**Project Concept Note**

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| **CONVENTIONS :** | **PROJECT TITLE :** |
| 🞏BC ◼RC 🞏SC 🞏SYN | **Training and capacity development activities under the Rotterdam Convention (PoW 15)** |
| **FUNDING OPTIONS:** | **TYPE / LOCATION** | **TARGETED COUNTRIES:** |
| 🞏Funding in full◼ Partial funding possible | ◼ Global 🞏 Regional 🞏 National | Global |
| **MANDATE** |
| **Convention Article:** Articles 16, 19 and 21 of the Rotterdam **Convention** **COP decision(s):** Decision RC-9/8 on technical assistance |
| **Rationale** |
| In meetings and workshops convened over the last 14 years, Parties identified a broad range of needs or activities necessary for them to benefit fully from the Convention. In many cases these needs expressed by countries reflect a lack of capacity to establish a sound framework for chemicals management. Some of the specific issues identified include the lack of infrastructure to regulate or manage in particular industrial chemicals but pesticides as well; the need for assistance in managing information; the need for assistance in evaluating risks and taking regulatory decisions; the need to establish and strengthen the enforcement of integrated legal frameworks for chemicals management. Parties also need assistance in preparing and submitting notifications of final regulatory actions. Parties also express frequently technical assistance in order to develop an approach to and setting up pilot projects and a programme on monitoring and reporting severely hazardous pesticide formulations. Most of these needs could not be met effectively by simple workshops, meetings or pilot projects, but required more sustained forms of financial and technical assistance. A differentiated approach tailoring technical assistance to specific needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition will be followed taking into consideration, among other things, Parties’ capacities for the implementation of the conventions. In light of the operational experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the technical assistance programme adopted at COP-8 (PoW-15), technical assistance activities should: 1. Be country-driven and be based on the needs identified by the recipient countries;
2. Promote national ownership and leadership, including the setting of priorities and design, implementation and evaluation of the initiatives;
3. Apply a holistic approach, integrating convention-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes.

 This activity will continue to meet Parties’ training and capacity-building needs under the Rotterdam Convention as shown in responses to the technical assistance needs assessment survey and upon individual Party requests. The Secretariat, as mandated by decision RC-7/7, received information from Parties through an online survey on the technical assistance needs of the developing countries and a survey on what the developed countries could offer to assist developing country Parties in implementing the convention. According to the survey conducted in 2016, the following priority areas emerged that assistance was required: 1. Supporting customs officers in implementing the Convention;
2. Legal and institutional frameworks;
3. National coordination (including National Action Plans updates);
4. Monitoring and reporting pesticide poisoning incidents related to Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF);
5. Regional cooperation among Designated National Authorities or Official Contact Points;
6. Following information exchange obligations (risk data, labelling, etc.);
7. Decision-making and notifications for Final Regulatory Actions for non-Annex III chemicals;
8. Alternatives to Annex III chemicals.

 The training activities will focus on enhancing Parties’ capacities, awareness-raising and understanding of general issues under the Convention as well as on specific areas such as: 1. General implementation of the Convention and follow-up activities; Strengthening national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Rotterdam convention so that Parties can make Import responses for industrial chemicals and pesticides;
2. Facilitate the strengthening of the capacities of parties to control their Ports of Entry (Customs);
3. Support the domestication of the Convention requirements and obligations into the national regulatory frameworks;
4. Strengthening national capacities related to hazard and risk evaluation of priority chemicals (pesticides and industrial) leading to decision-making whether to ban or severely restrict them;
5. Strengthening national capacities related to severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF);
6. Assistance in identifying suitable and economically feasible alternatives to certain chemicals and pesticides that are considered under the Rotterdam Convention;
7. Strengthening national capacities related to the management of newly listed chemicals.

 The objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to strengthen Parties’ capacities in promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties. |
| **Outcomes and indicators of achievement** |
| **Component 15.1:** **Strengthening of chemicals management** **Outcomes** Strengthening for risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely severely hazardous pesticide formulations. **Activities:** Facilitate the strengthening of chemicals management under the Rotterdam Convention, drafting of implementation strategies. |
| **Indicators of achievement:**1. Number of workshops convened;
 | **Means of verification:**1. Workshop reports;
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| **Component 15.2: Notification of Final Regulatory Actions** **Outcomes:** Strengthened capacity for the development, review and update of legal and institutional frameworks and capacity strengthening for risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely severely hazardous pesticide formulations; enhanced effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, with a focus on Final Regulatory Actions (FRAs): Articles 5 (procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals) and 6 (procedures for severely hazardous pesticide formulations) of the Rotterdam Convention. When possible, strengthened capacity of States to become Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention. **Activities:** 1. Sub regional activities to support the development, review and update of legal and institutional frameworks and capacity strengthening for risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
2. Country level activities to support the development, review and update of legal and institutional frameworks and capacity strengthening for risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely severely hazardous pesticide formulations.
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| **Indicators of achievement:** * 1. Up to 50 Parties are trained on the Conventions requirements under Articles 5 and 6;
	2. Up to 5 follow up activities at the national level to assist individual Parties with their legal and institutional frameworks and their capacity to evaluate the risk or hazard of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
	3. Tools and training materials are developed to assist Parties in developing legal frameworks or in developing their capacity for scientifically sound decision making on Final Regulatory Actions (FRAs).
 | **Means of verification:**1. Workshop report on Convention website;
2. Report to COP;
3. Tools and training materials available on the Conventionwebsite.
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| **Component 15.3: PIC Procedure, including import responses, and export notifications** **Outcomes**: Strengthened capacity for the development, review and update of legal and institutional frameworks and capacity strengthening for risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations; enhanced effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention with a focus on Articles 10 and 11 (obligations in relation to imports and exports of chemicals in Annex III), 12 (export notification) and 13 (information to accompany exported chemicals). Cooperation on national and regional level among Designated National Authorities, Customs and other key stakeholders fostered and dialogue among DNAs in a region fostered on challenges faced in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and experience shared and cooperation promoted in addressing these challenges. Customs trained on their role in implementing the Convention. **Activities:**1. Sub regional activities to support the capacity of Parties to implement the PIC Procedure, including import responses, and export notifications;
2. Country level activities to support the capacity of Parties to implement the PIC Procedure, including import responses, and export notifications; coordination and cooperation mechanism between DNAs, Customs and other enforcement entities;
3. Tools (Handbook, Resource Kit, etc.) and training materials to support implementation of the PIC Procedure, including import responses, and export notifications.
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| **Indicators of achievement:** * 1. Up to 50 Parties are trained on the Convention’s PIC procedure and export requirements under Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13;
	2. Up to 5 follow up activities at the national level to assist individual Parties establish coordination and cooperative mechanisms among DNAs, Customs and other key stakeholders;
	3. Tools and training materials are developed to assist Parties.
 | **Means of verification:*** 1. Workshop report on Convention website;
1. Report to COP;
2. Tools and training material available on the website.
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| **Component 15.4: Strengthening Parties' capacities to propose Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) through provision of technical assistance in monitoring and reporting pesticide incidents and identification of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)** **Outcomes:** 1. Technical Assistance provided to Parties in setting up framework to systematically collect, evaluate and report information pursuant to Article 6 and Annex IV of RC on severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
2. Integrated approach on pesticide management promoted on identification of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) and on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) on the national level;
3. Technical assistance provided to Parties in identifying pesticides of relevance to Article 5 and 6 of RC and the identification and validation of suitable and economically viable alternatives and alternative methods; promote information exchange among Parties on sustainable alternatives.

**Activities**: 1. Provide technical assistance to Parties in setting up framework to systematically collect, evaluate and report information pursuant to Article 6 and Annex IV on SHPFs;
2. Promote an integrated approach on pesticide management both the work on identification of SHPFs and on HHPs on the national level;
3. Provide technical assistance to Parties in identifying pesticides of relevance to Article 5 and 6 and the identification and validation of suitable and economically viable alternatives and alternative methods, promote information exchange among Parties on sustainable alternatives
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| **Indicators of achievement:** 1. Number of proposals of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulation submitted by Parties to the Secretariat;
2. Number of Information documents on alternatives.
 | **Means of verification:*** 1. Information in PIC Circular;
	2. Reports on alternatives posted under country profile
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| **IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME** |
| Project start date: 01/2020 | Project completion date: 12/2021 | Total duration: *24 months* |
| **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS** |
| **Sustainable Development Goals:** The activities contribute to delivering of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and relevant sustainable development goals, in particular through promoting healthy lives and wellbeing by environmentally sound management of chemicals and minimizing and ultimately eliminating releases of POPs and related exposure to hazardous chemicals. **Gender mainstreaming:** The activities consider involvement of stakeholders from wide range of groups and take into account gender aspects throughout the planning and implementation phase. The development and implementation of various guidance aims at reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and thereby contributes to improving the health of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. **Integrated Approach:** The activities contribute to the implementation of the integrated approach to addressing the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes in particular through enhancing industry’s involvement in information gathering and developing guidance and reports, mainstreaming chemicals and waste issues at the regional and national levels. |
| **PARTNERS** |
| WHO, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, FAO regional, subregional and country offices, FAO pesticide management division, Regional Centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, UNIDO, OECD, NGOs, industry groups |
| **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET [USD]** |
| **Activity** | **Voluntary budget** |
| **15.1 Chemicals management** |
| Training/Meeting/Workshop and travel costs to strengthen risk evaluation and capacity to monitor exposure of industrial chemicals. | 60,000 |
| **15.2 Notification of Final Regulatory Actions** |
| Training/Meeting/Workshop and travel costs to support development, review and update of legal and institutional frameworks and capacity for evaluation of industrial and hazardous formulations. | 170,000 |
| **15.3 PIC Procedure** |
| Training/Meeting/Workshop and travel costs to support capacity of parties to implement PIC procedure, including import responses and export notifications. | 250,000 |
| **15.4 SHPF and HHPs** |
| Training/Meeting/Workshop and travel costs to provide technical assistance to parties in setting up framework to systematically collect information pursuant to SHPFs. | 620,000 |
| **DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET** | 1,100,000 |
| *Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%* | 143,00 |
| **TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET** | 1,243,000 |