

**SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund**

**Final narrative report**

**For the United Nations Environment Programme**

**1 Background information**

1.1 Project agreement reference no.:

1.2 QSP project no.: QSPTF/06/1/GOV/17

1.3 Project implementing agency (applicant): Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

1.4 Project executing agency (if any): The Partnership Initiative receives support from both, UNDP and UNEP, UNDP being the project's executing agency.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (Ozone / POPs Unit) is acting as the Government's executing agency.

Responsible Project Officer:

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Mr. Antonio Nedelkov, Project Specialist

Mr. Marin Kocov, Manager Ozone / POPs Unit and SAICM Focal Point-National Project Coordinator

Mrs. Anita Kodzoman Programme Officer, Head of Environment Unit, UNDP Macedonia

Mr. Samir Memedov, Programme Associate, UNDP Macedonia

Mr. Maksim Surkov - Montreal Protocol Unit/Chemicals, UNDP/Bratislava Regional Centre

Mr. Kaj Madsen, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Chemicals

1.5 Project title: "Mainstreaming Safe Management of Chemicals Considerations into MDG Based National Planning"

1.6 Project commencing date: 10 April 2008

1.7 Project ending date: 31.01.2011

1.8 Reporting period: 10.April. 2008- 31.01.2011

1.9 Overall objectives of the project (maximum quarter of a page)

a) To develop an Initial National Chemicals Profile and to gather data for areas of high risk exposure for the environment and human health in the country;

b) To establish links between priority major chemicals problem areas, human health and environmental quality in the country, and quantification of the costs of inaction/benefits of action in planning/finance/economic language for major chemical management problem areas;

c) To identify the areas of the national Safe Management of Chemicals governance regime that require urgent strengthening and development of a realistic phased plan for addressing these needs;

d) To strengthen the national capacity for Safe Management of Chemicals and to enhance general knowledge and understanding on Safe Management of Chemicals issues among decision makers, managers, private sector, NGOs and the general public.

e) To propose a path forward for the country to mainstream highest priority Safe Management of Chemicals issues in its development planning processes;

f) To support the preparation of a national strategic document expressing the Government's commitment towards the implementation of environmentally sound chemicals management;

g) To support the development and the formulation of a National Plan for the implementation of SAICM's Global Plan of Action;

Unlike other countries that are part of the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative, Macedonia no longer undergoes any review or preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (the last one was produced in November 2000). The country also no longer develops or reviews national development planning frameworks. This is the reason why mainstreaming sound management of chemicals into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development is of key importance.

The development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development was completed in July 2008 while the project was still in its early stage. Therefore, a decision was made to apply a two tier approach:

i) A “fast track” process that focuses on mainstreaming of short term priorities identified by the project into the Strategy;

ii) A “normal speed” mainstreaming process that would focus on mainstreaming of medium and long term priorities during the NSSD mid-term review that will take place in 2.5 years upon the adoption of the Strategy.

1.10 Total budget (USD): \$248.400 (there are no other contributions)

1.11 Partners and leveraged resources:

Describe collaboration with partners and state their role. Not applicable

List the additional resources leverages (beyond those committed to the project itself at time of approval) as a result of the project (financial and in-kind):

Not applicable

## 2. Project status

2.1 Information on the delivery of the project						
	Activities / Outputs	Dates	Status (complete / ongoing)	Outcome/Output	Compliance with work plan	Remarks
1.	<b>Project Initiation:</b> <b>a.Designating a National Project Manager /Coordinator</b>	01.08. 2008	Completed	a. Project Unit Operational	Yes	In spite of the slight delay in recruitment of project staff, the team was fully operational and committed to avoid any postponing of activities.
	<b>b. Recruiting Experts by sectors</b>	Nov,20 08	Completed	b. National cross sectoral Teams established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health expert recruited</li> <li>• Industry and Waste expert recruited</li> <li>• Agriculture expert recruited</li> </ul>	Yes	The Project staff had difficulties to recruit national experts for the different sectors because of the limited number of available qualified candidates. This was the reason why the start date for the experts work had to be postponed. Nevertheless, great efforts were made for all tasks to be completed on time and in accordance with the plan.
	<b>c. Recruiting economic experts</b>	June 2009	Completed	c. Economic expert recruited	With a slight delay	Not all experts were familiar with the methodology for carrying out the specific tasks required with the TOR. Therefore, the process for recruiting the most relevant person for developing the cost-benefit

						analyses was very difficult.
2.	<b>Establishment of a Cross-sectoral Coordinating Mechanism and regular meetings</b>	November, 2008- June 2010	Completed	Functional national cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial coordination in support of sustainable SMC mainstreaming established  ICM briefed	Yes	Official decision signed and enacted by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning.  Nomination letters received from all relevant ministries and other institutions  Regular meetings held in accordance with the work plan
3.	<b>Notification of and briefing about the project for government ministries/stakeholders</b>	13/14. 11. 2008	Completed	The relevant institutions briefed (Inception workshop successfully organized)	Yes	The Inception Workshop and the establishment of working groups provided an excellent opportunity for awareness raising, particularly among industry stakeholders. They participated in all processes by providing the necessary technical data and information, used for the completion of the Situation Report. They also expressed an interest for building strong partnerships with representatives of different industrial sectors, NGO's and scientific institutions.  Inception workshop report (attached)
4.	<b>Research, Analysis and Planning in Support of Improved SMC Governance</b>	Dec,20 08- March,	Completed	Links between priority chemical management problems and human	Yes	Situation reports by three sectors (Health, Industry & Waste, Agriculture) prepared by the

	<b>Consistent with National Development Objectives and SAICM Strategic Objectives</b>	2010		health and environmental effects qualified		<p>national consultants and upgraded. Each sector covers policy, governance, transport and customs related issues.</p> <p>The lack of existing data and a monitoring system for production, use, application and disposal of chemicals were the main obstacles for developing the Initial National Chemical Profile.</p> <p>In April 2010 the Situation Report containing the selected priorities was posted on the project web site, <a href="http://www.saicm.mk">www.saicm.mk</a>, for all stakeholders to comment.</p>
5.	<b>Development of the Draft document (Annex) to be incorporated in the SD Strategy</b>	Jun-Aug, 2008	Completed	Planning to implement priority actions, including mainstreaming in national development plans	Not initially planned. Prior to the preparation of a detailed Situation Report	During the mission of the Intl. Consultant (Mr. Thomas Conway, RFI) we have established, it was realised that the chemical issue is not included in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, which was at its final phase of preparation. It was an excellent opportunity to prepare and add an Annex to this Strategy covering the most important issues related to the management of chemicals.
6.	<b>Priority setting and Validation</b>	June, 2010	Completed	Priorities identified	Yes	The priorities were set based on the previously set criteria

		Feb, 2010	Completed	Priorities validated (short term priorities listed)		
7.	<b>Quantification of Costs of inaction/benefits of action in management of chemical issues / Conducting Cost Benefit Analysis on the selected priorities</b> <b>1.OHIS hot spot</b> <b>2.Application of Good agricultural practices</b>	Jun 2009-April, 2010	Completed	Cost benefit analysis finalized		<p>The lack of existing monitoring data was the main obstacle for providing a high quality cost-benefit analyses. The economic experts were very committed to this task in order to ensure the development of a comprehensive analysis. However the, CBA for the second priority (Application of Good Agricultural Practices - GAP) can serve as an excellent example for the other countries that will be preparing such analysis.</p>
8.	<b>Planning To Implement Priority Actions, Including Via Mainstreaming In National Development Plans</b>	Aug 2008-December, 2010	Completed	<p>Action Plans developed and National Action Plan finalized .</p> <p>Road Map for mainstreaming of actions for sound management of chemicals into National Development Planning</p>		<p>Strategic Approach general objectives are already incorporated as a preliminary overview (Annex) in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development that was adopted in Jan, 2010.</p> <p>The Situation Report/National Chemical Profile is foreseen to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current laws, policies and regulations. At the same time, the assessment identifies the need for adoption of additional policies in this area.</p>

						<p>Upon adoption of the NSSD, additional resources were mobilized by the Government for development of an Action Plan that will be an integral part of the Strategy. The Ministry of Environment, as a responsible institution for this exercise, included a representative from the SAICM Project Unit as a member of one of the working groups for development of the Action Plan of the NSSD. This will be an opportunity for the SAICM Project to ensure that safe management of chemicals is properly incorporated in the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development</p>
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## **2.1 List lessons learned and best practices:**

At the very beginning of the project, the cooperation and coordination among the relevant institutions was not on a satisfactory level. The representatives from the relevant institutions were not completely aware about the responsibilities in terms of national procedures for chemicals management implementation. The Steering Committee and working groups that were formed proved to be excellent tools for improving the inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

A separate workshop on priority setting and validation was organized, during which all institutions were invited to present their roles and responsibilities in the area of chemical management. This turned out to be an excellent opportunity for the all relevant institutions to share information and experience.

The regular ICM meetings and the numerous consultation meetings between experts and relevant stakeholders proved to be an important tool for ensuring regular communication of activities. This also helped build a sustainable network on national, regional and international level, ensuring that information is available to all sides at all times

One of the obstacles that the project had to overcome was the lack of available data on chemical management in the country. This was the reason why greater attention was dedicated to building capacities for regular monitoring and screening of chemicals throughout their life cycle. Regular meetings with all relevant institutions led to increased awareness on the importance of this issue.

The end result was the creation of an inventory on obsolete chemicals by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning as well as the establishment of a Chemicals Registry by the Ministry of Health.

## **2.2 State how the project has nurtured sustainability. Is the project or project methodology replicable in other countries or regions?**

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development was just about to be finalized when the project begun. The SAICM Project Team seized the opportunity to work with the national team to prepare an annex to the strategy and ensure that all the most important issues related to chemical management in the country are fully incorporated. This will help the country to meet the goals of the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, i.e. to ensure that by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

The methodology applied during this project could be very useful for all EU pre-accession countries or countries that have an EU candidate status. It clearly shows how chemicals related issues can be successfully incorporated in national documents. It also highlights the necessary steps for harmonizing and implementing obligations and directives deriving from EU regulations.

## **2.3 How relevant is the project in terms of national/regional capacity building objectives and the utilization of the technical, human and other resources available in the country (countries)?**

This project proved to be very relevant in terms of national/ regional capacity building objectives, and also, the utilization of the technical, human and other resources available in the country.

The activities initiated by the SAICM project proved to be an excellent instrument for ensuring compliance with other global instruments and agreements such as the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, Montreal Protocol, and other relevant documents that set the standards and expected actions from the countries.

The project helped to strengthen national institutions and to build capacities of the public administration for implementation of an integrated approach to chemical management. Numbers of public servants in the relevant institution now have improved understanding and knowledge on issues related to safe management of chemicals and thus will be better prepared to develop



projects/programmes and identify resources for implementation of the priority actions and measures that will further advance the chemicals agenda in the country.

Today, the Macedonian Government can rely and use the SAICM project results for future planning and investment strategies. Also, following the adoption of the SAICM action plans, the Government undertakes an obligation to intervene in chemicals segments that have not been properly managed yet.

The National Action Plan on chemicals management is the first ever document, clearly showing that the country is ready to join the global action for minimizing use of chemicals as well as to incorporate the latest EU and international trends in the area of chemical management.

#### **2.4 Has the project been able to ensure synergies with other relevant projects and initiatives that take place in the country (countries)?**

Yes. Macedonia is a leader in the region when it comes to implementing chemicals related projects. The POPs Unit under the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is very active in the field of chemicals also on a regional basis. It is directly involved in two Regional projects for (CEECCA regions). One of these two is related to reduction and elimination of obsolete POPs and other organic pesticides, and the other one is mainly dedicated to application of BAT/BEP for reduction and elimination of unintentional POP in the same region. These projects allow for exchange of information and knowledge, opening doors for synergies with new relevant projects and initiatives.

#### **2.5 Describe the involvement of stakeholders from different sectors (e. g. health, environment, labor, agriculture, etc.) in the project and groups (e. g. civil society, industry, academia, etc.).**

Ministry of Health- Bureau for Medicine- The responsible institution for implementation of the Law on Chemicals, Bureau for Medicines nominated a member for the ICM -Steering Committee.

Ministry of Agriculture- Phytosanitary Administration- Member of the ICM-Providing Data

Ministry of Transportation and Communications- Cooperation and exchanging the experience related to chemicals and the policy related to chemicals-Member of the ICM

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy- Cooperation and exchanging the experience related to chemicals and the policy related to chemicals

Customs Administration- Cooperation and exchanging the experience related to chemicals and the policy related to chemicals-Member of the ICM

Ministry of Economy- Utilization of the Ministry's studies conducted

NGO- MES -Macedonian Ecologists Society- NGO representative -Member of the ICM-Steering Committee

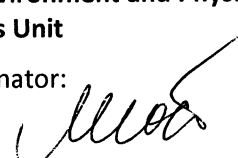
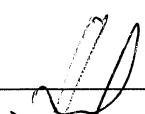
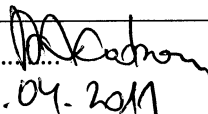
NGO- Association of Technologists and Metallurgists- Cooperation and exchanging the available data relevant for the identification of the current situation.

The Project team took an active role in supporting the Association in preparation of the Brochure titled: "100 year Chemical Industry in the Republic of Macedonia"

**3. LIST OF ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**

(for example, publications, reports of meetings / training seminars / workshops, list of participants)...

1. Inception workshop report
2. Situation report comprising the sector reports, priorities and SWOT analysis
3. Consultation Meeting between ICM and Expert teams
  - a) List of Participants
  - b) Preliminary List of Priorities identified at the Consultation Meeting
4. Priority Validation Workshop report
  - a) List of Participants
  - b) Results of the Priority Validation
5. Cost benefit Analysis Framework
6. National Action Plan for SAICM
7. Cost Benefit Analysis on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
8. Cost Benefit Analysis on OHIS(hot spot) as highest priority
9. Road map for mainstreaming of the National Action Plans for SAICM
10. Awareness raising brochure" Chemicals in our every-day life" (Macedonian version)

<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Endorsed by:</b>
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Signature:  Date 06 April 2011	Signature:  Date: 8.04.2011	Signature: Date 07 April 2011