

Establishment of a strategic partnership and plan of cooperation 2025 between the International Resource Panel and European Environment Agency

I. Introduction

The International Resource Panel (IRP) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) confirm intention to establish a Strategic Partnership. The Plan of Cooperation is set for 2024-2025 and stipulates initial areas for collaboration between IRP and EEA to increase credibility, visibility, as well as collective impact. The Plan of Cooperation will be renewed in 2025 to account for the next IRP strategy unless otherwise agreed upon by IRP and EEA. Section VI of this document outlines key areas of collaboration and joint activities to be undertaken in 2024-2025.

II. Objective

The main objective of Plan of Cooperation is to collaborate in the development and dissemination of knowledge and science-based policy options for the sustainable use and management of natural resources. IRP and EEA will work together to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable resource management and mainstream the natural resources perspective in relevant global, regional and/or national policy fora.

III. Strategic Partnership

As a strategic partner of the IRP, EEA will contribute to the work of the IRP in accordance with the principles included in paragraph 4 of the IRP Policies and Procedures¹. This can be done by supporting the development and dissemination of IRP publications, enhancing its policy and academic impact, and/or creating synergies with other relevant stakeholders. EEA may attend IRP biannual meetings and provide input and recommendations to its work.

IV. Collaboration modalities

1. Knowledge development

Knowledge development activities will focus on the development of strategic content, either jointly or in supporting roles and may include:

- Peer review of relevant IRP/EEA reports.
- Preparation of joint documents or tools such as articles, think pieces, infographics, among others.
- Participation in IRP/EEA working groups to develop scientific assessments or other products.

¹ Paragraph 4 of IRP Policies and Procedures reads:

The work of the IRP is guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Policy relevance.* The IRP provides scientific knowledge and science-based policy options in a nonprescriptive manner responding to requests from its Steering Committee as well as from intergovernmental bodies including the United Nations Environment Assembly, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other institutions as deemed relevant and appropriate by the Steering Committee.
- (b) *Independence.* Panel members carry out their research with impartiality; Steering Committee members provide input to IRP scientists so as to enhance policy relevance without compromising the independent nature of the research.
- (c) *Inclusiveness.* The IRP aims at striking and maintaining a balanced and diverse composition of the Panel, Steering Committee and Working Groups in terms of expertise, gender, and regional representation.
- (d) *Objectivity.* The IRP undertakes critical, unbiased studies and assessments of best available science, follows robust methodologies and peer review processes, and ensures open and transparent decision-making processes.
- (e) *Integrity.* Panel members maintain the integrity of the scientific process and avert any conflicts of interest as per Annex II of this document.

- Participation in IRP/EEA substantive meetings to provide input.
- Support in call for experts.

2. Outreach and dissemination

IRP and EEA may support each other's dissemination and/or training events; co-organize events; and disseminate each other's work where relevant through social media platforms and at internal events, among others.

V. Focal Points

The following are the focal points for the coordination of this Plan of Cooperation:

From IRP:

Merlyn van Voore, Head, International Resource Panel Secretariat
Hala Razian, Programme Management Officer, International Resource Panel Secretariat

From EEA:

Daniel Montalvo, Head of Unit, European Environment Agency
Peder Jensen, Expert, Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency

VI. Areas of collaboration and Activities

The Parties have agreed to collaborate across the work areas of the IRP with a primary focus on the following areas:

- a. Resource budgets / science-based targets
- b. Bioresources and biodiversity
- c. Measuring circularity and governance models
- d. Scenarios and solution pathways

Table 1 provides a list of these proposed areas of collaboration and key activities, structured along the lines of the four High-Impact Priority Areas (HIPA) of the 2022-2025 IRP work programme. IRP and EEA may add or change these areas as needed and based on written (email) communications. The results of the collaboration will be discussed at the end of each year to ensure effectiveness and impact.

Date

27 March 2025



Merlyn Van Voore

Head

International Resource Panel Secretariat



Leena Yla-Mononen

Executive Director

European Environment Agency

Table 1: Proposed Areas of Collaboration		
HIPA	Description	Activities
1. Current trends and future prospects for global resource use and sustainable resource management	The IRP is undertaking the following studies: ✓ Global Material Flows Database (updates) ✓ Rapid assessment on science-based targets. ✓ Global Resources Outlook 2024 (GRO24) ✓ Scenario Modelling of Integrated Natural Resource Use (ongoing) EEA is developing its State and Outlook for the Environment 2025 report as a recurrent reporting on European environment. The assessments in this report is broader and more detailed than the content of GRO24, but also more regionally specific to Europe. As such it forms a good background for work undertaken by IRP and can help inform the process towards the next Global Resources Outlook (2027/2028).	✓ Cross-referencing in publications ✓ Participation in peer reviews ✓ Reciprocal social media support and outreach ✓ EEA is working with its network of countries (EIONET) to develop national factsheets based on the data underpinning the GRO24. ✓ EEA has an interest in interacting with the team which will eventually develop the follow up to GRO24 with the aim of sharing the experience EEA gained in participating in the development of GRO24 where the former ED (Hans Bruyninckx) of EEA was the lead coordinating author. This may, or may not happen within this strategy period of IRP. ✓ EEA can serve as a bridge to work undertaken by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on the Raw Materials Information System. ✓ Further opportunities may arise once the 2025 work program for EEA is finalized.
2. Sustainable resource management for effective action on climate change, biodiversity and pollution	The IRP is undertaking the following studies: ✓ Advancing the Circular Economy in Consumer Electronic Markets ✓ IRP Co-Chair Opinion Piece: Resource Efficiency and Climate Change (German Environment Ministry, G7) ✓ Follow-up Co-Chair Opinion Piece: Building Biodiversity ✓ Sustainable Resource Management solutions in urban provisioning systems ✓ Sustainable Resource Management solutions in key value chains, including for low-carbon technology EEA has a large body of work covering Climate Change both on the mitigation and on the adaptation side. EEA is responsible for aggregating European data on emissions and reporting (via the European Commission) to UN. EEA furthermore hosts the EU Advisory Board on Climate Change which provide input to EU Climate Policy development.	✓ Cross-referencing in publications ✓ Participation in peer reviews ✓ Reciprocal social media support and outreach ✓ Provide input to the IRP report on Advancing the Circular Economy in Consumer Electronic Markets. ✓ Further opportunities may arise once the 2025 work program for EEA is finalized.

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3. Sustainable resource management for effective action on human health, wellbeing, prosperity, and equity	The IRP is undertaking the following study: ✓ Socio-economic implications of enhancing resource efficiency and promoting circular economy ✓ Socio-economic/distributional implications of sustainability transition ✓ Natural resources, human health, and well-being EEA is developing work around transitions and innovation in and EU context which may be of interest to ongoing work at IRP.	✓ Cross-referencing in publications ✓ Participation in peer reviews ✓ Reciprocal social media support and outreach ✓ Further opportunities may arise once the 2025 work program for EEA is finalized.
4. Enabling sustainability transitions	Both the IRP and EEA are interested in assessing frameworks to provide options for a transition to more sustainable socio-economic systems. The IRP is undertaking the following studies: ✓ Financing the Extractive Industry to Contribute to the Achievement of the SDGs ✓ Governing Sustainability Transitions in a Resource Dependent World ✓ Trade and transboundary resource use ✓ Business model, digital & other technological innovations for sustainability transitions ✓ Options for sustainable resource management EEA is developing work on the financing of transitions and of the European Green Deal. This may be of interest for ongoing work at IRP.	✓ Cross-referencing in publications ✓ Participation in peer reviews ✓ Reciprocal social media support and outreach ✓ Further opportunities may arise once the 2025 work program for EEA is finalized.