



## Contribution of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

### on ‘Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’

*This paper provides the contribution of the One Planet network, that implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, in response to the request made by the President of the Economic and Social Council in February 2020.*

Nature is sending us a message with the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis<sup>1</sup>. Human beings are increasing the pressure on the natural world with accelerating consequences, and failure to act is failing humanity. Economic resilience and restoration may be found via sustainable green and blue economies. We can re-build our economies in better, more sustainable ways.

With just ten years to go to deliver on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, shifting the global economy to sustainable consumption and production during this Decade for Action is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The unsustainable practices of consumption and production that prevail throughout much of the world today are a key driver of the three major environmental crises we are currently facing: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These three environmental crises pose a serious threat to the wellbeing and prosperity of all people, and put at risk the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the materials and resources upon which our societies, economies and nations are built, and upon which our livelihoods, families and communities depend. The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved if we continue these unsustainable practices of consumption and production.

The political declaration adopted during the 2019 SDG summit and the Global Sustainable Development Report set out clear pathways with calls for action to achieve Agenda 2030. These provide an opportunity to materialise and further define measures to ensure accelerated action and transformative pathways for realising the Decade of Action. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and its One Planet network places particular emphasis on aspects related to Sustainable Development Goal 12, in accordance with its role as the SDG 12 implementation mechanism and expertise. Accordingly, particular attention has been given to contributing to the calls to action in relation to the entry points on sustainable and just economies, including on achieving a global decoupling of GDP growth from the overuse of environmental resources; on the transition to Sustainable Food Systems and nutrition patterns, including the need to address the entire value chain related to food consumption; and, on the global environmental commons including the need to assess environmental externalities and change the patterns of use through pricing, transfers, regulations and other mechanisms; as well as the calls to action on science and partnership for sustainable development.

This input of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production summarises the critical gaps and opportunities to accelerate action on SDG 12 and identifies related measures to accelerate action and transformative pathways for realising the Decade of Action.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/25/coronavirus-nature-is-sending-us-a-message-says-un-environment-chief>

## 1. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

### a) Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the intergovernmental body (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)

SDG 12 is on a long-term trend in the wrong direction<sup>2</sup>. Indicators under SDG targets 12.2 and 8.4 on material footprint and domestic material consumption continue to rise at the global level, showing that the rate at which materials are being extracted globally is outpacing both population and economic growth<sup>3</sup>. In a business as usual scenario, GDP will continue to grow at an average rate of 2.2% per year to reach 216 trillion USD by 2060. This would require a 110% increase in global resource extraction (to 190 billion tonnes).

Globally, we continue to use ever-increasing amounts of natural resources to support our economic activity and the efficiency with which resources are used remains unchanged, therefore we have not yet seen decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation<sup>4</sup>. Indicators under SDG targets 12.2 and 8.4 on material footprint (materials extracted throughout global supply chains to meet the importing country’s demand) and domestic material consumption (materials being used within a country) continue to rise at the global level and are projected to increase significantly in the long term<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the use of natural resources and the related benefits and environmental impacts are unevenly distributed across countries and regions<sup>6</sup>. Perpetuating current modes of production and consumption, and the current levels of inequality associated with them, threatens the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda<sup>7</sup>.

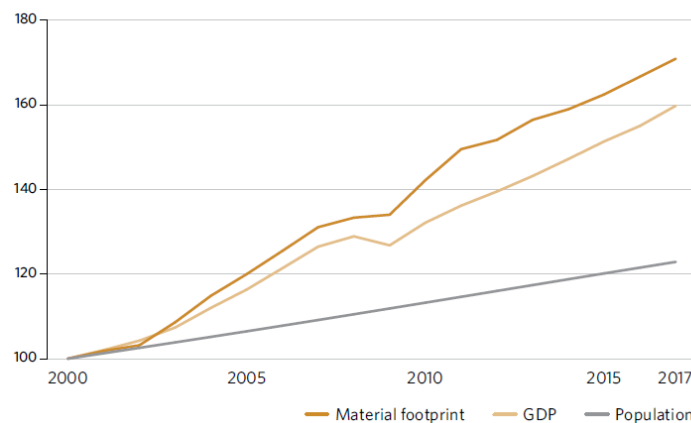


Figure I: Population, material footprint and GDP growth index, 2000-2017 (baseline 2000= 100)  
Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2019

Whilst global trends on SDG targets 12.2 and 8.4 are clear; the related implications of this evidence are not always available to the relevant stakeholders in clear language, or in a way that relates to their needs and is contextualised to their sectors and countries. The complex data on material flows and footprint, and the

<sup>2</sup> [Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019](#)

<sup>4</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019

<sup>5</sup> Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development

<sup>6</sup> [Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want.](#)

<sup>7</sup> Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development



globalised framing of their dynamics, inhibits its use in relevant and actionable ways. Furthermore, the overall monitoring of SDG 12 implementation is falling behind, as it is one of the Goals with the highest percentage of indicators still classified as Tier III - namely 33% as of December 2019. This means that either the indicators' methodology is still under development or that they are yet to be consistently tracked by countries. This highlights a clear information gap in assessing the challenges, measuring the progress, and identifying the most appropriate solutions to achieve this Goal.

## **b) Priority measures to accelerate action and ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda**

### **Reversing SDG12's negative trend requires transforming how we use and manage natural resources in our socio-economic systems...**

by both addressing the drivers of unsustainable consumption and production, while also putting in place the building blocks for new alternatives to take root. Most of these drivers and new alternatives are of a socio-economic nature, evidencing the need to address the use of natural resources, and the full cost of their related impacts and negative externalities, through national financial plans and economic policy instruments. Data on SCP policies reported in 2019 under SDG indicator 12.1.1 indicates the acknowledgment of the socio-economic nature of SDG 12. Seventy per cent of the total number of reported policy instruments are considered relevant to other SDGs with socioeconomic objectives, including SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth. Despite the relevance of policy instruments to SDGs with socioeconomic objectives, only 10% of reported policies are led by the Ministry of Economic Development, Financing, Planning or Trade and Industry or by a high-level political body. This is illustrated both by macro-policies and by sectoral policies, whereby for instance only three out of twenty-five policies on sustainable public procurement are led by ministries with economic and financial portfolios. This signals a siloed approach mostly driven within environmental portfolios through standalone SCP action plans and sectoral policies. Similarly, the economic and social dimensions are not reflected in the targets and impacts of the reported policies under SDG 12.1.1. This suggests a disconnect between the goals of policies, and their means of implementation and measurement. A shift to addressing SDG 12 in national economic plans, financial policy instruments and national budgets – rather than in environment portfolios – is crucial. It would enable the integration of natural resources and the full costs of their related impacts and negative externalities in these economic policies and instruments.

### **Resource-intensive sectors are levers for change...**

While integrating SDG 12 more systematically in economic planning and discussions, it is equally important to prioritise and contextualise recommended measures, through sectors and hotspots of key value chains. At a global level, on average, the sectors of Agriculture, Food and Construction accounted for nearly 70% of the world's total material footprint in 2015. Changing the way in which we produce and consume food, and the way in which we build, both have the potential to be real game changers on resource use and beyond.

Globally, the food sector is a dominant user of our natural resources<sup>8</sup>. Unsustainable agricultural production consumes a large share of the world's available fresh water, and has contributed to widespread deforestation, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and conversion of natural habitat. The current focus on food production is not solving food systems issues: despite the fact that the world is currently producing enough food to feed its entire population, over 800 million people go hungry<sup>9</sup> and two billion are

<sup>8</sup> Food Systems and Natural Resources, 2016. International Resource Panel, UNEP.

<sup>9</sup> The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building Resilience for Peace and Food Security. FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO and UNICEF



malnourished, lacking the essential nutrients they need to lead healthy lives. Food losses and waste around the world account for up to 30 percent of the total global food production<sup>10</sup>, adding to food insecurity, wasted natural resources, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. With an estimated fifty percent increase in food production by 2050<sup>11</sup> and in the context of a finite and shrinking resource base, food systems will need to deliver an increased productivity while utilising natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Sustainable food systems have been highlighted as one of the six entry points for transformation by the global sustainable development report, which includes a call for action on taking responsibility for the entire value chain related to food consumption<sup>12</sup>. Food systems needs to broaden its boundaries beyond primary production and include efficiencies along the whole food chain, along with promotion of sustainable practices and diets<sup>13</sup>. This includes reducing food loss and waste which will require new technologies in harvesting, transportation and storage, as well as enhanced trade patterns and changes in consumer behaviour<sup>14</sup>.

The building sector consumes 12% of freshwater and 30% of raw material and it generates as much as 40% of landfill waste globally<sup>15</sup>. Non-metallic minerals alone (40.4 billion metric tons), mainly used for infrastructure and construction projects, accounted for almost half of the global material footprint in 2017<sup>16</sup>. Furthermore, buildings and construction sector accounted for 36% of final energy use and 39% of energy and process-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2018. Eleven percent of these emissions resulted from manufacturing building materials and products such as steel, cement and glass<sup>17</sup> - making the building sector the single most significant industry in terms of emissions. With the building stock set to double by 2050, emissions, energy and resource consumption of the sector are set to increase. Recent research<sup>18</sup> also shows that the achievement of 17% of the SDG targets is directly dependent on a transformation of the building and construction sector.

However, many solutions exist to implement resource efficiency in this sector to generate multiple benefits. For example, GHG emissions from the material cycle of residential buildings in the G7 and China could be reduced by at least 80 % in 2050 through a set of material efficiency strategies<sup>19</sup>. Furthermore, as ‘the world needs more than \$40 trillion in new and upgraded infrastructure between 2005 and 2030, and much of this investment will be directed to cities in developing countries’<sup>20</sup>; this presents a substantial opportunity to build more resource efficient and sustainable infrastructure.

### **Transformative pathways to realise the Decade of Action require innovative partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaborations...**

across governments, local authorities, businesses, civil society, scientific organisations and international organisations. Such partnerships are essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Whilst these partnerships are taking shape, the Global Sustainable Development Report also highlights that it is “necessary to radically rethink partnerships between science, government, the private sector, civil society and more”.

Building multi-stakeholder partnerships requires time, effort and resources. Investment in the initial phases of the partnership is critical to build trust and relationships, ensure ownership and a strong engagement of

<sup>10</sup> Energy-smart food for people and climate. Issue paper. 2011. FAO

<sup>11</sup> The future of food and agriculture — Trends and challenges. 2017. FAO

<sup>12</sup> Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development

<sup>13</sup> Collaborative framework for Food Systems transformation: a multi-stakeholder pathway, 2019. UNEP

<sup>14</sup> Parfitt, Julian, Mark Barthel and Sarah Macnaughton. Food waste within food supply chains: quantification and potential for change to 2050. *Philosophical transactions of the royal society B: biological sciences*, vol. 365, No. 1554

<sup>15</sup> Shaping the future of construction. A breakthrough in mindset and technology. 2016. World Economic Forum

<sup>16</sup> Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want.

<sup>17</sup> Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction, 2019. Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction

<sup>18</sup> Sherif Goubran, On the role of construction in achieving the SDGs, *Journal of Sustainability Research*. 2019

<sup>19</sup> Resource Efficiency and Climate Change. 2020. International Resource Panel, UNEP.

<sup>20</sup> Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development



partners, while laying the foundation for a successful implementation. Rethinking and reshaping the existing partnerships which have made significant investments in the initial phases of development is critical to the ambitious timeframe for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development. International organisations and the UN development system have a key role to play in strengthening, rethinking and brokering these diverse partnerships.

## 2. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)

The One Planet network implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and is an implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12: ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. As a global, multi-stakeholder partnership comprising national and local governments, civil society, businesses, scientific and technical organisations and international organisations, the One Planet network leads the shift to sustainable consumption and production by setting the agenda and raising awareness on sustainable consumption and production, and providing tools, knowledge and solutions to deliver on Goal 12. The One Planet network provides a platform for collaboration and scaling up of action through more than 700 partners. Through its six accelerator programmes – Sustainable Public Procurement, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Food Systems, Consumer Information, and Sustainable Lifestyles and Education - the One Planet network fosters integrated and systemic approaches to support the implementation of SCP policies and actions, engaging governments, UN agencies, private sector and civil society.

The One Planet network is well placed to respond to leverage and support the resource-intensive sectors of Agriculture, Food & Beverage, and Construction through its programmes on Sustainable Food Systems and on Sustainable Buildings and Construction. Those programmes are reinforced by a cross-cutting approach supported by the programmes on consumer information, tourism, lifestyles and public procurement. Almost one in five (19%) policy instruments, tools, solutions and other activities reported by the One Planet network in 2019 were associated with these two high-material footprint sectors. Furthermore, it is fundamental that in addressing SDG targets 12.2 and 8.4 countries consider not only their production footprint, but also their consumption levels and related footprints along global value chains.

**To support the identified priority on food systems,** the One Planet network is addressing the following:

1. ***Successfully advocating for the adoption of a food-systems approach.*** The Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet network has been instrumental in ensuring that the ‘food-systems approach’ is taken up across various food and agriculture fora. At UNEA 4, the resolution on *Curbing Food Loss and Waste* (UNEP/EA.4/RES.2) recognised the Sustainable Food Systems programme as an inclusive initiative to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems. UNEP was requested to collaborate with FAO in assisting Member States to implement this resolution through this programme. Following these same lines, the General Assembly resolution on *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition* (A/RES/74/242) highlights the need to transition towards sustainable food systems and references the Sustainable Food Systems programme as an inclusive initiative to accelerate this needed transition. The ‘food-systems approach’ has also previously been endorsed by the FAO’s Committee on Agriculture, which recognised the urgent need to achieve the environmentally, socially and economically sustainable transformation of our food systems, and citing the Sustainable Food Systems programme and a





need for a multi-stakeholder approach. The increased importance of the ‘food systems approach’ is further highlighted by the announcement of the UN Secretary General that a UN Food Systems Summit will be convened in 2021.

2. ***Shifting consumption norms to support sustainable food systems.*** The Sustainable Food Systems programme of the One Planet network defined a call to action as a result of its 2nd Global Conference *Good Food for People and the Planet* in 2019. This call to action includes strongly consumption oriented priorities such as a call to promote context-specific and holistic policies including incentives and disincentives for sustainable consumption and production (labelling, taxes, subsidies, etc); to leverage the potential of public procurement to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems; to promote behavioural change and consumer awareness, and to encourage a shift towards healthier and more sustainable food value-chains together with the private sector. Further to this, the UN agencies in the programmes of the One Planet network are intending to join forces on ‘shifting consumption norms to support sustainable food systems’ (FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNWTO). This initiative aims to mainstream food consumption issues across food and agriculture projects by conducting a mapping of institutional priorities, identifying opportunities to complete the food systems approach by addressing food consumption and co-developing and advisory package.
3. ***The UN Food Systems Summit*** to be convened in 2021 is a key opportunity to accelerate the shift to Sustainable Food Systems and to address action on the entire value chain related to food consumption. The Sustainable Food Systems programme of the One Planet network has welcomed the announcement and will actively engage to ensure coordination, including on the programme’s calls to action.

**To support the identified priority on Buildings and Construction,** the One Planet network is addressing the following:

1. ***Prioritising focus areas.*** The Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme has prioritised two thematic focus areas: a) affordable and resilient built environment, b) responsibly sourced materials in circular built environments. The programme also developed a methodology for country assessment to support implementation and replication of the results in partner countries.
2. ***Engaging UN country teams in transforming the buildings and construction sector by mainstreaming resource efficiency using a lifecycle approach.*** The UN agencies in the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme are intending to join forces to develop an advocacy package to mainstream resource efficiency in the buildings and construction sector. The package will focus, a) Locally adapted designs and sustainably sourced materials, b) Consumption strategies: meeting building stock demand with a lower resource footprint and extending the service life of buildings, and c) Public Procurement: a lever for market transformation in the buildings and construction sector. The package will emphasise policies and strategies that integrate and support the SDGs and lead to culture change across the industry. The initiative will engage UN country teams given their central role in supporting governments in the implementation of the SDGs and in view of the importance of the buildings and construction sector for the 2030 Agenda and national commitments made under the Paris Agreement.

**To address the data and information gap on SDG 12,** the One Planet network is addressing the following:

1. ***Strengthening the science-policy-society interface on management of natural resources and raw material.*** As highlighted above, whilst global trends on SDG 12 are clear; the related implications of this evidence are not always available to the relevant stakeholders in clear language, or in a way

that relates to their needs and is contextualised to their sectors and countries. To address this and respond to Member States' requests at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1), a task group has been established to provide science-based insights on the management of natural resources and raw material in relation to Agenda 2030. Key points of intervention on resource use across value-chains in the resource-intensive sectors of Construction, Agri-Food and Textiles will be identified. This task group is comprised of researchers and experts of the International Resource Panel, and government, business and civil society representatives of the One Planet network.

2. ***Streamlining SDG 12 reporting.*** The methodology and data gap on SDG 12 presents an opportunity to engage in a coordinated and streamlined approach for the related indicators and reporting processes. The custodian UN agencies of the SDG 12 indicators (UNEP, FAO, UNWTO and UNESCO) have collaboratively developed a concept for an SDG 12 Hub. The SDG 12 Hub is conceptualised as a one-stop-shop, offering access to all official reporting, meta data, guidance material, information and solutions for SDG 12 in one place. It is also envisaged that the platform will link to other relevant data tools and platforms, including the World Environment Situation Room and the material footprint databases, providing direct access to SCP related scientific indicators and data.

### **Delivering on SDG 12: the need for a strong partnership across the UN Development System**

The UN development system has a key role in supporting countries in delivering on the 2030 Agenda, and in particular in supporting those Goals that are lagging behind or are on a trend in the negative direction, such as SDG 12. The magnitude of the task that has been set on Goal 12 requires strong partnership across the UN development system. Each agency brings complementary expertise and skills to the various facets of sustainable consumption and production and SDG 12. The UN development reform presents opportunities to strengthen the coherence of the UN support on SDG 12 in particular concerning: the development of strategic UN system-wide approach, the new UN sustainable development cooperation frameworks as the main strategic instrument to respond to national needs and priorities, and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system which will ensure a strengthened coherence and coordination of the UN system in support of the SDGs.

The UN Agencies of the One Planet network identified in 2018 the following points to strengthen the interagency effort: i) mainstream SDG 12 in the UN Development System, ii) strengthen in-country support and coordination; iii) facilitate the streamlining of efforts to monitor progress on SDG 12 targets and indicators; iv) place SDG 12 on the agenda of UN agencies at the highest levels; and v) establish a One Planet multi-partner trust fund for SDG 12<sup>21</sup>.

Efforts are on-going to implement these five points, including with the conceptualization of the SDG 12 Hub, the establishment of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on SDG 12, and the organisation of an initial high-level meeting focused on inter-agency cooperation of SDG 12.

Whilst these efforts are underway, it is also clear that reversing current negative trends on SDG 12 will require the UN development system to dramatically step-up its support to SDG 12. The establishment of a dedicated UN interagency coordination mechanism on SDG 12 at UN Executive Heads level is recommended to strengthen the coherence of the UN system's support to deliver on SDG 12.

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<sup>21</sup> [One UN for One Planet](#): Inputs to the review of sustainable development goal 12. 2018. One Planet network

### 3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realising the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.

Building on the identified critical gaps and opportunities, as well as on the expertise and contribution of the 10-Year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, the following recommendations are put forward to accelerate progress and move on transformative pathways for realising the decade of action:

1. **Tackle SDG 12 with a strengthened and concerted approach at the highest level within the UN System through a dedicated UN task force established by the UN Secretary General.** SDG 12 is on a long-term trend in the wrong direction, showing that the rate at which materials are being extracted globally is outpacing population and economic growth. Perpetuating current modes of production and consumption, and the current levels of inequality associated to them, threatens the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda. In supporting countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, there is a need for the UN Development System to significantly step-up its support to and coordination on SDG 12.
2. **Reversing SDG 12's negative trend requires transforming how we use and manage natural resources in our socio-economic systems.** SDG 12 is traditionally considered an “environmental goal”, while production and consumption are central to our economies and natural resources underpin our socio-economic system. A shift to addressing SDG 12 in national economic plans, financial policy instruments and national budgets – rather than in environment portfolios – is crucial, together with measures to ensure a socially equitable transition. It would enable the integration of natural resources and the full costs of their related impacts and negative externalities in these economic policies and instruments.
3. **Prioritise and contextualise recommended measures on SDG 12 through resource-intensive sectors and related value chains.** At a global level, on average, the sectors of Agriculture, Food and Construction accounted for nearly 70% of the world's total material footprint in 2015. Changing the way in which we produce and consume food, and the way in which we build, both have the potential to be real game changers on resource use and beyond.
  - a) **Shift consumption norms to support sustainable food systems** including by mainstreaming food consumption issues across food and agriculture initiatives, leveraging the potential of public procurement, establishing a common ground on sustainability information, addressing food waste and promoting behavioural change and consumer awareness. The UN Food Systems Summit is a key opportunity to accelerate the shift to Sustainable Food Systems and to address action related to food consumption.
  - b) **Transform the buildings and construction sector by mainstreaming resource efficiency using a lifecycle approach.** Further to its material footprint, the sector is key for the implementation of 2030 Agenda and national commitments made under the Paris Agreement. While major transformations are necessary in the buildings and construction sector; the projected doubling of the building stock presents a substantial opportunity to build more resource efficient and sustainable infrastructure.
4. **Strengthen the science-policy-society interface on natural resources and material flows.** Whilst global trends on SDG 12 are clear, the related implications of this evidence are not always available to the relevant stakeholders in clear language, or in a way that relates to their needs and is contextualised to their sectors and countries. The complex data on material flows and footprint, and the globalised framing of their dynamics, requires significant investments to identify key points of intervention and hotspots on resource use within different sectors and value-chains.