



Science-based Decision-making on Sustainable Consumption and Production



Explore UNEP's cutting-edge tools designed to guide nations towards sustainable natural resource management.



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Why does it matter?

In the face of the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—there is an urgent need for effective and sustainable multilateral actions grounded in scientific evidence on country-level environmental impacts. The International Resource Panel's Global Resources Outlook 2024 (UNEP/EA.6/INF/09) underscores the escalating use of natural resources as the primary driver of these crises, contributing to over 55% of GHG emissions, 40% of health impacts related to particulate matter, and 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress. Therefore, understanding how natural resources are used, and managing them sustainably, is instrumental in addressing global challenges.

UNEP provides material flow data to understand and assess the environmental implications of resource extraction, production, consumption, trade, and waste generation. 'Materials' encompass natural resources like minerals, fossil fuels, and biomass. Material flows, together with information on energy use, land use and emissions, enable a comprehensive picture of environmental impacts.

UNEA 6 draft resolutions emphasize the critical importance of using resources more efficiently and sustainably, aligning with UNEP's commitment to advancing sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices globally.



UNEP's tools for SCP

Discover the power of UNEP's ready-to-use tools to unleash the potential of sustainable resource management. The following tools facilitate informed environmental decision-making, guiding nations towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

UNEP IRP Global Material Flow Database:



Delve into a wealth of data that empowers governments, policy researchers, and stakeholders to comprehend and trace the intricate linkages between economic growth and raw material use. This database fosters a deeper understanding of resource dynamics and serves as a foundation for evidence-based decision-making.

SCP Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT):



Empower your nation with an online entry-level assessment tool that provides invaluable insights into environmental pressures and impacts at both the national and sector levels. SCP-HAT offers a territorial and footprint perspective, facilitating the identification of priorities for SCP policy efforts.

Global Footprint Tool:



Uncover the environmental and social pressures and impacts stemming from your country's final demand on global natural resources and ecosystems, based on locally sourced data. The Global Footprint Tool facilitates the reporting of data on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 8.4.1 and 12.2.1 on Material Footprint.

HOW are UNEP Tools for SCP being used?

➤ **The Global Material Flows Database** provides estimated data to report on SDG Indicators 8.4 and 12.2. Policymakers, academics, and the private sector use it for consultation and research. It played a key role in developing the Global Resources Outlook 2024, a report requested by UNEA Member States. The database allows for a historical analysis of resource use including global material extraction, trade, consumption, material footprints, and trends in global resource productivity.

➤ **The Global Footprint Tool** is a vital resource for countries, especially those without comprehensive national statistical data. This tool empowers nations by providing the capacity to precisely calculate and report their national footprints. It plays a pivotal role in monitoring progress and reporting national data aligned with SDG Targets 8.4 and 12.2, thereby complementing the estimated data sourced from the Global Material Flows Database

➤ **SCP-HAT** was instrumental in the development of the 2nd revised **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** of South Sudan, among other countries, by pinpointing sectoral hotspots. SCP-HAT identified agriculture as the primary consumer of raw materials and the leading emitter of GHG, prompting the introduction of targeted measures to address this inefficiency. In Argentina, SCP-HAT played a crucial role in developing their National SCP Strategy, ensuring that efforts and policies prioritized socio-economic sectors or activities with the greatest impacts.

Expanding on past achievements, the SCP-HAT is a key tool in the initial phase of the "Building Circularity into NDCs" **digital toolbox**. Developed by UNEP, UNDP, and the UNFCCC Secretariat, the toolbox helps prioritize sectors/sub-sectors for incorporating the circular economy into NDCs. **Regional science partners** have built capacity on how to use the SCP-HAT in the context of NDCs at the UNFCCC Climate Weeks, effectively connecting circular economy and national climate planning.

Figure: Underlying data and main uses of UNEP SCP Tools.

