

Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)

Regional SAICM Implementation Report

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Region	Francophone Africa

Summary

The production of goods and services for the improvement of the living population, and the production and securing of resources require the use of technology wholly or partly from chemical synthesis. With the advent of industrialization, chemicals that people use daily are not always safe either for the user or for all other life forms, or their environment. The challenge is to combine technological innovation while preserving the quality of life and environment. Tools such as the *International Joint Declaration for a Future without Toxic Chemicals* have been developed and require the most support among nations so that together, countries secure their people and their environment. In the same vein, the objective of SAICM is to achieve the management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. This report provides an update on the level of implementation of this approach in francophone Africa through the activities of some environmental NGOs involved in the initiative.

In Francophone Africa, six NGOs (Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations (AEEFG), Centre for Research and Education for Development (CREPD), Action Group for the Promotion and Protection of Flora and Wildlife (GAPROFFA), Pesticide Action Network Africa (PAN Africa) of Senegal and Togo, Youth Volunteers for Environment (JVE)), associated to dozens of other organizations active in six countries (Tunisia, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Togo), carried out activities at the national level in the implementation of SAICM. Their records were obtained from the Secretariat of IPEN and / or NGOs mentioned above. Their sectors covered dangerous chemicals in agriculture (pesticides) and industry (paints, traditional gold mining). The difficulties faced by these NGOs that have slowed the level of achievement of their goals are

economic, structural and institutional. Areas remain that are hazardously using chemicals products that have not yet been sufficiently explored; for example, nanotechnologies, industrial waste management containing lead or mercury, and especially the search for alternatives to these dangerous pollutants.

In Francophone Africa, awareness about the dangers of chemicals is effective, the progress towards a world free of hazardous chemicals is significant and suggests a real increase if the NGO activities are supported and continue.

Abbreviations

ATAE: Tunisian Association for Environmental Agriculture
AEEFG: Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations
AFE: Acting in Favour of the Environment
APEDB: Provincial Association of Breeders and Owners of Livestock
ADPE: Association of Development and Environmental Protection
ASP: African Stockpile Program
ASOL: Association for Aid and Direction
AOF: Francophone West Africa
CAPANET: Cameroon Pesticide Action Network
ICCM: International Conference on Chemicals Management
CNGP: National Commission for Pesticide Management
CREPD: Centre for Research and Studies for the Development
DDT: Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane
FAO: United Nations Fund for Food and Agriculture
GAPROFFA: Action Group for the Promotion and Protection of Flora and Fauna
ICG: Common Initiative Group
ICCM: International Conference on Chemicals Management
IPEN: International POPs Elimination Network
ISIP: International SAICM Implementation Projects (by IPEN)
JVE: Young Volunteers for the Environment
LBC: Low Energy Lamps
MINEPEDED: Ministry of Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
PAN: Pesticides Action Network
ASP: African Programme of relating to Stockpiles
UNEP: United Nations Environment
POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants
QSP: Quick Start Program
TEN: Remineralize The Earth.
SAICM: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SEEPOM: Environmental Education Association and the Protection of Birds in Morocco
YIF: Yaounde Initiative Foundation

State of SAICM implementation

The assessment of the implementation of various activities of SAICM in Francophone Africa based on the achievements of NGOs in the country account for the improvement of chemical safety, through the synergistic action of partners and governments.

In general, although in Togo and the Ivory Coast NGOs cannot yet assess the implementation of SAICM and must inquire with their governments, Senegal, Cameroon and Benin show that SAICM implementation is being done by States with the participation of civil society organizations. PAN Africa has carried out various activities in several countries of West Africa that fall within the objectives of SAICM (Appendix B, Tables B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5). Implementation of SAICM was the opportunity to raise and bring to the table the many issues related to the problem of toxic chemicals including the issue of lead, mercury, dioxins and furans, highly hazardous pesticides, old batteries, and chemical safety in classified and electronic waste. SAICM actually helped to create in many countries an appropriate framework with the participation of many stakeholders interested in the issue of chemicals management (public and private services, industrial development corporations, research institutes, universities, NGOs). Information seminars, workshops and capacity building sessions have allowed actors to be informed enough on issues and complex questions to have the tools to integrate the management of toxic chemicals and hazardous electronic waste in their various activities. Discussions are often conducted with national focal points for SAICM in Mali and Senegal in particular, through the implementation of the proposed PAN Africa project funded by QSP of SAICM.

In Cameroon (Appendix B, Table B2), although the key sectorial ministries such as those in charge of Agriculture, Environment, Public Health and Industry contribute significantly to the implementation of activities consistent with the objectives of SAICM, NGOs (CREPD and CAPANET) benefited earlier from financial support for the implementation of SAICM on the problems of lead paints and highly hazardous pesticides, respectively. There have been just 04 (four) months since the government started its activity in implementation of SAICM with the support of UNEP and UNITAR. The CREPD strongly contributed to the SAICM focal point and in partnership with UNITAR for the development of a government project entitled *"Enabling Activities for Development of a SAICM implementation plan through integrated sound management of chemicals and support of capacity building of the SHG in Cameroon"*. NGOs (CREPD and YIF) are members of the National Coordinating Committee of SAICM and partners in implementing activities. CREPD is deeply involved in the process of inventory of dioxins and furans as well as awareness-raising. YIF (Yaounde Initiative Foundation) handles most of the components of inventory of pesticides. The National Committee for Implementation of SAICM in Cameroon includes all key stakeholders in the management of chemicals and waste (public and private services, ministries, industries, NGOs, research centres, universities). These partners are chosen on the basis of their past activities relating to chemical and environmental issues.

The government contributes to the QSP TF to fund the implementation of SAICM through counterpart funding provided by the MINEPDED. It is early to assess the state

of coordination between the Ministries of Environment and Health on the management of chemicals within the strict framework of SAICM.

The CREPD, through the implementation of its SAICM project on lead paint, has developed experience of good coordinated work between NGOs, government, local authorities, standards agency and faculties of medicine in different local universities, association of consumers, paint manufacturers, wholesalers and importers of paints. This project also benefitted from a successful collaboration between Northern NGOs (Occupational Knowledge International, San Francisco, USA), and Southern NGOs (CREPD) in line with paragraph 16.n Strategic Global Policy of SAICM.

In Senegal (Appendix B, Table 3), PAN Africa is a member of the National Commission for Management of Chemicals (CNGPC) set up by the authorities to advise on the management of chemicals. The ministries in charge of health, environment, trade, industry and transport, as well as industries, private companies, associations and NGOs are represented at the CNGPC. In Mali, PAN Mali also participates in the National Commission for Management of Chemicals. In addition to the management activities of hazardous pesticides, artisanal mining is a serious environmental problem in Mali. Mercury from the contraband is widely used and presents a real danger to vulnerable populations. One of the missions of the SAICM focal point in Mali is to reduce (eliminate) the use of mercury in artisanal mining.

The community monitoring of pesticide impacts on health in the cotton zones of Senegal and Mali is an example of partnership between PAN Africa and community based organizations in both countries.

In Tunisia (Appendix B, Table 4), special attention is given to the management of chemicals and especially to chemical pollution generated by industries. We note that NGOs are not part of the committee or process of implementation of SAICM. The National Focal Point is listening and is available. Cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health already exists independently of SAICM but cooperation could reach the objectives of SAICM. The government presented a project on implementation of SAICM in which it will participate in kind. It wants to emphasise research on the elimination of POPs. On this aspect, at present, activities are limited to awareness-raising. This strong government involvement will support food safety through the development of agricultural practices that respect the environment and consumers. These types of activities have been most of the work conducted in Cameroon by CAPANET. They have developed activities in accordance with FAO's good phytosanitary practice guide, contributing to the elimination of pesticides and encouraging the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices.

In Benin (Appendix, Table 5), cooperation between the government and NGOs on issues of chemical safety is a reality. This is illustrated in the project on the inventory of chemicals in both the agricultural and industrial sectors through the implementation of the Stockholm Convention (POPs) in Benin, with a particular focus on raising awareness on chemical safety.

Within the framework of project "*Demonstration Project of a sub-regional approach to environmentally sound management of PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs*," Benin has developed a "*strategy and communication plan and stakeholder awareness*" that was validated in May 2012 in Abidjan by 14 African members of the project. Benin is preparing to assist other countries in developing their strategy. GAPROFFA led, with

funding from ISIP / SAICM and IPEN, studies on the impact of POPs (endosulfan and others) on the health of farmers and artisans of mattress makers in Benin and Togo, and worked to raise awareness of good practice. With funding from Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) and the technical support of PAN-Africa, GAPROFFA also trained 60 technicians and management structures of agricultural producers on the international management and best practices of agricultural chemicals. With technical support from UNITAR, GAPROFFA and the National Focal Point have developed a project entitled *"Development of an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Supporting GHS Capacity Building in the Republic of Benin"*, financed by the QSP TF of the SAICM. The project's launch is planned for September 2012.

Main difficulties in implementing SAICM

Real difficulties impeding the implementation of SAICM in countries where the activities are strongly implemented; In Ivory Coast, due to recent membership; it is not easy to identify deficiencies of the NGOs participating. The difficulties of NGOs with proven experience can be grouped into three main categories: economic, infrastructural and institutional.

(i) Economic difficulties

The low level of funding and resources given despite the numerous problems identified is a very obvious problem, observe NGOs from Tunisia, Senegal and Cameroon. Cameroonian farmers cite lack of financial means as a barrier to acquire good quality pesticides.

(ii) Infrastructure challenges

Inadequate laboratories for investigations and inspections are well known; those that exist are often under-equipped.

(iii) Institutional challenges

National Commissions for Chemicals Management are struggling to function properly given the institutional problems and / or inadequate resources;

In Tunisia for example, there are few seminars, even though NGOs active in the environmental sector want to be informed on the implementation of SAICM. In addition, there is a lack of involvement of research institutions and industrial participation in the awareness of the implementation of SAICM. In Cameroon, there are deficiencies in the regulation of chemicals management which is added to low level of enforcement of existing laws and regulations. As a result of these deficiencies on one hand, and on the other because of ignorance of producers, pesticides are circulating and large stocks are listed. Finally, producers are using them in a very inadequate way.

Gaps or emerging issues that deserve future actions are:

- Use of energy-saving lamps (LBC) containing mercury;
- Use of mercury in gold mining traditional;

- Use of cosmetic products containing toxic chemicals;
- Recycling of batteries containing lead;
- Development of alternatives to hazardous chemicals;
- Awareness of nanotechnology and nanomaterial;
- Widespread use of electronic products and wastes containing lead;
- Import, production and distribution of lead paint; and
- Synergy of actions between NGOs and the implementation of international conventions on chemicals.

Inventory of NGO activities in support of the implementation of SAICM

The diversity of NGOs in Francophone Africa and their activities in connection with the SAICM objectives are summarized in the table below. Details of country data are in Appendix Tables.

TABLE 1. The diversity of NGO in Francophone Africa and activities in connection with SAICM objectives

The Objectives categories of SAICM	NGO activity and Results	NGO NAME	Country
<i>Risk reduction</i>			
Benin	Reducing the use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the small city jobs Bohicon and agriculture in the villages of Allahé, and Za-Ganhoua Kpota outreach center by IEC for Behaviour Change.	GAPROFFA	Benin
Cameroon	Awareness-raising of civil society actors, NGOs, ICG producers, phytosanitary firms and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) on the dangers of pesticides; FAO Code implementation of pesticide use; Training in good agricultural practices Training in developing alternative, local, herbal insecticides	CAPANET	Cameroon
	Production, collection and dissemination of information on the dangers of lead paint on health and the environment. National and regional workshops to raise awareness of lead paint	CREPD	Cameroon
Togo	Training of 35 persons on the manufacture of biological pesticides with support from the Entomology Laboratory of the University of Lomé	JVE ASOL	Togo
	Promotion of sustainable agriculture (reduced use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers) with women's groups in the prefectures of Kpele and Vo	JVE	Togo
Senegal	Production of leaflets on alternatives to chemical pesticides to control locusts; Workshop information and awareness on pesticides used for locust control and Stockpiles	PAN Mali PAN Africa SEEPOM	Francophone West Africa (AOF), Morocco
	Study on the ban of endosulfan by the CILSS member countries	PAN Africa	West Africa
Ivory Coast	Conducting a nationwide awareness campaign on the effects of mercury on both health and the environment	JVE	Ivory Coast
Tunisia	The implementation of a project on the application of alternatives to pesticides and chemical fertilizers as part of the educational program with the Ministry of Education and Agriculture Promotion of the reduction of health and environmental risks through the reuse of organic waste at a minimum to reduce domestic waste The use of scientific approaches in the context of a environmental and sustainable agriculture Awareness of the Stockholm Convention on POPs Raising awareness of college students through an educational program to reduce the end of poisoning caused by various chemicals Educating students on mercury	AEEFG+AAET AEEFG+AAET AEEFG+AAET AEEFG AEEFG APEDB AFE	Tunisia

	Raising awareness on obsolete pesticides		
Knowledge and Information			
Senegal	Production of leaflets, T-shirts, caps, posters, and banners on community monitoring of pesticide impacts	PAN Mali PAN Africa	Mali Senegal
	Production and distribution of posters on the risks associated with pesticide use on health and the environment, but also on sustainable alternatives	PAN Africa	Senegal and AOF
	Information days and awareness of farmers' organizations about the risks associated with the use of pesticides and empty pesticide containers	PAN Mali PAN Africa	Mali Senegal
	Dissemination of leaflets (English and French) on environmental strategies to replace DDT and malaria control	PAN Africa PAN Germany PAN North America	AOF
	Radio programs (French and local languages) for communities and authorities on various pesticides topics, DDT, malaria, etc...	PAN Africa PAN Mali	Mali et Senegal
	Information Handbook for NGOs on the African Programme on stocks of obsolete pesticides (produced as part of the Africa stockpile program)	PAN Africa PAN UK ASP	Francophone West Africa, Morocco and Tunisia
	Consolidated Guide on the codes and conventions on chemicals (produced as part of the Africa stockpile program)	PAN Africa PAN UK Ecosphere ASP	Francophone West Africa, Morocco and Tunisia
	Making a film in French about the environmental strategies of the fight against malaria without DDT in a village in Senegal	PAN Africa PAN Germany PAN North America	Senegal AOF
Cameroon	Organization of a seminar on sustainable agriculture Production of posters and flyers outlining the dangers of pesticides Mapping of obsolete pesticide stocks on national territory Demonstrate correct use of processing equipment and EPI	CAPANET Firms ONG MINADER	
	Production and distribution of leaflets, posters, and brochures of information to assist in the removal of lead paint on the basis of scientific data from work done or bibliography. Publication of press releases, press articles and radio show on the results of analysis of the paintings sold in Cameroon	CREPD + OK International	Cameroon
Tunisia	Making a film on the invasion of locusts in the Sahel in 2003-2005 and the fight against locusts in Senegal	PAN Africa PAN UK	Senegal
Benin	-Survey on producers' perceptions on the risks related to the use of endosulfan in Benin and Togo -Contribution to the study of the issue of handling of chemicals (POPs) by	GAPROFFA	Benin

	mattress artisans in Benin and Togo.		
Ivory Coast	Production and dissemination of leaflets, t-shirts, video, banners and posters on the theme "Be conscious of mercury effects"	JVE	Ivory Coast
Governance			
Benin	Demonstration project of a sub-regional approach to environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-Contaminated Equipment: stakeholder awareness	GAPROFFA	Benin
Cameroon	Seminar on the implementation of the FAO code	CAPANET	Cameroon
	Preparation of the draft (first draft) standard limiting the amount of lead in paint sold in Cameroon	CREPD + OK International	Cameroon
	Establishment of the National Alliance for the Elimination of lead paint in Cameroon		
	02 National Workshops, including modules for capacity building of actors (five key ministries, industrial painters, general public, and paediatricians) on exposures and effects of lead on the health of vulnerable groups (children under six years, women of childbearing age) Formation of 05 (five), including two young boys and three girls on sampling techniques paints and lead-contaminated dust, and packaging techniques for analysis.	CREPD + OK International	Cameroon
Togo	Sending a letter of recommendation to decision makers and funders (government departments and UN agencies) March 30, 2012 for the establishment of committees for management of chemicals	JVE ASOL	Togo
Tunisia			
Senegal	International Workshop: Water and water pollution by pesticides in Africa	PAN Africa	AOF, Morocco and Tunisia
	Training modules on community monitoring of pesticide effects on human health and the environment	PAN Africa PAN UK, PAN Asia Pacific	Francophone West Africa
Capacity Building			
Cameroon	Three-day seminar for capacity building of producers; Raising awareness of MINADER for better orientation of the legislation; Raising awareness of firms for better management of pesticides	CAPANET ONG Firms MINADER	

Ivory Coast	Organization of two training days at the location of the different players who can work with people and provide information on the various issues of pesticides. The training focused on the risks to human and environmental health by pesticides, and showed participants the misdeeds of unregistered pesticides and poor marketing practices around these products.	JVE ASOL	Togo
Benin	Use of chemical pesticides: Training of support farmers? Gardeners? (Maraîchers) in South Benin.	GAPROFFA PAN Africa	Benin
Tunisia	- NGO partnership	AEEFG+AAET+ Association Abel Granier	Tunisia
Senegal	Training of facilitators in community monitoring	PAN Africa	Senegal
	Training of field guides on the techniques and monitoring tools	PAN Mali PAN Africa	Mali Senegal
Illegal trade			
Cameroon/ Ivory Coast / Senegal / Tunisia/Benin/Togo	No activity reported by NGOs although the smuggling of chemicals is a common activity in and / or between countries.		

NGO actions on emerging policy issues

A special subset of activities for implementation of SAICM for four emerging concerns: lead in paint, chemicals in products, electronic-waste, and nano. NGOs from francophone African countries have undertaken activities in this direction.

With Toxics Link and IPEN, PAN Africa in Senegal conducted a study on lead in paints in Senegal.

In Tunisia, a project is currently underway with art professors in colleges to discontinue use of lead-based paint and replace them with natural products.

For nano, AEEFG has led to a scientific institution to understand nano and acquire the information necessary for an inventory of nanotechnology in Tunisia. Simplified presentations on nano will be presented to schoolchildren as part of a youth awareness program for the new school year

In Cameroon, the NGO CREPD is implementing a project funded by the QSP of SAICM on lead paint in Cameroon.

In the past, CREPD designed and implemented activities successfully on the quantification and qualification of batteries that fit with the problem of electronic waste. These activities were supported by Dr. Toru Ouchi, Kobe University, Japan.

In addition, CREPD studies funded by the SSNC have been carried out on mercury and lead in cosmetics and the like. Studies were also conducted on mercury fever thermometers and the adaptation of a HCWH guide in an informative comic book style on the management of mercury spills from thermometers.

Interesting cases illustrating successful implementation of SAICM

Some NGOs have carried out successful activities in the implementation of SAICM. In Togo, during the international pesticides awareness week, a letter of recommendation on the management of chemicals was addressed to decision makers. Thereafter, it was noticed that raids started in public places to seize unauthorized pesticides products on the market, indicating that there was some change in the actions of decision-makers. In Senegal, regional trainings on community monitoring of pesticide impacts on health were conducted with 12 trainers trained in Mali and Senegal. These trainers in turn trained 48 field guides on the techniques of community monitoring. They have also conducted awareness-raising activities for communities. Relevant posters were prepared in different languages and helped to raise awareness on the issue of synthetic chemical pesticides and the risks associated with their use.

Studies and work on the codes and conventions on chemicals have helped attract the attention of authorities on key aspects of pesticide management and the need to update the regulation and enforcement of laws and regulations in force in different countries and at the regional level (Appendix C1).

In Cameroon, the CREPD conducted a study (financed by QSP of SAICM and with technical collaboration of OK International) of the paintings sold in Cameroon. A total of 1,736 shops and wholesalers' surveyed paint, and the analysis included: 60 samples of new paintings, 14 samples of liquid dyes, 16 samples of scales of old paintings, and 9 samples of dust in residential schools. 5 young people were trained in rigorous collection and preparation of paint samples. The results showed that about 67% of new oil paintings analysed contain lead-based paints (containing over 90 ppm of lead, which is the reference standard). All the old paintings collected contain lead-based paints. Based on these findings, an awareness-raising workshop and training of key stakeholders was done at the national level (02 national workshops), (Appendix C2, Photos A to D). Press releases, radio and TV programs and a sensitization in 10 regions of Cameroon with media (brochures, posters, leaflets etc...) (Appendix C2) were also carried out. The CREPD also contributed:

- The adoption of a framework law for the protection of the Consumer;
- The establishment of a Technical Committee by the Agency for Standards and Quality (ANOR) to develop a mandatory standard limiting the amount of lead in paint in Cameroon;
- The implementation of the objectives of the Global Partnership for the Elimination of Lead in Paints (GAELP), including the establishment of a National Partnership;
- The work of the Technical Committee responsible for drafting the mandatory standard on lead paint in Cameroon through the proposal of a draft (proposal) of text in nine standard points in the ANOR.
- Interest from within the health sector, including the Ministry of Public Health, to support the rapid development of a standard. The faculty of medicine is also developing a project on the analysis of blood lead levels among children in the city of Yaoundé.

In Tunisia, implementation of a ASP program and also an activity of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment included:

- Phase 1: Inventory of obsolete pesticides
- 2nd phase: repackaging
- 3rd stage: incineration
- 4th stage: awareness-raising and capacity development of the population for the prevention against a new stock of pesticides

Relevant stakeholders are mainly the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and several NGOs. This project has allowed people to learn about the hazards of pesticides that have previously not been discussed and /or were.(Appendix C3)

Also in Tunisia, the Ministry of Health undertook a Total Food Survey, which related to pesticides in the food eaten. Similarly, the Ministry is undertaking an analysis on chemicals that circulate in the country and will inform the public about the dangers of certain chemicals.

The Ministry of Environment has undertaken a project to decontaminate the lake of Bizerte, which has been polluted by heavy metals generated by discharges from different factories nearby. This action will allow the regeneration of the lake and aquaculture.

In Benin, we can report the implementation of the demonstration project of a sub-regional approach to environmentally sound management of PCB and PCB-contaminated equipment with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This activity led to the awareness of stakeholders which saw the active participation of the State, the University, the distribution company of electric power in Benin, the NGO sector of chemicals, labour and artisans that recycled the used transformers that their power company retroceded.