

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):

1.4 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

Project responsible officer:

Ms. Suzana Andonova, Project Manager

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

Mr. Antonio Nedelkov, Project Specialist

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 closing date: 31.07.2010

1.8 Reporting period: 10.April. 2008- 10. April, 2010

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

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, 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. The process for development of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development was undergoing simultaneously with the implementation of

the project with very tight deadlines for finalization of the NSSD in July 2008 and therefore the project 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 2010.

1.10 Total budget (USD): \$310.800, out of which \$248.400 were approved QSP Trust Fund and

1.11 Partners and leveraged resources:

Government of the Macedonia/Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning - \$62.400 as an in kind contribution

Describe collaboration with partners and state their role.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning was providing office space for the project implementation unit and operational costs for the office. Also, the Ministry was providing input from the key staff from various departments of the Ministry that are relevant to the project activities.

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. a. Designating a National Project Manager /Coordinator	01.08. 2008	Completed	a. Project Unit Operational	Yes	Besides the slight delay in recruiting the project staff in the initial phase, the team was fully operational and showed an extreme commitment to avoid the postponing of activities.
	November 2008	Completed	b. National cross sectoral Teams established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health expert recruited • Industry and Waste expert recruited • Agriculture expert recruited 	Yes	The Project staff was faced with difficulties in the recruitment of national experts for different sectors due to limited number of experts with the required qualifications and experience and thus limited number of received applications on the announcements. Thus, the starting date for the experts work had to be postponed. However, they put their efforts to fulfil their tasks on time, in order to work according to the plan.
	June 2009	Completed	c. Economic expert recruited	With a delay	Despite the recommendations received prior to recruitment and several applications received, not all experts were familiar with the specific task that was required according to the TOR. It was

						extremely difficult to recruit the most relevant person for doing the CBA. There is clear lack of expertise in the country regarding economic analyses of chemicals
2.	Establishment of a Cross-sectoral Coordinating Mechanism	November 2008	Completed	Functional national cross-sectoral, inter-ministerial coordination in support of sustainable SMC mainstreaming established ICM briefed.	Yes	Official decision document signed by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning.
3.	Notification of and briefing about the project for government ministries/stakeholders	13/14 November 2008	Completed	The relevant institutions briefed (Inception workshop successfully organized and performed)	Yes	The Inception Workshop and establishment of working groups were an excellent opportunity to raise awareness especially among the industry stakeholders and establish an initial link between institutions working on chemical issues and the industry. They were participating in this process through providing technical data and information that were used for completion of the Situation Report. They also expressed interest to build strong partnership among different industrial branches, NGO's and scientific institutions. Inception workshop report (attached)
4.	Research, Analysis and Planning in Support of Improved SMC Governance Consistent with National	Dec, 2008- March, 2010	Completed	Links between priority chemical management problems and human health and environmental effects qualified	Yes	Situation reports by three sectors (Health, Industry & Waste, and Agriculture) was prepared by the national consultants and upgraded.

	<p>Development Objectives and SAICM Strategic Objectives</p>					<p>The Report is generally divided in three parts: institutional framework, existing legislation and chapters on management of agro-chemicals, industrial chemicals and chemical waste/hot spots and health aspects.</p> <p>Due to the lack of existing data and monitoring of the chemicals production, use, application and disposal, it is expected that given information will be insufficient to give real picture in regards to the above mentioned areas of the overall chemical management.</p> <p>In April, 2010, the Situation report along with the selected priorities was published on the specially developed web page for comments by the involved stakeholders.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Development of the Draft document (Annex) to be incorporated in the SD Strategy</p>	<p>Jun-Aug, 2008</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Planning To Implement Priority Actions, Including through Mainstreaming In National Development Plans</p>	<p>Not initially planned. Prior to the preparation of a detailed Situation Report</p>	<p>During the mission of the Intl. Consultant (Thomas Conway, RFI) we concluded that the chemical issue has not been covered in any development document on the national level. Therefore we decided to use the occasion of development of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. In that period the Strategy was in the final phase of preparation. So, it was an excellent opportunity to draft and add an Annex to the Strategy covering the most important topics related to</p>

6.	<p>Priority setting and Validation</p>	<p>June, 2010 Feb, 2010</p>	<p>Completed Completed</p>	<p>Priorities identified Priorities validated (short term priorities listed)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>chemical management in the country. Also, within the document, a special chapter on chemical management was incorporated and linked with the chemical annex.</p>
7.	<p>Quantification of Costs of inaction/benefits of action in management of chemical issues / Conducting Cost Benefit Analysis on the</p>	<p>Jun 2009- April,2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Cost Benefit analysis finalized</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Considering the fact the priorities identification is of great importance for the overall chemical management in the future, their definition was discussed with the stakeholders twice. The first meeting was dedicated to initial definition of so-called long list of the priorities. Afterwards the priorities was processed by the SAICM team and adjusted completely with the existing national circumstances and SAICM initiative objectives. The second meeting was organized in order to discuss the short priority list and validate them by the relevant stakeholders. After conduction of the prioritization process eight most important and essential priorities were adopted and incorporated in the National SAICM document.</p> <p>The lack of existing monitoring data was the main obstacle for providing a high quality of the CBA. However, the economic experts were extremely committed to this task in order to conduct the analysis as comprehensive as possible. The final Analysis Report was developed with</p>

	selected priority					high quality and it gives basis for further development of the projects that will contain economic aspects (cost-benefit assessment) as an obligatory part (which is nowadays rare practice in the country).
8.	Planning To Implement Priority Actions, Including Via Mainstreaming In National Development Plans	Aug 2008- June2010	Ongoing	Action Plans in the phase of development	Yes	<p>Strategic Approach general objectives are incorporated as a chapter in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2009) and supported by the comprehensive Annex to the Strategy. Using the occasion of up-dating of the Sustainable Development Strategy (to be realized till the end of 2010), the new data that were gained during the SAICM document development will be incorporated in the Strategy. This final action is extremely important in order to mainstream and give high position of the chemical issues in the national development planning.</p> <p>Due to the fact that action plan is not completed yet, the updating of the Sustainable Development Strategy will be also used to incorporate strictly defined activities in the national development planning and find their place in the overall national planning in the field of economy, health, environment, labor, trade, etc.</p> <p>Concretely, the action plan is</p>

						foreseen as a third separate part of the SAICM Plan that prescribes activities in accordance with the adopted national priorities in the field of chemical management.
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2.1 List lessons learned and best practices:

During the project implementation several lessons were learned and best practices implemented:

1. Improvement of the intersectoral cooperation

Initially, at the beginning of the project implementation, the cooperation and coordination among the relevant institutions was not on a satisfactory level. So, the first recommendation given by the Steering Committee was to improve the cooperation among involved institutions and other stakeholder and support their mutual action. Therefore the Project Coordination Unit together with the working groups and national experts intensively worked on this problematic, through individual and consultation meetings, workshops, round tables, involvement of the senior staff of the Ministries, etc. The last meeting with all involved institutions (March, 2010) showed that invested efforts gave results: the institutions were aware about their role in the overall chemicals management in the country and were more motivated. We can state that in this area we succeed remarkable improvement and the same approach will used in the phase of action plan development and adoption.

Mobilizing and motivating the responsible officers representing the involved institutions is a matter of giving personal efforts and commitments of the Project Staff. Regular ICM Meetings and also a number of consultation meetings of experts with relevant stakeholders, organised during the Project implementation was a very useful modus for keeping the Institutions in line with the needs of the project towards SMC.

2. Application of the experience from other chemical projects in the country

Due to the fact that respectable number of projects linked with different group of hazardous chemicals (ODSs, POPs) was implemented in the country, we established excellent cooperation with our colleagues. Their experience was used in creation of the scheme for project implementation and preparation of the Situation Report. Also, the staff from the Waste Division in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning/Administration for Environment was communicated in order to obtain reliable data on chemicals waste and hot spots issues. Considering the fact that colleagues in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning almost at the same time work on the implementation of the project on the Chemical Risk Management (funded by the Swedish Government), the project was in position to exchange data and experience and to participate at similar chemical trainings. It is also worth to mention that the staff of the Project on Sustainable Development Strategy provided a possibility for the SAICM project to incorporate chemical issue in the Strategy. The project will also continue to follow up in order to use the Strategy up-dating to include new information provided during the SAICM Plan development.

3. Incorporation of the economic aspects in the chemical management projections

Conduction of the cost-benefit analysis of the selected priority gave us a signal that the estimation and prediction of the cost and benefits that will be gained with the chemical project implementation is a very important part. It will be also used to present real project justification and its financial construction.

Also, financial planning is essential for definition of the actions to be implemented in the future. The undertaken cost-benefit analysis is actually a first economic assessment in the field of chemical management in the phase of planning and development. Due to the fact that this kind of economic modelling was scored as extremely useful one, it was concluded to be applied in the future chemical planning as a common procedure.

4. Other lessons learned

Lack of available data relevant to chemical management in the country, was an obstacle that the Project faced with in all phases of implementation. Thus, it was concluded that more attention

should be given on building the capacities for regular monitoring and screening of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

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

As stated above, the project started just in the phase of finalizing the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). The SAICM Project Team together with the SD responsible team decided to use an excellent opportunity to prepare and add an Annex to this Strategy covering the most important issues related to chemical management in the country. Also, the action plan directions will be taken in consideration in the up-dating of the Annex text. It means that items listed and described in the action plan will be incorporated in the NSDS. This is actually guarantee that that the foreseen actions from the National SAICM Plan will be take a part in the NSDS and implemented in due manner and time.

With this step, the Project informally started from the last planned activity, which was only an announcement for introduction of the full document comprising the National Action Plan developed at the final phase of the Project.

This approach is very specific for the country and it depends on the willingness and the commitment of the involved institutions to cooperate and accept the suggestions and interventions from other sources. That means that in some cases it could not be simply replicated in other countries, however it shows that it could be useful example for similar situations and it appeals for applying more flexibility in creating the project plans and activities.

For this reason, the gained experience in this project could be used as an example how to approach to such specific situations in other countries in order to implement the projects and reach the initially projected goal in this case it was mainstreaming of the SMC into National Development Planning Processes.

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)?

The SAICM project and those that will follow are an excellent instrument to work in compliance with the Global Initiatives such as SAICM, Stockholm, Montreal Protocol, as well as with other relevant international and regional policy documents. During the SAICM project implementation most of the institutions were introduced with all SAICM principle and made aware about the necessity to direct their efforts and build capacities in line with SAICM objectives. One of the actions that will be put in the Action Plan will be to strength human resources to create scheme that will provide common action and integrated approach in chemical management. The activity is reported in the chapter on chemicals within the National programme for Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire to be implemented till mid of 2012.

It is also very useful, especially for Macedonia as a country with an Economy in transition, where the system for sound management of chemicals is still not fully established, which also needs a lot of institutional strengthening, capacity building to accept the new integrated approach in the chemical management, as well as to attract national and foreign sources to invest for its improvement.

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 was a leader in implementing the chemicals related projects in the Region. One of the ideas which were viable to become realistic through this project, was to utilize the benefits gained during the implementation of previous projects (related to different groups of chemicals-POPs

chemicals , ODS, Heavy metals, etc.) and compile them in one document that will be incorporated in the National Development Planning document (SD) .

Action plan on SAICM will cover all the chemicals and related issues, emphasizing the highest priorities that have to be invested in the short, medium and long term period.

Due to the fact that respectable number of projects linked with different group of hazardous chemicals (ODSs, POPs) was implemented in the country, excellent cooperation was established with responsible colleagues. Their experience was used in creation of the scheme for project implementation and preparation of the Situation Report. Also, the staff from the Waste Division in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning/Administration for Environment was communicated in order to obtain reliable data on chemicals waste and hot spots issues. Considering the fact that colleagues in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning almost at the same time work on the implementation of the project on the Chemical Risk Management (funded by the Swedish Government), the project was in position to exchange data and experience and to participate at similar chemical trainings. It is also worth to mention that the staff of the Project on Sustainable Development Strategy provided a possibility for the SAICM project to incorporate chemical issue in the Strategy. The project will also continue to follow up in order to use the Strategy up-dating and include new information provided during the SAICM Plan development.

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

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning – is an executive agency for the roject implementation. The project was implemented in close cooperation with the Division on Chemicals and Industrial Accidents in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning/Administration for Environment and Ozone and POPs Units. The representatives from the MoEPP were members of the SC (Steering Committee) and the Project Board. Divisions under the Ministry involved in the Policy and legal framework issues are :

Administration for Environment-Division for Waste Management

State Inspectorate for Environment

Sector for EU Integration

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, participating at the meetings of ICM, workshops, individual meetings and round tables discussions

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- Present at the all workshops and events organised by the Project Team

Ministry of Economy- Utilization of the Ministry's studies conducted in the frames of their responsibilities

NGO- MES -Macedonian Ecologists Society- NGO representative -Member of the ICM-Mutual cooperation for different matters related to the commonly related issues

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

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"

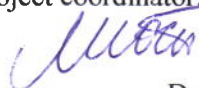

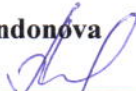
NGO- Organisation for protection of consumers
 Faculty of Agriculture-Institute for Agriculture
 Faculty of Medicine- Republic Institute for Public Health

All mentioned institutions were part of the working groups on different aspects of chemical management in Macedonia. It can be stated that all of them took active participation in the working group activities and development and adoption of the Situation Report and national priorities in chemical management.

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**

Name and title of official of the executing agency (if any): Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning/POPs Unit Name of the agency (organization): UNDP CO Skopje	Name of the project coordinator: Marin Kocov  Signature: _____ Date 30.April 2010
 Signature: _____ Date: 30.April 2010	Name of the Project Manager Suzana Andonova  Signature: _____ Date 30.April 2010