The Lebanese Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan (SCP-NAP) was developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Industry (MoI) and other key partners under the EU funded SwitchMed programme, with advisory services and technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Plan is part of Lebanon’s efforts to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The SCP-NAP (SDG 12.1) prioritizes the mainstreaming of SCP in the industrial sector’s policies and plans and as developed in a participatory and consultative approach.

The industrial sector in Lebanon was considered as a real booster for the financial system and for sustainable employment. It was Lebanon’s shock absorber for the economy that can took in the highest level of turbulence and strife, although the share of the industrial sector in the national economy was small, with less than 10% of Lebanon’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), over the past 10 years. For this reason, the development of its first SCP Action Plan for the Industrial Sector was of high importance and included these objectives:

(i) leapfrogging to socially inclusive Sustainable Consumption and Production practices preserving the environment; (ii) integrating the natural capital and the environment in the core business of Mediterranean companies and (iii) creating a critical mass of citizens for SCP.

Between January and November 2015, the process for the development of the SCP-NAP was based on the ‘Planning for Change’ methodology of UNEP and the 3 key phases:

- Planning: including a Scoping Review covering a stakeholder mapping and a scoping of policies and actions in the industrial sector related to Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- Development: leading to the action plan for the industrial sector in Lebanon, with special focus on the Litani River and Qaraoun Lake;
- Implementation and monitoring of the action plan based on the outputs and activities identified.

Overall objectives

The industrial sector in Lebanon was considered as a real booster for the financial system and for sustainable employment. It was Lebanon’s shock absorber for the economy that can took in the highest level of turbulence and strife, although the share of the industrial sector in the national economy was small, with less than 10% of Lebanon’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), over the past 10 years. For this reason, the development of its first SCP Action Plan for the Industrial Sector was of high importance and included these objectives:

(i) leapfrogging to socially inclusive Sustainable Consumption and Production practices preserving the environment; (ii) integrating the natural capital and the environment in the core business of Mediterranean companies and (iii) creating a critical mass of citizens for SCP.

Operational objectives

The action plan was prepared based on a wide multi-stakeholder consultation process and a scoping review report on national SCP policies and actions and was endorsed by the National Council for the Environment in November 2015. It is hence considered as a nationally validated framework which can be used by the different stakeholders for the implementation of specific activities or sets of activities identified under the three operational objectives.
Adopt Best Available Techniques to promote SCP in the industrial sector:

- Continue the transfer of SCP technologies to industries through demonstration activities;
- Upscale transfer of SCP technologies within industries;
- Identify value chains and green jobs based on the local market’s supply and demand of SCP services in the industrial sector;

Introduce SCP approaches related to the industrial sector in the policy and institutional frameworks:

- Establish an institutional mechanism for implementing SCP at the national level including the follow up on needed legal framework to ensure the adoption of SCP approach;
- Harmonize and promote certification schemes and eco-labels for the providers and consumers of industrial sector in line with SCP approach;
- Implement the priority recommendations of Sustainable Public Procurement Action Plan related to the industrial sector;
- Create additional industrial zones and improve management of existing ones as per National Land Use Master Plan (NLUMP).

Educate and raise awareness of consumers on SCP in the industrial sector:

- Develop the appropriate educational and awareness tools for promoting SCP approaches in the industrial sector at the level of the consumers;
- Strength the linkages between research and industry in the field of SCP.

For more information please contact: Ministry of Environment: B.Sabbagh@moe.gov.lb; UNEP: luc.reuter@un.org

UN Environment Programme

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The EU-funded SwitchMed programme assists eight countries in the southern Mediterranean to switch to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and supports national and regional stakeholders in achieving productive, circular, and sharing economies in the Mediterranean. www.switchmed.eu