

# Accelerating Paris: International efforts to address climate change

Michiel Kolman

IPA Chair of the Inclusive  
Publishing and Literacy  
Committee



**IPA**

international  
publishers  
association

# The international voice of the publishing industry



Non-Government organization, established in 1896, based in Geneva, Switzerland



83 organizations from 69 countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Americas



Promotes and defends freedom to publish, literacy and reading and copyright



# 1. Publishers have a role to play in sustainability

**Publishers &  
Publishing  
Organizations**

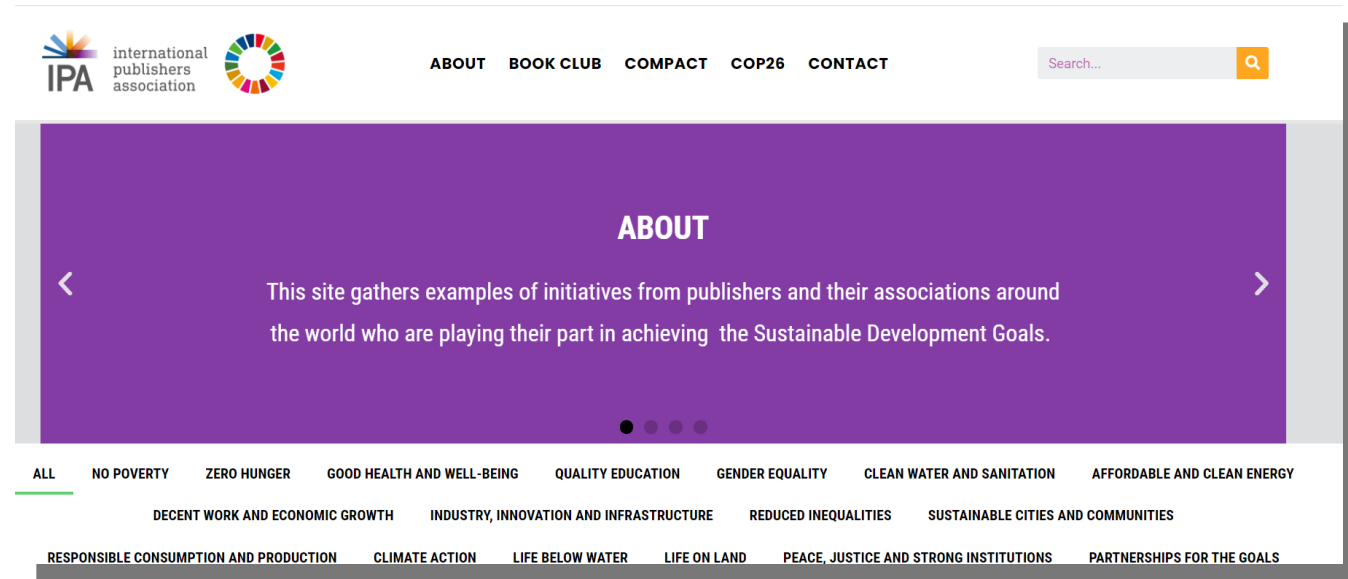
## 1. Being a responsible organization – “Corporate Responsibility”

- Fair work practices
- Diversity and inclusion within the workforce
- Environmental business practices

## 2. Catalysts of change - Promoting the principles behind the goals

- Publishing content related to the Global Goal themes
- Using the SDG framework for cataloguing, tagging and promoting content
- Organizing projects and collaborating

# 2. Establishing a focus on the Global Goals



<https://sdg.internationalpublishers.org/>

# 3. Inspiring action with the SDG Publishers Compact

This week we celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> signatory!

Join your fellow publishers and publishing organizations who are contributing to a sustainable future for everybody



# 4. What does the SDG Publishers Compact cover?



## 5. But what about climate?

Higher greenhouse gas emissions

=

Higher temperatures rise

=

**Unstable climate**



## 6. The race to zero is a balancing act



### **The global objective: To achieve the Paris Agreement**

- Legally binding agreement of world leaders to limit carbon emissions so the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere does not rise any further after 2050.

### **But not all targets are created equal:**

- Transition period that requires radical change across every sector and every country
- Economic development needs in the Global South that require burning fossil fuels
- Reality that some sectors will have residual emissions even after 2050

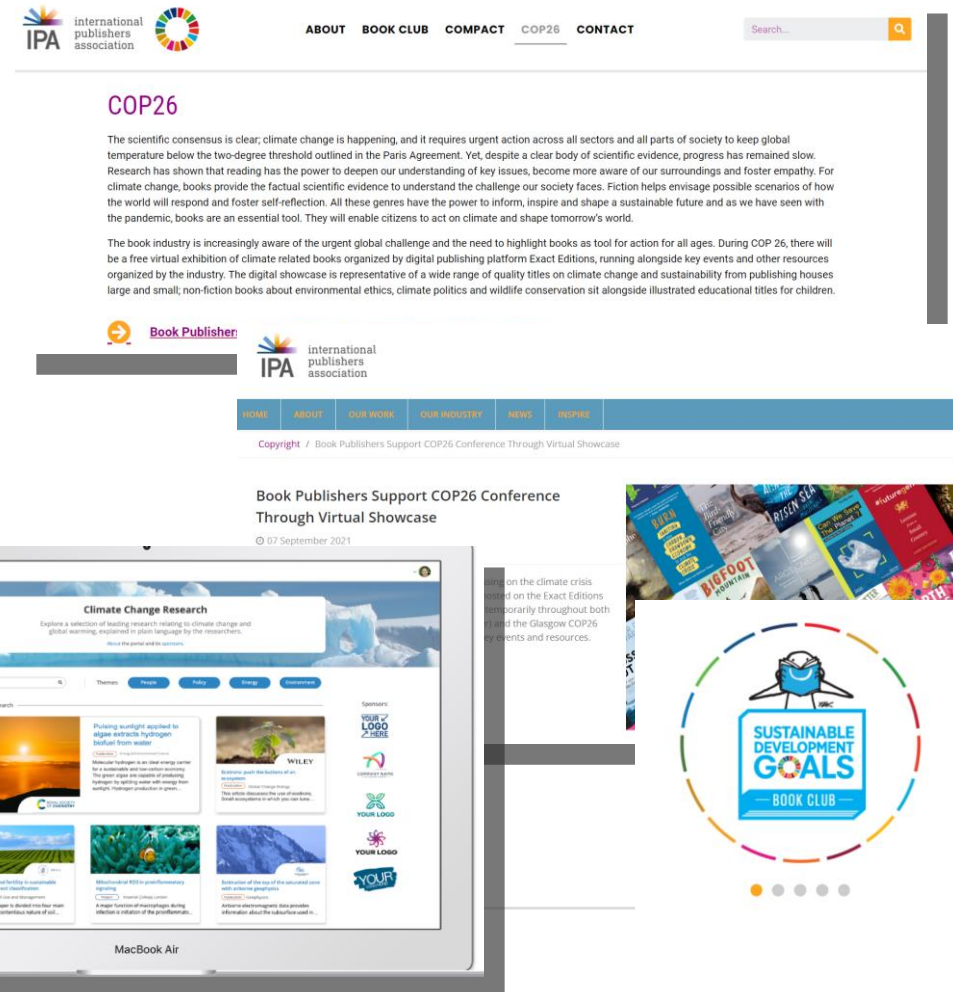


To balance out those residual emissions, and reach net zero overall, we'll need to remove an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

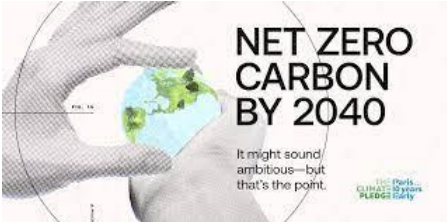


# 7. The publishing sector can move faster

- Good track record;
  - FSC Paper and printing
- Publishers are setting targets
  - Bertelsmann and Penguin Random House to achieve carbon neutral by 2030
  - Elsevier and Springer Nature by 2040
- It is an opportunity
  - 2022 is a turning point on climate
  - Linked to multiple SDGs;
  - Requires new ways of working; book promotions, book fairs, certification, packaging and printing



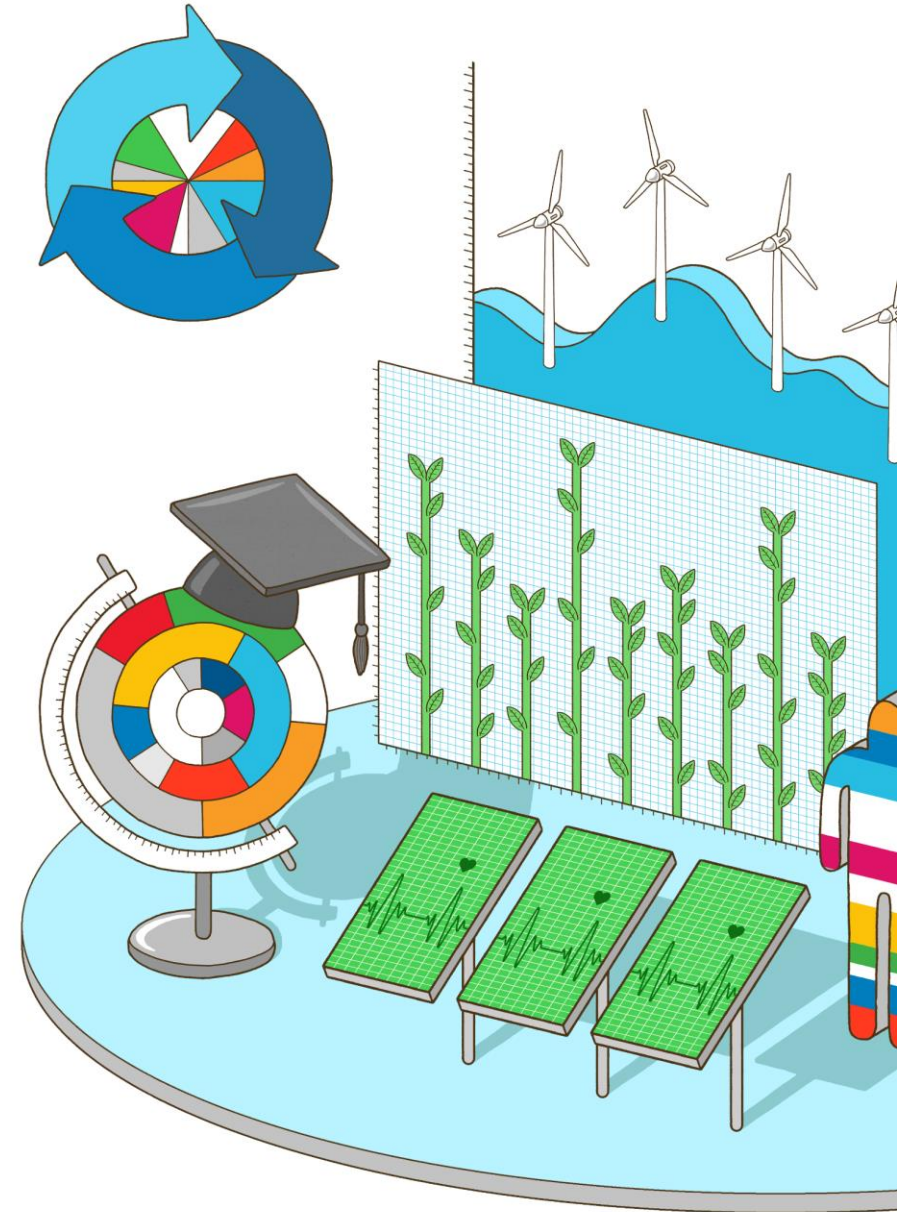
# 7. Let's agree on an end destination and create the roadmap





# Why do we need work across our supply chain?

Rachel Martin, Global Director of Sustainability, Elsevier and Chair of the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee



# 1. The environment has always been on the agenda

## Key areas:

- Paper and recycling
- Waste
- Energy use and office space
- Supplier certification and accreditation

## Focus on

- Being more efficient with less (cost savings)
- Sourcing responsibly (industry standards, eco-materials)
- Clean production and transportation
- Being socially responsible (human rights, worker rights)
- Transparency (reporting)



## 2. What does climate action look like?



**1. Scope 1 – Direct Emissions from company owned resources**



**2. Scope 2 – Indirect emissions that are owned**



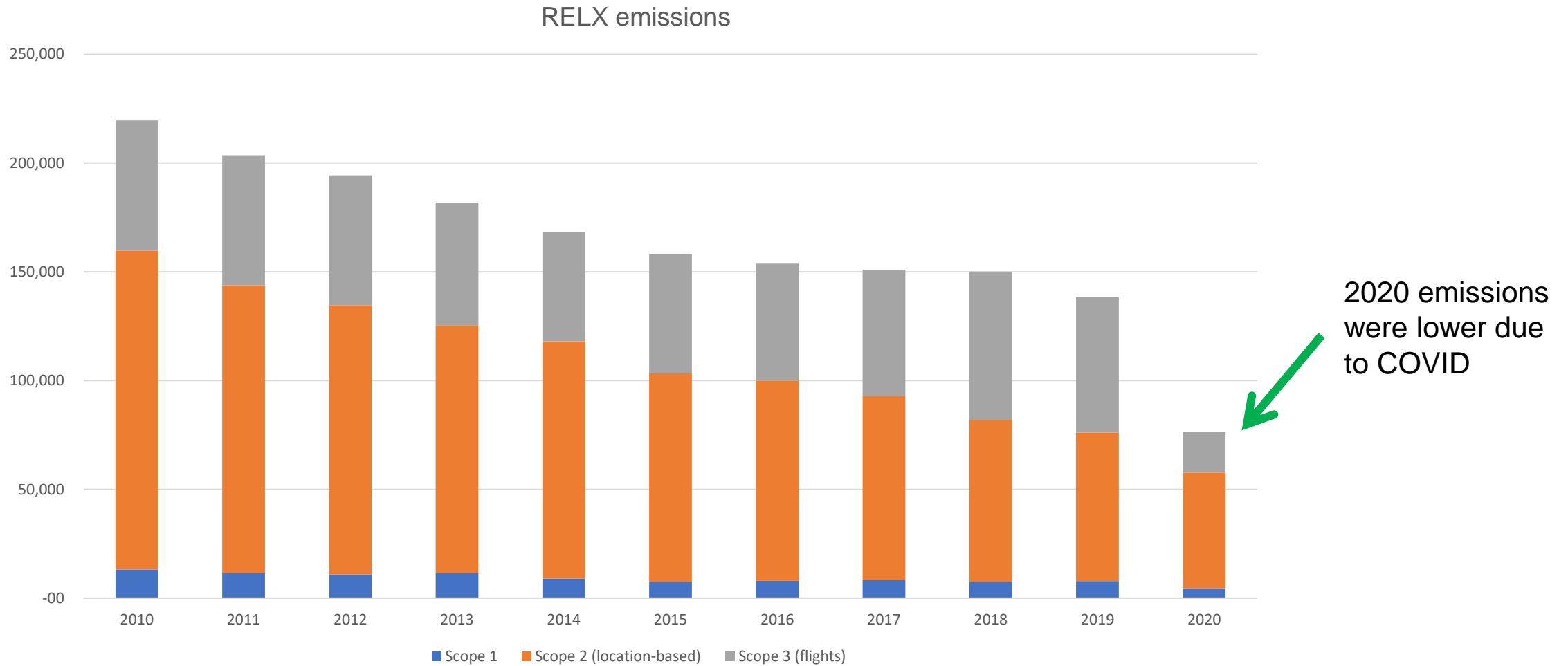
**3. Scope 3 – Indirect that are not owned**



### 3. Climate action means we can't do it alone



# 4. At RELX we have made substantial carbon reductions



# 5. And have worked out where these emissions lie

## Main categories of emissions for Elsevier:

- Physical Journals and Books
- Editorial
- Business Travel
- Content Creation
- Facilities, homeworking and commuting
- Infrastructure ( e.g., hosting)
- Pensions
- Other

## What have we learnt?

### 1. We want consistency:

- Carbon emission profile is not yet an exact science –trade offs exist

### 2. We need action:

- We need to be asking the same questions to suppliers and supplying the same data

### 3. We are all on a journey

- The solutions needed for the supply chain require everyone to be involved.



# Green Supply Chain Committee

## 29 Members

Amazon

Bloomsbury

Book Industry Study Group (BISG)

BookNet Canada

Canongate Books

Cengage

CILIP

Clays

CPI Group (UK) Ltd

Elsevier

Emerald Publishing

Gardners

Hachette UK

HarperCollins

IPG

Kogan Page

Macmillan Distribution

Nielsen

Pearson

Penguin Random House Distribution

Princeton University Press

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

Taylor & Francis Group

The BA

The PA

Ulverscroft

University of the Arts London (UAL)

Waterstones

WHSmith

Blue denotes trade bodies/associations



# Green Supply Chain Work Plan

## BASED 7 UN SDGs

- 4: Quality Education
- 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth
- 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
- 12: Responsible Consumption & Production
- 13: Climate Action
- 15: Life on Land
- 17: Partnerships for the Goals

## 7 CATEGORIES

- Events, Training, Information Resources & Lifelong Learning
- Sustainable Consumption & Production
- Designed for Recycling Project
- Accreditation
- IRI, Returns – Waste Prevention
- Communications, Reporting & Behaviours
- Green Book Alliance – International Sustainability Hub for the book industry

[BIC's Green Supply Chain Work Plan](#)

In line with BIC's [Green Promise and Agenda](#)  
Agreed by [BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee](#)

## Two projects underway

### Environmental Accreditation Badges

- **Aim:** an evaluation of current accreditations across the supply chain with key elements/benefits for each
- **Scope:** Environmental attributes, but have recorded social responsibility attributes the 'badges' it is all intertwined
- **Progress:**
  - The working group has search for, and found a number of 'badges'
  - A sub working group is creating and finalizing a methodology to assess the 'badges' in the same way

### Design for Recycling Project

**Aim:** To establish what can be done differently with regards to the creation of books, and to recommend how best to **progress to a situation where every book is automatically and always designed with recycling in mind.**

- **Progress Part One Life Cycle Assessment:**
  - Asses the current recycling and waste programs and report on materials being disposed of vs recycles, the carbon impact etc.
  - Working group members are reaching out to their contacts to cover areas of the supply chain, such a paper mills and book recycling organizations/plants
  - Creating a set of framework questions to be used by the team to make sure we are all asking the same questions of people we approach

# Thank you



## Connect with us



@michielams

[linkedin.com/in/michiel-kolman-5a4a70](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michiel-kolman-5a4a70)



[r.martin@elsevier.com](mailto:r.martin@elsevier.com)



@rachelcmartin



[linkedin.com/in/rachelrcmartin](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachelrcmartin)