

SWITCH-Asia Multi-stakeholder Consultation in Tajikistan

MEETING REPORT

Dushanbe, Tajikistan • 6 March 2020



The Multi-stakeholder Consultation in Tajikistan has been organised by the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility with the support of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Tajikistan.

ACRONYMS

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CBT	Community-Based Tourism
EC	European Commission
EE	Energy Efficiency
EU	European Union
EUD	Delegation of the European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERES	Groupe Énergies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
MSC	Multi-stakeholders Consultation
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NFP	National Focal Point
RE	Renewable Energy
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SCPF	SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility/ SCP Facility
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement

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BACKGROUND

This report summarises the presentations and discussions that took place at the SWITCH-Asia first Multi-stakeholder Consultation (MSC) on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Tajikistan, organised by the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to Tajikistan.

The event brought together about 50 stakeholders, including policy makers, universities, practitioners, grantees and civil society to discuss challenges and identify national priorities on SCP, ultimately strengthening Tajikistan's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and shifting towards a green and circular economy.

With nearly EUR 280 million in funding since its launch in 2007, SWITCH-Asia is the largest SCP programme supported by the European Union. The second phase of SWITCH-Asia was launched in 2018, and in July 2019, the programme was extended to five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Seven grant projects were awarded to the Central Asian region in 2020 focused on tourism, agri-food and the textile sectors.

The support of the programme in Central Asia is framed around two strategic components:

- The **Grants Scheme** of the programme funds pilot projects helping Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt cleaner technologies and more sustainable industrial practices as well as helping consumers to act more responsibly in their daily choices. The last call for proposal was launched in 2019. 23 new projects were awarded, seven of which in Central Asia;
- The GIZ-led consortium implementing the **Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility (SCP Facility)** is based in Bangkok and Almaty. The SCP Facility aims at providing technical assistance to eligible countries, through technical assistance supporting them in the elaboration and implementation of their national policies related to SCP and green economy. Through the analysis of the results of the pilot projects, the Facility aims also at providing guidance in improving the access to finance and to private-public investments in order to replicate and/or scale-up SCP approaches in the region. Finally, it aims at creating an internal dialogue between the components of the programme ensuring coherence and synergies of activities.

The objectives of this Multi-stakeholders consultation were to:

- Bring the concerned stakeholders together including ministries, business, academia, universities and other key actors at national and sub-national levels and create a productive exchange on needs and priorities;
- Discuss national SCP needs, priorities, challenges and opportunities for action;
- Identify support needed from the SCP Facility to address priorities;
- Define concrete next steps on how to implement the demand that will result from this consultation in further supporting SCP delivery;
- Establish a consultation platform between key stakeholders including ministries, businesses, civil society actors, the National SCP Focal Point, and the EU Delegation to further mainstream and address SCP related issues in the country.



OPENING SESSION

The meeting was opened by **Ashurboy Solehsoda**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Solehsoda drew attention to the extensive use of renewable energy sources, especially water resources, as one of the main sources of green energy generation and the development of a green economy. The potential of solar energy in the Republic of Tajikistan is very important, and according to preliminary calculations is at least one trillion kWh. Mr. Solehsoda stressed the importance of SCP, aiming at greening the products' life cycle, stimulating demand for more environmentally friendly production technologies and products, while assisting consumers in making informed decisions. In this regard, "we are ready for constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with all interested parties", he assured the audience.

Stefano Ellero, Head of Cooperation Section, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Tajikistan stressed the importance of this first National Multi-stakeholder Consultation and the alignment of SWITCH-Asia's objectives not only to urgent EU environmental priorities but also to those concerning Tajikistan. He referred to the major policy frameworks the EU has developed towards SCP, such as the various directives on resource efficiency,

green economy, circular economy and plastics. While current challenges persist in the process of moving towards a circular economy and adopting SCP practices, mainstreaming SCP tools and practices in relevant policies, greening the supply chain, inducing responsible consumption behaviour and production processes while supporting well-defined and targeted communication and education strategies, remain high-level national priorities for providing needed opportunities for effective transformative actions.

The **EU Strategy for Central Asia** adopted last June was also highlighted as critical to supporting Central Asia in engaging in higher environmental standards encouraging the region to move away from linear production models to a circular economy, in which the value of products is retained as long as possible and where waste and emissions of carbon are minimised.

Finally, participants were encouraged to follow on next calls for proposals by the EU and to submit projects to SWITCH-Asia grants scheme to further promote SCP in Tajikistan through relevant pilot projects in the country.



DUSHANBE SERENA HOTEL

INTRODUCTION SESSION

SWITCH-Asia programme and SCP approach as an enabler to green economy and sustainable development

Zulfira Zikrina, Key Expert for Central Asia, on behalf of Arab Hoballah, Team Leader, EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility opened the first session.

This session emphasised the importance of switching to SCP and the uniqueness of the SWITCH-Asia programme in addressing current environmental challenges and raising people's awareness of the benefits of switching to SCP practices. The main message was aimed at explaining the integrated approach and the relationship between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and their coherence when implementing the green economy in Tajikistan. A tool such as eco-innovation has to be used to promote the application of sustainable business practices along value chains to focus on sectors with the highest potential for decoupling. Moreover, since SCP is by essence cross-cutting, all relevant stakeholders should be included throughout the process with the elaboration and the implementation of a SCP Action Plan. The MSC is aimed at better understanding Tajikistan's SCP needs and creating a potential platform in which stakeholders can collaborate effectively.

Outcomes of the SCP assessment, status, challenges and needs

In this session, **Zulfira Zikrina** introduced the outcomes of the SCP assessment initially prepared in June 2019.

In Tajikistan, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, State Committee on Investment and State Property Management, Committee of Tourism and others are working on issues relevant to SCP. The concept on transitioning to a green economy is under development. A series of concepts and programmes related to SCP were adopted such as the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan until 2030, the international decade of action on «Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028», as well as the Strategy of Tourism Development till 2030. The Green Climate Fund financed Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted on 10/02/2019. From a desk assessment, potential priority areas where the SCP Facility could provide technical assistance include: diversification of

agriculture into environmentally friendly products, using "green technologies" in irrigation, food security and people's access to good quality nutrition, energy efficiency and energy saving standards in the construction and re-construction of buildings, as well as the effective use of secondary resources such as municipal waste, sewage water/sludge.



KEY MESSAGES

- 1** Identify national challenges and finding innovative ways to overcome them.
- 2** Clearly define national priorities for promoting SCP in general and sectors for needed technical assistance in particular.
- 3** Mainstream SCP in other national programmes and implementation of SCP tools in practice.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES RELATED TO SCP IN TAJIKISTAN

The Role of Green Economy in Sustainable Development



The first speaker, **Tavakal Malikov**, Head of Social Sector Development Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan noted that a transition to a more sustainable development through the promotion of green economy approaches is one of the main priorities for Tajikistan in the medium-and long-term period. International organisations provided a broader experience in the preparation of the green economy concept. Now this document is in the final stage of the discussion. Some of the directions of the concept are closely linked to the development of energy. In Tajikistan, 98% of electricity is generated by hydropower. Therefore, the country is ranked 135th in the world due to its Greenhouse gas emissions, which is a valuable contribution of Tajikistan to improving the environmental situation of the region and the planet.

The second speaker, **Quentin Moreau**, Central Asia Regional Director, GERES showed in his presentation the interconnection between SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and SDG 7 (ensure access to affordable and stainable energy) to reduce energy intensity and GHG emissions and contribute to the aspiration of Tajikistan to reach carbon neutrality. The significant advantage in Tajikistan is its high potential for hydropower production kWh per square km in the world. Quentin Moreau informed about two ongoing SWITCH-Asia grant projects –



[Housing Energy Efficiency in Kabul, Afghanistan & Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia](#). Main activities in these projects are connected to reducing heat losses and corresponding energy bills, access to green loans, energy auditing, norms & standards. GERES is working on related SCP patterns in Tajikistan, namely, the implementation of passive solar techniques, low energy consumption houses, bio-climatic cellars installation, among others. Majority of these services are provided to people living in rural areas in order for them to improve their living conditions.



Vaysidin Saidov, from the Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), introduced the newly awarded SWITCH-Asia grant project REAP - Resource efficiency in Agri-food Production and Processing. This project promotes SCP practices in the agri-food production and processing industries along the entire supply chain. Furthermore, it develops business case for resource efficiency measures by MSMEs, while promoting ecoefficiency based on international

standards and supporting companies in presenting bankable projects to financial institutions. Training will also be provided to MSMEs on suitable financial instruments for SCP solutions. The expected results of the project include:

- 400 MSMEs improved their SCP measures and technologies,
- 4 clusters are prepared to support SCP after the project completion,
- 20 national and regional policy makers, advisors and government bodies and institutions trained on SCP.



KEY MESSAGES

1

Further work on SCP linked to implementation of Green economy concept, mainstreaming SCP in other relevant programmes and action plans.

2

Monitor implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to meet international obligations of the Republic of Tajikistan.

3

Increase the role of MSMEs and support for their activity from the Government.



FRAMING SCP NEEDS AND ACTIONS OF THE TOP THREE SELECTED PRIORITIES

A Model for Sustainable Tourism in Central Asia: Building Capacities, Creating Awareness, Introducing Technology

Fattokh Fayzullaev, from the Tajik Association for Promotion of Tourism Development presented the project “A Model for Sustainable Tourism in Central Asia: Building Capacities, Creating Awareness, Introducing Technology”. The aim of this project is to promote sustainable tourism in Tajikistan and other countries in Central Asia through the implementation of ISO standards related to green procurement and eco-labelling. The project also elaborates Guidelines on sustainable consumption, including usage of water, energy and recyclable waste, and promotes the sharing of EU best practices such as legislative frameworks and regulations, while applying needed ICT and marketing tools. Mr. Fayzullaev explained, such initiative can greatly contribute to preserving and strengthening the local culture, heritage and traditions of the Tajik people while at the same time protecting the natural environment.



Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the community-based tourism sector in Central Asia



Sergey Chutkov, Country Director of ACTED in Tajikistan, presented the project “Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production in the community-based tourism sector in Central Asia”. The aim of this project is to promote transition of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to a low carbon economy by adapting and introducing new resource and energy efficiency (RE-EE) solutions by technology providers and facilitating access to green finance to scale up new technologies and SCP solutions in the touristic sector. The project will also develop a “Green hostels” model by implementing SCP practices such as local eco-standards, an eco-certification scheme, taking a value-chain approach and resource efficiency. Mr. Chutkov explained, the main impact of this initiative will be the increased capacity of MSMEs in the RE-EE sector to develop business and technical skills, marketing and awareness raising within the tourism sector, increased demand for energy efficient and renewable energy technologies among the CBT sector.

Potential Priority areas:

- Eco-tourism development;
- Greening a supply chain in agri-food sector and development of MSMEs using good agriculture practices;
- Improving value chains in the textile industry starting from the raw materials to final products.

Participants were divided into three groups to allow for detailed discussions on chosen key priorities.

Each group presented their outcomes, key messages and the identified way forward to the plenary.

Group discussion:

- Eco-tourism development, including resource management, clustering in tourism sector;
- Supply chain in agri-food sector and development of MSMEs using good agriculture practices;
- Value chain in the textile industry - from raw materials to final products.

Eco-tourism development, including resource management, clustering in tourism sector



The group was moderated by **Fattokh Fayzullaev**, Tajik Association for Promotion of Tourism Development. Discussions focused on applying a cluster approach for the identification of touristic zones and separating them depending on a common tourist infrastructure. Improvement of infrastructure within the eco-tourism sector is also directly connected to reducing the volume of waste, especially plastics, the installation of bio-toilets on eco-tourist routes, and lighting solutions at guest houses. Special attention should be given to the preparation of educational programme packages, involving universities during projects' implementation and launching awareness raising campaigns.

Identified challenges:

- Insufficient use of tourism potential and touristic zones in Tajikistan;
- Lack of understanding on how to involve MSMEs and local community in the tourism sector;
- Lack of information for eco-tourist routes at the local level.

Identified opportunities:

- The country's unique natural landscape in each region allows for the development of a cluster approach for wild eco-tourism in Tajikistan;
- Creation of new jobs for the rural population and their involvement in the infrastructure of the tourism business.

Actions to be taken:

- Increase the culture of local communities by providing local services such as guest houses, traditional cooking, selling national branded products;
- Create a safe environment when developing eco-tourism routes;
- Equip ecological tourist routes and recreation areas with basic environmental requirements.

Recommendations:

- Preparation of marketing plan in the tourism sector and the use of a cluster approach for eco-tourism zones;
- Provide training programmes for all target groups, working with Makhala (local authorities);
- Create an infrastructure along eco-tourism routes, including collection of consumers' waste, sorting it, installation of bio-toilets, together with placing banners with instructions for tourists.

Supply chain in the agri-food sector and development of MSMEs using good agriculture practices

The group discussion was moderated by **Nazarov Shuhratjon**, Technological University of Tajikistan. Discussions focused on organic agriculture, the certification of MSMEs, the adaptation of quality management systems for the implementation of best agriculture practices, the analysis of raw materials and food products and methods of calculation of their nutritional value.

Identified challenges:

- Production of food that fully meets health parameters, finding new sources of raw materials, implementation of new food production technologies;

- Lack of knowledge of appropriate technological processes;
- Lack of a quality management system in the field of food safety for local products.



Identified opportunities:

- Tajikistan's food industry has a strong and promising raw material base. This industry has a huge export potential;
- Increase demand on the world market for most types of organic products produced by MSMEs such as fruits and vegetables, juices, various pastes, among others.

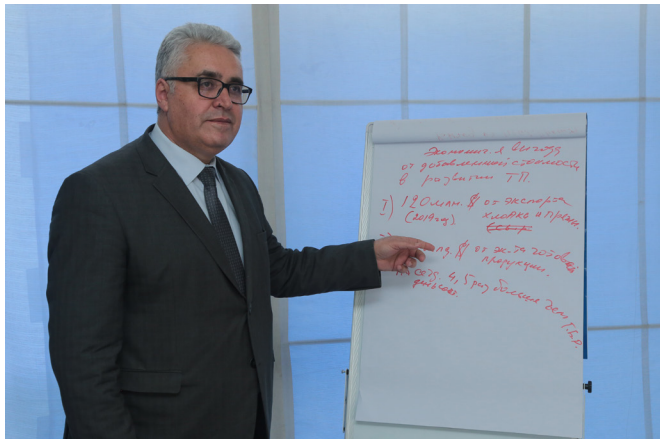
Actions to be taken:

- Strengthen the collaboration between Government and MSMEs;
- Adapt global quality management systems in farms to ensure the safety of raw materials and products;
- Implementation of ISO standards for eco-labelling of goods, technological processes for processing products ensuring safety.

Value chains in the textile industry - from the raw materials to final products

This group was moderated by **Tavakal Malikov**, Head of Social Sector Development Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan. It was mentioned that only 20% of yarn is going to product, 80% is exported as a semi-product (intermediate). From the economic point of view, selling cotton fibre in the current stage allows to only get USD 20 million. It would be a far more attractive market for the economy of Tajikistan to sell finished products which could

potentially generate USD 12 billions per year. Thus, the country has to revitalise its value chain, starting from the production of raw materials to the production of final products. Production cycles like spinning, weaving, dyeing and sewing of products are an increased added value.



Identified challenges:

- Lack of international practices aiming at adding value throughout the entire life cycle of products in the textile industry;
- Limited use of resource efficiency technology concerning water management, chemicals, and paints;

- Lack of knowledge among the rural population of production processes of national brands.

Identified opportunities:

- Benefitting the population in rural areas, especially women, by involving them in production processes and contributing to poverty reduction in Tajikistan;
- Integrating MSMEs in supply chains and supporting consumer awareness on SCP.

Actions to be taken:

- Mitigation of environmental impacts and carbon emissions, through the adoption of sustainable production improvements across the manufacturing supply chains, including natural dyeing techniques;
- Access to MSMEs in the value chain, where many of the production processes are occurring in community households.





CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Referring to the various presentations, the outcomes from the three working groups and related interactive discussions, the following recommendations and follow up actions should guide and structure policy actions and priority sectors on which the Government of Tajikistan could focus, as well as the expected technical assistance that the EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility could consider providing.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- SCP activities will be contributing to the implementation of the Green Economy Concept, the Low Carbon Development Strategy, and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals relevant to SCP.
- Best practices and technologies from chosen sectors, in particular the agri-food sector, will be implemented and information will be exchanged between grant projects with similar activities, both in the region and with the countries of South and Southeast Asia;
- With regards to the textile industry, main activities should focus on improving and adding value to national products, as well as to enter external markets;

- Eco-tourism routes should be developed with proper infrastructure and packages of services for MSMEs should be created leveraging on international experiences and strengthened partnerships among interested stakeholders;
- Awareness raising and information campaigns are strongly recommended throughout all stages of the activities, with adequate information made accessible to concerned stakeholders.

Follow-up Activities

Follow-up activities might include, but are not limited to:

- The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan will prepare a specific demand letter addressed to the EU Delegation asking to provide technical assistance on the above issues.
- The SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility will then prepare a related concept note and terms of references for a plan of activities, before moving to the effective implementation with concerned partners.
- The main focus will be on the exchange of relevant experiences and good practices from other countries, considering regional Central Asia activities such as green public procurement, eco-labelling and circular economy.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: [Brochure and Agenda](#)
- Annex 2: [Press Release](#)
- Annex 3: [Presentations](#)
- Annex 4: [Photos](#)