

Implementation of Decision VIII/1 on Côte d'Ivoire

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in December 2006, called upon Parties, countries and other stakeholders to the Basel Convention to offer technical and financial assistance to Côte d'Ivoire to support the implementation of the emergency plan that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had developed. The Executive Director of UNEP established a special Trust Fund for Côte d'Ivoire and appealed to donors and partners to contribute financially and technically to the implementation of the emergency plan. To date, the Fund has received EURO 1 Million from The Netherlands and USD 80'000 from Sweden. In addition, USD 32'000 from Denmark have been earmarked in the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in support of such assistance.

Although Decision VIII/1 on Côte d'Ivoire did not request any action on the part of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the following actions have been taken by the Secretariat in the spirit of the President's call for cooperation at COP8.

Firstly, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention organized a technical assistance mission to Abidjan from 20 November to 1 December 2006 in the context of the emergency mechanism of the Basel Convention (Decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties). The purpose of this mission was to look into medium-term measures to ensure that such disaster would not happen again.

Further, the Secretariat liaised with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, the International Maritime Organization, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking Countries in Africa based in Dakar, Senegal (BCRC-Senegal), the Basel Convention

Coordinating Centre for the Africa Region based in Ibadan, Nigeria (BCCC-Nigeria) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, and coordinated the development of a concerted approach for the implementation of the main recommendations of the strategic plan prepared by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and of the Basel Convention Secretariat's technical mission.

In this context, a UNEP-Basel Convention capacity building programme was developed and endorsed by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in August 2007, in Abidjan, to be funded under the UNEP Special Trust Fund for Côte d'Ivoire and the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

The UNEP-Basel Convention project

The UNEP Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, will coordinate the implementation of the above-mentioned programme by the Ministry of Environment in Côte d'Ivoire. The objectives include:

- to develop a hazardous waste management plan for the district of Abidjan to manage hazardous and other wastes in an environmentally sound manner (Component A);
- to assist in developing the capacity of the port of Abidjan to control and manage hazardous wastes generated at sea in an environmentally sound manner (Component B)
- to ensure a more effective implementation of international instruments in several countries in Africa concerning the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals through a coordinated

approach in enforcing the related provisions of the Basel Convention, the Bamako Convention, MARPOL 73/78, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention (Component C);

- to study the feasibility of an early warning system through information exchange and capacity building to promote greater consistency of approach in terms of procedures, protocols, exchange of information between ports and competent authorities in European and African countries (Component D).

The project is due to start in June 2008 and will last for twenty-two months. UNDP-Abidjan and the BCRC-Senegal will be associated to this effort.

The project for Côte d'Ivoire funded under the SAICM Quick Start Programme

In addition to the above described activities, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire have collaborated closely in the preparation of a project proposal for the strengthening of the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to monitor and control transboundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals. The proposal was submitted to the SAICM Quick Start Program and was approved for funding at its last Implementation Committee meeting in April 2008. This project, which will be an integral part of the UNEP-Basel Convention programme (mentioned above), is scheduled to start in the second half of 2008.

The two-year project will be implemented by the Basel Convention Secretariat with the assistance of the BCRC-Senegal and executed by the Ministry of Environment in Abidjan. This project will develop tools for the analysis of gaps in national legislation as related to international agreements for Parties in Africa possessing port facilities. It will aim to enhance the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to implement and enforce, through a comprehensive and integrated approach, international and national laws relating to the control of transboundary movements (in particular import and transit) of hazardous waste and chemicals in compliance with the obligations, standards and objectives of the Basel Convention, the International Health Regulations (WHO 2005), MARPOL 73/78, the Rotterdam Convention, and the Stockholm Convention. This pilot project is intended to be replicated in four other African Countries in the framework of the activities funded by the UNEP Special Trust Fund for Côte d'Ivoire.

Building infrastructure capacity for the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals in African states with port facilities (Phase II)-Proposal

Although the situation in each country may differ from one another, the incident of the dumping of hazardous waste in the port of Abidjan has illustrated some gaps and shortcomings that may well be found in other countries in Africa. Moreover, the consultation process between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and several UNEP and UN agencies has helped develop a preliminary program of action to address these gaps. This process could be considered useful to other countries in the region as well. In this context, a second phase of the programme which was developed in the aftermath of the Probo Koala incident in Côte d'Ivoire is being prepared for donors to cover eight vulnerable countries hosting port facilities in Africa. The capacity building programme (Phase II) would encompass the following activities in each participating country:

- Organization of a needs assessment mission in the port district;
- Preparation of a hazardous waste management plan for the administrative area/district of the port; including the development of a hazardous waste inventory in the port district;
- Review of port facilities and enhancement of technical capacity to monitor and control trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals entering the port to ensure their environmentally sound management;
- Development of norms and regulations, and capacity building activities, for the implementation of obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements that are relevant for the monitoring and control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals including their environmentally sound management (in the context of the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, and MARPOL 73/78).

This project is currently included in the Basel Convention work programme for the 2009-2010 biennium which is being submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for approval.

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