

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Implementation in the Caribbean

SAICM at A Glance



The **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management** (SAICM)

is an international policy framework for the sound management of chemicals. In 2002, at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, the international community set the goal of ensuring that “by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”. The SAICM was developed in response to this goal, and was adopted by the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in 2006, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

SAICM is not a legally-binding treaty, rather

it is an expressed global political commitment for achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle. The SAICM development process engaged over 140 Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. All stakeholders are committed to implementing SAICM in accordance with their own needs, priorities and capabilities.

SAICM treats chemical safety as a sustainable development issue. The main benefit of SAICM to the Caribbean is that the framework provides financial resources to support developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to achieve sound and safe chemicals management.

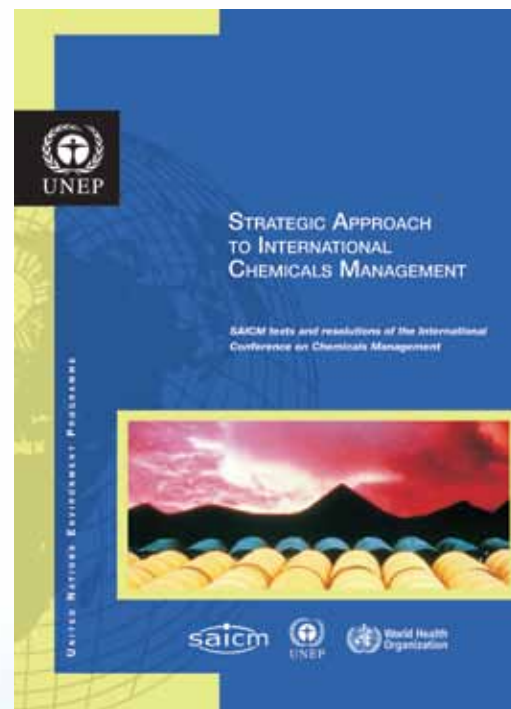
SAICM Texts

There are three principal texts that comprise the SAICM policy framework. These are:

1) **The Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management**, which is a high-level statement of commitment to achieve sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle at all levels;

2) **The Overarching Policy Strategy**, which sets out the SAICM scope, needs, objectives, underlying principles and approaches, financial considerations, and arrangements for implementation and review.

3) **The Global Plan of Action**, which serves as a working tool and guide for stakeholders as they undertake to implement SAICM and to achieve the overarching strategic policy objectives.



SAICM Objectives

The primary goal of SAICM is “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, so that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.”

Further strategic objectives have been developed under five thematic headings:

1. Risk reduction
2. Knowledge and information
3. Governance
4. Capacity-building and technical cooperation
5. Illegal international traffic

Emerging Policy Issues

The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) calls attention to emerging policy issues related to chemicals management. Emerging policy issues highlighted at the 2nd meeting of the ICCM in 2009 included:

- lead in paints;
- chemicals in products;
- hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products;
- nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.

SAICM Implementation and the Quick Start Programme (QSP)



SAICM stakeholders have recognized that developing countries and SIDS require substantial assistance and support to implement SAICM and achieve the 2020 target. As a result, the SAICM Quick Start

Programme (QSP) was established.

The QSP provides Least Developed Countries (LDC), SIDS, countries with economies in transition, and civil society networks with financial resources to support their achievement of the 2020 target. A voluntary, time-limited **Trust Fund** was established under the QSP to provide financial resources to eligible countries to undertake initial capacity-building activities in keeping with the following **strategic priorities**:

- Development or updating of national chemical profiles, and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;
- Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement SAICM, building upon work conducted to implement

international chemicals-related agreement and initiatives;

- Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating — i.e., mainstreaming — the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and development assistance priorities.

Eligible countries can obtain support from the Trust Fund for national government projects, multi-country projects, and/or civil society projects. Financing under the Trust Fund is limited to US\$50,000 - \$250,000 per project proposal, for projects of up to 2 years duration. Projects are evaluated by the **Trust Fund Implementation Committee**¹ which meets twice yearly to appraise and approve proposals submitted for funding by the QSP Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is open for contributions until the 3rd session of the ICCM in September 2012, and will continue disbursements until 2013. At the 3rd ICCM in November 2012, a decision will be taken about continuations to the QSP and Trust Fund.

¹Comprises representatives from the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals [IOMC] (WHO, FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR)

The Quick Start Programme in the Caribbean

Several¹ Caribbean² countries have benefited from access to funds under the QSP and the Trust Fund. **Table 1** provides an overview of the Caribbean countries which have applied for support and the types of projects proposed.

Table 1: Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund Applications from the Caribbean

Country	Project Title	Value (US\$)
Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti , Mongolia, Republic of Congo and Syria	"Updating National Chemicals Management Profile, Development of a National SAICM Capacity Assessment and Holding a National Priority Setting Workshop in one least developed country and four developing countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Mongolia, Republic of Congo and Syria"	1.02M
Barbados	"Updating a national chemicals management profile, developing a national SAICM capacity assessment, and holding of a national SAICM priority setting workshop"	55,450
Trinidad & Tobago	"Strengthening the legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity of SIDS in the Caribbean"	178,794
Cuba	"Capacity Building for POPs laboratories in Cuba under multilateral environmental agreements"	250,000
Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti	"Capacity Building for POPs analysis to support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention"	250,000
Guyana	"Developing an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and SAICM implementation in Guyana"	90,000
Barbados	"Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation and supporting capacity building for the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in Barbados"	250,000
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	"Establishing an institutional framework for strengthening national capacity within an integrated process for the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of the Strategic Approach in St. Vincent and the Grenadines"	229,999
Dominican Republic	"Enabling activities for the development of a SAICM Implementation Plan within an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in the Dominican Republic"	215,000
St. Lucia	"Effective Chemicals Management in Saint Lucia" ²	157,500
Haiti	"Strengthening Capacities in the Republic of Haiti for National ³ SAICM Implementation and Supporting GHS Capacity Building"	250,000

Applying to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

Governments of developing countries may only apply for support from the QSP and Trust Fund if they have nominated a **national SAICM Focal Point**. Civil society networks may also, in "exceptional circumstances", be eligible for support. All applications to the QSP Trust Fund must be endorsed by the national SAICM Focal Point of each country where project activities will take place. In evaluating applications, priority is given to SIDS and LDCs, as well as to applications from countries that have not yet had a QSP project. As of June 2012, all CARICOM Member States, with the exception of Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis have designated National SAICM Focal Points. More information on making a QSP application is available from the SAICM website: www.saicm.org.

¹ The project was conditionally approved (Provisional Report of the 10th meeting of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the QSP of SAICM)

² This project was conditionally approved (Provisional Report of the 10th meeting of the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the QSP of SAICM)

Caribbean Participation in SAICM

To date CARICOM Member States have held key positions in the SAICM governance architecture. The Latin America and Caribbean region has established a SAICM Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) as a mechanism for consultation, dissemination and exchange of information related to SAICM implementation, and for the formulation and articulation of regional positions on chemicals management issues. CARICOM Member States may communicate their positions via representatives on the RCC. Jamaica was appointed by the Committee to serve as the Regional SAICM Focal Point from May 2009 to September 2012. The governments of Barbados, Cuba and Guyana have also been in the past, represented on the RCC.

Jamaica was also co-Chair of the Executive Board (EB) of the QSP from 2006-2007. The EB provides operational guidance and advice on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the QSP and on other related matters. Jamaica was also represented on the Board, as a Member, from 2008-2009. Barbados was a Member of the Board from

2010-2012.

In 2009, at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), Barbados received a bronze award for its contribution to the success of SAICM.

There is still however room for improvement when it comes to full and effective CARICOM participation at RCC Meetings and ICCM sessions. The region continues to see less than optimal participation at RCC and LAC meetings, and at ICCM sessions. The sub region has also failed to nominate its additional Member State to serve on the RCC. To address this, the sound chemicals management needs to be an ongoing agenda item of the relevant Ministerial Council of CARICOM, the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). This would support the further sensitizing of relevant stakeholders in the sub-region toward playing a more active role in supporting regional Governments in SAICM implementation.

CARICOM Successes with SAICM Implementation

A. Risk Reduction

(i) National Chemicals Profile and Action Plans

Some countries have developed National Chemicals Profiles to assess the chemicals management framework at the national level, including the prioritization and the identification of gaps. In addition to its chemical profile, **Jamaica**, has also developed an Integrated National Programme for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes which outlines, *inter alia*, the priority activities with respect to chemicals management for the period 2005- 2010. This Plan will be reviewed and updated for the succeeding five year period. **Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic and St. Lucia** have completed their National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, while Trinidad & Tobago is currently finalizing its NIP.

(ii) Pesticides Management Programmes

The **Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards (CGPCB) of the Caribbean** discusses common issues and challenges related to the regulation of pesticides in the Caribbean. The Group has been in existence for the last 20 years and provides advisory services to Member States in this regard.

Jamaica has established the Caribbean Poison Information Network (CARPIN) which is an information resource and training centre for medical and other stakeholders on the prevention, identification and treatment of cases of chemical poisoning, including pesticide poisoning. Some of the larger CARICOM countries, including **Suriname** and **Guyana**, are in the process of establishing laboratories to monitor pesticide levels in food. **Jamaica** has a Pesticide Residue Monitoring Programme for imported and locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables.

An Agrochemical Strategy for Improved Agrochemical

use and management in the Wider Caribbean has been developed with the support of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG) and the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards

(iii) Lead in Gasoline

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic and Jamaica (2001) are some of the countries within the Caribbean which have phased-out the use of lead in gasoline.

B. Knowledge and Information

i) Implementation of the GHS

Both **Jamaica** (financing from the Swiss Government) and **Barbados** (QSPTF project) with the support of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are currently undertaking national Projects to build the capacity of their respective countries to implement The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

ii) Cleaner Production

A Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Information Centre for the Caribbean was established in St. Lucia in 2008. The Centre is a collaborative effort of CEHI and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

C. Governance

i) Implementation of national laws and regulations regarding chemicals management, including those that serve to implement the international agreements

Jamaica has enacted Regulations under their primary environmental legislation governing the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention at the national level. **Trinidad and Tobago** has received funding from

the QSPTF (see Table III) to assist in the formulation of its legislation related to the Basel Convention.

ii) Inter-agency/Inter-ministerial Coordination

A number of Caribbean States have convened inter-agency/Inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to assist in coordinating discussions and activities among the relevant national stakeholders on chemicals management issues. Examples of these types of mechanisms exist in **Belize, Barbados, and Jamaica**

D. Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

Waste Management

Trinidad and Tobago is the host of the Basel Convention Regional Centre which provides technical assistance to Basel Convention Party States within the Caribbean for the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

The Customs Administrations in most of the CARICOM Member States have received training on the identification of ozone depleting substances as well as products containing these substances under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. There have been discussions at the regional level on the development of a module on the Green Customs Initiative for inclusion in the customs training offered by the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC).

E. Illegal International Traffic

Prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous goods

Belize and **Jamaica** have promulgated regulations under their respective national environment legislation governing the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. Under the QSPTF Project “Strengthening the legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity of SIDS in the Caribbean”, **Trinidad and Tobago**, is working on the development of legislation governing the management of hazardous wastes.



Caribbean SAICM Focal Points

Regional SAICM Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Gillian Guthrie
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 Kingston 5, Jamaica
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 Email: emdmohe@yahoo.com

National Designated SAICM Focal Points (as of June 2012)

Country	National SAICM Focal Point
Antigua and Barbuda	Dr. Malvern Spencer Chairman Pesticide and Toxic Chemical Control Board Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and the Environment Dunbars St. John's Antigua and Barbuda Tel: (1 268) 462 4501 / 9437 Fax: (1 268) 462 6281 Email: malv@lycos.com pesticidescontrol_ab@yahoo.com
The Bahamas	Mr. Philip S. Weech Director Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST) Office of the Prime Minister Nassau Court, P.O. Box CB-10980 Nassau .The Bahamas Tel: (1 242) 322 4546; Fax: (1 242) 326 3509 Email: philipweech@bahamas.gov.bs
Barbados	Mr. Jeffrey A. Headley Director Environmental Protection Department Ministry of Housing, Lands and Environment Jemmontts Lane, St. Michael, Barbados Tel: (+246) 436 4826; Fax: (+246) 228 7103 Email: enveng@caribsurf.com
Belize	Mr. Martin Alegría Chief Environmental Officer Department of the Environment Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development Market Square, Belmopan, Belize Tel: (501) 802-2542; Fax: (501) 822 1526 Email: envirodept@doe.gov.bz ; martinalegria@hotmail.com

Country	National SAICM Focal Point
Cuba	<p>Mr. Fernando González Bermúdez (Political) Ministro a.i. Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente Capitolio Nacional Prado y San José CP 10200 Ciudad Habana La Habana, Cuba Tel : (537) 62 6606 / 60 3411 / 62 0420 ; Fax : (537) 33 8054 Email : fmgonzales@ceniai.inf.cu</p> <p>Mr. Mario Abo Balanza (Technical) Director Centro de Información, Gestión y Educación Ambiental Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente Ciudad Habana La Habana, Cuba Tel: (537) 209 6014; Fax: (537) 204 9031 Email: mabo@ama.cu</p>
Dominica	<p>Chairperson Pesticide Control Board Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Government Headquarters, Roseau Dominica Tel: (+1 767) 448 2401 ext. 3282; Fax: (+1 767) 448 7999</p>
Dominican Republic	<p>Mr. Ernesto Reyna Alcántara Subsecretario de Gestión Ambiental Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Ave. 27 de Febrero esq. Ave. Tiradentes Plaza Merengue, 2do. Piso Ens. Naco, Distrito Nacional Santo Domingo, República Dominicana Tel: (+809) 472 0626 / 472 0627; Fax: (+809) 472 0631 Email: sga@medioambiente.gov.do</p>
Guyana	<p>Ms. Trecia David Registrar, Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board NARI Compound, Mon Repos East Coast Demerara, Guyana. Tel: (592) 220 8880 / 220 8838 ; Fax: (592) 220-8933 ; Email: ptccb@guyana.net.gy</p>
Haiti	<p>Mr. Pierre Frantz Germain Bureau du Projet de lutte contre la malaria Ministère de l'Environnement Delmas 95, Rue Pommeyrac, impasse Acajou 4 Port-au-Prince Haiti Tel: (509) 3720 8035 / 3449 9066 Email: franzger@yahoo.fr</p>



Country	National SAICM Focal Point
Jamaica	Mrs. Princess Thomas Osbourne Director, Standards and Regulation Division Ministry of Health, Oceana Complex, 2-4 King Street, Kingston, Jamaica Tel: (+ 876) 948 4106; Fax: (+ 876) 967 1629 E-mail: osbournetp@moh.gov.jm
St. Lucia	Ms. Donnalyn Charles Sustainable Development and Environment Officer III Sustainable Development and Environment Section Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Planning, Investment and National Development American Drywall Building, P.O. Box 974 00134 Castries Saint Lucia Tel: (1 758) 451 8746 / 487 8385; Fax: (1 758) 451 9076 Email: doncharles@sde.gov.lc
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Mr. Marcus Richards Agricultural Officer Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Richmond Hill, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Tel: (+784) 457 1283; Fax: (+784) 457 1688 Email: office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc ; mlrids@yahoo.com
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Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Joy Creese Permanent Secretary Ministry of Housing and the Environment HDC Building 44-46 South Way Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago Tel: (868) 623 4663 ; Fax: (868) 625 2793 Email : joy.creese@mhe.gov.tt



This document has been produced by the CARICOM Secretariat with the financial assistance of the European Union, under a joint EU-UNEP-CARICOM project.

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