

NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION FOR MAURITIUS

1. Introducing Sustainable Consumption and Production and the Marrakech Process

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 minimizing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, so as not to jeopardize the ability to meet the needs of future generations” (Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Oslo Symposium, 1994). It is a holistic approach to minimizing negative environmental impacts from production and consumption in society and can be thus viewed as the two legs on which sustainable development stands.

Since the 2002 United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) has become a central theme in the international environmental policy agenda. SCP requires a fundamental rethinking of the way societies produce, use and dispose of products and are two important pillars on which sustainable development stands. It means achieving more with less, that is, more consumer needs are fulfilled whilst using less energy or water, more value added to a product with less pollution and waste in the process, more units of happiness with less damage.

As part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), a 10-year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP, referred to as the Marrakech Process, has been initiated. This international initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) is designed to promote progress on SCP at national and regional levels. The project has also provided support to some countries to develop their respective national programme on SCP. The Republic of Mauritius was selected as one of these pilot countries.

THE MARRAKECH TASK FORCES

The Marrakech Task Forces are active mechanisms of the Marrakech Process, implementing concrete projects and contributing to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes. They are voluntary initiatives led by governments focusing on specific themes of SCP:

- Education for Sustainable Consumption – Italy
- Sustainable Tourism – France
- Sustainable Public Procurement – Switzerland
- Sustainable Products- United Kingdom
- Sustainable Buildings and Construction – Finland

2. Development of the National Programme on SCP for Mauritius

With the support of UNEP, Mauritius has developed its National Programme on SCP which was approved by Cabinet in August 2008. The programme encompasses 44 projects to be implemented by 14 leading agencies within a period of 5 years (2008-2013) with an overall objective to

- ❖ Change energy consumption patterns, technological shifts and behavioral change
- ❖ Increase resource efficiency, change consumption patterns
- ❖ Increase in demand and supply of sustainable products and services in the market
- ❖ Promote/adopt more sustainable lifestyles, consumption choices

The SCP Programme was developed and steered by a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit. It has focused on 7 priority areas, namely:-

- (i) Resource use efficiency with focus on energy
- (ii) Resource use efficiency with focus on water
- (iii) Resource use efficiency with focus on sustainable buildings
- (iv) Education and communication for sustainable lifestyles
- (v) Integrated solid waste management and recycling
- (vi) Sustainable public service practices
- (vii) Increase market supply and demand for sustainable products

7 action plans were subsequently elaborated after wide consultation with relevant stake-holders (Ministries, parastatal and private bodies, NGOs, media, business community).

The list of the 44 projects with their respective implementing agencies is at Annex 1.

3. Implementation of the National Programme on SCP for Mauritius

A Coordination Committee on SCP has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment and NDU in order to ensure proper and effective implementation of the programme. It meets on a regular basis to review progress and to remove any bottleneck.

17 out of the 44 projects are presently being implemented.

Annex 1

MINISTRIES / ORGANISATIONS	PROJECT
Ministry of Environment & NDU (14 projects)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a shared vision on sustainable buildings (urgent) 2. Develop guidelines and a rating system (high) 3. Develop public and private financial incentives (high) 4. Launch an awards program for SB (medium) 5. Develop a curriculum and training programs for industry professionals (high) 6. Education and outreach on SB (medium) 7. Promotion of sustainable products through financial incentives and improving their visibility (high) 8. Training on youthXchange (high) 9. Capacity building and increasing resources available to NGOs for SCP (high) 10. Awards programs recognizing efforts towards sustainable lifestyles (high) 11. Survey on vehicular emissions and capacity building on emission testing (high) 12. Implement Environmental Reporting in Govt. departments (high) 13. Development of rainwater harvesting systems (high) 14. Capacity building of industry in Life Cycle Management and Corporate Sustainability Reporting (medium)
Ministry of Renewable Energy & Public Utilities (9 projects)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Develop Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for key Household appliances (Urgent) 16. Sustain a National Awareness Campaign on Energy Savings (Urgent) 17. Monitoring Energy use and Performance in the public sector including Annual Reporting and Information Exchange (Urgent)

	<p>18.Capacity building of Energy Audit Providers and Promotion of Energy Service Companies (ESCO) (Urgent)</p> <p>19. Develop Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for Industrial major Energy Consuming Equipment ex: boilers , chillers , electric motors/ machine (High)</p> <p>20.Formulation of a Strategic Research Action Plan on Energy (High)</p> <p>21.Phasing out of incandescent lamps (Medium)</p> <p>22.Regular Energy auditing to be made mandatory for high energy users (Medium)</p> <p>23.Require public bodies to purchase energy efficient lighting as from 2010 when installing or replacing lighting (Medium)</p>
CWA	<p>24.Sustain a water Awareness Campaign on Water Savings (Urgent)</p> <p>25.Establish water efficient plumbing codes and regulations (High)</p> <p>26.Water Savings in the public sector (High)</p> <p>27.Mandatory Water Efficiency Audits for high water users (Medium)</p>
Ministry of Finance & EE	28.Sustainable Government Procurement (High)
Ministry of Public Infrastructure, LT & Shipping Architect Section (1 project)	29.Amendment of Building Regulations to include sustainable buildings (High)
TMRSU of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, LT & Shipping (2 projects)	<p>30.Increase Consumer knowledge about benefits of sustainable driving , including providing tools for energy – efficient Vehicles selection (High)</p> <p>31.Influence the consumer to modal shift and behavioral change such as the Park and Ride Schemes , Incentives for car pooling , Bicycle use , etc. through education and sensitization (Medium)</p>
National Productivity & Competitiveness Council (2 projects)	<p>32.Sustainable paper use (Medium)</p> <p>33.Develop an education resource material targeting SMEs showing the benefits of resources efficiency (Medium)</p>
University of Mauritius (1 project)	34.Research and Development on sustainable buildings (Medium)

Mauritius Standards Bureau (1 project)	35. Development of a National Eco – labeling framework with a focus on Agricultural and food products (High)
National Housing Development Co. Ltd (NHDC) (1 project)	36. Initiate demonstration projects on sustainable buildings (Medium)
Ministry of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands – Solid Waste Unit (5 projects)	<p>37. Recycling of supermarket wastes with focus on cardboard and plastics through voluntary initiatives (Urgent)</p> <p>38. Diversion of organic waste from the hotel sector to composting or anaerobic digestion through voluntary initiative (High)</p> <p>39. Promotion of backyard composting (High)</p> <p>40. Establishment of Integrated Waste Management System in all local authorities (High)</p> <p>41. Study to determine the Economic , Environmental and Social Benefits of Extended Producer Responsibility on certain products (High)</p>
Ministry of Information & Communication Technology	42. Computer refurbishment and reuse (Medium)
SEHDA	43. Assist SMEs in carrying out energy audits with a targeted scheme (Medium)
Ministry of Education , Culture & Human Resources (Education Division)	44. Develop locally adapted education resource materials on SCP for use by schools (Urgent)