



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GLOBAL OUTLOOK ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION POLICIES

Taking action together

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



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Executive Summary

The Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies, developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the financial support of the European Commission, provides a non-exhaustive review of policies and initiatives that are promoting the shift towards SCP patterns. It is illustrated by 56 case studies ranging from global multilateral agreements and regional strategies to specific policies and initiatives being implemented by governments, businesses and civil society organizations.

The Global Outlook on SCP Policies' main objectives are to provide information about existing activities promoting SCP, to identify best practices, and to provide recommendations to adapt, replicate and scale up SCP policies and initiatives contributing to the overarching goal of achieving sustainable development.

The Imperative of Sustainable Consumption and Production

Although economic development over the past 30 years has managed to lift millions out of poverty and expand the number of countries reaching middle-income status, it has also been accompanied by a wide array of negative environmental and social impacts. These impacts threaten to undermine, or even reverse, the economic development that has been achieved to date. Globally, resource consumption continues to rise, waste and pollution grows, and the gap between rich and poor stretches wider. As we gain greater scientific understanding about our planet's bio-physical constraints, so too do we appreciate the growing scale of the challenges before us.

At the time of writing this report, the global economic system is still plagued by recent multiple crises with significant consequences for the world's poor. Highly volatile and rising oil prices put further pressure on the gains that have been achieved through economic development. Rapidly increasing food and commodity prices, in part driven by increased fuel prices, reflect further the inter-linkages of economic and environmental challenges. Considering a projected population of 9 billion in 2050, feeding the world will be a major challenge, given current consumption trends. Putting in place a more sustainable food supply systems is clearly an urgent need.

Consumption of natural resources is increasing and will accelerate further if projected growth rates of the world economy are realized. This is alarming for both non-renewable and renewable resources that depend

on ecosystems, which can irreversibly collapse after overexploitation.

One thing in common for all of these challenges is the need for a concerted, cooperative effort to overcome them. In our interconnected world, supply chains are truly global. Resource extraction, the production of intermediate inputs, distribution, marketing, waste disposal and re-use of most products take place across and linking the world's national economies. The consumption patterns in one country can have negative impacts on the bio-physical and social environment in neighbouring or even distant ones.

Chapter one explores the evolution of the SCP concept and its approach, with the life-cycle perspective at its core. SCP focuses on the sustainable and efficient management of resources at all stages of value chains of goods and services. It encourages the development of processes that use fewer resources and generate less waste, including hazardous substances, while yielding environmental benefits and frequently productivity and economic gains. Such improvements can also increase the competitiveness of enterprises, turning solutions for sustainability challenges into business, employment and export opportunities.

The fundamental objective of SCP is to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. Achieving SCP patterns will sustain improvements in economic development and human welfare that we depend on, including improvements in health and education. In other words, SCP aims at **doing more and better with less** – across the entire life cycle of products, while increasing quality of life for all. 'More' delivered in terms of goods and services, with 'less' impact in terms of resource use, environmental degradation, waste and pollution.

SCP at the Global Level

The Global Outlook on SCP Policies reviews international efforts to promote SCP that are being driven by intergovernmental organizations, business and civil society (Chapter 2). It highlights that at the **intergovernmental level**, the adoption of a SCP approach as an international commitment and goal is an important milestone in tackling these challenges. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (the Earth Summit), and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg laid the global foundation for many efforts to

promote SCP at the regional and national levels. Another important way in which governments have promoted SCP has been through the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Although most MEAs do not explicitly refer to SCP, in practice treaties impact and alter many stages of a product's life cycle. For example, defining and understanding ozone layer depletion were central to the speed with which the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer were agreed upon. Governments have since reduced or controlled use of ozone-depleting substances in the production, consumption and disposal phases of many products.

Intergovernmental efforts to promote SCP have also been developed through initiatives focused on thematic issues. For example, the informal, multi-stakeholder **Marrakech Process**, which responded to the call by the 2002 WSSD to develop a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), supported the development of a global multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and cooperation to help implement SCP worldwide. The Marrakech Process facilitated the establishment of seven thematic task forces, and development of expertise and approaches to promote and implement SCP at regional, national and local levels. These task forces have provided policies, capacity-building methodologies, as well as supporting demonstration projects on SCP.

Parallel to these activities, **businesses** in the past few decades have developed and put into practice a number of tools to promote SCP, such as environmental management systems (EMS). This has been an important way for companies to operationalize the concept of SCP, offering opportunities to improve environmental performance, while yielding cost-savings. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has also been instrumental in establishing standards for EMS and tools to guide companies around the world on the conduct of Lifecycle Assessments (LCAs). The ISO 14000 suite of standards enables an organization to identify and manage the environmental impacts of its activities, establish environmental performance objectives and targets, and adopt a life-cycle perspective in managing those impacts.

Reporting on commitments to sustainability is also becoming increasingly common and important to business interests. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) sets out the reporting principles and generic performance indicators that organizations can use to measure and report on the sustainability of their operations. With the aim of creating such a globally accepted integrated reporting framework, the GRI and the Prince's Accounting for

Sustainability Project announced the formation of the International Integrated Reporting Committee, which brings together financial, environmental, social and governance information in a clear, concise, consistent and comparable format.

At the global level, the **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** represent a highly diverse set of actors on SCP. Many have evolved significantly in the past few decades, beginning as small, single-issue organizations, and ultimately transforming into international organizations with wide portfolios of activity and large budgets. Many CSOs can be seen multiplying their individual impacts through partnerships with governments, business and other actors, which have been key means to promote SCP at all levels.

The CSOs have also been instrumental in developing and harmonizing some important voluntary standards. For example, Fairtrade International (FLO) coordinates labels for around 15 product groups, from agricultural commodities to gold and sports balls. FLO's label promotes sustainable consumption by helping consumers identify goods that have been produced under socially fairer and more environmentally friendly conditions. The label also promotes sustainable production by guaranteeing that the price for each product group is set to be socially sustainable, giving producers the means to improve their living and working conditions. FLO-certified product sales saw a significant increase of 15 per cent between 2008 and 2009, amounting to €3.4 billion worldwide.

Action on SCP at the Regional and National Levels

At the regional level, a number of intergovernmental bodies have established SCP frameworks, such as the European Union's Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy (SCP/SIP) Action Plan. Africa, the Arab region and the Latin America and Caribbean regions have developed SCP strategies with the support of the Marrakech Process. Those strategies have been endorsed by the relevant regional intergovernmental bodies.

Each regional chapter analyses activities on SCP undertaken by governments, business and civil society as well as an analysis of the type of instruments (regulatory, economic, voluntary or information-based) that are used or promoted by these three actors (chapters 3 to 8).

In Africa, the regional 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP has spurred the development and implementation of a number of sub-regional, national and local SCP programmes. For example, pilot projects for mainstreaming SCP in national- and city-level development policies and action plans

CASE STUDY

Eco Mark Africa

The Eco Mark Africa label has been developed by the African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM). It is under the auspices of the African Union Commission and hosted by the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The initiative, which is supported by the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit [GIZ]) promotes African products in intra-African and international trade through the inclusion of ecological parameters into product standards. The objective of this project is to: reliably identify sustainable products from the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors; add to the value of African brands; and improve the image of sustainable African products on international markets. This improves Africa's market share at national, regional and international levels (UNEP and ARSCP, undated).

The importance of ecolabelling has been recognized in several countries. For example:

- Tunisia has national organic standards equivalent to those of the European Union (EU) that focus on promoting environmental quality, preserving consumer health and safety, and improving the competitiveness of its exports abroad. In 2007 Tunisia started with a set of pilot product categories involving companies from the textiles, tourism, soap and detergents, and agro industries (UNECA and UNECA, 2008)
- Kenya, which is the leading exporter of leather products in the East African Community (EAC) and in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, is developing ecolabel standards with the help of UNEP, to meet EU standards for leather, to make full use of its production capacity and to increase its international market share (Janisch, 2007).



on SCP were conducted in Tanzania and Cairo in Egypt. The recently launched African Ecolabelling Mechanism helps to validate and harmonize ecolabelling initiatives in the region, to better identify sustainable products and increase markets for them in Africa and beyond.

The National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) are very active in Africa. They have supported the establishment of the African Roundtable on SCP in 2002, which plays a key role in implementing various SCP activities. Businesses in Africa have started to integrate corporate social responsibility (CSR) by establishing business linkages with the local communities, forming public-private partnerships and voluntary reporting. The CSOs in Africa are focusing on education, skill development, promotion of clean production methods and conservation of natural resources; all this contributing to empowerment and capacity-building. If enabled technically and financially, this group has the potential to disseminate the concept of SCP more widely in both rural and urban areas (Chapter 4).

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the Green Growth Initiative has been widely adopted by countries as a way to reconcile tensions between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The Green Growth Initiative promotes SCP, development of sustainable infrastructure, and the introduction of green tax reform, while improving the eco-efficiency

of economic growth. Another important regional initiative is the European Commission-funded SWITCH Asia Programme, promoting SCP among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and supporting Asian policymakers in shifting towards SCP practices. The SWITCH Asia Programme has funded more than 47 projects in 15 Asian countries in areas such as green public procurement, cleaner production and ecolabelling. An important multi-stakeholder platform is the Asia and the Pacific Roundtable on SCP which is an increasingly active forum for dialogue and cooperation (Chapter 5).

In **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**, a Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP was set up in 2003 to support the implementation of the SCP regional strategy. This Council works closely with the LAC Forum of Environment Ministers, which has endorsed important elements of the SCP Regional Strategy. The region has identified four SCP priorities: national SCP action plans, sustainable public procurement (SPP), SMEs, and education and sustainable lifestyles. Various activities are also taking place at the sub-regional level such as the Central American Commission for Environment and Development initiative on SPP. The Mercosur countries have developed a *Policy for Promotion and Cooperation on SCP*, which focuses on harmonizing policies, encouraging cooperation on SPP and sustainable consumption, stimulating eco-innovation and promoting education.

In the LAC region, over 95 per cent of the companies are micro enterprises or SMEs. Although they contribute to less than 50 per cent to the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) they are the source of almost 70 per cent of employment. An increasing number of tools and instruments are being developed to promote social and environmental management in SMEs, such as the guidelines for SMEs of the GRI; the indicators for CSR; and training on cleaner production and resource efficiency. The NCPCs have become key players in helping businesses adopt good environmental practices and move towards SCP (Chapter 6).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the extent to which SCP related policy has been implemented in different countries of the UNECE region reflects the widely divergent levels of economic development, political structure and differences in governance. In the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association regions SCP is high on the political agenda. The Europe 2020 Strategy focuses on 'smart, sustainable and

inclusive growth' including a flagship initiative on resource efficiency. The South Eastern Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries have no regional strategy on SCP – however, some countries have adopted National Sustainable Development Strategies, including SCP as a key priority. Regulatory tools are the most common instruments in this sub-region, with policies such as standards in chemical use, construction and energy labelling. North America is notable for its effective use of partnerships with industry and civil society, such as the multi-stakeholder process that led to the development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification programme for buildings. The public sector in the United States gives strong signals to the market through executive orders requiring federal agencies to acquire products that are energy and water efficient, and environmentally preferable.

In general, businesses in the UNECE region have been making significant headway in responding to public

CASE STUDY

The SWITCH Asia programme

The SWITCH Asia programme was set up by the European Commission in line with its Strategy Document for Regional Programming in Asia and provides funding opportunities of €152 million over the period 2007-2013. The aim is to promote SCP among SMEs and support Asian policymakers in designing policies to promote the shift to SCP. The SWITCH-Asia Programme is made up of three strategic components:

- 1) Through project grants, projects are funded that show a potential for replication and can produce quantifiable reductions both of CO₂ emissions and of resource, water and energy consumption. So far SWITCH Asia has funded 47 projects in 15 Asian countries in areas such as greening supply chains, marketing for eco-products, green public procurement, cleaner production, ecolabelling and products for the poor.
- 2) The Network Facility provides support for projects funded under the SWITCH Asia programme in order to increase the quality and impact of project activities, along with facilitating the uptake of successful results by Asian policymakers.
- 3) The Policy Support component, launched in 2010, aims to strengthen the formulation

and implementation of SCP policies in Asia. On a regional level this is done primarily through capacity-building in collaboration with UNEP. Furthermore, national policy support components, managed by EU Delegations, will focus on selected countries – Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines – that have already gathered experience in applying SCP tools.

In addition to promoting specific SCP practices, the projects employ innovative replicating mechanisms such as voluntary agreements, public-private partnerships, and upgrading of technical standards or reinforcement of existing SCP service providers to make countries self-sustainable on the market.

Source: European Commission Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (2011)



demand for more sustainable products and greater transparency. In particular, retailers have been driving upstream improvements not only within the UNECE region, but across global markets. Government-business initiatives in the EU and EFTA regions have been useful in forming sectoral consensus (e.g., the European Food SCP Roundtable and the EU Retail Forum) and engaging in collaborative action promoting SCP. The nature of CSOs is diverse. They promote partnerships, create and participate in platforms with the business sector, inform and communicate on SCP and sustainable development, build capacity, and set standards. One example is Transition Towns, an initiative that advocates for sustainable living and seeks practical solutions to lessen dependence on oil. It has spread globally, and such towns are now established in 130 countries (Chapter 7).

In West Asia, the Arab Regional Strategy for SCP was endorsed in 2009 by relevant regional intergovernmental organizations. It encourages the use of products and services that ensure

environmental protection; conserve water and energy as well as other natural resources, while contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable lifestyles. The strategy identifies six priorities: (i) energy for sustainable development (ii) water resources management (iii) waste management (iv) rural development and eradication of poverty (v) education and sustainable lifestyles and (vi) sustainable tourism. The regional cooperation on SCP policies and initiatives are strengthened by initiatives such as the Arab Regional Roundtable on SCP. The region is also experiencing an important increase in environmental policies, such as improving the efficiency of an electricity grid, providing new modes of transportation, and new technologies. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' interconnection grid, the project on rational energy use in Kuwait, the Masdar Green City and Qatar Water Policy are good examples of SCP initiatives (Chapter 8).

The Global Outlook on SCP Policies identifies a range of market, regulatory and voluntary policy

CASE STUDY

The Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) initiative on sustainable public procurement

Governments are among the largest single consumers within any given market. Recognizing public procurement as a powerful tool, the CCAD has launched an initiative to promote sustainable public procurement (SPP) at the regional level and by national governments.

The Regional Policy on Public Procurement was developed to ensuring cost efficiency in procurement by governmental institutions, while at the same time identifying opportunities for more efficient use of materials, resources and energy, contributing to the protection of human health and fostering the development of a regional market for sustainable and innovative goods and services. Key national stakeholders were involved in consultations including representatives of the Ministries of Environment, Economy, Agriculture, Tourism, and Labour, national procurement authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The policy foresees national and regional interventions addressing four specific areas:

- (i) **Institutional**, ensuring that relevant information and methodologies are adapted to the specific context of the countries

- (ii) **Legal**, ensuring that SPP is included in a coherent way in member country legislation and that their approaches are harmonized
- (iii) **Technical**, providing support to the providers of goods and services in the shift towards more sustainable production practices
- (iv) **Information and capacity-building**, developing the essential technical skills for implementing SPP in both the public and the private sectors.

Having concentrated its efforts in 2010 on formulating this regional policy and getting it approved, CCAD is now focusing on its implementation in the Central American countries, in partnership with the United Nations and other institutions. This process will build on results already achieved in pilot projects within the subregion. Particular attention will be paid to the green procurement guidelines developed by the Centro de Gestión Tecnológica e Informática Industrial (CEGESTI, Costa Rica), and to the Marrakech Task Force approach on Sustainable Public Procurement, adapted to the Latin American context as a result of the implementation of a pilot project in a number of countries in the region, including Costa Rica (UNEP, 2008d; CEGESTI, 2008).



instruments and initiatives spanning entire product value chains and different sectors and themes, involving all major stakeholders. An example of a policy initiative is the 50 per cent tax deduction on environmentally friendly hybrid cars imported into Jordan. An illustrative regulatory instrument is the European Union's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals) directive that regulates chemicals. Information-based instruments include the National Green Passport campaigns in Brazil, Ecuador and South Africa.

At the **national level**, many countries have adopted SCP action plans or strategies. In Africa, this includes Ghana, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zambia. In LAC, such plans have been drawn up in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. In the EU, dedicated national SCP action plans have been developed by the Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, and the United Kingdom. In some regions, SCP has been integrated into other planning processes. In SEE,

EECCA, North America and West Asia, for example, national-level SCP planning is largely part of existing national strategies for sustainable development or other short- and medium-term development plans.

In the Asia-Pacific region, national Green Growth strategies have proliferated since 2005. These strategies focus on investment in sustainable infrastructure, raising revenue and improving eco-efficiency while reducing poverty. Many governments also target policies in specific sectors, where strategies have been put together to promote sustainable agriculture. Transparent and open consultation processes have been central to the successful elaboration and further implementation of such national SCP action plans, as has the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders.

More generally, SCP programmes in emerging and developing countries continue to face significant funding challenges and continue to rely on international donor support. A particular gap exists with regard to action on the consumption side.

CASE STUDY

Sustainable supply chain initiative in the agri-food sector

Sainsbury's Dairy Development Group (SDDG), based in the third largest chain of supermarkets in the United Kingdom, supports initiatives to help farmers and suppliers produce more sustainably. Together with an environmental consultancy, SDDG developed a carbon footprint model for its producers. The model provides farmers with individual advice on how to improve their footprint. By 2010, it had carbon footprinted over 325 SDDG farms, 98 cheese development farms, 260 beef development farms and 1,400 lamb development farms (J Sainsbury PLC, 2010). The company explains that, in SDDG farms, some of the reductions in energy and emissions have

come from simple measures, such as harvesting rainwater for re-use. Other farmers have achieved higher yields per cow by using feed more efficiently, or managing their fertiliser and manure applications differently. Farmers receive additional veterinary support to improve the health and welfare of their herds, and information technology equipment and training to help monitor progress (J Sainsbury PLC, 2010).

According to Sainsbury's, the health and welfare work stream has delivered improvements in profitability for Sainsbury's dairy farmers of £1.6 million in 2009 (J Sainsbury PLC, 2010). Following the success of its SDDG, the supermarket rolled out this approach across its primary agricultural supply base, consisting of beef, lamb, pork, eggs, chicken, milk, cheese, grain and produce. Sainsbury's also won Best Retail Initiative at the BBC Radio 4 Food and Farming Awards for helping its farmers reduce their carbon footprint and achieve financial savings in 2010 (J Sainsbury PLC, 2010). In 2006 a study called *Greening Supermarkets* was carried out by the United Kingdom National Consumer Council. It looked at carbon footprint and seasonality of produce, waste and sustainable farming. In the study of eight major United Kingdom retailers Sainsbury's received the second best rating (together with Marks & Spencer). The study highlighted Sainsbury's achievements in the areas of offering Marine Stewardship Council-certified fish and organic products (Dibb, 2006).



CASE STUDY

Green City: Masdar

Established in 2006, Masdar is a commercially driven enterprise to make Abu Dhabi the preeminent source of renewable energy knowledge, development and implementation, and the world's benchmark for Sustainable Development (SD) (Masdar, 2011a). It aims to manage long-term, capital-intensive investments that deliver strong financial returns and tangible social benefits for the emirate (Mubadala, 2011).

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Masdar City aspires to be a zero-waste, zero-carbon city (Masdar, 2011c). It is located 17 km from downtown Abu Dhabi. It aims to host 40,000 citizens upon completion and hundreds of businesses. The majority of seed funding for this project is provided by the government of Abu Dhabi, which put up US\$15 billion in seed capital (Economist, 2008).

The first six buildings and infrastructure built so far showcase several techniques to achieve the zero-carbon and zero-waste city planning. These include the following (Masdar, 2011b):

- Life-cycle considerations are integrated in the materials used, leading to substantial cuts in embodied carbon quantities;
- Passive lighting and passive ventilation while carefully maintaining sunlight;
- Transportation by clean electric busses, and in later phases metro and light rail;
- Energy efficiency in buildings;
- Harnessing solar energy;
- Saving water through efficient fittings and fixtures cuts building consumption along with the use of micro irrigations;
- Waste recycling leading to 60 per cent recovery for reuse, recycling or composting.

Masdar City applies principles of a One Planet Living™ programme, developed by NGO Bio Regional in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund and aims at meeting the standards of sustainability to qualify it as a One Planet Community (World Wildlife Fund, 2008).

Initiatives and instruments promoted by Business and Civil Society Organizations

Businesses are highly dynamic actors in the promotion of SCP. Indeed, many information-based policies and schemes are voluntary and based on principles of corporate social and environmental responsibility (CSER). Sustainability reporting is on the rise in a number of regions. This rise indicates that an increasing number of businesses have implemented resource efficiency, cleaner production and environmental management programmes. Similarly, environmental management standards have increasingly been taken up. In most countries in Asia and the Pacific, for example, the number of ISO 14001 standards adopted jumped by more than 130 per cent between 2006 and 2010. Businesses have also formed platforms for information-sharing on wider sustainable development issues, such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Africa Corporate Sustainability Forum.

In some cases, business initiatives also concentrate on innovation in the design, production and distribution of products that is informed by a life-cycle approach. Some businesses in the LAC region are focusing particularly on improvements to production processes through the introduction of clean energy, the reduction of environmentally harmful inputs and the recycling of waste. The NCPCs in developing and transition economies, have been supporting businesses by generating data on resource-efficient practices and providing technical assistance to SMEs. Government strategies have recognized the need for dedicated funding, such as the Resource-Efficient Europe strategy calling for a Small Business Act that helps SMEs face the challenges of globalization and climate change. But SCP has not yet become a core criterion in financial decision-making, which represents an obstacle to replicate and scale up good practices.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have also played a key role in making sure that SCP remains on both

CASE STUDY

Sustainable forestry

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international standard-setting body offering certification for sustainable forest products. It uses a widely recognized logo to provide reliable information to consumers and to help producers benefit from managing forest resources sustainably.

One feature that illustrates best practice in standard setting is the FSC's discrimination between different parts of the forest supply chain. As timber starts off as a commodity and is then manufactured, the FSC has forest management certification for forest managers, chain of custody (CoC) certification for companies that manufacture, trade or process forest products, and FSC Controlled Wood criteria to help companies ensure that mixing non-FSC certified wood with FSC sources will not introduce material that has been produced in highly damaging ways. These regulations guarantee the preservation of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance. Within its forest management standard, the FSC has developed a model for participatory forest management that takes into account the challenges faced by forest workers and small and community producers as well as recognizing and respecting indigenous peoples' rights. It allows groups of forest owners to join together under a single FSC certificate and share costs. Similarly, the CoC standard takes into account the different needs and resources of small and large companies.



The FSC is also notable for its robust governance structure. It includes a General Assembly with three chambers – social, environmental and economic – each of which is divided into sub-chambers, North and South. It promotes comprehensive multi-stakeholder participation including: NGOs, indigenous peoples' associations, unions, academia, technical institutions, employees, certification bodies, industry, wholesalers, retailers, traders, forestry companies, consumers and trade associations.

FSC has national initiatives in more than 50 countries around the world. In their countries they work with relevant stakeholders like NGOs to support the development of national standards, and in particular to increase the capacity of smallholders to secure certification. As of March 2011, 1,030 forest managing operations were certified by FSC, covering a total forest area of 141.14 million hectares in 81 countries.

Source: FSC (2011a)

government and business agendas. Worldwide, the CSOs are strong advocates for SCP and an important channel for informing, training, enabling and empowering citizens. In Africa in particular, CSOs fill a service provision gap for sustainable products by providing seed financing for their development, offering education on sustainable development and establishing income-generating ventures. In West Asia, a number of CSO activities, while not labelled as SCP, clearly promote SCP through campaigns and education programmes related to sustainable development.

A wide range of activities has been undertaken by governments, businesses and CSOs. However, much more needs to be done to bring us on to a path towards achieving the sustainable patterns of consumption and production that necessarily underpin sustainable development. Enhancing cooperation and more concerted and coordinated action at all levels will

be essential to achieving the necessary transformation in consumption and production patterns.

The Way Forward

The existing policies, tools and programmes presented in *The Global Outlook on SCP Policies* must be continued, expanded and improved upon; as well as new and innovative strategies are needed. The last section of this report provides a summary of the main findings and recommendations for both policymakers and decision makers in businesses and CSOs, aiming to foster such scaling up and replication, and accelerating the transition to SCP.

As we look forward to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), it is clear that implementing existing policies, expanding capacity-building activities and sharing

CASE STUDY

Green business practices in China and Viet Nam

TanTec produces leather goods for overseas companies from tanneries located in China and Viet Nam and has achieved significant cost savings by implementing energy-efficiency and waste management practices. The key, according to the CEO, is to constantly innovate and look for better solutions. The company uses a combination of existing in-house and external benchmarks, comparing them with the company's existing manufacturing performance. Accordingly, the Saigon TanTec uses on average only 33 MJ of energy per square metre of leather, compared with a leather industry standard of approximately 52 MJ – as calculated by the British Leather Technology Centre (Leather International, 2010).

The energy reductions have been achieved through a host of improvements, including: the installation of continuously controllable compressors and pumps, the retrofitting of dryers, the installation of energy-efficient re-tanning drums, and the shift

from oil to liquefied gas as a heating source. In addition, the factory has invested in energy-efficient lighting systems with light sensors and timer control and is using translucent plastic panels that allow sunlight to penetrate parts of the roofs and walls. Bamboo walls also allow for a natural ventilation of the factory. The use of reed grasses and 'wetland' methods for wastewater management and post-purification, along with the use of solar thermal and wind energy, have been among the central measures. The company has now achieved a 40 per cent reduction of its energy consumption, and has reduced CO₂ emissions by 2,700 tons per year. In addition, TanTec has reduced water and chemical consumption by 50 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

Source: *Leather International (2010)*



experiences in promoting SCP patterns around the world, are required. The establishment of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), as elaborated at the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, would make a crucial contribution in this regard.

The Global Outlook on SCP Policies is one step forward in gathering information on SCP policies supporting this transition. Building on this effort, as well as on the work achieved by the Marrakech Process on SCP, UNEP will continue to collect good initiatives and practices on SCP. This will be done in close cooperation with all stakeholders and UN agencies, with the objective of sharing information and experience among all regions and all actors. In the future, these efforts could contribute to the establishment of a more structured and dynamic global clearinghouse on SCP, facilitating exchange of information, knowledge on effective policies, and disseminating capacity-building tools. Such a clearinghouse could play an important role in

promoting dialogue, cooperation and partnerships that are needed to inspire and accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns.

Decision-makers in all arenas are encouraged to take action to:

- Integrate SCP into policy frameworks and strategic plans.
- Ensure the collection of more SCP data to measure policy effectiveness and track progress.
- Learn from experience to develop an optimal policy mix.
- Provide enabling policy frameworks to encourage business investments on SCP.
- Adopt and apply alternative measures of progress beyond GDP.
- Give more emphasis to the demand side to promote sustainable lifestyles.
- Enhance responsible marketing and media through policies and campaigns.
- Draw on and further develop partnerships among all actors and regions.

We continue to welcome contributions at <http://web2.unep.fr/globaloutlook/Login.aspx>
The full report is available for download at <http://www.unep.fr/scp/go/publications.htm>

The Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies, developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the financial support of the European Commission, provides a non-exhaustive review of government policies and business and civil society initiatives to shift towards SCP patterns. Broad in scope and worldwide in coverage, this *Global Outlook* includes a wide number of SCP policies and initiatives, illustrated by 56 case studies ranging from global multilateral agreements and regional strategies to specific policies and initiatives being implemented in all regions. It also reviews policy tools such as regulatory, economic, voluntary and information-based instruments while examining key economic sectors including energy, transport and food, and integrated approaches such as waste management. This report provides inspiring information about action and progress in promoting SCP. It highlights best practices and offers recommendations to scale up and replicate these important efforts around the world. The *Global Outlook on SCP Policies* will contribute to the dialogue and analysis in the preparations for Rio+20.

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