

Convention: SYN

Strengthening of capacity for information exchange and coordination at national level

LEGAL BASIS/MANDATE:

Work programme activity #: S1 and S3

S1 : Develop tools to support countries in implementing the Conventions and
S3 : Support for sound chemicals and wastes management at the national level

COP-decisions:

Decisions : RC- 5/9; RC-5/10; RC-5/12

The proposed project responds to the implementation of synergy activities S1 and S3 on the provision of support for implementation of the Conventions at national level, by strengthening information exchange. At the same time, the project aims at strengthening collaboration and coordination between key stakeholders with particular focus on sharing information and strengthening decision making process at national level.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Rotterdam Convention (RC) has two key provisions, the PIC procedure and information exchange. Decision RC-5/10, taken at COP-5 (2011) requests the development of tools for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

The process of information exchange follows three main channels: between the RC secretariat and Parties, among Parties, and within the Party among different national stakeholders.

Designated National Authorities (DNAs) play a key role in exchanging information with the national key stakeholders. DNAs receive through the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention or from DNAs of other Parties very valuable information such as import decisions, summaries including reasons for bans of chemicals in other Parties, reports on cases of pesticide poisoning, export notifications. Yet they often lack a systematic approach through which they can share this information with other key national stakeholders tasked to take action on chemicals concerned. In addition, DNAs are very often not directly involved in the national decision making process, and they lack relevant background information or supporting documentation related to such national actions and thus experience difficulties in fulfilling their tasks.

The Secretariat could support DNAs with the development of a user –friendly electronic communication/information exchange tool which would include the identification of: national key players, available national information systems, tools and networks, available information material, and information to be distributed under the Rotterdam Convention to national key stakeholders as well as to be provided to the Secretariat and to Designated National Authorities of exporting countries.

The project will use the PIC social network as a tool or a platform of information exchange. This tool will be web based, centralized and available on the DNA protected area already present in the new web site.

The concept of this tool is that the DNAs will create, request and manage communication channels between them and the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Environment, Industry, the Committee of registration, NGOs and, subsequently, the Secretariat.

The goal of this tool is to provide the DNAs with a flexible mechanism to establish an effective information exchange within national stakeholders.

The tool must be able to send or receive sets of information and in particular to:

- store contact lists and emails of all stakeholders at national level
- dispose of a set of information packages, created by the Secretariat, to facilitate thematic send out of key information to Customs, different Ministries (*as PIC circular content, list of Annex III chemicals, updated list of import decisions, updated list of banned chemicals*)
- create and track individual or grouped correspondence sets

- request on regular basis information from national stakeholders
- store received information as reports on imported chemicals, export notifications, human health and environment incident report, export notification, restricted chemicals at national level, etc.
- set reminders or to schedule automatic mail requests to a contact or a group of contacts

This activity will demonstrate how PIC social network could help national stakeholders to strengthen information exchange between themselves and facilitate the decision making process at national level

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED:

- Assess the present situation and determine the needs for an information exchange system
- *Create and maintain PIC social network accounts*
- *Help users to create and maintain user profiles*
- *Train network members on how to use the social network platform*
- *Train participants on type of information to be exchanged and the coordination process*
- *Organize and moderate discussion groups*

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED:

- ***Participants trained on how to use the PIC social network***
- ***Coordination and collaboration between DNAs and key stakeholders strengthened***
- ***Key obligations (import responses, notifications, export notifications) under Convention better addressed***

BUDGET [USD]

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<i>BUDGET COMPONENT</i>	
<i>IT Consultant (Personnel Service Agreement 3 months, WAR-When actually Required, 90days x 300USD)</i>	<i>27,000</i>
<i>Two sub regional workshops</i>	<i>80,000</i>
<i>Staff travel (travel of one secretariat staff to attend the two workshops)</i>	<i>7,500</i>
<i>1 consultant travel</i>	<i>7,500</i>
TOTAL FUNDS TO BE RAISED FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	<i>122,000</i>
COP APPROVED BUDGET (BD, RV, SV trust funds)	<i>1,320,000</i>
Funding received (as of 1 March 2013) by Germany and Norway	<i>132,802</i>