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UN Conference identifies new work areas for NCPCs



The network of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) will be expanded and strengthened by UNEP and UNIDO in collaboration with national governments worldwide. The UN will seek to address the negative affects of globalisation on the environment and marginalisation of poorer communities. There will be an increasing focus on raising awareness and influencing the behavior of consumers, given the growing consumer class in many developing countries and continuing unsustainable consumption patterns in developed countries.

This was concluded at UNEP's 9th International Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP9)

which was held in Arusha, Tanzania, 10-12 December 2006. The meeting was organised in partnership with UNIDO and hosted by the Government of Tanzania.

The follow-up of the meeting was overshadowed by a traffic accident that involved some participants and staff from UNEP and UNIDO. The accident happened following a burst tyre of the minibus they were travelling in. The injured include Viveka Bohn (Sweden), Azza Morssy and Heinz Leuenberger (both UNIDO), and Solange Montillaud and Bas de Leeuw (UNEP).

▶ *Continued on page 2*



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Wuppertal meeting calls for international agreement on SCP

The informal conference "Creating Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production - An Expert Conference on the Marrakech Process" looked at progress achieved so far by the Marrakech Process through the activities developed by the Cooperation Dialogue with Development Agencies and the seven Marrakech Task Forces.

Mr Ernst von Weizsäcker (author of Factor 4 and Factor 10) opened the meeting, highlighting the changes our society is facing in terms of consumption and production, where there is no balance between economic growth and social justice...

▶ *Continued on page 2*

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The expert meeting had underlined that NCPCs need to develop a broader, more integrated package of products and services for their clients, which address both poverty alleviation and sustainable consumption objectives. A strategic approach was requested with emphasis on competitive gains from Cleaner Production (CP), circular economy approaches to reduce material flows and a strong focus on energy efficiency. CP programmes should integrate new tools such as Corporate Social Responsibility, chemical leasing, pollutant release and transfer registers, ecolabelling and certification.

The conference recommended that NCPCs should promote waste management challenges in local and national policy agendas. For emerging



issues, such as electronic waste, UNEP was encouraged to continue its programmes. There was a need to develop more operational definitions for e-waste, in particular for customs officials. A Marrakech Task Force (MTF) on Sustainable Waste Management should be created with a developing country in the lead. Data collection on waste composition and material flows for each country needed to be improved, so that each country could develop an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) by 2009 and start implementation by 2010 using existing tools. The new panel on Resources (initiated by UNEP with support from the European Commission) could be a partner in these endeavors.

In the area of food and agriculture, CP should focus on the supply chain 'beyond the farm gate' and develop roles for NCPCs in food processing and maximising the efficiency of converting

agricultural biomass into a range of commercial products. In Africa, sustainable consumption and production patterns should be stimulated in the bio-energy sector, adding value to agricultural crops, and helping to secure market recognition of sustainable agriculture.

UNEP was also requested to coordinate with other UN agencies and stakeholders to enhance an integrated approach for promoting sustainable tourism, including an international initiative to launch national marketing campaigns on sustainable tourism.

For more information, please contact Solange Montillaud-Joyel at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [9th International High-level Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production](#)

(...) Wuppertal meeting calls for international agreement on SCP

▶ He also stressed the need to work more on correcting the world pricing systems.

Mr Arab Hoballah, Chief of the UNEP Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, called upon governments to establish regional and national programmes and action plans for sustainable consumption and production. Mr Hoballah said "Governments have an important role to play in providing a policy framework that both enables business to invest in more sustainable products and services and supports consumers to lead more sustainable lifestyles. The 10YFP should define an international agreement

on the actions of all parties towards sustainable consumption and production in the next decade at a concrete level. Governments need to accelerate their efforts to mobilise public awareness in order to achieve a momentum by 2011."

Participants discussed expectations for the Marrakech Process in 2011 and provided some ideas of the key elements that the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP should include. Some other recommendations highlighted the need for more active engagement of the private sector as well as more civil society participation. The Background Paper which provides a good overview of the Marrakech

Process and the Agenda are available at the 'Marrakech Process International Meetings' link given below.

The meeting, held 22-23 November 2006, in Wuppertal, Germany, was organised by UNEP and the UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) in partnership with The Club of Rome.

Link(s)

- [Marrakech Process](#)
- [Creating Solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production - Expert Conference](#)

Indian Workshop calls for partnership on e-waste

A variety of hazardous electronic-waste entering India in the garb of charity and study-material sent from abroad is posing a threat to the country's environment, experts say.

Participants at the workshop, titled 'E-waste Management: Perspective and Challenges' - a multi-stakeholder workshop on e-waste management, underscored the urgency for addressing the issue of e-waste regulation and its scientific management.

Mr Satish Sinha, Chief Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link, in his welcome address urged those present to come up with consensus-based alternatives to manage the new-age menace. Highlighting the significance of Mumbai as the venue for this important workshop he said, "Mumbai, India's commercial capital, is one of the largest consumers of electronic goods in the country. The rapid change in technology, high obsolescence rate of electronics goods and imports of e-junk in port cities make it the most appropriate place for such a discussion."

Mr. Sinha also reported on the pioneering work done by Toxics Link through ground-breaking research. He, however, added that the issue now needs to be taken to the next level by providing workable models that involve the industry, consumers and state agencies.

Mr. D. B. Boralkar, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, in his key note address, emphasised the

need for creating state-level expertise as Maharashtra is currently the largest contributor to e-waste with Mumbai alone contributing around 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes per year. "The issue needs to be seen in its totality, particularly with regard to investment. People need to pay for a cleaner environment, and MPCB's role would be to provide a support system," he said. "Around 40 crores (around 10 million USD) of investment is required to manage 100,000 tons of hazardous waste," he claimed.

Mr. Kishore Wankhade, Regional Coordinator, Toxics Link Mumbai, made a presentation on 'E-waste in India: A Ground Perspective'. Mr. Wankhade provided a comprehensive outlook of the Indian scenario and asserted, "Smaller, faster and cheaper - these are the defining qualities of today's computers and consumer electronics. Yet, despite the pace of advancement, product designers and industry have ignored the public health hazard and environmental consequences of these products once they are discarded or rendered obsolete."

An important aspect that came up for discussion was emphasis on promotion of extended producer responsibility (EPR). The aim of EPR is to encourage producers to prevent pollution and reduce resource and energy use in each stage of the

product life-cycle through changes in product design and process technology. In its widest sense, this means producers should bear a degree of responsibility for all environmental impacts of their products. This will include upstream impacts arising from the choice of materials to the downstream impacts from use and disposal of products.

Mr. Bas de Leeuw from UNEP said, "India should design a better legal structure and all stake-holders should be taken into confidence to protect Indians and their environment. Large-scale unethical export of e-waste by industrialised nations is shifting the onus on communities ill-equipped to deal with them."

The workshop was organised jointly by Toxics Link, UNEP and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) on 28 September 2006.

Please contact Kishore@toxicslink.org or sc@unep.fr for further information. The Agenda can be viewed through the link below.

Link(s)

- [Article "Hazardous e-waste entering India as charity"](#)
- [UNEP and e-waste management](#)

New UNEP publication: Design for Sustainability

Design for Sustainability (D4S), improving products while taking environmental and social concerns as key strategic elements into consideration, is one of the most useful approaches available to enterprises today.



Immediate technical capacity building is needed to introduce D4S in developing economies, increasing their awareness and bringing new experience.

This practical approach can help intermediaries that work with SMEs, the companies they partner with, execute a D4S project.

This publication describes what D4S is and what might motivate companies to adopt it. The backbone of the publication is composed of three practical step-by-step approaches to execute a D4S project: needs assessment, redesign and benchmarking. Clear reference information and case studies that can support the project are also provided.

For more information, please visit the URL indicated below. Hardcopies are available on request at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [UNEP Sustainable Product Design](#)
- [Design for Sustainability: A Practical Approach for Developing Economies](#)

New Task Force on Sustainable Tourism meets in Paris

The First International Meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development, held in Paris, France, defined a programme of work for the Task Force and obtained commitments from the participating countries and organisations towards specific activities. Mrs. Nelly Olin, the French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development, also invited other countries and organizations to join this effort in making tourism more sustainable.



The Chair, Mr Christian Brodhag, the French Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development, opened the Meeting. Mr Brodhag recalled that during the 9th Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council in 2006 France announced its willingness to initiate and chair a Task Force on Sustainable Tourism, following a commitment to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production. Mr. Arab Hoballah from UNEP stated that consumption and production patterns are increasingly global and that international cooperation is needed to help societies move towards more sustainable patterns.

Ms. Adriana Zacarias from UNEP presented the Marrakech Process Framework and its Task Forces. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou from UNEP's Tourism Programme highlighted the need for more sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism industry. The head of Sustainable Tourism Department of UNWTO, Mr Eugenio Yunis, presented

the international context of sustainable tourism and its principles.

The first session ended with a presentation from Mr. Jean-Luc Michaud, president of the French Committee for Sustainable Tourism Development, highlighting that this Task Force can count on a strong commitment from various stakeholders including three French Ministries (Tourism, Ecology and Sustainable Development, and Foreign Affairs), and on a strong engagement at the global level.

The thematic working groups focused on the following themes: Financial Mobilization; Sustainable heritage management; Governance and local actors; Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER). The four transversal priorities of the Task Force (links between tourism and climate change; links between tourism and biodiversity; conservation of natural and cultural heritage; and tourism and local development) were also discussed during

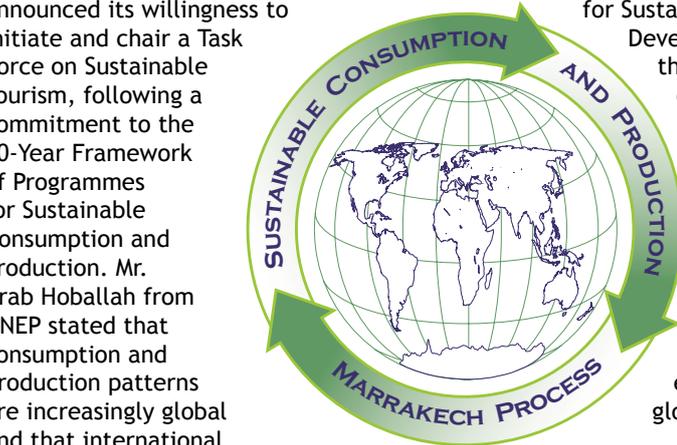
the working group sessions.

The Meeting was closed by Mrs. Nelly Olin, the French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development who recalled that the Task Force was initiated to enable sharing knowledge, experiences, and projects on sustainable tourism, and this could promote a spill-over effect in practical and effective pilot projects at the local level. In addition, the Minister of Tourism of Costa Rica in his closing statement declared that "sustainable tourism is the only option for tourism development".

This First International Meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development, held in Paris, France, 18-19 September 2006, brought together 80 participants, from 15 countries and 14 international organisations, professional associations and NGOs. A second meeting will take place in March 2007, prior to the Marrakech Process meeting to be held in Sweden in June 2007.

Link(s)

- [Report of the first meeting of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism](#)



New UNEP Project: Guidelines and Indicators for National SCP Programmes

One of the key recommendations coming out of the regional and international meetings of the Marrakech Process is the development of non-prescriptive guidelines to support the implementation of national SCP programmes and action plans. A Guidance Manual being drafted by UNEP will provide practical steps for the development and monitoring of national SCP programmes and indicators to monitor progress toward SCP. The project is supported by the United Kingdom, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The manual will also address the need to include SCP in new and existing national strategies such as Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies. The manual will be illustrated by the experiences of several developed and developing countries that have already instituted national SCP programmes, and through a participatory process it will engage many more countries in the challenge of promoting SCP.

UNEP is currently gathering information on national SCP programmes and action plans from around the world. So if you have not already done so, we would welcome a brief update on progress in developing and/or implementing a national SCP programme in your own country.

If you are interested in learning more about the project and/or becoming actively involved, please do not hesitate

to contact us.

For more information, please visit the project overview in the link below or contact Matthew Bentley at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [National Action Plans](#)

India turns attention to its consuming class

“Sustainable Consumption and Production are the two legs on which Sustainable Development stands. In India, we have to be particularly concerned about sustainability. We have a billion plus population and the beginnings of economic success now becoming visible. Our population is young and is very soon going to join what is known as the “consuming class”. It is therefore imperative that we take whatever steps we can today in order to ensure our tomorrow.” This was a statement made by Mr. Siddarth Behura, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forests of India, on opening a national stakeholder roundtable on SCP in Mumbai on 29 September 2006.



India wants to link the environmental agenda with measures to combat poverty according to Mr. Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests. This was echoed by UNEP's Bas de Leeuw, who said “one cannot just be green while 80% of the population lives in misery”. The roundtable identified priorities to strengthen policies, including the collection and recycling of electronic waste, sustainable agriculture and an improvement of the ecolabelling system.

Around 50 participants attended the roundtable including representatives from the Central and State Governments, Industry and NGOs. Identifying India's needs, priority areas and gaps to implement sustainable consumption and production patterns were the main aims of the roundtable at which Indian and international experts had the opportunity to exchange expertise and good practices.

Due to the size of its economy, India plays a central role in regional economic

development. But at the same time the rapid increase in resource consumption and pressures on the environment call for new models of development to be implemented. Energy efficiency, sustainable management of water resources and waste - including the new problems associated with electronic waste - were among the priorities discussed during the meeting.

Eco-labelling, consumer information and education as well as sustainable procurement are among the key tools that can engage consumers in this sustainability challenge.

The roundtable was seen as an initial step for a long-term commitment to promote SCP in the country, acting as a “launch pad” to the development and implementation of focused activities and further strategic work.

It was organised in the framework of the so-called “Marrakech Process”, a

global initiative led by UNEP and UN-DESA aiming at assisting regions and countries worldwide in increasing the sustainability of their consumption and production patterns.

The Indian Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, and the UNEP, with the collaboration of the Safety Action Group (SAG) and sponsored by the European Commission (EC). Air India kindly provided logistical support by hosting the meeting in its Headquarters.

For more information about this conference, including the meeting report and related documentation, please visit the link below or write to Silvia Ferratini at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [National Roundtables](#)

Yale Journal identifies products and activities with greatest environmental impact

Cutting-edge research identifying the types of products that cause the most environmental damage is the focus of a special issue of Yale's Journal of Industrial Ecology. The activities and product groups that cause 70 percent to 80 percent of the total environmental impact in society are automobiles and air transport; food (meat and dairy, chief among them); and home and related energy use, including heating, cooling and other energy-using appliances.

Contributors to the special issue, Priorities for Environmental Product Policy, examined the impacts of products in Cardiff, Wales; in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands; and in countries in the European Union (EU) as a whole.

The special issue features the most recent and influential studies on the relative impact of consumption activities. The studies, all independently conducted, conclude that a consistent and robust priority list of product groups can serve as a guide for environmental improvement programs undertaken by industry and government.

In many countries, environmental policy that is centered on production, use and disposal of products – rather than just

pollution from smokestacks and drainpipes – is gaining acceptance. The European Union and China are banning hazardous substances from electrical and electronic products, for example, and Japan is implementing a green purchasing law.

“The research findings reported in the special issue are important because they help pinpoint the most problematic types of consumption, which include activities that are now commonplace in our lives such as air transport,” said Gus Speth, dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. *“That should lead to clearer priorities and better decisions.”*

“This special issue demonstrates the power of industrial ecology,” says Reid Lifset, editor-in-chief of the Journal of

Industrial Ecology. “Concepts and tools that lie at the core of this field, such as life-cycle assessment and input-output analysis, help us to gain a much better understanding of the relative importance of specific categories of consumption for the pressures on the environment.”

This special issue of the Journal of Industrial Ecology was guest edited by Arnold Tukker, manager of the Sustainable Innovation Program at the Dutch research organization, TNO.

Link(s)

- [Journal of Industrial Ecology special issue on Priorities for Environmental Product Policy](#)

Barcelona conference launches Call for Action on Sustainable Procurement

Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reductions achievable through sustainable procurement - EcoProcura Call for Action launched!

The 360 delegates from 53 countries who gathered at the sixth EcoProcura conference issued a strong Call for Action to all key actors around the world to deepen their commitment towards spending public money on sustainable products and services - to make their words a practical reality.

It was revealed at the conference, in Barcelona, Spain, 20-22 September 2006, that more than €1 trillion is spent by European public authorities each year. Participants recognised the immense power of public procurers in bringing about huge environmental, social and economic improvements through their purchasing actions - locally and globally.

Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas reductions alone could be achieved by European public authorities buying green electricity. Other major improvements could be made through public authorities buying energy efficient computers, green buildings, non-toxic cleaning products, organic food, low-emission buses, and helping to move the market towards more sustainable products and services.



Ensuring that high labour standards are met by public contractors, or buying Fair Trade products are examples of how to drive social improvements through procurement. Some key messages from the conference included:

Sustainability doesn't cost more

Speakers demonstrated that buying sustainably does not mean higher costs. Huge savings can be made in usage and disposal costs by buying environmentally friendly products. The possibilities of joint procurement in driving prices down were also

highlighted.

Top industry representatives also sent a clear signal to the conference - "if you demand it, we will supply it, at a good price".



Photo: EcoProcura

Now is the time to act

Many very successful experiences of sustainable procurement were presented from around the world - the message was clear: sustainable procurement works.

The call from the conference, and at the heart of ICLEI's Procura+ Campaign, is to now make sustainable procurement mainstream - the rule and not the exception.

With a clear legal framework, a large number of easy-to-use tools to support implementation, and a huge collection of impressive real life examples there is now no reason not to act.

Delegates at the conference made a strong commitment to sustainable procurement, and called on all others around the world - in all sectors and at all levels - to join the movement!

Link(s)

- [EcoProcura 2006 conference website](#)
- [Call for Action](#)

Chirac wants revolution in industry and education

Two days after the UN-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change meeting in Paris the French President, Jacques Chirac, called for "a radical transformation in our production and consumption patterns. A new industrial revolution lies ahead - the sustainable development revolution".

Mr Chirac also called for a "revolution in our culture" to educate everyone, especially the very young, in environmental issues, and a "revolution in our thinking to invent a different kind of growth". He encouraged developing countries to apply the green technologies available to enable them to leapfrog to a sustainable development-focused economy.

The "Citizens of the Earth" Conference,

held 2-3 February 2007, brought together government ministers, scientists, company heads, NGOs and public figures from over sixty countries around the world, all personally committed to promoting a vision for the environment and determined to take collective action.

One of the six workshops focussed on changing patterns of consumption and production. This workshop included discussions on the following: promoting

more responsible consumer behaviour by providing concrete SCP examples and highlighting the role of citizens, consumers, government and industry in fostering SCP.

Link(s)

- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [Citizens of the Earth conference](#)



Photo: Agência Brasil

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Living Expo
16-18 March 2007, Vancouver, Canada

European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference 2007 "Taking the Commitments to the Streets"
21-24 March 2007, Seville, Spain

Corporate Responsibility 2007 Sense and Sensibility: The Limits and Reach of Corporate Responsibility
26-27 March 2007, London, UK

UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (SBCI)
2-4 April 2007, Rabat, Morocco

7th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
25-27 April 2007, Hanoi, Vietnam

4th bi-annual Conference of the International Society for Industrial Ecology
17-20 June 2007, Toronto, Canada

Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech Process)
26-29 June 2007, Sweden

Annual Congress of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) Solid Waste Management: Sustainable City Management and Global Climate Control
24-27 September 2007, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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ILO and UNEP join forces to achieve Sustainable Procurement

UNEP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have decided to join forces to develop a truly integrated training programme that explains "WHY" including environmental and social criteria in procurement makes market sense and "HOW" to do it.

This international workshop on "SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT" will take place on 26-30 March 2007 in Turin, Italy.

The objective of this Workshop is to improve capacity in the implementation of sustainable procurement practices. It targets public procurers and managers of large international projects. The workshop will expose the key concepts for Sustainable Procurement, its legal and political background, how it contributes to the development of more sustainable and competitive markets, and how to implement it within the current legal frameworks.

The workshop will be in English only and be facilitated by international experts.

In the attachments below, you can find further information. Do not hesitate to circulate the information to those you think might be interested in the workshop. For more details, please contact Isabella Marras at sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [ILO & UNEP brochure](#)

New Publications and websites

UNEP DTIE Activity and Performance Report 2006

Carrots and Sticks for Starters
A joint report from UNEP and KPMG's Global Sustainability Services

G3 version of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines

Tomorrow's Value
The Global Reporters 2006 Survey of Corporate Sustainability Reporting
A joint report from UNEP, Standard & Poor's and Sustainability

Feasibility Study: Integration of social aspects into LCA
UNEP/SETAC

What assures consumers?
Accountability/ (UK) National Consumer Council

Make Poverty Business
Greenleaf Publishing

The Autumn 2006 issue of the LC.net newsletter

Issue 3 of The UN-Business Focal Point, an Information Bulletin for UN Private Sector Focal Points

Doors of perception latest newsletter

Latest issue of the European Ecolabel "Flower news"

Issue 16 of "EKWO" a French magazine for young people focuses on "trash fashion"

ECO-Buy e-newsletter Issue 2

Environmental Technologies Action Plan Issue 6

"Sustentat News", the first issue of this newsletter providing information on global trade with sustainable goods and services with special attention given to Latin American countries is available now. For more information, please contact expo-sustentat@nfgmail.com

Consume This - Buying That Matters
New booklet intended for youth aged between 14-18

Greenleaf Publishing invites contributions for a special issue of "Greener Management International" and a book on the topic of "Base of the Pyramid" For more information, please contact jayne.bown@greenleaf-publishing.com

Mygreenelectronics.org
New website launched during the 2007 Consumer Electronics Show (8-11 January 2007, Las Vegas, USA) to help people find electronics recyclers, offer energy-saving tips and provide a searchable database of green electronics