

PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



Photo by: UNDP

CHALLENGE

Chemicals virtually affect all sectors of human activity. It has been recognized globally that poor management of chemicals adversely affects human health and the environment, compromising the world's most vulnerable and marginalized groups, the urban and rural poor, particularly women and children. UNDP assists countries to respond to the objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements that target effective global chemicals management through Capacity Development, Technical Assistance, Training and Trial/Demonstration Programmes and Technology Transfer.

In the country, UNDP is supporting the Government to assess its sound management of chemicals regime and improve its incorporation into the national development planning agenda. The country has been working intensively on the reduction and elimination of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), and the management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and is on its way to finalize the formulation of a national chemical profile. Additionally, through creation of the coordinating National Ozone Unit, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning established an excellent basis for the successful management of ODS in the country. As of today, more than 98% of ODS consumption are phased out. As a continuation, the management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) started in 2002 with implementation of the GEF project "Enabling activities to facilitate early action on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs".

The main objective of the project was the preparation of the National Implementation plan on the reduction and elimination of POPs, which is already implemented very successfully in some of the priority areas, such as PCBs and obsolete pesticides.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

POPs are long-lasting chemicals that can become widely distributed geographically and that, through contamination of food, water, air and soil, can accumulate in living organisms to levels harmful to human health and the environment. POPs are produced and released into the environment by human activity. Some are used as pesticides, some as industrial chemicals, and some are the unwanted by-products of chemicals and/or combustion processes.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project will contribute to the overall strengthening of the national capacity for sound management of chemicals. The main focus will be put on the recognizing the highest priorities and development of the Action Plans with Mainstreaming in National Development Planning processes, reiterating the Government's commitment towards the implementation of environmentally sound chemicals management.

RESULTS:

Since the very beginning of the project, several situation reports were developed for the agriculture, transport and communications, customs administration and health sectors, containing all the necessary data that allow a clearer insight into areas of high risk exposure for both human health and environment in the country.

In addition to this, a study was conducted for qualification and quantification of costs and benefits in the management of the major chemical problem areas.

A phased plan to address the needs and priorities of a national sound management of chemical governance was also developed, facilitating the making of more informed decisions and actions on national level.

A series of workshops and seminars were organized aiming to facilitate the development and formulation of a National Plan of Actions for Sound Chemical Management. Significant focus was put on improving the overall cooperation and coordination among all partners and stakeholders, which has led towards the overall strengthening of the national capacity for sound management of chemicals.

PROJECT TITLE:

Mainstreaming Safe Management of Chemical Considerations into MDG based National Development Planning

PARTNERS:

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, UNEP

FINANCED BY:

UN Trust Fund – Chemicals Quick Start Programme

BUDGET:

US\$ 248,400

IMPLEMENTING PERIOD:

Oct 2008 – Oct 2010

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Anita Kodzoman
 Head of Environment and Energy Unit
 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3249 560; +389 2 3249 505
 E-mail: anita.kodzoman@undp.org
 Website: www.undp.org.mk