

The International Resource Panel 2021 Highlights

What did we work on?

6 reports launched, 8 studies underway, and a number of collaborative projects.

The International Resource Panel (IRP) is a leading scientific panel established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build and share knowledge needed to improve our use of natural resources worldwide.

► Publishing policy-relevant science

FEB



Companion report tailored for the industry

Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Implications for Business Leaders in Housing and Mobility

Launched at a webinar co-hosted by the IRP, the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and the World Economic Forum. Information used by private sector stakeholders including the ARUP group, Mahindra group, Deloitte, etc.

FEB



IRP-One Planet network joint report

Catalysing Science-Based Policy Action on Sustainable Consumption and Production: The value-chain approach and its application to food, construction and textiles

Launched at a UNEA-5 side event, followed by a series of consultations with stakeholders to define a common agenda for action.

MAY



IRP Co-Chairs' opinion piece

Building Biodiversity: The Sustainable Resource Management Approach

The Co-Chairs' opinion piece formed the foundation of a close-door high-level roundtable discussion hosted by the IRP to inform the CBD COP15 and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The first-ever IRP youth dialogue was also hosted revolving around the piece.

JUN



Global manual

The Use of Natural Resources in the Economy: A Global Manual on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting

The Manual was jointly presented by UNEP, Eurostat, IRP and the UN Statistics Division, providing global guidance on material flow accounting for use by national statistical systems around the world.

JUN



Assessment report

Governing Coastal Resources: Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy

Launched with support from Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Norwegian Environment Agency, among others. Capacity building activities carried out in collaboration with UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the World Resources Institute.

JUL



Think piece

Policy Options to Eliminate Additional Marine Plastic Litter by 2050 under the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision

Launched in the Multi-stakeholder Platform on Marine Litter/Microplastics hosted by the Government of Japan and UNEP. The G20 included the work in the G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter and invited the IRP for further collaboration.

► Pushing the scientific frontiers



Expanding the Global Material Flows Database

In 2021, the IRP expanded the **Global Material Flows Database**, supporting policymakers and practitioners to monitor resource use and environmental impact and to report on SDG 8.4 & 12.2 with more updated and comprehensive data.



Co-developing future scenarios

As part of the scenario development process that informs the scenario modelling work of the IRP flagship Global Resources Outlook 2023, the IRP organized **a series of webcasts** and invited leading thinkers from a variety of disciplines to discuss “What does the global future hold?” with IRP members and the general public in a participatory approach.

► Collaboration to enhance policy impact



Supporting the launch of SCP-HAT 2.0 and SDG 12 Hub

In collaboration with the Life Cycle Initiative and the One Planet network, the IRP supported the update of the **Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis Tool** (SCP-HAT 2.0) to inform science-based national policy framework.

The IRP data also feed into the **SDG12 Hub** – a one-stop-shop launched in 2021 for governments, businesses, civil society and the public to track progress on the achievement of Goal 12.




Creating synergies and supporting regional uptake


The IRP joined efforts with teams at UNEP to maximize impact at regional level. This includes collaboration on the project **Build Back Better: Using Green and Digital Technologies to Reduce Food Waste at Consumer Level** involving a global report and 5 city case studies across 5 world regions.


The Panel also worked with the cities team on the report **The Weight of Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean** which builds on the IRP global report on urban metabolism with a regional focus.

Finally, the IRP works with the **Go4SDGs initiative** on multiple fronts, offering science-based knowledge in order to accelerate regional solutions on sustainable resource management.


► Ongoing knowledge development


Global assessment of the nexus between natural resources and human mobility (2022) 


Transition to a Resource Efficient Economy (2022) 

Urban Agriculture: A Natural Resource Perspective (2022) 

Defining Sustainable Levels of Resource Use (Science-Based Targets) (2023) 

Global Resources Outlook 2023 (2023) 

Socio-economic implications of enhancing resource efficiency and promoting circular economy (2023) 

Financing the Extractive Industry to Contribute to the Achievement of the SDGs (2024) 

Advancing the Circular Economy in Consumer Electronic Markets (2024) 


SOON



Who did we work with?

36

Panel members with scientific expertise



30

Steering Committee members



19

Strategic Partners



Steering Committee

Slovenia became a Steering Committee member in 2021, joining 27 governments, the European Commission, and UNEP.





Strategic Partners

The IRP Strategic Partners provide support in the development and dissemination of IRP publications, enhancing its policy and academic impact, and creating synergies with other relevant stakeholders, among others.



What is our impact?

JAN 	FEB IRP findings presented at UNEA-5 side events	MAR Co-Chair Janez Potočnik delivered a keynote speech to the Senior Management Group of the UN Secretary General
MAY Co-Chair Izabella Teixeira addressed the Global Solutions Summit	JUN	JUL Janez spoke with the G20 Environ. Ministers at the G20 Summit
SEP IRP findings presented at IUCN Congress, WCEF, WRF & WEF Sustainable Impact Summit, etc.	OCT	DEC 

► IRP outreach in numbers

(Data from September 2020 to September 2021)



515

References to the Panel's studies



169,134

Reports' downloads



95

Outreach activities



114,866

IRP website's users



5,207,300

Social media impressions

► Global reports that used the IRP knowledge



UNEP, Making Peace with Nature (February 2021)



GEF, The Circular Economy and Climate Mitigation: A STAP Advisory Document (May 2021)



FAO, UNDP & UNEP, A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing Agricultural Support to Transform Food Systems (May 2021)



UNDESA, Sustainable Development Outlook 2021 (July 2021)



WTO & OECD, Sustainable Trade, Circular Economy and Aid for Trade (August 2021)



EMF, Universal Circular Economy Policy Goals: Enabling the Transition to Scale (January 2021)



UN EMG, A UN Commitment for Action to Assist Member States Delivering on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (April 2021)



PACE, Circular Indicators for Governments (April 2021)



IEA, The Role of Critical World Energy Outlook Special Report Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions (May 2021)



WWF, Thriving within our Planetary Means (June 2021)

► Policy plans & commitments informed by the IRP



G20 Environment Ministers' Communiqué
(July 2021)



G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Communiqué
(May 2021)



EU's New Circular Economy Action Plan
(February 2021)



Long-term Italian Strategy on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Effects
(January 2021)



Japan's Guidance for Principles for Responsible Banking
(March 2021)



Singapore's Zero Waste Masterplan
(April 2021)



Norway's National Strategy for Circular Economy
(October 2021)



UK's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
(October 2021)



Ireland's Draft Policy Statement on Mineral Exploration and Mining
(October 2021)



USA's National Recycling Strategy
(November 2021)

► IRP knowledge uptake in regional & national government-led studies



The EU Blue Economy Report 2021
(May 2021)



PBL, Integral Circular Economy Report for the Netherlands
(January 2021)



Government of Turkey, Background Study in Preparation of the Turkish SCP National Action Plan and Roadmap
(April 2021)



France Stratégie, Digital Corporate Responsibility
(April 2021)



German Environment Agency, Options under International Law to Increase Resource Efficiency
(July 2021)



Council of Canadian Academies, Turning Point: The Expert Panel on the Circular Economy in Canada
(December 2021)

► Private sector guidelines that used the IRP knowledge



ISO/DIS 14009 Guidelines for Incorporating Material Circulation in Design and Development
(January 2021)



Global Battery Alliance & WEF: A Framework for the Safe and Efficient Global Movement of Batteries
(January 2021)



Deloitte World Climate Strategy - Purchasing
(March 2021)



EY Report: Can Repurposing Drive your Purpose in a Circular Economy?
(October 2021)



WBCSD Vision 2050 Time to Transform
(October 2021)

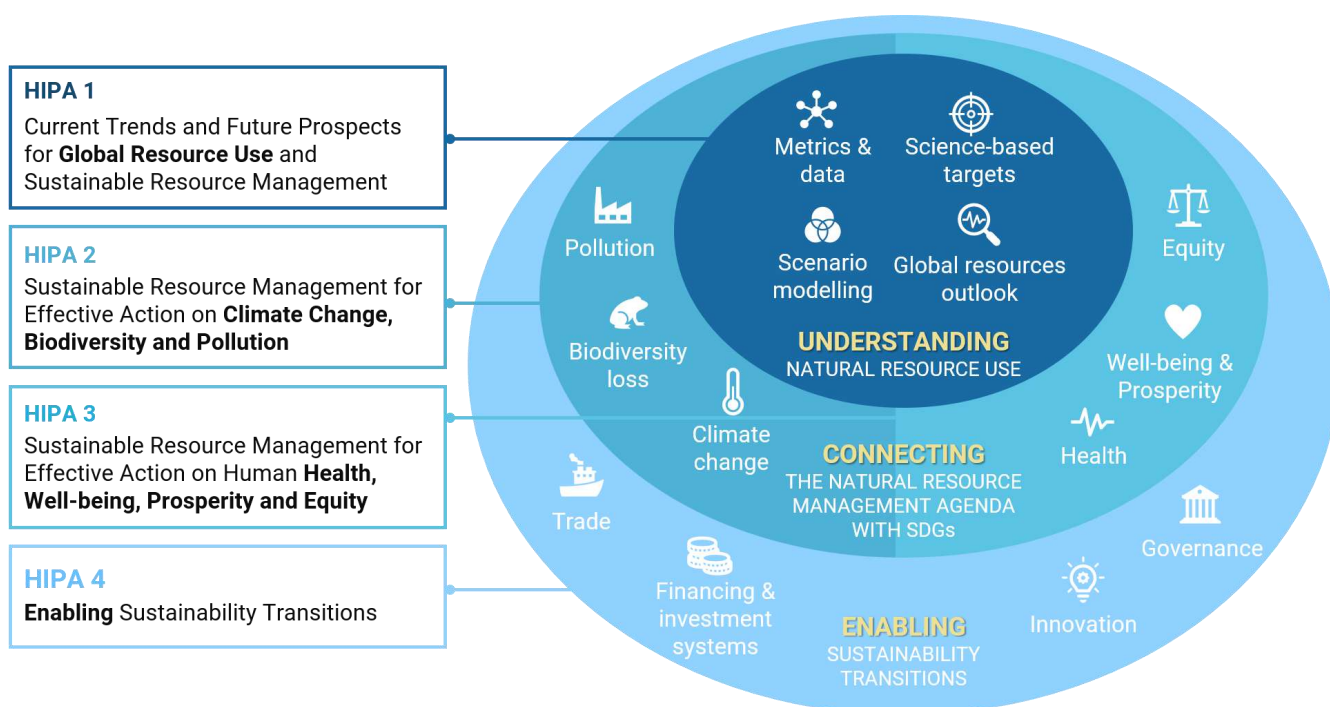
What can we expect in 2022?

► The IRP 2022-2025 Work Programme

In 2021, the IRP carried out a **Strategic Planning Exercise** – a series of thorough, impact-driven, and inclusive consultation processes—to develop its new Work Programme for strategic action in the next four years.

In particular, the Panel will focus on the below four **High Impact Priority Areas (HIPAs) for research**, which will

- i) help improve the **understanding** of natural resource use;
- ii) **connect** this understanding to knowledge from other scientific bodies on relevant UN SDGs and goals of existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and
- iii) provide options to **enable** transitions to sustainable management of natural resources.



15th Anniversary of the IRP

The IRP will turn 15 years old in 2022.

Over the past 15 years, the Panel has established itself as the leading voice and authoritative science-policy interface on natural resource use. To commemorate its 15th Anniversary, a series of events will be carried out in 2022. In the meantime, we have put together some materials for you to explore the history of the Panel.

IRP 15th Anniversary Timeline

15 Years of Research in Snapshots

Panel Members Wall

Quiz on Natural Resources



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1972-2022



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Panel