



Guidance on the scope of the Special Programme

Sixth round of applications

Call for Applications opens: 11 April 2022
Application Deadline: 12 August 2022

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1. Introduction

This document provides revised guidelines on the project application process to the sixth round of applications for funding from the Special Programme Trust Fund.

The terms of reference for the Special Programme, as outlined in annex 1, were adopted under [UNEA resolution 1/5](#) with the aim of supporting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities for each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach.

In 2011, the 26th Governing Council of UNEP requested Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate an inclusive, country-driven, consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term. Following two rounds of consultations in 2013 and 2014, the outcome of the consultative process, which included an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste which was established under [decision GC/27/12](#) (Annex II), was presented to the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Governments in resolution 1/5 welcomed the integrated approach, comprising: 1) mainstreaming; 2) industry involvement; and 3) dedicated external financing. These components are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the long-term and sustainable financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The Special Programme is one of two key complementary elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) being the second element

For the purposes of the Special Programme, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

These guidelines aim to assist applicants in understanding the scope of the Special Programme and the proposed projects to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

The application guidelines are structured as follows:

1. Chapter 2 describes the Special Programme and provides logistical facts about the submission of a project proposal. This chapter also describes the next steps once the project application is submitted to the Special Programme Secretariat.
 2. Chapter 3 provides information on possible areas of on which projects can focus within the context of the terms of reference of the Special Programme and taking into account national priorities and information obtained following preparatory national consultations prior to developing the project proposal.
 3. Chapter 4 provides an overview on gender consideration and UNEP safeguard standards that should be considered when drafting and implementing Special Programme projects.
 4. Chapter 5 provides a summary of considerations relating to monitoring and evaluation.
 5. Chapter 6 provides links to additional resources that can be used by applicants.
- Annex I sets out the terms of reference of the Special Programme; Annex II sets out the Governing council decision on the integrated approach; Annex III provides an overview of the possible scope of projects and Annex IV summarizes the appraisal criteria.

The application guidelines supersede the previous application guidelines launched during previous rounds of applications. The “*Guidance on the scope of the Special Programme*” was updated as follows:

- With a view to aligning the upcoming projects to the United Nations Development System Reform, the Secretariat has included under the section 2.1 of this document a new item defining an additional characteristic that a Special Programme project should aspire to have, namely to “creates synergies with other related initiatives in the country in the context of the ongoing reform of the United Nations Development System”
- The section in Annex III regarding the determination of GEF eligibility was updated to include information that pertains to GEF-8.

2. What is the Special Programme?

The expected outcome of the measures supported by the Special Programme is that strengthened national institutions in the area of chemicals and waste would have the capacity to develop and monitor the implementation of national policies, strategies, programmes and legislation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, to promote the adoption, monitoring and enforcement of legislation and regulatory frameworks and to promote the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, national budgets, policies, legislation and implementation frameworks at all levels.

Strengthening sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term is essential for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. The integration of sound management of chemicals and waste¹ into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a major achievement. Therefore, by linking the Special Programme with the economic, environmental and social development agenda, it creates an incentive to facilitate the implementation of the international chemicals and waste related multilateral environmental agreements, specifically the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and the Minamata Convention, as well as the Strategic Approach.

The expected outcome of the Special Programme is to strengthen the capacities of national institutions to do the following:

- (a) Develop and monitor the implementation of national policies, strategies, programmes and legislation for the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- (b) Promote the adoption, monitoring and enforcement of legislation and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- (c) Promote the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans, national budgets, policies, legislation and implementation frameworks at all levels, including addressing gaps and avoiding duplication;
- (d) Work in a multisectoral, effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and sustainable manner in the long term;
- (e) Facilitate multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination at the national level;
- (f) Promote private sector responsibility, accountability and involvement;
- (g) Promote the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach;

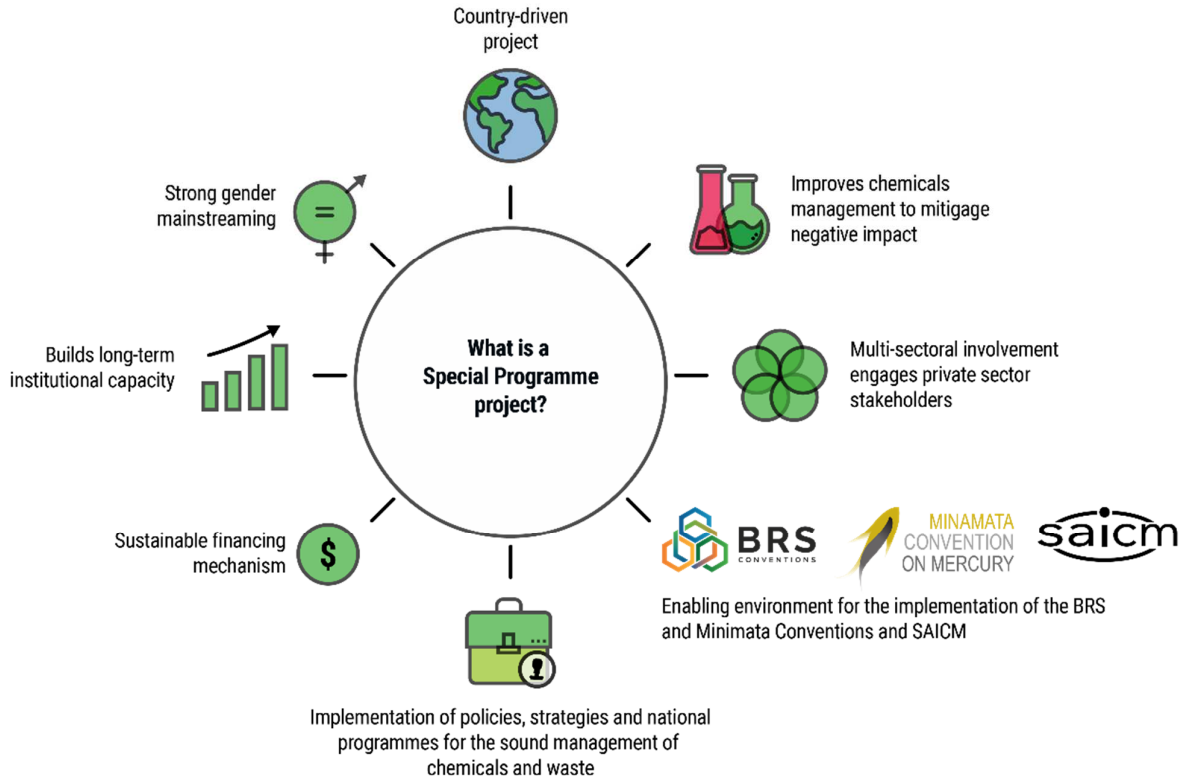
¹ Here understood as hazardous waste. Nuclear waste, biological waste, sanitation waste and other such types of waste are not included.

- (h) Promote cooperative and coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management at the national level.



2.1. What is a Special Programme project?

A Special Programme project:	A project is NOT a Special Programme project if it:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is a country-driven project that is conceived and implemented by the applicant ○ Builds long-term capacity in the relevant ministry or ministries ○ Has a sustainable financing mechanism or a plan for ensuring long-term sustainability ○ Focuses on multi-sectoral involvement ○ Improves chemicals and waste management to mitigate negative impact ○ Engages with private sector stakeholders ○ Promotes an enabling environment to foster the ratification and implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and implementation of SAICM. ○ Coordinates the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and waste ○ Has a gender mainstreaming component and promotes consideration of gender and UNEP safeguards standards ○ Emphasizes gender-disaggregated data collection where relevant ○ Creates synergies with other related initiatives in the country in the context of the ongoing reform of the United Nations Development System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focuses on short term activities that do not contribute to long term institutional strengthening ○ Funds outputs beyond the duration of the project ○ Is primarily driven or implemented by an organization other than the Government ○ Engages only one relevant sector when others may also be relevant ○ Focuses only on dealing with the aftermath of mismanagement of chemicals and waste ○ Only focuses on building private sector capacity ○ Focuses activities on only one of the four conventions, that is the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention, or implementation of the Strategic Approach, when others may also be relevant ○ Does not provide coordination between relevant ministries ○ Includes multiple applications from the same country in the same application cycle, as that can be indicative of a lack of coordination ○ Operates in isolation from other related initiatives in the country



2.2. Who can apply for funding from the Special Programme?

Eligible **Governments** can apply to the Special Programme.

“Governments” specifically refers to the national government ministry or department in charge of the chemicals and waste agenda at the national level. Affiliations of Governments and local governments are not eligible. Countries should also be on the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) list of Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) at the time of application.

Please note that the application form differentiates between the “Applicant Government”, which refers to the Government submitting the application and the “Applicant Government Focal Point”, who is the lead contact person on behalf of the Applicant Government, responsible for the application and all interaction with the Secretariat.

It is strongly encouraged that the Applicant Government only submits one application from the country based on the issue(s) identified as the most important national priorities for possible funding from the Special Programme Trust Fund. In cases where there may be more than one proposal at the national level, the Official Focal Point should coordinate among the proponents to enable the Applicant Government to submit one proposal.

It is expected that the Government making the application will implement the project. However, the Applicant Government may nominate a delivery organization to implement the project². In such cases, the administrative costs dedicated to the delivery organisation cannot exceed 5 percent.

The official focal point is required to endorse the application on behalf of the Government. An endorsement letter from the official focal point should be sent to the Secretariat at the time of submission of the application.



2.3. Does the Special Programme accept regional projects?

Yes, in 2021 the board approved the launch of a pilot round of applications that will consider regional projects.

Several governments can jointly submit a sub-regional, regional or inter-regional project. This may be an optimal approach for implementation issues affecting a number of countries, which are best addressed in a coordinated manner. For projects of this nature, it is a requirement that one Government is specified as a project lead. All countries listed on a regional application should also be on the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) list of Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) at the time of application.

The application and budget forms that will be used for the submission of regional projects are the same as those that are used for the submission of individual country projects. The appraisal criteria for regional projects are listed in Annex IV.

Note: Guidance and appraisal criteria on specific considerations that relate to the drafting of regional projects is highlighted in grey boxes throughout this document.



2.4. What measures and activities can be funded?

The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM.

In line with this objective, the activities funded under the Special Programme may encompass:

- (a) Identifying national institutional capacity, weaknesses, gaps and needs, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity to do so, where required;

² It is understood that the applicant's organization, agency or ministry is the implementer of the project, since it will have the overall responsibility and will be the main coordinator of the project. Applicants may, however, choose to transfer this responsibility to another organization, agency or ministry. In compliance with UN financial rules, profitmaking companies cannot serve as project delivery organizations.

- (b) Strengthening institutional capacity to plan, develop, undertake, monitor and coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
- (c) Strengthening institutional capacity to improve progress reporting and performance evaluation capabilities;
- (d) Promoting an enabling environment to foster the ratification of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention;
- (e) Enabling the design and operation of institutional structures dedicated to the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle;
- (f) Strengthening institutional capacity to promote measures to support all aspects of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including more specific nationally identified thematic areas covered by the Instruments.

Furthermore, the terms of reference stipulate that **the Special Programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms** and associated administration and should fund activities that **fall outside the mandate of the GEF**. This is applicable to both individual country projects and regional projects.

It is therefore strongly advised that you **consult with the GEF operational focal point** in your country to review your proposed project and ensure that the activities proposed in your project are not within the mandate of the GEF. Additional information is available under Annex III section 1.2.



2.5. What amount of support is available?

The Special Programme Trust Fund may provide support from US\$ 50,000 to US\$ 250,000 per project proposal, including possible administration fees and monitoring and evaluation and financial audit. In certain circumstances, an applicant country may request up to a maximum of US\$ 500,000. Projects requesting more than US\$ 250,000 should fulfil the following criteria:

- (a) All relevant sectors are involved in project implementation, for example environment, health, agriculture, customs and labour. The roles and responsibilities of the relevant sectors in project implementation should be clearly defined and letters of support from the relevant ministries should be included as part of the application package;
- (b) Institutional stakeholders including, but not limited to, the private sector and civil societies are involved. Roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders in project implementation should be clearly defined. Letters of support from these stakeholders should be included as part of the application package;
- (c) Projects are based on circular or green economy initiatives. The project should demonstrate how the outcomes and outputs of the project encourage sustainable consumption and efficient use of resources, as well as how the project aims to achieve sustainable development;
- (d) Links with investment and development banks for investment opportunity are highlighted

at the national, regional and global levels, as appropriate. Information should be provided showing the ways in which these investment opportunities can foster long-term sustainability of the Special Programme project;

- (e) Mainstreaming and overall integration at the national level should be demonstrated, as should the ways in which the efforts can be scaled up at the regional level in a synergistic manner. The project should list activities that can be scaled up from national to regional level, and areas of cooperation at the regional level that are or could be synergistic;
- (f) Builds on existing projects from other programmes and obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The project should demonstrate how it builds upon the outcomes of previous or ongoing projects as appropriate, and how these outcomes will enhance the objectives of the Special Programme project.



2.6. Are there any budget limits or caps that I should be aware of?

Yes – according to the relevant financial rules and regulations there are recommended caps on a few budget classes.

1. Personnel and contractual services costs (combined) – 50 per cent of total budget;
2. Specialised and technical equipment – 10 per cent;
3. Administrative fees – maximum of 5 per cent; and
4. Monitoring, evaluation and audit (combined)– should not exceed USD 15,000 in total.

See “Further notes on budget classes” in section 3 of the application Guidelines.



2.7. Are cumulative allocations permitted?

Yes. Countries that have successfully applied for funding from the Special Programme Trust fund can apply for funding in subsequent rounds of application following the completion of their initial project. Cumulative allocations to a country are decided by the Executive Board, based on the contributions received and the needs expressed in the applications submitted.



2.8. What is the maximum duration of a project?

Projects should be fully completed within three years.



2.9. In what language should I submit my application?

While the application Guidelines and Guidance are available in 5 of 6 official UN languages, the Executive Board of the Special Programme works in English and **all project applications must therefore be submitted in English.**



2.10. Where do I find the application forms?

The complete set of application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Special Programme <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special>



2.11. How do I apply?

A complete application package consists of the following documents:

1. Form A - Project Application Form
 - a. Annex 1: Contact Details
 - b. Annex 2: Related Project Information
 - c. Annex 3: Engagement with UN Development System
2. Form B – Project Budget

In addition, the following documents should also be included with the application package:

- Endorsement letter from the official focal point
- Proof of funding from beneficiary country and other sponsors and donors
- Letters of project endorsement from implementing partners
- Other supporting documents

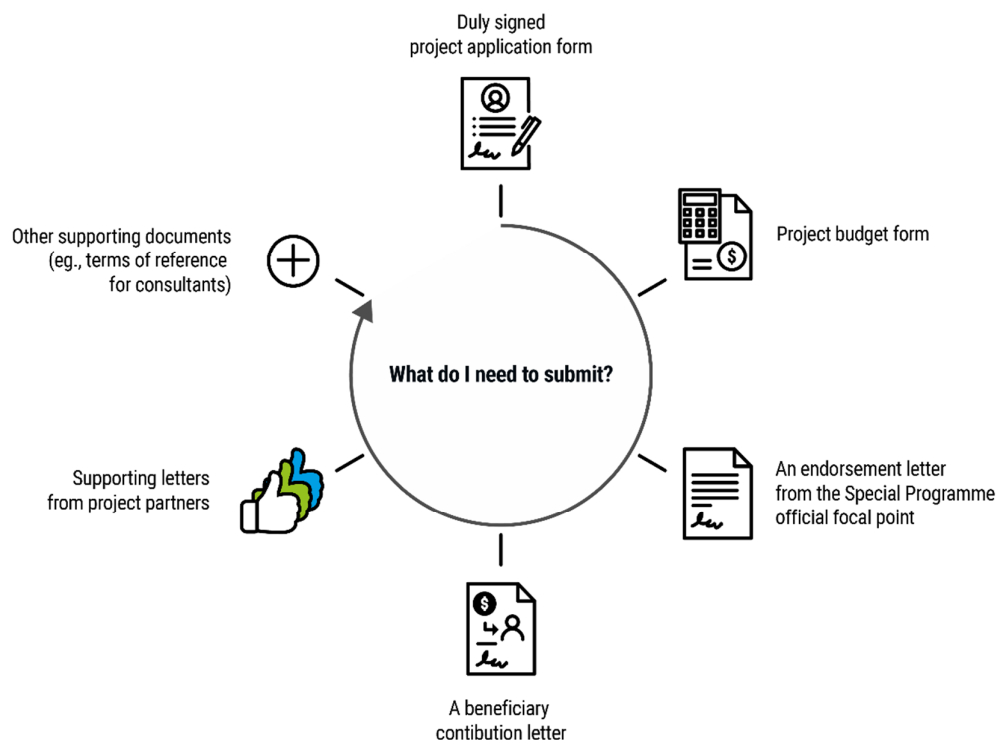
For regional projects:

- Endorsement letter from the lead government acknowledging its role in the project;
- Letters of project endorsement from the official focal points of each participating country;
- Proof of funding from each of the participating countries and other sponsors and donors
- Letters of project endorsement from implementing partners
- Other supporting documents

Complete application packages should be sent electronically in **Word and PDF** versions (i.e., scanned or electronic signatures from the Applicant Government Official, National Focal Point or the GEF Operational Focal Point), to: unepchemicalsspecialprogramme@un.org **no later than 12 August 2022**.

Original signed forms and supporting documents should also be submitted to the Secretariat by post to the following address:

Special Programme Secretariat,
UN Environment, Economy Division,
Chemicals and Health Branch,
Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Genève, Switzerland



2.12. What is the application deadline?

The sixth round of applications has a mandatory deadline of **12 August 2022**.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their application packages as early as possible in advance of the deadline in order for the Secretariat to review them for completeness and eligibility and provide guidance.



2.13. Can I seek support in the preparation of my application?

The Secretariat is available to provide support on a case-by-case basis upon request from applicants during the preparation of their application. Applicants can seek specialist advice on identifying technical cooperation solutions, project design and sequencing of appropriate activities, measurement of effectiveness/impact and project management best practices. This advice can be provided directly by the Secretariat. The Secretariat can also seek to connect applicants with relevant experts from the relevant chemicals and waste related Conventions, as appropriate. **Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat as early as possible to secure assistance.** The Secretariat may not be able to support late requests. Kindly send all requests to unepchemicalsspecialprogramme@un.org.

The Secretariat will be providing information on the sixth round of applications during appropriate events such as regional meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Minamata Convention and SAICM meetings. This may include side events and clinics on conceptualizing and developing projects (including how to complete the Logical Frameworks). The delivery format will vary depending on prevailing COVID restrictions.



2.14. What happens next?

The Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of the application package, no later than one week after receipt.

Step 1: Screening by the Special Programme Secretariat

The Secretariat screens the applications to ensure they are complete and eligible.

During the screening process the Secretariat may request additional information or clarifications from the applicant to facilitate the eligibility and completeness process.

It is imperative that applications reach the Secretariat before the deadline so that if there are any missing/additional items required, the Secretariat can alert the applicant of missing items for submittal before the deadline. Incomplete applications cannot be considered for funding by the Executive Board.

Step 2: Appraisal by the Secretariat

The Secretariat conducts the appraisal of the applications in consultation with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the SAICM Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, and partners to IOMC as appropriate.

The appraisal is based on the criteria and procedures as endorsed by the Executive Board of the Special Programme, as outlined in Annex IV of this document.

Secretariat will submit its report of the complete and eligible proposals as well as its appraisal to the Executive Board for its review and consideration at its annual meeting.

Step 3: Approval by the Special Programme Executive Board

The Executive Board will review all the complete and eligible project proposals, taking into account the appraisal undertaken by the Secretariat, at its next annual meeting.

Projects applications will be approved by the Executive Board, subject to the availability of funds.

If an Applicant Government is represented by a member of the Executive Board that is due to take a decision on the application, the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board require that Board member to recuse himself or herself from the deliberations of, and decision-making on, the application.

Step 4: Notification of Applicants

The Secretariat will notify the applicants in writing of the decision of the Governing Board within four weeks of the relevant Executive Board meeting.

Step 5: Implementation arrangements

Activities financed by the Special Programme Trust Fund will be implemented in accordance with the project management arrangements approved by the Executive Board. Project management

arrangements will include the conversion of applications into relevant legal instruments, which would form the basis of a signed funding agreement between the project proponent and UNEP as the Trust Fund administrator. Financial and reporting arrangements will be set up with the project manager.

3. Possible Scope of Projects

The Special Programme supports strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Institutional strengthening is defined as “*enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the instruments for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle*”.

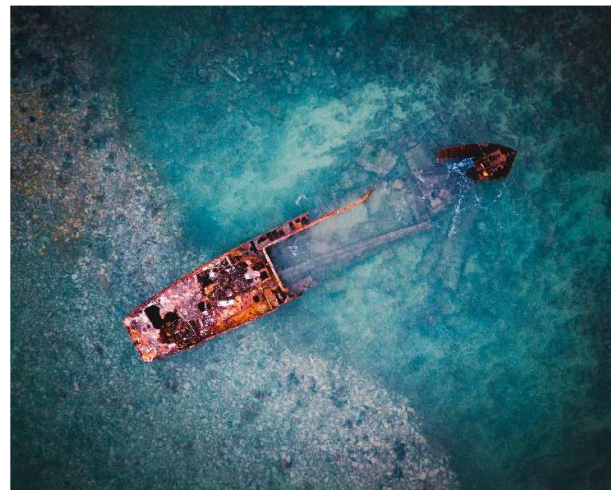
The projects must take into account national priorities and the goals of national development plans and may include components such as:

Institutional Strengthening Component: Enhancing legal and institutional frameworks and enforcement

- Identifying and documenting the needs and challenges that your country has in developing, implementing and enforcing integrated chemicals and wastes policies;
- Promoting full legislative implementation of the BRS Conventions and the Minamata Convention; and
- Identifying possible elements of a national strategy for the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM, e.g. measures, steps and best practices for strengthening national institutional, regulatory and legal frameworks.

CASE STUDY: COUNTRY DRIVEN ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE OF CURRENT LEGISLATION IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

The review and update of the legal and institutional infrastructures can provide the basis for an integrated, lifecycle chemicals and waste management strategy, while building on existing structures and information as far as possible to ensure efficient use of resources and continuity.



Through its Special Programme project, Sao Tome and Principe is planning to strengthen its chemicals and waste management by strengthening the capacities and governance structures to enhance national coordination of

Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions and the SAICM implementation.

One of its project outputs will be to strengthen the implementation and compliance of the national chemicals and waste management legislation including the extended producer responsibility (EPR) law. This will be carried out by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the national EPR, legislation and policies concerning chemicals and waste management related activities including the compliance levels. The roles of government ministries and agencies such as the ministries of agriculture, customs, justice, police and others in supporting the enforcement of the national EPR, chemicals and waste legislation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes; and the domestication of the BRS and Minamata Conventions will be assessed.

Institutional Strengthening Component: National coordination, the exchange of information on chemicals and wastes

- Enhancing the data collection and information exchange for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM
- Supporting your country to develop a national strategy for the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and SAICM
- Facilitating the fulfillment of reporting obligations towards Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention through improved collection and access to data and information

CASE STUDY: ESTABLISHING INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISMS IN UGANDA

Large quantities of chemicals are imported into Uganda every year for use in various economic sectors. However, there is currently insufficient institutional and technical capacity for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle. Through its Special Programme project, Uganda aims to strengthen its national institutional capacity to monitor and coordinate the implementation of its regulatory framework for the sound management of chemicals.

As part of their Special Programme project, Uganda will work to establish an effective monitoring and control mechanism for chemicals, specifically, through the development of a functional national database for chemicals and waste. The database will be able to provide information to the public and regulatory authorities on the various banned, restricted and exempt chemicals, in line with the chemical and waste related Conventions.



<p>Institutional Strengthening Component: Support to customs officers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting dialogue between customs officials, focal points of the Conventions and other national stakeholders towards a coordinated approach to support the objectives and requirements of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention; • Improving understanding of the trade control issues, the role of customs and other stakeholders, their challenges and needs, and how best to address them. • Training to enhance the capacity of customs officials to detect illegal trade in chemicals and waste
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CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT IN ESWATINI

The effective and efficient implementation of existing chemicals and waste-related legislation is essential. At the national level, the effective sound management of chemicals and wastes requires cooperation among all relevant stakeholders and institutions. Appointing custom officers, laboratory research verifications and awareness raising methods are part of an effective long-term implementation, monitoring and enforcement strategy that will be sustainable beyond the lifespan of the Special Programme project.



Through its Special Programme project Eswatini hopes to create a more coherent, consistent, and responsive framework of laws, regulations, administrative and technical standards to support reporting requirements to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as enhance compliance to national laws through enforcement existing laws/regulations, policies, guidelines and standards.

With regards to effective long-term implementation, monitoring and enforcement of existing legislation, specific project outputs will focus on building interventions within the sphere of the existing controls to enhance the capacity of border police and customs officials to detect illegal trade in chemicals and waste as well as placing on the market of controlled chemicals while enhancing level of cooperation and coordination between border management services. This will be supported by the strengthened legislation that will be carried out under the associated domestic measures with the view to empowering officials (police, occupational health safety inspectors, environment inspectors and public health inspectors) who have the mandates to carry out these functions.

<p>Institutional Strengthening Component: Enhancing national capacities to take international trade control measures on illegal trafficking of chemicals and waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on training on practical application of the procedures for the import and export of the hazardous chemicals and waste regulated by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM • Sharing experience and information on challenges and opportunities linked to international trade of hazardous chemicals, waste subject to the control mechanisms under the four conventions and SAICM; • Raising awareness and increasing the knowledge on the legal and policy matters related to trade and environment cross-cutting issues, at the global, regional and national levels, as they relate to the implementation of the four conventions and SAICM; • Enhancing knowledge on existing globally agreed instruments for adequately labelling hazardous chemicals; and • Collecting information on possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.
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CASE STUDY: PROMOTING ADEQUATE LABELLING OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN PERU



The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an internationally agreed upon system for the definition and classification of hazardous chemicals and communicates health and safety information on labels and safety data sheets. It is a mechanism that

supports the work of the chemicals and waste related instruments as countries can make use of the GHS as a tool to increase chemical safety which will in turn assist with implementation.

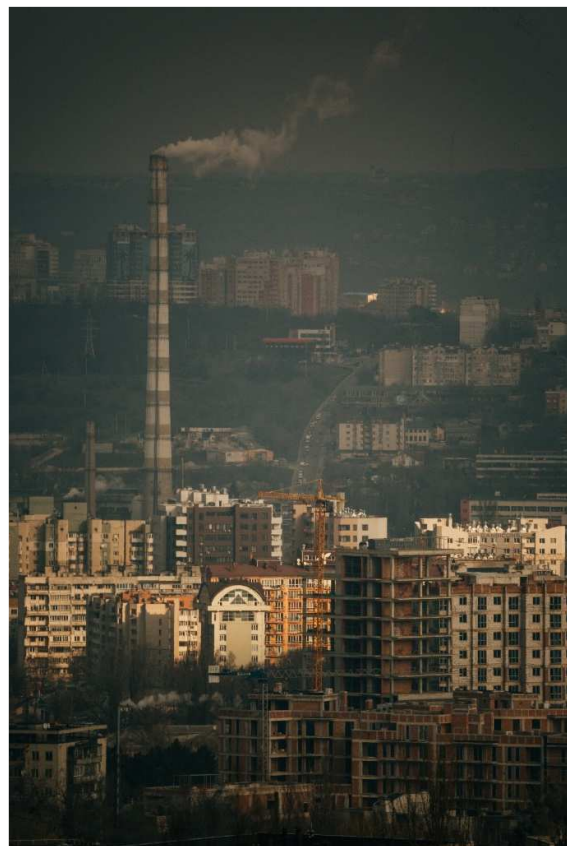
The Special Programme project in Peru seeks to, amongst other things, implement the GHS, firstly by conducting an assessment to determine the current degree of its use and to establish whether or not there are any implementation gaps in the context of GHS implementation in the country. This will include a legal technical evaluation to identify the sectors involved in the implementation of the GHS using a modular approach. Ultimately the project intends to strengthen the capacities of the public and private sectors in the implementation of the GHS.

Moreover, guidance will be drafted regarding the application of specific measures for the reduction and management of risks to health and the environment for those chemical substances that, according to their hazard classification (GHS) are identified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction or hazardous for the environment. In addition, training will be designed and executed for the technical personnel of the institutions involved in the application and implementation of the GHS, in order to strengthen their technical capacities in the interpretation and application of the system.

<p>Institutional Strengthening Component: National reporting and other notification of information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the understanding of the reporting requirements under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention as well as the reporting requirements on progress in SAICM implementation including the use of the online reporting systems; • Facilitating information exchange on the status of implementation of Articles 11 and 12 of the Rotterdam Convention, which are all related to trade; • Enhancing the country's capacity to fulfill its Rotterdam obligations related to the control of the trade of Annex III chemicals (Article 11), export notification (Article 12) and information to accompany exports.
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CASE STUDY: IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE BRS CONVENTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has been undertaking strong and positive commitments towards improving the management of chemicals and waste with to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and align itself with European Union regulations. Through its Special Programme project, the Republic of Moldova has, amongst other things, successfully developed a prototype of a Chemicals Registry System that will be used to track the flow of chemicals within the country. This specialized information resource of chemicals placed on the market of the Republic of Moldova and will ultimately facilitate the fulfilment of reporting obligations towards the relevant conventions. Following the successful implementation of its Special Programme project, the Republic of Moldova sought to build on the work it has done and has successfully secured funding for a second project from the Special Programme. One of the project components that will be implemented will be the expansion of the Chemicals Registry System. The full scale launching of this registry system will improve Moldova's inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral procedures for sharing of data on chemicals and will be supported by the holding of awareness raising activities relating to various issues regarding chemicals safety.



<p>Institutional Strengthening Component: Mainstreaming of chemicals and waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the continued funding of activities related to the sound management of chemicals and waste; • Supporting the inclusion of chemicals and waste into sustainable development strategies and plans; • Supporting the country to develop and set priorities for the national indicators for the SDGs related to chemicals and waste; • Supporting the country to enhance collaboration with statistical offices, by strengthening their capacities for data collection for the purpose of Basel and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention national reporting, reporting on progress in SAICM implementation as well as the SDGs global indicators and collecting data on the pilot basis beyond national reporting format.
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CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN BURUNDI

One of the thematic priorities of the Special Programme is the integration of the principles of circular economy into national level approaches to the sound management of chemicals and waste. At its core, the circular economy approach relies on reuse and high-quality recycling and much less on virgin raw materials for the manufacture of products. This approach aims to maintain the added value in products and materials for as long as possible, as compared to the traditional linear “take-make-dispose” model which is currently used and has, so far, contributed to much of today’s challenges resulting from pollution from chemicals and waste.



The Special Programme project in Burundi integrates circular economy into its project design and aims to utilize the principles to underpin its approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste. The project aims to implement a pilot project that will contribute to institutional strengthening through the demonstration and assessment of circular economy approaches to chemicals and waste management. This will be coordinated with the development and implementation of a national assessment and national strategy for priority areas developed under the project which will in turn inform, the development and endorsement of strengthened national legislation/regulation that provides an enabling framework for a circular economy approach to chemicals and waste management.

This will be supported by developing and implementing an awareness raising strategy on circular economy approaches to sound chemicals and waste management as well as a training programme for key national and regional institutions on the regulatory measures regarding the circular economy framework

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Strengthening Component: Strengthening of the science-policy-business interface and life-cycle of chemicals and waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote innovative solutions for addressing challenges posed by specific use or specific chemicals addressed by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention; • Bridge research and scientific initiatives with business solutions to benefit your country in meeting its obligations towards the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention; • Identify key elements of socio-economic impacts with regard to selected hazardous chemicals; • Document alternatives to selected hazardous chemicals and their applicability in the local context as well as need for technology transfer.
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CASE STUDY: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN ANGOLA

Between 1975 and 2002, Angola was locked in one of the world's bloodiest wars. As a result, the chemicals and waste management agenda has not been clearly articulated. National coordination mechanisms and capacities, as well as partnerships with the private sector, remain very weak. In order to remedy the situation, Angola hopes to strengthen its capacity to meet its obligations towards the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as promote the participation of the private sector in relevant areas with the view to facilitating the improved management of chemicals and waste.



Through its Special Programme project, Angola plans to establish a pilot public private partnership and demonstrate the management of marine plastics within the framework of a circular economy. This will be achieved by conducting an assessment to identify potential areas of collaboration and partnerships in the areas of national chemicals and waste management and drafting a proposal on potential areas requiring actions, list of potential partners, and possible types of partnerships. Following this a pilot study on the management of marine plastics within the framework of circular economy will be designed and implemented.

4. Gender and Safeguard Considerations



4.1. Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming in the context of the sound management of chemicals and waste is an overarching issue that involves assessing and planning for how the harmful impacts of pollution from chemicals and waste affect women, children and men differently. These differences result from several physiological and socio-economic factors.

Men and women are exposed to different chemicals and waste because of how their socio-economic roles are defined along gender lines. For example, men may have higher exposure in an occupational context to agents or substances in the workplace that could cause ill health. Women, on the other hand, often perform the bulk of domestic work in and around the house, including the sorting, removal, and disposal of household waste. In some areas, this includes the open burning of plastics and other household waste. This leads to significantly different impacts on the health of men and women, including reproductive health and prenatal developmental health.

Furthermore, physiologically, women tend to be smaller in size and have a major role in childbearing and rearing. In addition, a woman's chemical burden can be passed on to her baby during gestation, through the placenta, as well as via breastfeeding. Therefore, the impact of pollution from chemicals and waste on women is greater than on men, even if their exposure is the same.

It is therefore imperative that any planned actions that will be undertaken within the scope of a Special Programme project describes the gender mainstreaming considerations that address women's as well as men's concerns and experiences in the context of the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The inclusion of both men and women in policy development and decision making brings to the table different experiences and perspectives that would serve to strengthen proposed policies and proposed activities.

Gender mainstreaming can be integrated into Special Programme project proposals by including gender indicators and targets in the logframe that focus on, amongst other things:

- Conducting research and generating sex-disaggregated data that reflects the impact of pollution from chemicals and waste on disadvantaged populations in your country. This data can then be used to, for example, inform any updates in legislation or to produce a gender action plan that can be used to guide future work on chemicals and waste through a gender lens.
- Planning and organising awareness raising activities that educate relevant stakeholders, such as the general public, on the gender-differentiated and socially determined impacts of the (mis)management of chemicals. Activities may include producing information materials and media that contains gender specific information and ensuring that in person activities are held at various times that are appropriate for both men and women to attend.
- Promoting multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure effective participation of different groups, including women, in policy development and decision making. The inclusion of both men and

women brings to the table different experiences and perspectives that would serve to strengthen proposed policies and proposed activities.

- Creating terms of reference for project staff that ensure equal opportunity for women and men, and where applicable, require skills/expertise in gender.
- Monitoring benefits, participation, and feedback among women and men during project activities and incorporate remedial action that promotes gender equality as appropriate. This can be carried out through evaluation forms are distributed during each project activity, as appropriate, to collect information on each participant's gender, previous engagement in similar activities and perceived relevance and improvements that can be carried out.



4.2. Human rights and indigenous peoples

In February 2020 UNEP adopted a revised [Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework](#), which sets out seven safeguard standards, several of which are of relevance to Special Programme projects. Safeguard standard 3 on pollution prevention and resource efficiency, is of particular relevance as it aims to, among other things:

- Avoid or minimize generation of hazardous or non-hazardous waste and promote a human rights-based approach to the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

As outlined in the [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes](#), a human rights based approach to addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste includes considerations of the following:

- ensuring that legislation and other practices respect, protect and fulfil human rights obligations implicated by hazardous substances and wastes, including the rights to life, to health and to physical integrity;
- ensuring that practices relating to hazardous substances and wastes ensure equality, do not discriminate against any vulnerable group, including children, the poor, workers, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, migrants and minorities, and take into account gender-specific risks;
- using inherently safer design, implement a life-cycle approach to protect the most vulnerable from hazardous substances and wastes and should, with urgency, apply a global approach;
- enacting and enforcing legislative and regulatory frameworks to protect human rights against infringement caused by business operations that produce, use, release, store and dispose of hazardous substances and wastes, including the foreign operations of businesses based in individual countries while maintaining standards of protection and continuously improving protections; to fulfil their obligations, and exploring cost-recovery systems;
- establishing effective institutions capable of taking timely action to protect human rights; and prevent conflicts of interest while implementing a whole-of-government approach;
- enabling people and peoples to claim and defend their rights against the threats of toxic and otherwise hazardous substances and wastes;
- encouraging businesses to conduct and publicly disclose human rights due diligence for the life cycle of toxics in their products and their operations, including supply and value chains, and should identify and assess risks, prevent and mitigate impacts, and be transparent and accountable regarding their efforts; and

- ensuring that victims of the effects of hazardous substances and wastes have access to an effective remedy, including remediation, health care, compensation and a guarantee of non-repetition, among others, and must reduce systemic obstacles, including the burden of proof and causation, among others, that prevent victims of toxic exposure from accessing remedies.

Also relevant under the revised [Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework](#) is safeguard standard 7 on indigenous peoples, which it aims to, among other things:

- Promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, especially concerning their lands, territories, resources, traditional livelihoods, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, which are central to respecting indigenous peoples' identities and improving their well-being.

Ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are considered during the design and implementation of Special Programme projects includes consideration of the following:

- facilitating the right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision making in matters that would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions as set out under article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- establishing effective measures to ensure that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring health are designed and implemented by those affected by such materials.
- obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples regarding the storage or disposal of hazardous materials on their lands or territories, as set out under article 29 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. Considerations on project monitoring, evaluation and reporting

While it may seem premature to consider project monitoring evaluation and reporting at this stage, they are actually an important component of project design and management. Individual projects are expected to contribute toward achieving the outcome of the Special Programme, which is that: *'Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition are taking affirmative action to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM implementation plans'*.

Designing and planning a project with the principles of monitoring and reporting in mind contributes to ensuring that the project objectives, proposed measures and indicators speak to the overarching outcome of the Special Programme. To facilitate this, the Special Programme

To facilitate the consideration of project monitoring, evaluation and reporting, the Special Programme Secretariat has developed a [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy](#) which serves as guidance to the Special Programme and its country project recipients for monitoring, evaluation and learning at the Programme and country levels. The Strategy outlines 2 core indicators that should be incorporated in the projects at the country level, to allow for key aspects of the projects to be highlighted and showcased. These indicators, which should be included in each project logframe at the outcome level, are:

- **Core Indicator 1**

Extent of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to support development and implementation of National Strategies for Chemicals and Waste Management as a result of funding from the Special Programme (Outcome indicator, Qualitative)

- **Core Indicator 2**

Degree of integration of chemicals and waste management into national and sector planning - formally proposed, adopted, or being implemented including required reporting to the relevant Conventions and voluntary reporting to SAICM (Outcome Indicator, Qualitative)

Furthermore, similar considerations connecting the objective of each individual project with the proposed measures and indicators will facilitate the drafting of annual project reports. Developing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism at the project design phase will lead to ensure its effective implementation.

The accompanying Special Programme [Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning Toolkit](#) is designed to guide recipient countries through the project monitoring and reporting processes indicated in the Strategy. It also includes scoring sheets to help countries measure progress against the core indicators for the purpose of reporting on implementation progress. They are designed to be flexible, so that individual countries can adapt the tools to their needs.

6. Additional resources

Applicants may wish to use or make reference to the following resources in the development of their application.

[The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions](#)

- Provides information on the ratification status of countries and convention text, which sets out the obligations upon countries which are parties to the conventions.

[The Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

- Provides information on the ratification status of countries and Convention text, which sets out the obligations upon countries which are parties to the Convention.

[The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](#)

- The overall objective of the Strategic Approach is the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.
- In SAICM's [Overall Orientation and Guidance](#) document from 2015, 11 basic elements were recognized as critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management.

[The Global Environment Facility](#)

- Provides information on national and regional projects and programmes that have been funded by the GEF.

[IOMC Toolbox](#)

- The IOMC Toolbox is a problem-solving tool that enables countries to identify the most appropriate and efficient national actions to address specific national problems related to chemicals management.

[UNEP LIRA Guidance](#)

- The LIRA (*Legal and Institutional infrastructures for the sound management of chemicals and measures for Recovering costs of national administrations*) guidance aims to provide practical support to policymakers for strengthening national legislation and institutional set-ups for achieving sound management of chemicals. It includes proposals for measures for financing necessary administration activities in this regard.

[Guidance on chemicals control contributing to national progress and safety](#)

- These new guidance documents complement the LIRA Guidance. The publications aim to support decision makers in their efforts to establish legal frameworks for chemicals control and the work of government officials involved in building government capacity for chemicals control.

Gender equality and the environment: a guide to UNEP's work

- This document outlines the linkages between gender equality and the environment, the impacts of gender inequality, how unequal participation in policy- and decision-making stymie effective action on tackling environmental challenges, and opportunities to unlock the untapped potential of both men and women in confronting these challenges.

Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Series: Chemicals and gender

- Guidance document describes important linkages between development, gender, and chemicals management. While policymakers are beginning to understand the important role played by the sound management of chemicals in economic and social development, it is also important to recognize the significant linkages between gender and chemicals.

Annex I: Terms of reference for the Special Programme³

Recalling decision 27/12 on Special, part VIII, paragraphs 13 and 14 of the of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its first universal session:

I. Objective of the Special Programme

1. The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (hereinafter referred to as “the Instruments”).

II. Definition of institutional strengthening

2. For the purposes of the Special Programme, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Instruments for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

III. Expected outcomes of institutional strengthening through the Special Programme

3. It is expected that strengthened national institutions would have the capacity to do the following:
- (a) Develop and monitor the implementation of national policies, strategies, programmes and legislation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
 - (b) Promote the adoption, monitoring and enforcement of legislation and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
 - (c) Promote the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, national budgets, policies, legislation and implementation frameworks at all levels, including addressing gaps and avoiding duplication;
 - (d) Work in a multisectoral, effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and sustainable manner in the long term;
 - (e) Facilitate multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination at the national level;
 - (f) Promote private sector responsibility, accountability and involvement;
 - (g) Promote the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach;
 - (h) Promote cooperative and coordinated implementation of the Instruments at the national level.

³ Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, annex II.

IV. Scope of the Special Programme

4. The Special Programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration, and should fund activities that fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility.
5. The activities funded under the Special Programme may encompass the following:
 - (a) Identifying national institutional capacity, weaknesses, gaps and needs, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity to do so, where required;
 - (b) Strengthening institutional capacity to plan, develop, undertake, monitor and coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
 - (c) Strengthening institutional capacity to improve progress reporting and performance evaluation capabilities;
 - (d) Promoting an enabling environment to foster the ratification of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention;
 - (e) Enabling the design and operation of institutional structures dedicated to the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle;
 - (f) Strengthening institutional capacity to promote measures to support all aspects of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including more specific nationally identified thematic areas covered by the Instruments.

V. Eligibility for support from the Special Programme

6. Support from the Special Programme will be available for developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity.
7. Applicants will be eligible if they are party to any one of the relevant conventions or have demonstrated that they are in the process of preparing for ratification of any one of the conventions.
8. Applications will include identification of the associated domestic measures to be taken to ensure that the national institutional capacity supported by the Special Programme is sustainable in the long term.

VI. Governance arrangements for the Special Programme

9. An Executive Board will be the decision-making body and oversee the Special Programme with the support of a Secretariat.
10. The Executive Board will reflect a balance between donors and recipients. The term of the representatives will be in a two-year rotation. The Executive Board will be composed of the following:
 - (a) Four representatives of recipient countries, reflecting equitable, geographical representation, drawn from the following United Nations regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Executive Board will have one representative from a least developed country or a small island developing State on a rotational basis;
 - (b) Five donor representatives, which are not also recipient countries.

11. The executive secretaries of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention, the Coordinator of the Strategic Approach and a representative of the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, as well as representatives of Governments and regional economic integration organizations, any implementing agencies and one representative from each of the bureaux of the governing bodies of the instruments may participate, at their own expense, as observers at the meetings of the Executive Board.

VII. Mandate and functions of the Executive Board

12. The Executive Board will have two co-chairs, one from recipient countries and one from donor countries.

13. The Executive Board will meet yearly and take its decisions by consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, the Executive Board will, as a last resort, take its decisions by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting. The Executive Board will, as required, further develop its rules of procedure at its first meeting.

14. The Executive Board will take operational decisions regarding the functioning of the Special Programme, including the approval of applications for funding, and will endorse procedures for application, assessment, reporting and evaluation. The Executive Board will provide operational guidance on the implementation of the Special Programme and will provide advice on other matters as required.

VIII. Administering organization

15. As the administering organization, UNEP will provide a Special Programme trust fund and a Secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme, including the allocation of human and other resources.

16. The Secretariat will process application proposals for approval by the Executive Board, manage approved allocations and service the Executive Board. The Secretariat will report on its operations to the Executive Board and will be accountable to the Executive Director of UNEP for administrative and financial matters. The Secretariat will submit an annual report to the Executive Board, which will also be sent to the governing bodies of UNEP and of the instruments for their consideration.

IX. Operational arrangements for the Special Programme

17. The Special Programme will receive applications directly from national Governments. It will be easily accessible, simple and effective, and draw on experience from existing support mechanisms as appropriate.

18. Applications should be outlined within the context of an overall country approach to strengthening institutional capacity. The applications should contain proposed measures and performance targets, and information relating to long-term sustainability.

19. Applications should be submitted to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will appraise applications for consideration and decision by the Executive Board.

20. Cumulative allocations to a country should be decided by the Executive Board, based on the contributions received and the needs expressed in the applications submitted. Of that total, an amount not exceeding 13 per cent may be retained for administrative purposes.

21. Beneficiary countries will contribute resources equal to the value of at least 25 per cent of the total allocation. The Executive Board may reduce that percentage, commensurate with consideration of the specific national circumstances, capacity constraints, gaps and needs of the applicant.

22. Beneficiary countries shall submit annual reports on progress achieved. A final report and financial audit shall be submitted upon completion of each project, which shall include a full accounting of funds used and an evaluation of outcomes, as well as evidence as to whether the performance targets have been met.

X. Contributions

23. Contributions will be encouraged from all signatories and parties to the conventions and other Governments with the capacity to do so, as well as from the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

XI. Duration of the Special Programme

24. The Special Programme will be open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for support for seven years from the date it is established. On the basis of a satisfactory review and evaluation, and subject to a recommendation from the Executive Board to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Special Programme may be eligible for a one-time extension, not to exceed an additional five years. Special Programme funds may be disbursed for a maximum of 10 years from the date the Programme is established, or eight years from the date it is extended, if applicable, at which point the Programme will complete its operations and close. The terms of reference of the above-mentioned review and evaluation are to be decided by the Executive Board.

Annex II: Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

The following is an excerpt of the UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/12 on Chemicals and waste management which outlined the establishment of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes

1. Welcomes an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach: mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes;
2. Takes note of the proposal by the Executive Director as contained in document UNEP/GC.27/7 on his vision for making operational an integrated approach on financing sound management of chemicals and wastes;
3. Invites Governments, relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders to apply an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and wastes in their efforts to mobilize and manage financial resources for sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels;
4. Invites Governments to implement actions to further mainstream sound management of chemicals and wastes, in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;
5. Further invites Governments to implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for sound chemicals and wastes management, and promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle;
6. Invites all countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external financing through the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources, so as to support developing countries in their efforts to implement sound management of chemicals and wastes;
7. Invites all Governments to involve relevant ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes; UNEP/GC.27/17 37
8. Requests the Executive Director to provide the necessary support, upon request, to Governments especially those from developing countries, and collaborate with relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders as appropriate, towards the implementation of an integrated approach;
9. Invites the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take steps to implement, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider, an integrated approach for the purposes of the respective conventions, as appropriate;
10. Further invites the ICCM to take steps to implement an integrated approach;
11. Also invites the governing bodies of international development agencies, international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to take steps to implement, within their mandates, an integrated approach;
12. Invites the GEF in the context of its 6th replenishment process to revise its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and wastes agenda, and consider ways of further strengthening its relations with the conventions it serves as a financial mechanism;

13. Invites Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the future Minamata Convention and SAICM, noting that each respective governing body would have to determine the participation of its entity in the special programme;
14. Emphasizes that the special programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside GEF's mandate;
15. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting of governments and Regional Economic Integration Organizations, open to interested stakeholders, including potential donors, the private sector, civil society, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions, and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and SAICM, to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme, including:
 - a) a definition of institutional strengthening;
 - b) the duration of the special programme;
 - c) clear parameters and eligibility criteria;
 - d) practical arrangements necessary to make the special programme operational;
16. Decides that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the UNEP Governing Council, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and ICCM-4;
17. Notes that this decision does not pre-empt the decision of the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the specific international Programme referred to in the text of that Convention;
18. Requests the Executive Director to facilitate an evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach, which should be done in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and submit the evaluation, including recommendations, within six years for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the relevant COPs and ICCM5;
19. Also requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum within three years a report on the implementation of the integrated approach.

Annex III: Possible Scope of Projects

This section provides information on some of the many possible thematic areas that countries can consider incorporating into their project. The **topics described are not exhaustive**. Any thematic area should be presented in the context of each country's national priorities.



1.1. Promoting institutional strengthening in the context of the chemicals and waste related instruments

For the purposes of the Special Programme, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

Countries should consider which of the following specific aspects of the instruments need to be addressed in the context of their national priorities when designing their projects and include outcomes and outputs that speak to those needs. The aim is to ultimately strengthen the capacity of national institutions to meet obligations under the conventions in a coordinated manner.

Furthermore, all projects should demonstrate strong elements of sustainability by satisfactorily setting out how the proposed measures, and institutional structures established, will be continued, maintained and further strengthened following the completion of the project.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Special Programme may support countries in establishing the necessary institutional capacity as well as the legal and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste in a sound manner in the context of the implementation of related obligations and provisions under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Such support can focus on, among others, the following obligations:

- The designation of contacts to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in accordance with Article 5 (Basel Convention), Article 4 (Rotterdam Convention) and Article 9 (Stockholm Convention) as well as relevant decisions of the Conferences of the Parties (focal point and competent authorities; designated national authorities and official contact points; national focal point and official contact points);
- Developing institutional capacity to facilitate the preparation and transmission of:
 - National Implementation Plans in accordance with Article 7 of Stockholm Convention;
 - National Reports as provided for in Article 13 of the Basel Convention;
 - National Reports as provided for in Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;
 - Import responses in accordance with Article 10 of the Rotterdam Convention;
 - Final regulatory actions (FRA) in accordance with Article 5 of and Annex I to the Rotterdam Convention;
 - Texts of national legislation and other measures adopted to implement and enforce the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Special Programme projects can also support other aspects of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions that are not obligations, but nonetheless support their implementation, such as:

- Provision of support to countries wishing to become a Party to one or more of the Convention(s) or consent to be bound by the amendment(s) to the Annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention;
- Ensure that Special Programme projects take into account activities under the BRS Conventions to support implementation, such as technical assistance activities by the Secretariat and regional centres, as well as the submissions before the compliance committees of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions;
- Ensure that guidance adopted by the Conferences of the Parties is used to strengthen the institutional capacity and ensure consistency in guidance, decision making and policy making.

Minamata Convention

Projects submitted for consideration under the Special Programme may provide support for institutional strengthening elements that would also advance implementation of obligations under the various articles of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Projects that include activities relating to mercury and broad-based strengthening of chemicals and waste management regimes or units, mainstreaming of chemicals and waste management, development of sustainable financing, broader stakeholder engagement, awareness-raising, information/data management, and monitoring can also contribute to the fulfilment of articles under the Convention. For example:

- Strengthening national level coordination mechanisms that submit mercury trade notifications (Article 3);
- Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms to mobilize financial resources at the national level for mercury management (Article 13);
- Strengthening institutional mechanisms to support compliance review/observation (Article 15) for the Convention;
- Promoting communication and public awareness on mercury and health, and chemicals and health more generally (Article 16);
- Establishing platforms that facilitate information exchange and public information on mercury (Articles 17 and 19);
- Developing implementation plans and strengthening national level coordination mechanisms to facilitate reporting on the Minamata Convention (Articles 20 and 21).

To note: The Minamata Convention has a financial mechanism that consists of the Global Environment Facility and the Specific International Programme. Both components of the financial mechanism focus on support to Minamata Parties to implement mercury obligations. While the Global Environment Facility provides larger projects, the Specific International Programme provides small grants to strengthen capacity and technical assistance on mercury to developing country Parties and Parties with economies. For example, a project that aims to strengthen the capacity of a government unit to regulate the use and trade of mercury-added products, or to develop an inventory and regulations to control emissions of mercury from industrial sources, could be eligible for funding from the Global Environment Facility and/or Specific International Programme.

Neither the Global Environment Facility nor the Specific International Programme provide to Minamata Parties support to strengthen the institutional level in applicant countries. The Special Programme, which funds projects that address the broader aspects of institutional strengthening across more than one instrument, therefore fulfils that special role for countries to facilitate coordination and strengthening across the cluster.

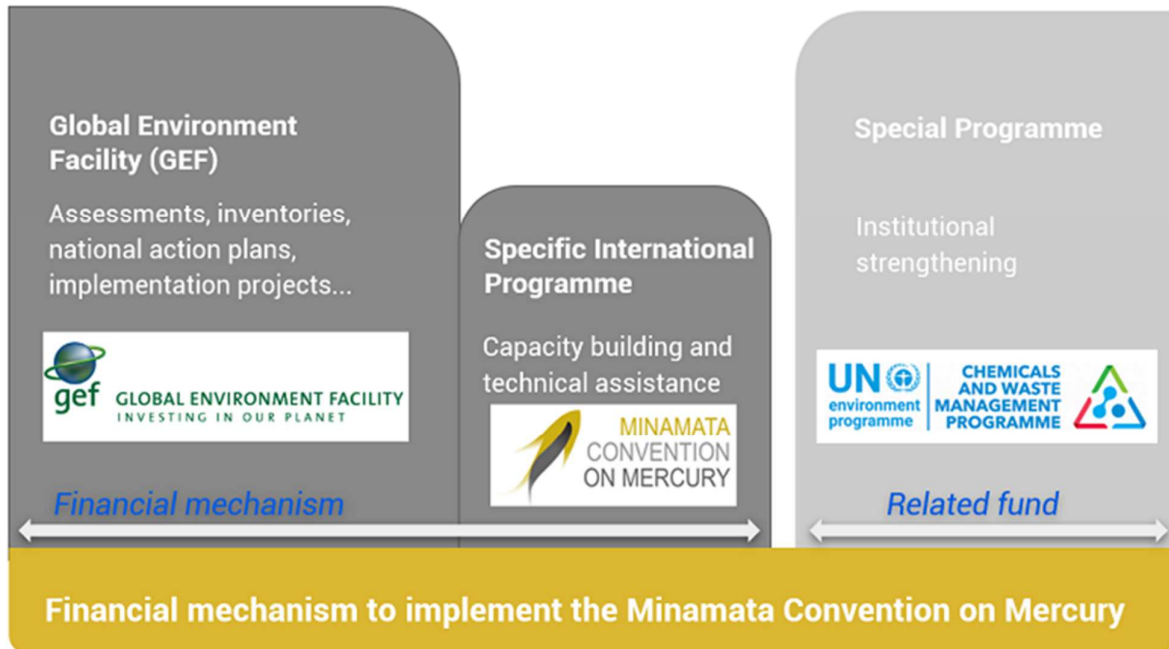


Figure 1: Overview of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention, and the area of support the Special Programme can provide Minamata Parties.

Specific International Programme	Special Programme
FOCUS = capacity-building and technical assistance for Minamata Convention implementation	FOCUS = institutional strengthening across chemicals and waste MEAs and SAICM
Open to Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition	Open to Parties and non-Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition
Convention-specific Programme , that addresses specific obligations of the Convention	Must strengthen across more than one MEA/SAICM, promotes mainstreaming
Applicant contribution is not required	Applicant contribution is required
Direct access: No implementing agencies	Direct access: No implementing agencies

Figure 2: Comparison table: Specific International Programme (Minamata) vs. Special Programme

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The Special Programme also supports countries with the implementation of measures relating to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The overall objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle with the view to ensuring that chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

While the post-2020 framework for SAICM is currently under development, there will continue to be common elements with the current SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance that relate to institutional strengthening which can be incorporated into projects, in line with national priorities. For example:

- Building capacity to invest in people in the relevant ministries to address the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level;
- Strengthening national legal and regulatory frameworks to implement chemicals and waste related MEAs and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms;
- Ensuring sustainable finance through training staff in developing project proposals for various funding sources, donor relations, encouraging industry engagement, or through implementing instruments such as cost-recovery mechanisms;
- Mainstreaming chemicals and waste into the agendas of all relevant sectors (health, labour, agriculture, development, ...), including in national economic and budgeting processes and development plans and strengthening inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination;
- Engaging different stakeholder groups such as civil society, industry and academia to make sure that interests and needs of all societal groups are taken on board and to increase the legitimacy of actions taken;
- Monitoring and assessing progress of the project to identify successful outcomes as well as gaps and challenges to drive opportunities for scaling up and improvement, and to assess the need for enhanced implementation efforts or prioritization;
- Sharing knowledge and information with all to enable informed decisions and actions;
- Assessing risk to minimize it, where possible, through safer alternatives, and maximize benefits through innovative sustainable solutions and forward thinking.

Furthermore, increasing risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues are at the core of SAICM. Within the scope of the Special Programme projects should focus on strengthening institutional capacity on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements and/or complementing initiatives taken by other bodies, including lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous electricals, nanotechnology, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, pharmaceutical pollutants, perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides.



1.2. Determination of GEF eligibility

The terms of reference stipulate that the Special Programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside the mandate of the GEF. This means that an application (or measure proposed in an application) cannot be funded by the Special Programme if it is eligible for funding under the GEF. This is applicable to both individual country projects and regional projects. The determination of whether a proposal falls

within the GEF mandate is carried out by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility following the submission of the application.

This section of the Guidance was prepared to clarify what projects or proposed measures would fall under the GEF mandate, in order to minimize the possibility of countries submitting projects that fall within the GEF's mandate. **It is also strongly recommended that you consult with the GEF operational focal point in your country to review your proposed project and ensure that the activities proposed in your project are not within the mandate of the GEF.**

GEF funding is made available for activities⁴ within several focal areas, specifically: biological diversity; climate change; international waters; land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; and chemicals and waste. The agreed incremental costs of activities to achieve global environmental benefits concerning chemicals management as they relate to these focal areas shall be eligible for funding under the GEF.

The GEF's mandate in the management of chemicals and wastes is derived from its role in the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as defined under Articles 13⁵ and 14, and from the Minamata Convention on Mercury as defined under Article 13⁶. In addition, the GEF provides funding to certain areas under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that require global action.⁷

The GEF operates under the guidance of, and is accountable to, the Conferences of the Parties (COP) of the Minamata Convention⁸ and the Stockholm Convention⁹. Each COP provides guidance on overall strategies, policy, program priorities and eligibility for access to, and utilization of, financial resources. In addition to the legally binding chemicals conventions, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) has also requested the GEF to include elements of SAICM into GEF programming which has facilitated early action on areas such as e-waste, plastics, chemicals of concern including pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals from other sectors.

With each GEF replenishment, which takes place every four years, a programming directions document sets out activities that can be funded under each focal area, as well as other large programs. The GEF's programming directions for chemicals and waste are developed from the guidance received from the COPs of the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention, and requests from the ICCM. The most recent programming directions under GEF-7 is for the period July 2018 – June 2022¹⁰. The chemicals and waste programming is described in pages 78 – 87 of that document. The Programming directions for GEF8 are currently under development and will be finalized to facilitate programming for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026.

⁴ [Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, September 2019 – paragraph 9](#)

⁵ [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

⁶ [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

⁷ The GEF also supports the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, however this is not within the scope of Special Programme funding and is therefore not discussed here.

⁸ Article 13, Para 7, [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

⁹ Article 13, Para 6, [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

¹⁰ [Report of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#)

While it is not practical to summarize every type of project that could be funded under the chemicals and waste focal area, as there are a wide variety of chemicals and groups of chemicals, national and regional priorities, there are general elements included in most projects:

- a. Management of chemicals and waste, including safe handling, storage, disposal, EPRs etc. of chemicals that are covered by the Conventions including groups of those chemicals, chemicals in products, waste chemicals, waste containing chemicals, and wastes that can emit chemicals including plastics, electronics, textiles and others.
- b. Capacity building, institutional strengthening and technical assistance and technology transfer, including policy and regulatory support to achieve the above.
- c. Monitoring and evaluation of the project including verification of results achieved.
- d. Knowledge management to capture lessons learned to inform future programming
- e. Project management. Every GEF project provides funding for project management cost including a project management unit for the duration of the project.

The GEF reports on all projects funded to the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention and provides updates on funding related to the SAICM to the ICCM. Links to these reports are available on the websites of the respective Conventions.

In addition to the above, GEF-7 projects and programs contain several issues in one package that address gaps in capacity and enabling conditions to allow for management of harmful chemicals and waste as well as put systems in place to prevent a future build of harmful chemicals and waste in the environment. This will be maintained for GEF 8.

An example of this is the GEF Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) program which is designed to facilitate globally coordinated action over the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific SIDS in addressing policy and regulatory gaps, strengthening institutions including Customs official, standards officers etc. and setting up long term prevention on harmful chemicals, chemicals in products from entering these territories.

GEF programming in chemicals and waste will continue to expand and evolve with each replenishment, for example, to take into account chemicals being added to the Stockholm Convention require different solutions to previous projects that dealt with stockpiles etc.



1.3. Environmentally sound management of Plastic waste

Plastic waste, including marine litter and microplastics, is a growing environmental concern, with the latest [research from UNEP](#) predicting that the annual production of plastics will more than triple by 2050. Most plastic waste is non-recyclable and is primarily burned, buried, or illegally dumped. This poor management of plastic waste releases toxic chemicals into the air, soil, and/or water which further impacts human health and the environment in numerous ways.

The urgency with which the problem of plastic waste needs to be addressed has recently led to Governments agreeing to amend the Basel Convention to include better control of plastic waste in a legally-binding framework which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and tightly regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment.

Given the inclusion of these new obligations under the Basel Convention and the need for countries to implement activities that will contribute to the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, the Special Programme can facilitate the implementation of projects that could contribute to the fulfillment of obligations towards these new amendments and address aspects of plastic waste management in general. There are many approaches a project can take to achieve the sound management of plastics using Special Programme funds. For example, [the implementation of policies that mitigate plastic manufacturing, import, sale, and usage](#) are some of the more widely used and successful tools available. Such policies include, amongst others:

- Adopting legislation to ban or regulate importation and distribution of plastic waste in line with the new amendment to the Basel Convention.
- Enforcing taxes on the manufacturing and production of plastic bags and single use plastics, including charging fees for the purchase of plastic bags.
- Establishing a deposit return scheme to promote the effective recycling of plastic bottles at the national level.
- Implementing [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) (EPR) based legislation, which is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant financial and/or physical responsibility – for the treatment or disposal of plastic post-consumer products.

When drafting project outcomes and outputs that focus on plastic waste, they should articulate national priorities and how the proposed intervention will contribute to achieving the sound management of plastics. The proposed measures must be specific and explicit on how they will be sustainable and address institutional strengthening in the context of the objectives of the Special Programme.



1.4. Involvement of the health sector

Human exposure to chemicals and waste occurs on a daily basis and in many forms, for example through food, air or skin exposure amongst other things. Many of these chemicals are harmless and are necessary for living healthy lives, however exposure to many others can negatively impact human health. The [World Health Organization](#) estimates that 1.6 million deaths occurred due to chemicals exposures in [2016](#), with pregnant women, infants and children among the most vulnerable to such exposures. Potential adverse health effects of chemical exposures result in diseases such as cancers, strokes, chronic pulmonary disease and congenital abnormalities. Such diseases may result from acute poisonings, long-term exposure to individual chemicals or occupational exposure to air pollutant mixtures.

Countries may wish to develop projects that address the impact of chemicals on human health, in the context of the objectives of the Special Programme. It is important, when developing a health focused project, to consult and engage relevant stakeholders during project development and implementation, for example the Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders. Addressing human health through Special Programme projects will contribute the fulfillment of obligations and objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention. It will also contribute towards the achievement of the SAICM 2020 goal and beyond, as outlined in the [WHO Chemicals Roadmap](#) which highlights four action areas for the effective engagement of the health sector in project development:

- **Risk management** actions focus on engaging the health sector to help implement health protection strategies, regulating chemicals used in the healthcare setting and public awareness-raising in order to improve health both in the short term and long term for people.
- **Knowledge and Evidence** actions focus on facilitating the collaboration across multiple sectors, such as health, environment, trade, transportation, and private industry, to work in partnership and produce objective evidence, surveillance data and the burden of disease from chemicals and hazardous wastes.
- **Institutional Capacity** initiatives focus on strengthening national policy and regulatory frameworks; improving the domestic capacity for an emergency response to chemical spills and exposures; and implementing the MEAs to reduce the health impacts of chemical and waste exposures.
- **Leadership and Coordination** actions focus on considering health in all aspects of national and subnational chemicals and waste activities and stresses collaboration with the health sector in multisectoral projects to reduce the burden of disease due to mismanagement of chemicals.

Proposed outcomes and outputs that contribute to the engagement of the health sector, should be articulated in the context of national priorities and how the proposed intervention will contribute to achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste. Proposed measures must be specific and explicit on how they will be sustainable and address institutional strengthening and capacity building, in the context of the objectives of the Special Programme.



1.5. Sustainable Development Goals

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) were adopted in January 2016, following the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit as a global blueprint for achieving dignity, peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future. The implementation of projects that focus on the sound management of chemicals and waste will directly contribute to the achievement of several SDG targets, for example:

- **SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production - Target 12.4:** *By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.*

This target is directly linked to, and encompasses, successful implementation of the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the SAICM and other relevant policies and actions. This mirrors the Special Programme objective to promote the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM.

- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being - Target 3.9:** *By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.*

This target focuses on the ultimate impact of enhanced sound management of chemicals and waste in terms of human health which is also a primary focus of the chemicals and wastes MEAs.

- **SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation - **Target 6.3:** *By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.*

This target sheds light on the need for reduced pollution to maintain water quality.

Furthermore, SDG targets concerning environmental and social objectives related to chemicals and waste management action are also relevant when considering the development of Special Programme project proposals, including:

- **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth - **Target 8.8** on the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe working environments.
- **SDG 12:** Sustainable Consumption and Production - **Target 12.5** on the reduction of waste generation.
- **SDG 14:** Life Below Water - **Target 14.1** on the reduction of marine pollution.
- **SDG 15:** Life on land - **Target 15.5** on the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats.

Other SDGs that focus on fostering economic development and strengthening the enabling environment may also be relevant in the context of each country's national priorities and specific project proposal. The full list of Sustainable Development Goals and the corresponding targets and indicators can be found on the [SDG Knowledge Platform](#).

Project proposals that are submitted for funding from the Special Programme should describe how the project outcomes and outputs could contribute to the Applicant Government's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, making reference to specific Goals and Targets, as appropriate in the context of the objectives of the Special Programme.



1.6. Circular Economy

[Circular economy](#) is commonly defined as “an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design”. It replaces the ‘end of life’ concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems and, within this, business models”

At its core, the circular economy approach relies on reuse and high-quality recycling and much less on virgin raw materials for the manufacture of products. This approach aims to maintain the added value in products and materials for as long as possible, as compared to the traditional linear “take-make-dispose” model which is currently used and has, so far, contributed to much of today's challenges resulting from pollution from chemicals and waste.

The transition to a circular economy requires changes throughout the value chain, from product design to new modes of consumer behaviour. This can be encouraged through the implementation of policy frameworks that will incentivize and promote the shift toward a system where resources remain resources within the economy.

The Special Programme provides support to countries at the national level to implement policies and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The principals of circular

economy can therefore be [integrated into the proposed projects](#) with the view to strengthening the outcomes in a sustainable manner, for example:

- Establishing regulatory frameworks and a strategy on resource productivity and circular economy that aim to define product regulations, including design, extended warranties and product passports.
- Establishing waste regulations, including collection and treatment standards and targets, the definition of waste, extended producer responsibility and take-back systems.
- Establishing public-private partnerships with businesses at the national level with the view to encouraging industry collaboration platforms, encouraging value-chain and cross-sectoral initiatives and information sharing.
- Providing educational support and awareness raising to the general public and businesses on the principals of circular economy and training materials on best practices.

These principals can be integrated into project outcomes that focus on specific sectors, as shown, for example, in the sections on plastic waste and e-waste, or can be proposed as stand-alone interventions to promote the adoption of circular economy principals at the national level in the context of the objectives of the Special Programme.



1.7. Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the context of post COVID-19 recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the indispensable nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste to keep the environment clean and people healthy. But the pandemic has also placed significant pressure on the systems that have been put in place by countries to address the sound management of chemicals and waste by exposing existing gaps and highlighting areas where urgent action and continued investment may be needed to strengthen the relevant institutional structures.

Waste management has been deemed an essential public service in many countries and plays a vital role in the pandemic response. There has been a surge in the disposal of medical waste and disposable personal protective equipment from clinics and hospitals, which have been treating COVID-19 patients. At the same time, with many people also recovering from the disease at home, there's also a good chance that potentially infectious household waste could be entering treatment streams. This may have an impact on waste management workers and collectors who might not have the necessary training or equipment to make sure that health and safety procedures are in place to protect them from potentially infectious waste. Furthermore, both medical and household waste may contain mercury due to the disposal of widely used mercury containing products such as thermometers and other medical equipment.

Meanwhile, with more people looking to protect themselves from catching COVID-19, there's been an increase in the production and use of chemicals like biocides, disinfectants and household cleaning products. The safe use and disposal of such chemicals is essential for keeping people healthy and maintaining a clean environment – otherwise, we could see issues like antibiotic resistance and contamination of water sources start to emerge.

Working within its mandate to support countries strengthening their national institutions, the Special Programme stands in a unique position to provide funding to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to create and implement projects which focus on addressing existing systemic

weaknesses and gaps related to the sound management of chemicals and waste that have been brought to light following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing such issues through Special Programme projects will also contribute to countries fulfilling the obligations and objectives of the Basel Convention as it relates to the management of waste as well as the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention. It will also go towards achieving the SAICM 2020 goal and beyond.

Countries may wish to submit projects that implement activities which address existing systemic weaknesses and gaps related to the sound management of chemicals and waste that have been highlighted following the COVID-19 pandemic. This may include, amongst other things:

- Developing national legislation putting in place policies for the responsibilities and best practices of relevant stakeholders with respect to the safe management of healthcare waste from its collection to where and how it will be treated. [Technical Guidance](#) on this topic is available through the Basel Convention, and also form part of obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- Developing national legislation for household waste and putting in place policies for the establishment of formal household waste collection mechanisms that follow best practice guidelines, including the development to training schemes for the protection of waste management workers and collectors including in recycling practices. [Draft Guidance](#) on the management of household waste is available through the Basel Convention;
- Assessing and reviewing existing legislation related to the transboundary movement of hazardous waste;
- Assessing regulatory needs relating to eliminating the manufacture, import and export of mercury-containing products in the health care sector as called for in the Minamata Convention;
- Assessing and reviewing legislation related to the responsibilities in conducting chemicals risk assessments and provide risk reduction recommendations in the context of production and marketing of chemicals that are destined for use as biocides, disinfectants and household cleaning products;
- Developing regulations on air pollution control for mercury-emitting sectors, including coal-fired power plants and incineration of mercury containing waste;
- Raising awareness and increasing the knowledge on the positive impact of the sound management of chemicals and waste towards facilitating the the maintenance of healthy populations and the environment.
- Conducting training for frontline health and waste management practitioners on safe handling of hazardous and infectious health care waste.

The Special Programme Secretariat is available to provide support on a case-by-case basis upon request from applicants during the preparation of their application. Applicants can seek specialist advice on identifying technical cooperation solutions, project design and sequencing of appropriate activities, measurement of effectiveness/impact and project management best practices. This advice can be provided directly by the Secretariat. The Secretariat can also seek to connect applicants with relevant experts from the relevant chemicals and waste related Conventions and SAICM 2020 and beyond, as appropriate.

Annex IV: Appraisal Criteria

The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

To assist and guide Applicant Governments in the development of their applications based on national priorities, the Executive Board laid out appraisal criteria against which all applications are assessed. These criteria are used in appraisal and decision-making on the applications. The criteria are as follows:



1.1. Completeness Check

Has the applicant submitted all the required documents?

Form A - Project Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the official Focal Point, or the lead government representative for regional projects, signed and endorsed the Application?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the applicant signed and certified the Application?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annex 1: Contact Details	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annex 2: Related Project Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Form B – Project Budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of funding from beneficiary country and any other project funding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Endorsement letter from the Official focal point / Lead Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters of support from participating countries in regional projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters of support from all the project partners confirming its/their role(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Projects with an implementing organization/institution, a letter from the organization/institution confirming its role (if relevant)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annexes providing any relevant additional information regarding the measures and activities to be funded	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed Application Checklist	<input type="checkbox"/>



1.2. Eligibility Screening

- E1. Is the Applicant from a national government ministry or department in charge of the chemicals and waste agenda at the national level?
- E2. Is the Applicant Government a developing country, Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing Country (SIDS) or a Country with an Economy in Transition (CEIT)?
- E3. Are the proposed activities eligible for funding from the GEF?
- E4. What is the contribution of resources provided by the beneficiary country?



1.3. Budgetary Appraisal

- B1. Have there been cumulative allocations to the country? What are the contributions received and the needs expressed in the applications submitted?
- B2. Assess the personnel and contractual services costs being listed in the project budget. Is this in line with the guidance provided? ($\leq 50\%$ of the amount requested to the SP Trust Fund)
- B3. Assess the administrative costs being listed in the project budget. Is this in line with the guidance provided? ($\leq 5\%$ of the amount requested to the SP Trust Fund)
- B4. Assess the budget for monitoring, evaluation and audit. Is it in line with the guidance provided? (\leq US\$ 15,000)



1.4. Appraisal against the objectives of the Special Programme

- O1. Which measures within the objective of the Special Programme are addressed?
- O2. How well does the project ensure sustainability of the project outcome(s)?
- O3. What are the performance targets listed in the project?
- O4. Does the project identify the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the various sectors? If yes, to what extent?
- O5. Are there previous GEF-related projects or programmes?
- O6. Does the project build upon previous initiatives and institutional mechanisms already established?
- O7. Does the project promote enhanced reporting, coordination and cooperation at the national level to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM and if yes, how?
- O8. Does the project have regional impact, in line with the objective of the Special Programme and if yes, how?
- O9. Does the project consider gender issues and/or gender mainstreaming and if yes, how?



1.5. Additional appraisal criteria for projects requesting more than US\$ 250,000

M1. Are all relevant sectors involved in project implementation, for example environment, health, agriculture, customs and labour?

M2. Are institutional stakeholders including, but not limited to, the private sector and civil societies involved?

M3. Is the project based on circular or green economy initiatives?

M4. Does the project link with investment and development banks for investment opportunity at the national, regional and global levels?

M5. Is mainstreaming and overall integration at the national level demonstrated, including the ways in which the efforts can be scaled up at the regional level in a synergistic manner?

M6. Does the project build on existing projects from other programmes and obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management?



1.6. Additional appraisal criteria for regional projects

R1. Are all of the countries participating in the project listed under the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) list of Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) at the time of application?

R2. Are there two or more countries participating in this project?

R2. Does the project propose activities that result in improvement of the sound management of chemicals and waste in all countries involved in the project and/or does the project encourage South-South cooperation and knowledge transfer for the sound management of chemicals and waste?