

How to achieve synergy

Synergy can be achieved through:

- strengthening cooperation between institutions and administrations involved in implementation and enforcement
- development of coordinated legislation
- improved information provision and exchange between Secretariats, governments, industry and civil society
- coordination among focal points in monitoring and enforcement
- coordinated capacity building and trainings for all interested stakeholders including skills development in risk assessment and risk management
- stakeholder involvement in all aspects of implementation
- information and awareness raising campaigns



Taking Action—Steps to Synergy

- # Complete a National Profile and Chemical Inventory
- # Develop a national Integrated Chemical Use and Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in consultation with stakeholders
- # Amend or develop appropriate legislation
- # Develop or adapt administrative, monitoring and enforcement system including:

Actions for Existing Chemicals - notification of banned or severely restricted chemicals, screening criteria for POPs

Actions for New Chemicals - regulate to prevent production & use of new POPs

Import/Export Controls - control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and POPs, restrict import & export of hazardous wastes & POPs, prior informed consent procedure

Environmentally Sound Waste Management - identify wastes & stockpiles, use of environmentally safe & efficient technologies, prioritise non combustion technologies for treatment of stockpiles, minimize waste generation & develop No-Waste Strategy

Environmental Releases – reduce/eliminate toxic releases from intentional & unintentional production and use, stockpiles and wastes

Hazard Communication & Public Involvement - identify & assess information & capacity building needs, develop communication strategies & public participation protocols

Substitution & Alternatives - promote information exchange & research on environmentally sound alternatives, evaluate alternatives to substitute toxic substances



SYNERGY OF THE CHEMICAL CONVENTIONS



Community Monitoring Working Group

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THE CHEMICAL CONVENTIONS

The coordinated implementation of the chemical conventions provides the crucial elements for 'life cycle management' of toxic chemicals at a national, regional and international level. The resultant 'synergy' of the chemical conventions consolidates the important principles of environmental sustainability, that is, the precautionary principle, intergeneration equity, polluter pays and common but differentiated responsibilities.

There are many opportunities for coordination in administration, policy and legislation, the management of information, technical resources, capacity building and training, chemicals analysis and monitoring, as well as import and export controls. All help to avoid duplication of efforts, improve the effective use of funds and enhance the management of chemicals and wastes at all levels.

An Integrated National Framework to implement the chemical conventions can be linked to national development priorities to access the much needed financial resources.

For more information :

UNITAR Workshop on Synergies of the Chemical Conventions, Geneva 2004
<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/>
The Hazardous Chemicals & Waste Conventions, Clustering the Conventions, July 2002
<http://www.pops.int/documents/background/hcwc.pdf>
The Conventions Handbook
<http://www.oztoxics.org>

Prioritising the Conventions

While there are eleven chemically related conventions, a framework for sound chemicals management should at a minimum include the following:

- *Stockholm Convention on POPs*
- *Basel Convention on hazwaste and/or regional counterparts*
- *Rotterdam Convention on prior informed consent*
- *ILO Convention 170 on information on hazards for workers*
- *GHS for Classification and Labeling of chemicals*



Obstacles to Synergy

There are obstacles to the effective coordination including:

- # lack of institutional capacity to implement and enforce the conventions, in particular technical, financial and training capacities
- # lack of legislative frameworks
- # poor and fragmental funding for chemical and waste initiatives
- # lack of stakeholder involvement in capacity building and training
- # poor information consolidation and exchange between designated governmental agencies and civil society.

International Chemically Related Conventions and Agreements

- UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decisionmaking and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal 1992.
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemicals Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention)
- FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
- UN Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).
- ILO Chemicals Convention 1990, No. 170.
- ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention 1993, No. 174.
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 1998
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) 2001
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Plus regional agreements, eg, Waigani Convention 1995 and Bamako Convention 1990 on the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes

