As a member of the Marrakech Process international community, we would like to update you on recent outputs and achievements, and inform you about the planned activities for this year. We would like also to invite you to be part of the new Marrakech Process e-network.

**UP TO 2008**

*The Marrakech Process has delivered some important outputs and outcomes*

- **SCP regional strategies** in Africa and Latin America have been developed and endorsed. Europe is currently developing its SCP action plan that will be launched in 2008.

- **The Asia Pacific Help Desk on SCP** was launched to share information through the Internet and expert networks, conduct studies to identify SCP tools and case studies, and to disseminate knowledge through training, policy dialogues and forums: [www.scphelp.org](http://www.scphelp.org)

- **Guidelines for National SCP Programmes** have been developed and published by UNEP. The [Online Clearing-house for National SCP Programmes](http://www.unep.fr/scp/nap/clearinghouse/) has been launched, which provides information on national SCP programmes, and UNEP demonstration projects: [www.unep.fr/scp/nap/clearinghouse/](http://www.unep.fr/scp/nap/clearinghouse/)

- **National Roundtables** have been held in China, India, and Brazil, and seven demonstration projects on SCP National Strategies are currently being implemented.

- **Seven Marrakech Task Forces** were established, which are implementing concrete SCP projects at national and regional levels, building North-South cooperation, and developing and testing SCP tools. The Task Forces and their lead countries are: 1- Cooperation with Africa (Germany), 2- Education for Sustainable Consumption (Italy), 3- Sustainable Buildings and Construction (Finland), 4- Sustainable Lifestyles (Sweden), 5- Sustainable Products (United Kingdom), 6- Sustainable Public Procurement (Switzerland), and 7- Sustainable Tourism (France). To know more about the Task Forces see: [www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/](http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/) and [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/marrakech/taskforces.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/marrakech/taskforces.htm)

- **Business and Industry Forum**, organised by the International Chamber Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), was launched as a mechanism of the Marrakech Process during the Third International SCP Expert Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden (June 2007).

- **The NGO Forum** was also launched as a mechanism of the Marrakech Process during the Third International SCP Expert Meeting in Stockholm, organised by ‘One Earth Initiative’ and ‘Society in Action Group’.

- **The outline of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP** has been developed. We are aiming to deliver the first draft of proposal for the 10YFP by June 2008. Read the outline at: [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/marrakech/timeline.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/marrakech/timeline.pdf) and [www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/10yfp.htm](http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/10yfp.htm)
ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

The main goals of the Marrakech Process for this year are:

♦ Develop a solid draft of the 10YFP by the end of 2008, drawing on broad stakeholder consultations. All stakeholders groups and Marrakech Process mechanisms (regional consultations, national roundtables, Task Forces, Business and NGO Forums, etc) are expected to provide feedback and inputs.

♦ The Advisory Committee on the Marrakech Process will be launched soon. The main objective of the Committee will be to provide advice in the elaboration of the 10YFP and to attract more political commitment and support for the Marrakech Process and the 10YFP.

♦ Two national roundtables will take place in 2008: in China (May) and South Africa (June).

♦ In collaboration with the Business and Industry Forum, the next UNEP Annual Business & Industry Meeting will focus on the Marrakech Process (Paris, October 2008).

♦ The Stockholm NGO Forum has developed a website on the Marrakech NGO Forum and a list-server: www.icspac.net/NGOForum.htm

REGIONAL MEETINGS

A new round of regional consultations will be held in 2008/09, with the main objective to obtain views and inputs of regional experts on the design and development of the 10YFP. These meetings will also 1) strengthen and obtain more institutional and political support for the existing SCP strategies, 2) support the development of new SCP strategies and initiatives, and 3) engage the Marrakech Task Forces in the implementation of regional SCP strategies.

The meetings scheduled include:

⇒ West Asia Regional Expert Meeting on SCP, 17-19 March 2008, Al-Ain, U.A.E.

⇒ African Regional Roundtable on SCP, 3-5 June 2008, Johannesburg, South Africa

⇒ European Regional Meeting on SCP, 23-24 June, 2008, Prague, Czech Republic

⇒ Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP, 19-20 September, 2008, Cebu, Philippines

THE ARAB REGION JOINS THE MARRAKECH PROCESS

The First Roundtable on SCP in the Arab Region held in Al-Ain, UAE, 17-19 March 2008 has achieved concrete outcomes, and engaged the region actively in the Marrakech Process, with the support of the League of Arab States and the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia. The main outcomes are listed below:

♦ Regional SCP priorities were identified

♦ The region agreed to develop an SCP Action Plan

♦ The region called for the establishment of a regional network on National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), to be organized in close cooperation with UNIDO

♦ The UAE announced their interest to establish a new NCPC

♦ Cooperation was built with the Marrakech Task Forces on Sustainable Public Procurement and on Sustainable Life-styles. A workshop on YouthXChange was held successfully
NEWS ON THE TASK FORCES

The Green Passport campaign has been launched by The Task Force on Sustainable Tourism in cooperation with UNEP at the Berlin Tourism Fair in 10 March 2008. The website, developed in English, Portuguese and French, includes communication tool and is available online at: www.unep.fr/greenpassport/

The Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles held a meeting of its advisory group on 12 March 2008, in Brussels, back to back with the SCORE Conference. The Task Force is planning a ‘Global Survey on Sustainable Lifestyles’.

Task Forces present in the Arab Region: The Sustainable Lifestyles and Sustainable Public Procurement Tasks Forces will be participating actively at the First SCP Roundtable in the Arab Region to be held in 17-19 March 2008, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates.

Workshops with Task Forces are planned in Africa: The Task Forces on Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Lifestyles, Sustainable Public Procurement, and Sustainable Buildings and Construction are planning workshops during the next meeting of the African Roundtable on SCP, in June 2008, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Task Force on Cooperation with Africa will hold a meeting back-to-back with the African regional roundtable.

The Sustainable Buildings and Construction Task Force is holding a workshop on 21-25 September in Melbourne, Australia.

The Sustainable Tourism Task Force will organize a Conference next October, in Paris, France.

MARRAKECH PROCESS WEBSITES

The Marrakech Process joint website www.un.org/esa/sustdev/marrakech (UN-DESA and UNEP) and the UNEP website www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech are being updated to become more user-friendly. They will be launched in April. The websites complement each other and have been re-designed to accommodate new content, to make available all Marrakech Process documents, and to welcome all SCP stakeholder groups to participate in the development of the 10YFP.