



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Tóxicos en el Hogar 2

NGO: Fronteras Comunes

Country: Mexico

Date: August, 2012

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Participation in the collection, review, and assessment of existing information on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products including but not limited to regulations, standards and industry practices; Develop specific recommendations for actions to promote implementation of the Strategic Approach with regard to such information, incorporating identified priorities and access and delivery mechanisms; and follow up activities for the SAICM OEWG and ICMM3; Promote the use of safe and effective alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives to organic chemicals that are highly toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative; Promote the development and use of products and processes that pose lesser risks; Articles and products containing hazardous substances should all be accompanied by relevant information for users, workplaces and at disposal sites; Promote provision of information for all chemicals in

commerce, including appropriate information detailing their inherent hazards should be made available to the public at no charge and generated where needed with essential health, safety and environmental information made available (ICCM2 decision II/4, GPA items 54, 44, 108,111)

Description of the specific product(s) and chemical(s) related to the activity:

Lead, mercury, insecticides, PFOS, triclosán, electronics

Description of the toxic effects of the chemicals contained in the product(s):

We are describing mainly neurotoxic and immunosuppressive chemicals and endocrine disruptors.

Description of how consumers are exposed to these toxic chemicals:

Consumers are exposed to many toxic chemicals through the consumption of products that are used everyday. "Tóxicos en el Hogar 2" describes the damage they cause to human health and the environment, identifies the groups of products that contain toxics, details the damage to health and the environment and provides some alternatives to avoid consumption.

Description of how the product waste that contains the hazardous chemical(s) is handled:

The products described in the "Alerts" section in the booklet Toxics en el Hogar 2 are not under a management plan, but for some of them, like electronics, we are demanding an EPR policy.

Description of what information (or level of information) is available to consumers about the toxic chemicals in the product:

We are providing key information about toxics in consumer products by identifying products, toxic chemicals, environment and health damage and their alternatives.

Description of what types of similar products are available on the market, including safer alternatives:

There are some alternatives, some natural -that are not available on the market- some are products that are manufactured for other countries where regulations are more strict and others are more related to organic or green products.

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted:

Developed a booklet "Tóxicos en el Hogar 2" (Toxic Chemicals at Home 2) with 6 alerts on lead, mercury, insecticides, PFOS, triclosán and electronics, and highlighted the importance to achieve SAICM in Mexico and promote the IPEN's work.

This project looks to provide basic information about toxics in products used in homes and to work with communities. Also, this booklet will be used in workshops and used to perform outreach through the web and media for wide dissemination.

These target groups also will support Fronteras Comunes to push for a chemical substances policy in Mexico and give more strength to continue demanding compliance of international conventions like SAICM and Stockholm. Fronteras Comunes recently become a part of the National Advisory Committee for Comprehensive Management of Chemicals, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Hazardous Waste and SAICM, subject to international environmental conventions.

Impact on target groups:

The objectives are to prevent more health damage and environmental pollution related to CiP, promote safer alternatives, and develop a group more interested to participate in SAICM and IPEN work, but we have not yet disseminated the booklet so it is hard to gauge the impact on target groups at this point.

Impact on target policies:

The booklet is finished but currently “Tóxicos en el Hogar 2” is under design for immediate printing. As soon as Fronteras Comunes has the material we will proceed to the presentation and dissemination of it in workshops in communities, and also disseminate it to NGOs and websites. About the expected results, although there was not a specific policy that was targeted, we can share with IPEN the success of the same activities done with the first booklet (Toxicos en el Hogar 1), which very successfully achieved some greener changes in consumer habits related to products containing toxic substances.

Outreach to stakeholders:

To prepare the contents of the second booklet, Fronteras Comunes incorporated issues of concern of the communities which we have been worked with. Communities affected by lead contamination, or by extensive use of insecticides. Like, issues such as triclosan or electronic and others are part of the people's interest to have access to information and learn more about the impacts of chemicals in products and the possibilities of substitution for other products does not contain toxic chemicals.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

Printed and electronic version of booklet, web sites and mass media:

Electronic version will be ready in July 27. The printed version will be ready in August 6.

Presentation: First workshop and upload in web sites and mass media will be released at the end of August. Our website is <http://www.fronterascomunes.org.mx/>

Communication efforts:

The communication efforts are to be realized soon. These are related to a presentation of the booklet to the media, broadcast radio, workshops, dissemination to NGOs and other actors as well as web pages.

This publication (as we did with the first one) will be delivered to key actors as members of to the National Advisory Committee for Sound Chemical Management, POPs and Hazardous Waste Subject to Environment International Conventions (Comité Consultivo Nacional para la Gestión Integral de Sustancias Químicas, Compuestos Orgánicos Persistentes y Residuos Peligrosos Sujetos a Convenios Internacionales en Materia Ambiental (CCNSQ), from Semarnat.

NGO Recommendations for next steps:

We think that the issue of CiP will need more efforts to have better results and move the authorities to take the needed steps to change chemicals legislation and health prevention. Fronteras Comunes ask formally to IPEN to have the opportunity to test toxic chemicals in products. For example, to test heavy metals in products in the Mexican marked as you did in China. We encourage IPEN to continue translating the materials that help us to continue pushing this work like the educational guides.