

THE TEN YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

4.1 Generic issues relating to the inclusion of SCP in national policies

With support from UNEP, the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit has developed a National Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) for Mauritius (2008-2013). The following strategic priorities form the focus of the SCP programme framework:

- Sustainable Energy Consumption
- Sustainable Water Consumption
- Sustainable Buildings
- Education and Communication for Sustainable Lifestyles
- Integrated Solid Waste Management and Recycling
- Sustainable Public Service Practices
- Increase the Market Supply and Demand for Sustainable Products

The SCP programme comprises 44 projects under the above thematic priority areas, and whose implementation would cost around 1 million USD. The following mechanisms identified for funding the programme are:

- Direct funding by government organisations through the programme-based budgeting process and through taxation of various types by the Ministry of Finance Making use of the “Maurice Ile Durable” Fund for specific projects By linking the demand for SCP technical support and the supply of technical /financial services by development cooperation agencies. Liaising with Marrakech Task Forces to identify technical and financial support
- The UNEP/ Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production based at in Germany, will provide technical support and input to the MOE on developing pilot projects into full project documents that could be submitted for fund mobilization by countries.
- Sponsorship by the private sector through their CSR activities

Implementation of the national SCP programme has started by the various agencies responsible for the implementation of specific projects. However, in most instances where implementation is being delayed, the core reason is due to lack of funds at the level of various implementing agencies.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (SCP)

In the context of the current energy crisis and climate change, a lot of emphasis is being devoted to the energy sector. An Energy Efficiency Bill is currently under preparation and is expected to be enacted before the end of this year. The Energy Efficiency Bill aims at promoting energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy with priority being in buildings and electrical appliances labeling, including their minimum energy performance standard wherever applicable. Energy efficiency in the industrial sector

would be addressed subsequently. With the assistance of World Bank, this Ministry is currently in the process of appointing a Consultant for the preparation of a “Renewable Energy Development Strategy and Implementation Plan”, expected to be completed before mid 2010. With regard to housing and construction, a Consultant would be appointed soon for the preparation of a Building Control Bill.

4.2 Green public procurement policies, laws and regulations

A project is under way to attempt implement the sustainable public procurement approach developed by the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement. The project started in February 2009, with a duration of 2 years and is being executed by the Public Procurement Office. Its overall objective is to promote the implementation of effective Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) policies in Mauritius.

The project will allow to:

i) promote good practice internationally through capacity building and the promotion of the use of sustainability criteria in public tender documents,

ii) engage public authorities and businesses in emerging and developing economies to curb polluting emissions, and face the international environmental challenges such as climate change, chemicals, hazardous waste etc. At the same time, it will increase the competitiveness of these businesses in international markets, where issues such as climate change and resource depletion are already addressed in public procurement policies (Japan, EU, USA, Canada..)

iii) provide expert assistance for governments wishing to develop an SPP policy, to raise awareness of all stakeholders in the procurement process (e.g. government purchasers, policy makers) and convince them of the need to serve as a role model by buying goods and services needed for their day-to-day activities in a sustainable way, by taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects and to raise interest in sustainability issues through concrete actions.

iv) address the increasing gap in safety, resource efficiency and environmental standards between products sold on European and on developing world markets. Sustainable Public Procurement has to be seen as a tool to boost internal markets for sustainable products and services so as to avoid that the increasing demand from Europe or other more environmentally conscious markets creates a sort of market niche for export of “greener goods” to developed countries

A research to identify the legal framework for procurement in the country and the legal possibilities to integrate SPP principles is being carried out.

4.3 Instruments for sustainable consumption & Awareness-raising programmes/campaigns on SCP, including water conservation, energy efficiency, waste minimization and recycling & 4.4 Policies and/or infrastructure to support citizens' choices for responsible consumption of products and services, including consumer information tools

4.3.1 Measures Implemented

- (i) Creation of a Ministry for Consumer Protection and Citizens Charter to protect consumers and safeguard their interests and rights.
- (ii) Decentralisation of the Consumer Protection Unit with a view to providing a service “de proximité” to the public at large. The Consumer Protection Unit now offers decentralised services in four zones of the country in Citizens Advice Bureau offices, excluding Port Louis.
- (iii) Work restructuring of the Consumer Protection Unit with effect from 01 June 2009. Henceforth, works of the Consumer Protection Unit are being taken on the basis of regions to ensure better follow up and monitoring of all consumer matters within the respective regions.
- (iv) Setting up of a Flying Squad in January 2009 to handle complaints more effectively and to track down offenders within the shortest delay.

4.3.2 Future Initiatives

- (i) The setting up of a Price Observatory is being seriously considered. The Price Observatory is an excellent mechanism through which consumers can be informed on the variables that are taken into account when determining the price of a commodity. The Price Observatory would also detect possible cases of dumping of products on the local market.
- (ii) A complete review of the legislations in the field of consumer protection is being envisaged. Preliminary works have already been carried out by the Ministry and arrangements are being made with the Law Reforms Commission for this exercise.
- (iii) The issue of a magazine to give impetus to consumer education and information is envisaged. The magazine will be a regular feature of the Ministry's activities.
- (iv) To enlarge the scope of consumer protection, the concept of Citizen's Charter is being reviewed and revitalised with a shift from the traditional service-provider driven approach to a service-user driven approach.

(v) To continue the ongoing awareness/sensitization campaigns on consumer protection and on intelligent buying.

(vi) As the business environment is dynamic and volatile, new measures will have to be considered as and when changes occur with the ultimate objective of protecting the consumers.

4.4 Curriculum development/formal education programmes

Education and Communication for Sustainable Lifestyles (ECSL)

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources is driving the Education and Communication for Sustainable Lifestyles Project under the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. It has set up a Technical Committee comprising members from the Ministry of Environment & National Development Unit and institutions of higher education [University of Mauritius (UOM), University of Technology Mauritius (UTM) and Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE)] who have been working on the development of learning objectives and outcomes for sustainable lifestyles to be integrated into the primary and lower secondary school curricula.

The Technical Committee has been meeting every Wednesdays to review the existing materials and identifying learning objectives/outcomes suitable at each level. Priority is being given to upper primary sector as textbooks are being written currently for Standards V and VI. Meetings have also been held with Primary Curriculum Writers to determine strategies of integration. For the lower secondary level, the competencies will be identified subsequently as the National Curriculum Framework for secondary level is still at draft stage.

As at now, the Technical Committee will be finalizing the curriculum guidelines for Sustainable Consumption and Production at primary level and submitting it to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources for approval. The project is expected to end by December 2009.

Strengths

It should also be pointed out that the new National Curriculum Framework for primary level has addressed education for Sustainable Development and it clearly shows integration of various Sustainable Consumption and Production related concepts. Some Sustainable Consumption and Production related activities are already present in our primary school textbooks.

Limitations

The constraints faced by the Technical Committee include mostly the unavailability of members.

A. SECTORS AND ISSUES	Current Government Priority (please tick)	Expected Future Priority (please tick)	Contact Name (if possible)	Contact Email (if possible)
Solid waste management			Mr P Kowlessar (Solid Waste Management Division)	pkowlessar@intnet.mu
- Waste disposal	√			
- Reuse and recycling		√		
- Waste reduction		√		
- Others				
Transport				
- Clean fuels and vehicles	√			
- Public and alternative transportation		√		
- Urban and regional transportation planning	√			
- Others				
Cleaner production				
- Resource efficiency		√		
- Pollution prevention	√			
- Technology strategies		√		
- Others				
Energy efficiency and renewable energy				
- Industrial energy efficiency		√		
- Household energy efficiency	√			
- Renewable energy markets		√		

A. SECTORS AND ISSUES	Current Government Priority (please tick)	Expected Future Priority (please tick)	Contact Name (if possible)	Contact Email (if possible)
- Others				
Housing and construction				
- Energy efficiency	√			
- Building materials		√		
- Construction standards		√		
- Building operations		√		
- Others				
Food and clothing				
- Organic products		√		
Chemical management	√	√	Dr P Ramdin (Dangerous Chemicals Control Board - DCCB)	pramdin@intnet.mu
			Dr R Goorah ((DCCB)	dccbmoh@mail.gov.mu
Hazardous waste	√		Mr P Kowlessar	pkowlessar@intnet.mu

B. POLICY INSTRUMENTS	Current Government Activities (please tick)	Expected Future Priorities (please tick)
General policy instruments		
- Taxes, subsidies	√	
- Preferential tariffs and trade policies	√	
- Economic instruments	√	√
- Tax reform	√	
- Consumer protection policies	√	
- Polluter-pays principle	√	
- Integrated product policies		√
Changing consumer behaviour		
- Education and public information	√	

B. POLICY INSTRUMENTS	Current Government Activities (please tick)	Expected Future Priorities (please tick)
- Consumer information		√
- Labeling, eco-labels		√
- Consumer organizations	√	
- Public procurement policies	√	
- Others		
Changing production patterns		
- Regulation of emissions and effluents	√	
- Charges or incentives for cleaner production	√	√
- Product standards (e.g. energy efficiency)		√
- Cleaner production programmes (R&D, training, technical assistance)	√	
- Pollutant reporting and registers	√	
- Strategic industrial and technology planning	√	
- Investment incentives	√	
- Voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct		√
- Corporate social/environmental responsibility	√	
- Improved management accounting		√
- Investment analysis		√
- Others		√
Analytical tools		√
- Life-cycle analysis		√
- Indicators of sustainability		√
- Technology impact assessment		√
- Policy impact assessment		√
- Impacts of globalization and urbanization		√
- Impacts of changes in international markets		
- Others		

Policy Instruments	Current Government Priorities	Expected Future Priorities
General policy instruments		
- Taxes, subsidies	(i) MID levy, to be paid into the MID Fund - 15 cents per litre on all petroleum products, 15 cents per kilo on LPG and 15 cents per kilo of coal. (ii) subsidies on Solar Water Heaters via the MID Fund (iii) excise duty of Rs 1.00 per PET bottle to aluminum cans used for soft and alcoholic drinks as from May 2009	Yes
-Preferential tariffs and trade	(i) Financial incentives which include reduction by half taxes, excise duties, road	Yes

Policy Instruments	Current Government Priorities	Expected Future Priorities
policies	tax and registration fees on hybrid vehicles and electric vehicles and elimination of customs duties on tyres with energy saving and emission reducing certification. (ii) Removal of duties in Solar Water Heaters	
-Economic Instruments	Yes – subsidies, removal of duties to encourage sustainable consumption and levies petroleum products, aluminum cans and PET bottles.	Yes
- Polluter-Pay-principle	As from July 2008, Road Tax is based on both the polluters pay and the ability to pay principles.	Yes
Changing Consumer behaviour		
- Education and public information	Development of Maurice Ile Durable module for both primary and secondary schools.	Yes
- Consumer Information	Display of interactive banner on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation channels indicating peak usage in real time and requesting consumers to manage electricity consumption.	Yes – eco-labeling of the electrical appliances under the UNDP/GEF – Energy Conservation & Energy Efficiency in buildings in Mauritius