
Roadmap for Scaling up Resource Efficiency

Palestine

English Edition



SwitchMed, funded by the European Union, is collaboratively coordinated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the UN Environment's Economy Division, the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP) and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC).

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

The opinions and information contained are the responsibility of the author and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or bearing the endorsement of UNIDO. Although great care has been taken to maintain the accuracy of information herein, neither UNIDO nor its Member States assume any responsibility for consequences, which may arise from the use of the material. Designations such as "developed", "industrialized" and "developing" are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. The mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO. This document represents a work in progress and with the intention to generate comments and discussion. The views expressed herein are those of the author solely.

January 2018, by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing.

Author

UNIDO MED TEST II Project
in coordination with PALAST

Images

Cover: Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil/The Switchers
Page 6: Tafilelt/The Switchers
Page 11: Daniel Fazio/Unsplash

Concept

SwitchMed & Folch

Art direction & Graphic design

Folch

Find us on
switchmed.eu



Implementing partners



Technical partner



This document outlines the roadmap for scaling up Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in industry, in Palestine, based on learnings from the UNIDO MED TEST II project, which was implemented as part of the SwitchMed Programme. The roadmap was developed between January 2017 and December 2017, through a series of bilateral consultations, led by PALAST, with key stakeholders and building on their active participation and contribution: the Ministry of National Economy (MoNE), Environment Quality Authority (EQA), Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA), Ministry of Labour (MoL), Palestinian Standards Institutions (PSI), Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI), and the Palestinian Food Industries Association (PFIA).

BoP	Bank of Palestine	PFIA	Palestinian Food Industries Association
EQA	Environment Quality Authority	PSI	Palestinian Standards Institutions
HEI	Higher Education Institutions	RECP	Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production
ILO	International Labour Organization	RECPnet	The Global Network for RECP
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education	SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
MoNE	Ministry of National Economy	TEST	Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology
MoL	Ministry of Labour	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
PALAST	Palestine Academy for Science and Technology	USM	Union of Stone and Marble Industry
PCCP	Palestinian Centre for Clean Production		
PFI	Palestinian Federation of Industries		

Following the implementation of MED TEST II under the SwitchMed Programme, the Palestine Academy for Science and Technology (PALAST), together with key institutional stakeholders plans to build on the existing success of – and further develop – the introduction of RECP at pilot agribusiness and industrial food companies, within the broader framework of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) National Action Plan.

A review of existing policies related to SCP and RECP in Palestine, which was conducted within the SwitchMed Programme by PALAST in 2016, revealed opportunities for enhancing and further developing existing policy instruments within the overall national framework.

The first workshop with the national stakeholders was held on 30 January 2017, at PALAST offices in Ramallah, to start discussions about scaling up RECP in Palestine. Key stakeholders suggested various interventions for scaling up RECP in Palestine, which were later used as the basis for more detailed bilateral discussions with the SwitchMed national focal points: the Ministry of National Economy (MoNE) and the Environment Quality Authority (EQA), and other relevant stakeholders. Following these discussions, PALAST, supported by UNIDO and a local policy consultant, drafted this document to highlight the potential pathways to effectively scale up the RECP concept in Palestine.

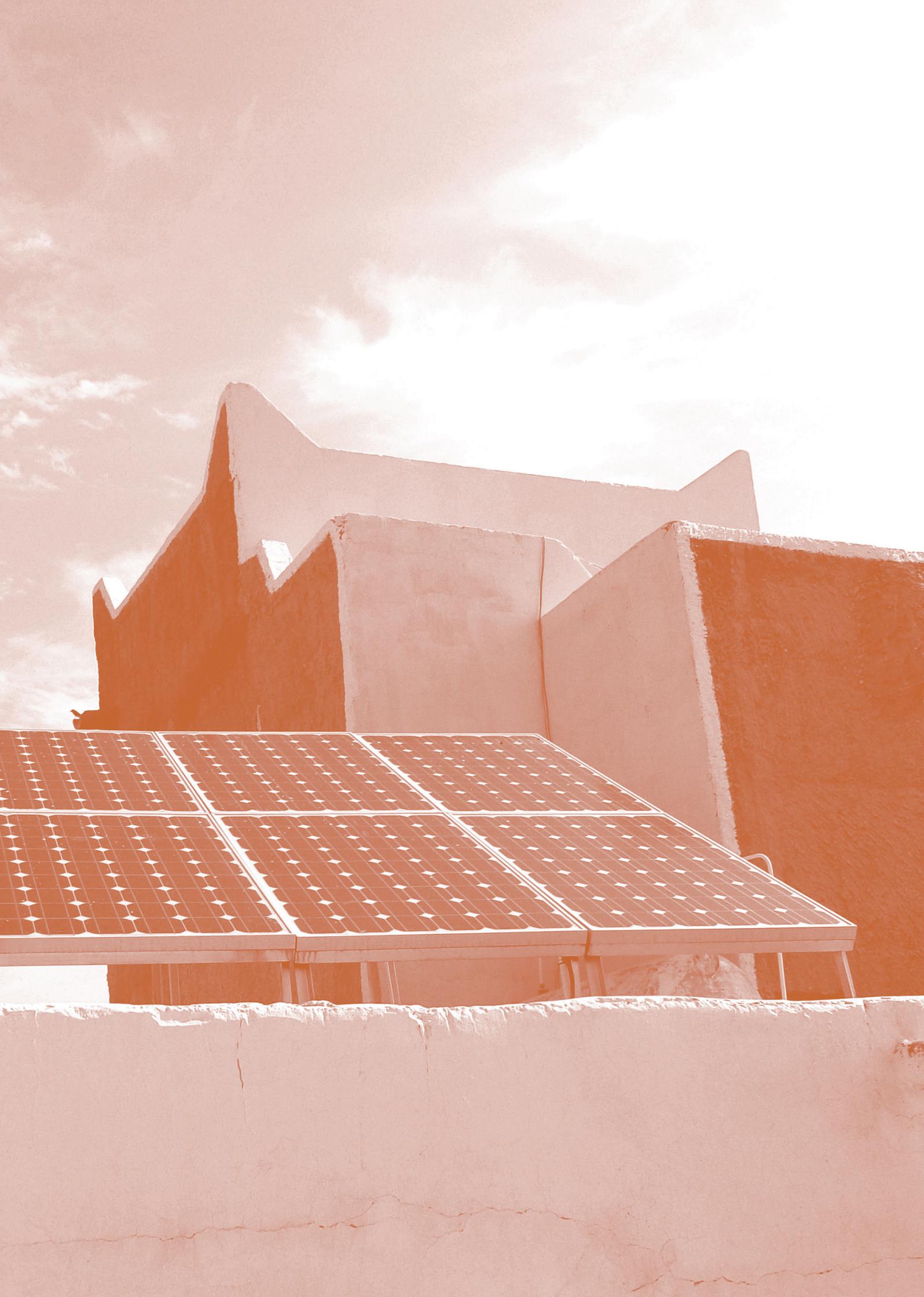
¹ For more information: switchmed.eu.

1. Starting Point

Promoting RECP concepts on a national level, within the various industrial sectors, is extremely important in making Palestinian products more competitive on the local market, and in creating a stronger presence on the export market. It is acknowledged that there are several obstacles to this, mainly linked to political instability, economic challenges in the region, and the lack of appropriate enabling infrastructure and capabilities.

In 2016, the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan (SCP-NAP) was developed within the SwitchMed Programme, providing direction for mainstreaming SCP in Palestine. This plan focuses on three sectors: food and agriculture, housing and construction, and tourism, and has a timeframe of 6 years (2017-2022).

Although Palestine lacks a comprehensive strategy to address RECP, several legislative instruments are already in place, alongside national sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, which provide a framework for the potential promotion of RECP as a practical approach to reducing pressure on already scarce natural resources while, at the same time, enhancing the competitiveness of the industry.



2. Vision and Leverage

The aim of this roadmap is to outline a strategic direction for harnessing RECP to increase the competitiveness of national industrial sectors, whilst preserving the natural environment and resources of Palestine. The roadmap is action-oriented and includes interventions that leverage a set of actions and instruments to generate maximum positive impact using the limited resources available.

There are several existing laws, comprehensive technical specifications, and other platforms that can be utilised to promote RECP in Palestine. For example, the national government has made many efforts to build and strengthen the technical capabilities of Palestinian institutions in the field of the green economy. In addition, various programmes have been implemented in private sector institutions, civil society, and academic institutions, to advance the move towards a more sustainable and competitive economy. These programmes focus on raising awareness of the tools required to improve governance and performance within the industrial and services sectors, and provide training on, and technical assistance with, such tools.

Building on former experiences, and utilising existing programmes and platforms, can be a valuable way of raising awareness about the RECP concept and introducing RECP tools and solutions to the various industrial sectors. Finally, and most importantly, communicating the benefits to decision-makers has been identified as a powerful lever. They can then, in turn, steer the process of scaling up the RECP concept.

“Building on former experiences, and utilising existing programmes and platforms, can be a valuable way of raising awareness about the RECP concept.”

3. Roadmap for Scaling Up

During the national stakeholders meeting, a detailed matrix was generated, which has since been further developed to outline the approach for scaling up at four levels: Mindset (Commitment), Policy, Management, and Operation. It identifies the institutions that are relevant to supporting and implementing the scaling up of RECP; it explores the available resources and platforms for scaling up, including laws, regulations, expertise, and previous and ongoing programmes; it suggests actions required for scaling up and what is needed to support them, including acknowledgment of potential risks and barriers. The various pathways developed from this matrix are summarised in the table below.

Table 1 *Priority actions of the RECP roadmap, partners/stakeholders, and estimated budget by activity*

Pathway 1: Scaling-up RECP within the Food Industry

The main goal is to broaden the industrial beneficiaries within the food and beverage sector following the PFIA strategy that focuses on advancing competitive Palestinian food and beverage products.

Pathway Objectives	Main Activities	Institutional Setup	Timeframe	Estimated Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen food products produced locally and internationally. • Build workforce capabilities in the sector. • Introduce efficient best practices and technologies to the sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a general assessment of a sector’s needs, highlighting existing problems and opportunities • Establish a national database of how industries perform on RECP issues. • Promote RECP in all relevant food sub-sectors, including agribusiness. • Implement training and capability building programmes in the RECP areas. • Promote relevant standards and certificates on life cycle assessment and management. • Explore creating a national centre providing RECP services to the food industry sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFIA • PCCP • MoNE and EQA • PSI 	Within 18 Months	€100,000

Pathway 2: Scaling up within new industrial sectors – Stone and Marble Industry

The main goal is to use RECP in addressing problems associated with the production of stone and marble, in response to the USM environmental auditing and feasibility study.

Pathway Objectives	Main Activities	Institutional Setup	Timeframe	Estimated Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce RECP concept to sector’s needs. • Minimise the environmental footprint and costs of products in the sector. • Build human capability (workforce) within the sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the RECP concepts into the good practices described within the EQA database on stone and marble • Based on performance information in the EQA database, conduct a detailed needs assessment across the sector. • Design and implement a MED-TEST pilot project for a sample pool of companies within the sector. • Scale up RECP results from the sample companies to other industrial sites. • Promote integration of RECP into relevant standards and certificates in cooperation with PSI. • Strengthen the RECP capabilities of the Stone and Marble Centre of PPU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USM • PCCP • PSI • MoNE and EQA 	Within 18 Months	€120,000

Pathway 3: Awareness raising and policies promoting RECP

The main goal is to integrate RECP approach within licensing and formal auditing mechanisms.

Pathway Objectives	Main Activities	Institutional Setup	Timeframe	Estimated Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capabilities of EQA, MoNE, PSI, and PENRA for RECP concepts. • Introduce policy instruments promoting RECP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train inspectors from MoNE and EQA on RECP concepts. Training could be carried out whilst implementing the RECP concept at one of the Stone and Marble companies in cooperation with USM. • Integrate RECP principles into Energy Audit procedures carried out by PENRA. • Include RECP principles in the EQA's EIA Terms of Reference. • Conduct awareness-raising programmes in cooperation with PFI. • Actively communicate the results and benefits of the project through local media and relevant national platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoNE • EQA, • PSI • PFI • PCCP • PENRA 	Within 18 Months	€60,000

Pathway 4: RECP Financial Scheme

The main goal is to establish an RECP revolving investment fund and interest rate policies, supported by the Bank of Palestine.

Pathway Objectives	Main Activities	Institutional Setup	Timeframe	Estimated Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate industry access to financing for investment needed for RECP measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot soft loan scheme based on the experience of MED TEST II sample companies and BoP programmes, and promote it to other companies. • Integrate RECP lending schemes into EQA, PENRA and MoNE policies and guidelines. • Explore possibilities for utilising existing programmes offered by international financing institutions to support roll-out and implementation of RECP in industry. • Initiate contact for potential benefit from the SUNREF funds for scaling-up RECP and for potential benefit from the PENRA income tax incentive scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoP • PCCP • PENRA • EQA • MoNE • PFI • MoNE • EQA. 	Within 18 Months	€20,000

Pathway 5: RECP in Academia and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

The main goal is to introduce the RECP concept into TVET and other higher education curriculums.

Pathway Objectives	Main Activities	Institutional Setup	Timeframe	Estimated Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include RECP principles in academic and TVET curricula. • Raise awareness among workforce about RECP principles to develop skills of the labour market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop curricula and courses for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) principles and RECP concepts, for both Diploma and Bachelor programmes. • Design and conduct training of trainers (TOT) programmes targeting academic staff. • Create a forum of relevant stakeholders to exchange knowledge and improve collaboration efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoL • MoEHE • PCCP • HEI • ILO • MoNE and EQA • Interested international agencies: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) 	Within 18 Months	€40,000



There are difficult framework conditions in Palestine, and the limitations they present will make it more difficult to walk the pathways outlined here. In addition to ongoing political conflict, there is also a risk that political and/or economic conditions may deteriorate. Moreover, implementation of the roadmap must also consider the risk of lack of commitment from stakeholders, including businesses. For example, it is to be expected that this key target group may have problems with data confidentiality, especially for data relating to material flows and related costs, which provide a starting point for identifying the potential for RECP within a company.

In order to address these risks, and to overcome the anticipated barriers, implementation of the roadmap will build on existing experience and capacities. There are several existing platforms which can be utilised for scaling up RECP in Palestinian industry. The existing set of policies and national plans, including the Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan (SCP Plan), pave the way for the smooth integration of relevant RECP principles. The institutions of the Palestinian Authority, and the industrial unions, have not only shown great interest in scaling up RECP, but are also generally ready, and have the necessary drive and resources, to commence scaling up activities.

The suggested pathways are ambitious and complex. It may therefore be necessary to further prioritise the suggested interventions through further discussions with the national focal points and stakeholders.

The Palestinian Centre for Cleaner Production (PCCP) is underway in the establishment process as a non-governmental, not-for-profit institution, under the umbrella of the PFI, with representatives from relevant stakeholders involved in governing the centre's strategy. Support is urgently needed for the PCCP project, which aims to promote RECP at the national level, in order to facilitate and oversee implementation of RECP and to enhance the sustainability of national industries and services. Most of the interventions suggested

in this roadmap will be in line with the mandate suggested for the PCCP. The latter will primarily contribute to research and development and to creating synergies between industry and academia, to the promotion of the RECP approach including new methods and technologies, to raising awareness, to knowledge transfer, to providing policy advice, and to supporting decision makers, building capacity, and training. For this reason, PCCP is expected to act as one of the institutions relevant for the implementation of each suggested pathway of the roadmap. At the planning stage, before its creation, the PCCP was been recognised as an observer member of the RECPnet for the MENA region.