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Strategic Approach
to International
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal
of sound chemicals management: overall orientation and
guidance on the 2020 goal**

Update from the Global Environment Facility

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate information on activities of the Global Environment Facility in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (see annex). The information is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* SAICM/ICCM.4/1.

Annex



Report of the Global Environmental Facility to the Fourth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on Activities Supporting the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

August 11, 2015

Introduction

The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Chemicals and Waste Program seeks to "prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance"¹. This objective is aligned with other internationally agreed goals including those of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

During the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 1) 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 mandate as the financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention.

As a response to ICCM 2, 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)². In the GEF-5 period (July 2010 to June 2014), resources were allocated to Sound Chemicals Management activities intended to support synergistic interventions that generate multi-chemical and multi-focal area benefits and produce positive impacts towards the fulfillment of obligations in relevant agreements and conventions. The SAICM priority areas focused in GEF-5 include mercury, e-waste, lead in paint, and chemicals in products.

The sixth GEF replenishment period (GEF-6) began in July 2014. During the replenishment negotiations, an allocation for SAICM was agreed in order to continue and deepen the support to specific priority areas. The decisions and priorities from ICCM 4 will assist in focusing GEF Chemicals and Waste programming in relation to achieving the SAICM objectives.

GEF Activities Supporting the Goal of SAICM

In implementing its priorities for sound chemicals and waste management, the GEF strives to assist countries to address chemicals management in an integrated manner in their national development planning, and help mobilize and catalyze other sources of finance for projects and programs for sound chemicals management to achieve global benefits. The GEF activities are complementary to those related to the Quick Start Program.

GEF-5 Support to SAICM

In GEF-5, US\$10 million was allocated to address SAICM priorities, specifically e-waste, lead in paint, and chemicals in products. Table 1 below provides a list of GEF-5 funded projects directly contributing to SAICM priorities.

¹ GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area Strategy, paragraph 21.

² This document can be found at:
http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_39_Strategy_on_Sound_Chemicals_Management

Table 1
List of GEF-5 Projects Contributing to SAICM Priorities

Country	Project	Agency	GEF Amount (US\$)
China	Reduction of POPs and PTS Release by Environmentally Sound Management throughout the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Associated Wastes in China	UNDP	1 090 000
China	Defining and Demonstrating Best Practices for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in Textile Products	UNEP	1 000 000
Egypt	Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care- and Electronic-waste	UNDP	254 762
Ethiopia	Investment Promotion on Environmentally sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste: Up-Scale and Promotion of Activities and Initiatives on Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste	UNIDO	1 000 000
Vietnam	Implementation of Eco-industrial Park Initiative for Sustainable Industrial Zones in Vietnam	UNIDO	775 000
Vietnam	Vietnam POPS and Sound Harmful Chemicals Management Project	UNDP	300 000
Regional	Reducing Environmental Health Impacts of Harmful Pollutants in Africa Region	World Bank	2 000 000
Regional	Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa	UNEP	1 000 000
Regional	Reducing Environmental and Health Risks to Vulnerable Communities from Lead Contamination from Lead Paint and Recycling of Used Lead Acid Batteries	UNDP	838 000
Global	Global Project on the Implementation of pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) as a Tool for POPs Reporting, Dissemination and Awareness Raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru	UNEP	1 000 000
TOTAL			9 257 762

The following is a brief update on the implementation status of projects in the three SAICM areas supported by the GEF, e-waste, lead in paint and chemicals in products:

1. The e-waste project in Ethiopia aims to promote and up-scale the management of e-waste activities through the establishment of national legislation, development of a collection scheme, and a business model for the dismantling facility. As of May 2015, the draft e-waste legislation has been prepared by the responsible ministry. The project has also conducted the studies and reviews of collection scheme and the facility, and will further implement pilot activities of collection and facility optimization.
2. The regional project in Africa on lead in paint aims at minimizing the manufacture, import, sale and use of decorative lead paints in the four participating countries. The project started in December 2014, and it has completed tests on levels of lead in paint which have highlighted the need for action to reduce the exposure. Additionally public awareness activities and dialogue with paint manufactures to promote change and market transformation in each country has been implemented.
3. The project on chemicals in textile in China aims to identify and demonstrate best practices and stakeholder roles and responsibilities for chemicals information in textile products. The project was recently launched in July 2015, and the inception meeting, attended by the national stakeholders and the international textiles industry, confirmed the work plan and budget for the project.

GEF-6 Replenishment

Resources for the GEF Trust Fund are replenished every four years. During the negotiating sessions that constitute the replenishment process, participants discuss and agree a set of GEF policy reforms to be undertaken, a strategy document to guide programming of resources³, and a level of resources that the GEF aims to provide to recipient countries.

In the GEF-6 replenishment cycle, the Chemicals and Waste focal area received an increased funding level, at US\$554 million; US\$13 million of which is allocated to SAICM. The overall sixth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund was US\$4.43 billion.

GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste Strategy

At the Fifth GEF Assembly in May 2014, the GEF Instrument was amended to include the Minamata Convention on mercury and to create a new integrated focal area that replaces the previous POPs and Ozone focal areas and combines them with mercury and SAICM. The new Chemicals and Waste focal area has the primary objective of preventing the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance. The focal area's programs and policies reflect this goal and use integrated approaches and targeted programs to achieve it. Innovative and integrated approaches are new key aspects of the strategy that seek to facilitate partnerships and investment in non-traditional sectors. In order to effectively scale up action on chemicals and waste, the Chemicals and Waste focal area aims for a closer integration and involvement with the private sector.

The GEF-6 chemicals and waste strategy seeks to combine environmentally safe technologies and systems, and policies and practices that help countries move towards innovative, rapid, transformational change. It is based on two strategic objectives that in combination will build and sustain capacity, opportunity, and means to meet the goals of eliminating harmful chemicals and waste. These two strategic objectives contain six programs, which encompass activities to be supported by GEF funding. This strategy also is aligned with the new GEF 2020 Strategy endorsed by the GEF Council in September 2014⁴, which puts a greater focus on drivers of environmental loss, integrated approaches to addressing global environmental issues, and actions to promote innovative and transformational change including through effective and sustained capacity building.

The following figures show the GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste focal area framework, funding by Convention, and funding by objective and program. Figure 1 shows the focal area's replenishment cycle objectives and programming directions that work under those goals. Figure 2 depicts the focal area's program funding allocations by Conventions that the GEF serves. Figure 3 shows the focal area's replenishment cycle funding broken down by GEF-6 program.

Figure 1

GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste Framework

	Program 1	Develop and demonstrate new tools and economic approaches for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner
<i>CW 1: Develop the enabling conditions, tools and environment for the sound management of harmful chemicals and wastes</i>	Program 2	Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring
	Program 3	Reduction and elimination of POPs
	Program 4	Reduction or elimination of anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury to the environment
<i>CW 2: - Reduce the prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste and support the implementation of clean alternative technologies/substances</i>	Program 5	Complete the phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in countries with economies in transition (CEITs) and assist Article 5 countries under the Montreal Protocol to achieve climate mitigation benefits
	Program 6	Support regional approaches to eliminate and reduce harmful chemicals and waste in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS)

³ The GEF-6 Strategy document can be found at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions>

⁴ The GEF2020 Strategy document can be found at: <https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/11121>

Figure 2
GEF-6 Programming Target by Convention

Convention	GEF-6 Programming Targets (US\$ million)
POPs	375
Mercury	141
SAICM	13
ODS	25
Total Chemicals	554

Figure 3
 Focal Area Objectives and Programming Targets by Program

		GEF-6 Programming Targets (US\$ million)
	POPs	20
	Mercury	10
	SAICM	8
Program 1	<i>sub-total</i>	38
	POPs	20
	Mercury	30
Program 2	<i>sub-total</i>	50
CW-1	Total CW-1	88
Program 3	POPs	307
Program 4	Mercury	78
Program 5	ODS	25
	POPs	28
	Mercury	23
	SAICM	5
Program 6	<i>sub-total</i>	56
CW-2	Total CW-2	466
Total Chemicals		554

GEF-6 Support to SAICM

The Chemicals and Waste allocation for GEF-6 can be accessed by countries on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, eligible countries can request funding from the US\$13 million SAICM allocation. The decisions and priorities from ICCM 4 will help to further focus GEF Chemicals and Waste programming in relation to SAICM priorities. Due to the limited resources available the GEF will work with countries, the SAICM Secretariat, and agencies to ensure strategic programming under SAICM to maximize global environmental benefits. To date no countries have accessed GEF-6 funding for SAICM. In developing programming on SAICM, some of the questions that would need to be answered through GEF projects may include the following:

- (a) How can global supply chains be used to include sound management of electronic waste and the mechanisms and models available to direct private sector investment into e-waste management?
- (b) How can we influence change in manufacturing of leaded paints at a national level?
- (c) What are the key interventions that would facilitate manufacturing products without harmful chemicals?

GEF Small Grants Program

Launched in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports activities of nongovernmental and community-based organizations in developing countries towards reduction of the impact of chemicals. The structure of the GEF SGP is decentralized and country-driven with a maximum grant amount for a project of US\$50,000.

Since the beginning of the SGP, chemicals and waste portfolio has had 507 projects approved, for a total of US\$14.5 million in GEF grants. During the fiscal year of 2015, 30 projects were approved with a total of US\$1.1 million SGP funding and about US\$0.8 million co-financing. The GEF SGP focused on piloting and testing approaches to community-based management of chemicals. During the regional launching workshops for GEF-6 in the first half of 2015, guidance was provided in particular on the four priority thematic areas including pesticide management, waste management, mercury and heavy metals as well as the local to global coalition of chemicals and waste management. SGP country programs were in the process of developing country program strategies for GEF-6 during the fiscal year of 2015, in which SGP encouraged country programs to develop and pilot some new areas in chemicals and waste management. The online training module for the chemicals and waste management has been updated and revised to reflect the new priority areas and strategies for GEF-6.
