

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

Final Report

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United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

**in co-operation with UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, OECD and
the Governments of Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia, and Slovenia**

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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**



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1. Introduction

This report summarizes the results achieved and lessons learned through the *UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management* which was implemented in the context of the project entitled **Training and Technical Assistance to Strengthen the Capabilities of Developing Countries in Chemicals Management**. The Programme was initiated as a follow-up (Phase II) to the UNITAR/UNEP Training Programme on the Implementation of the London Guidelines. The primary aims of the Programme were: to assist countries in developing integrated national policies and action plans for sound chemicals management and to test a suggested methodology in this regard through country-based pilots; to develop guidance and resource materials to assist countries in undertaking such a process; and to promote model approaches at the national as well as international levels in the area of chemicals management capacity building.

Throughout the course of the three-year Programme, considerable effort was made to adapt to the participating countries' emerging experiences and other developments in order to enhance the likelihood for success and to maximize the relevance of the Programme to future capacity building initiatives. The reader is referred to the 1996 and 1997 Progress Reports, respectively, for additional information of how plans and anticipated outputs evolved over the course of the Programme.

Section 2 of this report provides a chronological overview of the Programme and related developments. Section 3 summarizes the activities and developments in the four participating countries, namely Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia. Section 4 assesses the lessons learned with regard to the methodology tested through the country-based pilot projects. Section 5 addresses the achievements and challenges encountered with respect to the involvement of the seven Participating Organizations (POs) of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) in the context of the Programme. Section 6 discusses the involvement of external partners, including international and non-governmental organizations and other interested countries. A discussion of the impact and relevance of the Programme within international policy discussions and fora related to chemicals management capacity building is provided in Section 7. Section 8 summarizes the main conclusions and offers some reflections on possible implications of the Programme on future capacity building activities in this domain.

2. Summary Overview

The *UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management* was initiated in early 1996 with support provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Building on the preparation of countries' National Profiles, the Programme explored an innovative country-driven approach to address chemicals management priorities in an integrated manner. The Programme also explored opportunities for strengthened cooperation among the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), namely UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, OECD and UNITAR in country-based chemicals management capacity building activities.

In order to obtain broad-based input into the development of the methodology to be tested through the Programme, an expert meeting was held in August 1996 in Montézillon, Switzerland. Some 60 representatives of OECD countries, developing countries, countries with economies in transition, international organizations and non-governmental groups participated in this event. The outcomes of the Montézillon meeting led to the development of a National Action Programme (NAP) Guidance Document and other materials to be used by pilot countries. These documents were peer reviewed in January 1997 during meeting sponsored by the Programme and WHO/IPCS.

In parallel, all IOMC Participating Organizations agreed to collaborate in the context of the Programme by establishing a Project Task Force (PTF), comprising officially nominated representatives of all seven IOMC POs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The PTF was mandated to guide and oversee the implementation of the Programme, and has met twice a year to discuss programme planning and implementation.

Following discussions on the Programme during its Second Session in February 1997 in Ottawa, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) endorsed the implementation of National Action Programmes and asked UNITAR/IOMC and countries to report back on progress.

By the end of February 1997, 16 countries had submitted formal application packages to participate in the UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme, which included official letters of support from key ministries and non-governmental organizations. Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia were selected by the Project Task Force to participate in the Programme.

By November 1997, all four pilot countries had prepared their National Profile and organized a National Priority Setting Workshop to identify priority chemicals management topics, as suggested in the guidance materials prepared by UNITAR/IOMC. Between 50 and 80 national stakeholders as well as country representatives of IOMC, UNDP and bi-lateral assistance agencies attended these national events. Each of the pilot countries established a multi-stakeholder National Coordinating Team (NCT) to guide and oversee National Action Programme implementation. Each country also set up Technical Task Forces (TTFs), under the auspices of the NCT, to address identified chemicals management priorities.

In order to assist the TTFs in developing pragmatic and targeted strategies, several process-related and thematic “Thought Starter” documents were prepared which provide strategic guidance and suggestions. As an initial work, all TTFs developed detailed Plans of Action, which identified short- and medium-term objectives, planned activities and responsibilities of stakeholders. In order to provide reference materials and contact points to the various TTFs, two resource guides, entitled *Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC Participating Organizations: An Annotated Resource Guide on Chemicals Management Capacity Building* and *Expertise of IOMC Participating Organizations for Selected Topics of Chemicals Management*, were developed through cooperation of all IOMC POs.

In 1997, the Project Task Force recommended the establishment of an Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals to facilitate involvement of bi-lateral, multi-lateral and non-governmental actors in the Programme. A first meeting was held in November 1997 and, following this event, several twinning arrangements were successfully established with pilot countries. In the context of the Informal Capacity Building Network, the four pilot countries expressed interest in exchanging experiences on chemicals management topics of common concern, amongst each other as well as with other countries and organizations. To address this request, three Thematic Workshops were organized by UNITAR in collaboration with interested IOMC POs. The workshops addressed topics which were identified by almost all four pilot countries as of priority concern, including chemical information systems, education and awareness raising for chemical safety, and chemicals legislation and policies.

At the country level, and in parallel to the above developments, a wide range of activities were implemented through the National Coordinating Teams and TTFs. To document main results and achievements and to mobilize commitment and action for follow-up, in 1999 all countries prepared a National Report on Integrated Chemicals Management and organized (or will organize, in the case of Slovenia) a National Review Workshop (or a National Workshop on Integrated Chemicals Management). Several of these workshops included high-level segments during which national

resolutions on sound chemicals management were adopted as a basis for follow-up action.

3. Programme Activities and Achievements in Pilot Countries

3.1. Argentina

3.1.1 Overview

The National Action Programme in Argentina was coordinated by the Ministry of Health and brought together a wide range of representatives from government ministries, public interest groups and industry. The National Coordinating Team comprised representatives from 17 national ministries and institutions. Some 300 individuals participated in various programme activities, several of which received complementary support from PAHO and GTZ.

Through a national priority setting process involving a wide range of stakeholders (National Priority Setting Workshop, Buenos Aires, 9-11 September 1997), six Technical Task Forces were set up to address topics which were identified as of priority importance. Through these task forces, work was undertaken:

- to develop toxicological and emergency response information systems, by creating a network among regional poison control centers, laboratories, emergency response services and other relevant entities to facilitate rapid and appropriate responses to chemical-related accidents and poisonings;
- to assess the current implementation of the right-to-know in Argentina and develop strategies for promoting public access to chemical information through, *inter alia*, labeling, development of an emissions register (e.g. a pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR), and education and outreach to the public);
- to improve worker safety with respect to carcinogenic chemical substances through, *inter alia*, identifying where such chemicals are used, developing protocols for early cancer detection, developing training and awareness raising programmes and, for asbestos in particular, by updating existing regulations;
- to assess the existing situation with regard to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the country, including existing regulations and main sources of POPs, and to identify actions needed for risk reduction and elimination of the 12 internationally-identified priority POPs;
- to identify possible criteria for assessing the vulnerability of agricultural populations to chemical exposures, for potential incorporation into a risk assessment methodology for agricultural chemicals; and

- to harmonize chemicals-related laws at the national and provincial levels, to strengthen mechanisms for enforcement and control, and to update existing legislation on selected topics.

The task forces developed plans of action and undertook various activities during the course of the Programme within these priority areas, key outcomes of which are highlighted below. In addition, Argentina, through the National Action Programme framework, worked to stimulate action at the regional and provincial levels with regard to chemicals management. Due to Argentina's federal structure, the involvement of the provinces was recognized, at an early stage, as a critical component for strengthening the overall national infrastructure and capacities for sound chemicals management.

A national report on the activities undertaken in the context of the National Action Programme was compiled during the first half of 1999, and a National Review Workshop was held from 26-28 May 1999 in Buenos Aires to review progress achieved and to develop recommendations for follow-up.

3.1.2 Main Outcomes

The National Action Programme in Argentina served to enhance dialogue and collaboration among interested parties within and outside of government, and between the federal government and the provinces. The Task Forces in Argentina were able to make progress on specific priority issues, by conducting in-depth assessments and exploring suitable policy and regulatory options, as well as by taking steps to strengthen human resources and technical infrastructure. Summary highlights of the National Action Programme and Task Force activities are outlined below.

Increased cooperation among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

Interactions among representatives of government, workers, communities and the private sector initiated in the context of the National Action Programme have resulted in a better understanding of responsibilities and activities and an improved exchange of information at the federal and provincial level.

Action triggered at the regional and provincial levels; increased federal - provincial dialogue

A key achievement of the National Action Programme in Argentina is the increased involvement of the provinces which, due to Argentina's federal structure, have important roles to play in ensuring sound chemicals management. The National Priority Setting Workshop (September 1997) was the first time that representatives of

Argentina's provinces had assembled to discuss chemicals management issues. As a means to strengthen involvement of the provinces, two regional workshops were organized in 1998 (Northeast Region: Resistencia, Chaco, 29-30 September 1998; Patagonia Region: Trelew, Chubut, 29-30 October 1998) to replicate the National Action Programme process at the regional/provincial level and to strengthen inter-sectoral consultation. Each of the nine provinces involved in these workshops nominated a focal point for chemical safety, initiated the establishment of a multi-sectoral coordinating team, and conducted a further assessment of the chemicals management situation in their respective provinces. Two provinces have committed to the preparation of a chemicals profile at the provincial level.

Progress made in addressing selected policy issues

In the area of right-to-know, a comprehensive assessment of the existing norms and regulations related to labeling of chemicals was conducted. The assessment is expected to contribute to a revision of existing regulations in the framework of a comprehensive risk communication/public-right-to-know strategy. As a forum for discussing possible strategies and programmes for promoting the right-to-know and to learn from the experiences of other countries in this regard, Argentina organized a two-day National Workshop on Right-to-Know in May 1999 with the involvement of national stakeholder groups as well as representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Mexico, UNEP Chemicals, OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In the context of efforts to address occupational exposure to carcinogenic substances, a priority list of carcinogens was developed and comprehensive data were collected from national authorities on the import and use of these substances. Analysis and geographic mapping of the locations of users of these substances are currently ongoing. In addition, a National Workshop on Asbestos was held to provide input into the development of a risk reduction strategy for asbestos, focusing on the presence of asbestos in buildings and possibilities for replacing its use.

During the course of the NAP, the use of several of the chemicals included in the international Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure was banned in the country on the basis of the human health and environmental risks posed by these substances.

Human resources and technical infrastructure for emergency response strengthened

Significant progress has been made to strengthen the toxicological and emergency response information systems through creation of a network among the regional poison control centers, laboratories, emergency response services and other relevant

entities in order to facilitate rapid and appropriate action in the case of chemical emergencies or poisonings. The German Technical Assistance Agency (GTZ) supported the initiative by providing computer equipment for 15 of the toxicological centers. Efforts were also focused on harmonizing data collection and management procedures, in order to facilitate access and exchange. The network has been institutionalized and recognized by the government. Also in this context, a series of workshops was organized to strengthen capacities of the 16 national toxicological centers. The training focused on the assessment, management and communication of chemical risks through provision of the INTOX software and the involvement of staff from the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS). A National Conference on the Prevention and Control of Poisonings and Mitigation of Chemical Accidents was held in Rosario, Santa Fe from 26-29 April 1999. Furthermore a practical chemical accident simulation exercises was implemented involving security and armed forces and a publication was issued which assesses the national capabilities in Argentina in the area of chemical emergency response.

Work undertaken to address pesticides exposures in rural populations

Efforts were undertaken towards the development of criteria, for potential incorporation into a risk assessment methodology for agricultural chemicals, to aid in assessing the vulnerability of rural populations to pesticides exposure. This work, which focused on the identification of certain social and other factors and their possible linkages/correlation with exposure to agricultural chemicals, included studies and field work in three northern provinces and the organization of a workshop in Rosario, Santa Fe province. Work was also undertaken to harmonize calibration techniques in laboratories in order to enhance the future comparability/reliability of analyses done in the context of exposure assessment. Through this work, significant awareness was created at the grass roots level and regulatory change was initiated to ensure that only professional applicators use WHO Class 1a and 1b pesticides formulations.

3.2 Ghana

3.2.1 Overview

The National Action Programme in Ghana was coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana and brought together a wide range of representatives from government ministries, public interest groups and industry. The National Coordinating Team comprised representatives from 13 national institutions. Some 200 individuals participated in various programme activities.

Through a national priority setting process involving a wide range of stakeholders (National Priority Setting Workshop, Accra, 26-29 August 1997), three Technical Task Forces, one of which was comprised of two sub-committees, were set up to address topics identified as of priority importance. Through these task forces, work was undertaken:

- to strengthen technical infrastructure and enforcement capacities for the sound management of chemicals, with initial efforts focusing on the review of capacities and mandates of existing laboratories and the formulation of a national strategy for strengthening laboratory infrastructure;
- to strengthen the legal infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals through, *inter alia*, a review of existing legislation, awareness raising among ministries regarding responsibilities for enforcement, and development of legislative proposals;
- to develop an awareness raising and public education strategy for chemicals management and safety; and
- to strengthen national information systems and data management through, *inter alia*, establishment of a centralized database for chemicals management at EPA, establishment of a network for information exchange among relevant stakeholders, identification of gaps and weaknesses in existing systems, and development of recommendations for improvement.

The task forces developed plans of action and undertook various activities during the course of the Programme. A national report on the activities undertaken in the context of the National Action Programme was compiled during the first half of 1999, and a National Review Workshop was held from 29-31 March 1999 in Accra to review progress achieved and to develop recommendations for follow-up.

3.2.2 Main Outcomes

One of the primary successes of the National Action Programme in Ghana was the increased level of interaction and cooperation among the various governmental ministries/agencies and non-governmental stakeholder groups, which is expected to facilitate ongoing and future efforts to strengthen national chemicals management capacities. Significant progress was also made in the area of awareness raising, which was identified as of particular importance for generating political as well as grassroots commitment to sound chemicals management and safety. The task forces in Ghana made considerable progress in addressing aspects of the national infrastructure, through in-depth assessments, needs identification and strategy development.

Summary highlights of the National Action Programme and task force activities are outlined below.

Enhanced cooperation among governmental and non-governmental actors

Cooperation among national institutions through the National Coordinating Team and Technical Task Forces have significantly strengthened working relationships among national stakeholders, in particular among EPA and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Customs Excise and Preventive Service Department, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Ghana Standards Board). In addition, increased awareness of mutual responsibilities for chemicals management has led to a stronger involvement of key government ministries other than EPA in this field. In light of the positive experience with the National Coordinating Team as a mechanism for inter-sectoral cooperation, Ghana is considering the formal establishment of the NCT as a policy advisory body for chemicals management to the Executive Board of EPA.

Heightened attention to chemicals management issues among policy makers and the media

As a result of activities initiated through the Programme, top management of stakeholder institutions have been satisfactorily sensitized on issues relating to the sound management of chemicals in general and the National Action Programme on Integrated Chemicals Management in particular. In addition, the media (newspapers, TV, radio) have become more interested in issues relating to chemicals management, and have covered national developments and events in this field more prominently. At the National Review Workshop two TV stations, one radio station and nine newspapers were present.

In-depth assessments provide important groundwork for follow-up action on priority topics

Information and detailed data on the capabilities and mandates of the 19 laboratories of relevance for regulatory enforcement were collected, providing a thorough assessment of existing laboratory capacities in the country. The survey identified serious shortcomings, in particular with regard to staffing and the availability/functioning of basic equipment to conduct quality control of chemicals, residue analysis for certain agricultural products as well as monitoring of toxic chemicals in the environment.

A report on the inventory of obsolete pesticides on 50 farms, formulation plants, institutions and agro-based companies was prepared. Site visits conducted among

major handlers and users of pesticides under the supervision of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and with assistance of FAO in 1997/98 indicated that more than 50 tons of obsolete pesticides are present in these locations alone.

An assessment of the need for poisoning control centers was conducted highlighting the urgent need to establish such a center. Building on earlier studies conducted by the Ministry of Health in 1995, TTF 1-A on Technical Infrastructure conducted a further field study in selected rural areas in Ghana (Asutsuare, Dawhwnya, and Weija, all in the Greater Accra Region, and Asamankese in the Eastern Region). These surveys confirmed the lack of awareness amongst users and the general public on proper management techniques for chemicals and indicated that people are experiencing symptoms of acute and chronic pesticides poisoning.

Draft recommendations for the strengthening of existing chemicals legislation were developed, based on a comprehensive review of national legislation of direct or indirect relevance to chemicals management. On the basis of findings, steps are being initiated to incorporate comprehensive chemicals legislation into an omnibus law on the environment.

Concrete steps taken to promote awareness raising, education and training

Draft “Guidelines for the Safe Storage and Handling of Chemicals” were developed, making use of internationally available guidelines prepared by the Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF) and FAO. The guidelines will be disseminated to importers and distributors of chemicals and are expected to become an integral part of the pesticides licensing scheme which is currently being put in place.

A National Educational Campaign Strategic Document, which outlines objectives, partners, target groups, channels of communication and resources requirements for the implementation of the strategy, was also prepared. The task force has also undertaken the preparation of various materials which are integral elements of the strategy. For example, activities took place to produce two TV documentaries and a number of radio jingles which were completed at the end of July 1999. A pilot version of a Teacher’s Guide on Chemicals and Pesticides was prepared to be used with various age groups in primary and secondary schools throughout the country. Two 3-page brochures were prepared on “Safe Handling of Chemicals” and on “Storage and Disposal of Chemicals”. These awareness raising brochures were developed for relevant ministries, for those who handle and store chemicals, and for the general public. The brochures will be disseminated through relevant channels including EPA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, industry associations, environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, and the Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association.

Actions taken to enhance use of existing information resources and promote information exchange

Comprehensive information on chemical handling and use data currently collected by government institutions and private companies was compiled and a reference guide was finalized and made available by EPA in July 1999.

3.3 Indonesia

3.3.1 Overview

The National Action Programme in Indonesia was coordinated by the Ministry of Health and brought together a wide range of representatives from government ministries, public interest groups and industry. The National Coordinating Team comprised representatives from 15 national institutions. Some 250 individuals participated in various programme activities.

Through a national priority setting process involving a wide range of stakeholders (National Priority Setting Workshop, Jakarta, 14-16 October 1997), the following four Technical Task Forces were set up to address topics which were identified as of priority importance. Through these task forces, work was undertaken:

- to strengthen chemicals legislation and its enforcement, with a focus on integrated approaches, through, *inter alia*, a review and analysis of existing legal instruments and enforcement capacities, updating and improving the implementation of existing laws, and identification of gaps and weaknesses;
- to develop a system for effective coordination among concerned ministries/institutions in support of integrated chemicals management;
- to raise awareness of chemicals management and safety among members of the general public as well as government officials, workers and other relevant groups through the development of appropriate strategies and educational materials; and
- to develop a national information network for management of chemicals and to facilitate information access and exchange by developing an inventory of contact points and through harmonization of chemicals codification.

The task forces developed plans of action and undertook various activities during the course of the Programme. A national report on the activities undertaken in the context of the National Action Programme was compiled during the first half of 1999, and a

National Review Workshop was held from 23-25 March 1999 in Jakarta to review progress achieved and to develop recommendations for follow-up.

3.3.2 Main Outcomes

The National Action Programme in Indonesia served to increase the interaction among relevant institutions involved in the management of chemicals, and achieved concrete steps towards a more integrated and effective national chemicals management programme, particularly in the areas of legislation, information management and awareness raising. Summary highlights of the National Action Programme and task force activities are outlined below.

Analysis of existing legal, regulatory and administrative infrastructure provides sound basis for the development of strategies for improvement

An analysis of strengths and weaknesses in the existing legal framework was conducted based on a comprehensive inventory of chemicals legislation, including legal acts, regulations and presidential and ministerial decrees, and taking into account the various stages of the chemical life-cycle. Based on this analysis, recommendations were issued on the possible development of an “umbrella” chemicals law and on enhanced implementation and enforcement of existing regulations. A reference list of field experts responsible, within their respective ministries, to investigate violations of chemicals-related laws and regulations was also produced. In this context, guidelines on the role and responsibilities of government ministries in the area of chemicals control were developed.

Making use of the work done on legislation, a thorough review of tasks, functions and responsibilities of various institutions in the field of chemicals management was conducted, including an assessment of difficulties which are being encountered. A proposal was developed to establish a non-executing coordinating mechanism at the national and provincial levels which would consist of a total of eight separate commissions addressing the different categories of chemical substances.

Activities undertaken to promote awareness raising, education and training

In the area of awareness raising and education, available training and outreach materials on chemical safety in the country were compiled, including 20 modules, 92 brochures, leaflets, and booklets, 117 books and training modules. These materials serve as references for various actors working in the field of awareness raising and are planned to be used by several line ministries in follow-up awareness raising activities.

To complement existing materials, efforts were undertaken to develop additional education materials for various target groups. Selected teaching materials on chemical safety were developed for incorporation and use in elementary, junior and senior high schools, and for vocational training. Selected training modules on risk assessment for use by relevant government institutions were developed for rhodamine B, heavy metals, asbestos, ammonia and pesticides. Safety guides for some 100 chemicals were also developed.

Steps taken to improve the management, exchange and provision of chemicals-related information

As a first step in addressing the area of information management and exchange, a list of contact points in relevant ministries was established. The contact points are responsible for providing publicly available chemicals information collected or possessed by their ministries. The list also provides information on the type and format of chemicals information available. To facilitate information collection, use and exchange, the development of a harmonized codification system for chemicals has been initiated making use of the Harmonized System (HS) Code and the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number. For 100 chemicals, the HS and CAS pair has been identified including synonyms for the chemical name.

Following the broad-based interest of Indonesia in Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), a workshop on MSDSs was held from 15-16 March 1999 in Jakarta. Through contacts established in the context of the Informal Capacity Building Network, the event saw the support and active involvement of ILO, WHO and the chemical industry. While in the past there were several legal provisions related to MSDSs in Indonesia under different sectoral laws, Indonesia resolved this by agreeing upon a single MSDS provision.

Activities undertaken with regard to poisonings and accidents

Available data on poisoning and accident cases due to chemicals and pesticides were compiled and supported by selected research studies regarding heavy metal contamination and pesticide residues in food. Training modules, including information on poisoning cases and antidotes, were also prepared. The work in the context of the NAP highlighted the need for better reporting and data recording systems for chemical poisonings and accidents.

3.4 Slovenia

3.4.1 Overview

The National Action Programme in Slovenia was coordinated by the Ministry of Health and brought together a wide range of representatives from government ministries, public interest groups and industry. The Intersectoral Committee on the Management of Dangerous Chemicals (ICMDC) served as the National Coordinating Team and comprised representatives of 15 national institutions. Some 150 individuals participated in various programmes activities.

Through a national priority setting process involving a wide range of stakeholders (National Priority Setting Workshop, Ljubljana, 5-6 November 1997), five Technical Task Forces were set up to address topics which were identified as of priority importance. Through these task forces, work was undertaken:

- to prepare an intersectoral proposal for addressing the issue of chemical waste management either through amendment of the existing general national strategy for waste management and/or the development of a specialized national programme for the management of chemical waste;
- to develop an integrated approach for the development and implementation of national legislation in line with international requirements/recommendations, addressing in particular the priority areas of chemical waste, chemical accidents, safety and health and work, and monitoring of chemical pollution;
- to prepare a proposal for a national programme for prevention, preparedness and response to chemical-related accidents, and to create a uniform system for tracking the location and transport of large quantities of chemicals and extremely hazardous chemicals;
- to propose an overall intersectoral programme for occupational health and safety with respect to chemicals that would address larger companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the self-employed; and
- to propose steps for the creation of a comprehensive and rational national policy for monitoring of chemical pollution, including monitoring of water, air, soil, waste, food products, agricultural produce, and overall environmental impacts.

In addition, the following two “cross-cutting” topics were identified as important and integral aspects to be addressed through the work of all TTFs:

- awareness raising, education, training, and research related to chemicals management; and
- enhanced information exchange and the improvement of information systems for chemicals management.

3.4.2 Main Outcomes

The National Action Programme served as a complement to the activities which were already ongoing in the context of the Intersectoral Committee on the Management of Dangerous Chemicals, and thereby enhanced efforts to strengthen priority aspects of chemicals management and pursue integrated approaches. Some of the summary highlights of the National Action Programme and task force activities are outlined below. Additional information on activities organized through Slovenia's National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals can be obtained from the National Coordinator.

Enhanced networking and information exchange among key parties

A national website which serves as a platform for information exchange amongst ICMDC members and other interested parties was developed. As a part of this work, an assessment of the computer and telecommunications infrastructure was conducted to make use of the Internet as a tool for national exchange of information and documents.

Progress made in implementing waste related international/regional obligations and policies

Taking into consideration the need to more generally harmonize waste legislation and classification with those of the European Union (EU), the task force on chemical waste analyzed and adapted the Slovenian waste catalogue with EU requirements and updated existing chemical waste records to the new catalogue, including types, quantities and locations of waste and disposal methods. Five priority chemical waste categories were selected (chemical wastes from industrial sources, from SMEs, from laboratories, from agricultural activities, and from household activities) and strategies for waste minimization and good management practices were developed for each category.

In the area of legislation, a comprehensive horizontal review of safe handling and use legislation was conducted. It was published on the website of the ICMDC and is updated monthly. Relevant EU and OECD directives and other legislative acts have been compiled and a review process initiated. In parallel, intensive work has begun to

develop a glossary which includes official terminology for the translation of chemical related terminology into Slovenian.

To address responsibilities with regard to the implementation of international chemicals conventions and agreements in a more pragmatic manner, two overview tables have been prepared. These include key information as to their national and international status (date of signature, ratification, entry into force), as well as main obligations. With respect to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the work of the ICMDC Subcommittee on Chemical Weapons, which received input from the Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) resulted in the adoption of a new law on chemical weapons by parliament in early 1999.

Development of new regulations on monitoring of residues and pollution of pesticides in food and drinking water

To address problems related to chemical pollution in Slovenia, an inter-sectoral task force conducted an assessment of the existing situation and developed a proposal for a regulation on pesticides in food and a draft regulation on pesticides in drinking water which were published in the official journal. Through assistance by the EU Phare programme, two outside experts visited Slovenia and provided further input on the regulation.

Activities related to chemical accidents

A detailed national profile which addressed the prevention, preparedness and response to chemical accidents was prepared through collaboration of a wide range of ministries. Based on this assessment an action plan was developed which identified necessary activities and responsible parties. Upon acceptance of the proposal by the government implementing activities will commence.

4. National Action Programme Methodology and Lessons Learned at the Country Level

4.1 Overview of the NAP Methodology

The methodology for undertaking a National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management, which was tested through the Programme, is illustrated in [Figure 1](#). As a first step, each country prepared a comprehensive National Profile to assess the existing chemicals management infrastructure, under the guidance of a National Coordinating Team comprised of representatives of relevant ministries and non-governmental organizations.¹ Based on the results of the National Profile process, each country identified national priorities for action through the organization of a National Priority Setting Workshop which involved all interested and concerned parties. Technical Task Forces were then formed under the auspices of the National Coordinating Team to address each of the identified priority areas. As a first activity, each Task Force developed a Plan of Action, using the suggested format provided through the Programme, which outlined task force objectives, planned activities, working arrangements, division of responsibilities and resource needs. Towards the end of the Programme, each country prepared a draft report on integrated chemicals management summarizing the progress achieved through the National Action Programme and highlighting challenges faced and further actions needed. As a culminating event, each country organized a National Review Workshop to take stock of progress achieved and to develop recommendations for follow-up, with the involvement of concerned parties within and outside of government.

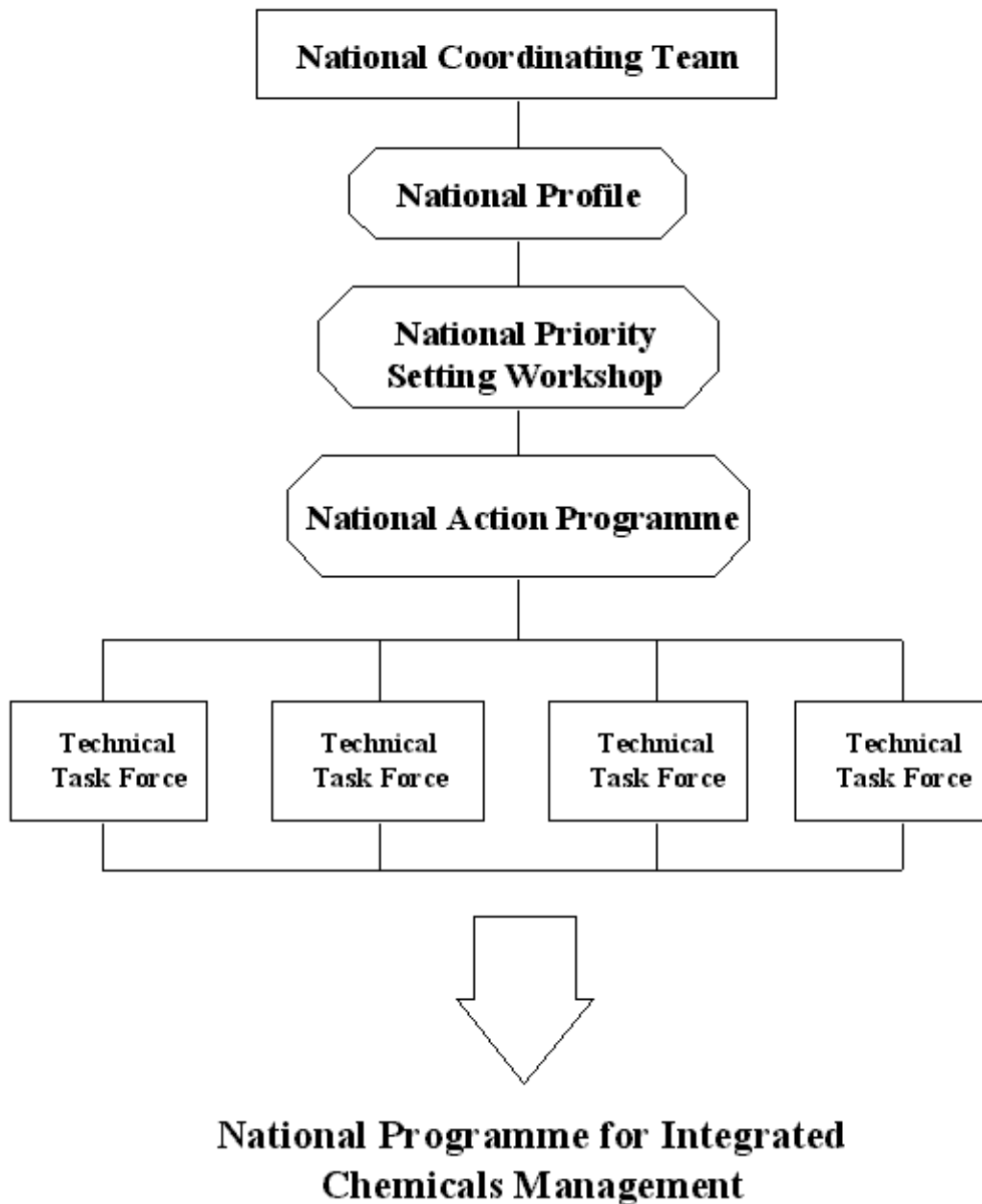
4.2 Support Provided to the Participating Countries

For Argentina, Ghana and Indonesia, a country grant of US\$60,000 was provided in 1997; US\$50,000 in 1998; and an additional US\$10,000 in 1999. Given that Slovenia was accepted as an associated pilot country, it was not foreseen that the same level of financial support would be provided. However some additional funds were raised from the Swiss Government which enabled UNITAR to provide Slovenia with a grant of \$20,000 to support NAP activities.

In addition to financial support, various guidance and resource materials were provided to the countries, and country visits of UNITAR staff and relevant experts were arranged. [Annex 4](#) contains a listing of the guidance and resource materials developed through the Programme. The participating countries were also involved in several workshops organized through the Programme on aspects of national chemicals

¹ This stage of activity was completed by the four pilot countries prior to their acceptance into the Programme.

Figure 1: Towards Integrated Chemicals Management at the Country Level



management capacity building. Support was also provided to facilitate the participation of the pilot countries in relevant international events, such as the Third Intersessional Group (ISG-3) meeting of the IFCS.

4.3 Lessons Learned at the Country Level

While opportunities exist for improving the NAP methodology, the feedback from the pilot countries on the National Action Programme methodology has been very positive. Countries have found the NAP approach to be a useful way of systematically tackling priorities for strengthening national chemicals management capacities and for fostering multi-sectoral, integrated approaches. This positive assessment has been further supported by the fact that many countries outside of the Programme have independently initiated similar initiatives, although not as comprehensive, making use of the UNITAR/IOMC guidance document.

4.3.1 Strengths of the NAP Methodology

Following are the main strengths of the National Action Programme approach, based on the practical experiences of the four pilot countries.

- The NAP process has helped to create a multi-stakeholder “platform” for addressing national chemicals management issues in an integrated and coordinated way.

In all countries, the National Action Programme contributed to the development of a multi-stakeholder network or “platform” for addressing chemicals management issues. The formation and/or consolidation of a network of individuals and institutions at all levels within and outside of government through the National Coordinating Team and Technical Task Forces will, according to the pilot countries, continue to enhance dialogue and exchange among the various sectors and stakeholders and serve as a basis for better coordination of national chemicals management activities.

- The implementation of a National Action Programme has helped to raise the profile of national chemicals management issues at the national policy level.

All countries successfully raised the issue of chemicals management as a topic of national concern. In several cases, Ministers of Health, Environment and Agriculture actively participated in the priority setting workshop and other major events. In the case of Ghana, the head of an agency served as the coordinator for the programme.

- The NAP framework helped to foster the development of national strategies that would enhance the use of available national resources and thereby increase the likelihood of sustainability.

While there were some indications in the early stages of the Programme that the participating countries felt it would be necessary to look mainly to outside entities for the financial and other support needed to improve their national chemicals management schemes, the country-owned nature of the NAP methodology appears to have fostered a greater focus on ways of making more effective use of existing national capacities and resources.

- The multi-sectoral task forces served as practical mechanisms for tackling “cross-cutting” issues.

Multi-stakeholder task forces have proven to be a practical mechanism for initiating action on priority topics and can be particularly useful for issues which require an integrated approach (i.e. which involve many different actors and impinge on various elements of the overall national programme, such as information systems, legislation, etc.).

- Analyses of the existing situation, problem identification and strategy formulation were important achievements of the country-based task forces.

Many task forces accomplished important groundwork and have set the stage for medium- to long-term action to address their respective topics. Through their work, a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and dimensions of existing problems as well as the perspectives of various stakeholders was gained, and in many cases follow-up strategies have been developed. Several of the TTFs were able to move to the implementation stage on certain aspects of their action plans.

- The guidance and resource materials provided through the Programme provided valuable input and helped to facilitate effective collaboration among involved parties.

The availability of guidance documents and materials was considered very useful by pilot countries, helping them to address organizational issues and to undertake the planning and implementation of the National Action Programme and its various components. Particularly when stakeholder groups are not accustomed to working together, the existence of a guidance document or other reference material can serve as a neutral “facilitator” and help keep the group focused on the task at hand. “Thought Starters” and other brief and informal documents were also

considered useful for stimulating thinking within a task force, particularly during the early stages of their work.

- The National Action Programme approach helped to promote transparency and openness.

The mechanisms and documentation created through the NAP enhanced transparency with respect to the national strategy for chemicals management. As a result of efforts undertaken by the pilot countries through their National Action Programmes, interested parties at the country level, as well as potential donors and other external actors, are able to get a more comprehensive overview of the existing situation, national priorities, ongoing or proposed activities and strategies, and relevant actors and their respective roles and responsibilities.

- The exchange of experience among countries/organizations which was facilitated through the Programme provided important value added to country-based work.

The experiences of other countries are considered of high practical value for those involved in NAP and Technical Task Force planning and implementation. Exchange of such experiences in the context of the Informal Capacity Building Network and the series of Thematic Workshops organized through the Programme allowed countries to benefit from others' experiences. Countries felt that learning about the approaches taken and lessons learned elsewhere provided them with an important basis for making informed choices and aided in the development of realistic targets and action plans.

4.3.2 Challenges Encountered

Challenges encountered in implementing the NAP methodology, based on the experiences of the four pilot countries, included:

- ensuring full ownership of and commitment to the NAP process by all relevant stakeholders;
- linking chemicals management issues and the NAP process with broader national environmental and/or development policies and initiatives;
- identifying national chemicals management priorities;
- finding a good balance between available time/resources and the number of parallel task forces established;

- developing pragmatic plans of action at the task force level;
- obtaining a high level of involvement of non-governmental organizations, in particular public interest groups;
- obtaining information on internationally available resources and assistance; and
- mobilizing the additional resources and policy commitment needed to ensure full sustainability of the process.

5. Cooperation Among IOMC Participating Organizations: Project Achievements and Challenges Encountered

5.1 Introduction

In addition to testing the NAP methodology at the country level, the Programme was an opportunity to explore a collaborative approach to capacity building among the Participating Organizations of the IOMC. The main vehicle for this collaboration was the Project Task Force, which was comprised of representatives of all IOMC POs and SDC, with UNITAR providing the secretariat as the implementing agency. The PTF met twice per year to discuss aspects of programme planning and implementation, and to exchange relevant information, in particular with regard to possible linkages between ongoing activities of IOMC POs and the priority needs of the pilot countries.

In some cases, PTF members or other representatives of IOMC organizations (e.g. relevant experts from headquarters or staff of the local/regional offices) participated in events organized by the pilot countries in the context of their National Action Programmes. Representatives of IOMC POs also took part in the various international workshops organized through the Programme, such as the Thematic Workshops and the First Meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network. Support for the participation of IOMC representatives in such events was provided by the Programme, when necessary.

Throughout the course of the Programme, the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC was regularly updated on key developments and consulted prior to the initiation of policy-relevant activities. This interaction was facilitated by UNITAR's acceptance as the seventh member of the IOMC in January 1998.

5.2 Achievements

Following are the main achievements realized during the course of the Programme with regard to collaboration among the IOMC Participating Organizations.

- IOMC POs endorsed the Pilot Programme initiative and designated PTF representatives.

The National Action Programme concept was supported by all IOMC POs in 1997. IOMC POs, through a decision of the IOCC, agreed to participate in and advise the Programme by designating representatives for the Project Task Force.

- The PTF served as an effective advisory group and information exchange mechanism.

Regular meetings of the PTF provided a forum for IOMC POs to advise and guide the Programme. Pilot countries were selected by consensus, PTF members reviewed and provided comments on 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.

- IOMC POs helped to support the NAP process by participating in key events and becoming involved in specific activities related to their respective areas of expertise.

In several cases, representatives of IOMC POs from regional/country offices and/or headquarters participated in the pilot countries' National Priority Setting Workshops and/or National Review Workshops.

Other examples of involvement of IOMC PO's in Programme activities included:

- support and active involvement of WHO/IPCS related to several workshops in the area of chemical information systems and poison control centers in Argentina;
- participation of OECD and UNEP in a national workshop on right-to-know/PRTR in Argentina;
- participation of ILO in a national workshop on MSDSs, organized by the NCT in Indonesia;
- funding for the continuation of activities beyond the Pilot Programme in Indonesia through the regular budget of the WHO country office;
- co-operation between the Ministry of Health and WHO/IPCS to initiate the establishment of a poison control center in Ghana;
- development of the first two modules of the Resource Series on Chemicals Management Instruments (Tool Book) coordinated by UNEP, with financial resources provided through the Programme;
- collaboration between IPCS and UNITAR to finalize and publish the document "Key Elements of a National Programme for Chemical Management and Safety"; and

- collaboration between UNEP and UNITAR to develop a draft version of a guidance document on “Strengthening National Information Exchange Systems for the Sound Management of Chemicals.”
- IOMC POs contributed to the development of guidance and resource materials by providing information, participating in the peer review process and/or directly contributing to drafting and coordination

All guidance documents, including the NAP Guidance Document, National Workshop Guidance Document and the various guidance notes, were circulated for comment among the IOMC POs. IOMC POs also had the opportunity to comment on drafts in the “Thought Starter” series. All IOMC POs participated in the development of two resource guides, compiled by UNITAR, which provide a comprehensive overview of:

- all relevant training and guidance documents available through IOMC POs; and
- expertise available through various IOMC POs related to specialized topics of chemicals management, including relevant contact points.

In addition, partnerships were set up between UNITAR and individual POs for the development of certain documents, such as the finalization and publication of the Key Elements document, the initiation of guidance documents on information systems and awareness raising and education, respectively, and the coordination of the Chemicals Management Instruments Resource Series.

- Several mutually supportive linkages were made between ongoing programmes of IOMC POs and Programme activities, and the existence of a multi-sectoral “platform” in countries was welcomed as a potentially useful entry point for the initiation of future country-based projects.

In certain cases, the IOMC POs were able to make use of the mechanisms and process set up at the country level as a framework or entry point for their capacity building or assistance activities. For example, training activities planned in Argentina in the context of an IPCS training project funded by the Government of the Netherlands were linked to the needs of the National Co-ordinating Team and relevant Technical Task Forces. A joint IPCS/UNITAR workshop was organized in June 1998 to identify specific needs which were subsequently addressed in a one-week workshop organized by IPCS in November 1998.

Through the PTF, the IOMC organizations have indicated an interest in making use of the multisectoral “platforms” set up through NAPs in countries as a

potentially useful entry point for the initiation of country-based activities (e.g. capacity building activities related to the implementation of international conventions). Using such platforms as an entry point would ensure neutrality in the selection of the implementing/partner ministry or agency, would facilitate linkages with other related initiatives in the country, and would foster country ownership.

- IOMC POs shared their relevant expertise with representatives of the pilot countries during various events and, in some cases, through country visits.

Several IOMC POs contributed their substantive expertise during the various Thematic Workshops on priority topics of national chemicals management. For the workshop on “Strengthening National Chemicals Legislation and Policies for the Sound Management of Chemicals (June 1999), all IOMC organizations were present and participated actively. In conjunction with several of these workshops, informative visits to certain IOMC organizations located in Geneva were arranged for interested country representatives.

5.3 Challenges Encountered

Main challenges encountered during the Programme with regard to involvement of the IOMC POs included:

- the ability of staff of IOMC POs to become more actively involved in programme activities was limited, due to ongoing work commitments and other priorities;
- awareness of and involvement in chemicals management issues is often low within regional/local IOMC representations;
- the established mandates, priorities, budget allocations and specific operating procedures of the IOMC POs made it difficult for POs to respond to pilot country needs and requests within the timeframe of the Programme; and
- the respective roles and anticipated level of involvement of the IOMC POs in the Programme were not clearly defined from the outset.

6. Collaboration with Other External Partners: Project Achievements and Challenges Encountered

6.1 Introduction

In order to better assist the pilot countries and to build upon the ongoing programmes and expertise of other entities active in the field of chemicals management, the Project Task Force decided in 1997 to initiate an Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals. The purpose of this informal 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.

6.2 Achievements

Following are some of the main achievements realized during the course of the Programme with respect to involvement of external partners:

- The active involvement of other organizations/governments in the Informal Capacity Building Network evidenced the widespread interest in the approach being tested through the Programme and led to several concrete partnerships with pilot countries.

Six OECD countries, eight non-governmental organizations, two bilateral assistance agencies and nine international organizations showed interest in the Programme by participating in the First Meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals in November 1997. During this meeting, participants learned about the NAP approach, heard from the four pilot countries on ongoing and planned activities, and discussed opportunities for providing and better coordinating capacity building assistance.

Several participants in the meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network subsequently initiated follow-up collaborative activities with pilot countries. These included:

- provision by GTZ of computer equipment for 15 regional poison control centers, as well as other 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;
 - provision of support and expertise to Indonesia for the organization of a national workshop on MSDSs by the U.S. Chemical Manufacturers' Association (CMA).
- Provision of information on country-based capacity building initiatives to potentially interested parties, including establishment of the UNITAR/ECB National Profiles Homepage.

The European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) of the European Commission has collaborated with UNITAR to establish a National Profiles Homepage through which the pilot countries and other interested countries are making their National Profiles accessible to all interested parties, including potential donors and assistance agencies. In addition, a document entitled *Overview of Task Forces Established in the Framework of a National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management: Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia* was distributed to all members of the Informal Capacity Building Network and other interested parties as a means, *inter alia*, for encouraging potentially interested external partners to provide assistance to the pilot countries in the context of task force work.

- Pilot countries benefitted from an exchange of information and experience with other countries and organizations through various events held during the Programme.

Representatives of OECD and non-OECD countries as well as international and non-governmental organizations shared their experiences and expertise on specific aspects of national chemicals management with the pilot countries in the context of the three Thematic Workshops organized in 1998-99 addressing information systems, awareness raising and education, and legislation and policies, respectively. Experts from USEPA and Mexico provided insight and expertise on right-to-know policies and PRTRs by participating in the National Workshop on Right-to-Know organized by Argentina in May 1999.

- The Programme and NAP methodology caught the attention of other international/regional organizations which have subsequently contributed to programme activities and indicated their interest to support this type of country-based process

ECLAC has made staff time available to assist Argentina in the organization of the National Review Workshop through two country visits, and has shown an interest in continuing its interaction with Argentina and promoting similar activities among countries in the region.

The Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has shown an interest in the NAP methodology and integrated approaches at the country level, and contributed considerable financial resources to the organization of the Thematic Workshop on chemicals management legislation.

6.3 Challenges Encountered

Challenges which were encountered with regard to obtaining the involvement of external partners included:

- finding a match between a pilot country's needs and the ability of a potentially interested partner to support their activities often proved challenging;
- having the involvement of assistance agencies early on is considered important by countries, whereas donors expect that countries should have developed clear objectives and strategies prior to seeking external support.
- Ensuring good communication and timely information exchange with potentially interested partners proved difficult.

7. Contribution of the Programme to International Policy Discussions

Building on the momentum and interest generated around National Profiles following the 1994 and subsequent IFCS recommendations that all countries prepare such assessments, there has been considerable interest in the Programme within the IFCS, given that the methodology being tested therein represents a concrete follow-up to National Profile preparation at the country level. Following are some of the ways in which linkages have been made between the Programme and international policy discussions:

- The IFCS has recommended that other countries initiate National Action Programmes for integrated chemicals management, taking into account pilot programme experiences.

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. Pilot countries were requested to report back on lessons learned to the IFCS. In response to this request, a report summarizing progress made and experiences gained was one of the official background documents for the IFCS ISG 3 meeting in Yokohama in December 1998.

- Pilot country representatives have demonstrated an interest to promote the NAP approach to other interested countries in their regions.

Pilot countries have been very active in sharing their experience in the context of regional IFCS meetings and have expressed their interest to assist other countries in initiating similar processes. As an example, the programme coordinator for the NAP in Argentina recently participated in a national chemicals management workshop in Paraguay in order to share experiences gained during the pilot programme.

- The ISG-3 meeting expressed an interest in the formation of a Capacity Building Network, based on the experiences gained through the Programme.

The idea of a capacity building network, which has been tested through the Programme in an informal setting with a focus on the four countries, was supported by the IFCS during its Intersessional Group Meeting in December 1998. UNITAR was requested to work with other IOMC POs, countries and other interested parties to develop a draft terms of reference for such a network, for discussion and possible adoption at Forum III in the year 2000.

- In light of the importance placed on this topic, the IFCS jointly sponsored the Thematic Workshop on Legislation and Policies in June 1999.

The Thematic Workshop on Strengthening National Legislation and Policies for the Sound Management on Chemicals was co-sponsored by the IFCS due to the importance the Forum has placed on this topic. Results of this workshop will be channeled back to the next IFCS meeting and may help to shape international policy discussions on this topic.

While the IFCS has been very supportive of the overall philosophy of the Programme to facilitate integrated approaches in countries, the interest of the international donor community is increasingly focused on projects addressing specific chemicals, such as POPs. The challenge remains how these two approaches -- i.e. targeted capacity building initiatives related to the implementation of international conventions and the more broad-based and institutional capacity building approach embodied in the NAP methodology – can be made mutually supportive.

8. Conclusions

The experiences gained through the Programme have demonstrated the value of undertaking a systematic and multi-stakeholder approach to strengthening national capacities and institutional infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals. The National Action Programme methodology tested through the country-based pilots is considered useful and, with some modifications based on experiences gained, should be promoted among other interested countries. Key achievements which emerged from the NAP process in the participating countries were the consolidation of inter-sectoral “platforms” for facilitating cooperation among relevant parties, and the development of national strategies for addressing selected priority issues. While the efforts of the countries are considered successful, their experiences indicate the need for further assistance and skills building with regard to project planning and strategy formulation, and the need for countries to undertake concerted efforts to generate political support and mobilize both national and external resources in order to ensure the sustainability and further development of national chemicals management capacities and programmes.

From the perspective of the IOMC Participating Organizations and other relevant organizations (international and non-governmental organizations, donors and assistance agencies, etc.), the frameworks and mechanisms developed through the National Action Programmes are considered valuable and of potential use as a basis or entry point for the initiation of specific projects or capacity building activities. The existence of a multi-stakeholder platform, the definition of national priorities and the initiation of planning and background work at the country level, as undertaken by the pilot countries, could in many cases provide added value to the work of IOMC and other external partners. In this context, some questions were raised as to how the NAP methodology could be made more flexible so that the resulting mechanisms and processes could be readily used, when appropriate, as a framework or entry point for the initiation of targeted assistance projects, e.g. under various international conventions.

The provision of guidance and resource materials was considered important to the success of the activities of the Programme at the country level. Considerable progress was made in the development of materials that are geared towards country-defined priority topics and that are designed for use in the context of a multi-sectoral National Action Programme. Flexibility and practicality in such documents are attributes which were considered particularly important. Thus, during the course of the Programme increased emphasis was placed on the development of “process oriented” and thought stimulating documents, as opposed to prescriptive and more formal guidance documents. For example, the Thought Starter series was initiated to meet the needs of the multi-stakeholder task forces which were faced with the challenge of tackling a

broad and multi-faceted aspect of national chemicals management, and to help fill the gap with respect to documents that address chemicals management topics in an integrated -- rather than sector-specific -- way. During the Programme, it was also recognized that the obstacle is often not a lack of materials but rather the difficulties that countries face in learning about and/or obtaining documents. The compilation of the resource guide to capacity building materials of IOMC POs is an example of an effort undertaken through the Programme to help address this situation.

The Programme also served to emphasize the importance countries place on the opportunity to exchange information and to learn from the (positive and negative) experiences of others. The Series of Thematic Workshops initiated through the Programme was welcomed by the participating countries, as well as by other countries and organizations which participated, as a positive development in this regard and as an initiative which should be continued. The limited but positive experiences gained through the Informal Capacity Building Network also highlighted the importance of information exchange and interaction among those involved in chemicals management capacity building, including partner countries as well as those who may be in a position to provide assistance.

Annex 1: Dates of National Priority Setting and National Review Workshops

Country	National Priority Setting Workshop	National Review Workshop
Argentina	9-11 September 1997, Buenos Aires	26-28 May 1999, Buenos Aires
Ghana	26-29 August 1997, Accra	29-31 March 1999, Accra
Indonesia	14-16 October 1997, Jakarta	23-25 March 1999, Jakarta
Slovenia	5-6 November 1997, Ljubljana	November 1999, Ljubljana

Annex 2: List of Technical Task Forces in Pilot Countries

Argentina

1. Development of Toxicological and Emergency Response Information Systems
2. Right-to-Know
3. Chemical Carcinogenic Substances and Worker Safety
4. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
5. Exposure of Rural Populations to Agro-Chemicals
6. Harmonization of National Legislation

Ghana

1. Technical Infrastructure and Legislation
 - 1-a: Sub-committee on Technical Infrastructure
 - 1-b: Sub-committee on Legislation
2. Public Education and Awareness-Raising
3. Data Management/Information Systems

Indonesia

1. Strengthening Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation and Law Enforcement
2. Consolidating Coordination of National Chemicals Management Activities
3. Raising Awareness on Chemical Safety
4. Establishing Information System for Chemicals Management

Slovenia

1. Chemical Waste
2. Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation
3. Chemical Accidents
4. Safety and Health at Work with Chemicals
5. Monitoring

Annex 3: International Meetings/Events

- Expert Meeting on Strengthening National Capabilities and Capacities for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Montézillon, Switzerland, 26-30 August 1996
- IPCS/UNITAR Working Group on Guidance Material for Strengthening National Capabilities and Capacities for Sound Management of Chemicals, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-21 January 1997
- UNITAR/IOMC Group of Experts Meeting to Review Guidance Documentation for the UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Capacity Building Programme, Geneva, Switzerland, 22-24 January 1997
- First Meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 November 1997
- UNEP/UNITAR Expert Meeting for the Development of a Series of Resource Documents on Chemicals Management Instruments/Tools, Geneva, Switzerland, 13-14 November 1997
- Thematic Workshop on Strengthening National Information Systems for Chemicals Management, Geneva, Switzerland, 2-4 September 1998
- Thematic Workshop on National Awareness Raising and Education for Chemicals Management, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-21 October 1998
- Thematic Workshop on Developing and Strengthening National Legislation and Policies for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Geneva, Switzerland, 22-25 June 1999

Annex 4: Overview of Documents Developed Through the Programme

Guidance Documents/Materials

Planning and Implementing a National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management: A Guidance Document. UNITAR/IOMC, May 1997.

Organizing a National Workshop on Chemicals Management and Safety: A Guidance Document. UNITAR/IOMC, April 1997.

Implementing a National Priority Setting Process for Establishing Technical Task Forces: A Thought Starter. UNITAR (Draft).

Guidelines for the Preparation of a Plan of Action for a Technical Task Force. UNITAR.

Organizing a National Review Workshop and Preparing a National Report on Integrated Chemicals Management: Guidance Note. UNITAR/IOMC.

Resource Documents

Key Elements of a National Programme for Chemicals Management and Safety. IPCS/UNITAR/IOMC, August 1998.

Overview of Technical Task Forces Established in the Framework of a National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management: Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia. UNITAR/IOMC, June 1998.

Expertise of IOMC Participating Organizations for Selected Topics of Chemicals Management: A Resource Document. UNITAR/IOMC, June 1998.

IOMC Guidance and Training Materials for Chemicals Management Capacity Building: An Annotated Resource Guide. First Edition. UNITAR/IOMC, March 1999.

Chemical Inventories. Module 1 in Chemicals Management Instruments: A Series of Resource Documents for Countries Making Choices. UNEP/UNITAR/IOMC, May 1999 (Draft).

New Chemical Notification Schemes. Module 2 in Chemicals Management Instruments: A Series of Resource Documents for Countries Making Choices. UNEP/UNITAR/IOMC, May 1999 (Draft).

Meeting Reports

Strengthening National Capabilities and Capacities for the Sound Management of Chemicals: Observations and Conclusions of an International Expert Meeting, Montézillon, Switzerland, August 1996. UNITAR/IOMC.

Partnerships and Networking for Chemicals Management Capacity Building: Observations and Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 November 1997. UNITAR/IOMC.

Strengthening National Information Systems for Chemicals Management: Observations and Conclusions of the Thematic Workshop, Geneva, Switzerland, 2-4 September 1998. UNITAR/IOMC (Draft).

Awareness-Raising, Education and Training for Chemicals Management and Safety: Observations and Conclusions of the Thematic Workshop. Geneva, Switzerland, 19-21 October 1998. UNITAR/IOMC (Draft).

Thought Starters

Inter-Ministerial Coordination and Cooperation: A Thought Starter. Final Draft 1, April 1998.

Strengthening National Capacities for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response: A Thought Starter. Version 1, June 1999.

Awareness Raising and Education for Chemicals Management and Safety: A Thought Starter. Final Draft, January 1999.

Developing a National Plan of Action for Addressing Persistent Organic Pollutants: A Thought Starter. Draft, May 1998.

Community, Worker and Consumer Right-to-Know: A Thought Starter. Draft, November 1998.

Annex 5: Meetings of the Project Task Force

- First Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 21 October 1996
- Second Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-21 February 1997
- Third Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 November 1997
- Fourth Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 27 April 1998
- Fifth Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 February 1999
- Sixth Meeting of the Project Task Force, Geneva, Switzerland, 2 July 1999

Annex 6: Members of the Project Task Force

Organization	Member
UNEP	<p>Shkolenok Mr Garislav Senior Scientific Affairs Officer UNEP Chemicals Geneva Executive Center 1219 Châtelaine Switzerland TEL +41 22 979 9189 FAX +41 22 797 34 60 EMAIL gshkolenok@unep.ch Other participants:</p> <p>Whitelaw, Mr John Deputy Director, UNEP Chemicals</p> <p>Ouane, Ms Fatoumata Scientific Affairs Officer</p>
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Annex 6: Members of the Project Task Force

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UNITAR	Huismans Mr Jan Willem Senior Special Fellow UNITAR Domburgseweg 65 NL-4356 NA Oostkapelle Netherlands TEL +31 118 583 268 FAX +31 118 583 678 EMAIL JHuismans@unitar.org

List of Acronyms

CAS	Chemical Abstract Service
CMA	Chemical Manufacturers Association (United States)
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCPF	Global Crop Protection Federation
GTZ	German Technical Assistance Agency
HS	Harmonized System
ICMDC	Inter-sectoral Committee on the Management of Dangerous Chemicals
IFCS	International Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOCC	Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee (of the IOMC)
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
ISG-3	Third Intersessional Group (of the IFCS)
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NAP	National Action Programme (for integrated chemicals management)
NCT	National Coordinating Team
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
PO	Participating Organization (of the IOMC)
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PTF	Project Task Force
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
TTF	Technical Task Force
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WHO	World Health Organization

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