

NIGERIA 1

Project: Strengthening of the legal and institutional infrastructures for sound management of chemicals (SMC)

Second Independent Assessment of the Closed Projects under the Special Programme Report (December 2024)

RESULTS

Overall Assessment

The project in Nigeria demonstrated progress across six of the eight Core Indicator Criteria and achieved many of its planned objectives, delivering tangible results across critical areas such as governance, capacity building, policy development, and compliance with international conventions. It developed a centralized chemicals and waste management portal (though full integration and functionality remain pending), revised the mandates of coordination committees, and facilitated the drafting of the Chemicals and Waste Management Bill. The project also met capacity-building targets by developing and delivering comprehensive training programs, including national accreditation and prosecutors' courses. Additionally, it supported Nigeria in submitting key reports to international conventions, meeting compliance requirements. However, some objectives, such as the formal adoption of the bill and the establishment of fully operational cost recovery measures, were not fully realized at the project's conclusion.

Implementing partner:
Federal Ministry of
Environment

Agreement timeframe:
13 Nov 2018 – 31 Oct 2022
(Initially to 31 Jul 2021, with
1 amendment)

Budget: 499,800 USD

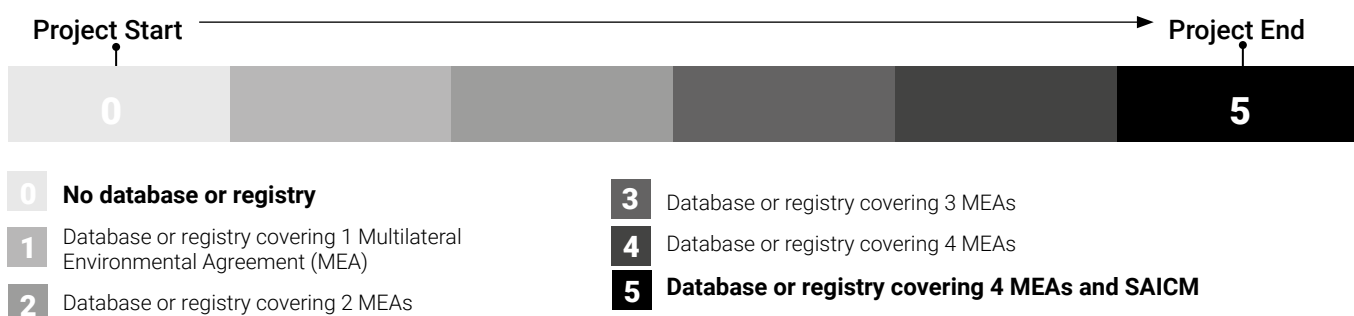
Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database

The grey color coding reflects the fact that as of the time of this assessment the portal is developed but not yet operational or integrated as planned.

RATING

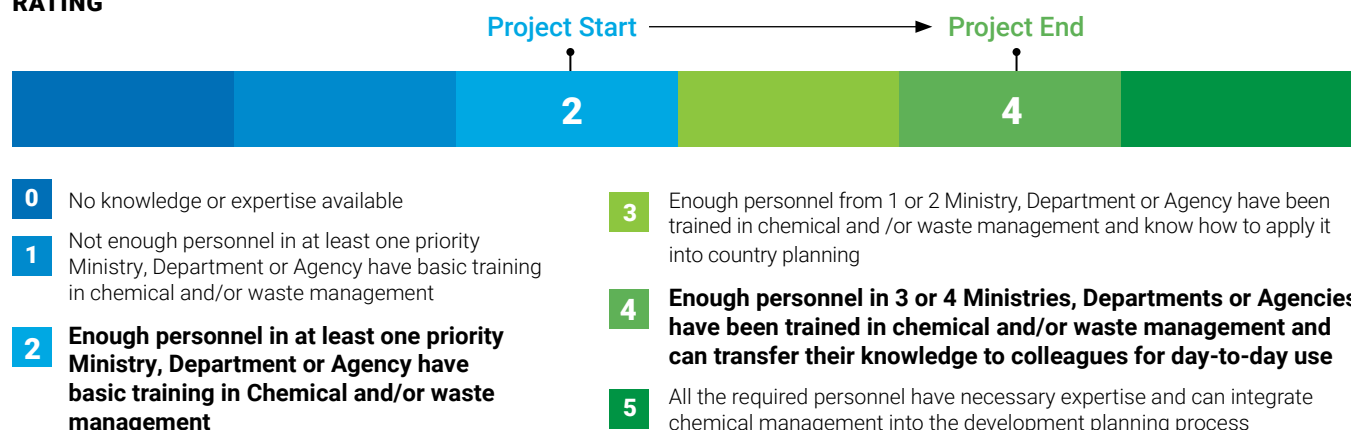


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project established a [web portal](#)¹ to consolidate chemicals and waste management data across sectors and covers all four MEAs and SAICM/GFC. This centralized platform currently contains only general information on chemicals, along with some policy documents, legislative resources, and training materials. It was intended to be integrated with the Federal Ministry of Environment's website to allow agency collaboration and regular updates for public access. However, due to bandwidth constraints at the Ministry, which serves as the primary administrator, integration is still pending, and work reportedly continues. At the time of this assessment the data portal is not operational, the progress is represented in grey, indicating that the portal is "developed but not operational yet or integrated as planned".
- Additionally, the project conducted a study to review existing cost recovery measures for chemicals and waste management in Nigeria, collecting data on current financial instruments, regulatory frameworks, and gaps in funding mechanisms for sustainable chemicals management.
- Furthermore, the project developed a Manual on Monitoring Network for Chemicals and Waste Management to establish a systematic approach for collecting and managing data related to chemicals and waste in Nigeria. This manual outlines key steps for building a national monitoring network that meets international conventions and reporting requirements.

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise

RATING



SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project developed a comprehensive capacity-building strategy in collaboration with UNITAR, addressing the need for expertise in sound chemicals and waste management, including compliance, enforcement, and global best practices. This strategy led to the development of training materials for Train-the-Trainer (TOT) courses, e-learning modules, a national accreditation course for chemical dealers, and a prosecutor's course for regulatory personnel. These capacity-building programs were delivered to chemical dealers, regulatory personnel, and through a Train-the-Trainer workshop for relevant ministries, departments, and agencies responsible for the sound management of chemicals in Nigeria, as well as for members of the National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) and the Technical Coordinating Committee.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management

RATING



SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) and the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) in Nigeria were established in 2010 to oversee sound management of chemicals, with the NCCM serving as an advisory body and the TCC providing technical support. A needs assessment conducted by the project in 2021 highlighted gaps in coordination, prompting a revision of the committees' Terms of Reference (ToR) to enhance their regulatory role and address stakeholder feedback. This revision aimed to promote improved coherence, efficiency, and multisectoral collaboration across government, private sector, and civil society, especially in policy harmonization and compliance in chemicals management. Additionally, as noted above, the project supported the committees in upgrading their knowledge through targeted training and involving them in discussions and the review of project deliverables, equipping members to address emerging issues and align their practices with international standards.
- Despite the NCCM's functioning, the adoption of the project-supported Chemicals and Waste Management Coordination Committee Bill, 2022 is essential to provide legal backing for its operations. This bill formalizes the NCCM's authority, enabling it to effectively coordinate chemicals and waste management across sectors, establish sub-committees, and manage a central database.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy

RATING



- | | |
|--|--|
| 0 There was no strategy, policy or plan | 2 The strategy, policy or plan was adopted |
| 1 The strategy, policy or plan was proposed | 3 The strategy, policy or plan was in place and being implemented |

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- In collaboration with UNITAR the project developed Training and Awareness Raising Strategy on sound chemicals and waste management in Nigeria, along with annual implementation workplans.
- The project contributed to the development of the National Implementation Plan for Cost Recovery of Chemicals and Waste Management in Nigeria as a framework to make chemicals management financially sustainable. This plan addresses funding challenges by proposing fees for chemical permits and inspections, involving various sectors, including agriculture and industry, to support costs associated with regulatory activities. Stakeholders adopted at the technical level the framework content, with implementation being administratively supported, though formal legal backing remains in progress (e.g., regulatory amendments for allowing costrecovery fees, defining enforcement authority for relevant agencies, establishing compliance mechanisms, and ensuring transparent fund management).

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation

RATING



- | | |
|--|---|
| 0 Nothing was done | 2 The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was adopted |
| 1 The relevant authority proposed to integrate the MEAs into national legislation | 3 The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being implemented |

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- Based on a legislative needs assessment, the project proposed a comprehensive legislative framework for sound chemicals and waste management in Nigeria, and developed the Chemicals and Waste Management Bill as noted under Criterion 1.4.
-

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party

RATING



- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 No reports were submitted | 2 Reports were submitted on time, yet they were partially completed |
| 1 Reports were partially completed and delayed | 3 Reports were both complete and submitted on time |

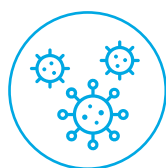
SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- Based on the data consolidated and provided by the project, Nigeria submitted the following reports to the secretariats of BRS and Minamata conventions:
 - Nigeria submitted its first full national report to the Minamata Convention on December 31, 2021, covering the period from August 16, 2017, to December 31, 2020. The publication of Nigeria's report on the Convention's official website indicates that it met the necessary submission requirements.
 - According to the Basel Convention's records, Nigeria submitted its national report for the year 2020 on December 31, 2021 and was published on the Convention's website.
- While Stockholm Convention mandates the countries to submit reports every four years, there is no publicly available information indicating that Nigeria has submitted subsequent reports since 2014.

FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE



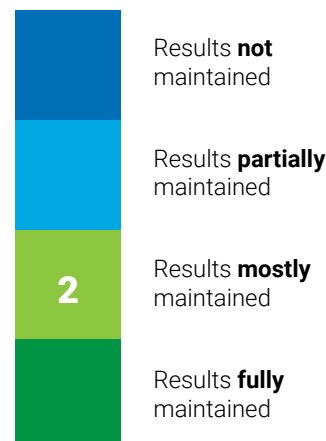
Gender: The project promoted gender inclusivity by actively encouraging female participation in SMC-related roles and advocating for more women to join NCCM.



COVID-19: The pandemic moderately impacted project activities, particularly by limiting movement and restricting the ability to hold in-person workshops. This resulted in delays or adjustments to planned training sessions and meetings, which had to be adapted to the constraints of the health crisis.

The project results are **mostly maintained** due to the following:

- Funding has been secured to sustain core project outcomes, but with limited budgetary provisions. This financing allows for the maintenance of essential activities, yet additional resources will be required to expand and fully support SMC initiatives long-term.
- The project's training and awareness strategy (not costed), which includes a five-year work plan (2022–2026), aims to sustain knowledge-sharing and capacity building in SMC by utilizing trained personnel within institutions. Designed as a “living document” to be updated every two years, the strategy supports continuous learning and adaptation to emerging needs in chemicals management. Additionally, the project's development of an accreditation course provides a structured pathway for ongoing professional certification in SMC.
- Continued legal developments for cost-recovery measures enhance the project's potential for long-term financial sustainability. Although limited funding has been secured to maintain core outcomes, the proposed cost-recovery system within the strategy increases the likelihood of sustained support for SMC initiatives in Nigeria.
- These efforts will be further reinforced by a second project with the Special Programme, titled “Strengthening National Infrastructural and Human Capacity for Sound Chemicals and Waste Management in Nigeria” which was signed 31 October 2024 and will build upon the results of the first project.



LESSONS LEARNED

Coordination bodies can function well even without formal legal backing in the presence of projects, though legal backing is essential for their sustained and structured functioning beyond project timelines. During the project period, the National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) successfully coordinated SMC activities by leveraging project resources and stakeholder engagement. However, without formal legal support, such bodies may face challenges in maintaining continuity, authority, and structured operations after project funding and direct support end.

Ongoing communication and feedback strengthen project implementation: Continuous communication and feedback from the Special Programme Secretariat played a critical role in guiding project progress. Regular monitoring and constructive feedback enabled the project team to identify and address challenges early, ensuring timely course corrections, informed decision-making, and alignment with project goals.

Data collection enhances compliance and reporting: By promoting systematic data collection practices (Manual on Monitoring Network for Chemicals and Waste Management) the project has improved Nigeria's ability to meet international reporting requirements. The benefits of data collection include more accurate compliance tracking, better-informed policymaking, and enhanced transparency in SMC. Future projects may prioritize data systems to support national and international reporting requirements effectively.

Open communication and transparency among stakeholders overcome institutional barriers: Initially, some government organizations were hesitant to fully engage due to concerns over conflicting mandates. However, through open communication and a collaborative approach, these barriers were gradually broken down, fostering trust and teamwork.

¹ <https://chemicalsandwaste.wixsite.com/smc-nigeria/national-documents>. Before the public launch, feedback from national stakeholders on the website's flow and design was collected, and their suggestions were forwarded to UNITAR to enhance the website's usability and functionality.