

Rotterdam Convention Secretariat Progress report N°3

Progress made towards the implementation of COP-4 mandated activities (July 2010 – December 2010)

The current progress report provides an update on progress made by the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat towards the implementation of COP-4 mandated activities since the previous progress report published in June 2010. It covers the period July 2010 – December 2010. This report focuses on updates to activities within this period which are linked to the Programme of Work 2009-2011, as adopted by the COP-4.

1. Resource Kit and publications
2. Training and awareness-raising meetings
3. National and sub-regional planning meetings
4. Trade related issues
5. Development of a monitoring programme on severely hazardous pesticides formulations
6. Resource mobilization to support Parties
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8. Working with customs authorities
9. Fostering cooperation
10. Provision of Legal Support to Parties and Secretariat
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13. Working on industrial chemicals
14. Establishment of a clearing-house mechanism
15. Partners in the regional delivery of technical assistance
16. Chemical Review Committee - seventh meeting
17. PIC Circular
18. New Parties

1. Resource Kit and publications

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 8: - Resource kit: review and update existing documents as necessary including translation into all six official United Nations languages; print and disseminate to regional offices and partners and use in the regional and national delivery of technical assistance to Parties and at events.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Secretariat has continued its efforts in revising and printing the publications already developed and expanding with new information material the resource kit in order to meet the request of Parties different stakeholders.

The electronic learning (e-learning) programme on the key operational elements of the Rotterdam Convention has been translated into French and Spanish and is under finalization. It will be made available from the Convention website and on CD-ROM. This e-learning course facilitates continuous and self-directed training at the national level to assist with understanding

the basic obligations of the Convention and meet the challenges that arise from frequent changes in the designated national authorities in some countries.

Designated National Authorities has been updated and revised. The updated and revised version will be available soon.

New guidance is now available to Designated National Authorities (DNAs) to assist in completing the Form for Notification of Final Regulatory Action, with the objective of improving understanding of the information requested and facilitating the preparation and submission of notifications that are complete against Annexes I and II of the Convention.

All publications are available on the Convention website.

2. Training and awareness raising workshops

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 9 – Sub-regional awareness raising and training meetings: Focus on Parties that are having difficulty in meeting their basic obligations of the Convention; meetings will provide practical training in meeting the operational elements of the Convention, including training in the use of existing decision guidance documents in national decision making, provide opportunity for countries to share experiences (4 sub-regional meetings, 5 countries 3 each and 25 participants per workshop). In cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Sub-regional training and awareness-raising meetings support Parties in meeting their basic obligations under the Convention, and so they might fully benefit from the Convention and its activities. They are intended for new Parties and those that changed recently the Designated National Authorities, or for Parties that are having difficulties in meeting their basic obligations under the Convention such as providing import responses for Annex III chemicals. As these workshops are demand driven, the Secretariat completed 5 (instead of 4) sub-regional training and awareness-raising workshops, as shown below:

Date of activity	Region	Host country	Participating countries
19 – 23 October 2009	Francophone Africa	Ghana	Burundi - Cameroon - Congo, Republic of the - Cote d'Ivoire - Djibouti - Equatorial Guinea - Madagascar - Togo
2-6 November 2009	Anglophone Africa	South Africa	Botswana - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Ghana - Lesotho - Liberia - Malawi - South Africa - Uganda
23 to 27 November 2009	East European and Asian	Armenia	Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Moldova and Russia
15-19 March 2010	Latin American	El Salvador	Colombia - Costa Rica - Dominican Republic - El Salvador - Nicaragua - Panama
7-11 June	Asia-Pacific	Vietnam	Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

2010			Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Vietnam
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3. National and sub-regional Action Planning (NAP) meetings

COP-4 MANDATE:

Activity 10 - Assist Parties to identify elements of national action plans or strategies for the implementation of the Convention and as appropriate national follow-seminars: arrange 6 national meetings, 6 subregional meetings (max. 3 countries and 15 participants) and 24 national follow up seminars. In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

These meetings provide participating Parties with the opportunity to identify elements of a national action plan on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and other Multilateral Environmental, as well as to set priorities and assign time lines and responsibilities. Countries have been selected to participate in such consultation based on expressed interest, and based on their level of experience in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. The secretariat completed the following national and sub-regional NAP meetings:

Date of activity	Region	Host country	Participating countries
25-28 April 2010	Africa	Libya	Libya
1 - 5 March 2010	Africa	Uganda	Uganda
5 -9 April 2010	Africa	Botswana	Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi
20 – 24 June 2010	Near East	Syria	Jordan - Kuwait - Lebanon - Oman - Qatar - Saudi Arabia - Sudan - Syrian Arab Republic - United Arab Emirates – Yemen
28 June to 2 July 2010	Asia	DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (<i>in conjunction with UNITAR</i>)
11- 16 July 2010	Africa	Rwanda	Burundi - Congo, Republic of the - Djibouti - Rwanda
25 – 29 October 2010	Central Asia	Ukraine	Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
October 2010		Madagascar	Madagascar
15-19 November 2010	Latin America	Chile	Argentina - Bolivia - Brazil - Chile - Colombia - Ecuador - Paraguay - Peru - Uruguay - Venezuela

National Follow-up seminars: In cooperation with the FAO Regional Officers, national follow-up seminars are convened for Parties that had participated in the sub-regional planning meetings. Follow-up seminars will be offered in 2011 to Parties which participated in sub-regional planning meetings listed above.

4. Trade related issues

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 11 - Trade-related issues: National training sessions focused on exporting countries and their export obligations (2 national trade meetings); and trade partner meetings involving exporting country and key trade partners (2 meetings involving 4 trade partners)

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In 2009, the Secretariat conducted two meetings on trade related issues under the Rotterdam Convention, one for the European Community and selected trade partners and one for China and selected trade partners.

The overall objective of the workshops was to promote a shared responsibility in the implementation and enforcement of the trade related provisions of the Convention by facilitating dialogue among exporting Parties. The need to better understand the challenges associated with the operation of the trade aspects of the Convention, in particular the role of exporting Parties and the relationship between exporting and importing Parties, is an issue of concern to many Parties.

The workshops provided an opportunity for exporting Parties to receive feedback on the effectiveness of their operational procedure and for selected importing Parties to better understand any changes that may be needed at the national level to benefit more fully from this procedure.

These workshops will continue in the future pending adequate resources.

5. Development of a monitoring programme on severely hazardous pesticides formulations (SHPF)

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 12 - Develop monitoring programme on severely hazardous pesticide formulation (SHPF): arrange 4 monitoring progress meetings on SHPF and 4 programmes on SHPFs.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Secretariat continued to work on the development of a tool kit on monitoring and reporting of severely hazardous pesticide formulations. The tool kit will provide useful information and guidance to countries that wish to address the issue at national level. An advocacy leaflet and a navigational guide were prepared and posters and information beneficial to respondents were drafted. The navigational guide introduces a number of documents relevant to setting up and implementing a system to monitor and report cases of pesticide poisoning. A large number of existing information sources were screened and references to most relevant sources are provided in an annex.

Several pilot projects were initiated in 2010. Inception workshops on monitoring and reporting pesticide incidents were convened in Togo and Syria, and stake holders drafted national pilot projects for Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, as well as for Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Burkina Faso, Mali and Syria initiated implementation of such pilot projects on SHPF.

6. Resource Mobilization to support Parties

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 13 - Resource mobilization: develop and implement a programme to facilitate improved access to financial and other resources to assist Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention (4 subregional meetings on project proposal development). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In collaboration with UNITAR, with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and with the SAICM, a draft guidance entitled "Financial Resource Mobilization for the Sound Management of Chemicals" is being developed with the intention to assist Parties accessing the necessary resources for the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions has been developed by UNITAR in October 2010.

This draft was presented to the Parties and tested in the context of the Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Central and Eastern European Countries which took place 2-4 November 2010 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The same draft guidance materials were also tested in the Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Central America and the Caribbean that occurred between the 6-9 December 2010 in San Salvador, El Salvador (see item 11).

Additional workshops that will serve to further collect inputs for the draft guidance materials are scheduled for 2011. After these workshops, UNITAR will finalize the guidance material and make it available to all users.

Prior to the development of the draft by UNITAR, training sessions for the developing of project proposals were delivered at the sub-regional level as a part of the sub-regional awareness raising workshops on synergies amongst the three Conventions. These workshops were held in Pretoria, South Africa (October 2009), Montevideo, Uruguay (November 2009) and Beijing, China (April 2010) (see item 11).

7. Support to the preparation of notifications of final regulatory action

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 14 - Preparation of notifications of final regulatory action (FRA): build the capacity of developing country Parties to prepare and submit complete notifications of final regulatory action that pass the scrutiny of the Chemical Review Committee (3 subregional meetings to support the preparation of notifications, each including 3 countries and 15 participants).

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

These activities are intended to build the capacity of developing country Parties to prepare and submit complete notifications of final regulatory action that pass the scrutiny of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) in relation to the completeness of the notification against the criteria of Annex II of the Convention. This support is integrated within and as part of all technical assistance activities and workshops.

CRC Experts Training: The Secretariat organised a workshop for CRC experts to increase their awareness of the functioning, procedures and review mechanisms of the

CRC. The Secretariat carried out training for the CRC experts in Budapest, Hungary in December 2009 and another is envisaged for 2012. As one of its goals, the trainings for “Effective participation in the Committee’s work” also increased communication and learning between different regions. This training was well received and the Secretariat would like to hold it again at the end of 2011 when the CRC membership again changes.

Joint CRC/POPRC training to support the effective participation in the Committees’ work: Given the fact that the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions chemical review committees (POPRC and CRC) have very similar mandates and structures, a number of joint workshops with the involvement of national authorities, technical experts, official contact points as well as with national stakeholders of the two conventions have been organized by the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariats in different regions, as one of the technical synergies activities. The most recent workshop, which is the third of this series, took place in Colombo in January 2011 for the eastern Asian region and was attended by over 50 participants from more than 20 countries. This workshop addressed several items of the Rotterdam Convention’s work programme including the notification process, information exchange as well as achieving synergies with Stockholm. Additional workshops are envisaged for other regions such as western Asia. The meeting also raised political interest in the work and relevance of Rotterdam Convention in Sri Lanka and the Minister of Environment of Sri Lanka also honored the meeting with his presence.

Notification guidance document: The Secretariat has developed a publication containing guidance to assist the completion of the form for Notification of Final Regulatory Action. The guidance aims to improve the understanding of the information requested in each section of the form and provides examples of information for each of the sections. This guidance is hoped to assist DNAs to prepare and submit notifications that are complete against Annexes I and II of the Convention.

8. Working with customs authorities

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 17 - Customs training activities: Customs training activities for both importing and exporting partners: working with the Green Customs Initiative in providing support to Parties on facilitating the implementation of the obligations under the Conventions (4 meetings each including 5 countries). In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Capacity building for customs authorities: The Secretariat has been actively involved in the delivery of a number of training workshops in conjunction with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and with the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), of which the Secretariat is a partner. As part of the GCI, the Secretariat participated in the partners’ meeting held between the 8 and 9 February 2010 in Lyon, France.

In addition, the Secretariat was jointly represented together with the Secretariats of Basel and Stockholm Convention and/ or through the participation of regional centers in the following training activities for customs authorities which were organized by the GCI/WCO:

- National Green Customs Workshop (Maldives, 11-15 July 2010);

- Green Customs Workshop (Dominican Republic, 12-16 July 2010);
- National Green Customs Workshop (Vietnam, 23-25 August 2010);
- Sub-regional Green Customs Workshop for the UEMOA (Niger, 27-29 October 2010);
- National Green Customs Workshop (Malawi, 12-14 October 2010);
- Green Customs Workshop for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Doha, 20-22 February 2010);
- Integrating GCI into national customs training (Antigua and Barbuda, 1-4 March 2010).

The Secretariat has also taken part in the fourth meeting of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements-Regional Enforcement Network (MEA-REN) in Beijing, China (September 2010). As well as in the Regional Green Customs Workshop for ECA Network Countries which was held back to back with the meeting of the ECA Enforcement Network between the 11-13 October in Turkmenistan.

In April 2010, the Secretariat launched a dedicated webpage on its website, describing the Secretariat's work on customs issues. The page is intended to provide readily available information on the Secretariat's activities relevant to customs authorities. The website can be viewed at: <http://www.pic.int/customs/Minisite/Roles.html>

The Secretariat has been involved in the development of a joint e-learning tool for customs officers on the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Working with UNITAR on the GHS: *The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS) is a system for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labelling of chemicals. The Secretariat is collaborating with UNITAR on the development of joint capacity building activities to support the existing GHS UNITAR training programme as well as the joint development of related training tools and materials. Under this initiative, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has taken the lead to develop a guidance tool on GHS and the three Conventions. The guidance tool is currently under review by partners and will provide the basis for future workshops and information materials on GHS and the three Conventions. It is envisaged that the guidance will be finalized by the end of March 2011. In this context, the Secretariat participated in the GHS stocktaking workshop for Southeast, East and Central Asia, which was organized by UNITAR in Beijing 15-17 September 2010.

Probo Koala project: The Secretariat is participating in the "Probo Koala enforcement Programme" led by the Basel Convention Secretariat. The Secretariat has provided inputs to the Programme currently being implemented in Côte d'Ivoire and which will be duplicated in various other African (and possible Caribbean) countries. Furthermore, the Secretariat was represented at the first consultation meetings in Abidjan in November 2009 and February 2010. Subsequently, there was a national stakeholder consultation, at the end of 2010, to which the Secretariat legal unit provided input prior to and following on from the consultation, as to the development of the legal framework, including legislation, implementing the Conventions.

9. Fostering cooperation

COP-4 MANDATE:

Activity 20 - Fostering cooperation among designated national authorities: include the cooperation with technical focal points from related MEAs and other agreements as well as UNEP and FAO by continuing the meetings in each of the seven PIC regions (8 sub-regional meetings for DNAs, each including 10 countries and 25 participants).

Activity 21 - Regional and sub-regional meetings of DNAs and focal points of the Stockholm Convention: arrange for 4 subregional meetings for DNAs and Stockholm Convention focal points (each including 10 countries and 25 participants) in 2010. In cooperation with Basel and Stockholm Conventions

Activity 22 - Cooperation with SAICM, the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention contact points: arrange for 10 meetings where the RC contributes an extra day for participants to discuss Rotterdam Convention issues.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Sub-regional co-operation among stakeholders of Rotterdam-, Stockholm- and Basel-Conventions was strengthened in the reporting period through convening of sub-regional training workshops, action plan meetings and synergies workshops.

10. Provision of Legal support to Parties and Secretariat

COP-4 MANDATE:

Activity 5 - Provide general and legal policy advice: respond to Parties' queries relating to the implementation of and compliance with the Convention(s).

Activity 6 - Develop technical assistance programme for Parties to ensure an effective legal basis for the implementation of the Convention: facilitate the development of national capacity including personnel and infrastructure to implement the legal obligations of the Convention and to develop new and innovative mechanisms for delivering the information and assistance package to Parties upon request.

Priority Activity 7 - Develop a legal and administrative framework in support of the sound management of industrial chemicals: to complement the agricultural chemicals management programmes in effect in most Parties.

Activity 19 - Develop and implement a component to the technical assistance package to facilitate the delivery of legal and related service information and projects to Parties at the regional and national levels.

Please note also that, as mentioned in the COP-4 decision, the legal programme and support are cross-cutting with the other activities.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Secretariat legal unit is providing advice and guidance on general legal and policy questions, including on implementation of the Convention and its related programme of work components, to individual Parties and to the Secretariat staff members, as well as partners (UNEP, WTO, etc.) and other observers or stakeholders, to the Conference of the Parties (COP), including the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the COPs, and to the Chemical Review Committee as requested and needed, fostering synergies with other relevant Secretariats, such as the Stockholm and Basel Convention Secretariats, as well as other entities where necessary. In that respect, it is handling a wide range of legal and policy issues related to the analysis, interpretation and application of i) the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention and, where the case may be, the applicable rules of procedures, ii) other Multilateral Environment Agreements, iii) international,

public, private, and administrative law, iv) international trade issues, v) other instruments governing the UN activities and operations, etc.

The Secretariat legal unit is providing legal support in connection with technical assistance programmes, such as the “Probo Koala project”, which is mentioned in section 8 of the current progress report, referred to as “working with customs authorities”, and more specifically, by developing the legal component of technical assistance programmes for Parties to ensure an effective legal basis for the implementation of the Convention and facilitate the development of national capacity, including personnel and infrastructure, to implement the legal obligations of the Convention. New and innovative mechanisms of delivering the information and assistance package to Parties include, among others, the inclusion of specific legal segments in the programmes of technical assistance workshops and the development of legal guidance materials such as case studies, fostering synergies with the Stockholm and Basel Convention Secretariats, where necessary. Secretariat legal unit has launched a cycle of legal workshops following a synergistic approach between the 3 Secretariats of the Chemicals and Waste Convention: the first workshop took place in December 2010, back-to-back with the ‘Synergies Workshop’ in El Salvador.

The Secretariat legal unit is cooperating with the UNEP Division on Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC) to assist Governments in more effective and coherent implementation of existing international commitments by participating in, among others: the ninth Global Training Programme (GTP-9) on Environmental Law and Policy, held in November 2009 in Nairobi 2009 (see http://www.unep.org/Law/Programme_work/Training/global_training_prog.asp), and the preparing of an integrated synthesis of existing international environmental goals, objectives and targets (see <http://www.unep.org/law/PDF/ExistingIntAgreedGoalsandObjectives.pdf>). In this context, the Secretariat participated in the “First open-ended meeting of government designated experts on a compilation of internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives” which was held from 29 – 31 March 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. In further cooperative efforts, the Secretariat is working with the UNEP Chemicals branch and UNEP/DELIC, for the delivery of joint UNEP/UNDP legal workshops, as launched in Cambodia in December 2009, and held in Zambia in July 2010 as well as in Uruguay in December 2010. In addition, the Secretariat is contributing to the development of UNEP Chemicals branch legal guidance on the sound management of chemicals, including industrial chemicals. For this reason, it participated in the “First expert group meeting on the development of legal and institutional infrastructures and cost recovery measures for the sound management of chemicals”, as well as in the second meeting, respectively held in April and November 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a synergistic approach to activities relevant to industrial chemicals, the Secretariat legal unit provided input as to a set of documents, currently tested in pilot national situations, and participated in the developments undertaken by the Rotterdam Secretariat in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders – please refer to Activity 24P-related section on industrial chemicals, as described further hereunder (No13). These inputs and developments relate to, among others, the: i) industrial chemicals roadmap / strategy; ii) pilot studies for improving industrial chemicals management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition under the Rotterdam Convention – from these pilot studies, the Secretariat is preparing case studies on the development of legal framework for industrial chemicals, which include an analysis of the challenges and lessons learned on the development of legal instruments in the specific

countries and are expected to serve as a practical guidance to Parties; iii) WHO's Risk Assessment Toolkit, which includes a section on the Rotterdam Convention.

11. Follow-up to the synergies decision

COP-4 MANDATE:

Decision RC-4/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In follow up to the synergies decision as well as to the report of the Extraordinary COPs (available on the website <http://excops.unep.ch/>), the Secretariat has been involved in a number of activities

Regional synergies workshops: The Secretariat continues to organize regional synergies workshops jointly with the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to enhance cooperation and collaboration to facilitate joint implementation of the three Conventions at the national level. The first synergies workshops were held in October 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa, Montevideo, Uruguay in Nov. 2009 and Beijing, China in April 2010. Two additional regional workshops were held on 2010 in Slovakia (October) and in El Salvador (December). Additionally, two regional workshops are expected to take place in 2011.

Regional synergies programmes: The Secretariat has been supportive to the development of regional and national programmes for the joint implementation of the three Conventions at the national and regional level, in close cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. In addition to this the three Secretariats held a meeting bringing together SC and BC regional centers, UNEP and FAO regional officers and experts with contribution from all three Secretariats in August 2010 (see item 15 for additional information on this meeting)

Inter-Secretariat Thematic Groups: The Secretariat participates in 5 of the different thematic groups (Technical assistance, Public awareness and outreach, Regional Centres, Clearing house mechanism and Scientific and Technical matters) established between the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in order to increase cooperation and coordination on cross-cutting issues.

12. Working directly with individual countries on specific issues

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 23 - Develop programmes to assist Parties on specific issues upon requests: through integration with activities under way in the country or at the regional level including training in the use of existing DGDs in national decision making.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The way in which the specific needs of individual Parties are addressed depends on the issue of concern and the Parties involved. One recent example is the country consultation planned in February 2010 for Colombia, which recently has become a Party of the Rotterdam Convention. Colombia had requested some specific guidance on the Convention's implementation (see section on new Parties for more information).

A joint supporting mission to Colombia was organized in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. Ethiopia is strengthening its capacities to reduce the risks from pesticides through a number of trust fund projects with bilateral donors and FAO.

Upon request, the Secretariat is providing guidance and advice regarding import decisions and controls, and in setting up a pilot project on monitoring and reporting pesticide incidents. Upon receipt of requests for specific assistance on technical issues related to the implementation from D.R. Congo, Benin and Guinea Bissau, a technical mission to provide hands-on advice in resolving issues and to provide practical training.

13. Working on industrial chemicals

COP-4 MANDATE:

Priority activity 24 - Develop programme on industrial chemicals: to establish or increase the capacity of Parties to manage industrial chemicals on a national level, the programme should complement the facilities available nationally for the management of agricultural chemicals and should include the legal, administrative and financial components required as well as training and other capacity building initiatives to bring the programme into effect (6 meetings each including 6 countries and 20 participants)

Please read this section in conjunction with the section 10 here above on the provision of legal support, in particular concerning legal Priority Activity 7.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In collaboration with key partners (SSC, SBC, UNEP Chemicals, UNITAR, WHO, ILO, German GTZ, Swedish Keml, CIEL, OECD as well as other IOMC partners), the Secretariat has undertaken the following developments:

- a) Developed an **industrial chemicals roadmap / strategy** that addresses 4 key pillars:
 - ✓ Awareness-raising on industrial chemicals management and information exchange on the Rotterdam Convention and other relevant chemicals MEAs (Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, SAICM, Montreal Protocol etc.);
 - ✓ Building national capacity for performing risk assessments;
 - ✓ Building national capacities for developing and implementing risk management measures (development/strengthening of national legislation and policies for the sound management of industrial chemicals);
 - ✓ Knowledge development at the national and regional levels.

- b) **Strategic plan to support Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to strengthen capacity to provide Import Responses and Final Regulatory Actions for Industrial Chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention"**

The focus of the strategy and its implementation is for Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen their capacity to assess and manage risk, prepare and communicate their import responses and undertake decisions of final regulatory actions on hazardous industrial chemicals that are established under the Prior Informed Consent Procedure.

Thus, the aim of the strategy is to provide Parties with the capacity to carry out hazard and risk assessments on named chemicals and, based on the results of those assessments, decide on the risk management action that will be used to reduce the risk to human health and the environment as warranted.

The draft document will be presented to the COP at its 5th session.

c) Regional meetings: Joint Rotterdam Convention, World Health Organization, CIEL and GTZ; Awareness-raising and strengthening of Chemical Risk Assessment and Management of industrial chemicals

Date of activity	Region	Host country	Comments
27 January 2010	Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	Held back-to-back with the SAICM regional meeting
13 March 2010	Latin American and Caribbean	Jamaica	Held back-to-back with the SAICM regional meeting
3 Sept. 2010	Asia Pacific sub-region	Bangkok	China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Also representatives from Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore. This meeting was held back-to-back with the inception workshop for the Asbestos Project, funded by the Japanese Government.

d) Industrial chemicals (asbestos) management project for the Asia Pacific region: The Secretariat is in the process of implementing a project in collaboration with WHO, ILO and other partners to support the sound management of Industrial Chemicals in the Asia and Pacific region, focusing on industrial chemicals, with a special emphasis on asbestos. WHO's Risk Assessment Toolkit (see below) as well as other relevant guidance materials addressing health and environmental aspects will support activities in pilot countries.

Chronology of activities:

Date	Activity	Status
January 2010	Formation of a multi-stakeholder Project Implementation Group to coordinate the implementation of the project (Rotterdam Convention, UNEP Chemicals, Basel Convention Secretariat, UNITAR, WHO, and ILO)	Completed
February 2010	Meetings of the Inter-Agency Project Implementation Working Group (IAWG): Attended by WHO, IARC, ILO, Basel Convention Secretariat, UNEP Chemicals Branch,	Ongoing

	UNITAR; -19 January and 16 February 2010.	
September 2010 – March 2011	Asbestos Management Toolkit development to be coordinated by the University of Occupational and Environmental Health (UOEH), Fukuoka, Japan in conjunction with Working Group which includes experts from WHO, ILO, International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), UK Health and Safety Executive, Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency, and Ministry of Public Health of Thailand:	Ongoing
September 2010	<u>Initial workshop</u> : Inter-Agency Awareness-raising Workshop on the Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals, with Special Emphasis on Asbestos, for the Asia-Pacific Region (<i>China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam</i>). Bangkok, Thailand, 31 August -2 September 2010	Completed
January to June 2011	<i>Pilot project activities in the Philippines-to be carried out with guidance from WHO and ILO: to include:</i> a)The preparation of a legal review of existing legislative/administrative bases for asbestos in the context of overall chemicals management and occupational health and safety frameworks. The development of an institutional framework for the Philippine National Programme on the Elimination of Asbestos-related Diseases (PNPEAD), including: development of guidelines on medical surveillance, technical guidelines and a code of practice on management of asbestos and ac) A National Asbestos Profile for the Philippines	MOU being negotiated with the Philippines.
July 2011	Final workshop: Inter-Agency Awareness-raising Workshop on the Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals, with Special Emphasis on Asbestos, for the Asia-Pacific Region (<i>China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam</i>)	

By the end of the project, the pilot countries would have achieved the following:

- Development of a sound basis for the management and disposal of asbestos, in the overall context of the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention;
- Development of awareness of the risks associated with the use of industrial chemicals such as asbestos in selected communities;
- Identification of a range of suitable/practical measures and approaches to mitigate the risks associated with the use of asbestos;
- A project framework for the development of industrial chemicals management that could be applied/replicated in a further range of countries in the region.

e) Pilot studies for improving industrial chemicals management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition under the Rotterdam Convention

Key objectives of the above-mentioned pilot studies:

1. To develop practical guidance to selected developing countries on how to examine the status of current national industrial chemicals management and to establish priorities to implement a sound national chemicals management system for industrial chemicals.
2. To strengthen the capabilities of Parties to assess risks associated with industrial chemicals;
3. To facilitate and promote the development of integrated and harmonized national industrial chemicals legislative and administrative frameworks to support the implementation of national obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and other relevant legally binding international instruments;
4. To establish the foundation and key elements for a toolkit to be used by developing countries to undertake a process to collect information to determine the present national situation for example through the establishment of a national profile or an update of a national profile, and to analyze priorities for future activities to gain sound management of industrial chemicals.

Approach

Two countries expressed a willingness to participate in the pilot studies (Jordan and Botswana). These two countries will examine the national status of industrial chemical management through coordinated discussions and deliberations involving all relevant stakeholders. Elements of a toolkit developed by an international expert consultant in industrial chemicals management will be used to guide the process and the consultant will also facilitate and support the pilot countries. This analysis will involve countries building on information received to establish their status within a tiered structure to ensure that fundamental structures are examined and in place and capacity is increased in a logical step by step manner through the use of the information provided. The use of information from other countries will be encouraged and channels explored on how to obtain such information from other related MEAs.

WHO's Risk Assessment Toolkit: the Secretariat has collaborated with the WHO on the development of a risk assessment toolkit that will support developing countries in their risk assessment efforts related to hazardous chemicals. The toolkit provides information, flowcharts and case studies on risk assessment methodology and includes a section on the Rotterdam Convention. The toolkit is already being utilized in the delivery of the Secretariat's technical assistance activities on risk assessments, which are also being organized in collaboration with the WHO.

Legal framework for industrial chemicals: please refer to the section "provision of support", under section 10 here above, as the legal programme and support are cross-cutting with such activities on industrial chemicals.

14. Establishment of a clearing-house mechanism**COP-4 MANDATE:**

Priority activity 38 - Clearing-house mechanism: establishing in cooperation with Basel and Stockholm conventions a clearing-house mechanism that would provide online access to information and facilities that would assist Parties to implement the Convention.

Note: priority activity 18 on the develop and implement a programme to increase the capacity of Parties to access and utilize the clearing house mechanism is foreseen to be implemented jointly with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions during the next biennium 2012-2013 once a fully functioning and integrated clearing-house mechanism for the three Conventions has been established.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since June 2010, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has been working in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions on the following activities to establish a clearing-house mechanism:

Joint clearing-house mechanism activities

- Regular meetings of the inter-secretariat CHM thematic group and related task teams to discuss, inter alia, a common vision and long term strategy, the development of cross cutting information packages as “on-stop-shop” of information on chemicals and wastes, and a common look & feel and navigation structure of the joint CHM portal and individual websites;
- Preparation of a revised joint work plan for presentation at the Conferences of the Parties of the three Conventions for adoption at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three Conventions in 2011;
- Preparation of a report on other clearing-house mechanism and similar mechanisms;

Establishment of the RC components of the Joint CHM and integration of all information exchange and CHM activities under the joint clearing-house mechanism of the three Conventions

- Ongoing development and improvement of clearing-house mechanism modules specific to the Rotterdam Convention, such as:
 - Review and adjustments of the existing Import Response module and online form based on comments, feedback & guidance received from both CHM pilot sessions held in 2009 & 2010 in Armenia and Vietnam respectively
 - Development of a module and online form for the submissions of notifications of Final Regulatory Actions
- Ongoing development of cross-convention clearing-house mechanism modules, such as:
 - Developments and refinement of country profiles
 - Design of an integrated chemicals profile
- Full revision and adjustments to website and CHM interface, including the integration of both portals and all information management tools to a new web interface fully harmonized for the three Conventions;
- Ongoing migration of existing content from current website to new joint web interface.

Envisioned next steps

- Continuation of all development activities described above for presentation at COP.5

- Continuation of regular CHM inter-secretariat meetings to ensure harmonization and integration of all future development activities.

15. Partners in the regional delivery of technical assistance

COP-4 MANDATE:

Activity 25 - Facilitate annual meetings with representatives of the FAO and UNEP regional office: arrange for up to two meetings per year (5 UNEP and 14 FAO including 9 subregional offices)

Activity 26 - Facilitate annual meetings with the group of regional experts: arrange for up to one meeting per year for an estimated 20 representatives.

Activity 27 - Working with regional liaison offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe in collaboration with key partners: Coordinate the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building programmes at the regional and national levels.

This is to ensure the maximum use of resources to benefit the Parties and to arrange for a synergistic approach to chemicals management at the national level. The programme will be done in conjunction with UNEP and the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and will be coordinated through chemicals waste cluster managers to be placed in the regional offices of UNEP.

Activity 28 - Participate in the 26th session of Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC): promote integration with work on Rotterdam Convention; participate in one meeting during 2009 with regional experts.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

FAO and UNEP regional offices: A meeting for FAO and UNEP regional offices as well as Basel Convention Regional Centres and Stockholm Centres entitled “Joint Consultation of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and FAO and UNEP Regional Offices” was convened in Barcelona, Spain 27 September -- 1 October 2010. One of the objectives of this meeting was to review progress in 2009/10 and to develop regional strategies to allow the coordinated use of regional centres for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

WTO: the Secretariat and its legal unit participated in meetings held at the World Trade Organization, in particular to meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment as well as to informal meetings and discussions with the Trade and Environment Division and the Legal Affairs Division. It also provided input as to studies and documents on trade-related measures contained in Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Rotterdam Convention, and on other cross-cutting aspects between Trade and Environment.

16. The seventh meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC)

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The next meeting of the CRC will take place in Rome from 28 March-1 April 2011. In this year’s review list are eight chemicals including four industrial chemicals (PFOS, its salts and precursors, PentaBDE commercial mixtures, OctaBDE commercial mixtures, and pentachlorobenzene) and four pesticides (amitraz, carbaryl, endosulfan and a severely hazardous pesticide formulation, Gramoxone super).

17. PIC Circular

COP-4 MANDATE:

Activity 35 - PIC Circular: Preparation in English, French and Spanish, publication on CD ROM every six months, posted on Convention website and sent to all Parties.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

PIC Circulars XXXI (31) of June 2010 and XXXII (32) of December 2010 saw the publication of a total 40 notifications of final regulatory action for banned or restricted chemicals, which was double the number of notifications published in 2009. In addition, these two PIC Circulars saw the publication of over 700 new or revised import responses for Annex III chemicals, which is approximately seven times the numbers of import responses published in 2009. The Secretariat encourages Parties to periodically review their import responses and update them when necessary. Parties having difficulties submitting import responses are also encouraged to contact the Secretariat for assistance.

The DNA register, which accompanies each PIC Circular, contains contact information for the over 230 Designated National Authorities (DNAs) for Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

18. New Parties

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There are currently there are 140 Parties to the Convention. The new Parties to the Convention have received information and offers of assistance from the Secretariat in relation to implementation of their obligations under the Convention.