



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



UNEP-DTIE Chemicals Branch Costs of Inaction Initiative

Baseline Assessment Report: Data Search Framework

The Cost of Inaction (COI) Initiative is a four year project that will attempt to produce for the first time a more complete picture at the national, regional and global levels than we have had to date on the costs of inaction on sound chemicals management (SMC). The goal is to provide decision makers at all levels of governance with the information necessary to provide an economic business case for increasing investments in SMC, consistent with international agreements and decisions and to address national priorities to protect human health, the environment and the sustainability of development.

The COI Initiative includes four Modules as follows: Module A: Baseline Assessment Report to assess the existing knowledge and gaps in COI on SMC; Module B: Blue Ribbon Panel to develop the methodology and approach needed to fill critical knowledge gaps; Module C: Field Research to fill priority gaps in knowledge in all UN Regions; and Module D: Effective Communication of Results.

With funding from the Government of Sweden, the COI Initiative has embarked on Module A, the Baseline Assessment Report. At this time, we are seeking your assistance to expeditiously uncover existing data on the monetized and quantified costs of environmental and human health effects of harmful chemicals. We provide the following framework and cost categories with key words to assist in this timely search for this data. Please send relevant information to Ms. Khanam Jauhan (khanam.jauhan@unep.org) and Ms. Sharon Khan (sharon.khan@unep.org).

The Data Search Framework

The data search framework for the Baseline Assessment Report will align with that for a Total Economic Value Analysis (TEV). Total Economic Value can capture not only market costs, but also the costs of many environmental and human health consequences of chemicals hazards that are not directly reflected in the market. Examples include costs of illness to the family unit (in addition to the more measureable monetary costs to the health care system), financial burdens on society associated with water, air and land pollution, and declining productive potential of the surrounding environment affecting other societal economic values, among other factors.

The search for monetized and quantified data will be targeted under the categories of health, environmental, and development effects as presented in the COI Initiative Approach and Scope and in the Baseline Assessment Report Draft Outline approved by the Steering Committee at its 2nd Meeting held on the 3-4 November, 2010, Geneva, Switzerland. (Please refer to the attached Appendix A: Information Matrix.) These categories are presented as costs in Table 1: Cost Categories which lists key words that can be used to target the search for monetized and quantified data. As the health, environmental, and development planning effects data matrix is populated, the data can be



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transferred accordingly into the TEV framework which will assist in the identification of knowledge gaps.

Chemicals Categories

The chemicals to be assessed in the Costs of Inaction Initiative will follow those outlined in SAICM, namely: commodity chemicals (HPV, industrial, specialty), minerals and metals, agro-chemicals, household chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. Active military chemicals are excluded as with SAICM.

Table 1: Cost Categories

(Costs due to unsound management of chemicals)

Health Costs (Acute or Chronic)	Environmental Costs	Economic Development Costs
Medical treatment and care	Decreased quality of: Air	Decreased Trade
Lost wages and productivity	Land	Contaminated agricultural and fisheries products
Loss of life	Water	Industrial products that do not meet standards for chemicals inputs, production, waste, and disposal
	Soil	Decreased Profit
	Decreased land/property values	Decreased Market Share (due to recalls, damaged reputation)
	Decreased levels and quality of Ecosystem Goods and Services	Decreased Productivity
	Biodiversity Loss (loss of species and habitat)	Poor Labour Supply
	Losses to Tourism/Outdoor Recreation Industry	Workers compensation
		Environmental Fines (for illegal emissions of harmful chemicals)
		Clean-up and Remediation (hazardous waste, chemicals spills, accidents, and disasters)
		Increased costs of water treatment (public and industrial)

