
1 Regional Processes

1.1 Regional consultations & strategies

Between 2003 and 2005, UNEP and UN-DESA jointly organised ten regional expert meetings on the 10YFP in four different regions – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean – and one sub-regional meeting in the Baltic States, with support from host governments and donors. In the regional meetings, experts were consulted on regional priority issues and needs with regard to the development and implementation of regional SCP strategies. In addition to these meetings, since 2006 national SCP roundtables have been organised to encourage SCP initiatives and programmes at the national level with a special focus on ‘BRICS’ countries – notably Brazil, India, China and South Africa – where rapid increase of resource consumption coupled with large populations is posing tremendous sustainable development challenges (see Figure 2). This section summarises and analyses the progress in the consultations, the development of strategies, and activities on a regional basis.²

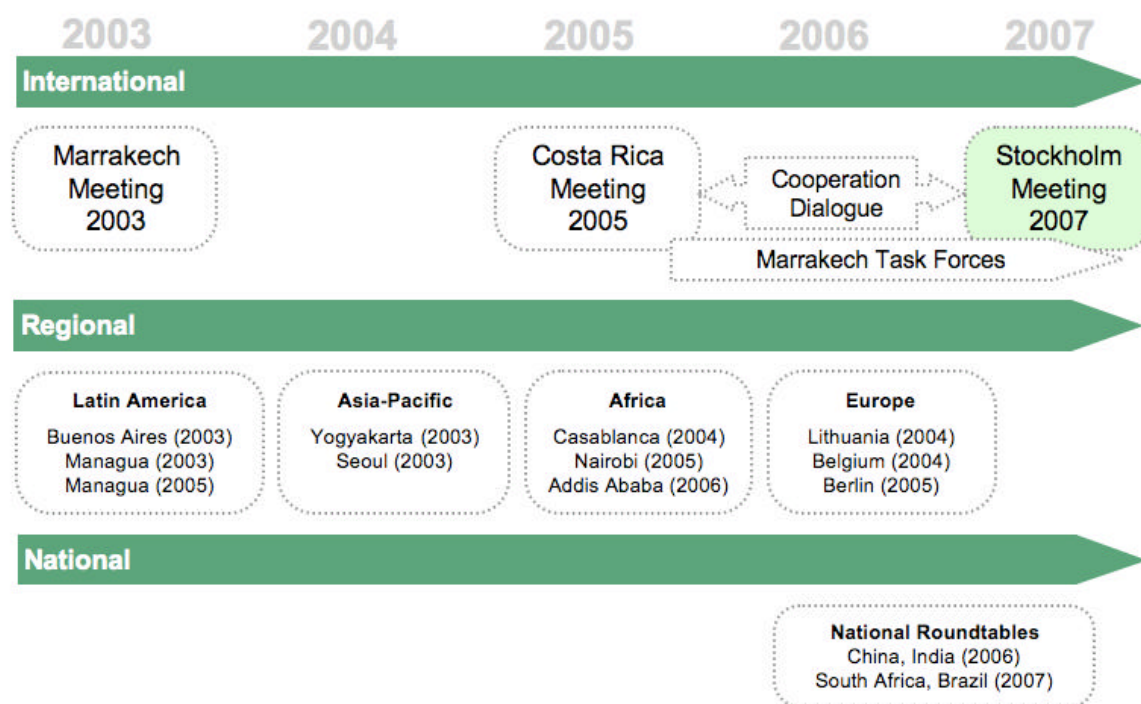


Figure 2: Marrakech Process at national, regional and international levels

² For more information on the regional meetings, visit www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/10year/regional.htm

1.1.1 Africa

Three regional expert meetings were organised in Africa, one in Casablanca in May 2004, a second in Nairobi in February 2005 and a third in Addis Ababa in May 2006. The participants, who mainly consisted of government representatives, members of national cleaner production centres (NCPs) and researchers. The region identified four SCP priority areas 1) energy, 2) water and sanitation, 3) habitat and sustainable urban development, and 4) industrial development. Each thematic priority area was considered in the context of the Environmental Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and regional poverty reduction priorities.

In the Africa region, commitment to the Marrakech Process has been gained from high-level policy makers and notable advances in the development of regional SCP policies have been achieved. At the first regional meeting in 2004, the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) became a formal institution with support from the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in addition to being subsequently incorporated into the Marrakech Process. The ARSCP aims to facilitate the development of national and regional capacities for SCP and promote effective implementation of SCP policies and activities.

At the third expert meeting in 2006 (also held as the 4th African Roundtable on SCP), the "African 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP" was launched with official support from the African Union and AMCEN. This has made Africa the first region to have developed its own 10YFP.³

Based on the outcomes of the three regional meetings, the ARSCP began with two pilot projects on: i) SCP for plastics as a demonstration of integrated solid waste management; and ii) a regional training and awareness programme on life cycle assessment (LCA) as a planning and decision-making tool.

The ARSCP also co-chairs the "Cooperation with Africa" Task Force together with the German Government. The Task Force aims to assist African countries to implement some areas of the African 10YFP, with a special emphasis on assisting Africa to "leapfrog" towards SCP patterns. The Task Force is working in three areas: development of an African eco-labelling scheme, development of national/city-level programmes on SCP, and a review on opportunities for leapfrogging in Africa (see section 3.2).

1.1.2 Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region organised two regional expert meetings. The first meeting was in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in May 2003 and the second in Seoul, Korea in November of that same year.

These two meetings discussed the development of a "Plan of Action for Promoting SCP Patterns" within the region. Preliminary ideas on a regional strategy for SCP were developed while keeping in mind the identification of needs and priorities. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

³ For more information on the African 10YFP, visit www.arscp.org

(UN-ESCAP) Committee on Managing Globalization endorsed the resolutions from the second meeting and incorporated the work of the Regional 10YFP into its medium-term work plan.

As part of the EU-funded project “Capacity Building for Implementation of UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection in Asia” (SC.Asia), a UNEP training exercise on sustainable consumption tools and national action plans was held in Manila in March 2005 for government officials. The training was a component of the Regional Cross-Learning Seminar on Sustainable Consumption. The main result of this project was a guidance manual entitled *Advancing Sustainable Consumption in Asia*. The manual contains step-by-step guidance on how national action plans may be developed, with a special focus on product information, waste prevention and minimisation, sustainable government practices, and awareness, education and marketing for SCP.⁴

In response to a request made at the second regional expert meeting, UN-ESCAP and UNEP jointly established the Regional Help Desk for SCP in May 2006. The mission of the Help Desk is to assist governments in the region to take action to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Hosted by the China Standard Certification Centre, the main activities of the Help Desk include information sharing through the Internet and expert networks, conducting studies to identify SCP tools and case studies, dissemination of knowledge through training, policy dialogues and forums, and the facilitation of demonstration activities.

Likewise, under the Marrakech Process, two national roundtables on SCP were hosted by the respective governments in the Asia-Pacific region. The first was held in Beijing in May of 2006 and the second in Mumbai in September of the same year. The participants recommended follow-up actions including:

- Establishment of national multi-stakeholder consultations;
- Promotion of participation of different stakeholders in the Marrakech Process;
- Implementation of a training, education and advertising campaign;
- Development of demonstration and pilot projects;
- Identification of appropriate criteria for the creation of standards, certification and labelling schemes; and
- Thematic SCP workshops to improve knowledge and develop sectoral action plans.⁵

In addition, although not a component of the Marrakech Process, the 7th Asia Pacific Roundtable for SCP (APRSCP) was held in April 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam to foster dialogue among different stakeholders and to debate solutions for accelerating the shift to sustainable development pathways. The participants discussed the opportunities for a better cooperation of the APRSCP with the Marrakech Process.⁶

⁴ The manual can be downloaded from www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/policies/scasia.htm

⁵ The meeting reports of the national roundtables can be downloaded from www.uneptie.org/pc/sustain/10year/national.htm

⁶ For more information on the APRSCP, visit www.aprscp.org

1.1.3 Europe

Two regional expert meetings were organised in Europe under slightly different focuses from those of other regions. The European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP held in Ostend, Belgium, in November 2004, was jointly organised by UNEP and the European Commission. The meeting discussed priorities for further work on SCP for all key actors in Europe, and considered how Europe could cooperate with other regions to promote SCP. The participants recommended better integration of SCP into overall policy strategies and structures at national and EU levels as well as provision of support to consumers and producers for encouraging voluntary actions. Furthermore, as follow-up actions, they also recommended the creation of a forum or board of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress towards SCP and the establishment of a fund to support SCP activities.

The European Conference on Sustainable Energy Consumption held in Berlin in December 2005 was the second regional expert meeting. The specific focus of this meeting was on the production and use of energy-using products. The positive impact of small and inexpensive improvement measures was emphasised and intensified promotion of green public procurement was proposed as a positive example to effect much-needed changes in consumption patterns.

A sub-regional meeting of the Baltic States was organised earlier in Vilnius, Lithuania in June 2004. This meeting aimed to raise awareness of SCP issues and share best practices, as well as to identify sub-regional and national priorities for SCP.

European countries have been also active in organising and coordinating the existing seven Marrakech Task Forces. The Task Forces have been developing concrete projects for their own specific topics and sectoral issues, particularly supporting the implementation of SCP policies and measures in other regions through North-South cooperation (see Section 3).

In June 2006, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy revised its priority areas for action to include SCP. The European Commission was requested to develop an EU Action Plan on SCP by 2007, improving synergies between the existing policies and tools and addressing the potential gaps.

Outside the Marrakech Process, there have also been a number of other regional and international efforts for SCP initiated in Europe. A sub-regional workshop of the South Eastern European (Balkan) countries was organised in December 2005 by the Croatian Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Construction in collaboration with UNEP.⁷ The academic and research society have been active as well in the issue of SCP. In February 2005, an international group of scientists who gathered in Oslo for a Japanese government-funded workshop launched the “Oslo Declaration”, calling for global efforts to bridge the gaps in implementation of sustainable consumption.⁸ The EU-funded Sustainable Consumption Research Exchange (SCORE) network was established in 2005 with an aim to support and provide inputs to the Marrakech Process from academia. With a series of workshops and conferences, the net-

⁷ For more information on the workshop, visit www.unep.ch/scoe/archive/croatia.htm

⁸ The Oslo Declaration is available at www.oslodeclaration.org

work is analysing the state of the art in SCP research and promoting cases of sustainable consumption.⁹ In addition, the 11th European Roundtable on SCP (ERSCP) will take place in June 2007 in Basel, Switzerland with an aim to foster dialogue between stakeholders and stimulate further innovations in SCP. Communication has been established expressing the interest to integrate the Marrakech Process into the ERSCP's agenda.¹⁰

1.1.4 Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean region, three regional expert meetings on the 10YFP have been held, one in Buenos Aires in April 2003 and the two others in Managua, Nicaragua in October 2003 and August 2005 respectively.

The participants in the regional expert meetings identified three highest priority areas for SCP:

- Economic issues: competitiveness, trade and market access, economic diversification, energy efficiency and cleaner production, economic instruments and patterns in consumption and production
- Water resources: watershed management, coasts and coastal resources management, inland water quality and freshwater supply
- Institutional issues: environmental education, training and capacity building, social participation and empowerment, promotion of public-private partnerships, inclusion of the environmental dimension into economic and social processes, evaluation and development of indicators

Following the first two regional expert meetings, the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP was established in November 2003 at the 14th Forum of Ministers of the Environment, with the UNEP Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) presiding as secretariat. The main objective of this council is to identify and propose efficient mechanisms to integrate policies, strategies and programmes promoting SCP patterns. The council, consisting of one government expert from each country in the region, will meet on an annual basis as a minimum.

Government experts also developed the Regional Strategy on SCP which defines concrete actions and specific pilot projects. The Strategy emphasises the importance of strengthening the capacity of government institutions as well as the capacity of the productive and financial sectors to implement SCP-related policies and activities. The Regional Strategy states that capacity for implementation should be accomplished through workshops, training, knowledge and technical assistance, as well as environmental awareness campaigns and pilot projects.

As an outcome of the third meeting in Managua, Nicaragua in 2005, the Regional Council recommended the following as strategic components:

⁹ For more information on the SCORE network, visit www.score-network.org

¹⁰ For more information on the ERSCP, visit www.erscp2007.net

- Development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region
- Inclusion of SCP in national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Creation of multi-stakeholder National Consultative Councils on SCP that consist of representatives from the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organisations for participatory development of policies, strategies and action plans

The Government of Argentina is currently conducting a project to develop a National SCP Strategy, expected to be completed in 2007 with support from UNEP and the Government of Sweden. The project is expected to encourage the development of national SCP strategies in other countries in the Latin America region.

In May 2006, UNEP launched a two-year project "Implementation of a Regional Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean" with the financial support of UN Development Account. This project aims at supporting governments in the region to implement concrete SCP policies and projects included in the regional strategy. Special focuses have been placed on integrated waste management systems, capacity building of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and sustainable public procurement.

As part of this project, a sub-regional meeting on SCP took place in Peru in August 2006, comprising countries of the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) where priorities on SCP were reviewed. Information exchanges also took place regarding the YouthXchange initiative and on life cycle assessment (LCA) with the support of Mexico. Based on recommendations from this meeting, SCP has been incorporated as a cross-cutting issue as a theme in the 2006-2010 Andean Environmental Agenda.

A sustainable public procurement demonstration project has also been implemented in Mexico for paper and printers. A report based on the project is presently under review by the Ministry of Environment of Mexico (SEMARNAT) is expected to be released during 2007. Municipal authorities in Nicaragua led by the Director of the National Solid Waste Management Programme visited Mexico and exchanged experiences on solid waste management with national and municipal authorities, as well as with regional companies involved in the sector.

A draft memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a Sub Regional SCP Information Centre for the Caribbean is under consideration by the Caribbean Environment and Health Institute (CEHI). If implemented, this centre will contribute to leverage the SCP theme in the development agenda in the Caribbean sub-region. Finally, the Government of Argentina has made advances in defining and programming activities as part of a demonstration project on sustainable public procurement and is closely linked to the Sustainable Public Procurement Task Force.

In April 2007, the first national-level SCP roundtable in the region was organised in Brazil with the aim of encouraging national initiatives and concrete SCP actions.

Table 2: The Marrakech Process meetings in 4 regions and main outcomes

Date & Location	Title of Event	Main Outcomes
Africa		
May 2004 Casablanca	1st African Expert Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional framework for the promotion of SCP discussed Statement on SCP submitted to and approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP) institutionalised
February 2005 Nairobi	2nd African Expert Meeting on the 10YFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome endorsed by AMCEN that 2005 Technical Segment to be used as the basis for the development and implementation of a regional 10YFP on SCP. Developed project proposals in the areas of energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development, and industrial development Decided three pilot projects to monitor and evaluate SCP regional strategies
May 2006 Addis Ababa	High-level Launch of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African 10YFP launched. Five technical committees to operate under the ARSCP Secretariat established Accepted that concrete environmental pilot projects that, if proven successful, are to be implemented elsewhere
Asia-Pacific		
May 2003 Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Asia Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary ideas on a regional strategy developed Establishment of Business Development Centres to support SMEs recommended Establishment of UNEP regional help desk on SCP recommended
November 2003 Seoul	2nd Asia-Pacific Expert Meeting on Promoting SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of SCP issues into the programmes of other regional organisations recommended Establishment of a secretariat or network to assist initiatives at the national level recommended Establishment of national forums on SCP recommended
May 2006 Beijing	National Roundtable on SCP in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of an adequate and applicable set of legal, economic, voluntary instruments and environmental management tools recommended Creation of appropriate standards and criteria for certification and labelling recommended Increased 'North-South' and 'South-South' cooperation and the encouragement of technology development and transfer recommended

September 2006 Mumbai	Indian Roundtable on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing examples of excellence within and amongst different industrial sectors recommended to be encouraged • Improved efficiency of irrigation systems identified as a priority for sustainable water management • Participation of local communities in urban environmental issues, linking with measures to combat poverty for successful waste management (e.g. integration of informal recycling sector) recommended • Eco-labelling, consumer information and education and sustainable procurement identified as among the key tools to engage consumers in SCP
Europe		
June 2004 Vilnius, Lithuania	Baltic Sub-regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a high-level multi-stakeholder body at the national level to help promote SCP recommended • Introduction of SCP and environmental criteria into public procurement recommended • Convergence of eco-labels with the goal of establishing one EU-wide eco-label system recommended
November 2004 Ostend, Belgium	European Stakeholder Meeting on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a forum of governments and stakeholders to monitor progress on SCP recommended • Establishment of a fund to support the SCP activities recommended
December 2005 Berlin	Sustainable Energy Consumption – European Conference on SCP under the Marrakech Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of international standards for domestic energy consumption recommended • Creation of eco-design centres to promote sustainable products recommended • Establishment of renewable energy help centres in every EU country recommended
Latin America & the Caribbean		
April 2003 Buenos Aires	1st Meeting of Government Experts on SCP in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional platform for the implementation of Chapter 3 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation developed • Creation of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP proposed • Key elements for regional and national SCP strategies recommended
October 2003 Managua, Nicaragua	2nd Regional Governments Expert Meeting for the Elaboration of a Regional Strategy on SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Council established • Regional Strategy on SCP developed • Policy framework and instruments, main actors, and means of implementation for SCP strategies identified
August 2005 Managua, Nicaragua	3rd Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of policies, national strategies and action plans for SCP in every country of the region recommended • Inclusion of SCP in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction recommended • Creation of National Consultative Councils on SCP recommended

1.2 Challenges and opportunities for the regional process

Based on an analysis of the progress achieved to date in the four regions the following outlines selected key challenges and opportunities:

- **Strengthening implementation of regional strategies:** The African 10YFP, the Regional SCP Strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU Action Plan on SCP are notable in their progress towards the development of regional SCP frameworks. Nonetheless, more work is needed to construct implementation mechanisms for the strategies, and to develop the necessary indicators to measure progress. It has been also discussed the idea to set voluntary targets at the regional level.
- **Address regional gaps:** To date there have been no regional consultations in North America and the West Asia. Despite attempts in the West Asia, meetings have been postponed for political reasons. Efforts are necessary to provide more support and engage these regions within the Marrakech Process.
- **Support national efforts:** In addition to regional strategies, national governments are also encouraged to develop their own SCP action plans and programmes. To date more than twenty countries have independently developed or are developing national SCP programmes. However, the scope of those programmes is diverse in nature and more support is needed for the implementation of SCP activities (see Section 2). Each region, therefore, needs to coordinate national-level efforts and develop financial mechanism to provide governments with resources and practical support, possibly in collaboration with UNEP and UN-DESA, as seen in the current development of a national SCP strategy by the Government of Argentina and the UNEP-DEFRA project to develop guidelines for national SCP programmes.
- **Secure additional institutional support and achieve synergies:** The Africa region successfully obtained support from high-level decision-making bodies such as the African Union and the AMCEN, which endorsed the African 10YFP on SCP. The Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean has also supported SCP actions; while the EU is actively coordinating SCP efforts among member countries. However more institutional support is needed from the regional intergovernmental organisations, and development banks to mainstream SCP and support the implementation of regional SCP strategies. Support is necessary not only from national governments but also with the private sector, National Cleaner Production Centers, NGOs, and research networks. The institutionalisation of the African Roundtable on SCP (ARSCP) provides a good case where the ARSCP is acting as a Steering Committee for the African 10YFP and also co-chairs the Cooperation with Africa Task Force with the Govern-

ment of Germany. There are opportunities for other regions to bring existing SCP platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APRSCP) and the European Roundtable on SCP (ERSCP) into scope of the Marrakech Process or at a minimum to explore synergies with these forums to galvanise regional processes.

- ***Enhanced cooperation between regional strategies and Marrakech Task Forces:*** The Marrakech Task Forces have succeeded in engaging a diverse group of actors, especially with respect to commitments from different governments around the world. They are developing new SCP tools and methodologies that support implementation of concrete projects. Almost all Task Forces (with exception of the Cooperation with Africa Task Force that has a regional focus) are involving actors from all regions. However, it remains important to improve the coordination between the existing regional strategies and the work of the Task Forces thus ensuring a better integration and support to implement regional priorities. Where priorities match, regions can actively take advantage of the Task Forces as an implementation mechanism which enables regions to draw upon the expertise and practical support of Task Forces.
- ***Enhanced cooperation with development agencies, the private sector and NGOs in regional strategies:*** Development agencies and regional development banks should be closely engaged with the implementation of regional SCP strategies in the developing world. This is particularly relevant given the role of these actors in guiding sustainable development combined with their substantial financial and management capacity. The Cooperation Dialogue aims to stimulate the participation of development agencies in the Marrakech Process (see Section 4). Each region can also explore opportunities to utilise market forces to achieve SCP priorities by engaging the private sector. Notable examples are joint efforts between the public and private sectors to increase demand and supply of sustainable products through eco-labelling and green procurement. The current trend towards sustainable supply chain management offers potential to support consumption of less toxic and resource intensive products as well as to improve workers' employment conditions. NGOs also need to be more actively involved in the implementation of regional processes as they can directly communicate with citizens to change their consumption behaviour and lifestyles. The question remains however how the participation of these actors be best promoted in each region.
- ***Explore cooperation between regions:*** Although SCP priorities are diverse between regions, one region may be well placed to assist other regions in implementation of regional strategies by providing sharing experiences and expertise. Key areas for sharing experiences include water, waste management, housing, transport, health and environmental technologies. Particularly in developing countries, it is critical for the success in regional SCP strategies that policy makers acquire capacity and know-how to implement SCP policies and projects. An example of such experience sharing is a project financed under the European Commission's Asia Pro Eco programme where UNEP together with the CSCP provided capacity building training to policy mak-

ers to develop and implement a “circular economy” in Guiyang City, China.¹¹ Cooperation between regions is also important to address trans-boundary challenges such as the waste trade and freight transport. Trans-regional cooperation may also lead to financial support for the implementation of regional strategies, such as in the case of support for the ARSCP provided by the Government of Norway and the Government of Sweden funding support for the development of an SCP strategy in Argentina.

- **Explore synergies with existing initiatives:** There are a number of priority areas that were identified for the development of regional SCP strategies but have not been addressed within one of the Marrakech Task Forces. These include: water and sanitation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban development, and food & agriculture (see Section 2.3). In order to ensure the implementation of regional strategies in those areas, each region should be encouraged to explore synergies with existing international or regional initiatives and institutions – for example, WHO and UNEP for water and sanitation, FAO for food and agriculture, and UN-HABITAT for urban development.

It has been suggested that there is a need to initiate a new cycle of regional consultations within the Marrakech Process to revise and strengthen regional SCP strategies and ensure i) more institutional support, ii) better integration of the work of the Marrakech Task Forces into the regional strategies, iii) more involvement of other actors such as development agencies, the private sector and NGOs, and iv) further development of implementation mechanisms that could be included in the 10YFP. Such a cycle of consultations would not only enable regions to provide comments in the further development of the 10YFP proposal, but also to define their regional goals, indicators and suggestions regional and international implementation mechanisms.

1.3 Key questions for the working group

Based on the above discussion on achievements and challenges in the regional processes, some key questions to be discussed among the participants in the working group on regional processes (28 June, Group 1) are suggested below:

1. How can additional institutional support for the regional SCP strategies be obtained?
2. How could the work of the Marrakech Task Forces and the Cooperation Dialogue be better integrated into regional strategies? How can key stakeholders (e.g. businesses and NGOs) be engaged more actively?
3. From a regional perspective, what policies and actions should be reflected in the 10YFP? Could the regions set their voluntary targets on SCP objectives?
4. How can regional processes assist with implementation of the 10YFP?
5. What are feasible mechanism to provide technical and financial support to development and implement SCP programmes and the national and regional levels?