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# ASEAN SCP FRAMEWORK

## Implementation Mechanism



**APRSCP**  
ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE  
FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

## Contact

Zinaida Fadeeva  
Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component  
[zinaida@switch-asia.eu](mailto:zinaida@switch-asia.eu)

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# Contents

|                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword: The ASEAN Secretariat .....            | 4  |
| Foreword: ASOEN Chairman .....                   | 5  |
| Foreword from The European Union.....            | 6  |
| Abbreviations .....                              | 7  |
| I. Introduction .....                            | 8  |
| II. SCP in the ASEAN .....                       | 8  |
| III. Development of the ASEAN SCP Framework..... | 10 |
| IV. ASEAN SCP Framework.....                     | 11 |
| V. Implementation .....                          | 19 |
| VI. Way Forward .....                            | 21 |
| Appendix A .....                                 | 23 |
| Appendix B .....                                 | 26 |

## Foreword: The ASEAN Secretariat

Promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is the centrepiece of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12. Broadly, this refers to the responsible use of services and products, while efficiently using the planet's limited natural resources and generating less wastes and pollutants so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations.

Over the years, SCP has been recognised as a key development priority among the ASEAN Member States and various cooperation partners. For instance, the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, adopted on 22 November 2007, called for stronger SCP cooperation between ASEAN and the EU.

In 2015, ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, which encourages stronger regional cooperation to further champion SCP to contribute in the region's transition to circular economy. The ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education under guidance of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment, was set to oversee the strengthening of SCP cooperation in the region, while promoting collaboration and information sharing with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Working Groups. Several activities were carried out, especially in building regional and local capacities for the Member States through the ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Programme.

In the last few years, SCP has become a significant cooperation priority for ASEAN and its partners as highlighted during the *ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the UN Secretary-General and President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly* on 29 September 2019 and the *5th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* on 31 March 2021. Furthermore, the *16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment* on 22 October 2021 and the *29th ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting* on 11 February 2022 recognised that collective regional actions are still needed to address cross-cutting environmental issues, including mainstreaming SCP and circular economy.

The ASEAN SCP Framework was developed as a guide for the region to promote more sustainable food systems, establish best practices on green products and procurement, and support sustainable lifestyles in urban and rural settings. The Framework not only provides targeted actions, but also lays down opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among the Member States and partners. Multi-stakeholder cooperation is crucial in this regional endeavour with the shift towards a more resource efficient society requiring collaborative efforts along the supply chain, involving governments, private sector, and civil society.

The development of the ASEAN SCP Framework would not be possible without the inputs from all the Member States as well as the support of the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Similarly, all these efforts would not be achieved without the leadership of Indonesia, as the lead country on ASEAN SCP cooperation. I look forward to seeing concrete actions and innovative solutions implemented by all Member States as the region operationalises this essential Framework. I hope we can continue to forge a closer cooperation to build a more caring, prosperous, and sustainable ASEAN community.



**H.E. EKKAPHAB PHANTHAVONG**

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

## Foreword: ASOEN Chairman

At the outset, I would like to convey my sincere thanks and highest appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the effective coordination in preparing contents for this document. Sincere appreciations are also due to UNEP Asia Pacific's technical support through its Policy Support Component of EU Switch-Asia II project, as well as to the expert team of Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP). As we all might be aware, the ASEAN SCP Framework publication is very timely manner, amid the period where we face global challenges to mobilize efforts to build back better, while developing a more sustainable society.

Without SCP, SDGs cannot be achieved. SCP is indeed seen as having a pivotal role in addressing the issues and challenges that we will face in the coming years. With an already large population growing and limited resources and land, conserving a resource base, especially for food systems, will be of utmost importance in the development process. The increasing demand on products and services is already putting pressure on resources and the environment. Hence, changing consumption and production patterns must be part of our lives. Each of us must also live up to our respective commitments that SCP is a universal and central condition to the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On that note, the ASEAN SCP Framework aims to guide regional efforts in SCP implementation in the advancement of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDG12. In line with the Vision 2025 and 2030 Agenda, this Framework also recognizes the importance of SCP in the sustainable growth and development of the region. Accordingly, Indonesia, as the lead country for ASEAN Cooperation on SCP under the purview of ASOEN through AWGEE, cautiously takes the task to advancing development while simultaneously keep sustainable consumption, production, and green recovery as one of the country's top priorities. Several significant progresses have been achieved, including

(i) the country has updated the 10 Year National Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Programme for 2020-2030 that includes a framework of strategy and its guidelines of actions in achieving SCP; (ii) establishing online platform for Indonesian SCP community of practices to facilitate multi-stakeholders' cooperation, as well as (iii) implementing Indonesian SCP Guideline for Action, that provides a uniting reference for SCP actions that are doable, easy to understand, and inclusive for government offices, community groups and businesses.

All in all, the ASEAN SCP Framework strengthens synergies and brings all networks together for greater collective impact through multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaborations towards a common goal that guide implementation and align actions on SCP, circular economy, and related themes.

**DR. AGUS JUSTIANTO**  
ASOEN Chairman Indonesia

## Foreword from The European Union

At the end of 2019, the European Union (EU) launched the “European Green Deal” - Europe’s new growth strategy that serves as Europe’s roadmap to support the transition to a climate-neutral and more sustainable economy.

The “European Green Deal” does not exclusively focus on Europe. It has an important external dimension, and it is complementary with EU’s ambition to tackle global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and stronger supply chains with investments and partnerships, as promoted through the Global Gateway.

The EU is committed to working with all our partners around the globe, including ASEAN, and to engage with the region to work on an equal footing by forging ‘mutually acceptable’ standards between the EU and ASEAN. One of our goals is to work together with ASEAN Member States to develop environmentally sustainable economic pathway, including through sustainable and resilient value chains.

The EU, through the SWITCH-Asia programme, cooperates with ASEAN countries on the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies and activities. These policies contribute to the eight interlinked pillars under the European Green Deal, and in particular are applicable to pillar five on ‘circular economy’.

In addition, SCP implementation contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are embodied in the ASEAN-EU Action Plan 2018-2022, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, and the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

The EU and ASEAN have shared goals and visions on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). Specifically, in the spirit of SDG Goal 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), the SWITCH-Asia program aims to accelerate the transition of ASEAN countries to a low carbon, resource efficient and circular economy, engaging the industrial sector, consumers, financial institutions, and national governments.

Some tangible developments include the approved SCP Road Maps, along with the SCP Blueprints for Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, in key areas such as green public procurement, eco-labelling, eco-innovation, tourism, and sustainable lifestyles.

Furthermore, the SWITCH-Asia programme has also been supporting other ASEAN Member States in the Lower Mekong region, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, in preparing their National Action Plans on SCP.

Mainstreaming circular economy principles and promoting SCP activities throughout ASEAN countries will increase collaborative actions that yield concrete results to support green growth and resilience to move the whole region towards a pollution-free and sustainable ASEAN community.

The latest tangible achievement of SWITCH-Asia in the South East Asia region is the preparation and publication of this ASEAN SCP Framework, which is a key step for ASEAN Member States to mainstream SCP and circular economy principles into a regional action plan. It will assist a variety of stakeholders in each of the ten ASEAN Member States in designing and implementing specific policy-oriented activities and approaches to promote sustainable development and a shift toward a clean, just energy - resource efficient, climate neutral, climate resilient, circular economies, and a rich biodiversity ecosystem Southeast Asia region.

These objectives fall perfectly in line with all related ASEAN Blueprints, the external dimension of the European Green Deal, and the global Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the European Union will make it a priority to support ASEAN’s endeavors to reach them.

## Abbreviations

|                 |                                                                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10YFP</b>    | 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP                                 |
| <b>ACSDSD</b>   | ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue          |
| <b>ACSS</b>     | ASEAN Community Statistical System                                     |
| <b>AMS</b>      | ASEAN Member States                                                    |
| <b>APRSCP</b>   | Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production      |
| <b>ASEC</b>     | ASEAN Secretariat                                                      |
| <b>ASOEN</b>    | ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment                                  |
| <b>AWGCME</b>   | ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment                  |
| <b>AWGCW</b>    | ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste                             |
| <b>AWGEE</b>    | ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education                         |
| <b>AWGESC</b>   | ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities              |
| <b>COVID-19</b> | Coronavirus disease 2019                                               |
| <b>EU</b>       | European Union                                                         |
| <b>GPP</b>      | Green Public Procurement                                               |
| <b>PPP</b>      | Public-Private Partnership                                             |
| <b>RPAC</b>     | Regional Policy Advocacy Component                                     |
| <b>SCP</b>      | Sustainable Consumption and Production                                 |
| <b>SDG</b>      | Sustainable Development Goals                                          |
| <b>SME</b>      | Small and Medium Enterprises                                           |
| <b>UNEP</b>     | United Nations Environment Programme                                   |
| <b>UNESCAP</b>  | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |

## I. Introduction

1. Sustainable development is central to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The *ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025* calls for the integration of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) strategy and best practices into national and regional policies. Likewise, the *ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025* envisions a dynamic, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth in the region supported by innovation, research and development, green technology, connectivity, and human development, among others.

2. In response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the ASEAN has adopted the *ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework* at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, with five broad strategies focusing on recovery and beyond to safeguard lives, livelihoods and build resilience. The Recovery Framework upholds the triple bottom line perspective put forward in the ASEAN Vision 2025 for a sustainable future. Its fifth broad strategy, in particular, emphasizes the role of multi-stakeholder action and sustainable development goals (SDGs) in advancing towards an inclusive and resilient future. Governments, private sector and civil society will each have to play a role and work together in the path to recovery and resilience. The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework also recognizes that this transition will require a systemic change, letting go of traditional growth models and business-as-usual.

3. The path of growth and development of ASEAN becomes clear considering the urgency for a sustainable and resilient future, and the region's pledge that no one is left behind. Sustainable consumption and production will play a critical role in achieving these goals. The way resources are used, goods are produced, and products are consumed need to respect planetary boundaries. Decisive policies, guidance, frameworks and action plans that equally focus on people, planet and profit will support a paradigm shift towards sustainability.

4. The ASEAN SCP Framework is envisioned to be an enabler in the progress towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in the region. This recognizes the need for actions to be undertaken across all stakeholders, building on the gains and progress that have been made in the decades of SCP implementation in the region. A regional framework will provide the push for complementary and dynamic actions across the region, and collaborative environment for public-private partnerships and community involvement on SCP and ASEAN Vision 2025.

5. This overarching framework for sustainable consumption and production will bring together the vast SCP elements and experiences for a greater impact in ASEAN. The long history of SCP implementation in the region, together with key partners, supported the development of the technical side of sustainable production through cleaner production and resource efficiency, policies on SCP and thematic areas like green growth through policy support and capacity building, and grassroots engagement on sectoral areas like tourism. SCP and SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) targets will benefit from a regional approach because production, consumption and pollution challenges between AMS share similarities. Accelerated progress can be achieved through regional cooperation, and knowledge sharing, good practices and concerted action.

## II. SCP in the ASEAN

6. As the region continues to urbanize, industrialize and develop into higher income countries, natural resources and the environment are under immense pressure from these transformations. The demand for food, water and energy are rising, and all these basic needs depend on and affect our natural capital from exhaustive extraction and utilization of resources to serving as a dumping ground for waste and emissions. The gains from economic growth can only be inclusive, resilient and sustainable when it considers human and natural capital. Growth and development in the region need to be safeguarded by implementing broader SCP measures, innovative circular business models, efficient production systems and sustainable capital investments.

7. Recent years saw ASEAN Member States (AMS) interpret and implement SCP with a focus on the social dimension in addition to the ongoing thematic programs, such as energy efficiency, green growth, and cleaner production. Governments recognize the potential for sustainable products and lifestyles and promoting consumer awareness on sustainable consumption. Government programs and other initiatives



also begin to push for green public procurement and ecolabelling schemes as well as corporate sustainability reporting to encourage both manufacturers to produce with less resources and hazardous components, and consumers and government to consider sustainable products. As economic growth and income continues to support poverty alleviation and greater social mobility, improving lifestyles and purchasing power open up for increasing consumption and waste generation. This social dimension is particularly important in light of the development needs of the region as many are in the lower-middle income segment that have more infrastructure and social services to fulfill along with economic growth prospects. Sustainable lifestyles and consumption will be an increasingly valuable approach in the region that can balance the demands of the growing population and prosperity.

8. The growing emphasis on sustainable consumption in several policies and sectors in AMS complements the various established SCP thematic programs in the region. However, lack of capacity, data, financing, supporting institutions and institutional mechanisms are commonly cited barriers to implementing SCP in the region (please refer to Section 2 of the Scoping Document and the Country Briefs). For example, data collection and monitoring appear to be vital challenges among countries when reporting SDG targets and indicators. Beyond the technical difficulties in setting up and maintaining data collection and monitoring systems, identifying information to be collected and adopting global reporting frameworks may be a barrier to national statistics offices in charge of providing these data. The ASEAN SCP Framework proposes to address similar common challenges in the ASEAN to equally emphasize sustainable production, sustainable consumption and its supporting components in the proposed specific goals of the framework and corresponding action lines (Part IV).

9. At the regional level, the ASEAN incorporates elements of SCP in specific sectoral action plans and initiatives, such as the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris, ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development, ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation, ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan, ASEAN Declaration on Green Jobs, and the upcoming ASEAN Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and Framework on Circular Economy for ASEAN Economic Community. These plans come from different sectors with specific Working Groups or ASEAN Bodies taking the initiative, usually with a key partner in the region supporting its implementation. The Framework of Action on Complementarities between ASEAN Roadmap and UN SDGs provided an important output in the region in identifying crosscutting areas between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and 2030 Agenda to drive actions towards regional and global goals. On a broader scale, the Asia Pacific Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, prepared with the support of UNESCAP, also provides suggestions on areas for cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

10. The ASEAN recognizes SCP as crucial in the recovery phase from the COVID-19 as well as in realizing ASEAN Vision 2025. Considering the vast challenges of each country and development priorities, country-specific approaches, policies may be the more usual route in pursuing for the widespread implementation of SCP. As the SDGs, 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) and Asia Pacific Roadmap for implementing 2030 Agenda suggest, actions towards sustainable development need multi-stakeholder cooperation, and these actions are needed on a global, regional, sub-regional, national and local scale. This SCP Framework reflects common areas at the ASEAN level where regional cooperation and collaborative work can support SCP implementation.

11. In the ASEAN system, the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) implements work plans on specific environmental concerns, including those of cross-sectoral nature such SCP issues, across seven Working Groups. The ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE) currently holds the mandate regarding ASEAN actions on SCP under the ASOEN, particularly in strengthening public-private partnership (PPP) and enhancing awareness on SCP practices. Other Working Groups in ASOEN with ongoing or past work on concerns related to SCP include:

- a. ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste (AWGCW) on plastic waste and circular economy,
- b. ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) on solid waste, and
- c. ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) on marine plastic debris.

12. Key partners in the region have also been instrumental in implementing SCP in the region through financial, technical and policy support. For example, the UN Environment Programme, in close collaboration with global partners, has been promoting principles of sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency, and their roles in accelerating and scaling up this action for global impact a transformative change. The SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) based in Bangkok is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The SWITCH-Asia RPAC promotes the uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in Asia as well as the transition to a more circular economy as a road to transformation to an economic system that uses natural resources in the most efficient way, preserves the value of materials and products by using them circularly, and reduces the negative impact of economic activities on the environment and health.

### III. Development of the ASEAN SCP Framework

13. Indonesia, being the lead coordinating country for ASEAN cooperation on SCP, took the initiative to initiate collaboration with the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Programme, Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) in partnership with UNEP and the Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) to develop an ASEAN SCP Framework.

14. As a preparatory activity, a scoping document “Mapping SCP in ASEAN Countries” was prepared and presented in a virtual consultation on March 17, 2021. The scoping document identified existing SCP policy frameworks and common SCP themes in AMS; analyzed the challenges and opportunities for an ASEAN SCP Framework and presented an outline of the project approach. The consultation yielded valuable feedback from the ASEAN Member States that were considered in the preparation of the ASEAN ACP Framework:

- a. SCP implementation entails collaborative work as it cuts across many sectors and themes. Actions in cooperation among ASOEN Working Groups and with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders will feature in this Framework to gain various perspectives, avoid duplication of efforts and widen the reach of SCP. This approach recognizes the vast regional and national SCP programs and projects supported by key partners in the region, and enhances their ongoing contribution through the development of a focused work plan.
- b. As SCP in ASEAN continue to progress, recent implementations have realized the importance of stakeholder involvement and the social dimension of SCP. Sustainable lifestyles and consumption present opportunities for community action for sustainability. Implementing SCP from policy to practice will challenge how SCP is interpreted and implemented, and regional guidance will be key to steering accelerated progress and impact of SCP.
- c. Another challenge to implementing a regional SCP framework is the interpretation of goals for key priorities. As the Scoping Document highlighted, the AMS are in various stages of development and with different priorities. The Framework proposes specific objectives and actions on key priorities that focus on low-hanging fruits, building the regional capacity for broader actions after the initial implementation period of four years.

15. Following the presentation of the scoping document and virtual consultation, an online survey (**Appendix A**) was administered among various stakeholders in the AMS to gather views on SCP priorities and tools for consideration to the ASEAN SCP Framework. Based on the result of the survey and data analysis, waste management and recycling, sustainable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and consumption of natural resources are the key SCP priorities; whereas sustainable lifestyles, green growth (and similar themes), and sustainable public procurement are the top SCP tools that could address sustainability challenges in the region. In addition, survey respondents also noted the need to prioritize sustainable agriculture and food systems in the region and strengthen institutional capacities to support SCP implementation.

16. Discussions and consultations (**Appendix B**) were likewise conducted among SCP practitioners and experts, and key stakeholders in the region through the 15<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP with the theme of *Green Recovery in Asia Pacific*. The roundtable facilitated the exchange of important insights and practical knowledge to the formation of an ASEAN SCP Framework. Foremost, the roundtable acknowledged the current pandemic as a reflection of the unsustainable way of life that persists, consuming natural resources, polluting beyond the absorptive capacity of planet, and encroaching on fragile ecosystems to support

humanity. As such, sustainability principles need to be practiced in production and consumption in the natural, built, financial and digital environments. This much needed transformation has been laid out in the various global agreements from Rio to Paris, and concrete actions to accelerate this transformation are needed from financing green sectors and decarbonizing investment portfolios to implementing resource efficiency and reducing plastic pollution.

## IV. ASEAN SCP Framework

17. The goal of the ASEAN SCP Framework is to drive regional efforts in SCP implementation in the advancement of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDG12. In line with the Vision 2025 and 2030 Agenda, this Framework recognizes the importance of SCP in the sustainable growth and development of the region. Scaling up SCP implementation in the region will also strengthen and support the regional response to relevant emerging issues, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is widely regarded as a consequence of unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

18. The transition to sustainability needs to happen now, and this can be achieved foremost through substantial, comprehensive and engaging education campaigns on sustainable consumption and production across all stakeholders to create awareness and expand capabilities in addressing sustainability issues. Sustainability is a responsibility of all stakeholders, producers and consumers, regulators and businesses. Cultivating PPP and designing programmatic work on sectoral themes can build and accelerate actions for sustainability. Multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaborations towards a common goal can guide implementation and align actions on SCP, circular economy and related themes.

19. To this end, the ASEAN SCP Framework will strengthen synergies and bring all networks together for greater collective impact through:

- a. active engagement among intergovernmental and governmental agencies, businesses, and civil society, and community groups within ASEAN in SCP Practices, and
- b. knowledge management within ASEAN, AMS and regional partners for mutual support in upscaling technical capabilities and expertise, and accelerating progress in SCP.

### SCP Goals and Priorities

20. The thorough consultation process (Chapter III) undertaken identified challenges in SCP implementation and key priorities for the ASEAN SCP Framework (herein shall be referred to as the “Framework”). From the mapping exercise, virtual consultations, survey and expert discussions, four specific goals are proposed for regional action.

- a. **Measure and support progress in SDG12.** Data supports a systematic process of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation that is responsive to national and regional challenges. The ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Baseline Report 2020 represents a milestone and a step forward in the efforts of ASEAN in assessing progress particularly as it has almost been seven years into the fifteen-year timeline of the SDGs. The lack of baseline information on SDG12 (sustainable consumption and production) presents a significant hurdle to accurately assess national and regional performance against targets and indicators. In addition, this lack of data impedes the monitoring and evaluation process in project or policy cycles. At a time when urgent actions for a transition to sustainability and recovery are called for, plans need to optimize the use of resources in implementing this change. Such baseline data can include, for instance, standardized reporting on resource use of AMS economies (through economy-wide material flow accounting). The same baseline data can be the basis of the next stage of implementation of the ASEAN SCP Framework, going from an initial four-year period to perhaps a medium-term timeframe, ensuring expedient use of limited resources.
- b. **Increase productivity and decrease losses in food systems.** Waste management and recycling, and consumption of natural resources are two of the top three key priorities in the region based on the survey (Appendix A) conducted. While plastic waste presents a significant challenge for waste management and recycling in the region, this Framework acknowledges the comprehensive approach of the existing ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris in addressing this issue. To avoid replication of effort,

a supporting role may be sought by the SCP Framework, for instance, in sustainable consumption and consumer awareness that could fit in item (d) Promote sustainable lifestyles in urban and rural settings.

As such, the ASEAN SCP Framework proposes to highlight the need to address food loss and food waste as a representation of both waste management and resource consumption. Many survey respondents specify the need to improve agriculture and food production systems as the region continue to face challenges on food supply, nutrition and climate change. Intensive agriculture and food production systems, cropland expansion and associated land use changes affect the environment, natural resources and biodiversity, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. With climate change, agriculture and the environment will be under more stress to provide the basic needs of the region. This challenge on food supply is further magnified considering the food loss and food waste in the region is among the highest in the world particularly at the farm, distribution, handling and storage stages in the food cycle. Increasing agricultural productivity and decreasing food waste and food loss in the food production system will provide significant socioeconomic and environmental gains in the region where agriculture remains vital to the economy. The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint discusses the food and agriculture sector (aquaculture, livestock and horticulture) in light of food security and food safety concerns, and health and environmental issues. Furthermore, it states the need to “Identify infrastructure investment requirements to increase production and reduce post-production losses”, and “Promote good agriculture practices to minimise the negative effects on natural resources”.

- c. Establish good practices for green products and guidelines for Green Public Procurement (GPP).** Small and medium enterprises provide significant employment and economic output in the ASEAN region, and a shift to sustainability will involve significant support to this sector as well as collaboration among the players. SMEs and microenterprises face immense challenges in complying with national regulations and trade requirements. Participation in global trade will require that ASEAN SMEs comply with country or region-specific regulations on products, which increasingly includes environmental criteria. Moreover, national policies in AMS often feature green industry, energy efficiency and clean technology among others. As ASEAN is one of the largest economies and manufacturing centers in the global supply chain, awareness and foresight on global agreements and labeling schemes can be a competitive advantage in pursuing broader trade relations. Advances in technologies and regulations will increasingly demand greater capacity building for government agencies and the private sector to comply and advance national regulations and practices as well. Major investing countries in the region such as Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and China have a national version of labelling schemes, while the World Trade Organization addresses both compulsory and voluntary labelling schemes. Taking a regional approach in strengthening the capabilities of SMEs to adopt sustainable business and production practices through introduction of good practices for selected green products will both benefit the region as it increases its manufacturing and global trade capacity, and the governments in improving resource use and environmental management. This approach can be accompanied by an enabling policy and regulatory environment from easing access to finance, developing capabilities for technology and innovation, enhancing human resources and skills development and promoting GPP.

Green products and GPP is seen in this Framework as a more practical and impactful approach in the region where micro, small and medium enterprises, with limited access to financing and technological capacity, constitute a significant portion of businesses. SMEs can play a significant role in the future economic, social and environmental sustainability especially in the local and national setting. Business to Business purchasing is more significant in the region, and governments can require minimum environmental or green requirements to companies they have contracts with (criteria to supply). A programmatic scheme among SMEs in sustainable production and supply chain (big brother small brother) can be considered to support green technology, resource sharing, upscaling technical skills and supply chain flexibility, among others.

- d. Promote sustainable lifestyles in urban and rural settings.** Increasing wealth and growing population significantly drives consumption in ASEAN. While social mobility offers benefits, consumption patterns need not follow the resource intensive trend observed in many industrialized economies. Education and awareness of the global and local challenges of increasing consumption and waste generation will be needed to increase the knowledge, understanding and participation of the public on their role in sustainable development. Following the GPP approach on sustainable consumption, countries are also incorporating sustainable lifestyles and consumer education among its national agenda to target households and

individual consumers. This goal acknowledges the magnitude of consumption that can happen as social mobility in the region improves and as basic infrastructures develop. A distinction between urban and rural lifestyles is noted to properly design and deliver information to particular groups. For instance, promoting sustainability actions in households have become more important in the COVID-19 pandemic as people stay home often. Online or e-commerce transactions, household energy consumption and waste generation increased. The shifts in current socioeconomic activities show a preview of the possible long-term changes to human interactions, work life, entertainment and leisure. Policies and local level action need to be responsive to these transformations, and plan accordingly. Information on how to be sustainable consumers and operationalize sustainable lifestyles will be a significant contribution to the sustainable consumption and resource utilization.

21. A key opportunity for the ASEAN SCP Framework is to bring together existing ASEAN Working Group structures and Key partners dealing with SCP issues in the region for its implementation. This Framework acknowledges the vast opportunities for collaboration with any of the existing ASEAN Bodies and with various Working Groups of the ASOEN on sustainability issues in this present implementation plan, and in the succeeding phase. Linkages with and supporting roles may be sought from the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States, and the ongoing plans for the establishment of an ASEAN Circular Economy Platform and the development of the Framework on Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community. The formulation of the four specific goals proposed here carefully considered the inputs from the consultation process and formulated according to the criteria in paragraph 14.

## Approach

22. The Framework provides four action lines for each specific goal. Policy provides a path or guidance for a particular goal, setting the tone of regional action. Technology innovation and capacity building identifies needs (e.g., human resources, infrastructure and technology) to support the implementation of specific goals and policies. Market mechanism defines means of engagement with businesses and the private sector in achieving the specific goals. Public awareness delivers pertinent information to the public or target stakeholder with the goal of educating and increasing their understanding on specific issues. This approach is anchored on the Marrakech Process, which emphasizes the need for multi-stakeholder involvement and action in the implementation of SCP and guides the implementation of the 10YFP. Table 1 presents the proposed ASEAN SCP Framework.

23. These four specific goals focus on establishing knowledge base, enhancing national capabilities, and fostering stakeholder connectedness. By focusing on education and awareness among stakeholders, enhancing skills and establishing networks in specified sectors, national agencies and local governments will be empowered to identify and address SCP issues, design policies and actions, and gain the support of stakeholders. Using the proposed action lines of the ASEAN SCP Framework (Table 1) as guide, the initial implementation period will (i) establish linkages to existing and future work plans of related Working Groups within ASOEN and ASEAN, and (ii) develop a short- to long-term action and implementation plan on SCP in the region to broaden areas of cooperation and enhance progress in SCP practices.

24. **Specific Goal 1 – Measure and support progress in SDG12.** Data presents a crucial opportunity for science-policy interface and evidence-based policymaking. Resource consumption and resource efficiency have well established accounting methods to support an analysis of how well an economy utilizes its resources and identify needs to better support for sustainability. At present, resource use data of AMS available in online platforms like the SDG12 Hub, managed by the One Planet Network, provide estimate values. UNEP and EuroStat, together with International Resource Panel and UN Statistics Division, have developed a modular methodology in calculating resource consumption, and have piloted these in selected countries including Philippines and Lao PDR. Three action lines are proposed to support the region in reporting on SDG12 indicators, and sustainability reporting among corporations.

1a. **Regional guidance for reporting on SCP/ SDG12 targets.** Even when the concept of SCP may not be relatively new, the macroeconomic indicators that can be used to indicate sustainability may be unfamiliar to statistical authorities and those outside of the academic and research community in many countries. Indicators of resource efficiency and material consumption, which are not yet part of regular economic data reporting of gross domestic product, household consumption, productivity and the like, will be a key enabler for SCP in the region. Such data can provide an objective analysis of how efficient an economy

**Table 1. The ASEAN SCP Framework**

| <b>Specific goals</b>                              | <b>1. Measure and support progress in SDG12</b>                                       | <b>2. Promote sustainable food systems</b>                                                  | <b>3. Establish good practices for green products and procurement (GPP)</b>                                                                | <b>4. Promote sustainable lifestyles in urban and rural settings</b>                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Policy</b>                                      | 1a. Regional guidance for reporting on SCP/ SDG12 targets                             | 2a. Good practices for minimizing food loss and food waste                                  | 3a. Regional guidance on good practices for the practice of GPP<br>3b. Programmatic scheme for SMEs in implementing SCP and good practices | 4a. Regional guidance on best practices for sustainable lifestyles                                     |
| <b>Technology innovation and capacity building</b> | 1b. Regional consultations and capacity building for national statistics authority    | 2b. Community of practice & capacity building programs                                      | 3c. Community of practice and capacity building programs                                                                                   | 4b. Household guidance on sustainable lifestyles                                                       |
| <b>Market mechanism</b>                            | 1c. Sustainability reporting by corporations and state enterprises                    | 2c. Encouraging sustainable practices at retailers & food establishments                    | 3d. Green product certifications and National Green Product Directory                                                                      | 4c. Develop incentives/ rewards to encourage sustainable lifestyles                                    |
| <b>Public Awareness</b>                            | 1d. Public awareness on sustainability                                                | 2d. Consumer education on sustainable consumption                                           | 3e. Consumer information on green products                                                                                                 | 4d. Consumer awareness through local level campaigns                                                   |
| <b>Lead Implementer</b>                            | ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS), AWGEE                                      | ASEAN Technical Working group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD)            | ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (ACCMSME)                                                              | AWGEE, ASEAN Center for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)                          |
| <b>Partner Line Agency</b>                         | National Statistical Authority, in cooperation with Academic Institutions             | Ministry of Industry, Research Institutes                                                   | Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, SME Groups/ Federations                                                                         | Local Government Units                                                                                 |
| <b>Related SDG12 target</b>                        | 12.1 Implement 10YFP<br>12.6 Encourage companies to report sustainability information | 12.3 Halve per capita global food waste<br>12.2 Sustainable management of natural resources | 12.a Strengthen scientific and technological capacity for SCP<br>12.7 Promote sustainable procurement practices                            | 12.5 Reduce waste generation<br>12.8 Ensure people have relevant information on sustainable lifestyles |

utilizes its resources, indicating the quality of economic growth and where SCP can be implemented. Establishing a regional guidance document for reporting SCP and SDG12 targets will support AMS in reporting progress on SDG12 in support of national commitment to Agenda 2030. Subsequently, having such baseline data will enable the development of a more directed medium-term SCP Framework and Implementation Plan in ASEAN after this initial three-year framework.

**1b. Regional consultations and capacity building for national statistics authority.** There is a need to develop policies on natural resource use to support data and knowledge on resource availability and inform policies and plans on efficient use and management of these resources. Data on resource consumption, resource efficiency and resource intensity do not yet feature in national macroeconomic accounts of many countries. However, these data are widely available from published literature from academia and international organizations, implying that these values can be derived and calculated from existing national accounts. Regional work on simplifying widely accepted and standard protocols for economy-wide material flow accounting will be a significant contribution to the reporting of progress on SDG12 and planning for policies and action plans that address SCP hotspots based on reliable data. Regional consultations on country needs and capabilities for reporting on resource flows and preparation of regional guidance document on said metrics can be undertaken by the ASEAN Community Statistical System, which spearheaded the publication and data collection for the milestone ASEAN Report on Baseline SDG Indicators. In addition, partnerships with academic institutions with existing capabilities and research work on material flow accounting can be beneficial for knowledge transfer to national statistics authorities, and in establishing such database and accounting framework for the region.

**1c. Sustainability reporting by corporations and state enterprises.** Encouraging sustainability reporting among private corporations and state enterprises will be a valuable support in the progress in SCP. Many of these big entities have already initiated their own initiatives from modest activities to larger programs to support specific SDG targets, which they include in annual corporate reports or separately in sustainability reports. More and more accounting, finance and taxation firms in the region offer sustainability reporting and consultancy services to corporations following Global Reporting Initiative and other relevant standards. Similarly, many corporations in the region are also signatories to the United Nations Global Compact, committing to sustainability practices. Governments can capitalize on this high level of awareness and initiatives among corporations to further strengthen the practice and uptake of SCP in corporations and extend this to the communities they work with. Sustainability reporting comes with benefits beyond a report to add to the value of the corporation. More importantly, corporations actively engage with their business partners and even customers in adopting similar sustainability practices and incorporate the environmental dimension in corporate social responsibility activities. The sustainability programs of corporations can provide for an efficient partnership opportunity for governments to realize broader support for SDG implementation.

**1d. Public awareness on sustainability.** The previous action lines focus on institutional (national and local agencies and units, and corporations) awareness and action on sustainability, which are key for government to drive and initiate efforts and for private sector to support this transition. Specific Goal 1 also recognizes the importance of public awareness on sustainability and SDGs since consumption is a significant factor in the sustainable growth and development of the region. Some efforts in increasing public awareness on SDGs have already been initiated by key partners and government agencies in the region through campaigns in educational and institutional settings, and through awareness materials in public places and social media networks. Strengthening advocacy for awareness on sustainability and relevant metrics through formal (educational, organizational and institutional networks) and informal channels (social media and public spaces) can contribute to greater public action and support for government efforts and informed individual choices.

**25. Specific Goal 2 – Promote sustainable food systems.** The consumption of natural resources is one of the top three key priorities in ASEAN identified in the survey (Appendix A) conducted among stakeholders in the region. Natural resources can mean a number of things from land and wildlife to metals and minerals. This second goal represents just one facet of the broad scope of resources – food is a vital need and resource particularly in areas challenged by food security, environmental degradation, climate change and malnutrition. To ensure food supply and adequate nutrition, sustainable practices in the food system from farm to fork are needed and proposed in the following action lines.

**2a. Good practices for minimizing food loss and food waste.** Minimizing food loss and food waste will benefit the region in the context of rising population, income and an expanding middle class. In recognizing these challenges, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint prioritizes cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry sector and suggests interventions like strengthening capacity for sustainable production, identifying needed infrastructure investments and enhancing agricultural productivity. In most of ASEAN, a significant food loss and food waste occurs in the production, handling and storage parts of the food system, which affects the farmers and food producers. Food that is cultivated and harvested already consumed resources in the form of water, nutrients, energy and other agricultural inputs. Food loss and waste necessitates that more food be produced, resulting to more greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities and requiring more inputs and land conversion. Food waste also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions from the decomposition processes. At the regional scale, encouraging investments and development on good practices in food systems that are responsive to aforementioned challenges will contribute to minimizing food loss and food waste. This action line can contribute to development or collection and dissemination of good practices on reducing food loss and food waste in the region. This can also include broader implementation of Good Agricultural Practices among stakeholders.

**2b. Community of practice & capacity building programs.** Minimizing food loss and food waste and enhancing agricultural productivity will require educating agricultural producers on good practices and enhancing capacities for this goal. Knowledge and good practices can come from research institutions trickling down to the producers, and among agricultural producers in sharing experiences on what works best on the ground. Capacity building can be instrumental in upgrading skills and practices on minimizing food loss and food waste among those directly involved in the food cycle. International organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization promotes sustainable food and agriculture and provide related action guides. Translating data and scientific research into practicable action will be important in minimizing waste in food production, handling and storage. A community of practice can facilitate knowledge sharing and bridge the expertise with practical application of good practices. For this action line, linkage with ASEAN Technical Working group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD) may be sought on any existing work plan or collaborative work.

**2c. Encouraging sustainable practices at retailers & food establishments.** Much of the food waste occurs at the consumption stage, whereas significant food loss occurs in the production and handling stage of the food cycle (farm to fork). Action lines 2a and 2b addresses food loss through good practices and community of practice. To manage food waste, engaging with retailers/ supermarkets and food and beverage sector will be needed to encourage sustainable practices, particularly where market forces can be useful. For instance, having beauty or cosmetic standards on fresh produce at supermarkets has become common nowadays, resulting to food that is safe for consumption to be thrown away because of imperfections or blemishes. This practice largely stems from consumer preference for nice looking and standard looking produce. Nature may not always provide the best conditions and produce that do not conform to these beauty standards end up being discarded. Some startups in AMS see this as an opportunity in channeling the rejected produce to food banks, while other retailers sell this at a lower price. Similar sustainable practices on the food and beverage sector (restaurants, food service and cafeterias) may also be encouraged through engaging with industry associations and the like. While implementing this on a regional scale may be impractical, guidance documents on sustainable practices in the sector may be drafted and circulated among identified stakeholders. These guidance documents may contain good practices in the food and beverage sector to reduce food waste, and relevant research that affect sustainable consumer behavior (such as impacts of plate size and food serving size on amount of food waste).

**2d. Consumer education on sustainable consumption.** More and more consumers are becoming aware of sustainable issues in consumption, from opting to use less packaging to bringing their own containers when shopping. Sustainable practices in the marketplace may need some time to get used to, or habituate, but such can have a ripple effect in the amount of plastic use and disposal. In addition, eating habits can most certainly affect sustainability as eating in season contributes to the local livelihood and less embedded greenhouse gas emissions in products that need to be transported when not in season. Educating consumers on sustainability issues concerning food consumption and shopping practices will be needed in achieving less food loss and food waste.



**26. Specific Goal 3 – Establish good practices for green products and procurement (GPP).** Even with the increasing awareness for sustainable consumption practices at the end consumer or household level, manufacturing is still considered as consumption at production stage – raw materials are consumed in providing finished products. Efficient use of raw materials leading to less waste, chemical use and toxic emissions will be a desirable process to support sustainability transitions, which may be an expensive undertaking at first. The following action lines are proposed to support SME capacity for green products, and the practice of green public procurement by procurers.

**3a. Regional guidance on good practices for the practice of GPP.** As with the increasing social dimension of SCP implementation in the region, GPP practices figure prominently in many country policies in the AMS. This focus straightforwardly encourages consumption of green products through government procurement practices as national spending is significant and can catalyze manufacturers to consider producing green products. Despite the many GPP initiatives, barriers still exist in the implementation of such programs from lack of a clear framework and confusion among procurers on what constitutes green products to the existence of a number of sustainability labels and ecolabels. A regional guidance on the practice of GPP can clarify and support its implementation by countries and facilitate the harmonization of country requirements (setting of purchasing criteria) for trade within ASEAN. For instance, GPP practice can indicate preference for purchasing from SMEs or local manufacturers, followed by ASEAN suppliers when products are not available locally. Green products and green public procurement are proposed here as opposed to ecolabels, which could become a deterrent to the growth of many SMEs. By starting with more flexible and minimum green requirements, SMEs may be able to catch up and build their capacity for green products. For this action line, the cooperation with Ministry of Finance may be sought for the development of regional GPP guidance.

**3b. Programmatic scheme for SMEs in implementing SCP and good practices for green products.** The development of green products will be a challenge to many SMEs with many of these entrepreneurs lacking access to finance and technology to transition to manufacturing of green products and may even be hampered by the lack of economy of scale for production. In addition, awareness on globally recognized systems or standards for ensuring quality and safety of products may not be high in many SMEs. Scaling up awareness and skills to practice Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) can be a starting point for preparing SMEs in acquiring more technical skills for productivity, green technology, and manufacture of green products among others. Clustering of SMEs can be an option to support processes, enhance capacities, build networks for better productivity and environmental performance. Encouraging the GAP and GMP among SMEs could be an avenue for skills development and knowledge sharing especially in the development of local products. The development of the capacities of SMEs can also contribute to the further development of industry sectors and allow them to upgrade or move up the value chain. The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 recognizes the importance of SMEs and micro enterprises in the growth and development of the region. Part of the strategic goals of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) are to promote productivity, technology and innovation and increase access to finance, and enhance market access and internationalization. The current action lines here, likewise, acknowledge the need for green technology, innovation, and technological developments such as Smart City, Big Data and Analytics. A supporting role in this plan of action may be sought digital technology and innovation are increasingly a competitive advantage in businesses, which can have a multitude of applications in productivity, efficiency and environmental performance. This action line can have links with the Ministry of Trade/ Industry and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME).

**3c. Community of Practice & capacity building programs.** GPP practice will need intensive training for Procurers for public sectors, and those in the private sector who wish to practice green procurement. Capacity building for SMEs will be needed to meet green requirements through technology upgrade, process change, skills enhancement, and also in clustering industries, as necessary. A community of practice for SCP in general or for specific industry/ sectors can be an effective network for sharing good practices in establishing green manufacturing capabilities and addressing challenges to green technology and productivity. The ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development also supports the need to strengthen research and development, technology commercialization for the competitiveness of the micro, small and medium enterprises in ASEAN. Collaboration with the action lines of this action plan may be sought, such as in establishing a community of practice with different components like industry practice, science and technology, financing and technical capacity. The ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 can also be a vital plan to link with in this action line.

3d. **Green product certifications and National Green Product Directory.** In parallel to community of practice and capacity building activities, creating a national green product directory (or a regional one) can facilitate the implementation of GPP Programs, allowing procurers to easily identify available and certified green products in the local and regional market. In Thailand, for instance, information on eco-product or green products is available through a website hosted by National Federation of Thai Industries. Similarly, green product certifications can be a private sector-led initiative with oversight from the Ministry of Trade. The International Green Purchasing Network has vast guidelines and criteria in the conduct of green purchasing, which can be benchmarked for the development of green product certifications and a national green product directory.

3e. **Consumer information on green products (product information/ labelling).** In addition to GPP, public consumption of green products will further benefit supply and cost, and wider availability of more green products when manufacturers see the demand for it. Increasing consumer responsibility on sustainable consumption will be supported through provision of product information and labelling of green products and broader awareness campaigns. Consumer education may be conducted through various avenues from point of sale to consumer engagement using social media platforms.

**27. Specific Goal 4 – Promote sustainable lifestyles in urban and rural settings.** While many communities and private sectors advocate for sustainable consumer practices, such as using less single-use plastics, shifting to reusable bags for shopping, plastic and electronic waste collection schemes, these are mostly done in small scale. Promoting sustainable lifestyles need more comprehensive guidance on the how-to<sup>1</sup> of sustainable consumption on an individual and household level, providing information on the impacts of daily activities to tips and suggestions on how to minimize these impacts. Sustainable lifestyles will also need to differentiate between urban and rural lifestyles.

4a. **Regional guidance on good practices for sustainable lifestyles.** Average per capita consumption in ASEAN may be lower than industrialized nations, but consumption trend is bound to increase with the increasing incomes and expanding population and middle-class sector. Proactive guidance on good practices for sustainable lifestyles in the region are needed to adequately respond to this challenge. ASEAN has made significant actions on combating plastic waste and marine debris through the recently launched regional action plan that address not just marine waste, but also on how to address lifecycle challenges. The ongoing plan for a regional roadmap for a circular economy may be a good avenue to discuss and collaborate on elements that can enable sustainable lifestyles like encouraging availability of affordable efficient consumer electronics and goods in the market, preference for green products, innovative business models for sustainable lifestyles and the like.

4b. **Household guidance on sustainable lifestyles.** Urban living may present advantages like proximity to school and work and availability of extensive leisure activities, but urban centers are also, where bulk of the waste generation happens. Considering the changes brought about by the pandemic, food and energy consumption and waste generation has saw shifts to households from commercial centers. The digital transformation and e-commerce have also facilitated social activities within homes, and consumption of consumer electronics. These same consumer electronics such as mobile phones and tablets can now be equipped with technological innovations can be used to promote sustainability within homes through applications that and optimize use of air-conditioning, lighting, and other household appliances. Likewise, technology and social media platforms can also be used as means to engage and provide sustainable lifestyle information to consumers in urban settings.

4c. **Develop incentives/ rewards to encourage sustainable lifestyles.** Habits may be difficult to change, but with adequate guidance and information, awareness, and suitable incentive programs and rewards, consumers may be encouraged to adopt sustainable consumption practices. Mainstream media has also popularized minimalism as a way of life, which can contribute to sustainable lifestyles. This can be an avenue to reach and engage many consumers especially as these tend to become global trends. On

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<sup>1</sup> The how-to of sustainable consumption can be in the form of teaching modules in schools and other institutional settings to introduce the concept to target audience (e.g., students, municipal employees, office staff), and guidance documents/ consumer information campaigns to encourage attitudes and behaviors among consumers on how to consume products and services (e.g., food, clothing, electronics, personal care) and resources (e.g., water and energy) sustainably. In promoting sustainable lifestyles, cooperation will be essential among relevant national agencies, local governments, businesses, consumer associations and civil society to provide an enabling environment for sustainable consumption, and to empower consumers to make informed choices.

a local level, rewards programs already exist across the AMS from community-based competitions on sustainable practices to buy-back or trade-in schemes for selected products, incentivizing sustainable lifestyles.

4d. *Consumer awareness through local level campaigns.* While 4b and 4c focus on urban lifestyles, there is also a need for local level campaigns especially in rural populations where social media use may be limited. Suitable and engaging means of information campaigns will need to be tailored for target consumers.

## V. Implementation

### SCP Tools

28. The action lines proposed in this Framework includes the SCP tools common to many AMS. Sustainable lifestyles and education aims to promote sustainable consumption among consumers, and has been elevated here as a goal in itself particularly as consumption in ASEAN is expected to increase. In providing end consumers with information and choice, they can contribute to sustainability by becoming responsible consumers. Green public procurement aims to catalyze the demand for green products and make them cost-competitive to regular products. Green products aims to lessen the environmental impacts of goods throughout its lifecycle. Sustainability reporting encourages sustainability practices in large corporations that have the awareness and the resources to contribute to sustainable development. Similarly, corporations can promote or state preference in working or transacting with businesses that also have sustainability practices in place.

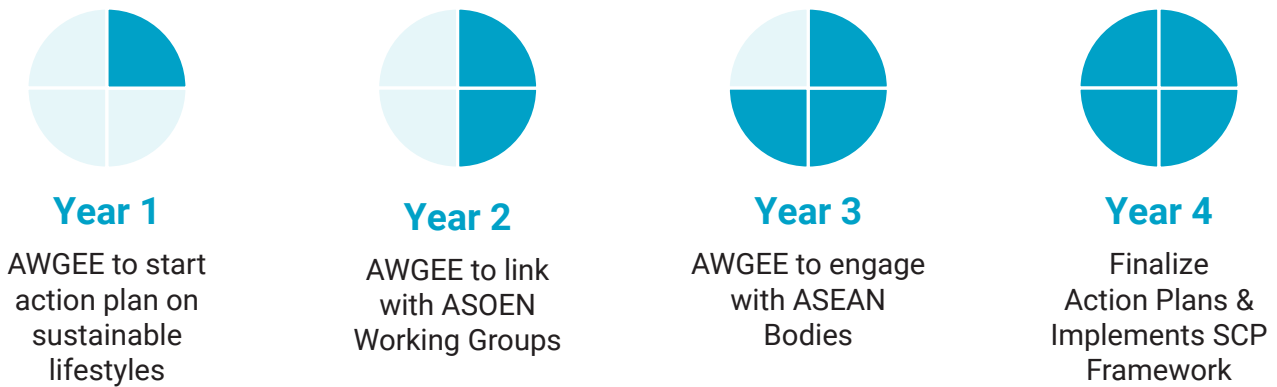
29. In addition to the common SCP tools, this Framework also proposes the establishment of baseline data on SDG12 indicators, including that of resource consumption and resource efficiency using the standard methodology of material flow accounting. These data are macro level indicators that can inform national policymaking and regional action planning. The same indicators and data can be used as the basis of target setting for short- to long-term targets and performance indicators in the next phase of the ASEAN SCP Framework, and of evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the Implementation Plan.

### Phased Implementation

30. The ASOEN, with support from AWGEE as the lead Working Group, shall be the principal coordinating body responsible for the strategic implementation of the ASEAN SCP Framework. The crosscutting themes of SCP, as reflected in the goals of the Framework, implies the need for collaboration between ASOEN Working Groups (WGs) and other ASEAN Bodies as well. For Year 1 of implementation, AWGEE may focus on establishing an Action Plan for Specific Goal 4 (promote sustainable lifestyles). At the same time, AWGEE can start looking into possible stakeholders and co-implementers for the proposed action lines to prepare a list of ASOEN WGs and ASEAN Bodies to reach out to for collaboration in Years 2 and 3, respectively. The multi-stakeholder approach reflects the importance given by both the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint and ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint on SCP. Recognizing the formal process for engaging with other ASOEN WGs and ASEAN Bodies, the Framework proposes a phased implementation, where linkages will be established at Year 2 and Year 3, respectively (Figure 1). With due regard for other ongoing and related regional action plans to the Specific Goals identified here, the proposed ASEAN SCP Framework and its action lines may be updated at any point in its implementation, as necessary. Year 4 will see the launch of the ASEAN Action Plan on SCP and its implementation.<sup>2</sup> The assistance of UNEP and SWITCH-Asia and collaboration with other key partners may be sought in the phased implementation of the ASEAN SCP Framework.

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<sup>2</sup> Considering the timeline of the blueprints of the ASEAN Vision 2025, the Year 4 (or the final year) of implementation of this Framework may fall in the year 2025 to coincide with the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint and ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and allow for synchronization of action plans and work plans of various ASEAN Bodies and WGs.



**Figure 1. Phased implementation of the ASEAN SCP Framework**

31. To support the AWGEE, a lead implementing body shall be designated for each goal. The specific goals and action lines outlined in this Framework may serve as a guide for them to draft the Action Plan. The AWGEE, together with the lead implementer, shall draft and finalize a strategic action plan to implement key action lines. The suggested action lines here may serve as the starting point for lead implementers to develop action plans in consideration for the contributions of the goals to the SDG12. A short-, medium-, or long-term plan may be defined. Identifying and engaging with national agencies will be instrumental in implementation at the national and local level. The involvement of and responsibilities of other ASOEN's Working Groups, key partners, ASEAN bodies, and other stakeholders will be defined and finalized at different phases of the implementation. To foster partnerships and widespread implementation of SCP, collaboration and cooperation with the private sector and relevant organizations will be sought. The stakeholders may not be limited to the ASOEN WGs and may involve other ASEAN Bodies. The AWGEE will facilitate the communication and coordination of activities and progress among the stakeholders within the ASOEN Working Groups/ ASEAN Bodies. Other coordination and communication mechanisms may be established once a final list of collaborators and stakeholders are identified.

32. This Framework recognizes the challenges and opportunities for the ASEAN to collaboratively address this agenda and to strengthen the coordination of the respective working groups involved. Cooperation is a hallmark of SCP implementation, and a platform such as the planned ASEAN Circular Economy Platform can be a venue for broader SCP collaboration in sectors and among stakeholders. This approach will be instrumental in promoting synergies when addressing similar or related issues, such as the goals 2 and 3 where economic integration and competitiveness goals (trade and productivity in agriculture and SMEs) intersect with sustainability aspirations (resource efficiency and environmental performance).

33. Acknowledging the wide scope and technical nature of the proposed goals and action lines, a lead implementing body can be designated to work on each specific goal or action lines. Options for implementing bodies will be decided by the ASOEN, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and AMS, and the ASEAN Body if outside of ASOEN Working Group:

- a. The ACSS has set up a Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (WGSDGI) in 2017 to support the ASEAN SDG monitoring through provision of relevant statistics. As the overall goal of the framework is to contribute to the implementation of SDG12 in the region, the support of the ACSS may be valuable especially in monitoring and reporting results.
- b. ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development
- c. ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- d. The recently formed ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) can serve as a forum for capacity building activities and knowledge management in the proposed action lines of the Framework to support and accelerate SDGs implementation. Depending on the availability and scope of work, the ACSDSD can be invited to provide essential networking for the implementation of green SMEs and sustainable lifestyles, the third and fourth specific goals of the Framework.

34. Implementation of the Framework will require financial resources, as well as human resources. Financial, technical and knowledge support may be sought from key partners in the region, academic and research

institutions, and related Ministries and private sector organizations. To avoid redundancy of efforts, initiatives and activities to be implemented will consider established bodies and mechanisms within the ASEAN system. Since the Framework prioritizes collaboration and synergy, existing ASEAN bodies and structures in the region will be involved in designing the action plan and operationalizing it, preferably aligning with the goals and objectives of ASEAN Blueprints and other existing regional action plans to promote efficiency. The specific SDG targets to which the proposed specific goals intend to contribute to have been specified in Table 1, and lead implementers are encouraged to design an action plan that incorporates these targets and corresponding or other similar indicators to facilitate monitoring and evaluation. The lead implementers are encouraged to map out past and ongoing funding and technical support to AMS and ASEAN related to the specific goals and identify future funding needs.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

35. Many of the action lines in the proposed Framework are designed as outcomes in itself, and as inputs to the preparation of broader implementation of SCP. For example, establishing the community of practice and good practices through collaboration with research institutes, academic institutes, ministries and other stakeholders aims to enhance knowledge sharing and SCP implementation practices in a sector. This can be done through identifying the needs for good practices (e.g., handling and storage of produce, green procurement criteria), gathering of existing good practices, and preparing such documents, as needed. Communities of practice may need moderation/ facilitation in engaging with stakeholders (e.g., agricultural producers, supermarket retailers, SMEs) on specific practices. The lead implementers may propose activities and outcomes and draft the specifics of the Action Plans during Years 2-4 of the implementation of this Framework. More detailed key performance indicators, which may or may not be linked to SCP indicators and SDG12 targets, can be developed for the Action Plan.

36. Given the diverse SCP action lines and its linkages to other ASEAN Working Groups, each specific goal may have its own lead implementing body. AWGEE in coordination with the lead implementing body for each specific goal will regularly report the progress of implementation to the ASOEN and submit updates on funding utilization to concerned funding agencies, if any.

37. The review and evaluation of the implementation of the Framework will periodically be done by ASOEN. With respect to the phase/ year of implementation, the AWGEE in coordination with lead implementers will submit annual reports to ASOEN, including recommendations for the next year of implementation of the SCP Framework. ASEC shall facilitate coordination among ASOEN, AWGEE, lead implementers and funding agencies.

## **VI. Way Forward**

38. The proposed four-year SCP Framework and Implementation Plan covers areas and approaches that will be instrumental in enabling the transition to sustainability: baseline data on SDG12 and SCP indicators, good practices, community of practice, consumer education and Action Plans for the proposed specific goals to be launched at Year 4 of the implementation of this SCP Framework. The SCP and SDG12 data reporting will enable evidence-based policymaking and regional cooperation and form the basis of carefully designed SCP actions on the local, national and regional level. These outputs shall serve as the backbone for broader engagements and ambitious targets that will contribute to progress in the identified SDG12 indicators (Table 1). The use of knowledge outputs and networks like good practices and community of practice can be tested and refined for ease of management and to support the implementation of the Action Plans.

39. Stakeholder action and cooperation remains paramount in SCP implementation. In the development of the ASEAN SCP Framework, a top-down and bottom-up approach are equally considered. The diversity of the region also calls for SCP approaches that fit the cultural, economic and social agenda of individual countries and communities. The policy to action approach can inform local governments and communities of broader goals and targets, while the grassroots action can provide the national government of feedback, such as measures that are effective, challenges in implementation, and other constraints. Regional guidance, support from key partners, community and consumer engagement, private sector involvement are all necessary components in SCP implementation.

40. An integral output of this initial ASEAN SCP Framework is a short- to long-term Regional Action Plan in line with SDG targets, for the next phase, focusing on further impactful actions. The ASOEN can oversee and delegate this task to the AWGEE and other lead implementers of the proposed specific goals in the preparation of the next stage of launching the Regional Action Plans. The proposed ASEAN Circular Economy Platform or ACSDS can contribute to this work, or this can be in the form of an ASEAN Resources Panel, a regional think tank proposed in the Framework of Action on Complementarities between ASEAN Roadmap and UN SDGs.

41. Other topics that can be explored and addressed as part of the next stage of the SCP Framework, depending on the timeframe, include enhancing linkages with related ASEAN Bodies for a common work plan or program on:

- a. Management of electronic waste presents a common concern in ASEAN most especially among developing countries that still lack the appropriate waste management and treatment systems and facilities. The proper disposal of e-wastes and the dangers of unsafe informal recycling practices are the main challenges given the increasing consumption of electronic devices and waste trade. Infrastructure and knowhow for proper waste management and recycling of high value recoverable products will be needed to address this growing problem in the region and may be a challenge that can be addressed through regional collaboration.
- b. Plastic waste. The Southeast Asian region is one of the biggest contributors to plastic waste and plastic leakage to the environment. Managing plastic waste can be a collaborative effort between this SCP Framework and the existing ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris. This priority sector for ASEAN will require technological and innovative methods, and behavioral considerations that can have a shared regional approach. The common objectives on GPP and sustainable consumption and sustainable lifestyles can be a starting point for collaborative work between the SCP Framework and ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combating Marine Debris.
- c. Resource circularity. Particularly at this period of extraordinary pace in digital transformations occurring in all aspects of socioeconomic activities, policies and regional guidance will need to adapt and respond to evolving challenges. This time can also be opportunity for industry and SMEs to acknowledge the importance of resource circularity in enterprises, engaging in innovative businesses models, knowledge economy, and the like. Supporting role to the ongoing Regional Action Plan for a Circular Economy and collaboration with the Circular Economy Platform may be beneficial in advancing both Circular Economy principles and SCP practice in the region.

## Appendix A

### Survey Form: Designing and Implementing an ASEAN SCP Framework

Prior to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Southeast Asian economies have exhibited robust growth in the past decades with its growing human capital and a dynamic landscape of industrialization and urbanization. These transformations resulted to socioeconomic gains, such as poverty alleviation and rising incomes. However, increasing average per capita consumption of resources (material footprint) has accompanied growth and development in the region, which can have implications on future trajectories.

The Complementarities Initiative of the ASEAN reports that less than half of the ASEAN Member States have reached an average of 15 tonnes resource consumption per capita required of high human development<sup>3</sup>, whereas the average per capita consumption of the region in 2015 is at 8 tonnes. Therefore, urgent actions are needed to support regional development and better consumption patterns. To this end, ASEAN intends to facilitate the advancement of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) among member states through a regional framework to be implemented for an initial a three-year period. This ASEAN SCP Framework is envisioned to promote regional cooperation and collaborative measures for SCP.

This survey aims to gather viewpoints of SCP practitioners in designing the ASEAN SCP Framework – what priority sectors to focus on, what SCP tools to utilize, and what challenges to address and opportunities to pursue.

#### I. Profile

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**Name (optional)**

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|                |                                            |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Country</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Brunei Darussalam | <input type="checkbox"/> Myanmar     |
|                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodia          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippines |
|                | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia         | <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore   |
|                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lao PDR           | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand    |
|                | <input type="checkbox"/> Malaysia          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam     |

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|               |                                               |                                                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sector</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO                  | <input type="checkbox"/> National Government and Ministries |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Sector      | <input type="checkbox"/> LGU                                |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Academe and Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Others, pls specify                |

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**Years of experience in SCP**

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3 UNEP, 2016. Global Material Flows and Resource Productivity. Assessment Report for the UNEP International Resource Panel. United Nations Environment Programme, Paris.

## II. SCP Sectors

Rate the importance of the following SCP sectors and themes based on its immediate impact on the sustainability of growth and development in the Southeast Asian region using the following scale:

1 – likely important, but only for a few countries; 2 – quite important to most countries; 3 - needs immediate attention; 4 - will provide significant benefits; 5 – this should be the main focus of regional initiatives

| Sectors                                                                | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Waste Management and Recycling                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Energy Supply and Efficiency                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Consumption of Natural Resources (water, forest, minerals & others) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Biodiversity and Wildlife                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Land-use and Development (urban and rural)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Infrastructures (utilities and roads)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Transportation                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Climate change and resiliency                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Industry, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Tourism (and Culture)                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are there other sectors that you think needs to be prioritized in ASEAN? Please identify.



### III. SCP Tools

Rate the importance of the following SCP tools based on its function as an enabler of sustainable practices in the SCP Sectors identified in Part II of the survey using the following scale:

1 – likely important, but only for a few countries; 2 – quite important to most countries; 3 - this applies to all ASEAN countries; 4 - will significantly support SCP implementation in ASEAN; 5 – this should be the main approach of regional initiatives

| Tools                                              | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Green Economy/ Green Growth/ Low-Carbon Economy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Corporate Sustainability Reporting              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Sustainable Lifestyles and Education            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are there other SCP tools that you think will support the ASEAN SCP Framework best? Please identify.

### IV. ASEAN SCP Framework - Challenges and Opportunities

Specify regional challenges related to the top three sectors you rated in Part II (e.g., emerging waste streams not yet widely addressed in policies, limited statistical capacity to monitor SCP indicators, policy implementation is limited).

Identify opportunities for regional cooperation on SCP practices on your top three rated sectors in Part II (e.g., strengthening public-private partnerships in waste management, SCP knowledge sharing platform and regional network of SCP practitioners).

## Appendix B

# Guide Questions in the Conduct of Discussions and Consultations for the Development of the ASEAN SCP Framework

### I. SCP approaches pre-, during, and post-pandemic

1. What are the priority sectors for (post-pandemic) recovery and opportunities for SCP (e.g., 10YFP-2, climate change, and health)?
2. What are the 2-3 priority topics/issues on SCP in coming 2-3 years (in addition to green recovery, circular economy and plastics)?
3. Countries in the region have diverse backgrounds. What types of policies and standards can drive private sector investment in the region to move towards Circular Economy for using the upstream policies to promote eco innovation and circularity material flow?
4. How do we adapt and adopt SCP in this new normal age of digital reliance and transformation (e.g., e-waste, 4th industrial revolution, technology, lifestyle, etc.)?
5. What short- to medium- term goals and actions can support green recovery (e.g., SPP-EL tools, etc.)?
6. How can we facilitate new business models for SCP such as CE business models?

### II. SCP in Industry, and Small and Medium Enterprises

7. The micro, small and medium enterprises are important in the region for its economic and employment contributions. How can green recovery programs support this sector?
8. Suitable financing will be needed during a transition period. What are the difficulties for SMEs in accessing funding, and what measures can key partners in the region (e.g., aids and loans) provide?
9. What other enabling measures are required for upstream policy instruments to be effective to get entrepreneurs and industries apply them at ground level?
10. In implementing value-chain approach, how can we reach out to SMEs as they are the core of the value-chain? What is the understanding on value chain in the region, and how can it be implemented?

### III. Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

11. What kind of approaches/ experiences are there for facilitating transition to sustainable lifestyles?
12. Are these policies and instruments sufficient to change the consumption patterns of the community groups for the expected paradigm shift? How can we strengthen them to win the support of consumers specially to overcome the plastic pollution?

### IV. Role of Stakeholders, Cooperation and Partnerships

13. How can SCP Networks induce/ influence government and business partners in promoting green recovery and move forward with SCP in the country (e.g., Thai SCP)?
14. What kind of role local governments/ communities can play in facilitating transition to sustainable lifestyle and green recovery?
15. What can be added to the cooperation and partnership that can link to the 3Rs?





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