



## **3rd International Expert Meeting on 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (Marrakech Process)**

Background paper 3:

### **Mechanisms of the Marrakech Process**

Intended to support discussions in Working  
Groups on 28 June 2007

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## Introduction

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This paper was prepared to provide current status and background information on the Marrakech Process and to facilitate discussions within working groups during the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), to be held 26-29 June 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden.

This introduction section provides an overview of the Marrakech Process and the objectives of the Stockholm Meeting. The sections that follow explain four levels of activities within or around the Marrakech Process – regional consultations (Section 1), national programmes (Section 2), the Marrakech Task Forces (Section 3) and the Cooperation Dialogue with development agencies (Section 4). Section 5 explores the role of business and industry in promoting SCP and their possible cooperation to the Marrakech Process. These five topics will be discussed in the Working Group Session that will take place on the 28 June during the Expert Meeting. In each section, key questions are posed to guide discussions in the working groups. It is recommended to read this background paper together with background paper number one “Key elements of a Proposed 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production”.

### 1.1 What is the Marrakech Process?

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI) endorsed by all governments at the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) called upon governments to “change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production” (Chapter 3 of JPI). The JPI specifically called for governments to promote the development of a 10YFP in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

The Marrakech Process, named after the host city for the First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP held in 2003, refers to the international joint effort to develop the 10YFP.

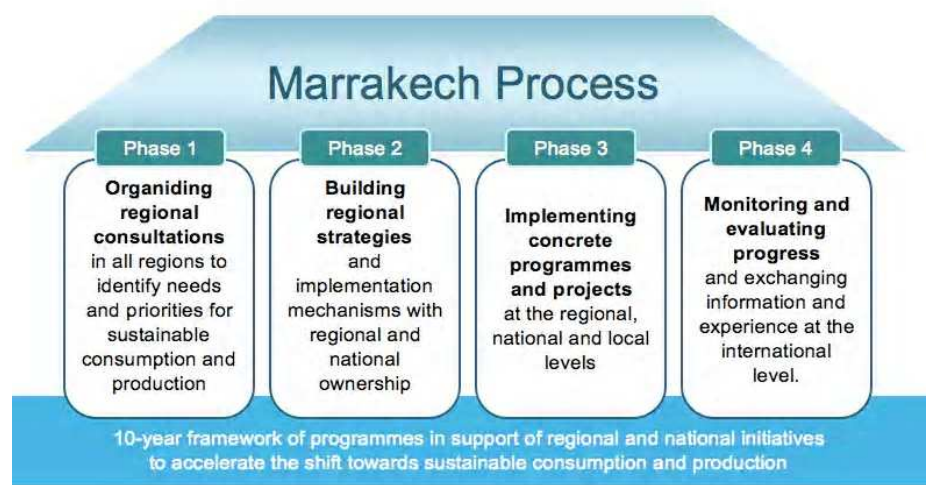


Figure1: The four phases of the Marrakech Process

The proposal for a 10YFP will be presented and reviewed at the 2010-2011 cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). At present the Marrakech Process is at the mid-point in its development. Over the coming three years national, regional and international SCP experts (from governments, private sector, NGOs and researchers, among others) will continue to collaborate to prepare a draft of an achievable and effective framework of programmes to support all regions and countries to shift towards SCP patterns in their production and consumption systems.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) are the joint coordinators of the Marrakech Process. The main objective of the Marrakech Process is to develop a proposal for the 10YFP which will be presented and review by the CSD. The development of the 10YFP consists of the following four phases<sup>1</sup>:

- Phase 1:** Organising regional consultations in all regions to promote awareness and identify priorities and needs for SCP (through regional expert meetings and national/regional roundtables)
- Phase 2:** Building regional strategies and implementation mechanisms with regional and national ownership (which, when possible, are endorsed by regional institutions, such as the African Union, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Phase 3:** Implementing concrete projects and programmes at the regional, national and local levels for developing and/or improving SCP tools and methodologies (with the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue as the main implementation mechanism)
- Phase 4:** Evaluating progress, exchanging information, and building international cooperation and coordination

The phases do not necessarily imply a chronological order. Some activities are implemented in parallel in the Marrakech Process, and regional consultations for refinement of regional strategies and implementation mechanisms will be ongoing through phases 3 and 4.

Under the Marrakech Process, a wide range of activities including meetings, policy development and concrete implementation projects have been taking place and these will be introduced in the sections of this paper to follow.

## International Expert Meetings

To date two international expert meetings have been held under the Marrakech Process to report progress, share experiences and coordinate international cooperation with regard to SCP. The first meeting

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<sup>1</sup> "Phases" do not necessarily imply a chronological order. The activities related to those phases need to be implemented in parallel in the Marrakech Process.

was held in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2003 and the second in San José, Costa Rica in September 2005.

### The 2003 Marrakech Meeting

The First International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (the 'Marrakech Meeting') was held to encourage first steps towards developing the 10YFP. At this meeting it was agreed that "the development of the 10YFP is a continuous process towards the achievement of SCP patterns, which would be further elaborated through enhanced international cooperation". It was also agreed that follow-up activities at the international level would focus primarily on coordination of regional SCP consultation meetings in support of regional initiatives. The meeting also recommended that informal task forces or roundtables be established to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies.

### The 2005 Costa Rica Meeting

The Second International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (the 'Costa Rica Meeting') reviewed the conclusions reached through consultations in regional expert meetings. At this meeting, the 'consultation phase' of the Marrakech Process was closed and an agreement was reached to move towards the implementation of regional strategies and concrete SCP projects. The meeting marked the launch of the *Marrakech Task Forces* and the *Cooperation Dialogue* as important mechanisms to improve international cooperation and to support implementation of concrete SCP projects.

The meeting emphasised the importance of linking the work on SCP to poverty reduction, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It concluded that SCP policies should be developed and integrated into national sustainable development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) where applicable.

Table 1 presents a summary of main outcomes from the two meetings.

**Table 1: International Expert Meetings and their main outcomes**

Meeting	Main Outcomes
<p>International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (June 2003, Marrakech, Morocco)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marrakech Process was launched as “a continuous process” to develop the 10YFP with bi-annual international review meetings.</li> <li>• Agreed that the international follow-up process would consist of the coordination of regional and national SCP initiatives.</li> <li>• The Marrakech Process should take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.</li> <li>• Underlined the importance to integrate SCP into national sustainable development strategies and, where applicable, into Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRs).</li> <li>• Recommended the establishment of informal task forces or roundtables to promote the implementation of SCP policies and strategies.</li> <li>• UN-DESA and UNEP were asked to expand the Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns that was compiled by UN-DESA, in order to make it more comprehensive and accessible to all countries.</li> <li>• Recommended the establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience sharing, network building, and dissemination of best practice through interactive websites and expert meetings on specific issues.</li> <li>• UN-DESA, together with UN-HABITAT, was invited to prepare a report on the actions needed at international level in order to support national actions in waste, transportation, construction, water and sanitation sectors. This report will indicate the agencies and institutions that should be involved in each action.</li> </ul>
<p>2nd International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP (September 2005, San José, Costa Rica)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified regional priority issues and needs. Closure of the ‘consultation phase’.</li> <li>• 4 Marrakech Task Forces (Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Products, Sustainable Procurement, and Cooperation with Africa) were launched.</li> <li>• 1st Cooperation Dialogue Session was held, recommending a second session to be organised as part of the next international expert meeting.</li> <li>• UNEP and UN-DESA were requested to carry out a review on SCP-related projects supported by development agencies, in order to consider how to better integrate SCP into development plans.</li> <li>• It was recognised that the SCP action plan could be a cornerstone for achieving progress. Such a plan should, where relevant, be integrated into the national sustainable development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRs) where applicable.</li> <li>• UNEP and UN-DESA were requested to develop non-prescriptive guidelines to support the development of national strategies for SCP.</li> <li>• Recommended further work on the development and application of methods necessary to estimate the benefits of SCP policies, as well as the costs of inaction.</li> <li>• UN-DESA was requested to maintain and develop the database on international activities on consumption and production patterns.</li> </ul>

## Objectives of the Stockholm Meeting

The objectives of the 2007 Stockholm Meeting are to:

- 1) Assess progress and provide direction for future work under the Marrakech Process;
- 2) Begin the conceptualisation of the 10YFP (the first proposal of key elements of the framework will be presented and discussed); and
- 3) Identify new mechanisms to build a more active cooperation between the Marrakech Process and major groups such as business, NGOs, local authorities and academia.

During the meeting, two breakout working group sessions will be organised (one on 27 June and the second on 28 June). The working groups organised on 27 June will discuss seven key SCP areas raised during the regional consultations (see Background Paper 2). The working groups organised on 28 June will discuss and analyse the different mechanisms under the Marrakech Process including: 1) regional consultations and strategies on SCP, 2) national SCP programmes, 3) Marrakech Task Forces, 4) Co-operation Dialogue, and 5) cooperation with business and Industry. The main objectives of this second working group session are to identify:

- a) Progress achieved under each mechanism/area of the Marrakech Process;
- b) Key priorities to continue the work towards SCP and the development of the 10YFP;
- c) Policy tools, programmes and mechanisms of implementation that could be reflected in the 10YFP
- d) Which actors are best positioned to implement the various measures and how implementation should best proceed. This includes the role of major groups in the Marrakech Process and how they can be actively engaged with a particular focus on the private sector, NGOs and governments.

# 1 Regional Processes

## 1.1 Regional consultations & strategies

Between 2003 and 2005, UNEP and UN-DESA jointly organised ten regional expert meetings on the 10YFP in four different regions – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean – and one sub-regional meeting in the Baltic States, with support from host governments and donors. In the regional meetings, experts were consulted on regional priority issues and needs with regard to the development and implementation of regional SCP strategies. In addition to these meetings, since 2006 national SCP roundtables have been organised to encourage SCP initiatives and programmes at the national level with a special focus on ‘BRICS’ countries – notably Brazil, India, China and South Africa – where rapid increase of resource consumption coupled with large populations is posing tremendous sustainable development challenges (see Figure 2). This section summarises and analyses the progress in the consultations, the development of strategies, and activities on a regional basis.<sup>2</sup>

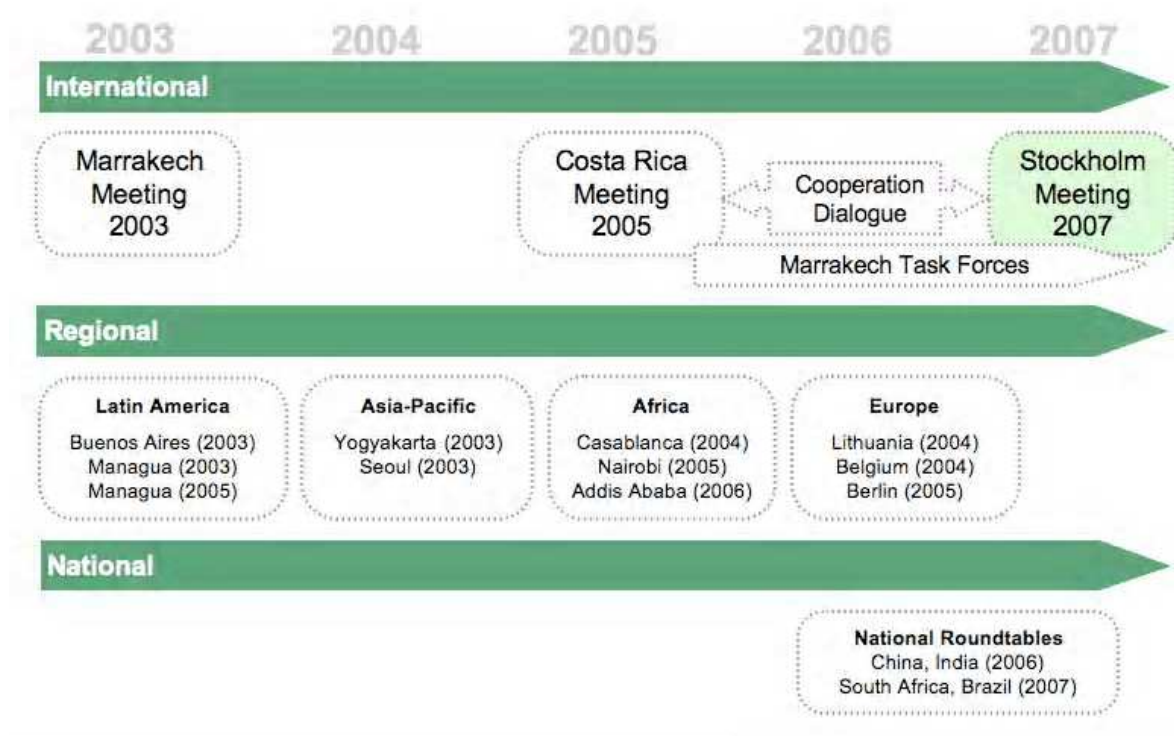


Figure 2: Marrakech Process at national, regional and international levels

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the regional meetings, visit [www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/10year/regional.htm](http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/10year/regional.htm)

### 1.1.1 Africa

Three regional expert meetings were organised in Africa, one in Casablanca in May 2004, a second in Nairobi in February 2005 and a third in Addis Ababa in May 2006. The participants, who mainly consisted of government representatives, members of national cleaner production centres (NCPCs) and researchers. The region identified four SCP priority areas 1) energy, 2) water and sanitation, 3) habitat and sustainable urban development, and 4) industrial development. Each thematic priority area was considered in the context of the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and regional poverty reduction priorities.

In the Africa region, commitment to the Marrakech Process has been gained from high-level policy makers and notable advances in the development of regional SCP policies have been achieved. At the first regional meeting in 2004, the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) became a formal institution with support from the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in addition to being subsequently incorporated into the Marrakech Process. The ARSCP aims to facilitate the development of national and regional capacities for SCP and promote effective implementation of SCP policies and activities.

At the third expert meeting in 2006 (also held as the 4th African Roundtable on SCP), the "African 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP" was launched with official support from the African Union and AMCEN. This has made Africa the first region to have developed its own 10YFP.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the outcomes of the three regional meetings, the ARSCP began with two pilot projects on: i) SCP for plastics as a demonstration of integrated solid waste management; and ii) a regional training and awareness programme on life cycle assessment (LCA) as a planning and decision-making tool.

The ARSCP also co-chairs the "Cooperation with Africa" Task Force together with the German Government. The Task Force aims to assist African countries to implement some areas of the African 10YFP, with a special emphasis on assisting Africa to "leapfrog" towards SCP patterns. The Task Force is working in three areas: development of an African eco-labelling scheme, development of national/city-level programmes on SCP, and a review on opportunities for leapfrogging in Africa (see section 3.2).

### 1.1.2 Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region organised two regional expert meetings. The first meeting was in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in May 2003 and the second in Seoul, Korea in November of that same year.

These two meetings discussed the development of a "Plan of Action for Promoting SCP Patterns" within the region. Preliminary ideas on a regional strategy for SCP were developed while keeping in mind the identification of needs and priorities. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on the African 10YFP, visit [www.arscp.org](http://www.arscp.org)

(UN-ESCAP) Committee on Managing Globalization endorsed the resolutions from the second meeting and incorporated the work of the Regional 10YFP into its medium-term work plan.

As part of the EU-funded project “Capacity Building for Implementation of UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection in Asia” (SC.Asia), a UNEP training exercise on sustainable consumption tools and national action plans was held in Manila in March 2005 for government officials. The training was a component of the Regional Cross-Learning Seminar on Sustainable Consumption. The main result of this project was a guidance manual entitled *Advancing Sustainable Consumption in Asia*. The manual contains step-by-step guidance on how national action plans may be developed, with a special focus on product information, waste prevention and minimisation, sustainable government practices, and awareness, education and marketing for SCP.<sup>4</sup>

In response to a request made at the second regional expert meeting, UN-ESCAP and UNEP jointly established the Regional Help Desk for SCP in May 2006. The mission of the Help Desk is to assist governments in the region to take action to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Hosted by the China Standard Certification Centre, the main activities of the Help Desk include information sharing through the Internet and expert networks, conducting studies to identify SCP tools and case studies, dissemination of knowledge through training, policy dialogues and forums, and the facilitation of demonstration activities.

Likewise, under the Marrakech Process, two national roundtables on SCP were hosted by the respective governments in the Asia-Pacific region. The first was held in Beijing in May of 2006 and the second in Mumbai in September of the same year. The participants recommended follow-up actions including:

- Establishment of national multi-stakeholder consultations;
- Promotion of participation of different stakeholders in the Marrakech Process;
- Implementation of a training, education and advertising campaign;
- Development of demonstration and pilot projects;
- Identification of appropriate criteria for the creation of standards, certification and labelling schemes; and
- Thematic SCP workshops to improve knowledge and develop sectoral action plans.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, although not a component of the Marrakech Process, the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Roundtable for SCP (APRSCP) was held in April 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam to foster dialogue among different stakeholders and to debate solutions for accelerating the shift to sustainable development pathways. The participants discussed the opportunities for a better cooperation of the APRSCP with the Marrakech Process.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The manual can be downloaded from [www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/policies/scasia.htm](http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/policies/scasia.htm)

<sup>5</sup> The meeting reports of the national roundtables can be downloaded from [www.uneptie.org/pc/sustain/10year/national.htm](http://www.uneptie.org/pc/sustain/10year/national.htm)

<sup>6</sup> For more information on the APRSCP, visit [www.aprscp.org](http://www.aprscp.org)

### 1.1.3 Europe

Two regional expert meetings were organised in Europe under slightly different focuses from those of other regions. The European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP held in Ostend, Belgium, in November 2004, was jointly organised by UNEP and the European Commission. The meeting discussed priorities for further work on SCP for all key actors in Europe, and considered how Europe could cooperate with other regions to promote SCP. The participants recommended better integration of SCP into overall policy strategies and structures at national and EU levels as well as provision of support to consumers and producers for encouraging voluntary actions. Furthermore, as follow-up actions, they also recommended the creation of a forum or board of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress towards SCP and the establishment of a fund to support SCP activities.

The European Conference on Sustainable Energy Consumption held in Berlin in December 2005 was the second regional expert meeting. The specific focus of this meeting was on the production and use of energy-using products. The positive impact of small and inexpensive improvement measures was emphasised and intensified promotion of green public procurement was proposed as a positive example to effect much-needed changes in consumption patterns.

A sub-regional meeting of the Baltic States was organised earlier in Vilnius, Lithuania in June 2004. This meeting aimed to raise awareness of SCP issues and share best practices, as well as to identify sub-regional and national priorities for SCP.

European countries have been also active in organising and coordinating the existing seven Marrakech Task Forces. The Task Forces have been developing concrete projects for their own specific topics and sectoral issues, particularly supporting the implementation of SCP policies and measures in other regions through North-South cooperation (see Section 3).

In June 2006, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy revised its priority areas for action to include SCP. The European Commission was requested to develop an EU Action Plan on SCP by 2007, improving synergies between the existing policies and tools and addressing the potential gaps.

Outside the Marrakech Process, there have also been a number of other regional and international efforts for SCP initiated in Europe. A sub-regional workshop of the South Eastern European (Balkan) countries was organised in December 2005 by the Croatian Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Construction in collaboration with UNEP.<sup>7</sup> The academic and research society have been active as well in the issue of SCP. In February 2005, an international group of scientists who gathered in Oslo for a Japanese government-funded workshop launched the “Oslo Declaration”, calling for global efforts to bridge the gaps in implementation of sustainable consumption.<sup>8</sup> The EU-funded Sustainable Consumption Research Exchange (SCORE) network was established in 2005 with an aim to support and provide inputs to the Marrakech Process from academia. With a series of workshops and conferences, the net-

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<sup>7</sup> For more information on the workshop, visit [www.unep.ch/scoe/archive/croatia.htm](http://www.unep.ch/scoe/archive/croatia.htm)

<sup>8</sup> The Oslo Declaration is available at [www.oslodeclaration.org](http://www.oslodeclaration.org)

work is analysing the state of the art in SCP research and promoting cases of sustainable consumption.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the 11<sup>th</sup> European Roundtable on SCP (ERSCP) will take place in June 2007 in Basel, Switzerland with an aim to foster dialogue between stakeholders and stimulate further innovations in SCP. Communication has been established expressing the interest to integrate the Marrakech Process into the ERSCP's agenda.<sup>10</sup>

#### 1.1.4 Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, three regional expert meetings on the 10YFP have been held, one in Buenos Aires in April 2003 and the two others in Managua, Nicaragua in October 2003 and August 2005 respectively.

The participants in the regional expert meetings identified three highest priority areas for SCP:

- Economic issues: competitiveness, trade and market access, economic diversification, energy efficiency and cleaner production, economic instruments and patterns in consumption and production
- Water resources: watershed management, coasts and coastal resources management, inland water quality and freshwater supply
- Institutional issues: environmental education, training and capacity building, social participation and empowerment, promotion of public-private partnerships, inclusion of the environmental dimension into economic and social processes, evaluation and development of indicators

Following the first two regional expert meetings, the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP was established in November 2003 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum of Ministers of the Environment, with the UNEP Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) presiding as secretariat. The main objective of this council is to identify and propose efficient mechanisms to integrate policies, strategies and programmes promoting SCP patterns. The council, consisting of one government expert from each country in the region, will meet on an annual basis as a minimum.

Government experts also developed the Regional Strategy on SCP which defines concrete actions and specific pilot projects. The Strategy emphasises the importance of strengthening the capacity of government institutions as well as the capacity of the productive and financial sectors to implement SCP-related policies and activities. The Regional Strategy states that capacity for implementation should be accomplished through workshops, training, knowledge and technical assistance, as well as environmental awareness campaigns and pilot projects.

As an outcome of the third meeting in Managua, Nicaragua in 2005, the Regional Council recommended the following as strategic components:

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<sup>9</sup> For more information on the SCORE network, visit [www.score-network.org](http://www.score-network.org)

<sup>10</sup> For more information on the ERSCP, visit [www.erscp2007.net](http://www.erscp2007.net)

- Development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region
- Inclusion of SCP in national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Creation of multi-stakeholder National Consultative Councils on SCP that consist of representatives from the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organisations for participatory development of policies, strategies and action plans

The Government of Argentina is currently conducting a project to develop a National SCP Strategy, expected to be completed in 2007 with support from UNEP and the Government of Sweden. The project is expected to encourage the development of national SCP strategies in other countries in the Latin America region.

In May 2006, UNEP launched a two-year project "Implementation of a Regional Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean" with the financial support of UN Development Account. This project aims at supporting governments in the region to implement concrete SCP policies and projects included in the regional strategy. Special focuses have been placed on integrated waste management systems, capacity building of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and sustainable public procurement.

As part of this project, a sub-regional meeting on SCP took place in Peru in August 2006, comprising countries of the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) where priorities on SCP were reviewed. Information exchanges also took place regarding the YouthXchange initiative and on life cycle assessment (LCA) with the support of Mexico. Based on recommendations from this meeting, SCP has been incorporated as a cross-cutting issue as a theme in the 2006-2010 Andean Environmental Agenda.

A sustainable public procurement demonstration project has also been implemented in Mexico for paper and printers. A report based on the project is presently under review by the Ministry of Environment of Mexico (SEMARNAT) is expected to be released during 2007. Municipal authorities in Nicaragua led by the Director of the National Solid Waste Management Programme visited Mexico and exchanged experiences on solid waste management with national and municipal authorities, as well as with regional companies involved in the sector.

A draft memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a Sub Regional SCP Information Centre for the Caribbean is under consideration by the Caribbean Environment and Health Institute (CEHI). If implemented, this centre will contribute to leverage the SCP theme in the development agenda in the Caribbean sub-region. Finally, the Government of Argentina has made advances in defining and programming activities as part of a demonstration project on sustainable public procurement and is closely linked to the Sustainable Public Procurement Task Force.

In April 2007, the first national-level SCP roundtable in the region was organised in Brazil with the aim of encouraging national initiatives and concrete SCP actions.

**Table 2: The Marrakech Process meetings in 4 regions and main outcomes**

Date & Location	Title of Event	Main Outcomes
<b>Africa</b>		
May 2004 Casablanca	1st African Expert Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional framework for the promotion of SCP discussed</li> <li>• Statement on SCP submitted to and approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)</li> <li>• African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP) institutionalised</li> </ul>
February 2005 Nairobi	2nd African Expert Meeting on the 10YFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome endorsed by AMCEN that 2005 Technical Segment to be used as the basis for the development and implementation of a regional 10YFP on SCP.</li> <li>• Developed project proposals in the areas of energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development, and industrial development</li> <li>• Decided three pilot projects to monitor and evaluate SCP regional strategies</li> </ul>
May 2006 Addis Ababa	High-level Launch of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African 10YFP launched.</li> <li>• Five technical committees to operate under the ARSCP Secretariat established</li> <li>• Accepted that concrete environmental pilot projects that, if proven successful, are to be implemented elsewhere</li> </ul>
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>		
May 2003 Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Asia Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary ideas on a regional strategy developed</li> <li>• Establishment of Business Development Centres to support SMEs recommended</li> <li>• Establishment of UNEP regional help desk on SCP recommended</li> </ul>
November 2003 Seoul	2nd Asia-Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of SCP issues into the programmes of other regional organisations recommended</li> <li>• Establishment of a secretariat or network to assist initiatives at the national level recommended</li> <li>• Establishment of national forums on SCP recommended</li> </ul>
May 2006 Beijing	National Roundtable on SCP in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of an adequate and applicable set of legal, economic, voluntary instruments and environmental management tools recommended</li> <li>• Creation of appropriate standards and criteria for certification and labelling recommended</li> <li>• Increased 'North-South' and 'South-South' cooperation and the encouragement of technology development and transfer recommended</li> </ul>

September 2006 Mumbai	Indian Roundtable on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing examples of excellence within and amongst different industrial sectors recommended to be encouraged</li> <li>• Improved efficiency of irrigation systems identified as a priority for sustainable water management</li> <li>• Participation of local communities in urban environmental issues, linking with measures to combat poverty for successful waste management (e.g. integration of informal recycling sector) recommended</li> <li>• Eco-labelling, consumer information and education and sustainable procurement identified as among the key tools to engage consumers in SCP</li> </ul>
<b>Europe</b>		
June 2004 Vilnius, Lithuania	Baltic Sub-regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a high-level multi-stakeholder body at the national level to help promote SCP recommended</li> <li>• Introduction of SCP and environmental criteria into public procurement recommended</li> <li>• Convergence of eco-labels with the goal of establishing one EU-wide eco-label system recommended</li> </ul>
November 2004 Ostend, Belgium	European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a forum of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress on SCP recommended</li> <li>• Establishment of a fund to support the SCP activities recommended</li> </ul>
December 2005 Berlin	Sustainable Energy Consumption – European Conference on SCP under the Marrakech Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of international standards for domestic energy consumption recommended</li> <li>• Creation of eco-design centres to promote sustainable products recommended</li> <li>• Establishment of renewable energy help centres in every EU country recommended</li> </ul>
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>		
April 2003 Buenos Aires	1st Meeting of Government Experts on SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional platform for the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation developed</li> <li>• Creation of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP proposed</li> <li>• Key elements for regional and national SCP strategies recommended</li> </ul>
October 2003 Managua, Nicaragua	2nd Regional Governments Expert Meeting for the Elaboration of a Regional Strategy on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Council established</li> <li>• Regional Strategy on SCP developed</li> <li>• Policy framework and instruments, main actors, and means of implementation for SCP strategies identified</li> </ul>
August 2005 Managua, Nicaragua	3rd Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region recommended</li> <li>• Inclusion of SCP in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction recommended</li> <li>• Creation of National Consultative Councils on SCP recommended</li> </ul>

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April 2007 Brazil	National Roundtable on SCP in Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key priorities on SCP were identified such as sustainable procurement, economic incentives for market innovation, capacity building for SMEs and communication and education of SCP.</li> </ul>
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## 1.2 Challenges and opportunities for the regional process

Based on an analysis of the progress achieved to date in the four regions the following outlines selected key challenges and opportunities:

- **Strengthening implementation of regional strategies:** The African 10YFP, the Regional SCP Strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU Action Plan on SCP are notable in their progress towards the development of regional SCP frameworks. Nonetheless, more work is needed to construct implementation mechanisms for the strategies, and to develop the necessary indicators to measure progress. It has been also discussed the idea to set voluntary targets at the regional level.
- **Address regional gaps:** To date there have been no regional consultations in North America and the West Asia. Despite attempts in the West Asia, meetings have been postponed for political reasons. Efforts are necessary to provide more support and engage these regions within the Marrakech Process.
- **Support national efforts:** In addition to regional strategies, national governments are also encouraged to develop their own SCP action plans and programmes. To date more than twenty countries have independently developed or are developing national SCP programmes. However, the scope of those programmes is diverse in nature and more support is needed for the implementation of SCP activities (see Section 2). Each region, therefore, needs to coordinate national-level efforts and develop financial mechanism to provide governments with resources and practical support, possibly in collaboration with UNEP and UN-DESA, as seen in the current development of a national SCP strategy by the Government of Argentina and the UNEP-DEFRA project to develop guidelines for national SCP programmes.
- **Secure additional institutional support and achieve synergies:** The Africa region successfully obtained support from high-level decision-making bodies such as the African Union and the AMCEN, which endorsed the African 10YFP on SCP. The Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean has also supported SCP actions; while the EU is actively coordinating SCP efforts among member countries. However more institutional support is needed from the regional intergovernmental organisations, and development banks to mainstream SCP and support the implementation of regional SCP strategies. Support is necessary not only from national governments but also with the private sector, National Cleaner Production Centers, NGOs, and research networks. The institutionalisation of the African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP) provides a good case where the ARSCP is acting as a Steering Committee for the African 10YFP and also co-chairs the Cooperation with Africa Task Force with the Govern-

ment of Germany. There are opportunities for other regions to bring existing SCP platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APRSCP) and the European Roundtable on SCP (ERSCP) into scope of the Marrakech Process or at a minimum to explore synergies with these forums to galvanise regional processes.

- **Enhanced cooperation between regional strategies and Marrakech Task Forces:** The Marrakech Task Forces have succeeded in engaging a diverse group of actors, especially with respect to commitments from different governments around the world. They are developing new SCP tools and methodologies that support implementation of concrete projects. Almost all Task Forces (with exception of the Cooperation with Africa Task Force that has a regional focus) are involving actors from all regions. However, it remains important to improve the coordination between the existing regional strategies and the work of the Task Forces thus ensuring a better integration and support to implement regional priorities. Where priorities match, regions can actively take advantage of the Task Forces as an implementation mechanism which enables regions to draw upon the expertise and practical support of Task Forces.
- **Enhanced cooperation with development agencies, the private sector and NGOs in regional strategies:** Development agencies and regional development banks should be closely engaged with the implementation of regional SCP strategies in the developing world. This is particularly relevant given the role of these actors in guiding sustainable development combined with their substantial financial and management capacity. The Cooperation Dialogue aims to stimulate the participation of development agencies in the Marrakech Process (see Section 4). Each region can also explore opportunities to utilise market forces to achieve SCP priorities by engaging the private sector. Notable examples are joint efforts between the public and private sectors to increase demand and supply of sustainable products through eco-labelling and green procurement. The current trend towards sustainable supply chain management offers potential to support consumption of less toxic and resource intensive products as well as to improve workers' employment conditions. NGOs also need to be more actively involved in the implementation of regional processes as they can directly communicate with citizens to change their consumption behaviour and lifestyles. The question remains however how the participation of these actors be best promoted in each region.
- **Explore cooperation between regions:** Although SCP priorities are diverse between regions, one region may be well placed to assist other regions in implementation of regional strategies by providing sharing experiences and expertise. Key areas for sharing experiences include water, waste management, housing, transport, health and environmental technologies. Particularly in developing countries, it is critical for the success in regional SCP strategies that policy makers acquire capacity and know-how to implement SCP policies and projects. An example of such experience sharing is a project financed under the European Commission's Asia Pro Eco programme where UNEP together with the CSCP provided capacity building training to policy mak-

ers to develop and implement a “circular economy” in Guiyang City, China.<sup>11</sup> Cooperation between regions is also important to address trans-boundary challenges such as the waste trade and freight transport. Trans-regional cooperation may also lead to financial support for the implementation of regional strategies, such as in the case of support for the ARSCP provided by the Government of Norway and the Government of Sweden funding support for the development of an SCP strategy in Argentina.

- **Explore synergies with existing initiatives:** There are a number of priority areas that were identified for the development of regional SCP strategies but have not been addressed within one of the Marrakech Task Forces. These include: water and sanitation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban development, and food & agriculture (see Section 2.3). In order to ensure the implementation of regional strategies in those areas, each region should be encouraged to explore synergies with existing international or regional initiatives and institutions – for example, WHO and UNEP for water and sanitation, FAO for food and agriculture, and UN-HABITAT for urban development.

It has been suggested that there is a need to initiate a new cycle of regional consultations within the Marrakech Process to revise and strengthen regional SCP strategies and ensure i) more institutional support, ii) better integration of the work of the Marrakech Task Forces into the regional strategies, iii) more involvement of other actors such as development agencies, the private sector and NGOs, and iv) further development of implementation mechanisms that could be included in the 10YFP. Such a cycle of consultations would not only enable regions to provide comments in the further development of the 10YFP proposal, but also to define their regional goals, indicators and suggestions regional and international implementation mechanisms.

### 1.3 Key questions for the working group

Based on the above discussion on achievements and challenges in the regional processes, some key questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on regional processes (28 June, Group 1) are suggested below:

1. How can additional institutional support for the regional SCP strategies be obtained?
2. How could the work of the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue be better integrated into regional strategies? How can key stakeholders (e.g. businesses and NGOs) be engaged more actively?
3. From a regional perspective, what policies and actions should be reflected in the 10YFP? Could the regions set their voluntary targets on SCP objectives?
4. How can regional processes assist with implementation of the 10YFP?
5. What are feasible mechanism to provide technical and financial support to development and implement SCP programmes and the national and regional levels?

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## 2 National SCP Programmes and Action Plans: Guidelines and Indicators

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### 2.1 Introduction

#### 2.1.1 Why do we need national SCP programmes and mechanisms to monitor progress?

Several international and regional Marrakech Process meetings, and in particular the international expert meeting in Costa Rica (September 2005), expressed the importance of supporting national SCP programmes or action plans and indicators and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress. It was agreed that to make SCP a reality, coordinated and integrated programmes were essential, considering in particular the cross-sectoral nature of consumption and production patterns.<sup>12</sup> These programmes are an instrumental part of the 10YFP. Realistic and achievable targets for the implementation of SCP programmes also need to be established.

*“SCP action plans could be a cornerstone for achieving progress. Such plans should, where relevant, be integrated into the national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) or poverty reduction strategy (PRS).” (Costa Rica, 2005)*

#### 2.1.2 International guidelines for national SCP programmes

UNEP, with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom, is following up a key request coming from the 2005 Costa Rica meeting that guidelines be prepared for the development, implementation and monitoring of national programmes. The guidelines will include a special focus on the application of SCP indicators to measure progress towards SCP (see Section 2.3.3).

#### 2.1.3 Integrated national SCP programmes

Many countries have instituted policies to promote sustainable consumption and cleaner production. However, these actions are often not sufficiently coherent or are driven by an isolated strategy or programme. Because of the global nature of production and consumption, individual national policies and activities – no matter how innovative – stand little chance of bringing about wholesale changes in consumption and production patterns.

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<sup>12</sup> UNEP (2005) *Second International Expert Meeting of the 10YFP for SCP, San Jose, Costa Rica, 5-8 September 2005, Summary by the Co-Chairs of the Meeting*, Paris.

There are an increasing number of integrated SCP programmes. The Czech, Finnish, Swedish and UK programmes were among the first and remain among the most comprehensive. But there are many more, including programmes in Ethiopia, France, Jamaica and Japan (see Section 1.3). However, some existing national SCP programmes lack the critical elements of an effective strategy: linking long-term vision to medium-term targets and short-term action.

## 2.2 What is a national SCP Programme?

### 2.2.1 Links to national sustainable development strategies

A national SCP programme or action plan is a tool for informed decision making that provides a framework for systemic thought across sectors. Working in concert with other socio-economic and sector strategies, a SCP programme can help to institutionalise processes for resource allocation, monitoring, consultation, negotiation, mediation and consensus building on priority societal issues where interests differ.<sup>13</sup> The SCP programme needs to adhere to the wider goals of poverty reduction and sustainable development.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Selected Good Practices of National SCP Programmes**

The **UK** *Government Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production* was among the first national SCP programmes. The framework document was a precursor to an integrated SCP action plan included as part of the UK Government's 2005 *Sustainable Development Strategy*. To help evaluate progress on SCP, a set of indicators has been developed to assess the progress of breaking the link between economic growth and environmental damage.

**Thailand** established an SCP advisory committee (SCPC) consisting of representatives from various government and non-government bodies to oversee the development process. A vision statement was revised and priority areas selected after a scoping exercise was carried out.

**Finland** appointed a multi-stakeholder advisory group (called the KULTU Committee) in November 2003 to develop the SCP programme. The programme was unanimously agreed by the KULTU Committee in June 2005 and entered into force in December 2006 as part of the country's sustainable development strategy.

**Ethiopia** undertook a number of studies including one that looked at creating synergy among national and international instruments and one that explored what was required to meet SCP goals. The African 10YFP on SCP served as an important starting point.

The **Czech Republic** *Framework of Programmes on SCP* was prepared by a working group chaired by the Minister of Environment and adopted by the Government Council for Sustainable Development (GSD) in 2005. The working group conducted research and analyses to arrive at the content of the framework.

<sup>13</sup> UN-DESA (2002) *Guidance in Preparing a National Sustainable Development Strategy: Managing Sustainable Development in the New Millennium, Background Paper No. 13*, New York.

<sup>14</sup> The Johannesburg Summit (WSSD) Plan of Implementation (POI) called on countries to also consider the integration of SCP in sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies.

SCP is a main pillar of sustainable development and also important to poverty alleviation. Therefore it is sensible to include wherever possible the SCP programme or action plan as a priority issue in the national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) and/or poverty reduction strategy (PRS). However, many countries are yet to develop a NSDS. This should not preclude a country from pursuing a SCP programme. Some countries without a NSDS have developed or are developing a national SCP programme, in many cases integrating the programme into existing strategies such as national environment plans and PRSs.

The preparation of a NSDS can be a major exercise for a developing country. Whereas a SCP programme focusing on specific sectors/issues such as waste and energy may require fewer resources. As noted by participants at the UNEP Guidelines project advisory group meeting of 12 April 2007, the process of developing an SCP programme may indeed act as the catalyst for a country to initiate its NSDS. On the other hand, countries with a NSDS but without a SCP programme may choose to include SCP as a priority area in future updates of the strategy. Nonetheless, the importance of the linkage between an SCP programme and an NSDS is self evident.

## 2.2.2 Key principles for national SCP programmes

There is no one type of approach and no single formula by which national SCP programmes or action plans can or should be instituted. Every country needs to determine, for itself, how best to approach the preparation and implementation of its SCP programme considering the prevailing political, cultural, economic and ecological conditions.

Nevertheless, there are certain key principles and elements of national programmes that should be considered. These include the programme being country-led with a high-level of political commitment, based on comprehensive and reliable analysis, built on existing capacity, participatory, targeted with clear budgetary priorities, integrated within existing national frameworks and monitored and improved regularly.<sup>15</sup> Many of these principles represent good, common sense SCP practice and indeed many are already being adhered to at the activity level. But putting these principles into practice in strategic planning and policy processes presents a greater challenge.

*“To promote SCP it is necessary to identify national and regional priorities and to develop strategies tailored to national and regional conditions.” (Buenos Aires, 2003)*

### Initiate a multi-stakeholder process

The importance of maximising the participatory nature of the programme development and implementation process needs to be emphasised. This includes reorienting SCP away from its traditional focus on the environment to consider also economic and social issues. A multi-stakeholder dialogue as instituted

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<sup>15</sup> See full list of principles in draft UNEP Guidelines for developing, implementing and monitoring national SCP programmes. See <http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/initiatives/action.htm>

in the case of Finland as an example can help to engage a wider array of government ministries and other stakeholders including civil society and business.

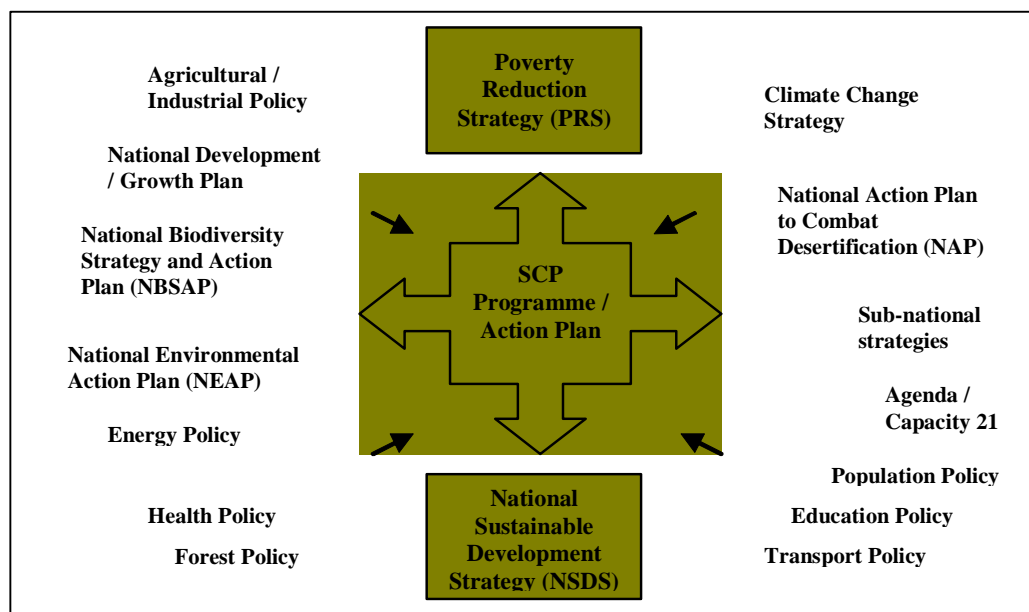
### Define objectives, targets and indicators

The setting of objectives and targets is crucial to the success of the programme. Monitoring and evaluating progress towards the programme's goals is another critical consideration. It provides accountability for those parties involved and demonstrates achievements and value of the programme. The UK and Japan are among the countries that have set targets and are monitoring progress towards these goals.

### Integrate with existing national strategies

A SCP programme should be an ongoing, flexible and iterative process and should not simply constitute a one-off initiative to produce a document. It should also pursue a process of sensitising all existing national strategies to SCP issues and integrating relevant components of these strategies where possible. In some cases this could equate to full integration of the SCP programme in a sustainable development, poverty reduction or other existing strategy. For example, the UK and France have included SCP as a priority area in their national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) and Ethiopia, Jamaica and Mauritius have done the same in their national environment strategy.

**Figure 3: Integration with existing national strategies**



### Develop sectoral SCP action plans

In most countries there are at least some SCP-related policies and actions that have been implemented, particularly those related to energy and water efficiency and waste recycling. Many of these activities are delivered through existing strategies and plans. These ongoing activities and the results of a strategic review will lead to the identification of priority areas for a country's SCP programme. A national SCP programme is usually concentrated on a few initial key priority areas, as attempting to address too broad

a scope of issues simultaneously is neither practical nor possible. Another way to approach an SCP programme is to develop one or two sector-based action plans that link to a framework document or existing strategy. This can be a more efficient means to tackle SCP for some countries, at least in the short-term.

## Current status

### 2.2.3 Tracking progress

#### National SCP Programmes

The 2002 UNEP *Tracking Progress* survey highlighted that the majority of SCP policies and activities were working in isolation of one another. The survey reviewed progress towards implementation of policies and activities related to the sustainable consumption clauses of the UN Guidelines for Consumption Protection. No country had implemented an integrated framework programme on SCP.<sup>16</sup>

Since that time there has been steady progress. More than twenty countries have developed or are developing national SCP programmes. These include Sweden, France, Czech Republic, Hungary, Finland, Belgium and UK in Europe; Ethiopia and Mauritius in Africa; Jamaica and Argentina in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Japan, Thailand and Indonesia in Asia and the Pacific. These national level initiatives are diverse in nature. They constitute national frameworks, programmes, action plans and multi-stakeholder dialogues. Often the programmes are integrated as a priority issue in the country's sustainable development, environment or poverty reduction strategy. This is the case in almost half of the programmes reviewed during the development of this paper. In addition, countries such as The Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, Norway and Germany have dispersed SCP elements throughout their sustainable development strategies and have a range of national initiatives that deal with various aspects of SCP. Many other countries have national frameworks that deal primarily with sustainable production activities including national cleaner production strategies in Latin American countries such as Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. There is great potential for these strategies to be redeveloped into integrated SCP programmes.

The majority of the existing programmes include a combination of new and existing SCP actions. Some SCP programmes focus on providing economic incentives and internalising external costs. This is the case with the UK and Finnish initiatives. The Finnish programme also includes a particular emphasis on technology. By contrast, the Swedish programme encourages the household sector to pursue change in the key areas of food, transport, and housing. Ethiopia's programme sets several targets in areas such as recycling, waste management and natural resource management. The targets are to be met through several initiatives including education and the use of environmentally sound technologies.

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<sup>16</sup> UNEP and Consumers International (2002, 2004) *Tracking Progress: Implementing Sustainable Consumption Policies*, UNEP DTIE, Paris.

Environmental issues are the key focus of many of the programmes and plans, especially with respect to eco-efficiency and resource use. The link to economic development is normally made through a focus on resource efficiency as a competitiveness issue. Social issues are addressed in some programmes and action plans, however, there is limited focus on the linkages between social and environmental issues. An important point is that some programmes are beginning to consider the internationalisation of SCP, in particular how government, business and consumer actions can affect sustainability at the global level as well as in other regions and countries. This is a crucial prerequisite for achieving SCP. Governments and businesses are increasingly entwined in the social, ecological and economic systems of other countries through, for example, international trade and investment.

### National SCP Indicators

Many of the reviewed initiatives do not include targets and mechanisms to monitor policy and programme implementation or measure progress towards SCP.<sup>17</sup> This is indeed problematic in that it greatly weakens the effectiveness of the programme. There are a number of ways to monitor and evaluate a national SCP programme including national peer reviews, external auditing and quantitative indicators. Only a limited number of countries such as the UK<sup>18</sup> and Sweden include sets of SCP indicators as part of their national programmes. The international guidelines for SCP programmes being developed by UNEP will include a discussion on SCP indicator sets. For example, UN-DESA's core set of SCP indicators<sup>19</sup> – a component of the UN sustainable development indicator framework – includes indicators on material consumption, energy use, waste management and transportation.

*“Indicators were recognised as a key element of any national strategy on SCP. It would be useful to establish a small set of key, globally accepted indicators that would reflect the ecological, social and economic dimensions of SCP from which countries could select, as appropriate, in creating their own indicator sets.” (Costa Rica, 2005)*

### Maintaining a link to the regional processes

What should not be underestimated is the importance of maintaining a link between the national initiatives and the international and regional framework programmes on SCP. These mechanisms working in unison will increase political momentum on SCP and provide other benefits including opportunities for cross-learning and cooperation. The regional programmes and institutions can provide valuable resources and foresight for the national process. They often list key priority areas and a shared vision and contextual basis for SCP. All regions except North America, West Asia and Asia-Pacific have developed or are developing formal regional SCP framework programmes (see Section 1 on Regional Processes). These mechanisms should be continuously linked to and drawn upon in the national context. There are

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<sup>17</sup> The UNEP-CI *Tracking Progress* survey found that just over half (54%) of the governments surveyed had not specifically measured progress towards SCP.

<sup>18</sup> See [www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/consumption-production.htm](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/consumption-production.htm)

<sup>19</sup> See [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/cpp1224.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/cpp1224.htm) and [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/isd.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/isd.htm)

also other national level processes that countries can utilise to assist themselves when developing their national programme.

#### 2.2.4 National roundtables supporting development of SCP programmes

UNEP and the European Commission (EC) are organising national roundtables on SCP in major emerging economies. The roundtables help to raise awareness on SCP and to identify country-specific priority areas in a multi-stakeholder setting. Participants are encouraged to learn from and input to the ongoing Marrakech Process.<sup>20</sup> Roundtables in China (May 2006) and India (September 2006) are to be followed by similar exercises in Brazil and South Africa in 2007.

While not a formal objective of each of the meetings, the need to develop or strengthen national programmes on SCP was one of the underlying themes. Future roundtables should take on the more ambitious task of discussing the institutional framework and content of a national programme. The multi-stakeholder roundtables offer the perfect opportunity to initiate the national programme development process. This will of course require the full support of the partner government. There should also be a greater effort at these roundtables to define SCP in simple terms and explain its benefits to ensure take-up by the national government. The roundtables should also spur action on other strategic levels including the inception of action plans for specific sectors. Energy, water, agriculture and waste management were among the key SCP priority areas identified at the Indian roundtable. It was concluded that more in-depth, expert-level discussions were now warranted as precursors for sector-based action plans. UNEP and the EC will follow up both the Indian and Chinese roundtables with a specialised expert meeting on one of the recognised priority areas. The objective will be to arrive at an action-oriented outcome.

#### 2.2.5 Guidelines and indicators for national SCP programmes

It has been made clear at several Marrakech Process meetings that many countries lack the capacity to develop and implement on their own national SCP programme. To help overcome this hurdle UNEP, with the support of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), is developing a set of non-prescriptive guidelines and carrying out a number of demonstration projects. The Guidelines will provide practical steps for the development, implementation and monitoring of national SCP programmes and indicators to monitor progress towards SCP. The Guidelines will also support regional mechanisms (e.g. Latin America and Africa) and the Marrakech Task Force on Co-operation with Africa to pursue goals of SCP programme development and implementation.

UNEP is proposing a basic 3-phase programme development model<sup>21</sup> that draws on earlier work on national action plans in Asia<sup>22</sup> and on the experiences of several international SCP experts. It is a highly

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<sup>20</sup> UNEP (2006) *SCP Roundtables in China and India: An overview of sustainable consumption and production challenges and opportunities*, Paris.

<sup>21</sup> The draft 3 phase/10 step programme development model will be distributed at the Stockholm meeting.

<sup>22</sup> UNEP (2005) *Advancing Sustainable Consumption in Asia: A Guidance Manual*, UNEP DTIE, Paris.

flexible approach reflecting regional and local differences. However, it does stress the need to apply the underlying principles and elements of comprehensive SCP programmes.<sup>23</sup> The Guidelines will give special attention to the need to develop monitoring mechanisms including SCP indicators and to link the programme to existing national strategies wherever practicable.

Demonstration activities in Argentina, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Mozambique and Mauritius among others are underway. The pilot projects are providing support to the individual countries to develop and implement an SCP programme. They will also offer an opportunity to learn from local experiences and to further test the guidelines. The implementation of the project is being guided by an International Advisory Group comprised of national SCP experts.<sup>24</sup>

## 2.3 Challenges and opportunities

Making the principles mentioned above operational will be a challenging task. To help accomplish this, it may be necessary to harness and bolster a number of critical processes. The main contributing mechanisms to the development of an ongoing national SCP programme constitute the political, technical, participatory and resource mobilisation processes. They are all important, but the political dimension for all countries and the technical and resource mobilisation dimensions for developing countries need special attention. Some challenges and opportunities are outlined below:

- **Leveraging off existing mechanisms:** High-level political support for a strategic response on SCP is often difficult to acquire, and in most cases a prerequisite for an effective programme. Making clear the benefits of SCP to both developed and developing countries (and to all stakeholders including business) will help encourage them to take the lead at the national level. The national multi-stakeholder roundtables are a vehicle that can be strengthened to demonstrate the benefits of SCP while initiating the programme development process. Links to the regional and international processes must also be continuously promoted to maximise efficiency and effectiveness. Governments and those supporting and working with them should look to linkages with new or existing national strategies and other policy frameworks. SCP can be incorporated in sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies or existing cleaner production strategies can be strengthened with demand-side elements. But policy and programme integration can pose a real challenge for developing countries without the appropriate support.
- **Strengthen implementation of national strategies:** A national SCP programme needs to consider competing political and operational forces and balance ecological, social and economic objectives. This is not always easy. It will often require a country to take a long-term approach, where initiating achievable short-term actions linked to priority areas is the main goal. Weak technical capabilities and other resource constraints in developing countries are clearly a major

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<sup>23</sup> Draft UNEP Guidelines for developing, implementing and monitoring national SCP programmes

<sup>24</sup> The first meeting of the advisory group was held on 12 April 2007 in Paris.

inhibitor to progress.<sup>25</sup> This includes the need for national-level support to develop indicators and improve data availability for progress monitoring efforts. The UNEP project to develop guidelines and indicators under the Marrakech Process intends at least in part to respond to these calls for assistance. Guidance, training and direct support projects to develop capacity are the project's main pillars. However, further support will also be necessary.

- **Enhance progress monitoring efforts:** A critical support mechanism under the Marrakech Process is reliable and accessible monitoring tools at both the national and international level. This includes setting clear targets for SCP programme development and implementation as well as using indicators to measure progress towards SCP. Monitoring and peer review promote the SCP concepts. Progress reports can be used to leverage action at the national level. Experience with developing and implementing SCP programmes and action plans is still very limited. Most of the existing programmes have only been developed in the last couple of years. In 2002, UNEP's *Tracking Progress* study found that of the 52 countries surveyed not one employed an integrated approach to SCP. No major assessments of the effectiveness of SCP programmes or indeed the implementation efforts have been undertaken in the past five years.

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<sup>25</sup> The Johannesburg Summit (WSSD) POI stated that "all countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries."

## 2.4 Key questions for the working group

Key questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on the “National SCP Programmes and Action Plans: guidelines and indicators” (28 June, Group 2) are suggested as below:

1. What are the key actions required to support national governments to develop and implement their SCP programmes?
2. What are the best mechanisms to integrate SCP into the existing national strategies (e.g. NSDS, PRS) or other development plans?
3. How to catalyse support from development agencies and regional institutions (e.g. AMCEN, MERCOSUR) for the implementation of national SCP programmes?
4. Given the clear need for national SCP programmes, how could they be reflected in the 10YFP and what would be realistic targets and indicators for their development?
5. What monitoring mechanisms are required for national SCP programmes (including national SCP indicators and international-level monitoring such as peer reviews)? How can these mechanisms be best supported?

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## 3 Marrakech Task Forces

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### 3.1 An overview of the Task Forces

Under the Marrakech Process, the Marrakech Task Forces have been organised with the main objectives being:

- Supporting the implementation of concrete SCP projects (Phase 3 of the Marrakech Process)
- Focus on specific SCP themes or sectors to develop and or improve SCP tools and methodologies
- Strengthening North-South cooperation in the SCP implementation

These Task Forces are voluntary initiatives led by countries or groups of countries that – in cooperation with other partners – commit themselves to carrying out a set of activities which support the implementation of specific SCP projects. Four Task Forces were initially launched at the Costa Rica Meeting in 2005. To date, seven Task Forces are active on the following themes:

- Cooperation with Africa (hosted by Germany)
- Sustainable Products (hosted by the UK)
- Sustainable Lifestyles (hosted by Sweden)
- Sustainable Public Procurement (hosted by Switzerland)
- Sustainable Tourism (hosted by France)
- Sustainable Buildings and Construction (hosted by Finland)
- Education for Sustainable Consumption (hosted by Italy)

There are no specific rules or obligations for the Task Forces as they are entirely voluntary initiatives. However, they are expected to be output-oriented with the aim of demonstrating the added value of practical approaches or strategies for very specific product categories (e.g. meetings and publications should not be the core output). Ideally, a Task Force should comprise roughly 5-10 interested governments with a geographical balance among regions. The objectives and the current status of each Task Force are introduced below. Appendix 1 provides a list of members, meetings and activities.

## 3.2 Progress of the Marrakech Task Forces

### 3.2.1 “Cooperation with Africa” Task Force

The Cooperation with Africa Task Force was created to support African countries to implement the African 10YFP (see 1.1) by enabling these countries to “leapfrog” towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The specific objectives of the Task Force are:

- Strengthen existing organisational structures and establish new structures to promote SCP in African countries;
- Develop and support projects for implementing SCP methods in Africa;
- Support the integration and mainstreaming of environmental education in African schools and universities; and
- Promote sustainable procurement by governmental organisations through training courses and awareness raising.

The Task Force was created by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is chaired together with the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP). The German government is also providing funding for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) who supports the work of this Task Force at the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA). The Task Force has organised two meetings during 2006 and the third meeting will be held in June 2007 in Addis Ababa.

The Task Force is currently conducting its own activities in the following three areas:

- Development of an African eco-labelling scheme
- Development of national/city-wide SCP Programmes
- Review of opportunities for leapfrogging in African countries

By May 2007, the Task Force compiled best practices in the area of managing environmental problems from 12 African countries and made a report entitled *Best Practice in African Countries* with help from a consultancy (see Section 4).

### 3.2.2 Sustainable Products Task Force

The International Task Force for Sustainable Products (ITFSP) aims at increasing the product performance in terms of energy, waste and other aspects of eco-design. The specific objectives of the Task Force are to:

- Raise awareness of product policy as means of achieving international development and environmental objectives;

- Seek common priorities and opportunities for cooperation in encouraging more innovation on product eco-design; and
- Establish and participate in open and transparent processes for improving product performance.

The primary coordinator for this Task Force is the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with participation from 13 countries and four international agencies. The Task Force has organised three meetings since its launch in November 2005.

The Task Force has focused its work on three aspects of globally traded energy consuming products: science, policy, and mechanisms to develop standardised test procedures to measure energy performance and to introduce harmonised energy efficiency labels and standards. The members developed the concept of creating Global Sustainable Products Networks (GSPNs) in key products and related subjects. These networks aim to bring together the expert communities working on connected issues and encourage sharing of expertise and experience with the goal of achieving greater international cooperation. To date, four GSPNs have been established to cover lighting, home entertainment products, electric motors and compliance issues. During the latest meeting held in Canberra in November 2006, the Task Force discussed the need for greater international cooperation to address policy issues influencing the development of challenging performance standards aimed at reducing energy demand including stand-by power consumption.

### 3.2.3 Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force

The Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles focuses on exploring actions that individuals can take to modify their lifestyles to fit a more sustainable pattern of consumption. Its main objectives are to provide input to the 10YFP by bringing tested policy tools, methodologies and best practices to promote and deliver sustainable lifestyles.

The Government of Sweden is sponsoring this Task Force with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality acting as the primary coordinators together with the Ministry of Environment of Argentina acting as co-chair. Participating in the Task Force are governments, international and regional agencies, several NGOs and research institutes from both developed and developing countries. The Task Force has organised four meetings between June 2005 and April 2007 and is planning the next meeting in autumn 2007 with a focus on cultural aspects of sustainable lifestyles.

The Task Force has been supporting the implementation of several demonstration projects including:

- Sister classrooms between USA, Mexico and Costa Rica on life-cycle based sustainable consumption and global citizenship
- Training sessions in China and Brazil to assist governments, local authorities as well as NGOs and consumer associations with development of communication strategies and sustainability awareness campaigns
- Workshops to develop creative communities for sustainable lifestyles in emerging urban economies

- Website expansion and regional workshops of the UNEP/UNESCO YouthXchange programme
- Development of the UNEP Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications
- A review of best practices in promoting sustainable lifestyles around the world
- Development of a guidebook for industry on sustainable lifestyles
- A knowledge base on research
- A toolkit for marketing and advertising courses targeted to universities

### 3.2.4 Sustainable Public Procurement Task Force

The overall objective of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement is to promote and support the implementation of sustainable public procurement (SPP) by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries.

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is coordinating the effort with participation from twelve other governments and six international agencies. The Task Force has so far organised four meetings.

In the meetings, it was agreed that the outcomes of the Task Force's work should include:

- Clarification on the legal framework of SPP (national regulations, multilateral and bilateral trade rules, labour standards, etc.)
- A SPP toolkit including needs assessment
- A paper on accounting for the value of SPP (innovation, system cost regulation vs. non-action, fair competition, social and environmental benefits, etc.)
- A plan for implementing the toolkit in pilot countries
- Joint work and support to other Task Forces, especially Sustainable Products Task Force

### 3.2.5 Sustainable Tourism Task Force

The role of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development is to develop and promote actions that encourage sustainable tourism, since this sector has a significant but often overlooked impact on the natural environment. The focus areas of the Task Force are climate change, biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage, and local development.

The primary coordinator of the Task Force is the French Ministry for Ecology, and Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning (Regional Development). Fifteen other governments and eight international agencies are among the members. In addition, nine NGOs and business associations working in the areas of conservation and tourism are also participating in the Task Force. The Task Force has organised two high-level meetings thus far and the third meeting is planned between October and November 2007.

Main activities proposed in the Task Force programme of work include:

- Collection of good practices
- Education and capacity building for future tourism managers (tourism schools) and local SMEs in the accommodation sector
- Development of a guide on tourism and coastal zone management
- Promotion of corporate social and environmental responsibility and partnership with the private sector
- Promotion of national strategic documents integrating sustainable tourism
- Analysis of tourism-oriented Local Agenda 21 and local governance
- Development of policy tools (review of existing labels, standards and certification processes, financial guide on tourism investments)
- Promotion of natural and cultural heritage as assets for sustainable tourism development
- Information - Communication - Networking activities (pilot communication campaign on sustainable tourism)

### **3.2.6 Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Force**

The main objective of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction is to support the development of innovative local and national policies that will mainstream sustainability in construction, use, maintenance and renovation of buildings. The first priority of the Task Force has been to ask: How can the public sector promote energy efficiency, energy savings and use of renewable energy in the built environment?

The Task Force aims to fulfil the above objectives through:

- Mapping out the baseline condition for sustainable buildings and construction (document research);
- Initiating research projects on jointly determined issues;
- Publishing best policy practices and policy action points; and
- Cooperating with parallel initiatives concerned with sustainability of construction.

The Task Force is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland with participation from seven other national and local governments. There are also observers from international agencies and the 15-strong Finnish National Advisory Group. To date, the international Task Force has organised three meetings (two information sharing meetings and a workshop).

At the first workshop, it was agreed that the Task Force should focus on two main outcomes:

- Compilation of a list of joint policy recommendations to be published in time for the CSD-15 in May 2007. The document explores the use of policy mechanisms to promote sustainability issues involved in new construction, refurbishment of existing buildings, and maintenance and operation of buildings.
- The publication of best policy practices *Buildings for a Better Future* in time for the CSD-15 and the Stockholm Meeting in June 2007.<sup>26</sup>

As the outcome of the first workshop, the Task Force drafted Policy Action Points. In cooperation with the Task Force, the UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative (SBCI) published a baseline report entitled *Buildings and Climate Change: Status, Challenges and Opportunities* in 2007.<sup>27</sup>

### 3.2.7 Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Force

The main objective of the Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption is to focus on the key role of formal learning processes in providing knowledge, awareness and competences to enable individuals and social groups to be the main actors of change towards more sustainable consumption behaviours.

At the first international meeting of the Task Force (Genoa, 16-17 April 2007), eight thematic working groups were established as permanent knowledge and learning communities for the period 2007-2009 to provide contributions and inputs towards the fulfilment of the expected outcomes defined in the terms of reference. The working groups (WGs) focus on: essential needs to introduce SCP in formal learning processes (WG1, WG4, WG5), the contribution of social capital to SCP (WG2), education and private sector (WG3), building experiences on local traditions, cultures and natural heritage (WG7), initiatives and future perspectives in the Mediterranean region (WG8). The role of the working groups and their activities provide also the basis to widen participation, to strengthen collaborations and to define new synergies.

The Task Force is working as well on the following activities:

- Collection of good practices
- Research on the good practices submitted, proposing viable ways forward in the field of education for sustainable consumption
- Creation of linkages and synergies between the activities of the Task Force and initiatives at national, regional and international level under the broad concept of Education for All as a life-long learning process and within the framework of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD, 2005-2014)

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<sup>26</sup> This publication is available on the Task Force's website [www.environment.fi/sbc](http://www.environment.fi/sbc)

<sup>27</sup> For more information on SBCI, visit [www.unepsbci.org](http://www.unepsbci.org)

- Development, in cooperation with the Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force and UNEP-DTIE, of a research project on education and sustainable consumption

The expected outcomes for the Task Force are:

- Creation of a matrix highlighting political priorities, a framework of policy options, a basket of voluntary commitments and future practices selected following the research on good practices;
- Report on projects (e.g. integrated approach to education, etc) and initiatives in the field of education for sustainable consumption launched within the framework of activities of the Task Force;
- Guidelines to integrate different processes (ESD, sustainable development and SCP), to include sustainable consumption into formal education curricula at all levels, to share research-action methodology on projecting educational initiatives;
- Promotion of projects and activities on education for sustainable consumption focused on the specific thematic clusters of the CSD and referred to the Mediterranean and other regional areas;
- Provision of a list of indicators and criteria for quality assessment, evaluation and monitoring initiatives;
- Study on the thematic issues of education (e.g. pedagogic aspects) and consumption (e.g. merchandising, communication and information) analysing specific aspects and the key interlinkages and interdependencies; and
- Report on the outreach activities of the Task Force and the involvement of other countries, with a particular reference to developing countries, in the work of the Task Force.

The Task Force is coordinated by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and is supported by the work of Task Force secretariat (UNEP-DTIE, Istituto Scholè Futuro, University of Bergamo) through the provision of inputs in defining and planning activities and the creation of networks among the relevant stakeholders on education for sustainable consumption.

### 3.3 Analysis of Task Force activities

As voluntary initiatives without specific rules or obligations and being set up according to the interest areas of leading governments and members, the seven task forces are diverse in the composition of their membership, the scope of activities, and their objectives and goals. This analysis aims to identify possible gaps to be filled in coming years, such as identifying SCP priorities and sectors as well as areas likely not covered by existing Task Forces.

#### Working areas

The working areas of the seven Task Forces illustrate the diversity and multidimensional nature of SCP issues – some Task Forces focus on specific sectors (sustainable tourism) while others address policy tools and programmes (sustainable products, sustainable public procurement, sustainable buildings and construction), social and behavioural issues (sustainable lifestyles, education for sustainable consumption) or focus on a specific region (cooperation with Africa).



**Figure 4: 7 Marrakech Task Forces and their diverse nature**

Through this diverse selection of topics, the seven Task Forces are generally considered to have provided a good coverage of key SCP issues, each responding to priorities and needs identified during regional consultations and international expert meetings. However, gaps that are not sufficiently addressed by existing Task Forces remain. Notable among these are:

- Water and sanitation: The improvement in the management of water resources and sanitation was raised as a priority both in Latin America and Africa but is not directly covered by any existing Task Force.
- Energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy: Energy issues are addressed particularly in Africa and Europe. While some relevant issues are included within the discussions within the Sustainable Products, Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Forces, additional work or a new task force may be needed to systematically address energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy as strategies for tackling climate change.
- Urban development: Latin America and Africa in particular emphasised the need to tackle the issues caused by rapid growth of urban areas, which include waste management, transport (with a view to international transport), and land use and spatial planning. The State of Victoria in Australia has expressed its interest in leading a task force on sustainable cities.

- Food and agriculture: The promotion of sustainable agricultural methods, the improvement in market access for agricultural products and the expansion of use of agricultural products are among the topics African participants proposed during the consultations as specific actions.

Other important aspects to consider as potential cross-cutting issues are:

- Economic and social integration: It was emphasised particularly in Latin America that the improvement in environmental performance needs to be integrated into the process of economic and social policy development.
- Development of financial mechanisms: The needs of financing SCP-related projects was highlighted in all regional consultations as well as in international expert meetings with the utilisation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as an illustrative example.

### **Member profiles**

As stated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, developed countries need to take a lead in promoting SCP and the 10YFP as it is in these countries where consumption and production levels are greatest. By taking a lead role the developed countries also provide a type of development assistance to developing countries through the transfer of knowledge and experience. In this sense, the enthusiastic response from Europe, with all seven Task Forces led by European governments, is very encouraging.

Given that all the Task Forces have made great efforts for engaging a wide range of regions, the Task Forces are diverse in terms of number of members, geographic representation and constituency. Most of the Task Forces include developing countries among their members. The Cooperation with Africa and Sustainable Lifestyles Task Forces chair their groups jointly with counterparts from developing countries. Nonetheless, nearly half of the members of the Task Forces are still European.

Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Tourism and Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Forces, are actively engaging stakeholders other than representatives from governments and international agencies. Stakeholders being engaged include NGOs, research institutes, business and technical experts from various fields. At the same time, some Task Forces chose to limit their membership primarily to public sector representatives.

### **Deliverables and outcomes**

Most of Task Forces define their deliverables or outcomes mainly as publications or capacity building activities. These include:

- Developing research documents, best practice manuals, best policy publications, educational materials, toolkits, etc.
- Providing training and pilot-testing of the produced manuals and toolkits
- Developing policy tools and mechanisms

Conversely, some Task Forces aim to incorporate more concrete actions and projects in their activities. The Cooperation with Africa Task Force is planning to develop an eco-label for Africa, while the Sustainable Products Task Force is establishing expert networks of specific product categories or topics. The Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force is supporting the implementation of five concrete demonstration projects. The Sustainable Tourism Task Force is developing a campaign on sustainable holidays (Brazil) aiming at assisting inter-governmental agencies, governments, industry and civil organisations to use effective communication tools that can raise tourists' awareness on responsible behaviours in holiday-making choices and unlock the positive power of consumer demand.

### 3.4 Challenges and opportunities for the Task Forces

The following presents challenges that need to be addressed and opportunities for improving the Task Forces in the coming years. Based on the above analysis and observations on the development of the Task Forces, it is recommended that the Task Force coordinators and the governments engaged under the Marrakech Process take the following into consideration:

- **More active participation from developed countries outside Europe:** The current leadership of European governments in the coordination of the Task Forces shows their commitment to SCP and their response to the WSSD's call to developed countries to take the lead in promoting SCP. However, developed countries outside Europe (Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and USA) should also be encouraged to take more active leadership and participation roles in the Task Forces as well as the Marrakech Process in general.
- **More engagement and ownership of developing countries:** More active engagement of developing countries in the Task Forces is also clearly a priority. As currently practiced by a small number of the Task Forces, the ownership of the Task Forces can be shared with developing countries through co-chairing, hosting task force meetings, or other means (e.g. co-chairing at Sustainable Lifestyles and Cooperation with Africa Task Forces).
- **More coordination between Task Forces and regional strategies:** In the same manner addressed in Section 1.2, Task Forces can look for additional synergies with regional SCP strategies. This would help them to better understand regional priorities and needs and enable a more effective response and support for SCP issues relevant to each region with the outcome being that the Task Forces could serve as an implementation mechanism for the regional strategies. One potential example could be support from the Task Forces to the SCP Help Desk based in China through provision of expert information and practical advice on their own working areas.
- **More engagement of other stakeholders:** There remain a number of important stakeholders in the working areas of Task Forces such as development agencies, businesses and NGOs (especially regional and international NGOs/networks) that need to be engaged. They could be active partners in the Task Forces by creating joint projects and identifying new opportunities for innovative SCP solutions. Among pioneering examples is the public-private partnership between development agencies, businesses and NGOs for developing market solutions for the poor (e.g.

Human Development through the Market, see Background Paper 2). The engagement of researchers is also important to better understand the causes of unsustainable consumption and production patterns and to effectively turn existing knowledge into action. Task Force members can also be encouraged to reach out to stakeholder forums and initiatives in their respective countries.

- **Address gap areas:** There is also a need to identify the best ways to address gaps in working areas of the Task Forces, such as waste, energy, food, sustainable cities, transport and engaging and involving SMEs. Creating new Task Forces or extending the scope of existing Task Forces could be one way to fill these gaps. However, gaps may also be addressed by developing synergies with other existing public or private initiatives and networks. For example, the International Solid Waste Management Association<sup>28</sup> (ISWA) could support the Marrakech Process in the area of waste. UN HABITAT could also take a more active role building synergies with the regional and national programmes under the Marrakech Process.
- **More financial support for Task Forces:** The operation of the Task Forces has relied mainly on relatively small contributions from host countries and substantial financial support has not yet been provided by other developed countries, international agencies or development agencies. This remains a challenge, more financial mechanism are required in order to scale up the activities and achieve a meaningful impact. Other Task Force members than those acting in the role of chair should be encouraged to make financial contributions or help sourcing additional financial resources. For example the TF on Sustainable Products is preparing a project proposal to obtain GEF funding.
- **More cooperation between Task Forces:** More cooperation and information sharing between the different Task Forces will be necessary to create synergistic benefits as well as to avoid overlapping work. Some collaboration is already happening. The Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Lifestyles Task Forces jointly conducted training on “communicating sustainability with a focus on sustainable tourism campaigns” in Sao Paulo in April 2007. The international launch meeting of the Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Force was held in Genoa, 16-17 April 2007, in parallel with the third meeting of the Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force. Each country can also be encouraged to coordinate the participation in different Task Forces.
- **Enhanced visibility of activities:** In order to become an effective Marrakech Process implementation mechanism and to secure additional financial support and stakeholder involvement, the visibility of Task Force activities could be improved through activities such as internet websites, use of media and outreach activities in stakeholder forums. While some Task Forces have developed their own websites (e.g. Sustainable Products, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, and Sustainable Tourism Task Forces), more coordinated and effective communication is desirable.

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<sup>28</sup> The 10 Years Perspective Paper can be downloaded from [www.iswa.org](http://www.iswa.org)

- **Clearer targets and progress monitoring:** It is important for the Task Forces to set a clear scope of activities and deliverables. This will ensure focusing limited resources on the highest priorities and avoiding overlapping with other existing sector initiatives. The activities of the Task Forces need to be monitored and evaluated in order to show their progress and contributions to the Marrakech Process and SCP in general. Hence setting clear targets and performance indicators could be an important tool.

### 3.5 Key questions for the working group

Based on the above discussion on achievements and challenges of the Marrakech Task Forces, key suggested questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on the role of the Task Forces to further develop the 10YFP (28 June, Group 3) are presented below:

1. How can the Task Forces support more effectively the implementation of the regional/national SCP priorities and frameworks?
2. How can more cooperation between the Task Forces be promoted?
3. How to address other SCP priority areas that are not covered by the Task Forces (e.g., food, waste, mobility)?
4. What are the key actions needed to support the work of the Marrakech Task Forces? How to obtain more institutional and financial support?
5. How can the Task Forces continue support to develop the 10YFP and how can they support the future implementation of the 10YFP?

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## 4 Cooperation Dialogue with Development Agencies

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### 4.1 Objectives of the Cooperation Dialogue

The Cooperation Dialogue was established as an activity under the Marrakech Process to engage in a dialogue between development cooperation agencies, development banks and SCP experts from both developed and developing countries. Recognising the important role of development agencies in assisting national governments in developing countries through development projects, the Dialogue aims at enhancing cooperation between those agencies and SCP experts to implement development projects that promote SCP while also contributing to poverty reduction. It is also intended to open the door to further funding and implementation opportunities for SCP-related activities in developing countries through obtaining support from major actors in the international aid arena. It is expected to encourage development agencies and banks to join the Marrakech Process and act as implementation mechanism for regional and national SCP strategies and projects.

The main objectives of the Cooperation Dialogue are to:

- Develop a better understanding of the needs and benefits of promoting SCP;
- Highlight the links between SCP and poverty reduction;
- Better integrate SCP into the development plans of development agencies; and
- Provide policy recommendations to increase access to available development funds for development projects that promote SCP.

#### **Best Practice 1: Promoting organic agriculture in Africa**

The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has been funding a project to establish certification bodies for organic agricultural products in Uganda and Tanzania between 2002 and 2007. Local and export standards have been developed in consultation with local communities and inspectors were given training. The establishment of UgoCert and TanCert is expected to increase organic farming in the countries and income opportunities for farmers and traders.

Source: UNEP-DTIE (2006) *Sustainable Consumption & Production: How development agencies make a difference – Review of development agencies and SCP-related projects*, Paris.

The Cooperation Dialogue was initiated at the Costa Rica Meeting in September 2005 during which the first dialogue session was organised. The session was co-chaired by representatives from Environment Canada and the World Bank. Participating agencies included the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Finnish Development Agency, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECA), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and UN-DESA.

As an outcome of the first session, it was recommended that UNEP and UN-DESA undertake a review of existing SCP-related projects supported by development agencies as a basis for considering how to

better integrate SCP into development plans of recipient countries and identify opportunities to increase access to available development funds. UNEP took the lead in the development of the review, conducting a survey of development agencies as outlined in the next section.

This review will be presented at the Stockholm Meeting where the second Cooperation Dialogue session will be held on 27 June. In the session, policy recommendations for better cooperation for and implementation of SCP will be discussed among development agencies, national governments, SCP experts and inter-governmental organisations.

### Best Practice 2: Supporting local entrepreneurship in Amazonia

DG Environment of the European Commission funded the projects of Bolsa Amazônia, a regional partnership dedicated to developing small-scale enterprises in rural forest communities in Amazonia. One of its success stories is a project that supplies 120,000 recyclable car seats a month to DaimlerChrysler, which is made from recycled coconut fibre. This has created new jobs benefiting some 5,200 people, while enabling the car manufacturer to gain access to a renewable raw material.

Source: UNEP-DTIE (2006)

## 4.2 Results of the UNEP review

According to the recommendation of the first Cooperation Dialogue session, UNEP carried out desk research and a questionnaire survey of bilateral and multilateral development agencies to identify SCP-related projects among development agencies to find mechanisms for cooperation and to identify means to achieve better integration of SCP into development programmes. As a first stage, desk research was conducted mainly based on the internet website information of the surveyed agencies to identify and select key agencies and types of projects related to SCP. On the basis of the information collected during the desk research, a questionnaire was designed and sent to 25 agencies after testing with four agencies. 19 (76%) responded to the survey: ten bilateral agencies and nine multilateral agencies (see Table 4 for a list of respondents).<sup>29</sup>

### Awareness of SCP

The review revealed that while development agencies indeed carry out

**Table 4: List of development agencies participating in the questionnaire survey**

BILATERAL DONORS	MULTILATERAL DONORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium General Direction for Development Cooperation (DGDC)</li> <li>• Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</li> <li>• Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA)</li> <li>• French Development Agency (AFD)</li> <li>• German Development Agency (GTZ)</li> <li>• Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</li> <li>• Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)</li> <li>• Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)</li> <li>• Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)</li> <li>• United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Development Fund (AFDB)</li> <li>• Asian Development Bank (ADB)</li> <li>• European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</li> <li>• DG Development, European Commission (DGD-EC)</li> <li>• Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</li> <li>• Islamic Development Fund (ISDB)</li> <li>• UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</li> <li>• UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</li> <li>• UN Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>

<sup>29</sup> The full report of the survey is available at [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

activities linked to SCP, these actions are not always identified as such. According to the information on their respective websites, 55% of multilateral donors and 21% of bilateral donors refer to the term SCP. 64% of multilateral donors and 42% of bilateral donors refer to the Marrakech Process. Most of the time, however, what they really refer to are activities related to cleaner production rather than SCP and they tend to deal with SCP issues as a cross-cutting issue rather than a stand alone theme.

On the operational level, the survey questionnaire revealed that 79% of the responding agencies do not use SCP as such in their operations and that only one agency (DG Environment, the European Commission) has a specific SCP unit within its organisation. Only four (21%) – two bilateral and two multilateral donors – use SCP as terminology in their operations.

### Project areas related to SCP

Although most of development agencies do not carry out projects on SCP as such, the survey found that they often integrate aspects of SCP into sector projects. As Figure 5 illustrates, a majority of agencies are supporting projects on energy and resource efficiency, waste management, water and sanitation, food and agriculture, poverty reduction, and rural development. Urban development and training/education were the sectors in which SCP is least integrated, followed by industrial development. It was observed that multilateral donors tend to integrate SCP in their activities better than bilateral donors.

Most of the efforts for SCP concentrate on the production side, while the work on the consumption side remains weak and requires more attention. Only some one third of agencies support activities related to organic agriculture and Fair Trade.

#### Best Practice 3: Community waste recycling in Senegal

Funded by UNDP and National Habitat II Committee, an international NGO helped a settlement in Dakar to set up a recycling scheme of household waste. The project delivered trash bins to households and collected waste is transferred to a waste recycling site. A collection fee of \$1.50 for each member of the household has to be paid. In return, compost made from biodegradable waste has been sold for gardening and agroforestry tree nurseries, while plastic waste is transformed into gadgets and other useful objects. Women have been generating income from those activities, while realising clean urban environment.

Source: Knoten Weimar (2007) *Best Practices in African Countries: A report for the Marrakech Task Force "Cooperation with Africa"*, Weimar.

### Benefits of SCP

Development agencies are aware that SCP-related projects could provide benefits to recipient countries. Most perceive that SCP could help not only to overcome environmental challenges but also to contribute

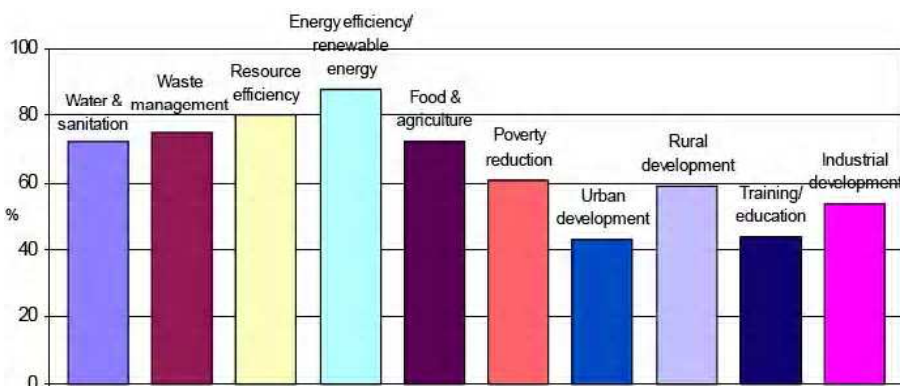


Figure 5: Sectors in which development agencies promote SCP

to poverty reduction and to reduce future costs. Half of the agencies believe that SCP could contribute to better access to basic services and enable more cost-

effective industrial practices, provide new market opportunities and enable developing countries to leapfrog to sustainability. On the other hand, fewer agencies consider that SCP could reduce public management costs (see Figure 6).

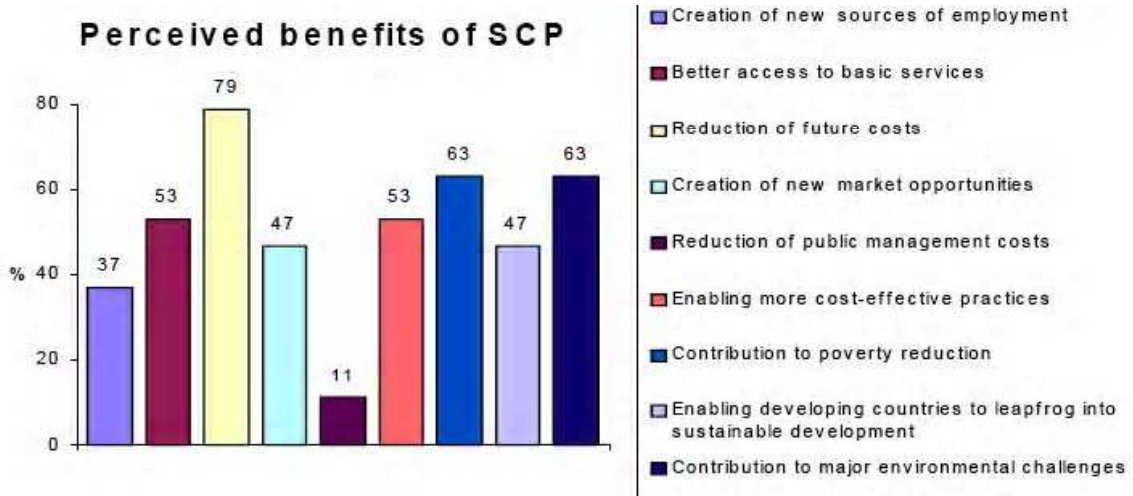


Figure 6: Benefits of SCP perceived by development agencies

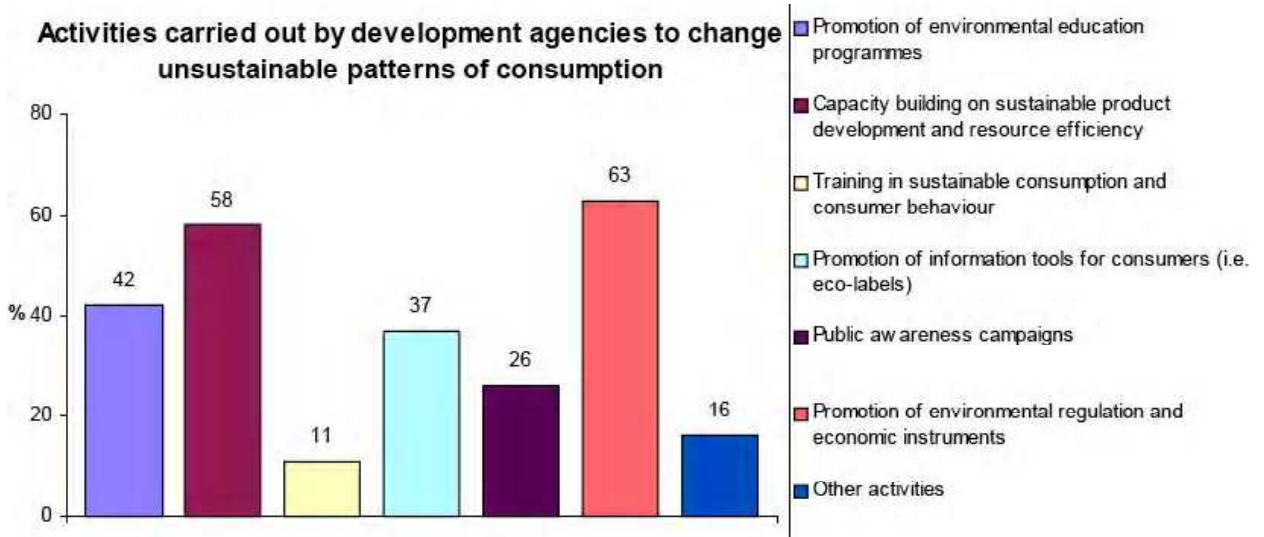


Figure 7: Activities carried out by development agencies to change unsustainable patterns of consumption

### Measures to promote SCP

The most common activities that development agencies undertake specifically to change unsustainable patterns of consumption are the promotion of environmental regulations and economic instruments (63%), followed by capacity building on sustainable product development and resource efficiency (58%).

Although environmental education and consumer information tools are reasonably promoted, few agencies carry out public awareness campaigns or provide training in sustainable consumption or provide support for research into consumer behaviour (see Figure 7).

### **Role in improving SCP integration**

Development agencies were also asked how they could contribute to better integration of SCP at national and local levels. A majority of agencies believe that they could contribute by promoting new partnerships (68%), demonstrating the benefit of SCP for poverty reduction (63%), and encouraging better communication and coherence within national governments. Over half of the agencies (58%) also indicated a view that they could prioritise environmentally sound technologies in their projects to showcase the added value of such technologies. Only less than half considered that engaging new stakeholders or informing national governments about the benefits of SCP as their role in supporting SCP integration (both 47%).

### **Recommendations from the review**

Based on the above results, the review of development agencies concluded with the following key recommendations:

- Provide recipient and donor countries with information on SCP and its benefits for development plans and the Millennium Development Goals.
- Design training on SCP and its potential benefits to reduce poverty for development agency staff.
- Strengthen cooperation between development agencies and SCP experts. This can be achieved by i) facilitating the communication and exchange of expertise (e.g. a database of best practices, newsletters, creating a network of interested development agencies), ii) promoting capacity building on SCP in the design and implementation of development projects, and iii) jointly implementing demonstration projects to show the benefits of SCP in alleviating poverty.
- Integrate SCP objectives into development agency agendas, if possible in the operational guidelines for relevant sectors and issues.
- Raise awareness and political support among senior managers in both recipient and donor countries, possibly by introducing the SCP concept into the debate on aid effectiveness.
- Initiate new types of projects in developing countries such as dedicated SCP credit lines.

## **4.3 Challenges and opportunities for the Cooperation Dialogue**

The following presents some challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed by the Cooperation Dialogue. Given the above results from the UNEP review, it is recommended that development agencies and SCP experts participating in the Dialogue take the following issues into consideration:

- **Better communicate SCP benefits.** The review shows that a large majority of development agencies do not use the term SCP in their operations. However, when sectoral activities are examined, examples of projects modifying the production and consumption systems are commonly found. SCP thinking and the discussion under the Marrakech Process should be able to help development agencies better understand how to achieve sustainable development from the perspective of both production and consumption in addition to enabling a more integrated linking of work in different areas and sectors. Accordingly, there are opportunities for SCP experts to liaise with development agencies more closely by providing their staff with awareness raising and capacity building opportunities as well as communicating the benefits of SCP approaches.
- **Mainstream SCP in development agendas:** How can SCP approaches be mainstreamed into development agendas and programmes? As a first step, best practices in development projects from the SCP viewpoint would help development agencies understand the value of SCP for development in concrete terms, as UNEP collected SCP-related projects in its review and the Cooperation with Africa Task Force published a report entitled *Best Practices in African Countries* in cooperation with Konoten Weimar<sup>30</sup> (see boxes of best practices in this section). Likewise, it is also important to more closely engage core decision-makers from recipient and donor countries in the SCP agenda.
- **Strengthen the link with ongoing projects carried out by development agencies:** Various development agencies are working on promising projects where there are good synergies with the SCP agenda and SCP experts need to make use of such collaboration opportunities. For example, GTZ has provided support to the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) to develop an environmental agenda which has thoroughly integrated SCP issues. Likewise, the UNEP-UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI)<sup>31</sup> presents a significant collaboration opportunity for promotion of sustainable livelihoods and support for innovative and sustainable systems of production and consumption. The UNDP's Equator Initiative<sup>32</sup> offers a further collaboration opportunity.

#### **Best Practice 4: Hydro-electric power in West Africa**

A cross-border project aims to upgrade a mini-hydropower station at Félou from its current capacity of 600 kW to 60 MW in order to increase the power generation capacity of Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. With a partnership between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Senegal (OMVS), the \$125 million operation has been financed through IDA credits, the European Investment Bank and OMVS. The completed project will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 200,000 tons annually, reduce reliance on imported petroleum products and support the local economy through job creation.

Source: Knoten Weimar (2007)

<sup>30</sup> Konoten Weimar (2007) *Best Practices in African Countries: A report for the Marrakech Task Force "Cooperation with Africa"*, Weimar.

<sup>31</sup> For more information on PEI, visit [www.undp.org/pei](http://www.undp.org/pei)

<sup>32</sup> For more information on the Equator Initiative, visit [www.undp.org/equatorinitiative](http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative)

- **Measure economic, social and environmental benefits of SCP:** In order to convince decision-makers in development agencies of the value of SCP, it is important that SCP experts are able to clearly demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of SCP approaches, ideally by providing quantified evidence using relevant methodologies such as cost benefit analysis, input-output analysis, and environmental and social accounting. For example, to demonstrate the value of sustainable public procurement, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) conducted a cost benefit analysis of six sustainable procurement initiatives in the UK and Europe to evaluate and demonstrate their efficacy as a policy tool.<sup>33</sup>
- **Obtain support for implementing regional strategies:** SCP experts can explore opportunities for utilising the expertise and resources of development agencies in order to implement regional SCP strategies (which have already been developed in Africa and Latin America). For example, the UN Development Account provided over half million dollar for a two-year project “Implementation of a Regional Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean” which is currently being implemented .
- **Next steps:** The next steps seen for the Cooperation Dialogue are establishing a steering committee that consists of both development agencies and SCP experts, to continue the dialogue on SCP and the contribution of development agencies to the Marrakech Process. There is great potential for joint projects, especially to provide support to the work of the Task Forces (e.g. Cooperation with Africa, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Buildings and Construction, Sustainable Products, Sustainable Procurement, and Education for Sustainable Consumption Task Forces).

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<sup>33</sup> SQW Limited (2006) *Cost Benefit Analysis of Sustainable Public Procurement: A research report completed for the DEFRA*, Cambridge. This report is available from [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/research/themes/procurement.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/research/themes/procurement.htm)

## 4.4 Key questions for the working group

Based on the current status of the Cooperation Dialogue and the results of the UNEP review, key questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on the role of the Cooperation Dialogue to further develop the 10YFP (28 June, Group 4) are presented below:

1. What are the key recommendations to build more cooperation between SCP experts and development agencies in the promotion of SCP patterns?
2. How can development agencies assist developing countries in the opportunity to leapfrog to sustainability?
3. How could development agencies support the implementation of the regional SCP strategies (e.g. the existing strategies in Africa and Latin America)?
4. What would be the best strategy to integrate development agencies into the work of the Task Forces, developing joint projects?
5. How could the Cooperation Dialogue contribute to the further development of the 10YFP?

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## 5 Business and Industry Dialogue on SCP

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### 5.1 Introduction

Business and industry are key players in the SCP agenda. They are at the core of production and are also key organizational consumers. As the most important driving forces for innovation, they focus their efforts and investments on perceived profit opportunities. These in turn are shaped by consumer preferences and new markets, but also conditioned by evolving government policies and regulations. Responsible business and industry operations can play a major role in improving resource efficiency, driving economic growth, enhancing social well-being, minimizing waste and environmental impacts. The perspective and support of business and industry are essential for the development of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP. A new business and industry dialogue on SCP will support the elaboration of this global framework and the implementation of SCP.

The essential challenge of SCP is to de-link economic activity from environmental degradation, and it requires technological innovation and rethinking of existing business models. It also requires a conducive policy environment which sends the right price signals to business and industry to minimize any adverse environmental impacts. Many companies and business networks now recognize the limitations of prevailing business models and the urgency of taking a pro-active approach to environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Leading companies and business networks are introducing new technologies and strategies, such as eco-design, life-cycle assessment, and closed-loop production. They are involved in ongoing efforts to exploit renewable energies, improve resource management, and develop and manage their supply chains in accordance with codes of conduct on social and environmental responsibility and accountability. Finally, they are seeking to address the global challenges of SCP and climate change by working to measure and progressively shrink their carbon footprints and their impacts on other dimensions of the global environment.

### 5.2 Current Status

UNEP's 2006 Industry Report Cards<sup>34</sup> from 30 individual sectors state that business and industry have made tangible progress in corporate environmental and social responsibility (CESR) since the 2002 UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

In terms of mainstreaming sustainability criteria, activities and initiatives aimed at integrating sustainable development in decision-making have included capacity building, marketing strategies focused on sus-

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<sup>34</sup> Class of 2006, Industry Report Cards on environment and social responsibility, UNEP

tainability, new technologies, sector-wide policy statements and guidelines, specific targets and indicators. A number of industry groups have initiated activities related to the corporate responsibility agenda. Standards such as the ISO 9000 on quality management systems, ISO 14001 on environmental management standards (EMS), OHS 18000 on occupational health and safety, and the ongoing development of the ISO 26000 guidance standard on social responsibility have signaled the standardization and formalization of issue-based management into an integrated approach to organizational behavior and its environmental, social and economic aspects.

Industry groups, in some cases in cooperation with governments, have developed a remarkable number and scope of voluntary instruments as complement or alternative to regulations to address sustainable development. These include international or cross-sectoral initiatives such as the UN Global Compact; the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative; UNEP's APELL programme; the Equator Principles; the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI); the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI); and the ISO 14000 series of environmental management standards. Many industries have also developed sector-specific voluntary standards, such as the automotive sector's fuel efficiency standards in Europe. Many business sectors are focused on increasing energy efficiency to reduce GHG emissions, and some sectors, such as cement and aluminium, have set specific energy efficiency and voluntary emission reduction targets. As of 2006, a total of 15 global and 140 local business organizations and one industry association (in the postal services sector) participate in the UN Global Compact. A number of sectors participate in World Business Council for Sustainable Development / World Resources Institute (WBCSD-WRI) greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring and reporting protocols.

### **5.2.1 Public-private partnerships on SCP**

Government policy still plays an important role in catalyzing the internalization of social and environmental costs in business operations. While there are visionary firms which have espoused sustainability as a core business principle, many firms still adopt higher environmental standards mostly in response to government or public pressures. Even voluntary initiatives may be designed to pre-empt strong government regulation or to shape regulation in a way that is sensitive to business concerns. Government environmental policy has evolved to become more flexible and sensitive to efficiency and competitiveness concerns. Public-private partnerships have emerged in this context as an important vehicle for promoting sustainable development. Effective business engagement with government is essential to ensure certainty in future market frameworks and coherence of the mix of policy instruments, taking into account the complexity of interactions between government and industry. For example, the US Climate Action Partnership, an alliance of major corporations and NGOs, has produced a landmark series of principles and recommendations for the federal government to guide formulation of a regulated economy-wide and market-driven approach to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. From the shareholder community, institutional investors have emerged as a powerful influence on corporate social and environmental practices. Mainstream investors are progressively asking questions about CESR policies and practices, carbon footprints and greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation plans, and their implications for the bottom line.

One of the most promising business contributions to SCP is through the corporate environmental and social responsibility movement. Driven by increasing consumer awareness of life-cycle impacts, growing interest from stakeholders including NGOs, employees and investors, as well as regulatory requirements on corporate governance and reporting, progressive companies have started to take on more responsibilities through core business planning and strategies. The concept of CESR is now firmly rooted in the business agenda. Today, key challenges of CESR need to be addressed in order to move forward from concept to more concrete actions:

- The focus needs to shift to practical application of CESR approaches in a sector specific and local context. To prove its added value, the CESR debate needs to show more examples of the business case and how companies are using CESR commitments to revise their production processes, their marketing strategies and the manner in which they work with their employees, local business partners and communities.
- Reliable, meaningful and comparable performance indicators need to be applied more consistently to help stakeholders evaluate progress. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) was established as a common framework for voluntary reporting of economic, environmental and social impacts of organization-level activities to improve the comparability and credibility of sustainability reporting worldwide. To date, there are nearly 1000 organizations around the world using the GRI reporting guidelines.
- The importance of voluntary action and partnerships in CESR has been increasingly recognized. The UN Global Compact, as an example of such an approach, is a coalition of more than 3000 companies, trade unions and environmental, human rights and anti-corruption groups from approximately 100 countries, who have committed to engage under the auspices of the UN in a learning and dialogue approach. More companies are also joining collective efforts with non-profit organizations and UN agencies, including industry sector specific initiatives such as those facilitated by UNEP.

### 5.2.2 Business Partnerships along the supply chain

A powerful way of engaging companies from all regions, including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), in social and environmental improvements is through the integrated management of global supply and value chains. Environmental and social issues and concerns are increasingly integrated into supplier screening criteria and quality audits. However, very few companies have systematic processes for integrating environmental and social factors into their downstream consumer-focused relationship management. With respect to suppliers, the multiplication of *sui generis* codes can place heavy compliance burdens on suppliers who do business with multiple customers. Co-ordination, co-operation and partnership towards greater harmonization of codes and capacity building in their application can help in minimizing compliance burdens.

### 5.2.3 Investor engagement

Trends indicate that socially responsible investment (SRI) has expanded dramatically over the past three decades and is entering the mainstream in developed countries. In 2003, while global SRI totalled \$ 2.7 trillion, in the U.S. alone assets worth more than \$2 trillion were held in the portfolios that filter investments according to a range of social and environmental criteria. SRI is growing rapidly in Australia, Canada and some European countries. In the UK, SRI grew tenfold from 1997 to 2001, reaching \$354 billion.<sup>35</sup> In contrast, SRI in emerging markets is still quite marginal. Only about 0.1% of the world total SRI is in emerging markets, and more than half of that amount is held by investors from developed countries. The concept of SRI is still quite novel in emerging markets, as investor interest in and information on corporate environmental and social performance remain important barriers in those markets.

SRI has the potential to encourage not only better environmental and social performance but also improved financial performance. Through corporate sustainability initiatives, companies seek to assure investors that they are taking the potential effects of pollution and climate change into account. For example, under the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the world's largest institutional investor collaboration on the business implications of climate change, more than 1000 large corporations are reporting their greenhouse gas emissions at the request of global investors. Mainstream investment houses are also making a commitment to responsible investment, in which SCP is a main element. The UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is the world's first charter for institutional investors. It provides a menu of possible actions for incorporating environmental, social and corporate governance issues into mainstream investment decision-making and ownership practices. Today more than 160 institutional investors worldwide, representing \$7 trillion in assets, have endorsed the UN PRI.<sup>36</sup> This signals a movement beyond SRI as niche market towards simply "responsible investment" in the mainstream market. In the terrain of project financing, the "Equator Principles" - adopted by 48 financial institutions to date - provide financial industry benchmarks for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental risks, particularly for projects in emerging markets.

### 5.2.4 Customer engagement

Rising customer demand for sustainable goods and services is another driving force for business and industry mainstreaming SCP into market strategies. The sectors that can benefit from SCP extend far beyond the obvious sectors like energy, transport, and manufacturing. Food processing, construction, distribution services, financial services and design services are just a few other examples. In mature markets, customers increasingly care about how companies produce goods and services. As organizational consumers, companies also feel the need for greater responsiveness from their business partners, suppliers and service providers in helping them meet new consumer demands related to quality and societal care. Today, in the borderless world of the Internet, ICT enables consumers to find information

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<sup>35</sup> Figures of 2003 are from *Towards Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Emerging Markets*, International Finance Cooperation, 2003

<sup>36</sup> *Report of the Informal Consultation with the Institutional Investor and Business Communities*, Jan. 2007

and alternative products and services more easily online. A growing number of sustainable product and service databases provide customers with objective and accurate information, normally based on sustainable criteria, such as eco-labeled products. The information linkage is crucial in helping customers to make sustainable choices. ICT is also enabling companies to monitor, exchange and process performance information more easily.

### 5.2.5 SCP innovative approaches in business and industry

Business, together with governments and other groups, has developed a variety of new approaches to encourage SCP.

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is used to understand the environmental impacts of goods and services through all stages of production and consumption. ISO 14040 provides guidance on the methodology. Rather than focusing on one aspect of improvement in the sustainability of a product or service, LCA examines the overall environmental footprint. Beyond LCA, a broader concept of Life Cycle Management or Life Cycle Economy has been promoted for product development. It puts life cycle thinking into business practice, involving other departments such as marketing and procurement, and seeking new sustainable business opportunities. Some companies in traditional industries are making efforts to transform themselves to more sustainable business models. For example, some traditional oil and gas companies have broadened into energy companies, with significant renewable energy research and investment as well as investment in low-emissions fossil fuel technologies. Through cross-sectoral planning and collaboration, companies help their downstream clients to identify more or better uses of their products and services. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) encourages producers to attend to sustainable management at all stages of a product's life cycle, especially for take-back, recycling and final disposal, thereby internalizing environmental or social costs.

China's circular economy approach is designed for interlinked manufacturing and service businesses seeking to enhance economic and environmental performance by collaborating in managing environmental and resource issues. By working together, the community of businesses can achieve a major increase in resource efficiency through industrial symbiosis. In a similar vein, industrial ecology, offers an innovative solution to increase energy and resource efficiency through exchange of materials and energy between different industrial sectors and processes. The waste from one sector or process can be the feedstock of another. A number of eco-industrial parks in China are based on this new industrial model.

Business has dual roles to play in leading SCP innovations – both as producer and as consumer. Technological innovations and eco-design, including resource productivity and efficiency initiatives, are the major driving forces for internalizing environmental costs without compromising companies' competitiveness. As big organizational consumers, progressive companies are adopting innovative SCP measures into their business plans. New opportunities unfold as large corporate buyers start to go into a more proactive mode. Innovation is not limited to the R&D of large companies; many innovations have also been introduced to the market through SMEs. Asia Eco-Design Electronics (AEDE) is a major project working

with SMEs in the electronics supply chain and partners in China, India & Thailand, to improve their response to customers, legislation and waste issues.

### 5.3 Challenges and opportunities

Many business and industry entities are already engaged in some United Nations voluntary initiatives on SCP, whether the Global Compact or the UNEP Business & Industry network or others. However, the participation of business and industry in the international and regional consultations of the Marrakech Process has so far been rather limited. As they are crucial actors in all regions in the promotion of SCP, it is necessary to create new collaborative mechanisms to better engage business in the Marrakech Process. Business and industry could contribute to the 10YFP through participating in defining the actions needed to promote and adopt SCP, the mechanisms for implementation as well as the setting of realistic targets with indicators, such as responsible value chains and increased presence of sustainable products in the market. Meanwhile, business and industry could work with Marrakech Task Forces in various SCP areas to lend their expertise on specific topics and to develop joint projects on prioritized themes.

Significant challenges to a better engagement of business and industry in SCP include:

- Business and industry require an enabling environment in order to help shift markets towards sustainable consumption and production. This includes a rational mix of legislation, regulation, voluntary agreements, economic instruments, integrated product policies, stakeholder engagement. To shape this enabling environment, governments need to develop strategic and practical plans and engage business and industry in the process of consultation, policy formation and implementation.
- Currently early movers in business and industry have invested in development of sustainable products, but consumer preferences do not always match corporate aspirations. Education and information tools are important for enhancing the SCP awareness of consumers. In some instances, there may be cause for use of government incentives to promote SCP, and government can also shift certain markets as a major consumer.
- SMEs especially have constraints in resources and capacity to incorporate international standards in their business operations.
- Effective communication channels must be opened for business and industry to have meaningful dialogues with Governments and other stakeholders. For example, industry roundtable dialogues with Governments and other stakeholders might address specific industrial sectors on what public policy instruments serve best to promote resource efficiency and the life cycle economy.
- Business and industry have very sector-specific priorities, activities and perspectives on SCP. There is no one-size-fits-all policy solution for all sectors, groups and companies. A partnership mechanism cutting across sectors and identifying common concerns and issues can make the related SCP policies for business and industry more consistent and coherent. This cooperation will also benefit the Marrakech Process in both programme planning and policy implementation.

## 5.4 Key Questions for the Working Group

Based on the current status of business and industry engagement in SCP, the key questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on the Business and Industry Dialogue to further develop the 10YFP (28 June, Group 5) are suggested as below:

1. How to encourage more corporate sustainability initiatives? How to advance implementation of voluntary commitments to corporate environmental and social responsibility (CESR) and adherence to internationally recognized standards via global supply chains and responsible value chains?
2. What can governments and public institutions do to facilitate the formation of joint voluntary initiatives and dialogue with business and industry, enabling environment for business and industry innovation on SCP?
3. What are the main strategies for promoting SCP of business and industry in emerging markets? How to assist developing economies suppliers, notably SMEs, in conforming to codes of conduct and help build their capacities?
4. What can be the main contribution of business and industry to the Marrakech Process and the development/implementation of the 10YFP?
5. How can the business sector support some of the activities of the Marrakech Task Forces and/or support the implementation of the regional or national SCP programmes?

## Annex I: An Overview of Marrakech Task Forces

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Cooperation with Africa</b> (host: Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen existing organisational structures and establish new structures to promote SCP in Africa</li> <li>Develop and support projects for implementing SCP methods in Africa</li> <li>Support the integration and mainstreaming of environmental education in African schools and universities</li> <li>Promote sustainable public procurement through training courses and awareness raising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of an African eco-labelling scheme</li> <li>Development of national/city-wide 10YFP</li> <li>Review of opportunities for leapfrogging in African countries</li> </ul>	ARSCP (co-chair)  Germany Belgium  UNIDO UNEP UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on SCP (CSCP)	June 2006: 1st meeting, Addis Ababa  December 2006: 2nd meeting, Arusha, Tanzania  June 2007: 3rd meeting, Addis Ababa
<b>Sustainable Public Procurement</b> (host: Switzerland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and support sustainable public procurement (SPP), by developing tools and supporting capacity building in both developed and developing countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a practical toolkit to give to the different stakeholders</li> <li>Carry out research and prepare policy papers on SPP</li> <li>Promote the implementation of SPP through pilot projects</li> <li>Facilitate the dialogue and work among different countries and stakeholders interested in SPP</li> </ul>	Argentina Austria, Brazil China Czech Republic El Salvador Ghana Indonesia Norway Philippines Switzerland, UK USA  UN-DESA, UNEP ILO, OECD, EC ICLEI	March 2006: 1st meeting, Jongny sur Vevey, Switzerland  September 2006: 2nd meeting, Barcelona  November 2006: 3rd meeting, Hamar, Norway  March 2007: 4th meeting, Turin, Italy

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Sustainable Products</b> (host: UK) <a href="http://www.ITFSP.org">www.ITFSP.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness on product policy as a means of achieving international development and environmental objectives</li> <li>Seek common priorities and opportunities for cooperation in encouraging more innovation on product eco-design</li> <li>Establish and participate in open and transparent processes for improving product performance</li> </ul>	Creation of Global Sustainable Products Networks (GSPNs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lighting</li> <li>home entertainment</li> <li>electric motors</li> <li>(others tbc)</li> </ul>	Australia, Austria Canada, China Czech Republic France, Germany Ghana, Italy Japan Netherlands, UK USA  International Energy Agency (IEA) UN-DESA UNDP, UNEP	November 2005: 1st meeting, London  June 2006: 2nd meeting, London  November 2006: 3rd meeting, Australia
<b>Sustainable Buildings &amp; Construction</b> (host: Finland) <a href="http://www.environment.fi/sbc">www.environment.fi/sbc</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policies for sustainable buildings &amp; construction</li> <li>First focus area: save energy, improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewables in buildings and construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping out baseline condition (document research)</li> <li>Initiating research projects</li> <li>Publishing best policy practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs so far:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on energy use and GHG emissions in construction &amp; buildings</li> <li>Recommendations for policy action points</li> </ul>	China, Finland France, Lithuania Mexico, Sweden USA  City of Cape Town (South Africa)  <b>Observers:</b> UN-DESA UNEP Sustainable Building & Construction Initiative Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Green Building in North America project Finnish National Advisory Group (15 members)	May 2006: Information meeting during CSD-14, New York  June 2006: 1st workshop, Helsinki

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<b>Sustainable Lifestyles</b> (host: Sweden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide input to the 10YFP by bringing tested policy tools, methodologies and best practices to promote and deliver sustainable lifestyles</li> </ul> <p>To reach the main objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect policy options and best practices</li> <li>Fund demonstration projects</li> <li>Provide tools which allow progress assessment and monitoring</li> <li>Highlight important aspects of sustainable lifestyles at the national, regional and international arena</li> <li>Create awareness among business</li> <li>Make knowledge accessible for policy makers</li> <li>Ensure that regional SCP action plans address sustainable lifestyles</li> </ul> <p>Expected outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tested policy tools</li> <li>Collected and systemised best practices</li> <li>Results and policy recommendations on the basis of funded demonstration projects</li> <li>A knowledge base on sustainable lifestyles</li> <li>Communications tools and guides</li> <li>A guidebook for industry on sustainable lifestyles</li> <li>A set of indicators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sister classrooms between USA, Mexico and Costa Rica on sustainable consumption &amp; global citizenship</li> <li>Training sessions for communicating sustainability in China and Brazil</li> <li>Workshops on creative communities for sustainable lifestyles in the emerging urban economies</li> <li>Extension of the UNEP/UNESCP YouthX-change programme</li> <li>UNEP Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications</li> <li>A review of best practices in promoting sustainable lifestyles around the world</li> <li>Development of a guidebook for industry on sustainable lifestyles</li> <li>A knowledge base on research</li> <li>A toolkit for marketing and advertising courses targeted to universities</li> </ul>	Argentina (co-chair) Czech Republic Italy, Slovenia Sweden, UK USA  OECD, EEA UNEP, UN-DESA  <b>NGOs:</b> Consumers International, Futerra (UK), ANPED, Strategic Design Scenarios (Belgium), Eco Global Advisors (Costa Rica), Dubai Education Council (UEA), Safety Action Group (India), Fair Competition Comisión (Tanzania), KITE (Gambia)  <b>Academia:</b> Stockholm Environment Institute, Politecnico Milano (Italy), Wuppertal Institute (Germany), IIIIEE, Lund University (Sweden), Harvard School of Public Health (USA), National Institute for Environmental Studies (Japan), Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey (UK) CSCP (Germany)	June 2005: meeting of steering group  April 2006: 1st meeting, Paris  November 2006: 2nd meeting, Wuppertal, Germany  April 2007: 3rd meeting, Genoa, Italy  Autumn 2007: 4th meeting

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<p><b>Sustainable Tourism</b> (host: France) <a href="http://www.veilleinfotourisme.fr/taskforce">www.veilleinfotourisme.fr/taskforce</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage actions that promote the development of sustainable tourism through sharing of good practices, development of policy tools and strategies, capacity building, awareness rising, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural &amp; natural heritage</li> <li>Local development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection of good practices</li> <li>Education and capacity building for future tourism managers (tourism schools) and local SMEs in the accommodation sector</li> <li>Development of a guide on tourism and coastal zone management</li> <li>Promotion of corporate social and environmental responsibility and partnership with the private sector</li> <li>Promotion of national strategic documents integrating sustainable tourism</li> <li>Analysis of tourism-oriented Local Agenda 21 and local governance</li> <li>Development of policy tools (review of existing labels, standards and certification processes, financial guide on tourism investments)</li> <li>Promotion of natural and cultural heritage as assets for sustainable tourism development</li> <li>Information - Communication - Networking activities (pilot communication campaign on sustainable tourism)</li> </ul>	<p>Bahamas, Brazil Cambodia Cape Verde China Costa Rica Croatia, France Germany, India Madagascar, Mali Morocco, Norway USA (+ interested countries: UK, Australia, Jordan)</p> <p>UNWTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WTO OECD, EC Central American Integration System (SICA)</p> <p><b>NGOs &amp; private sector:</b> IUCN, WWF, International Bureau of Social Tourism (BITS), International Ecotourism Society (TIES), Tourism Concern, Rainforest Alliance, Ecotrans, International Hotel &amp; Restaurant Association (IH&amp;RA), Tour Operator Initiative (TOI), Atalante, Voyages-SNCF</p>	<p>September 2006: 1st meeting, Paris</p> <p>March 2007: 2nd meeting, Paris</p> <p>Autumn 2007: 3rd meeting</p>

Task Force	Objectives	Main Activities	Members	Meetings
<p><b>Education for Sustainable Consumption</b> (host: Italy)</p>	<p>The main objective is to focus on the role of formal learning processes in providing knowledge, awareness and competences aimed at enabling individuals and social groups to be the key actors of change towards more sustainable consumption behaviours. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to introduce SCP issues into at all levels of formal curricula in a life long learning perspective and keeping into consideration education for all principles</li> <li>• to advance research on specific and appropriate learning and teaching methodologies and on didactic technologies and materials oriented towards a multi-disciplinary approach</li> <li>• to create proper knowledge and competences in order to provide adequate professional skills and suitable capabilities to react towards the challenges of sustainability</li> <li>• to contribute to the 10YFP with concrete policy options, actions and initiatives to be integrated into SCP strategies and action plans as a global effort towards sustainability</li> <li>• to develop monitoring tools and criteria of quality so as to ensure an adequate follow up of the Task Force initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of good practices</li> <li>• Research on the good practices submitted, proposing viable ways forward in the field of ESC</li> <li>• Creation of linkages and synergies between the activities of the Task Force and initiatives at national, regional and international level under the broad concept of Education for All as a life-long learning process and within the framework of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)</li> <li>• Development, in cooperation with the Sustainable Lifestyles Task Force and UNEP-DTIE, of a research project on education and sustainable consumption.</li> </ul>	<p>Argentina, Armenia, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Mauritius, South Africa, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, USA</p> <p><b>International &amp; regional organisations:</b> UNEP, UNDESA, UNESCO UNECE, EEA, CCCC</p> <p><b>NGOs &amp; private sector:</b> Consumer Citizenship Network, Consumers International, Global Footprint Network, WWF, Engineers without Frontiers, CONAI, COMIECO, Environment for Africa, Ethical Bank, Greenpeace, ANPED, Safety Action Group</p> <p><b>Academia:</b> Wuppertal Institute, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, University of Catalonia, Politecnico di Milano, University of Bergamo, University of Milano, University of Padova, University of Venice, University of Torino</p>	<p>April 2007: 1st meeting, Genoa, Italy</p> <p>April 2008: 2nd meeting</p> <p>June 2009: 3rd meeting</p>