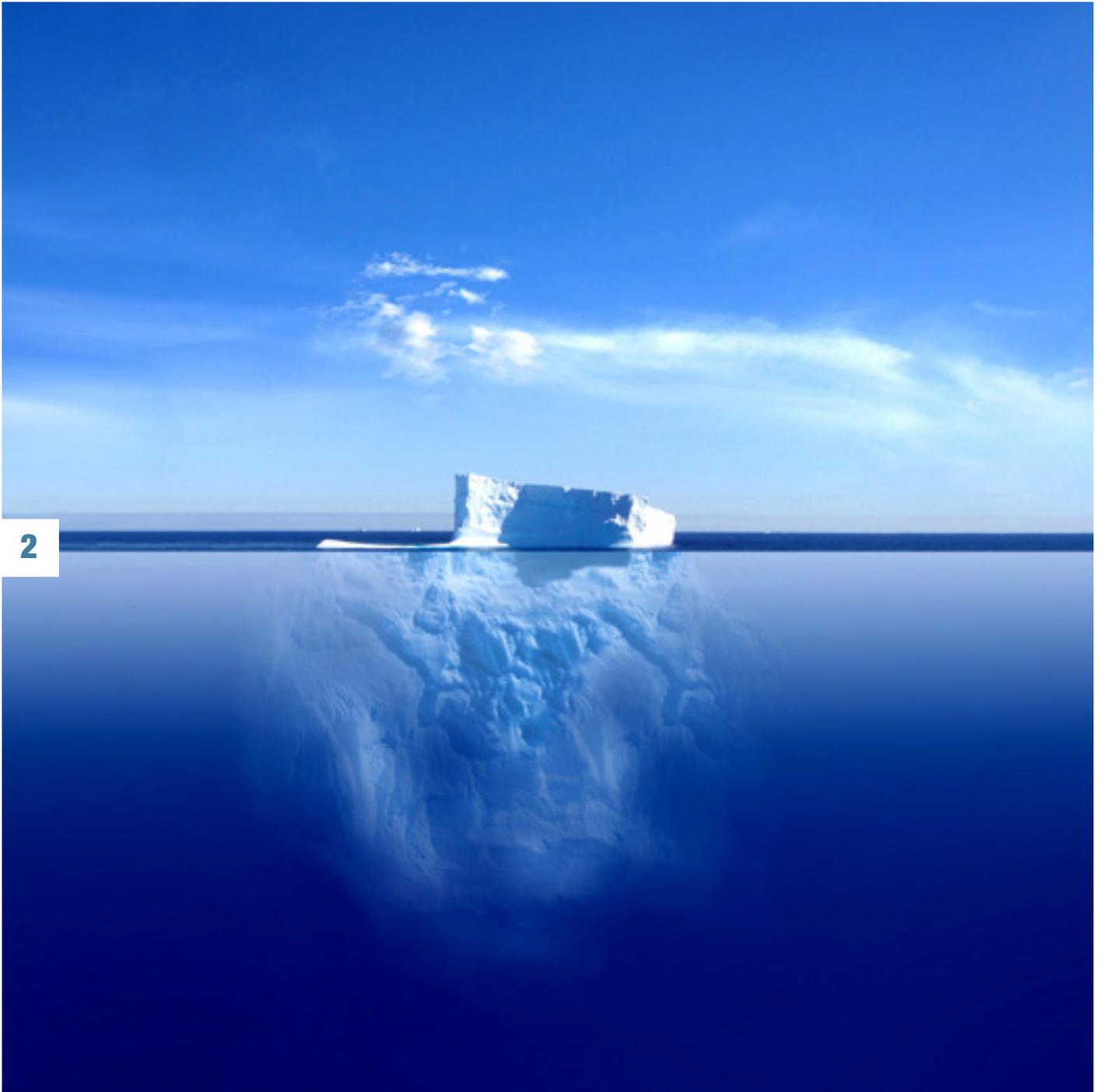




UNEP Finance Initiative
Innovative financing for sustainability



2



The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global financial sector founded in 1992.

UNEP FI works closely with over 200 financial institutions who have signed the UNEP FI Statements as well as a range of partner organisations to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through peer-to-peer networks, research and training, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.

3 • Mission statement

“The road to sustainable finance is paved with hurdles. Travelling it in partnership gives us the strength to overcome them.”

— *Barbara J. Krumsiek*
co-chair of UNEP FI
and CEO of Calvert Investments, Inc.

4



The case *for sustainable finance*

Since pioneering the field of sustainable finance in the early 1990s, UNEP FI has made great leaps at developing thinking and tools that highlight the benefits of greening the brown economy.

THE PROBLEMS

Resource-inefficient and carbon-intensive economies drive the degradation of the earth's natural environment.

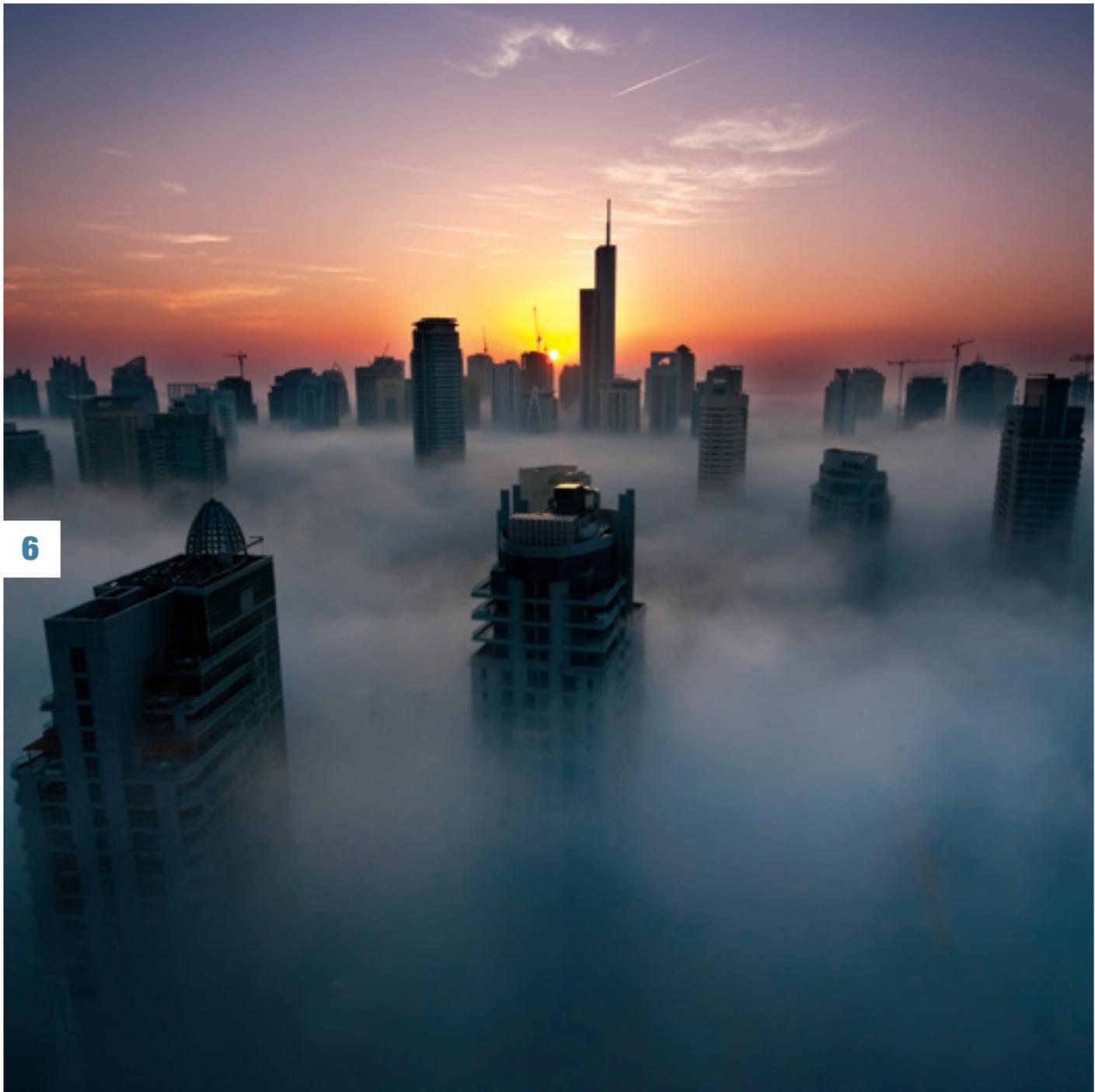
Yet, every year, investment into unsustainable financial products and services continues to outsize cash flows directed towards the budding – and yet profitable – sustainable economy.

The importance given to environmental, social and governance factors in risk management operations across the banking, investment and insurance sectors, meanwhile, remains too peripheral.

OUR SOLUTIONS

To address the root causes of these issues, UNEP FI strives to uncover the environmental benefits of sustainable finance and highlight how the approach makes good tactical sense for the private sector in a competitive world.

We also shed a bright light on the financial risks associated with environmentally and socially unsustainable operations, and generate knowledge on ways to better cope with those risks.



6

WE COORDINATE

Using our unique position at the interface of the public and private sectors, we connect the dots on a global scale to foster dialogue and action on sustainable finance.

WE ADVOCATE

We are committed to a world in which finance is a positive driver for sustainable change. To do so, we endeavour to turn our standard-setting Statement of Commitment by Financial Institutions on Sustainable Development – the backbone of our initiative – into change that is tangible across the business operations of our members.

WE RESEARCH

Knowledge matters to us, and we aim to bring it to you first. We produce cutting-edge research on the latest issues touching every sub-industry and environmental issue.

WE EDUCATE

Sustainability must make basic commercial sense to last. Our cutting-edge training seeks to help you spot the latest opportunities and better manage risks associated with the mainstreaming of sustainability in your everyday operations.

WE INFLUENCE

Every second year, we convene the UNEP FI Global Roundtable, a high-level summit on sustainable finance and responsible investment during which global policy leaders engage sustainability thinkers and leaders to define the way forward.

7 • Our work

We make sustainability happen



8

UNEP FI's contributions *to the sustainability journey*

1992

UNEP FI grows out of a debate on emerging ideas on sustainable finance in the run-up to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, becoming the first network dedicated to this issue.

1994

UNEP FI creates a platform to take sustainable finance thinking to governments by establishing biennial high-level summits, with the first Global Roundtable taking place in Geneva, Switzerland. Global Roundtables have since spanned the globe from Washington, D.C., to Cape Town, and Rio de Janeiro to Tokyo.

2002

UNEP FI introduces the idea of a possible role for private finance in dealing with climate change with the publication of the acclaimed CEO Briefing on Climate Change. The report resonates loudly among the financial, policy and scientific communities, opening the way for a new kind of dialogue on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2005

The rights – and necessity – of pension funds to factor in environmental, social and governance factors (or ESG) are affirmed by the landmark UNEP FI Freshfields Report. The report's influence over the sustainable investment debate remains seminal.

2006

Together with the UN Global Compact, UNEP FI catalyses the momentum around sustainable finance into the world's largest gathering of institutional investors committed to sustainable action – the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

2012

UNEP FI pioneers a profound reflection on the need to align the global insurance industry on sustainability principles with the launch of its Principles for Sustainable Insurance, or UNEP FI – PSI. The ground-breaking principles get instant support across the insurance and re-insurance industry.

10



How to connect with us *if you are*

A BANKER

UNEP FI sustains a vigorous dialogue with banks. We attract the sector's most committed bankers, and over the years banks have come to form a majority of our membership. If you are part of a banking institution, you can apply for membership to the UNEP FI Banking Commission.

AN INSURER

Our work at the interface of the insurance sector and the field of sustainability has been transformative. As an insurance company, you are welcome to get involved in the UNEP FI Principles for Sustainable Insurance, and to participate in our Insurance Commission's broader work.

A GOVERNMENT

As an initiative tied to an intergovernmental organisation, we view the support of government as essential. If you are a government representative, you can review our policy recommendations and strive to incorporate sustainable finance ideas into your legislation.

AN INVESTOR

Producing work on a wide array of themes touching every facet of investment – from investor disclosure to environmental metrics for property investment – UNEP FI's Investment Commission is a one-stop shop for investors. As an investor, you can become part of our extensive network and gain fresh insight on the latest research and thinking.

AN NGO

We regularly partner with NGOs to combine our strengths and reach out to a wider audience. If you are an NGO, don't hesitate to contact us to explore areas of synergies.

A CITIZEN

As a citizen, you can make a difference around you by influencing your local government to adopt policies and regulations that promote responsible public financing. You can also promote the sustainability agenda with the choices you make as a consumer. If you have a stake in a pension plan, request that your fund invest in products and services respectful of sustainable principles.



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Want to know more?



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**United Nations Environment Programme
Finance Initiative**

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