

Quick Start Programme status report, 22 January 2007

Introduction:

1. The present report provides information on activities supported by the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) since its establishment in 2006 with a view to facilitating coordination with the activities of other funding mechanisms, particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The SAICM secretariat would be pleased to provide further details of QSP-supported projects to the secretariats of the GEF and MLF and their implementing and executing agencies. The SAICM secretariat also notes the potential for the QSP to be used as co-financing for projects under mechanisms such as the GEF and MLF.

Background:

2. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) decided in resolution I/4 to invite the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish a voluntary, time-limited trust fund to provide seed money to support the objective and strategic priorities of the QSP. The objective of the QSP is to “support initial enabling capacity building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition”, including for the following strategic priorities:

- a) Development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;
- b) Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives;
- c) Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities.

3. Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition are eligible for support through the QSP trust fund for project between \$50,000 and \$250,000, which are of a maximum duration of 24 months. Proposals may be presented by SAICM participating Governments that have given appropriate formal recognition to SAICM, at a minimum by having designated an official SAICM national focal point. On an exceptional basis, civil society networks participating in SAICM can also be eligible to present project proposals. Intergovernmental Organizations or Secretariats of Multilateral Environment Agreements may also be involved in projects, as executing agencies, or as sub-contractors¹. The Trust Fund Implementation Committee will only approve one national Government project to be undertaken at a time, but it is possible for a Government also to participate in a multi-country or NGO project while undertaking the national project.

Links with Overarching Policy Strategy Financial provisions:

4. The QSP and its trust fund were not intended by the ICCM to be a comprehensive financial mechanism to support the implementation of SAICM in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Rather, the QSP is but one of six elements in the SAICM

¹ Project executing agencies may charge an administration fee up to 8%.

financial arrangements set out in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, which includes among other things:

“d) making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding, including by inviting the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol within their mandates to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant SAICM objectives and to report;...”

5. In its decision 24/3 II of 9 February 2007, UNEP Governing Council encouraged the SAICM secretariat to “explore ways to make more effective use of the funding provisions of the Overarching Policy Strategy... to identify those areas that can support implementation of appropriate and relevant objectives of SAICM.” In the QSP context, the secretariat interprets this request inter alia as a reiteration of the need utilize the QSP’s leveraging potential, for example by assisting in the development of projects that use QSP “seed money” to unlock more substantial sources of assistance, including the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

6. In order to make the OPS provisions operational, the SAICM secretariat, through the UNEP Executive Director, has drawn this invitation to the attention of the GEF and MLF secretariats, inviting them to consider ways in which the GEF and MLF might be able to contribute to the QSP, for example if GEF or MLF projects supported the objective and strategic priorities of the QSP or projects could received QSP and GEF/MLF co-financing.

QSP trust fund projects and financial situation

7. Over three rounds of applications to the Quick Start Programme (QSP) trust fund, held between May 2006 and September 2007, the secretariat received ninety project proposals. The QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee² approved forty projects for a total funding of \$6,060,258. The projects will be implemented by forty-seven Governments and four civil society organizations and involve activities in fifty-one countries, including twenty Least Developed Countries and six Small Island Developing States. The annex to the present note provides tables (A to E) summarizing the projects approved so far.

8. For the year 2006, the secretariat received contributions from 15 donors totalling approximately \$5,968,000. As of December 2007, the secretariat had received pledges from 11 donors totalling approximately \$4,553,000.³ The balance of funds available for the next application round closing on 7 March 2008 is therefore \$4,460,000.

9. In 2007, contributions to the non-trust fund QSP have also been declared by the Governments of Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as by ICCA, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO.⁴ QSP Executive Board members⁵

² The ICCM invited representatives of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the United Nations Development Programme to form a Trust Fund Implementation Committee. This Committee is responsible for appraising and approving projects to be financed by the QSP trust fund and meets twice a year.

³ An additional donor pledged a further \$2.8 million in 2007, arrangements for which are expected to be finalized in early 2008. This additional pledge, when finalized, will allow the QSP trust fund to surpass its 2007 replenishment target of \$6.3 to \$6.6 million.

⁴ Declarations of contributions to the non-trust fund QSP are available on the SAICM web site at the following page: www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/fundraising/qsp.htm.

⁵ The QSP Executive Board consists of two government representatives of each of the United Nations regions and all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the QSP. The Board meets

reviewed the declaration forms and decided that all the declared contributions qualified as contributions to the QSP, as set out in table F in annex to the present note⁶. An additional declaration was made by the FAO in November 2007, which will be considered by the QSP Executive Board before its next meeting.

GEF and MLF contributions, co-financing and coordination with the QSP

10. Many chemicals management activities already being undertaken with support from the GEF and MLF could be identified as contributions to SAICM implementation. In particular, the GEF and MLF secretariats may wish to consider declaring their chemicals management activities as contributions to the non-trust fund QSP referred to in paragraph 9 above. Such contributions, if confirmed as relevant by the QSP Executive Board, entitle the contributors to participate in the Board. Declaring the contributions will help provide a fuller picture of international efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals.

11. Notwithstanding the vastly greater financial resources managed by the GEF and MLF relative to those of the SAICM QSP trust fund, there may be mutual benefits in the co-financing of projects. Such partnerships would enable the QSP trust fund to fulfil its function of providing “seed money” to leverage more substantial resources. The availability of QSP trust fund resources of up to \$250,000 per project could assist GEF applicants in meeting the sometimes difficult prerequisite of co-financing for GEF projects. The QSP could contribute, in particular, to financing general chemicals management components of GEF and MLF projects. While important, such components may not be easily justifiable in terms of the specific funding criteria of, for example, individual GEF focal areas. The rapidity of the SAICM QSP trust fund process, with decisions taken by the Implementation Committee within six weeks of the closure of each application round, means that GEF and MLF applicants would be able to identify QSP co-financing with certainty while preparing GEF and MLF applications. The GEF secretariat has indicated its support, in principle, for the concept of using SAICM projects as co-financing for GEF projects and offered to encourage GEF implementing and executing agencies to pursue such co-financing opportunities.

12. The present report represents an effort by the SAICM secretariat to initiate liaison with the GEF and MLF secretariats and with their implementing and executing agencies to exchange information on proposed and approved projects and to facilitate reporting of chemicals management activities. The GEF secretariat has expressed its willingness to establish a process for consultation with the SAICM secretariat, including sharing of information on its “pipeline” of project proposals. There is also scope for SAICM coordination with GEF and MLF projects at the agency level since, with the exception of the World Bank, all GEF and MLF implementing agencies, i.e. UNEP, UNDP and UNIDO⁷, are members of the SAICM QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee.⁸ In addition, FAO, a GEF “executing agency with expanded opportunities” is also a member of the Committee. In order to avoid duplication and promote complementarity, the Implementation Committee already pays particular attention to other relevant multilateral and bilateral projects when considering applications to the QSP Trust Fund. The effectiveness of this review process could be enhanced through the more systematic exchange of information on current and pending projects amongst the SAICM, GEF and MLF secretariats.

once a year to review progress under the programme and provides operational guidance on the implementation of the QSP.

⁶ The secretariat will invite Board member to update such declarations in 2008.

⁷ UNIDO is an MLF implementing agency. It is also a GEF “executing agency with expanded opportunities”.

⁸ If the World Bank moves from being an observer to a participating organization of the IOMC, this would make it eligible to join the SAICM QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee if it so wished.

Table A: QSP trust fund Government projects in Africa (20)

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Burundi	LDC	Updating the National Chemicals Management Profile and developing a national chemicals database in Burundi	UNITAR	\$99,250	2nd	individual
Burkina Faso	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Chad	LDC	Strengthening integrated chemicals management for effective SAICM implementation in Chad	UNITAR	\$119,900	2nd	individual
Comoros	LDC-SIDS	Developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, Holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop and Updating a National Chemicals Management Profile in Comoros	UNITAR	\$52,900	2nd	individual
Congo (Republic of)		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Côte d'Ivoire		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Djibouti	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Eritrea	LDC	Developing a national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Eritrea	UNITAR	\$70,150	2nd	individual
Ghana		Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in	UNITAR	\$50,750	2nd	individual
Kenya (approval to be confirmed)		Strengthening Capacities in Kenya for National SAICM Implementation	UNITAR	\$249,900	3rd	individual
Lesotho	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Lesotho	UNITAR	\$54,950	2nd	individual
Liberia*	LDC	Developing a National Chemicals Management Profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Liberia	UNITAR	\$70,050	3rd	individual
Madagascar	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Malawi	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Malawi	UNITAR	\$50,576	2nd	individual
Mali	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM Capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM priority setting	UNITAR	\$58,400	3rd	individual

		workshop in Mali				
Nigeria		Establishing an Institutional Framework and Strengthening National Capacity within an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and implementation of the strategic approach in Nigeria		\$230,000	1st	individual
Rwanda	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Sao Tome & Principe	LDC-SIDS	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,946	1st	multi-country
Sudan	LDC	Development of a Sustainable Integrated National Programme for Sound Management of Chemicals	UNIDO	\$144,072	3rd	individual
Uganda	LDC	Uganda, UNEP & UNDP Partnership initiative for the implementation of SAICM	UNDP & UNEP	\$250,000	1st	individual

* Conditional approval to be confirmed.

Table B: QSP trust fund Government projects in Asia and the Pacific (9)

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Cambodia	LDC	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Cambodia	UNITAR	\$50,570	2nd	individual
Kazakhstan		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Kazakhstan	UNITAR	\$50,300	2nd	individual
Kiribati	LDC-SIDS	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Kiribati	UNITAR	\$64,800	2nd	individual
Kyrgyzstan		Strengthening the capacity of agricultural workers and workers' organisation in the implementation of SAICM	UNITAR	\$50,950	2nd	individual
Mongolia		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Nepal	LDC	Developing a national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Nepal	UNITAR	\$70,900	2nd	individual
Palestine		Development of a national chemicals management profile and a national chemicals management database in Palestine	UNITAR	\$82,250	2nd	individual
Syria		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Yemen	LDC	Integrated national program for the sound management of chemicals and implementation of the Strategic Approach in Yemen	UNITAR	\$249,500	3rd	individual

Table C: QSP trust fund Government projects in Central and Eastern Europe (7)

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Armenia		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
		Armenia and UNEP Partnership Initiative for Sound Management of Chemicals and Implementation of SAICM in Armenia		\$245,680	3rd	individual
Belarus*		Belarus, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals Considerations into Development Plans and Processes	UNDP & UNEP	\$250,000	3rd	individual
Georgia		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic)		Development and mainstreaming of the National Plan on SAICM implementation for the Republic of Macedonia	UNDP	\$248,400	1st	individual
Moldova		Moldova and UNEP partnership on capacity building for improving the environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova and the implementation of SAICM		\$199,900	2nd	individual
Serbia		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country

* Conditional approval to be confirmed.

Table D: QSP trust fund Government projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (12)

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Barbados	SIDS	Updating a national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop in Barbados	UNITAR	\$55,450	2nd	individual
Bolivia		Strengthening national governance for SAICM implementation: updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM forum in Bolivia	UNITAR	\$69,950	2nd	individual
Chile		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
Costa Rica		Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
Ecuador		Ecuador, UNEP and UNDP Partnership initiative for the implementation of SAICM	UNDP & UNEP	\$250,000	1st	individual
El Salvador		Life cycle Analysis of Chemical Substances	UNIDO	\$246,700	3rd	individual

Country	LDC-SIDS	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Guatemala		Strengthening national governance for SAICM implementation: updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM forum in Guatemala	UNITAR	\$85,750	2nd	individual
Haiti	LDC-SIDS	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,659	1st	multi-country
Honduras		Strengthening national governance for SAICM implementation: updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM forum in Honduras	UNITAR	\$85,000	2nd	individual
Nicaragua		Strengthening national governance for SAICM implementation: updating the national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding a national SAICM forum in Nicaragua	UNITAR	\$70,500	2nd	individual
Peru		Safe chemicals	UNIDO	\$249,004	3rd	individual
Trinidad and Tobago	SIDS	Strengthening the legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity of SIDS in the Caribbean	Basel Convention Secretariat	\$178,794	2nd	individual

Table E: QSP trust fund civil society projects in Africa (2)

Organization	Project title	Country	Funding	Round	Project type
Day Hospital Institute for Development and Rehabilitation	National awareness campaign for all stakeholders on the safe use and management of pesticides according to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides	Egypt	\$199,000	2nd	civil society
Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union	Strengthening the capacity of agricultural workers and workers' organisation in the implementation of SAICM	Tanzania	\$241,800	1st	civil society

Table F: QSP trust fund civil society projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (2)

Organization	Project title	Country (ies)	Funding	Round	Project type
Argentine Society of Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA)	Integrated regional campaign on minimisation of mercury domestic sources with actions of intervention in the community to protect children and women's health	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay	\$240,625	3rd	civil society
Sustainlabour*	Enabling workers and workplaces for SAICM implementation	Brazil, Chile and Uruguay	\$227,224	3rd	civil society

* Conditional approval to be confirmed.

Table G. Declared contributions to the non-trust fund QSP in 2007

Contributor	Declared QSP Contribution	Strategic priority(ies) addressed	Type of contribution	Indicated value
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects through Canada POPs trust fund -World Bank project building upon categorisation of 23,000 chemicals - Development of SAICM reporting proposal, including QSP aspects 	a), b) & c)	Financial and in-kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$18,000,000 (Cdn \$ 20,000,000) - \$98,000 - \$90,000 (Cdn \$100,000)
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support to development of national implementation plans in Asia-Pacific -Support to SAICM regional meeting -Specific project support in East Asia (metals or POPs) 	b)	Financial and in-kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$50,000 - \$70,000
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support to UNEP Chemicals for workshop on infrastructures - Support to Basel Regional Centre in South Africa for SAICM implementation -Project for non-toxic environment in South East Asia -UNDP guidance on mainstreaming 	a), b) & c)	Financial and in-kind	
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to SAICM Pilot Project in 5 countries with UNITAR & IOMC 	a), b) & c)	Financial	- \$2,750,000
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SAICM implementation integrated programme in Mexico 	a), b) & c)	Financial	- \$130,000 (£65,000)
ICCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building programme for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the implementation of the Responsible Care Global Charter, of the Global Product Strategy and of the GHS - Activities in support of GPA work areas - Cross cutting activities - Collaboration with IOMC participating organizations 	b)	Financial and in-kind	-\$30,000 & \$300,000 (in-kind)
OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development of chemicals management and assessment guidelines, guidance, manuals and data systems -Free dissemination and availability of materials 	b) & c)	In kind	
UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development and implementation of UNDP-UNEP partnership for sound chemicals management and mainstreaming -Development of UNDP strategic approach for SAICM implementation in relation with Millennium Development Goals - Development of sound chemicals management guidance resources/tools - Assistance for the development of 	b) & c)	In kind	

	QSP trust fund applications			
UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development and implementation of UNDP-UNEP partnership for sound chemicals management and mainstreaming -Organization of a symposium on illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals - Organization of a workshop on chemicals infrastructures - Development of a comprehensive plan for SAICM implementation within UNEP's environment constituency - Assistance for the development of QSP trust fund applications 	b) & c)	In kind	
UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project on Cleaner Production and Chemical Leasing in Egypt, Russia and Mexico in collaboration with National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC) and the support of Austria - Capacity-building and implementation of cleaner production and sound chemicals management practices in companies, through 40 NCPC 	b)	In kind	
UNITAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National Implementation Programmes in 4 pilot countries with the support of Switzerland - Development and implementation of QSP trust fund projects in 15 countries -Development of guidance material for SAICM activities and on line National Chemical Profiles collection -Specific support for capacity building (POPs, PRTRs or GHS) 	a), b) & c)	In-kind	
WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a comprehensive plan including 14 areas of activities for health sector engagement in SAICM, including for enabling activities coordinated by WHO headquarter and regional offices 	a) & b)	In kind	