



SCP National Action Plan



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP) IN EGYPT | 2015



UNEP



SwitchMed Programme
is funded by the
European Union



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by the European Union**

SwitchMed Programme is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and its Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) and the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). For details on the SwitchMed Programme please contact btuncer@scprac.org



**Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production**

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FOREWORD

Envisioning a more sustainable Egypt is no longer a dream nor an unrealistic endeavor. This realization in itself is a great achievement to behold, given that state officials at all levels spearheaded by the president, have made it very clear that sustainable development is a key objective for Egypt. It is now perceived as a strategic instrumental policy framework for a more prosperous future Egypt.

The panacea of all public and official lobbying efforts for adopting a national agenda for sustainable development, have resulted in a widely declared endorsement during the proceedings of the 'Egypt the Future' the Egypt Economic Development Conference (EEDC). The conference convened in Sharm El-Sheikh on the 13-15th March 2015, is a key milestone of the government's medium-term economic development plan. Thus reflecting a national consensus designed to overcome current economic challenges and bring prosperity and improved social services to the people of Egypt.

At this international gathering attended by several global leaders and the Chief Executive Officers of major international companies, Egypt announced its launching of its Sustainable Development strategy for 2030. The new vision aims to strategically position Egypt among the world's emerging economies. The main objective of the strategy is to integrate sustainable development principles across sectors.

The process of development of the strategy involved the participation of different ministries and stakeholders. The Ministry of Environment played a leading role in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning in this context of a strong partnership with the Ministry of Planning.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that the national policy development process has been set forth to endorse more actionable activities to both expedite a transition towards green economy, and achieve sustainable development. This is particularly important since the global development community is dynamically discussing 'Post 2015 Development Agenda' and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) to replace last decade's millennium development goals (MDGs); yet another important consideration underlying Egypt's new sustainability outlook.

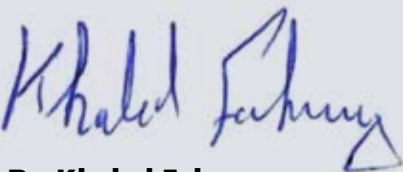
In this respect, Egypt's Ministry of Environment has been working in recent years with the support of international partners, especially the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to pave the way for mainstreaming green economy and sustainable consumption and production related policies as tools to achieve sustainable development. Towards this end a 'Green Economy Scoping Study' for Egypt was developed and later launched in collaboration with the Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and UNEP.

This publication at hand addressing 'Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan for Egypt' is considered another significant stepping stone contributing to a continuum of knowledge accumulation for nationally integrating sustainability in Egypt's key economic sectors. The national action plan addresses four priority sectors including: Energy, Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste and Water.

More importantly this publication is a blueprint for actionable activities that could be translated into operational projects accompanied with policy interventions required for the actual implementation of Egypt's sustainable development goals and economic priorities. This national action plan when implemented, will mainstream the newly introduced concepts and tools of sustainable consumption and production into Egypt's overall sustainable development policy framework and gradually alter unsustainable consumption and production patterns by introducing policies and projects that could provide better informed decision making processes and success stories that can be replicated and up-scaled on the national level in different geographic regions.

It is therefore my pleasure to thank on behalf of the Ministry of Environment our partners at the European Commission for funding the project and our partners at UNEP and CEDARE for leading and facilitating the development process of the action plan with the support of the ministry's team and focal points. I would like to underscore the importance of the consultation process and the participatory approach that has been endorsed to develop the national action plan and to ensure its realistic reflection of Egypt's actual socio-economic and environmental needs and aspirations

This national action plan is the beginning of a long journey ahead, towards having future generations of Egyptians living in sustainable communities and cities.



Dr. Khaled Fahmy

Minister of Environment

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Study commissioned by The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and funded by the EU as part of the National component of the SwitchMed Project.

In partnership with The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and Ministry of Environment (MoE).

Authored by Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE).

The National Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for Egypt was commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was prepared and coordinated by the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) on behalf of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), and Ministry of Environment (MoE).

The development process leading to the drafting of the action plan and including the facilitation of the stakeholder consultation has been led by the Sustainable Growth Programme (SGP), CEDARE.

Special thanks are due to **Dr. Hussein M. Abaza**, lead author, **Ms. Sina Hbous**, principal investigator and Economist and **Mr. Ramy Lotfy Hanna**, sustainability consultant and senior research specialist for their substantive contribution and valuable input in addition to the guidance they have provided during the course of preparing the action plan.

The overall development process for the action plan has been coordinated by **Dr. Hossam Allam**, Regional Programme Manager of SGP.

However, successfully completing the process of developing an action plan would have never been possible without the effort of a well harmonized consorted team that comprises members from different ministries and representatives of different institutions including the Egyptian Ministry of Environment and UNEP.

We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Yasmine Fouad, first assistant to the Minister of Environment, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Monem, advisor to the Minister of Environment and his team members, Mrs. Fatma EL Zaharaa. We would also like to thank Mr. Luc Reuter, the action plan's focal point on behalf of UNEP.

The significant content encompassing proposed policies enablers and projects would not have materialized had it not been for the technical contributions of experts, focal points and participating stakeholders.

With deep gratitude, we wish to thank the four-sector experts that have successfully facilitated their respective working groups and that have enriched the final action plan through their technical expertise. These include:

Agriculture: H.E. Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid,
Former Minister of Agriculture.

Water: Dr. Khaled Abuzeid, Regional Director of
Water Management Department, CEDARE.

Energy: Dr. Anhar Hegazi, Senior Expert

Waste Management:
Mr. Tawfik Elkheshen, Economic and Financial
Advisor, National Solid Waste Management
Programme, Ministry of Environment

We gratefully acknowledge the feedback and proposed projects by the esteemed members of the action plan steering committee and the four technical groups towards the finalization of the action plan.

Supervision and coordination

Luc Reuter, SwitchMed Coordinator, UNEP-DTIE

Support

UNEP would further like to thank:

Arab Hoballah	Chief Sustainable Lifestyles Cities and Industry Branch, UNEP-DTIE,
Elisa Tonda	Head Responsible Industry and Value Chain Unit, UNEP-DTIE
Charles Arden-Clarke	Head 10YFP Secretariat
Fareed Bushehri	UNEP-Regional Office for West Asia
Yulia Rubleva	UNEP-DTIE



About SwitchMed

The EU funded SwitchMed project is implemented jointly by the project countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) and the institutional partners UNEP, UNIDO and SCP-RAC. SwitchMed is divided into 3 components addressing different parts of the transition process to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) - SDG12:

- (i) A policy component, built around the Barcelona convention (for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Regions) and SCP national action plans;
- (ii) Demonstration activities linked both to the policy component and the private sector;
- (iii) Networking function to allow for exchange, joint learning and further scaling up;

UNEP-DTIE is coordinating the national policy component – Reinforcing circular economy in the Mediterranean governance framework and mainstreaming SCP in national policies. Under the national policy component the project countries will develop Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans (SCP-NAP).

The implementation methodology used under the SwitchMed national policy component has been adapted to each countries' specific needs and requests. To assure coherence between ongoing and previous national work, the activities at country level build on already existing work and projects (Green Economy, SCP assessments, sustainable development assessment and strategies, SCP projects, etc). In this process UNEP works with national consultants in the project countries to allow a transfer of knowledge and reinforcement of national capacity. The SCP-NAP methodology assures that a large and diverse group of national stakeholders are involved in the national process (government, civil society, private sector, media, academia, bi- and multilateral partners, UNCTs, etc). Furthermore collaborations with UN institutions and other bi-lateral partners have been established at country level.

Main objectives:

- Leapfrogging to socially inclusive Sustainable Consumption and Production practices preserving the environment;
- Integrating the natural capital and the environment in the core business of Mediterranean companies
- Creating a critical mass of citizens for SCP;

The successful development of eight SCP-NAPs demonstrates that:

- (i) in-country activities have to be nationally owned and nationally driven to be successful;
- (ii) the involvement of a large and diverse group of national stakeholders from the beginning of the planning process is crucial;
- (iii) linkages and synergies have to be established with already existing projects and initiatives and collaboration with other partners should be encouraged and fostered.

Each country has chosen to follow its own path to develop an SCP-NAP and this series of publications clearly shows the diversity of processes as well as outputs. In some countries the SCP-NAPs are based on SCP national assessments, while in other national partners decided to build upon already existing national SCP information and knowledge.

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Executive Summary

This document is intended to identify key priority activities and projects needed to support the creation of sustainable communities and cities in Egypt through the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns. The identified set of projects constitute the main element of the SCP Action Plan guided by Egypt's Green Economy Strategy and the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. This list of projects is the result of an extensive consultation process and is a translation of the principles of Green Economy (GE) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in key economic sectors in the form of practical projects on the ground. This project is a continuation of efforts by the Egyptian Ministry of Environment in collaboration with international partners, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to pave the way for mainstreaming green economy and sustainable consumption and production related policies as tools to achieve sustainable development.

National efforts to make this transition included the preparation in 2013 of the 'Green Economy Scoping Study' for Egypt launched in March 2015 in collaboration

Water, Energy, Agriculture, and Municipal Solid Waste.

The strategic objective aims to translate the conceptual framework of green economy (GE) from a broad vision towards A development into operational specific plans and projects. It also explores the inter-linkages and nexus amongst priority sectors and their contribution towards "Sustainable Integrated Communities". The Action Plan builds on recent studies that provided a review of the Egyptian Government's efforts to promote green policies and integrate environmental considerations in some sectors. The Action Plan explores recent updates relevant to GE and SCP in an effort to monitor the current challenges and opportunities that face increasing rates of urbanization in Egypt, triggered by increased rates of population growth and the need to provide housing for the different segments of the population and associated physical and social services.

Egypt's Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan Process and Rationale

- A Multi-stakeholder consultation process including 92 experts from 4 different sectors including energy,

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