
Private Sector Unit Update - January 2020

Governance Affairs Office

Celebrating our Second Anniversary!

The Private Sector Unit of the Governance Affairs Office was established in January 2018 as the coordinating hub for the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) engagement with private sector and business coalitions. We ensure that engagement with the private sector is impactful, transformative and positively contributes to the implementation of our Programme of Work and the 2030 Agenda. The Unit also coordinates UNEP's private sector engagement in key UN system platforms and initiatives.

The Unit actively focuses on positioning UNEP as a convener of senior policy-makers and business leaders to find solutions to our environmental challenges.

The Team



From left to right: Stephanie Van Der Poel (Ass. Programme Officer), Mohammed Mabrouk (Consultant), Kamar Yousuf (Head of Unit), Santiago Nocelli Pac (Consultant), Patricia Gutierrez Mesones (Intern), Salma Yusuf Serrano (Consultant) and Mia Turner (Programme Officer).

Our latest addition is Mr. Santiago Nocelli Pac, who joined the Private Sector Unit in December 2019 as a consultant. In his former job in Argentina, Santiago was the Director for New

Markets at the Secretariat for Foreign Trade where his role was to boost the opening and exports of food, beverages and technologies for agriculture to non-traditional markets.

UNEP's Strategy for Private Sector Engagement

Recently UNEP has approved its first [Strategy for Private Sector Engagement](#) which aims to guide the collaboration with business and industry to achieve our Programme of Work and the 2030 Agenda.

The Strategy is in sync with the recently approved [UNSDG Common Approach to Prospect Research and Due Diligence for Business Sector Partnerships](#), for which UNEP actively contributed.

An Implementation Plan to support the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement

The Private Sector Unit is currently in the final phase of the Implementation Plan to support the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, which aims to build organizational capacity and capability to successfully meet the impact targets in all four pillars of the Strategy: (i) creating positive, measurable and quantifiable impacts on environment and society; (ii) enabling transformation and facilitating changes towards a sustainable society; (iii) sharing knowledge and scaling up innovation of solutions for sustainability; and (iv) mobilizing resources to accelerate momentum towards a sustainable future.

UNEP's Partnership Policy 2020: a framework for engagement

The Unit is in the process of updating the 2011 Partnership Policy and Procedures in collaboration with the Corporate Services Division and a consulting firm. A new document will be finalized soon to meet two main needs: the call for enhanced, systematic cooperation emphasized by the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/224 (2015) on "Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners", and the call for partnerships to achieve transformation, embedded in SDG 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'.

Internal reviews at both strategic and operative level of existing partnership management approaches have highlighted the need to develop and enact a systematic and pro-active approach that applies to all UNEP partnerships. Accordingly, the 2020 Partnerships Policy embraces recent developments and trends within the international community and draws on best practices to meet recognized new needs.

Partners Portal

Through the Partners Portal, the Unit facilitates and coordinates private sector engagement across UNEP. The process includes the validation of potential private sector partners and conducting risk, and strategy assessments. Furthermore, the Unit works with two service providers (i.e. RepRisk and Sustainalytics) to conduct due diligence on potential partners. The aim is to promote transparency in engaging all stakeholders and mitigate any related risks. The Unit currently supports over 70 partnerships with the private sector.

To promote transparency and information sharing, the Unit submits to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) an annual update on UNEP's strengthened engagement with the private sector through partnerships and collaboration in areas of common interest. <https://bit.ly/2NaWeTK>

Recently Approved Partners on the Partners Portal

1. Siemens Stiftung
2. Covestro Deutschland AG
3. Vulcan Inc.
4. BROAD Air Conditioning
5. Adidas AG
6. Beijing Shouhang IHW Resources Saving Technology Co., Ltd
7. Iberdrola, S.A.
8. ADEC Innovations Corporation
9. Coöperative Circle Economy U.A.
10. Kishugu Holdings Limited

Support to GEO for Business

The Private Sector Unit collaborates with the Global Environmental Outlook Unit (Science Division) in the development of business briefs and a brochure for GEO for Business.

We aim to deliver business briefs that will help to stimulate private sector to act towards the challenges expressed in the GEO-6 report. We also support the organization of the monthly Steering Committee meetings.

Programme Manual and Project Documents

We are happy to report that engagement with private sector is now embedded in the Programme Manual and Project Documents for the submission of new projects proposals.

Upcoming events

1. *Special session at [World Economic Forum](#), 21 January 2020 in Davos, Switzerland*

Theme: Connecting People and Nature Dialogue on Regenerative Agriculture and Investing in Nature-Based Solutions.

UNEP, UN Office in Geneva (SDG Lab), Business-for-Nature, and the Nature4Climate Coalition are working together to organize an action-oriented and interactive event in Davos. The event aims to leverage the value of a multi-stakeholder dialogue which will bring together top-level expertise from the UN, governments, businesses and civil society groups. This key topic will focus on agroecology, regenerative agriculture and agroforestry/silvopasture; exploring new frontiers in soil carbon sequestration/drawdown, soil health, net-zero-emission farming and co-benefits for water quality, biodiversity and management of human and animal health risks.

2. The Private sector Unit will contribute to the Business and Biodiversity Forum which will take place during the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) to be held in October 2020 in Kunming, China.

Contact us:

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