

UNDP/UNEP partnership Initiative for the Integration of the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) into Development Planning Processes

The UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held its first two inception workshops in Kampala, Uganda on 5-8 November 2007 and in Lusaka, Zambia in the week thereafter. Both workshops were officially launched by the respective Ministers for Environment of Uganda and Zambia. The cross-sectoral relevance of chemicals management was illustrated by the diversity of ministries (20 government ministries and agencies) and Civil Society Organizations represented at the workshops.

In the next few months national sectoral teams will conduct a critical analysis of the national chemicals situation in both countries to help define the main chemicals priority issues relevant to national development objectives. Throughout the process, which will result in a national situation report, the sectoral teams will receive guidance from a core group constituted of an economist, environment and health expert. This preparatory work will support a cost-benefit analysis of the social and financial costs of the relevant interventions and actions related to chemicals management. Teams will also identify:

- Options and scenarios in order to address health and environmental impacts
- The most optimal systems or interventions to foster development while improving health and environmental conditions in the country.

In Uganda, national priorities relative to the sound management of chemicals are to be considered during the currently ongoing review process of the Ugandan Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The UNDP/UNEP partnership on chemicals management will take advantage of the structures and processes that have already been established in Uganda under the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) on integrating the environment into the PEAP.

The Zambian Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) will undergo a mid-term review in 2009, which will be an opportunity to mainstream the highest national chemical management priorities into Zambia's development plan. In order to accomplish adequate mainstreaming of these national priorities during the review process, project results need to take shape by the third quarter of 2008 and in order to do so, the national situation report will be finalized by early 2008.

In addition, the Partnership Initiative will also be launched in Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador and Macedonia in early 2008.

For more information on the UNDP/UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) into Development Planning Processes, click [here](#) or contact Ms. Hilda van der Veen (hilda.vanderveen@undp.org) or Mr. Kaj Madsen (kmadsen@chemicals.unep.ch).