

Rising to the
Challenge of **SOUND**
Chemicals Management



The Quick Start Programme



Advancing sound chemicals management



It's impossible to imagine a world without chemicals. They are virtually everywhere — in the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the medicines we take. Chemicals can improve living standards and they make an important contribution to the global economy. The benefits of chemicals, however, must be carefully balanced with the potential risks to human health and the environment.

Many countries need assistance to meet the challenges of existing and emerging chemical safety issues. Strengthening the capacity of countries to soundly manage the chemicals they use is intrinsically linked to sustainable development.

With almost 150,000 chemicals in use worldwide, and many new chemicals being introduced to market each year, there is increasing urgency in advancing chemicals management capacity and governance. Indeed, the international community is increasingly aware that a new way of functioning is needed to manage the massive and growing number of chemicals in global commerce.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted in Dubai in February 2006. SAICM provides a policy

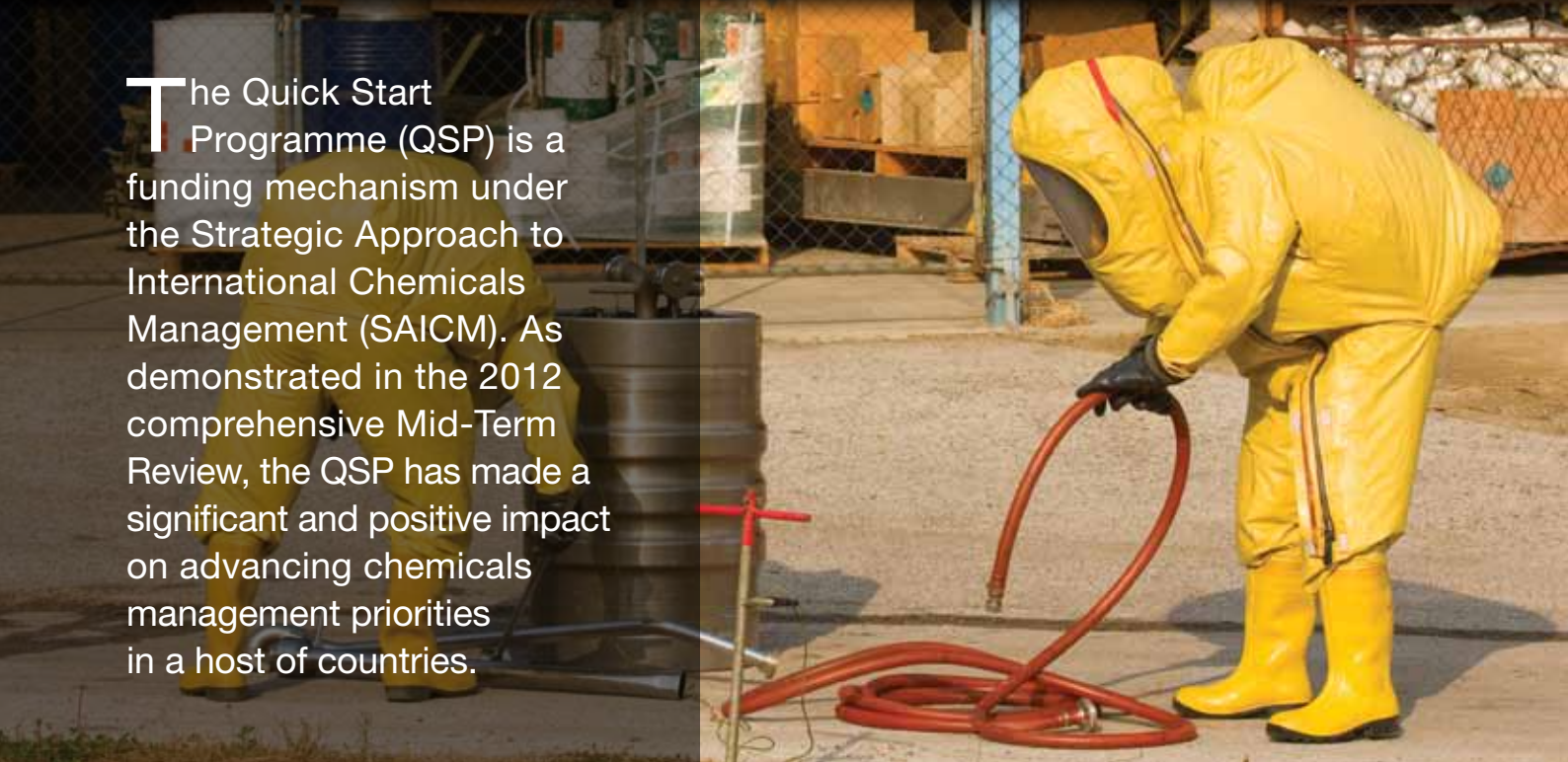
framework to guide efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that, by 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

SAICM represents the first internationally agreed-upon umbrella mechanism that attempts to strengthen chemicals management across all key sectors of society.

The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders, including at the local, national, regional and global levels, is seen as paramount to achieving the objectives of SAICM, as is a transparent and open implementation process and public participation in decision-making, featuring in particular a strengthened role for women.

About the Quick Start Programme

Action. Innovation. Results.



The Quick Start Programme (QSP) is a funding mechanism under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). As demonstrated in the 2012 comprehensive Mid-Term Review, the QSP has made a significant and positive impact on advancing chemicals management priorities in a host of countries.

Established in 2006 by the first International Conference on Chemicals Management, the QSP was developed to “support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition.”

Administered by the SAICM secretariat, the QSP includes a trust fund within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, contribute to the QSP.

With 145 approved projects in over 100 countries, the QSP has been widely recognized as being accessible and flexible, and it is seen as a practical vehicle for quick project implementation.

Building capacity and cooperative action

The QSP has achieved a number of important milestones in implementing and sustaining

SAICM to chemicals management. To date the program has been instrumental in helping developing countries create national chemicals profiles. This is a critical first step for many developing nations. Having a basic understanding of what chemicals are in the country’s jurisdiction, how they are produced or imported, transported, stored, used and disposed of is essential to identifying and addressing priorities for a chemicals management strategy consistent with SAICM.

The QSP has also advanced the development of appropriate legislation, institutions and systems for chemicals control – the basis for improved governance of old and new chemicals.

Finally, the programme has supported deeper collaboration and participation among a range of stakeholders. Cooperative action is necessary for countries to implement measures that integrate chemicals issues into broader development national agendas, encouraging participation and commitment from all stakeholders to successfully implement and sustain the Strategic Approach.

About the Quick Start Programme

“the objective of the Quick Start Programme is to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition”.

– International Conference on Chemicals Management, *Resolution I/4*

Strategic priorities – the QSP at a glance

The three key priorities of the QSP Trust Fund support the strategic approach to chemicals management and aim to help developing countries:

- (a) Develop or update national chemical profiles and identify capacity needs
- (b) Develop and strengthen national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement strategic approach to chemicals management and build upon existing work related to international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives
- (c) Undertake analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities to enable the implementation of the strategic approach by “mainstreaming” the sound management of chemicals in national strategies.

Making a difference – Where we work



A diverse range of QSP projects have either been completed or are underway in many countries and regions. Projects have been successfully implemented by governments, as well as civil society organizations, and in some cases, with multiple partners.

Since its inception, the QSP has achieved considerable success in supporting projects aimed at initial capacity building in a range of countries. This is a collective achievement made possible through the support and participation of a range of stakeholders.

As at December 31, 2011, 145 projects had been approved with a total funding of US\$30.9 million, and 37 projects had completed all activities – 30 of these projects had submitted the required final reports and the remaining seven projects were in the process of preparing their final reports for submission to the secretariat.

Contributions from project implementers represent approximately 20% of the financial contributions provided by donors, suggesting a strong commitment to the sound management of chemicals from developing countries.

This is particularly compelling considering their resource limitations. The QSP has also been highly successful in mobilizing, leveraging and dispersing funds on a priority basis.

Fast facts:

- ~ *The QSP has mobilized a total of US \$40.8 million, including contributions to the Trust Fund and additional cash and in-kind contributions from project implementers and executing agencies.*
- ~ *The QSP has been successful in leveraging US\$25.2 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support projects in Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.*
- ~ *The QSP Trust Fund has demonstrated success in prioritizing the provision of assistance to least developed countries and small island developing states, which constitute 70% of the portfolio of funded projects.*

Project reports assessed for the Mid-term Review of the QSP reveal compelling examples of how their implementation has contributed to the elaboration of national programmes, legislation and policies on chemicals management. From a policy perspective, all projects state that they have had an impact either directly or indirectly on national planning and decision making through the following actions:

- ~ Political **commitment** (e.g., through meetings and workshops);
- ~ Increased **awareness** of the role and function of local authorities (due to the new information and data available);
- ~ Increased **knowledge and understanding** of local authorities with regard to chemicals management and associated risks;
- ~ Enhanced **communication, coordination and collaboration** between government and stakeholders; and
- ~ Development of **synergies** between the different multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and wastes at the national level.

Project results suggest that capacity building has provided practical knowledge and concrete tools which have been used at the workplace and policy level. A noteworthy example is the integration of issues related to chemical risk prevention in the workplace with current negotiations on labor conditions as well as health and occupational safety in Uruguay.

Capacity-building goals were achieved in 25 completed projects through the development or updating of national chemical profiles, identification of capacity needs and national priority setting.

QSP success stories



Photo: Mary Moseley, ICVolunteers.org

- ~ Awareness raising and capacity building on safe use of pesticides in Egypt
- ~ Formulation of a Risk Assessment Methodology and preparation of a National Risk Reduction Strategy in Armenia
- ~ Development of an Integrated Regional Campaign on Chemical Safety Promotion from mercury exposure in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru
- ~ Enhancing trade union knowledge, capacities and technical tools and enabling worker involvement in SAICM implementation in Brazil, Chile and Uruguay
- ~ Identification of capacity-building needs in Africa; strengthening the capacity of SIDS in the Caribbean in implementing their obligations under the Basel Convention
- ~ Strengthening the sound management of chemicals in Belize
- ~ Government commitment, multi-stakeholder National Strategic Plan and regional collaboration and coordination for mercury reduction in artisanal and small scale gold mining in Cambodia and Philippines.

Guatemala

With the growing relevance of chemicals and waste management at the national level, and the broader agenda at the global level dealing with chemicals and waste, the QSP has come at the right moment to launch the first efforts at the country level

– Mr. Juan de Dios Calle,
Coordinador de la Unidad de Productos Químicos, Ministerio de Ambiente

Project snapshot:

This project was developed to strengthen national governance for SAICM implementation: updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM forum in Guatemala.

Results:

- ~ Creation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to establish a coordinated, integrated and sustainable framework to discuss and assess national issues related to chemicals management.
- ~ Capacity building at the institutional level, e.g. the customs authority has acquired enhanced knowledge for the inspection of chemicals that are subject to regulation and for those that are included in MEA's to which the country is a signatory.
- ~ Stakeholder consensus on country priorities for addressing chemicals and waste.
- ~ Implementation of improved tools to conduct inspection visits at industrial facilities where workers use chemicals.
- ~ Enhanced safety and hygiene measures resulting in reduced risk of exposure, and improved industry environmental compliance.
- ~ Continued advancement of the broader chemicals management agenda, including: i) a project proposal to develop a PRTR system; ii) a plan for an initiative on green customs; iii) preparatory work for the mercury INC process and, iv) a second project proposal (GHS implementation) for the QSP.

Costa Rica

The QSP has helped in moving forward the national chemicals agenda...by means of identifying and assessing existing problems, achieving an increased knowledge of chemicals issues, and implementing the necessary solutions through relevant management processes

– Ms. Maria Guzmán, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications, Costa Rica

Project snapshot:

This QSP-funded initiative included two projects: (1) Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM Capacity Assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in two least developing countries and three countries in transition, and (2) Design and implementation of National Information System for the Integral Management of Chemical Substances in Costa Rica (under implementation)

Results:

- ~ The QSP facilitated a key coordination mechanism among national stakeholders, known as the Committee on Chemical Safety
- ~ A national chemicals profile and corresponding baseline information has helped to increase knowledge among stakeholders on chemical issues at the country level
- ~ The QSP provided guidance to enhance capacities and to work on chemicals management with a strategic vision and cross cutting elements.
- ~ Official establishment of a National Technical Secretariat for the Coordination of Chemical Substances Management.
- ~ Development of a draft document with a National Policy for Chemical Safety, which is now under discussion at the Ministerial level.

Kenya

The QSP...takes into account the complexity of many chemical issues, including their global nature, and that multilateral efforts and bilateral relationships are critical to successfully address these issues

– Mr. Kihumba, *Ministry of Environment*

Project snapshot:

Three projects funded to: (1) Establish country support for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa; and the development of guidelines and capacity building for situation analysis and needs assessment in view of developing country plans for joint action; (2) Strengthening capacity in Kenya for National SAICM Implementation; and (3) SAICM Implementation in East Africa: Law reform and capacity building for sound chemicals management in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Results:

- ~ Development of a National Chemicals Management Policy and increased profile for chemicals management issues among policy makers.
- ~ Establishment of much-needed baseline information which has been used by stakeholders to identify national priorities on chemicals management.
- ~ Evidence-informed policy-making: Access to current and reliable information on chemicals used to inform policy making and decisions.
- ~ Increased awareness through dissemination of information obtained through QSP projects and other chemicals management efforts to all regions in Kenya, resulting in continuous involvement of regional, district and municipal authorities.
- ~ The inspection and control of chemicals coming into the country has now entered into a new phase with enhanced capacities for customs officials.
- ~ Situational analysis that describes the risk factors posed by chemicals, and how these should be targeted through preventive measures.
- ~ Identification and recognition of the linkages between major chemicals problems under the jurisdiction of either the Ministry of Environment or the Ministry of Health.
- ~ Pilot project of the Libreville Declaration has enhanced linkages between the environment and health sectors, but it has also shown its potential for replication in the region. More than 20 countries have implemented this initiative based on the work done through the QSP project carried out in Kenya and Gabon.

Zambia

The QSP is a programme with a procedure that is easy to follow, and has provided with opportunities to promote project ownership as a strategy to actively engage a wider audience of stakeholders

– Mr. David Kapindula,
Regional Focal Point, Zambia



Project snapshot:

Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation and Supporting Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Capacity Building in Zambia

Results:

- ~ The Inter Agency Coordinating Mechanism has been strengthened and linkages with other stakeholders enhanced.
- ~ Promoting a strategy that has been associated with six national development plans in which chemicals management has been incorporated as a cross cutting issue.
- ~ Capacity building and training in GHS matters has raised the interest of stakeholders in adapting the international GHS standard for domestic purposes.
- ~ Active involvement from the industrial sector in project-related activities, which reflects its awareness of the economic importance of complying with international standards
- ~ Commitment of resources in support of the project achievements – the national customs authority has assigned public funds for GHS related work.



The achievements made in advancing sound chemicals management through the QSP and its Trust Fund simply wouldn't be possible without the support of SAICM stakeholders. Thanks to the generosity of donors and contributors, we have been able to make a meaningful and positive impact in chemicals management in a host of countries.

Since 2006, QSP Trust Fund donations have been received from the Governments of 23 countries, as well as from the European Commission and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

The business plan of the QSP is developed as part of a consultative process involving QSP stakeholders and endorsed by the QSP Executive Board. The business plan outlines a resource mobilization strategy to help ensure the sustainability of the QSP, including the replenishment of the Trust Fund on a steady and equitable basis by as broad a donor group as possible. The QSP Trust Fund is overseen by a Trust Fund Implementation Committee which makes decisions on project funding twice a year. Members of this Committee include the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) participating organizations.

The QSP Funding Guidelines emphasize a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral framework. As such, the Programme is widely recognized by stakeholders from all sectors and several channels have been used to share information about the Programme. These include national, regional and international meetings in the field of chemicals and waste management; publication and dissemination of materials distributed by the SAICM strategies; and information sharing mechanisms available through intergovernmental organizations, executing agencies, etc.

QSP Trust Fund Approved Projects as of 31 December 2011	Total
Government projects	130
- Multi-country	(16)
- Individual country	(114)
Civil society projects	15
Total approved projects	145

The QSP has also been able to leverage co-financing from other existing funding mechanisms — approximately US\$5 million of QSP funds were used to leverage up to US\$25.2 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support projects in Africa and Asia-Pacific. These include: *Capacity strengthening and technical assistance for the implementation of NIPs for the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States* in Africa, and *POPs release reduction through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Wastes in Asia Pacific*, for a total of US\$16 and US\$9.2 million respectively.

At its third session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided to extend the term for contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until its fourth session, following recommendations from the Quick Start Programme Executive Board.

Special thanks to our donors and contributors

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The Badische Anilin-und Soda-Fabrik (BASF)
The International Council of Chemicals Associations
The International POPs Elimination Network
International Society of Doctors for the Environment

Special thanks to our donors and contributors

Looking ahead...toward the 2020 goal


In the five years since its inception, the QSP has rapidly emerged as a success story in advancing the strategic chemicals agenda and making concrete and measurable differences in a range of countries. Indeed, the rapid success of the Programme is remarkable. Between 2009 and 2011 the number of projects under the QSP portfolio doubled.



Following the successful completion of initial enabling activities, some projects assessed under the Mid-Term Review reported additional efforts and strategies to mainstream sound management of chemicals into broader national development plans, which is seen as a key aspect to achieve SAICM objectives and meet the 2020 goal.

Still, many countries face challenges as they work to address chemicals management issues, and implementing a mainstreaming strategy in particular. These challenges include strengthening institutional capacities, establishing mandates for coordination mechanisms, enhancing stakeholder involvement, and increasing political will and support, among others.

Moving forward together



An overall assessment of all completed QSP projects indicates that they have met their strategic objectives and achieved meaningful impacts related to capacity building and SAICM implementation activities.

Upon achieving positive results through enabling activities, several countries have moved towards SAICM implementation, focusing on mainstreaming. Many have developed national chemicals profiles for the first time and have used this data to identify strategic priorities for further action. Despite the significant progress made in advancing sound chemicals management, there still much to be done.



Delmas open-air coal mine, Republic of South Africa (26°10' S, 28°44' E).
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For more information on the QSP or
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