



GHANA

Project: Strengthening institutional capacity for the sustainable sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life-cycle and the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Ghana

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

RESULTS

Overall Assessment

The project demonstrated notable progress across key Core Indicator Criteria, achieving most of its planned objectives. It developed and adopted a comprehensive 10-year Strategic Plan on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (SMCW), built capacities, established an interim Technical Working Group to enhance multi-stakeholder coordination, and introduced a harmonized reporting system to streamline MEA reporting and data sharing. While the adoption of the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Bill was not achieved within the project timeframe, the primary objective of drafting the bill was successfully completed. Additionally, although the coordination mechanism was not formalized due to delays in legislative processes, the interim Technical Working Group functioned effectively, ensuring collaboration and progress toward shared goals.

Implementing partner:

Environmental Protection Agency

Agreement timeframe:

16 May 2018 - 31 Jul 2022
(initially to 30 April 2021, with 1 amendment)

Budget: 250,000 USD

Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

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

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

RATING

Project Start

Project End



0 No knowledge or expertise available

1 **Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management**

2 Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management

3 Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning

4 Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use

5 **All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process**

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project organized multiple training workshops for key personnel involved in chemicals and waste management, including focal institutions and media representatives, to enhance coordination and build capacity for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (SMCW). UNITAR collaborated with national institutions to provide capacity-building sessions.
- The Training of Trainers approach enabled participants to pass on their knowledge, creating a broader impact across agencies and extending the project reach. Positive feedback was reported to the project management from the customs authorities, who improved their procedures in handling chemicals in accordance with the global harmonized system.

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

RATING



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>0 There was no multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism</p> <p>1 There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with very limited and irregular participation from Government and non-Government bodies</p> <p>2 There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with more regular and structured participation from Government and non-Government bodies</p> | <p>3 There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government bodies</p> <p>4 There was coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government bodies</p> <p>5 The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached full maturity with full participation from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a joint community of practice</p> |
|---|---|

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project aimed to establish a unified, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism for SCMW. This mechanism sought to streamline and enhance coordination among existing statutory bodies, such as the Hazardous Chemicals Committee (HCC) and the Pesticides Technical Committee (PTC), alongside other national committees. The goal was to create a unified structure that would oversee the effective implementation of chemical-related MEAs and SAICM in Ghana.
- However, despite efforts to formalize this unified structure through an amendment to the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490), known as the Environmental Protection Authority Bill, 2022, the legislative process had not been completed by the end of the project and the unified mechanism was not legally established.
- In the absence of formal legislative approval, the project adapted by setting up a Technical Working Group (TWG) on an interim basis. Established in 2019, the TWG functioned effectively as a coordination platform, bringing together representatives from the HCC, PTC, and other relevant committees, including those related to the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention.
- The project has also developed a Harmonized Reporting System to facilitate not only data collection and reporting to international secretariats but also the sharing of developments among national agencies involved in SCMW. Supported by capacity-building workshops led by UNITAR, this system standardized reporting practices, enabling agencies to communicate progress, challenges, and updates with one another. This strengthened inter-agency coordination and improved transparency, as all stakeholders, including the Chemicals Control and Management Centre (CCMC) of the EPA and other focal institutions, gained access to each other's updates.

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

RATING



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

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project, in cooperation with UNITAR, facilitated the development of a 10-year strategic plan (2021-2030) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (SMCW), which was adopted by National Multi-sectoral Committee and EPA Governing Board and gazetted (published). The strategic plan includes a budget and identifies potential funding sources to support its implementation. Stakeholders were encouraged to develop institution-based action plans based on the strategic plan and incorporate them into their respective institutional workplans. This approach ensures that sound management of chemicals and waste is not only integrated into national development but also embedded into the day-to-day operations of relevant institutions, with specific roles assigned to lead and collaborating institutions.
- In cooperation with UNITAR, the project also developed a Communication Strategy for SMCW, along with a costed Action Plan that outlines resource requirements and identifies responsible agencies.

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

RATING



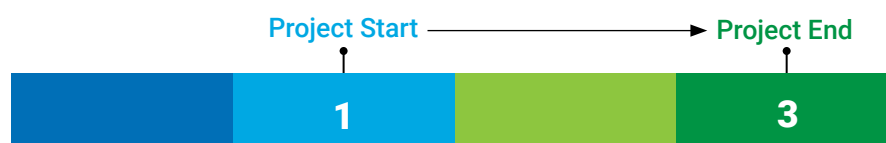
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 Nothing was done | 2 The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was adopted |
| 1 The relevant authority proposed to integrate the MEAs into national legislation | 3 The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being implemented |

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project facilitated the development of an Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Bill, which has reportedly been under review by Parliament since 2022.

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:

- The project successfully facilitated the submission of all outstanding chemicals and waste-related reports for MEAs, including those related to the Basel, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions.

FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE



Participatory approach: The project's success was largely attributed to a participatory approach, with working groups formed from diverse stakeholders including government agencies, private sector representatives, industry groups, and NGOs, who developed all key outputs. These groups worked collaboratively on a range of deliverables, including conducting the situation analysis, drafting strategies and plans such as the Communication Plan, and contributing to legislative efforts. The web-based harmonized reporting system and the submission of all outstanding chemicals and waste-related MEAs reports were also the result of inputs from these multisectoral teams. This participatory process ensured that the outputs were aligned with the practical needs of all sectors involved.



Gender: The project demonstrated gender responsiveness by ensuring that over 46% of participants in its activities—such as workshops, consultations, and capacity-building sessions—were women. Furthermore, gender considerations were systematically integrated into the SMCW strategy and training materials.



Socio-political factor: A change in the head of a key institution caused a minor delay in the project implementation.



Institutional: Changes in representation from key ministries and agencies led to a minor loss of institutional memory. However, the consistent engagement of key stakeholders was maintained despite these changes.



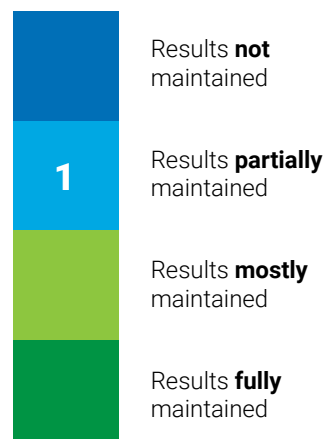
COVID-19: The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted project activities, causing the suspension of several key events for almost a year. This led to delays in project implementation and warranted an extension to ensure the completion of outstanding tasks.

SUSTAINABILITY

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

- The enactment of SMCW policies and plans and continued use of a web-based harmonized reporting system for MEAs supports the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.
- Financing, both monetary and in-kind, was secured by the government to maintain essential project outcomes, including the mainstreaming of SMCW, ongoing training, and awareness creation activities. However, this funding covers only the most basic results, highlighting a need for additional resources to expand and sustain all project impacts

RATING After the End of the Project



LESSONS LEARNED

Effective coordination for sound chemicals and waste management can still be achieved without a formal unified structure. By establishing an interim Technical Working Group that consolidated input from four existing committees and operated under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) leadership, the project fostered inter-agency collaboration and aligned actions with SCMW goals, demonstrating that cohesive progress is possible through informal yet structured partnerships.

Drafting legislation within a project's timeframe requires realistic expectations: While preparing draft legislation is feasible within a three-year project, having it enacted during that timeframe is often unrealistic due to the slower pace of governmental processes. The legislation for industrial and consumer chemicals, though drafted, had not been passed by project's end, highlighting the need for persistence and continued advocacy.

Post-project follow-up demonstrates commitment to sustained impact: The SP Secretariat's follow-up efforts after project completion show a strong commitment to ensuring that the project's outcomes, such as the draft legislation, are realized. This continued engagement signals to local stakeholders that the Secretariat remains invested in the long-term success of the initiative, fostering a sense of responsibility and encouraging further progress even after the project officially ends.

Institutional continuity is vital to sustain legislative momentum: The retirement or departure of key personnel, such as project focal points, can disrupt follow-up activities and hinder progress. Identifying and engaging institutional representatives during the project who will remain involved post-project is essential to maintain momentum and ensure the passage of critical legislative measures.

When national capacities are limited, partnering with specialized organizations like UNITAR can bridge critical capacity gaps, promote adherence to international standards, and establish a foundation for long-term, self-sustained progress. UNITAR's involvement enhanced technical expertise, facilitated knowledge transfer, and strengthened local capacities for sustainable management practices.