

# **Proposal for a new Network on “Chemicals Management” in Sub Saharan Africa**

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# Chemicals

Metals

Hg, Pb, Cd

Agrochemicals

pesticides,  
plant regulators

Industrial

hydrocarbons,  
dioxins

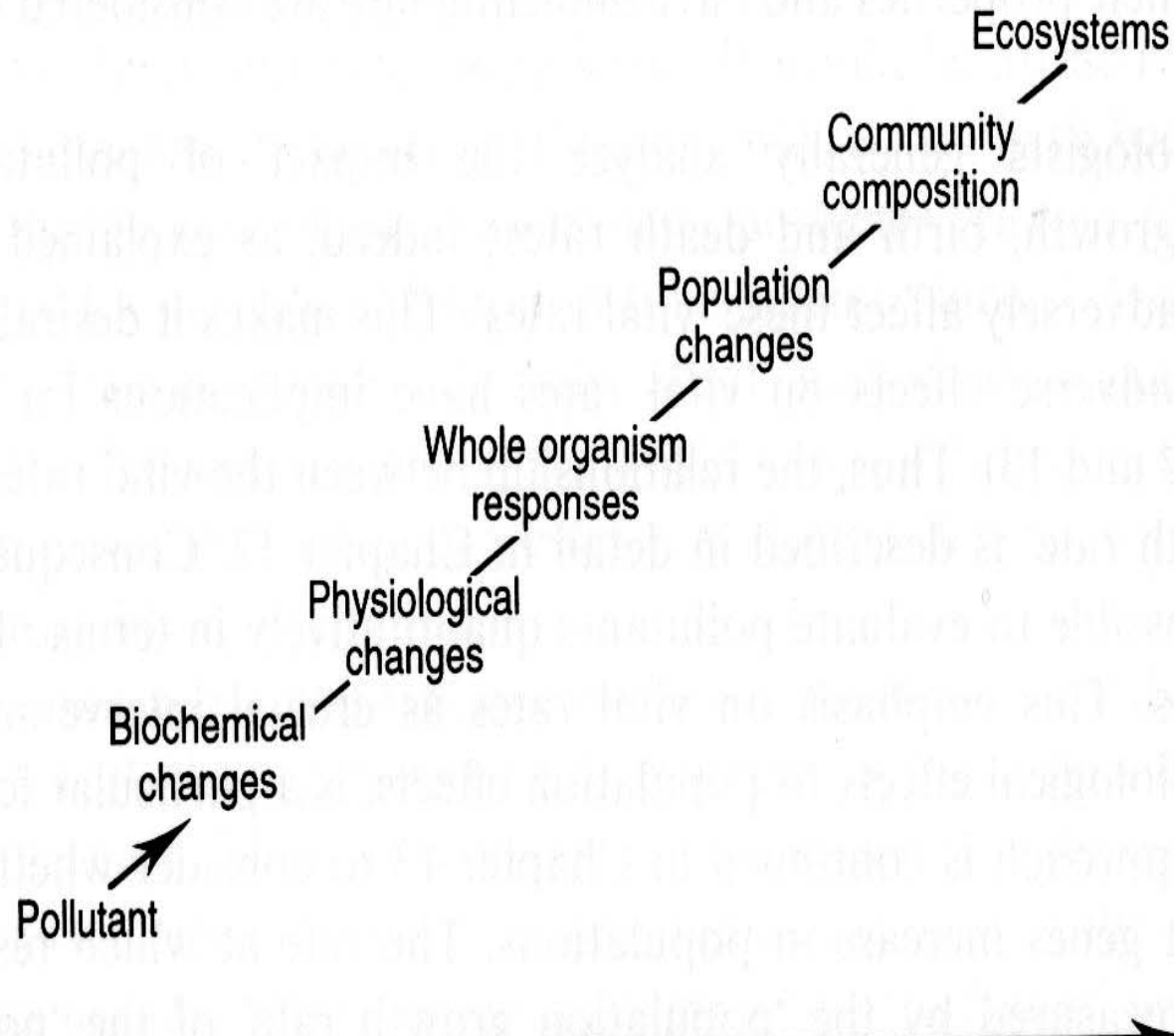
Domestic/  
commercial

toys, cleaning agents  
PCPs, plastics, flame  
retardents

# Effects of chemicals

- Contamination of water/soil/air
- Threat to human health
- Threat to wildlife i.e. ecosystem health

# Effects of chemicals



# Effects of chemicals

- Behavioral                      movement/migration
- Reproductive                    numbers/sex ratio
- Physiological                    Endocrine
- Immunological                    Antibody response
- Biochemical                      Enzymes, DNA damage

(Adapted from Giesy *et al.*, 1988a)

# Existing interest

- UNEP programmes
  - ICCM International Conference on Chemicals Management
  - SAICM Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
  - EMERCHEM Emerging Chemicals Issues
- IPCP
- Others ?

# SAICM – Key Objectives

- ✓ - Close gaps and address discrepancies in the capacity to achieve sustainable chemicals management between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other
- ✓ -Strengthen capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives, through partnerships, technical support and financial assistance

# EmerChem Issues

- ✓ Electronic waste
- ✓ Lead (paint/toys)
- ✓ Chemicals in articles (clothing/electronics/toys)
- ✓ Mercury
- ✓ Biofuels
- ✓ Personal care products
- ✓ Pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Nanoparticles

# Existing interest

- IPICS
  - networks (ANCAP/SENAC/etc.)
  - projects (ZIM:02/TAN:02 *etc.*)
- Societies
  - Society for Environmental Toxicology And Chemistry
  - Pan African Environmental Mutagen Society
  - International Union of Toxicology
  - Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries (*etc.*)

# Need for Network

Sound management of chemicals is essential for sustainable development and:

- ✓ eradication of poverty + disease
- ✓ improvement of human health
- ✓ healthy ecosystems

# Need for Network

- Lack of awareness/information on the impact of chemicals
- Information available on impacts on human health - primarily but not enough on environmental impacts
- Insufficient chemicals regulation even where there may be legislation

# Need for Network

- Little “cross talk” between
  - academia
  - scholarly societies
  - government
  - society at large

# Network focus

- Existing **ISP** projects
- Existing **ISP** networks
- Existing “learned” societies
- Identification of relevant new partners

# Focus areas *e.g.*

- Emerging chemicals issues
- Exposure
- Effects of climate change
- Life cycle management of chemicals
- Chemicals management legislation
- Risk management and communication

# Activities proposed

- Interdisciplinary training workshops/courses independently and/or jointly (ISP projects)
- Support for training workshops/courses for young students and staff <30 yrs (ISP projects)
- Focused regional thematic symposia with various stakeholders (govt/academia/NGOs)

# Activities proposed

- Preparation of monographs and course material
- Facilitate information exchange with networks
- Stakeholder (policy makers/academics/*etc.*  
workshops held regionally (east, south, west)
- ? Others ?

# Outputs- expected

- ✓ Trained and relevant young scientists and staff deployed for govt policy/academia/NGOs
- ✓ More “crosstalk” between academia and government
- ✓ Information exchange between academia, societies and non/academic organisations
- ✓ Literature generated/available for distribution

# Outcomes- expected

- ✓ Informed and responsible decision makers deployed in academia, industry and government so as to have more relevant, appropriate and effective policies/legislation
- ✓ Increased awareness of issues related to chemicals management in various sectors of society
- ✓ Contribution to the aims and activities of UNEP
- ✓ ? Others?

# ? Funding ?

- No donors identified as yet
- This an idea to be considered

# Acknowledgements

- Thanks to ISP- for opportunity to present this idea
- Thank you for your time and attention