

# Project Overview

## Guidelines and Indicators for National SCP Programmes

### Introduction

UNEP, with the support of the UK Government, is following up a key recommendation of the Marrakech Process meeting in Costa Rica (2005) to develop Guidelines for National SCP Programmes. The Guidelines are informed by earlier work to develop national action plans in Asia. Experts from the project's advisory group are also providing their input. The Guidelines will be tested in several new and ongoing demonstration projects in 2007. Training on the Guidelines will be delivered in 2008. Several countries have expressed interest in the Guidelines.

**The information presented here is just a snapshot of the Guidelines that are currently being drafted and tested.**

### Why develop a National SCP Programme?

Many countries have instituted policies to promote sustainable consumption and sustainable production. However, these actions are often neither coherent nor driven by an integrated programme. Individual national initiatives – no matter how innovative – stand little chance of bringing about wholesale changes in consumption and production patterns.

A strategic programmatic approach can help balance the necessary interventions for the consumption and production of and market for goods and services. It should also link long-term vision to medium-term targets and short-term action. But it is also a highly flexible approach. A SCP programme can start with a focus on an immediate national priority such as energy efficiency and move on to a more advanced programme in the future.

### Links to Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies

SCP is a main pillar of sustainable development and also important to poverty alleviation. Therefore it is sensible to include, wherever possible, the SCP programme as a priority issue in the national sustainable development strategy (NSDS), poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and / or other significant strategy related to economic development. However, the SCP programme should be incorporated where it works best. For example, some countries without a NSDS have integrated the SCP programme into the national environmental action plan (NEAP).

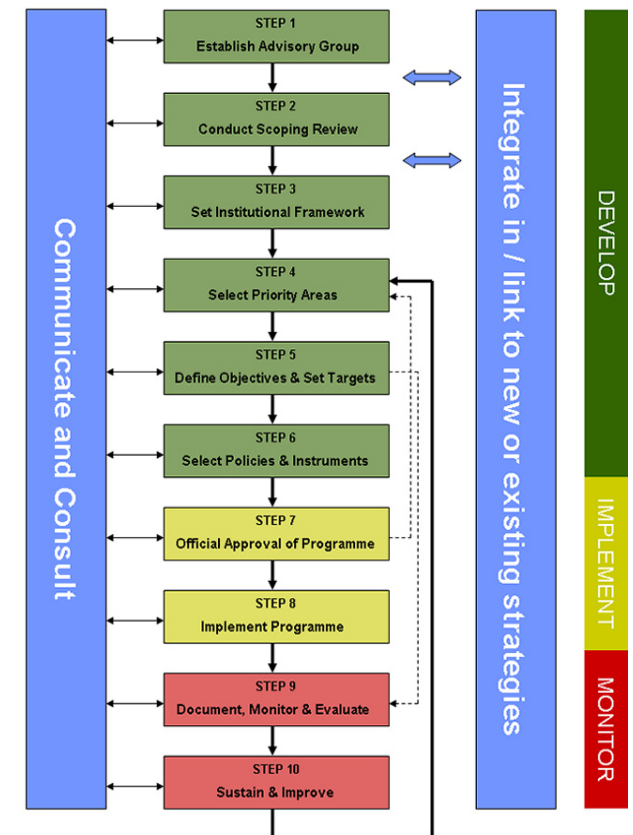
### Tracking Progress

More than twenty countries have developed or are developing national programmes. The Czech Republic, Finnish and UK programmes were among the first and remain among the most comprehensive. But there are many more, including programmes in Ethiopia, France, Jamaica and Japan.

### The SCP Programme Ongoing Development Process

The diagram below shows the basic steps involved in preparing a national SCP programme. The steps are divided into three phases to **develop**, **implement** and **monitor** the programme. They represent an iterative process of continuous improvement that is often embedded into existing plans or strategies.

This is a flexible approach to SCP programme development and local circumstances will dictate the final process to be followed. In practice, some steps may not be required or will be combined with other steps. The Guidelines will also be useful to countries that already have a SCP programme but are keen to improve and sustain the process.





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## Key Principles for SCP Programmes

There is no one type of approach and no single formula by which national SCP programmes can or should be instituted. Each country needs to determine for itself how best to approach the preparation and implementation of its programme considering the prevailing political, cultural, economic and ecological conditions. Nevertheless there are certain key principles that should be respected. Some of these include:

### *Initiate a multi-stakeholder process*

It is important that the programme development and implementation process is as participatory as possible. This includes reorienting SCP away from its traditional focus on environment to also consider economic and social issues.

### *Define objectives, targets and indicators*

The setting of objectives and targets is crucial to the success of the programme. Monitoring and evaluating progress toward the programme's goals is another critical consideration. It provides for accountability of those parties involved and demonstrates achievements and worthiness of the programme itself. **The Guidelines will include a special focus on the application of indicators to measure progress towards SCP.**

### *Integrate with existing national strategies such as NSDS*

A process of sensitising all existing national strategies to SCP and integrating relevant components of these strategies is important. In some cases this could equate to full integration of the SCP programme in a sustainable development, poverty reduction or other existing strategy.

### *Develop sectoral SCP action plans*

A SCP programme is usually concentrated on a few initial key priority areas, as attempting to do everything at once is neither practical nor possible. Another way to approach a SCP programme is to develop one or two sector-based action plans that link to a framework document or existing strategy. For some countries, this can be a more efficient way to tackle SCP, at least in the short-term.

## Contacts

For more information, please contact Matthew Bentley at [sc@unep.fr](mailto:sc@unep.fr) or visit <http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/initiatives/actionplans/index.htm>



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## Guidelines for Developing, Implementing and Monitoring National SCP Programmes



UNEP DTIE Project Brief  
Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch

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