

The **Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)** strives to protect the environment and to foster development in the Mediterranean Basin. It was adopted in Barcelona (Spain) in 1975 by Mediterranean States and the EC, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its legal framework is made up of the Barcelona Convention (1976, revised in 1995) and seven Protocols covering certain specific aspects of environmental protection. The Action Plan is built up around an Athens-based Coordinating Unit, the MED POL Programme and six Regional Activity Centres.

The **Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)**, based in Barcelona-Spain, was established in 1996. In its mission to promote sustainable consumption and production, CP/RAC is committed to promoting a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Mediterranean from both production and consumption using a consumption perspective and raising awareness on the role of consumption in GHG emission generation. The CP/RAC activities are financed by the Spanish Government once they have been submitted and approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and by the Bilateral Monitoring Commission made up of representatives from the Spanish and Catalan Governments.

# Sustainable consumption and production and CLIMATE CHANGE

The consumption-based approach to greenhouse gas emissions



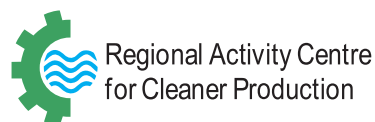
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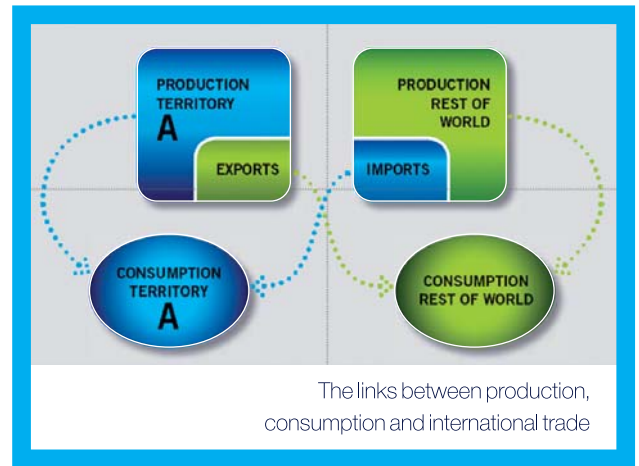
The Mediterranean region appears to be one of the areas of the planet which may feel the greatest impact of climate change. Preventing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the possible consequences of climate change therefore constitutes a priority field of action in the region.

Consumption-based approach to tackle Climate Change, an invaluable tool

The **Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)** is integrating this priority in its mission of promoting sustainable consumption and production and has launched a major area of work intended to deal with climate change from the perspective of final consumption and related trade. This will become an invaluable tool for the ongoing initiatives in the region, such as the Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean, with prospects of a free trade area increasing consumption and production flows in the Mediterranean.

In this context, the Centre has recently carried out four technical studies under an initiative called

**A consumption-based approach to GHG in a global economy – A pilot experiment in the Mediterranean.**



## THE 4 REPORTS

### Determining consumption emissions: Carbon footprint, state-of-the-art

The report reviews the state of the art of carbon footprint analysis used for determining emissions from a consumption perspective, giving an overview of key concepts and methodological aspects. It also examines case studies from various countries, notably from the Mediterranean. It concludes with a number of potential uses for this innovative methodology and their challenges.

#### Case study: Spain

The report focuses on Spain as a practical case on how to calculate GHG from its consumption by analysing its carbon footprint, describing in a detailed fashion the approach and methodological development. The study revolves around three main axis: general overview and trends of Spain's carbon footprint; Spain's carbon footprint by consumption categories; and greenhouse gas emissions embodied in international trade.

### Determining consumption emissions using the carbon footprint: Research and application perspectives in the Mediterranean region

The report provides a review of data available in the Mediterranean to evaluate the possibilities of using the consumption-based approach in the region. The analysis is broken down by countries and presents information grouped in three main blocks: data on greenhouse gas emissions, data on energy production and consumption, as well as economical data. It also gives a preliminary applicability assessment by country and identifies a number of future potential applications.

### A consumption-based approach to GHG emissions in a global economy: A pilot experiment in the Mediterranean

A fourth report has been produced integrating the main findings and concepts from the aforementioned documents. The report is intended as a key tool for facilitating the understanding and dissemination of the consumption-based approach to greenhouse gas emissions.

## THE CONSUMPTION-BASED APPROACH TO GHG EMISSIONS: A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Although GHG emissions are tending to stabilise in countries which have quantified emission commitments in the Kyoto Protocol, they continue to increase at a global level. Therefore, with a post-Kyoto scenario in mind, it is essential to use new approaches for gaining complementary insights on where the sources of GHG emissions lie, in order to better tackle climate change.

To complement the current approach that calculates a country's emissions from domestic **production**, one can use a **consumption** perspective to analyse the sources of GHG emissions related to consumer goods and services, produced either domestically or abroad. This so-called **consumption-based approach to GHG emissions** provides a new framework to analyse trends and sources of emissions. Using input-output analysis, it shows us the interlinkages between different production sectors and countries in terms of GHG emissions, and allows us to assess how different consumption patterns affect climate change, including trade, international transport, tourism and other aspects not properly addressed by the Kyoto regime.

Analysing GHG emissions from consumption is key to understand an ever global economy, along with increasingly international value chains. Accordingly, the consumption-based approach makes for an invaluable instrument for designing policies and strategies to both mitigate climate change and move towards sustainable consumption and production.