

Mainstreaming Environment into National Development Planning - Resource Efficiency and SCP

ToRs for consultancy assignment

Introduction

Resource efficiency and efforts and policies to stimulate more sustainable consumption and production (SCP, see definition in Annex I) can offer several opportunities to developing countries. These opportunities include the reduction of production costs, creation of new markets and job generation, pollution prevention and the opportunity to leapfrog to more efficient and environmentally-sound technologies. By making use of these opportunities developing countries can pursue their national development priorities.

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 the potential of SCP as a tool for poverty reduction. The project focuses on four sectors, i.e. energy, water, waste management and food&agriculture. Although using the term 'SCP', the project recognizes the fact that in developing countries, especially in least-developed countries, the focus will be more on sustainable production than on sustainable consumption. However, in developing countries with a growing middle class the topic of sustainable consumption will be of increasing relevance.

One aim of the project is to provide technical support to countries wishing to integrate, or 'mainstream', SCP objectives, activities and policies into their national development plans. This will be of increasing relevance given the growing number of developing countries that have prepared or are planning to prepare a national SCP-strategy, programme or action plan. UNEP is providing support to a number of these countries and has developed the practical 'Guidelines for National Programmes and Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production', which will be published shortly.

The technical support that will be provided through the above-mentioned project will be part of on-going efforts in the area of environmental mainstreaming. The term 'environmental mainstreaming' can be defined as integrating poverty-environment linkages into national development planning processes and their outputs, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSPs) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) strategies. It is targeted at influencing national plans, budget processes, sector strategies and local level implementation, reflecting the need to integrate the valuable contribution of environmental management to improved livelihoods, increased economic security and income opportunities for poor people.

Through the [Poverty and Environment Initiative](#) (PEI), UNDP and UNEP are working together in their efforts to support developing countries who wish to better reflect poverty-environment linkages in national development planning and implementation. Building on the publication of a [Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Environment into National Development Planning](#) by the PEI, UNDP and UNEP are currently preparing a Handbook on Mainstreaming Environment into National Development Planning (outline of the handbook in Annex II, separate document). This handbook will strongly focus on the process ("how to") of environmental mainstreaming, allowing for illustrations and contributions from different thematic areas.

The proposed consultancy will provide contributions to the handbook from the perspective of resource efficiency and SCP. In addition, a thematic follow-up publication to the handbook, zooming in on resource efficiency and SCP, will be prepared. Similar follow-up publications are expected on themes such as chemicals and climate change. A format for these follow-up publications will be agreed before the start of the assignment, which will make clear that they will be part of a series.

The assignment will consist of two separate but linked components:

- 1) Collect and provide structured inputs on environmental mainstreaming from the perspective of resource efficiency and SCP to the lead authors of the UNDP-UNEP handbook. This will also include reviewing draft versions of the handbook;
- 2) Develop a follow-up publication to the handbook, zooming in on resource efficiency and SCP. This follow-up publication will look at the different parts of the 'mainstreaming' process, and could highlight specific examples for each of the steps in the handbook (with emphasis on chapters 6, 7 and 8) from the perspective of resource efficiency and SCP. The target audience of the publication are policy- and decision makers in developing countries as well as UN country teams;

Objective

The objective of the consultancy assignment is threefold:

- To ensure that the UNDP-UNEP Handbook on Mainstreaming Environment into National Development Planning also includes the perspective of resource efficiency and SCP, including through a number of illustrations;
- To provide support and guidance to developing country governments wishing to integrate SCP objectives, activities and policies in their national development plans and implementation as well as to UN country teams aiming to support these governments with such efforts;
- To draw on the current wide range of initiatives for environmental mainstreaming, extracting the elements and approaches that are effective in promoting resource efficiency and SCP

Activities

The consultant will undertake the following activities to achieve the objectives outlined above:

- Based on the first draft of the UNDP-UNEP Handbook, collect, select and submit relevant information to the authors of the handbook. This information will be linked to resource efficiency and SCP and could include examples of good practices at the country-level, (links to) useful publications, evidence of contributions to poverty reduction of SCP interventions, results from studies, experiences on working with the private sector, definitions etc.;
- Review and provide comments on subsequent draft version(s) of the UNDP-UNEP Handbook, including through providing text suggestions;
- Review and analyse the existing range of initiatives for environmental mainstreaming, extracting the elements and approaches that are effective in promoting resource efficiency and SCP;
- Undertake a desk study/literature review of experiences in developing countries with the development of national SCP strategies and their integration into national development planning;
- Based on the above, develop a follow-up publication (max 25 pages) to the handbook on environmental mainstreaming, zooming in on resource efficiency and SCP;

Outputs

The consultancy will result in the following outputs:

- Written contributions to the UNDP-UNEP effort to develop a handbook on mainstreaming environment into national development planning;
- A follow-up publication to the handbook, looking at the different parts of the mainstreaming process from the perspective of resource efficiency and SCP (max 25 pages);

Following satisfactory completion of the outputs, the follow-up publication will be translated into French and Spanish.

Qualifications/special skills or knowledge required

The consultant 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;
- Strong knowledge of the links between poverty and environment in developing countries;
- Relevant working experience in developing countries, including in the area of SCP;
- Familiarity with policy-making processes in developing countries;
- Effective written and oral communication skills, including proven experience of ability to write for policy- and decision makers in the public sector;
- Fluency in oral and written English is required and knowledge of Spanish and French is highly recommended.

Management and reporting

The draft versions of the follow-up publication to the handbook 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'.

The consultant will report to Ms. Esther Reilink, UNEP, with who he/she will be in touch regularly throughout the duration of the assignment. Ms. Reilink will seek additional technical support from UN-colleagues, especially those working for the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative, when required.

The consultant can be based anywhere in the world (home-based) as long as he/she has access to reliable internet, email and telephone connections.

Duration

The duration of the assignment is three months, within a period of five months. Output 1 will have a duration of one (1) month and will be completed during months 1-3 (subject to final schedule of review as agreed upon by UNDP and UNEP). Output 2 will have a duration of two months and will be completed during months 3-5.

Milestones of output 1 (work commencing immediately) will to a large extent depend on the time schedule of the preparations of the UNDP-UNEP Handbook. Collected inputs for the authors of the handbook are expected by week 4.

Milestones of output 2 (note: work on output 2 commencing in week 9) are:

- Week 12: first draft of the follow-up publication;
- Week 16: second draft of the follow-up publication;
- Week 20: final version of the follow-up publication;

How to apply

People interested to apply for a component of the assignment 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: **21 March 2008**.

ANNEX I

What is SCP?

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).