

CHEMICALS

1. Assessment of chemical risks, including:

1.1 - Mechanisms for systematic evaluation, classification, and labeling of chemicals, including initiatives towards a harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals

Mozambique has a system for evaluation, classification, labeling of Pesticides coordinated by Ministry of Agriculture with involvement of Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs and Ministry of Health.

For Obsolete Pesticide similar procedure is used under Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs with involvement of Ministry of Agriculture

Customs office is one of relevant sector involved in importation and exportation systems in order to follow the international and national regulation on management of pesticides and hazardous waste under the Ministries of Agriculture and for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs respectively.

1.2 - Initiatives for assessment of toxic chemicals, hazard and risk assessment, and participation in various international and regional initiatives

Under the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs a pilot project related to assessment, classification and elimination of toxic chemicals was developed and submitted to the potential donor's .

Mozambique, represented by the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs is one of members states that are strongly involved with regional and international agreements like Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions related to management, treatment and elimination of hazards risks.

1.3 - Strategies for exposure assessment and environmental monitoring and improvement in procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict and estimate the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment

It is necessary to improve adequate capacity to develop strategy and procedure to use toxicology and epidemiological data to estimate the effects of chemical on human health and environment.

In Mozambique there is no a special laboratory for determination of principal cause of effects on human health and environment. Normally, samples are send to South Africa or Europe for analyses. The Mozambican Environmental Law 20/97 regulates the standards dose and chemical effects dose according to the standards parameter (lower and upper).

1.4 - Information exchange and cooperation, data-quality assurance, application of assessment criteria, and linkages to risk management activities

Based on existing pilot project on management of chemicals networks for exchanges of information, applications and assessment of impact related deferent's activities in different sectors are being developed. Usually there is one sector that deals with collection and systematization data's from all sectors.

2. Sound management of toxic chemicals

2.1 Progress within the larger framework of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs is the focal point of SAICM in Mozambique. Related to the implementation of the SAICM, a Pilot Project was developed and submitted to UNEP for financial mechanism and support (Budget) and the country is still waiting for final decision.

2.2 Initiatives and innovations for risk reduction, particularly taking in to account the life cycle of the chemicals

The competent authorities in Mozambique are taking initiatives for implementation of National regulation and International agreements to reduce risk associated of Chemicals. Based on that, the first Landfill for treatment and disposal of hazardous according our National Regulation and Basel procedure in Maputo Province is being developed.

The Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs has started to develop a Hazardous Waste Strategy and actually is conducting an awareness campaign around the country for dissemination of national regulation and international agreements.

2.3 Precautionary measures derived from broad-based life cycle analysis

The precautionary measures derived from board-base life cycle analyses depend on the type of chemical and its effects on human health and environment. Sometime it is necessary to develop projects for elimination and treatment of contaminated sites in order to avoid associated problems.

2.4 Policy measures to phase out chemicals that pose unreasonable and unmanageable risk to human health and human environment, such as, for example, ozone-depleting substances

The Government of Mozambique, through the Ministry for Coordination for the Environmental Affairs is one of member's states that implement Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances.

For monitoring activities, the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs developed a special regulation on Ozone Depleting Substances that the country uses to control importation and exportation of related substances.

2.5 Policies and frameworks for prevention of accidents, preparedness and response

The existing policies and frameworks for prevention of chemicals of accidents, preparedness and response involve relevant sectors such:

- Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ministry of Mineral Resources
- Ministry of Transport and Communication
- Ministry for Home Affairs - Fire Extinguish Staff
- Private Sectors
- NGO's

For monitoring the activities there are regulations on chemicals management and hazardous waste chemicals such Environmental Law 20/97, Hazardous Waste Regulation, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Standards, Environmental Audits, Pesticide Regulation, Bio-Medical Waste, Environmental Inspections. Also the country is developing a National Strategy on Hazardous Waste.

2.6 Policies aimed at reducing the risks posed by lead, mercury and cadmium and other harmful heavy metals, including through a review of relevant studies, such as, for example, the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds

A pilot studies conducted by the Ministry of Mining in coordination of Ministry for the Coordination of Environment about alternatives uses of mercury on washing mining were developed in Manica Province.

2.7 Initiatives to reduce overdependence on the use of agricultural chemicals

In 2009 a new Pesticide regulatory framework was approved. Under this framework import, storage and movement of pesticides within the country is regulated. The Ministry of agriculture annually approves the list of authorized pesticide to be imported. For a new pesticide a risk assessment need to be done before its importation. Monthly the importers should inform the Ministry body on the existing quantities and expired dates of pesticides in the market place.

This measure is to avoid a situation of accumulation and future deterioration of pesticide.

During the civil war several tons of pesticides was imported and become obsolete. In 2002 the Ministry of Agriculture launched a project to identify area and quantity of accumulated pesticides. Later on, a project for destruction of obsolete pesticides was designed and implemented by the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs.

It is important to note that agriculture is the main economic activities that rural people are involved with. Agriculture in Mozambique is labor intensive and rain fed with low use of inputs. Annual agricultural survey (TIA) estimates the use of pesticides at 4% in the last decade, being mostly used for horticulture and cotton by stallholders, and sugar cane industry by commercial farmers.

Pipeline investments in fruit production and crop production in general may raise the current level of chemical inputs use in the country. However, is not expected that the new accumulation occur. Farmers receive information, through extension services, on how to handle, store and dispose (manage) pesticides to avoid human and environmental contamination.