

# Course Syllabus

## Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa

### E-Learning Course

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With the support of:



# 1. Background

Despite remarkable rates of economic growth in recent years, the African continent still faces challenges of persistent poverty and low human development. African economies are highly dependent on natural resources which, in many countries, form the basis of economic activity. A transition to a green economy offers opportunities for the region to attract investments in resource efficient production processes, eco-innovation and renewable energy, which will benefit development, reduce poverty and create employment.

In the 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) the topic of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is not only featured as a standalone SDG 12 “Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns” but has also been recognized as “nexus” point for almost all SDGs and their respective targets.

To support the efforts of African countries to actively engage in the transition to an inclusive green economy, and the promotion of a shift to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, the EU has designed and developed ‘SWITCH Africa Green’ programme, implemented by the UN Environment regional office for Africa. The initiative supports seven African countries: Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Mauritius and South Africa to initiate or strengthen policies for mainstreaming SCP through regional, sub-regional and national activities.

The course supports learning on SCP in Africa and provides individuals and change agents with a comprehensive introduction to the SCP concept and application opportunities. The course is designed to raise awareness in the region in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating action that helps the transition towards SCP.

## 2. Target Audience

The course is geared towards change agents in Africa, who are looking to be involved in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating actions in support of SCP. Anyone from the public, civil society, private or academic world is welcome to join this course!

## 3. Learning Objectives

Participants will learn about different concepts and facets of the SCP, as well as regional, national and sector-specific challenges and opportunities to advance policies promoting resource efficient and sustainable consumption and production. Additionally, participants will begin to develop basic skills for applying the SCP concept in a real world economic, policy and professional context.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Define the concept of SCP and explain its value for Africa and globally
- Distinguish key elements of effective policies for SCP
- Discuss how can SCP be advanced specific sectors and areas
- Explain the role of consumers and individual choices for SCP

## 4. Course Structure and Content

The 5 modules cover the following topics:

Module	Module Name
Module 1	Introduction to SCP: Definition, Rationale and Fundamentals
Module 2	Designing and Implementing National SCP Policies and Action Plans
Module 3	Action for Sustainable Production in Key Thematic Areas
Module 4	Action Policies for Sustainable Consumption and Behavioural Change
Module 5	International and Regional Collaboration to Achieve SCP

## Module 1: Introduction to SCP: Definition, Rationale and Fundamentals

Module 1 sets the scene. **Part 1** introduces the definition of SCP, discusses the rationale for advancing SCP, and outlines key principles and concepts. **Part 2** presents the importance of SCP in the African context and draws linkages of SCP with poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. **Part 3** presents the concept of life cycle thinking, as a fundamental element of a systems approach to sustainability. The role of the private sector for advancing sustainable consumption and production in line with the life cycle approach is introduced.

After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:

- Define the fundamentals of SCP as a driver of sustainable development;
- Discuss why SCP is important for the African Region;
- Describe social, environmental and economic benefits of SCP;
- Explain the concepts of life cycle thinking; and
- Discuss the role of the private sector for advancing SCP in Africa.

## Module 2: Designing and Implementing National SCP Policies and Action Plans

**Part 1** of this modules describes a stepwise approach to developing and implementing SCP programmes, providing insight into the process of mainstreaming SCP policy, highlighting the importance of inter-governmental coordination and governance structures, which lead to successful SCP policy implementation. **Part 2** introduces the main groups of tools and instruments for policy making. **Part 3** provides example of national policies and action plans implemented at national, sectoral, or local level across Africa. It also explains the need for effective monitoring and evaluation of SCP policies and reviews the design and use to SCP indicators.

After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:

- Highlight the phases and steps of the SCP national development planning;
- Explain the role of national governance processes for mainstreaming SCP policies;
- Identify specific policy tools to foster SCP in a national policy planning context;
- Provide examples from the region of SCP policies developed and implemented at national, sectoral and local level.
- Identify effective M&E strategies in the context of SCP policies.

## Module 3: Applying Policies for Sustainable Production: Addressing the Supply Side in Key Thematic Areas

**Part 1** reviews Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP), as well as other methods to strengthen resource efficiency in the industrial and manufacturing sector. **Part 2** focusing on practical methods and effective policy mixes for promoting sustainable, climate-smart, and equitable agricultural production. **Part 3** reviews how SCP can be implemented to increase the efficient use of energy and water. It also reviews practical methods and policy mixes to advance SCP through sustainable waste management.

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Identify SCP policy instruments that would be most relevant in specific sectors, taking into account national contexts;
- Explore key challenges, opportunities, and solutions for implementing SCP policy instruments to stimulate supply-side change;
- Provide examples of how SCP policies can be applied in the areas of industry, agriculture, waste, water and energy to stimulate supply-side change and advance sustainable production;

Review how SCP policy tools and instruments can be combined into effective policy mixes to ensure the sustainable growth of key economic domains.

## Module 4: Applying Policies for Sustainable Consumption: Addressing the Demand Side

**Part 1** reviews the sustainable lifestyles in Africa today and practices for supporting sustainable consumer behaviour through tools such as The Four-E approach, as well as, the current urbanization trends in Africa to make the case for rethinking urban planning. **Part 2** reviews policies and programmes for consumer information and access to sustainable products, also examining the importance of eco-labelling, choice editing and public procurement in this area. **Part 3** explores emerging policy options and mixes for advancing sustainable consumption through behaviour change policy.

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Examine how sustainable lifestyles and consumer behaviour can positively impact national development and be encouraged through national policy;
- Discuss approaches to making cities more sustainable across Africa;
- Review effective consumer information, product information, eco-labelling policy instruments and how these are already advancing in developing countries;
- Review the role of effective public policies, such as sustainable public procurement;

## Module 5: International and Regional Collaboration to Achieve SCP

Module 5 reviews how current international and regional sustainable development frameworks can support SCP in the African context. **Part 1** traces the evolution of SCP in international agenda and review its current place in the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. **Part 2** explains the objectives and work of the 10YFP on SCP, the One Planet Network, as well as the Africa Regional Roadmap for 10YFP. **Part 3** discusses key regional initiatives that can support regional advancement on SCP.

After completing Module 5, participants will be able to:

- Explain the role of SCP for implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- Discuss the 10YFP's role as a mechanism for international and regional collaboration on SCP;
- Identify regional and global initiatives that can support advancing SCP in national sectors;

# 5. Learning Methodology and Format

## Learning Approach

The course is self-paced and not moderated. It is composed of 5 modules divided into 3 sections each. The modules are self-standing and they each have specific learning objectives and features key information on specific aspects of the policy process in support for SCP, as well as end of module assessment tests.

## Interactive Lessons

This course element consists of brief interactive sequences of tableaux, that guide the learner through the key messages of each sub-section within each module. The interactive lessons serve to present the content of the e-book in a concise and user-friendly form, giving the opportunity to test one's knowledge and reflect on key concepts.

## Video Presentations

Each module and sub-section start with a short video (about 2-3 minutes) where a green economy expert discusses the subject at hand and highlights the main points the module will elaborate on.

## E-Books

Each week, small e-books corresponding to each module's sub-section are made available to participants as background reading through the online learning platform. The e-books summarize and digests in a learner-friendly format key content from a range of documents and studies and features a body of knowledge that directly corresponds to the learning objectives. The e-books are available as a downloadable PDF version to allow offline learning.

## Assessment Tests

At the end of each module, participants take an assessment test that corresponds to the learning objectives for the module. The tests appraise the comprehension of key facts and concepts at the end of each module.

## 6. Completion Requirements and Course Evaluation

In order to receive the *Certificate of Completion* by UNITAR, participants need to pass 4 out of 5 Module assessment tests with a score higher than 70%. For each assessment test participants will be allowed 3 attempts

To collect participants' views of the course, a final evaluation questionnaire is made available, under the Achievement section. Completing the final evaluation is mandatory for all participants and learners' feedback and suggestions will be taken into account in view of improving future editions of the course

## 7. Technical Requirements

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. UNITAR also recommends the following as a minimum in hardware and software to take this e-Learning course:

- Platform: Windows XP / Windows Vista / Windows 7; MacOSX;
- Software: Microsoft Word 2007/2010 and Adobe Acrobat Reader (downloadable for free at <http://www.adobe.com/>)
- Browser: Internet Explorer 8 or higher, or Mozilla Firefox
- Java, cookies and pop-ups must be enabled

## 8. Support and Contact Information

The Green Development and Climate Change Programme at UNITAR provides continuous administrative and technical support to participants throughout the delivery of the course. In addition, the course is methodologically supported by a number of UNITAR units including Knowledge Systems Innovation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communications, and Administrative and Finance.

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