

SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

Annex III: Half-yearly progress report

1. Background information

- 1.1 Project title: "Mainstreaming Safe Management of Chemicals Considerations into MDG Based National Planning"
- 1.2 Project QSP number: QSPTF/06/1/GOV/17
UNDP MKD project number 00060533

Project executing agency (if any):

The Partnership Initiative receives support from both, UNDP and UNEP, UNDP being the project's executing agency

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

1.3 Project responsible officer:

Ms. Suzana Andonova, Project Manager

Mr. Marin Kocov, Manager Ozone / POPs Unit and SAICM Focal Point

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

Mr. Samir Memedov, Programme Associate, UNDP Macedonia

Montreal Protocol Unit/Chemicals, UNDP/Bratislava Regional Centre: Maksim Surkov

UNEP: Mr. Kaj Madsen – Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Chemicals

1.4 Project starting date: 10 April 2008

1.5 Project completion date: 31.07.2010 (initial anticipated completion date 31 May 2009)

1.6 Reporting period (6 months): August 2008-January 2009

1.7 Project objective and relation to the QSP objective and strategic priorities:

- a) development of an Initial National Chemicals Profile and gathering of data on areas of high/risk/exposure for the environment and human health within the country;
- b) qualification of links between priority major chemicals problem areas and human health and environmental quality in the country, and quantification of the costs of

inaction/benefits of action in planning/finance/economic language regarding major chemical management problem areas;

c) identification of the areas of its national SMC governance regime that need strengthening most urgently and development of a realistic phased plan to address these needs;

d) strengthening its national capacity relative to SMC and enhance general knowledge and understanding on SMC issues amongst decision makers, managers, the industry, NGOs and the public;

e) proposing a path forward for our country to mainstream the highest priority SMC issues in our country's development planning processes and plans and prepare a strategic national document which will express Government commitment towards the implementation of environmentally sound chemicals management; f) development and formulation of a National Plan on the implementation of SAICM's Global Plan of Action

In comparison with other countries that are part of the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative, FYR of Macedonia no longer undergoes any review or preparation of the PRSP (the last interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was produced in November 2000) nor does it develop/review national development planning frameworks. It is for this reason that for the purposes of mainstreaming national priorities relative to the Sound Management of Chemicals the Sustainable Development (SD) planning process is of most interest. With the current SD process being finalized in July 2008, the project (as was the case in Uganda) has adopted:

i) A "fast track" process to meet the July deadline of the SD process that focuses on mainstreaming of short term priorities; and

ii) A "normal speed" mainstreaming process that would focus on mainstreaming of medium and long term priorities during the SD mid-term review that will take place in 2.5 years.

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.	Designating a National Project Manager /Coordinator and Project Initiation	01.08. 2008	Completed	Functional national cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial coordination in support of sustainable SMC mainstreaming established and strengthened	Yes	During the recruitment process it was decided not to recruit a Project Assistant on a permanent basis, but only on a part time basis in the periods when the Project Unit will conduct some more intensive activities
2.	Establishment of a Cross-sectoral body		At a final phase		Yes	Official decision document to be signed by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
3.	Notification of and briefing about the project for government ministries/stakeholders	13/14.11. 2008	Completed (Inception workshop succesfully organized)		Yes	Inception workshop report (attached)
4.	Research, Analysis and Planning in Support of Improved SMC Governance Consistent with National Development Objectives and SAICM Strategic Objectives	Dec,2008	First draft reports by three sectors prepared by the national consultants	Links between priority chemical management problems and human health and environmental effects qualified	Yes	The Reports need to be developd in more details
5.	Development of the Draft document (Annex) to be	Jun-Aug, 2008	Completed	Planning To Implement Priority Actions, Including through	Prior to the preparation of a	During the mission of the Intl

	incorporated in the SD Strategy			Mainstreaming In National Development Plans	detailed Situation Report	Consultant (Mr. Thomas Conway, RFI) we have together considered 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 chemical management in the country.
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2.2 Indicate how activities undertaken are meeting the QSP objective and strategic priorities:

Strategic Approach general objectives are already incorporated as preliminary overview (Annex) in the above mentioned National Sustainable Development Strategy (Draft Version) that is expected to be adopted in the first quarter of 2009.

The Situation Report/National Chemical Profile is foreseen to provide comprehensive assessment of the current laws, policies and regulation. At the same time the assessment will identify the need for adoption of the additional policies in this area.

The Inception Workshop and establishment of working groups were an excellent opportunity to raise awareness especially among the industry stakeholders. They are participating in this process through providing technical data and information that will be used for completion of Situation Report. They also expressed interest to build strong partnership among different industrial branches, NGO's and scientific institutions.

3 Status of the implementation of the activities and outputs listed under the work plan in the memorandum of understanding's project description (please indicate with yes or no answer).

3.1 Project activities and outputs listed in the project work plan for the reporting period have been materially completed and the project manager is satisfied that the project will be fully completed on time (give reasons for minor variations as Section 4 below).

Yes No

3.2 Project activities and outputs listed in the workplan for the reporting period have been altered (give reasons for alterations: lack of finance; project reformulated; project revisions; other at Section 4 below). Yes No

3.3 Project and outputs listed in the workplan for the reporting period have not been fully completed and delays in project delivery are expected (give reason for variations in Section 4.1 and new completion date in Section 4.2 below).

Yes No

4. Project Delivery

4.1 Summary of the Problems Encountered in Project Delivery (if any)
I. Technical difficulties at the very beginning of the project:
a) The project activities foreseen for this period were not fully completed on time due to previously mentioned slight delays in the recruitment process. Also, the Project staff was faced with some difficulties in the recruitment of the national experts for different sectors due to limited number of available applications. Thus, the starting date for the experts work had to be postponed.
b) Establishment of the Multi-stakeholder Coordinating Mechanisms was also very

slow process, due to irresponsiveness of the relevant institutions. However the project unit finally received the nominations of each invited institution. The official establishment of the Steering Committee is in the phase of finalization.

II. In regard to the achievement of the project results:

a) Lack of existing data and monitoring system regarding chemicals production, use, application and disposal could be the main obstacle for developing the Initial National Chemical Profile.

b) Cooperation and coordination among the relevant institutions is not on a satisfactory level.

4.2 Actions Taken or Required to Solve the Problems (identified in section 4.1 above)

I. The inception Workshop was organized earlier than planned, in order to save some time and to gather all relevant stakeholders, introduce them with the SAICM issue and to mobilize them as soon as possible to cooperate during the process for collecting available data related to chemicals, needed for the development of the Situation Report.

II. a) Improvement of the monitoring and developing detailed and comprehensive database of chemicals, produced, used, disposed. The project foresees establishment of the comprehensive and efficient system for chemicals management in the country. This system will prescribe detailed database (inventory) establishment and monitoring of the chemicals in all stages of their life-cycle. This will be excellent opportunity to improve chemicals management system in different economic branches where they find and application.

b) Considering the fact that management of chemicals is an issue that concerns several different sectors, the cooperation among the sectors, Government and other institutions is of great importance for development of a comprehensive Situation Report. Thus, strengthening of institutional capacities, intersectoral cooperation and providing strong link among Government Institutions, Industry and NGO's are required to solve the problem and facilitate the future project implementation as well as the chemical management in Macedonia, in general.

5. List of attached documents

Please list in and provide all relevant documents confirming that activities have been undertaken.

(a) Reports of Meetings (1. Inception Workshop Report, ...)


(b) Printed Materials (publications, technical information)

1. Introductory material for the Inception Workshop (in Macedonian)

2. Annex to the National Sustainable Development Strategy (Draft Version).....

(c) Public information (posters, leaflets, broadcasts etc.)

Name and title of the Project Manager: Suzana Andonova, Dr

Signature:  Date: ...02.02.09.....