

Environmental Management Group Sustainable Procurement Survey



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Walk the talk

UN raison d'être

- Peace, equality, sustainable development, prosperity, etc.
- We operate and purchase to achieve these goals
- Procurement does not only provide us with the means to work but gives a signal of what is important for us ...
- ...and can concretely support sustainable economic development



UNEP's Sustainable Procurement

Process by which an organisation purchases goods and services by taking into account.

- environmental performance of processes and products over their life cycle
- social performance: respect of ILO conventions; information and transparency, training and pay policy; and and "civic" performance : existence and quality of relations/ dialogue with civil society and its representatives: public institutions, associations, NGOs etc.
- economy performance: commercial relations with clients and suppliers, LCA based price/quality etc.



Scope issue

- Procurement covers goods and services we buy to operate (offices and operations, etc.)
- Facilities management covers: how we design, build and run our buildings (electricity, water, maintenance, cleaning, security, etc.)
-to obtain results we need to address both and to address staff awareness too



Scope issue

- Procurement and FM are mostly handled as separate issues
- UN procurers have a UN procurement manual and a series of guidelines. UN facilities managers have no general guidelines or manual.
- IAPWG and UN FMG meet once a year. In the last meeting of UN FMG in May integration of global compact and greening was discussed. The IAPWG met in June and no discussion on SP took place.



EMG survey on Sustainable procurement (& EMS)

8th meeting of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) on 1st September 2004 in Nairobi decided to

“Work on developing supplier codes of conduct, preparation of an inventory of existing sustainable procurement policies and practices and the issue of training”



EMG survey objectives

Take the pulse and provide suggestions

“policy recommendations based on the analysis of an inventory of current practices, experiences (or absence of), identified opportunities and obstacles for the introduction of sustainable procurement and Environmental Management System practices in UN agencies”



EMG survey outputs

1. an inventory on SP practices and in the UN inclusive of examples of ongoing capacity building efforts (15 agencies)
2. a proposal for a strategy to raise awareness and lead to implementation of SP in UN procurement policies.



Composition of the IMG

- UNEP DTIE led the work of the IMG.
- With support from a core group composed of UNDP/IAPSO and UN/DESA, UNDP and UN PS
- At the first meeting in NY the UN FM were also present as well as UNOPS
- ...we worked with procurers mainly and presented the survey research plan to the IAPWG annual meeting in 2005



EMG Survey Method

- Desk research on UN family
- interviews and in depth research on 15 agencies...
- ...selected on the base of purchasing volumes + participation to Global Compact and "image' (*i.e.: UNEP is not a high spender but as Environment agency needs to be in*)...
- plus other agencies that are doing an outstanding work

EMG Survey Focus

- Operational procurement of FAO; IAEA; IAPSO; ILO; OHCHR; UNDP; UNEP; UNON; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF; UNIDO; UNOPS; UNPS; WHO.
- We think however that the conclusions can be applied also to the procurement and management of our buildings

What did we found out

- a. Sustainable development is present as a concept in UN procurement but under different names, some initial steps are being taken to have environmental or social considerations in purchasing;
- b. No co-ordination or guidelines exist at system level. Agencies act mainly on their own under inspiration of some motivated procurement officials.
- c. Procurers are open to include sustainability in their work, but they need a **legal mandate** (high-level strong political signals), **training** and **well-targeted specific information** (database or clear guidelines per product category).

Good stories

Unicef factory inspections on child labor but also H&S
UNHCR training on environmental management for refugees camps
UNPS code of conduct and global compact endorsement
UNEP gigiri environmental audit and EMS
UNESCO and UNEP building renovations inclusive of environmental
and energy saving considerations
UNDP procurement manual and green offices award
World Bank CSR and carbon neutrality
.....

...there is no space however to show off

Main barriers for procurers

1. Lack of high level endorsement
2. Lack of capacity to address these issues (SD is not part of the required knowledge of procurers) and to implement them *"SP is not difficult to draft it is difficult to implement"*
3. Lack of tools: guidelines, product specs, incentives, IT solutions, case studies; monitoring and verification systems
4. Lack of training tools (especially associated to staff on field and to high turn over of staff)
5. Exclusion of procurement in project development process (importance of the role of requisitioners/project officers); need to work in teams

What is needed?

Political recommendations: Provide political support; Set the bar; designate a champion; systematically document initiatives

Programmatic recommendations:

increase focus on upstream activities (prescreening of vendors, project drafts etc.);

develop internal education strategy for all UN staff (CD rom, posters, intranet etc.);

develop tools for procurers (checklists for proc. & for vendors; Standard ToRs for most purchased products in different languages; insert SP in existing training efforts; etc.);

info sharing and cases reporting.



What could the EMG do?

- a. Draft text for the September commitment of the UN Secretary-General
- b. Facilitate the development of tools for the implementation of SP such as:
 1. "model" documents to facilitate the adoption of SP/ FM by agencies : standard SP policy, examples of ToRs, checklists most purchased products
 2. Proposal for a UN wide awareness raising initiative for staff (CD rom)
 3. Provide training opportunities on SP and FM
 4. Design guidelines for SP and work with relevant agencies and offices at the inclusion of SP in legal and guidance documents (UN contract conditions, UN procurement manual, etc)
 5. Provide case studies and examples
- c. Identify ways to monitor progress

What materials are available to start?

On UNEP side we can put on the table:

1. UNEP IAPSO slides for training UN procurers on SP (to update but complete) + Global compact training
2. Documentation on major MeAs and how they affect procurement (negative lists, possible legal backing to SP initiatives etc.)
3. Work with UNESCO on staff sensitisation on sustainable development and office behaviour (very initial stage)
4. Experience with work on guidelines and on environmental audits
5. Guidance document on efficient lighting (on its way)



We could put resources together on specific issues

Some key concepts

- Innovation (both in technologies and in procedures)
- Budget neutral (can we work on budget?)
- **Make it easy for procurers** (guidelines, standard specs etc.)
- Create the “space” to work in teams (procurers, or facilities managers and content people)
- PAS and performances (foot print reduction as part of the PAS?)
- Fair share between “symbolic” and concrete measures
- Do not under estimate the cultural aspects of SP and FM and anticipate resistance to change
- Look at business and governments



Thanks!

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