



The Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling Project Newsletter

FIRST ISSUE

OCTOBER 2016

Welcome to the first edition of the Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling newsletter!

The SPPEL newsletter will keep you updated with the progress and development of the SPPEL project - a project focused on using sustainable public procurement (SPP) and ecolabelling (EL) to help shift consumption and production practices in a more sustainable direction.



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PRODUCT

[sustainable public procurement | ecolabelling]



About the SPPEL project

WHAT | The SPPEL project, also known as “Stimulating the demand and supply of sustainable products through Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling”, is working with national governments around the world to enhance their capacity to implement sustainable public procurement (SPP) and internationally recognized ecolabelling (EL) systems.

WHY | The products and services that we buy and use make up much of our impact on society and the natural environment. As such, efforts are on-going in both the public and private sectors to combat the growth of our collective environmental footprints and to enhance standards of living and equitable treatment of workers by changing consumption and production practices to stimulate the demand and supply of sustainable products. The implementation of SPP and ecolabelling schemes are tools to affect this change.

HOW |

1. By providing capacity development and technical assistance to both the public and private sector on the development of SPP policies and use of ecolabelling.
2. By assisting countries in the coordinated implementation of SPP policies and ecolabels schemes.

WHERE | The work is being carried out both at a national level, within 13 individual countries¹, and cooperatively at a regional level in two regions (the Southern Cone (Cono Sur) and the Asia-Pacific region).² The project also entails a knowledge management, outreach and communication component, which is carried out remotely amongst stakeholders around the world. This portion of the project is aimed at ensuring a good flow of information among SPP and EL stakeholders, and access to online resources that support their efforts.

WHO | Stakeholders involved in SPP and EL represent participating countries in SPPEL activities. These include policy-makers, purchasers, ecolabelling organizations, and suppliers.

WHEN | The SPPEL project activities began in 2013 and work will be on-going until 2017.

Ecolabelling and SPP are playing important enabling roles in the market transformation towards greener economies by:

- creating a dynamic framework for improving the environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle
- stimulating demand and supply of green products
- helping consumers to make better choices



¹See page 3 for more details on country-level work. The countries included in the country-level SPPEL project work are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Togo, and Vietnam.

²See page 6 for more details on the regional component. The Southern Cone region includes: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Overview: SPPEL at the Country Level

SPPEL, or "Stimulating the demand and supply of sustainable products through Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling", has on-going activities in 13 separate countries around the world.

At the national level, the SPPEL project focuses on capacity-building and advisory services aimed at implementing SPP and ecolabelling.

The work is accomplished by following UNEP’s four step development and implementation process that provide countries with a common vision, language, and framework for SPP:

1. **A national Project Steering Committee is established.** The Committee ensures inter-ministerial collaboration, project ownership and continued results.
2. **A public procurement status assessment is conducted.** The assessment focuses on identifying challenges and opportunities for SPP and ecolabelling in the context of the country’s legal framework, priorities, and market readiness.
3. **A SPP policy and action plan are created.** These will guide implementation.
4. **SPP is implemented.**

The SPPEL project recognizes that countries vary in their development and experience with both SPP and ecolabelling.

In countries that are just starting out, the project focuses on:

- the development and implementation of **SPP policies**
- **awareness-raising activities** about the benefits of ecolabels

In countries that have well-established ecolabelling programmes (e.g., Brazil, India, Colombia and Vietnam), the SPPEL project focuses on:

- effective **implementation** of SPP
- a **proactive use of ecolabels** through the alignment of the goods and services prioritized from an SPP perspective with those covered by existing ecolabels
- **training and technical assistance** to selected companies in SPP and ecolabelling

Countries	Funding Arrangements	Steering committee	Status assessment	Legal Review	Prioritization	SWOT Analysis	Market Analysis	SPP Policy and Action plan	Implementation
Argentina	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brazil	Completed	Completed	White Paper Brazil	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
Chile	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colombia	Completed	Completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In progress	In progress
Costa Rica	Completed	Completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In progress	Completed
Ecuador	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	N/A	Completed	Completed	In progress
India	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mauritius	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In progress
Mongolia	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	In progress
Morocco	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	N/A	Completed	In progress	In progress
Peru	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Togo	Completed	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnam	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed	In progress	N/A	N/A



SPPEL Project Leader Perspectives



Morocco

Ms. Amaziane,
 Chief of the
 Partnership
 Division at the

Ministry Delegate in Charge of the Environment, is responsible for the SPPEL project in Morocco.

In a context of rising interest for environmental and sustainable development issues, Mrs. Amaziane noted that the SPPEL project provides considerable support for the implementation of the new strategy developed by the Ministry Delegate

in Charge of Environment. The strategy has a vision of sustainability leadership in Morocco and focuses on waste management, the development of the recovery streams and the promotion of a circular economy. The SPPEL project also contributes to the fight against climate change by supporting the development of green and ecological products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since the beginning of the project, it has been possible to put in place a National Commission of Public Procurement, to enact a new decree on public procurement enabling the incorporation of

sustainable development criteria and to sign several conventions of partnership with public organisations in the spirit of state exemplarity.

In the future, Ms. Amaziane wishes to “*form networks of public [purchasers] allowing sharing of good practices*” as well as “*groups of green suppliers*” to develop “*reporting and ecolabelling systems*”, and establish methodological tools to integrate sustainability into the purchasing process, including guidelines, rules for prioritized products, tender document templates, and others.



Costa Rica

Sylvia Aguilar,
 Environment &
 Development

Coordinator at CEGESTI (Fundación Centro de Gestión Tecnológica e Informática Industrial), is the SPPEL project manager in Costa Rica.

In Ms. Aguilar’s view, the SPPEL project has been particularly

beneficial for Costa Rica. Thanks to the SPPEL project, it was possible to “*launch the National SPP policy, enact the decree supporting the implementation of SPP, provide training to public officers, provide direct technical assistance on procurement processes and define an information and communication strategy*”. The country has now made significant progress on SPP as it has “*created a National SPP Committee*”

and has developed “*a national policy, enabling decrees [on SPP and related matters], guidelines, [and] training materials*”. The national policy will “*guide the future prospects of SPP in the country, implement an ecolabelling scheme, develop measures to facilitate the participation of small and medium enterprises on SPP, and promote research and trainings*”.



Vietnam
SPP Assessment Report
 SWOT Analysis of Vietnam's Green Label Programme



Brazil
Legal Framework of SPP and Ecolabelling in Brazil



Mongolia
SPP Assessment report



Morocco
Legal Review (in French)



Costa Rica
Normative for the application of sustainability criteria in public procurement and guidelines for implementation



The Importance of SPP in Developing Sustainable Economies: Interview with Arab Hoballah

Chief of Sustainable Lifestyles, Cities and Industry Branch, UNEP

Arab Hoballah has been Chief of the Sustainable Lifestyles, Cities and Industry Branch at UNEP since January 2015. He is an expert in sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency, as well as in systemic and prospective analysis. Arab has been working with UNEP for the past 25 years. We interviewed him to find out more about why public procurement is so important for the development of sustainable economies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In which ways can sustainable public procurement enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns?

Public procurement and sustainable consumption and production are closely linked. Purchasing decisions have a direct impact on the types of material inputs needed at each step of the consumption and production process. Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is key, as it sends signals to the market to accelerate the transition towards greener and more sustainable products that have been manufactured with less harmful chemicals, less energy and that eventually produce less waste.

How can sustainable public procurement help to achieve the SDGs?

There are 17 sustainable development goals with 169 targets, many of which are related with the way we use natural resources, how we acquire, process and dispose of them, hence with links to procurement-related actions. Even if procurement is only explicitly mentioned in one target –

target 12.7 – procurement is critical for many sustainable development goals, upstream or downstream of the product itself.

How can we overcome barriers to SPP in developing countries?

Decision-makers tend to think that putting in place policies and legislation is not always helpful to their development process. On the contrary, legislation, through its implementation, is a key way to accompany countries' development, and eventually remove barriers.

SPP is a great challenge for developing countries which depend a lot on exports of primary products or have to import most manufactured products, and which do not control their entire production process. Implementing sustainable public procurement could increase the costs of products in the short term, but in the medium and long term, the whole economic, social and environmental system benefits. The economic system and consumption patterns thus need time to progressively adapt to this new context. Without necessarily

applying a protectionist system, a transition period is necessary.

How can we increase the commitment of governments towards SPP?

It is important to demonstrate that implementing SPP presents a lot of benefits, not only for visibility or political matters, but also from a socio-economic, environmental or health perspective. Governments should be interested in implementing SPP not only to fend off reputational risk, but even more importantly to deliver long-term sustainability benefits. It is difficult for governments to see benefits in the short term, but benefits tend to appear over time, with significant savings in terms of resources, energy, environment degradation, waste, public spending, and, eventually, money. Public purchase represents between 15 and 30 percent of GDP, depending on the country. Significant public saving can thus be achieved, in a win-win kind of situation. To be convincing, this demonstration has thus to be done at the relevant scale, in a consistent, business-like, manner.

Overview: Regional Collaboration on SPPEL

SPPEL is promoting international collaboration amongst policy-makers, purchasers and industry representatives in two regions: the Southern Cone (known as Cono Sur, and including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Asia-Pacific region.

SPPEL ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:

- regional cooperation and capacity-building
- awareness-raising activities
- stakeholder consultation
- identification and development of agreed-upon minimum sustainability specifications, for use when purchasing particular goods or services

SPPEL REGIONAL GOALS:

- encourage cooperation and regional integration,
- foster collaboration on ecolabelling and voluntary sustainability standards
- facilitate the sharing of experiences and learning on SPP implementation



PARTICIPANTS...

- exchange knowledge and experience on policy development and implementation through the creation of regional SPP and ecolabelling networks
- examine the possibility of regional collaboration amongst ecolabels
- exchange experience and best practices at the regional level
- get connected with international actors and initiatives such as the 10YFP SPP³ and Consumer Information programmes



³ The 10YFP SPP refers to the Sustainable Public Procurement programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

Updates from the SPPEL Regions

Recent Developments in Cono Sur

The Southern Cone regional component aims to encourage South-South cooperation in the Southern Cone. The report identifying key sustainability criteria for prioritized products has been finalized. Key sustainability criteria have been developed for two sectors: cleaning products and wood products (furniture and printing paper). A market analysis and consultation workshops with the private sector are being carried out to assess the feasibility to supply products meeting the proposed criteria. Consultation has been carried out in Paraguay (February 2016), in Brazil (August 2016) and Chile (August 2016), and upcoming workshops are being organized in Argentina (October 2016) and Uruguay (tbc).

For more information, please contact Monica Borrero (monica.borrero.affiliate@pnuma.org) or Laura Guccione (laura.guccione.affiliate@unep.org).

CONOSUR: the LAC platform to be developed

In collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the INGP Network, UNEP is in the process of developing a comprehensive online platform, in Spanish, aimed at facilitating the implementation of SPP in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. The platform will serve as a one-stop-shop for national governments, policy-makers, procurers, experts, businesses and other stakeholders to access documents and information, in order to foster the exchange of best practice and knowledge between countries. It will contain all regional and international resources related to SPP, ecolabelling and supporting materials in region. Users will be able to subscribe to the SPPEL newsletter and other similar publications, participate in discussion forums and contact relevant partners. The first informative webinars about the platform were held on the 21st September (Caribbean) and 22nd September (Latin America) with the participation of various country representatives.

Recent Developments in Asia Pacific

Report on Key opportunities for pilot products, with policies and challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asian Institute of Technology, a research institution supporting the SPPEL project in Asia Pacific, has recently produced a report on "[**Key Opportunities for Pilot Products in the Region, with Policies and Challenges**](#)". This report reviews trade agreements and policies in the Asia-Pacific region to understand opportunities and challenges related to SPP and ecolabelling and to identify priority products for the development of Common Core Criteria (CCC). Asia Pacific is increasingly being considered one of the most important regional trading centres in the world. The study reveals that, at the same time, the market for environmentally-sound goods and services has expanded in many Asian countries and, in many cases, ecolabelling has played an important role in this expansion.

However, the report also identifies important barriers to the successful implementation of green public procurement (GPP) and ecolabelling, which include the lack of clear frameworks for implementation of GPP, economic pressure, lack of capacity to implement GPP, lack of awareness and promotion of ecolabels and the multiplicity of sustainability labels.

The results of the report will be presented in a webinar (date to be confirmed).

Asia-Pacific Green Public Procurement (GPP) and Ecolabelling (EL) Network Activities

Collaborative efforts are also underway to develop the network of green public procurement stakeholders in Asia-Pacific, with a project funded by KEITI and the China Ministry of Environmental Protection.

The project, called "Strengthening capacity and improving knowledge of green public procurement and ecolabelling in the ASEAN+3 region", is working to:

- **strengthen SPP and ecolabelling** in the Asia-Pacific region, based on the expertise of China, Japan and South Korea
- enhance **South-South collaboration** on SPP and EL
- ensure broad and effective **participation** of Asia-Pacific countries in the activities of the 10YFP SPP Programme

Activities carried out in 2016 include:

- At July 29th, a **webinar**, "[*Linkages between green public procurement and ecolabelling*](#)", featuring presentations from Ms. Xiaodan Zhang, General Manager of China Environment United Certification Center and from Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi, from the Eco Mark Office at Japan Environment Association. Asia-Pacific GPPEL webinars are held bi-annually with the goal of sharing knowledge and best practices on GPP and ecolabelling in the Asia-Pacific region.
- A **LinkedIn Asia-Pacific GPPEL forum**, open for procurers, environmentalists, vendors or researchers, was created in order to provide a platform for shared learning on Green and Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling. The forum facilitates exchanges between stakeholders and the sharing of news, information and practical advice related to Green Public Procurement and Ecolabelling in the Asia-Pacific region. The page can be found [here](#).

- **An Asia-Pacific GPPEL Network training on GPP & Ecolabelling** will take place in Beijing in December 2016. This workshop is intended for high-level officials from the Asia-Pacific region who are leading the design and implementation of Green Public Procurement and ecolabelling policies in their country or having a strong interest in embarking on this path. It will provide participants with expert knowledge and tools to successfully design and manage GPP policies and ecolabelling schemes in their country. Experts from the European Union, North America and the United Nations will share their experience in implementing GPP and reflect on the different approaches used in the countries they represent, with an additional focus on the new Sustainable Procurement ISO Standard (20400). This workshop will be organized in collaboration with UNEP and China Environment United Certification Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (MEP CEC).



SPPEL Project Knowledge Management, Outreach & Communications

The SPPEL project relies upon the efficient flow of information between sustainable public procurement and ecolabelling stakeholders, as well as their access to relevant online resources.

How we facilitate connectivity and communications:

1. **The SCP Clearinghouse**, an online platform for communication amongst stakeholders involved in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production.
2. **The Sustainable Public Procurement programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP SPP)**, a collaborative framework that brings together representatives from government, local authorities, private sector and civil society interested in promoting the supply and demand of sustainable products. It is comprised of over 100 governments and organizations.

How do results get back to you?

At the end of the project, case studies will be drafted and disseminated to tell the story around project implementation, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations from the 13 project countries.

UNEP will update its sustainable public procurement methodology on the basis of lessons learned from project implementation and emerging needs and communicated project stakeholders (partners, steering committees, working groups, etc.).

Recent publications and reports

Market Analysis in Paraguay: on the ability to comply with the proposed sustainability criteria for the sectors: wood products (printing paper and furniture), and cleaning chemicals

Cono Sur - **Proposed Key Product Sustainability Criteria for the sectors:** wood products (printing paper and furniture), and cleaning chemicals

Vietnam's SWOT analysis of ecolabelling: evaluation of the existing ecolabelling programme to understand current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats based on the last 5 years of implementation

The second edition of the **UNEP Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement** will be published in 2016. The report will:

- outline a global view on international- and national-level progress in implementing SPP
- deepen collective understanding of the main barriers, needs, opportunities and innovations,
- establish an approach that can be replicated in future biennial reviews to track SPP progress and trends over time
- build capacity and share knowledge on how to monitor and evaluate progress on SPP

SPP and EL-Related News & Events

Several webinars will be held in the coming months:

- On **19th October**, a first webinar will focus on **Human Rights and Sustainable Procurement** and will be co-organized with the International Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights. You can subscribe [here](#).
- On **10th November 2016**, a second webinar will present the result of a **benchmarking study** of several sustainable procurement programmes. You are welcome to participate!
- The Stockholm Environment Institute, UNEP, the 10YFP and the International Resources Panel jointly prepared a **MOOC on Sustainable Food Systems in Southeast Asia**. During 5 weeks, participants examined the environmental and socioeconomic implications of food systems and took a closer look at the relationships between earth's natural resources, production chain and the range of actors involved. The course is still available, feel free to check it [here](#)!

Stay in Touch!

Follow us on Twitter: [@SPPELProject](#) and [@10YFP_SPP](#) to stay on top of SPPEL news and updates.

Explore our UNEP [webpage](#) as well as the page dedicated to the [10YFP programme](#) to learn more about UNEP's work on SPP.

Check out new SPPEL publications in the [E-library](#) of the SCP Clearinghouse to access SPP & EL resources.

Join our Asia Pacific GPPEL [Linkedin Forum](#) to connect with other SPP peers.

Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) to view all of our new videos and webinars.