

# UNEP FI POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE



UNEP  
FINANCE  
INITIATIVE

**+IMPACT**

**Holistic impact  
management to  
finance the SDGs**

# WHY THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires an impact-based approach to business and finance.**

**To rise to the challenge of meeting society's needs**, companies and the banks and investors that back them need to build a better understanding of these needs—or impacts. This means building the capacity to analyse and manage those impacts holistically and strategically.

The Positive Impact Initiative (PII) was set up to address this gap in mainstream business and finance. It is spearheaded by UNEP FI, a partnership between United Nations Environment and mainstream financial institutions from across the globe.

# WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

**The Initiative is a group of UNEP FI members across the finance chain and a range of public and private stakeholders beyond the finance sector. It focuses on addressing the SDG financing gap by collaboratively:**

**1**

Articulating a unique  
impact theory  
and agenda

**2**

Providing the  
framework and tools  
for positive impact  
finance

**3**

Collaborating with  
peer initiatives and  
standard-setters

# WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

## 1 Articulating a unique impact theory and agenda

- **Impact Theory.** In a fast-changing economy, we argue that client retention and business growth will increasingly go hand in hand with on the ability to deliver positive impacts. Read our seminal paper, *Rethinking Impact to Finance the SDGs* to learn more.
- **Impact R&D Agenda.** There are multiple R&D needs for the transition to an impact-based economy and the mainstreaming of impact-based business and financing models. Discover the PII's framing of outstanding Impact R&D topics [here](#).



# WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

## 2 Providing the framework and tools for impact

**The PI Initiative proposes simple, robust and rigorous Principles and tools for impact analysis and management.**

- Discover the *Principles for Positive Impact Finance*

**The Principles are supported by the PI Impact Radar and Model Frameworks:**

- The *Model Frameworks* guide lenders, investors and service providers on how to conduct holistic impact analysis for different instruments and asset classes, building on existing processes and standards.
- The *Impact Radar identifies* impact categories and provides definitions to facilitate positive and negative impact identification, evaluation and monitoring.



# WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

## 2 Providing the framework and tools for impact

**The UNEP FI Impact Analysis Tools, launched in 2020, are hands-on, open-source resources to implement holistic impact analysis.**

The [Corporate Impact Analysis Tool](#) helps banks and investors gain a cross-cutting view of the impact status and possibilities of their clients and investee companies, as a basis for working collaboratively on impact transition plans



The [Portfolio Impact Analysis Tool for Banks](#) is designed to guide banks through an impact analysis of their retail and wholesale portfolios to set targets to drive their contribution to society's goals.



For more information and live demos, please click [here](#).

# WHAT IS THE POSITIVE IMPACT INITIATIVE?

## 3 Collaborating with peer initiatives & standard-setters

Harmonised approaches and language are critical to deliver the SDGs.

- UNEP FI is a member of the Impact Management Project Structured Network, which brings together the world's main standard setters for impact analysis and measurement and works to build a consensus for how we measure and manage impact.
- UNEP FI is a supporting organisation of Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD), an Alliance convened by the UN Secretary General in 2019 to promote collaboration and speed up the financing of the SDGs.

For more information, click [here](#).

# HOW DO WE WORK?

**UNEP FI members, members of sister organizations and external stakeholders work together to develop and test tools for holistic impact analysis on a by-interest basis. A unique opportunity to share experience with and learn from other financial institutions and business partners to drive best practice and harmonization.**

## 2020 Activities

**Working Groups** - following the release of the Impact Analysis tools, the PII has initiated three new Working Groups to further support and pilot the implementation of holistic impact analysis:

- Corporate Impact Analysis - open to banks, investors, corporates and service providers
- Portfolio Impact Analysis - in collaboration with the Principles for Responsible Banking
- Impact Analysis for Real Estate Assets & Portfolios - in collaboration with UNEP FI's Property Working Group

**Open Review Process** - the PII has started a set of '**impact mappings**', as an integral part of the PII Impact Analysis Tools. To ensure maximum accuracy, the review process is open on an on-going basis.

[Email us](#) if you would like to get involved.

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## **PI community calls**

Participating and other engaged organisations connect once a quarter, virtually or in person, for updates and exchanges.

# WHO'S INVOLVED

## Participating Institutions



# MORE INFORMATION

[www.unepfi.org/positive-impact](http://www.unepfi.org/positive-impact)

follow: [#positiveimpactnews](https://twitter.com/positiveimpactnews)

# GET INVOLVED

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