



Final Evaluation of the IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management Phase II

Management Response

October 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

(Version of 31 October 2017)

Programme undertaking	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)		
Name of project focal point	Kersten Gutschmidt		
Name of project undertaking	IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management – Phase II	AGB #	N/A
Name of evaluation	Final Evaluation		
Date:	18 October 2017		

SECTION I – Comments on Findings, Conclusions

Recommendations were discussed at the 9th Project Management Group (PMG) meeting. The PMG felt that the report was very detailed and clear and that the recommendations were very much in line with what has been proposed for the next phase of the project (Phase III, which is subject to funding by the donor).

SECTION II - RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation		Management Response and Planned Action			
		Accepted Partially Accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
1.	The PMG should commission a usability and options study from a specialist provider with comprehensive knowledge of the current market for web development software and knowledge	Accepted	Assess strengths and weaknesses of current IOMC Toolbox system	Subject to funding of Phase III Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

management solutions. The usability part of the study should identify core user requirements, and assess the technical strengths and weaknesses of the current system. It is likely that the existing data from the project's own piloting phase and the findings from this evaluation could underpin that analysis.	Conduct usability and options study for next generation Toolbox		
	Comments: As part of IOMC Toolbox Phase III, the current Toolbox system will be reviewed and assessed and a usability and options study will be conducted. Options for re-designing the Toolbox system will take into account experiences and lessons learnt from users, evolving user demands, latest technical developments, and technical requirements mentioned in below recommendations.		

Recommendation	Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
2. Regardless of whether the existing platform is retained or new software is adopted, the system should – at a minimum – fulfil the following technical requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard web navigation functions, including a transparent navigation structure that allows users to easily switch between the ‘low, medium, high’ resource paths; comprehensive site search; a back-button; and an overall cosmetic design that follows web design norms and standard ‘web grammar’. • Comprehensive, consistent and continuously monitored translation from English into - at least - French and Spanish. 	Accepted	Revise Toolbox system and functionalities Translate IOMC Toolbox into French and Spanish Establish cross-references and cross-linking Develop plan for hosting the Toolkit in the long-term	Subject to funding of Phase III Funding from Phase II Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III Under implementation Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III Planned
Comments: As part of IOMC Toolbox Phase III, the Toolbox design and functionalities will be revised and expanded taking into account the recommendations from the usability and options study. As part of Phase II, the Toolbox is being translated into French and Spanish. Future updates of the Toolbox will address all language versions.				

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimised number of click-throughs to any content, whether internal or external to the toolbox. • Automatic link auditing to ensure that the toolbox’s internal and external links are continuously monitored and maintained. • Increased cross-referencing and cross-linking between schemes, with a long-term objective of <i>comprehensive</i> cross-referencing and cross-linking between schemes, and between the toolbox and toolkits. • Development of a long-term hosting strategy for the toolbox and its supported toolkits. 	<p>In Phase III, existing schemes will be reviewed and expanded. Cross-references and and cross-links between management schemes and Toolkits will be established. This will be facilitated by the re-design of the Toolbox.</p> <p>A long-term hosting strategy will be developed and implemented.</p>			
Recommendation		Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
3.	<p>A broader typology and system of content ‘tagging’ should be developed, thereby allowing users to filter and/or identify materials according to non-technical categories, in turn increasing the relevance and accessibility to a far broader audience. As a minimum, the following new content categories/tags are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience (e.g. policymaker, decisionmaker, industry, technical/on-the-ground, academia) • SAICM elements (11 elements for attainment of sound chemicals and waste management) 	Accepted	Development of entry points	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
		<p>Comments: As part of Phase III, new entry points to identify tools in existing management schemes will be developed for Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, Overall Orientation Guidance (OOG), different stakeholder groups, lead in paint, and other SAICM emerging policy issues or legislative frameworks. Other entry points may be identified during the usability and options study and implementation of Phase III.</p>			

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

Recommendation		Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
4.	Given the limited effectiveness of the current, resource-intensive promotional strategy and the potential reputational risk that the IOMC is being exposed to, it is recommended that high-profile promotion – particularly to large, multi-disciplinary audiences – be avoided until the toolbox’s technical flaws have been resolved, or a new system has been adopted.	Partially accepted	Conduct usability and options study for next generation	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
			Revise Toolbox system and functionalities	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
		Comments: The completion of the usability and options study and re-designing of the Toolbox is planned to take place at the outset of Phase III and prior to the in-depth training events. However if the Phase III proposal is not funded by the donor, then work on the technical issues identified will be subject to resources available and promotion of the Toolbox will need to continue in the meantime.			
Recommendation		Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
5.	The PMG should develop an alternative training strategy that is explicitly – and possibly <i>exclusively</i> – focussed on engaging and supporting the primary target audience of policymakers. It is recommended that any realigned strategy is grounded in the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within any given country or region, training activity should be based on a detailed stakeholder and needs analysis. • POs should exploit their convening role to ensure that any workshops bring together all relevant institutions within the target country/region. 	Accepted	Develop criteria to identify countries for in-country training		Under implementation
			15 in-depth in-country training events, including development of case studies.	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
			5 in-depth (sub) regional events	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
			Webinars, including case studies	Subject to funding of Phase III	Planned subject to funding of IOMC Toolbox Phase III
Comments: Subject to funding, Phase III will be used to train professionals from relevant sectors and disciplines with an active role in the management of chemicals on technical topics covered in the Toolbox. Face-to face in-depth capacity building events in 15 countries will be conducted. Guidance will be provided to local organizers to ensure participation of all relevant institutions. The experience, lessons learned, and best practices in the participating					

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provision should extend beyond immediate workshop delivery, to include formal post-event support, allowing participants to access ongoing tailored advice. 	<p>countries will be shared at 5 in-depth (sub-regions) meetings. Ongoing training opportunities will also be provided through a series of webinars, and the development of case studies. Phase III will also explore establishing a Toolbox-centred global community-of-practice to provide additional guidance for ongoing capacity building; detailed discussions are planned to take place at the outset of Phase III.</p> <p>Currently proposed criteria for countries to be considered for the in-depth training include countries that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified at least one of the Toolbox scheme topics (industrial chemicals management, health sector management, or pesticides management) as a priority area for action/has undertaken some preparatory work on the topic, such as prepared a national situation/gap analysis • requested training on the topic • are representative of its respective (sub-)region • agree to pilot test the Toolbox scheme(s), tools, toolkits, etc. after the training, which will enable evaluation of the effectiveness of the Toolbox • agree to share their experience at the (sub-)regional level <p>Other considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likelihood of success/potential to play leadership role • Country has implementation project/activities underway on scheme topic(s) • Available internet capacity and human resources to adequately use the scheme(s) • Balance within the (sub-)region 			
Recommendation		Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
6.	<p>The PMG should initiate a toolbox-centred, global community-of-practice. It is likely that this will require central, PO-mediated coordination in the short-term, but the long-term vision should be to achieve a self-sustaining network. Network communications should not necessarily be based on the toolbox platform, and alternative communication channels should be explored (e.g. listservs, messenger app groups, periodic face-to-face events). The network could</p>	Accepted	Support a community-of-practice		Planned
		<p>Comments: Phase III will review project activities to support a Toolbox-centred global community-of-practice, including different modes of communication. Detailed discussions are planned to take place at the outset of Phase III.</p>			

Management Response for IOMC Toolbox Phase II Evaluation Recommendations

	also support more frequent communications from POs and the PMG regarding sector, project and content developments.				
Recommendation		Accepted Partially accepted Rejected	Proposed action	Budget allocated (if necessary)	Status (planned, under implementation, implemented)
7.	The PMG should reformulate the results framework and monitoring strategy. At a minimum, the revised results framework should identify intermediate outcomes (located between the project's 'specific' and 'overall' objectives) that can directly or plausibly be influenced by project interventions. Indicators should be revised accordingly, in turn supported by a revised monitoring strategy that prioritises outcome rather than output measurement.	Accepted	Develop logframe for Phase III	NA	Implemented
		Comments: The logframe of IOMC Toolbox Phase III takes into account the recommendations concerning monitoring.			