

**UNITAR/IOMC Programme to Assist
Countries in Developing and Sustaining
an Integrated National Programme
for the Sound Management of Chemicals:
1999 - 2002**

Programme Document

prepared by

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in co-operation with Participating Organizations of the IOMC

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IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
A cooperative agreement among **UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR** and **OECD**



UNITAR

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document introduces a three-year training and capacity building programme to assist developing countries in establishing and sustaining national programmes for integrated chemicals management through country-driven multi-stakeholder cooperation. The proposed Programme represents the third phase of assistance (Phase III) provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in support of strengthening national capacities for the sound management of chemicals as an integral part of economic and social development. It is implemented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in cooperation with Participating Organizations (POs) of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), as well as other interested partners, including governments, industry and public interest groups. At the same time this document is meant to serve as a framework document for other donor countries interested in supporting the development of integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals in developing countries which address both national needs and circumstances, while taking into consideration Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, recommendations of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), as well as other international policies and agreements dealing with chemicals

Phase III of the Programme, which is implemented from 1999 - 2002, builds upon Phase II (1996-1999) which was thoroughly evaluated through collaboration among the participating countries, participating international organizations and SDC during the first half of 1999. Phase III will focus on:

- consolidating the national programmes for integrated chemicals management in Phase II pilot countries (Argentina, Ghana, and Indonesia);
- supporting the establishment of national programmes for integrated chemicals management in three additional countries;
- implementing targeted projects on selected topics of national chemicals management in a small number of countries (subject to additional resources); and
- consolidating and strengthening the cooperation among international organizations, i.e. UNEP, ILO, WHO, FAO, UNIDO, UNITAR, and OECD, as well as other partners in country-based chemical management capacity building activities.

More specifically, guidance and support provided during Phase III focuses on assisting partner countries in addressing the challenges of : awareness raising of national decision makers; formalizing national inter-ministerial co-ordination with ownership of all ministries; developing sound plans of action on identified priorities, with clear goals, objectives and indication of planned activities and resource implications; accessing development co-operation funding available at the national level; and developing a national “platform” which can serve as the forum for addressing national priority issues as well as international responsibilities and which can provide an entry mechanism for co-ordinated international assistance.

1. INTRODUCTION

This document introduces a proposal for a three-year training and capacity building programme to assist developing countries in establishing and sustaining national programmes for integrated chemicals management through country-driven multi-stakeholder cooperation. The Programme represents the third stage of a long-term Programme of Training and Technical Assistance to Strengthen the Capabilities of Developing Countries in Chemicals Management. It is implemented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in cooperation with Participating Organizations (POs) of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), as well as other interested partners, including governments, industry and public interest groups.

The first stage of the Programme was implemented during the first half of the nineties through cooperation between UNITAR and UNEP in the context of assisting countries in implementing the voluntary Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure of the Amended London Guidelines. One particular project during this stage was the organization of regional workshops on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure and awareness raising related to the sound management of chemicals more generally. The independent evaluation of the latter project concluded that the regional approach and the emphasis on the PIC procedure had been successful. A follow-up programme should, however, address the sound management of all dangerous chemicals at the country level and be conducted through cooperation with all Participating Organizations of the IOMC.

During the second stage of the Programme, UNITAR in cooperation with other IOMC organizations, initiated a programme in 1995 to assist countries in preparing National Profiles to assess their national infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals in general. In addition and as a further extension of the first stage, from 1996 -1999 four pilot countries (Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia) were assisted in developing and implementing a national action programme for integrated chemicals management based on national assessments. A number of guidance and training materials were prepared to assist countries in developing national chemicals management policies in line with their priorities. This Pilot Programme also served to promote model cases of national and international cooperation for strengthening national capabilities and capacities for the sound management of chemicals.

The third stage of the Programme, which is implemented from 2000 - 2002, builds upon a careful evaluation of results and experience obtained, in particular from the pilot countries, which was carried out during the first half of 1999. It will focus on (1) consolidating the national programmes for integrated chemicals management in the four pilot countries, (2) supporting the establishment of national programmes for integrated chemicals management in three additional countries using a refined methodology, (3) implementing in-depth training and capacity building projects on selected topics of national chemicals management in three countries, and (4) consolidating and strengthening the cooperation among international organizations and other partners at the international level.

This document provides an overview of the strategy, activities and partnerships for the third stage of the Programme. At the same time it is meant to serve as a framework document for donor countries interested in supporting the development of national programmes for integrated chemicals management in developing countries which address both national needs and circumstances while taking into consideration Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, recommendations of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), and obligations under various international agreements dealing with chemicals.

2. Background

It is now widely recognized that chemicals need to be managed properly in order to achieve sustainable agricultural and industrial development and a high level of environmental and human health protection.

2.1 Adoption of Agenda 21, Chapter 19

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or "Rio Conference") marked an important event towards the goal of achieving sustainable economic development which meets the needs of the present without comprising the needs of future generations. Heads of States or Governments from more than 150 member countries of the United Nations adopted "Agenda 21", a comprehensive document outlining the responsibilities of States toward the achievement of sustainable development. Recognizing the challenges associated with the sound management of chemicals, UNCED adopted Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 which is entitled "Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products." Chapter 19 addresses chemicals management throughout the chemical life cycle and promotes integrated approaches involving all concerned parties at the country level, both within and outside of government.

2.2 Establishment of the IFCS

In 1994, the International Conference on Chemical Safety (Stockholm, Sweden) brought together high level representatives of more than 100 countries to identify priorities and establish mechanisms for the implementation of the recommendations in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. The Stockholm Conference established the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), through which countries regularly discuss their activities and priorities for the sound management of chemicals. The Stockholm Conference, marking the first meeting of the IFCS, adopted a "Priorities for Action" plan to implement the recommendations of Chapter 19. One of the priority areas addressed through the IFCS is Programme Area E of Chapter 19 which addresses the issue of strengthening national capacities and capabilities for the sound management of chemicals. The IFCS has issued recommendations that countries establish national chemical safety coordinating committees, prepare National Profiles to assess their national chemicals management infrastructure, set national priorities and initiate national action programmes through involvement of all concerned parties.

2.3 Establishment of the IOMC

International organizations, including UNEP, FAO, OECD, ILO, UNIDO, and WHO, established the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) in 1995, a collaborative agreement to coordinate international activities in the area of chemicals management. In January 1998, UNITAR officially joined the IOMC as its seventh member. Based on the guidance provided through the IFCS, international organizations

increasingly cooperate in order to better link and integrate their respective programmes in the area of chemicals management and safety. One important role of the IOMC is to coordinate the various programmes of international organizations which aim to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for the sound management of chemicals. One of the challenges to be addressed in the future is to better link capacity building activities of all IOMC POs to country-driven chemical management initiatives which are being catalyzed through the IFCS.

2.4 International Agreements and Conventions

Over the past years, several important developments have taken place towards the further development of international agreements addressing the sound management of chemicals, i.e., the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and the initiation of negotiations toward a legally binding instrument related to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Both agreements address specific chemicals which are causing environment and human health concerns and the Rotterdam Convention includes an specific provision (Article 16) aimed at developing the infrastructure and capacity for the sound management of chemicals. Taking action on individual chemicals is, however, dependent on and/or will benefit from the existence of a basic national chemical management infrastructure/programme, which includes sound coordinating mechanisms, adequate legislation, and so on. The challenge will be for countries to establish a national chemical management programme which is “owned” by various ministries as well as other parties of interest, addresses national priorities, and can serve as a “platform” upon which targeted action can be taken to address obligations under various international agreements.

3. THE UNITAR/IOMC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

3.1 Preparation of National Profiles in Countries

Following the recommendation of the IFCS, UNITAR, in cooperation with all IOMC POs, initiated a programme in 1995 to assist countries in preparing National Profiles to assess their national infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals through a collaborative process involving all concerned parties at the country level. The project was endorsed by the IOMC and is closely linked to the work of the IFCS. A Guidance Document was prepared entitled *Preparing a National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for the Sound Management of Chemicals - A Guidance Document*, subsequently endorsed by the IFCS, and made available to all countries participating in the IFCS. Through the UNITAR/IOMC National Profile Support Programme, which was financially supported by the Governments of Australia, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States, and the European Commission, 40 developing countries and countries with economies in transition were supported to prepare a National Profile through multi-stakeholder cooperation. By 1999, some 70 countries around the world have prepared and/or will soon complete a first version of their National Profile, including several OECD Member States. Many developing countries and countries with economies in transition have taken a next step and have used the National Profile as a starting point for determining national priorities for the sound management of chemicals and for the initiation of national follow-up action.

3.2 The Pilot Capacity Building Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management

3.2.1 Introduction

The UNITAR/IOMC Training and Capacity Building Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management was initiated as a pilot programme in 1997 in collaboration with Argentina, Ghana and Indonesia and with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). During the same year, Slovenia also associated itself with the programme as a pilot country. A Project Task Force of representatives of IOMC Participating Organizations and SDC was established which provided guidance and advice on the execution of the Programme throughout its three-year duration.

The Programme supported the pilot countries in implementing/testing a formal national process to systematically address priority issues of national chemicals management, building on the results of the National Profile preparation process and the outcomes of a National Priority Setting Workshop. Technical Task Forces were established in each country to address identified priority areas. To facilitate coordination among the task forces, a policy-level National Coordinating Team was established in each country to guide and oversee the National Action Programme.

In addition, guidance manuals and general resource documents addressing various aspects of developing, planning and implementing a national action programme for integrated chemicals

management were developed and provided through the Programme for use in pilot countries. Finally, thematic workshops on priority topics of national capacity building were held at the global level to enhance exchange of information and experience among pilot countries and other countries and institutions.

3.2.2 Progress Achieved in Pilot Countries

All pilot countries have been successful in establishing national action programmes based on agreed priority issues resulting in a multi-stakeholder “platform” for addressing chemicals management issues. Multi-stakeholder national coordinating teams overseeing the programme are in place in and the issue of chemicals management has been raised as a topic of national concern. Technical task forces have initiated work and have advanced to a stage where plans of action and strategies to tackle certain problems have been formulated. In several cases, task forces have started implementing activities aimed at solving identified problems.

Multi-stakeholder task forces have proven to be practical mechanisms for initiating action on priority topics, and have been particularly useful for issues which require an integrated approach. Many task forces accomplished important groundwork and have set the stage for medium to long-term action to address their respective topics. Thought starters and guidance documents developed and provided by UNITAR/IOMC were considered useful aides to trigger initial and more systematic thinking within task forces and to assist in organizing and implementing targeted action.

In conclusion, the formulation of the national action programmes in all cases has led to a better and more systematic insight and overview of the state-of-the-art with respect to chemicals management in countries, including national priorities as well as relevant contact points and stakeholders. Hence, the transparency with respect to the national strategy for chemicals management has significantly improved and this has facilitated discussions on twinning or other arrangements with potential donor countries.

3.2.3 Cooperation Among International Organizations

In 1997, IOMC POs, through a decision of the Inter Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC), agreed to participate in and advise the Pilot Programme by designating representatives for the Project Task Force (PTF). Regular meetings of the PTF provided a forum for IOMC POs to advise and guide the Programme. Pilot countries were selected by the PTF through consensus, PTF members reviewed and provided comments on the various guidance and resource documents developed through the Programme prior to their dissemination to pilot countries, and a regular exchange of information on relevant activities of IOMC POs took place through the PTF mechanism. In several cases, representatives of IOMC POs from regional/country offices and/or headquarters participated in the pilot countries’ National Priority Setting Workshops, National Review Workshops and/or in activities organized at the task force level. In certain cases, the IOMC POs were able to make use of the mechanisms and processes set up at the country level as a framework or entry point

for their own capacity building or assistance activities. For example, IPCS provided technical support related to the establishment of regional poison control centers in Argentina which were addressed through one of the Task Forces established in the context of the National Action Programme.

3.2.4 Partnerships With Other External Partners

Cooperation with other external partners, including governments, industry and public interest groups was facilitated through the establishment of an Informal Capacity Building Network and through the organization of Thematic Workshops on certain priority topics identified by countries. The purpose of the network was to facilitate an active exchange of information and to draw upon experiences and available expertise of governments, international/regional organizations, industry, research/academia and other non-governmental groups to enhance the implementation of Programme activities, at the national and international levels. A first meeting of the network was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 11-13 November 1997. Representatives of the pilot countries had the opportunity to present and discuss with other members of the informal network their ongoing and planned activities in the context of their National Action Programmes, in particular the activities of the Technical Task Forces.

The active involvement of other organizations/governments in the Informal Capacity Building Network evidenced the widespread interest in the approach and led to several concrete partnerships between external partners and pilot countries. These included, for example: provision by GTZ of computer equipment for 15 regional poison control centers and related assistance in Argentina; input to national strategy development on pesticides management by a representative of the Government of the Netherlands through a 10-day visit to Ghana and the establishment of a subsequent follow-up technical assistance project involving Dutch expertise; and provision of support and expertise to Indonesia for the organization of a national workshop on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) by the U.S. Chemical Manufacturers' Association (CMA).

3.2.5 Contribution to International Policy Discussions

The IFCS has provided important policy support for the "philosophy" developed through the Pilot Programme. During the second meeting of the IFCS in February 1997, a recommendation was agreed upon that all countries should establish national priorities and address these priorities through national action programmes following the preparation of a national profile. Pilot countries were requested to report back on lessons learned to the IFCS. A report summarizing progress made and experiences gained was one of the official background documents for the IFCS Third Intersessional Group (ISG-3) meeting in December 1998. Pilot countries have also been active in sharing their experiences in the context of regional IFCS meetings and have expressed their interest to assist other countries in initiating similar processes.

The idea of a capacity building network, which has been tested through the Pilot Programme in an informal setting with a focus on the four pilot countries, was also supported by

IFCS/ISG 3 and UNITAR was requested to work with other IOMC POs, countries and other interested parties to develop draft terms of reference for the network for discussion and possible adoption at Forum III in the year 2000. The network would function, inter alia, as an international platform for the exchange of information and experiences among countries and other actors, and thus would potentially contribute to the establishment of twinning arrangements and other forms of cooperation in the context of chemicals management capacity building initiatives.

4. CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED

While some developing countries have made significant progress in the establishment of national programmes for the sound management of chemicals, discussions in the IFCS have demonstrated that the great majority of developing countries do not have such national systems in place. Nevertheless, through the Pilot Programme several successful initiatives have been undertaken and international experience is now available to assist countries in their efforts. The challenge now will be to learn from the experiences gained in pilot countries, and to reach out to additional countries through south-south co-operation and involvement of international organizations, bi-lateral donor countries and others parties interested in providing assistance.

4.1 At the Country Level

Drawing upon the experiences of the pilot countries which participated in the Pilot Programme some of the main challenges related to the development of sustained national action to systematically strengthen chemicals management and related institutional capacities, and which will need to be carefully addressed during the next stage include, for example:

- awareness raising of national decision makers;
- formalizing national inter-ministerial co-ordination with ownership of all ministries;
- developing sound plans of action on identified priorities, with clear goals and objectives as well as planned activities and resource implications;
- accessing development co-operation funding available at the national level; and
- developing a national “platform” which can serve as the forum for addressing national priority issues and as a key entry mechanism for international assistance.

4.2. At the International Level

At the international level, one of the challenges of moving towards a more integrated approach to capacity building assistance is that IOMC POs have their own programme priorities, as mandated by the respective governing bodies, their own planning and budget cycles, their own criteria for considering requests for assistance or funding, and their own channels of communication with national governments. A broad cross-sectoral programme with a number of countries involved and several IOMC POs playing their most appropriate roles is therefore challenging to implement. More work needs to be undertaken to develop the correct formula for achieving an optimal synergistic effect among the assistance activities of IOMC POs, both at the international level and within countries.

Despite the fact that many countries and, indeed, the IFCS itself, have been very supportive of the overall “philosophy” of the Pilot Programme to facilitate integrated approaches to

chemicals management in countries, the interest of the international community has, at the same time, become increasingly focused on internationally negotiated agreements for the control of specific substances such as PIC chemicals and POPs. This represents a challenge but also raises the opportunity of enhancing the mutually supportive linkages between convention-related capacity building and the more broad-based and integrated approach which is promoted through this Programme. One of the major conclusions generated through the Pilot Programme was that the establishment of national multi-stakeholder co-ordinating mechanisms can provide a useful entry point and platform for the more effective implementation of targeted activities, e.g. those related to the implementation of international agreements. Further work will be needed to address this challenge during the next stage of the Programme by fostering sound linkages at the international and national levels.

5. GLOBAL AIM AND EXPECTED RESULTS

5.1 At the Country Level

Taking into account progress achieved, but also the challenges and opportunities identified during the Pilot Programme, the global aims and expected results of the next stage at the country level are the following:

- Argentina, Ghana and Indonesia will consolidate their national programmes on integrated chemicals management and take additional follow-up action, including the mobilization of required resources through national means and/or external sources;
- three additional developing countries will initiate and develop national programmes for integrated chemicals management, and plans of action on priority topics, in accordance with the revised guidance document/methodology (“horizontal” focus)
- in-depth country-based training and capacity building projects on selected priority topics of national chemicals management will be implemented in three countries (“vertical” focus”)

Throughout the design and implementation of country-based activities carried out through the Programme, the guiding principles of OECD for technical co-operation and *Donor Assistance to Capacity Development in Environment* are taken into full consideration. These guidelines promote the inter alia:

- “ownership” of projects by the intended beneficiaries and their central role in planning, design and management of technical co-operation;
- self-reliance of long term institution building, especially in the area of policy analysis;
- long term capacity building rather than immediate performance improvement;
- strengthening institutional pluralism in civil society; and
- making use of greater use of local expertise;

In practice implementing these guiding principles in the area of chemicals management capacity building are pursued by the Programme by ensuring that potential partners countries:

- have identified their priorities by means of preparing a National Profile and organizing National Priority Setting Workshops;
- involve all concerned ministries as well as parties outside of government (i.e. industry, public interest groups, and academic institutions) in the design and implementation of specific projects;

- assume significant responsibility in managing projects within the framework of a well defined Memorandum of Agreement;
- carry out a significant of activities through local expertise and consultants; and
- have the opportunity to share their experience with other developing countries through twinning arrangements and other means of co-operation.

5.2 At the International Level

At the international level, the global aims and expected results are the following:

- IOMC POs will collaborate in refining and further developing the guidance and training material which was tested through the Pilot Programme;
- IOMC POs will consider, if applicable and as appropriate, the plans of action developed by partner countries in the context of their medium and long term programme planning, with a view to possible provision of support within their respective areas of expertise;
- co-operation among UNITAR and IOMC POs will be consolidated by maintaining the Project Task Force as the main steering body for the Programme;
- partnerships among countries in a given (sub)region with common problems or priorities will be promoted, whenever appropriate;
- additional partnerships with regional organizations as well as twining arrangements between countries with advanced chemicals management schemes and partner countries will be promoted with a view towards decentralizing implementation of the programme approach; and
- results of country projects will be made available to a wide audience via the Capacity Building Network.

6. STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

6.1. Consolidation of Programmes in Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia

Each of the pilot countries which participated the Pilot Programme has organized a National Review Workshop which set the stage for a long term national programme for the sound management of chemicals. Specific recommendations for targeted follow-up action have been agreed by consensus and further action has been initiated. During Phase III of the Programme support is provided to the pilot countries with an emphasis on sustaining the initiated action and mobilizing national as well as additional international funding for targeted follow-up projects. Specific emphasis is placed on supporting:

- dissemination of results of the Pilot Programme to a wide national and international audience;
- development of proposals on selected topics/issues for which national resources are not sufficient; and
- facilitating a dialogue with IOMC POs as well as bi-lateral donors present at the country level to explore the development and implementation of specific follow- up projects which have emerged from the National Action Programme process.

6.2 Development of National Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management in Three Additional Countries (“horizontal” activities)

Taking into consideration the lessons learned through the Pilot Programme, three additional countries will be selected and invited to commit to initiate and sustain a national programme for integrated chemicals management based on the following refined list of elements:

- A National Profile to assess the national chemicals management infrastructure is prepared and regularly updated;
- A National Chemicals Management Coordinating Mechanism is formalized and a mechanism for exchange of information on relevant activities/initiatives of various ministries is in place;
- Milestones towards the implementation of Chapter 19 and related international agreements are set up and national priorities for future work and projects in particular areas are developed;
- Plans of Actions for a select number of identified priorities are prepared which outline goals and objectives, planned activities, mechanisms for implementation, linkages to the national chemicals management framework, resource needs, etc.;
- a Resource Mobilization Strategy is developed to pursue support through national means as well as form bi-lateral donors and multi-lateral organizations;

- subject to the availability of resources, specific Projects to implement the Plans of Action are implemented through the appropriate ministries and/or organizations;
- progress is regularly reviewed and priorities and milestones are adjusted accordingly;
- all means are regularly pursued to raise the awareness of national decision makers about the importance of sound chemicals management for sustainable national economic and social development; and
- a communications/outreach strategy is developed to communicate key developments and achievements of the national programme to all interested parties, both national and international, e.g. through brief publications, the Internet, etc.

Countries will be selected by the Project Task Force, based on their expressed national commitment to address the various elements of the refined programme methodology, as outlined above, through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

6.3 Implementation of In-depth Training and Capacity Building Projects on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management (“vertical” activities)

It is not uncommon for national policy makers to identify a certain chemical management related problem or issue which needs to be addressed with some urgency. However, often a strategy for tackling the issue may have not yet been worked out, there may not be a tested methodology available for addressing the issue at hand (e.g. due to its multi-sectoral nature), or there may be insufficient relevant experience in the country. Past experiences indicate that targeted guidance and support which aims to assist countries in the formulation and implementation of appropriate strategies can be effective in such cases. However, the methodology for providing such assistance and advice to countries needs further careful consideration and development, in order to ensure, inter alia, that the country is helped in a neutral way to arrive at a country-owned and practical strategy that meets national needs while at the same time making effective use of internationally available experience and expertise.

In addition to assisting three countries in the strategy formulation process for a national programme for integrated chemicals management (“horizontal” focus), the next phase of the Programme would, subject to availability of resources, also include in-depth country based training and capacity building projects (“vertical” focus) which address specific issues of national chemicals management which have been identified by countries in the context of preparing a National Profile and/or organizing a National Priority Setting Workshop.

The initiation of these projects would take into consideration experience gained through the pilot countries, the Thematic Workshops and relevant experiences of other countries, international organizations and others. They could be initiated with partner countries from earlier stages of the Programme and/or with other countries which have completed a National Profile and organized a National Priority Setting Workshop.

Each “vertical” training and capacity building project will be implemented over a period of 2 ½ - 3 years through the following stages:

1. Development of a Memorandum of Agreement with the project partner (project planning, 2-3 months)
2. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force in the partner country (3-4 months)
3. In-depth assessment of the relevant infrastructure in the partner country (situation/problem analysis, 3-5 months)
4. Development of a Plan of Action outlining goals and objectives, planned activities, institutional implementation mechanism, etc. (strategy formulation, 3-4 months)
5. Implementation of targeted activities, such as workshops, consultations with external experts, preparation of a strategy/policy documents, etc. (strategy implementation, 12-15 months)
6. Preparation of a final report outlining progress achieved, difficulties encountered, suggested/required follow-up activities, etc. (2-3 months)
7. Project evaluation (1-2 months)

6.4 Development of Supporting Guidance and Services

In support of the country-based activities outlined in sections 6.2 & 6.3, several activities will be implemented/coordinated through the Programme at the international level. Initial emphasis will be placed on revising the methodology and corresponding guidance document on developing and sustaining national programmes for integrated chemicals management, and on the preparation of related training material. In particular, support materials will be developed on sound project planning and management, and financial resource mobilization, respectively, two bottlenecks which were identified during the Pilot Programme. In addition, work will continue to provide countries with appropriate information, examples, etc. to help them address selected priority topics of national chemicals management capacity building. This will be achieved through the organization of Thematic Workshops, the further development of the Thought Starter series, and development of modules of the chemicals management instruments resources series (the “Tool Book”).

6.5 Development of a Global Capacity Building Network

Based on the experience gained through the Pilot Programme and as a follow-up to the ISG-3 IFCS recommendation to develop a capacity building network for the sound management of chemicals, the Programme will facilitate the consultation process to develop a draft terms of reference for the network and support the organization of a review meeting in early 2000. Parallel to this, further development of capacity building services will continue, such as expanding the library of existing guidance and training materials, initiating a library of innovative country case studies, and development of a simple mechanism for information exchange on ongoing projects (linked to IOMC activities and the OECD development assistance survey).

7. Partners

7.1 National Partners

At the country level, the involvement of various ministries concerned with aspects of chemicals management will be a precondition for initiating a cooperation, and should include Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Health, Labor, Industry, Transport, etc..

In addition to government ministries, various parties and organizations outside of government play an increasingly important role in strengthening chemicals management at the national and local levels and thus should also be involved. For example, industry, as the producer and primary user of chemicals, has a major responsibility to reduce chemical risks throughout the chemical life cycle, including production, packaging, transport, use and disposal. Industry is also the source of most of the information on chemical risks.

Public interest groups, such as environmental and consumer groups and labor unions, are also recognized through Agenda 21 as important contributors to the sound management of chemicals at the national and local levels and should be involved in the process. These groups often work at the grassroots level and therefore can contribute to a better understanding of actual problems and the development of solutions.

7.2 International Partners

Recognizing the valuable co-operation among IOMC POs during the Pilot Programme, the Project Task Force, which includes representatives of all IOMC POs, as well as a representatives of the donor countries which support the Programme continues to serve as the steering group. Additional emphasis will be placed on mobilizing commitment of national and regional representatives of IOMC POs.

Co-operation with governments from countries with advanced chemicals management programmes, public interest groups, and bi-lateral development co-operation agencies will also be strengthened, in particular through co-operation in the context of the Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals and at the country level where twinning arrangements with specific task forces will be explored and encouraged.

8. TIME FRAME/WORK PLAN

8.1 Activities Planned for 2000

8.1.1 Country-Based Activities

- development of strategies with Phase II pilot countries to mobilize resources for follow-up activities from national and international sources
- selection of three partner countries to develop national programmes for integrated chemicals management; completion of Memoranda of Agreement (horizontal projects)
- selection of three partner countries for in-depth training and capacity building projects (“vertical” focus) and implementation of stages 1&2 of the project framework (see section 6.3).

8.1.2 Activities at the International Level

- development of the revised guidance document; publication in English, French and Spanish
- development of a training curriculum/training package on project planning/management
- development of a training curriculum and/or guidance financial resource mobilization
- development of draft terms of reference for the Capacity Building Network, including organization of a review meeting in January 2000)
- organization of one meeting of the Project Task Force

8.2 Activities Planned for 2001

8.2.1 Country-Based Activities

- provision of assistance/support to the three (Phase III) countries for the completion of the national priority setting process, e.g through priority setting workshops
- provision of assistance/support to three partner countries implementing National Programmes on Integrated Chemicals Management for the development of Plans of Actions on a select number of priorities (3-4 per country)
- implementation of stages 3-5 in the three partner countries participating in the in-depth training and capacity building projects

8.2.2 Activities at the International Level

- organization of one thematic workshop
- organization of one meeting of the Project Task Force
- further development of capacity building services in the context of the Capacity Building Network

8.3 Activities Planned for 2002

8.3.1 Country-Based Activities

- provision of assistance/support to the three countries implementing National Programmes on Integrated Chemicals Management for the completion of National Reports on Integrated Chemicals Management, organization of a National Review Workshops, and development of targeted project proposals, subject to interest of international/bi-lateral donors
- completion of stage 5 and implementation of stages 6 -7 in the three partner countries participating in the in-depth training and capacity building projects

8.3.2 Activities at the International Level

- programme evaluation
- organization of one meeting of the Project Task Force

9. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Once a year, or at shorter intervals if appropriate, UNITAR, together with other members of the Project Task Force reviews the progress made in implementing the Programme and identify priorities and required inputs for the next steps of programme implementation. A similar review mechanism will be established with the partner countries. At the end the Programme, a formal assessment will be conducted in order to determine the impact of the Programme in participating countries and to determine whether the aims of the Programme have been achieved.

10. JUSTIFICATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Phase III of the Programme is driven by country needs ("demand driven") as determined through consultations with all concerned parties. This national ownership of the Programme, as well as the involvement of multi- and bi-lateral partners in programme implementation and follow-up, is therefore expected to result in a sustainable programme at the country level and concrete improvements toward the sound management of chemicals. At the same time, however, past experience has shown that due to the cross-sectoral nature of chemicals management and the involvement of various ministries at the country level, the development of fully integrated and co-ordinated national approaches for managing chemicals requires a long term process and depends on the willingness of various stakeholders at the country level to collaborate and co-ordinate their activities. While the Programme will certainly provide a catalyzing function to achieve this objective, integrated and co-ordinated chemicals management will in the end depend on the understanding of national decision makers, in particular in various government sectors, that enhanced co-operation and co-ordination will allow better and more efficient use of scarce national and international resources.

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