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**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals Management: Strengthening of
national chemicals management capacities**

**Submission by the Global Environment Facility on activities
supporting the implementation of the Strategic Approach**

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, in the annex to the present note a report of the Global Environment Facility on activities supporting the implementation of the Strategic Approach.
2. The information is presented as submitted and has not formally been edited.

* SAICM/ICCM.3/1

Annex

GEF Activities Supporting the Implementation of SAICM

5 September 2012

Introduction

1. The goal of the GEF's Chemicals Program is "to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment." This goal is aligned with other internationally agreed goals and objectives, including those of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the global chemicals strategy that provides a voluntary policy framework for achieving its goal.
2. During the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) in 2006, the GEF, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, joined the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) in a steering committee established to oversee the Strategic Approach development process. ICCM 2 held in 2009 urged the GEF to consider expanding its activities related to the sound management of chemicals to facilitate SAICM implementation, whilst respecting its responsibilities as the financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention.
3. As a response to ICCM2, the GEF Council, at its 39th session approved the "Strategy on Sound Chemicals Management for the 5th Replenishment Period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF/C.39/Inf.11)¹. GEF 5 resources dedicated to Sound Chemicals Management activities are intended to support synergistic interventions that generate multi-focal area benefits and produce positive impacts towards the fulfillment of obligations in relevant agreements and conventions. For example, the approval process of GEF projects takes into account the potentials for multifocal area benefits (including Stockholm Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification, and others).
4. Over the past two years of implementing GEF 5 Sound Chemicals Management Strategy, the GEF strives to assist countries in addressing chemicals management in an integrated manner in

¹ This document can be found at:
http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_39_Strategy_on_Sound_Chemicals_Management

their national planning, and help mobilize other sources of finance for projects and programs for sound chemicals management to achieve global benefits. The GEF also requires that its activities should be complementary to those related to the Quick Start Program (QSP) and would include emerging issues as identified by ICCM2. This information paper provides a summary of how activities under GEF Chemicals Programme at the same time supported the main objectives of SAICM in relation to 1) risk reduction; 2) knowledge and information; 3) governance; 4) capacity building; and 5) illegal international traffic.

GEF Activities Supporting the Goal of SAICM

5. Both the GEF Chemicals Program and SAICM aim at promoting the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment. The GEF program is guided by its strategies approved by Council and the objectives of SAICM are expected to be achieved through the implementation of activities set out in the Global Plan of Action. **Table 1** illustrates how the overall GEF Chemicals Programme (including POPs, ODS, mercury and Sound Chemicals Management) at the same time supports the work areas under SAICM, and **Table 2** provides a list of GEF-5 projects directly contributing to SAICM Priorities.

Table 1. Work Areas of SAICM and Corresponding GEF Activities

Work Areas ² of SAICM	GEF Activities ³ / Response
PBTs; POPs; Carcinogens or endocrine disruptors	The work areas of the GEF include POPs, ODS, mercury, e-waste, lead in paint, chemicals in products, and protected areas ⁴ , covering most of the SAICM work areas.
Mercury and other chemicals of global/national concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; chemicals subject to wide dispersive uses;	
Lead in gasoline	
Protected areas	
International agreements	The GEF encourages synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including synergies between three Chemicals conventions, energy efficiency and chemicals reduction, POPs and mercury co-reduction.
Assessment of national chemicals management to identify gaps and prioritize actions	These areas are staple activities in all GEF Chemicals projects. GEF projects aim at identifying existing gaps, revising relevant national chemicals management, developing national action plans, and building national capacity to sustain project outcomes.
Implementation of integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals	
Legal, policy and institutional aspects	
Capacity-building to support national actions	
Information management and dissemination	Public awareness raising is considered to be indispensable for sustainability. Through professional training, public education, and various other awareness raising campaigns and capacity building activities, GEF projects have greatly raised the profile of
Education and training (public awareness)	

² Below work areas were re-ordered and categorized to reflect GEF Activities in an organized manner.

³ Although GEF activities directly answer the guidance or strategies from GEF Council, below activities are all relevant to the goal of SAICM.

⁴ This area is covered under GEF 5 Biodiversity Strategy.

	POPs issue in recipient countries.
Risk assessment, management and communication	GEF approved projects for recipient countries to cope with the chemicals threats posed by natural disaster and learn good experiences from advanced countries.
Human health protection	<p>There are more than 60 GEF projects on disposing obsolete pesticides and PCB, 11 projects on demonstrating alternatives such as Integrated Vector Management (IVM) for DDT in malaria control and agricultural sector, 18 projects on demonstration BAT/BEP to reduce UPOPs emission from unsound management of wastes such as open burning (demonstration of sound medical wastes is being carried out in 11 countries) 8 projects on reducing mercury application and emission from sectors like Artisanal and Small scale Gold Mining and zinc smelting, 6 projects include cleaning up POPs contaminated sites. All these projects will invariably reduce human health and environmental risk.</p> <p>In addition, GEF projects ensure that safeguard measures are put in place to protect workers' safety.</p>
Reduced health and environmental risks of pesticides	
Formulation of prevention and response measures to mitigate environmental and health impacts of emergencies involving chemicals	
Children and chemical safety	
Occupational health and safety	
Waste management (and minimization)	
Life cycle	
Remediation of contaminated sites	
Social and economic considerations	It is taken into account in project design, approval and implementation.
Sound agricultural practices	GEF projects on management and disposals of POPs pesticides assist developing countries in developing and demonstrating alternatives such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). More than 50 countries benefited from GEF's Pesticide projects.
Highly toxic pesticides risk management and reduction	
Pesticide programmes	
Cleaner production	GEF projects demonstrated environmentally sound technologies to reduce emission of DDT, UPOPs, mercury and other pollutants and improve energy efficiency. For example, 3 projects are being implemented in China and India to develop and demonstrate alternatives to DDT in anti-fouling paint production, dicofol production and agricultural sector in general. Demonstration of
Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)	
Promotion of industry participation and responsibility	

	BAT/BEP is conducted in sectors like industrial boilers, fossil-fuel filled utilities, pulp and paper, electronic and electrical equipments, and industrial sources in general. Mercury reduction activities are being implemented in ASGM, primary mining, and smelting sectors.
Research, monitoring and data	GEF has been funding UNEP projects both at global and regional level to assess existing capacity for POPs analysis, implement Global Monitoring Program for Pacific Islands Region, Eastern and Southern African Countries, and West Africa region, develop Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) for POPs monitoring reporting and information dissemination. More projects on GMP are expected from UNEP.
Hazard data generation and availability	
Pollutant release and transfer register (PRTRs)	
Prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous goods	
Trade and environment	
Stakeholder participation	All GEF projects ensure the participation of CSOs.
Civil society and public interest non-governmental organization (NGO) participation	

Table 2. List of GEF-5 Projects Contributing to SAICM Priorities

Work Areas	Country	Title	Implementing Agency	GEF Grant	Co-financing
Mercury	Ecuador , Peru	Minimizing Mercury Releases from Artisanal Gold Mining	UNIDO	\$909,000	\$2.4M
Mercury	Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal	Minimizing Mercury Releases from Artisanal Gold Mining in West Africa	UNIDO	\$990,000	\$2.4M
Medical ⁵ Waste	Vietnam	Hospital Waste Management Support Project	World Bank	\$7M	\$150M
Medical ⁶ Waste	Kazakhstan	NIP Update, Integration of POPs into National Planning and Promoting Sound Healthcare Waste Management	UNDP	\$3.4M	\$16M
Medical Waste ⁷	Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia	Reducing UPOPs and Mercury from the Health Sector in Africa	UNDP	\$6.5M	\$25.8M
Mercury	China	Reduction of Mercury Emissions in Zinc Smelting	UNIDO	\$990,000	\$4M
Mercury	Uruguay	Environmentally Sound Life-Cycle Management of Mercury Containing Products and their Wastes	UNDP	\$700,000	\$2.6M
Mercury	China	Development of Mercury Inventory	UNEP	\$1M	\$3.15M
E-waste	Ethiopia	Investment Promotion on ESM of E-waste	UNIDO	\$1M	\$ 1.96M
UPOPs	China	Reduction of POPs and PTS Release by ESM throughout the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Associated Wastes	UNDP	\$11.65M	\$47 M

⁵ These three healthcare waste projects are listed here because the project document targeted at both UPOPs and mercury reduction. Many more other GEF POPs projects also address healthcare waste management issue.

⁶ Same as above.

⁷ Same as above.

References

Text of SAICM: http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/saicm%20texts/SAICM_publication_ENG.pdf

GEF/C.39/Inf.11: Strategy on Sound Chemicals Management for the 5th Replenishment Period of the Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.39/Inf.09 Strategy for Mercury Programming in the 5th Replenishment Period of the Global Environmental Facility

GEF Work Paper: Concept Note for E-waste Program during GEF-5

GEF Work Paper on Synergies during GEF-5