



UNEP
FINANCE
INITIATIVE

POSITIVE IMPACT MANIFESTO

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As the global population approaches nine billion people, today's world is one of increasing needs, decreasing natural resources, and rapid technological change. In this context, experts of all hues have pointed to the need for a new, more inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economy.

Experts have also pointed to significant financing needs in achieving such an economy, and to the critical importance of private finance in addressing these needs. Yet to-date the amount of private finance mobilised remains in marked contrast to the scale of the needs.

The Banking Commission of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), a group of over 100 banks from across the globe, believes that the banking sector, as the holder of the largest pool of assets, and by virtue of its unique positioning between the real economy and capital markets, has a special contribution to make in the transition to the new economy.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO BANKING AND INVESTMENT FOR A CHANGING WORLD

The Banking Commission believes that, in 2015, when the urgency for the transition to sustainability continues to increase, and when policy-makers across multiple fora, from the G20 to the UN General Assembly are multiplying their calls to action, a new financing paradigm is needed if we are to act in time.

The Banking Commission is calling for a wide-ranging movement across the banking sector and the broader financial sector to drive Positive Impact Finance hand in hand with the players that lie at the heart of the economy and hence of the transition: corporates, businesses and entrepreneurs.

Positive Impact Finance is that which verifiably produces a positive impact on the economy, society or the environment once any potential negative impacts have been duly identified and mitigated.

POSITIVE IMPACT WORKING GROUP

as of 1st December 2015

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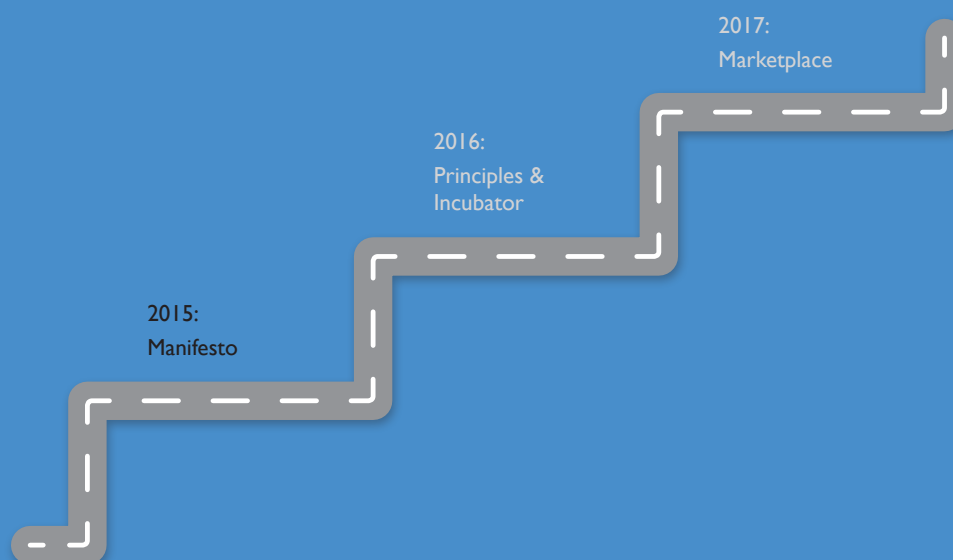
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THE ROADMAP TO POSITIVE IMPACT FINANCE

The Banking Commission has established in its midst a Positive Impact Working Group steered jointly by ING, Société Générale and Triodos Bank, members of the Commission Board, to drive the creation of this new paradigm, with a view to ultimately delivering a vibrant market place where needs, solutions and financing can be matched effectively.

Figure I. Roadmap to Positive impact Finance



To this effect the Working Group calls on its peers, on its clients, on its service providers, its investors, and its wider array of stakeholders to join it in the up-coming months to:

- Develop a set of Positive Impact Principles that will guide providers of financial services in their efforts to increase their positive impact on the economy, society and the broader environment.
- Establish a Positive Impact Incubator where new business models and financing approaches can be tested by financiers and corporates to improve the bankability of positive impact transactions.

The Banking Commission has been joined by the UNEP FI Investment Commission for the successful roll-out of the Positive Impact Finance Roadmap.

The UNEP Finance Initiative

UNEP FI is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector created in the wake of the 1992 Earth Summit with a mission to promote sustainable finance. Over 200 financial institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers, work with UNEP to understand today's environmental challenges, why they matter to finance, and how to actively participate in addressing them.

UNEP Finance Initiative

International Environment House
15 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine - Geneva
Switzerland

www.unepfi.org