



SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/18

Distr.: General
28 October 2014



English only

**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

Second meeting

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020
goal of sound chemicals management**

**Activities of the Global Environmental Facility in support of the
implementation of the Strategic Approach**

Note by the secretariat

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

* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

Annex

Activities of the Global Environment Facility in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

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.

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 responsibilities 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)¹. GEF 5 resources were allocated to Sound Chemicals Management activities 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. The SAICM priority areas focused in GEF 5 include mercury, e-waste, lead in paint, and chemicals in products.

The 6th GEF Replenishment Period began on July 1, 2014. During the negotiating an allocation was agreed to for SAICM to continue and enhance support to priority areas. The decisions and priorities from ICCM 4 will guide GEF Chemicals and waste programming.

GEF Activities Supporting the Goal of SAICM

In implementing Sound Chemicals Management Strategy, the GEF strives to assist countries in addressing chemicals management in an integrated manner in 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 ICCM 2, ICCM 3, and soon ICCM 4.

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

GEF-5 Support to SAICM

In GEF-5 (2010-2014) there was \$10 M allocated to SAICM priorities which included e-waste, chemicals in products, and lead in paint. Table 1 below provides a list of 11 GEF-5 funded projects directly contributing to SAICM priorities.

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

Country	Project	Agency	GEF Amount
Egypt	Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPs Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care- and Electronic-waste	UNDP	254,762
Vietnam	Hospital Waste Management Support Project	World Bank	500,000
Vietnam	Implementation of Eco-industrial Park Initiative for Sustainable Industrial Zones in Vietnam	UNIDO	775,000
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
Vietnam	Vietnam POPS and Sound Harmful Chemicals Management Project	UNDP	300,000
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
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
Global	Global Project on the Implementation of PRTs as a Tool for POPs Reporting, Dissemination and Awareness Raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru	UNEP	1,000,000
China	Defining and Demonstrating Best Practices for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in Textile Products	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
			9,757,762

GEF-6 Replenishment

Resources for the GEF Trust Fund are replenished every four years, when countries that wish to contribute to the Fund pledge resources through a process called ‘GEF Replenishment.’ During the negotiating

sessions that constitute the replenishment process, participants discuss and come to agreement on a set of GEF policy reforms to be undertaken, a document to guide programming of resources (i.e. the GEF-6 Strategy)², and a level of resources that the GEF will aim to provide to recipient countries during the replenishment period.

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

GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste Strategy

At the 5th GEF Assembly in May 2014 the GEF Instrument was amended to include the Minamata Convention on mercury and a new integrated focal area was created that combines the previous POPs and Ozone focal areas 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 allow partnerships and investment in non-traditional sectors. In order to effectively make the changes the chemicals and waste focal area is aiming for, a closer integration and involvement with the private sector is critical.

The strategy seeks to combine environmentally safe technologies and systems, and policies and practices that help countries move towards innovative, rapid, transformational change. The GEF-6 strategy 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.

The following figures show the GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste focal area framework, funding by Convention, and funding by objective and program. Figure 4 shows the focal area's replenishment cycle objectives and programming directions that work under those goals. Figure 5 depicts the focal area's program funding broken down by Conventions that the GEF serves. Figure 6 shows the focal area's replenishment cycle funding broken down by GEF-6 program. These figures illustrate the Chemical and Waste focal area strategy for the GEF-6 cycle, where the funding will go, and what issue areas it will address.

² The GEF-6 Strategy document can be found at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions>

Figure 1: GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste Framework

<i>CW 1: Develop the enabling conditions, tools and environment for the sound management of harmful chemicals and wastes</i>	Program 1	Develop and demonstrate new tools and economic approaches for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner
	Program 2	Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring
<i>CW 2: Reduce the prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste and support the implementation of clean alternative technologies/substances</i>	Program 3	Reduction and elimination of POPs
	Program 4	Reduction or elimination of anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury to the environment
	Program 5	Complete the phase out of ODS in 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 LDCs and SIDS

Figure 2: GEF-6 Programming Target by Convention

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

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 Small Grants Programme (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 has had 134 approved, for a total of US\$3.99M in GEF grants. The GEF SGP focused on piloting and testing approaches to community-based management of chemicals. Guidance was provided in particular on the expansion of the SGP focal area from “persistent organic pollutants” to “chemicals,” which includes e-waste, mercury and other heavy metals, lead, plastics, and solid waste. In the development and review of country program strategies, SGP encouraged country programs to develop and pilot some new areas in chemicals management. A global guidance document on e-waste hotspots was disseminated to support chemicals programming in e-waste management.

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

GEF6 Chemicals and waste strategy
