



# Capacity Building for Sustainable Public Procurement



Division of Technology, Industry and Economics • Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch • [www.unep.fr/scp](http://www.unep.fr/scp)

## Good Procurement is Sustainable Procurement

Government spending contributes to a significant share of the national GDP (between 8 and up to 30% in some countries); in fact a government is usually the largest consumer in a national economy. Public procurement disposes of a major potential to shift to more sustainable production patterns, through sustainable government consumption itself, but also through governments' role-setting for the private sector and through the creation of new markets for sustainable products.

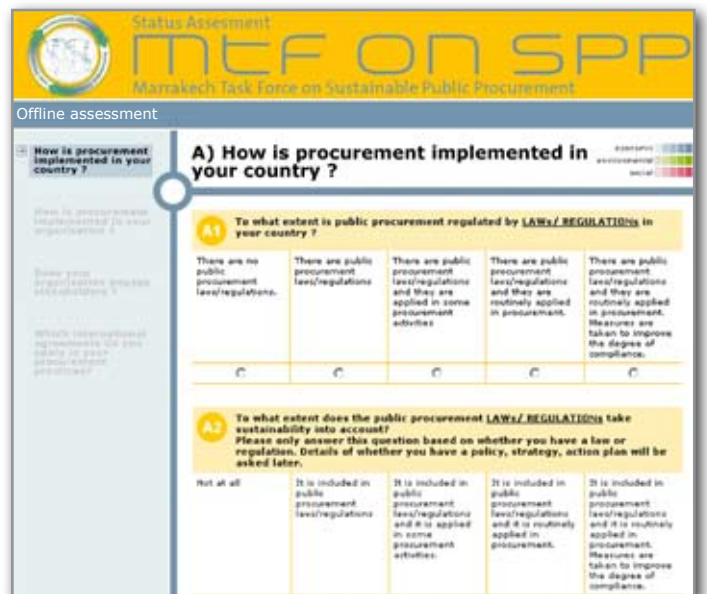
## What is Sustainable Procurement?

Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves "value for money on a whole life basis" in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment. (Definition from "Procuring the Future" – the report of the UK Sustainable Procurement Task Force, June 2006)

## An international approach to implement Sustainable Public Procurement

The Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement led by Switzerland has developed a methodology (MTF's approach to SPP) to implement SPP in either developed or developing countries. The Swiss government and the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have established a partnership to implement - in up to 14 countries worldwide - the MTF methodology. A project entitled "capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) in developing countries" has been designed and is being supported by international donor organizations such as the European Commission, the Francophone Agency, donor countries such as Switzerland, pilot countries, such as Argentina, Ghana, Mauritius, etc.



## The Marrakech Process

The Marrakech Process is a global effort to promote progress on the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns. The process responds to the call of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002) to develop a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10 YFP), to support regional and national initiatives and to promote the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.



The Marrakech Task Forces are voluntary initiatives led by governments, which - in co-operation with various other partners from the North and the South - commit themselves to carrying out a set of concrete activities at a national or regional level that promote a shift to SCP patterns.

<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech> & <http://esa.un.org/marrakechprocess>

## Specific objectives of the "Capacity Building for Sustainable Public Procurement" project

1. Accompany the development of SPP by promoting capacity building activities and supporting the development of a national policy through the testing of the approach designed by the Swiss led Marrakech Task force on Sustainable Public Procurement;
2. Improve the MTF on SPP approach, and;
3. Draw policy conclusions from the testing to be presented at the Special session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in 2010/11 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).



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## Project Aims, Means, and Goals

The project seeks to help public purchasers and policy makers in developing countries understand how to address environmental, economic and social issues when buying goods and services used for their day-to-day activities.

UNEP will provide assistance in order to help policy makers and individual purchasers understand the benefits of buying “sustainable”, in terms of immediate environment and social benefits but also as a strong signal pulling new innovative products and solutions into the market place, stimulating competition and at the same time improving the environmental performance of products and services.

## How can a country join?

Participating in this methodology implies engaging in a process for the development of a national Sustainable Procurement Policy and related implementation as described above. Resources need therefore be mobilized within the partner countries to ensure that once the project is over, the policy will be implemented, enriched and that the necessary capacity is there to make it evolve autonomously.

UNEP and the Swiss MTF will provide international expertise, training, support materials and time to assist the testing countries in developing the policy and implement it.

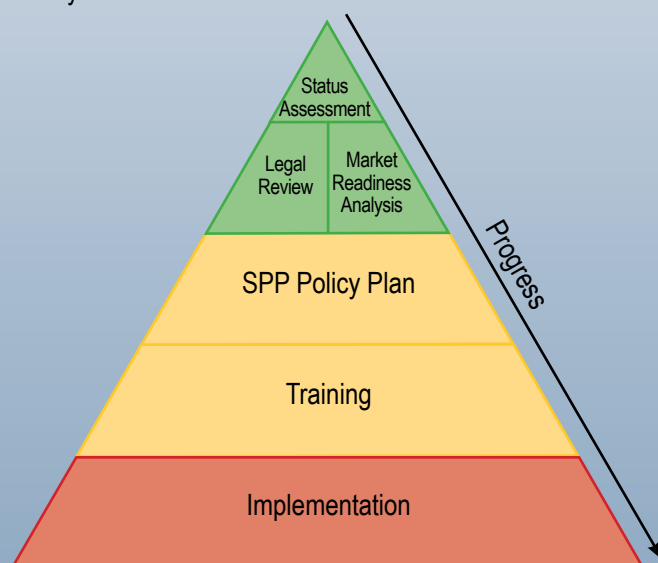
An interested country should send a letter to the MTF secretariat or to UNEP to start discussing the details of the country's involvement and the steps forward.

### How does it happen? The MTF on SPP approach

In collaboration with the MTF on SPP and UNEP, the country will first assess its procurement status (Status Assessment) looking at the three pillars of sustainability: environment, social and economic, through an online questionnaire. The legal review seeks to identify the legal framework for procurement in the country and understanding the legal possibilities to integrate SPP principles.

A country based “Market Readiness Analysis” will show, which sectors are offering more sustainable products and solutions and in which sectors are opportunities to improve.

After successful completion of this first phase, the country then develops a country based SPP policy and sets up a training programme for procurement officers. UNEP/MTF experts assist the implementation of the SPP policy during one year.



### For further information:

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### MTF ON SPP

Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement

The MTF on SPP was launched in 2005 at the Costa Rica SCP expert meeting. It is lead by Switzerland and comprises various international organisations and countries from all continents : Governments of Switzerland, Argentina, Mexico, Ghana, Philippines, China, Czech Republic, UK, Norway, USA, State of São Paulo, European Commission Services, UNEP, UNDESA, ILO, ICLEI, IISD.

The SPP approach has been tested in Argentina as the first pilot country in fall 2007.

The objective of the Marrakech Task Force on SPP is that 14 of countries distributed in all regions have tested the SPP approach by 2010/11 and feed the results into the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Further information on <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/pdf/Procurement2.pdf>