

Capacity Building to Reduce Key Barriers for Resources Efficiency and Technology Transfer in the African context

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Structure of Presentation

- Role of SCP/RE in Africa
- Challenges and Barriers for SCP/RE in Africa
- Towards a Strategic Approach to Capacity Building on SCP/RE
- Recommendations

Role of SCP/RE to Africa

- Strong linkages between Poverty, environmental degradation and under-development in the region
- Africa's natural resources hold the key to poverty eradication, only if used carefully and managed.
- Link SCP/RE with the challenges of meeting basic needs and for sustainable resource use.
- Structural change in Africa economies has been limited. Share of Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) in GDP = 9%. Potential for industrial take-off in the near future
- Challenge of incorporating SCP/RE at early stages of industrialization and as consumption and production patterns change.
- Leapfrogging possibilities in infrastructure planning, manufacturing and service delivery..however need legs to be able to leapfrog!

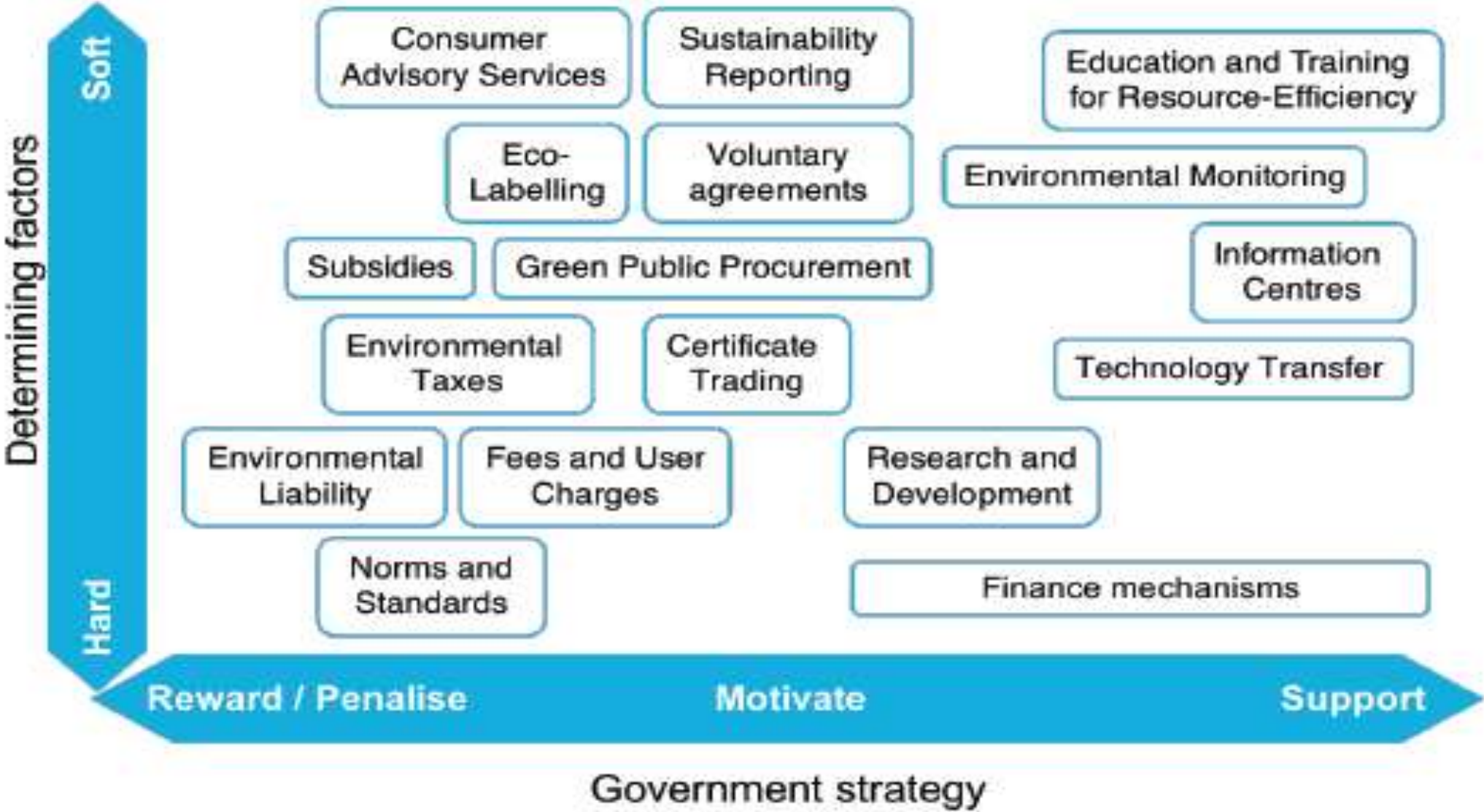
Status of SCP/RE

- Impact and penetration of SCP/RE activities is still very limited in most countries.
- Few key activities carried out in most countries as part of the 10 YFP.
- Very few examples of integrated SCP activities. SC and SP are mainly approached as separate issues.
- Several examples for SP; less examples for SC
- SC tools are very poorly developed. Systemic approaches such as LCA ,MFA, IOT EE are either non-existent or still at infancy stage

Barriers to SCP/RE:

- Lack of awareness;
- Weak policy, legislative and enforcement basis for the promotion of SCP/RE;
- Lack of financing mechanism for CP investment and technology transfer;
- Lack of R & D and systems for collecting, synthesizing and feeding back information and knowledge on ESTs;
- Poor education and lack of institutional capacity and trained manpower

Resource Efficiency Policy matrix (CSCP, 2007)



Towards a more strategic approach to capacity building in Africa

- Despite substantial donor support over a long period,
- Capacity remains a binding constraint to development. Promoting SCP/RE in the region would require more than supply-side interventions.
- Capacity development is a long-term process, rarely amenable to seeking quick results through shortcuts. It is, above all, an endogenous course of action that builds on existing capacities
- African countries must improve the performance of their public sectors for SCP/RE . The International Development Community has traditionally treated public sector capacity building as a collateral objective rather than as a core goal in its own right

Key Role of the Public Sector in promoting RE

- Report on the state of the environment-highlighting environmental impacts, and developing resource efficiency indicators and setting long term targets on the basis of best scientific knowledge
- Shape policies that impact on resource use(for ex: economic instruments to ensure the price of resources takes into account environmental impacts)
- Working with business to improve resource efficiency
- Develop sector specific resource efficiency improvements plans and encouraging innovation of resource efficient technologies and processes.

Adopt an Endogenous Approach to CB

- More importantly the inability to use existing capacity effectively is a barrier.
- Rely on existing local potential during CB interventions. Aim at government officials who already have a basic theoretical knowledge of SCP/RE.
- Place greater emphasis on practice rather than theory- Develop an actual tool in a learning context
- Every training session must conclude with the development of a specific technical tool (proposed draft legislation, needs analysis document, sectoral guide , LCA of Biofuels, MFA, IOT EE etc) in accordance with the country's needs.

The CD4CDM example

- Adoption of tools (LCA, MFA, SFA) to a limited extent in public and private sectors in Africa
- Africa's share of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects is quite marginal (1.7%). One of the Key Barrier to CDM in Africa is weak institutional capacity in Public and Private Sector to develop projects
- The Nairobi Framework: Capacity Development for CDM (CD4CDM) Project
- The recent establishment of Designated National Authorities (DNA) for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in some African Countries has revitalized the application of these tools. The development of CDM projects will recognize further application of the tools

Recommendations

- Systems approaches and tools (LCA ,MFA, IOT EE..) needed to tackle SCP challenges and to “leapfrog” directly towards SCP structures.... however need for capacity building of public sector.
- Governments should be helped to prioritize capacity building activities and guide support needed from donors
- Use the Development of National Action Plans on SCP to create multi-stakeholder dialogue forums and raise awareness and identify CB priorities. ..will provide the motivation
- Using centres of excellence to raise standards throughout the system. International Community should commit to revitalise Africa’s institutions of higher education and to develop centres of excellence in S&T.
- Make CP centres in Africa function as regional centres of excellence and focal points in SCP/RE in specific sectors

Recommendations (contd...)

- Complement local Govt initiatives by international collaborative programmes to build local capacities-ex UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative or NCPCs.
- Piggyback on existing CB initiatives (UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative,CD4CDM) to link LCA and MFA training.
- Include Statistical Agencies for Training on MFA and SCP indicators
- Learning-by-doing is the most powerful form of capacity building. Transform traditional CB tools to give concrete results in a number of priority areas -Sustainable Procurement in Government programs, Minimum Energy Performance Standards, Extended Producer Responsibility regulations, LCA of Biofuels, etc)

Thank You for Your Attention