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International  
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Panel

# CATALYSING SCIENCE-BASED POLICY ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:

The value-chain approach & its application  
to food, construction and textiles



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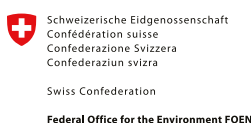
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# **CATALYSING SCIENCE- BASED POLICY ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:**

**The value-chain approach  
& its application to food,  
construction and textiles**

A report of the joint Task Group of  
the International Resource Panel and  
the One Planet network



**One planet**  
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International  
Resource  
Panel

**UN**   
**environment  
programme**

This report responds to the request made at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution on '***Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production***', operative paragraph 12 (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1). It is the report of the task group composed of the One Planet network and the International Resource Panel. The task group aims to catalyse science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production, thereby creating the conditions to provide actionable insights on the management of natural resources in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

# FOREWORD

## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The science is crystal clear that we are putting extreme pressures on the planet. For decades scientists have been laying out how humanity is driving the three planetary crises: the climate crisis, the biodiversity and nature crisis, and the pollution and waste crisis. The common thread that runs through these three planetary crises is unsustainable production and consumption. The International Resource Panel has consistently reminded us that our relentless extraction of resources from the Earth is having a devastating impact on the natural world, propelling climate change, destroying nature, and raising pollution levels.

Yet this evidence does not always reach key decisions makers in a way that is relevant to them and actionable by them. This publication produced by the joint task group of the International Resource Panel and the One Planet Network examines how we can deliver science that can truly strengthen policy making and guide actions for environmental sustainability.

Established in response to a resolution at the Fourth UN Environment Assembly on sustainable consumption and production, the task group brings together experts on natural resources from the International Resource Panel, and the practitioners from the One Planet Network including government, business, civil society and international organisations. The aim is to bridge the science on natural resources and action on sustainable consumption and production by taking a value chain approach. This involves identifying key intervention points in priority sectors including food, construction and textiles and implementing corresponding actions that can move these sectors to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The United Nations Environment Programme, the International Resource Panel and the One Planet Network will continue to take forward this approach in the three prioritised sectors and beyond. We hope this report will encourage governments, businesses and citizens to engage with these initiatives and to replicate this approach in other areas.



**Inger Andersen**  
Executive Director  
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# PREFACE

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed an unprecedented challenge to humankind. It also provides a window of opportunity to explore more inclusive and equitable development models underpinned by sustainable consumption and production. A revitalized global movement to promote science-based policy solutions for sustainable consumption and production could trigger action for and by all countries, big or small, developed or developing, as more systemic, collective, and ambitious actions are urgently needed.

SDG 12 could be a vehicle to integrate -in a balanced manner- other sustainable development goals and their targets. On one hand, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) has served as the anchor of the SCP agenda within the UN and a catalyzer for multi-stakeholder cooperation through its One Planet network. On the other, the International Resource Panel (IRP) has shed light on the consequences of increasing pressures on our natural resource base; on the unequal distribution, availability, and use of these; and on the unequal exposure to environmental risk factors across regions and within countries and cities. Bridging the work of these two key groups in a more systematic and pragmatic manner will allow us to collectively build knowledge-based solutions on SCP that can shift current unsustainable trajectories.

This report, requested by countries at the Fourth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, provides an overview of how the value chain approach has been applied to the information of the International Resource Panel and the One Planet network. Its application to the

three prioritized sectors of food, construction and textiles provides a practical illustration of the benefits of the value chain approach to define SCP action that is informed by science. It has also provided the interface for effective communication between the scientists on natural resource use and the practitioners in government, business and civil society implementing SCP.

The report lays important groundwork for a more systematic approach of collaboration between the IRP and the 10YFP to identify hotspots, prioritize effective action, and build common agendas on SCP. More importantly, this work marks the beginning of a new era of proactive collaboration and collective engagement on SCP. One that provides guidance to SCP actors based on scientific evidence that is clear, focused, and actionable. And one that leads to the structural shifts needed to overcome the current planetary and human crisis.

A strong partnership between the International Resource Panel and the One Planet network will be essential as both initiatives embark in their respective strategic planning efforts. As Chair of the 10YFP and Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, we are committed to leveraging the recommendations from the report and facilitating a continued two-way communication between IRP scientists and SCP practitioners.

We hope that this report will assist governments, the scientific community and other organizations in illustrating an effective participatory process, built on science and practice, that could help translate global findings into concrete SCP policies and tools at the national level.



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