

PRESS RELEASE

**New applied nature course for bankers**

*Edinburgh and Geneva, 6th August 2024*

Acknowledging the vital role that banks can have in safeguarding and restoring nature and our environment, the global sustainability academy for bankers - the [Principles for Responsible Banking Academy](https://prbacademy.com/) (PRB Academy) – has launched a new nature course, [“*Applying Nature-Responsible Banking* “,](https://prbacademy.com/courses/applying-nature-responsible-banking/) which focuses on practical approaches for banks engaging or considering how to engage with nature.

Our world faces a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and nature and biodiversity loss. It is estimated by The World Economic Forum (WEF)[[1]](#footnote-1) that a nature-positive pathway could generate over US$10 trillion in new annual business value, underlining why banks can and must play a bigger role in filling the biodiversity funding gap.

The aim of this course is to help with the ‘how’, covering what is it that banks need to do to reduce their negative impacts on nature and move towards having more positive impacts. The overarching objective of this course is to equip individuals with the critical knowledge and skills needed to navigate the nature-positive transition and create more favourable scenarios for the environment, banks and their customers.

The course is also aligned to The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework, which promotes the integration of nature into strategic and capital allocation decision-making. To support achievement of the course learning outcomes, a fictitious bank is used as a case study and learners are invited to immerse themselves in the role of a sustainability expert. The role involves exploring nature-related issues that are relevant for the bank, such as identifying and assessing impacts, dependencies and risks arising from a fictitious loan portfolio, before making recommendations for developing a nature-related strategy.

**Joanne Murphy, Interim Chief Executive of the Chartered Banker Institute commented:**

*“The Chartered Banker Institute is delighted to launch this new nature course with our partners. It builds on the introductory course on nature we launched earlier this year and is designed to help learners apply a nature-responsible approach to all aspects of banking, reducing negative impacts on nature and moving towards positive and sustainable outcomes for people and the planet. Mobilising finance to support for nature-positive outcomes can offer new opportunities for banks and their customers, as banks and bankers are uniquely positioned to enhance the resilience of our planet and societies to halt and reverse nature loss. Integrating this applied nature course into bank’s existing internal learning and development for employees provides a simple solution to further progress this essential work.”*

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About the PRB Academy**

The PRB Academy helps banks and bankers implement the Principles for Responsible Banking.

It was developed by the world's leading professional banking institute, the Chartered Banker Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The PRB Academy launched its first nature course [“*Introduction to Nature and Responsible Banking* “](https://prbacademy.com/courses/introduction-to-nature-and-responsible-banking/)in March 2024. The aim of this course was to provide learners, regardless of their career level or job role, with an understanding of why nature is a critical issue for a responsible bank and introducing key frameworks and guidance that banks can use to help to help assess their nature-related impacts and risks to help banks identify opportunities to have a more positive impact on nature – not just to halt its decline, but to help restore it.

Please note that you don’t need to have completed the introductory course before doing the applied course, which has been launched today.

For more information about the PRB Academy, its range of courses and how individuals and organisations can register their interest please visit [www.prbacademy.com](http://www.prbacademy.com) to stay up to date.

**About the UN Principles for Responsible Banking**

The Principles for Responsible Banking is a unique framework for ensuring that signatory banks’ strategy and practice align with the vision society has set out for its future in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The framework consists of 6 Principles designed to bring purpose, vision and ambition to sustainable finance. They were created in 2019 through a partnership between founding banks and the United Nations Environment Programme’s Finance Initiative. Signatory banks commit to embedding these 6 principles across all business areas, at the strategic, portfolio and transactional levels.

UNEP Finance Initiative brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that collectively catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies. Convened by a Geneva, Switzerland-based secretariat, more than 400 banks and insurers with assets exceeding US$100 trillion work together to facilitate the implementation of UNEP FI’s Principles for Responsible Banking and Principles for Sustainable Insurance, as well as three UN-convened net-zero alliances. Financial institutions work with UNEP FI on a voluntary basis, and we help them to apply the industry frameworks and develop practical guidance and tools to position their businesses for the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy.

**About the Chartered Banker Institute**

The Chartered Banker Institute (“the Institute”) is the oldest professional banking institute in the world. The Institute was founded in 1875, operates globally, with over 37,000 members in over 100 different countries and nearly 1,000 financial institutions worldwide. The Institute has driven an agenda of ethical professionalism throughout its existence; promoting professional standards for bankers, providing professional qualifications for retail, commercial and private bankers, and offering professional membership to qualified individuals. For more information, please visit: [www.charteredbanker.com](http://www.charteredbanker.com).

**About the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

GIZ is a German public-benefit federal enterprise that works jointly with governments, international organizations, businesses, civil society actors and research institutions worldwide to foster international cooperation for sustainable development. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and other commissioning parties, GIZ supports sustainable development in emerging markets and developing countries.

In the field of sustainable finance, GIZ aims to accelerate the transformation towards sustainable financial systems in partner countries. GIZ’s approach is to help create enabling framework conditions through policy and reform processes, support the implementation of ambitious sustainable finance practices in the financial sector, and to raise awareness and capacities through training, research and peer learning.

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1. [WEF\_Scaling\_Investments\_in\_Nature\_2022.pdf (weforum.org)](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Scaling_Investments_in_Nature_2022.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)