



Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum Sri Lanka

Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum Sri Lanka (SCP Forum Sri Lanka – hereafter referred to as ‘the Forum’) is a Professional Body to facilitate promotion of SCP practices, while supporting SDG 12, in Sri Lanka. The Forum was established in 2020 as an outcome of the SWITCH Asia SCP Policy Support Component Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment under the aegis of the European Union.

Members of ‘the Forum’ enjoy a range of privileges. All interested in SCP and cherish sustainable development, and willing to contribute to this national (as well as global) effort are welcome to join ‘the Forum’.





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SCP is a powerful cognitive approach to promote sustainable development. It focuses on influencing one's thinking pattern and behavior in promoting efficient but restrained use of scarce resources and, efficient and increased use of renewable resources by encouraging strategic changes in the production processes and, cultivating sober consumption habits and related attitudinal changes in the consumer, avoiding consumerism. In sustainability terms, consumption and production are two inter-related aspects and depend on each other, just like two sides of the same coin. On principle, one cannot exist without the other.

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own" (IISD).

If goods are produced in a manner where there is wastage of natural and often scarce resources, then the system become unsustainable. Further, if the goods produced are not (or cannot be) consumed then again there is wastage of natural resources and the system cannot sustain. As a result, the environment, the economy and the social satisfaction will suffer. Unless what is demand by the consumer is produced sustainably (both qualitatively and quantitatively) and affordably to the consumer the system cannot be sustained.

The following SCP tools (or including following) were adapted to local conditions during the project;

- Eco-Labeling
- Sustainable Procurement
- Green reporting
- Sustainable supply chain management
- Raising Consumer awareness
- Life Cycle Assessment

Development of SCP Policy and the introduction of SCP tools, under the project, were materialized with the support and contributions made by over 1,000 stakeholders representing government ministries, public sector institutions, private sector establishments and eminent individuals of multiple disciplines across the country. This support group was aptly named 'Inter Agency Expert Working Group (IAEWG)'. It is the forward thinking of the IAEWG, realizing the importance of continuity of SCP practices for sustainable development of the country, supported the formation of 'the Forum'. The support extended by the Ministry of Environment in this regard is greatly appreciated. This is a historic achievement where 'the Forum' will represent and/or interact with all economic sectors in the country, be it government, public sector, industrial sector, commercial sector, academia, religious institutions, NGOs, and the consumer in general, in promoting SCP for the benefit of all.

'The Forum' has been incorporated as a legal entity in the category of professional association under the registrar of companies.

SCP practices promotes overall sustainability, both in the producer and the consumer and create a path towards sustainable development. Moreover, by adopting good consumption habits, practices and developing related attitudinal changes the consumer can create a demand for sustainably produced goods and services and ensure sustainable development.

In order to achieve these objectives, it is paramount that the awareness of the consumer and the producer, about the concept of SCP and allied practices be increased and encourage to absorb and adopt them in their daily routines. Under SCP initiatives many strategies and tools have been developed to promote this concept world-wide and new areas for improvement are being explored and added continuously to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

Sri Lanka received the support of EU Switch Asia initiatives in this regard. It supported the government of Sri Lanka for developing a National SCP Policy and Tools for its implementation through a comprehensive project spanning over four years from 2015 to 2019. The SCP policy developed under the project has been approved by the Government of Sri Lanka.



The main objectives of the Forum"

- 1) Function as a Professional Body on SCP.
- 2) Provide overall technical & policy guidance for Ministries in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development, other Ministries and organizations on SCP related matters as and when required.
- 3) Serve as a technology watch group, share SCP practices and promote sustainable development.
- 4) Provide advisory services for preparation of guidelines, code of practices, standards, R&D, etc. on SCP.
- 5) Assist Ministries in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development and other relevant Ministries and organizations to publicize SCP best practices including those that are indigenous.
- 6) Build relations and engage with the international, national, sub-national institutions and the private sector, civil society, academia and scientific communities on SCP efforts.
- 7) Facilitate SCP education at all levels.
- 8) Serve as a forum for knowledge transfer and interactions on SCP.
- 9) Serve as a vehicle through which government, international and private assistance for SCP may be equitably and effectively extended to Forum members.
- 10) Provide Forum members, in co-operation with Ministries in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development and other relevant Ministries and organizations, adequate and updated information, services and capacity development on effective SCP practices.
- 11) Encourage and engage in consultancy services and implementation of SCP activities.

Feel free to communicate with "SCP Forum Sri Lanka" for more details through following links;

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