

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: PIDA26766

Project Name	Obsolete Pesticides Management 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)	Ministry of Economy and Finances
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development
Environmental Category	A-Full Assessment
Date PID Prepared/Updated	19-May-2015
Date PID Approved/Disclosed	29-Jul-2015
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	19-Jun-2015
Estimated Date of Board Approval	25-Aug-2015
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note)	

I. Project Context

Country Context

Côte 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 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, all POPs pesticides have either been banned since 1998 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.

II. Proposed Development Objectives

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the management of obsolete pesticides and associated wastes in Côte d'Ivoire by the Government and other stakeholders.

III. Project Description

Component Name

Regulatory and institutional framework

Comments (optional)

Component Name

Management of stocks of obsolete pesticides

Comments (optional)

Component Name

Promotion of alternatives to pesticides

Comments (optional)

Component Name

Project management

Comments (optional)

IV. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	10.80	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
For Loans/Credits/Others			Amount
Borrower			3.80
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			7.00
Total			10.80

V. Implementation

VI. Safeguard Policies (including public consultation)

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No
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

Comments (optional)**VII. Contact point****World Bank**

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