

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): January, 2009-June 30th, 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.	Project Board meeting	09.02.2009	Completed	The Annual Work Plan (AWP) and the proposed activities presented by the project manager reviewed and approved.	Yes	/
2.	Core Project Experts Team Meeting	24.02.2009	Completed	The Draft Situation reports from each sector reviewed and discussed together with the International consultant and UNDP Regional and Country office representatives	/	It was concluded that this could be an excellent starting point for compiling the Situation report for chemical management in the country
3.	Cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments	25-27.02.2009	The SAICM Project Unit under the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning hosted the "Regional workshop on facilitating understanding between officials responsible for development planning and officials responsible for chemicals management" held in Ohrid	Cooperation between governments in the region improved	Yes	Regional workshop report, List of Participants and Concluding comments on the path forward for the planned ICCM2 Information Document attached
4.	Establishment of a Cross-sectoral body	March,2009	Completed	Interagency Cross-sectoral Coordinating Body established and became fully operational	Yes	All nominations from the invited Ministries and Institutions were received and confirmed the membership of the SC
5.	First Steering Committee meeting	24.04.2009	Completed	All members of the Committee fully introduced with their tasks and responsibilities towards successful implementation of the SAICM Project	Yes	

6.	Notification of and briefing about the project for government ministries/stakeholders	29-30.06.2009	Consultation meeting of SC with the National Experts succesfully organized	Draft List of most urgent issues that the country needs to be considered as the most important priorities, created.	Yes	Draft List of gaps and Priorities attached
7.	Research, Analysis and Planning in Support of Improved SMC Governance Consistent with National Development Objectives and SAICM Strategic Objectives	May-June,2009	First draft reports from three sectors prepared by the national consultants, compiled in one integral document and sent to be reviewed by the relevant stakeholders	Links between priority chemical management problems and human health and environmental effects qualified	Yes	The Report is reviewed and needs to incorporate all applicable comments and suggestions in order to finalize it in a most comprehensive format.

2.2 Indicate how activities undertaken are meeting the QSP objective and strategic priorities:

Strategic Approach general objectives are met through the implementation of the **project activities foreseen for the above mentioned period in accordance with the Project Work Plan.**

I. In order to establish and strengthen the Functional national cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial coordination in support of sustainable SMC mainstreaming the SAICM Project Unit undertook several activities through a number of regular meetings and consultations with all involved sectors as follows:

a. Project Board meeting

b. Consultations with the National advisors/ consultants responsible for preparing the Situation report for different sectors and representatives from the relevant Ministries and Institutions

c. Steering Committee was officially established and became fully operational to serve as Interagency Cross-sectoral Coordinating Body

d. First Meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 24.04.2009.

e. Negotiations with the responsible officers at the Ministry of Health which is responsible for the consistent enforcement of the Law on chemicals in order to provide common action on chemical management in all stages of their life cycle.

II. One of the strategic objectives mentioned in the SAICM Initiative is ..."to enhance cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments" ...

In this respect the SAICM Project Unit under the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning hosted the "Regional workshop on facilitating understanding between officials responsible for development planning and officials responsible for chemicals management" held in Ohrid, Macedonia on 25-27. Feb.2009. In the frames of this Regional workshop the participants had the opportunity to:

- meet responsible officers on regional level and exchange the knowledge and experience in implementation of the SAICM Initiative**
- to present the current status of sound management of chemicals in their own country**
- to discuss important topics to be included in an ICCM2 Information Document**

III. Under the Outcome 2: Links between priority chemical management problems and human health and environmental effects qualified, following activities were undertaken:

a. A comprehensive database on stakeholder by category (ministerial, academia, private sector, etc.) was developed

b. The process of identification of Country status on chemical management was conducted through preparation of the Situation report.

c. Preparation of the presentation according to the Country status (Situation report) of chemical management that will be presented at the ICCM2

d. The Draft Situation Report was developed by the sector teams and sent on review to the International Consultant and also to the involved relevant stakeholders from different Ministries (Agriculture, Transport and Communications, Customs Administration, Health and NGO).

e. A Consultation Meeting of the Steering Committee with responsible National experts was organized to present the Draft Situation report and discuss about the possible field of interests, existing gaps in the chemical management of the country and setting a draft list of priorities that would be a baseline for the short term List of Priorities aimed to be set at the occasion of Priority Validation meeting with a wider participation of all involved entities in the country dealing with chemicals.

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 work plan 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 work plan 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 according to the newly prepared work plan at the end of the 2008 are on time. The project manager expects that there will be a slight delay in starting with the phase dedicated to the economic analysis of the selected priorities due to lack of these specific capacities in the country and due to this there are some difficulties in the recruitment process. However, the general dynamics of the activities is satisfactory.

b) The Operating of a Multi-stakeholder Coordinating Mechanism still remains a problem for successful implementation of the project. The reason for this is irresponsiveness of the relevant institutions.

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 was the main obstacle for developing the Initial National Situation Report.

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. All involved representatives from the relevant institutions were invited more often than it was initially planned. Considering the fact that the SC members were nominated officially by the responsible Ministries, it was urged from each member to be more active and committed to the task.

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. Additional efforts should be made and to raise the problem on a higher level to provide necessary feedback from each relevant institution.

5. List of attached documents

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

- **Project Board Minutes of Meeting**

- **Project Core Team Meeting report (incl. List of Participants)**

- **Regional workshop report,**

- **List of Participants at the Regional workshop,**

- **Agenda of the Regional workshop**

- **Concluding comments on the path forward for the planned ICCM2 Information Document**

- **List of Participants at the Consultation Meeting of Steering Committee with National Experts.**

- **Draft List of most urgent issues that the country needs to be considered as the most important priorities.**

(b) Printed Materials (publications, technical information)

1. **-Draft Situation Report**

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

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

Signature:  Date: ...13.07.09.....