

MADAGASCAR AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAICM

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Basis to the elements for sound chemicals management provided by chapter 19 of Agenda 21, a great effort is done at international level to improve chemicals management. Priorities and a large number of international agreements are given. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is the issues of these chemicals initiatives at international level. SAICM recently adopted in Dubai on February 2006 is an action to advance the Sound Management of Chemicals, identify gaps and propose concrete projects and priorities. Before that excitement at international level, what is passing at national level after that adoption of SAICM and before its implementation. To have a view of a scheme (step acquire and next step), here is the national initiative and approach of Madagascar to improve its chemical management.

Madagascar an underdeveloped country is an isle 587 401-km² area located in the South West Indian Ocean, separated the coast South East African by Mozambique channel. His population is Malagasy about 12 238 914 habitants and his capital Antananarivo.

Madagascar has participated in international forums and endorsed their outcomes: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro 1992 (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21); Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety (Bahia Declaration and Priorities beyond 2000), World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2000 (Johannesbourg Plan of Implementation), United Nations Millennium Summit, New York 2000 (Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals), SAICM process 2003-2006 (SAICM High-level Declaration, Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy).

Refer to Bahia declaration and priorities for action beyond 2000 of Inter governmental Forum of chemical safety (IFCS): the country has attained some achievements in the area of chemicals and hazardous wastes management. Madagascar with a process multi stakeholder has developed his « National Profile of chemicals management » in 1997 and updated this document in 2000. Due to the cross sectoral nature of chemicals and waste management, it is necessary to create a national coordination of chemical management in 1998: the « Comité National de Gestion des Produits chimiques » (CNGPC), created by Decree n° 98-444 and Decree n°2003-1067. Benefit the project Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) /UNEP and the development of new technology in the country, the parties involving in chemical management can access Internet to strengthen their capacity. Madagascar ratifies many conventions (Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, Basel Convention, Conventions OPCR, CLC, FC, Convention against drugs and stupefy, Rotterdam Convention , Convention Stockholm, Chemical Weapons Convention) and implement them by many projects (training and awareness raising on ozone protection, strengthen capacity against marine oil pollution, elaboration National Implementation Plan POP's...).Also, the National Focal Points (NFP) of many conventions and procedures have been nominated. The country has an elimination plan for stock of obsolete pesticides in 2000 and a strategy against vectors. Concerning the development of national strategy to prevent major accidents and national disasters involving chemicals, the NGO Voarisoa Observatoire has a project "Promotion of chemical safety" which is an experiment at local level the chemical safety. The 3 pilots sites (industrials zones) are: Tanjombato near Antananarivo, Antsirabe and Toamasina. Madagascar has developed in 2004 a national policy of chemicals management. This policy is an unanimous tool for an integrated and sustainable national programme in the area of chemicals and wastes.

But the chemical management in Madagascar like many countries has to face to some challenges: like enforcement of existing legislation; harmonization and streamlining existing laws; improvement coherence, synergies between institutions and national focal points; improvement sharing and access of information; strengthen the capacity to respond on emergencies. The country meets a lack of fund and resources to manage chemicals. Or some actions have been never there commenced: the

implementation of Globally Harmonized System (GHS); inventory emission and transfer pollutants; National Strategy prevention, reduction of illicit traffic chemicals; Establishment of an anti poison centre.

With the SAICM now and regarding this SAICM:

Some actions have already started in Madagascar: Development framework by involvement of stakeholders in the sound management of chemicals; Elaboration national profiles and implementation action for sound management of chemicals; Implementation code conduct FAO; Reduction, risk management highly toxic pesticides; Integrated pest management and vector management; Promotion agricultural practice and practice non chemical alternatives; Registration and control pesticides; Labelling pesticides; Adoption FAO and WHO specifications on pesticides; Pollution prevention; Ratification and implementation all relevant international instruments and agreements; Minimization and management waste pesticides, PCB and other chemicals; Access internet to information on chemicals exchange.

Some have been commenced and necessitate a continuation or improvement: Study impact chemicals on health; Implementation GHS; Development of the private - public partnership in sustainable chemical management; Participation and responsibility industry in chemicals management; Impact assessments chemicals on protected area; Prevention illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous goods; Use INFOCAP; Risk Mercury and Cadmium; Strengthen capacities to deal with poisoning and chemical incidents; Development of national system to prevent major accidents and national disasters involving chemicals.

Others have been never seen: Implementation action plan on children environmental health especially before chemicals; Occupational health and safety (programme awareness raising to assist enterprises in protecting their workers against chemicals, protect workers from chemicals causing diseases...); Development of a national PRTR/ emission inventory; Harmonization chemical safety norms; Cleaner production and best environmental practice; Collection hazard data of all chemicals used; Establishment poison centre; Remediation contaminated sites.

So, numerous activities must be undertaken to implement SAICM in Madagascar.

But the country has already developed a national policy (Politique Nationale de Gestion des Produits Chimiques PNGPC). This national policy has 4 goals and objectives: improvement legislation system on chemicals, chemical risk management, establishment chemical wastes disposal, development operationally mechanism of communication and information. The current step is now to transform this national policy in law (Projet de Loi sur la Politique Nationale de Gestion des Produits Chimiques). After, all stakeholders will draw up the National Action Plan on chemicals outline the programme for an integrated chemicals management.

Two ways is so possible to Madagascar for implementation SAICM:

Scenario 1: The country will benefit a support for country-based pilot project implementation SAICM:

- The government will appoint the national coordinator SAICM (the institution leader), it make up a national coordination team on SAICM by raising awareness and mobilizing commitment of key stakeholders about SAICM and its goals, for each parties of interest regarding SAICM: public, industries, and non governmental group: explain the potential benefit of collaborating into the project.
- Organize a planning meeting where the responsible with the team clarify the objectives, discuss aspects of program implementation, including a proposed time frame for planning and implementing.
- Then, the national coordination team assess the national capacity to implement SAICM in Madagascar

- On a national forum SAICM, all parties will set up national priorities linking “Politique Nationale de Gestion des Produits Chimiques” and SAICM/ Global plan of Action
- Finally undertake the projects public-private partnership with the participation of the government, industries, union labour, non -governmental groups.

Scenario 2: the country is not eligible to the support for country-based pilot project implementation SAICM:

- After the adoption of national policy by high-level decision makers (Senate, Low Parliament, Government), all stakeholders will draw up the National Action Plan on chemicals linking to work areas SAICM and set up priorities. In this National Action Plan appear the area of focus, with the objectives, activities undertaken, key actors, time frame, outputs, indicators for monitoring.
- All ministries will continue to work on the aspects of chemical management for which they have the relevant mandates and expertise, having the SAICM and National Action Plan as guidance.
- The public sector promote the partner ship with the private as said in SAICM,

Because the successful implementation SAICM at national level requires:

- A co-ordinated approach is: co-operation among the many authorities at all levels with related to chemicals management (liaison with all parties involved in activities that influence chemical safety, including representatives of industrial and commercial sectors, labour and public interest group)
- An approach Public- Private Partnership (PPP) is also one of the key-obtaining an outcome.
- And a mobilization of national and international resource

There is already a relationship of the public sector agencies in the management chemicals:

- Participation of most industries in the project ONG Voarisoa Observatoire and CNGPC “Promotion Chemical Safety”, they are member of the local committee on chemical safety in the industrial zone
- Active participation of the Society Water and Electricity “JIRAMA” in the national inventory POP with the Ministry of Environment.
- Technical assistance of a national centre of research CNRIT to put the disposal of many industries treated their effluents

Reaching private collaboration is sometimes difficult; but they participate if they know clearly their real benefit in the process

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