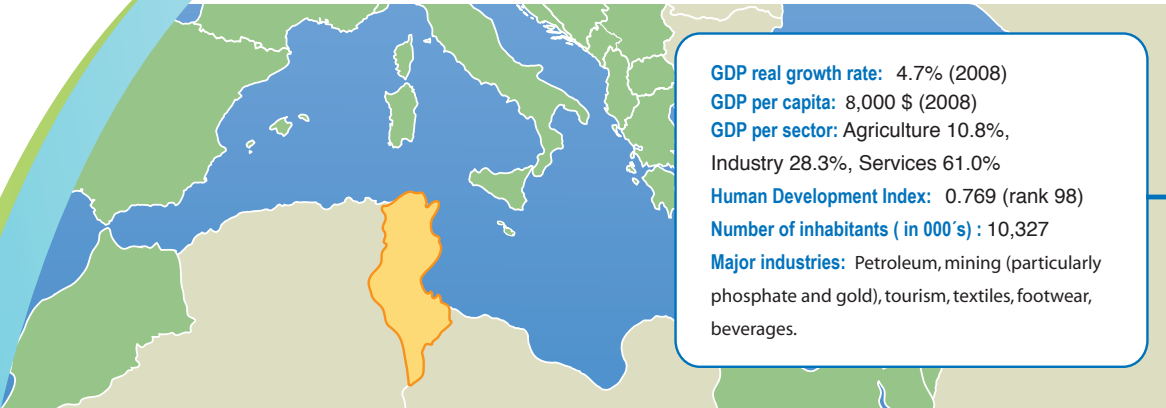


Tunisia



Main Issues related to SCP

80% of the Tunisian population lives in coastal areas where urbanization and industrialization have experienced strong growth, and led to a significant impact on the environment and eco-system. Major areas of concern include water stress, waste management, atmospheric emissions and energy efficiency.

Waste & Waste Water:

Predictive data indicates that Tunisia could be experiencing absolute water shortage by 2025. In 2006 91% of the annual technical available total water resources were consumed. Nevertheless the government is planning important investment projects to tackle the problem in the future. Among them desalination facilities are expected to be multiplied seven-fold between 2008 and 2030. Efforts have also been made to promote wastewater treatment and reuse. Most of the wastewater treated in plants is now reused in agriculture, golf courses or for other purposes.

Waste:

The Tunisian waste management system has improved significantly in the last few years. More than 15 new landfills have been built in major cities and coastal and touristic areas. Management systems for waste recovery and recycling (plastics, oils, glass, organic waste etc.) have been established along with a system for developing an integrated management of hazardous waste. Another initiative has been the creation of the National Agency for the Management of Solid Waste responsible for the coordination of the different aspects of waste management in Tunisia.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

Atmospheric emissions are superior to the maximum permitted by the World Health Organization (WHO). The main causes are energy production, industry and transportation that are all characterized by an excessive use of low quality fossil fuels. A National Network for Air Quality Monitoring has been established to monitor air quality. Other initiatives include a national transportation programme to promote the use of clean fuels for public transportation, and an energy efficiency plan to foster consumption rationalization and alternative energy source development, mainly natural gas. Although there is great potential, renewable energies only represent 0.6% of total

Policies and Strategic Framework

National programmes of sustainable development have mainly focused on policies for the reconstruction and recovery of the natural environment and regions heavily damaged by industrial pollution. One of the government's long-term policies for Sustainable Development is the maintenance of pollution within fixed limits.

The XI Development Plan (2007-2011) aims to make significant energy savings by 2010 and anticipates major investment to deal with environmental and water issues in the country.

The concept of SCP is still associated with Cleaner Production and other forms of environment protection have not been fully integrated in government policy.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Tunisia has an advanced legal and regulatory framework that was completed in the last few years by a series of laws and norms on a wide range of issues such as energy efficiency, water pollution, air quality and waste management. Likewise the permit system has been strengthened with compulsory environmental impact assessments as a prerequisite to any industrial activity. Efforts are currently being made to reach a progressive alignment with EU environmental standards and requirements. It has led to the revision of several regulations, and the creation of an action plan to adapt industry standards and initiatives for product quality standards (ACAA2 project).

Tunisia has developed several economic instruments to promote Cleaner Production including subventions, tax cuts, soft credits and financial facilities. Several funds have also been created such as the Industrial Depollution Fund (FODEP), the Fund for Competitiveness Development (FODEC), the Technical Priority Investment Fund (ITP) and the National Fund for Energy Saving.

Although currently the number of initiatives in place is limited, the Minister of the Environment is planning to begin work on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

Greening Industry and Society

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a new concept in Tunisia. The main CSR related initiative was the launch of Global Compact in 2005 with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and involving the participation of several ministries, business organizations and trade unions. In 2008 more than 39 Tunisian companies had already joined the Global Compact principles. A series of dissemination activities have also been conducted as well as a national survey of CSR perception among a representative sample of Tunisian companies.

The number of certifications, such as ISO 14001, continues to grow. An award is given by the President of the Republic to companies with good environmental practice.

An important initiative, unprecedented in the region, has been the creation of the Tunisian Ecolabel designed to promote cleaner production and competitiveness in international markets. Likewise, Environmental labels such as the European Ecolabel or Green Key, are becoming increasingly popular in Tunisia.

Main Actors and Projects

The main public agents are: the **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development**, whose activities are complemented by the **National Agency for Environmental Protection (ANPE)**, the **National Agency for Waste Management (ANGED)** and **Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET)**.

Some noteworthy projects include:

- The creation of the Environmental Network of Maghrebi Associations and Companies (REME)
- The Southern Mediterranean clean technologies transfer project (MED-TEC) and the National Cleaner Production Centre Strengthening project (ONUDI-SECO)
- The Environment and Energy Program (PEE Tunisia).

