



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Participation in CONASQ

NGO: Associação de Proteção ao Meio Ambiente de Cianorte (APROMAC)

Country: Brazil

Date: February 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Include civil society representatives in Government committees formulating, carrying out and monitoring SAICM implementation plans, or useful inputs into the process where NGOs encounter barriers to their substantive direct participation, broad and meaningful participation of stakeholders, including women, at all levels in devising responses to chemicals management challenges and in regulatory and decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety (164, 206)

Description of Stockholm Convention or SAICM implementation-related policy processes that you have participated in or contributed to:

Participation in CONASQ

As members of the National Commission of Chemical Safety (CONASQ) - where we have a seat representing Civil Society – we have emphasized our interest to work more deeply on

SAICM and chemical conventions implementation, as well as invited the other members of the Commission to put efforts into that. A result of our efforts was the creation of a Working Group in October 2010 to build a proposal for the CONASQ Agenda for the next years, which will include SAICM and Stockholm Convention as one of the major issues for the next Agenda. The resulting proposal is ready and will be discussed for approval in the next CONASQ meeting in December 2010. The web page of CONASQ is

<http://www.mma.gov.br/sitio/index.php?ido=conteudo.monta&idEstrutura=143&idConteudo=7253&idMenu=6410>

And for SAICM

<http://www.mma.gov.br/sitio/index.php?ido=conteudo.monta&idEstrutura=143&idConteudo=7255&idMenu=7322>

In the beginning of 2010 the Ministry of Environment created a National Coordination Committee (CNC), formed by some members of CONASQ, which includes APROMAC, to develop the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention in Brazil. The role of the CNC is to endorse the documents coming from the WGs created by the project, after a deep analysis thereof. We were informed that the project would begin in the second semester of 2010, but it was not. We hope that the project will start developments in the next year (2011). In March 2010 CONASQ presented the state of implementation of SAICM in Brazil and actions executed in the priority areas (those that are being discussed in the CONAMA – national environmental council) are mercury lamps, lubricant oil bottles, and electronics. As the governmental actions have been very unexpressive, we are asking for at least the official translation into Portuguese of the SAICM text (that was not available until now), more attention of the government to raise awareness of the society, and support for civil society to work on that, since the few NGOs able to discuss the Stockholm Convention in a better technical level don't have financial support opportunities. The APROMAC proposals are to give attention to the emerging issues such as nanotechnology, lead in paints and other products (toys), chemicals in products, mercury in products, and a lot of other issues that should be addressed by the government in a more effective way.

In 2010 the PRTR governmental project was launched and it is expected that the activities shall begin in 2011.

Description of NGO positions, priorities and concerns with the process:

There are not many NGOs working or willing to work on chemicals and public policies in Brazil that are technically skilled enough to participate in the chemicals discussions and advocate the collective interests. The agroecology, indigenous and women's organizations are not historically interested in chemicals, and the medical associations are somewhat distant from these issues and the social movements. However, there are some issues related to chemicals that are being discussed more, such as pesticides and industrial water contamination.

CONASQ is recognized as an official forum to discuss chemicals and public policies about international treaties and national main issues, even though it does not have deliberative powers, with only one seat for civil society. We see this space as an opportunity to insert chemicals issues in the government and other stakeholders' agenda, but we would prefer more seats for civil society and that CONASQ had an independent secretariat.

In 2010 APROMAC participated in three CONASQ meetings representing Civil Society Organizations and Social Movements. APROMAC provoked the discussion on pesticides by asking for a presentation by ANVISA (National Agency of Sanitation Surveillance) about the recent inspections made at multinational pesticide plants in Brazil and the findings of pesticides adulteration. APROMAC had proposed in 2009 that CONASQ issue a Recommendation to ANVISA to continue its good work of reevaluating pesticides formulated and inspecting companies to combat adulterations. After long discussions finally a recommendation was written in 2010 on behalf of CONASQ and sent to ANVISA and to the Ministry of Agriculture.

During 2010 the National Policy of Solid Wastes was approved by the National Congress, and now the regulatory decree is being written by the Civil Cabinet. The Law gives a permanent exemption to the mining industry so that it may dispose its waste without the restrictions provided for other sectors. Another problem is that the project allows incineration and has only a few restrictions on contaminated products disposal. Unfortunately the CONASQ is not being consulted about the draft.

We had asked that the Ministry of Environment report to CONASQ on the SAICM stage level in the hope that the government informs us when we will have a Portuguese translation of the SAICM text and about the SAICM NIP, as there are not any actions announced. We were told that the government doesn't have a schedule for that.

We had also requested that the government work together involving all the ministries and agencies related to chemicals to implement the chemicals conventions in the country. There is a consensus that the chemical issue shall be constantly stressed in several instances by each Ministry to insert the issue in the routine of these institutions and their related public policies. However, an example of the reality of chemicals issues in the routine of each public institution is the draft of an Action Plan of Sustainable Production and Consumption that simply ignores the chemical conventions, the pertinent articles of the Agenda 21, and so on, only concerned with recycling and other post-consumption stages. As the draft is under public consultation, we are providing a lot of comments to be sent through a great citizens' network (FBOMS – Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for Sustainable Development).

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted or type of participation that was organized:

Participation in CONASQ and development of SAICM-related webpage

Impact on target policies:

The CONASQ's agenda was discussed in a separate WG, and other WG was created to meet in 2011 to discuss the strategies for a future legal framework. Despite the fact that SAICM is an important item of the agenda, in reality SAICM is not being implemented even for lamps and electro-electronics (the two working groups in the National Environmental Council – CONAMA were stopped to wait for the government decisions about the regulation of the National Solid Waste Policy). The SAICM main text translation is not available for the public until now and I cannot see the government practically implementing SAICM in Brazil, except for the management of the contaminated lubricant oils and tires (each one in different levels of engagement). Also, our denouncement against lead in paints doesn't seem to be an important item of the official agenda.

Outreach to stakeholders:

Some private sector and government. We are following-up the monitoring group of contaminated lubricant oils because the group was created by a CONAMA resolution and there is place for NGOs there. The management of tires is not possible to NGOs participate in the decision-making process.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

With the support of IPEN we produced a homepage on SAICM on our website and monthly bulletins on SAICM issues with the purpose to involve more people and organizations in the chemicals agenda. The SAICM homepage can be accessed at <http://www.apromac.org.br/saicm.htm> The page contains the publications and campaigns related to chemicals developed in the last years by APROMAC, and includes articles and other news related to recent events on chemicals not only in Brazil but abroad.

The bulletins can be accessed at:

January: <http://www.apromac.org.br/boletim001.htm>

February: <http://www.apromac.org.br/boletim002.htm>

March: <http://www.apromac.org.br/boletim003.htm>

April: <http://www.apromac.org.br/boletim004.htm>

The new homepage on SAICM and all the bulletins produced under this project were largely divulged in 7 main national citizens' networks that amount to about 500 to 1,000 organizations related to environmental justice. See the Attachment with the list of main networks receiving the bulletin. Governmental officers were also invited to visit our homepage and bulletins.

After publishing the bulletins we have received some enthusiastic responses of professors and researchers. All of them were invited to write articles for our homepage.

The projects outcomes of APROMAC in partnership with IPEN are published in the homepage (lead in paints, mercury in products, technical publications and other materials in Portuguese).

We have seen slightly more interest on the part of some organizations to discuss the pesticide issue and public policies, but a more qualified discussion on other chemicals is not well developed, with exceptions on the part of some professors and researchers that participate in the civil society's networks. There are two e-lists on mercury and health coordinated for other persons, and an APROMAC owned e-list (GRUPO-APROMAC) for Parana State NGOs for which every week we have sent news about mercury, but the reply rate and availability to debate is low. We have also seen some people interested in nanotechnology issues recently. In general the interest on chemicals by the part of public and citizens' organizations is still low, but we know that there are a significant number of individuals working on chemicals that could be mobilized to work together. Some efforts that may be made to improve the professional and institutional engagement would be the organization of conferences, workshops and other events.

To overcome the difficulty to access the greater media, we created our homepage and bulletins that have national and international information on global treaties, governments & NGOs' efforts to implement them in their countries, as well as useful articles on POPs and other toxic substances that are part of the citizens' daily life. All the most important Brazilian citizens' networks were informed about the homepage and invited to visit and read the bulletins and other publications available.

NGO Recommendations to achieve desired NGO participation:

We think that the initiative of the federal government (i.e., the national focal point) to assume its role of provide information for citizens about the SAICM together with practical measures such as strong policies for chemicals, issue of papers, review of the legal framework and proposal of a new one for areas still not covered (nanotechnologies, electro-electronics, lamps, medical devices, drugs disposal, etc) should be necessary to start the discussion in Brazil about SAICM. We have talked with a lot of environmental authorities at state and city levels in many parts of the country, and nobody knows what is SAICM (there is not even a translation of the main text) and even less what is their role in that. NGOs members of the e-lists where we are received all the bulletins.

We suggest workshops or seminars (1 at national level and 25 for state level inviting local NGOs), with good material and reports, and appropriate methodology to give information and collect local knowledge to incorporate the SAICM concepts and emerging themes in the daily routine.

ANNEX 1

Organizations and Networks that received our electronic Bulletin

FBOMS (Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Sustainable Development)

FONASC (National Forum of Water Basin Committees)

CNEA (List of NGOs registered at the National Register of Environmentalist NGOs)

FORUMDEONGS (Forum of NGOs – São Paulo State)

AGENDA 21

ARTICULAÇÃO SIDERURGIA (Steel Industry Articulation – List on Mining)
 REDEPOPS (POPs Network)
 REDEMERCURIO (Mercury Network)
 SAUDESEMERCURIO (Health Without Mercury)
 SALUDSINDANO
 LISTA DE DISCUSSÕES CONTRA OS AGROTOXICOS (List for Discussion against Pesticides)
 GRUPO-APROMAC (APROMAC List for Parana State NGOs)
 UNEAP (List of the Parana State Environmentalist NGOs Union).
 NGOs of RBJA (it is not updated, there are more entities than that) :
 ABAKÊ – Grupo de Ação, Mobilização e Desenvolvimento
 ABREA – Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto
 ACPO – Associação de Combate aos Poluentes
 ADRVDT/CPA – Associação em Defesa dos Reclamantes e Vitimados por Doença do Trabalho na Cadeia Produtiva do Alumínio
 AEIMM – Associação dos expostos e Intoxicado por Mercúrio metálico
 AGB/Rio e AGB/Niteroi – Associação dos Geógrafos Brasileiros
 AMA – Amigos do Meio Ambiente - Movimento Voluntário
 AMACM – Associação de Moradores e Amigos da Cidade dos Meninos
 AMBAJA – Associação de Moradores do Bairro Jardim América
 AMBIENTAL ACQUA BIOS
 AMPCVDO – Associação de Moradores do Porto das Caixas - Vitimas dos Danos Causados por Derramamento de Óleo pela Empresa Ferrovia Centro Atlântica S.A.
 AMPJ – Associação Movimento Paulo Jackson – Ética, Justiça, Cidadania
 ANAI – Associação Nacional de Ação Indigenista
 APROMAC – Associação de Proteção ao Meio Ambiente de Cianorte
 APUP – Associação de Pescadores de Parati e Ubú
 Associação Socioambiental Verdemar
 ATESEQ – Associação dos Trabalhadores Expostos à Substâncias Químicas.
 ATLA – Associação Terra Laranjeiras
 AVCésio – Associação das Vítimas do Césio 137
 AVICCA - Associação de Vítimas da Contaminação por Chumbo e Cádmiu/Santo Amaro/BA Bicuda Ecológica
 CEA – Centro de Estudos Ambientais
 CEDEFES - MG
 CEIPAC – Centro de Estudos Integrados e de Promoção do Ambiente e da Cidadania
 CEPEDES – Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas para o Desenvolvimento do Extremo Sul
 CESTE/ENSP/FIOCRUZ - Centro de Estudos da Saúde do Trabalhador e Ecologia Humana
 CO.RE.S. – Comissão Revitalização de Sepetiba
 CPP/BA – Conselho Pastoral dos Pescadores Regional Bahia
 CRIOLA
 CUFA/Ceará - Central Única de Favelas
 ECOA – Ecologia e Ação
 ECONG – Organização Não Governamental de Defesa do Meio Ambiente e do Patrimônio Cultural de Castilho e Região
 EKOS – Instituto para a justiça e a equidade
 ETTERN/IPPUR/UFRJ – Laboratório Estado, Trabalho, Território e Natureza, do Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano e Regional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
 FASE– Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional
 Fórum Carajás
 Fórum de Defesa da Zona Costeira do Ceará
 Fórum de Meio Ambiente e Qualidade de Vida da Zona Oeste e da Baía de Sepetiba (RJ)
 Forum Independente Popular do Madeira
 FUNAGUAS
 GAMBÁ – Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia
 GEDMMA/UFMA - Grupo de Estudos: Desenvolvimento, Modernidade e Meio Ambiente da Universidade Federal do Maranhão

GEEMA – Grupo de Estudos em Educação e Meio Ambiente
GELEDÉS - Instituto da Mulher Negra
GESTA/UFMG – Grupo de Estudos em Temáticas Ambientais
GPEA/UFMT – Grupo Pesquisador em Educação Ambiental da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso
Grupo de Pesquisa TD – Tecnologia Democrática, Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Federal Fluminense
GT Observatório do Fórum da Amazônia Oriental/FAOR
HocT – Associação Civil Hoc Tempore
IARA
IBASE – Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas
IDA – Instituto para o Desenvolvimento Ambiental
Instituto Justiça Ambiental (IJA)
IMAH
INESC – Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos
Instituto Búzios/BA
IJA - Instituto Justiça Ambiental
Instituto Terramar
International Rivers
Justiça Global
LACTA (UFF/ICHF) – Laboratório de Estudos de Cidadania, Territorialidade e Ambiente
LIGA AMBIENTAL
MAB – Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens
MAP – Mangrove Action Project
MIR – Movimento Inter-Religioso do Rio de Janeiro/ ISER
Movimento Cultural Arte Manha
Movimento Reage São Luís
Movimento Serras e Águas de Minas
Movimento Wangari Maathai
Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre
NINJA – Núcleo de Investigações em Justiça Ambiental
NAT - Núcleo Amigos da Terra Brasil
Núcleo BSAG – Brasil Sustentável: Alternativas à globalização (Federação de Órgãos para a Assistência Social e Educacional – FASE/RJ)
Núcleo TRAMAS/UFC - Trabalho, Meio Ambiente e Saúde para Sustentabilidade da Universidade Federal do Ceará
OBFF – Observatório Fundiário Fluminense
ODESC – Organização de Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Comunitário
Omolaiyè - Sociedade de Estudos Étnicos, Políticos, Sociais e Culturais
ONG GDASI - Grupo de Defesa Ambiental e Social de Itacuruçá
ORIASHÉ - Sociedade Brasileira de Cultura e Arte Negra
PACS – Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul
Rede Axé Dudu
Rede Brasil sobre Instituições Financeiras Multilaterais
REDE CUFA – Movimento Cultura de Rua
Rede de Integração Verde
RENAP - Rede Nacional de Advogados e Advogadas Populares
Relatoria do Direito Humano ao Meio Ambiente/Plataforma DHESCA Brasil
REMTEA – Rede Matogrossense de Educação Ambiental
SAPE – Sociedade Angrense de Proteção Ecológica
SECAN Sociedade Ecologica Cantagalense
Ser e Vida - Sociedade de Melhoramentos do São Manoel/SP
Sindicato dos Químicos Unificados
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Santarém
SINSESP – Sindicato dos Sociólogos do Estado de São Paulo
Sócios da Natureza
STTR-STM – Sindicato dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras Rurais de Santarém
Terræ

ViaCiclo - Associação dos Ciclousuários da Grande Florianópolis
VPAH – Verdejar Proteção Ambiental e Humanismo