



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION



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ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

Joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Developing and Transition Countries

The need for ecologically sustainable industrial development and shifting to more sustainable consumption and production patterns has now been recognized at the global level for decades through the Rio and Johannesburg Declarations. The confluence of global economic and environmental crisis that has occurred in recent years has provided a new impetus to international efforts to promote the transition towards more sustainable industrial systems. Such transition through the implementation and diffusion of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is critical to advance Green Industry and Green Economy. Industries in developing and transition countries have significant potential to reduce the material, energy and pollution intensity per unit of industrial output. This achieves a reduction of the overall ecological footprint (carbon, water, etc.) while at the same time improves productivity and competitiveness. This is essential for the ultimate goal of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.



UNIDO AND UNEP COOPERATION

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) cooperate to promote the transition towards sustainable industrial systems in developing and transition countries. This is part of their broader programmes on promoting Green Industry and Green Economy, respectively. Specifically, their joint Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) aims to improve the overall resource efficiency and environmental performance of businesses and other organisations.

UNIDO and UNEP therefore develop and strengthen national capacities for delivering support services for RECP implementation to businesses, governments and other organizations. This enables them to implement RECP concepts, methods, techniques and policies and thereby improve the efficiency of their use of natural resources (energy, materials, water) and reduce their pollution and waste intensities. In addition, UNIDO and UNEP support the establishment and efficient operation of a global network with regional chapters that facilitate the effective transfer of RECP knowledge and technology and foster both South-South and North-South cooperation.

NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRES (NCPs)



NCPs have been established since 1994 in over 45 countries with support from several donors, in particular the Governments of Switzerland and Austria. NCPs provide services in regard to awareness creation, professional training, in-plant assessments, policy advice and technology transfer. Their activities have clearly proven the economic and environmental benefits of applying Cleaner Production (CP) in businesses and have facilitated the integration of CP in national policy frameworks. The current RECP Programme provides a comprehensive strategic and coherent framework to scale-up and mainstream NCP activities and results, nationally, regionally and globally.

WHY A JOINT RECP PROGRAMME?

Mitigation response - RECP reduces greenhouse gas emissions and industries' climate vulnerability, secures availability of water and other natural resources, and minimizes risks from chemicals, waste and pollution.

Resource efficiency – Productive use of natural resources is key for the realization of Green Industry and Green Economy.

Scale-Up and Mainstream – Move from company-level demonstration of benefits to widespread replication, diffusion and implementation to achieve national level economic, social and environmental benefits.

Country Needs – 47 programme countries and about an equal number of other countries have requested support for promotion and implementation of RECP.

Organizational Synergies – Capitalize on the complementary mandates and capacities of UNIDO and UNEP.

WHAT IS RECP?

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is the continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. RECP addresses the three sustainability dimensions individually and synergistically:

Production Efficiency – optimization of the productive use of natural resources (materials, energy and water);

Environmental management – minimization of impacts on environment and nature;

Human Development – minimization of risks to people and communities and support for their development.

PROGRAMME STRATEGY

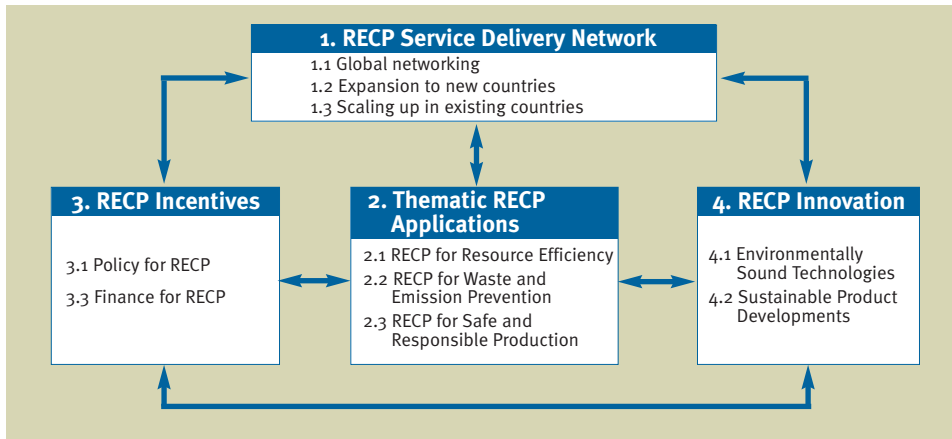
The programme provides a strategic and coherent framework to deliver targeted support and interventions to participating countries, individually and collectively.

The key strategic elements are:

- **Multi-level intervention** to cover macro, meso and micro levels of industrial production systems;
- **Complementary role** definition between UNIDO and UNEP based on the mandate and existing capacities of the two agencies;
- **Country-level engagement** through joint programming at the country level;
- **Synergy and partnership** with existing similar bilateral and multilateral initiatives;
- **Multi-dimensional networking** for effective knowledge transfer and experience sharing; and
- **Modular design** consisting of modules that can be delivered flexibly in different combinations to meet national and/or regional needs of programme countries.

PROGRAMME INTERVENTION MODULES

The programme outputs are structured in four principal intervention modules, related to services delivery network, thematic applications, incentives and innovation. Their interrelatedness is illustrated below.



These components can be implemented in flexible combinations for more effective delivery of support at the national, regional and global levels, whilst also further developing RECP methods, tools, policies and technologies. This is achieved through:

- **Global programme activities** – these are carried out at the global level and provide a framework for regional and national activities. This includes review and assessment, development of tools, capacity building and knowledge management.
- **Substantive projects** – these cover the implementation of the intervention modules in the programme countries which could be either country-specific projects aimed at creating or building institutional capacities or thematic projects on e.g. resource efficiency, chemicals management or low carbon industry, which may cover multiple countries.

KEY PROGRAMME DELIVERABLES

The programme lays the foundation for participating countries to move towards sustainable industrial systems. Specifically, the following key deliverables are foreseen:

- One global network of RECP Service Providers with multiple regional chapters established/strengthened for effective knowledge management and South-North-South collaboration to transfer and diffuse RECP technology and knowledge.
- Technical, operational and institutional capacities of 47 existing National Cleaner Production Centres and Programmes enhanced and their activities and achievements scaled up.
- A minimum of 15 National Cleaner Production Programmes launched in countries new to the programme to build national RECP capacity and improve resource efficiency and environmental performance of industries.
- A minimum of five toolkits and training manuals prepared covering selected RECP applications including, for example: energy efficiency, water efficiency, materials and chemicals management, safer production and waste minimization.

- More than 500 experts trained as trainers through regional programmes organized based on the toolkits and training manuals developed.
- A minimum of 5,000 industries supported to achieve measurable economic, environmental and social benefits through RECP implementation.
- A minimum of 15 countries supported to mainstream RECP in national policy and planning processes and/ or to create financial instruments for RECP investments by industries and businesses.
- A minimum of 10 countries supported to develop and implement a national programme on the development and marketing of sustainable products with a focus on products that are based on locally available renewable resources and that have a high potential for job creation.
- A global knowledge management system supported by regional and national chapters established to facilitate knowledge exchange and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE

Effective programme oversight and management is ensured through:

- **A Programme Board** – The Board will consist of 11 representatives from both developing regions, development partners and partner institutions and will provide general guidance to the programme.
- **A Programme Management Team** – A joint management team chaired by UNIDO and UNEP will manage the implementation of the programme as per agreed allocation of responsibilities.

Programme implementation will be further coordinated through UNEP Regional Offices and UNIDO Country and Regional Offices with technical support from the global management team.

RECP NETWORK

The Joint Programme is being implemented in close cooperation with RECP-NET, a global network that brings together providers of RECP services in developing and transition countries, including the NCPCs. UNIDO and UNEP act as patron agencies and support the RECP-NET under their joint RECP programme. The functions of RECP-NET include innovation and knowledge management, capacity building, advocacy and quality control and branding. RECP-NET will launch various operational programmes to foster the institutional and professional excellence of its members. A start has been made with documenting and disseminating good practices in management, organization and governance of NCPCs and in enterprise level RECP indicators.

RESOURCES

The estimated budget for implementation of the Joint UNIDO-UNEP RECP Programme is 70 M€ over a five-year period. Up to 75% of the funding is expected in grants from development partners, with the remainder including co-funding from national governments, fee-for-services and contributions from the UN agencies. Approximately 65% of the programme budget is expected for country level implementation projects, with the remainder going to substantive thematic projects (some 20%) and global programmatic activities (some 15%). UNIDO is expected to implement around 60% of these global programmatic activities and UNEP around 40%.



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PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The Programme is implemented in close consultation with development partners. The Programme operates with:

- **Strategic partners** – provide resources for core programme activities (backbone) and specific thematic and/or country projects and provide leadership and direction for the operationalization and implementation of the RECP Programme. In recent years, the Governments of Switzerland and Austria have been the key strategic partners for the Programme.
- **Project partners** – provide resources for selected thematic and/or country projects. Current project partners include Norway, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Germany and European Commission.
- **Activity partners** – pool resources towards specific activities and/or outputs under the RECP Programme. The Programme cooperates, for example, with the International Labor Organization, the UN Climate Change Secretariat and others on specific applications and mechanisms for RECP.

TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The ongoing NCPC Programme is being gradually transformed into the Joint UNIDO-UNEP RECP Programme. Bridging activities have been undertaken since the Joint Programme strategy was approved by UNIDO and UNEP in early 2009. Ongoing and new project activities are being aligned, for example in extensions for NCPCs in Tunisia and Sri Lanka which were approved in 2009 and thematic projects on Resource Efficiency (through UNEP) and Chemical Leasing (through UNIDO). UNIDO and UNEP have jointly programmed NCPPs for new programme countries, including for Albania which was launched in March 2010. A global RECP Networking meeting was hosted by the Government of Switzerland in October 2009 during which the operation of the RECP Network was agreed upon and new capacity building initiatives were launched on institutionalization and management of NCPCs and on enterprise level RECP monitoring.

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