To: Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

2021 Annual Report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on Private Sector Engagement

The Secretariat has the pleasure to submit the 2021 annual report on the UNEP strengthened engagement with the private sector through partnerships and collaboration in areas of common interest for your information.

The Secretariat looks forward to receiving your views or any comments on this report. Please use this email to submit any comments to the Private Sector Unit (unep-privatesector@un.org).

I. Introduction

1. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) would like to update the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its engagement with the private sector, since the last Report on 13 November 2020. This Report includes active and newly created partnerships from September 2020 to November 2021, which contributed to UNEP's sub-programmes of Climate Change; Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts; Healthy and Productive Ecosystems; Environmental Governance; Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality; Resource Efficiency; and Environment Under Review.

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; as well as relevant multilateral frameworks under environmental agreements on biodiversity, chemicals and waste, and ozone-depleting substances, all recognize and call for a strengthened relationship with the private sector, including the adoption of more innovative approaches to promote private sector sustainability and transformation and the leveraging of private sector technical expertise and financial resources.

3. In 2021, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNEP continued to deliver on its mandate and bring together public and private sector actors to ensure the transition to a net-zero carbon world and encourage a sustainable recovery.

4. UNEP's engagement with the private sector has been strengthened across its divisions and regional offices with a refined and rigorous due diligence process that has ensured stronger stand-alone partnerships and a growth in membership-based partnerships, alliances, initiatives, campaigns and consortiums. Throughout last year, UNEP has engaged with private sector entities worldwide through more than 40 initiatives, platforms and networks. These partnerships have created transformative changes, measurable positive impacts, and economic and social benefits across a wide range of industries and sectors, including agriculture, chemicals, construction, energy, fashion, finance, information and communication technology, and tourism. Through private sector engagement, UNEP continues to gain access to data, innovations, best practices, and technologies that contribute to its normative and scientific work, as well as its engagement with Member States.

5. In the run-up to the new Medium-term Strategy (MTS 2022-2025), which sets out UNEP's role and vision on delivering the promises of the 2030 Agenda, UNEP's engagement with the private sector in 2021 has become more strategic for building a common action agenda in its work with the public sector, business and industry. UNEP has been targeting more business entities where transformation will have a global impact and tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

6. By bringing more focus and coherence across the many initiatives and platforms with the private sector, UNEP has fostered, amplified and accelerated the scaling up of transformative action in addressing the triple planetary crisis.

II. New partnerships launched in the reporting period

7. In 2021, UNEP continued to partner with key private sector entities of strategic importance to deliver its Programme of Work. In total, sixteen bilateral partnerships have been started or renewed in 2020-2021. While there has been a decrease in new partnerships signed, compared to the previous reporting period and perhaps due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, this is also in line with UNEP's new MTS and its more strategic focus on impact and transitioning to sector-wide action through platforms and initiatives.

8. UNEP's new partnerships contribute to the upcoming Programme of Work by addressing the triple planetary crisis and several have a core component of digitalization. In particular, some of the new partnerships aim to create and support environmental solutions through technology, from open-source data management systems to augmented reality systems and interactive hubs.

9. The following are bilateral partnerships signed from September 2020 to November 2021:

(i) Adobe Inc.

- The partnership contributes to the above two SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Communication Division

10. UNEP and Adobe, a software and creative design company, use joint marketing and communications to promote the conservation of coral reefs, ocean protection and climate action. In 2021, Adobe's Photoshop Camera launched the Glowing Lens, a free photo filter to make the subject appear underwater, which people could use on their social media to demonstrate their support for coral reef and ocean action. Ten social media influencers with over 100 million followers participated in the campaign, generating over 256,000 filter downloads and 1,500 articles, including in Forbes magazine. UN Oceans Envoy Peter Thomson has also published a blog voicing his support for the campaign.

(ii) Airbnb, Inc.

- The partnership contributes to the above three SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

11. The partnership between UNEP and Airbnb, the global online marketplace for lodging and tourism activities, will focus on promoting sustainable behaviors and increase awareness on key environmental issues through the engagement of Airbnb's key stakeholders, and, where possible, in coordination with local and national authorities and other organizations. In particular, UNEP and Airbnb will collaborate to drive action on issues related to plastic pollution, including elaborating and disseminating messages focusing on single-use plastic products and hygiene that are aligned with the COVID-19 requirements and which support tourism stakeholders in the recovery phase from the pandemic and which contribute to the reduction of plastic pollution.

(iii) Coöperative Circle Economy U.A.

- The partnership contributes to the above three SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

12. This partnership with Coöperative Circle Economy, a Dutch think-tank, aims to promote sustainable consumption and production by accelerating the transition to a circular economy. It contributes to UNEP's Resource Efficiency sub-programme. The key expected outcome is to support cities to transition their economies from a linear to circular economy through the monitoring of jobs, to improve policy development, planning and investment for resource-efficient, sustainable, resilient cities promoting circularity in Europe and globally. The partnership has led to the development of a new methodology that can be applied to assess the potential for creating circular jobs in different sectors of a city.

(iv) E.ON SE

- The partnership contributes to the above five SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Communication Division

13. The partnership with E.ON SE, one of Europe's leading electric utility companies, contributes to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems sub-programme. This partnership aims to design and develop digital strategies and tools in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, as well as give advice on best practices for ecosystem restoration. The first phase of the digital design for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration interactive hub was completed and the second phase was started in 2021. E.ON SE is also investing in restoration as part of their business activities, by ecologically restoring the land (13,000 sq kms) below their power grids across Europe.

(v) Formula E Operations Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above two SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Communication Division

14. This partnership with the car racing company contributes to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality sub-programmes. The partnership, which was started in 2017 and renewed in January 2021, aims to develop and implement communication initiatives focused on air quality, electric mobility and sustainable lifestyles. To this end, Formula E driver, Lucas Di Grassi, supported digital engagement efforts for the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on 7 September 2021. In previous years, UNEP organized a series of events at the Formula E races, as well as communication campaigns to raise awareness on the benefits of electric vehicles among younger generations and motorsport fans globally.

(vi) GoldenBee (Beijing) Management Consulting Co., Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above five SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

15. This new partnership with GoldenBee (Beijing) Management Consulting, sustainability consulting services provider, will contribute to the Climate Change; Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality; and Resource Efficiency sub-programmes. The partnership aims to support UNEP's continuation of work on implementation of the UNEA-4 Resolution (UNEP/EA.4/L.6): *Sustainable Infrastructure.*

(vii) Horn of Africa Sustainability Solutions Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above two SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

16. In partnership with Horn of Africa Sustainability Solutions Limited, a consultancy firm with over 35 years of experience in climate change, natural resources management, policy planning and sustainable development, UNEP supported the Government of Somalia to develop a five-year National Environmental Action Plan. The Action Plan addresses pressing environmental challenges, promotes conservation, protection, and sustainable management of the environment on a national scale, and will help the country adapt to the impacts of climate change. This partnership contributes to the Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts sub-programme.

(viii) International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)

- The partnership contributes to the above seventeen SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Corporate Services Division

17. This continued partnership with IBM, a computer and information technology company, promotes innovation and technologies to tackle climate change and protect the environment. IBM has been a member of the Governing Consortium of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum (SPBF) on the Environment[1] since its creation in 2017. In the reporting period, IBM continued to be SPBF lead technology partner on the Marine Litter Big Data project, having contributed to the data integration part of the Marine Litter Digital Platform, and the first design thinking workshop on Marine Litter Data Integration and Digital Tools. The partner has also provided expert and financial contributions to the SPBF Working Group on Big Data and Frontier Technologies.

1 The UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment, previously based in Science Division, was moved to the Corporate Services Division in September 2021.

(ix) MeshMinds PTE. Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above three SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Asia and Pacific Office

18. This continued partnership with MeshMinds, a creative technology studio, contributes to the Climate Change; Healthy and Productive Ecosystems; Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality; and Resource Efficiency sub programmes. To date, through the partnership, UNEP has reached more than 20 million people across 100 countries on six continents with innovative augmented reality experiences that educate and empower youth and communities to make pledges and take action towards environmental protection in their countries.

(x) NetEase Media Technology (Beijing) Co. Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above four SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

19. This new partnership with a leading China-based internet, media and technology company contributes to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems and Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts sub programmes. Through this partnership, UNEP will share a Massive Open Online Course entitled "Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Disaster Resilience" on NetEase Media's online platforms, multiplying the reach of the course in China and worldwide.

(xi) Platform3 DMCC

- The partnership contributes to the above SDG
- UNEP Lead: Science Division

20. The partnership with Platform3 DMCC, a corporate advisory firm focused on Africa and the Middle East, contributes to the Resource Efficiency and Environment Under Review sub-programmes. It will support UNEP's Innovation Initiative, which aims to identify and scale up science-based environmental solutions that contribute to the environmental SDGs, through resource mobilization efforts. In the next six months, the first feasibility study for wastewater recovery technology is expected to be completed. UNEP will then roll out pilot testing in Machakos and Kisumu counties in Kenya, with additional piloting planned in the Africa region. More information on impact and results will be reported in 2022, when UNEP's Innovation Initiative is expected to be officially launched.

(xii) (adidas) Runtastic GmbH

- The partnership contributes to the above two SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Vienna Programme Office (Europe Office) with Ecosystems Division and Communication Division

21. This partnership with a free running application, contributes to the Climate Change and Healthy and Productive Ecosystems sub-programmes. In 2021, the partnership launched the third edition of the Run Wild challenge, mobilizing approximately 700,000 runners worldwide to compete against Gaia, a GPS-tracked mountain lion currently roaming the Cascade Mountains in the United States' Pacific Northwest, and learn about human impacts on species and habitats, including pollution in mountainous areas. Through the challenge, financial resources from partners (including from Adidas Terrex), were provided to the conservation partner S.P.E.C.I.E.S and will support wildlife conservation, including restoration efforts.

(xiii) SailBri Cooper Inc.

- The partnership contributes to the above SDG
- UNEP Lead: Science Division

22. This new partnership with a US-based subsidiary of a leading pioneer in the Chinese environmental monitoring industry contributes to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality sub-programmes, as well as UNEA-3 Resolution (UNEP/EA.3/Res.8): *Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.* UNEP and SailBri Cooper Inc. plan to launch an open data management platform (ODMS) that would facilitate air quality management, quality control and assurance, and data sharing. The platform, which will be freely available to Member States and practitioners, provides easy to use functionality to manage field deployments of air quality measurement instruments, aggregation of other existing data sources to compliment and strengthen the data gap in developing countries through collaborating entities (e.g. US Embassy Air Quality stations, with monitoring undertaken through independent project initiatives). In addition, the platform serves as a reference to systematically undertake capacity development and

training to Member States to strengthen air quality management. In collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the initial roll out planned for January 2022 will validate the platform in five African cities and start scaling its user base towards the end of 2022.

(xiv) Schurmann Produções Cinematográficas LTDA

- The partnership contributes to the above SDG
- UNEP Lead: Brazil Office

23. This partnership was renewed in 2021 and contributes to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems sub-programme. The partnership with this content producer for film, television, and web series will promote UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign and other initiatives related to the health of the oceans and the enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity in Brazil and throughout the Latin America region.

(xv) Stakeholder Company Pte. Limited

- The partnership contributes to the above three SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

24. This new partnership with a global technology company from Singapore will contribute to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems sub programme and will help UNEP to develop the Digital Platform of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, to build a stakeholder database and to engage in joint community engagement workshops.

(xiv) World Travel and Tourism Council

- The partnership contributes to the above two SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

25. The partnership with the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which represents the Travel and Tourism sector globally, contributes to the Resource Efficiency sub programme, as well as the UNEA-4 Resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.9) *Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution.* UNEP and WTTC published the report Rethinking Single-Use Plastics in Travel and Tourism, which maps the use of single-use plastic products along the tourism value chains and identifies challenges and solutions for single-use plastic products in the tourism sector. The report provides strategic recommendations for action by governments and the private sector and offers case studies that outline good practices, progress and challenges.

III. Update on multi-stakeholder partnerships, platforms, networks, initiatives, campaigns, and alliances

26. UNEP's platforms, networks, and initiatives focus on specific industries through multi-stakeholder interactions. By facilitating dialogues and involving a range of diverse stakeholders – policymakers, scientists and academia, civil society and the private sector – UNEP accelerates the transition to an inclusive green economy, and encourages sustainable production, consumption and investments.

    This section focuses on the results of UNEP's engagement with the private sector through public-private partnerships and other multi-stakeholder engagement platforms. The following are the platforms, and the sub-programmes they contribute to:

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: **CLIMATE CHANGE**

(i) The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

- CCAC contributes to the above 12 SDGs
- Number of stakeholders - 181
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

27. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition is a voluntary partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, scientific institutions, and civil society organizations committed to protecting the climate and improving air quality through actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). It was founded in 2012, when the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden and the United States of America joined with UNEP to initiate efforts to treat SLCPs as an urgent and collective challenge.

28. The CCAC has been working with kiln owners in the brick industry in countries, such as Pakistan, to use cleaner technology and reduce SLCPs. Pakistan has converted approximately 40% of its kilns, which are thermally-insulated furnaces or ovens for burning, baking or drying. The country joined the CCAC in 2017.

29. In 2021, the CCAC started drafting guidance for the development of air pollutant and SLCP emission inventories for businesses. Furthermore, CCAC is supporting the following activities:

Private Sector Toolkit

30. As part of its work in Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, CCAC is contributing to the development of a private sector toolkit comprising the following: guidelines on technical implementation for rice value chain actors; software for computing mitigation potentials developed in coordination with other CCAC-related tools; and guidelines for optimizing sustainability and co-benefits between SLCP mitigation and adaptation. These templates and tools are aligned with the Sustainable Rice Platform Standard and Performance Indicators.

The Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP)

31. Launched at the 2014 UN Secretary General's Climate Summit, the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) was created by CCAC and UNEP as a voluntary initiative to help companies reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. Member companies of the OGMP – representing more than 15% of global natural gas production – have committed to report methane emissions for all their operated and non-operated assets, at an unprecedented level of accuracy. Member companies submitted their first report this year, which was publicly launched in October 2021. The OGMP is also working on several guidance and practical tools to help companies meet the reporting requirements.

The Methane Science Studies

32. In 2015, a series of methane science studies was initiated to improve the understanding of global methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. Through these peer-reviewed studies, scientists continue to investigate and measure methane emissions across the oil and gas supply chain, generating accurate, public information about where and how much methane is leaking. The results of ongoing and future studies will improve the understanding of methane emissions at a global level, allowing industry, governments, and other stakeholders to prioritize actions to reduce methane emissions. The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) has co-funded the Methane Science Studies, which have been conducted in Australia, Europe, Mexico, Romania and around the North Sea area. Eight papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals, with more ongoing or in preparation. The member companies provide data to the research teams, but are not involved in the actual measurement and analysis of the data, or in the development of the scientific outcome report.

Global Methane Alliance

33. Launched by UNEP and CCAC in September 2019, the Global Methane Alliance brings together governments, financing institutions, international organizations, NGOs, and industry to support ambitious methane reduction targets from the oil and gas industry. The Global Methane Alliance, with in-kind support from the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative and Carbon Limits, has co-developed four online training modules. In the reporting period, these trainings were provided to government officials from Angola, Argentina, Colombia, Iraq, Mexico and Thailand.

(ii) Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)

- The Network contributes to the above 8 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 300
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

34. The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally-sound technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development at the request of developing countries. CTCN is hosted by UNEP in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and supported by more than 550 network member institutions globally (almost half of which are from the private sector, representing mostly small and medium enterprises). In 2021, CTCN facilitated the implementation of 50 technical assistance projects. It provided capacity building on the role of blockchain technologies for climate action to 100 National Designated Entities. It also provided training to 70 National Designated entities on financing mechanisms and business models for energy efficient technologies. Lastly, CTCN produced and contributed 100 knowledge products to the CTCN website and provided mentoring through the CTCN Youth Climate Innovators Academy.

(iii) Cool Coalition

- The Network contributes to the above 8 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 30
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

35. The Cool Coalition, launched in 2019 and hosted by UNEP, uses advocacy, knowledge sharing and mobilization to commitments to accelerate the global transition to efficient and climate-friendly cooling. The partners of the Cool Coalition have delivered the following results:

- Joined the Race to Zero campaign through the Cool Coalition, a Race to Zero Accelerator.
- Worked with the Climate Champions team to catalyze 14 cooling suppliers to join the Race to Zero, representing 28% of the residential air conditioning market.
- Provided training and capacity building on how companies can achieve net-zero cooling.
- Provided training on business models, financing, and energy efficient, ozone-friendly technologies for sustainable cooling and cold-chains to 100 Member States across the Asia Pacific, Africa and Latin America regions.
- Committed to investments in sustainable cooling (for example, Engie plans to invest up to US$2.3 billion in highly efficient district cooling by 2024).
- Committed to hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) phase-down plans (companies such as Electrolux, Mabe and Engie), deep decarbonization (Danfoss, Carrier), and joined the EP100 Cooling Challenge (Danfoss, Mabe and Godrej) to improve cooling efficiency.

(iv) The District Energy in Cities Initiative

- The Initiative contributes to the above 5 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 33
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

36. The District Energy in Cities Initiative is a public-private partnership led by UNEP. It supports cities and countries in their energy transition by accelerating investment in district energy systems. The total number of partners has grown from 36 in 2016 to 67 in 2021. To date, the Initiative runs a pipeline of 33 pilot projects across 14 countries, with a mitigation potential of 25 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential) over the next 20 years. Furthermore, US$103 million of direct investment for project construction has been mobilized. Private sector engagement has been crucial in this process.

(v) Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)

- GlobalABC contributes to the above 4 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 52
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

37. The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, which is hosted by UNEP, is driving the transformation of the construction sector towards zero emissions, efficient, and resilient buildings. The Alliance works in 33 countries accelerating the decarbonization of the building value chains. GlobalABC supports the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and to date more than 200 companies from the building and construction sector have committed to the SBTi to reduce the life-cycle carbon emissions of buildings. The GlobalABC also serves as a co-lead of the Built Environment Track of the Human Settlements Pathway and a Race to Zero accelerator. The Race to Zero, a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery so far counts more than 695 companies (66 from the construction sector).

(vi) Integrated Urban Systems Partnership

- The Partnership contributes to the above 2 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 30
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

38. The Integrated Urban Systems Partnership, a global public-private partnership launched at the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019, is led by UNEP. In 2021, the Partnership, in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), launched the report SDG 7 Localization: Affordable and Clean Energy in ASEAN, which built on the analysis and support provided to 20 cities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on localizing SDG 7, and provided insights on how to deliver more integrated, local energy systems. Together with UN ESCAP, it also supported the development of an online training platform on SDG 7 localization and integrated urban energy. The Partnership has also co-led five virtual training workshops and prepared six case studies, supported by its partners leading on the Integrated Urban Energy projects globally.

(vii) Microfinance for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (MEbA)

- MEbA contributed to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 18
- UNEP Lead: Latin America and the Caribbean Office

39. The Microfinance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (MEbA) is a multi-stakeholder project, which has been implemented by UNEP in six Latin American countries (Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru) and two African countries (Benin and Senegal) between 2012 – 2020. The project provided vulnerable rural and peri-urban populations with access to microfinance products and services that allowed them to invest in activities that improve their income, increase their climate

resilience and allow them to sustainably use ecosystems and their services. To this end, the project built up know-how on ecosystem-based adaptation in microfinance institutions and has identified more than 40 adaptation solutions for small-scale farmers. The project was granted the UNEP Kipepeo Award in the Environmental Impact category in June 2021. In total, the project delivered the following results:

- More than 17,000 loans have been disbursed by partner microfinance institutions, amounting to more than US$30 million of private investment towards ecosystem-based adaptation; over 2,000 staff members of the partner microfinance institutions have been sensitized on key aspects of the MEbA project.
- Thirteen demonstration farms were created, and more than 4,000 farmers were trained in ecosystem-based adaptation practices.

(viii) The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)

- PCFV contributes to the above 6 SDGs
- Number of partners – 73
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

40. The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) is a public-private initiative of 73 partners promoting cleaner fuels and vehicles in developing countries and emerging economies through working with businesses and governments. Following an almost two-decade long campaign by PCFV, July 2021 marked the official end of the use of leaded petrol worldwide. This milestone will prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths globally and save US$2.45 trillion a year.

(ix) The Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF)

- SCAF contributes to the above 4 SDGs
- Number of partners – 16
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

41. The Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF) is a multi-donor trust fund managed by UNEP. It makes finance available during the development phase of sustainable energy projects being carried out in developing countries and emerging economies that aim at promoting the use of climate-friendly technologies (e.g., renewable energies and energy efficiency). To date, the Facility has catalyzed US$1.97 billion and supported 23 projects with 16 partners in 13 countries. This, in turn, is expected to mitigate 3.2 million tons of CO_2 emissions.

(x) United for Efficiency Partnership

- The Partnership contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 9
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

42. United for Efficiency is a public-private partnership, with UNEP being one of the founding partners. The partnership is supporting 41 developing countries and emerging economies to fully transform their electrical equipment and appliances markets to offering modern, eco-efficient products. Its nine private sector partners contribute key product market and technology data, allowing UNEP to develop the first-ever Good Practice Global Model Regulations and Green Procurement Guidelines to international standards for the five main electrical product groups. It is projected that the partnership will bring cumulative savings of 1.25 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. The corresponding economic savings are estimated at more than US$100 billion annually and US$500 billion in avoided power plant construction costs. In 2021, the market transformation started in Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras and Tunisia.

SUB-PROGRAMME 3:
HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

(i) AGRI3 Fund

- AGRI3 Fund contributes to the above 4 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 5
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

43. The blended AGRI3 Fund, created by UNEP and banking partners, aims to mobilize US$1 billion in finance for nature and climate-positive agriculture and forestry. The Fund's first transactions – for forest protection and renovation of degraded pastureland in Mato Grosso, Brazil, and sustainable pepper farming in the larger Chongqing region of China's Sichuan province – closed in December 2020 with US$90 million in backing from the Dutch Government, Rabobank and the Global Environment Facility.

(ii) Global Partnership on Marine Litter

- The Partnership contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of members – 107
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

44. The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 in response to a request set out in the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. UNEP provides secretariat services for the Partnership. The GPML is a multi-stakeholder partnership, which provides a unique mechanism to bring together all actors working on marine litter and plastic pollution prevention, to share knowledge and experience and advance solutions regarding this pressing global issue. In 2020, the GPML set up the Digital Platform, to connect and inform all stakeholders working to address marine litter and plastic pollution. In 2021, the Digital Platform presented its Phase 2, which focuses on data interoperability and stakeholder connectivity. The Partnership also launched the landmark assessment "From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution", which reveals the impact of marine litter and plastic pollution in the environment and their effects on the health of ecosystems, wildlife, and humans.

(iii) Green Fins Initiative

- The Initiative contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of members – 600+
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

45. Green Fins, an Initiative of UNEP and the Reef World Foundation, works towards a measurable reduction in the negative environmental impacts of marine tourism. It aims to protect coral reefs through guidelines promoting sustainable diving and snorkeling. It provides the only internationally recognized environmental standards for marine tourism and its robust assessment system measures compliance. The Green Fins Diver e-Course, launched in July 2021, introduces concepts of marine biology and coral reef conservation, provides practical guidance for reducing diver impacts above and below the water, and encourages divers to create demand for sustainable services with practical tips and communication templates. In addition, Green Fins cleanup guidelines have been launched to help dive and snorkel operators organize and host coastal cleanups.

(iv) &Green Fund

- The Initiative contributes to the above 9 SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

46. As part of UNEP's efforts to unlock private finance at scale, UNEP has created a partnership with the &Green Fund, which invests in commercial projects in agricultural production value chains to protect and restore tropical forests and peatlands and make agriculture more sustainable and inclusive – involving local communities, producers, financiers, supply chain companies, local and national government and civil society. The &Green Fund aims to catalyze more than US$2 billion in investments to protect, conserve and restore five million hectares of tropical forests for the benefit of over 500,000 households through improved yields, incomes, and job creation. To date, four transactions were financed in Brazil and Indonesia, with around US$94 million of investments. Other results in 2020-2021 include:

- 15,903 people directly employed in projects financed by &Green Fund.
- 150,974 hectares of natural tropical forest under conservation in &Green projects.

- 11,060 small scale producers included in the supply chains of &Green clients.
- Four "No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation" (NDPE) commitments secured.[2]

(v) Restoration Factory

- The Initiative contributes to the above 4 SDGs
- Number of partners – 4
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

47. The Restoration Factory is an online program, developed by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, where restoration and business experts join forces to build the future of restoration businesses, in which ecosystems services are essential parts of a profitable, viable and green business transformation. The Restoration Factory aims to short-circuit traditional learning methods by giving project developers online access to designed and targeted mentoring immediately applicable to their business ideas. To date, the Restoration Factory has supported a first cohort of 13 mentees, advised by 26 private sector mentors. Six mentees completed the program and one immediately secured funding from an investor.

(vi) Restoration Seed Capital Facility (RSCF)

- The Initiative contributes to the above 4 SDGs
- Number of partners – 2
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

48. The Restoration Seed Capital Facility aims to scale up forest and landscape restoration significantly during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. It was launched in October 2020 and is open to applications from any fund manager or investment adviser developing or running an investment vehicle targeting restoration-aligned activities. Arbaro Advisors and Ecotierra are the first applicants to have successfully completed the application process and have moved on to become a cooperating partner benefiting from the Facility's support.

2 NDPE commitment is a public commitment by partners in order to make their operations sustainable. The commitment should pledge to have zero deforestation, peatland destruction or exploitation of indigenous people in the operations and supply chain of their business.

SUB-PROGRAMME 5:
CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

(i) Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

- The Alliance contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 22
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

49. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is a voluntary partnership formed by UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent exposure to lead by promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead. The Alliance contributes to the UNEA-3 Resolution (UNEP/EA.3/Res.9) *Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally-sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.* Lead, a cumulative toxicant, poses serious risks to human health and development, with children being especially vulnerable. Lead-containing paint remains one of the major sources of lead exposure for children globally. In the reporting period, the Alliance facilitated a webinar with the participation of 48 representatives from the paint industry globally and educated them on the progress and best practices for lead paint elimination; adverse health and economic impacts of lead compounds; the technical and economic feasibility of lead paint elimination; and the technical guidelines on paint reformulation manual prepared by the National Cleaner Production Centre Serbia. Furthermore, the Alliance launched the Lead Paint toolkit with dedicated technical guidance for the private sector on elimination of lead from the manufacture, import and sale of paint.

(ii) Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

- The Partnership contributes to the above 6 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 3
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

50. The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) is a multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism comprised of government, research and academia, agricultural and fertilizer producer organizations in the private sector, regional and international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. It works to promote effective nutrient management to achieve the twin goals of food security through increased productivity and conservation of natural resources and the environment. GPNM includes the participation of the International Fertilizer Association in the Steering Committee as well as several fertilizer companies as members. In 2021, the GPNM participated in the 8th Global Nitrogen Conference. The outcome of the meeting was the adoption of the "Berlin Declaration on

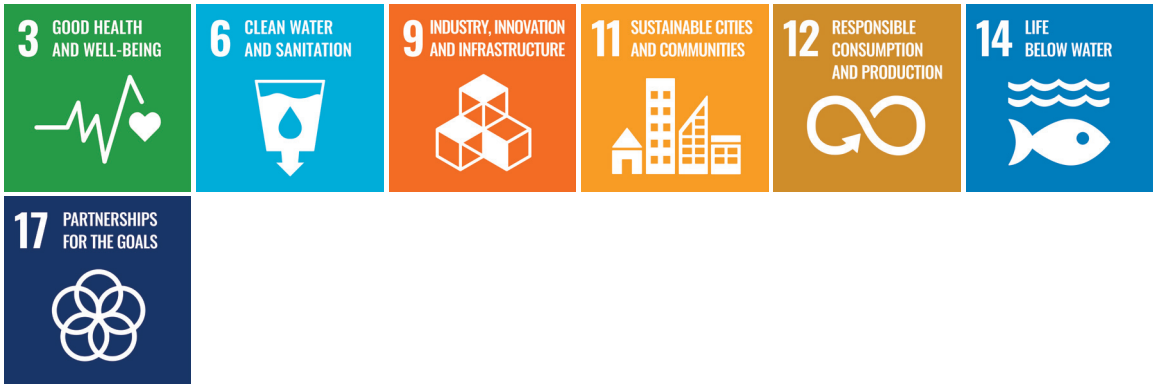
Nitrogen". On 4 June 2021, leading up to the World Environment Day, the GPNM organized the webinar entitled *Sustainable Nitrogen Management for Ecosystem Restoration* with almost 900 participants. Also in June 2021, the GPNM, UNEP's Science Division in collaboration with the Cartagena Convention, the Abidjan Convention, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and other country representatives organized the Fifth Sargassum Webinar entitled, *The Sargassum Challenge: Opportunities for collaboration between West Africa and the Wider Caribbean Region*, which focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration between West Africa and the Wider Caribbean region on tackling the Sargassum influx. Furthermore, GPNM in collaboration with GRID-Arendal center and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations launched a working paper on *Plastics in Agriculture: Sources and Impacts* in commemoration of World Soil Day 2021.

(iii) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- SAICM contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 32
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

51. Through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, UNEP supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them to reformulate lead paint in their production processes. In 2021, 32 SMEs in China, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria and Peru participated in the pilot testing. Nineteen of these SMEs have completed the test and reformulated their products in compliance with international best practices and national regulations.

(iv) Global Mercury Partnership



- The Partnership contributes to the above 7 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 56
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

52. Initiated in 2005, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership aims to protect human health and the environment from the release of mercury into air, water and land. In 2021, the private sector contributed to different work areas of the Partnership, including supporting the timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; sharing information; and participation in webinars on various mercury-related topics. Additionally, they contributed to cross-cutting work initiated by the Partnership on mercury from oil and gas and from non-ferrous metals through participation in expert consultations, as well as provision of inputs to draft study reports prepared on these two topics.

SUB-PROGRAMME 6:
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

(i) Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)

- The Partnership contributes to the above 8 SDGs
- Number of partners: 75
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

53. The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) was founded in 2012 by UNEP, the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank. It is a global community of policy, business and finance professionals and organizations committed to collaboratively generating, managing, and sharing knowledge on the transition to an inclusive green economy. The Green Industry Platform (GIP), which is a part of the partnership, continues to grow its Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) Support Centre, which provides its SMEs with access to best practices of national and international resource efficiency knowledge and support services. Users of GGKP's three platforms are increasing on an average of 15-20% year-on-year. The GIP recently developed a new initiative called I-GO, which offers an integrated resource efficiency support structure for SMEs through different online tools. A core component of I-GO is a self-assessment tool, which provides SMEs with a rapid resource efficiency status check that delivers customized recommendations and support. During the development and current pilot deployment of the I-GO initiative, workshops were carried out with multinational companies to develop a coordinated approach on how to improve engagement between the different tiers within a supply chain and the large companies procuring from the supply chains.

(ii) Good Food Finance Network (GFFN)

- The Partnership contributes to the above 6 SDGs
- Number of partners: 12+
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

54. Launched at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the Good Food Finance Network (GFFN) is a new multi-stakeholder collaborative innovation platform, working to develop the critical innovations that will allow sustainable food system finance to become the mainstream standard. The Good Food Finance Network is convened by UNEP, EAT Foundation, FAIRR, Food Systems for the Future, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The Network works in close collaboration with the World Bank, Rabobank, S2G Ventures, UNEP FI, the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Just Rural Transition, and other supporting partners. It will build on and take forward the outcomes of the Finance Lever of the UN Food Systems Summit, and is currently working to develop a multi-year Action Agenda to identify, deploy, and mainstream critical financial innovations to drive the transition to healthy and sustainable food systems.

(iii) Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco (IFACC)

- The Initiative contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 8
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

55. IFACC is a new initiative from UNEP, The Nature Conservancy and the Tropical Forest Alliance. IFACC aims to advance conversion-free cattle and soy production in South America which is free of deforestation and land conversion and will protect the land as the industry expands. In November 2021, eight founding members of the IFACC initiative announced a commitment worth US$3 billion – with more than US$200 million in disbursements by 2022. The companies announced their financial commitments, and the signing of the IFACC Declaration, at the World Leaders' Summit at COP-26, as part of their plans to shift commodity production in the region to a more sustainable model.

(iv) Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP)

- The Partnership contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners: 5
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

56. The Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) was launched by UNEP in 2018 as a platform to promote and support integrated approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development. It also coordinates UNEP's implementation of the UNEA-4 Resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.5) *Sustainable Infrastructure.* SIP's private sector engagement has so far focused on engaging industry and professional associations to reach their members. Key outcomes of the Partnership include getting private sector inputs into the "International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure" guidelines, which set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery. Outreach and dissemination of the Principles — which were launched in February 2021 – was done through the networks of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), The Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the Chinese International Contractors Association (CHINCA). The SIP has also provided tailored training on sustainable infrastructure to the members of CHINCA and ACECC, and is contributing to the revision of CHINCA's Guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility and Infrastructure. SIP's private sector engagement also helped to establish the Sustainable Infrastructure Community of Learners, which uses a peer-to-peer, case-based learning approach to provide training to sustainable infrastructure practitioners. So far, 450 people from 59 countries have attended at least one session of a 10-part virtual learning series (five sessions were completed so far).

(v) The Life Cycle Initiative

- The Initiative contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 70
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

57. The Life Cycle Initiative is a public-private, multi-stakeholder partnership hosted by UNEP and enabling the global use of credible life cycle knowledge by private and public sector decision makers. Progress achieved in 2020-2021 includes the following:

- Six companies are now reporting their economic and environmental savings through the application of Life Cycle Thinking. Life Cycle approaches have been piloted in two companies that have reported environmental savings. Additional companies will be reporting their savings later in 2021; eight companies are testing the Social Life Cycle Approach guidelines, and three companies are testing the approach to align business strategy with the SDGs.
- The Initiative produced roadmaps for four global tourism destinations that are being applied by the private sector. This includes specific guidance for the tourism sector to move away from single-use plastic products.
- 2,388 policymakers, business decision makers and Life Cycle Approach practitioners have been trained in Life Cycle knowledge.
- The Initiative's InTex project targets capacity building activities for SMEs in the Africa region and promotes innovative business practices and economic models in the textile value chain.

(vi) The Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF)

- The Initiative contributes to the above 14 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 4
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

58. UNEP is a founding partner of the TLFF, a multi-stakeholder partnership that seeks to catalyze long-term finance to help Indonesia deliver economic growth alongside its national development and international climate and SDG objectives. TLFF financing focuses on commercially viable carbon mitigation and adaptation projects that include sustainable agriculture and forestry, renewable energy, sustainable marine and fisheries, and other sectors where TLFF investments have measurable greenhouse gas emission reductions and contribution to the SDGs, while ensuring invested projects generate sustainable financial returns. In 2021, the Canadian government became an anchor donor to the TLFF Grant Fund, mobilizing private capital to improve rural livelihoods, reduce emissions and protect biodiversity in Indonesia. A webinar entitled *Valuing Tropical Landscapes Finance: Lessons and Opportunities in Indonesia* was organized to highlight the support from the Canadian government to the Fund. The Fund will enhance the "bankability" of local projects, thereby increasing the chances to be financed by the private sector. TLFF issued the first corporate sustainability bond in Asia in 2018, a landmark US$95 million Sustainability Bond to help finance a sustainable natural rubber plantation in heavily degraded Indonesian land.

(vii) One Planet Network

- The Network contributes to the above 5 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 188
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

59. The One Planet Network is a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts, including governments, businesses, civil society, academia and international organizations, that implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). It is comprised of thousands of individual members; six thematic programmes and their partner organizations; numerous working groups; and over 140 national focal points for sustainable consumption and production within national governments. Serving as the secretariat of the 10YFP, UNEP facilitates the One Planet Network, which contributes to the UNEA-3 Resolution (UNEP/EA.3/Res.4) *Environment and Health* and the UNEA-4 Resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1) *Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production.* The One Planet Network has a variety of products and Initiatives that include:

The Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability

60. The Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability is a working group under the Consumer Information Programme of the One Planet Network. The Guidelines give global guidance on making effective environmental, social and economic claims, to empower and enable consumer choices. The document includes a comprehensive set of high-level principles for users to follow, and guidance on how to apply them. In 2021, twenty-eight organizations have been engaged through a road-testing of the Guidelines and a survey has been conducted to assess the impact. The Guidelines have been applied to the plastic packaging sector, e-commerce, and chemicals in products. Additionally, several materials have been produced to increase awareness and build capacity for the provision of credible product sustainability information as outlined in the Guidelines.

Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI)

61. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI), which has 115 signatories, is part of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme. Plastic pollution, which is closely interlinked with the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, requires solutions at the value chain level and coordination with all relevant stakeholders throughout the tourism industry. GTPI joined forces with the biggest tourism businesses and organizations (combined annual revenue of more than US$43 billion) to accelerate sustainable consumption and production in tourism policies and practices to address the challenges of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. GPTI works with suppliers, waste management platforms, accommodation providers, including Small and Medium Enterprises, tour operators, cruise lines, and online booking platforms. GTPI contributes to the UNEA-4 Resolutions (UNEP/EA.4/Res.6) *Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics* and (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1) *Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production.*

62. Driven by their commitments to the GTPI, the six largest signatories, with an annual combined revenue of US$19 billion, delivered the following results in 2020-2021:

- 41 million plastic items and packaging have been eliminated across four hotel chains[3].
- Over 707 tonnes of plastic packaging and items have been eliminated across four hotel chains[4], including 353 tonnes in food and drink services and 235 tonnes in sanitary services.
- Increased investments in staff training, as well as technologies and equipment, to increase recycling and composting and to identify alternatives to plastic.
- Booking.com, the world's leading online travel company with more than 29 million listings globally, and deSter, the leading provider of innovative and sustainable food packaging and service ware concepts to the aviation, hospitality, and food service industries, joined GTPI in 2021.

3 Club Med, Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Melco, Six Senses
4 Accor, Club Med, Six Senses and Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels

Transforming Tourism Value Chains

63. In this project, UNEP's local implementing partners in selected countries are providing technical assistance to 100 businesses to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve resource efficiency in tourism operations. In 2021, 49 businesses in the Philippines and 51 business in the Dominican Republic received technical assistance to use the GHG and resource efficiency tool. Companies' data and performance will be analyzed by project partners in January 2022 and will be reported in July 2022. Several tools were developed during 2020 to support businesses to reach GHG reduction targets. A Manual on resource efficiency and a GHG tool was developed, and a sustainable finance guide on climate mitigation options in the tourism sector was also developed and will be published in December 2021. Eighteen case studies demonstrating GHG reduction and resource efficiency in tourism businesses were also published in 2020.

(viii) Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

- PAGE contributes to the above 6 SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

64. Founded in 2013, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) answered the call at Rio+20 to support countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories. In 2021, through engagement with the private sector PAGE delivered the following results:

- Designed a 10-year National Waste Management Plan in Uruguay.
- Is piloting the use of an emissions payment fund to subsidize small and medium enterprises with sustainable businesses in Kazakhstan.
- Contributed to implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Guidelines in Brazil by organizing training for ten companies to disseminate the guidelines and raise awareness of best practices in the tourism sector.
- Supported sustainable entrepreneurship development in Senegal through "Start and Improve Your Business" training, which strengthened the technical, operational, and management capacities of women agricultural producers, beekeepers and fish farmers.

(ix) Playing for the Planet Alliance

- The Alliance contributes to the above 2 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 39
- UNEP Lead: Ecosystems Division

65. Launched during the Climate Action Summit at UN Headquarters in New York in 2019, the Playing for the Planet Alliance is harnessing the power of the biggest players in the video games industry to take action on the climate crisis. Fourteen major companies joined the Alliance in 2021, bringing the total number

of members to 39 video gaming companies with a combined reach of over 1.2 billion monthly active users worldwide. Two-thirds of the members have committed to reduce their carbon footprint with a new calculator for the industry, which was designed to help gaming companies to decarbonize. In 2021, the Alliance, which is facilitated by UNEP, organized the "Green Game Jam" event that engaged more than 25 video game studios around the world and educated hundreds of millions of people by placing "green activations" in games on restoration and conservation of forests and oceans. Millions of players were empowered to act for nature worldwide and drive further action in their communities in the real world.

(x) Partnership for Accelerating Circular Economy (PACE)

- PACE contributes to the above 2 SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

66. The Partnership for Accelerating Circular Economy (PACE) is a public-private partnership catalyzing global leadership from business, government, and civil society to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. In February 2021, PACE launched the Circular Economy Action Agenda, which details how to accelerate a transition to circularity. More than 200 experts contributed to the Agenda, which is made up of five publications, on plastics, textiles, electronics, food and capital equipment.

(xi) The Sustainable Rice Platform

- The Platform contributes to the above 6 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners - 62

67. The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is a global multi-stakeholder alliance established in 2011. Originally co-convened by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), UNEP and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), SRP is now an independent membership association. SRP aims to transform the global rice sector by improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods; reducing the social, environmental and climate footprint of rice production and offering the global rice market an assured supply of sustainably produced rice to meet the growing global demand for rice. In 2021, SRP launched a new eco-label in three countries in the European Union. This eco-label helps consumers to identify rice that has been sustainably produced, thus reducing their environmental impact. Rice farming consumes up to one-third of the world's developed freshwater resources and generates up to 20% of global anthropogenic emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Overall, SRP has trained 400,000 smallholder farmers in climate-smart sustainable rice production, which, aside from its positive environmental impact, could boost farmers' net incomes by 10-20%.

(xii) UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

- The Alliance contributes to the above 2 SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

68. The clothing and textile sector is responsible for an estimated 2% to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and is notorious for its water pollution and use and release of chemicals. Founded in 2019 and launched at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion serves as an interagency coordinating body of UN and specialized international agencies. It is working to transform the fashion sector starting from the production of raw materials all the way to their disposal. The Alliance is designed to ensure a coordinated approach among UN agencies concerning their work to promote projects and policies that support the fashion value chain to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In 2021, the Alliance published a map of its members' activities in fashion. Members of the Alliance have also participated in events to promote sustainable fashion, such as the Environment Management Group (EMG) Nexus dialogue and the Milan Climate and Fashion Talks.

(xiii) UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)

- UNEP FI contributes to the above 17 SDGs
- Number of partners – 400+
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

69. The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development. UNEP FI and a core group of founding banks launched the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) in September 2019 during the UN General Assembly in New York. Fifty-nine new members have joined the PRB since September 2020, bringing the total to 250 banks representing 40% of the global banking system by assets. The progress made by the signatories includes:

- 94% focused on sustainability as part of their strategy.
- 93% of banks have begun to establish impact analysis systems, with 29% reporting that they have completed their initial impact analysis.
- 30% have set targets in the area of significant impact (climate mitigation and financial inclusion).

70. There are some early signs of visible impact in the real economy as signatories start to shift financing and investment practices towards positive sustainability impacts:

- 15,131 clients (corporates and small and medium enterprises) have been advised on climate strategies.
- 113 million vulnerable customers gained access to financial services.
- 69% of banks with climate change mitigation as an impact area are investing in green assets and low-carbon technologies.
- US$2.3 trillion of sustainable finance being mobilized.

71. Many banks are making considerable progress setting targets and engaging with clients in three main topics—climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and financial inclusion. In summary:

- 87% are focusing on Climate: 177 banks identified climate as an impact area. 46% of these banks have already set or are actively working to set a climate target, and a further 30% plan to do so in the next year.
- 62% of signatories are supporting clients' transition to a low-carbon economy or are setting up an engagement process to do so. More than 15,000 clients were engaged by PRB signatories in the last year.
- 47% are focusing on Financial Inclusion: 95 banks identified financial health and inclusion as an impact area. 82% of these have either developed financial solutions to improve customers' financial access or are working to do so.

72. Sixteen new members have joined the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI) since September 2020, bringing the total to 105 insurers and reinsurers. PSI is supporting the development of climate, disaster risk and inclusive insurance solutions for vulnerable communities, including a Sustainable Insurance Facility for 20 countries, as well as developing a set of Insurance Sustainable Development Goals (iSDGs).

Three Alliances under UNEP FI:

73. **The Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance** represents 56 institutional investors with a combined US$9.3 trillion assets under management. The Alliance demonstrates united investor action to align portfolios to a maximum global mean temperature rise of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Twenty-nine investors with US$4.6 trillion assets under management have committed to reducing portfolio emissions by 25-30% by 2025 across three asset classes. In addition, as a requirement of the Alliance membership, the asset owners have currently invested in climate solutions an average of 4% of assets under management.

74. **The Net Zero Banking Alliance** was launched in April 2021 as a part of the UN Race to Zero campaign and has a current membership of 55 banks. The Alliance brings together banks worldwide, representing over a third of global banking assets, to accelerate and support the implementation of decarbonization strategies using robust, science-based guidelines.

75. **The Net Zero Insurance Alliance** was launched in July 2021 and brings together eight of the world's leading insurers and reinsurers to play their part in accelerating the transition to net-zero emissions economies.

Other initiatives under UNEP FI include:

76. **The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** was launched in June 2021 and the Taskforce Membership Group is currently being formed. It aims to develop and deliver a risk management and disclosure framework for organizations to be able to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and towards nature-positive outcomes.

77. **The Positive Impact Initiative** is a think-and-do-tank within UNEP FI with 58 members exclusively focused on closing the US$2.5 trillion SDG financing gap. Their Impact Management Platform is a collaboration between leading providers of public good standards, frameworks, tools, and guidance for managing sustainability impacts. Through the Platform, initiatives will work together to identify opportunities to consolidate existing sustainability resources, collectively address gaps, and coordinate with policymakers and regulators to support the mainstreaming of impact management.

78. **The Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative** provides guidance and frameworks to ensure investment, underwriting and lending activities are aligned to ocean health. With an annual economic value estimated at US$2.5 trillion, equivalent to the world's seventh largest economy, the blue economy is increasingly attracting financial institutions, which provide the financing, investment and insurance required to power ocean-related sectors, including shipping, fishing, coastal tourism, and renewable marine energy. By building sustainable blue finance practices into their decision-making processes and engaging with their clients on the topic, the financial sector has a unique opportunity to steer ocean industries towards sustainability.

79. In February 2021, the Blue Economy Initiative published the report *Rising Tide: Mapping Ocean Finance for a New Decade* and in March 2021, it published a practical guide for financial institutions entitled *Turning the Tide: How to Finance a Sustainable Ocean Recovery*.

SUB-PROGRAMME 7:
ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

80. **The Global Environment Outlook for Business** (GEO for Business) is a suite of six thematic business briefs that aim to inform, engage and stimulate action by leaders in the private sector on the environmental issues identified in UNEP's flagship publication, GEO-6. Released throughout 2020 and 2021, the new business briefs complement GEO-6 by demonstrating the interactions and feedback loops across social, economic, and environmental drivers, and how different approaches will result in more profitable and sustainable pathways for businesses.

(i) The International Resource Panel (IRP)

- IRP contributes to the above 3 SDGs
- Number of private sector partners – 9
- UNEP Lead: Economy Division

81. The International Resource Panel (IRP) was launched by UNEP in 2007 to engage with policymakers, industry and the community to improve global and local resource management. In 2021, the IRP engaged with strategic partners, including from the private sector, to support the development of the IRP report Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future; the think-piece *Building Biodiversity - The Natural Resource Management Approach* and the publication *The benefits of a circular economy for effective climate action and society.* The IRP disseminated the findings through online platforms and events of strategic partners, such as World Economic Forum, World Resources Institute, World Resources Forum, and World Circular Economy Forum.

(ii) UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on Environment

- SPBF contributes to the above 17 SDGs
- UNEP Lead: Corporate Services Division

82. The UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment promotes initiatives to grow green technology markets that are driven by advances in science and technology while empowering policies and innovative financing. The Forum, which was launched at the UN Environment Assembly in December 2017, has a platform of over 3,500 contributors and partner institutions. In February 2021, SPBF launched a Working Group on Youth for Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship. In October 2021, the first inaugural regional session of the UNEP SPBF for Asia and the Pacific took place. It was convened under the theme, “Towards a Healthy Rebound for People, Nature and Economies”.

IV. Conclusion

83. The current reporting period (2020 - 2021) presented the challenges of a pandemic-hit world. Against this backdrop, UNEP embraced digitalization as never before and continued to strengthen its strategic engagement with the private sector across all sectors with an aim to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNEP's private sector partners particularly engaged on SDGs 12, 13 and 17 that focus on sustainable consumption and production, climate action and strong global partnerships. There was also an increase in participation in UNEP platforms and initiatives, mainly in the areas of climate change, sustainable finance, and resource efficiency.

84. Indeed, the crucial role of the private sector in addressing climate change, which is closely linked to the challenges of biodiversity loss and pollution, was repeatedly highlighted at the 26th session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-26), which took place from 31 October to 12 November 2021. It is expected that the commitments by all stakeholders at COP-26 will inspire the private sector to take further action and make stronger commitments.

85. UNEP will continue to work closely with businesses, the financial community, and industrial sectors to address the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss, and pollution. UNEP will support environmental multilateralism in a world recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic; will push to mobilize funds to ensure that the necessary green transformation within the private sector can take place; and that the journey to sustainable development is amplified and accelerated as UNEP transitions to its new MTS and the world transitions to more environmentally-sustainable economies. UNEP will also work to keep businesses committed to their timelines proposed at COP-26, especially in the run up to the UNEA-5.2.

86. UNEP recognizes the importance of monitoring and evaluation to assess the impacts of its private sector partnerships and is working to further digitalize its work, including through the creation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism to track the results of partnerships on a quarterly basis. This type of data will support UNEP's efforts to strengthen, adapt, improve, and increase the impact of its engagement with the private sector.

    The attached Annex elaborates further on all bilateral partnerships between UNEP and the private sector as of November 2021.