UN environment programme | finance initiative

Principles for Responsible Banking

What's up for PRB Banks in 2025?

Your guide for opportunities to get involved in our work programme

February 2025

Cover photo: elements.envato.com/user/leungchopan/photos

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Introduction

In 2025 UNEP FI's banking work will provide opportunities for you to shape and pilot guidance and emerging practices on key sustainability priorities together with leading peers, industry actors and (UN) experts. It will continue to provide guidance and support for each bank to progress on its responsible banking journey.

In line with the progress PRB banks have already made on analyzing their portfolios and setting targets, our focus in 2025 and subsequent years shifts towards supporting implementation of your transition and action plans. This includes a new work track on client and customer engagement, and developing new formats for convening and working with regional and global key actors to address the barriers to necessary real economy transitions.

Get engaged in work across our four interconnected priority areas: climate change adaptation and mitigation, nature, healthy and inclusive economies, and human rights.

The evolved PRB Implementation Journey (see below), which we introduced to members in November, will continue to guide your bank on its individual journey through an overarching framework that can integrate a bank's regulatory obligations and voluntary actions regarding sustainability, and guide strategy, prioritization and effective action.

Look out for the third PRB Progress Report this year, exhibiting the progressive steps taken by members on their responsible banking journeys—showing how you are managing impacts and risks, and seizing business opportunities that contribute to building sustainable economies.

We remind you that since November 2024 we have reduced and simplified PRB reporting to a one-page progress statement and made assurance optional. This way, we are freeing up your resources for implementation.

Finally, we are looking forward to exchanging with you in person at our five Regional Roundtables this year!

The evolved PRB Implementation Journey (launched November 2024)

- Recognizes the evolved landscape and membership feedback on how to guide and support responsible banking
- Helps members navigate strategy, prioritization and portfolio transition
- Guides your progressive responsible banking journey

Access the **PRB Implementation Journey** here,
and new reporting **Progress Statement** here

UNEP FI is guiding banks with a clear vision for what a responsible banking sector looks like. Responsible banks measure and manage the impact of their financing on people, society, the planet—underscoring the importance of aligning financial strategies with sustainability goals. **The UN PRB Priorities and Blueprint set the vision and best practice in responsible banking**.

Access here

Access here

The UN PRB priorities for a global responsible banking sector

The workplan will guide your bank to take action in four interconnected priority areas that provide a comprehensive coverage of sustainability issues, managing impacts and avoiding harm to people and planet.

Climate change
mitigation and adaptation

Nature
biodiversity, deforestation, water, pollution

Healthy and inclusive economies
including financial health & inclusion, gender equality, decent work

Human rights
in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

UNEP FI's offering to members

UNEP FI banking members have access to multiple support formats and services

One-on-one bespoke expert support
To each member through annual review and feedback meetings (available to PRB signatories only)

Access to workstreams, supporting the development of new guidance
Learning from experts and leading industry actors, and shaping global industry practices and norms

Access to communities of practice
Exchanging best practices, where published, on innovative solutions, risk management, opportunities, recent market developments, and learning from leading experts

Regional implementation support activities and 2025 Regional Roundtables
Providing an opportunity to members to expand networks and build internal capabilities applied to their regional and national contexts, and share and exchange with peers

Technical assistance
For example, on analyzing impact and taking action on climate change mitigation

Learning and development
The PRB Academy offers a training and education programme to all professionals within your organisation

Leading resources
A repository of materials developed by, with and for banks, including thematic and sectoral reports and blueprints, providing scientific framing and contextualization, as well as risk assessment resources

Workplan 2025

Clients and customers work track

The clients and customers work track will focus on how banks engage their clients and customers on sustainability topics including climate, nature, human rights. Working with banks' clients and customers is crucial to deliver on targets and ultimately showcase impact.

Real economy engagement, both with banks' clients and customers, but also with sector bodies representing specific industries, will be an area of focus for our work with members.

Commencing: Q2 2025

Contact: johanna.dichtl@un.org and samantha.burke@un.org to join the workstream.

Existing resources
Guidance on Client Engagement

Learning and development materials
PRB Academy course on clients and customers

Convening key actors to address barriers

Building on its existing stakeholder engagement, over the course of 2025 UNEP FI will develop models for convening key actors to address barriers to transition. This will involve both financial sector and real economy regulators and policy makers as well as other real economy actors such as industry representatives.

To this end, we will engage with members during Regional Roundtables as well as other fora to understand what the key barriers are at global, regional and national level and who are the key actors we need to convene to address them.

Climate change

Mitigation and adaptation

Regional implementation support programme: Climate mitigation journey

For information on upcoming sessions in your region, visit: Members Area / Implementation Programme / Climate Change / Upcoming Sessions

Climate mitigation sectoral workstreams

Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) members can participate in sector workstreams to build knowledge and share emerging published practices in sectors including **agriculture, coal, cement, shipping and aviation**. PRB signatories, including non-NZBA members, will benefit from the outcomes of these discussions.

Contact: simon.messenger@un.org to join one of the workstreams

Upcoming resources

- Transition planning resource in Q2/3 2025
- Adaptation guidance piloting outcomes paper, together with sector guidance on agriculture and real estate in June 2025

Existing resources

- Guidance on Climate Target Setting
- Climate Mitigation Journey
- Emerging Practice Papers for Climate Target Setting for the Automotive, Real Estate, Steel, Power Generation and Oil and Gas sectors
- PRB Guidance on Adaptation
- Just Transition Finance: Pathways for Banking and Insurance

Learning and development materials

- **PRB Academy** Course on Climate Change

Just transition pilots

Banks can participate in a programme to pilot innovations that contribute to a just transition—including in product offerings, operational processes such as due diligence, and engagement activities—to be developed as case studies. The programme will provide a forum for knowledge exchange among participants and engagement with stakeholders.

Contact: aaron.cantrell@un.org to participate

Just transition resources for LAC members

UNEP FI will adapt the Just Transition Finance Guidance for Banking and Insurance Industries for the Latin American context. This work will provide tailored guidance to integrate a just transition approach into the practices and processes of banks and insurance companies, while addressing the specific needs, opportunities and challenges of the region. This work will include case studies and policy recommendations, and will culminate with a launch of a report at COP30.

Contact: veronica.zubiapinto@un.org to join

Climate change adaptation community

Online webinars and in-person workshops, offering an opportunity to engage on approaches and learn together with investors, insurers, financial regulators, industry associations, development finance institutions, NGOs and other real economy actors. Sessions will be delivered globally and regionally with a focus on AME, APAC and LAC regions.

The community will focus on exploring information flows that are needed to scale adaptation finance, including information about physical climate-related financial risks, and information about the allocation of finance for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), the financial performance of CCA investments, and the positive impacts of CCA investments.

Register your interest by signing up here

Contact: diana.diazcastro@un.org if you have any questions

Nature including pollution

PRB nature community of practice

A platform to share knowledge and build capacity on nature, enabling member banks to learn from experts and share experiences.

Ongoing: Regular sessions each quarter

Contact: katy.baker@un.org to join

Nature-related financial disclosures

Providing awareness raising, technical support and capacity building to help financial institutions apply the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. Workshops will be offered to members by the UNEP FI's Risk Centre.

Commencing: Q2 2025

Contact: melanie.otoole@un.org to participate

Upcoming resources

- Discussion paper on nature impact targets in Q2 2025
- PRB Guidance on Pollution in Q4 2025

Existing resources

- PRB Guidance on Nature
- PRB Sector Action Guidance on Agriculture and Mining
- Nature in the Boardroom
- Finance for Nature Positive
- Navigating pollution: A Blueprint for Banks
- Redirecting Financial Flows to End Plastic Pollution

Learning and development materials: PRB Academy courses

- Introduction to Nature and Responsible Banking
- Applying Nature—Responsible Banking

PRB workstream on nature

Join a pilot group on nature impact. The pilot will be based on a discussion paper that a workstream of banks has been producing in collaboration with WCMC, outlining an approach to setting nature impact targets.

Commencing: Piloting will begin in Q3 2025, following the release of the discussion paper in Q2

Contact: samantha.burke@un.org to participate

Finance leadership group on plastics

The group will develop a Plastics Action Guide to guide financial institutions to tackle the issue of plastic pollution in their portfolios, in the context of the upcoming international treaty to end plastic pollution.

Ongoing: Contact jan.raes@un.org to join

PRB workstream on pollution

Workstream members are developing a guidance for banks on actions they can take to reduce and manage pollution-related risks and impacts in their portfolios. The guidance will be complemented with sectoral supplements on agriculture and buildings and construction, the nexus with other thematic areas, such as the pollution-social nexus, as well as case studies.

Ongoing: contact: kavita.sachwani@un.org to join

Regional implementation support programme

For information on upcoming sessions in your region, visit: Members Area: Implementation Programme / Nature / Upcoming Sessions

Healthy & inclusive economies

PRB community of practice on healthy and inclusive economies

Members can benefit from practical support to deepen their knowledge and capabilities on different social topics, such as financial health and inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment, and decent work.

Commencing: Q1 2025

Contact: laura.diazzea@un.org to join

Upcoming resource

- **PRB guidance on decent work, in collaboration with ILO**

  A workstream set up in 2024 is developing a guidance that provides a common understanding of decent work and outline the roles financial institutions can play in advancing positive decent work impacts while mitigating negative impacts on decent work, particularly within their portfolio clients/investees.

  Available in Q3

Existing resources

- Driving Impact on Financial Health and Inclusion of Individuals and Businesses: From Setting Targets to Implementation
- Guidance on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Human rights

Human rights community of practice

This community of practice provides a forum for discussion on human rights related topics, and facilitates peer sharing of best practice to help banking and insurance members to align with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

The community has been ongoing since 2023 and has over 40 members.

Contact: magdalena.garciaelorrio@un.org to join

Existing resource

- UNEP FI's Human Rights Toolkit

Crosscutting

Circular economy

PRB workstream on circular economy as an enabler for responsible banking

Workstream members will continue to develop guidance for banks in managing interlinkages between the circular economy, climate, nature, pollution and social agendas. The series will continue to explore how banks can integrate circular economy in their climate action plans, by developing sectoral supplements for agrifood systems and for metals and mining. Members will then develop guidance focusing on embedding circular economy in banks' nature action plans.

Commencing: Q2 2025 on interlinkages with nature

Contact: kavita.sachwani@un.org for more information or to participate

Regional implementation support programme: Energy efficiency and other topics

For information on upcoming sessions in your region, visit: Members Area: Implementation Programme / Pollution and Circular Economy / Upcoming Session

Circular economy community of practice

The circular economy community of practice will share knowledge and facilitate multistakeholder exchange on circular economy financing, including with development banks, policymakers, businesses and civil society.

Commencing: March 2025

Contact: aditi.srivastava@un.org to join

Existing resources

- Circular economy as an enabler for responsible banking
- PRB Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Target Setting Guidance

Impact analysis

Workstream on investment portfolio impact analysis

Iterating the Invesment Portfolio Impact Analysis Tool, including the development of an ESRS interoperability module.

Commencing: Q2 2025

Contact: costanza.ghera@un.org to join

Workstream on SDG indicators for banks

Striving for a common interpretation and approach to SDG contribution by banks. Building on existing indicator sets to determine and track financial flows to the SDGs.

Commencing: Q1 2025

Contact: careen.abb@un.org to join

Upcoming resources

- **Updated impact protocol**
  Updated to reflect the evolved PRB Framework and reference all the latest UNEP FI implementation guidance resources. Available in February.
- **Consolidated UNEP FI ESRS interoperability package (impact materiality assessment)**
  Updated Impact Analysis Conversion Tool for European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), with user guide and an updated set of mappings between the UNEP FI Impact Radar and the ESRS AR 16 Sustainability Topics. Release in April.

Existing resources

- Impact Protocol (2022 edition)
- Impact Radar
- Impact Mappings
- Impact Analysis Tools

Risk management

UNEP FI's Risk Centre provides members with the solutions they need to tackle new risks in an integrated manner, offering climate and nature related workshops, webinars and other activities to members. Members may also opt to join fee-based workstreams on climate stress testing, risk assessment and tools, and disclosures and reporting.

Contact: melanie.otoole@un.org, or follow this link, to find out more about activities, workshops, webinars offered to members, as well as how to join workstreams.

Existing resources

- Climate Risk Landscape Report 2024
- Database: The Climate Risk Tool Dashboard
- Managing Physical Climate-related Risks in Loan Portfolios

Upcoming resources delivered by the UNEP FI Risk Centre

Navigating the evolving landscape of sustainability-related disclosures for holistic risk management

This report will support financial institutions in implementing IFRS S1 & S2 while also addressing key aspects of transition planning and materiality disclosures covered in other standards.

Available: Q2 2025

Global benchmarking report on climate risk integration into credit risk frameworks

The report will provide a benchmark and comparison of credit risk modelling approaches used by financial institutions to assess climate risks

Available: Q2 2025

Sustainability risk landscape report

A sustainability risk landscape report: bridging climate, nature, and social risks with integrated management practice

Available: Q2 2025

Policy and regulation

Regulatory implementation support programme

Implementation support programme focused on bringing key insights on the current and planned regulations banks need to implement, as well as updates on key issues that are advancing in the regulatory space.

For 2025, the focus of the Programme will be on providing detailed monthly sessions to support UNEP FI members' implementation of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) as well as other regulatory frameworks from the APAC and the LAC regions.

In addition, the programme will focus on banking-specific aspects of implementation that go beyond compliance, into risk management and other relevant issues. Public and private sessions of overall information on regulation are also planned.

Commencing: January 2025 (continued from 2024)

Contact: daniel.bouzasluis@un.org for more information

Click here to see the activity calendar (accessible to members only)

Upcoming resources

- PRB Policy Engagement Guidance
- Global Taxonomy Mapper (software)
- APAC Climate Risk Management Regulatory Landscape
- LAC Common Ground Framework for Biodiversity Taxonomies

Existing resources

- Nature-related regulation for banks: landscape
- CSRD/ESRS Implementation Programme Calendar
- UNEP FI/CSRD Interoperability Package

Learning and development: PRB Academy

The PRB Academy provides a tailored online education and training programme to support bankers worldwide on their journey to align their professional practice, strategies, operations and decision-making with the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It is designed for large-scale sustainability skills and knowledge building for bank employees at any level.

Available courses

- Getting Started in Responsible Banking
- Responsible Banking for Board Members and Executives
- Clients and Customers
- Climate Change
- Introduction to Nature and Responsible Banking (+Spanish and French)
- Applying Nature—Responsible Banking (+Spanish and French)

Find further information here or **contact:** carolina.lopez@un.org

Upcoming courses in 2025

1. Environmental and Social Risk Analysis (ESRA)
2. Climate Risk Analysis
3. Impact Management
4. Carbon Accounting

PRB Academy in the regions, offering hybrid sessions tailored to countries

1. Brazil (new)
2. Central Asia
3. China (new)
4. Egypt
5. India
6. Mexico
7. Peru (new)
8. Malaysia (new)

For more information, **contact:** carolina.lopez@un.org

UNEP FI events 2025

Regional Roundtables and your Regional Leads

#RRT 2025 Latin America & Caribbean
Sao Paulo, Brazil
1–3 April
UNEP FI members only

Mabel González Pacheco

#RRT 2025 Africa & Middle East
Marrakech, Morocco
6–7 May

Nuran Atef

#RRT 2025 Asia Pacific
Suzhou, China
18–20 June

Nirnita Talukdar

#RRT 2025 Europe
Brussels, Belgium
8–9 September (TBC)

Daniel Bouzas

#RRT 2025 North America
New York City, USA
22 September (TBC)
UNEP FI members only

Layalee Ramahi

Find out more about activities in your region

Latin America & Caribbean | Africa & Middle East | Asia Pacific | Europe | North America

Other events where UNEP FI will hold activities members can get involved in

February 2025
Finance in Common
Cape Town, South Africa

April 2025
Sustainable Investment Forum, Europe 2025
Paris, France

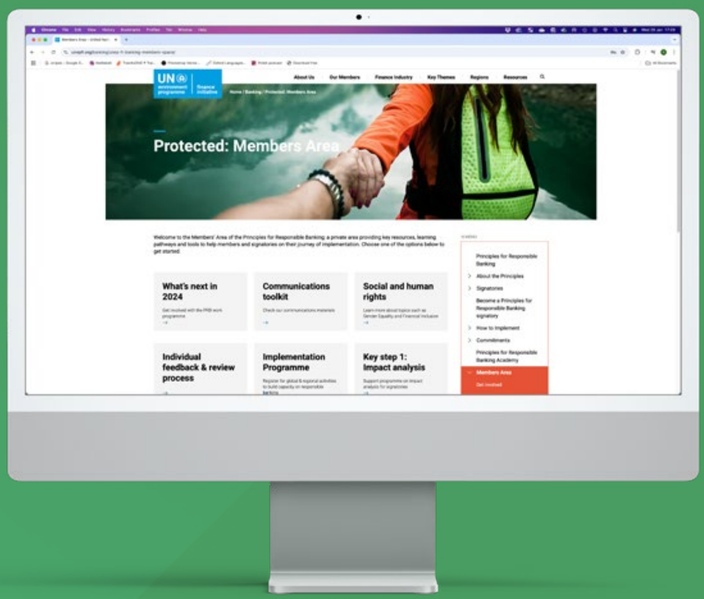
June/July 2025
4th International Conference on Financing for Development
Seville, Spain

September 2025
New York Climate Week and Sustainable Investment Forum
NYC

G20 Sustainable Finance working group meetings
Cape Town, South Africa

November 2025
COP 30
Belém, Brazil

Contact your Regional Lead for more information



UNEP FI banking members' area

Visit the revamped members' area where you can easily find relevant information about workstreams, community of practices, resources and regional support programmes all in one place.

Follow this link.

Case studies

Responding to signatories' feedback for further insights on putting the PRB framework into practice, our case studies serve as an additional resource for banks seeking to learn from the success, challenges and lessons learned by peer organizations' along their sustainability journeys. Covering multiple regional contexts, these case studies provide valuable insights into the innovative ways peer banks are implementing the Principles and embedding responsible banking practices across the breadth of their operations and investments.

Access PRB case studies and videos at unepfi.org/PRBcasestudies.

UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies.

For more than 30 years the Initiative has been connecting the UN with financial institutions from around the world to shape the sustainable finance agenda establishing the world's foremost sustainability frameworks that help the finance industry address global environmental, social and governance challenges.

Convened by a Geneva, Switzerland-based secretariat, more than 500 banks and insurers with assets exceeding USD 100 trillion are individually implementing UNEP FI's Principles for Responsible Banking and Principles for Sustainable Insurance. Financial institutions work with UNEP FI on a voluntary basis to apply the sustainability frameworks within their industries using practical guidance and tools to position their businesses for the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Founded in 1992, UNEP FI was the first initiative to engage the finance sector on sustainability. Today, the Initiative cultivates leadership and advances sustainable market practice while supporting the implementation of global programmes at a regional level across Africa & the Middle East, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean and North America.

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