



Context

In the late 1980s, the concept of “sustainable development” launched by the Brundtland Commission marked a turning point in global development and environmental politics. Then, the international community recognized that development and environmental sustainability are interdependent and must be tackled together. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, industrialized countries reiterated their commitment by adopting Agenda 21, thereby agreeing to foster access for developing countries and economies in transition to sustainable production methods, practices and techniques.

Strategy

After the Rio Summit, UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched pilot projects in resource-efficient and cleaner production to demonstrate preventive environmental strategies. Upon their successful completion, both partners agreed to sustain such production by establishing national capacities, known as the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), in developing countries and economies in transition. They focus on reducing the use of energy, water and other natural resources while also reducing the generation of waste and emissions, especially from small and medium-sized enterprises.

In Tanzania, the NCPC was established in 1995 under joint UNIDO-UNEP funding and continued its work from 1999 to 2005 with the financial support of the Government of Norway. In 2005, the Centre was legally established as a non-profit trust, with the aim of providing services in cleaner production, sustainable consumption, environmental and energy management to both the public and private sectors, with a particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises. To date, the Centre is active in industrial sectors such as textiles, food, chemicals, beverage, leather, pulp and paper.

Results

Since its establishment, the NCPC has:

- Conducted 17 training sessions, trained 361 national experts on cleaner production
- Organized 53 seminars, workshops and other awareness-raising activities for more than 1,500 representatives from key stakeholder groups including governmental, non-governmental and private organizations.
- Provided assistance to 43 companies and trained 189 company experts
- At enterprise level, contributed to improved working conditions and safety, decreased pollution output, more efficient use of resources, and improved product quality

Impact/Outlook

The NCPC has successfully achieved its own legal status, with the aim of promoting cleaner production nationally and providing services that meet industry’s demands and requirements. As the Executive Secretariat for the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP), the Centre has also taken on a key role in promoting regional cooperation and experience sharing. Overall, the UNIDO-UNEP National Cleaner Production Centres and programmes have been established in 47 countries. In 2009, the partners agreed to expand and scale-up the global networking activities of the NCPCs.

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At a glance:

Goal: Cleaner production in the United Republic of Tanzania
MDG: 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Thematic area: Environment and Energy

Donors: Government of the Netherlands, Government of Norway, UNEP, UNIDO

Partners: UNEP, One UN-Tanzania (UNCT)

Status: completed (ongoing cooperation with UNIDO and third-party funding)