

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS
ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	January to December 2012
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DESCRIPTION

ENRTP Priority	Indicate relevant ENRTP SCAs Priority	EC Directorate General	ENV
Programme of Work	Subprogramme 5: Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste 52-P3		
Project's Title	International Cooperative Project on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals to build awareness and understanding and promote actions		
Location	Global		
Total duration	22 months		

Responsible Entity	DTIE
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Sheila Logan
EC Project Manager	Helen McCarthy/Peter Korytar

Date of EC Approval:			
EC Allocation (EUR):	300,000		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	Refer to date funds were allocated or transferred at project level		
Amount (USD)	400,000	Exchange Rate:	1.33
Total Expenditures (USD)	134,503	Total Expenditures (EUR)	100,877

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Summarize: i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives; iii) performance remarks and highlights.

- Significant delays have been experienced in the implementation of this project, due to delays in the finalization of the State of the Science report. This report was initially scheduled for completion in June 2012, but was only able to be launched in February 2013. The report is now available at <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/UNEPsWork/EndocrineDisruptingChemicalsEDCs/tabid/79616/Default.aspx>. As many of the other activities proposed within this project build on the availability of this report, there has been a delay in their implementation. However, it should be noted that the launch of the SOS report has received a significant amount of media attention, and there has been extensive interest in the work. In this sense, one of the major objectives of the project, to raise awareness of the problems caused by endocrine disrupting chemicals, has already been partially met.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Summarize main implementing challenges, if any, and strategy/actions which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; please explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

- The main implementing challenge within this project have been delays in the preparation of the State of the Science report, due to the need to ensure that both supporting organizations were satisfied with the text. As this report was not released during the reporting period, it was not possible to undertake the awareness raising activities, including the establishment of the advisory group and topic groups within this initial phase.

- The consideration of the issue at the third meeting of the International Conference in Chemicals Management resulted in the adoption of a resolution on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, however the mandate given to the IOMC organizations for further work was amended from the initial proposals, which may require amendment to the program of activities. Consultations are underway with other IOMC organizations, and are planned with the Bureau of the ICCM to consider how best to deliver the activities mandated by the ICCM and how this project may work within this. Depending on the overall agreed workplan for EDCs, it is considered possible for the major outcomes and outputs for this project to be achieved in an accelerated manner.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made/result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only).

- The outcome for the project is as follows:
Coherent policy and technical advice for managing harmful substances and hazardous wastes
 - Methodologies for chemical risk assessment are adapted to specific national, environmental and socio-economic circumstances
 - Coherent scientific and technical guidelines on the management of harmful substances throughout their life-cycles are developed and tested with other intergovernmental organizations
- The indicator for the project is:
 - Increased number of Governments and other stakeholders applying UNEP guidelines and tools providing scientific and policy advice on risk assessment and management in relation to harmful substances and, hazardous waste:
- At this stage, as the State of the Science report and the State of the Science: Summary for Decision Makers were not available during the reporting period, it has not been possible for it to have an impact on Government policy. The rapid distribution of this report will facilitate the further work. It is now available electronically at <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/UNEPsWork/EndocrineDisruptingChemicalsEDCs/tabid/79616/Default.aspx>

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide brief information on main activities undertaken; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Kindly include as annexes, any supporting documents which can be provided to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved and other relevant activities' documentation (if files can be downloaded, please provide below the link).

- The project output is: Expert group network and workplans established, at least 3 guidance reports on endocrine disruptors developed and awareness raising among decision makers in countries undertaken.
- Due to the delay in the finalization of the report, there has been limited progress on this output at this stage. Activities to distribute the report to all countries are planned, and will be undertaken as soon as copies are available for distribution. Following the decision of the ICCM3, the workplan is to be developed in cooperation with other IOMC organizations, and with the Bureau of the ICCM. It is not clear, at this stage, what the overall structure of the workplan will be. Depending on this, some elements of this project may need revisited to ensure the priorities indicated by all SAICM stakeholders are adequately taken into consideration.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Provide: i) any remark on the overall budget based on the financial report for the current reporting period; ii) indicate if there is a delay in spending the funds, please clarify reasons; iii) mention resources to be mobilized yet, if any; ii) additional resources leveraged by UNEP and/or partners as a result of the project

- The delay in finalization of the report has resulted in some consequential delays in expenditure. Additional resources have been mobilised to contribute towards printing and distribution of the report. Depending on the agreed workplan, significant additional resources towards awareness raising at the regional and sub-regional level would need to be mobilised, however the workplan is being developed in a modular fashion to allow delivery of funded activities, with other activities undertaken as funding becomes available.
- One major change in implementation which occurred during the reporting period was that, while it had been anticipated that the expert support would be delivered primarily through the use of experts or consultants, it eventually proved advantageous to deliver these services through the work of a supporting organization. This has led to an over-expenditure of the line relating to agreements with organizations, and an under-expenditure on the line relating to expertise and support on EDCs.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any key milestones*¹ and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period and iii) forecast of expected expenditures.

- Ongoing activities for the upcoming reporting period will include some activities which were delayed from the previous period and are as follows:

M2 Establishment and first meeting of an advisory group to provide advice on strategies and approaches for information exchange (including design and content of an EDC Website); awareness raising and networking of experts, risk managers and other relevant actors in the area of EDCs including agreement on terms of reference for the network and its topic groups.	15 July 2013
M3 Creation of a first version of a Website for information exchange on EDCs together with an awareness raising campaign about EDCs (inter alia using receivers of the 2012 update of the IPCS document) and the establishment and aims of the project	30 July 2013
M4 Creation of an initial international EDC network with first set of topic groups	1 September 2013
M5 Second meeting of advisory group together with a small number of topic group members to establish the modalities for working within and among topic groups, a time-plan for the network group discussions and reporting.	15 December 2012
M6 First three discussions among network topic groups held and reported on	31 March 2013
M7. Second version of the EDC Website developed populated with data, links to relevant information sources and first subject group discussions with second awareness raising campaign through (sub-)regional e-forum discussions with SAICM focal points and other relevant stakeholder groups and possible events relevant to chemicals	31 May 2013
M8 Reports from individual topic group discussions made available through the EDC website	15 October 2013
M9. General network discussion with chairs / other representatives from the individual groups to review progress of work including possible advice provided on individual EDC issues, identify priorities for further work and possible issues to address in future updates to the 2012 State of the Science on EDCs (SOS EDCs) and / or needs for other documents	15 November 2013
M10 Draft project evaluation report, (with the involvement of the advisory group and chairs and other relevant members of the network groups) summarizing any advice developed on EDC issues, assessing the achievements of the project and recommending future actions with possible work plans to update the SOS EDC and the development of reports on risk reduction, EDC alternatives, monitoring and assessment strategies.	15 December 2013
M11 Over-lapping meetings of the chairs of the network topic groups and the advisory group to review the draft project evaluation report, where a) chairs of subject groups review the summary of advice on EDCs issues developed by the topic groups and b) both subject group chairs and advisory group review the project's achievements and recommendations for further actions including plans for update(s) of the SOS EDCs and / or other EDCs documents	15 December 2013
M12 Release of project evaluation report for dissemination to decision makers and presentation at relevant events.	30 December 2013

- Revision of the milestones will be carried in line with the workplan requested by the ICCM, which is currently under development.

VISIBILITY:

Describe communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level, if any.

- Within the reporting period, no outreach was possible due the lack of availability of the report. It should be noted, however, that following the launch of the report, with the press briefings in Nairobi and Geneva, there has been significant media interest. As well as a large number of newspaper articles, the conclusions have the report have been highlighted in science documentaries and have been the subject of journal articles.

FINAL REMARKS:

Describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; i) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; iv) overall observations on project performance and whether the projects has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

¹ A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.

- A major lesson learned during the implementation of this project is the length of time which can be needed for interagency consultation, particularly in the development of a joint publication.
- This project has built on and contributed to the work of the Executive Director on financing, and the successful outcomes of the negotiations of the mercury treaty in January 2013 may have contributed to the agreement reached at the 27th Governing Council on the way forward for financing. The donor may be keen to foster ongoing work in the area.
- Overall, the project is working to deliver its expected outcomes and there have not been any significant unforeseen positive or negative results.

ANNEXES:

Please list supporting documents included as annexes, if any.

The supporting documents are: State of the Science on Endocrine Disruptors – 2012 and State of the Science on Endocrine Disruptors – 2012 – Summary for Decision Makers. Due to the size of these documents, they are not included as annexes, however may be downloaded at

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/UNEPsWork/EndocrineDisruptingChemicalsEDCs/tabid/79616/Default.aspx>

UNEP/MEA Project Manager: _____

Signature: _____

Date of Submission: _____