for implementation at scale, including the existence of national sustainable consumption and production strategies or objectives mainstreamed into national policy frameworks; the priority sectors and intervention areas identified in such policies; the presence of national interministerial and/or multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in sustainable consumption and production; and the support that could be provided by One Planet network partners located in the country. On the basis of the review and the existing resources and capacities of the programmes, four of the six programmes of the One Planet network have identified 20 countries as potential

⁶ Based on information available through countries' reporting on target 12.1.1 (sustainable consumption and production policy instruments) in 2017/18 and the prioritization criteria defined in the strategy. The list is constantly updated to consider new information.

partners. Cooperation dialogues are now being organized between the programmes concerned and those countries to explore and identify the most effective ways of supporting them in achieving their sustainable consumption and production policy objectives.

23. A more systematic interaction between the national focal points and the programmes has been organized in the form of a new webinar series, which started in December 2018. The objective of the webinars is to facilitate a direct dialogue between country officials and programme partners, to identify opportunities for cooperation and to support national level implementation. Efforts to foster collaboration between Member States, through their national focal points, and the programmes have been intensified, including by strengthening coordination with regional platforms on sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production, such as the economic and social commissions or large-scale projects such as the SWITCH projects in Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean region.

24. 2018 marked a major milestone in the provision of science-based approaches and tools to support policy design and implementation. The hotspot analysis tool for sustainable consumption and production⁷ and related methodology was developed and launched in a partnership between the One Planet network, the International Resource Panel, the Life Cycle Initiative and scientific partners the Vienna University of Economics and Business and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

25. The hotspot analysis tool, accessible online, provides data on the environmental and socioeconomic performance of 71 countries over the past 25 years, offering empirical evidence of “hotspots” where unsustainable consumption and production practices exist. The prototype version of the tool integrates data on raw material use, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, air pollution and health, land use and biodiversity. The hotspot analysis tool also offers basic socioeconomic data at both the national level (gross domestic product (GDP), Human Development Index) and the sectoral level (added value, employment). The tool enhances the understanding of national trends on the decoupling of natural resource use from economic activity and human well-being. Three countries, Argentina, Côte d’Ivoire and Kazakhstan, piloted the tool during its development to ensure policy relevance and user-friendliness.

Strengthening coordination across the United Nations development system

26. In reports of the Secretary-General it is stated that Sustainable Development Goal 12 is the least resourced of all the Goals and covered only in a fragmented way.⁸ In its resolution 72/279 the General Assembly called on the United Nations development system to, inter alia, “promote progress on those Goals lagging behind ... building on comparative advantages, and reducing gaps, overlaps and duplication across entities”.

27. The United Nations entities supporting the operationalization and implementation of the 10-Year Framework and the One Planet network provided joint recommendations to the review of Goal 12 at the high-level political forum in 2018. These are captured in the report entitled “One UN for One Planet”,⁹ prepared jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations

⁷ Available at <http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>.

⁸ Dalberg, “System-wide outline of the functions and capacities of the UN development system”, June 2017.

⁹ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/one_un_for_one_planet.pdf.

Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

28. Five key recommendations were put forward to strengthen support for Goal 12, contribute to United Nations development reform and respond to the reports of the Secretary-General. These are as follows:

(a) Mainstream Goal 12 in the United Nations development system and strengthen the One Planet network multi-stakeholder partnership for Goal 12, building on the convening power and complementarity between the agencies;

(b) Coordinate in-country support and development assistance building on the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the new generation of United Nations country teams;

(c) Facilitate the streamlining of efforts to monitor progress on Goal 12 targets and indicators;

(d) Place Goal 12 on the agenda of United Nations agencies at the highest levels to strengthen coherence and support for Goal 12 across the United Nations system;

(e) Establish a One Planet multi-partner trust fund for Goal 12 to strengthen coherence and coordination, and increase effectiveness and financial leverage for collective support to Goal 12.

29. The One Planet multi-partner trust fund for Goal 12 was established at the 2018 high-level political forum in the context of the review of Goal 12. The memorandum of understanding for the fund was signed at the Forum by UNEP, FAO, WTO, UN-Habitat and UNOPS, supported by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined the fund in February 2019. This transition of the 10-Year Framework trust fund into a multi-agency fund provides the means to bring sustainable consumption and production implementation to the next level in terms of scale and impact.

30. The joint fund makes possible a strong partnership for concerted action across six United Nations entities for system-wide delivery to support the implementation of Goal 12 at the national level with the United Nations country teams and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, leveraging United Nations development reform. It also leverages the unique strengths of the participating agencies – each with its respective mandate, expertise and convening power – to allow stronger integration of sustainable consumption and production in the overall support that the United Nations development system provides at the national level.

31. The fund will permit the strategic allocation of resources to support countries in achieving Goal 12 based on the One Plan for One Planet strategy. The administrator, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, holds and manages funds-in-trust, providing tools for ensuring transparency, tracking results and reporting. The multi-partner trust fund mechanism avoids any duplication of operating procedures and minimizes implementation delays and transaction costs.

III. Providing and facilitating the application of tools and solutions that support the shift to sustainable consumption and production

32. The One Plan for One Planet strategy identifies the need to foster the application of knowledge resources and technical tools. In 2018, the One Planet network focused its initial implementation of this strategic objective on three key points, namely,

(a) the development of strategic products under each programme and their application throughout the network; (b) placing more emphasis on the application of existing tools; and (c) the identification of changes in practice with measurable impact for replication and scaling-up.

Development and application of strategic products or core tools of the programmes

33. Strategic products under each programme – standards, criteria, guidelines, tools and methodologies – can be drivers of joint value creation to deliver change and become the primary assets of the programmes in supporting countries in the implementation of Goal 12.

34. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme advanced on the development of a suite of tools for decision makers to address food and agriculture challenges through a food systems lens. The sustainable food systems toolbox, as it has been named, includes four components: a framework, a glossary, a set of case studies, and a capacity-building module for policymakers.

35. The toolbox’s first component was developed during 2018. The Collaborative Framework for Food Systems Transformation¹⁰ provides guidance to policymakers in their institutional set-up and policymaking processes, while at the same time elaborating on the role of other stakeholders to support Governments in managing food systems. The manual focuses on practical actions to implement food and agriculture policies through a holistic lens, connecting those sectors with others such as health, trade, education and finance. The manual was created through multi-stakeholder consultation under the Setting the Table for our Children initiative.¹¹

36. The Consumer Information Programme “road-tested” its signature solution, the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information.¹² The Guidelines, developed in 2017 through a multi-stakeholder collaboration engaging 140 organizations, provide guidance and examples for companies, Governments and standard setters to make effective, trustworthy claims to consumers on product-related sustainability information. The 2018 “road-testing” exercise,¹³ which involved 28 organizations in a broad range of industry sectors and sizes, aimed to establish a community of practice around the Guidelines and tested the applicability of the Guidelines’ 10 principles against real-life sustainability claims. This process, together with 10 in-country workshops to promote capacity-building around the communication of information on product sustainability, has equipped the “road testers” with practical insights on how to improve their claims. This has led some to change or to commit themselves to changing the way they communicate with consumers.

37. For example, some participants recognized that they should involve more consumers in the development of new solutions. Others acknowledged that they should try to avoid general terms such as “eco-friendly”, which is a broad claim of sustainability benefit that is difficult to substantiate. One participating company

¹⁰ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-food-system/collaborative-framework-food-systems-transformation.

¹¹ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/setting-table-our-children-improving-governance-food-systems-through-multi-stakeholder.

¹² United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information: Global Guideline on Making Effective Environmental, Social and Economic Claims, to Empower and Enable Consumer Choice* (2017).

¹³ See UNEP, “Ready to drive the market: experience from road testing the Guidelines for Providing Sustainability Information”, 2019.

analysed a sustainability claim that was still under development; after the exercise it recognized that there was not yet enough evidence to make that claim reliable and therefore decided not to proceed with the communication strategy.

38. The Sustainable Tourism Programme has been working on leveraging sustainable procurement practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resource efficiency in the tourism sector. Forty-five corporate procurement professionals from various companies such as Pierre et Vacances, Disneyland, Hyatt, Radisson and Sodexo have shared their best practices, and established recommendations on four different issues: circular economy, food, cooling and plastics. These have been collected and published in the form of case studies.¹⁴ The process has been led by UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of France and the International Climate Initiative of the Government of Germany.

Facilitating the application and use of knowledge and tools

39. In 2018 a complete revamp of the online programme portfolios¹⁵ was carried out. Programme portfolios provide a snapshot of the tools and solutions from across the entire network to an audience of more than 4,500 members. The new product enables a more streamlined approach, putting on display what support the programmes offer to Governments, businesses and other stakeholders.

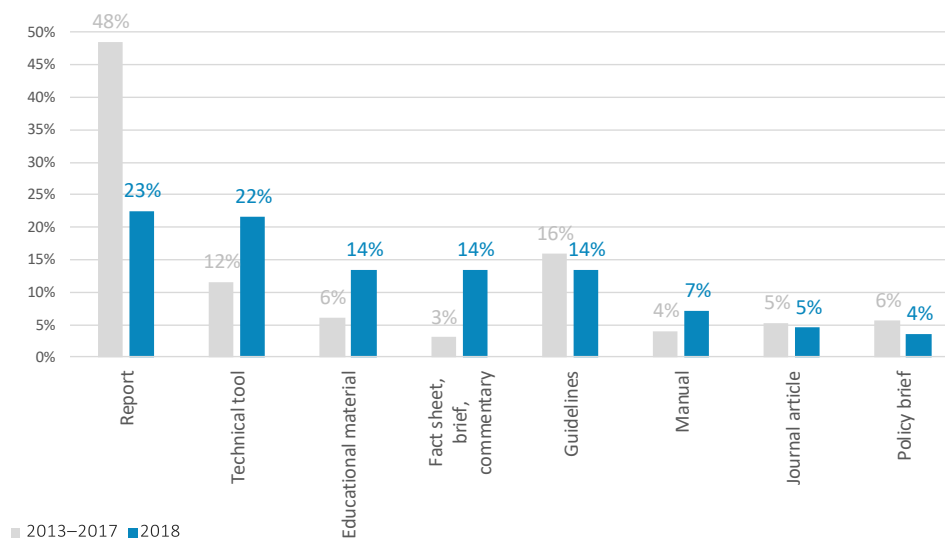
40. In addition to the technical improvements, the programmes actively engaged with partners to increase the number of projects supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production available through the portfolios. Around 250 new projects were added during the year, three times the number added in 2017. By strengthening the portfolios, the One Planet network improved the offer and the accessibility of information to countries in their shift towards sustainable consumption and production, providing more leverage and entry points for the programmes to directly support countries on their priorities.

41. In 2018, a total of 111 new knowledge resources and technical tools have been developed by partners of the One Planet network, a lower number than the previous two-year average. This category now makes up 17 per cent of the total number of activities reported compared with 29 per cent in the 2013–2017 period (see figure IV). The decrease in the development of new knowledge resources and technical tools is due mainly to a decrease in the number of reports produced and a slight decline in the number of guidelines, the two main types of resources developed during the 2013–2017 period. Interestingly, the number of technical tools, educational materials and manuals developed increased significantly in 2018 (see figure VIII).

¹⁴ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/leveraging-sustainable-procurement-transform-tourism-case-studies.

¹⁵ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/.

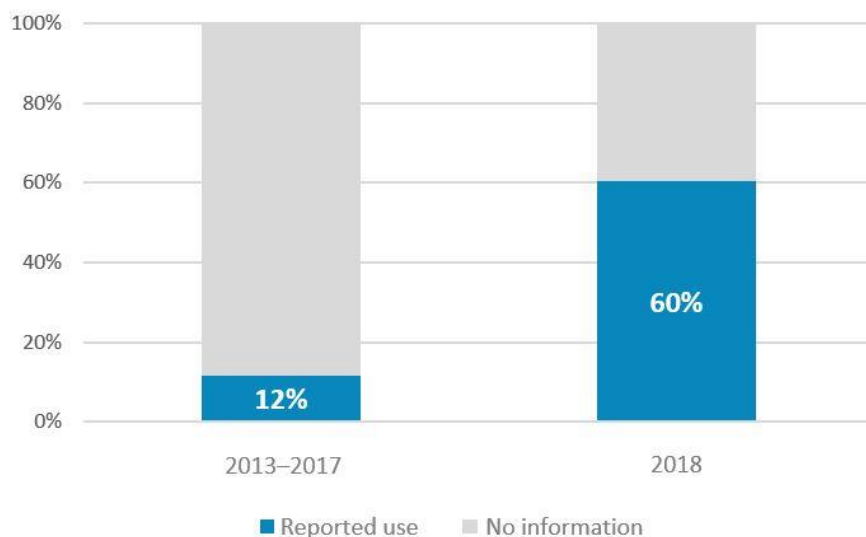
Figure VIII
Types of knowledge resources and technical tools implemented, 2013–2017
compared with 2018 results



42. Among the technical tools developed, the decision support toolkit enables multi-criteria decision-making to provide comparative assessments for the selection of sustainable building materials, systems and design strategies for social housing projects in India. In Egypt, the Sustainability Assessment of Nabta Smart Town and Actions for Improvement project provided an evidence-based approach to procuring energy-efficient buildings, and to integrating renewable energy systems at the building and district level. Both technical resources were developed through demonstration projects of the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme.

43. In 2018, information on the use of technical resources has been provided for 60 per cent of the reported knowledge resources and technical tools, a marked increase from the 12 per cent reported at midterm (see figure IX). The new information enriches the network's understanding of how to foster use of the tools, a need clearly identified in the One Plan for One Planet strategy.

Figure IX
Percentage of knowledge resources and technical tools that reported an occasion of use, 2013–2017 compared with 2018 results



44. As an example, the report entitled “Creating an energy efficient mortgage for Europe: towards a new market standard”¹⁶ has been downloaded more than 2.1 million times and is part of the Energy Efficiency Mortgage Action Plan through which 37 major European banks launched a new energy-efficient mortgage pilot scheme in 2018. The banks and financial institutions involved in the scheme represent a combined lending power of over €3 trillion, equal to around 20 per cent of the GDP of the European Union. The report, which addresses the financing dimension of the energy efficiency revolution needed to reduce the 40 per cent of Europe’s carbon emissions that come from buildings, was prepared by the World Green Building Council, a partner of the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme.

45. The network also offers a range of technical tools, such as mobile applications and online systems, that support consumers in shifting to more sustainable consumption habits. SASSI (Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative)¹⁷ is an easy-to-use application that allows users to check the sustainability of seafood in real time, empowering South African consumers to make informed decisions and use their buying power to make markets more sustainable. The application, which has been downloaded more than 22,000 times, was developed as part of the Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative, a programme led by the World Wide Fund for Nature International that has received financial support as a demonstration project of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

46. The Consciousness in Consumption test¹⁸ is an online test that aims to evaluate the degree of awareness individuals or communities have regarding their consumption habits, while offering ways for consumers to become more conscious so that they can change their consumption values and behaviours. So far, more than 30,000 Brazilians have taken the test, and more than 10 organizations have used it to assess their

¹⁶ Available at www.worldgbc.org/news-media/creating-energy-efficient-mortgage-europe-towards-new-market-standard-0.

¹⁷ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/southern-african-sustainable-seafood-initiative-sassi-programme-safeguarding-our-seafood.

¹⁸ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/conscious-consumption-brazilian-background.

employees' level of consciousness and create plans for a more sustainable workplace. The test was developed by Akatu Institute, a partner of the Consumer Information Programme and the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme.

Training programmes

47. Nearly 100 training programmes were offered by partners of the One Planet network in 2018, providing more than 1.1 million person-days of training on sustainable consumption and production. The majority of training programmes had a national scope, and engaged practitioners from civil society (48 per cent) and businesses (20 per cent). The training programmes provided a space for knowledge-sharing, enabling practitioners to effectively implement sustainable consumption and production within their respective fields across the globe, particularly in Africa.

48. As an example, the small-scale conservation farming to change lifestyles in Africa project¹⁹ engaged 2,000 farmers in rural Zimbabwe in capacity-building activities, and made possible a shift to sustainable agricultural practices. The project led to the adoption of conservation farming techniques by more than 95 per cent of the trained farmers, an increase in garden production by 47 per cent and an increase in garden crop production from 5 per cent to 13 per cent. The project, led by Development Aid from People to People Zimbabwe, was a demonstration project of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme.

Identifying changes in practice for their scaling-up and dissemination

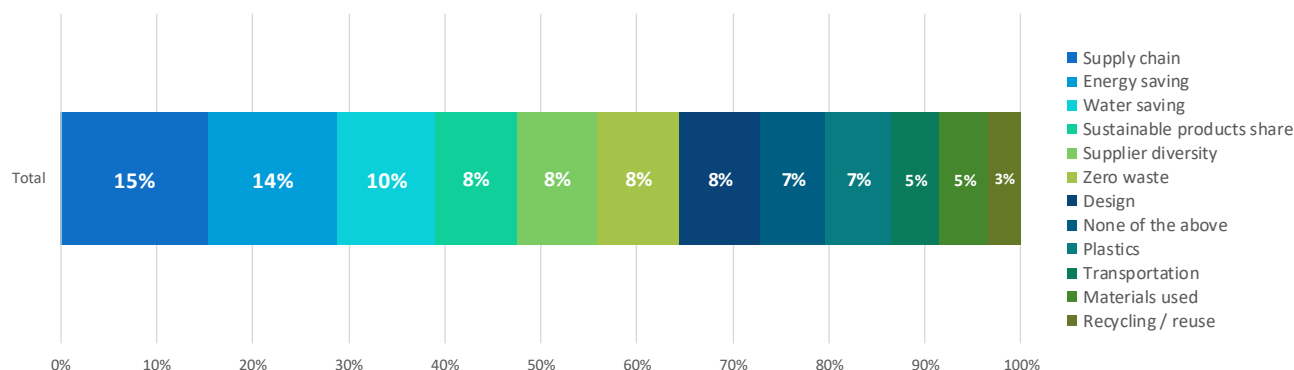
49. The adoption of new or improved practices offers tangible solutions for the shift to sustainable consumption and production that address both environmental and social impacts. Identifying and promoting successful changes in practice for sustainable consumption and production is key to supporting policy implementation and offers entry points to measure impact and advocate for replicating and scaling up changes. During 2018 a total of 146 changes in practice were implemented by 442 organizations and Governments, some changes being implemented by several organizations simultaneously. This represents a significant increase compared to the 2013–2017 period.

50. The adoption of these new or improved practices has overwhelmingly been led by businesses in the tourism sector, accounting for 76 per cent of the total changes reported across the network. This seems aligned with the fact that the Sustainable Tourism Programme has the highest number of businesses in the network, showing that a strengthened engagement of the business sector enables the identification and implementation of tangible solutions.

51. There is no one predominant type of change in practice being implemented, but the most common types are changes in the supply chain (15 per cent) and water (14 per cent) and energy (10 per cent) savings (see figure X).

¹⁹ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sustainable-lifestyles-among-rural-families-zimbabwe-small-scale-conservation-farming-0.

Figure X
Changes in practice by type, 2018 results



52. As an example of changes in the supply chain, Productos Unión, a major retailer operating in Peru, successfully replaced the non-recyclable packaging of their popular granola product with a certified biodegradable packaging. Moreover, some of the ingredients of the product will be changed to improve its carbon footprint along the value chain and it will be marketed following the Guidelines²⁰ of the Consumer Information Programme. Led by the World Resources Forum, this initiative is part of the Better by Design demonstration project²¹ of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme.

53. Regarding global supply chains, the Sustainable Rice Platform²² standard for sustainable rice cultivation, which intends to drive wide-scale adoption of sustainable production practices among rice smallholders, has been implemented in more than 20 countries. Field implementation in previous years revealed results such as a 20 per cent savings in water consumption, a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and a 10 per cent increase in farmers' incomes. The Sustainable Rice Platform is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by UNEP, a member of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

54. In terms of water and energy savings, the project My Green Butler²³ implemented a 17-month pilot in which 1,000 guests in tourism achieved an average of 21 per cent water savings and 33 per cent electricity savings. By providing powerful analytics and direct feedback the management programme has triggered behavioural changes in hotel guests and staff, enabling businesses to reduce consumption and cut carbon emissions. Led by the International Centre for Responsible Tourism – Australia, a member of the Sustainable Tourism Programme and the Consumer Information Programme, the initiative has expanded to other countries and reached more than 16,000 guests.

55. Singita,²⁴ a tourism venture in the United Republic of Tanzania, also illustrates how an initiative can implement changes in practice to achieve significant reductions in the use of water and energy. By following an action plan based on the One Planet Living framework by Bioregional, the tourism venture reduced water use by more than 20 per cent and energy use by 11.5 per cent. In addition, a local food growers'

²⁰ UNEP, *Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information*.

²¹ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/better-design-replicating-promising-practices-tools-and-methodologies-support-and-enable.

²² See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sustainable-rice-platform.

²³ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/my-green-butler.

²⁴ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/singita-placing-one-planet-living-heart-luxury-tourism.

cooperative was supported to generate a 70 per cent increase in their revenue, and more than 140 new jobs for local people were created. Bioregional is a partner of the Sustainable Tourism Programme and the Consumer Information Programme.

IV. Setting the agenda and leading the shift to sustainable consumption and production

56. The new strategy of the One Planet network stresses the importance of establishing and communicating a joint vision that drives coordinated action at the national and international levels. In 2018, the One Planet network focused on setting a common agenda around sustainable consumption and production through various outreach and advocacy efforts. These and other activities have led to progress in the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production in high-level commitments for subsequent action.

Setting the agenda

57. Following the recognition of the 10-Year Framework and its One Planet network as an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12 in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2018 high-level political forum (see para. 10 above), this role was further recognized, together with the One Plan for One Planet strategy, in the resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, in March 2019, on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production ([UNEP/EA.4/L.2](#)).

58. As sustainable consumption and production requires an integrated approach it is crucial that the agenda is set in a unified way across sectors and stakeholders. This is well illustrated in the context of sustainable food systems, where a strengthened approach in relation to the 10-Year Framework was called for in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level political forum in July 2018, by the FAO Committee on Agriculture in October 2018 (COAG/2018/13/Rev1) and by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste ([UNEP/EA.4/L.3](#)) of March 2019. This brings together stakeholders in sustainable development, agriculture and environment in a coordinated effort guided by the Sustainable Food Systems Programme. Further to this, the Programme organized its second Global Conference on the theme “Good food for people and the planet, working together towards 2030”, hosted by Costa Rica in February 2019. The conference resulted in a call to action for all stakeholders and 14 commitments on sustainable food systems.

59. Gathering partners across sectors, regions and types of stakeholder offers key opportunities for aligning goals and setting the global agenda on shifting to sustainable consumption and production. In its resolution on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (resolution [73/245](#)), the General Assembly explicitly encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to join the Sustainable Tourism Programme. The need to integrate sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector is underlined in that resolution.

60. During 2018 several programmes engaged in the process of renewing their strategies to better align them with the redefined objectives under the One Plan for One Planet strategy. Both the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme and the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme held consultations within their networks as the basis for establishing overarching, programmatic strategies. The latter have subsequently been refined through the definition of programme strategic plans,

key priorities and topics, and the establishment of interest groups. The two programmes are also discussing coordinated action regarding procurement and infrastructure as a priority highlighted by their respective partners, which has been further requested by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution on sustainable infrastructure (UNEP/EA.4/L.6).

61. The One Planet network enables the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production in broader agendas and high-level commitments through its various partners. A total of 15 high-level commitments were implemented by the One Planet network in 2018, the Sustainable Tourism Programme being responsible for 7 of them. The commitments vary significantly in the type of lead actors and in scope, but predominantly reflect the efforts of the tourism sector in implementing resource efficiency measures.

62. At the regional level, HOTREC, the umbrella association of hotels, restaurants, bars and cafes in Europe, released its Sustainability Charter²⁵ for promoting the use of sustainable energy and improving energy efficiency in the hospitality sector. HOTREC, which involves 43 national associations in 30 countries, is committed to coordinating efforts to promote the use of sustainable energy and to sharing best practices on how to improve energy efficiency and use renewable energy sources.

63. At the national level, the Secretary of State of Portugal started implementing the Tourism Strategy 2027²⁶ with the goal of having 90 per cent of tourism businesses operating efficiently in terms of water, waste and energy management by 2030. In order to advance towards this goal, the Government has allocated €120 million to support small and medium-sized tourism enterprises in improving energy and water efficiency.

Demystifying sustainable consumption and production

64. In 2018 a revised approach to communication across the network was implemented. The new approach follows the One Plan for One Planet strategy and is centred on demystifying sustainable consumption and production while demonstrating its outcomes and benefits.

65. The network's first global exhibition, "Camp One Planet", was developed for this purpose. The exhibition made its debut at the 2018 high-level political forum, welcoming more than 3,300 visitors, including a number of ministers, senior officials from United Nations agencies, businesses, non-governmental organizations and the public. The camp featured multimedia displays of network activities and accomplishments and an innovative 360-degree video series on sustainable consumption and production projects around the world. In March 2019, the exhibition was displayed during the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, where it welcomed more than 1,600 visitors and garnered media coverage regarding its innovative, experiential approach.

66. Camp One Planet and its 360-degree video series²⁷ are prime examples of the revitalized storytelling approach that is taking place across the network. They provide an interactive space for sustainable consumption and production to become memorable and accessible to as wide an audience as possible, allowing visitors to share pictures, connect with others, and interact around a "virtual campfire".²⁸

²⁵ Available at <https://smeunited.eu/admin/storage/smeunited/181210-hotrec-sustainability-charter.pdf>.

²⁶ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/portugal-leading-tourism-future.

²⁷ Available at www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=8S07xS7IP38&app=desktop.

²⁸ See www.camponepanet.org/.

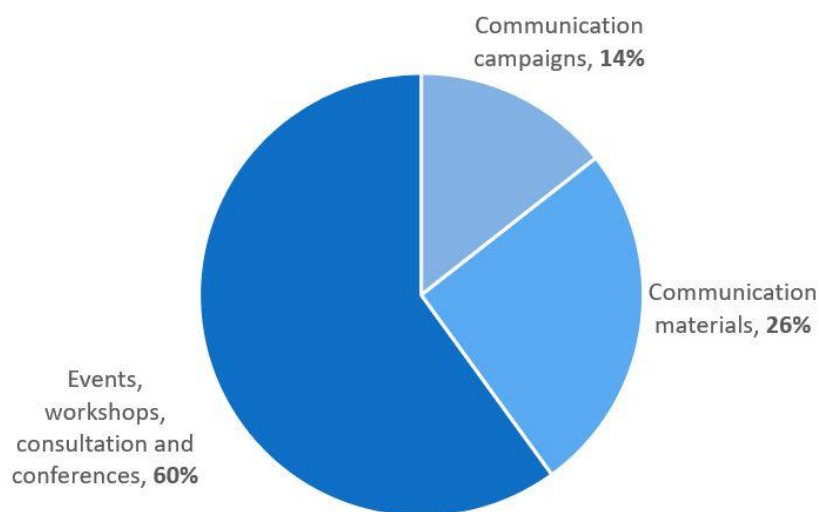
67. In addition, the lead actors of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme, together with UNEP and Futerra, developed the Good Life Goals,²⁹ a communication and educational toolkit to increase recognition by decision makers of how vital individual action can be in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The Good Life Goals provide a clear link between the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable lifestyles, aiming to inspire individuals to participate in the conversation and act on the Sustainable Development Goals. The toolkit has generated at least 113 media articles, reaching a potential audience of more than 6.2 million readers.

Awareness-raising

68. The importance of communications and awareness-raising efforts in positioning sustainable consumption and production as an integrated approach to sustainable development is understood by the network. This was the most reported activity in 2018, 37 per cent of the total, a trend similar to that of the midterm period (see figure IV). The 250 communication and awareness activities implemented include events, workshops, consultations and conferences, followed by communication materials and communication campaigns (see figure XI). These trends are similar in distribution to the 2013–2017 period, but denote an increase in the weight of communication campaigns, from 9 per cent in 2013–2017 to 14 per cent in 2018.

Figure XI

Awareness and communication activities by type, 2018 results



69. The Good Food 4 All campaign³⁰ is a campaign led by Organics International, a member of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, and 23 other non-governmental organizations to raise the awareness of citizens of the European Union on sustainable agriculture. The aim is to influence policymakers to create conducive policy conditions for this outcome, particularly focusing on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. A social media campaign complemented the production of seed

²⁹ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/good-life-goals.

³⁰ See <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org/good-food-for-all/>.

postcards to distribute to policymakers, reaching around 200,000 citizens and 1,000 policymakers in the European Union.

70. In 2018 several programmes undertook outreach and communication activities around sustainable consumption and production and a circular economy. The Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme explored innovative ways to communicate on the subject and launched a podcast series³¹ to highlight best practices and share inspiring cases. In addition, the Programme addressed the sustainable buildings and construction approach to circularity in nine webinars, workshops and events during the year. The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme organized a side event on the theme “Circular economy and sustainable lifestyles – connecting the dots” during the World Circular Economy Forum in Japan. The Sustainable Tourism Programme organized three webinars³² and launched a working group on tourism and the circular economy involving 12 partner organizations and 11 external experts as a participatory platform for tourism stakeholders to formulate recommendations reflecting circular economy principles.

Coordination mechanisms

71. Gathering partners across sectors, regions and types of stakeholder offers key opportunities for aligning objectives and setting the global agenda around a sustainable consumption and production approach to sustainable development. Joint efforts across the network are exemplified by 26 ongoing multi-stakeholder mechanisms for coordination on sustainable consumption and production reported during 2018.

72. For example, SPP Regions, led by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) of the Sustainable Public Procurement Programme, has implemented more than 40 eco-innovative tenders with an estimated reduction of almost 400,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.³³ In 2018, the coordination mechanism, whose objective is to promote the creation and expansion of European regional networks of municipalities working together on sustainable public procurement, established four new networks for 12 ongoing collaborations.

73. Coordination mechanisms led by partners of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme provide examples of how to build consensus to drive action at the national level. The Food Change Lab,³⁴ led by Hivos, is a platform for the joint generation and testing of solutions towards agricultural diversification in Zambia. This has enabled smallholder farmers to give feedback to the Government of Zambia on the implementation of the country’s seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021). Similarly, the Changing Course in Global Agriculture programme,³⁵ led by Biovision, has used a participatory approach to apply a system-dynamic tool for influencing policies towards sustainable food systems in Senegal. Policy outputs from this model were included in a strategic government document, entitled “Revue stratégique nationale pour l’éradication totale de la faim au Sénégal à l’horizon 2030”.

74. The Sustainable Construction Policy in the Aburrá Valley,³⁶ Colombia, a demonstration project under the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme, worked with several municipalities and private sector construction companies to establish a mechanism to mainstream the implementation of sustainable construction

³¹ See <https://soundcloud.com/build-with-care>.

³² See <http://sdt.unwto.org/webinars-oneplanet-stp>.

³³ See <http://www.sppregions.eu/home/>.

³⁴ See <https://foodchangelab.org/food-change-labs-in-lusaka-province-zambia/>.

³⁵ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/changing-course-global-agriculture-ccga.

³⁶ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sbc-trust-fund-project-sustainable-construction-policy-aburra-valley-colombia.

policy frameworks. The knowledge generated was shared with national-level agencies, such as the Department of Planning, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Housing.

V. Food for thought: an exploration of a network-wide cross-cutting theme

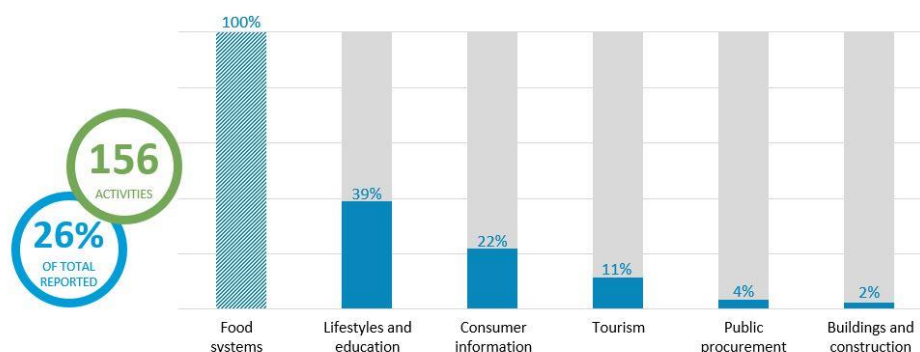
75. To enable the strategic channelling of efforts and provide a unified vision, the One Plan for One Planet strategy recommends the identification of an annual cross-cutting theme to implement across the One Planet network. The purpose of a cross-cutting theme is threefold, namely, (a) to rationalize and make sense of what the different programmes are doing around a topic; (b) to leverage the complementary expertise of programmes on the selected topic and foster cross-programme collaboration; and (c) to aid in communication efforts by helping to make sustainable consumption and production more accessible.

76. Food emerged as a prevalent topic at the 2018 high-level political forum, specifically referenced in paragraph 26 of the Ministerial Declaration: “We call upon all stakeholders to adopt a sustainable food systems approach and to develop effective strategies and innovations to reduce food losses and waste. Resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect, enhance and restore natural resources, sustain rural and urban livelihoods and provide access to nutritious foods from smallholder producers must be at the heart of efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production.”

77. Under the overall theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”, the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session set out to address “environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss” as one of its three focus areas.

78. To capitalize on the success of the One Planet network at the 2018 high-level political forum and link to negotiations at the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, food was adopted as the cross-cutting theme of the One Planet network for the 2018–2019 cycle. While there is a programme dedicated to sustainable food systems within the One Planet network, and that programme has been well positioned to offer expertise and insights on the topic of food, it is important to note that the theme emerged organically. This does not indicate any intention for future cross-cutting themes to be aligned to specific programmes. The preliminary results of implementing this first cross-cutting theme are explored in the present section.

Figure XII
Percentage distribution of food-related activities implemented per programme total, 2018



79. Overall, the 156 food-related activities implemented in 2018 represented 26 per cent of the year's total, and partners in all six programmes implemented activities related to the cross-cutting theme (see figure XII). This quantity of food-related activities nearly equals the total number of such activities for the entire 2013–2017 period and represents a significant increase from the 10 per cent achieved in the midterm total. These trends do not suggest that the network's activities suddenly shifted in response to a cross-cutting theme, but rather that the implementation of a cross-cutting theme drives increased information-sharing and data collection, providing a basis to better explore how to leverage the complementary expertise of the programmes. The data suggest that having a cross-cutting theme encourages a deeper examination of a given programme's portfolio and partners, and activities that may have otherwise been interpreted as less correlated to the context of the programme can now be seen as meaningful contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 12.

80. In view of the cross-cutting nature of sustainable consumption and production, it is natural that the activities of different programmes would complement each other. In the past, finding opportunities to bring programmes together to share and further explore their intersection has been done largely on an ad hoc basis. In the context of the cross-cutting theme of food, several programmes have taken the opportunity to collaborate.

81. The Consumer Information Programme led a session at the second Global Conference of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme, Good food for people and the planet: working together towards 2030. The session, entitled "Engaging consumers in sustainable food systems: communicating food products' sustainability information", examined the global challenge of sustainable food consumption and production set against the backdrop of low consumer awareness of sustainable food options. The Consumer Information Programme subsequently led an official side event at the fourth session of the Environment Assembly on the theme "Innovative solutions for sustainable consumption and production: partnerships in action – the One Planet network response". The session explored collaboration in the food sector in a panel-based discussion featuring the co-leads of the Consumer Information Programme and the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

82. Analysis through the lens of this cross-cutting theme has helped to identify options for future joint action. For example, in 2018 Mondelez International, one of the world's largest food companies, used the Consumer Information Programme's Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information to assess the

sustainability claim of their Cocoa Life standard.³⁷ This case illustrates how businesses in the food sector can communicate the sustainability claim of their products to consumers, a process that can be leveraged by multiple programmes, including the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme and the Sustainable Food Systems Programme. All programmes could benefit from using these guidelines to promote practices towards sustainable consumption at the retail level.

83. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme could also benefit from engagement with partners of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme. For example, the Good Life Goals can be adopted and used by partners in the Sustainable Food Systems Programme to increase recognition of the ways in which individual action plays a key role in achieving sustainable food systems and inspiring individual action.

84. In 2018, businesses in the tourism sector were the lead implementers within the network in quantifying food loss and waste to develop and monitor reduction strategies. For example, the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation officially launched its “Don’t Waste, Eat!” food waste reduction programme³⁸ in cooperation with Betterfly Tourism. The programme equipped hotel staff with skills necessary to measure and monitor food waste, including Betterfly’s software EDGAR,³⁹ proven to facilitate food waste reduction by 20 per cent.

85. Furthermore, the Sustainable Tourism Programme’s network in the business sector can be a significant entry point for the Sustainable Food Systems Programme to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems, as recognized in the Environment Assembly resolution on promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste (UNEP/EA.4/L.3).

86. Food is truly universal. Every living creature must have food in order to survive. This fundamental truth makes food an excellent entry point to sustainable consumption and production and helps to communicate and demystify the sustainable consumption and production approach. As a case in point, the cross-cutting theme of food has proved to be a catalyst in inspiring programmes to identify key messages. For example, through a collaborative process, the Sustainable Food Systems Programme is creating a collection of communication products, including a series of videos and an interactive game. The first video, “10 Tips to Support Sustainable Food Systems”, is available online.

87. A large proportion of the outreach and communication activities implemented in 2018 have been campaigns on food loss and waste and on sustainable consumption practices and diets led by civil society organizations. For example, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a member of the Consumer Information Programme and the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme, led a series of high-level communication campaigns promoting changes in practice among households in the United Kingdom to prevent food waste. The Make Toast not Waste,⁴⁰ Chill the Fridge out⁴¹ and GiveACLuck⁴² campaigns highlighted practical tips and recipes for preparing affordable meals using leftovers and avoiding waste. Reaching more than 2.8 million people, these campaigns show the potential within

³⁷ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/case-study-mondelez-international-guidelines-providing-product-sustainability-information.

³⁸ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/dont-waste-eat-food-waste-reduction-programme-seychelles.

³⁹ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/software-and-methodology-reduce-food-waste-commercial-catering.

⁴⁰ See www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/toast.

⁴¹ See www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/article/chill-fridge-out.

⁴² See www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/.

the network to drive key messages on sustainable consumption and production that can be further leveraged through joint collaboration.

88. Ultimately, food-related activities implemented in 2018 show how the One Planet network can benefit from the expertise of all six programmes in order to further implement their priorities and enhance their reach. Likewise, each programme can benefit from the agenda set by the Sustainable Food Systems Programme to encourage and support their partners. Much more could be done, and programme-level engagement with the selected theme is vital to its effectiveness. However, the preliminary findings of implementing this cross-cutting theme show that this could be a first step in leveraging the complementary expertise of the programmes to deliver systemic change.

89. The One Planet network will continue to analyse and capitalize on findings around potential cross-cutting themes and programme intersections to provide a common vision on sustainable consumption and production, jointly deliver added value and scale up impacts.

VI. Sustainable consumption and production: the response to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation

90. Natural resources are at the foundation of our socioeconomic systems. Consequently, natural resources are at the core of all our development needs. We rely on natural resources for the goods, services and infrastructure required for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. We rely on natural resources to provide employment and decent work. Target 8.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, “endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework”, is evidence of the need to change the current unsustainable economic model. Target 8.4 introduces the notion of decoupling, calling attention to the need to increase human well-being and decrease environmental pressures and impacts as fundamental components of economic growth. So far, both indicators under target 8.4 – material footprint and domestic material consumption – continue to rise at the global level. Yet in target 8.4 lies the inherent assumption that a new economic model is possible.

Breaking up with “business as usual”

91. Economic growth and natural resource use have gone hand in hand throughout history, in a relationship as old as time. This is an “old couple” that has existed for so long that imagining a different configuration might seem impossible. How can a nation possibly be prosperous without the depletion of natural resources?

92. Economic growth and social development require the production of goods and services – and this unavoidably requires the use of natural resources. Over the past five decades, the global population has doubled while global GDP has grown fourfold, requiring large and increasing amounts of natural resources to fuel economic development (see figure XIII). The use of natural resources has more than tripled, with increasingly negative impacts on human health and the environment.⁴³

⁴³ International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want* (Nairobi, UNEP, 2019). Available at www.resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook.

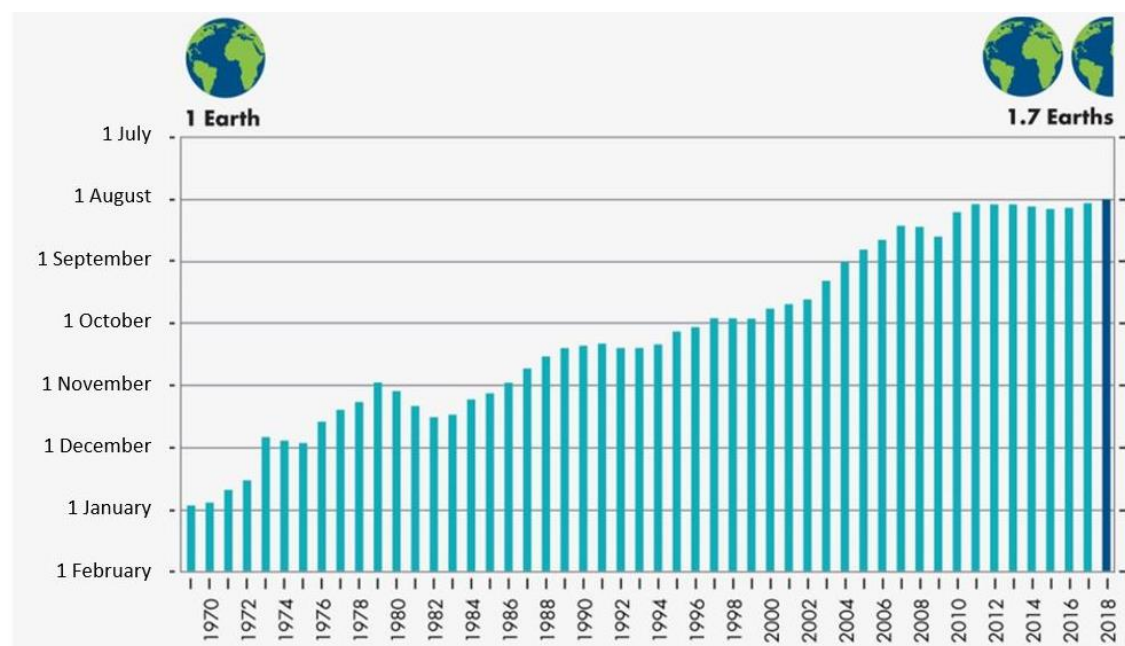
Figure XIII
Trends associated with resource use, 1970–2017



Source: International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019*.

93. In 2018 the world reached Earth Overshoot Day on 1 August,⁴⁴ earlier than any time before (see figure XIV). That is to say that for the final five months of the year we overdraw natural resources and that it would take 1.7 Earths to supply the materials needed to sustain our current annual global resource use.

Figure XIV
Earth Overshoot Day, 1969–2018



Source: Global Footprint Network, National Footprint Accounts, 2018.

94. This is clearly beyond the limits of the Earth's capacity and very far from achieving the targets on sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 (targets 12.2 and 8.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals). These trends highlight the shortcomings of the "old couple", our current economic model. There is a dangerous assumption at the heart of the relationship: that an endless supply of materials that are extracted, processed and disposed of as waste or emissions is a

⁴⁴ Created by the Global Footprint Network, Earth Overshoot Day estimates the point in the year when humanity has consumed more natural resources and created more waste than Earth can replace or safely absorb in a year. It estimates Earth's total biocapacity by estimating the productive land and sea area, grazing land, cropland and fishing grounds expressed in global hectares. See www.overshootday.org/.

secure and reliable path to increased economic growth and human well-being. The traditional model requires a never-ending and ever-increasing use of natural resources, jeopardizing our collective socioeconomic growth and development. The old relationship needs to be broken.

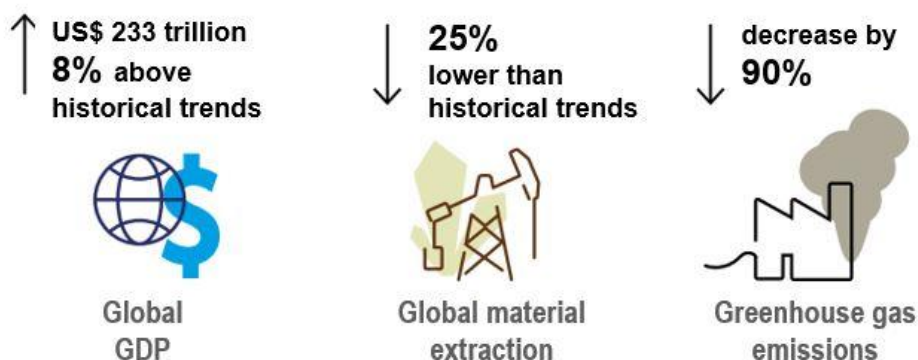
The cost of inaction

95. In the absence of urgent and concerted action, the use of natural resources will continue to grow unsustainably. According to the Global Resources Outlook produced by the International Resource Panel, under current “business as usual” trends, GDP will continue to grow at an average rate of 2.2 per cent per year, to reach \$216 trillion by 2060. This would require a 110 per cent increase in global resource extraction (190 billion tons) and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent (70 billion tons of CO₂ equivalents).

96. However, if measures were taken to improve resource efficiency and complemented by well-designed and concerted sustainability actions and policies, the International Resource Panel projects a substantial opportunity for sustained economic prosperity while remaining within our planetary boundaries. Net economic benefits indicate a global GDP 8 per cent above historical trends, reaching \$233 trillion by 2060, and including a more equal distribution of GDP per capita. This comes with a 25 per cent reduction in global resource extraction to 143 billion tons, which contributes to a 90 per cent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, to 4.8 billion tons of CO₂ equivalents (see figure XV).

Figure XV

Decoupling potential as projected by the International Resource Panel under a sustainability scenario model



Source: International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019*.

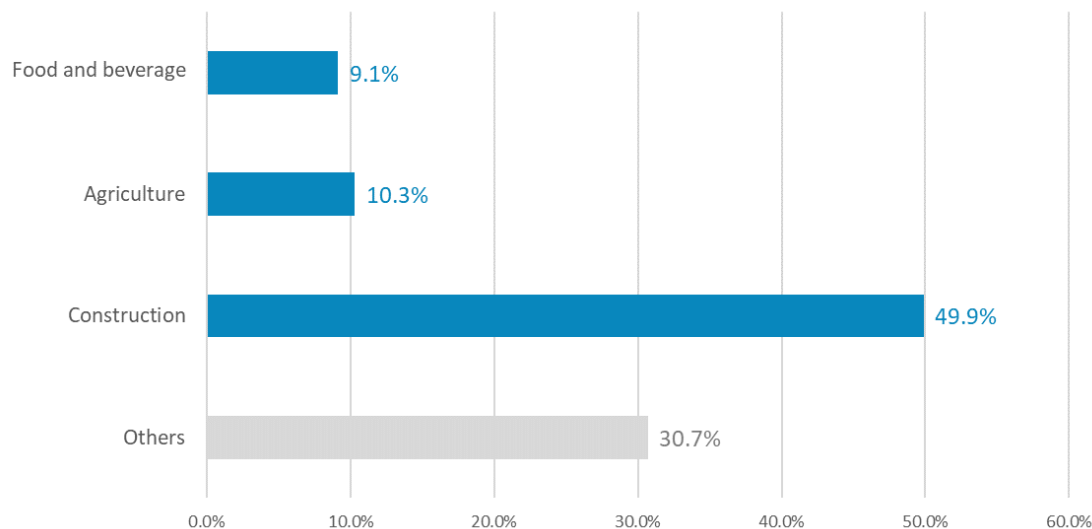
97. Assuming a 25 per cent reduction in resource extraction as a basis to ensure future socioeconomic development, sectors that are particularly resource intensive are key entry points.⁴⁵ For example, on average, the sectors of agriculture, food and construction accounted for nearly 70 per cent of the world’s total material footprint

⁴⁵ In this case, a 25 per cent decrease is not a target, but an outcome of the model. Integrated planning from a systems perspective is needed; sectors are indicated only as possible entry points, implying that attention should be paid to burden-shifting between industries.

in 2015 (see figure XVI).⁴⁶ Changing the way we produce and consume food or the way we build are game changers that can significantly contribute to decoupling.

Figure XVI

Global material footprint per economic sector as a percentage of the 2015 total



Source: Sustainable consumption and production hotspot analysis tool, available at <http://scphat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>.

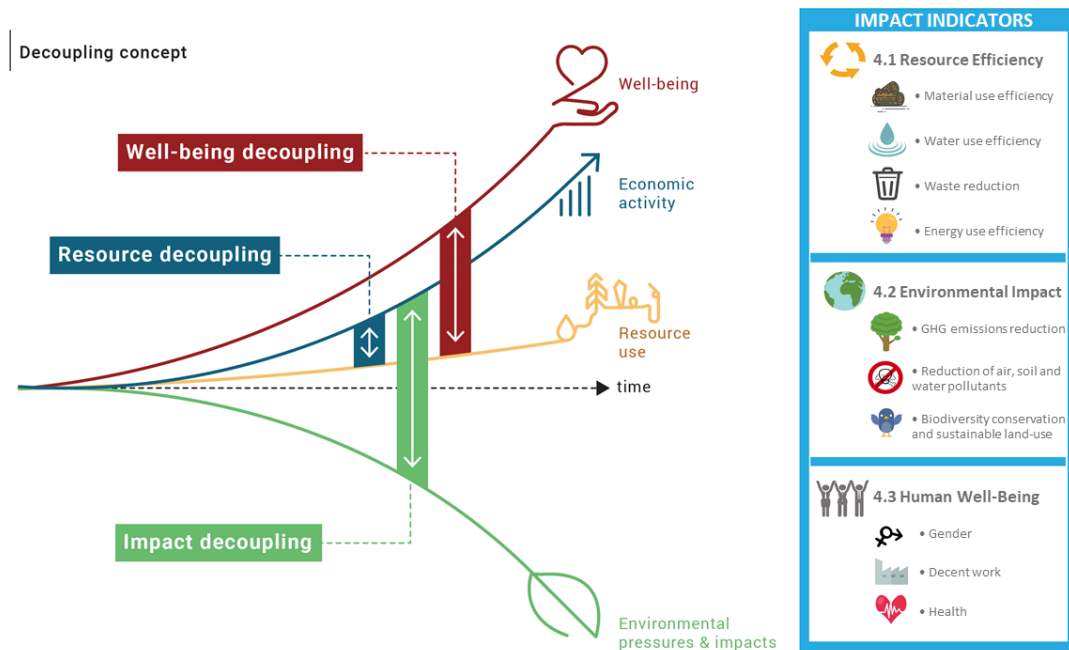
Decoupling economic growth from natural resource use

98. Decoupling, in its simplest form, means breaking the link between natural resource use and environmental impacts from increased economic activity and human well-being. This is to say that a new relationship can and must be forged whereby improved human well-being and increased economic activity are achieved while simultaneously mitigating natural resource depletion. As such, decoupling is an essential element in the transition to a sustainable future and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As shown in figure XVII, relative well-being decoupling and relative resource decoupling take place when human well-being and economic activity, respectively, increase while resource use grows at a much slower rate. Absolute impact decoupling occurs when economic activity continues to grow while negative impacts on the environment decrease.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Material footprint attributes all resources mobilized globally to the final consumer. Data on sectoral material footprint on national, regional and global scales are available through the sustainable consumption and production hotspot analysis tool.

⁴⁷ International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019*.

Figure XVII
The decoupling concept and the sustainable consumption and production impact indicators



Source: International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019*; and One Planet network, *Indicators of Success* (Paris, UNEP, 2017).

99. Improving the well-being of people while minimizing resource use and mitigating environmental degradation is further understood and measured through key impact indicators. These are categorized accordingly in economic (GDP), resource use, environmental impact and human well-being dimensions, and set out the key challenges that need to be addressed for decoupling to occur (see figure XVII). The systematic collection of information under the three sustainability dimensions indicates the scale of efforts towards decoupling, also identifying trends and high-impact practices to replicate and scale up.

100. Decoupling will happen only through a profound transformation of our economic systems that implies changing the way we value the goods and services that we consume and the processes and practices to produce them. Decoupling forces us to look at the true cost of development and to find the most efficient and sustainable way forward.

Sustainable consumption and production as an approach to decoupling economic growth from natural resource use

101. Sustainable consumption and production is a key driver of transformation. Sustainable consumption and production considers the entire life cycle of economic activities, from the extraction of resources, processing those resources into materials and products, the use of those products and finally their disposal as waste or emissions. Sustainable consumption and production helps to identify and develop solutions for improving natural resource use that achieve multiple sustainability objectives simultaneously or “win-win” gains that occur when economic, social and environmental aspects are jointly addressed. Based on a systems approach, sustainable consumption and production manages burden shift geographically and

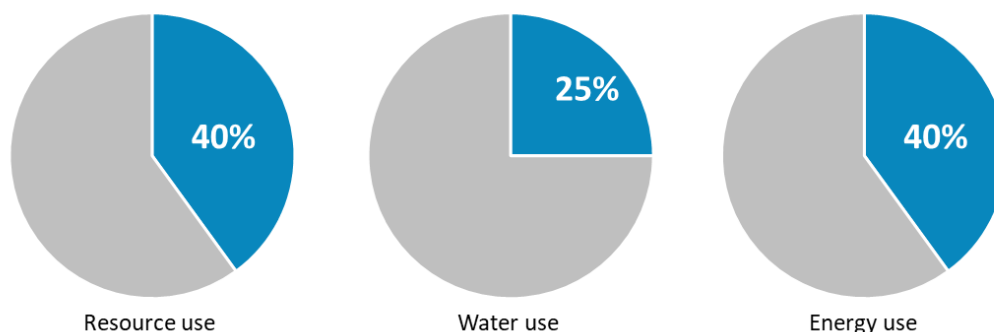
along the value chain and delivers an overall net benefit through sustainability. Sustainable consumption and production also helps to link activities across time to provide a long-term perspective on their impacts.

102. Sustainable consumption and production materializes as a process to refine and reconcile responses across government bodies and different actors across value chains, and society at large. In this sense, sustainable consumption and production is an enabler of coordinated action towards policy coherence and strong multi-stakeholder partnerships, and thus has the power to be transformative at scale.

103. There are numerous ways to approach this transformation, for instance, following on the aforementioned use of particularly resource intensive sectors – construction, agriculture and food – as entry points. Buildings currently use around 40 per cent of resources, 25 per cent of water and 40 per cent of energy (see figure XVIII), while producing up to 40 per cent of solid waste in developed countries. However, given that over 60 per cent of the urban infrastructure expected to exist by 2050 has yet to be built,⁴⁸ there is a major opportunity. With changes in practice such as the application of specific innovations and technologies, including the network’s BAMB (Buildings as Material Banks)⁴⁹ and SHERPA (a personal guide to sustainable housing)⁵⁰ it is possible to save up to 50 per cent of building materials from previous structures for reuse in the construction of new buildings. If the construction sector shifted to reusing as many materials as possible, the demand for further extraction of materials, and the associated water and energy use entailed, would be reduced. By changing the relationship between new material extraction and the demand for new infrastructure, buildings can be constructed, jobs can be created, and raw materials can remain in the earth.

Figure XVIII

Use by the buildings and construction sector as a percentage of total global use



Source: International Resource Panel, *Assessing Global Resource Use: A Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction* (Paris, UNEP, 2017).

104. Whereas the world produces enough food to nourish its entire population, almost 800 million people go hungry while 2 billion are malnourished. Meanwhile, 30 per cent of the food currently produced worldwide is lost or wasted every year (see figure XIX).⁵¹ With changes in practice such as the improved measurement and management

⁴⁸ International Resource Panel, *Assessing Global Resource Use: A Systems Approach to Resource Efficiency and Pollution Reduction* (Paris, UNEP, 2017). Available at www.resourcepanel.org/reports/assessing-global-resource-use.

⁴⁹ See <https://www.bamb2020.eu/>.

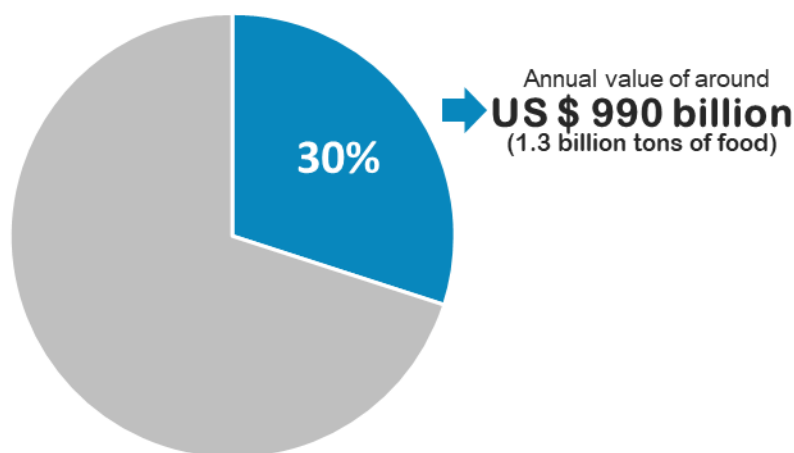
⁵⁰ See <https://unhabitat.org/sherpa/>.

⁵¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others, *The State of Food*

of food waste, the results are inspiring. In the case of the hospitality industry, these changes in practice can also help businesses to improve their profitability. WRAP, a Sustainable Tourism Programme partner, released a study⁵² in 2018 in which 42 hotels in 15 countries demonstrated that an average of \$7 can be saved for every \$1 invested to reduce kitchen food waste. Meanwhile, Costa Cruises halved food waste on a ship that piloted their food waste reduction programme 4GOODFOOD,⁵³ and nine hotels within the framework of the BUFFET initiative⁵⁴ of the Pacific Asia Travel Association saved \$200,000 and 70,000 kg of food in the first half of 2018. By addressing food loss and waste the tourism industry can enhance the guest experience and save money, and additional pressures on the environment can be avoided.

Figure XIX

Food loss and waste as a percentage of total global food production



Source: FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018* (Rome, FAO, 2018).

VII. The way forward

105. The One Planet network, a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development, has been recognized as an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12. Data from the first year of adoption of the One Planet network's implementation-driven strategy indicates the potential of the network to effectively support countries in delivering on Goal 12. While the results from the first year of implementation of the strategy are encouraging, its successful implementation over the next four years requires the programmes to lead and enable coordinated action on the shift to sustainable consumption and production in their respective areas. This process has been initiated through the review of programme-specific strategic plans and aspirational targets, as well as through measuring each member of the network's contribution to Goal 12.

106. Changes in practice with quantified resource use reduction illustrate the solutions that exist. These changes can significantly contribute to decoupling economic growth

Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: Building Climate Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition (Rome, FAO, 2018). Available at www.fao.org/3/i9553en/i9553en.pdf.

⁵² Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/business-case-reducing-food-loss-and-waste-hotels.

⁵³ See www.costacruises.co.uk/B2C/GB/sustainability/tomorrow/Pages/4goodfood.aspx.

⁵⁴ See www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/buffet-building-understanding-food-excess-tourism-initiative.

from natural resource use and environmental degradation if they are scaled up and replicated. The significant increase in changes in practice reported in 2018, overwhelmingly led by businesses in the tourism sector, provides a significant basis for the One Planet network to strengthen its approach in systematically identifying, disseminating, replicating and scaling up changes with quantified resource use reduction.

107. Sustainable consumption and production is a systems-based approach and, in the context of its scope, it may be relevant to use specific sectors that are notably resource intensive as entry points. At a global level, on average, the sectors of agriculture, food and construction accounted for nearly 70 per cent of the world's total material footprint⁵⁵ in 2015. Changing the way in which we produce and consume food, and the way in which we build, both have the potential to be real game changers. A further analysis and identification of high-impact sectors at the national level, through available scientific tools and methodologies, can strategically guide the design of policies with the potential to significantly improve resource efficiency.

108. Implementing Goal 12 will require changes in the way businesses create value and citizens choose, use and dispose of products. But that alone is not enough. Implementing Goal 12 also requires changes in the way that policies steer action and build the social infrastructure in which citizens live.⁵⁶ For this, it will be key to ensure partnerships and cooperation with all stakeholders at the national level to create a sense of national ownership and bring sustainable consumption and production objectives to the core of the country's development plan and vision for the future in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will require strengthening coordination and policy coherence and integration across ministries and, crucially, engaging those with key economic and financial portfolios.

109. The strengthened partnership of the United Nations agencies in the One Planet network, as illustrated in "One UN for One Planet",⁵⁷ leverages the complementary expertise, mandates and stakeholders of the agencies. The United Nations development reform provides further opportunities to provide coherent and strengthened support to countries, in particular by building on the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the new generation of United Nations country teams.

110. Availability of, and access to financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale is a key success factor in the implementation of any goal. Sustainable Development Goal 12 has been recognized as being significantly underresourced. The One Planet network, as an implementation mechanism for Goal 12, is limited in the change it can catalyse given the current lack of financial investment. The private sector, the public sector and financial institutions play an important role in unlocking financial flows and are encouraged to support the implementation of Goal 12, including through contributions to its global multi-partner trust fund.

111. A fundamental change in how we use and manage natural resources in our socioeconomic system is an essential element in the transition to a sustainable future. The use of natural resources is often interpreted as an environmental issue; however, natural resources are necessary for sustainable, equitable growth. As such, the use of natural resources, and the derived impacts from this use, should be central to economic discussions and economic policy.

⁵⁵ Sustainable consumption and production hotspot analysis tool, available at <http://scphat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>.

⁵⁶ International Resource Panel, *Global Resources Outlook 2019*.

⁵⁷ Available at www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/one_un_for_one_planet.pdf.