

PROJECT DOCUMENT

SECTION 1 – PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

- 1.1 **Sub-programme:** Hazardous Wastes and Toxic Chemicals
- 1.2 **Title of Project:** Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Waste in Africa in the context of the NEPAD Environment Initiative
- 1.3 **Project Number:**
- 1.4 **Geographical Scope:** Africa
- 1.5 **Implementing Agencies:** BCRCs in Cairo, Dakar
- 1.6 **Partners:** Donor Governments, NEPAD Environment Secretariat, UNEP/Chemicals (CIEN), regional chemicals and waste institutions
- 1.7 **Duration of the Project:** 36 months, commencing 1st of January 2006
- 1.8 **Cost of Project:**
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| | US\$ 1'627'000 |
| Co-funding (tentative) | US\$ 100'000 |
| Total | US\$ 1'727'000 |

1.9 Project Summary

The project aims to build capacity in and through the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in Africa in contributing to the implementation in a coordinated manner of the chemicals and wastes related MEAs under the patronage of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. It will build on the cooperation between the NEPAD Environment Secretariat and the relevant MEAs on chemicals and wastes in Africa, including the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention. The project would focus on information networking and integrated chemicals and waste policy development.

Firstly, a Regional Integrated Information Network on chemicals and wastes would be set up through the collaboration of key stakeholders in Africa such as UNEP-Chemicals (CIEN Project), several leading countries (including Egypt and Senegal) and the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in Africa. National information bases targeting the needs of decision makers and professionals as well as the public at large in terms of information and education, with specific focus on risk assessment and risk management for hazardous substances, will be put in place. In addition, information bases will be developed at the sub-regional level. Countries access to the proposed Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Waste will be facilitated through the delivery of Information Technology and by providing training on the use and maintenance of the proposed information bases.

Secondly, the project will assist countries in Africa in developing national integrated chemicals and wastes policies. Guidance material in this field will be prepared and training provided at the sub-regional level taking into account the large diversity of situations concerning legal infrastructure on chemicals and wastes that may exist in the region. Consequently, bilateral assistance on the development of action plan for the development of national integrated chemicals and waste policies will be delivered on a pilot basis to several countries in all the sub-regions concerned.

SECTION 2 – BACKGROUND AND CONTRIBUTION TO SUB-PROGRAMME

2.1 Background

The NEPAD

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) has been initiated by African leaders and adopted in October 2001. Its main goals are to "eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and at

the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic". One of the NEPADs sectoral priorities is the Environment Initiative.

The Environment Initiative addresses Africa's environmental challenges in realizing sustainable development. The Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the NEPAD has been developed under the leadership of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in close cooperation with the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Union, UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It was adopted at the AMCEN's Second Special Session on the NEPAD Environment Initiative that took place in Maputo, Mozambique, on 9 and 10 June 2003.

The proposed Action Plan for the implementation of the above mentioned Environment Initiative is organized in six programmatic areas and four crosscutting issues. It proposes a number of activities to be undertaken during the first decade of the 21st century, including activities in the field of conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources and of health and environment, which are of direct relevance to the Basel Convention and other 'chemicals' conventions.

The full project proposal entitled 'Capacity building for the Basel Convention Regional Centres in Africa in the context of the NEPAD' was reviewed by the preparatory Experts Meeting for the NEPAD Environment Action Plan held in Algiers, Algeria, 13-14 December 2003. The project was also selected as one of the priority projects of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan and presented to the Partners Conference for the Action Plan of the NEPAD held in Algiers (15-16 December 2003) and Dakar (15-16 March 2005) respectively. The current proposal is based on the full project proposal selected for the NEPAD Environment Action Plan and proposes a scaled down approach¹.

The Basel Convention Regional Centres in Africa²

The Basel Convention entered into force in 1992 and has been ratified as at 1st of May 2005 by 43 African States. The establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) is proposed in article 14 of the Basel Convention and has been guided since through a number of Decisions from the Conference of the Parties. Four BCRCs for Africa have been created in, Cairo for Arabic speaking countries in Africa and other Arabic speaking countries, Dakar for French speaking countries, Pretoria for English speaking countries and Ibadan as a coordinating centre for Africa. Initially, the BCRCs have been established and hosted in already existing institutions and have progressively organized training activities on matters related to the implementation of the Basel Convention. In addition, BCRCs in Africa have been contracted by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, namely the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention, as well as the UNEP (UNEP-GEN, UNEP-Chemicals) for the organization of training activities relating to the implementation of the above-mentioned conventions.

Through its Decision V/5 and VI/3, the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention invited the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host Governments of each of the four BCRCs in Africa to prepare and sign framework agreements for the legal establishment and functioning of the BCRCs as autonomous legal entities. Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal have opted to establish Basel Convention Regional Centres as separate national entities with a regional role while South Africa in close consultation with the countries concerned have opted for an intergovernmental organization. As of today, framework agreements have been signed with the Government of Egypt and the Government of Senegal.

In line with the recommendations of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the NEPAD, the capacity of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) should be strengthened to achieve the objectives of the conventions on chemicals and waste in the context of the above-mentioned NEPAD Environment Initiative.

¹ The present project proposal limits to two sub-regions only through assistance to two Basel Convention regional Centres (as opposed to the four BCRCs in the original proposal) the development of a Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes. The two BCRCs considered would be BCRC-Cairo for Arabic speaking countries and BCRC-Dakar for French speaking countries.

² See details in Annex 8

The sound management of hazardous substances is an urgent need in African countries. The damage caused to the environment and to human health, in particular in case of accidents, mismanagement, and lack of precautionary measures, call for the development of integrated strategies at the regional and national levels.

The proposed project aims at setting up a Regional Integrated Information Network for Africa as well as facilitating access to specific and general information on chemicals and wastes. Further, the project proposes that assistance shall be provided to countries in developing national integrated chemicals and waste policies.

The Chemicals Information Exchange Network project as a tool for strengthening the Conventions's focal point capacity in implementing the pertaining conventions.

In 1992, the Rio Conference on Environment and Development recognised that inadequate access to information was a barrier to sustainable development. Therefore, it recommended in "Agenda 21" that steps be taken to reduce the information gap that existed in the developing countries. Subsequent to this, at its meeting held in 2000, in Bahia, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemicals Safety (IFCS) set out priorities for action to be taken by 2003. These included improved access to information on the sound management of chemicals for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In its discussion document, "*Barriers to Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals*", IFCS acknowledged that, since the Internet provides a gateway to valuable scientific, technical, economic, and legal information, Internet access is an important tool to strengthen the capacity of countries to manage chemicals. In particular, access to this information can facilitate implementation of chemical-related treaties such as the Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste, the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs).

These three conventions include provision for information exchange. For example, under Article 13 of the Basel Convention, parties have an obligation to inform each other on a wide range of matters including: changes in regulations, amounts of hazardous waste imported or exported, accidents, and on the health and environmental impacts caused by hazardous wastes. Similarly, under Article 14 of the Rotterdam Convention, parties have an obligation to exchange scientific, technical, economic and legal information, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information. Further, under Article 9 of the Stockholm Convention, parties have agreed to exchange of information on reduction or elimination of the production, use and release of POPs; and on alternatives to POPs.

To meet these obligations for reporting and information exchange, countries need to have the capacity to systematically collect and store national data and to develop systems for effective sharing of information. These are best achieved with the use of electronic databases and the Internet.

Since 1999, UNEP chemicals in conjunction with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other partners, has been the Chemical Information Exchange Network Project with the aims of enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders involved in sound chemicals management in overcoming the barriers to access to information and enhancing access to the Internet to access information on chemicals. Experience in this project has shown that there is a need to increase awareness on ways to effectively meet reporting requirements under various environmental agreements and to provide specific skills in data collection and storage (database design) as well as means of information exchange. In addition, collaboration among various agencies and authorities responsible for the various conventions can create synergies that enhance the capacity of countries to meet their obligations under environmental agreements.

2.2 Legislative authority

The international mandate concerning chemicals and wastes

1. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) renewed the commitment to the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and to hazardous wastes for the protection of human health and the environment as part of sustainable development. In particular, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002):

- a. stressed that changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns requires "financial, technical and other assistance for developing countries" in order to "prevent and minimize waste and maximize reuse and use of environmentally friendly alternative materials" (§22);
 - b. renewed (...) the aim of achieving, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment (...) (§23);
 - c. endorsed the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management (§ 23 (b));
 - d. encouraged partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data (§23 (d));
 - e. called for action at all levels to promote the reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds (§23 (g)),
 - f. aim to "achieve sound management of chemicals, with particular focus on hazardous chemicals and wastes" (§68).
2. The 23th meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP (2005) adopted a decision on chemicals management. In this context, the Governing Council requested:
 - a. the Executive Director, to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention;
 - b. the Executive Director, further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, UNEP Chemicals and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;
 - c. the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;
 - d. the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals;
 3. By its decision RC-1/14 on Regional delivery of technical assistance, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (20-24 September 2004) invited the Basel Convention Regional Centres and Regional Coordinating Centres, to participate in the regional delivery system to make full use of synergies among those entities, organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.
 4. At the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), held in Nairobi, 4-8 October 2004, several participants encouraged the use of existing mechanisms including regional and sub-regional centres of the Basel Convention that might facilitate technical cooperation."
 5. Decision VII/38 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on International cooperation, including cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the Global Environment Facility, requested the Secretariat to further strengthen cooperation and synergies in the areas and with the organizations listed below, within their respective mandates:

- (a) The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the issue of the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;
- (b) The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade regarding joint efforts in training and capacity-building, involving the Basel Convention regional centres, with a view to enhancing implementation;
- (c) UNEP and other intergovernmental organizations or bodies such as the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the OSPAR Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, with a view to enhancing synergies and complementarities between chemicals and waste issues;"

As for the information exchange, based on the experiences in pilot and other countries, during the IFCS meeting held in Senegal in 2002,³ the IFCS focal point recommended that CIEN be developed, strengthened and improved. They also recommended the creation of national, sub-regional and regional Web sites that could create synergies between efforts in the whole African region. They also called for regular stakeholders training on Chemical Information Access and urged all African countries to implement a CIEN. A special note was addressed to IFCS to spearhead and encourage a mechanism for the coordination of all international organizations involved in chemical information exchange in order to create synergies between complementary programs (e.g. UNEP/USEPA CIEN project and UNITAR/IFCS INFOCAP project).

IFCS focal points suggested that CIEN be an integral part of the implementation the POPs Convention and other related chemical conventions. They also called on the IFCS to encourage donors and donor countries to increase their funding and contributions to CIEN related activities. As a timeframe, they suggested that by 2004, sub-regional inter linkages regarding the chemical information exchange network be established and that by 2006, the African homepage on CIEN be established and linked to other international homepages related to chemicals management.

SECTION 3 – OBJECTIVES, NEEDS, RESULTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

3.1 Needs

- Need for strengthening the capacity of regional delivery mechanism to assist African countries in implementing chemicals and waste related activities in the context of the NEPAD Environment Initiative;
- Need for the development of information bases on chemicals and wastes, in particular hazardous substances through their life cycle, targeted to the needs of policy makers and governmental officials, as well as industry, NGOs and the public at large;
- Need for guidance and assistance for the development of integrated chemicals and waste policies;

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 Main objective

The main objective of the current project is to build capacity in and through the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in Africa to help implement NEPAD Environment Initiative related activities in the field of chemicals and wastes.

3.2.2 Specific objectives

³ African Conference on Chemical Safety, Dakar, Senegal, 3-5 July 2002

The specific objectives are:

- To strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in Africa to implement NEPAD Environment Initiative regional activities on chemicals and wastes in the context of the implementation of the Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, and Rotterdam Convention;
- To develop and set up a Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes through national and regional capacity building activities and facilitate access to it to various stakeholders in Africa;
- To assist countries in Africa in preparing national integrated chemicals and wastes policies through the production of detailed guidance and training;

Through tools and network built during the implementation phase of the CIEN project, the project will aim at:

- Developing a training module that guides national authorities, stakeholders involved in NIP activities implementation to meet requirements under the Article 9 (Information Exchange), Article 10 (Public information, Awareness and education and Article 15 (reporting)
- Developing a training module on the creation of a database as a tool to manage information on chemicals and to facilitate access and reporting
- Providing training in developing countries to officials involved in the implementation of these conventions on a pilot basis
- Revising training modules based on the feedback from participants
- Increasing the sustainability of the Chemical Information Exchange Network in the pilot countries

3.3 Results

- Regional and national information bases on chemicals and wastes and in particular on hazardous substances, developed, and access to them, facilitated;
- Trained relevant national stakeholders in the use and maintenance of integrated information bases on chemicals and wastes and in particular on hazardous substances;
- Trained national decision-makers in the development of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies;
- Technical expertise provided to countries and BCRCs on chemicals and wastes management, in particular in developing and formulating policies and strategies on the ESM of chemicals and wastes;

3.4 Assumptions

The secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and of the NEPAD Environment Initiative based in Dakar, will collaborate throughout the implementation of the project activities. The national consultation process favoured in the context of the CIEN activities will be used as a basis in the context of this project and national authorities having competence in this field will fully collaborate.

SECTION 4 - WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE, BUDGET, FOLLOW-UP

4.1 Outputs

1. Set up of a Regional Integrated Information Network on chemicals and wastes, including:
 - a) the set up of national 'Risk Assessment and Risk Management Databases for Hazardous Substances' in 6 countries,
 - b) the coordinated development of information bases on chemicals and wastes in two BCRCs (BCRC-Dakar, BCRC-Cairo),
 - c) the support to 10 countries to strengthen capacity to access electronic sources of chemical information by providing equipment and training to chemicals management decision-makers and,

- d) the delivery of IT facilities to relevant national authorities in 20 African countries parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
2. Guidelines for the development of integrated policies on the ESM of chemicals and wastes at the national level and recommendations to each participating country on the development of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies;
3. Action plans prepared in 4 pilot countries on the development of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies;

4.2 Activities

The current project proposes two main programme areas:

4.2.1 Set up of a Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes.

An African integrated information network on chemicals and wastes will be built by gathering information related to chemicals and wastes, enhancing the electronic information exchange infrastructure both in the BCRCs and the countries serviced by the centres and, providing training to the main users from the main relevant governmental agencies. The project will allow the gathering of a large body of information on chemicals and wastes and will facilitate the accessing of information by African countries.

By extension of the Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) initiative to fifteen additional African countries, assistance will be provided to strengthen capacity to access electronic sources of chemical information by providing equipment and training to decision-makers on chemicals management. The CIEN programme will be updated so as to incorporate waste elements relating to the relevant MEAs signed by the countries concerned and will therefore aim to facilitate the implementation of all relevant chemical and waste related MEAs. The national information bases and the technical equipment provided will then facilitate information exchange and access to the Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes.

In three countries in each of the two sub-regions serviced by the BCRCs in Cairo and Dakar, national 'Risk Assessment and Risk Management Databases for Hazardous Substances' will be established. The experience of Egypt in the setting up of Information Management Systems on Hazardous Substances will be used fully. The national databases will provide information modules to the Regional Integrated Information Network in order to make information accessible to all relevant stakeholders in Africa (see details in Annex 4).

The following tasks will be carried out in the context of this activity:

- a. Recruitment of one NEPAD Environment Initiative Chemicals and Waste Information Officer in the two Basel Convention Regional Centres (2) (see terms of reference in annex 5);
- b. Development of a Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes: Coordination at the level of the continent and development of sub-regional components. The BCRCs, in close collaboration with the SBC and UNEP-Chemicals (CIEN) and leading countries in this field, including Egypt, will consolidate the chemicals and information information module to be developed at the BCRCs' level (see in annex 4);
- c. Development of national information bases on chemicals and wastes destined to 6 African governments in the two sub-regions, through the set up of national 'Risk Assessment and Risk Management Databases for Hazardous Substances' and other relevant chemicals and wastes related information (see in annex 5);
- d. Phase delivery of IT facilities and coverage of communication costs to the BCRCs and African countries (20) and selection of recipient institutions through a national consultation process;
- e. National Assistance Projects in 10 countries in the two sub-regions to access electronic sources of chemical information through providing of equipment and training to decision-makers on chemicals and waste. The programme is based mainly on the (UNEP) Chemical Information Exchange Network initiative (CIEN) and is upgraded by incorporating waste and hazardous waste related information within its technical scope;

4.2.2 Assistance to countries in the preparation of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies

The programme will aim at assisting and guiding countries in the process of the development of their national integrated chemicals and wastes policy. In addition, assistance will be given bilaterally on a pilot basis to three countries in each of the two sub-regions covered by the BCRCs with the aim to preparing an action plan for the development of integrated chemicals and wastes policy. The development of the policy will encompass the elements of the coordinated implementation of the relevant MEAs on chemicals and wastes in Africa signed by the countries. The following tasks will be carried out:

- a) Recruitment of one Training Officer on chemicals and waste policy development in the two BCRCs in Egypt and Senegal (see terms of reference in Annex 6);
- b) Needs assessment, feasibility studies and prioritisation taking in account the considerable diversity between countries in their status of development of legal infrastructure, and in their enforcement capacity;
- c) Preparation and revision of guidance for the development of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies (regional);
- d) Development of sub-regional training curricula for the development of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies;
- e) Assistance to 6 pilot countries in the two sub-regions in the preparation of national integrated chemicals and wastes policies;

SECTION 5 - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

5.1. Institutional Framework;

Ultimate authorities

The Project will be broken down in four sub-projects to be agreed upon between each of the African Regional Centres of the Basel Convention (BCRCs) and the donors. The BCRCs will be the ultimate authorities in managing their project.

Division of responsibilities

The UNEP/Chemicals (CIEN) and the SBC will be closely associated to the development and implementation of the Information Programme planned in the project.

The secretariats of the NEPAD Environment Initiative (based in Senegal), and the Bamako (A.U), Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will be associated to the design and implementation of the project activities.

The contracting by the BCRCs of all staff planned in the context of this project will be done in close consultation with the SBC.

5.2 Evaluation:

An evaluation of the project will be carried out by independent teams on a yearly basis and upon completion of the project.

List of annexes

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| Annex 1: | Budget |
| Annex 2: | Relevant paragraphs and decisions quoted in the project document |
| Annex 3: | Strategy for the set up of a Regional Integrated Information Network on Chemicals and Wastes |
| Annex 4: | National Risk Management and Risk Assessment Databases: Outline |
| Annex 5: | Terms of Reference for the NEPAD Environment Initiative Chemicals and Wastes Information Officers |
| Annex 6: | Terms of Reference for the NEPAD Environment Initiative Chemicals and Wastes Training Officers and for the Technical/Scientific Officer |
| Annex 7: | The Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) in Africa |