Introduction to Sustainable Consumption & Production SCP

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Acknowledgement

UNEP Division of Technology, Industry & Economics

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy
1. Environmental Impacts
2. Sustainable Consumption & Production
3. Opportunities of Adopting a SCP Approach
4. Systems Approach to Sustainability
5. Sustainable Consumption
6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
7. SWITCH-Asia SCP NPSC Sri Lanka Project
Environmental Impacts
Depletion of natural resources is a global problem.

**Ecological footprint** of humanity exceeds the Earth’s bio-capacity.

We currently use equivalent of 1.5 planets.

It now takes the Earth 1.5 years to regenerate what we use in a year.

By 2030, we will need 2 planets based on moderate BAU scenario.

(Global Footprint Network, 2012)
A Planet in Ecological Debt

A planet in ecological debt

Ecological Footprint exceeding Biocapacity
- More than 150%
- From 100 to 150%
- From 50 to 100%
- Up to 50%

Biocapacity exceeding Ecological Footprint
- From 0 to 50%
- From 50 to 100%

Source: Global Footprint Network, 2008

(Source: Grida)
Sri Lanka’s HDI in 2014 = 0.757 (73 out of 188 countries & territories)

Sri Lanka’s EFP in 2012 = 1.21 (116 out of 141 countries & territories)

Source: Global Footprint Network, 2007
Sustainable Consumption & Production
Why SCP?

* Our present way of consumption & production lead to;
  * Depletion of natural resources
  * Increased pollution
  * Limiting economic growth & human development

* In view of these global challenges, the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) has emerged
Is SCP a new Concept?

* Ideas of SCP are not alien to us
* They are grounded in our;
  * Religion
  * Culture
  * Philosophy
  * Traditions
  * Concepts
  * Way of thinking
A simplest definition of SCP

Live & let others live

(Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe)
My definition of SCP

Living without being a burden to anyone

(GS, 2016)
SCP is a **holistic** approach to minimize the negative environmental impacts from consumption and production systems while **promoting quality of life for all** (UNEP, 2011)
What is SCP?

SCP is a holistic approach to minimize the negative environmental impacts from consumption and production systems while promoting quality of life for all.

Sustainable Consumption & Production (UNEP, 2014, p. 9)
4 Key Principles of SCP

1. Resource efficiency – Quality of life
2. Decoupling
3. Life Cycle thinking
4. Rebound effect
1. Improving the **quality of life** without increasing **environmental degradation** & without compromising the **resource needs of future generations**
2. **Decoupling** economic growth & environmental degradation by:

* Reducing **material/energy intensity** of current economic activities & reducing emissions and **waste** from extraction, production, consumption & disposal

* Promoting a shift of **consumption patterns** towards groups of goods and services with lower energy & material intensity without compromising quality of life
Decoupling

Source: IRP/UNEP, 2011
3. Applying **life-cycle thinking**, which considers the impacts from all life-cycle stages of the production and consumption process

4. Guarding against the **re-bound effect**, where efficiency gains are cancelled out by resulting increases in consumption
Opportunities of Adopting a SCP Approach
Increasing the Eco-efficiency of Production

* Do not replicate historic resource intense development of industrialized countries
* Change the **growth model**
* **Leapfrogging** - skip polluting technologies & moving directly to cleaner more advanced systems
* **Reduce** natural resources used in production & related waste & emissions
* Not only beneficial for the environment but also saves production **costs**
Systems Approach to Sustainability
System Thinking

* Allows us to look at an issue in a **broader context**
* Aims to address **underlying causes** of a problem rather than just trying to alleviate its immediate symptoms
* Treat the **root** rather than just the **symptom** of specific problems
* Trying to avoid **burden shifting**
* Understand unintended **side effects** of a proposed solution
Applying System Thinking to Urban Air Quality

1. Improve the environmental performance of vehicles, by introducing & enforcing emission standards for cars (Technical fix)

2. Shift from modes of transportation with high environmental impacts, such as cars, to those with lower impacts (Systemic)

3. Reduce the need for transportation and mobility, through improved city planning & zoning (Systemic)

4. 2 & 3 generate additional social benefits; increased use of public transportation reduces congestion, need for long-distance work commuting leads to shorter commuting time & more leisure time
Sustainable Consumption
Consumption Optimization

* **Different consumption**
  * what changes in choices & infrastructure will satisfy consumer demand more sustainability?

* **Conscious consumption**
  * How can consumers increase their quality of life by “choosing & using” more wisely?

* **Appropriate consumption**
  * Are consumption levels sustainable? Is consumption the best way to achieve every type of quality of life?
Sustainable Development Goals
SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Built upon MDGs → One common global sustainable development agenda beyond 2015
Synopsis of SDGs

1. poverty
2. food security
3. healthy lives
4. education
5. gender equality
6. water and sanitation
7. sustainable & modern energy
8. sustainable economic growth
9. sustainable industrialization
10. inequality
11. cities
12. sustainable consumption & production patterns
13. climate change
14. oceans, seas & marine resources
15. ecosystems, biodiversity
16. peaceful & inclusive societies
17. global partnership
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**Goal # 12 (Exclusive)**

**Goals # 5, 10, 13, 16 (Not directly relevant)**

**Other 12 Goals (With some relevance)**
SWITCH-Asia Programme
SWITCH-Asia Programme

* Set up by the European Commission
* 1st Phase - 2007-2013
* 2nd Phase - 2013 – 2017
* 3rd Phase – Beyond 2017
Main Objectives of SWITCH-Asia Programme

* Build the capacity of small & medium-sized (SMEs) enterprises in SCP practices
* Maintain a Networking Facility that facilitates the up-scaling of successful practices
* Offer a policy-makers support for the implementation of SCP-related policies in the region
Project Brief

* PROJECT PERIOD - 4 YEARS
  15 January 2015 to 15 January 2019
* 4 MAIN COMPONENTS — 24 MAIN ACTIVITIES — MANY SUB-ACTIVITIES
* A PROJECT OF MINISTRY OF MAHAWELEI DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT
* CONSORTIUM LED BY AETS — 5 PARTNERS (2 LOCAL, 3 EUROPEAN)
Overall Objective

To support the Sri Lankan Government in selecting, adapting and implementing suitable economic and regulatory policy instruments to promote SCP, thereby enhancing the long-term sustainability of consumption and production patterns.
Specific Objective

To strengthen the institutional and policy framework ensuring a joint and effective SCP effort to Sri Lanka
Components

1. National SCP Policy and Organization

2. SP Framework and SCP principles for selected sector(s)

3. SC Framework, Green Procurement Policy & Eco-labelling implemented

4. SCP Knowledge awareness raising & knowledge development
What we have done

- Policy formulation process standardization
- Review of SCP related policies
- Pilot sector selection for deeper intervention
- Awareness & capacity building
What we will do

* SCP Policy formulation
* SP & SC baseline setting & SCP monitoring system
* Green Procurement Guidelines
* Introducing SCP to Sri Lankan education system
* Framework for eco-labeling
* Promoting Life Cycle Thinking, Eco-innovation, etc.
* Awareness & capacity building
Thank you for your patronage

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