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Sustainability in regulatory and institutional frameworks for public procurement in Uganda to advance Market access for green products

Public procurement can be a powerful tool in the promotion of socioeconomic and environmental objectives. As a significant consumer of goods, works and services, governments contribute significantly to the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This contribution through public sector procurement, accounts for more than 30 per cent of GDP in developing countries and between 10 and 15 per cent in developed countries, according to the International Trade Centre.

OPPORTUNITIES: WHY INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT IN UGANDA?

- ▶ The Government of Uganda spends a significant amount of money in its expenditure through public sector procurement with over 55 per cent of its budget allocated to it.
- ▶ Integrating sustainable public procurement promotes inclusive growth.
- ▶ Reduces costs of acquisition through resource efficiency by procuring more efficient and sustainable goods, works or services.
- ▶ Stimulates and encourages innovation and green growth and development of local industries and SMEs through optimal usage of local resources and materials.
- ▶ Creates opportunities (green jobs) for the broadest possible participation by citizens in the public procurement process.
- ▶ Enhances income generation of marginalized sectors of society.
- ▶ Reduces governments' environmental footprints, limits negative social impacts of public procurement and contributes to market transformations.



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★ Integrating Sustainable public procurement in Uganda ★

- ▶ The country's current policies support the integration of sustainable procurement in line with its Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy which identifies sustainable public procurement as one of the potential resource mobilization strategies for the transition to a green economy.
- ▶ Integration of sustainable procurement in the public sector is multi-sectoral and is in line with national interests: Vision 2040 (Sustainable and Equity Development), and National Development plans (Sustainable Wealth Creation).
- ▶ The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development developed a draft National Public-Sector Procurement Policy and integrated sustainability aspects with the support of SWITCH Africa Green Programme
- ▶ The policy promotes sustainable public-sector procurement with emphasis on acquiring goods and services on a whole life cost basis, while taking into consideration environmental and socio-economic issues holistically
- ▶ As a follow up, the Public Procurement and Disposal Act (2003) of Uganda is currently being amended and the bill has provisions on sustainable procurement among the new areas adopted.

★ Gaps: Barriers to Integration of sustainable procurement in Uganda ★

- ▶ Absence or inadequate policy and legal framework for implementing sustainable public procurement
- ▶ Lack of awareness and capacity: understanding on how to incorporate the concept and its associated tools like lifecycle costing etc
- ▶ Governments and institutions perception that sustainable goods and services are expensive
- ▶ Size of the Institution/firm: bigger sized institutions/firms tend to be more willing to participate in sustainable procurement initiatives than MSMEs, who are a majority in Uganda

★ Solutions and strategies to the successful implementation of sustainable public procurement policies ★

- ▶ Review existing policies and legal frameworks to make them conducive and supportive to the implementation of sustainable public procurement
- ▶ Develop a communication strategy that will address all the informational gaps that exist amongst the stakeholders.
- ▶ Move to supply chain management that promotes sustainability across the entire supply chain.
- ▶ Reskill and retool the Public Procurement and Disposal Authority to implement sustainable public sector procurement using life cycle thinking.

SWITCH Africa Green is funded by the European Union and provides policy support to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in their transition to an inclusive green economy. The programme provides financial and technical support for the development of policy frameworks that support the greening of four key sectors: agriculture, integrated waste management, manufacturing and tourism.