



## COUNTRY PROFILE

# THAILAND

### Thailand National Context for SCP and Connection to the Global Agenda

Thailand has long pursued sustainable development, which is aligned with the country's Sufficiency Economy Principle (SEP) that drives its strategy development. Its commitment has included integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participating in United Nations climate change agreements. Thailand presented its first Voluntary National Report (VNR) during the 2017 High-level Political Forum, which covered SDG 12. The country has adopted a number of measures related to sustainable consumption and production and aimed at making progress on SDG 12. Some of the more prominent initiatives include: The Sustainable Consumption and Production Roadmap 2017-2036; the Green Industry Policy and the Green Industry Mark (GIM); the National Master Plan on Waste Management 2016-2021; the Stock Exchange of Thailand's (SET) Corporate Governance Code and the Green Procurement Plan 2017-2022. Cooperation with

the European Union has continued over many years to promote the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, including through the SWITCH-Asia Grants Programme. Currently, one project is ongoing focusing on tourism sustainability.

#### CHALLENGES

- Most efficiency programmes do not yet show desired results in terms of decoupling growth from total resource depletion.
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles is not yet wide-spread, particularly among the growing middle-income bracket of Thailand where consumption rates are growing quickly.
- Reducing impacts from the transport and aviation sector, especially as Thailand is a hub for travel across Southeast Asia.
- Water productivity is low, which is of particular concern in relation to the agricultural and food processing sectors.
- There are limited sustainability and low-carbon policies and initiatives aimed at the automotive industry.
- SMEs continue to lack sufficient access to financial institutions while the also lack awareness on the benefits of investments that promote sustainability.
- Majority of farmers are still using traditional production methods, which have negative environmental impacts. Clean agricultural technology is not affordable.

#### PRIORITIES

- Emphasising production process development, Green Industry certification and integrated solid waste management in the industrial sector.
- Sustainable tourism remains central to Thailand's SCP-related goals as the industry remains important for the country's economic health.
- Promotion of Green Public Procurement and eco-labelling.
- Education and awareness raising remain important for all SCP-related activities.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- SWITCH-Asia can support integration of key national authorities such as national government agencies, research institutions and civil society organisations to further identify priorities as well as promote dialogue on policies.
- Scale-up efforts on integration of SCP-content into the public education system via the Government's 20-year National Education Plan to promote early adoption of sustainable lifestyles and behaviours.
- Expand the use of media to promote SCP awareness among the public.
- Leverage its position as a regional travel hub push for region-wide lower carbon and eco-friendly travel opportunities in collaboration with tour operators, the transport industry (particularly flight carriers) and tourism destinations.
- Expand cooperation with international organisations and institutions that would support and provide recommendations on implementing measures, good practices, creating statistical data and monitoring and evaluation on material footprints and domestic material consumptions in the future.
- Further exploration of innovative finance will help SMEs as well as those involved in the agricultural sector access clean technology.



Ongoing

**TOURLINK**

Moving Thai Tourism towards sustainability through a business led supply chain approach.

Theme: Sustainable Tourism

Thailand



Completed

**DEAR CONSUMERS**

Consumers and Retailers Driving Sustainable Food Market in Thailand

Theme: Agri-Food

Thailand



Completed

**GREENING SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE THAI AUTO INDUSTRIES**

Promoting SCP to the supply chains in the Thai automotive sector

Theme: Transport and Logistics

Thailand



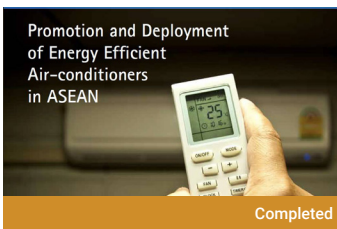
Completed

**AEMAS**

Establishment of the ASEAN Energy Management Scheme

Theme: Multi-industry

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam



Completed

**ASEAN SHINE**

Promotion and deployment of energy efficient air conditioners in ASEAN

Theme: Air-condition Industry

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam



Completed

**ZERO CARBON RESORTS (ZCR) 2.0**

Scaling up zero carbon initiatives and innovative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Theme: Sustainable Tourism

Philippines, Thailand



Completed

**SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS**

Sustainable freight transport and logistics in the Mekong Region

Theme: Transport and Logistics

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam



Completed

**LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION**

Market leaders eliminate lead paint in seven Asian countries

Theme: Multi-industry

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand

