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The **UNDP • UNEP**

Partnership Initiative
for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals
into Development Planning Processes:
Maximizing Return on Investment



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INTRODUCTION

UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative was established to support the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework adopted in February 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM). SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral preparatory committee and supports the achievement of the goal on chemical management agreed to at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: that by the year 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

Four major value-added features of SAICM, relative to the international management of chemicals work that preceded it, are:

- Strengthened focus on cross-sectoral governance at both the national and local level that addresses overall chemical management concerns rather than dealing with issues on a chemical-by-chemical basis.
- Emphasis on the role of sound management of chemicals in achieving sustainable development goals, including poverty eradication, improvement of human health, environmental protection and elevation of living standards.
- Recognition that in order to significantly advance the chemical management situation of countries, integrating sound management of chemicals into national and local development planning is essential.
- A more comprehensive and holistic manner of addressing the increasing gap in the capacity of developed and developing countries to manage risks posed by chemicals.



THE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON CHEMICALS: A Programmatic Approach

The Partnership Initiative, designed to support the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, was established in line with the Global Partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which aims to increase collaboration and joint activities between the two UN agencies to better support internationally agreed environment and sustainable development goals espoused by partner countries.

The primary objective of the Partnership Initiative is to facilitate the integration of sound management of chemicals into national development planning processes in order to support sustainable development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Integrating sound management of chemicals into development plans such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) involves establishing the links between poverty and sound chemical management – such as improved human and environmental

health, and increased economic security and income opportunities for the poor – and then identifying the policies and programmes needed to bring about pro-poor chemical management. It also involves looking at potential chemical risks arising from implementing sections of the development plans, and trying to mitigate such risks at the planning stage.

The Partnership Initiative's work on sound management of chemicals is targeted at influencing not only national plans, but also sector strategies and local level implementation. The overall aim is to establish enduring institutional processes within government ministries and the wider stakeholder community to bring about sound management of chemicals – focusing on the government bodies responsible for poverty reduction and growth policies, and also strengthening the role of environmental agencies and non-governmental actors. The process will also foster national budget commitments, in partnership with donor assistance, following the integration of chemical management priorities into national policy and planning documents.

The UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative on Chemicals is helping countries to:

- 1.** Identify specific areas of chemicals management that are likely to result in concrete environmental, health and economic benefits as a result of introducing sound management practices, and put in place a plan to begin addressing identified national priorities.
- 2.** Assess the adequacy of national development strategies in terms of protecting the environment and human health, and determine to what extent identified national chemical management priorities could be integrated into national MDG-based development planning.
- 3.** Improve the integration of chemicals management priorities into national discussions, development processes, policies and plans.

The UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative draws on these services provided by the cooperating agencies:

UNDP:

- Capacity development
- Integrated policy design
- Support to MDG-based national development assessment and investment planning processes
- Implementation guidance at the country level

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE PROVIDED THROUGH THE UNDP-UNEP

UNDP:

UNDP PROMOTES the sound management of chemicals as an important component of global poverty reduction efforts. In line with its role as the UN's global development network, UNDP advocates for the importance of addressing issues related to chemicals management and chemically-linked pollution in developing countries by integrating rigorous chemicals management schemes into national development policies and plans. As an implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the Global Environment Facility, and the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, and in cooperation with a multitude of bi-lateral donors, UNDP helps countries obtain the financial resources necessary to improve their chemicals management regimes in order to achieve their goals and meet their commitments under international chemicals-related environmental agreements.

FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION of SAICM in 2006, UNDP, with support provided by the Norwegian Government, invested in the development of a technical guide to assist governments and UN Country Teams in recognizing and assessing opportunities for incorporating sound management of chemicals into national development planning processes: the *UNDP Technical Guide for Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in MDG-Based Policies and Plans*. This is one of several tools that UNDP's Environment

and Energy Group/Bureau for Development Policy has developed to enhance assistance to partner countries through a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

BASED ON THE EXPERIENCES of countries that have undertaken mainstreaming initiatives, the UNDP Technical Guide has been revised for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in May 2009.

THE UNDP TECHNICAL GUIDE is very much a learning tool. It is a primer that provides substantive background information on sound management of chemicals, as well as an explanation of the synergies that exist between chemicals management and sustainable development goals. The technical guide addresses sectoral concerns that might exist at the country level, and provides tools to help countries assess their current capacity for sound management of chemicals.

THE TECHNICAL GUIDE also identifies the steps that countries usually go through to determine their capacity building needs and priorities, elaborating "points of entry" for integrating sound management of chemicals into national development plans and sector-based strategies. Each step is accompanied by a description of key considerations and includes detailed "how-to" information targeted at decision-makers and managers engaged in drafting, priority setting, implementation, monitoring or reporting with respect to national development plans and strategies.

UNEP:

- Normative development
- Technical assessment and analysis
- Established collaborative arrangements with relevant IGOs for sound management of chemicals
- Piloting of innovative approaches – such as UNEP-WHO Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI)
- Science-based guidance and knowledge services

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

UNEP:

UNEP IS WORKING to make the world safer from toxic chemicals at the global, regional and national level by helping governments take action for the sound management of chemicals. UNEP's work in this area includes developing guidance on technical issues, building legal and institutional frameworks, promoting exchange of information on chemicals, and helping to build capacity for safe production, use and handling of chemicals in countries around the world.

UNEP'S ACTIVITIES also include general guidance to assist countries in implementing Multilateral Environment Agreements relevant to chemicals management, such as the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. Additional guidance is needed, however, to help national ministries of environment, health, finance and planning understand how to link sound management of chemicals to sustainable development and poverty reduction, and how to integrate such assessments into development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

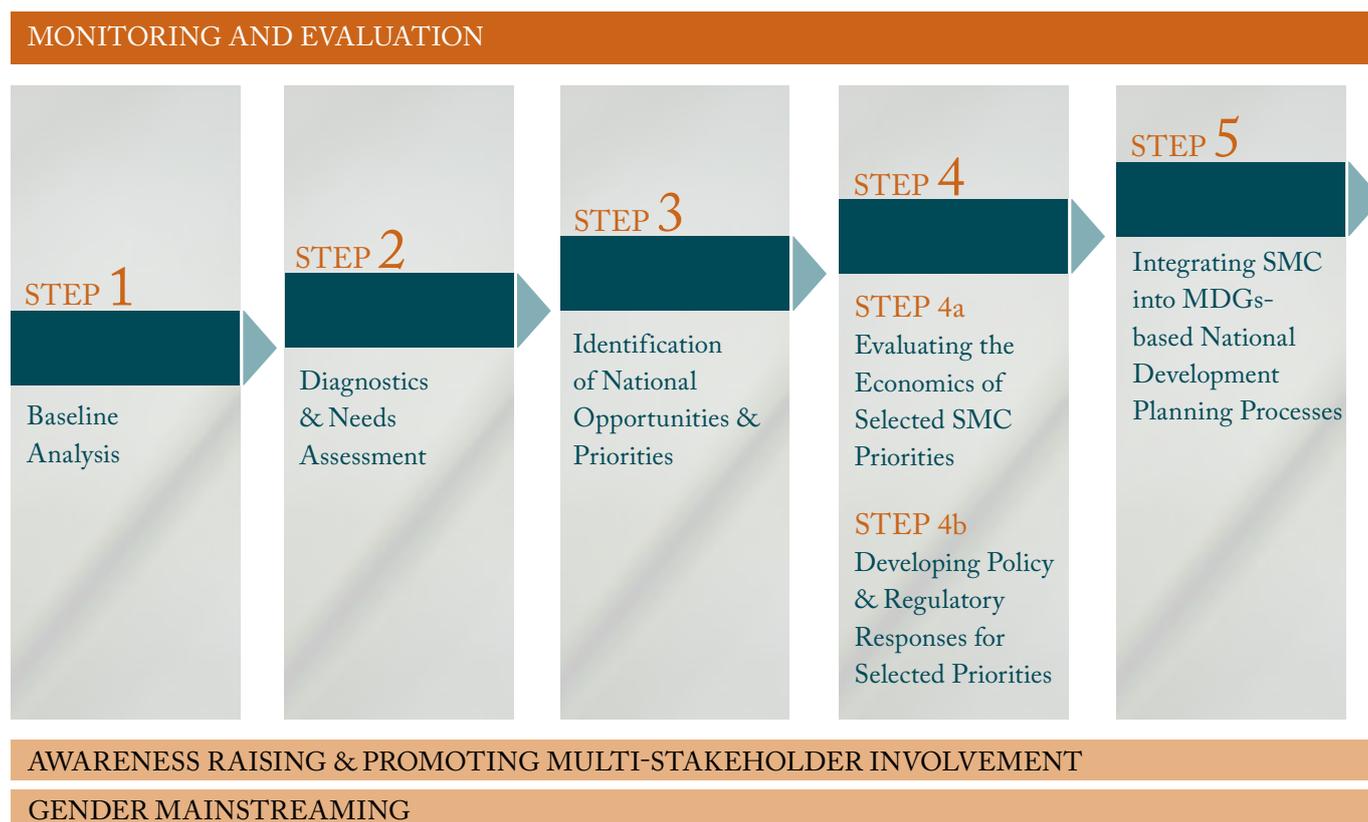
IN RESPONSE THE EXPERIENCE UNEP brings to the Partnership Initiative also includes its recent work with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI), which promotes a proactive, inter-sectoral approach to decision-making.

THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES INITIATIVE TOOLKIT INCLUDES:

- A joint WHO-UNEP web portal that contains nearly a 1,000 links to critical resources in the field of environment and health, organized by categories relevant to policy-making; Synthesis of issues in terms relevant to government sectors; illustration of best practice policy approaches and their cost-effectiveness; and easy access to materials for training, guidance and other resources.
- A global review of the needs of decision makers with respect to environment and health issues, as well as opportunities for action.
- Critical reviews of existing methodologies that support decision making, and proposed ways to adapt and improve these methodologies for a wide range of settings.
- Technical guidance to support integrated health and environment assessments while incorporating economic valuation.

MAPPING THE INTEGRATION OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

In conceptualizing the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative, UNDP and UNEP contemplated the steps that countries typically go through to advance their national chemicals management regimes. These steps can generically be described as follows:



STEP 1 — BASELINE ANALYSIS

- Purpose:** Determine what information is available on a country's chemicals management situation and record it. Relevant information could be contained in a National Chemicals Profile, National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, State of the Environment Report, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) report, Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) or other information sources.
- Goal:** Development of a National Chemicals Management Situation Report that provides information on the degree of integration of sound management of chemicals into national development planning.
- Rationale:** A National Chemicals Management Situation Report is an essential prerequisite for an integrated assessment and analysis of the linkages between chemicals management and related economic, health and environmental impacts.

STEP 2 — DIAGNOSTICS/ NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Purpose:** Identify high risks of chemical exposure affecting biodiversity, vulnerable ecosystems, and human health (both acute and long term effects) using information gathered through a multi-stakeholder approach.
- Goal:** Preparation of an in-depth assessment of chemicals management issues relevant to national MDG-based development planning.
- Rationale:** The root causes of human and environmental health issues should be taken into consideration from the outset to ensure that they are fully addressed in policies to integrate sound management of chemicals into development planning.

STEP 3 — IDENTIFICATION OF NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES

- Purpose:** Undertake a qualitative analysis of the links between major chemical problem areas and human health and environmental quality to identify opportunities and priorities for national decision making on sound chemical management.
- Goal:**
- List and description of opportunities (legal, technical and institutional) that can strengthen the national chemical management regime.
 - Establishment of national priorities based on the opportunities identified and a priority-setting exercise.
- Rationale:** Describing the links between improper management of chemicals and its effects on the environment and public health is a necessary foundation for identifying the full range of actions that can help a country improve its environmental and health conditions. A priority chemical management issue will be one that is significant to national health, environment and development objectives. An assessment focusing on the identification and evaluation of opportunities and policy interventions, rather than following a purely research driven approach, will improve decision making. With the assessment focusing on the identification and evaluation of opportunities and policy interventions, rather than following a purely research driven approach, makes it into an assessment that improves decision making.

STEP 4 A — EVALUATING THE ECONOMICS OF SELECTED SMC PRIORITIES

- Purpose:** Estimation/quantification of the costs of action to pursue identified chemical management opportunities versus the costs of human suffering and environmental degradation when no action is taken.
- Goal:**
- Determination of economic costs and benefits of policy options to address chemical management problems identified as national priorities (including potentially 'hidden' costs).
 - Buy-in of the government's central finance and economic development agencies, for which valuation is a crucial decision-making tool.
- Rationale:** Demonstrating a threat does not in itself provide a solution. Identifying and measuring environmental and health impacts is often not sufficiently convincing to ensure that these threats are given the attention they require when policy decisions are made. Actions to address environmental and human health impacts have financial implications — from the direct financial costs of interventions to the negative or positive effects they have on economic development. Determining economic costs and benefits of policy options will help decision makers understand and act on the outcomes of a sound management of chemicals assessment.

STEP 4 B — DEVELOPING POLICY AND REGULATORY RESPONSES FOR SELECTED PRIORITIES

- Purpose:** Development of targeted policy and regulatory responses for selected chemicals management priorities considered from a national development planning perspective.
- Goal:** Initiation of legislative and institutional reforms to facilitate the implementation of selected priorities and their integration into national development planning.
- Rationale:** It is important to consider the wide range of potential interventions that could be implemented. In addition to economic incentives, these include technological interventions, social measures such as health promotion, and legal and regulatory measures.

STEP 5 — INTEGRATING THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS INTO MDG-BASED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES

- Purpose:**
- Integration of sound management of chemicals priorities into national development planning to address the most serious problem areas, while making the utmost use of opportunities that link sound management of chemicals with sustainable development factors.
 - Fostering national budget commitments, in partnership with donor assistance, following the integration of priorities into national policy and planning documents.
- Goal:**
- Making clear to national finance and treasury departments, and aid agency officials, the linkages between sound management of chemicals and progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
 - Awareness-raising targeted to political decision makers.
 - Inclusion of priorities for sound management of chemicals in national policy and planning documents.
- Rationale:** Decision makers are far more likely to opt for sustainable modes of development when health and environmental costs of alternative policies are fully valued in terms of natural resource depletion/conservation, human mortality and morbidity, health care costs, lost wages, etc. Significant responses to hazards often only occur when a long-standing environmental risk erupts into a health crisis, or economic or political emergency. By moving from a reactive to a proactive policy approach, risks that might develop into full-scale environmental and health emergencies can be mitigated, and crises that otherwise might have serious implications for a country's economic, political and physical infrastructure can be limited or even prevented.



Awareness Raising & Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder consultations and awareness-raising throughout the step-by-step approach to integrating sound management of chemicals into development plans will enable a country to ensure that identified priorities are an accurate reflection of emerging needs, and place chemical management priorities at the core of national development debates. Without stakeholder consultations, the result could be partial and unsustainable. Stakeholder involvement can lead to better policy options by fostering alternative, pro-poor choices, and ensuring the participation of vulnerable populations in policy development and decision making processes.

Gender Mainstreaming

Efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals within a context of sustainable development have important gender dimensions. In daily life, men, women, and children are exposed to different kinds of chemicals in varying concentrations. Levels of exposure to toxic chemicals—and resulting impacts on human health—are determined by social as well as biological factors. Therefore, it is critical to raise awareness about the linkages between chemical exposure, human health, environmental threats, and gender differences in risks and impacts. Integration

of gender considerations throughout all stages of a country's process to strengthen its national chemical management regime will ensure that women's, as well as men's, concerns and experiences are taken into account in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of chemical management policies and programmes, so that they can benefit equally and gender inequality is not perpetuated.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation throughout the step-by-step approach will allow countries to track progress in meeting goals, measure results in achieving established goals, codify lessons learned, evaluate feedback, ensure accountability vis-à-vis project partners, donors and stakeholders and ultimately improve the quality of follow-up programmes and projects for sound management of chemicals. Identifying and/or developing the “right” indicators that can be linked to national development goals and targets is particularly important for monitoring a country's progress in integrating sound management of chemicals into its Millennium Development Goal targets and national development plans. A multi-stakeholder approach during the identification and/or development of such indicators will ensure that a variety of potential indicators are proposed for selection.

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES

In its initial phase, the UNDP- UNEP Partnership Initiative collaborated with selected pilot countries in the application and testing of UNDP guidance materials with the ultimate objective of integrating sound management of chemicals into national development plans and policies.

Pilot countries that were selected had a National Chemicals Management Profile or similar document in place as a starting point, as well as a Poverty Reduction Strategy, MDG-based National Development Plan, or other national development planning document that was due to be updated. The countries also had relatively good information available on existing chemical management problems and the populations, environmental resources, and economic sectors most at risk due to chemical exposure.

The Partnership Initiative was launched in **Uganda** and **Zambia** in November 2007, in **Macedonia** in March 2008, and in **Cambodia** in June 2008. Funding was provided by the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund, as well as the Swedish Government (through the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate – KemI). Throughout 2009, Partnership Initiative

activities will be launched in **Belarus, Belize, Ecuador, Honduras, Liberia** and **Mauritania**, with support from the SAICM QSP Trust Fund.

Through their participation in the Partnership Initiative, these 10 countries will work towards the integration of sound management of chemicals into national

Countries interested in cooperating with the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative and in securing necessary financial resources for SMC mainstreaming activities are welcome to contact the UNDP and UNEP focal points indicated on the back cover of this brochure.

development planning processes. The results will be used to revise and update the *UNDP Technical Guide for Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in MDG-Based Policies and Plan*. The technical guide is considered a “living document” in which the lessons-learned and practical field experiences from these 10 countries will be recorded as they progress with project implementation.



ENHANCING UNDP-UNEP JOINT PROGRAMMING: Broadening the Partnership Initiative

Coordination with specialized agencies

Integration of sound management of chemicals into national development planning processes requires partnership and harmonization, not only among national agencies within countries, but also among the specialized international agencies that are involved in aspects of chemical management. Throughout the preparation and implementation of national projects, the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative seeks substantive input from other international agencies on chemicals-related policy and economic issues. The Partnership Initiative works in concert with a number of other specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) – to name a few – and the Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements dealing with issues related to chemical management.

Partnering with Bi-lateral donors

The Government of Sweden is supporting work by the Partnership Initiative in **Cambodia** and **Zambia**, through the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (KemI). In **Cambodia**, the Partnership Initiative has been coordinating its activities with a Swedish-funded project managed by UNEP entitled **Facilitation of legal and institutional infrastructures on sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition**, which as a result of coordination efforts is now supporting the Government of Cambodia in the development of a law/sub-decree on chemicals management to

address its legal infrastructure needs on the regulation of the management of chemicals.

The Government of Norway has provided funding for a UNEP-supported project on the Integration of chemical safety concerns into development agendas, which focuses on poverty reduction strategies. This project is being executed jointly with the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative activities. As a start, four regional workshops were held in **Belize, Cambodia, Macedonia** and **Uganda**. These workshops were designed to:

- a. Advance SMC mainstreaming into development planning through increased dialogue and understanding between national agencies responsible for chemicals management and national agencies responsible for development planning; and
- b. Contribute to the preparation of an information document to be provided to the 2nd Meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) to strengthen discussions on mainstreaming by providing information on the practical experience and perspectives of countries that participated in the workshops.

Representatives from national agencies responsible for chemicals management and national agencies responsible for development planning from all of the countries that are part of the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative participated in the regional workshops.

Linking to the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty - Environment Initiative (PEI) is a joint programme that provides financial and technical support to countries to build capacity for integrating poverty and environment linkages into national



development planning processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) achievement strategies. Principles and considerations on the sound management of chemicals require further incorporation into PEI's approach and methodology for providing support to countries on integrating poverty-environment linkages into national development planning processes.

Over the past few years PEI has supported nine countries in Africa and Asia with the launch of sustainable programmes to mainstream poverty and environment linkages into national development plans, budget processes and sector implementation programmes. Currently, working closely

with key donors and other partners, PEI is undertaking efforts to expand its services to other countries and regions.

To ensure that PEI-supported countries benefit from the UNDP-UNEP programmatic approach to the integration of sound management of chemicals, the Partnership Initiative either builds on PEI mainstreaming activities or incorporates SMC mainstreaming activities into ongoing PEI country support (as is the case in Uganda, for example). UNDP and UNEP are also in the process of ensuring that SMC considerations are fully integrated into the UNDP-UNEP Guidance on Mainstreaming Environment into National Development Planning



Progress in Uganda

The “Uganda/UNDP/UNEP Initiative for the implementation of SAICM” was officially launched by the Ugandan Minister of State for Environment, Mrs. Jessica Eriyo, at the Project’s Inception Workshop, which was held in November 2007 in Kampala. Funding was provided by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

Seventy-six representatives from Ministries such as Health, Environment, Planning and Finance, as well as industry associations, NGOs, universities and chemicals-related institutions, responded to the invitation of the Ugandan National Environmental Management Agency (NEMA) to support the project and to work towards the main objectives of the Partnership Initiative.

Uganda’s Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), which is Uganda’s comprehensive development framework, was expiring in 2008. The expiry of the PEAP offered an opportunity to review the gains realized and the challenges and constraints faced during its implementation, as well as emerging issues, opportunities and new challenges. The revised PEAP will inform and eventually be transformed into the New Five Year National Development Plan (NDP). The revision process will be guided by several sector working papers and consultations regarding the draft NDP. One of the working papers that will inform the new plan is a sector paper on Environment, Natural Resource and Climate Change.

The stakeholders at the workshop recognized and agreed that it would be extremely important for this project to contribute to the review process of the PEAP and try to mainstream known national chemical management priorities into the revised PEAP - in order to influence the new National Development Plan and meet SAICM objectives. The project’s stakeholders agreed to two parallel processes for mainstreaming:

i) A “fast track” process to meet the deadline of the PEAP review that would focus on mainstreaming of short term priorities; and,

ii) A “normal speed” mainstreaming process that would focus on mainstreaming of medium and long term priorities.

The “fast track” process: In order to incorporate chemicals management issues into the revised PEAP, a sub-sector working paper on chemicals management has been finalized. Information from this paper will be incorporated into the sector paper on Environment, Natural Resource and Climate Change, which in turn will inform the new National Development Plan. The project team reviewed the draft sector paper and made detailed comments on priorities for sound management of chemicals.

The “normal speed” process: National sector teams were formed which, under the guidance of a core group constituted of an economist, environmental health expert, and NEMA environmental expert, have finalized Uganda’s national situation report on chemicals. The analysis of the national situation has defined the high priority chemicals issues relevant to Uganda’s national development objectives, and this has been presented to the national Inter-agency Coordinating Mechanism on sound management of chemicals. Pre-meetings were held with the finance and planning ministries.

In the meantime, Phase 2 of the project has begun with an economic cost-benefit analysis of the need to restructure legislative and institutional governance mechanisms for SMC in the Government of Uganda in order to improve effectiveness and efficiencies. A strategy to address gaps in the legal regime was also initiated in the first quarter of 2009.

Progress in Cambodia

The “Mainstreaming Sound Management of Chemicals Issues into MDG-based National Development Planning” project was officially launched at the Project’s Inception Workshop in June 2008 by H.E. Khieu Muth, Secretary of State, Cambodian Ministry of Environment. The workshop was attended by 64 representatives - from the Ministry of Environment’s Department of Environmental Pollution Control, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy etc., as well as industry associations, NGOs, universities and other institutions engaged in aspects of sound management of chemicals. Funding was provided by the Government of Sweden (through the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate - KemI).

As of the first quarter of 2009, the project team is conducting research necessary to draw up the national chemicals management situation report. The situation report will provide information for identification of the highest priorities for improving sound management of chemicals in the country, within the context of national development priorities and plans.

By enhancing the necessary structures and capacity to integrate SMC priorities into its national development

planning frameworks, the project will enable the Government of Cambodia to ensure that national chemicals management priorities become part of the national budgetary instruments. By the end of this project, Cambodia will be in a position to repeat the methodology for future development plan revisions and will have established a list of priorities, accompanied by cost related analysis, that will enable it to both fundraise internally (i.e. by identifying private sector cooperation opportunities) and externally, from multilateral and bilateral donors.

In response to a specific need voiced by the Government of Cambodia, the project will also benefit from a UNEP-KemI initiative on “Facilitation of legal and institutional infrastructures on sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition”. This will help address Cambodia’s legal infrastructure needs through the development of a law/sub-decree on the regulation of the management of chemicals.

Cambodia will also receive additional resources from the Government of Norway to train a junior environmental economist to work with the senior economist as part of the core analytical group.

Progress in Zambia

The “UNDP-UNEP Case Study in Partnership with Zambia: Mainstreaming Sound Management of Chemicals Issues into MDG based National Development Planning” project was officially launched at the Project’s Inception Workshop in November 2007, by the Zambian Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Honourable Michael L. Kaingu, MP. Funding was provided by the Government of Sweden (through the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate - KemI).

The wide diversity of ministries represented - 20 government ministries and agencies - and the participation of private sector, academic and NGO representatives, reinforced the understanding among participants of the cross-sectoral relevance of chemicals management, and its economic significance. The active involvement and commitment to the project process by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning was a clear sign of the strategic value of the proposed project approach.

Sector teams were established to complete the national chemicals management situation report, which was completed in the last quarter of 2008. The core analytical group, comprised of an economist, environment health expert and an environmental expert from the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ), used the situation report as a basis for identifying national SMC priorities for action in the context of the national development plan. These priorities were presented

to and approved by the national Inter-agency Coordinating Mechanism on sound management of chemicals in December 2008. Additional meetings have been held with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to secure their “buy-in” in the process of integrating SMC priorities into Zambia’s national development planning process.

An economic cost-benefit analysis of the social and financial impacts of relevant interventions in the Kafue river basin was started in the first quarter of 2009. Options and interventions related to ways in which chemicals management can foster development while improving health and environment conditions in the basin will be presented.

The Zambian Fifth National Development Plan is currently undergoing a mid-term review. The project is therefore continuously engaging national planning authorities in its activities to ensure that SMC-MDG linkages are clear to planning officials, and their commitment to the project’s objectives is being secured. The objective is to facilitate the mainstreaming of the top national chemical management priorities into Zambia’s national development plan.

In recognition of the importance of further enhancing Zambia’s capacity with respect to environmental economics, the Government of Norway is providing additional resources to the project. These funds are being used to train a junior environmental economist, who works with the senior economist as part of the core analytical group.

Progress in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia’s project on “Mainstreaming Sound Management of Chemicals into MDG-based National Development Planning” began in March 2008 when a “strategy development” mission visited FYR Macedonia to work with the government on developing a detailed plan of action. Funding was provided by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

Extensive meetings were held with a variety of government agencies, including the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, the Customs Administration and the Office of the Project for Development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

In comparison with other countries that are part of the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative, FYR Macedonia no longer undergoes any review or preparation of PRSPs (the last interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was produced in November 2000) nor does it prepare national development planning frameworks. For this reason, it is the process for the National Strategy for Sustainable Development that provides the best avenue for mainstreaming national priorities for sound management of chemicals.

With the current Sustainable Development strategy process being finalized in 2009, the project (as in Uganda) has adopted:

- i) A “fast track” process to meet the deadline of the Sustainable Development process, which focuses on mainstreaming of short term chemicals management priorities; and
- ii) A “normal speed” mainstreaming process to focus on mainstreaming of medium and long-term priorities during the mid-term review of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development that will take place in 2.5 years.

As of the beginning of the first quarter of 2009, the national project management team has supported the integration of chemicals-related language into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development document and prepared a chemicals annex. The chemicals annex addresses known short term national priorities regarding chemicals management, including hazardous waste infrastructure, pesticide overuse, chemical ‘hot spots’, and industrial location planning for chemical-intensive industries.

The national chemicals management draft situation report for Macedonia has been completed and will be presented to the Interagency Coordinating Mechanism in June 2009.

Macedonia, too, will receive funding from the Government of Norway to train a junior environmental economist for its core analytical group.