

Global Initiatives on SCP

This overview is based on UNEPs web site and publications on the Marrakech Process available at:
<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/>

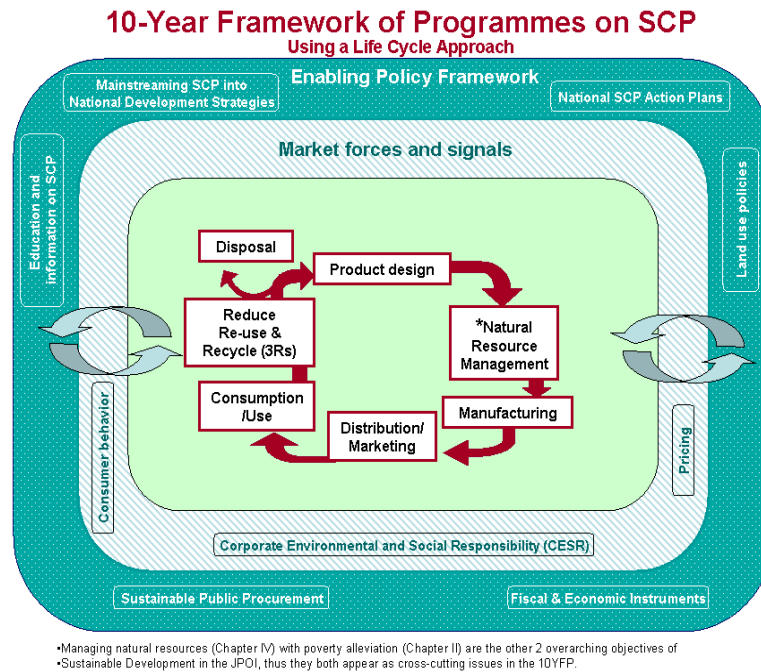
What is the Marrakech Process?

Commitments to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns were first elaborated in Agenda 21 during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) or Earth Summit took place in Johannesburg, South Africa where all countries agreed that achieving SCP was one of the three main priorities to realize sustainable development. As a result of the Earth Summit the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) called for support to be given to regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP. The first meeting to discuss a 10 -Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP was in Marrakech, Morocco, hence the name.

The 10YFP will contribute to poverty reduction as well as decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, key tenets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Indeed poverty alleviation is an integral part of SCP's core mission to meet basic needs in a sustainable manner. By providing an umbrella of general programmes to support SCP implementation at both the regional and national levels, the 10YFP provides a flexible approach, identifying common priorities while allowing for differences in national economies. Most regions have identified key sectoral focus areas such as energy, waste management, water, mobility, housing, agriculture and tourism. Poverty reduction remains a top priority and is a cross-cutting issue for most regions.

The structure of the 10YFP uses a Life-Cycle Approach which helps guide SCP work not already covered by other international processes. It endeavors to go beyond the traditional focus on production sites and manufacturing processes so that environmental, social and economic impacts of a product over its entire life cycle are taken into consideration.

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP Using a Life Cycle Approach



Note: The diagram has been developed by the Marrakech Process Secretariat (UNEP and UNDESA) based on the Life Cycle Approach. <http://www.unep.fr/scp>

The two layers outside the core of the diagram influence the activities highlighted inside. The outside layer is the 'enabling policy framework' which covers a broad range of policy interventions (SCP action plans, fiscal & economic instruments) that influence activities throughout a product's entire life cycle. The second layer represents 'market forces and signals' and contains a range of market-based instruments, voluntary tools and consumer behavior, including Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CESR) and product pricing that can promote resource efficiency throughout the product's life cycle. The arrows signify that the three layers are continuously interacting.

Marrakech Process Phases

The Marrakech Process ensures the active participation of multiple stakeholders at all levels, builds North-South cooperation and promotes partnerships both regionally and nationally. The development of the 10YFP includes the organization of regional consultation meetings to advance awareness of SCP and to identify priorities while it supports the development of regional programmes and strategies with regional and national ownership. The 10YFP also directly supports the implementation of concrete projects and programmes which improve SCP

tools and methodologies which are primarily implemented by the International Task Forces.

Regional Consultations and SCP Programmes

Various regional consultations have been held in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and the Arab States, during which each region identified its needs and priorities for achieving SCP. These consultations are contributing to the development of regional programmes on SCP. Africa has launched its own 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP with the institutional support of AMCEN, NEPAD, the African Union, UN ECA and UNEP. Latin America has also developed its regional Strategy on SCP and set up a Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP supported by the regional Forum of Ministers of Environment. The European Union has launched its Action Plan on SCP while the Asia and Pacific region has set up a Regional SCP Help Desk and is implementing a regional Green Growth Initiative with UN ESCAP. The Arab region is still in the process of developing its SCP strategy. International review meetings are organized every two years for stakeholders to report and discuss progress, share experiences and coordinate further international cooperation to develop the 10 YFP.

In addition, the Cooperation Dialogue comprising of representatives from development agencies and SCP experts has been established to mainstream SCP activities with existing development plans and poverty reduction. It is recognized that businesses, industry and trade unions can play a crucial role in making SCP a reality that is why the Advisory Committee to the Marrakech Process was established in 2008, including representatives from governments, task forces, the business community and NGOs to assist with further development of the SCP programmes. Furthermore, a NGO forum has also been established to further engage NGOs in the process and to serve as a vehicle for them to provide inputs into the 10YFP. The Marrakech Process is also supporting emerging economies in promoting SCP, so far national SCP roundtables have been held in China, India, Brazil and South Africa and more are planned for the future.

International Task Forces

The Marrakech Task Forces are voluntary initiatives led by governments in collaboration with other partners charged with carrying out a set of concrete activities at the regional or national level that promote patterns of SCP. Each Task Force focuses on one specific thematic area of SCP.

The Seven Thematic Areas of the Marrakech Task Forces



Source: UNEP, <http://www.unep.fr/scp>

Cooperation with Africa, led by Germany: Aims to support African countries with the implementation of the African 10YFP. This has included an eco-labeling project, dissemination of best practices on energy, water and waste management and a report published on promoting SCP by leapfrogging. The task force has also compiled a list of best practices of transferable examples of development projects across Africa which has contributed to SCP.

<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/africa.htm>

Sustainable Products, led by the U.K: Has developed projects and networks to increase product performance in terms of energy and waste and has instigated awareness-raising of product policy. It has issued the “*Action Planning Map*”, a top level document that summarizes and analyses global policy development activity in order to identify gaps and opportunities for more international co-operation and for adopting best practices. Product policy activity maps have been issued that summarize national and international actions in science and technology; networks and mechanisms and policy and regulations. It has also produced a database of policy activity by product and country.

<http://www.itfsp.org/>

Sustainable Lifestyles, led by Sweden: Aims to encourage actions that foster sustainable lifestyles through communication and marketing, education, social and cultural initiatives, cooperation and dialogue. This has included the development of a toolkit on sustainability communications, as well as a global survey, training sessions, demonstration projects and

creative communities on sustainable lifestyles. A comprehensive guide has been compiled for local and national government officials, as well as other stakeholders outlining the steps necessary to develop and implement an effective public awareness campaign about sustainable lifestyles, including what does and doesn't work in sustainable development communities, how to develop a plan, key obstacles to government communications and sixteen case studies from around the world.

<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/lifestyles.htm>

Green Public Procurement, led by Switzerland: Aims to support and encourage green public procurement by developing tools and supporting capacity building. The Task Force has developed a web-based status assessment platform and a methodology to review legal and market readiness that can be used by a country before they draft their green public procurement action plans/policies. They also have provided training for procurement experts and assisted pilot countries during the first year of implementation. The task forces aims to assist 14 countries to test the approach before 2010/2011.

<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/procurement.htm>

Sustainable Tourism Development, led by France: Aims to develop, promote and implement actions that encourage sustainable tourism with a special focus on climate change, biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage and local development. This has been encouraged by a number of new initiatives including an internet-based campaign called the “Green Passport” to raise tourists’ awareness of responsible holiday choices. Guidelines have been issued by the Partnership for Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC), a coalition of 32 organizations initiated by UNEP, UNWTO and the Rainforest Alliance to foster increased understanding of sustainable tourism practices. An umbrella organization called the Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council (STSC) has been established that will set universal minimum standards for certification programs and accredit those who meet them. Capacity building seminars on environmental management in hotels and the management of SMEs in the accommodation sector have been designed and delivered to members of the tourism industry. In addition, a study on tourism and climate change has also been launched to reduce the carbon footprint of the sector.

Today, investments in the tourism sectors represent almost 10 per cent of total investment value world wide, and there has been a growing focus on tourism as a generator of foreign direct investment (FDI), therefore the task force has also facilitated the establishment of the Sustainable Investment and Finance in Tourism (SIFT) Network to mainstream sustainability

criteria into tourism development investments and financing. This will be achieved by sharing best practices in tourism investments, developing guidelines, benchmarking mechanisms and voluntary initiatives (including a voluntary standard). The network is not intended to be a new fund but rather a means to facilitate information exchange and better coordination between existing funds, donors, investors and developing country tourist destinations in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (International Organizations, IGOs, National and Regional Development Agencies).

<http://www.veilleinfotourisme.fr/taskforce>

Policy Recommendations on Sustainable Tourism Development

Policy recommendations on sustainable tourism development were approved by the ITF-STD – Marrakech in April 2009. The recommendations will be presented during preparations for the 18th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010 where the development of the Marrakech 10YFP on SCP will be discussed. Sustainable tourism policy recommendations include:

- Sustainable tourism planning needs to be integrated into existing national and regional development plans through Integrated Sustainability Assessments (ISAs). Planners should identify and utilize legal and fiscal regimes, information, knowledge, evaluation tools and a cooperative process among professionals and civil society;
- Plans are more effective if produced by a multi-stakeholder participatory planning process. Local professionals should be employed as much as possible in developing the plan to create a sense of ownership by the local community, while local workers should be employed as much as possible in all tourism operations.
- Where possible, local goods and services should always be used in tourist operations;
- Planning should incorporate a balanced mix of tools, such as economic and legislative instruments, Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs). Governments should set baselines and measurable targets, review progress and report on achievements towards sustainable tourism objectives;
- Environmental and social criteria should be a key part of any tendering, licensing and permit-approval procedures;
- Structures which support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements relating to conservation, environmental protection, pollution control and natural resource management should be strengthened;
- The development of zoning systems around areas for tourism should be mandated;

- Tourism businesses and public institutions in charge of tourism should be supported so they can adopt new technologies to improve the efficient use of resources (particularly land, energy and water),
- All operations should be required to use internationally recognized standards for sustainable tourism. While corporations should be encouraged to adopt corporate social and environmental responsibility (CSER) principles in their tourism investments;
- Tourism actors should fully participate in initiatives led by the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development like the *Davos Process on Climate Change and Tourism* and the *Sustainable Investment and Finance in Tourism (SIFT) Network*.
- Tourists should be helped to make sustainable tourism choices through labeling initiatives which are clearly validated and via widespread awareness raising and marketing activities. Guidelines for responsible behavior by tourists should be clearly communicated at all tourist sites.

For a complete list of policy recommendations on sustainable tourism development please visit the UNEP website at:

http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/pdf/POLICY_RECOMMENDATIONS-ITF_STD_2009.pdf

Sustainable Buildings and Construction, led by Finland: Aims to support the development of innovative local and national policies that mainstream sustainability in the construction, use, maintenance and renovations of buildings. Particular focus has been on the reduction of CO₂ emissions from buildings and a collection of best policy practices for sustainable buildings and construction has been published. The publication *Buildings and Climate Change* provides an overview of the current knowledge about greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and presents opportunities for their minimization. In addition, *Building a Better Future* – a web based publication has been launched with case studies and best policy practices from around the world to promote various aspects of sustainable buildings and construction (SBC). Workshops have also been organized to instigate awareness-raising on issues related to SBC.

<http://www.environment.fi/sbc>

Education for Sustainable Consumption, led by Italy: Focuses on formal learning processes to provide knowledge, awareness and competences to enable individuals and social groups to adopt sustainable consumption behaviors. The Task Force has compiled an overview of resources and teaching materials providing references to theoretical research and practical

materials, as well as web links. It provides policy makers and educators with an instrument to understand the importance of education on sustainable consumption in supporting other policy goals, such as citizenship, democratic participation, environmental protection and energy and climate policies.

A set of guidelines and recommendations to advance education for sustainable consumption through formal education has also been published with the help of Hedmark University College in Norway.

http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_sezione=1935

The Way Forward

There is an urgent need for more cooperation between Asia-Pacific countries and the Marrakech Process and for governments in the region to take the lead on some of the Task Forces to drive the transition towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Their experiences with existing SCP initiatives, projects and examples of national best practices could be adapted to the existing work of the Task Forces and would provide invaluable lessons to other governments across the world. Further promotion and collaboration with the Marrakech Process and the Green Growth Initiative could provide the synergies needed to really accelerate the shift towards global sustainable consumption and production practices.

References

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N.B. No document emanating from the secretariat should disclaim the views expressed officially in the resolutions of the main organs of the United Nations and in other legislative texts of the Organization such as the Charter of the United Nations and various declarations and conventions.

The few examples provided in this paper serve only to illustrate and inspire and are by no means an exhaustive representation of initiatives in the region. This paper is in draft form and as such the secretariat would welcome any comments and suggestions.