



**UNEP Finance Initiative**  
Innovative financing for sustainability



Outline of current UNEP FI Working Groups, Task Forces,  
and Projects, including major activities planned for 2007

**UNEP FI 2007 at a Glance**

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## **Introduction**

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The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique public-private partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the financial sector.

### **Mission**

“To identify, promote, and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations”

### **Background**

The idea of gathering financial institutions around environmental issues in the form of a collaborative platform within UNEP materialised in 1991, when a small group of commercial banks joined forces with UNEP to catalyse the banking industry’s awareness of the environmental agenda. In May 1992, the UNEP Financial Institutions Initiative was established, followed by the UNEP Insurance Industry Initiative in 1995. Both Initiatives were merged into the current, joint, Finance Initiative in 2003, following the first joint Annual General Meeting of the Initiatives that was held in October 2003.

Today, UNEP FI is the largest global voluntary partnership of its kind, with over 170 Signatories to the UNEP FI Statements. Members include banks, insurance companies, fund managers and other categories of financial institutions, all working together to understand the links between sustainable development considerations and financial services, in order to maximise mutual positive impacts.

### **Work Streams**

UNEP FI’s strategic work programme focuses on current and emerging issues that are relevant to its members in the field of sustainability. UNEP FI workstreams are formed and driven by Signatories seeking to implement UNEP FI’s mission in areas of common interest. They provide a platform for Signatories to work collectively in advancing dialogue, establishing innovative approaches and determining best practice in areas such as asset management, insurance, reporting, property investment and development, and for issues such as climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services, human rights, and water scarcity.

### **Regional Task Forces**

In addition to the business-specific and issue-oriented workstreams, as a global initiative, UNEP FI has five Regional Task Forces. Similar to the workstreams, Regional Task Forces are forums to advance best practice, but are focused on the specific environmental, social and economic priorities of the regions in which they are based. Regional Task Forces and Working Groups advance in synchrony, the outputs of the Working Groups are often disseminated to the regions, and regional best practice is often considered by Working Groups.

## **UNEP FI Secretariat**

UNEP FI's annual work programme is coordinated by a Geneva-based Secretariat. These programmes and activities are determined in consultation with the Steering Committee and formally approved at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Head of Unit**

Paul Clements-Hunt

### **For further information, please**

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## **UNEP FI Steering Committee**

UNEP FI is governed by an elected Steering Committee comprising 13 Signatories and one UNEP representative.

### **Chair**

Westpac Banking Corporation: Martin Hancock

### **UNEP Representative**

Sylvie Lemmet, Director, Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE)

### **Signatory Representatives**

Barclays: Chris Bray

Deutsche Bank: Michael Hölz

### **Working Group Representatives**

**Asset Management** – Calvert Group: Steve Falci

HSBC Investments: Xavier Desmadryl

**Climate Change** – Allianz Dresdner: Armin Sandhövel

**Insurance** – AXA: Catherine Boiteux-Pelletier;

Insurance Australia Group: Pauline Gregg

**Property** – Caisse des Depots: Jean-Pierre Sicard

PRUPIM: Paul McNamara

### **Regional Task Force Representatives**

**Africa** – Banking Council of South Africa: Cas Coovadia

**Asia Pacific** – Japan Bank of International Cooperation: Katsuhiko Okazaki

**Central & Eastern Europe** – European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Mark King

**Latin America** – ABN AMRO: Chris Wells

**North America** – Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce: Sandra Odendahl

\*Western Europe is set up as a forum instead of a regional task force.

### **Observer**

Standard Chartered: Robert Tacon (responsible for financial matters)

## Signatory Relations

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### AIM

To provide all UNEP FI Signatories with the necessary support to reap the full benefits of membership to the Initiative. Signatory Relations recognises the importance of developing sustainable relationships with its members and endeavours to create lasting values through a win-win approach. It plays a key role in actively engaging Signatories in UNEP FI's activities, as well as in attracting new members.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Promote exchange and networking among Signatories by providing day-to-day liaison services and by organising special thematic and/or regional events;
- Raise funds to meet the financial requirements of UNEP FI's Work Streams and Task Forces;
- Maintain regular and interactive contact with Signatories, sustained by a steady and timely flow of information updates;
- Respond to UNEP FI Signatory queries regarding UNEP FI activities and procedures;
- Communicate and liaise with key partners such as financial associations;
- Compile and disseminate information on UNEP FI activities such as:
  - UNEP FI at a Glance
  - Information Packages
- Research and identify potential Signatories and engage new members.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Further expand the funding base – target for 2007 will move up to \$1,533,000;
- Focus on existing signatories by offering an excellent customer service in order for them to be able to maximise their membership within UNEP FI;
- Marketing campaign to get more Signatories;
- Focus on membership enlargement in China, India, the Middle East and Nigeria;
- Consolidate outreach activities in regions not currently covered by the regional Task Forces;
- Develop partnerships – associations, governmental agencies and civil society groups.

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## **Communications**

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### **AIM**

To provide all stakeholders, including UNEP FI Signatories, with up-to-date information on the goings-on in the finance and sustainability field in general, and within UNEP FI in particular. The team plays a key role in actively engaging financial institutions (FIs) and other stakeholders in UNEP FI's activities and endeavours.

### **MAIN ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES**

#### **Publications & Newsletters**

The communications team supports UNEP FI's Working Groups, Projects and Regional Task Forces in the output of their publications and is directly responsible for producing UNEP FI's regular publications:

- UNEP FI Annual Overview
- UNEP FI biannual newsletter: 0.618...
- UNEP FI monthly E-bulletin

#### **Online Services**

- UNEP FI Website – news, resources and information on UNEP FI activities and publications;
- Signatory extranet – management of the Signatories-only feature on the UNEP FI website;
- Attending general queries regarding UNEP FI.

#### **Events & Media/External Relations**

- Coordination of media relations (press releases and conferences);
- Research and identification of potential public and civil society partners.

#### **SECRETARIAT**

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## UNEP FI Global Roundtable

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The Global Roundtable is the flagship event for UNEP FI and is a tradition which was started over a decade ago with the establishment of the new UNEP Initiatives. The event, which is held on a biannual basis, has expanded through the years and taken place across the globe from Chicago to Frankfurt, from Rio de Janeiro to Tokyo and, the 2005 event, was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In 2007 the Global Roundtable is heading to Melbourne, Australia, where UNEP FI will be working alongside the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria in preparation for the event as our main partner in the region. The overarching theme for the Melbourne Roundtable will be: "Sustainable finance for today's global markets", and at the heart of the discussions is the challenge for the financial services sector of how to move from "Awareness to Action".

The UNEP FI Roundtable aims to:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among UNEP FI Signatories, associates and leading financial professionals from around the world;
- Help decision makers to anticipate the future by identifying the challenges and opportunities in a global and sustainable context;
- Interact with colleagues in the finance industry and meet likeminded groups from around the world;
- Present a platform to address your target audience directly and foster closer contacts with potential customers and decisions makers.

This year's Roundtable will again offer a cutting-edge programme and explore in-depth the complex arena where finance, insurance, investment and capital markets meet with the sustainability agenda. In addition, UNEP FI will be bringing together its vibrant global network of Regional Task Forces and partner organizations to inform and explore the latest developments with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region and the emerging markets of China, India and South East-Asia. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit: <http://www.uneppi.org/melbourne>

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## Asset Management Working Group

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### AIM

To drive the integration of environment, social and governance (ESG) issues into mainstream investment decision-making and ownership practices

### SPECIFIC GOALS

- Enhance knowledge and quality of information on ESG issues that can affect the performance of investment portfolios
- Engage with members of the investment chain to remove barriers to the mainstreaming of ESG integration
- Advance ESG-inclusive investment processes and promote responsible investment by producing business cases, best practice studies, legal opinions, and other research in collaboration with investment experts, academia and industry organisations

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Report entitled, "Unlocking Value: The Scope for Environmental, Social and Governance Issues in Private Banking"
- Report entitled, "Responsible Investment in Focus: How Leading Public Pension Funds are Meeting the Challenge"
- Study on Responsible Investment Performance and ESG Integration
- Handbook on Responsible Investment by Asset Class
- Outreach and awareness-raising events.

### MEMBERS

ABN AMRO Banco Real Brasil  
 Acuity Investment Management  
 BNP Paribas Asset Management  
 Calvert Group  
 ClearBridge Advisors, SAI  
 Eurizon Capital  
 Groupama Asset Management  
 Henderson Global Investors  
 Hermes Pensions Management  
 HSBC Investments  
 Insight Investment Management  
 Mitsubishi UFJ Trust & Banking Corp.  
 Morley Fund Management  
 Pax World Management Corp.  
 RCM (UK) (Allianz Global Investors)

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# Climate Change Working Group

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## AIM

To engage the financial sector on the risks and opportunities climate change presents and enable it to play a key role in delivering market solutions that mitigate its effects.

## SPECIFIC GOALS

- Identify and communicate the financial sector's role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- Raise awareness of the global and regional challenges of climate change not only within the sector but across all sectors and industries, including policymakers and the public at large;
- Position the financial sector as a credible and proactive partner by catalysing concrete action within the institutions;
- Provide input to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process through support of the Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms – international emissions trading, Joint Implementation (JI) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and other initiatives;
- Continue to develop strategies to overcome political and regulatory barriers, which hinder a more proactive role for the finance industry on climate change issues.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Continued work and support for the e-learning course on climate change and carbon finance (work started in 2006 – course to be launched in June 2007);
- Develop a “Finance Sector Statement on Climate Change” to be launched in time for the G8 Summit in June;
- Meet with the new head of the UNFCCC, Yvo de Boer, to develop greater linkages with the work of the UNFCCC on finance and investment flows into clean energy and technologies;
- Produce a CEO Briefing, to be launched at the UNFCCC Meeting of Parties (MOP) 3/Conference of Parties (COP) 13 in Bali, providing an update on the latest developments in the global carbon markets, specifically an assessment of the first EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) period (which ends 2007) as well as an update on CDM and JI.

## MEMBERS

AXA  
Aviva plc  
Bank of America  
Caisse des Dépôts  
Calvert Group  
Carbon Re  
Development Bank of Japan  
Development Bank of Southern Africa  
Dresdner Bank  
Fortis  
HSBC  
Insurance Australia Group  
Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
Munich Re  
Pax World  
Sustainable Asset Management  
Swiss Re  
UBS AG

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# UNEP FI-GRI Working Group on Performance Indicators

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## AIM

UNEP FI and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) are collaborating to pilot the GRI Financial Services Sector Supplements (Environmental and Social Performance) and to develop the final version of a combined Supplement.

## SPECIFIC GOALS

- Establish a unified sustainability reporting standard for financial institutions through testing, refinement and consolidation of the existing pilot Supplements;
- Develop technical protocols on interpreting the indicators;
- Enhance ease of use for reporters by providing guidance on applying the Supplement;
- Build capacity amongst new reporters, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies;
- Further outreach workshops.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

In 2007, the Working Group will continue to review and finalise the technical protocols, which will then be published for a 90-day public comment phase. A second face-to-face meeting of the Working Group will be held to integrate comments into the protocols and to finish the review and merger of the two indicator sets. Work on the Supplement is foreseen to end in autumn 2007. The Supplement will then undergo approval process within the GRI committees before the final version can be released at the end of 2007.

After the finalisation of the Supplement, the guidance manual for first-time reporters will be developed as well as training material for further outreach activities.

## FINANCIAL SECTOR PILOT GROUP

BCSC Fundacion Social  
BMO Financial Group  
Confederacion Espanola de Cajas de Ahorros (CECA)  
National Australia Bank  
State Street Corporation  
Tapiola  
Vancity & Citizens Bank of Canada  
VicSuper Pty. Ltd.  
Westpac Banking Corporation  
Zurich Kantonalbank

## STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS)  
CoreRatings  
Earthwatch  
Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS)  
FGVSP (Centro de Estudos em Sustentabilidade)  
Friends of the Earth  
Germanwatch

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## Insurance Working Group

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### AIM

To embed sustainability in insurance operations as an integral part of corporate responsibility, to enhance long-term company value, and to contribute to sustainable development

### SPECIFIC GOALS

- Raise awareness on current and emerging sustainability issues
- Promote best practices in sustainability
- Improve knowledge and understanding of environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities
- Embed ESG issues in products, services and core processes
- Support the development of sustainable insurance
- Underpin the vital role of the insurance industry in sustainable development

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Inaugural publication entitled, "Insuring for Sustainability: Why and how the leaders are doing it"
- Study on Microinsurance, Natural Catastrophe Pools/Schemes and Alternative Risk Transfer (ART) Products
- Development of Principles for Sustainable Insurance for the global insurance industry
- Outreach and awareness-raising events.

### MEMBERS

Achmea  
Allianz SE  
American International Group (AIG)  
AXA  
Folksam  
HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
Insurance Australia Group (IAG)  
Interamerican Hellenic Life Insurance Company  
Lloyd's  
MAPFRE  
Munich Reinsurance Company  
Norwich Union (Aviva)  
Storebrand  
Swiss Reinsurance Company  
The Co-operators Group Ltd  
Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.  
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## Property Working Group

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### AIM

To encourage property investment and management practices that achieve the best possible environmental, social and financial goals, as consistent with fiduciary responsibilities.

### SPECIFIC GOALS

- Raise awareness of the importance of Responsible Property Investment (RPI), within the whole investment chain, especially with fund managers;
- Establish the financial case for Responsible Property Investment (RPI): best practice with demonstrated high financial return. Illustrate the financial value of sustainable property investment and management;
- Create a clearing-house, providing a tangible and accessible central source of relevant information on RPI and a network of experts, who people can consult.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Outreach activities, including a PWG presentation at the Green Cities Conference & Expo in Sydney and Green Buildings Asia;
- Study of Responsible Property Investment strategies that bring high financial yield. This project aims to present case studies of environmentally and socially responsible property investment strategies that are financially successful for the investor. Research, case studies, a report and CEO briefing will be prepared with the pro bono assistance of the University of Arizona, for launch at the UNEP FI Global Roundtable 2007;
- PWG will comprise the Steering Committee to develop a Eurosif Real Estate Sector Report highlighting key social and environmental challenges facing the sector;
- Review the Real Estate Chapter of a responsible investment handbook by the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship Institute for Responsible Investment, in collaboration with the AMWG;
- Participation in the preparation of a GRI Real Estate Sector Supplement;
- Collaboration with UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative (SBCI).

### MEMBERS

AXA Real Estate Investment Managers  
France  
Caisse des Dépôts  
Calvert Group  
F&C Property Asset Management  
Hermes Investment Management  
Limited  
Mitsubishi UFJ Trust & Banking  
Morley Fund Management  
PRUPIM  
Sumitomo Trust  
WestLB AG

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# Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

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## AIM

To assist the financial services sector in addressing the challenges arising from the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services

## SPECIAL GOALS

- Raise awareness on the business implications of loss or degradation of ecosystem and the services they provide
- Build the business case for action and provide the financial sector with information and analysis tools for adequate management of ecosystem services
- Open dialogue between financial institutions (both public and private) and policy makers for identifying and acting on areas where the framework conditions under which business operates can be better aligned with ecosystem stewardship

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

**CEO Briefing** on the business case for financial sector engagement in addressing issues related to biodiversity/ecosystem services. This publication aims to:

- Outline how the degradation of ecosystem services translates into risks for business and their financial backers;
- Explore areas of best management practices in addressing issues related biodiversity/ ecosystem as well as identifying various tools and guidelines available to financial institutions through concrete case studies;
- Provide an analysis of best practice among different stakeholders (governments, NGOs, and industry), and how financial institutions fit in to this picture.

**Natural Value Initiative** (a joint project of UNEP FI and Fauna & Flora International) is an international collaboration of financial institutions, NGOs and business schools to pilot a methodology to assess biodiversity risks within the food and drink industry.

The tool aims to:

- Provide a practical tool for financial institutions to evaluate company performance in identifying and addressing biodiversity-related risks;
- Encourage change in business behaviour and greater awareness on managing biodiversity impacts;
- Promote a more standardised approach to valuing the environmental performance of investments;
- Influence investment policies and performance of a range of developed and developing country institutions and clients.

## ADVISORY GROUP

ABN AMRO  
Association Francaise pour Entreprises Privees - AFEP  
Business for Social Responsibility  
Citigroup  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
Development Bank of South Africa  
F&C Asset Management  
Fauna and Flora International  
Forest Trends  
Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa

Insight Investment  
KMPG  
Nedbank  
Nikko Asset Management  
Pax World  
Rabobank Netherlands  
Rio Tinto  
Royal Bank of Canada - Banque Royale  
Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) Group  
The Katoomba Group  
UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

West LB  
Westpac Banking Corporation  
World Resources Institute

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# Human Rights

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## AIM

To de-mystify the language and jargon surrounding the human rights agenda, and clarify how human rights relate to the activities of finance institutions, including those rights linked to environmental sustainability.

## SPECIFIC GOALS

- To develop and maintain an understanding of human rights and how they apply to financial institutions worldwide, so that we are equipped to make responsible decisions within our spheres of influence (e.g. as an employer, provider of financial services, or purchaser of goods and resources);
- To produce internationally applicable guidance for finance sector organisations on identifying and addressing human rights issues relevant to their businesses, highlighting relevant international laws, standards and initiatives, and examples of best practice.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Produce an online human rights “signposting” tool. This will be a “one-stop shop” resource, providing guidance, which will be commercial, feasible, practical and relevant to the finance sector. It will include background information/context and a focus on specific issues relating to i) different industry sectors, and ii) different cultures and geographies; including key questions to assist in impact assessment. The online tool is designed to assist frontline business and client officers in the lending and investment community.
- Publish a CEO Briefing to introduce human rights issues relating to the broader finance sector. The aim of this Briefing is to explain (a) what are human rights, (b) why human rights are relevant to financial institutions, (c) the basic systems and processes that financial institutions should have in place to effectively manage human rights issues. The Briefing will include some short examples to explain/illustrate the issues.

## MEMBERS

ABN AMRO  
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Barclays  
Citigroup  
F&C Asset Management  
Fundacion Social  
Fortis  
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# Principles for Responsible Investment

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## **AIM**

A best-practice framework designed to assist members of the investment community in incorporating environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues into investment decision-making and ownership practices.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) were launched in April 2006. This followed a year-long process with investors and experts convened by then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

An investor initiative supported by the UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, the PRI has more than 220 signatories representing in excess of USD 10 trillion in assets under management. The PRI is governed by a Board made up of investors and representatives from UNEP and the UN Global Compact, and its operations are managed by a Secretariat.

In 2006-07, the Secretariat devoted its time to establishing the PRI's governance and operations. Key areas of activity included recruitment of new signatories, reporting and assessment by signatories, online implementation resources (PRI in Practice) and online tools for investor collaboration (Engagement Clearinghouse). A joint statement of support was issued with the Enhanced Analytics Initiative in order to promote better ESG investment research.

## **OBJECTIVES FOR 2007-08**

In 2007, the Secretariat will seek to consolidate its existing activities. Further resources will be allocated to the development of the Engagement Clearinghouse. In partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency, UNEP FI has begun a two-year project to promote the PRI in emerging markets and developing countries. Another partnership with EPA Victoria will allow development of the PRI in the Oceania region. The PRI is also beginning to develop an Academic network to ensure that cutting edge research is available to practitioners, and that the academic community responds to practitioners needs.

The PRI in Person first annual event was held in Geneva on July 3-4, 2007 with more than 130 attendees.

## **UNEP FI SECRETARIAT FOR PRI**

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### AIM

To create awareness and capacity among the financial community in order to promote a proactive sustainability approach towards water issues – both within the water sector and in the context of businesses downstream.

### SPECIFIC GOALS

- Raise awareness on the business implications, both risks and opportunities, of adverse water-related developments;
- Establish a common framework for financial institutions to identify water-related risks of clients and investments across different sub-sectors and geographies.
- Strengthen the business case for action and provide the financial sector with information and analysis tools for adequate identification and management of water-related risks and opportunities;
- Increase collaboration and partnerships with relevant organisations, from the business and policy side, by co-convening meetings for opening multi-stakeholder dialogues. This will be a critical aspect of deepening understanding of financial institutions' exposure to different areas of water-related risk/opportunity along the supply chain.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Build a set of risk management guidelines for financial institutions in water, as a practical tool for financial institutions to identify and mitigate, as appropriate, their exposure to water-related risk across different sub-sectors.
- In Q1, set up an advisory group of approximately 10 financial institutions to steer the process of agreeing on a methodology for developing the guidelines and to review the draft guidelines at various phases of this process.
- In coordination with the UNEP FI Signatory Relations Team, increase awareness and expand outreach activities in the Middle East and Australasia.
- Dissemination of the Guidelines as a web-based version and hard copies in coordination with the UNEP FI Regional Task Forces and the Signatory Relations Team, Q4.
- Set up meetings in collaboration with relevant partner organisations, i.e. the World Economic Forum (WEF), WBCSD, to understand and identify the specific areas of water-related risks that financial institutions are exposed to across different sub-sectors. Opening dialogues, between the financial sector and policy makers/ financial sector and business, can play a crucial role in understanding different elements of risk and means of mitigating these.

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Goldman Sachs  
ICF International  
Insight Investment  
Intesa SanPaolo  
Mecu Limited

Organisation for Economic  
Cooperation and Development  
(OECD)  
Sustainable Asset Management  
(SAM) Group  
SNS Asset Management  
Stockholm International Water  
Institute (SIWI)  
United Nations Environment  
Programme (UNEP)  
Regional Seas  
VicSuper  
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## Sustainable Finance Training

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Since 2006 UNEP FI has stepped up its efforts to meet the training needs of UNEP FI Signatories and financial institutions generally in terms of sustainability issues.

### **AIM**

UNEP FI's training programmes aim to assist UNEP FI Signatories to realise the commitment made under the UNEP FI Statements both in terms of internalizing sustainability issues in their operations and of sharing "with [other financial institutions] our experiences and knowledge in order to extend best practice".

These programmes seek to raise awareness and to build capacity in sustainable finance amongst UNEP FI member institutions and other FIs, governments, NGOs and academia, especially in developing countries and emerging markets.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR 2007**

#### **Climate Change e-learning Training Programme**

In June, UNEP FI, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), launched an online training course, "Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector". The course had been under development for a number of months, and a large number of FI members participated in the course. The course used the state-of-the-art interactive e-learning platform offered by UNITAR. As a follow up to the e-learning course, the programme encourages Regional Task Forces to undertake regional specific workshops.

#### **SECRETARIAT**

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#### **E-learning Programme on Environmental and Social Risk Analysis (ESRA)**

Building on the success of UNEP FI's Latin American Task Force (LATF) online training programme, the Initiative is currently working on the adaptation and translation of LATF online course on environmental risk analysis into English.

A joint product of the LATF, the INCAE Business School and InWent (Capacity Building Internacional), Germany, the original version of the course is being adapted with the support of UNEP FI Signatory FMO. The new version will be run independently in Africa, Asia and Central & Eastern Europe, via the Initiative's respective Regional Task Forces.

The course aims to train financial analysts and commercial staff globally on identifying and managing environmental and social risk in their lending and investment decision making processes, providing in-depth and personalised training over a three-week period, during which participants will be involved in a range of activities, from case studies and readings to debate sessions and exercises based on their very own experience.

#### **SECRETARIAT**

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## African Task Force

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The African Task Force (ATF) is a unique group of financial institutions, ranging from commercial and development banks to asset managers, united by a common objective of advancing sustainable finance, responsible investment, and access to financial services for the poor.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Launch of “Banking on Value”, a report to assist African financial institutions to include sustainability criteria in their lending activities and credit risk approaches. Based on surveys of South African and Nigerian banks, the report identifies best practice and formulates guidance, complemented by key findings and recommendations.
- The ATF will produce a report providing guidance to overcome current barriers and increase commercial microfinance in Africa, with the support of funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Launch of the first ever market survey on responsible investment in South Africa. The survey findings will be detailed in a report assessing responsible investment best practice currently implemented by pension funds, institutional investors, asset managers and investment analysts. Conducted in partnership with UNISA CCC.
- In a major effort to engage with financial institutions throughout the continent, four outreach workshops will be held in North, West, East, and Southern Africa, led by the UNEP FI secretariat’s ATF coordinator, currently based in South Africa.
- An online training programme on environmental and social risk analysis will be made available to financial institutions throughout Africa in late 2007.
- A survey of key successful SME financing models operating in Africa will form a report illustrating best practice and designed to assist sustainable SME investment in Africa. In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

### MEMBERS

Citigroup  
Development Bank of Southern Africa  
Investec Bank  
Nedbank  
Standard Bank  
Standard Chartered  
Industrial Development Corporation  
FMO  
Societe General

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

African Investment Advisory, UK  
AICC Centre for Sustainability Investing, South Africa  
UNISA CCC

### CHAIR

Cas Coovadia, Banking Council of South Africa

### CO-CHAIR

Justin Smith, Nedbank

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## Asia Pacific Task Force

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The Asia Pacific Task Force aims to set “sustainability” priorities for the Asia Pacific financial sector; as well as overall integration of a triple bottom-line approach in the operations of the Asia Pacific financial sector.

### STRUCTURE

There are currently 4 groups operating within the Asia Pacific Task Force:

- Australasian Group
- Japan Group
- Korea Group
- Outreach Group

### AUSTRALASIAN GROUP

The Australasian Outreach Programme of UNEP FI aims to facilitate dialogue on sustainable finance between institutions in the region and assists in considering global sustainability issues in a regional context.

#### Objectives for 2007

- Publication of UNEP FI Australasian Newsletters: Maintain dialogues between institutions and ensure the Australasian finance sector and key stakeholders are up to date with developments in sustainable finance;
- 2007 Melbourne Roundtable: Engagement and management of conference organiser, organisation of Australian and regional sponsors, organising committee and Signatory involvement;
- Development of a research project on the insurance risk of ‘green buildings’;
- Awareness raising and outreach: Ensuring Australasian views on important global issues are discussed and assisting consideration of these issues in a regional context.

#### Members

All Signatories in Australia and New Zealand

#### Chair

Damien Walsh, mecu  
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### JAPAN GROUP

The objective of the Japan Group is to facilitate information sharing on sustainable finance practices and to assist Japanese Signatories to realise their commitment towards the UNEP FI Statements.

#### Objectives for 2007

- Recruitment of new Signatories and facilitating networking activities between signatories in Japan;
- General-awareness raising events emphasising on the business cases for sustainable finance;
- Publication of the APTF Japan Group brochure (Japanese);
- Development of Japanese adaptation of the UNEP FI Climate Change e-learning course.

#### Members

All Signatories in Japan

#### Chair

Jun Sato, Development Bank of Japan  
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## **KOREA GROUP**

The UNEP FI Korea Group, a new work stream for the Asia Pacific Task Force was officially launched on 12 July 2006.

### **Objectives for 2007**

- Quarterly workshops for its members;
- Organise educational and training events including expert workshops to help Korean financial institutions understand the global movements in sustainable finance and share best practices.

#### **Members**

All Signatories in Korea

#### **Chair**

Sun-ki Kang, The Export-Import Bank of Korea  
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## **OUTREACH GROUP**

UNEP FI Signatories in the Asia Pacific are predominantly concentrated in the developed countries. The objective of the Outreach Group is to raise awareness of sustainable finance practices in the emerging and developing economies in the region and create a critical mass of Asia Pacific Signatories.

### **Objectives for 2007**

- Recruitment of new Signatories in the Asia Pacific region;
- General awareness-raising events and training emphasising on the business cases for sustainable finance and facilitate networking activities with a specific focus on India and China;
- Implementation of the UNEP FI e-learning course on environmental and social risk management in order to provide risk training on a regional level;
- Development of multi-lingual APTF website introducing UNEP FI and introducing the business cases for sustainable finance from Asia Pacific Signatories.

#### **Members**

Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), Philippines

Association for Sustainable & Responsible Investment in Asia (ASRIA), Hong Kong

Development Bank of the Philippines

Eco-Frontier Co, South Korea

EPA Victoria, Australia

Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services, India

Netherlands Development Finance Corporation (FMO)

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

mecu Limited, Australia

National Australia Bank

Savings and Loans Credit Union, Australia

VicSuper Pty Ltd., Australia

Westpac Banking Corporation, Australia

YES Bank, India

#### **Chair**

Katsuhiko Okazaki, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

#### **Co-Chair**

Octavio Peralta, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP)  
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#### **APTF CHAIR**

Katsuhiko Okazaki, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)  
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#### **SECRETARIAT**

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## **INTER-GROUP ACTIVITIES**

- Furthering the understanding of UNEP FI programme: Disseminate UNEP FI publications and organise post-publication briefings and seminars in the Asia Pacific region;
- Issue-based project involving research and case study collection across the Asia Pacific;
- Coordinated event across the four Groups: Joint invitation of experts on environmental sustainability to the region.

## Central and Eastern European Task Force

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In 2007, the CEETF will lay specific emphasis on increasing its membership base in the region, raising awareness for sustainable banking through conferences and training workshops, and developing practical tools to facilitate environmental credit risk management.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Awareness-raising conference in Moscow for Russian financial institutions including a workshop on environmental credit risk management;
- Russia-specific publication e.g. on lending in the oil & gas sector;
- Awareness-raising events in Romania, Bulgaria and Czech Republic;
- Surveys on the state-of-the-art of sustainable finance in CEE event locations;
- Information follow-up in former event locations through a CEETF newsletter;
- Implementation of a web-based environmental credit risk platform containing country and sector specific environmental/social risk profiles and links to existing environmental credit risk management resources, as well as checklists for credit specialists and links to useful experts;
- Implementation of the UNEP FI e-learning course on environmental and social risk management;
- Recruiting of new UNEP FI Signatories and CEETF members.

### MEMBERS

Bank Austria Creditanstalt, Austria  
(Member of Unicredit Group)  
EFG Eurobank Ergasias, Greece  
Emporiki Bank, Greece  
European Bank for Reconstruction  
and Development, UK  
HVB, Germany (Member of  
Unicredit Group)  
Interamerican Hellenic Life  
Insurance Company SA, Greece  
Intesa SanPaolo, Italy  
Raiffeisen Zentralbank Austria AG

### ADVISOR

Regional Environmental Centre for  
Central and Eastern Europe,  
Hungary  
Union of Environmental Scientists,  
Greece

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### SECRETARIAT

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## Latin American Task Force

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In 2007, the Latin American Task Force (LATF) will promote the sustainable finance agenda primarily through capacity building and training activities at the national and regional level. A further priority will be to step up awareness-raising efforts with stakeholders, namely via the launch of a finance and sustainability campaign in Mexico, where the LATF Secretariat is based.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

#### Training

- The LATF's Online Training Programme will be kept up to intensify regional training on environmental credit risk. Four courses will be held in 2007 (March, May, September and November), while the course will also be adapted and translated into English in collaboration with other UNEP FI Regional Task Forces in order to provide risk training on a global level;
- The Task Force's overall Training Programme will be expanded from its current risk focus to include more opportunity-based issues such as eco-efficiency and environmental project assessment; materials and a new course will be developed accordingly.

#### Awareness-Raising & Capacity-Building

- Maintain outreach Training Workshops on environmental credit risk as an entry point to three further countries in the region: Mexico, Chile and Venezuela.
- Consolidation of the Associate Member network for targeted outreach and follow-up in individual countries (a set of dissemination materials and tools will be prepared to this effect).

#### Research & Tool Development

- Develop an environmental risk database to provide illustrations and examples of social and environmental risk confronted by FIs across Latin America in different areas of business.
- Support academic research on relevant topics, including: the uptake of ESG issues in medium size agrobusiness in Peru, assessment of tourism-related environmental projects, and the set up of an eco-efficiency policy in a leading Colombian bank.

#### MEMBERS

ABN AMRO/Banco Real, Brazil  
ABN AMRO Bank, Mexico  
ABN AMRO NV, Argentina  
Banco Cuscatlán, El Salvador  
Banco Solidario, Ecuador  
BANOBRAS; Mexico  
BBVA, Spain  
BBVA Banco Continental, Peru  
BNDES, Brazil  
Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF), Venezuela  
Fundación Social, Colombia  
HSBC, Mexico  
Rabobank International Brasil

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

CES/Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brasil  
CLACDS/INCAE Business School  
Fundação Brasileira Para o Desenvolvimento Sustentavel, Brasil  
Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, Ecuador  
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina  
SRInvest, Argentina

#### CHAIR

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#### CO-CHAIR

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#### SECRETARIAT

Careen Abb  
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## North American Task Force

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The North American Task Force (NATF) aims to provide leadership on the integration of sustainability principles into business practice throughout the North American financial sector, and to raise awareness on specific environmental and social issues, and to better understand its impact on the sector. The year 2007 will be a busy one for the group with a number of reports and workshops planned.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR 2007**

- Produce a report and summary briefing on the current state of play and future opportunities for green financial products in North America (project initiated in Q4 2006 – to be completed in July 2007);
- Conduct a follow-up workshop to the green financial products report in order to explore the report's key findings and recommendations;
- Organise a workshop on Greening the Supply Chain: Where and how can banks have a positive impact on the greening of the supply chain?
- Produce a report on understanding public perception and expectations on 'Sustainability' within the North American financial sector.

### **MEMBERS**

Bank of America  
Bank of Montreal  
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce  
Citigroup  
HSBC USA  
JPMorgan Chase  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Scotia Bank  
TD Bank Financial Group  
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.  
UBS  
WestLB

### **CHAIR**

Sandra Odendahl, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce  
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### **SECRETARIAT**

Lisa Petrovic  
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## Western European Forum

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### AIM

The Western European Forum (WEF) is an informal network of signatories from the region, whose aim it is to promote active participation in UNEP FI. It acts as a platform through which Western European Signatories can obtain and exchange information on a number of key sustainability issues specific to the finance and insurance sectors.

The WEF works closely with the existing regional Task Forces, as most Western European Signatories have subsidiaries in other regions. This also provides Signatories the opportunity to share knowledge with companies in those regions, through the provision of training and resources.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2007

- Franco- region: Annual Informal Meeting, membership outreach and UNEP FI / ORSE Roundtable conference;
- German-speaking region: High-level meeting for CEOs of financial institutions in the German-speaking countries, workshop on the integration of social aspects into banking, UNEP FI / VFU Roundtable conference work programme for German-speaking region in 2007;
- Nordic region: Annual Informal meeting, high-level event for CEOs in Iceland and workshops and training with the Nordics Bankers Association;
- UK region: Annual informal meeting and training workshops
- The rest of Western Europe (Italy, Portugal and Spain): UNEP FI/ABI/SECA Roundtable conference and membership drives in Portugal.

### SECRETARIAT

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