

# BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

## PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

<b>CONVENTIONS :</b>		<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> BC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> SYN		Upgrading of the IT components to enhance user-friendly access to information exchange under the Rotterdam Convention through better integration into the joint clearing-house mechanism	
<b>FUNDING OPTIONS:</b>		<b>TYPE / LOCATION</b>	<b>TARGETED COUNTRIES:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding in full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial funding possible		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National	Parties to the Rotterdam Convention
Project start date: <i>01/01/2016</i>		Project completion date: <i>31/12/2017</i>	
		Total duration: <i>24 months</i>	
<b>LEGAL BASIS AND MANDATE</b>			
<p>Activity 25 (S10): Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including PIC database and Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish</p> <p>Activity 33 (S20): Legal and policy activities under the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; national legislation, illegal traffic and trade and enforcement under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p> <p>BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange</p> <p>Decision RC-7/2: Proposal on ways of exchanging information on exports and export notifications</p> <p>RC Articles 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1</p>			
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION</b>			
<p>The Rotterdam Convention (RC) promotes shared responsibility among parties in the international trade of hazardous chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating this information to parties. Parties inform the Secretariat of their actions to ban or severely restrict a chemical for human health and environmental reasons through notifications of final regulatory action (FRA) (Article 5 of the Convention); as well as decisions on whether they consent to import chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention through import responses (Article 10) as part of the PIC procedure. Parties exporting chemicals banned or severely restricted in their territories shall provide export notifications to the importing parties (Article 12 and 13).</p> <p>Under Article 14 on information exchange, parties are requested to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning the chemicals within the scope of the Convention, including toxicological, ecological and safety information; and the provision of information on domestic regulatory actions. The Secretariat has developed a toolkit (FRA Evaluation toolkit) for a pragmatic approach to consider scientifically sound information in the evaluation of chemicals for regulatory action with a view to increasing the notifications of FRAs.</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, at its seventh meeting (RC COP-7), by decision RC-7/11, requested the Secretariat to provide access to thematic information relevant to the conventions to the clearing-house mechanism, among other things, on the PIC procedure and notifications procedures under the convention (priority area (vii)) and on legal matters comprised on FRAs, import responses, and export notifications (priority area (viii)).</p> <p>Additionally, the RC COP-7 requested the Secretariat, by decision RC-7/2, to facilitate the exchange of information on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11, and Articles 12 and 14 of the Convention. The purpose of this project is to upgrade and/or develop necessary IT components of the clearing-house mechanism as requested by decision RC-7/11 for the facilitation of implementing related thematic activities on information exchange.</p>			
<b>PROPOSED ACTIVITIES</b>			
<p><b>Upgrade the PIC Office Automation System database application, developed in 2001, to include new more user-friendly functionalities and to better integrate it with the clearing-house mechanism IT platform. Review of the database structure and interface of the following data entry components:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chemicals database;</li> <li>2. FRA module (including online data entry);</li> </ol>			

3. Import response module (including online data entry). The IR data entry module (and database components) requires to be updated to match the revised IR format.

**Development of IT components to facilitate the information exchange on exports and export notifications.**

1. Development of web services to enable automatic retrieval and integration of Import Responses and Final Regulatory Actions onto stakeholders' information systems;
2. Implementation of a traceability mechanism to evaluate the impact of information exchange.

**Development of an information packaging system to facilitate access to, and discovery of, the information content, including:**

1. Development of the information architecture (IA), including a controlled vocabulary system (CVS) for thematic presentation and search;
2. Review of the document management system for a better integration of RC documents (FRA supporting documentation, DGDs, etc) into the information architecture indicated above;
3. Computer programming for extraction and presentation in the web of information provided by parties and other sources such as:
  - a. Information exchanged through FRAs, including the FRA Evaluation toolkit; components (See the concept note related FRA Evaluation toolkit under 21 (RC));
  - b. Information related to IRs and exports.
4. Computer programming for the preparation of automatic listings and statistics such as:
  - a. Number and listing of FRAs submitted by PIC region;
  - b. Number and listing of chemicals not currently listed in Annex III and for which FRA notifications have been received;
  - c. Distribution, per PIC region, of IRs including rates of IRs submission per chemical;
  - d. Number and listing of export notifications by chemical and by PIC region.

**RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED**

**Expected results:**

1. Access to thematic information (legal, toxicological, risk evaluations, etc.) collected from parties through the PIC procedure, FRAs, exports notifications, and through other means, is provided;
2. The exchange of information is facilitated.

**Indicator of success:**

The PIC database application is upgraded and available for use by the Secretariat, parties and other stakeholders.

**Means of verification:**

The PIC database application is upgraded and available for use by the Secretariat, parties and other stakeholders.

**PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY**

The approach and methods for the upgrade and development of the IT components of this project are integrated within the joint clearing-house mechanism IT platform. Information is structured, compiled and packaged following formats and reports agreed on by COP decisions.

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

The activities proposed for this project consider involvement of stakeholders and take into account mainstreaming gender aspects throughout the implementation phase.

Evidences show that some groups are mostly vulnerable to pesticide poisoning such as women of childbearing age, particularly expectant and breastfeeding mothers, children, but also migrant, seasonal and casual workers. These groups form a relatively large proportion of agricultural workers. On average, 20 to 30% of the waged workers are women worldwide and, in the context of family farming, large numbers of unwaged women are actively involved in agriculture. According to FAO, women represent 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force worldwide. It is estimated that over two-thirds (70%) of all working children are found in agriculture (ILO IPEC, 2000). Since many children below the age of employment live on farms, the risk of accidents and pesticide exposure is relatively high.

In line with the BRS Gender Action Plan, special attention on gender issues, as it may appear from the information provided or collected or exchanged, could then be paid. The CHM could indeed be used to better track or monitor, identify and collect information on what may have an impact on gender issues. Thanks to these information, the CHM could, in addition, be used as a tool to help in better targeting activities aiming at ensuring better gender balance, in particular as to vulnerable groups who may suffer from a greater exposure to hazardous chemicals, e.g. pesticides as mentioned above, as covered by the Rotterdam Convention. CHM could help in considering specific risks linked to these vulnerable groups.

<b>OUTREACH AND INFORMATION SHARING</b>	
<p>This project focuses on providing necessary IT tools for the information exchange and dissemination of information in a structured manner through the RC Convention website. The outcome of the activity will be reported to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2017.</p>	
<b>BUDGET [USD] FOR 2016-2017</b>	
STAFF PERSONNEL	46,400
CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	120
TRAVEL	-
EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, FURNITURE	-
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	-
GRANTS OUT	-
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>46,520</b>
<i>Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%</i>	<i>6,048</i>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>52,568</b>