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UNEP launches online database for national SCP programmes



UNEP's online clearinghouse for national SCP programmes was launched in February 2008 as a contribution to the UN Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production.

The database provides information on existing national SCP programmes, initiatives in their final stages of development and UNEP demonstration projects. UNEP compiled this clearinghouse to communicate knowledge regarding the development, implementation and monitoring of SCP programmes in an effort to foster their continual improvement. Countries interested in establishing their own SCP programmes are encouraged to utilise existing initiatives as examples of good practice.

The user-friendly platform is capable of searching diverse programme criteria including priority areas, status, type of programme, region and country name. Query results are displayed as country lists that link to individual national programme summaries with information on the status, vision, priorities and monitoring of the programmes. Relevant national SCP documents are also available for download in several languages.

The database is part of a UK government funded project to develop guidelines for national programmes on SCP.

Link(s):

- [Clearinghouse for National SCP Programmes](#)



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Over-use of resources concern for Indian government

The over-use of 'dwindling resources', and the need to find a balance between high economic growth while at the same time protecting the environment has been stated as a primary concern of the Indian government in a recent expert workshop

Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment & Forests traced the evolution of the concerns about sustainable consumption &

production from the Earth Summit in Rio to the present, and said that "India had to be well prepared with concrete action plans before CSD 2010-11." He urged participants "to review the new Environment Policy of the Government of India which aimed at optimising resource utilisation per unit of economic output, arriving at a synergy between economic development..."

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(...) Over-use of resources concern for Indian government

and the environment and recognising that the poor are part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

Bas de Leeuw (UNEP) said that “he was glad to note the ever-increasing level of enthusiasm for SCP in India.” He felt “that there are several inconvenient truths; the issue was about survival of the people and the planet.” The overall objective, he felt, was de-linking of economic growth and environmental degradation.

The SCP approach was one of the options for achieving these objectives. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production was one of the key recommendations at the WSSD. Marrakech Task Forces had been formed by countries to share expertise to those who needed it. Similarly, an International Panel on Sustainable Resource Management (Resource Panel) had been launched in Budapest, earlier in 2007.

He hoped that the international community would learn from India that the old model of “grow first and clean up later” was simply not sustainable. Mr de Leeuw said that every country needed its national heroes and champions of SCP and he commended Sudhir Mital of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Rajan Gandhi

of Society in Action Group as being the agents for change for India.

Commenting on the sectoral nature of the discussions, Mr Mital pointed out that waste management, for example, was a serious problem whose resolution could conceivably create employment opportunities for the poor, for instance by planned recycling and community-based composting projects. Similarly, the efficiency of water usage merited detailed investigation to arrive at means to optimise usage from all sources. Sections of the Indian population had only recently begun to have significant disposable incomes, but even if the percentage of the population was small, the sheer size made it vital that consumer demand be channelled towards sustainable goods and services.

The 2nd India Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption & Production was held in New Delhi, 19-20 December 2007. Attended by 54 experts from different Ministries of the Indian Government, the Private Sector, Academics and Civil



Society Organisations, delegates met to discuss three sectors in detail: a) Water Utilisation and Efficiency, b) Integrated Waste Management and c) Creating Awareness for Sustainable Goods & Services. This was a follow-up meeting to the First Roundtable in Mumbai in 2006 which tabled 5 broad areas of

concern for India, and was responsible for creating awareness of SCP within the country.

The 2nd roundtable was organised by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The roundtable

was sponsored by the European Commission, with support from GTZ, Hindustan Unilever and the British High Commission. The meeting logistics were carried out locally by Society in Action Group (SAG). The meeting report will be posted on the website soon. Please click on the link below for the Agenda and Background Paper. For more information, please contact: sc@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [2nd India Roundtable](#)
- [International Panel on Sustainable Resource Management](#)

French-speaking countries in Africa interested in sustainable procurement

The Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF) has organized a first awareness-raising session on Sustainable Procurement (SP) with key representatives of French-speaking African countries. The initiative served to illustrate the international work being carried out in the framework of the Marrakech Process on sustainable procurement, to show the work of the Swiss Task Force for Sustainable Procurement. It also highlighted other varied experiences on the subject such as UNEP's training experiences in Morocco, the French government activities on SP and the work of the Swiss canton of Geneva.

From the discussions, it emerged that several countries are somewhat less advanced in their discussions on SP than the members of the Swiss Task Force. They also have different needs. This includes understanding the concept, justifying the requirement for Sustainable Procurement (SP) and promoting high-level government awareness and acceptance that SP supports the country's economic development. Put simply: they are still in a “WHY” phase, whereas the Swiss Task Force members are in a “HOW” phase.

One exception is Tunisia, which is rather advanced on SP in the region and could be a candidate for the MTF and even

serve as an example. In Tunisia, procurers already have to respect certain basic sustainability criteria such as purchasing from local SMEs, from companies run by young people and the handicapped. Also, the country is interested in having support and guidance on how to improve the environmental sustainability of their procurement practices.

The IEPF will fund further work in the next few years in French-speaking countries on SP. The meeting culminated with the appointment of an advisory committee on SP aimed at providing specific SP guidance to French-speaking countries including a generic SP guidance document, an overall analysis of the

situation of SP in IEPF African member Countries, a “SP methodological guide”, and more regional meetings on SP. UNEP will of course be on the committee and act as a link with the Swiss Task Force on SP.

The event was held on 17-18 December 2007, in Tunis, and organized with the support of the Tunisian government and the endorsement of UNEP.

More information with Isabella Marras at unep.tie@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [Marrakech Process Task Forces](#)

Financial institutions interested in mainstreaming sustainability in tourism sector

The recent meeting of the Marrakech Process Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development (ITF-STD) focused on sustainable investment and financing in the tourism sector and attracted the interest of financial institutes aiming at mainstreaming sustainability principles into tourism investments and projects.

The meeting recommended the establishment of a network comprising financial stakeholders, private investors, international organisations and developing destinations that will focus on the mainstreaming of sustainable principles on investments and development projects in the tourism sector. The network will be called SIFT Network (Sustainable Investment and Financing in Tourism). Beside the Task Force members, the World Bank, the GEF, the IFC, the UN Foundation, the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation, commercial banks and Private Equity corporations have agreed to participate in the network in order to build ties with destinations in developing countries and develop guidelines for sustainable investments in the tourism sector.

The network will:

- Create a network on Sustainable Investment and Financing in Tourism with the participation of multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors, financing institutions, the private sector (banks, tourism companies, and investors), developing countries and international organisations.
- Provide guidance to financing institutes, private investors and public authorities at national and local levels in constructing the appropriate policy frameworks to complement and stimulate the channelling of financial resources necessary for sustainable tourism development.

The meeting proved that the Task Force

has started to deliver concrete outputs towards the development of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism value chain.

These outputs are related with the projects financed by the French Ministry (communication campaign, guidelines for tourism in coastal zones, training material for hospitality schools) but have also contributed to projects that started within the Task Force's programme of work and implemented by various partners, such as:

- an international initiative on the establishment of baseline criteria for sustainable tourism
- compilation of good practices
- destination management projects jointly implemented by tour operators and NGOs

The meeting also stressed that the activities towards adaptation and mitigation measures to combat climate change in the tourism sector should be strengthened.

Finally, the development of policy and business guidelines was recognized as one of the most visible and valuable activities of the Task Force. In this respect, the following activities should be further encouraged:

- The compilation of a global baseline of sustainable tourism criteria;
- Work on the integration of sustainable tourism in governance and local development approaches;

- The compilation of good practices and the need to focus on the development of specific recommendations. In this respect the following recommendation was provided:
- The development of collaborative pilot projects engaging task force members, which directly support the implementation of sustainable tourism development on the ground.



Mr. Carlos Benavides, Minister for Tourism in Costa Rica, announced that the next ITF-STD Meeting on Sustainable Development will be held in Costa Rica. This Fourth meeting will take place in June 2008.

The Third International Task Force Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development (ITF-STD) was held on 10-12 December, 2007, in Paris, France. The meeting was organized by the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning; the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the French Ministry of Tourism and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the support of the Norwegian Government. Approximately 86 participants attended the meeting, including 12 country members, 9 international organizations, 9 federal associations together with NGOs, and 18 participating experts.

Link(s)

- [Task Force on Sustainable Tourism](#)

“Construction Counts for Climate”, Bali event concludes

The significance of buildings for climate change, and the need for policy support to the building sector to move towards more energy efficient buildings were highlighted at a side-event at the Bali Climate Change conference in December 2007.

The side event was held on 7 December and organised by UNEP's Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative (SBCI) in cooperation with SBCI partners the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction (led by Finland) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Two reports released by SBCI at the meeting, showed that the Kyoto protocol at the moment has very little impact on the building sector, but also that there is a good potential for improving the

situation. They also propose that there is a need for policy makers to adopt additional policy measures and that there are good examples of policies which are both efficient and cost effective. Valuable input was also provided to the meeting by SBCI member, the World Green Building Council and partner, the UNEP Finance Initiative.

The two reports released at the meeting were:

- “Assessment of Policy Instruments for

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Buildings” (available for download and linked below)

- “CDM and Buildings” - preliminary summary and recommendations

More information with Peter Graham at unep.tie@unep.fr

Link(s)

- [UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative](#)

Number of eco-labeled products from developing countries to be increased

There are many challenges that remain in promoting sustainability through consumer choices: the gap between consumer concern and action, the lack of information and misleading claims on products and the increasing range of choices that overstrain the consumer. This is why the observation of Justin McMullan of Consumers International is such good news: 'A growing number of consumers in various countries are prepared to use consumption to change the world around them and specifically companies' behaviour'

This was said at the start-up workshop of the project 'Enabling Developing Countries to seize eco-label opportunities', held in Bonn, Germany, on 3-4 December 2007.

As recognized by Bas de Leeuw from UNEP and reiterated by Frieder Rubik from the Institute for Ecological Economy Research, eco-labels are key tools towards sustainability. They are a bridge between consumption and production. They are awarded to products that are environmentally preferable within a particular product category available in the market, they guide the consumers in purchasing quality products with fewer adverse environmental impacts, while at the same time, they encourage manufacturers to develop and supply environmentally sound products.

Aiming to increase the number of eco-labelled products from the developing countries and to improve collaboration among eco-labelling schemes, the workshop officially launched the project which is funded by the European Commission and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany). The aim is to improve access to regional, European and global markets of environmentally friendly products from developing economies.

Attended by around 70 participants including the project partners and associates, international experts and several stakeholders from Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa, the workshop enabled multi-stakeholders dialogues on capacity and technical assistance needs in the countries. It was also a good opportunity for the partners from such different countries to exchange experiences, ideas, expectations and for the international experts to have a first understanding of the challenges and the reality of each of the sectors involved in the project. The European Union Eco-label was identified as the label to aim to obtain by the product groups selected by the partners: textiles (India and South Africa), footwear (Mexico, Kenya and the South-East African Region), paper (Brazil) and televisions (China).

The participants requested more information about the relationships between the EU Eco-label with other European Directives affecting imported products. They also wanted to see market data, successful examples from



companies and procedural information on how to obtain eco-labels. Another fundamental consideration was the support of governments in terms of policies and tools, such as sustainable procurement. Crucial also is the role of consumer organizations in improving consumers awareness and building capacity and of retailers in increasing the share of eco-labelled products on their shelves.

The next steps of the project will be to bring the international discussion to the national level in each country, engaging the local stakeholders in the process of obtaining the European Eco-label for products.

The workshop was held in Bonn, Germany, on 3-4 December 2007 and was co-organized by InWEnt GmbH and UNEP.

More information with project coordinator Silvia Ferratini at sc@unep.fr

[Link\(s\)](#)

- [UNEP Ecolabelling](#)

Sustainable Product Design project launched in Vietnam

During the last few years, Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR have enjoyed rapid economic growth. This growth rested on a limited number of sectors and on products with low local added value. In order for their growth to continue in a sustainable way, the three countries need to increase the local added value of the goods and services they produce. For goods exported to Europe, environmental and social aspects must also be taken into account in addition to quality and price. One efficient way to address these issues is to integrate them from the initial stage of product design.

Against this background, the 20-month EU Asia Invest "Cleaner Production for Better Products" (CP4BP) project aims at increasing the capacity of selected industries in Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR to develop environmentally sound and socially responsible products that are better adapted to the requirements of the European market (Cleaner and Better Products).

The project will provide local companies with training and state-of-the-art

information on sustainable product design, as well as support from international and national experts for the (re-)design of their products during three 9-month demonstration projects in selected sectors. It is led by the Vietnam Cleaner Production Centre and the Asian Institute of Technology Center in Vietnam and by the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Phnom Penh Small and Medium Industry Association in Lao PDR and Cambodia, and supported by the United Nations

Environment Programme and the Delft University of Technology.

The project team is looking for motivated and innovative companies for 9 month demonstration projects.

More information with project coordinator Garrette Clark at unep.tie@unep.fr

[Link\(s\)](#)

- [The CP4BP website](#)

Sustainable consumption high on agenda of Tallinn conference on education

How can consumers distinguish between good and bad Sustainable Consumption (SC) information? What information do they want? Do they trust what they have? How can education provide the tools to young consumers to decrypt the thousands of advertising and commercial messages they receive everyday?

This will be the focus of the 2008 Annual conference of the Consumer Citizenship Network, a project involving more than 150 teacher training institutions across Europe and beyond.

Registration is open!

At the event, to be held 5-6 May 2008, in Tallinn, Estonia, various initiatives related to education for sustainable consumption will be presented and discussed: the *UNEP/UNESCO youthXchange*; the Italian Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption; the splendid project *Lola* that helps young people to find Look for likely (and more sustainable) alternatives (*LOLA*) in their communities etc.

The CCN project started in 2003 as a network to develop Sustainable Citizenship curricula. The CCN has been working to create awareness among teachers and teachers trainers

on the need to integrate sustainable consumption in their work as a way to help students to become more responsible and involved citizens. More recently, the network has started “producing” concrete outputs such as Guidelines for Higher Education on Sustainable Consumption.

By 2009, the CCN will have produced more output that will be very useful for the Marrakech Process: an educational guide for teachers’ trainers on SC; a SC training package for African schools; a SC training package for primary and secondary school teachers; indicators of SC from a teacher’s perspective.

If you want to know more and take part in the discussions, please contact: ccn@hihm.no or visit the link given below.

Link(s)

- [Consumer Citizenship Network](#)



INVITATION

The fifth CCN international conference
5-6 May 2008
Tallinn University, Estonia



Assessing information as consumer citizens

Berlin SCP roundtable calls for abstracts

The 12th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (erscp2008) is a three-day conference at the interface of science, industry, public authorities and politics. The overall goals of the international meeting are to facilitate innovations and to promote sustainable consumption and production by challenging participants’ projects, ideas and approaches and by stimulating debate regarding their contribution to sustainable development. Best-practice examples are shared, solution-driven opportunities are explored and joint projects are initiated.

The conference will be part of the 5th BMBF-Forum for Sustainability held in Berlin in September 2008 and will provide time and space for an exchange of ideas between actors from politics, science, and industry and services.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 28 April 2008.

The main issues of erscp2008 are:

- I Sustainable Housing and Construction in Europe
- II Sustainable Supply Chain Management

III Sustainable Production and Resource Efficiency

IV Sustainable Energy Supply and Consumption

The conference is expected to attract approx. 300 international participants, including:

- SMEs (small and medium enterprises)
- Scientists and researchers from research organisations, universities and industry
- Decision makers from UN Organisations
- Decision makers from EU Commission and related agencies



- Decision makers from national and regional ministries and administrations
- Private and public funding institutions
- Press and media

For more information, see the conference website (link below) or the call for abstracts.

Link(s)

- [Berlin SCP roundtable](#)

Upcoming Events

Ecobuild

26-28 February 2008, London, England

Conference of the EC funded SCORE! Project

10-11 March 2008, Brussels, Belgium

GLOBE 2008

12-14 March 2008, Vancouver, Canada

Corporate Responsibility 2008 Sustaining Momentum and Responsible Growth

13-14 March 2008, London, England

Corporate Climate Response: Sustainable Manufacturing Summit

8-9 April 2008, Chicago, USA

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Tourism Sector

8-10 April 2008, Oxford, England

Positive Business 08

16-17 April 2008, London, England

A call for proposals for a new European Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Submissions are due 21 April 2008

The Fifth CCN International Conference

5-6 May 2008, Tallinn University, Estonia

Sustainable Consumption and Alternative Agri-Food Systems An international Working Conference for Social Scientists

27-30 May 2008, Arlon, Belgium

Waste and Resource Management - Shared Responsibility

16-17 September 2008, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England

Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production

18-20 September 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

7th International Science Conference on the Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change

16-19 October 2008, New Delhi, India

2nd International Symposium on Energy from Biomass and Waste

17-20 November 2008, Venice, Italy

OECD and UNEP to hold a conference on resource efficiency

The OECD-UNEP Conference on Resource Efficiency will provide an opportunity for senior representatives from governments, businesses, international organisations and civil society to discuss resource efficiency issues and influence international debates.

The conference aims to address how improved resource efficiency can reduce the negative environmental impacts of resource extraction, processing, use and disposal, while securing adequate supplies of materials to sustain economic activity.

The conference will be held 23-25 April 2008 in Paris, France, more information through sc@unep.fr and the link below.

Link(s)

- [Consumer Citizenship Network](#)

New Publications and websites

Publications

"Case Studies in Sustainability Management and Strategy"

Edited by Jost Hamschmidt, published by Greenleaf.

"Sustainable Value: How the World's leading Companies Are Doing Well by Good"

By Chris Laszlo, published by Greenleaf.

"Making Sustainability Work: Best Practices in Managing and Measuring corporate Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts"

By Marc J. Epstein, published by Greenleaf.

"Planet Savers: 301 Extraordinary Environmentalists"

By Kevin Desmond, published by Greenleaf.

Other publications

Worldwatch Institute's "State of the World 2008"

Published in January

Waste Vol. 1: Inventory Assessment Manuel

Waste Vol. 2: E-waste Management Manuel

ECO-Buy's "What Goes Around Comes Around" issue 6

Green is Beautiful Web(maga)zine artistique écologique & éthique No. 3 et 4

In French only

Life Cycle Initiative's Special Issue Newsletter: Multi-Discipline Life Cycle Assessment Projects

The European Ecolabel's The Flower News
Also available in French, Spanish, Italian and German

Ecosteps Netletter

ChangeLAB Newsletter

APEAL news

ETAP Newsletter

Environment UK Magazine

A new directory for finding Green products in Latin America Las Páginas Verdes
In Spanish only

Life Cycle Initiative's Newsletter issue 12

GEO 4 Report

Also available in Spanish and French

GEO 4 Summary for Decision Makers

Available in all UN languages

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