



## B5 Promoting sustainable public procurement in the south

### The Marrakech Task Force's Approach to SPP - capacity building for sustainable Public Procurement in Latin America and Africa.

#### Part 1: Eveline Venanzoni, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

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**Short description:** The FOEN is based in Bern. The ordinance on the organisation of Public Procurement says that the FOEN should run an Ecological Procurement Service. The tasks of this procurement service are to train procurement officers in the field of sustainable procurement, to harmonise ecological product criteria within Switzerland and to elaborate ecological product criteria for public procurers that can be used as technical specifications in call for tenders. Another task of the procurement service is to exchange experiences regarding SPP/GPP with other countries and institutions.

## Executive Summary of your Abstract

For the promotion of sustainable public procurement the MTF on SPP elaborated the so called MTF approach to SPP. The methodology developed by the MTF follows everywhere more or less the same patterns. Although the procurement process is all over the world more or less the same, the training material has to be customized to every country's situation. Procurement in the south e.g. may be either more social or environmental oriented. In Latin America the focus seems to be more on environmental aspects whereas in Southern Africa the focus is more on social aspects. Often the link between public procurement and e.g. reducing carbon emissions or other identified local or regional priorities has to be shown by examples. There are many other examples within SCP issues that can be addressed by Public Procurement.

## Abstract

In 2005 at the second international expert meeting on SCP in Costa Rica, Switzerland launched the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement (MTF on SPP). A working group was built up consisting of 11 countries, five international organisations and European Commission Services. Amongst the member countries are Argentina and Ghana. With the experience of the Task Force members from all over the world a step by step approach to SPP was developed. The goal of the MTF on SPP is capacity building on SPP and the aim of the Task Force is that 14 countries (developed as well as developing) have tested our approach by

2010/11 when the CSD cycle will review amongst other issues SCP. With our tested and quality assured approach we would like to make a contribution to the 10 YFP. As Argentina is a member of our Task Force this country volunteered to be our first pilot. The interest was big in the capacity building training event and also the methodology of the training with break out sessions and working on regional examples was appreciated. For quality assurance reasons the use of the training material is restricted to procurement experts who have been trained by the MTF on SPP. To be able to test our approach in different regions and in order to reach our goal by 2010/11 we need a lot of experts. That's why we had to organize so called Training of trainers Workshops (ToTs). The first of these workshops took place last summer in South Africa. 14 experts attended this workshop. The next ToT is planned to take place in April in Paris and will be organized by UNEP. The methodology to introduce and develop SPP in a country follows ideally the proposed steps: Fill in the status assessment, a web based tool that allows to identify where you actually stand regarding SPP and where there are possibilities to improve. After that our implementation plan recommends to undertake a legal review. This analysis of the procurement law helps to identify how far you can go in taking sustainable criteria into account when buying goods and services. The next step is to undertake a market readiness review in order to know which product sector offers already green or sustainable products and which sectors are willing to move in this direction. After having done this, a country should be able to draw its sustainable/green procurement policy or strategy. The next step is training for people engaged in the procurement process. This training is delivered by experts of the MTF and it should enable procurement officials to implement SPP/GPP. After the training the country can start implementing SPP/GPP. The MTF will assist the piloting country during the first year and the country has to give a feedback to the MTF on the progress made.

The pilot training in Argentina and the ToT workshop in South Africa were conducted by the secretariat of the MTF on SPP. The implementation of the approach in the next pilot countries and the organisation of the ToT's will mostly be organised by UNEP. The European Commission has given a grant to UNEP in order to implement the approach in four developing countries and to organise ToT workshops in different regions. UNEP and Switzerland, who leads the MTF on SPP, have signed an MOU on the implementation of this SPP project.

## Resumé

Trained as a biologist, I worked as a private consultant in the field of waste prevention and ecological public procurement. Since 1996 I'm working for the Federal Agency for the environment and since then I'm in charge of the Ecological Procurement Service. My main tasks are: to train procurement officers in taking into account sustainability criteria in the procurement process; to make available ecological product criteria; to work on a code of conduct for procurement entities; to work on the revision of the procurement law; to work in working group that accompanies the implementation of the environmental management scheme in the whole federal administration and since 2005 to chair the MTF on SPP.

**Recommended reading:** (<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/procurement.htm> books, articles, webs