Convention: RC

Assisting parties on export notification and trade of chemicals banned or severely restricted by exporting Parties

LEGAL BASIS/MANDATE:

The obligations for countries and the process for export notifications are contained in Article 12 while Annex V lists the information that should be included with an export notification. The export notification obligations are also related to Article 13 "Information to accompany exported chemicals" and Article 5 "Procedures for banned and severely restricted chemicals". The elements described in the Programme for the delivery of technical assistance for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.6/INF/19) and decision RC-6/11 on Technical assistance provide the basis for activities addressing export notifications and trade-related provisions. The activity is in support of activity 15 of the approved programme of work and budget for 2014/15).

BACKGROUND:

A country that has banned or severely restricted a chemical in line with the definitions in Article 2, must, prior to the first export after the adoption of this regulatory action, and before the first export in any calendar year notify the designated national authority (DNA) of the importing party that it is shipping the chemical to that country.

Most developing countries export chemicals from developed countries. However, there are a few developing countries that produce and export chemicals to other developing countries. Designated National Authorities need to be aware of the relevant procedures.

The overall objective of the workshops is to assist developing country Parties that are major chemical producers and exporters to develop a "working paper" which sets out the information flow or interactions necessary at the national level for the implementation of trade related provisions of the Convention", by facilitating a national dialogue among the relevant stakeholders.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED:

- Trade-partner workshops aimed at strengthening the capacities of Parties in relation to trade aspects of the Rotterdam Convention:
 - Organize and convene 2 national workshops in 2 countries involving key stockholders such as the DNAs, customs offices, exporters, importers, manufacturers;
 - to ensure the understanding of the obligations to comply with import decisions, acknowledge and send export notifications and to provide information accompanying export as contained in Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Convention;
 - o to review the current status of the implementation of the above mentioned provisions and the operational procedures presently in place;
 - o to identify gaps in implementing these provisions, what needs to be done to fill these gaps, and what the associated challenges might be;
 - o to agree on the role of the DNA(s)m and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the mechanisms for coordination and communication among stakeholders in implementing these provisions;
 - to identify issues that might be considered in a subsequent meeting with principal trade partners.
 - Organize and convene 2 follow-up workshops involving trade partners:
 - o to receive feedback on the effectiveness by facilitating a dialogue among the selected party and its trade partners;
 - to promote a shared responsibility in implementing and enforcing the provisions of articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Convention.

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED:

- The key output will be a draft working paper which contains:
 - the current status of implementation of Article 11 to 13, related to trade;
 - the national operational procedures for the implementation of the articles;
 - assessment of gaps and what needs to be improved;
- Follow-up actions and responsibilities in the implementation of the key trade related provisions of the Convention.

VOLUNTARY BUDGET [USD] FOR 2014-2015		
10	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT	
1100	Professional staff	17,493
1200	Consultants	30,000
1600	Travel on Official Business	20,000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT	
3300	Meetings and Conferences	157,000
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT	
4100	Expendable equipment	1,000
52	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT	
5200	Reporting costs	2,000
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET		227,493
Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%		29,574
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET		257,067