



Project: China - Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation for the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and SAICM

Independent Assessment of the Closed Projects under the Special Programme Report (December 2022)

RESULTS

Overall Assessment

All project objectives were met thanks to an active engagement of the relevant ministries, academic entities, and international and regional platforms. The project strengthened the capacities of the competent authorities by conducting technical trainings on laws on chemicals and MEAs requirements and by creating an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the Stockholm & Minamata Conventions. In addition, the project supported the update national regulations, developed a chemical management database, and raised the awareness on the sound management of chemical and waste.

Implementing partner:

Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Agreement timeframe:

May 2018 to February 2022

Budget: 400,000 USD

Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

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

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

RAITING



0 No database or registry

1 Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)

2 Database or registry covering 2 MEAs

3 Database or registry covering 3 MEAs

4 Database or registry covering 4 MEAs

5 Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

In order to promote information sharing and to support the risk evaluation of chemicals under the BRS and Minamata Conventions, the project developed **a toxic and hazardous chemicals database** for environmental management which is now for internal use. The database was created based on a comprehensive analysis of foreign existing toxic and hazardous chemicals databases of developed countries.

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

RAITING

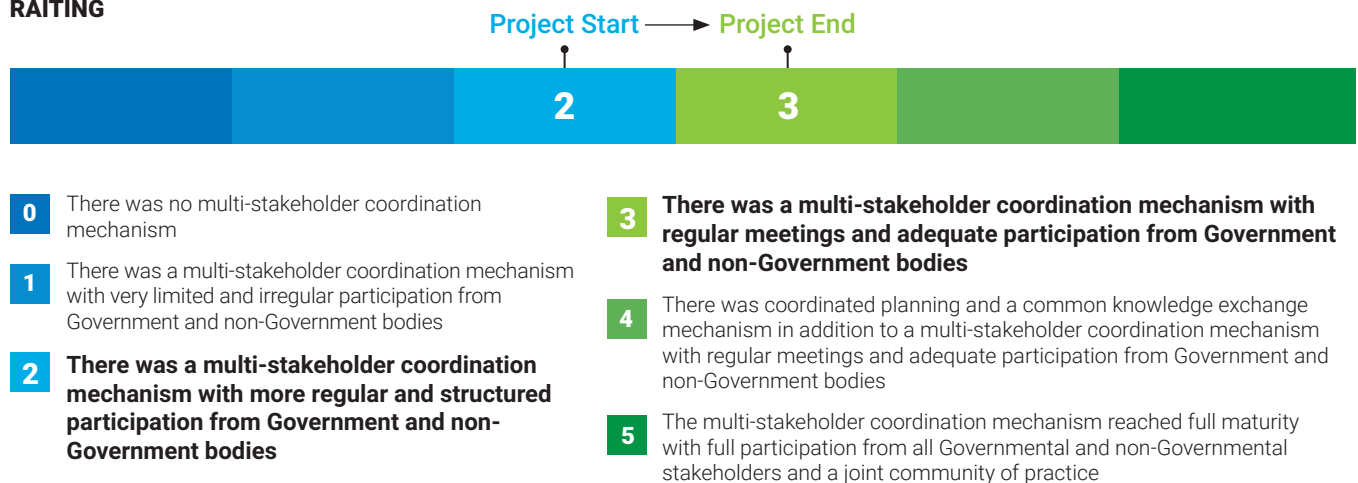


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project conducted **4 technical training sessions**¹, public awareness raisings and law-enforcement activities related to the implementation of international conventions on chemicals and waste, **targeting government officials** (including ministries and commissions², institutes directly under MEE, as well as bureaus and departments of ecology and environment at provincial, municipal and county levels), enterprise technical staff, and the public for **more than 2500 participants**.
- In particular, the project **strengthened the capacity** of the 3 institutions participating in the project, FECO/ MEE, MEESCC, and BCRC/SCRC³ of Tsinghua University, which are in charge of the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM.
- The project produced a wide range of communication and awareness raising materials⁴.

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

RAITING



SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- The project strengthened the national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions which had been set up in 2015 and 2017 before the SP project had started. The project **established an intra-ministerial coordination mechanism** (Joint POPs & Mercury Advisory Committee consisting of 72 members) within MEE for those two Conventions.
- During the project implementation, 6 thematic coordination meetings for different conventions implementation were conducted to strengthen the overall planning, guidance and coordination, and to facilitate the work of the two National Coordination Groups for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.
- The project carried out research⁵ and developed a Scheme for the Development of an Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanism for the Management of Transboundary Movements of Chemicals. Based on it, the project **proposed an inter-sectoral mechanism** and issued a **policy recommendation to improve the coordination of competent authorities** on chemicals and waste transboundary movement management to MEE which is to be approved by the National Council.
- The project conducted studies on selected technical documents relevant to the MEAs in the chemicals and waste cluster (via the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific). These studies resulted in establishment of an information collection and reporting mechanism for plastic waste import and export and other related matters.

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

RAITING



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

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project analysed regulatory gaps in terms of chemicals and waste management throughout their life cycle, and proposed policy recommendations on Improving the Coordination of Competent Authorities under the Basel Convention and on the Construction Scheme for the Environmental Management Database of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals. These **policy recommendations are being implemented** as they were included in the revised "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention & Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste" which was adopted in April 2020 and entered into force in September 2020.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation

RAITING



- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 Nothing was done | 2 The regulations were adopted |
| 1 The relevant authority proposed to develop regulations | 3 The regulations were in place and being implemented |

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

At the start of the project, China had already secondary legislation for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Thanks to the project, this secondary legislation was updated. The project conducted studies on selected technical documents relevant to the MEAs in the chemicals and waste cluster (via the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific). These studies resulted in establishment of an information collection and reporting mechanism for plastic waste import and export and other related matters (see also criterion 1.4). As a result, the State Council **promulgated the regulatory document** titled "Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution", which supports the implementation of the COP 14 adopted "Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendment".

FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE



Gender: A large majority of the project team of FECO/MEE, of the two implementing partners - MEESCC, BCRC/SCRC China of Tsinghua University, and of the consultants procured by the project were women.



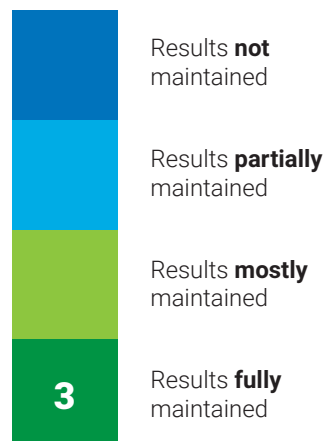
COVID-19: The pandemic delayed the project training activities. Finally, all the project activities were completed in 2021 with 6-month project extension.

No other factors seriously affected the project implementation.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The project **results have been sustained** through the government domestic financing and the established institutional capacities and mechanisms.
- The project intervention's scope was limited. However, it **highly contributed to the long-term management** of Chemicals and Waste scheme for China. The outputs of the project have been carried on to next steps.
- The training materials developed during the project continue to be used by the local authorities via the platform of the Centre for Environmental Education and Communications of MEE.
- MEESCC plans to further improve physicochemical, ecological, health, and production data based on the existing database to further support China's convention implementation and chemicals management.
- China is working on the **new application** of the SP Programme to further consolidate the project result and address the action gaps of sound management of Chemicals in the country and promote MEAs the implementation in both China and the rest of Asia and the Pacific region.
- Due to the stronger political focus on the sound management of chemicals and waste, the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) specifically includes the sound management of emerging pollutants. In addition, the State Council has developed specific action plan to manage emerging pollutants.

RAITING After the End of the Project



LESSONS LEARNED

Public awareness needs to be raised at the national level about the direct linkages between the sound management of chemicals and waste and its contribution to prevent further worsening of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

The project results have been sustained by government domestic financing and the established institutional capacities and mechanism. Due to the limitation of the project duration and work scope, further efforts are necessary to: i) Mature the project developed chemicals database to be approved by MEE for public use; ii) implement the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism on transboundary movement of chemicals and waste.

¹ National training on solid waste and chemicals in 2020, National training on chemicals management and convention implementation in 2020 and 2021, a law-enforcement in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in 2019

² Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Management, State Administration for Market Regulation, General Administration of Customs, National Energy Administration and other related ministries and commissions

³ MEESCC - Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment;
MEE - Ministry of Ecology and Environment;
FECO/MEE - Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment;
..BCRC/SCRC - Basel/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific of Tsinghua University

⁴ i) Information and materials on the BRS-M Conventions and SAICM (in Chinese); ii) 5 pieces of transcript for publicity towards the public released on the social media Wechat for over 1000 reviewers; and iii) 3 pieces of PowerPoint slides and 3 video recordings of lectures on the BRS-M Conventions and SAICM targeting enterprise staff and officials in environmental protection fields (in Chinese).

⁵ Review of the Synergy Process of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Chemicals and Waste Cluster, Report on Coordination Mechanism on Chemicals and Waste Transboundary Movement Management, Study on the Selected Technical Documents Relevant to the International Environmental Conventions in the Chemicals and Waste Cluster and the SAICM