



Ten Steps to the 10YFP

A suggested navigation guide

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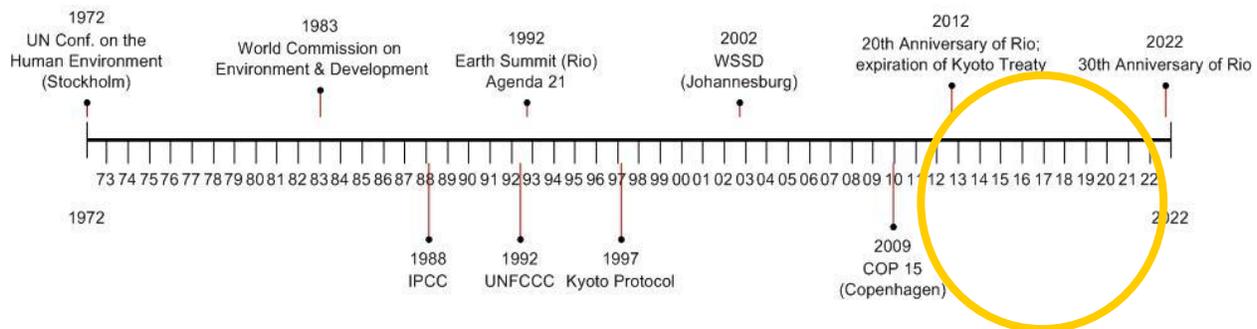
This paper presents a “ten step” approach to developing the 10 Year Framework of Programs (10YFP) based on discussions that have taken place among civil society organizations (CSOs) since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and in particular building upon discussions evolving from the 2007 NGO Forum at the 3rd International Experts Meeting on the 10YFP in Stockholm. After almost ten years of discussing the possibilities, it is time to start building.

Reversing the trends

One key recommendation¹ of the NGO Forum was that the overall goal of the 10YFP needed to be “reversal of the worsening social and ecological trends” highlighted at the World Summit. This goal and challenge would give functional meaning to the undefined “overarching objective” of “changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns” since these trends are the consequence of those “patterns” and relentlessly continue today.

Commitment by governments, business and civil society to this goal of “reversing the trends” represents an important starting point for developing a meaningful 10YFP. The 10YFP effort could then position itself within the broader landscape of efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, poverty and livelihood, water scarcity and other trends which are largely driven by production and consumption patterns.

An important contribution the 10YFP can make in the coming decade is highlighting the specific production and consumption patterns at the root of these global problems. By encouraging partnerships and collaboration among the many thousands of initiatives implementing or advocating action strategies and policies, the 10YFP can enable and help mobilize a wide range of practices targeting specific production and/or consumption patterns in each region and sector.



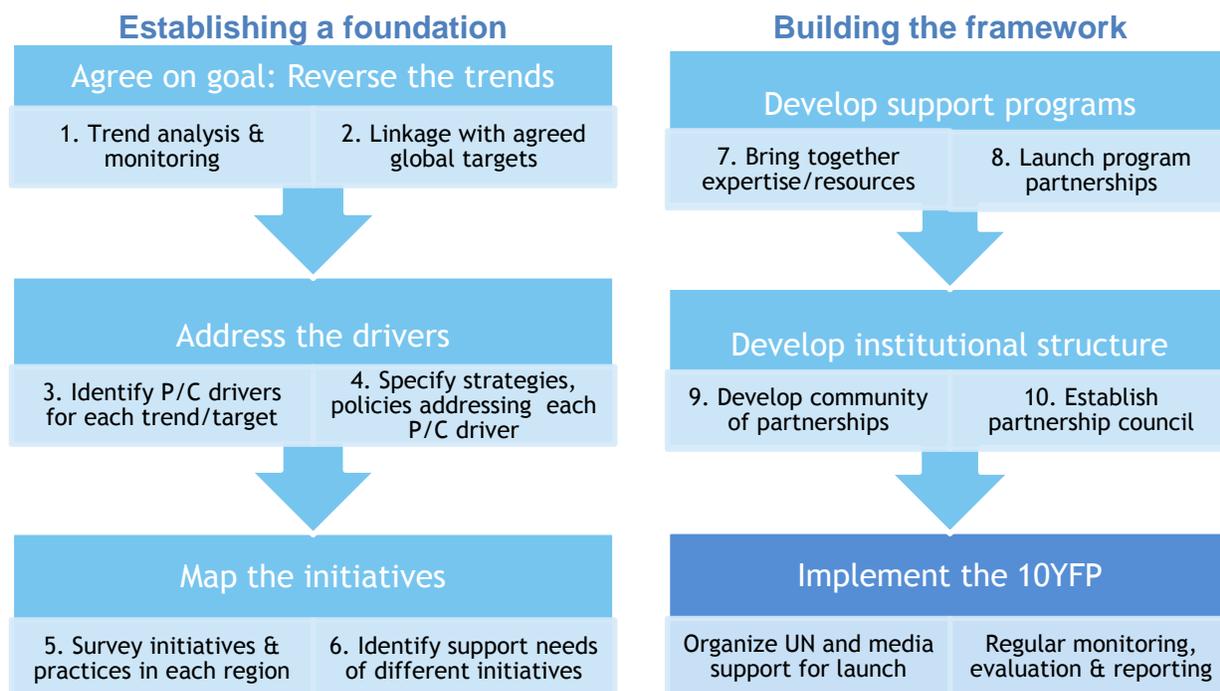
A ten step plan to produce the 10YFP

These ten steps move through two basic stages. The first stage involves a progression of six critical activities that can establish a solid foundation upon which to build the framework. This foundation building begins with identification of the specific trends resulting from unsustainable production/consumption, to be

¹ *NGO Recommendations to the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10 Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Consumption*, NGO Forum, Stockholm, Sweden (26-29 June 2007). <http://www.icspac.net/documents/FinalNGOrecommendationsStockholm.doc>

targeted and monitored in the next ten years and ends with an assessment of the specific needs of those engaged in the various initiatives in each region addressing the underlying roots of those trends.

The second stage involves building and launching the framework. This stage involves four steps, beginning with bringing together people and organizations with specific expertise and resources to establishing a council-type body to share information and coordinate activities among program partnerships involved.



Establishing a foundation

Establishing a foundation involves activities needed to maintain a practical context upon which to build and operate the 10-year programs and framework. Much of this foundational work is already being done, but the information needs to be consolidated into a functional frame of reference serving the 10YF programs

1. Identify and monitor the trends

Given a strong commitment to reversing the worsening social and ecological trends, the first step is to agree upon which trends should be the base-line reference for assessing overall progress. This analysis and monitoring of key trends from before 1992 to those projected for the coming decade, provides an overall context to position the rest of the activities of the 10YFP. Those organizations, agencies and researchers already involved in global and trend analysis should be invited as partners in this ongoing activity.

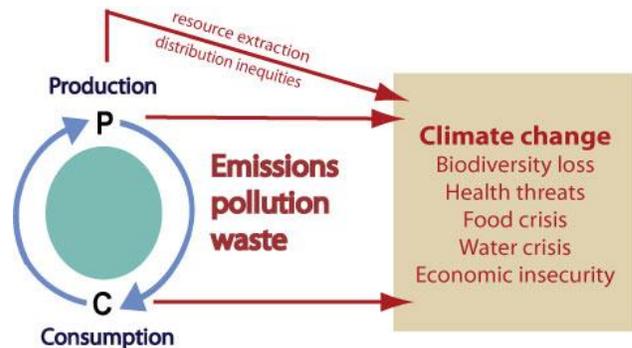
2. Define the targets

Each major trend – climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, fresh water scarcity, poverty, pollution – tends to be linked with internationally established policy targets. In some cases there are disagreements on the targets. These targets need to be integrated into the 10YFP’s vision for the coming decade. This means building linkages between the work of the 10YF programs and the work in these international policy processes (e.g., CBD, IPCC, MDG).

3. Identify the drivers

For each trend and target there needs to be a clear identification of the underlying production/consumption patterns driving them. This attention to the roots of the problem, not just the symptoms and impacts, is one of the most important contributions of the sustainable production and consumption approach and should be highlighted.

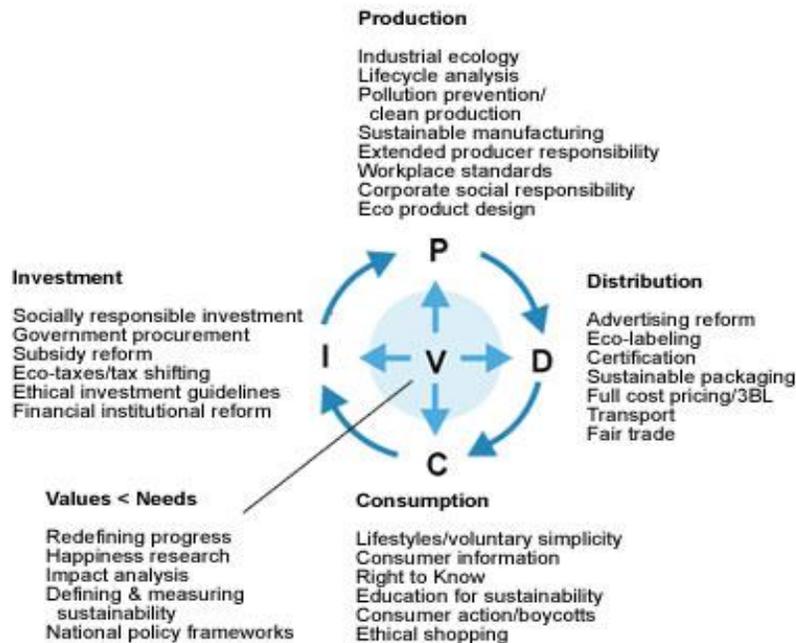
Much of this analysis has already or is currently being done, but it needs to be consolidated and presented in a systematic way. The 10YFP can provide a point of integration for this research, framing this knowledge for the 10YF and its programs.



4. Specify the strategies, policies and practices

The next step is to specify the kind of actions needed to change the production/consumption patterns driving each trend. Again, much of this analysis has been done. Over the years researchers and practitioners have reported and listed the many strategies, policies, regulations, and practices addressing different production and consumption patterns. This step is a bit more ambitious, drawing upon and integrating current knowledge of strategies and practices addressing each of the trends and production/consumption drivers, configuring this knowledge for practical use by the community of partners in the 10YFP.

Strategies, policies and practices



5. Survey and map the initiatives

To effectively support the various initiatives and organizations putting these strategies and policies into practice, there needs to be a survey and mapping of the different types and kinds of initiatives and communities of practice operating in each region. There are most likely thousands of groups and initiatives working individually and in networks and communities to accelerate the shift.

This mapping effort is a very different approach from the more common identification of a few “best practices” to highlight and emulate. *The 10YFP should not select a small circle of familiar favorites close to the UN agencies, but to encourage and serve the wide movement of efforts operating and often struggling within each region.* Regional UN offices and regional organizations and networks as well as individual country governments can help with this mapping exercise, as well as promote cooperation among those groups and initiatives.

6. Assess needs of initiatives

10YFP partners need to build a continually growing knowledge of initiatives and communities of practice, and to better understand what kinds of practical support they need. This needs assessment can take place through dialogues, research, consultations and the ongoing accumulation of information and experienced gathered through the 10YF programs.

Building and implementing the framework

The second stage is the work of building the framework. This involves four steps moving from the development of programs to developing and implementing institutional structure to coordinate among and maintain the necessary supportive interfaces with the UN and stakeholders.

7. Bring together expertise/resources

The 10YFP needs to draw upon the growing community of practitioners, researchers, educators and others around the world with expertise, knowledge and resources. This is the basis for the working relationships and partnerships that is the substance of the 10YFP.

8. Launch program partnerships

At the heart of the 10YF mandate is a cluster of programs to provide “*support to the national and regional initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.*”

Thus, the framework needs to include a set of secondary “core” supportive programs that respond to the needs of those primary programs and initiatives directly engaged on the ground in different regions, sectors and communities.

Unfortunately there exists a lot of confusion in the terminology regarding the difference between “programs” and “initiatives,” which in the JPOI referred to two different things. The core *programs* are presumably global activities which created to *support* the various *initiatives* that are more directly engaged in changing production/consumption patterns. However, this distinction has become blurred in recent discussions, as illustrated in the Annex of “SCP Programmes/Initiatives submitted by Member States, Agencies, and Major Groups.”

Hopefully the meeting in Panama will clarify this distinction between the core programs providing supportive infrastructure services (e.g., research, indicators, funding) and the initiatives and “programs” by communities of practice engaged in direct change efforts.



Many of the research and analysis activities of the foundation-building stage could be considered core infrastructure programs. Many of these programs were identified and highlighted at the 2007 NGO Forum and in later discussions, such as:

- Global SPC research
- Mapping the movement of SPC initiatives
- Financing SCP
- Measuring progress
- Information clearinghouse
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Global trend analysis
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Public communications
- Education support

One particular quality of programs to be encouraged in the 10YFP is *partnership* among operational consortia of organizations, agencies and individuals, ideally representing a range of stakeholder groups. This partnership approach has been stressed especially by many civil society organizations as well as governments, and has been especially encouraged by the UN. The UN Partnership Program provides a supportive vehicle to help the 10YF develop and promote its programs.

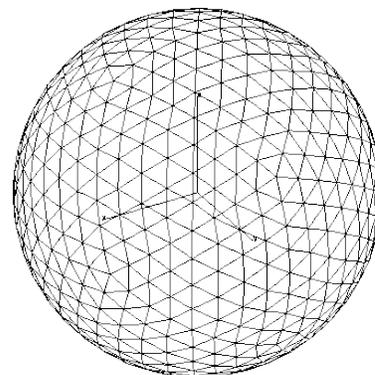
9. Develop community of partnerships

The global movement to change production and consumption patterns is not directed from the top down or by any central organization and plan. This movement has already begun and is taking shape in thousands of different places and shapes and described in many different names. Likewise, this movement does not need the UN to lead and direct it, but to acknowledge, encourage and support it where it can. If there is common agreement that the UN's role is not to act as the leader and center of this movement, but instead to support the efforts of those involved, to act instead as a partner, this point needs to be made clear, avoiding unnecessary conflicts.

To be most effective the 10 Year Framework of Programs needs to be a *cooperative partnership* among UN agencies, governments, civil society and private sector that through next decade will encourage, support and help enable the many thousands of initiatives around the world – initiatives now active or emerging at the local, national, regional and global levels to change production and consumption patterns.

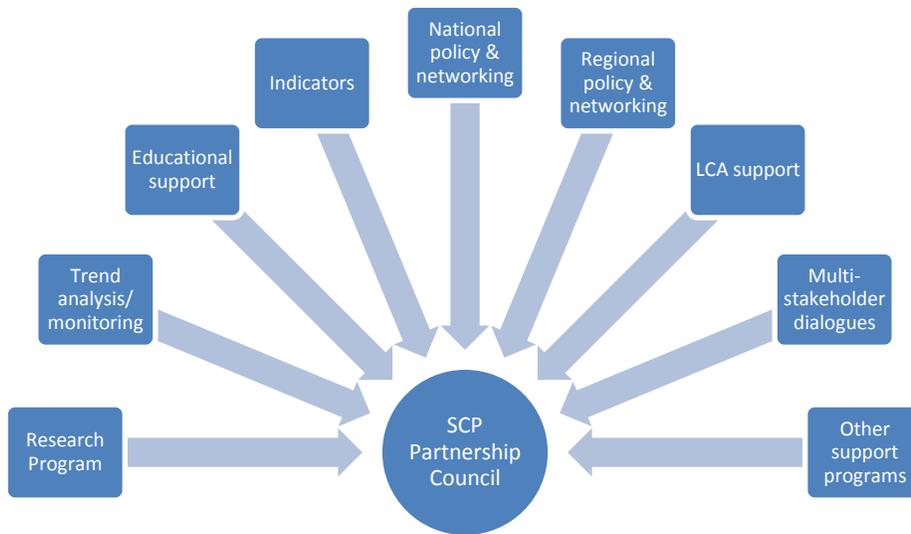
The most effective framework will not be simply another UN program involving a circle of UN-focused organizations, but rather a *community of partnerships* reaching beyond the UN community, linking those at the top levels of institutional governance and policy with those on the ground doing the primary work. The structure will, however, not resemble a pyramid but a sphere of interconnecting links.

The thinking and language of the "10YFP" also needs to shift to consider those outside the familiar UN circle who do not understand or relate to insider UN terminology such as "major groups," "10YFP," "Marrakech Process," or even "SCP." A broader, more sensitive approach is needed which takes into account the different perspectives and language of those communities of practice which the framework seeks to serve or involve as active partners.



10. Establish partnership council

In contrast to the scenario of the administration of the 10YFP falling under a particular UN agency, giving directives to the various programs, we might consider a more parliamentary-type structure involving representatives from each program partnership as members of a partnership council that tracks and coordinates information on program activities and progress, which in turn provides reports to the public and UN.



Each participating program/partnership would designate a focal point responsible for communicating and coordinating with the other partnership programs and with the UN agencies, which would also have a place on the council. The research programs charged with monitoring and assessing the trends, impacts on production/consumption patterns, and activities of the initiatives and programs, would provide an important feed-back role for the Council and the 10YFP in general.

