Introduction
The Government of the Republic of Ghana took a significant step in December 2010 when it made a public commitment to developing a Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) policy as a part of its national strategy for sustainable development. In implementing this policy, Ghana will be the first African country to adopt a national policy on SPP. In support of this, IISD is acting as technical consultant to a project led by the Public Procurement Authority of Ghana (PPA) with support from the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). IISD’s technical assistance comprises the following: a legal review; market readiness assessment; SPP policy development; action plan and product guideline drafting; and training and awareness-raising.

Legal Review
IISD conducted a legal review to advise the PPA on sustainability in the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for public procurement in Ghana. The focus was on the legal entry points for SPP, particularly in the Public Procurement Act of 2003 (Act 663)—the legal instrument regulating public procurement in Ghana, including its administrative and institutional framework. The outputs from this work provided clarity on the legislative and policy space that the Act and other domestic and international laws and regulations provide for Ghana to adopt and implement a policy on SPP.

Market Readiness Analysis
The market readiness analysis conducted by IISD provided intelligence on the current and expected future availability of sustainable goods, services and works in Ghana. This knowledge is essential to design policy and requirements that will effectively drive SPP in the country. The analysis addressed the responsiveness of the market, the reactions to be expected of the business sector to future SPP tenders, and the capacity across individual sectors to supply sustainable products according to specific public procurement requirements. IISD also contributed to a consultation with companies that do business with the government as well as a workshop with small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
Ghana SPP Policy

IISD drafted the Ghana SPP Policy for the PPA and Ghana Task Force for SPP (GTF) and is involved in its adoption and implementation in close cooperation with these entities. The GTF is a multistakeholder group mandated to work with the PPA in overseeing the design and implementation of the SPP policy. The policy is based on the legal review and the market assessment and stands at the centre of the nation's commitment to sustainable development. It was designed to facilitate the implementation of high-level commitments including the Ghana Sustainable Development Action Plan, the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Ghana, and national climate change targets. Moreover, the policy aims to catalyze positive externalities in terms of employment, industrial development, energy and resource efficiency, and reward enterprises that embed environmental stewardship and social inclusion.

Specifically, although subject to review, the Ghana SPP Policy is designed to:

- Promote compliance with relevant environmental and social laws and regulations as they apply to public procurement.
- Enable procuring entities to design and implement sustainable procurement action plans and assign responsibility for these duties.
- Embed environmental, social and governance criteria in procurement decisions.
- Identify and prioritize spending categories to provide for incremental implementation.
- Raise capacities of procurers and enterprises that do business with the government.
- Integrate environmental and social criteria into public procurement framework agreements, e-procurement initiatives and supplier diversity programs.
- Provide initiatives to support the development of SMEs.
- Support the implementation of an internationally recognized procurement assessment program.

Policy Statement, Action Plan, Standard Tender Documents

In addition to the SPP policy, IISD drafted an overview policy statement, a detailed action plan for the implementation of the SPP policy, and assisted in the revision of standard tender documents (used in procurement processes).

Product Guidelines

IISD developed product sustainability guidelines for product categories from electrical appliances and lighting to office material. The guidelines are based on international best practice and adapted to the Ghanaian context with the help of local expertise. These are supplemented with guidance material for policy-makers and procurers that assist them in their integration of sustainability into the various procurement phases.
Training of Officials

IISD has also been supporting the training of public officials on how to implement SPP. In September 2012, a pre-pilot training kickoff was held in Ghana, with around 30 high-level officials from ministries and other public bodies participating, where IISD led two training sessions. All of the participating entities were among the highest spenders and therefore the most relevant ones for SPP impact. Previously GTF and PPA trainings had taken place. Eventually, about 1,000 entities across Ghana will have received training, facilitated through a training of trainers program.

Awareness-Raising Activities

IISD further facilitated SPP awareness-raising roundtables for Ghanaian Ministers as well as for the GTF.

IISD and SPP

Through the Swiss–Ghana project on SPP, IISD builds on years of experience in providing advisory services, expertise building, and implementation work in a range of countries on three continents. IISD’s expertise covers a wide variety of different economic sectors and procurement methods including public–private–partnerships (PPPs). IISD approaches SPP as a cross-cutting policy with transformative potential and positive externalities that can drive innovation and green growth.
About IISD

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and energy, and management of natural and social capital, as well as the enabling role of communication technologies in these areas. We report on international negotiations and disseminate knowledge gained through collaborative projects, resulting in more rigorous research, capacity building in developing countries, better networks spanning the North and the South, and better global connections among researchers, practitioners, citizens and policy-makers.

IISD's vision is better living for all—sustainably; its mission is to champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably. IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501(c)(3) status in the United States. IISD receives core operating support from the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and from the Province of Manitoba. The Institute receives project funding from numerous governments inside and outside Canada, United Nations agencies, foundations and the private sector.