

PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID) CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: PIDC915

Project Name	Cote d'Ivoire - POPs Pesticides Mgt Project (P131778)
Region	AFRICA
Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Sector(s)	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (100%)
Theme(s)	Pollution management and environmental health (100%)
Lending Instrument	Specific Investment Loan
Project ID	P131778
GEF Focal Area	Persistent Organic Pollutants
Borrower(s)	MINESUDD
Implementing Agency	The World Bank
Environmental Category	B-Partial Assessment
Date PID Prepared/ Updated	29-Mar-2013
Date PID Approved/ Disclosed	12-Jul-2013
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	27-Jun-2014
Estimated Date of Board Approval	20-Oct-2014
Concept Review Decision	

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Cote d'Ivoire is situated in West Africa and is bounded to the north by Burkina Faso and Mali, to the south by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west by Guinea and Liberia and to the east by Ghana. It has a total surface area of 322,462 km², and an equatorial climate of two wet seasons and two dry seasons. The population was estimated at 20.8 million in 2010, 48% of which is urban, while the population density stands at 64.5 persons/km². With an average population growth rate of 3% per annum for the 2005-2010 period, the population is projected to reach 43.3 million by 2050.

Côte d'Ivoire has undergone severe political, social, and economic crises, culminating in a brief civil war in 2002-2003, and a violent conflict after the presidential elections in 2011. The 2002 conflict effectively divided the country in two. The conflict brought economic activity to a standstill, severely affected basic social service delivery and further damaged the country's social fabric. The crisis led to and worsened natural resource depletion, loss of biodiversity, environmental

degradation as well as water, soil and air pollution. The degradation of natural resources and environmental quality adversely affected local livelihoods, in particular the poor, as well as economic growth and development.

The political and military crisis is however now largely resolved and the new Government has made progress in restoring security, reinstating public and social services and launching the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure. Government is strongly committed to tackle various reforms (coffee/cocoa sector, electricity sector, the judicial system, business climate, and public sector governance) that should offer opportunities to strengthen the economy and its growth potential. The real GDP, after a sharp fall (5.8%) in 2011 following the post-election crisis, appears likely to grow by 8-9% in 2012.

The economy of Côte d'Ivoire is largely based on agriculture, which employs two thirds of the workforce. Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa, and a major exporter of coffee, cashews, and palm oil. The sector suffered from the political crisis and the subsequent division of the country, with for example a significant decline in the cotton sector, but with remarkably little effect on the booming cashew sector. In addition, much of the manufacturing and transport sectors also depend on agriculture. The industrial sector is mainly oriented towards industrial food processing, textiles, construction materials, and fertilizers. The domestic trade and transport industry (trucking, rail, and port) depend on agriculture for a large part of its business – moving 1.3 million tons of cocoa, 350,000 tons of cashew, 1.8 million tons of oil palm bunches, as well as fertilizer, pesticide inputs, etc.

Large scale agricultural production has in part been made possible by the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Their contribution to the agricultural sector has undeniably been positive but at the same time they have potential harmful long-term consequences including impacts on human health and the degradation or deterioration of certain ecosystems and excessive use has adverse impacts on economic returns in the agricultural sector.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Some of the pesticides which have been widely used in Côte d'Ivoire are categorized as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are the class of toxic chemicals that are persistent in the environment and which last many years before breaking down. They are of particular concern because they bioaccumulate in fatty tissues of living animals and human beings. In fatty tissues, the concentrations can reach concentrations up to thousands of times higher than the background levels. These high levels can cause health impacts including certain cancers, birth defects, and immune and reproductive system dysfunction. Exposure to these chemicals because of inappropriate use and storage can also lead to direct health impacts.

The Stockholm Convention, which the Government of Côte d'Ivoire ratified in 2004, is aimed at protecting human health and the environment from POPs. The convention originally targeted twelve types of POPs for elimination, restricted use, and reduced release into the environment. Further, the Convention includes requirements to undertake the identification and management of POPs-contaminated sites; to dispose of POPs pesticides stockpiles; to share information, awareness, and research on POPs; and to undertake monitoring and surveillance to safeguard against further contamination.

Côte d'Ivoire has faced major constraints in meeting its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, particularly with regard to dealing with stockpiles of POPs pesticides. This is largely

due to lack of funding, lack of access to appropriate technologies, and weak coordination among sectoral ministries and agencies. Further, most farmers use pesticides excessively, not in compliance with instructions on the labels, and following inappropriate disposal methods which exacerbate problems with stockpiled pesticides.

Out of the 12 POPs originally covered by the Stockholm Convention to be banned, nine are pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, and hexachlorobenzene). In 2009 11 additional POPs were brought under the Convention, of which two are pesticides (lindane and chlordecone). Most African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, are having to deal with major stockpiles of these obsolete pesticides. These can no longer be used because they have deteriorated as a result of prolonged storage or their use is now banned. The implications for public health and environment can be severe, in particular when surface and groundwater are being contaminated or people are exposed to poorly managed stockpiles.

In Côte d'Ivoire, since 1998 all POPs pesticides have either been banned or have never been approved for use. However, stockpiles that accumulated before the ban came into effect still exist and because of poor regulatory oversight, use of banned pesticides undoubtedly continues to take place and so stockpiles continue to grow or be created. These stockpiles include large stocks of organochlorine compounds whose use has been banned for environmental and public health reasons (e.g. dieldrin, DDT, and HCH). FAO and SHELL estimated in 1997/1998 that there were 830 tons of POPs pesticides in the country, including contaminated soil and sludge. Though details are sketchy on the precise locations, it is certain that this is a conservative estimate.

Côte d'Ivoire signed the Stockholm Convention in May 2001 and ratified the treaty in June 2004. After the signature in 2001, the Government requested and received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), in the form of US\$ 297,176 for a GEF POPs Enabling Activity (EA) grant to finance the preparation of its National Implementation Plan (NIP). Given the political crisis during the preparation of the NIP, and taking into account the associated security challenges and the small amount of GEF resources available, the level of detail of the POPs pesticide inventory was very limited. Under the NIP exercise, the inventory of the POPs pesticides was supposed to cover the 17 regions of the country. However, the inventory was limited only to the region of Abidjan. The towns visited were Abidjan, Bingerville, Ayamé, Tiassale and Azaguie, covering less than 5% of the country.

Some of the key findings and recommendations of the NIP exercise concerning POPs pesticides were: (i) There is no special legislation regulating persistent organic pollutants control related issues, although, according to existing laws, such control is subsumed in the agrochemicals control legislation (decree 89-2 of January 1989). There is no definition of POPs in the relevant environmental legal acts and key Government entities lack knowledge on safe disposal of POPs pesticides, and contaminated site assessment; (ii) Stocks of expired pesticides (POPs and non-POPs) were discovered in the zones visited. No POPs pesticides were observed in the pesticide firms and agricultural structures visited. However, it was noticed that there was fraudulent importation and utilization of prohibited pesticides, including POPs pesticides, in the informal sector. The elimination of stockpiles of POPs pesticides is one of the top priority actions identified in the National Implementation Plan; (iii) Non completion of the inventory of POPs pesticides throughout the Ivorian territory due to the political crises that divided the country into two and thus making accessibility to certain zones in the country extremely difficult and challenging due to insecurity; (iv) Government should improve institutional and systemic capacity for safe POPs pesticides

handling and management; and improve the technical capacity of the Government to control POPs in general and POPs pesticides in particular throughout the country; and (v) A more comprehensive and expanded POPs pesticides inventory covering the entire country and all users of pesticides (POPs and non-POPs) is needed.

The proposed project will support implementation of the following priority actions identified in the NIP: (a) strengthening of institutional and regulatory frameworks; (b) development of a harmonized system for registered pesticides and a database on pesticide imports and use; (c) promotion of alternatives to chemical pesticides; (d) comprehensive inventory of POPs pesticides; and (e) safe management of obsolete pesticide stocks and associated waste, including disposal where possible.

Relationship to CAS

The project is well aligned with the Country Partnership Strategy (the Bank's CAS). It specifically supports the second CPS pillar of improving the performance of the agriculture sector; as the project will address the issue of obsolete pesticides and promote the improved use of pesticides and their alternatives, such as Integrated Pest Management techniques. The project is also well aligned with the first pillar of strengthening Governance and institutions, as capacities will be built at the national and local level to address POPs pesticides.

The project is also consistent with the second pillar (vulnerability and resilience) of the World Bank's new Africa Strategy, as the project will address health and environmental quality concerns associated with the use and handling of POPs pesticides and contaminated sites.

II. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Proposed Global Environmental Objective(s) (From PCN)

The project's Project Development Objective (PDO) is the same as the Global Environmental Objective as required for a GEF project. The PDO is to reduce adverse health and environmental impacts in Côte d'Ivoire of POPs pesticides by reducing or eliminating their ongoing use and managing existing stockpiles. The PDO will be achieved by strengthening capacity and the regulatory framework for the management of pesticides, reducing farmers' dependence on the most problematic pesticides, safeguarding contaminated sites, and managing stockpiles consistent with the country's obligation under the Stockholm Convention. Although the project primarily focuses on POPs pesticides, many activities will have a wider applicability for other classes of pesticides.

Key Results (From PCN)

PDO level indicators are as follows: [tentative; to be finalized during preparation]

- (i) Legal framework revised to clearly define and ban POPs pesticides.
- (ii) At least 80% of estimated stockpiles of POPs pesticides in the country are inventoried and destroyed or placed under safe management.
- (iii) Ongoing agricultural practices revised to eliminate all use of banned pesticides and thus ensuring no buildup of new stockpiles.

Key intermediate indicators include:

To be finalized during preparation.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty with the general objective to protect the environment and human health against the threat of POPs. The Stockholm Convention divides POPs into 3 categories: chemicals that must be eliminated, including 8 pesticides and PCBs; chemicals whose use and production need to be reduced (DDT); and unintentionally produced chemicals such as dioxins and furans. The GEF Operational Program on POPs serves as the financing mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and thus this project focuses on POPs targeted under that Convention.

The project components and its overall design are based on the recognition that the current level of information on the magnitude, characteristics and geographic distribution of the obsolete pesticides stockpiles is grossly insufficient (as only 5% of the country was inventoried during the NIP exercise), for identifying contaminated sites, and for safeguarding and implementing pesticides disposal. The design therefore entails review and improvement of policy and regulatory frameworks, detailed pesticides inventories, evaluation and selection of management or disposal techniques, and preparation of comprehensive environmental and social safeguard instruments.

The proposed project consists of four components:

- **Component 1: Capacity Building and Strengthening the Regulatory Framework (GEF US\$ 0.6 million; Counterpart funds US\$ 0.2 million):** This component aims to strengthen the Government's capacity to manage, monitor, and control POPs. Activities under this component will include a comprehensive review of current hazardous waste management regulations, and the development of needed legislative and regulatory instruments that will address POPs in general, POPs pesticides in particular, and pesticides overall. In addition, technical guidelines on safety procedures for POPs pesticides handling, transport, storage and disposal will be developed, and used for training key stakeholders. Other guidelines to be developed could include those on pesticide site investigation, risk assessment and hazardous waste import/export procedures. Further, regional laboratories for testing and quality control of pesticides will be identified and upgraded.
- **Component 2: Management of POPs pesticides (GEF US\$ 3 million; Counterpart funds US\$ 4.0 million):** This component will support sound management of POPs pesticides stockpiles and will consist of: (i) a comprehensive inventory of POPs pesticides. The outcome of this inventory will provide a clear picture on the quantity, extent, and locations of POPs pesticides stockpiles and contaminated sites across the country, especially as the NIP inventory only covered less than 5% of the country; (ii) establishment of a Pesticide Management System (PMS) database on registered and banned pesticides; import, distribution, and use to serve as a basis for sound management of pesticides; and (iii) implementation of needed measures to manage obsolete pesticide stocks and associated wastes as well as contaminated sites. It could also support disposal of obsolete pesticides depending on the cost and availability of funds.
- **Component 3: Promotion of alternatives to chemical pesticides (GEF US\$ 0.75 million; counterpart fund US\$ 5.05 million):** In order to prevent the buildup of new stockpiles, this component will involve identification of alternatives to use of banned POP pesticides as well as more generally to conventional chemical pesticides, including the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and would comprise of: (i) field testing demonstrations of identified alternatives for control of key pests on crops in key geographical areas; (ii) development of curricula to improve farmer field schools and build capacity of selected farmers on alternatives to

conventional pesticides; and (iii) communication strategy evolved and implemented to inform farmers and population in general on the misuse of pesticides containers, impact of pesticides on human health and the environment, and alternatives to conventional pesticides and PO Ps.

- Component 4: Project Management (GEF US 0.65 million; Counterpart funds US 0.75 million): This component is designed to provide effective and efficient management support for the implementation of the project; and will be essentially for day-to-day project management activities, including project management and coordination; monitoring and evaluation; and financial management and procurement.

IV. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	x		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04			x
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09	x		
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	5.00	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Total Cofinancing:		Financing Gap:	0.00
Financing Source		Amount	
BORROWER/RECIPIENT		0.00	
Global Environment Facility (GEF)		5.00	
Total		5.00	

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