

SCP indicators for developing countries ToR for consultancy

Background

Efforts and policies to stimulate more sustainable consumption and production offer several opportunities to developing countries, such as the reduction of production costs, creation of new markets and job generation, pollution prevention and the opportunity to leapfrog to modern environmentally-sound technologies.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is implementing a project- 'Promoting sustainable consumption and production in developing countries for poverty alleviation'- which aims to demonstrate benefits of SCP in terms of poverty reduction and to develop capacity for the integration of SCP objectives into development plans.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) can be defined as: "the production and use of goods and services that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimising the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardise the ability to meet the needs of future generations." (Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium, 1994). The SCP approach implies the **use of a range** of public policies, technologies, investments and private sector and consumer actions, **in an integrated manner**, to influence both the **supply of and demand for** more sustainable goods and services, reducing the negative impacts of their **production and consumption**. Some key SCP policy challenges include achieving decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, implementing life-cycle thinking and preventing the rebound effect (which occurs when growing consumption outstrips technology improvements and efficiency gains).

One important activity within the project is to support the development of useful tools for developing countries to support them in using SCP tools and approaches to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Indicators that help developing countries to monitor their progress towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production are one such tool and are the focus of the consultancy.

Existing SCP indicators are sometimes perceived as to be predominantly focusing on the priorities and issues of developed countries. SCP indicators for developing countries will be made more concrete through clearer linkages with economic sectors and the contribution to poverty reduction. They could be:

- a specific set of SCP indicators that are directly linked to the national SCP programme;
- indicators that are part of the monitoring system for the national development plan (i.e. the PRSP), the national environmental strategy or other relevant national policies and plans, including sectoral policies.

The proposed guidance document can support countries who wish to develop or review these two types of indicators, which from this point forward are referred to as SCP indicators.

A few possible *examples* of SCP indicators are:

- waste recycling rates;
- amount (%) of renewable energy in total energy
- ratio between imported and domestically produced goods in domestic consumption;
- amount (%) of land used for organic farming

A number of international organisations as well as a handful of European governments have developed sets of indicators for SCP, mostly as part of wider ranging indicator sets for environment and sustainable development. Several developing countries also use some SCP-related indicators (i.e. energy-efficiency) in their national development plans and/or their national environment or sustainable development strategies.

However, there is a need to further develop and expand the set of available indicators that reflect the ecological, social, economic and international dimensions of consumption and production patterns from which countries could select, as appropriate, in creating their own indicators. Indeed at the third international expert meeting on SCP, held in Stockholm from 26 to 29 June 2007, it was acknowledged that it is not necessary to develop and apply harmonised SCP indicators, given the different needs and circumstances in developed and developing countries.

Linkages

This work will complement the international guidelines for developing, implementing and monitoring national SCP programmes, currently under development by UNEP. These guidelines, which have a global focus, will include a section on SCP indicators. The aim of this section of the guidelines will be to profile the main existing SCP indicators and to discuss their basic strengths and weaknesses. It will not however propose an expanded set of global indicators for SCP. Demonstration projects on the development of SCP programmes in countries such as Indonesia and Mauritius will help progress work on developing SCP indicators in developing countries. The International Panel on Resource Efficiency and Environment¹ will also soon initiate work on decoupling indicators, which are relevant to both developed and developing countries.

The consultancy will also benefit from the work underway at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in preparation for the development of a new set of SCP Indicators for Europe. These indicators will in many respects be relevant to developing countries, particularly where they relate to the main social and environmental impacts of consumption and production patterns. There are a few other important resources on SCP indicators from a range of different initiatives. For example, the set of sustainable development indicators, developed by the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, includes a theme with indicators on consumption and production patterns. The UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO) includes some indicators related to the environmental dimension of consumption and production patterns. The OECD, some developed countries (e.g. UK, Sweden, Japan) and a few developing countries (e.g. Ethiopia, Thailand) have also done some work in the area.

Objective

The objective of the consultancy is to prepare a guidance document that provides support to planners in developing countries who wish to develop indicators that reflect progress towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. This will include the development of a framework and methodology for the selection of a set of developing country-relevant SCP indicators and to propose a first set of such indicators. Similarly, the work will help raise awareness on and interest in SCP indicators at the global level through the dissemination of the outputs.

Activities

The consultant will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the objective outlined above:

- Study existing SCP indicators, including the ones mentioned under 'linkages' above, with a view to identifying indicators with a special relevance to developing countries;
- Distill and collect indicators that can be considered as SCP indicators from existing development, national environmental and sustainable development indicators of around 20 developing countries (\pm five each from Africa, Latin America & Caribbean, Asia-Pacific

¹ The overall objective of this panel is to provide independent scientific assessment on the environmental impacts due to the use of resources (both renewable and non-renewable) over the full life cycle, and provide scientific advice on how to reduce these impacts by 'doing more with less'.

- and West Asia). This will be done through desk-study plus consultations (by email and phone) with relevant stakeholders in the selected countries;
- Analyse the collected indicators and develop a guidance framework, complementing the international guidelines for national SCP programmes, for the development of SCP indicators, specifically targeting developing countries. The framework will include a first set of indicators with appropriate explanations and detail on the limitations of each indicator, including the extent to which they can be used to evaluate economic, social and environmental effects of SCP measures. Data availability needs to be carefully considered in the development of the framework. Some of the proposed indicators may not be able to be used by all countries in the short-term;
 - Compare the set of proposed SCP indicators for Europe with the set for developing countries and identify the key differences between the two frameworks. Prepare a table combining indicators for both European and developing countries. This analysis and table will be for internet dissemination only and not to be included in the publication on SCP indicators for developing countries.

Outputs

The consultancy will result in four outputs:

- Output 1. An overview (max 25 pages) of indicators, which could qualify as SCP indicators, that are currently being used by around 20 developing countries (2 pages introduction, 1 page per country (x20), 1 page conclusion) to measure progress towards national development goals². The introduction should include consideration of the existing national, regional and international work being carried out specifically on SCP indicators (with a view to its relevance to developing countries);
- Output 2. A guidance framework that can be used by developing countries in their efforts to develop indicators that better reflect both the production/supply and consumption/demand side of their development targets. The framework will include a first set of indicators with appropriate detail on the limitations of each indicator. The guidance framework will have max. 15 pages.
- Output 3. A summary targeting policy and decision-makers in developing countries, incorporating the main conclusions of outputs 1 and 2. The summary for policy and decision-makers will have max. 5 pages.
- Output 4. The results of a comparison between the existing sets of indicators for SCP (including SCP indicators for Europe) and the indicator set for developing countries, part of output 2, as well as a table combining indicators for both developed and developing countries. This work will have max. 5 pages.

Following satisfactory completion of the outputs, outputs 1 and 4 will be published in English on UNEP's website. Outputs 2 and 3 will also be available on the website but will in addition be published (estimate of 500 copies each in English and French, 250 copies in Spanish). Highlighting the close links with the guidelines for national SCP programmes, the publication will follow same style and format of these guidelines.

Although the guidance framework will focus on the (national) policy level, it may also be used to provide guidance to implementing partners of the demonstration projects that will take place under the broader SCP and poverty alleviation project.

² Countries will be selected in close consultation with UNEP and should include most countries currently participating in UNEP-sponsored demonstration projects on national SCP programmes. Some suggestions include: Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Colombia, Tanzania, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Qualifications/special skills or knowledge required

The consultants should have the following qualifications:

- A Masters degree in Environment/Natural Resources Management, Environmental Economics or a related field;
- At least five years professional experience in environmental management and economics;
- Excellent knowledge and experience in the area of indicators;
- Proven experience in conducting research/analytical studies;
- Relevant working experience in developing countries;
- Effective written and oral communication skills;
- Fluency in oral and written English is required and knowledge of Spanish and French is preferred.

Management and reporting

The draft versions of the outputs will be circulated for comments and input to members of the advisory board of the project 'promoting sustainable consumption and production in developing countries for poverty alleviation' as well as to the advisory board of the project 'guidelines for national SCP programmes'.

The consultant will report to Ms. Esther Reilink, UNEP/DTIE, with whom he/she will be in touch regularly throughout the duration of the assignment. Additional technical support and advice will be provided by Mr. Matthew Bentley, UNEP/DTIE.

The consultant can be based anywhere in the world (home-based) as long as he/she has access to reliable internet and telephone connections. An opening briefing with the UNEP/DTIE project managers in Paris (France) will probably be considered necessary. In this case an amount for travel and accommodation will be included in the consultancy fee.

Duration

The duration of the consultancy is 16 weeks within a period of four months.

Week	What
1	Agreement on selection of countries for overview in output 1
3	Submit draft of output 1
9	Submit draft of output 2, 3 and 4
12	Submit second version of all outputs
16	Submit final version of all outputs

How to apply

People interested to apply can do so by sending their CV (max. 3 pages) and motivation letter (max 2 pages) to Ms. Esther Reilink (esther.reilink@unep.fr). Closing date: **17 October 2007**.