



COUNTRY PROFILE

MYANMAR

Myanmar National Context for SCP and Connection to the Global Agenda

Since its economic opening, Myanmar has committed to implementing the SDGs, including SDG 12, and has started to localize them for implementation. However, awareness of SDGs in Myanmar, from government officials, NGO staff and academics to the general public is relatively low, and baseline data is only partly available. Several initiatives in support to industrial energy efficiency have been supported by the Global Environment Fund. With the SME Development Law (2015) committees to promote SME development were created. Green financing for SMEs is made available through the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank, Myanmar Insurance, and international organizations. With support of the WWF, a Green Economy Strategic Framework was developed in 2016. In the context of Myanmar's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)

which was submitted to UNFCCC in 2015, Myanmar has designed a Myanmar Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan (MCCSAP) 2017-2030, six sectoral action plans, as mandated by the National Climate Change Policy. Those provide a roadmap to guide Myanmar's strategic responses to address climate related risks and opportunities over the next 15 years and beyond. Cooperation with the European Union has continued over more than a decade to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production through SWITCH-Asia utilising the Grants Programme, which since 2010 has made possible eight projects, aimed at energy efficiency, environmental management, plastics and waste management, resources efficiency in the textile industry and logistics sector.

CHALLENGES

In its transition to democracy, a market economy and peace, Myanmar is attempting to balance rapid economic growth with a commitment to sustainable development.

- While the industrial sector is a key element of Myanmar's economic development plans, the sector is not operating sustainably. Pollution, insufficient waste management and mass tourism contribute to advanced environmental degradation.
- Sustainable consumption and production practices can be improved in various sectors, such as agriculture, land use and forestry; energy; mining; industry, commerce and tourism; urban development and infrastructure, as well as cross-cutting sectors including public administration and education.
- Myanmar's economic growth has resulted in high pollution levels (waste water, solid waste, GHG emissions, air pollution). The accelerated development of industries is considered crucial in Myanmar's effort to become an industrialized modern nation. Economic development has resulted in the expansion of urban areas, agriculture and mining, leading to an increase in deforestation. Water quality has deteriorated due to contamination by unregulated and environmentally unsound mining operations along the river.
- Despite several relevant long-term strategies and action plans, translation into legislative frameworks and enforcement of regulations are insufficient to safeguard the environment.
- Polluting industries like mining and garment are among the country's main trading industries.
- Waste management in Myanmar poses a considerable challenge.
- Outdoor air pollution in Myanmar is among the highest in the world, due to inefficient modes of transport, inefficient combustion of household fuels for cooking, lighting and heating, coal-fired power plants, industrial agriculture and waste burning.
- Myanmar has the lowest electrification rate of the region (~34%) which means that more than 60% do not have access to a modern form of electricity. Further, due to low maintenance, electricity losses are high. Four cities - Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing - use more than 70% of Myanmar's total electricity generation. Expansion of sustainable energy is key, though knowledge on maintenance and on ways to finance off-grid renewable energy solutions for low income customers is limited.

- Data availability and reliability is limited. Only 60% of baseline data exists across all SDG indicators.
- On the policy level, urban development in Myanmar suffers from conflicting and non-aligned planning activities and low capacity in implementing development plans.

PRIORITIES

Beyond the response to above challenges, Myanmar seeks to diversify its growing economy. Priorities in the field of sustainable consumption and production include the following:

- Incorporate more sustainable practices in the agri-food processing industry. This ranges from farm to fork, from more sustainable land-use (crop diversification, sustainable/climate-smart agriculture practices) to responsible consumption concepts (cooling chain and preservation techniques, food loss prevention, marketing strategies).
- Increase sustainable practices in the tourism sector, build knowledge around financial models for sustainable tourism and the construction of the required infrastructure, and to further develop ecotourism assets.
- To improve waste management, including industrial waste and post-consumer plastics.
- Delivering sustainable consumption and production practices in Myanmar requires capacity building as well as coordination throughout the government and wider community. Education and public administration are critical enablers.
- Improve transparency and accountability: improved governance, economic incentives and stringent enforcement can improve closing current gaps, e.g. the fight against illegal trade in timber and mining, for example through the development of technical capacities for tracing.
- Overall, develop an effective strategy and review of incentives/disincentives hampering conservation of natural assets.

OPPORTUNITIES

- SWITCH-Asia can support the alignment efforts for urban development planning between both local and national levels and build respective capacities, especially at city level.
- Scale-up efforts to reach out to local communities to improve capacity around sustainable consumption and production, e.g., community foresting and prioritize biodiversity assets for guiding interventions to protect these assets.
- Train media to report on SCP and to create awareness among the public.
- Expand cooperation with international organizations and institutions especially on combatting pollution, capacity building, and impact measurement.
- Exploration of innovative finance or the enabling of public private alliances on blended finance (e.g., government guarantees, private investment, suitable feed in tariffs), will help to create an enabling environment for green investment also in rural areas, and create new green jobs. Examples range from assistance with local solutions, e.g. options to finance off-grid renewable energy solutions for low-income customers, to advice on macro-level policies, e.g. fiscal policies for eco-tourism that link recreational use to conservation funding in protected areas.
- Assist with demonstration and testing of viable approaches, e.g., piloting an urban “green zone district” which demonstrates sustainable infrastructure and planning concepts as well as energy efficiency measures, and advocate for wider adoption of successful practices.
- Provide suitable international examples on energy efficiency standards and technologies, including lessons learned in other countries that are relevant to Myanmar’s development context.

GRANT PROJECTS IN MYANMAR



Ongoing



Ongoing



Completed



Completed

NURTURING GREEN AQUACULTURE IN MYANMAR (NGA-MYANMAR)

Promoting access and adoption of cleaner production practices and green technologies

Theme: Agri-food



PREVENT PLASTICS

Promoting a circular economy and resource efficiency through a clean and recycling-based economy

Theme: Plastics



THA BAR WA

Catalysing Sustainable Water and Energy Management in Food and Beverage Industries in the Ayeyarwady River Basin

Theme: Construction



SMART MYANMAR I

SMEs for Environmental Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency

Theme: Agri-food



Completed



Completed



Completed



Completed

SMART MYANMAR II

SMEs for Environmental Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency

Theme: Textiles and Leather



SCALE

Upscaling improved cook stove dissemination in Myanmar

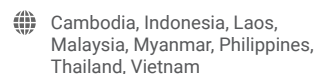
Theme: Cook Stove



AEMAS

Establishment of the ASEAN Energy Management Scheme

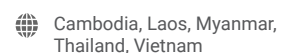
Theme: Multi-industry



SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS

Sustainable freight transport and logistics in the Mekong Region

Theme: Transport and Logistics



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