UN environment programme | Evaluation Office

Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-UNEP Project

"Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products"

GEF Project ID: 5662

Evaluation Office of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Project Title: Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products

Project Number: GEF Project ID 5662
Date: September 2021

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ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Joint Evaluation: No

Report Language(s): English

Evaluation Type: Terminal Evaluation

Brief Description: This report is an independent terminal evaluation of a UNEP-GEF project whose implementation started in January 2015 and ended in May 2019. The project was designed to define stakeholder roles and responsibilities and best practices for chemicals information exchange in textile products and to demonstrate best practices for exchanging chemicals in products information in the textiles sector.

The terminal evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and its main project partners.

Key words: chemicals in products, chemical information exchange system, textile sector, CiP programme, CiE, Chemical Information Exchange platform, knowledge management.

Primary data collection period: May to July 2021

Field mission dates: None undertaken due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions

Acronyms and Abbreviation

CAIQ	Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine
CDPA	China Dyeing and Printing Association
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CiE	Chemical Information Exchange
CiP	Chemicals in Products
CNTAC	China National Textile and Apparel Council
CTIC	China Textile Information Center
EA	Demonstrating and Scaling up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT
EU	European Union
FECO	Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IA	Implementing Agency
IC	International Consultant
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
KRU	Knowledge and Risk Unit of UNEP
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multi Environmental Agreement
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MEP*	Ministry of Environmental Protection
MIIT	Ministry of Industry and Information Technology
MRSL	Manufacturing Restricted Substance List
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NCG	National Coordination Group
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PC	Project Coordinator
PIR	Project Implementation Review
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PRF	Project Results Framework
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PT	Project Team
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
SWCMC	Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Centre
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ZDHC	Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals

*MEP is the former MEE

Contents

Project Identification Table

GEF Project ID:	5662		
Implementing Agency:	UNEP Economy Division, Chemicals and Health Branch: GEF Chemical and Waste Unit	**Executing Agencies:**	MEP-FECO: Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China; UNEP Economy Division, Chemicals and Health Branch: Knowledge and Risk Unit
Relevant SDG(s) and indicator(s):	SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production		
GEF Core Indicator Targets (identify these for projects approved prior to GEF-7)	9.4 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities		
Sub-programme:	Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality (Subprogramme 5)	**Expected Accomplishment(s):**	5 (a) Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM
UNEP approval date:	6 Oct 2014	**Programme of Work Output(s):**	ii) Number of private companies/industries that have undertaken action on improving chemicals management with UNEP support
GEF approval date:	11 February 2014	**Project type:**	MSP
GEF Operational Programme #:	GEF 5	**Focal Area(s):**	Persistent Organic Pollutants
		GEF Strategic Priority:	Harmful Substances
***Expected* start date:**	January 2015	**Actual start date:**	January 2015
***Planned* completion date:**	June 2017	**Actual operational completion date:**	31st May 2019
***Planned* project budget at approval:**	USD 4,395,205	**Actual total expenditures reported as of May 2019:**	USD 927,769.73
GEF grant allocation:	USD 1,000,000	**GEF grant expenditures reported as of May 2019**	USD 927,769.73
Project Preparation Grant - GEF financing:	N/A	**Project Preparation Grant - co-financing:**	N/A
***Expected* Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	USD 4,395,205	**Secured Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	USD 1,002,737
Date of first disbursement:	31st December 2014	**Planned date of financial closure:**	30th June 2021
No. of formal project revisions:	1	**Date of last approved project revision:**	February 2018
No. of Steering Committee meetings:		**Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:**	Last: / Next:
Mid-term Review/ Evaluation *(planned date)*:	N/A	**Mid-term Review (actual date):**	None
Terminal Evaluation *(planned date)*:	1st December 2020	**Terminal Evaluation (actual date):**	December 2020 – September 2021
Coverage - Country:	China	**Coverage - Region(s):**	N/A

Dates of previous project phases:	CiP Programme, September 2012	**Status of future project phases:**	Asia Textile Project - PIF approved in June 2020

Executive Summary

A. Introduction

[1]. The medium size project *"Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products"* funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was implemented by the GEF Chemical and Waste Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch (UNEP, Economy Division) from January 2015 to its operational closure in May 2019. The project was co-executed by the Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch (UNEP, Economy Division), and by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre (FECO), Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), China.

[2]. The project objectives were to define stakeholder roles and responsibilities and best practices for chemicals information exchange in textile products and to demonstrate best practices for exchanging chemicals in product information in the textiles sector. The purpose of the terminal evaluation was to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and its main project partners.

[3]. As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, no field visits were undertaken during this Terminal Evaluation. The assessment was mainly based on an in-depth review of project documentation, e-based (skype, zoom, telephone, or other form of communication) interviews, and feedback gathered through a survey targeting the key partners and stakeholders of the project. Based on the findings of the evaluation and the discussions held, a revised theory of change of the project's "impact pathways", which was proposed by the evaluation during the inception phase, and a review of outcome to impacts the following findings were established.

[4]. Relevance: The project is in line with the relevant UNEP Medium Term Strategy and the Programme of Work on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste. It is complementary to the Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme, which is being hosted by UNEP. It is also consistent with GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal, which is to prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance. The project document did not foresee any direct coordination with other GEF financed initiatives. As hazardous substances are frequently located in manufactured products, it was anticipated that the CiP project would be linked to many issues, which GEF supported (e.g. e-waste or POP chemicals). There is no indication that this occurred during project implementation.

[5]. Efficiency: Despite delays encountered, the project was quite cost effective. Its implementation was based upon the guidance document developed in the context of the chemical in products (CiP) Programme. It also benefitted from the work of Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) and China National Textile Apparel Council (CNTAC) to develop the tools for CiP for the textile sector. The project used the most efficient options for procurement and recruitment. In the end, all the outputs were achieved within the planned budget.

[6]. Effectiveness - Availability of outputs, achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact: The assessment of this criteria was done at three levels: the provision of outputs, achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact. The project has performed satisfactorily in the delivery of quality of outputs. The key output was the chemical information exchange (CiE) online platform that was developed by CNTAC and integrated the CiP modules. 465 enterprises of the textile supply chain were successfully trained on its use in 5 provinces. The achievement of outcomes was also satisfactory. The indicators for all the outcomes were met. Assessment of likelihood of impact was done on the extent to which the four intermediate states proposed in the theory of change are occurring in China. There are indications that all four intermediate states are emerging. However, the uptake of the project results seem to be mainly from big enterprises of the supply chain, while the small ones were reluctant to provide information through the CiE platform.

[7]. Sustainability: Chances for sustainability of project results are considered likely. Conditions exist for socio-political sustainability as well as for institutional sustainability. CNTAC, host of the CiE on line platform, would provide the necessary human and financial resources to manage and maintain the platform for the post project period.

[8]. Project implementation and management: The project was satisfactorily managed by an efficient FECO project team led by a dedicated in-house project coordinator under the adequate supervision of the UNEP Portfolio Manager (situated in UNEP's Chemicals and Waste Unit). The technical backstopping was provided by UNEP's Knowledge and Risk Unit. .

[9]. Financial management: The GEF funds were adequately managed by both the implementing and the executing agencies. The two agencies applied their internal standard procedures procurement and disbursement of funds. Financial information was complete and all the relevant financial reports were timely submitted.

[10]. Monitoring and reporting: The monitoring and evaluation was consistent with the UNEP standard procedures. While indicators for outcomes were given in the project results framework, those for outputs were not proposed. The monitoring plan was operational to track results and progress towards project objectives.

[11]. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality: The project document[1] mentioned that vulnerable populations (e.g. women, children and impoverished communities) have a higher risk of harm from chemicals than the social average – reducing these risks through actions based on reliable CiP information was expected to benefit these vulnerable populations. The design did not indicate how this would be done nor how it would be monitored, and there is no evidence that this happened during project implementation.

Criterion	Rating
A. Strategic Relevance	HS
B. Quality of Project Design	MS
C. Nature of External Context	F
D. Effectiveness	S
E. Financial Management	S
F. Efficiency	S
G. Monitoring and Reporting	S
H. Sustainability	L

[1] See Part II Section A.3 of the project document

I. Factors Affecting Performance	S
Overall Project Rating	**S**

B. Lessons learned

[12]. **Lesson 1**: Strong government support, high ownership, and active engagement and support of stakeholders are key factors for successful project implementation.

[13]. **Lesson 2**: Voluntary disclosure of chemical information from enterprises is not effective in the absence of guidance, and of mandatary policies and regulations.

C. Recommendations

[14]. **Recommendation 1**: UNEP is developing a new regional proposal on chemicals in textile products, the local context and practices in the textile sector of the participating countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam) should be duly considered while developing the proposal.

[15]. **Recommendation 2**: To ensure that human rights and gender equality dimensions are considered during project implementation, it is recommended that these dimensions are included in the project design and appropriate indicators are developed in the project results framework to track their implementation.

[16]. **Recommendation 3**: In order to increase the rate of uptake, the project results should be promoted among the enterprises of the textile supply chain, targeting small and medium enterprises. To encourage them in that direction, they should be made aware of the *Made in China 2025 Plan*.

[17]. **Recommendation 4**: For the 4 chemicals of concern under the Stockholm Convention, as China has ratified the convention, the evaluation recommends that the relevant authorities take the necessary actions to include them in the prohibited/restricted list of the national regulations, once these chemicals are approved to take effect in China.

[18]. **Recommendation 5**: One way to ensure that the chemicals on the MSRL are no longer being imported or manufactured locally, and hence no longer used in textile sector, it is recommended that the relevant enforcing authorities take the necessary steps to strictly check for compliance with national policies and regulations at chemical manufacturing enterprises and during importation of chemicals.

[19]. **Recommendation 6**: Although the project under evaluation has ended, UNEP/FECO should consider establishing a cooperation with the UNEP-led GEF global initiative, Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) initiative in order to promote the project results that would be mutually beneficial.

[20]. **Recommendation 7**: One way to mitigate the risk of exchange loss might be that the agency receiving the funds to have an account in the currency of the funds being transferred.

执行摘要

A. 项目介绍

[1]. “纺织产品中的化学物质信息交流”项目，是由全球环境基金（GEF）资助、由全球环境基金化学品与废品小组、化学品和健康处（联合国环境署，经济司）实施的中等规模项目。该项目从 2015 年 1 月开始，至 2019 年 5 月结束。该项目由化学品与健康处知识与风险小组（联合国环境署，经济司）、中国生态环境部对外合作与交流中心（FECO）、中国生态环境部（MEE）共同执行。

[2]. 该项目的目标是确定利益相关者的作用、责任，以及确定并展示纺织产品中化学品信息交流的最佳实践。终期评估的目的是为满足项目要求提供成果证据，并通过环境署及其主要项目伙伴之间的成果和经验教训促进业务改进、学习和知识共享。

[3]. 由于新冠疫情，本次终期评估未进行实地考察。评估主要基于对项目文件的深入审查、线上（skype、zoom、电话或其他通信形式）采访，以及对项目主要合作伙伴和利益相关者的调查结果。根据评估结果和讨论，我们修订了在评估初期提出“影响途径”的变化理论，并对结果与影响进行了审查，确定了以下结果。

[4]. 相关性：该项目与相关的环境署中期战略和“有害物质和危险废物”项目相符。它是对环境署主持的产品中的化学品（CiP）项目的补充。它也符合全球环境基金第六期(GEF 6)化学品和废弃物战略的长期目标，即减少有害化学品和废弃物对人和环境的影响。由于有毒有害物质经常存在于制成品中，预计 CiP 项目将与全球环境基金支持的许多问题（如电子废弃物无或持久性有机污染物）相联系，但项目实施过程中没有发生这种情况。

[5]. 效率：尽管项目有被延期，但该项目具有相当的成本有效性。项目的实施基于产品中的化学品项目（CiP）制定的相关指导性文件。项目也从有害化学物质零排放组织（ZDHC）和中国纺织工业联合会（CNTAC）为产品中的化学品项目开发的工具中受益。项目在采购和招聘方面采用了最有效的方案。最后，所有的产出都在计划的预算内完成。

[6]. 效果——产出的提供、成果的实现和影响的可能性：对这一标准的评估从产出的提供、成果的实现和影响的可能性三个层面进行。该项目在交付产出的质量方面取得了令人满意的结果。项目的关键产出是由中国纺织工业联合会(CNTAC)开发的、整合了 CiP 模块的化学信息交换（CiE）在线平台。中国 5 个省的 465 家纺织供应链企业成功接受了关于相关培训。所有产出成果都达到相应指标要求。对影响可能性的评估是基于理念变化原则的四个中间状态在中国发生的程度进行的。所有四个中间状态都在

中国出现。然而，项目成果的应用主要是供应链上的龙头企业，而小企业则不愿意通过 CiE 平台提供信息。

[7]. 可持续性：项目成果很具有可持续性，但取决于社会和制度层面可提供的支持。作为 CiE 在线平台的主办方，中国纺织工业联合会（CNTAC）将提供必要的人力和财力资源，在项目结束后管理和维护该平台。

[8]. 项目执行和管理：在环境署项目经理（环境署化学品和废物小组）的充分监督下，由专职的内部项目协调员领导的中国生态环境部对外经济合作中心项目小组对该项目进行了令人满意的管理。环境署化学品处知识和风险部门也为其提供了技术支持。

[9]. 财务管理：全球环境基金提供的资金由实施机构和执行机构充分管理。双方机构按照其内部标准程序取得并支付资金，保证财务资料齐全，各项相关财务报告均及时提交。

[10]. 监测和报告：监测和评估环节与联合国环境署的标准程序相符。项目结果框架中标注了成果指标，但没有标注产出指标。监测计划可用于跟踪项目成果与进展，推进达成项目目标。

[11]. 对人权和性别平等的响应：项目文件中提到，弱势群体（如妇女、儿童和贫困人群等）受化学品伤害的风险高于社会平均水平——而根据可靠的 CiP 信息开展行动可以降低这类风险，这样弱势群体就有望从中受益。项目设计没有明确具体的行动方法以及监测方法，且没有证据表明项目实施过程中开展了上述行动

标准	等级
A. 战略相关性	HS
B. 项目设计质量	MS
C. 外部环境性质	F
D. 项目效果	S
E. 财务管理	S
F. 项目效益	S
G. 监测和报告	S
H. 可持续性	L
I. 影响因素	S
项目整体等级	**S**

B. 经验总结

[11]. **经验 1**：政府的大力支持、高度的自主性以及利益相关者的积极参与及支持是项目成功开展的关键因素。

[12]. **经验 2**：在缺少指导、强制性的政策和规定的情况下，企业自愿披露化学品信息的做法可被视为无效。

C. 建议

[13]. **建议 1**：联合国环境署正在开发一个新的有关纺织产品中的化学品的区域性项目，在此过程中，应适当考虑参与国（孟加拉国、印度尼西亚、巴基斯坦和越南）本地纺织行业的情况和做法。

[14]. **建议 2**：为确保项目实施过程中人权及性别平等问题得到充分重视，建议将这些问题纳入项目设计，并在项目成果框架中制定相应指标，以跟踪其实施情况。

[15]. **建议 3**：为提高利用率，应将项目成果在纺织供应链的企业中进行推广，并以中小型企业为主要目标。应采取措施使中小型企业了解《中国制造 2025》计划，鼓励企业朝该计划方向发展。

[16]. **建议 4**：由于《斯德哥尔摩公约》已在中国生效，评估建议相关部门采取必要行动，将公约纳入的四种重要化学品（chemicals of concern）列入国家法规的禁用/限用清单。

[17]. **建议 5**：为确保生产限用物质清单（MSRL）上的化学品不再以进口方式进入本地或在直接在本地生产，最后永久退出纺织行业，建议相关执行部门采取必要措施，彻查化学品生产企业和化学品进口活动是否符合国家政策和法规。

[18]. **建议 6**：虽然项目评估已经结束，但联合国环境署（UNEP）/中国生态环境部对外交流与合作中心（FECO）应考虑与环境署主导的的全球环境基金资助的“国际化学品管理战略方针（SAICM）框架下全球新兴化学品政策议题最佳实践”项目建立合作关系，以促进项目成果，实现共赢。

[19]. **建议 7**：接收资金的机构可以创立一个以转账资金货币为单位的账户，以降低汇兑损失风险。

I. Introduction

1. The terminal evaluation (TE) of the Medium-Size Project (MSP) "*Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products*", carried out on behalf of UNEP, covered the implementation period from January 2015 to its operational closure on 31 May 2019. This 30 month-project, which was planned to end in June 2017, benefitted from core funding from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for an amount of $ 1,000,000, and secured co-financing from the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO), Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) and from the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ). The implementing agency (IA) was the GEF Chemicals and Waste Unit (UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division) while the Knowledge and Risk Unit (UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division) provided technical assistance to MEE-FECO, which was the executing agency (EA).

2. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, this TE was undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. No Mid-Term Review was carried out, although USD 10,000 was included in the budget for this at project design. The terminal evaluation had two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and its main project partners. The project was also expected to leverage significant efforts by a number of leading apparel, footwear and outdoor-clothing brands to increase access to CiP information throughout their supply chains. Therefore, the evaluation identifies lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation, especially for follow on projects as they are prepared and for the CiP programme as well as for key stakeholders in China.

II. Evaluation methods

3. Due to Covid19 travel restrictions, field visits were not undertaken, and the TE was organized as a two-step exercise: the inception phase and the evaluation phase. Two separate sub-contracts were signed: 1 February 2021 to 31 March 2021 for the inception phase and 1 May 2021 to 31 August 2021 for the evaluation.

4. *Inception phase.* An initial online line meeting was organized by the UNEP evaluation office to introduce the evaluation team to the UNEP project team that included the portfolio manager and the funds officer. During that meeting, discussions were held about the scope and logistics of the evaluation including the required documentation and the key stakeholders to interview. A review of the project design documents and Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports was done to develop the exact evaluation questions that were organized in an evaluation framework (Annex 3). Also, the Theory of Change (TOC) included in the project document was revised and adapted. This was done based on the project documentation and complementing the existing TOC. The resulting reconstructed TOC that implicitly underlaid the project was shared with UNEP evaluation office and the IA. Finally, the inception report was elaborated and submitted.

5. *Evaluation phase*. A combination of methods and tools were applied during the evaluation to collect the qualitative and quantitative data necessary to answer the evaluation questions in an evidence-based and objective manner. The evaluation included five stages: document review, stakeholder interviews and surveys, information processing and analysis, articulation of findings, conclusions and recommendations, and report preparation. The UNEP Evaluation Office tools and guidance materials were applied throughout this process, including: detailed descriptions of the scope of each evaluation criterion; matrix to support the awarding of a rating[2] for each criterion; weighted ratings table; tool for determing the likelihood of impact and guidance on areas such as Human Rights and Gender and Recommendations.

6. *Document Review.* The evaluation team undertook a thorough review of all project-related documents, provided by the IA and EA. The team complemented these with relevant documents produced by other agencies, third-party agencies, and with publicly available documents (from the internet). The various types of documents provide information for aspects of the project context, evaluation questions, the different evaluation criteria and for assessing the outputs and outcomes. The evaluation framework (Annex 3) shows what type of documentation was used to explore which specific evaluation question. The full list of documents that was consulted is included in Annex 5.

7. *Stakeholder Interviews.* As there were no field missions due to the COVID19 pandemic, instead information was gathered through online interviews using communication means such as Skype or Zoom. The selection of national stakeholders to be interviewed / surveyed was made by the evaluation team in agreement with FECO, the EA. The selected stakeholders included key partners and stakeholders of the project such as FECO, CAIQ, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), China Dyeing and Printing Association (CDPA), and also textile, dyeing & finishing, and chemical manufacturing enterprises. Interview questions were sent to the interviewees at least one week before the scheduled interview. Information was also gathered through questionnaires developed by the evaluation team. The response rate to our request for interviews and filling of questionnaires was relatively high (61%). Fourteen of the twenty three stakeholders contacted responded to our requests. Five of the fourteen respondents were women. FECO facilitated the process by transmitting the questionnaires to the selected stakeholders. The contribution of two UNEP interns, recruited to assist in the interviews of national stakeholders and translation of questionnaires, is greatly acknowledged. The list of persons interviewed/surveyed is given in Annex 4.

8. *Processing and Validation of Data.* Once the gathering of the data from document review, stakeholder interviews and surveys was completed, this was organized according to the criteria and evaluation questions. Information that supported indicators was compared with the project reporting on these indicators, to validate the reported information. As far as possible, information was validated through a process of clarification and confirmation (with the project team and partner agencies) or triangulation.

[2] Criteria are rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). *Sustainability* and *Likelihood of Impact* are rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and *Nature of External Context* is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU).

9. *Articulation of Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations*. Based on the analysis of data and information gathered, the evaluation team identified preliminary findings and recommendations that were presented on 26 August 2021 during an online meeting organized by the UNEP evaluation team. The comments and suggestions made during that presentation were considered in this report and the presentation is found at Annex 8.

10. *Report Development and Revision.* In line with the ToR for this TE, the evaluation team submitted a draft report to the evaluation manager, who reviewed it and shared the cleared draft report with the IA and the EA, for them to identify any factual errors or substantive omissions. Comments were shared with the evaluation team for their response.

11. *Limitations to the evaluation*. No field mission was undertaken due to COVID19 travel restriction. Otherwise, there have been few limitations for this TE exercise. The IA and EA were collaborative and transparent in terms of providing the evaluation team with most of the required information and documents and all stakeholders who responded to the interviews and surveys, generally provided the requested information, however some limitations were identified. The final financial report for project expenditures was only available as per UNEP budget lines, and not as per project component as well. For this reason, the evaluation team could not provide the required table for project expenditures per component (Annex 6 of this report). There was no documentary evidence whether all the co-finance at design materialized. Some of the documents made available to the evaluation were in Chinese version. However, the two UNEP interns assisted in their translation. The evaluation team also made use of translation app available on the internet. Finally, the Outdoor Industry Association, who was one of the major co-financier of the project at design, and the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC), did not respond to the request for interview or survey. It was also not possible to interview some of the groups mentioned in the Stakeholder analysis section (Table 1), such as the Workers Representatives Association, as their contact information was not available. The evaluation team however considers that these limitations did not affect the reliability and usefulness of the evaluation, the gathered information was sufficient to develop the findings and recommendations for this TE.

III. The Project

A. Context

12. It was increasingly recognized by governments, the business community and the public at large that chemicals contained in everyday products and articles may pose a risk to human health and the environment. This was especially the case when hazardous chemicals were unintentionally incorporated into products. Proper management of these chemicals therefore required that sufficient information was known about them, as well as the appropriate management measures to control their use and disposal. This was, however, rarely the case for commercial products: from the manufacturing stages through the consumer and end-of-life phases, insufficient information was available to allow proper management of the chemicals incorporated during the production process.

13. This lack of information was recognized as an emerging policy issue and identified as a priority in May 2009 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session (ICCM2). ICCM2 noted the objective described in the UNEP's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS), Paragraph 15(b), which sought to ensure that "information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, was available, accessible, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders". ICCM2 invited UNEP to lead a project to investigate the issue.

14. Following ICCM2, UNEP led the chemicals in products (CiP) project to investigate existing systems of CiP information exchange, identify stakeholder needs for CiP information as well as knowledge gaps, and to develop recommendations of actions to address the issue. Four priority product sectors (textiles, electronics, toys and construction materials) were studied to evaluate the extent of existing information exchange about chemicals in products and the extent to which this exchange meets (or does not meet) stakeholders' information needs. Results of the case studies were considered at a global, multi-stakeholder project workshop in March 2011: the workshop identified key elements to include in the recommendations for further actions on chemicals in products information exchange. UNEP's work and the recommendations were reviewed by the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group at its first meeting (OEWG1) in November 2011 and received widespread approval. The third meeting of the Conference in 2012 (ICCM3) further reviewed the findings and endorsed UNEP's proposed recommendations for future actions. Specifically, ICCM3 invited UNEP to continue to lead the CiP project and mandated the project to develop a proposal for an international CiP programme.

15. UNEP, which has been hosting the CiP programme, generic to all product sectors, developed the project that is evaluated in this report, that was expected to pilot the CiP programme in the textiles sector. It was also anticipated that the project would strengthen and complement existing efforts promoting exchange of information on chemicals in products. The outcomes of this project were expected to allow the textile industry to practice sound chemicals management and to take the appropriate measures to reduce the use of less desirable chemicals in their products.

16. This project, implemented in China, was also expected to leverage significant efforts by a number of leading apparel, footwear and outdoor-clothing brands to increase access to CiP information throughout their supply chains. The executing agency, MEE, through FECO, was expected to work closely with the national production base for the textiles industry – a sector with which they already had extensive cooperation on chemicals issues. FECO co-executed the project closely with the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ), a government institute supporting China's oversight of exports.

B. Results framework

17. The project objectives were to define stakeholder roles and responsibilities and best practices for chemicals' information exchange in textile products and to demonstrate best practices for exchanging chemicals in products information in the textiles sector. The project had

four components that are described below. According to information available[3], no changes were made after project approval to the approved design of the project including the outcomes, outputs, and the indicators or the intervention logic. As described in Section V.B, the evaluation considers that some of the Outcome titles are not evaluable against internationally accepted definitions of evaluation criteria, given that they do not reflect the expected change as a result of the project interventions (i.e. uptake of outputs). This limitation was addressed in the reconstruction of the Theory of Change (TOC) (Section 4, Table 2).

Formulation of results, Project Document, 2013:

- **Component 1**: Identification of initial guidance on information exchange
  - **Outcome 1**: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened.
    - *Output 1.1*: Project workplan and budget endorsed and published.
    - *Output 1.2*: Published assessment of existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector.
- **Component 2**: Identification of best practices on chemicals information exchange in the textile sector
  - **Outcome 2**: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector.
    - *Output 2.1*: The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the textiles sector in exchanging chemicals in products information are identified, defined and analyzed in an assessment report.
    - *Output 2.2*: What chemicals information should be exchanged between stakeholders in the textiles sector is defined.
    - *Output 2.3*: A set of best practices for chemical in products information exchange for the textiles sector established and available.
- **Component 3**: Pilot testing information exchange in the textile sector in China
  - **Outcome 3**: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.
    - *Output 3.1*: Project report detailing experiences and lessons learned from the application of best practices for CiP information exchange in the textiles sector available.
- **Component 4**: Lessons learned, final report and strategies to engage other productive sector
  - **Outcome 4**: Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector are available and promoted.
    - *Output 4.1*: A synthesis report of findings from the project.

C. Stakeholders

18. The mapping of key stakeholders has been properly done; the project document[4] outlines their respective levels of interest, their decision making powers as well as their responsibilities and expertise. The evaluation team re-organized this information as Annex B of the Inception Report of this TE to highlight the levels of influence over, and levels of interest in, each group had in relation to the project. The table is re-presented here for ease of reference.

[3] Interview with a senior member of the UNEP project team
[4] Table 1 of the Project Document

Table 1: Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders	Explain the power they hold over the project results/implementation and the level of interest	Did they participate in the project design, and how·	Potential roles and responsibilities in project implementation	Changes in their behaviour expected through implementation of the project
Type A: *High power / high interest = Key player*				
MEP	MEP is the National executive agency for implementation of international environmental convention such SC and Montreal Protocol.		Improvement of overall coordination, national implementation at managerial aspect including distribution of resources; diffusion executions and results.	Knowledge of which hazardous chemicals to manage / control / prohibit in the textile sector and supply chains
CAIQ	CAIQ is in charge of controlling the quality of products and in charge of providing technical and scientific support to the central government related to the policy making on inspection and quarantine.		CAIQ would be directly involved in assessing the proposed activities in the context of national legislation, any voluntary industry-government partnerships or programs and overall national chemicals-management priorities.	Knowledge of which hazardous chemicals to manage / control / prohibit in the textile sector and supply chains
Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Working Group	A group of leading brands in the textiles industry with multiple goals to be achieved by 2020. One of the goals is the elimination or substitution of hazardous chemicals in ZDHC members' products and their manufacture.	Participated in meetings organized by UNEP in the context of the CiP programme	The Joint Roadmap and the CiP project both propose greater access to information in the supply chains and are seeking ways to overcome obstacles and to facilitate the flow of this information. They contributed to baseline information for the project.	Better knowledge of chemicals of RSL in supply chains that would allow meeting international standards of their products
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) and its Chemicals management Working Group (CMWG)	OIA provides trade services for over 4000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers in the outdoor industry.	Participated in meetings organized by UNEP in the context of the CiP programme.	OIA developed and maintains the CMFramework, the first tool of its kind to provide a way to benchmark and measure environmental performance throughout the supply chain, including for chemical content control, communication, verification and improvement. The pilot companies of the project are being trained on the use of the tool.	Better knowledge of chemicals of RSL in supply chains that would allow meeting international standards of their products
Industries associations and their members	Industry associations will be important supporters to identifying their members who are candidates to participate in the project and also to raise awareness amongst their constituents.		Their members will be essential participants in this project.	Better knowledge of chemicals of RSL in supply chains that would allow meeting international standards in their products
Type B: *High power/ low interest over the project =Meet their needs*				
Type C: *Low power/ high interest over the project= Show consideration*				
The Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigments	ETAD coordinates "the efforts of our members to minimize any possible adverse impact of organic		The association has engaged the users of dyes in developing countries with large manufacturing bases, including those involved in the project,	Members of the association no longer use dyes containing hazardous chemicals.

Manufacturers (ETAD)	colorants on health and the environment."		to improve their environmental performance with respect to dye use.	
Apparel and Footwear International RSL Management Group (AFIRM)	AFIRM groups together many of the textiles industry leading brands for exchange on their Restricted Substance Lists (RSLs).		The stated vision of AFIRM is "To provide a forum to advance the global management of restricted substances in apparel and footwear, communicate information about RSL to the supply chain, discuss concerns, and exchange ideas for improving RSL management, to ultimately elevate consumer satisfaction."	Better knowledge about RSL in supply chains would allow them to produce goods meeting international standards
Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC)	SAC is "an industry-wide group of leading apparel and footwear brands, retailers, manufacturers, non-governmental organizations, academic experts and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency working to reduce the environmental and social impacts of apparel and footwear products around the world."		No actual involvement in the project but released the Higg Index, a tool which is intended to become the single, open, industry-wide standard of measurement for sustainability of products and includes metrics for assessing chemicals and chemicals information in products and supply chains.	The members of the group would advocate the use of the tool worldwide.
American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)	AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies and their suppliers. It produces for its members use a RSL, which it updates on a yearly basis.		No actual involvement in the project, but provides information on RSL to the project.	Better knowledge about RSL in supply chains would allow them to produce goods meeting international standards
The Business / NGO Working Group (BizNGO)	The Business-NGO Working Group promotes the creation and adoption of safer chemicals and sustainable materials in a way that supports market transitions to a healthy economy, healthy environment, and healthy people.		They have published Principles for Safer Chemicals, which include in the first instance to: **Know and disclose product chemistry:** Manufacturers will identify the substances associated with and used in a product across its lifecycle and will increase as appropriate the transparency of the chemical constituents in their products…. The Outdoor Industry Association is a member of Biz-NGO.	Better knowledge about RSL in supply chains would allow them to produce goods meeting international standards
Workers representative organizations	Members of these associations are direct beneficiaries of the project as they are the ones to be directly exposed to hazardous chemicals at their workplace		Workers representatives will be important in identifying issues with transferring data through production chains, to raise awareness of the issue and the need to take actions based on CiP information and to represent interests of those bith exposed to chemicals and responsible within the project for ensuring the proper exchange of chemicals information. Workers representatives will be identified during project execution.	Increased awareness of the dangers of chemicals on the RSLs, better protection at the workplace by taking necessary measures and using appropriate personal protective equipment.
Civil Society representatives	Civil Society representatives will be important to raise awareness of the issue		The civil society representatives will be identified during project execution	They will be advocates for promoting project

and consumer's associations	and to represent consumer interests.		and engage for awareness raising activities.	results among local communities.
Type D: *Low power /low interest over the project= Least important*				
The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)	ICCA, through the Global Product Strategy (GPS), seeks to improve the industry's management of chemicals including the communication of chemical risks throughout the supply chain		ICCA is the world-wide voice of the chemical industry, representing chemical manufacturers and producers all over the world.. ICCA has participated actively in the CiP project since its inception.	

D. Project implementation structure and partners

19. The project was implemented by UNEP and executed by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of the People's Republic of China. As Implementing Agency, UNEP was responsible for overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including technical issues.

20. As executing agency, FECO was expected to execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. It was to establish the necessary managerial and technical teams to execute the project. It was also responsible for searching for and hiring any consultants necessary for technical activities and supervising their work. It was to acquire equipment and monitor the project; in addition, it was responsible for organizing independent audits in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions, audits and reports were to be carried out in accordance with national regulations and UNEP procedures. FECO was responsible for providing regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP.

21. CAIQ, a government Agency under the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China, was expected to work closely with FECO and, was to provide technical expertise and analytical services in support of the project.

22. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established and was expected to meet at the beginning, mid-point and end of the project. This committee was supposed to be formed by donors, executing and implementing agencies, brand and supply chain representatives and relevant bilateral and multilateral partners to the project. This committee was responsible for evaluating the progress of the project and for taking the necessary measures to guarantee the fulfillment of the goals and objectives. While not directly involved in the implementation of the Chemicals in Textiles project, the Steering Committee was expected to advise UNEP on the overall development of the CiP programme. Any review of the activities carried out under the Chemicals in Textiles project and suggestions for incorporating the lessons learned into the larger CiP programme proposal was expected to involve close consultation with the Steering Committee (and by extension their constituents). The Steering Committee also had the authority to take decisions on the budget and activities to be implemented by the Executing Agency and to propose corrective actions, if needed. As reported later (Section G.ii – Monitoring of project implementation), the PSC was established as expected and fulfilled its role fully.

23. A Project Team and Project Coordinator was established within the Executing Agency; this team was expected to be in charge of the execution and management of the project, and to report to UNEP and to the PSC; also, it would be composed of the expert from Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Project Coordinator, Technical Assistant and Management Assistant. FECO, the executing agency, was expected to be supported by UNEP and the national experts identified in the project.

24. The National Coordination Group (NCG) was to assist the Project Team and to assess the progress made in the project. This Team was to be composed of key national partners participating in the project and was expected to meet regularly to properly take specific responsibilities over the project activities and to provide technical and administrative support to perform the project activities.

Figure 1: Proposed project governance structure (*Source:* Project Document)

E. Changes in design during implementation

25. Due to delays encountered, for reasons discussed later (cf. Section V.D.i and Section V.F), the project was granted a no-cost extension of two years. The budget and the work plan were revised accordingly[5]. In 2017, reallocation of funds were done due to some confusion and insufficient budget allocation at design. The technical officer hired by the project was considered as a national expert and paid by the budget line 1201 (for national consultants). This led to the budget line 1102 (for hiring technical officers) being unspent and budget line 1201 (for national consultants) being insufficient for the national expert costs for the remaining period. An amount of $14000 from budget line 1102 was thus transferred to the budget line 1201. $18000 from budget line 3304 (project closing workshop) were transferred to budget line 3302 (training of pilot textile enterprises on CiP information exchange) as the originally allocated budget was insufficient.

[5] Amended PCA signed in February 2018

F. Project financing

26. The project funding for GEF grant and co-funding per component are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Budget at design by component (*Source:* Project Document)

Components	GEF ($)	Co-funding ($)
1. Identification of initial guidance on information exchange	54,000	1,590,205
2. Identification of best practices on chemicals information exchange in the textile sector	291,000	1,140,000
3. Pilot testing information exchange in the textile sector in China	417,000	1,365,000
4. Lessons learned, final report and strategies to engage other productive sector	138,000	180,000
Sub-total	**900,000**	**4,275,205**
Project Management Cost	100,000	120,000
Total project costs	**1,000,000**	**4,395,205**

IV. Theory of Change at Evaluation

27. A theory of change (TOC) diagram[6] was proposed in the project document, noting that elements in dashed-border boxes were supposed to be addressed by project activities (Figure 2, below). The evaluation considers that this TOC adequately captures the causal pathways from outcomes through Intermediate States towards Long Term Impact.

28. During the inception phase of this TE, taking into consideration the Intermediate States proposed in the original TOC, the evaluation team proposed a more detailed TOC (i.e. reconstructed TOC, Figure 3). Table 3 summarizes the Intermediate States of the two TOC. The expanded TOC, which was shared and discussed with the UNEP Evaluation Office, the UNEP Portfolio Manager and the Executing Agencies, includes the seven Project Outputs as well as the four Project Outcomes, which were reformulated to reflect the intended changes as a result of project interventions (Table 4 and cf. Section V.B). It also proposes four Intermediate States that are expected to occur for Impact. For instance:

- It is anticipated that enterprises in the textile as well as other sectors would adopt and implement the best practices produced by the project to prevent recalls of their products, due to stringent international standards, and which might impair their reputation and economic interest. This would contribute to the occurrence of Intermediate States 1 and 2.
- Given that this pilot project was undertaken in the context of the CiP Programme, it is also anticipated that UNEP will replicate this initiative in other regions/countries (Intermediate State 3).

[6] Annex C of the Project Document

- Thus, enterprises in the textile and other sectors would soundly manage chemicals leading to workers of these enterprises no longer being exposed to chemicals listed in restricted substances lists, and only products meeting international standards being available (Intermediate State 4).

29. In the long term, achieving these Intermediate States would contribute to reduced exposure to harmful chemicals in products for humans and the environment, which is the impact statement mentioned in the reconstructed TOC (Figure 3).

30. Three key assumptions, which have been adapted from the assumptions and risks mentioned in the project results framework (PRF) of the project document, are proposed. They relate to guidance provided by the CiP Programme, stakeholders agreeing on the requirements for the CiE system, and textile enterprises being interested to participate in the project. Two important drivers identified by the evaluation relate to adequate training provided by the project and UNEP building on lessons and best practices from the pilot project to replicate the initiative.

Figure 2: Theory of Change proposed in the Project Document

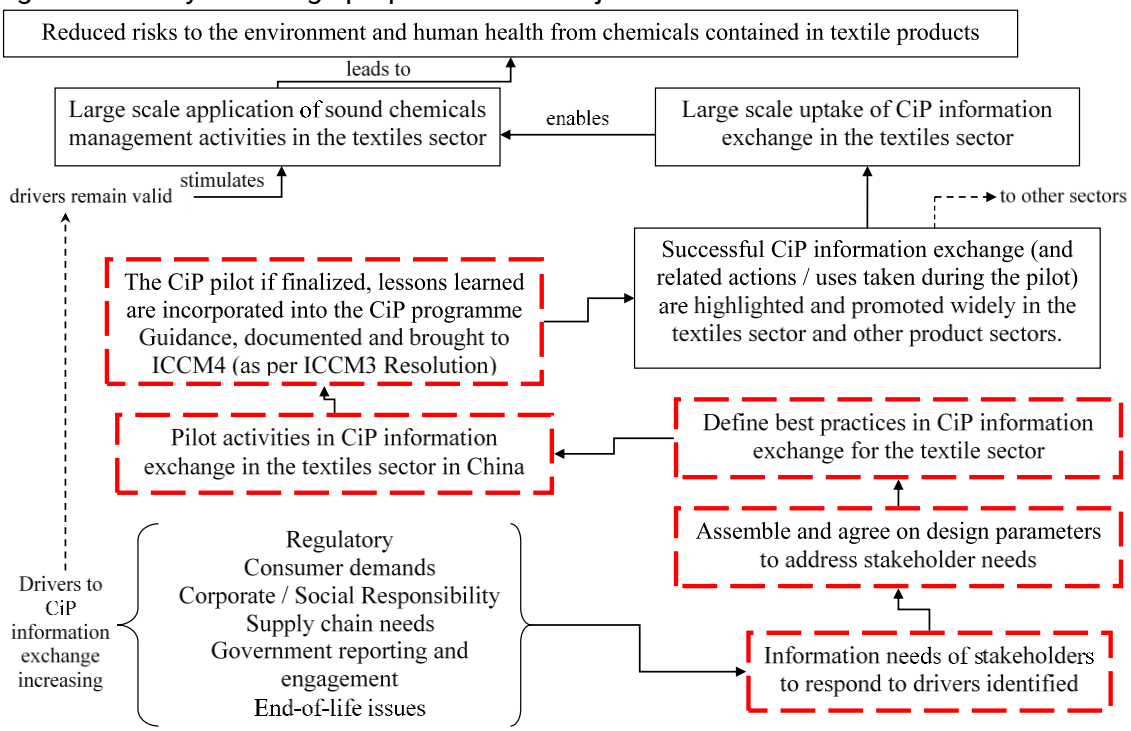


Table 3: Changes in outcome formulation as part of the TOC reconstruction

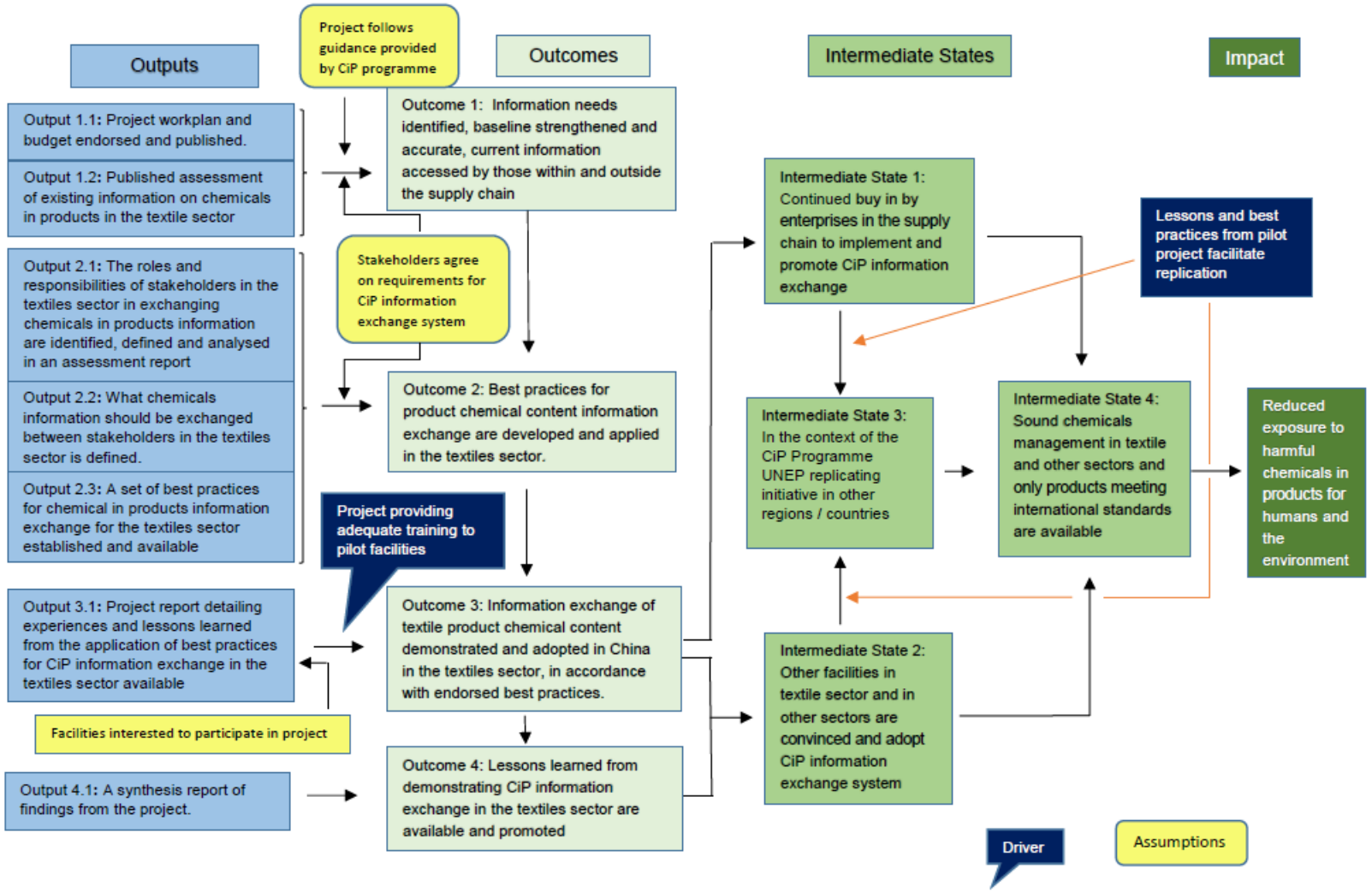
Titles proposed in project document	Proposed improvement to titles
Outcome 1: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened	**Outcome 1:** Information needs identified, baseline strengthened and accurate, current information accessed by those within and outside the supply chain

Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector	**Outcome 2:** Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and applied in the textiles sector
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.	**Outcome 3:** Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated and adopted in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.
Outcome 4: Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector promote replication in other product sectors	No Change

Table 4: Intermediate States proposed in original and reconstructed TOCs

Original TOC (Project document)	**Reconstructed TOC** (Proposed by evaluation)
Large scale uptake of CiP information exchange in the textiles sector	Continued buy in by pilot facilities to implement and promote CiP
Successful CiP information exchange (and related actions / uses taken during the pilot) are highlighted and promoted widely in the textiles sector and other product sectors	Other facilities in textile sector and in other sectors are convinced and adopt CiP information exchange system
	In the context of the CiP Programme, UNEP replicating initiative in other regions / countries
Large scale application of sound chemicals management activities in the textiles sector	Sound chemicals management in textile sector and only products meeting international standards are available

Figure 3: Reconstructed Theory of Change prepared by the evaluation



V. Evaluation Findings

A. Strategic Relevance

i. *Alignment to UNEP's MTS, POW and strategic priorities*

31. The project is complementary to the CiP Programme, which is hosted by UNEP. It is directly in line with the UNEP's subprogramme on Chemicals and Wastes, to support countries' transition towards the sound management of chemicals and waste in order to minimize environmental and human health impacts.

ii. *Alignment to Donor/Partner strategic priorities*

32. This project is consistent with the GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal, aiming to prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance, including POPs, mercury and ozone depleting substances, through a significant reduction in the production, use, consumption and emissions/releases of those chemicals and waste.

iii. *Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities*

33. This project is highly relevant as it was aiming to build capacity for information exchange on chemicals in products in the textile sector in China, which is signatory to, and has ratified, several multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs). China has already benefitted from many GEF grants for capacity building in the sound management of hazard chemicals including Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), mercury and other hazardous chemicals and wastes. The project is in line with China's 13th Five Year Environment Plan on Green Development. China is the location of many suppliers for major international textile brands. The key partners and stakeholders confirmed the relevance of the project.

iv. *Complementarity with relevant existing interventions*

34. The project document did not foresee any direct coordination with other GEF financed initiatives. As hazardous substances are frequently located in manufactured products, it was anticipated that the CiP project would be linked to many issues, which GEF supported (e.g. e-waste or POP chemicals). There is no indication that this occurred during project implementation. On the other hand, lessons and good practices of this project have been taken into consideration to develop the project Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (GEF ID: 9771), which was approved for implementation in August 2018. Furthermore, UNEP is building on the lessons of the project under evaluation to develop a regional proposal in Asia region Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector (GEF ID: 10523)[7].

[7] The Project Information Form was approved on 01 June 2020.

35. The rating on Relevance is **Highly Satisfactory**.

B. Quality of Project Design

36. The quality of the project design was based on the assessment[8] carried out for the Inception Report of this TE. The assessment was restricted to information given in the project document and the associated annexes. After reviewing these documents, the evaluation noted the following ***strengths*** in the design:

- Comprehensive situation analysis regarding lack / insufficient information on chemicals in products as well as low exchange of information amongst key stakeholders in the textile and other production sectors.
- Highly relevant project built within a larger global effort (CiP programme) aiming to make accessible appropriate information to allow for the sound management of chemicals in products.
- A comprehensive intervention logic and a clear and consistent approach with adequately planned activities to deliver outputs and outcomes proposed.
- Key stakeholders as well as their roles properly described.
- Adequate institutional arrangement for project implementation and coordination proposed
- An adequate costed M&E plan proposed

37. The evaluation notes some ***weaknesses*** in the design:

- No indicators proposed for outputs in the PRF.
- Some outcome titles do not reflect the expected change that would occur resulting from the project interventions. See in Table 3 below some proposed improvement for the outcome titles.
- Timeframe proposed to deliver project results considered too short.

38. One of the weaknesses of the design were the titles proposed for the Project Outcomes that did not reflect adequately the expected changes that would occur as a result of the project interventions. As reported earlier (Section IV, Table 3), the Outcome titles were reformulated and were adopted in the reconstructed TOC.

39. The rating on quality of project design is **Moderately Satisfactory**.

C. Nature of external context – Conflict, natural disaster and change of government

40. The project document did not identify any risk of external context that could negatively impact the project. This was confirmed as no conflict, natural disaster or change of government occurred during project implementation. Nature of external context is **Favourable**.

[8] Annex C of the Inception report for this terminal evaluation. It is an Excel sheet rating the different aspects of project design

D. Effectiveness

i. *Availability of outputs*

41. To achieve the goal of the project, ten activities were planned to deliver seven outputs that would contribute to four substantive outcomes. Table 5 summarizes the rating given to the seven outputs. The project has been quite successful in the delivery of the seven outputs: one output has been rated **Highly Satisfactory** (**HS**), five **Satisfactory (S)**, and one **Moderately Satisfactory** (**MS**). For reasons discussed in the coming paragraphs, the project encountered significant delays, and a two-year no cost extension was granted to allow for the smooth completion of project execution.

42. The focus of Component 1 was on the identification of initial guidance on information exchange. *Output 1.1* was very satisfactorily achieved. A project team was established within FECO and was led by a Project Coordinator (PC). The work plan and the project budget, which were discussed during the inception workshop in July 2015, were endorsed by the project partners. For *Output 1.2*, the project team was confronted with some issues during procurement procedures. Due to two failed bids, execution of activities for this output was delayed by more than one year. According to the proposed time frame in the project document, Output 1.2 should have been achieved by the end of the second quarter of the first year of implementation. As the project officially started in January 2015, the report for this output should have been available by July 2015. The recruitment of the vice-president of the China Dyeing and Printing Association, who acted as an independent expert for this output, was done only during the third quarter of 2016. She provided a first draft of the baseline assessment report (Output 1.2) in November 2016. After several revisions, the report was finally approved by UNEP in March 2017, more than twenty months after the due date (July 2015).

43. However, it should be pointed out that the project team has been very pro-active. Although the expert was not yet recruited, the team, together with CAIQ and the Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Centre (SWCMC) of MEE, undertook a mission to the Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces on 2 – 5 December, 2015. Through site visits, questionnaires, and face to face discussions, they were able to collect very valuable information from **21 enterprises** that included 13 suppliers, 5 textile brand manufacturers, 2 retailers, 1 chemical supplier covering all the supply chains and stakeholder groups. One textile garments commerce chamber was also consulted during the visit. The information gathered during the mission enabled the project team to get a good picture of the status of chemical management mechanisms of the enterprises and the information exchange practices among the enterprises inside the supply chain.

44. The key findings of the mission by the project team in 2015 were organized under three themes: (i) management system at enterprises, (ii) laws, regulations and compliance, and (iii) information on chemicals, CiE, CiP, and safer chemicals are reported in Tables 6, 7, and 8 respectively (below). A majority of the enterprises had adopted ISO 9000 for quality management. To a lesser extent, the enterprises also had environmental and chemicals management systems in place (Table 6).

45. Figures reported in Table 7 indicate that most of the enterprises (95.2%) tended to be up to date with national laws and regulations, and many would check for compliance of upstream suppliers (90.5%). Only 6 enterprises were using chemicals with prescribed limits in production. Many of the enterprises (Table 8) were aware of national / international restricted/prohibited chemical lists (85.7%) and had asked for information about the hazards chemicals from suppliers (80.9%).

46. Although the survey covered only a very small fraction of the enterprises in the supply chain (21 out of more than 200,000[9] enterprises in China), these findings would tend to indicate that most of the enterprises had adopted / established adequate management systems, they were trying to be in compliance with national laws and regulations and they were shifting to the use of safer chemicals for production (Table 8). In addition 7 of the 21 surveyed enterprises reported that they would disclose information about hazards of the chemicals they were using to the nearby population through their websites.

47. During the 2015 survey, 13 enterprises proposed suggestions for the information exchange tools such as: tools to help enterprises identify specified chemicals in products according to laws and regulations or to help textile enterprises for better management and operations, tools to be on a network platform for information communication, transfer and sharing, etc.

48. 11 enterprises gave proposals on types of training the CiP project should provide: how to manage chemicals more effectively in the entire industrial chain; training on relevant mandatory and voluntary standards in the textile supply chain; training about processes and chemicals in products; and training on application of the information exchange tools.

49. These findings were very useful for the drafting of the baseline assessment report. The two outputs are rated **Highly Satisfactory** and **Satisfactory** respectively (Table 5), and Component 1 is rated **Highly Satisfactory / Satisfactory** (Table 12).

50. Component 2, which concerned the identification of best practices on chemicals information exchange in the textile sector, was fully executed by the Knowledge and Risk Unit of the Economy Division, Health and Chemicals Branch, UNEP. In particular, the Unit had to:

- describe the actors and their roles within the life cycles of the textiles sector and their associated responsibilities for exchanging product chemicals information. It thus described the matrix for information flow between these various stakeholders in the textiles sector, as applicable by established sector practices for CiP information exchange and the general principles, roles and responsibilities described in the CiP Programme *(Output 2.1)*.
- detail the chemicals, which were to be included in the activities of the project (i.e. what chemicals information should be exchanged between the described roles) and analyse steps needed to move from current practices to practices which meet the CiP programme's described level(s) of information exchange. This included an assessment of

[9] Data provided by CNTAC

current systems and analysis of what further information could be made available to actors through these systems *(Output 2.2)*.

- propose a set of best practices, which would be available to the project to achieve the desired level of chemicals information access and exchange between the described actors *(Output 2.3)*.

Due to a number of challenges that included the delay in the availability of the baseline assessment report *(Output 1.2),* disagreement between UNEP and FECO on the scope of information exchange on chemicals, and also disagreement on whether there was a need to include data information on wastewater, flue gases, and solid wastes, the achievement of three outputs were much delayed, and they were available only during the second quarter of 2018 against a delivery schedule of second quarter 2016 according to the design. The delivery of the three outputs were achieved taking into consideration the national requirements, and was based on the work done by the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals group, which included a Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL), inventory tools, materials and chemical-inputs selection tools, quality control methodologies, and verification strategies. The chemical information exchange (CiE) system, developed by CNTAC in 2014 prior to the project, also provided the Knowledge and Risk Unit with a basic foundation of functionality for exchanging information through the textile (apparel and footwear) supply chains in China. Despite the delays in their delivery, given their quality however, the three outputs are rated **Satisfactory** (Table 5), and Component 2 is rated **Satisfactory** (Table 12).

51. Component 3 pertains to the pilot testing of the information exchange system, developed in Component 2, in the textile sector in China. CNTAC was sub-contracted to develop the CiP modules that were then integrated in the CiE online platform[10], which was developed by CNTAC in 2014. This platform was then used to train the participating enterprises.

52. The CiE platform is an online communication system to help enterprises in the textile and apparel sector through the use of tools for chemical management and control in the supply chain process. Currently, users of the platform are divided into three categories namely: chemical suppliers, chemical users and buyers. To help enterprises register and use the platform for information exchange, a user manual was developed. The evaluation team was able to access the platform. Although the platform exists in two versions: Chinese and English, not all information on the webpage/platform is translated into English, only the basic information, which made it difficult for the evaluator to browse completely the platform. It was originally planned to carry out the testing in four provinces: Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang Province and Shandong Provinces separately. After the four training sessions, an interim summary meeting of the project was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province on 20 – 22 August 2018. After reviewing the training reports and enterprises' feedback, it was found that the chemical suppliers accounted for only a very small proportion among enterprises attending the trainings. Considering that the project was intended to exchange information about chemicals in textile products, and the chemical suppliers (the source) at the upstream part of the whole textile supply chain were key players to provide information reporting and data, the expert group suggested an additional training session targeting chemical suppliers

[10] http://cie.texsmc.org/

only. This additional session was thus held in Changzhou in Jiangsu Province on 18 – 20 September, 2018.

53. The evaluation considers that the decision to add trainings was very relevant and appropriate, and this demonstrates an effective monitoring strategy conducive to adaptive management. 298 enterprises including product manufacturers, textile and dyeing and printing processors, chemicals suppliers and purchasers in the textile supply chain, amounting to 465 persons participated in the five trainings (Table 10). After the trainings, the participants were requested to fill survey questionnaires.

54. In the first four training sessions, 254 enterprises participated in the questionnaire survey. As reported in Table 9, below, 72% of the enterprises were medium- and large-sized enterprises, and 28% were micro- and small-sized enterprises. Most of them were textile dyeing enterprises (69.1%), and the rest were purchasers (10.6%), chemicals producers (4.9%) and other types of enterprises such as third-party testing agencies (15.5%) respectively. According to the survey results, 33.6% of these enterprises have used chemical information exchange systems (e.g. CiE or other systems), and most were large ones, and none were small ones. Two

55. It was assumed that big textile enterprises are relatively financially strong and have established strict manufacturing standards, and they have allocated the appropriate budgets for the procurement of eco-friendly dyes and chemicals from selected suppliers to ensure quality products, which however affect profitability. For this reason, the small textile enterprises might choose non-eco-friendly dyes, to gain on profitability as they are not as strong financially as big ones. This would influence directly the residual levels of hazardous chemicals in their products and also in the waste waters. This might be the reason why small textile enterprises did not use the chemical information exchange system. Two small enterprises, which participated in the training provided by the project, indicated that they have not used the CiE online platform because the enterprises' executive management have not reached consensus on whether to share information on chemicals they use. They indicated however that once consensus is reached they would share information on the online platform.

56. The survey carried out during the project training, however, revealed that more than 80% of the attending enterprises had a better understanding of the CiP-CiE system and were willing to use it and to cooperate with CNTAC. A post training assessment on the usage of the CiE platform by the enterprises of the textile supply chain was done covering the period May to December 2018. It found that a total of 516 accounts were registered in the CiE system consisting of 321 chemical supplier accounts (62%), 157 chemical users (31%) and 38 brand purchasers (7%) (see Table 5).

57. Based on information accessed during the evaluation, of the 516 accounts, only 113 logged in and reported information on the platform. Of these, 19 were chemical suppliers, 81 accounts of chemical users, and 13 were of brand purchasers, indicating that the chemical users were the most willing to report and the chemical suppliers were the most reluctant. It should be pointed out that part of the chemical supplier accounts were automatically created from the feedback information

provided by chemical users. In terms of reporting, a total of 1,455 items of data[11] were reported by chemical suppliers coming mainly from large-sized leading chemicals enterprises in the industry. Small-sized enterprises did not cooperate well and seldom reported data. Chemical users (textile enterprises) reported a total of 1,857 data about chemicals in textiles. The large, medium and small enterprises, all indicated that they have reported data. However most of the data came from big leading enterprises. Component 3 is rated **Satisfactory** (Table 12).

Table 6: Management systems in place at the surveyed enterprises (Project Mission, December 2015)

Type of system	No of enterprises	%*
ISO 9000 Quality Management	19	90.5
ISO 1400 Environmental Management	13	61.9
OHSMS 1800 Occupational and Health management	9	42.9
Chemicals management system	12	57.1

*with respect to the 21 enterprises that provided information

Table 7: Laws, regulations, policies and compliance at surveyed enterprises (Project Mission, December 2015)

Item	No of enterprises	%*
Regular update of laws and regulations	20	95.2
Check regulatory compliance of upstream chemical suppliers	19	90.5
Labels on products	18	85.7
Using chemicals with prescribed limits in production	6	28.6

*with respect to the 21 enterprises that provided information

Table 8: Information on chemicals, CiE, CiP and safer chemical use at surveyed enterprises (Project Mission, December 2015)

Item	No of enterprises	%*
Material safety data sheets of chemicals	11	52.4
Ask suppliers for information about hazards of chemicals	17	80.9
Inform downstream enterprises about hazards of chemicals**	14	66.7
Disclose information about hazards of chemicals to population nearby	7	33.3
Aware of national or international restricted/prohibited chemical lists	18	85.7
Establishment of in-house restricted chemical list	14	66.7
Plan to promote use of safer chemicals	14	66.7
Aware of the CiP project	15	71.4
Supportive of CiP project	20	95.2
Enterprise using online CiE platform****	2	9.5

*with respect to 21 enterprises that provide information; **through issuance of analysis certificates; ***on their websites; ****platform established by CNTAC in 2014, prior to the project under evaluation

Table 9: Information on enterprises participating in survey after trainings

Enterprises		Number	%
Size	Medium - Large	183	72
	Micro - small	71	28
	Total	**254**	

[11] Data on chemicals use

Type	Dyeing and printing	175	69.1
	Purchasers	27	10.6
	Chemical producers	13	4.8
	Others (e.g. third party testing agencies)	39	15.5
	Total	**254**	

Table 10: Pilot testing of information exchange system in five provinces[12]

Date	Place	Organizer	Sponsor	Co-sponsors	Participants	Men	Women
15 – 18 July, 2018	Shishi, Fujian Province	FECO	CAIQ	China Textile Information Center (CTIC), CNTAC, Shishi Bureau of Economy, Shishi Federation of Children's Garments and Children Industry, CNTAC Testing (Quanzhou) Technical Service Co., Ltd, Shishi CTES Apparel and Ornament Research Institute.	84	55	34
19 – 21 July, 2018	Foshan, Guangdong Province	FECO	CAIQ	CTIC, CNTAC, Guangdong Province Textile Association	97	61	23
29 July – 1 August, 2018	Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province	FECO	CAIQ	CTIC, CNTAC, Zhejiang Printing and Dyeing Association, Keqiao District Branch of Shaoxing Bureau of Environmental Protection, Keqiao District Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision of Shaoxing, Keqiao District Printing and Dyeing Association of Shaoxing	131	68	29
2 – 4 August, 2018	Zibo, Shandong Province	FECO	CAIQ	CTIC, CNTAC, Zibo Light Industry and Textile Industry Association	89	91	40
18 – 20 September 2018	Changzhou, Jiangsu Province	FECO	CAIQ	CTIC, CNTAC, editorial board of *Textile Auxiliaries*	64	37	27
				Total	465	312	153

Table 11: CiE platform usage during the period May – December 2018

Stakeholder Group	No. of accounts	%	No. of log ins	% wrt* no. of account**	% wrt total log in***
Chemical suppliers	321	62	19	5.6	16.8
Chemical users	157	31	81	51.6	71.7
Brand purchasers	38	7	13	34.2	11.5
Total	516	100	113	-	100

* wrt: with respect to; **% of log in wrt number of accounts for the stakeholder group; ***% wrt the total number of log in

[12] Table adapted from the Project Report, May 2019

58. Component 4 focused on lessons learned, final report and strategies to engage other productive sectors. Two activities were designed to deliver *Output 4.1*, a synthesis report of the findings from the project. While the first activity, which was the actual preparation of the report containing a synthesis of the project and its findings, was satisfactorily done, the second activity was less complete. During training and promotion activities, it was publicly stated that the global scope of CiP project would include multiple industries in the future, such as toy industry and electronics industry[13]. It was also reported that representatives from non-textile sectors such as Qingdao Customs, Nanjing Customs, Jiangmen Vocational and Technical College, Guangdong Chemical Fiber Research Institute and the Qilu Petrochemical Research Institute participated in the trainings provided by the project. However, there is no indication that a dissemination and engagement strategy for implementing CiP information exchange in other product sectors has been published, which was the second activity, and which should have been reported in the synthesis report. For this reason, *Output 4.1* is rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**.

59. To rate the components and the overall delivery of outputs, the individual rating of outputs have been converted in scores (HS[14] = 6; S = 5; MS = 4; MU = 3; U = 2 and HU = 1). For component rating, the average of the scores for each component has been calculated and converted into an overall rating. For overall delivery of outputs, the average score for all outputs has been calculated (Table 12). Based on this the rating for availability of outputs is **Satisfactory**, which is also the rating for the whole component.

Table 5: Assessment and rating of project outputs

Outputs	Comments	Rating*
Output 1.1: Project work plan and budget endorsed and published	Project team led by a project manager was constituted at the start. Work plan and budget endorsed during inception workshop, July 2015	**HS**
Output 1.2: Published assessment of existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector	Activities delayed due to failed bidding exercise. However, review and assessment successfully completed and appropriate guidance materials identified	**S**
Output 2.1: The stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the textiles sector in exchanging chemicals in products information are identified, defined and analyzed in an assessment report	Activities successfully executed by Knowledge and Risk Unit, UNEP for the three outputs. Delivery of outputs done taking into consideration national requirements, and based on the work done by the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals group, and on the chemical information exchange (CiE) system developed by CNTAC	**S**
Output 2.2: What chemicals information should be exchanged between stakeholders in the textiles sector is defined		**S**
Output 2.3: A set of best practices for chemical in products information exchange for the textiles sector established and available		**S**
Output 3.1: Project report detailing experiences and lessons learned from the application of best practices for CiP information exchange in the textiles sector available	Successful training workshops to test the chemical in project information system undertaken in five provinces with the participation of 465 people. Report detailing experiences and lessons learned available.	**S**

[13] Interview data with CNTAC

[14] HS = Highly Satisfactory; S = Satisfactory; MS = Moderately Satisfactory; MU = Moderately Unsatisfactory; U = Unsatisfactory and HU =Highly Unsatisfactory.

Output 4.1: A synthesis report of findings from the project.	Comprehensive synthesis report successfully produced. However, no indication that a dissemination and engagement strategy for implementing CiP information exchange in other product sectors was developed.	**MS**

***HS**: Highly Satisfactory, **S**: Satisfactory, **MS**: Moderately Satisfactory, **MU**: Moderately Unsatisfactory, **U**: Unsatisfactory, **HU**: Highly Unsatisfactory

Table 12: Overall and component rating for output delivery

Component	Outputs	Rating	Score	Average Score	Component Rating
Component 1	Output 1.1	HS	6	5.5	HS/S
	Output 1.2	S	5		
Component 2	Output 2.1	S	5	5	S
	Output 2.2	S	5		
	Output 2.3	S	5		
Component 3	Output 3.1	S	5	5	S
Component 4	Output 4.1	MS	4	4	MS
Total			**35**	**5**	**S**

ii. *Achievement of project outcomes*

60. During the evaluation process and as part of the reconstruction of the TOC, some outcomes were expanded/adjusted to meet UNEP definitions of an outcome: *An outcome is the use (i.e., uptake, adoption, application) of an output by intended beneficiaries, observed as a change in institutions or behaviours, attitudes or conditions (UNEP, 2019).* Table 3 is repeated here for ease of reference.

Table 3 (repeated): Changes to outcome formulation as part of the TOC reconstruction.

Titles proposed in project document	Proposed improvement to titles
Outcome 1: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened	Outcome 1: Information needs identified, baseline strengthened and accurate, current information accessed by those within and outside the supply chain
Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector	Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and applied in the textiles sector
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.	Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated and adopted in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.
Outcome 4: Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector promote replication in other product sectors	No Change

61. The assessment of the achievement of the project outcomes was based on whether the end of project indicators proposed in the project logical framework were met, as well as consideration of whether evidence of the project performance supports the claim that outputs have been appropriately taken up. Table 13 summarizes this assessment. The indicators for Outcome 1 have been partially achieved. The information needs of stakeholders have been identified and a baseline assessment of the state of CiP information exchange in the sector has been done (report was submitted with much delay, cf. Component 1 previous Section on availability of outputs). Information about the project as well as the results are published on the FECO site: http://www.mercury.org.cn/fz/. However, as the site does not have a counter, it was not possible to know the number of organisations accessing to this site. Thus there is no indication whether stakeholders within and outside the supply chain accessed information on stakeholder needs as well as the baseline assessment report produced by the project. On the other hand, Outcome 1 has contributed to the achievement of Outcome 2. **The achievement of Outcome 1 is rated as Moderately Satisfactory**.

62. For Outcome 2, which concerns best practices for product chemical content and information exchange being developed and applied in the textiles sector, the three indicators have been fully achieved. The best practices for product chemical content information exchanged are included in the CiP modules that have been integrated in the CiE platform (http://cie.texsmc.org/), developed and managed by CNTAC. It was this platform that was used for pilot testing of the CiP information exchange system in the five provinces (cf. Component 3 under availability of outputs). Although most of the surveyed enterprises[15] indicated that they have not fully adopted the CiE system, they nevertheless agreed that project contributed to raising their awareness on the need to use safer chemicals and for sound management of chemicals. For instance, one enterprise indicated that that they had their products tested by Intertek[16] to ensure that they did not contain substances restricted by the European Union REACH regulations. A chemical producer indicated that they have made changes to upgrade their products by replacing raw materials containing restricted chemicals with safer ones. They have in place a well-developed technical system to avoid the use of restricted chemicals as raw materials, and their wastes are disposed of by a qualified third party. Another enterprise reported that they have put in place a proper chemical management system as a result of their participation in the project. Furthermore, given that the CiP modules have been integrated in the CiE online platform, therefore it implicitly indicates that the enterprises reporting on the platform have adopted the best practices for chemical exchange (see next paragraph). **Outcome 2 is rated as Satisfactory** (Table 13).

63. Outcome 3 was about information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated and adopted in China in the textiles sector. The key feature for the pilot demonstration in the textile sector was the training of enterprises on the use of the CiE platform developed by CNTAC, and which integrated the CiP module. As mentioned earlier (cf. component 3 under availability of outputs), it was established that the users of the CiE platform were mainly big and medium enterprises. Statistics about the distribution of users logging in and reporting information on the CiE platform after the CiP project training were collected. As mentioned earlier,

[15] 6 enterprises were surveyed by the evaluation
[16] https://www.intertek.com/testing/

it was established that a total of 113 accounts have registered and logged in and reported information on the platform that included 19 accounts from chemical suppliers (16.8%), 81 accounts from chemical users (71.7%), and 13 accounts of brand purchasers (or buyers) (11.5%) (Table 5). The evaluation was granted a username and password and could access the CiE platform. The evaluation confirms that the CiE platform was working with a total of 467 registered accounts. 286 were chemical provider accounts and 181 were accounts of chemical users. It was not possible however to know which were active accounts and which chemicals the enterprises were reporting on It seems that only the administrator of the platform can have access to this information. As the person managing the platform left CNTAC, it was not possible to get this information (see paragraph 93). However, although it was not possible to know which chemicals the enterprises were reporting on, it was possible to know whether they indeed provided information or not. For each account, a pass rate was given. If the pass rate was zero, then this would indicate that no information was provided by the enterprise. The evaluation browsed through most of the accounts, and more than 70 accounts had non-zero pass rates, which would indicate that enterprises in the textile supply chain have started to adopt the chemical information exchange system. Thus, the indicators reported in Table 13 for Outcome 3 are considered to have been fully met. This Outcome is thus rated as **Satisfactory**.

64. For Outcome 4, the lessons learned derived from the project were promoted by CNTAC through annual conferences, social responsibility conferences, exhibitions and communication meetings with supply chain stakeholders and the Textile Sustainable Manufacturing Coalition. It was mentioned that non-textile stakeholders participated in project activities, however there is no evidence these activities were for the development of a dissemination and engagement strategy for promoting best practices in CiP information exchange in other sectors. This outcome is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

65. The uptake of project results is slow, as most of the indicators have been met, achievement of project outcomes is rated **Satisfactory**.

Table 13: Assessment of Project Outcomes

Outcome	Indicators	End of project target as per PRF	Achievements	Rating*
Outcome 1: Information needs identified, baseline strengthened and accurate, current information accessed by those within and outside the supply chain	• Multistakeholder project coordination team in place and workplan and budget agreed. • Existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector collated and assessed in relation to the CiP programme and textile sector stakeholder needs	- Project team in place. - Endorsed work plan and budget - Review and assessment completed - Guidance materials researched and assessed. Appropriate guidance materials identified	- Dedicated and efficient project team constituted - Work plan and budget discussed and approved at inception workshop - Information, collected and assessed, useful for achieving outputs of component 2 - Guidance material identified - No evidence however if information collected was accessed by stakeholders	MS

Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and applied in the textiles sector	• Matrix of roles and responsibilities for CiP information exchange among textile industry stakeholders is established • Chemicals information to be exchanged throughout the production process and among stakeholders is defined and endorsed • Best practices for CiP information exchange in the textiles sector are established.	• Roles and responsibilities matrix established. • What CiP information to exchange among stakeholders has been endorsed • Best practices are finalized for the sector	The three indicators fully achieved and are included in the CiP module that is integrated within the CiE platform http://cie.texsmc.org/ managed by CNTAC Uptake of some of the project results by surveyed enterprises, and indication of adoption of best practices for chemical information exchange by enterprises	S
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated and adopted in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.	• Number of textile sector brands or retailers who apply (pilot) best practices in CiP information exchange • Number of supply chain production facilities where best practices in information exchange are applied • Number of product lines where best practices in information exchange are applied to multiple life-cycle phases	• 5 • 10 • 10	For all 3 indicators: 19 chemical suppliers, 81 chemical users, and 13 brand purchasers reported information[17] on the CiE platform http://cie.texsmc.org/ and currently 467 registered user accounts on the platform Enterprises have started to adopt CiE platform for CiP	S
Outcome 4: : Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector are available and promoted	• Lessons learned and best practices are disseminated to textile stakeholders outside of this project. • Number of non-textile sector stakeholders participating in the development of a dissemination and engagement strategy for promoting best practices in CiP information exchange in other sector(s)	• 25 stakeholders • 5 stakeholders	• At least 467 registered stakeholders on the CiE platform • No indication whether lessons promoted in other product sectors	MS

***HS**: Highly Satisfactory, **S**: Satisfactory, **MS**: Moderately Satisfactory, **MU**: Moderately Unsatisfactory, **U**: Unsatisfactory, **HU**: Highly Unsatisfactory

[17] The evaluation team reasons that if the enterprises are reporting information on the CiE platform, where the CiP modules have been integrated, implicitly it means that these enterprises are using these modules which to some extent means adoption.

iii. *Likelihood of impact*

66. Assessments of impact are associated with the extent to which project interventions have brought about changes in the human condition or in the environment. Changes, whether intended or unintended, can be positive or negative. For this project, the evaluation did not find any evidence of negative impacts on human health or on the environment due to the project interventions. *Likelihood of Impact* can be assessed based on the extent to which the four Intermediate States proposed in the TOC (Figure 3) are seen to be occurring (or emerging) in China. The assessment of likelihood of impact is also supported by the assessment of whether project outcomes were achieved and whether the necessary *assumptions* and *drivers* have been shown to have held (see Figure 3: Reconstructed TOC diagram, Section IV).

67. As discussed in earlier sections there are indications that Intermediate State 1 (see Table 14), is already occurring in China. In particular, the enterprises in the supply chain have already started to use the CiE platform for exchange of information. Feedback gathered after the training revealed that 80% of the 254 enterprises that participated in the trainings had a comprehensive knowledge on CiP and were willing to use the CiE platform, and would cooperate with CNTAC. By December 2018, 516 accounts were registered on the CiE platform. However, only 113 of the 516 accounts reported information on the CiE platform. For reasons discussed earlier (cf. Section availability of outputs, Component 3), the small enterprises seemed quite reluctant to use the CiE platform. However, with the implementation of the *Made in China 2025* national strategic plan, it is anticipated that all enterprises in the textile supply chain would upgrade their facilities to be in compliance with the plan. The *Made in China 2025* national strategic plan proposes to actively construct an efficient, clean, low-carbon and circular sustainable manufacturing system, build a green supply chain, and accelerate the establishment of a resource-saving, environment-friendliness oriented procurement, production, marketing, recycling and logistics system. Under the new normal of the textile industry reform, enhancing exchange of information about chemicals in textiles would be the only approach to realizing the "source management and control" of the textile production chain, which would be conducive to the enhancement and improvement of chemicals management and to the stability and sustainability of the management and control of restricted substances in upstream and downstream supply chains[18].

68. In order to increase the rate of uptake, CNTAC should promote the project results among the enterprises that are part of the textile supply chain, targeting small and medium enterprises and encourage them to adopt the CiP best practices. In particular, to encourage them in that direction, they should be made aware of the *Made in China 2025* national strategic plan.

69. Likelihood of impact is also dependent on the extent to which the project is playing a catalytic role or is promoting longer-term scaling up and/or replication. This is the focus of Intermediate State 2. CNTAC indicated that by 2025, it is expected that 300 mainstream textile chemical manufacturers and 800 textile printing and dyeing enterprises will have joined the CiE

[18] Section 3 - Future best practices of the Report on Best Practice on Exchange of Information about Chemical Substances in Textile, Implementation plan in China, MEE and CAIQ, May 2019 (Output 3.1 of the project under evaluation)

system[19]. It is therefore anticipated that CNTAC would have taken the necessary actions to encourage this uptake. During training and awareness raising activities, it was stated that the global scope of CiP project would include multiple industries in the future, such as toy industry and electronics industry[20]. However, there is no evidence that the project has taken any action to start the promotion of CiP best practices in these sectors. Currently, the UNEP-led GEF global initiative, Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (GEF ID 9771), is being executed by the SAICM secretariat. This project, which was approved in August 2018, is being implemented in 43 countries including China. In particular, the Component 2 of this initiative relates to the life cycle management of chemicals in products: building products, toys and electronics. For China, this component is being executed by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing, which is hosted by the School of Environment of Tsinghua University. Although the project under evaluation has ended, UNEP/FECO should consider establishing a cooperation with this global initiative in order to promote the project results. Creating such a cooperation would certainly be a win-win situation in that both projects would mutually benefit. While the global initiative would take advantage of the lessons and best practices of the CiP project, at the same time the CiP project would have its results promoted in the toys and electronic sectors. This would be very cost effective as no significant costs are foreseen in such a cooperation. This would also promote synergy between two UNEP-led initiatives.

70. Intermediate State 3 is also occurring. As just mentioned, UNEP is implementing the global initiative that promotes life cycle management of chemicals in products. UNEP is also developing a follow up GEF initiative for the Asia region: Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector – GEF ID: 10523. The concept was approved on 1 June 2020, and the proposal is being developed. There are indications that the lessons and good practices of the CiP project would be taken into consideration to develop the proposal[21]. It is nevertheless recommended that the local context and practices in the textile sector of the participating countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam) should be duly considered while developing the proposal, which would avoid potential challenges and barriers to project implementation. As an example of the negative repercussions of not exploring the local contexts fully, for the project under evaluation, due to disagreement between UNEP and FECO on the scope of information exchange on chemicals, and also on whether there was need to include information on the level of hazardous chemicals in wastes, the development of the information exchange tools was delayed.

71. There is documented evidence that large leading enterprises in the supply chain in China are applying sound chemicals management practices. Many are investing significantly to adapt to the global trend of green manufacturing and be in line with the *Made in China 2025* national strategic plan. One major textile enterprise that exports more than 85% of its products, indicated that they are using only eco-friendly chemicals and they have established a sustainability committee that allocate the required resources for achieving sustainable production to meet the requirements of the global market[22]. The challenge remains for the small and medium enterprises.

[19] Statement by CNTAC
[20] Information obtained from CNTAC
[21] Interview data with the UNEP task manager developing the proposal
[22] Interview data

It was found that many of these enterprises were reluctant to adopt the CiE system to report or exchange information. The possibility that they could be potentially using hazardous or prohibited chemicals was the reason put forward to explain their poor cooperation and their unwillingness to report information on chemicals. In China, it is difficult to truly implement the CiE system for exchange of information, as it is solely based on enterprises' willingness to adopt such systems in the absence of mandatory policy or legal requirement. 42 of the 92 chemicals on the MRSL of ZDHC are already prohibited/restricted by national regulations (cf. Section V.H.iii). One way to ensure that these chemicals are no longer being imported or manufactured locally, and no longer used in the textile sector, is that the relevant enforcing authorities take the necessary steps to strictly check for compliance with national policies and regulations at chemical manufacturing enterprises or during importation of chemicals.

72. In summary, Intermediate States 1 and 4 are occurring for big enterprises and to some extent for medium ones also, and not for small enterprises. Unless adequate actions are taken to mitigate risks regarding small enterprises using restricted chemicals and not adopting sound chemical management, the long term intended impact of the project might be jeopardized.

73. In the project document at CEO endorsement, five risks were identified which were either medium (2) or low (3) (Table 15). For four (1, 2, 4 and 5) of them, the mitigation measures listed have been successful and the project activities related to these risks have been successfully completed so that the risks do not exist any longer. For risk 3, the timeframe was indeed too short as implementation was delayed (cf. Sections V.D.i and V.F). Nevertheless this would not impact on impact as all activities have been completed and the outputs are available.

74. The assessment for likelihood of impact has been done using the UNEP guidance document (Annex 12). This document, which is in fact an Excel sheet, requires to feed information regarding the level of achievement of project outcomes and intermediate states of the TOC, and the status of proposed drivers as well as the proposed assumptions of the TOC (see Figure 3). For the project under evaluation, as discussed in the previous sections, the project outcomes have been achieved satisfactorily and the intermediate states are partially achieved. The two proposed drivers (Figure 3), *project providing adequate training to pilot facilities* and *lessons and best practices from pilot project facilitate replication* are both in place, and the three proposed assumptions hold: *the project followed the guidance proposed by the CiP programme*, *stakeholders agreed on requirements for CiP information exchange system*, and *facilities interested to participate in project*. Feeding these information in the Excel sheet gave a rating of **Likely** for likelihood of impact.

75. Based on the rating of the three sub-criteria, effectiveness is rated **Satisfactory**.

Table 14: Status of intermediate states

Intermediate State	Observation/findings	Conclusion and Rating*
Intermediate state 1: Continued buy in by pilot facilities to implement and promote CiP information exchange	➢ Feedback after training: 254 enterprises (72%: medium and large; 28%: small) Results of survey: • 34% of enterprises participated in the chemical information exchange system developed by project • More than 80% have comprehensive knowledge on CiE and willing to use it and cooperate with CNTAC	Good indication of uptake by big textile enterprises. Need for follow up by CNTAC **S**

	➢ Post training assessment on CiE platform usage by enterprises: May – Dec 2018 • 516 registered on CiE platform: 321 chemical suppliers, 157 chemical users, and 38 of brand purchasers (7%) • 113 logged in and reported information: 19 chemical suppliers, 81 chemical users, and 13 brand purchasers ➢ Evaluation accessed CiE platform; 467 registered accounts	
Intermediate State 2: Other facilities in textile sector and in other sectors are convinced and adopt CiP information exchange system	• During training and promotion activities, it was stated that the global scope of CiP project would include multiple industries in the future, such as toy industry and electronics industry. • CNTAC: By 2025, it is expected that 300 mainstream textile chemical manufacturers and 800 textile printing and dyeing enterprises will have joined the CiE system	Good indication. However need for follow up by FECO and CNTAC **MS**
Intermediate State 3: In the context of the CiP Programme, UNEP replicating initiative in other regions / countries	• Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – GEF ID: 9771 – Approved for implementation August 2018 - (Lead in paint, toys, building and electronic sectors) • UNEP developing regional proposal in Asia region Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector – GEF ID: 10523	Replication happening **MS**
Intermediate State 4: Sound chemicals management in textile and other sectors and only products meeting international standards available	• Indication that big enterprises soundly managing chemicals and reducing use of toxic and hazardous chemicals; e.g. Set up of sustainability committee to allocate required resources for achieving sustainable development	Good indication for big enterprises. Need for follow up by FECO and CAIQ **MS**

***HS**: Highly Satisfactory, **S**: Satisfactory, **MS**: Moderately Satisfactory, **MU**: Moderately Unsatisfactory, **U**: Unsatisfactory, **HU**: Highly Unsatisfactory

Table 15: Risks and mitigation measures at CEO endorsement stage

Risks	Mitigation measures
1. Likelihood that key industrial sectors are not willing to be involved in this project **Low risk**	Given the high value that key industry stakeholders (brands) have given to this issue, engagement of the necessary supply-chain actors is likely, thus the 'low risk' likelihood. The effect of industrial sectors not engaging would be high, and thus coordinated efforts (e.g. by brands, associations, UNEP and the Chinese government) are underway or foreseen to ensure engagement by the industrial partners. Textile industries in China are part of international associations. The driving force for this project is the international textile industry association, which will ensure that national Chinese companies and belonging to the association, will participate in the project. In this regard highlighting of the benefits of promoting SAICM goals in coordination with the established industry activities and public awareness and dialogue on CiP information issues will also be maintained through this project and under UNEP's other CiP project activities..
2. That key non-industrial stakeholder groups are not involved in this project **Low risk**	These stakeholders (NGOs, governments) have consistently voiced concern for this issue in numerous fora, both in and outside of SAICM. Involvement of these groups through organizational contact already established through the CiP project and through the Steering Group of the CiP project will ensure that constructive input from non-industrial stakeholders are integrated into the project.
3. The timeframe for the project is too short to achieve it outputs. **Medium risk**	The project sets ambitious goals. Nonetheless these are considered realistic based on the high visibility and priority that the core CiP information issue has for the sector and on the advantageous situation where the textiles sector has already undertaken some key steps in developing tools that could be used in the project.
4. There is reduced interest in the project by key stakeholders	There is an increasing realization among stakeholders at many levels that access to the chemicals-content information which the project would make available will be essential for effective management of the chemicals designed and manufactured into products. This information is also a key element of the broader discourse on sustainable products

Medium risk	and processes. Integrating CiP information flow with these related sustainable consumption and production initiatives will continue to drive interest in the CiP issue.
5. Conflicts caused by claims of intellectual property of outputs **Low risk**	This issue will be considered case by case. If companies provide confidential information, this information, this information may remain confidential. If the data obtained comes from a report commissioned by the project (hence, UNEP), then UNEP has the publishing rights, unless stated differently in the agreement with the research institution. UNEP will work closely with industries and the Executing Agency and will discuss rights on outputs and permissions sought if needed.

E. Financial management

i. *Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures*

76. At approval stage, the project was funded through a GEF grant, amounting to USD 1,000,000. The agreed mode of execution was applied and a project cooperation agreement was signed between UNEP and FECO in December 2014 for a total amount of $653,000 to execute components 1, 3 and 4 of the project. The remaining $347,000 were managed by UNEP to provide technical support, as requested by FECO, for the execution of component 2, the Mid-Term Review and the independent Terminal Evaluation. The disbursement of funds to FECO were done according to the terms of agreement of the PCA and in compliance with the relevant UN financial procedures. A first disbursement of $100,000 was made two weeks after the signature of the contract. For subsequent disbursements, the UNEP Task Manager ensured that financial and other technical reports were received before informing the financial officer to release the funds. Three subsequent disbursements of $138,200, $364,800 and $23,750 were made on October 2015, November 2017 and November 2019 respectively for a total of $626,750 including the initial disbursement. The funds were also adequately managed at FECO level the funds. Payments of sub-contractors were made according to the terms of agreements, once internal clearance had been obtained from relevant offices.

77. As reported previously (Section III.E) due to delays, the project was granted a no-cost extension of two years. The budget was revised accordingly[23]. In 2017, reallocation of funds for a total amount of $32,000 were done due to some confusion and insufficient budget allocation at design.

78. The financial documents submitted to the evaluation regarding expenditures were according to UNEP budget lines (BL), and it was difficult to reconcile these expenditures with respect to budget allocated for the different components. Table 16 reports the expenditures by FECO and UNEP. At national level, a significant portion of the project activities was executed by CAIQ, and was sub-contracted for an amount of $327,253. FECO indicated that the sub-contracted amount included costs mainly for meetings, training and reporting corresponding to BL 3300 and BL 5200. However, as it was difficult to break down the CAIQ expenditures into the different BLs, FECO reported the sub-contracted amount to the BL 2100. The figures reported in Table 9 for these BL do not reflect the actual expenditures. When considering the three BLs together, the unspent

[23] Amended PCA signed in February 2018

balance is $10,753 representing a variance of 2.2%[24] (Table 17). An additional item, exchange loss, has been included in BL 5500 to reflect the loss incurred due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the Chinese Yuan and the US Dollar FECO. Over the project duration the loss amounted to $30,260, which was 4.8% of the total amount received by FECO ($ 626,750). Noting that project management cost (PMC) is generally 10% of the total GEF grant, the exchange loss represented half of PMC for FECO. This loss did not however affect execution as $20,502 was unspent for project personnel at project closure. This would have been problematic had all the budget been disbursed. One way to mitigate this risk might be that the agency receiving the funds to have an account in the currency of the funds being transferred. Regarding the funds managed by UNEP, expenditures have been within the allocated budgets (Table 9). In summary, ll activities as proposed in the project document were completed within the budget allocated (GEF grant) of USD 1,000,000. As of May 2021, an unspent balance of $66,928 remained (Table 16).

79. Table 18 reports the co-financing status for the project. An amount of $1,187,942 materialized against a total amount of $4,395,205 pledged at design. No information or documentary evidence was obtained regarding materialized co-financing for Outdoor Industry Association members and cash co-financing for UNEP.

Table 16: FECO and UNEP expenditures per budget line as of May 2021

BL	Item		Budget ($)	Expenditures ($)	Unspent ($)
FECO					
1100	Project personnel		68,000	47,498	20,502
1200	National Consultants		40,000	32,431	7,569
1300	Administrative support		25,000	17,877	7,123
1600	Travel		4,000	6,261	-2,261
2100	Sub-contracts		80,000	327,753	-247,753
3300	Meetings/conferences/training		320,000	102,616	217,384
4100	Expendable equipment		13,000	2,041	10,959
4200	Non-expendable equipment		10,000	1,953	8,047
5200	Reporting costs		68,000	27,616	40,384
5300	Sundry		10,000	13,810	-3,810
5500	Evaluation & Monitoring	Audit	15,000	16,634	-1,634
		Exchange loss	-	30,260	-30,260
	Total		653,000	626,750	26,250
UNEP					
	UNEP Subcontracts		124,789	124,789	-
	UNEP Expertise		132,211	132,211	-
	Travel		20,000	16,165	3,835
	Communication		35,000	27,855	7,145
	Midterm review		10,000	-	10,000
	Terminal evaluation		25,000	5,302	19,698
	Total		347,000	306,322	40.678
	Overall Total		**1,000,000**	**933,072**	**66,928**

Table 17: BLs 2100, 3300 and 5200 only

BL	Item	Budget ($)	Expenditures ($)	Unspent ($)
FECO				
2100	Sub-contracts	80,000	327,753	-247,753

[24] (10,753/468,000) x100

3300	Meetings/conferences/training	320,000	102,616	217,384
5200	Reporting costs	68,000	27,616	40,384
	BL2100 + BL3300 + BL5200	468,000	457,247	10,753

Table 18: Co-financing for the project

Name of Co-financier	Type	Amount secured ($)	Amount materialized ($)
Outdoor Industry Association members	Cash	3,020,000	-
	In Kind	1,000,000	-
UNEP	Cash	390,000	-
	In Kind	185,205	185,205
MEE/CAIQ	Cash	200,000	193,631
	In Kind	600,000	809,106
Total		4,395,205	1,187,942

ii. *Completeness of project financial information*

80. According to the project cooperation agreement, FECO had to submit quarterly financial reports, yearly co-financial reports, half yearly progress reports and PIR reports. As reported in the PIR report ending June 2017, given the implementation status (FECO awaiting tools developed by UNEP for demonstration in the provinces) FECO requested to reduce frequency of submission routine project reports. Thus, the half yearly progress reports were no longer submitted. All the quarterly financial reports were made available to the evaluation except those for the first, second and fourth quarters of 2018. On the other hand, all yearly audit reports, co-financial yearly reports and the final financial report were available.

iii. *Communication between finance and project management staff*

81. According to information gathered, the proper internal financial management standards were applied for the project at both UNEP and FECO levels. Project management was in regular communication with the finance department for the timely disbursements of funds and payments. They also ensured that all relevant documents and approvals were obtained before making their requests.

82. Based on the financial assessment table (Table 19) developed by UNEP, financial management is rated **Satisfactory**.

Table 19: Financial management assessment table

Financial management components:	Rating	Evidence/ Comments
1. Adherence to UNEP's/GEF's policies and procedures:	**S**	
Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence[25] to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules	S	Standard procedures applied

[25] If the evaluation raises concerns over adherence with policies or standard procedures, a recommendation maybe given to cover the topic in an upcoming audit, or similar financial oversight exercise.

2. Completeness of project financial information[26]:		**S**	
Provision of key documents to the evaluator (based on the responses to A-H below)		S	
A.	Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines)	HS	Available in project document
B.	Revisions to the budget	S	Revised budget available
C.	All relevant project legal agreements (e.g. SSFA, PCA, ICA)	S	Documents available
D.	Proof of fund transfers	MS	No documented proofs available
E.	Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind)	MS	Co-financing proof not complete
F.	A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and/or annual level)	S	Expenditures with respect to budget lines and components available up to 2017, Final expenditure report was only as per budget lines
G.	Copies of any completed audits and management responses *(where applicable)*	HS	All audit reports available
H.	Any other financial information that was required for this project (list): Quarterly and final financial reports	S	3 of the15 quarterly reports not available to evaluation
3. Communication between finance and project management staff		**S**	
Project Manager and/or Task Manager's level of awareness of the project's financial status.		S	Adequate
Fund Management Officer's knowledge of project progress/status when disbursements are done.		S	Adequate
Level of addressing and resolving financial management issues among Fund Management Officer and Project Manager/Task Manager.		S	Adequate
Contact/communication between by Fund Management Officer, Project Manager/Task Manager during the preparation of financial and progress reports.		S	Adequate
Project Manager, Task Manager and Fund Management Officer responsiveness to financial requests during the evaluation process		S	Available documents submitted to evaluation upon request
Overall rating		**S**	

F. Efficiency

83. The implementation of the project officially started in January 2015 for a duration of 30 months and was expected to end in July 2017. The project was launched during the inception workshop held in July 2015, de facto implementation was delayed by 6 months. No reason was provided to justify this late launch. The project faced further delays (months) due to failed biddings for the recruitment of a national consultant (cf. Section V.D.i, Component 2). At the request of FECO the project was granted a no-cost extension of two years to officially close in May 2019. These delays and extension did not negatively impact implementation as all the outputs were delivered (Table 5) within the planned budget (Table 16).

[26] See also document 'Criterion Rating Description' for reference

84. FECO used the most efficient options for procurement and recruitment. The project experts as well as national consultants were all recruited through strict bidding exercises with the assistance of a panel of external experts to select the most appropriate candidates. This led to the sub-contracting of CNTAC and CDPA, two key textile associations in China, to execute activities for Component 3 and 1 respectively. Furthermore, the project was largely built upon the guidance document developed in the context of the CiP Programme[27]. It also benefitted from the work of ZDHC and the CiE platform developed by CNTAC in 2014, to develop the CiP tools and documents for the project (cf. Section V.D.i, Component 2). The materialization of national co-financing also contributed to cost effectiveness (Table 18). On the other hand, besides the usual guidance and assistance that are generally provided by implementing agencies on an ad hoc basis through online communication (applicable for all projects), there is no evidence that the project made specific efforts to minimize the UNEP's environmental footprint.

85. Despite delays, all outputs were achieved successfully within planned budgets. Efficiency is rated as **Satisfactory**.

G. Monitoring and reporting

i. Monitoring design and budget

86. The proposed plan in the project document is consistent with UNEP standard procedures for monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Indicators were not provided at output level in the RPF. On the other hand SMART verifiable indicators were proposed for outcomes as well as their sources of verification. However, as most outcomes were reformulated to reflect the nature of outcome as the *uptake* of outputs (Table 3), some of the proposed outcome indicators were no longer suitable to track results, in particular those for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. Adequate reporting requirements and responsibilities indicating the content and timing as well as the responsibility for reporting were given in the M&E plan[28]. A total amount of $50,000 was budgeted for the plan. $10,000 were allocated for the internal midterm review, $15,000 for annual audit and $25,000 for the independent terminal evaluation. However, as the project was originally designed to last for only 30 months, the project document states (Part II, Section C) that the first Project Implementation Review (PIR) review would serve as an internal Mid-Term Review. This evaluation notes that the funds allocated for the Mid-Term Review were not spent and were not held over to be added to the budget for the Terminal Evaluation. Monitoring design and budget is rated as **Satisfactory**.

ii. Monitoring of project implementation

87. The monitoring system was operational. There is clear evidence that the Project Result Framework, including the baseline, midterm target and end of project targets, was used as basis for monitoring progress. On the other hand, the PRF did not include disaggregation of data for indicators. With the help of the two UNEP interns that assisted in translating documents, the

[27] The Chemicals in Products Programme: Guidance for stakeholders on exchanging chemicals in products information, UNEP, SAICM, October 2015
[28] Part II Section of the project document and the table therein

evaluation could nevertheless get some gender-disaggregated data based on the names of participants[29] that attended the training workshops (See Table 20).

88. The inception workshop (IW) was held on 13 July 2015, to officially launch the project. It was attended by UNEP, FECO, CAIQ, leading enterprises, CNTAC and CDPA. The role and responsibilities of partners, work plan and budget were discussed and agreed upon. The Project Steering Committee (PSC), constituted by UNEP, FECO, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), CAIQ and SWCMC, was established, and the two planned meetings were held. There is documented evidence that project progress was assessed and recommendations were made for corrective actions. For example, during the second PSC meeting held on 21 June 2016, as the project was behind schedule (cf. Section V.D.i Components 1 and 2), the work plan was revised, and the PSC recommended the project team to mobilize and encourage enterprises of the supply chain to actively participate in pilot activities (Component 3) that were planned in the later stage of the project. Although, the project was granted a two-year extension, there is no documented evidence whether other PSC meetings were convened. Noting the three-year period between the last PSC meeting in June 2016 and closure of the project in May 2019 the evaluation considers that not undertaking at least one additional PSC meeting to monitor progress and to provide guidance for the last part of the project constitutes a gap. For this reason, monitoring of project implementation is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

iii. Project Reporting

89. Reporting was adequate. The inception report, all the project implementation review (PIR) reports as well as the half yearly progress, yearly audit and terminal reports (Annex 4) were timely submitted. As from 2017, upon mutual agreement between FECO and UNEP, the half yearly progress reports, which were not a requirement at design, were no longer be produced. Generally, the reports were of good quality. For example, all relevant sections of the PIR reports were completed, and covered all the UNEP and GEF reporting requirements. Project Reporting is rated as **Satisfactory**.

90. The rating on Monitoring and Reporting is **Satisfactory**.

H. Sustainability

91. Sustainability[30] is understood as the probability of project outcomes being maintained and developed after the intervention ends. For this TE, the evaluation has assessed the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the endurance of achieved project outcomes. The three dimensions of sustainability as mentioned in the terms of reference, namely socio-political, financial, and institutional sustainability are assessed in this section. The project document did not mention any exit strategy.

[29] The lists of participants of the 5 training workshops were made available to the evaluation

[30] As used here, 'sustainability' means the long-term maintenance of outcomes and consequent impacts, whether environmental or not. This is distinct from the concept of sustainability in the terms 'environmental sustainability' or 'sustainable development', which imply 'not living beyond our means' or 'not diminishing global environmental benefits' (GEF STAP Paper, 2019, Achieving More Enduring Outcomes from GEF Investment)

i. Socio-political sustainability

92. As discussed earlier (Section V.A), this project is highly relevant to China as it has ratified numerous MEAs and is fully committed to soundly manage hazardous chemicals including POPs and mercury. Through its *Made in China 2025* strategic plan, China has committed itself to create the necessary conditions for an efficient, clean, low-carbon and circular sustainable manufacturing sector through the promotion of resource-saving, and environmentally friendly and sustainable approaches. Furthermore, FECO[31], which was responsible to execute the project, was specifically established in 1989 to coordinate and manage projects in cooperation with international financial organizations for the implementation of MEAs. The creation of FECO highlights the priority given by the central government to fill its MEA obligations to protect of its population and the environment against hazardous chemicals. The conditions are considered favorable for the socio-political sustainability of the project. This criterion is rated **Likely**.

ii. Financial sustainability

93. One of the key outcomes of the project was the CiE platform, developed by CNTAC in 2014, being used to demonstrate information exchange of textile product chemical content according to endorsed best practices. CNTAC, which was sub-contracted to integrate the CiP modules in the CiE system, and to train enterprises, was managing the platform during the project. In the long term, the management and maintenance of this platform would require human and financial resources. According to available information[32], the staff managing the platform just left CNTAC, and the platform is currently no longer being updated. However, the whole CiE platform would be moved to the CNTAC Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) online platform in 2022. This LCA platform would be used for information exchange related to the carbon and chemical footprints of the whole textile sector, and CNTAC would be responsible for its management and maintenance. The long term management and maintenance of the CiE platform is thus secured. For this reason, rating on financial sustainability is **Likely**.

iii. Institutional sustainability

94. The key stakeholders involved confirmed the relevance of the project in that it enhanced their capacity and knowledge to better perform their work. CAIQ, a national research institution for inspection, testing and quarantine, included information and knowledge gained from the project in a monograph Textile Chemical Control they compiled. CNTAC, a non-profit National Textile Organization, responsible for implementing national industrial policies and performing functions delegated by the government in the textile sector among its duties, adopted the MRSL of the CiP project as group standards for the textile sector (T/CNTAC 8-2018).

95. Of the 92 hazardous chemicals listed in the MRSL, 39 were already prohibited/restricted under Chinese Regulations, 3 were included during the project phase, and the remaining 50 are not

[31] FECO was established within MEE and it was the Mercury Convention Implementation Department of FECO that executed the project

[32] Interview data

prohibited/restricted. Of these 50 unrestricted chemicals, 3 are listed as POPs[33] and one has been proposed for listing[34] under the Stockholm Convention. Ideally, **all** the 50 non-regulated chemicals listed on MRSL should be prohibited/restricted under the Chinese Regulations in that they can no longer be legally used in the textile sector. Otherwise one can argue that although they are restricted under the group standard T/CNTAC 8-2018, since they are not legally prohibited/restricted, they can still be used. For the 4 chemicals of concern under the Stockholm Convention, as China has ratified the convention, the evaluation recommends that the relevant authorities take action to include them in the prohibited/restricted list of the national regulations.

96. According to information gathered, CNTAC would continue to use or expand the knowledge and lessons resulting from the project, and they would also move the CiE platform, which has integrated the CiP modules, as a whole into the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) online platform of the sector's products to further promote its application. CDFA, an association serving as a link between the dyeing and printing enterprises and the authorities, also indicated that they had a better understanding of the need for the type information on chemicals required to properly guide the development of the industry. These findings suggest that the conditions exist for institutional sustainability of the project and the rating is set at **Likely**.

97. Based on the ratings given to the three dimensions of sustainability, sustainability of the project results is rated **Likely**.

I. Factors Affecting Performance

i. Preparation and Readiness

98. Other than the six months (for a project duration of 30 months) it took to launch the project nationally (Section V.F), the evaluation did not evidence any shortcomings or gap regarding mobilisation of funds as well as staffing and financing arrangements. On the other hand, there was disagreement between UNEP and FECO project on the scope of information exchange on chemicals (cf. Section V.D.i, Component 2). Six months to launch the project is considered very long, preparation and readiness is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

ii. Quality of Project Management and Supervision

UNEP (Implementing Agency)

99. UNEP, through its portfolio manager, provided the necessary supervision and guidance for the implementation of the project. He attended the two PSC meetings and provided guidance also through frequent email communication. The UNEP Knowledge and Risk Unit assisted FECO in project execution in providing the appropriate technical backstopping. It also developed the CiP tools and relevant documents for best practices for chemical information exchange in the textile supply chain. Rating for this criteria is set at **Satisfactory**.

[33] Pentachlorophenyl laurate (CAS 3772-94-9), sodium pentachlorophenolate (CAS 131-52-2), and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (CAS 85535-84-8)
[34] 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-ditertpentylphenol (UV-328) (CAS 25973-55-1)

FECO (Executing Agency)

100. At FECO level, led by an in-house PC, the project team, consisting of a FECO project assistant and two experts, was established at the start. Aside from the delay in recruiting an expert to work on the baseline assessment report (Section V.D.i), the project team performed their duties satisfactorily, and successfully executed the activities they were responsible for. All the interviewed/surveyed national stakeholders and partners were asked to comment on the performance of the PC and the project team. Depending on the question design, some of them were asked to give a rating ranging from 1 to 5[35], and others were just asked to give their feedback. They unanimously agreed that FECO played an important and leading role in the execution of the project, and the project team performed in an effective and efficient manner. 6 of the 7 stakeholders, who were asked to give a rating[36], gave 5 and the 7th one gave 4. The other 6 stakeholders, who were not asked to give a rating, were all satisfied with the work done by FECO and the project team. The PC mentioned the good support provided by the NCG, consisting of the Department of Consumer Goods Industry of MIIT, the Department of International Cooperation, MEE, and the former Department of Pollution Prevention and Control, MEE. This criterion is rated **Satisfactory.**

101. Overall, Project Management and Supervision is **Satisfactory**.

iii. Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

102. The engagement and participation of the stakeholders in the project was very satisfactory. The PC confirmed their cooperation and their full support all throughout the project duration. At central level, CAIQ, MIIT, CNTAC, SWCMC and CDPA were very much involved in the PSC, coordination and communication meetings and in the training activities for some of them. In addition, other administrative departments and industry associations at national and local level also provided a lot of support in the design and organization of the training activities, provided experts for these trainings and assisted in communicating with enterprises. The local administrative agencies such as the bureaus of economy, environmental protection agencies, bureaus of quality and technical supervision, and customs of the five provinces where the training were undertaken provided great support and assistance to the project, which were crucial for the successful completion of the trainings. The participation of 254 enterprises in the trainings in the five provinces is noted.

103. Rating for Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation is **Highly Satisfactory**.

iv. Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality

104. The design did not identify indigenous peoples as key stakeholders to be incorporated in the project implementation. The project document[37] mentioned that vulnerable populations (e.g. women, children and impoverished communities) have a higher risk of harm from chemicals than

[35] Unsatisfactory: 1; Moderately Unsatisfactory: 2; Moderately Satisfactory: 3; Satisfactory: 4; Highly Satisfactory: 5

[36] See footnote 37

[37] See Part II Section A.3 of the project document

the social average – reducing these risks through actions based on reliable CiP information was expected to benefit these vulnerable populations. In that respect, it was mentioned that the project would encourage women's participation in the project and would disseminate the information to civil society, with particular emphasis on consumers and female workers. The project was also expected to make sure that women would be equally represented in the activities to be performed. In terms of equal participation of women in a participatory process, the project would advocate for a sound representation of women and affected groups in the project. The design did not indicate how this would be done nor how it would be monitored, and there is no evidence that this happened during project implementation. In particular, risks for exposure to hazardous chemicals exist in the textile sector in China. As previously discussed (cf. Section V.H.iii – Institutional Sustainability), 50 of the 92 chemicals in the MRSL are not currently regulated under Chinese regulations. These chemicals could be potentially in use in the textile sector, which would likely put the workers (probably a significant proportion of them are women) of the sector at risk.

105. The engagement and participation of women in the project was satisfactory. The PC and the project assistant were women. Participation of women at the trainings was quite satisfactory, it ranged from 27.4% to 42.2% with an average of 33.0% in terms of percentage.

106. However, given that there is no evidence that specific awareness raising activities that targeted consumers and women workers were undertaken, despite women, children and impoverished communities being identified as facing higher than average risks in the project document, this criterion is rated as **Unsatisfactory**.

Table 20: Gender representation at the trainings

City, Province	Participants	Men	Women	% Women
Zibo, Shandong	89	55	34	38.2
Shishi, Fujian	84	61	23	27.4
Foshan, Guangdong	97	68	29	30.0
Shaoxing, Zhejiang	131	91	40	30.5
Changzhou, Jiangsu	64	37	27	42.2
Total	465	312	153	33.0

v. Environmental, social and economic safeguards

107. A plan to address the environmental, social and economic safeguards aspects was proposed at the design stage[38]. The plan mentioned that in the course of the project it was foreseen that numerous product samples would undergo laboratory analysis to ascertain their chemical content. Laboratory analysis being one of its functions, it was anticipated that CAIQ would ensure that best industry standards for the environmental safeguards on proper sample handling, tracking and waste disposal were applied. There is no evidence that this happened.

108. Concerning the *social safeguards*, the plan proposed to encourage participation of vulnerable groups and be represented in the PSC of the project. Again, there is no evidence that these proposals were implemented. In particular, no representatives of vulnerable groups were

[38] Annex 6 of the project document

member of PSC. On the other hand, dissemination about the project results were done (Component 4 of the project), and it is anticipated that this would assist the government to take action to preserve human health and the environment regarding hazardous chemicals in textile products.

109. The plan recognized that pregnant women and children were more susceptible to hazardous chemicals in general, and also mentioned that communities living nearby facilities using hazardous chemicals were more vulnerable to contamination. Thus, the project was expected to advocate for the protection of these two vulnerable groups.

110. Workers were also considered a vulnerable group; the project was expected to include the active participation of workers associations and medical associations. Through these two important groups, the project was to sensitize the general population and targets groups about the risks of certain chemicals in the textile sector. There was no evidence of the participation medical associations. On the other hand, the project provided many opportunities through trainings, and awareness raising and communication activities to inform the workers communities. Also, as previously reported (Section V.D.i, Component 1), 7 of the 21 surveyed enterprises were disclosing information about hazards of chemicals to the nearby population through their websites.

111. The plan also mentioned that the mechanisms and conclusions coming from this project were to be adopted by textile associations. This exchange of information would allow companies to identify undesirable chemicals in their products and to take action to replace these chemicals by safer chemicals. By doing this, consumers and populations nearby facilities would enjoy a better and less polluted environment. It was anticipated that the project would not have a direct impact on poor populations and communities; this would be a first step in a series of actions to reduce the use of undesirable chemicals in products. Once all the steps would be implemented (using safer chemicals) the population at large, including poor communities, would enjoy a better environment and textile products with less harmful chemicals. It is widely understood that women and children are most affected by chemicals, therefore by implementing all mechanisms identified in the project would benefit these vulnerable group. However, it is not reasonable to expect that a homogenous approach to all communities will automatically address the differentiated needs of disadvantaged groups.

112. The PIR report for the financial year ending June 2017, mentioned that the project, through the PSC meetings and with the assistance of national experts, was monitoring the potential social or environmental negative effects of the project. However, no report on any such reporting was provided to the evaluation.

113. One economic benefit was reported in the project document[39]. It was mentioned that the proper handling of chemicals in products would reduce time off from work: knowledge of chemicals present in products and their risks would lead to risk mitigation measures and to reduced exposure to harmful chemicals and related workplace absence. No data on this anticipated effect of the project were collected during project implementation.

[39] See footnote 39

114. Environmental, social and economic safeguards is rated **Unsatisfactory**

vi. Country Ownership and Driven-ness

115. As discussed under the section Stakeholder participation and cooperation, very active engagement and participation of stakeholders were seen in the project. Likewise, as described under the section Sustainability, ownership is very high. Elements and results of the project have already been adopted by national counterparts and stakeholders of the textile supply chain. Country Ownership and Driven-ness is rated as **Highly Satisfactory**.

vii. Communication and Public Awareness

116. It was expected that the communication and public awareness raising plan would take place under the project activities[40]. In this respect, there would be a natural audience for the project results that would come, not only in the textiles sector but also in other priority sectors (electronics, toys and building materials). Outreach and awareness raising in the appropriate events and initiatives for these sectors (e.g. annual meetings, conferences, thematic working groups) would be undertaken, and it was anticipated that a wide audience of receptive stakeholders in supply chains would be reached and informed about the project activities and outcomes. However, there is documented evidence that this has happened for the textile sector only, and not for the other above mentioned priority sectors.

117. It was also foreseen that communication materials including summaries of experiences piloting CiP information exchange, the project reports and analysis documents would be developed and key documents or executive summaries would be made available to a broad audience. Key lessons and best practices of the project were summarized in the report[41] submitted to UNEP. A number of outreach activities targeting a broad audience have been done at national level (see next paragraph).

118. The plan also proposed that public awareness would likewise be raised through diffusion of results via the active channels of civil society NGOs. It would also publicize project activities and results on other public information platforms (magazines, newspapers, internet information outlets). This has happened satisfactorily. The main contents and results of the project are reported on the website of Mercury Convention Implementation Department of FECO http://www.mercury.org.cn/fz/. The training courses run in the five provinces were recorded and available on line at: http://pc.jkxy.org.cn/views/index/index.html [43], a platform created and managed by CAIQ. It was reported that the videos of the training were viewed more than 2000 times just after the training period in July 2018. CNTAC has promoted the project results through diverse fora such as annual conferences, social responsibility conferences, exhibitions, communication

[40] Annex 5 of the project document
[41] Best Practice on Exchange of Information about Chemical Substances in Textile: Implementation plan in China. FECO and CAIQ, May 2019
[42] http://pc.jkxy.iqtt.org.cn/views/index/index.html
[43] http://pc.jkxy.iqtt.org.cn/views/index/index.html

meetings with supply chain stakeholders and the Textile Sustainable Manufacturing Coalition[44]. Communication and public awareness is rated **Satisfactory**.

119. Rating for factors affecting performance is **Satisfactory**.

VI. Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

A. Conclusions

120. This highly-relevant project was effectively managed by a dedicated project team under the adequate guidance and supervision of UNEP. Due to challenges faced, implementation was delayed and a two-year extension was granted to allow for completion of project activities. The active involvement of key partners and stakeholders contributed to an effective implementation and the achievements of all deliverables. The functional CiE online platform that integrated the CiP modules was the key output, and its use for exchange information according to best practices was successfully demonstrated in five provinces. There are indications that the Intermediate States, which would lead to impact, are already emerging. Sustainability of the project results is dependent on the availability of human and financial resources, which would be provided by CNTAC, to manage and maintain the online CiE platform. Overall, the project is rated **Satisfactory**. The ratings of the different evaluation criteria are summarized in the table below.

Table 21: Summary of Performance Ratings

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
A. Strategic Relevance		**HS**
1. Alignment to MTS and POW and the GEF strategic priorities	Complementary to UNEP's subprogramme on Chemicals and Wastes of its Programme of Work	HS
2. Alignment to UN Environment /Donor/GEF strategic priorities	Project is consistent with the GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal	HS
3. Relevance to regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities	In line with China's 13th Five Year Environment Plan on green development and environmentally friendly industries	HS
4. Complementarity with existing interventions	No linkages with existing initiatives envisaged. Supporting two UNEP-led initiatives Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (GEF ID: 9771) and Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector (GEF ID: 10523)	HS
B. Quality of Project Design	A comprehensive intervention logic and a clear and consistent approach with adequately planned activities to deliver outputs and outcomes. Some identified weaknesses such no indicators to track progress at output level	**MS**
C. Nature of External Context	No negative factors identified	**F**

[44] Data provided by CNTAC through filled questionnaire

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
D. Effectiveness[45]		**S**
1. Availability of outputs	Despite delays, all outputs achieved within planned budget	S
2. Achievement of direct outcomes	All outcomes achieved	S
3. Likelihood of impact	Intermediate states occurring partially, drivers in place and assumptions hold	L
E. Financial Management		**S**
1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures	UNEP procedures applied for funds management	S
2. Completeness of project financial information	Financial information complete and reports available	S
3.Communication between finance and project management staff	Communication evidenced	S
F. Efficiency	Despite delays, all outputs delivered within budgets. Built upon documents of CIP Programme and ZDHW work	**S**
G. Monitoring and Reporting		**S**
1. Monitoring design and budget	Output indicators not available	S
2.Monitoring of project implementation	Monitoring system used to track results and monitor progress	MS
3. Project report	All relevant reports timely submitted	S
H. Sustainability		**L**
1. Socio-political sustainability	Conditions favorable for the socio-political sustainability	L
2. Financial sustainability	CNTAC to provide required human and financial resources to manage and maintain CiE platform	L
3. Institutional sustainability	Conditions exist for institutional sustainability	L
I. Factors Affecting Performance[46]		**S**
1. Preparation and readiness	It took six months to launch project	MS
2. Quality of project management and supervision[47]		S
2.1 UNEP/Implementing Agency	*UNEP provided adequate guidance and support*	*S*
2.2 Partners/Executing Agency	*Effective project team led by dedicated project coordinator performed their duties very satisfactorily*	*S*

[45] Where a project is rated, through the assessment of Project Design Quality template during the evaluation inception stage, as facing either an Unfavourable or Highly Unfavourable external operating context, ratings for Effectiveness, Efficiency and/or Sustainability may be increased at the discretion of the Evaluation Consultant and Evaluation Manager together.

[46] While ratings are required for each of these factors individually, they should be discussed within the Main Evaluation Report as cross-cutting issues as they relate to other criteria. Catalytic role, replication and scaling up should be discussed under effectiveness if they are a relevant part of the TOC.

[47] In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UN Environment to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the Executing Agency and the technical backstopping provided by UN Environment, as the Implementing Agency.

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
3. Stakeholders participation and cooperation	Good engagement of stakeholders at central and local levels	HS
4. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equaliity	Planned gender equality aspects not addressed	U
5. Environmental, social and economic safeguards	The plan to address the environmental, social and economic safeguards aspects not implemented	U
6. Country ownership and driven-ness	High ownership evidenced	HS
7. Communication and public awareness	Training videos available online learning platform and project results published on FECO website	S
Overall Project Rating		**S**

121. A set of strategic questions, in addition to the evaluation criteria, were posed in the Terms of Reference for this evaluation and are addressed here:

Strategic Question (Evaluation TOR)	Evaluators' Response
Q1: What barriers exist for both suppliers and users of chemicals to voluntarily report information on Chemicals management, and what possible incentives could overcome these barriers?	For some enterprises that were not involved in the project, they would require guidance to report information on chemicals in the CiE platform. The project under evaluation revealed that for the others, without mandatory regulations and policies, they are not willing to report.
Q2: From the GEF Global Environmental Benefit perspective, is there any evidence of POPs use in particular? This could allow bigger investments via the Stockholm Convention window for future projects in addition to the smaller SAICM window.	Five of the 92 chemicals listed in the manufacturing restricted substance list are POPs chemicals. One is already regulated under Chinese regulations. There is no evidence whether the other four chemicals are being used in the textile sector.
Q3: From the CiP Programme perspective, what types of future CiP project activities and design can bring tangible GEB results and benefit the SME across the supply chain?	To set up training of trainers activities on the use of the CiP/CiE system in the design and targeting national textile associations that would ensure sustainability and better uptake of project results after project closure.
Q4: (Where relevant) What changes were made to adapt to the effects of COVID-19 and how might any changes affect the project's performance?	Not applicable. Project finished before COVID-19

B. Lessons Learned

122. The project has been completed and two lessons stem from it.

123. **Lesson 1: Strong government support, high ownership, and active engagement and support of stakeholders are key factors for successful project implementation**.
At central level the project received full support from MEE, MIIT, and CAIQ. At local level, the local administrative agencies such as bureaus of economy, environmental protection agencies, bureaus of quality and technical supervision and customs provided much support as well. CNTAC, CDPA and some leading enterprises were actively engaged in the project and also provided support. This support coupled with high ownership by key partners and stakeholders contributed to the successful implementation of the project despite challenges faced during the initial stages.

124. **Lesson 2: Voluntary disclosure of chemical information from enterprises is not effective in the absence of guidance, and of mandatory policies and regulations**.
A post training assessment carried out on the usage of the CiE online platform by the enterprises of the textile supply chain covering the period May to December 2018 revealed that out of the 516 accounts registered on the platform only 113 reported information on chemicals used.

125. **Lesson 3**: **In the textile supply chain, the large enterprises (users and suppliers) are the most willing to report information on the online CiE platform, while the small ones (chemical users and suppliers) would be the most reluctant**.
Based on information reported on the online CiE platform after the training provided by the project on its usage, a total of 1,455 items of data were reported by chemical suppliers coming mainly from large-sized leading chemicals enterprises in the industry. Small-sized enterprises did not cooperate well and seldom reported data. Chemical users (textile enterprises) reported a total of 1,857 data about chemicals in textiles. most of the data came from big leading enterprises.

C. Recommendations[48]

Recommendation #1:	**UNEP is developing a new regional proposal on chemicals in textile products, the local context and practices in the textile sector of the participating countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam) should be duly considered while developing the proposal for the Asia Textile Project**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[49]:	UNEP is developing a follow up GEF initiative for the Asia region: Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector – GEF ID: 10523. According to the developer of the proposal, the lessons and good practices of the project under evaluation will be taken into consideration to develop the proposal. For the project under evaluation, due to disagreement between UNEP and FECO on the scope of information exchange on chemicals, and also on whether there was need

[48] Please see the "Guidance for Evaluation Managers and Evaluation Consultants on Presentation and Quality of Recommendations within a Main Evaluation Report" among the evaluation tools.
[49] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

	to include information in the wastes, the development of the information exchange tools was delayed.
Priority Level[50]:	Critical
Type of Recommendation[51]	Project level
Responsibility:	Chemicals and Health Branch, GEF Chemicals and Waste Unit.
Proposed implementation time-frame:	To be included in the project proposal to be submitted to GEF

Recommendation #2:	**To ensure that human rights and gender equality dimensions are considered during project implementation, it is recommended that these dimensions are included not only in the project design, but also in all work planningand that appropriate indicators are developed in the project results framework to track their implementation.**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[52]:	Recognising the above average risk to women, children and impoverished communities, the project document mentioned awareness raising activities targeting women and vulnerable groups would be done. It also mentioned that participation of women in the project would be promoted. There was no evidence however whether these activities and proposals were undertaken during project implementation
Priority Level[53]:	Critical
Type of Recommendation[54]	Project level
Responsibility:	Chemicals and Health Branch
Proposed implementation time-frame:	During the development of future proposals in which the human rights and gender equality are important dimensions that need to covered.

Recommendation #3:	**In order to increase the rate of uptake, the project results should be promoted among the enterprises of the textile supply chain, targeting small and medium enterprises. To encourage them in that direction, they should be made aware of the *Made in China 2025 national strategic plan***

[50] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[51] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

[52] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

[53] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[54] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[55]:	The project has been successful in the delivery of all outputs. However, the rate of uptake of project results has been slow. In particular, the small enterprises, and to a certain extent medium enterprises as well, were reluctant to adopt the CiE on line platform for reporting information on chemicals.
Priority Level[56]:	Important
Type of Recommendation[57]	Project level
Responsibility:	FECO / CNTAC
Proposed implementation time-frame:	October 2021 – December 2023

Recommendation #4:	**For the 4 chemicals of concern under the Stockholm Convention, as China has ratified the convention, the evaluation recommends that the relevant authorities take the necessary actions to include them in the prohibited/restricted list of the national regulations once these chemicals are approved to take effect in China.**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[58]:	The manufacturing restricted substances list (MRSL) of the CiP project has been adopted by the Chinese textile sector as group standard (T/CNTAC 8-2018). Of the 92 hazardous chemicals listed in the MRSL, 42 are prohibited/restricted under the Chinese Regulations, and the remaining 50 are not. Of these 50 chemicals, 3 are listed as POPs and one has been proposed for listing under the Stockholm Convention. Ideally, all the 51 non-regulated chemicals listed on MRSL should be prohibited/restricted under the Chinese Regulations in that they can no longer be legally used in the textile sector. Otherwise, one can argue that although they are restricted under the group standard T/CNTAC 8-2018, since they are not legally prohibited/restricted so they can be used.
Priority Level[59]:	Critical
Type of Recommendation[60]	Partner level
Responsibility:	Chinese Government / MEE

[55] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

[56] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[57] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

[58] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

[59] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[60] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

Proposed implementation time-frame:	October 2021 – December 2022

Recommendation #5:	**As a way to ensure that these chemicals are no longer being imported or manufactured locally, and hence no longer used in textile sector, it is recommended that the relevant enforcing authorities take the necessary steps to strictly check for compliance with national policies and regulations at chemical manufacturing enterprises or during importation of chemicals.**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[61]:	It was found that most small and some medium enterprises were reluctant to adopt the CiE system to report or exchange information. In China, it is difficult to truly implement the CiE system for exchange of information as it is solely based on enterprises' willingness to adopt such systems in the absence of mandatory policy or legal requirement. 41 of the 92 chemicals on the MRSL are already prohibited/restricted by national regulations
Priority Level[62]:	Critical
Type of Recommendation[63]	Partner level
Responsibility:	FECO/CAIQ
Proposed implementation time-frame:	To start soonest possible and onward.

Recommendation #6:	**Although the project under evaluation has ended, UNEP/FECO should consider establishing a cooperation with the UNEP-led GEF global initiative, Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) initiative in order to promote the project results that would be mutually beneficial.**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[64]:	It was stated that the global scope of the project under evaluation would include multiple industries in the future, such as toy industry and electronics industry. Currently, the UNEP-led GEF global initiative, Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (GEF ID 9771), is being executed by the SAICM secretariat. China is one of the 43 beneficiary countries. The Component 2 of this initiative relates to the life cycle management of chemicals in building products, toys and

[61] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

[62] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[63] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

[64] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

	electronics. For China, this component is being executed by the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) in Beijing, which is hosted by the School of Environment of Tsinghua University
Priority Level[65]:	Important
Type of Recommendation[66]	Project level
Responsibility:	UNEP/FECO
Proposed implementation time-frame:	November 2021 – December 2022

Recommendation #7:	**One way to mitigate the risk of exchange loss might be that the agency receiving the funds to have an account in the currency of the funds being transferred.**
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation[67]:	To report financial expenditures, FECO included an additional item, exchange loss, to reflect the loss incurred due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the Chinese Yuan and the US Dollar. Over the project duration the loss amounted to $30,260, which was 4.8% of the total amount received by FECO. Noting that project management cost is generally 10% of the total GEF grant, the exchange loss represented half of PMC for FECO. This loss did not however affect execution as $20,502 was unspent for project personnel at project closure. This would have been problematic had all the budget been disbursed.
Priority Level[68]:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation[69]	UNEP-Wide
Responsibility:	UNEP
Proposed implementation time-frame:	In all future initiatives where transfer of funds might result in exchange loss

[65] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[66] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

[67] The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

[68] Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

[69] Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

VII. Annexes

Annex 1: GEF portal inputs

Question: What was the performance at the project's completion against Core Indicator Targets? (For projects approved prior to GEF-7[70], these indicators will be identified retrospectively and comments on performance provided[71]).
Not applicable. This is a GEF5 project
Question: What were the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project/program as evolved from the time of the MTR? *(This should be based on the description included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval)*
126. ***Response:*** The engagement and participation of the stakeholders in the project was very satisfactory. At central level, CAIQ, MIIT, CNTAC, SWCMC and CDPA were very much involved in the PSC, coordination and communication meetings and in the training activities for some of them. In addition, other administrative departments and industry associations at national and local level also provided a lot of support in the design and organization of the training activities, provided experts for these trainings and assisted in communicating with enterprises. The local administrative agencies such as the bureaus of economy, environmental protection agencies, bureaus of quality and technical supervision, and customs of the five provinces where the training were undertaken provided great support and assistance to the project, which were crucial for the successful completion of the trainings. The participation of 254 enterprises in the trainings in the five provinces is noted.
Question: What were the completed gender-responsive measures and, if applicable, actual gender result areas? *(This should be based on the documentation at CEO Endorsement/Approval, including gender-sensitive indicators contained in the project results framework or gender action plan or equivalent)*
Response: *The project document mentioned that vulnerable populations (e.g. women, children and impoverished communities) have a higher risk of harm from chemicals than the social average – reducing these risks through actions based on reliable CiP information would benefit these vulnerable populations. In that respect, it was mentioned that the project would encourage women's participation in the project and would disseminate the information to civil society, with particular emphasis on consumers and female workers. The project was also expected to make sure that women would be equally represented in the activities to be performed. In terms of equal participation of women in a participatory process, the project would advocate for a sound representation of women and affected groups in the project. The design did not indicate how this would be done nor how it would be monitored, and there is no evidence that this happened during project implementation. The engagement and participation of women in the project was satisfactory. The PC and the project assistant as well as one of the two experts of the project team were women. Participation of women at the trainings in the five provinces was quite satisfactory. For a total of 465 participants, 153 were women (33.0%).*

[70] The GEF is currently operating under the seventh replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund covering the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022. The GEF Portal Reporting Guide for FY20 Reporting Process indicates that GEF-6 projects that have yet to map existing indicators to GEF-7 Core Indicators need to do so at MTR stage or (if already there) at the time of the TE.

[71] This is not applicable for Enabling Activities

Question: What was the progress made in the implementation of the management measures against the Safeguards Plan submitted at CEO Approval? The risk classifications reported in the latest PIR report should be verified and the findings of the effectiveness of any measures or lessons learned taken to address identified risks assessed. *(Any supporting documents gathered by the Consultant during this review should be shared with the Task Manager for uploading in the GEF Portal*
Response: *A plan to address the environmental, social and economic safeguards aspects was proposed at the design stage. While it was reported (in PIR FY 2017) that the project through the PSC meetings and with the assistance of national experts was monitoring the potential social or environmental negative effects of the project, there was no evidence whether the measures or proposals mentioned in the plan were implemented. For instance, there was no evidence whether the project encouraged the participation of vulnerable groups or advocated for the protection of pregnant women and children. On the other hand, the project provided many opportunities through trainings, and awareness raising and communication activities to inform the workers communities on the health risk posed by hazardous chemicals.*
Question: What were the challenges and outcomes regarding the project's completed Knowledge Management Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions? *(This should be based on the documentation approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval)*
Response: *The communication and public awareness raising plan took place under the project activities. Outreach and awareness raising took place in the appropriate events (e.g. annual meetings, conferences, thematic working groups), and a wide audience of receptive stakeholders in supply chains was reached and informed about the project activities and outcomes.* *Key lessons and best practices of the project were summarized in the report* - Best Practice on Exchange of Information about Chemical Substances in Textile – *submitted by FECO to UNEP. The main contents and results of the project are reported on the website of Mercury Convention Implementation Department of FECO http://www.mercury.org.cn/fz/. The training courses run in the five provinces are available at: http://pc.jkxy.org.cn/views/index/index.html, a platform created and managed by CAIQ. CNTAC has promoted the project results through diverse fora such as annual conferences, social responsibility conferences, exhibitions, communication meetings with supply chain stakeholders and the Textile Sustainable Manufacturing Coalition*
Question: What are the main findings of the evaluation?
Response: *This highly-relevant project was effectively managed by a dedicated project team under the adequate guidance and supervision of UNEP. Despite challenges faced, the active involvement of key partners and stakeholders contributed to an effective implementation and the achievements of all deliverables. The functional CiE online platform that integrated the CiP modules was the key output, and its use for exchange information according to best practices was successfully demonstrated in five provinces. There are indications that the intermediate states, which would lead to impact, are already emerging. The necessary human and financial resources to manage and maintain the online CiE platform would be provided by CNTAC, which would ensure the long term sustainability of the project results*

Annex 2: Response to stakeholder comments

Place in Report	Comment	Evaluator Response	Evaluation Office Comment
Summary recommendation 1 [13]	Clarify that this is a recommendation for a new project development, it is not clear in the Exec Summary	Clarification made.	Accepted
Recommendation 17	Sentence doesn't seem to end, 'compliance with national policies and regulations at chemical'… think it should be "…manufacturing enterprises or during importation of chemicals.". This is a helpful suggestion	Sentence corrected. Suggestion proposed is accepted	Accepted
Para 37	Reference to 'Table 2 below' should read 'Table 3 above'	Correction made	Accepted
Para 57	"chemical users were the most willing to report and the chemical suppliers were the most reluctant" –interesting finding. Along with the previous para indicating SMEs less likely to use platform. Can you consider extracting this into the summary as a lesson/ recommendation?	The following lesson has been added in the report: *In the textile supply chain, the large enterprises (users and suppliers) are the most willing to report information on the online CiE platform, while the small ones (chemical users and suppliers) would be the most reluctan*t.	Accepted (see also para 55)
Table 8, Footnote ****	"platform established by CNTAC in 2014, prior to the project under evaluation" – it was not previously clear in the report that the CIE platform pre-existed when the project started, and was not an output of the project? Maybe clarify this in para 50 where C2 outputs are described. Were any improvements made to it by the project/ access to international expertise? Suggest to move Tables 6-11 to before para 58, where they are discussed.	Clarification done and Tables 6-11 moved before para 58	Accepted
Para 63	Sentence in the middle '*However, most likely many of the 467 accounts have reported information on the platform, which would indicate that enterprises in the textile supply chain have started to adopt the chemical information exchange system*." Seems to be contradictory with para 93 '*According to available information31, the staff managing the platform has left CNTAC, and the platform is currently no longer being updated*.'	Sentence in para 93 has been amended into '*just left*' instead of '*has left*' to remove contradiction. Noting that the project has ended in 2019 and the interview with CNTAC was done in August 2021	Accepted
Acronyms and Abbreviation	MEP appears several times, suggest to put in "Acronyms and Abbreviation " and/or explain that MEP is the former name of MEE	OK	Accepted
[16]. **Recommendation 4**: For the 4	These new chemicals have not yet been approved to take effect in China Suggest to revised this paragraph as below:	Proposed text accepted	Accepted

chemicals of concern under the Stockholm Convention, as China has ratified the convention, the evaluation recommends that the relevant authorities take the necessary actions to include them in the prohibited/restricted list of the national regulations.	For the 4 chemicals of concern under the Stockholm Convention, as China has ratified the convention, the evaluation recommends that the relevant authorities take the necessary actions to include them in the prohibited/restricted list of the national regulations once these chemicals are approved to take effect in China.		
21. CAIQ, a government Agency under the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China, was expected to work closely with MEE and, was to provide technical expertise and analytical services in support of the project.	Suggest to change as below: 21. CAIQ, a government Agency under the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China, was expected to work closely with FECO and, was to provide technical expertise and analytical services in support of the project.	Accepted	Accepted
Page 21 	Is FECO should be in this Project Steering Committee frame?	Yes, FECO should be in the Project Steering Committee. However, this diagram was directly taken from the Project Document	Accepted
105. The engagement and participation of women in the project was satisfactory. The PC and the project assistant		The engagement and participation of women in the project was satisfactory. The PC and the project assistant were women. Highlighted text removed	Accepted

as well as one of the two experts of the project team were women. Participation of women at the trainings was quite satisfactory, it ranged from 27.4% to 42.2% with an average of 33.0% in terms of percentage.			
Page 57 H. Sustainability *1. Socio-political sustainability*	Conditions?	Correction made	Accepted
Page 62 **Priority Level[58]:** **Type of Recommendation[59]** **Responsibility:**	Chinese government/MEE?	Chinese government / MEE accepted	Accepted

Annex 3: Evaluation framework

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation Indicators	Means of verification
Strategic Relevance		
Were the objectives and implementation strategies consistent with (i) *Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities (ii) UN Environment / Donor Strategic Priorities (iii) Complementarity with Existing Interventions*	• Level of alignment with regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities, UN Environment and Donor Strategic priorities at the time of design and implementation	• Comparison of ProDoc and annual reports with UNEP MTS and PoWs • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, key national stakeholders
Effectiveness		
(i) *Delivery of outputs* • How successful was the project in producing the programmed outputs and achieving milestones as per the design document / approved workplan at completion? • Were key stakeholders appropriately involved in producing the programmed outputs?	• End of project target for outputs of Project Results Framework (PRF) • Stated contribution of stakeholders in achievement of outputs	• Review of relevant documents such as PIRs, progress reports, annual reports, final project report, reports of consultants, interview with UNEP, CAIQ, project team, NPC • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, project team, PC, relevant key national stakeholders including partners of textile sector, consultants, PSC reports
(ii) *Achievement of direct outcome* • To what extent has the project outcomes been achieved? • Did the project get strong support from national authorities? • Have there been active involvement of key stakeholders? • Main barriers/challenges? • What were the main factors that facilitated the implementation process?	• End of project targets for outcomes in PRF • Feedback from NPC • Level of involvement of key stakeholders • List of barriers identified • List of facilitating factors	• Review of relevant documents such as PIRs, progress and annual reports, final project report, PSC meeting reports, • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, project team, PC, relevant key national counterparts including partners in textile sector
(iii) Likelihood of impact • To what extent have the project results been nationally adopted / mainstreamed so far? • Has (or will) the project played (likely play) a catalytic role for scaling up or replication so far?	• Name of legislation or policy or national plan where project results mainstreamed • Name of scaling up or replicating initiative	• Interviews with CAIQ, PC, national counterparts. Copy of relevant document • Country progress and annual reports. PIR reports • Interviews with CAIQ, PC, key national counterparts including partners of textile sector
Efficiency		
• Has the project been able to deliver the results within the planned budgets in a timely manner? • Did the project make use of/build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and	• Level of compliance with expected milestones mentioned in ProDoc and with respect to financial planning and annual plans	For all questions under Efficiency: • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, PC, project team, key national counterparts, consultants, partners of textile sector

partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. to increase the efficiency? • If occurred, what are the main reasons for delay/changes in implementation? Have these affected project execution, costs and effectiveness?	• Level of inclusion of preexisting initiatives and institutions, etc. • List of reasons, validated by UNEP, CAIQ, NPC, Project team, PSC members	• PIRs, PSC meeting reports, annual and progress reports; final project report • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, PC, PSC members. PIR and PSC reports
Monitoring Reporting and Evaluation		
(i) Monitoring Design and Budgeting What mechanism (tools and procedures) are in place for project monitoring? *(ii) Monitoring of Project Implementation* • Was the monitoring system operational and did it facilitate the timely tracking of results and progress towards projects objectives throughout the implementation period so far? Gender and other vulnerable group considered? Was the information used to adapt and improve execution, achievement of outcomes and ensure sustainability? *(iii) Project Reporting* • To what extent have UNEP (or executing agency / project team) reporting requirements been fulfilled? Have the reporting been adequate in terms of both content (including gender and other vulnerable consideration) and timing?	• Availability of logframe, workplans, roles of overseeing bodies, budgeted M&E plan • Level of implementation of M&E system (execution of activities); Changes in implementation approach to adapt to changing situations; compliance of consultants in the submission of relevant reports in a timely manner • Compliance to reporting requirements as mentioned in ToRs and / or project document	• Project document • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, project team, PC, PSC members, national counterparts, consultants. • PIRs, PSC meeting reports; progress and annual reports, and financial and audit reports, reports of consultants • Copies of relevant reports; interview with relevant stakeholders (UNEP, CAIQ, PC, consultants, etc,).
Sustainability		
(i) Socio-political sustainability • Are there any social or political factors that may influence positively or negatively the sustenance of project results and progress towards impacts? • Is the level of ownership by the key main national stakeholders sufficient to allow for the project results to be sustained? • Are there sufficient government and other stakeholder awareness, interests, commitment and incentives to integrate project results in national policies, plans and processes? *(ii) Financial sustainability* • To what extent are the continuation of project results and eventual impact dependent on (continued) financial resources? Can these financial resources be mobilized nationally or by partners in textile sector?	• List of factors • Active participation of key stakeholders in project implementation /execution • Chemical in products high in national agenda • Estimation of financial requirements and textile sector partners able to invest. Availability of budgets	• Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, PC, PSC members, key national counterparts including partners in textile sector • PSC reports, interview with CAIQ, project team, PC, key national counterparts including partners in textile sector • Interview with UNEP, CAIQ, PC, key national counterparts including partners in textile sector • Interview with CAIQ, NPC, key national counterparts including partners in textile sector

(iii) *Institutional sustainability* How robust are the institutional achievements such as governance structures and processes, legal and accountability frameworks etc. to continue delivering the benefits associated with the outcomes beyond the life of the project?	• Level of commitment of authorities to mainstream project results in national policies and legislation. Willingness of partners in textile sector to adopt project results	• Interview with CAIQ, PC , PSC member, key national counterparts and partners from textile sector
Factors and Processes Affecting the Performance of the Project		
(i) Preparation and readiness • Were the partnership arrangements properly established and the roles and responsibilities of key partners negotiated prior to development of the project? Were the resources (mobilization of funds, adequate staffing, and facilities) already assured?	• Commitment of key stakeholders • Levels of funds available	• Letters of commitments; interviews with key stakeholders (UNEP, CAIQ, PC, key national counterparts including partners of textile sector); project document
(ii) Quality of Management and Supervision • To what extent have the project implementation mechanisms outlined in the project proposals been followed and were effective in delivering project milestones, outputs and outcomes? Were pertinent adaptations made to the approaches originally proposed? • Was technical backstopping and supervision provided by UNEP and consultants adequate and to what extent it contributed to achieve success?	• Level of implementation of mechanisms outlined in project proposal • Level of satisfaction of project team and national key stakeholders and beneficiaries • Level of participation of project partners in project design and actual inclusion in project implementation arrangements	• PIRs, PSC reports, annual and progress reports and other relevant reports; interviews with UNEP, CAIQ, Project team, PC, PSC members • Interviews with UNEP, CAIQ, PC, key national stakeholders and beneficiaries • Interviews with UNEP, CAIQ, NPC, key national counterparts and beneficiaries
(iii)Stakeholder participation and Cooperation • How was the overall collaboration among key national partners / stakeholders? What was the achieved degree and effectiveness of collaboration and interactions between the various project partners and key stakeholders during design and implementation of the project? To what extent did this collaboration contribute to the effective delivery of planned outputs in a timely manner?	• Perceived level of collaboration and coordination among key partners / stakeholders • Delivery of outputs and activities as planned	• Annual and progress reports, PIRs. Interviews with relevant stakeholders / partners / beneficiaries • Annual and progress reports, PIRs. Interviews with relevant stakeholders / partners / beneficiaries
(iv)Responsiveness to Human rights and Gender Equity • To what extent the design, implementation and monitoring of the project have taken into consideration: (i) possible gender inequalities in access to, and the control over, natural resources; (ii) specific vulnerabilities of women and children to environmental degradation or disasters; and (iii) the role of women in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and	• Issues specifically considered through all stages: design, implementation and monitoring of the project	• Project document, interview with key stakeholders (UNEP, CAIQ, PC, PSC members, key national partners)

engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation? *(v) Country Ownership and Driven-ness* • To what extent have the national partners assumed responsibility and provided adequate support to project execution, including the degree of cooperation received from the various public institutions involved in the project? *(vi)Communication and Public Awareness* • Has a communication and public awareness strategy been developed to share project results and lessons?	• Endorsement of project by governmental agencies and active involvement • Provision of counterpart funding • Communication Tools and plans	• Project document, communication strategy document and plans. Consultant and relevant reports. Interviews with relevant stakeholders / partners / beneficiaries

Annex 4: List of persons interviewed or contacted for filling questionnaire

1. Kevin HELPS, Portfolio Manager, UNEP, kevin.helps@un.org
2. Ludovic BERNAUDAT, Task Manger, UNEP, ludovic.bernaudat@un.org
3. Ms. Eloise TOUNI, UNEP, Task Manager, eloise.touni@un.org
4. Ms. Jacqueline ALVAREZ, Head of Knowledge & Risk Unit, Economy Division, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP, Jacqueline.alvarez@un.org
5. Ms. Wenjia FAN, Junior Professional Officer, Knowledge & Risk Unit, Economy Division, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP, wenjia.fan@un.org
6. Ms. Shuhui GUO, National Project Manager, Director, Implementation Assurance Office of the Minamata Convention Implementation Department, FECO, MEE, guo.shuhui@fecomee.org.cn
7. Naining SONG, Associate Researcher, Institute of Chemical Safety, CAIQ, songnn@aqsiqch.ac.cn
8. Kehua HU, Deputy Director of the Social Responsibility Office and Director of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Department, CNTAC, hukehua@ctic.org.cn
9. Ms. Jinye SUN, Researcher at the Technical Department of Chemical Management, Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center (SWCMC), MEE, sunjinye@meescc.cn
10. Ms. Lin LIN, Vice President and Secretary General, China Dyeing and Printing Association (CPDA), linlin11305@126.com
11. Ms. Linfang JI, Managing Director, Andy Culture Development Co. ltd, adm@andychao.net.cn
12. Jianping ZHU, Manager, audit department, TESTEX Swiss Textile Testing Co. Ltd j.zhu@testex.com
13. Ms. Xiaoli ZHANG, Head of the Textile Laboratory, Eco-Textile Testing Department, Guangdong Inspection and Quarantine Technology Center; 55496730@qq.com
14. Chunrong LI, Chief Security Officer, Sheyang Tianyuan Chemical Co Ltd, 1402625698@qq.com
15. Suqing HUANG, Engineer, Suzhou Liansheng Chemistry Co Ltd. Fh024@lshx.cn
16. Jiangyang LIU, Vice President, Shishi Baoyi Weaving and Dyeing Co Ltd, 785708900@qq.com
17. Huan ZHANG, Foshan Youlong printing and dyeing Co. Ltd, 47363709@qq.com
18. Weijiang PAN, Zhejiang Alice Dyeing and Finishing Co Ltd, alsrzyxgs@163.com
19. Caihua GENG, Section Chief, Lu Thai Textile Co Ltd, gengch@lttc.com.cn

Annex 5: List of documents consulted

1. Project document and annexes
2. Project document for the SAICM project – GEF ID 9771
3. PIF for the follow up regional Asia project on CiP in textile – GEF ID 10523
4. Signed PCA UNEP – FECO
5. Signed SSFA UNEP – CTIC
6. PSC meeting reports (2 reports)
7. PIR reports (4 reports)
8. Quarterly progress reports (5 reports)
9. Quarterly financial reports (12 reports)
10. FECO yearly co-finance reports (4 reports)
11. Audit reports (5 reports)
12. FECO final financial report
13. Final financial profile

14. PCA amendment – Budget revision
15. Revised work plan
16. FECO revised expenditure for 2019Q2
17. List of participants for 5 trainings in the provinces
18. Scoping meeting merge-visits to textile companies
19. Evaluation Report on Present Situation of Information Exchange of Chemicals in Chinese Textile Products, April 2017
20. CiE guidance for users (Chinese version)
21. Report: Best Practice on Exchange of Information about Chemical Substances in Textile
22. UNEP report: Information exchange on chemicals in textiles products in China: analysis of stakeholder roles and needs, chemical information exchange requirements and best practices
23. Report on the five training workshops in the provinces
24. 8 photos taken during trainings
25. Final project report
26. The Chemicals in Products Programme: Guidance for stakeholders on exchanging chemicals in products information, UNEP, 2015
27. CiP synthesis report, 2011
28. Dirty Laundry: Unravelling the corporate connections to toxic water pollution in China, Greenpeace International
29. Joint roadmap: Toward zero discharge of hazardous chemicals
30. https://www.roadmaptozero.com/en

Annex 6: Summary of co-finance information and statement of project expenditures

Summary of co-finance information

Co-financing (Type/Source)	UNEP own Financing (US$1,000)		Government (US$1,000)		Other* (US$1,000)		Total (US$1,000)		Total Disbursed (US$1,000)
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Grants	390	-	200	193.6	1,000	-	1,590	193.6	193.6
Loans									
Credits									
Equity investments									
In-kind support	185.2	185.2	600	809.1	2020	--	2,805.2	994.3	994.3
Totals	575.2	185.2	800	1,002.7	3,020	-	4,395.2	1,187.9	1,187.9
*Outdoor Industry Association									

UNEP expenditures

Approved BUDGET		Expenditure		Balance	
Total Budget	$ 1,000,000.00	Total Spent	$ 933,072.23	$ 66,927.77	
Executing Agency		Executing Agency		EA	
Original allotment	$ 653,000.00	Reported to date	$ 626,750.00	$ 26,250	
Increase /decrease	$ -				
Current allotment	$ -	Adjustments	$ -		
Total	$ 653,000.00	Total	$ 626,750.00	$ 26,250.00	
Reserved by UNEP		UNEP		UNEP	
Mid Eval.	$ 10,000.00	Mid Eval.	$ -	$ 10,000	
Final Eval.	$ 25,000.00	Final Eval.	$ 5,302.50	$ 19,698	
UNEP Expertise	$ 132,211.00	UNEP Expertise	$ 132,211.00	$ -	
UNEP Travel	$ 20,000.00	UNEP Travel	$ 16,164.79	$ 3,835	
Total	$ 187,211.00	Total	$ 153,678.29	$ 33,532.71	
Others		Others		Others	
UNEP Subcontracts	$ 124,789.00	UNEP Subcontracts	$ 124,789.00	$ -	
UNEP Visualization	$ 35,000.00	UNEP Visualization	$ 27,854.94	$ 7,145	
		Travel & Expertise			
Total	$ 159,789.00	Total	$ 152,643.94	$ 7,145.06	

Annex 7: Evaluation Brief

Project Title: Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products

About the Project

1. The project objectives were to define stakeholder roles and responsibilities and best practices for chemicals information exchange in textile products and to demonstrate best practices for exchanging chemicals in products information in the textiles sector.

2. Implementation dates:
- Planned: January 2015 – June 2017 (30 months)
- Actual : January 2015 – May 2019 (53 Months)

3. Lead division: UNEP-DTIE
   Sub-programme: Harmful substances and hazardous wastes

4. Country: China

5. Budget:
   GEF: $ 1,000,000;
   Co-financing: $ 4,395,205 (China: 800,000; UNEP: 575,205, Outdoor Industry Association: 3,020,000)
   Total: $ 5,395,205
6. Date of Evaluation: February – September 2021

Relevance

7. The project is in line with GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long-term goal. UNEP is hosting the CiP Programme, and the project in line with UNEP it's subprogramme on Chemicals and Wastes of its Programme of Work, to support countries' transition towards the sound management of chemicals and waste in order to minimize environmental and human health impacts. It is also in line with China's 13th Five Year Environment Plan on Green Development, and China is the location of many suppliers for major international textile brands.

Performance *(approx. 150 words)*

8. Despite a slow start, the project's intended outcomes were satisfactorily delivered on the basis that the planned activities were successfully completed, the corresponding outputs delivered. Measures designed to move towards the intermediate states have started, leading big enterprises in the supply chain are adopting the best practices of CiP and national counterparts have adopted some elements of the project results for their for work. The challenge, however, is the reluctance

of small enterprises to adopt the CiP best practices, which might jeopardize the intended impact of the project.

Factors Effecting Performance

9. It took more than more than six months to launch this 30-month project, and delays encountered due to 2 failed bidding exercises to recruit a national consultant.

Key Lessons Learned

10. Three lessons that could be learned are:

- Strong government support, high ownership, and active engagement and support of stakeholders are key factors for successful project implementation
- Voluntary disclosure of chemical information from enterprises is not effective in the absence of guidance, and of mandatory policies and regulations
- In the textile supply chain, the large enterprises (users and suppliers) are the most willing to report information on the online CiE platform, while the small ones (chemical users and suppliers) would be the most reluctant.

Annex 8: Preliminary Findings and Recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation

Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF project:
"Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products"
GEF ID: 5662

Preliminary Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

Nee Sun CHOONG KWET YIVE (Principal Evaluator)
Henri Li Kam Wah (Evaluation Specialist)

Content

I . Evaluation approach

- COVID-19 pandemic – No field missions
- Online interviews of UNIDO & Survey questionnaires for National Stakeholders / Partners
  - 5 UNEP staff interviewed
    - UNEP Portfolio Manager (Implementing Agency)
    - Former UNEP Task Manager (Implementing Agency)
    - UNEP Task Manager developing follow-up proposal
    - UNEP, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, Knowledge and Risk Unit (Executing Agency) (Head and Project assistant)
  - Responses from 14 of 23 National Stakeholders / Partners contacted (61%)
    - FECO
    - Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ)
    - China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)
    - China Dyeing and Printing Association (CDPA)
    - Textile, Dyeing & finishing, and Chemical Manufacturing enterprises

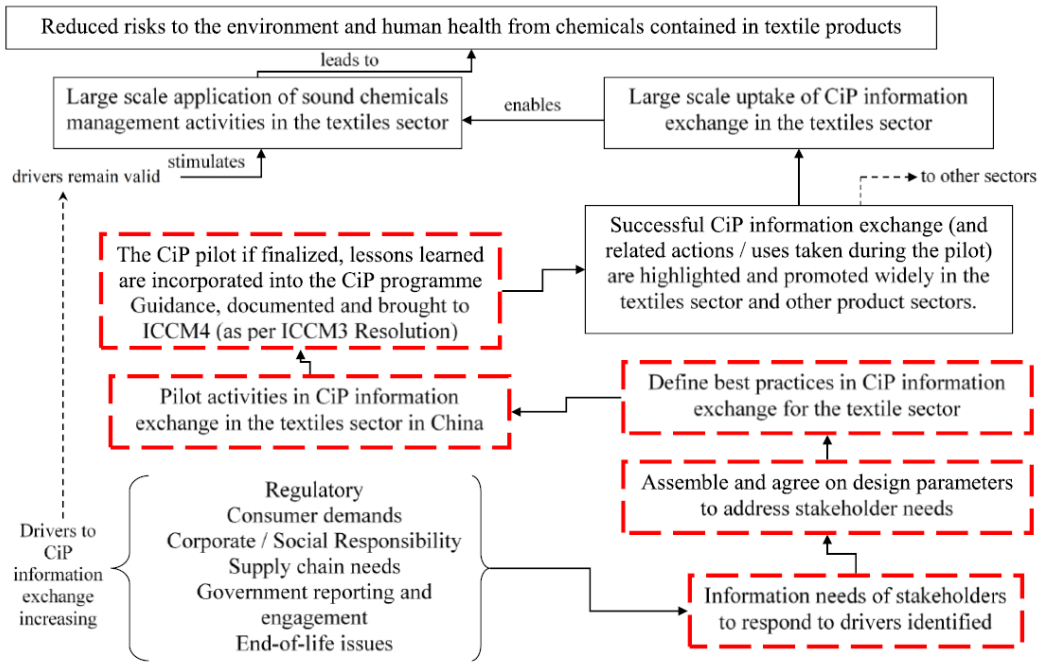
3

II . Relevance

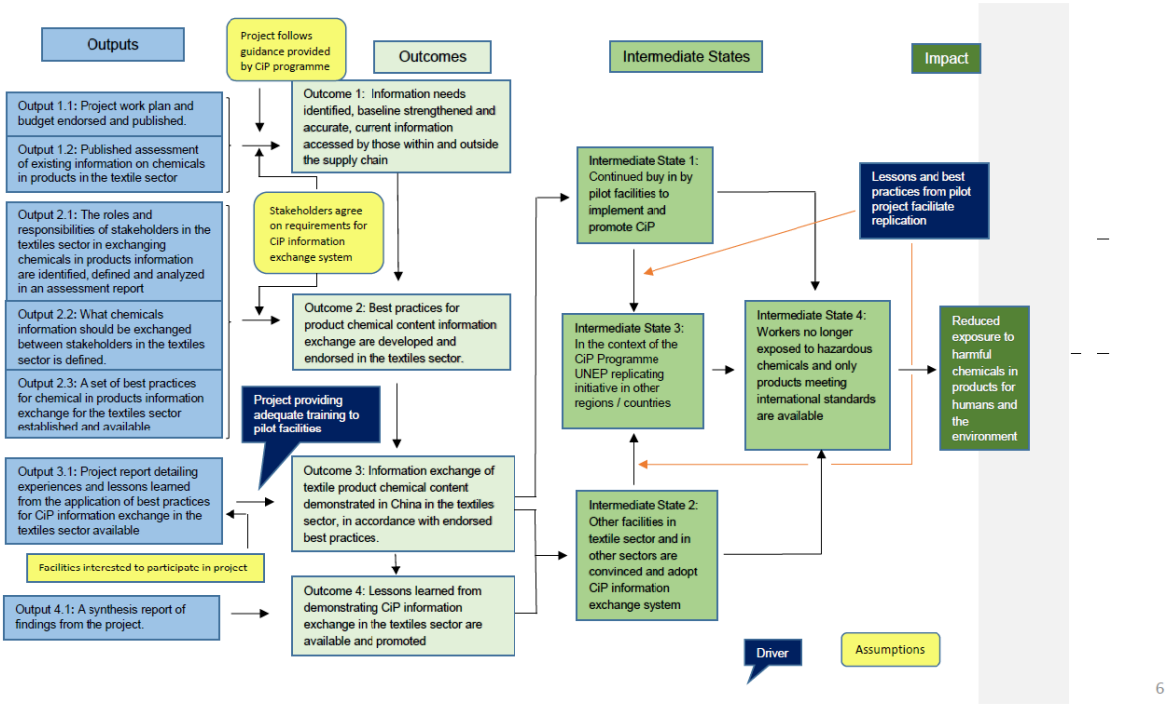
- High relevance for China
  - Signatory and ratification of MEAs
  - In line with its 13th Five Year Environment Plan on Green Development
  - Location for many suppliers to major brands
  - Partners and enterprises confirmed the relevance of the project
- High relevance for UNEP
  - In line with UNEP Subprogramme on Chemicals and wastes – PoW 2017
  - UNEP hosting the CiP programme
- High relevance for GEF
  - In line with GEF Chemicals & Waste Focal Area

Rating on Relevance: HS (preliminary rating)

III . Theory of Change proposed in ProDoC



III. Theory of Change proposed by the Evaluation



6

IV. Project formulation and design

Strengths

- Comprehensive situation analysis regarding lack / insufficient information on chemicals in products as well as low exchange of information amongst key stakeholders in the textile and other production sectors.
- Highly relevant project built within a larger global effort (CiP programme) aiming to make accessible appropriate information to allow for the sound management of chemicals in products.
- A comprehensive intervention logic and a clear and consistent approach with adequately planned activities to deliver outputs and outcomes proposed.
- Key stakeholders as well as their roles properly described.
- Adequate institutional arrangement for project implementation and coordination proposed
- An adequate costed M&E plan proposed

7

IV. Project formulation and design

Weaknesses

- No indicators proposed for outputs in the PRF
- Some outcome titles do not reflect the expected change as a result of the project interventions
- Timeframe proposed to deliver project results considered too short.

IV. Project formulation and design

Titles in Project Document	Proposed Improvement to Titles
Outcome 1: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened	Outcome 1: Information needs identified, baseline strengthened and **accurate, current information accessed by those within and outside the supply chain**
Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and **endorsed** in the textiles sector	**Outcome 2**: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and **applied** in the textiles sector
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content **demonstrated** in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.	**Outcome 3**: Information exchange of textile product chemical content **demonstrated and adopted** in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed best practices.

Rating on Project formulation and design: MS (preliminary rating)

9

V. Effectiveness

Delivery of outputs – As reported in PIR reports

Outputs	Status as of 30 June 2016	Status as of 30 June 2017	Status as of 30 June 2018	Status as of 30 June 2019	Progress rating justification	Rating
Output 1.1: Project work plan and budget endorsed and published and baseline materials identified and available	100%	100%	100%	100%	Once project dates revised, the outputs were met successfully	S
Output 1.2: Published assessment of existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector	80%	100%	100%	100%	Once project dates revised the outputs were met successfully	MS
Output 2.1: The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the textiles sector in exchanging chemicals in products information are identified, defined and analyzed in an assessment report.	90%	100%	100%	100%	Once project dates revised the outputs were met successfully	S
Output 2.2: What chemicals information should be exchanged between stakeholders in the textiles sector is defined.	90%	95%	100%	100%	Once project dates revised, the outputs were met successfully	S
Output 2.3: A set of best practices for chemical in products information exchange for the textiles sector is established and available	60%	60%	50%	100%	Once project dates revised the outputs were met successfully	S
Output 3.1: Project report detailing experiences and lessons learned from the application of best practices for CiP information exchange in the textiles sector.	10%	10%	33%	100%	Once project dates revised, the outputs were met successfully	MS
Output 4.1: A synthesis report of findings from the project available (including a synthesis of the activities to engage others sectors) available	0%	0%	0%	100%	Once project dates revised the outputs were met successfully	S

10

V. Effectiveness – Achievement of Outcomes as per PIR 2019

Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	End of Project Target	Observations	Rating
Outcome 1: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened	Multi-stakeholder project coordination team in place and work-plan and budget agreed.	Project team not in place Work plan	Project team is in place Work plan and budget endorsed	Changes in project personnel contributed to delays	S
	Existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector collated and assessed in relation to the CiP programme and textile sector stakeholder needs	CiP information exchange in the textiles sector incomplete or uncoordinated	Review and Assessment completed Guidance materials identified	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector.	Matrix of roles and responsibilities for CiP information exchange is established	No roles and responsibilities matrix exists.	Roles and responsibilities matrix established.	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
	Chemicals information to be exchanged throughout the production process and among stakeholders is defined and endorsed	No sector agreement on what CiP information to exchange among stakeholders.	What CiP information to exchange among stakeholders endorsed.	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
	Best practices for CiP information exchange in the textiles sector are established.	Inexistence of Best practices in chemicals in textile products information exchange	Best practices are finalized for the sector	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
Outcome 3: Stakeholders adopt best practices in chemical content information exchange for textile products manufactured in China	Number of brands/retailers applying best practices in CiP information exchange	0 brands / retailers applying best practices	5 brands / retailers apply the best practices	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
	Number of supply chain production facilities where best practices in information exchange are applied	0 facilities	10 facilities	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
	Number of product lines where best practices in information exchange are applied to many life-cycle phases	0 product lines	20 product lines	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
Outcome 4: Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector promote replication	Lessons learned and best practices are disseminated to textile stakeholders outside of this project.	0 stakeholders	25 stakeholders	Targets were met satisfactorily	HS
	Number of non-textile sector stakeholders participating in the development of a dissemination and engagement strategy for promoting best practices in CiP information exchange in other sector(s)	0 stakeholders	5 stakeholders	Targets were met satisfactorily	S

11

V. Effectiveness Progress towards impact- intermediate states

Intermediate State	Observations / findings	Conclusions
Continued buy in by pilot facilities to implement and promote CiP	CNTAC survey: 254 enterprises (72%: medium and large; 28%: small) Results of survey: • 34% of enterprises participated in the chemical information exchange system developed by project • More than 80% have comprehensive knowledge on CiE and willing to use it and cooperate with CNTAC	Good indication of uptake by textile enterprises. Need for follow up by CNTAC
Other facilities in textile sector and in other sectors are convinced and adopt CiP information exchange system	• During training and promotion activities, it was stated that the global scope of CiP project would include multiple industries in the future, such as toy industry and electronics industry. • CNTAC: By 2025, it is expected that 300 mainstream textile chemical manufacturers and 800 textile printing and dyeing enterprises will have joined the CiE system	Good indication. However need for follow up by FECO and CNTAC
In the context of the CiP Programme UNEP replicating initiative in other regions / countries	• Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – GEF ID: 9771 – Approved for implementation August 2018 - (Lead in paint, toys, building and electronic sectors) • UNEP developing regional proposal in Asia region Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector – GEF ID: 10523	Replication happening
Workers no longer exposed to hazardous chemicals and only products meeting international standards are available	• Indication that enterprises soundly managing chemicals and reducing use of toxic and hazardous chemicals; e.g. Set up of sustainability committee to allocate required resources for achieving sustainable development	Good indication. Need for follow up by FECO and CAIQ 12

V. Effectiveness

Rating for Effectiveness:

- Delivery of outputs: S (preliminary rating)
- Achievement of Outcomes: S (preliminary rating)
- Progress towards impact: S (preliminary rating)
- **Overall rating: S (preliminary rating)**

VI. Efficiency

Factors decreasing efficiency

- Changes in project personnel
- Delays for UNEP to deliver information exchange system
- Disagreement between UNEP and FECO on the scope of information exchange on chemicals and on need to include data information on wastewater, waste gas, and solid waste
- Implementation of UMOJA within UN

VI. Efficiency

Factors favoring efficiency

- Dedicated project team
- Good support from UNEP
- Good contribution from international organizations
- Active involvement of partners and stakeholders as well as their contribution and support
  - Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ)
  - Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center, MEE
  - China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)
  - China Textile Information Center (CTIC)
  - China Dyeing and Printing Association (CDPA)
  - Major textile groups / enterprises

Rating on Efficiency: S (preliminary rating)

15

VII. Sustainability

Sustainability of Project Results

1. Socio and political risks
2. Institutional risks
3. Financial risks

VII. Sustainability

Notes on key partners

➢ Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine

- Central research institution for inspection, testing and quarantine
- Established in 2004, formerly known as Plant Quarantine Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (established in 1954), and China Import and Export Commodity Inspection Technology Research Institute, (established in 1979).
- Main tasks
  - To carry out applied researches on inspection, testing and quarantine, as well as related basic, high-tech and soft science researches:
  - It focuses on solving global, comprehensive, critical, emergent and basic scientific and technological problems in inspection, testing and quarantine:
  - To provide technical support for national inspection and quarantine decision-making, comprehensive market supervision and enhancement of quality safety;
  - To provide scientific and technological services for popular science education of quality and safety, as well as for trainings on social practice

17

VII. Sustainability

Notes on key partners

➢ China National Textile and Apparel Council

- Non-profit National Textile Association (organization)
- Self-regulatory industry intermediary organization that carries out activities in accordance with its constitution in order to realize the common goal of its members
- Committed
  - To establish a sound self-regulatory mechanism in the industry;
  - To protect the legitimate rights and interests of its members and enterprises;
  - To implement national industrial policies and performing functions delegated by the government;
  - To actively guide and direct the development of the industry and serve its members, enterprises, the textile industry and the government, in a bid to promote a healthy development of China's textile and apparel industry and build China as a textile power

VII. Sustainability

1. Socio and political risks

- China signatory to many MEAs and fully committed to soundly manage hazardous chemicals and wastes
- Recipient of numerous GEF grants and grants from other bilateral cooperation to build capacity on life cycle sound management of chemicals
- Establishment of FECO with more than 200 staff to implement the MEAs

➢ Low risks – Socio-political Sustainability Likely (preliminary rating)

VII. Sustainability

2. Institutional risks

- CAIQ compiled a monograph **Textile Chemical Control** based on knowledge gained from the project as well as on existing information and experience
- Restricted substances on the list of CiP of the project adopted into China's national standard, and CNTAC's group standards (e.g. List of restricted substances for textile products T/CNTAC 8-2018)
- CNTAC to continue to use or expand the knowledge and lessons resulting from the project, specifically on "harmful chemicals in products"
- CNTAC to move CiP module based on the CiE system as a whole into the LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) evaluation system of the industry's products to promote its application
- CDFA: link between the textile industry and authorities, full understanding on the need for the type information on chemicals required to properly guide the development of the industry

➢ Low risks – Institutional Sustainability Likely (preliminary rating)

VII. Sustainability

3. Financial risks

- No financial risks identified

➢ Financial Sustainability: Likely (preliminary rating)

➢ Sustainability of Project: Likely (preliminary rating)

VIII. Recommendations

1. UNEP is developing a replicating initiative (PIF approved, GEF ID: 10523) for the Asia region (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Vietnam). It is recommended that UNEP should build on the lessons and good practices of the CiP China project, in particular it should take into consideration the local practices of the participating countries.

2. There are indications that textiles enterprises have adopted (or are willing to adopt) the chemical information exchange (CiE) system for chemicals in products. However, according to a post project survey undertaken, only 34% of the enterprises of the different stakeholder groups (e.g. textile manufacturing and chemical manufacturing groups) that were involved in the project have used this system. Moreover, there seems to be reluctance of smaller enterprises to adopt the system. It is recognized that this is a long term process, nevertheless to ensure the sustainability of the project results, it is recommended that FECO and CNTAC should encourage enterprises of all stakeholder groups to adopt the CiE system.

VIII. Recommendations (ctd)

3. During training and promotion activities, it was stated that the global scope of the CiP project would include other industries, such as toy and electronics industries in the future. As China is currently involved in the SAICM project – GIF ID 9771, which includes components on toys and electronic sectors, it is recommended that FECO should take advantage on this initiative and use the lessons and good practices of the project under evaluation to promote the CiE system in these two sectors.

4. According to information gathered, big textile enterprises have taken actions to reduce / eliminate the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and also to soundly manage chemicals and wastes at their facilities. To ensure that chemicals in the Restricted Substances List (all are in the prohibited list of National Regulations) are no longer being imported or manufactured locally, and no longer used in the textile sector and that wastes are being soundly managed, it is recommended that FECO, CAIQ and the relevant enforcing authorities take the necessary steps to check for compliance with national policies and regulations.

THANK YOU

Annex 9: Copy of questionnaire to textile enterprise

Independent Terminal Evaluation of the project:
Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products – GEF ID: 5662
May - June 2021

Name of Company:
Name and email:
Date filling the questionnaire:
Please email the filled questionnaire to: robert@uom.ac.mu and lkwah@uom.ac.mu

1: (i) When was your enterprise established (ii) Is it a private or a state owned company? (iii) What is your position in the company? (iv) What does your company manufacture? (v) How many workers does your company employ? (vi) What amount of chemicals (in tons) does your company consume annually? (vi) What amount of textile product (in tons) does your company manufacture annually?	
2: (i) How was your company selected to participate in the training workshops organized by the project? (ii) Are you satisfied with the training provided by the project? (iii) What has your company or its staff benefitted from its participation in the project? (iv) Has your company replicated the training to other workers in your company?	
3(i) After participation in the training workshops, have there been changes at the level of your company? (ii) For example, has your company adopted the chemical information exchange system or any other good practices (e.g. sound management of chemicals and wastes) prescribed by the project? If yes, can you please give some details?	
4. Are you satisfied with the work done by FECO in the implementation of the project?	
5. (i) What is your general feedback on the project? (ii) Is there any other thing you would like to share with us?	

Annex 10: Brief CVs of consultants

Dr. Nee Sun CHOONG KWET YIVE holds a PhD in Chemistry, obtained from Montpellier University, France. He is currently associate professor at the University of Mauritius where he is lecturing in Physical and Analytical Chemistry at both undergraduate and post graduate levels since more than 20 years.

Dr Choong Kwet Yive was a member (2006 – 2013) of the Toolkit Expert Working Group of the Stockholm Convention. And since 2007, he is a member of the Medical and Chemicals Technical Options Committee of the Montreal Protocol.

He has undertaken numerous consultancy assignments in the context of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in more than 30 countries for UN agencies (e.g. UNIDO, UN Environment and UNDP), and these include project development and project evaluation.

Dr. Henri LI KAM WAH holds a PhD in Chemistry, obtained from Nice University, France and an MSc in Forensic Science from Staffordshire University, UK. He is currently associate professor at the University of Mauritius where he is lecturing in Inorganic, Forensic and Analytical Chemistry at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels for more than 30 years. He was the Director of Quality Assurance from 2002 to 2006 and the Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Mauritius from 2006 to 2009.

Dr. Henri LI KAM WAH has undertaken several consultancy assignments related to chemicals and waste for the Government of Mauritius, namely inventory of hazardous wastes and the Minamata Initial Assessment. He has also undertaken several independent terminal evaluations for UNEP.

Annex 11: Evaluation Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF project "Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products" (GEF ID 5662)

Section 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

1. Project General Information

Table 1. Project summary

GEF Project ID:	5662		
Implementing Agency:	UNEP	**Executing Agency:**	MEP-FECO: Foreign Economic Cooperation Office - Ministry of Environmental Protection of China; UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch
Relevant SDG(s) and indicator(s):	SDG GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production		
GEF Core Indicator Targets (identify these for projects approved prior to GEF-7)	9.4 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities		
Sub-programme:	Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality (Subprogramme 5)	**Expected Accomplishment(s):**	5 (a) Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM
UNEP approval date:	6 Oct 2014	**Programme of Work Output(s):**	ii) Number of private companies/industries that have undertaken action on improving chemicals management with UNEP support
GEF approval date:	11 February 2014	**Project type:**	MSP
GEF Operational Programme #:	GEF 5	**Focal Area(s):**	Persistent Organic Pollutants

		GEF Strategic Priority:	Harmful Substances
***Expected* start date:**	January 2015	**Actual start date:**	January 2015
***Planned* completion date:**	June 2017	**Actual operational completion date:**	31st May 2019
***Planned* project budget at approval:**	USD 4,395,205	**Actual total expenditures reported as of May 2019:**	USD 927,769.73
GEF grant allocation:	USD 1,000,000	**GEF grant expenditures reported as of May 2019**	USD 927,769.73
Project Preparation Grant - GEF financing:	N/A	**Project Preparation Grant - co-financing:**	N/A
***Expected* Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	USD 4,395,205	**Secured Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	USD 1,002,737
Date of first disbursement:	31st December 2014	**Planned date of financial closure:**	30/6/2021
No. of formal project revisions:	1	**Date of last approved project revision:**	February 2018
No. of Steering Committee meetings:		**Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:**	Last: / Next:
Mid-term Review/ Evaluation *(planned date):*	N/A	**Mid-term Review (actual date):**	None
Terminal Evaluation *(planned date):*	1/12/2020	**Terminal Evaluation (actual date):**	1/12/2020
Coverage - Country:	China	**Coverage - Region(s):**	N/A
Dates of previous project phases:	NA	**Status of future project phases:**	Asia Textile Project - PIF approved on June 2020

2. Project Rationale

1. The international community of chemicals policymakers and stakeholders has through UNEP's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) identified access to information on chemicals contained in products as a priority issue. The governing body of SAICM , the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), mandated UNEP to develop a Chemicals in Products

(CiP) programme that will facilitate the exchange of CiP information throughout product life cycles and

for all major stakeholder groups.

2. UNEP has been hosting the CiP programme, which is generic to all product sectors72: this project will pilot the CiP programme in the textiles sector. The project will strengthen and complement existing efforts promoting exchange of information on chemicals in products. The outcomes of this project will allow the textile industry to practice sound chemicals management and to take the appropriate measures to reduce the use of less desirable chemicals in their products.

3. This project will also leverage significant recent efforts by a number of leading apparel, footwear and outdoor-clothing brands to increase access to CiP information throughout their supply chains. The Executing Agency, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, will work closely with the national production base for the textiles industry – a sector with which they already have extensive cooperation on chemicals issues. MEP will as well coordinate with the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ), a government institute supporting China's oversight of exports. In this regard the UNEP CiP programme pilot will coordinate with government activities and industry initiatives of the textiles industry (e.g. the Chemicals Management Framework) in a supportive manner, ensuring coordination and efficiency in promoting shared goals.

4. The project will engage with textile supply chains in China, and with other stakeholder representatives globally, to pilot this information exchange.

3. Project Results Framework

5. The project objective was to identify and demonstrate best practices and stakeholder roles and responsibilities for chemicals information exchange in textile products and the project had four components: identification of initial guidance on information exchange; identification of best practices on chemicals information exchange in the textile sector and pilot testing information exchange in the textile sector in China and lessons learned, final report and strategies to engage other productive sectors.

6. The project outcomes associated with these components (source: Approved CEO Endorsement) are as follows:

Outcome 1: Identification needs identified and baseline strengthened.

Outcome 2: Best practices for produce chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector.

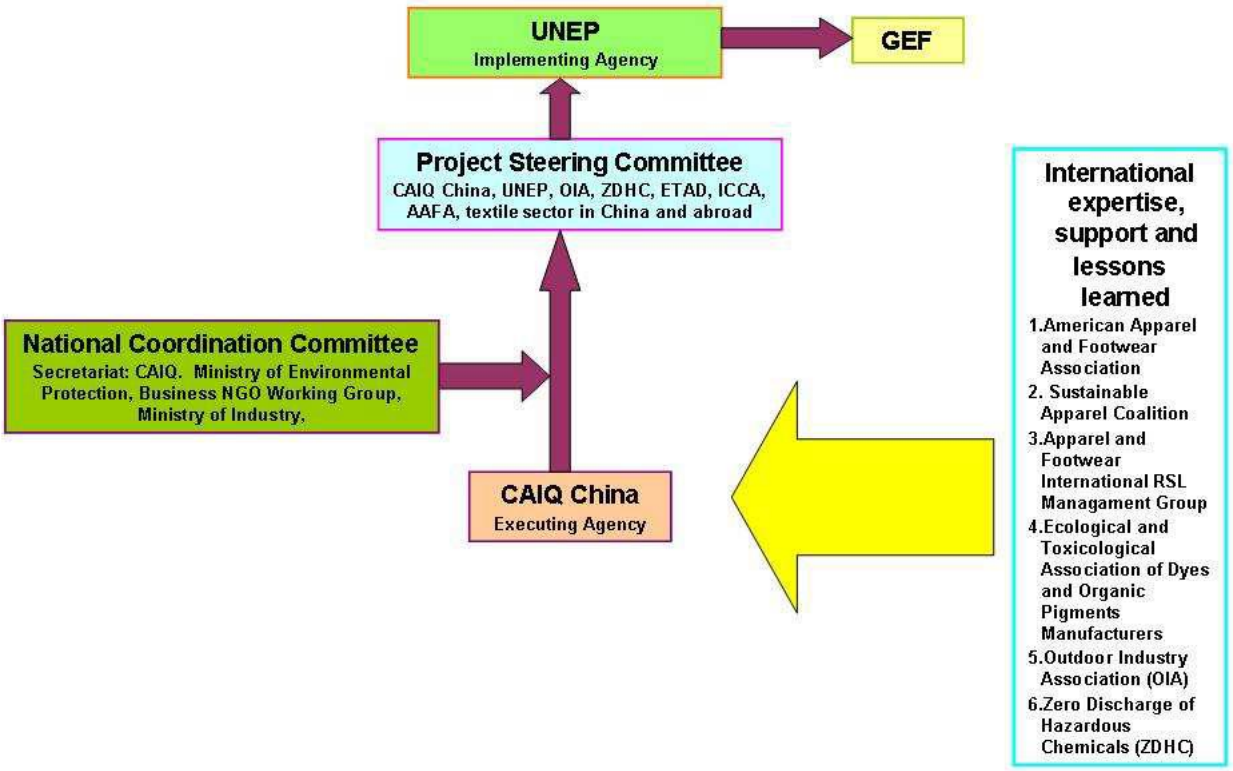
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with best practices.

Outcome 4: Lessons learned from demonstrating Chemicals In Products (CiP) information exchange in the textiles sector are available and promoted.

[72] See http://www.saicm.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5473 for details of the CiP Programme including links to the Programme Document and supporting Guidance.

4. Executing Arrangements

7. The diagram below illustrates the decision-making flowchart and organigram for the project.



5. Project Cost and Financing

8. The overall project budget table as per Annex 2 of the CEO Endorsement is reproduced here:

Project Components and activities	GEF Funding	Co-financing (USD)	TOTAL (USD)
Outcome 1: Information needs identified and baseline strengthened			
1.1 Establish project team and finalize project workplan and budget	34,000	0	34,000
1.2 Review existing information on chemicals in products in the textile sector and assess in relation to the CiP programme and textile sector stakeholder needs	20,000	1,590,205	1,610,205
Subtotal	54,000	1,590,205	1,644,205
Outcome 2: Best practices for product chemical content information exchange are developed and endorsed in the textiles sector			
2.1. Establish the roles and responsibilities of textile sector actors for CiP information exchange	99,000	475,000	574,000
2.2 Establish what chemicals information to include in the CiP information exchange for textile products	95,000	535,000	630,000
2.3. Publish, finalize and endorse best practices in CiP information exchange for textiles	97,000	130,000	227,000
Subtotal	291,000	1,140,000	1,431,000
Outcome 3: Information exchange of textile product chemical content demonstrated in China in the textiles sector, in accordance with endorsed principles and best practices			
3.1 Textile sector brands or retailers apply (pilot) best practices in CiP information exchange	50,000	700,000	750,000
3.2 Supply chain production facilities apply best practices in information exchange	297,000	500,000	797,000
3.3 Best practices in information exchange are applied over multiple life-cycle phases	70,000	165,000	235,000
Subtotal	417,000	1,365,000	1,782,000
Outcome 4: Lessons learned from demonstrating CiP information exchange in the textiles sector are available and promoted			
4.1 Prepare and present a report containing a synthesis of the project and its findings	52,000	0	52,000
4.2 Publish a dissemination and engagement strategy for implementing CiP information exchange in other product sectors.	36,000	150,000	186,000
4.3 Implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	50,000	30,000	80,000
Subtotal	138,000	180,000	318,000
Project management and supervision			
Project management	100,000	120,000	220,000
Total	1,000,000	4,395,205	5,395,205

6. Implementation Issues

9. According to the project team the project implementation was timely and smooth overall, with all outputs delivered satisfactorily. However, the team notes that the engagement of the ultimate beneficiaries (namely textile sector SMEs) was challenging at times and have expressed an interest in an analysis of their motivations to continue using project tools.

Section 2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

7. Objective of the Evaluation

10. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy[73] and the UNEP Programme Manual[74], the Terminal Evaluation is undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and its main project partners. Therefore, the evaluation will identify lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation, especially where a second phase of the project is being considered.

8. Key Evaluation Principles

11. Evaluation findings and judgements will be based on **sound evidence and analysis**, clearly documented in the evaluation report. Information will be triangulated (i.e. verified from different sources) as far as possible, and when verification is not possible, the single source will be mentioned (whilst anonymity is still protected). Analysis leading to evaluative judgements should always be clearly spelled out.

12. **The "Why?" Question.** As this is a terminal evaluation and a follow-up project is likely [or similar interventions are envisaged for the future], particular attention will be given to learning from the experience. Therefore, the "*Why?*" question should be at the front of the consultants' minds all through the evaluation exercise and is supported by the use of a theory of change approach. This means that the consultant(s) needs to go beyond the assessment of "*what*" the project performance was and make a serious effort to provide a deeper understanding of "*why*" the performance was as it was. This should provide the basis for the lessons that can be drawn from the project.

13. **Attribution, Contribution and Credible Association:** In order to *attribute* any outcomes and impacts to a project intervention, one needs to consider the difference between what has happened with, and what would have happened without, the project (i.e. take account of changes over time and between contexts in order to isolate the effects of an intervention). This requires appropriate baseline data and the identification of a relevant counterfactual, both of which are frequently not available for evaluations. Establishing the *contribution* made by a project in a complex change process relies heavily on prior intentionality (e.g. approved project design documentation, logical framework) and the articulation of causality (e.g. narrative and/or illustration of the Theory of Change). Robust evidence that a project was delivered as designed and that the expected causal pathways developed supports claims of contribution and this is strengthened where an alternative theory of change can be excluded. A *credible association* between the implementation of a project and observed positive effects can be made where a strong causal narrative, although not explicitly articulated, can be inferred by the chronological sequence of events, active involvement of key actors and engagement in critical processes.

14. **Communicating evaluation results.** A key aim of the evaluation is to encourage reflection and learning by UNEP staff and key project stakeholders. The consultant(s) should consider how reflection and learning can be promoted, both through the evaluation process and in the communication of evaluation findings and key lessons. Clear and concise writing is required on all evaluation deliverables. Draft and final versions of the main evaluation report will be shared with key stakeholders by the Evaluation Manager. There may, however, be several intended audiences, each with different interests and needs regarding the report. The consultant(s) will plan with the Evaluation Manager which audiences to target and the easiest and clearest way to communicate the key

73 https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/evaluation-office/policies-and-strategies
74 https://wecollaborate.unep.org

evaluation findings and lessons to them. This may include some, or all, of the following; a webinar, conference calls with relevant stakeholders, the preparation of an evaluation brief or interactive presentation.

9. Key Strategic Questions

15. In addition to the evaluation criteria outlined in Section 10 below, the evaluation will address the **strategic questions** listed below. These are questions of interest to UNEP and to which the project is believed to be able to make a substantive contribution. Also included are five questions that are required when reporting in the GEF Portal and these must be addressed in the TE

    Q1: What barriers exist for both suppliers and users of chemicals to voluntarily report information on Chemicals management, and what possible incentives could overcome these barriers?

    Q2: From the GEF Global Environmental Benefit perspective, is there any evidence of POPs use in particular? This could allow bigger investments via the Stockholm Convention window for future projects in addition to the smaller SAICM window.

    Q3: From the CiP Programme perspective, what types of future CiP project activities and design can bring tangible GEB results and benefit the SME across the supply chain?

    Q4: (Where relevant) What changes were made to adapt to the effects of COVID-19 and how might any changes affect the project's performance?

Address the questions required for the GEF Portal in the appropriate parts of the report and provide a **summary of the findings in the Conclusions section of the report**:

(a) Under Monitoring and Reporting/Monitoring of Project Implementation:

What was the performance at the project's completion against Core Indicator Targets? (For projects approved prior to GEF-7, these indicators will be identified retrospectively and comments on performance provided).

(b) Under Factors Affecting Performance/Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation:

What were the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project/program? *(This should be based on the description included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval)*

(c) Under Factors Affecting Performance/Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality:

What were the completed gender-responsive measures and, if applicable, actual gender result areas? *(This should be based on the documentation at CEO Endorsement/Approval, including gender-sensitive indicators contained in the project results framework or gender action plan or equivalent)*

(d) Under Factors Affecting Performance/Environmental and Social Safeguards:

What was the progress made in the implementation of the management measures against the Safeguards Plan submitted at CEO Approval? The risk classifications reported in the latest PIR report should be verified and the findings of the effectiveness of any measures or lessons learned taken to address identified risks assessed. *(Any supporting documents gathered by the Consultant during this review should be shared with the Task Manager for uploading in the GEF Portal)*

(e) Under Factors Affecting Performance/Communication and Public Awareness:

What were the challenges and outcomes regarding the project's completed Knowledge Management Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions? *(This should be based on the documentation approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval)*

10. Evaluation Criteria

16. All evaluation criteria will be rated on a six-point scale. Sections A-I below, outline the scope of the criteria and a link to a table for recording the ratings is provided in Annex 1). A weightings table will be provided in excel format (link provided in Annex 1) to support the determination of an overall project rating. The set of evaluation criteria are grouped in nine categories: (A) Strategic Relevance; (B) Quality of Project Design; (C) Nature of External Context; (D) Effectiveness, which comprises assessments of the availability of outputs, achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact; (E) Financial Management; (F) Efficiency; (G) Monitoring and Reporting; (H) Sustainability; and (I) Factors Affecting Project Performance. The evaluation consultant(s) can propose other evaluation criteria as deemed appropriate.

A. Strategic Relevance

17. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the donors, implementing regions/countries and the target beneficiaries. The evaluation will include an assessment of the project's relevance in relation to UNEP's mandate and its alignment with UNEP's policies and strategies at the time of project approval. Under strategic relevance an assessment of the complementarity of the project with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups will be made. This criterion comprises four elements:

i. Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy[75] (MTS), Programme of Work (POW) and Strategic Priorities

18. The evaluation should assess the project's alignment with the MTS and POW under which the project was approved and include, in its narrative, reflections on the scale and scope of any contributions made to the planned results reflected in the relevant MTS and POW. UNEP strategic priorities include the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building[76] (BSP) and South-South Cooperation (S-SC). The BSP relates to the capacity of governments to: comply with international agreements and obligations at the national level; promote, facilitate and finance environmentally sound technologies and to strengthen frameworks for developing coherent international environmental policies. S-SC is regarded as the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries.

ii. Alignment to Donor/GEF/Partner Strategic Priorities

19. Donor, including GEF, strategic priorities will vary across interventions. GEF priorities are specified in published programming priorities and focal area strategies. The Evaluation will assess the extent to which the project is suited to, or responding to, donor priorities. In some cases, alignment with donor priorities may be a fundamental part of project design and grant approval processes while in others, for example, instances of 'softly-earmarked' funding, such alignment may be more of an assumption that should be assessed.

iii. Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities

20. The evaluation will assess the alignment of the project with global priorities such as the SDGs and Agenda 2030. The extent to which the intervention is suited, or responding to, the stated environmental concerns and needs of the countries, sub-regions or regions where it is being implemented will be considered. Examples may include: national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plans or regional

[75] *UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) is a document that guides UNEP's programme planning over a four-year period. It identifies UNEP's thematic priorities, known as Sub-programmes (SP), and sets out the desired outcomes, known as Expected Accomplishments (EAs), of the Sub-programmes. https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/evaluation-office/our-evaluation-approach/un-environment-documents*

[76] *http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/about/bsp.htm*

agreements etc. Within this section consideration will be given to whether the needs of all beneficiary groups are being met and reflects the current policy priority to leave no one behind.

iv. Complementarity with Existing Interventions/Coherence[77]

21. An assessment will be made of how well the project, either at design stage or during the project inception or mobilization[78], took account of ongoing and planned initiatives (under the same sub-programme, other UNEP sub-programmes, or being implemented by other agencies within the same country, sector or institution) that address similar needs of the same target groups. The evaluation will consider if the project team, in collaboration with Regional Offices and Sub-Programme Coordinators, made efforts to ensure their own intervention was complementary to other interventions, optimized any synergies and avoided duplication of effort. Examples may include UN Development Assistance Frameworks or One UN programming. Linkages with other interventions should be described and instances where UNEP's comparative advantage has been particularly well applied should be highlighted.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include:
    - Stakeholders' participation and cooperation
    - Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity
    - Country ownership and driven-ness

B. Quality of Project Design

22. The quality of project design is assessed using an agreed template during the evaluation inception phase, ratings are attributed to identified criteria and an overall Project Design Quality rating is established (www.unenvironemnt.org/about-un-environment/our-evaluation-approach/templates-and-tools). This overall Project Design Quality rating is entered in the final evaluation ratings table as item B. In the Main Evaluation Report a summary of the project's strengths and weaknesses at design stage is included, while the complete Project Design Quality template is annexed in the Inception Report.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include (at the design stage):
    - Stakeholders participation and cooperation
    - Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity

C. Nature of External Context

23. At evaluation inception stage a rating is established for the project's external operating context (considering the prevalence of conflict, natural disasters and political upheaval[79]). This rating is entered in the final evaluation ratings table as item C. Where a project has been rated as facing either an Unfavourable or Highly Unfavourable external operating context, and/or a negative external event has occurred during project implementation, the ratings for Effectiveness, Efficiency and/or Sustainability may be increased at the discretion of the evaluation consultant and Evaluation Manager together. A justification for such an increase must be given.

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[77] *This sub-category is consistent with the new criterion of 'Coherence' introduced by the OECD-DAC in 2019.*
[78] *A project's inception or mobilization period is understood as the time between project approval and first disbursement. Complementarity during project implementation is considered under Efficiency, see below.*
[79] *Note that 'political upheaval' does not include regular national election cycles, but unanticipated unrest or prolonged disruption. The potential delays or changes in political support that are often associated with the regular national election cycle should be part of the project's design and addressed through adaptive management by the project team.*

D. Effectiveness

i. Availability of Outputs[80]

24. The evaluation will assess the project's success in producing the programmed outputs and achieving milestones as per the project design document (ProDoc). Any *formal* modifications/revisions made during project implementation will be considered part of the project design. Where the project outputs are inappropriately or inaccurately stated in the ProDoc, reformulations may be necessary in the reconstruction of the TOC. In such cases a table should be provided showing the original and the reformulation of the outputs for transparency. The availability of outputs will be assessed in terms of both quantity and quality, and the assessment will consider their ownership by, and usefulness to, intended beneficiaries and the timeliness of their provision. It is noted that emphasis is placed on the performance of those outputs that are most important to achieve outcomes. The evaluation will briefly explain the reasons behind the success or shortcomings of the project in delivering its programmed outputs and meeting expected quality standards.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include:
    - Preparation and readiness
    - Quality of project management and supervision[81]

ii. Achievement of Project Outcomes[82]

25. The achievement of project outcomes is assessed as performance against the project outcomes as defined in the reconstructed[83] Theory of Change. These are outcomes that are intended to be achieved by the end of the project timeframe and within the project's resource envelope. Emphasis is placed on the achievement of project outcomes that are most important for attaining intermediate states. As with outputs, a table can be used where substantive amendments to the formulation of project outcomes is necessary. The evaluation should report evidence of attribution between UNEP's intervention and the project outcomes. In cases of normative work or where several actors are collaborating to achieve common outcomes, evidence of the nature and magnitude of UNEP's 'substantive contribution' should be included and/or 'credible association' established between project efforts and the project outcomes realised.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include:
    - Quality of project management and supervision
    - Stakeholders' participation and cooperation
    - Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity
    - Communication and public awareness

iii. Likelihood of Impact

26. Based on the articulation of long-lasting effects in the reconstructed TOC *(i.e. from project outcomes, via intermediate states, to impact),* the evaluation will assess the likelihood of the intended, positive impacts becoming a reality. Project objectives or goals should be incorporated in the TOC, possibly as intermediate states or long-lasting impacts. The Evaluation Office's approach to the use of TOC

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[80] Outputs are the availability (for intended beneficiaries/users) of new products and services and/or gains in knowledge, abilities and awareness of individuals or within institutions (UNEP, 2019)

[81] In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP.

[82] Outcomes are the use (i.e. uptake, adoption, application) of an output by intended beneficiaries, observed as changes in institutions or behavior, attitude or condition (UNEP, 2019)

[83] All submitted UNEP project documents are required to present a Theory of Change with all submitted project designs. The level of 'reconstruction' needed during an evaluation will depend on the quality of this initial TOC, the time that has lapsed between project design and implementation (which may be related to securing and disbursing funds) and the level of any formal changes made to the project design.

in project evaluations is outlined in a guidance note available on the Evaluation Office website, https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/evaluation and is supported by an excel-based flow chart, 'Likelihood of Impact Assessment Decision Tree'. Essentially the approach follows a 'likelihood tree' from project outcomes to impacts, taking account of whether the assumptions and drivers identified in the reconstructed TOC held. Any unintended positive effects should also be identified and their causal linkages to the intended impact described.

27. The evaluation will also consider the likelihood that the intervention may lead, or contribute to, unintended negative effects (e.g. will vulnerable groups such as those living with disabilities and/or women and children, be disproportionally affected by the project?). Some of these potential negative effects may have been identified in the project design as risks or as part of the analysis of Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards.[84]

28. The evaluation will consider the extent to which the project has played a catalytic[85] role or has promoted scaling up and/or replication as part of its Theory of Change and as factors that are likely to contribute to longer term impact.

29. Ultimately UNEP and all its partners aim to bring about benefits to the environment and human well-being. Few projects are likely to have impact statements that reflect such long-term or broad-based changes. However, the evaluation will assess the likelihood of the project to make a substantive contribution to the long-lasting changes represented by the Sustainable Development Goals and/or the intermediate-level results reflected in UNEP's Expected Accomplishments and the strategic priorities of funding partners.

Factors affecting this criterion may include:

- Quality of Project Management and Supervision (including adaptive management)
- Stakeholders participation and cooperation
- Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity
- Country ownership and driven-ness
- Communication and public awareness

E. Financial Management

30. Financial management will be assessed under three themes: *adherence* to UNEP's financial policies and procedures, *completeness* of financial information and *communication* between financial and project management staff. The evaluation will establish the actual spend across the life of the project of funds secured from all donors. This expenditure will be reported, where possible, at output level and will be compared with the approved budget. The evaluation will verify the application of proper financial management standards and adherence to UNEP's financial management policies. Any financial management issues that have affected the timely delivery of the project or the quality of its performance will be highlighted. The evaluation will record where standard financial documentation is missing, inaccurate, incomplete or unavailable in a timely manner. The evaluation will assess the level of communication between the Project/Task Manager and the Fund Management Officer as it relates to the effective delivery of the planned project and the needs of a responsive, adaptive management approach.

Factors affecting this criterion may include:

- Preparation and readiness
- Quality of project management and supervision

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[84] Further information on Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards (ESES) can be found at http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/8718

[85] A catalytic effect is one in which desired changes take place beyond the initial scope of a project (i.e. the take up of change is faster than initially expected or change is taken up in areas/sectors or by groups, outside the project's initial design). Scaling up refers to an initiative, or one of its components, being adopted on a much larger scale, but in a very similar context (e.g a small scale, localized, pilot being adopted at a larger, perhaps national, scale). Replication refers more to approaches being repeated or lessons being explicitly applied in new/different contexts e.g. other geographic areas, different target groups etc. Effective replication typically requires some form of revision or adaptation to the new context. It is possible to replicate at either the same or a different scale.

F. Efficiency

31. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project delivered maximum results from the given resources. This will include an assessment of the cost-effectiveness and timeliness of project execution. Focussing on the translation of inputs into outputs, cost-effectiveness is the extent to which an intervention has achieved, or is expected to achieve, its results at the lowest possible cost. Timeliness refers to whether planned activities were delivered according to expected timeframes as well as whether events were sequenced efficiently. The evaluation will also assess to what extent any project extension could have been avoided through stronger project management and identify any negative impacts caused by project delays or extensions. The evaluation will describe any cost or time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe and consider whether the project was implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternative interventions or approaches.

32. The evaluation will give special attention to efforts made by the project teams during project implementation to make use of/build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities[86] with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. to increase project efficiency. The evaluation will also consider the extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint.

33. The factors underpinning the need for any project extensions will also be explored and discussed. As management or project support costs cannot be increased in cases of 'no cost extensions', such extensions represent an increase in unstated costs to implementing parties.

Factors affecting this criterion may include:

- Preparation and readiness (e.g. timeliness)
- Quality of project management and supervision
- Stakeholders participation and cooperation

G. Monitoring and Reporting

34. The evaluation will assess monitoring and reporting across three sub-categories: monitoring design and budgeting, monitoring implementation and project reporting.

i. Monitoring Design and Budgeting

35. Each project should be supported by a sound monitoring plan that is designed to track progress against SMART[87] results towards the provision of the project's outputs and achievement of project outcomes, including at a level disaggregated by gender, marginalisation or vulnerability, including those living with disabilities.. In particular, the evaluation will assess the relevance and appropriateness of the project indicators as well as the methods used for tracking progress against them as part of conscious results-based management. The evaluation will assess the quality of the design of the monitoring plan as well as the funds allocated for its implementation. The adequacy of resources for mid-term and terminal evaluation/review should be discussed if applicable.

ii. Monitoring of Project Implementation

36. The evaluation will assess whether the monitoring system was operational and facilitated the timely tracking of results and progress towards projects objectives throughout the project implementation period. This assessment will include consideration of whether the project gathered relevant and good quality baseline data that is accurately and appropriately documented. This should include monitoring the representation and participation of disaggregated groups (including gendered, marginalised or vulnerable groups, such as those living with disabilities) in project activities. It will

[86] *Complementarity with other interventions during project design, inception or mobilization is considered under Strategic Relevance above.*

[87] *SMART refers to results that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-oriented. Indicators help to make results measurable.*

also consider the quality of the information generated by the monitoring system during project implementation and how it was used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and ensure sustainability. The evaluation should confirm that funds allocated for monitoring were used to support this activity.

37. The performance at project completion against Core Indicator Targets should be reviewed. For projects approved prior to GEF-7, these indicators will be identified retrospectively and comments on performance provided.

iii. Project Reporting

38. UNEP has a centralised project information management system (Anubis) in which project managers upload six-monthly progress reports against agreed project milestones. This information will be provided to the Evaluation Consultant(s) by the Evaluation Manager. Some projects have additional requirements to report regularly to funding partners, which will be supplied by the project team (e.g. the Project Implementation Reviews and Tracking Tool for GEF-funded projects). The evaluation will assess the extent to which both UNEP and donor reporting commitments have been fulfilled. Consideration will be given as to whether reporting has been carried out with respect to the effects of the initiative on disaggregated groups.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include:
    - Quality of project management and supervision
    - Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity (e.g disaggregated indicators and data)

H. Sustainability

39. Sustainability [88] is understood as the probability of project outcomes being maintained and developed after the close of the intervention. The evaluation will identify and assess the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the endurance of achieved project outcomes (ie. 'assumptions' and 'drivers'). Some factors of sustainability may be embedded in the project design and implementation approaches while others may be contextual circumstances or conditions that evolve over the life of the intervention. Where applicable an assessment of bio-physical factors that may affect the sustainability of project outcomes may also be included.

iv. Socio-political Sustainability

40. The evaluation will assess the extent to which social or political factors support the continuation and further development of project outcomes. It will consider the level of ownership, interest and commitment among government and other stakeholders to take the project achievements forwards. In particular the evaluation will consider whether individual capacity development efforts are likely to be sustained.

v. Financial Sustainability

41. Some project outcomes, once achieved, do not require further financial inputs, e.g. the adoption of a revised policy. However, in order to derive a benefit from this outcome further management action may still be needed e.g. to undertake actions to enforce the policy. Other project outcomes may be dependent on a continuous flow of action that needs to be resourced for them to be maintained, e.g. continuation of a new resource management approach. The evaluation will assess the extent to which project outcomes are dependent on future funding for the benefits they bring to be sustained. Secured future funding is only relevant to financial sustainability where the project's outcomes have been extended into a future project phase. Even where future funding has been secured, the question still remains as to whether the project outcomes are financially sustainable.

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[88] As used here, 'sustainability' means the long-term maintenance of outcomes and consequent impacts, whether environmental or not. This is distinct from the concept of sustainability in the terms 'environmental sustainability' or 'sustainable development', which imply 'not living beyond our means' or 'not diminishing global environmental benefits' (GEF STAP Paper, 2019, Achieving More Enduring Outcomes from GEF Investment)

vi. Institutional Sustainability

42. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the sustainability of project outcomes (especially those relating to policies and laws) is dependent on issues relating to institutional frameworks and governance. It will consider whether institutional achievements such as governance structures and processes, policies, sub-regional agreements, legal and accountability frameworks etc. are robust enough to continue delivering the benefits associated with the project outcomes after project closure. In particular, the evaluation will consider whether institutional capacity development efforts are likely to be sustained.

    Factors affecting this criterion may include:
    - Stakeholders participation and cooperation
    - Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity (e.g. where interventions are not inclusive, their sustainability may be undermined)
    - Communication and public awareness
    - Country ownership and driven-ness

I. Factors Affecting Project Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

(These factors are rated in the ratings table but are discussed within the Main Evaluation Report as cross-cutting themes as appropriate under the other evaluation criteria, above. Where the issues have not been addressed under other evaluation criteria, the consultant(s) will provide summary sections under the following headings.)

vii. Preparation and Readiness

43. This criterion focuses on the inception or mobilisation stage of the project (i.e. the time between project approval and first disbursement). The evaluation will assess whether appropriate measures were taken to either address weaknesses in the project design or respond to changes that took place between project approval, the securing of funds and project mobilisation. In particular the evaluation will consider the nature and quality of engagement with stakeholder groups by the project team, the confirmation of partner capacity and development of partnership agreements as well as initial staffing and financing arrangements. *(Project preparation is included in the template for the assessment of Project Design Quality).*

viii. Quality of Project Management and Supervision

44. In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping and supervision provided by UNEP.

45. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of project management with regard to: providing leadership towards achieving the planned outcomes; managing team structures; maintaining productive partner relationships (including Steering Groups etc.); maintaining project relevance within changing external and strategic contexts; communication and collaboration with UNEP colleagues; risk management; use of problem-solving; project adaptation and overall project execution. Evidence of adaptive management should be highlighted.

ix. Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

46. Here the term 'stakeholder' should be considered in a broad sense, encompassing all project partners, duty bearers with a role in delivering project outputs and target users of project outputs and any other collaborating agents external to UNEP and the Executing Agency. The assessment will consider the quality and effectiveness of all forms of communication and consultation with stakeholders throughout the project life and the support given to maximise collaboration and

coherence between various stakeholders, including sharing plans, pooling resources and exchanging learning and expertise. The inclusion and participation of all differentiated groups, including gender groups should be considered.

47. The progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project/program occurring since the MTR should be reviewed. *(This should be based on the description included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval).*

x. Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equity

48. The evaluation will ascertain to what extent the project has applied the UN Common Understanding on the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Within this human rights context the evaluation will assess to what extent the intervention adheres to UNEP's Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment[89].

49. In particular the evaluation will consider to what extent project-implementation and monitoring have taken into consideration: (i) possible inequalities (especially those related to gender) in access to, and the control over, natural resources; (ii) specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (especially women, youth and children and those living with disabilities) to environmental degradation or disasters; and (iii) the role of disadvantaged groups (especially those related to gender) in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation.

50. The completed gender-responsive measures and, if applicable, actual gender result areas should be reviewed. *(This should be based on the documentation at CEO Endorsement/Approval, including gender-sensitive indicators contained in the project results framework or gender action plan or equivalent).*

xi. Environmental and Social Safeguards

51. UNEP projects address environmental and social safeguards primarily through the process of environmental and social screening at the project approval stage, risk assessment and management (avoidance, minimization, mitigation or, in exceptional cases, offsetting) of potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project and programme activities. The evaluation will confirm whether UNEP requirements[90] were met to: *review* risk ratings on a regular basis; *monitor* project implementation for possible safeguard issues; *respond* (where relevant) to safeguard issues through risk avoidance, minimization, mitigation or offsetting and r*eport* on the implementation of safeguard management measures taken. UNEP requirements for proposed projects to be screened for any safeguarding issues; for sound environmental and social risk assessments to be conducted and initial risk ratings to be assigned are evaluated above under Quality of Project Design).

52. The evaluation will also consider the extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint.

53. Implementation of the management measures against the Safeguards Plan submitted at CEO Approval should be reviewed, the risk classifications verified and the findings of the effectiveness of any measures or lessons learned taken to address identified risks assessed. Any supporting documents gathered by the Consultant should be shared with the Task Manager.

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[89] The Evaluation Office notes that Gender Equality was first introduced in the UNEP Project Review Committee Checklist in 2010 and, therefore, provides a criterion rating on gender for projects approved from 2010 onwards. Equally, it is noted that policy documents, operational guidelines and other capacity building efforts have only been developed since then and have evolved over time. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7655/-Gender_equality_and_the_environment_Policy_and_strategy-2015Gender_equality_and_the_environment_policy_and_strategy.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

[90] For the review of project concepts and proposals, the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) was introduced in 2019 and replaced the Environmental, Social and Economic Review note (ESERN), which had been in place since 2016. In GEF projects safeguards have been considered in project designs since 2011.

xii. Country Ownership and Driven-ness

54. The evaluation will assess the quality and degree of engagement of government / public sector agencies in the project. While there is some overlap between Country Ownership and Institutional Sustainability, this criterion focuses primarily on the forward momentum of the intended projects results, ie. either a) moving forwards from outputs to project outcomes or b) moving forward from project outcomes towards intermediate states. The evaluation will consider the involvement not only of those directly involved in project execution and those participating in technical or leadership groups, but also those official representatives whose cooperation is needed for change to be embedded in their respective institutions and offices (e.g. representatives from multiple sectors or relevant ministries beyond Ministry of Environment). This factor is concerned with the level of ownership generated by the project over outputs and outcomes and that is necessary for long term impact to be realised. Ownership should extend to all gendered and marginalised groups.

xiii. Communication and Public Awareness

55. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of: a) communication of learning and experience sharing between project partners and interested groups arising from the project during its life and b) public awareness activities that were undertaken during the implementation of the project to influence attitudes or shape behaviour among wider communities and civil society at large. The evaluation should consider whether existing communication channels and networks were used effectively, including meeting the differentiated needs of gendered or marginalised groups, and whether any feedback channels were established. Where knowledge sharing platforms have been established under a project the evaluation will comment on the sustainability of the communication channel under either socio-political, institutional or financial sustainability, as appropriate.

56. The project's completed Knowledge Management Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions should be reviewed. This should be based on the documentation approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

Section 3. EVALUATION APPROACH, METHODS AND DELIVERABLES

57. The Terminal Evaluation will be an in-depth evaluation using a participatory approach whereby key stakeholders are kept informed and consulted throughout the evaluation process. Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods will be used as appropriate to determine project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts. It is highly recommended that the consultant(s) maintains close communication with the project team and promotes information exchange throughout the evaluation implementation phase in order to increase their (and other stakeholder) ownership of the evaluation findings. Where applicable, the consultant(s) will provide a geo-referenced map that demarcates the area covered by the project and, where possible, provide geo-reference photographs of key intervention sites (e.g. sites of habitat rehabilitation and protection, pollution treatment infrastructure, etc.)

58. The findings of the evaluation will be based on the following:

(a) A **desk review** of:

- Relevant background documentation, inter alia [list];
- Project design documents (including minutes of the project design review meeting at approval); Annual Work Plans and Budgets or equivalent, revisions to the project (Project Document Supplement), the logical framework and its budget;
- Project reports such as six-monthly progress and financial reports, progress reports from collaborating partners, meeting minutes, relevant correspondence and including the Project Implementation Reviews and Tracking Tool etc.;
- Project outputs: [list];
- Mid-Term Review of the project;

- Evaluations/reviews of similar projects.

(b) **Interviews** (individual or in group) with:

- UNEP Task Manager (TM);
- Project management team, including the Project Manager within the Executing Agency; Jacqueline Alvarez
- UNEP Fund Management Officer (FMO);
- Portfolio Manager and Sub-Programme Coordinator, where appropriate;
- Project partners, including representatives from: Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine;

China Dyeing and Printing Association; Chemical Management Division Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center, MEE; Andy Culture Development Co. Ltd; Beijing YongEnLiHe Certified Public Accountants Co.,Ltd; MEE-FECO and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)

- Relevant resource persons;
- Representatives from civil society and specialist groups (such as women's, farmers and trade associations etc).

(c) **Surveys** [provide details, where appropriate]

(d) **Field visits** [provide details, where appropriate]

(e) Other data collection tools [provide details, where appropriate]

11. Evaluation Deliverables and Review Procedures

59. The evaluation team will prepare:

- **Inception Report:** (see Annex 1 for links to all templates, tables and guidance notes) containing an assessment of project design quality, a draft reconstructed Theory of Change of the project, project stakeholder analysis, evaluation framework and a tentative evaluation schedule.
- **Preliminary Findings Note:** typically in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, the sharing of preliminary findings is intended to support the participation of the project team, act as a means to ensure all information sources have been accessed and provide an opportunity to verify emerging findings. In the case of highly strategic project/portfolio evaluations or evaluations with an Evaluation Reference Group, the preliminary findings may be presented as a word document for review and comment.
- **Draft and Final Evaluation Report:** (see links in Annex 1) containing an executive summary that can act as a stand-alone document; detailed analysis of the evaluation findings organised by evaluation criteria and supported with evidence; lessons learned and recommendations and an annotated ratings table.

60. An **Evaluation Brief,** (a 2-page overview of the evaluand and key evaluation findings) for wider dissemination through the UNEP website may be required. This will be discussed with the Evaluation Manager no later than during the finalization of the Inception Report.

61. **Review of the draft evaluation report**. The evaluation team will submit a draft report to the Evaluation Manager and revise the draft in response to their comments and suggestions. Once a draft of adequate quality has been peer-reviewed and accepted, the Evaluation Manager will share the cleared draft report with the Task Manager and Project Manager, who will alert the Evaluation Manager in case the report contains any blatant factual errors. The Evaluation Manager will then forward revised draft report (corrected by the evaluation consultant(s) where necessary) to other project stakeholders, for their review and comments. Stakeholders may provide feedback on any errors of fact and may highlight the significance of such errors in any conclusions as well as providing feedback on the proposed recommendations and lessons. Any comments or responses

to draft reports will be sent to the Evaluation Manager for consolidation. The Evaluation Manager will provide all comments to the evaluation consultant(s) for consideration in preparing the final report, along with guidance on areas of contradiction or issues requiring an institutional response.

62. Based on a careful review of the evidence collated by the evaluation consultants and the internal consistency of the report, the Evaluation Manager will provide an assessment of the ratings in the final evaluation report. Where there are differences of opinion between the evaluator and the Evaluation Manager on project ratings, both viewpoints will be clearly presented in the final report. The Evaluation Office ratings will be considered the final ratings for the project.

63. The Evaluation Manager will prepare a **quality assessment** of the first draft of the main evaluation report, which acts as a tool for providing structured feedback to the evaluation consultants. The quality of the final report will be assessed and rated against the criteria specified in template listed in Annex 1 and this assessment will be appended to the Final Evaluation Report.

64. At the end of the evaluation process, the Evaluation Office will prepare a **Recommendations Implementation Plan** in the format of a table, to be completed and updated at regular intervals by the Task Manager. The Evaluation Office will track compliance against this plan on a six-monthly basis for a maximum of 18 months.

12. The Evaluation Team

65. For this evaluation, the evaluation team will consist of a Principal Evaluator and one Evaluation Specialist who will work under the overall responsibility of the Evaluation Office represented by an Evaluation Manager Janet Wildish, in consultation with the UNEP Task Manager, Eloise Touni, Fund Management Officer, Anuradha Shenoy and Edward Aput, and the Sub-programme Coordinator of the chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Sub-Programme, Tessa Goverse. The consultants will liaise with the Evaluation Manager on any procedural and methodological matters related to the evaluation. It is, however, each consultant's individual responsibility to arrange for their visas and immunizations as well as to plan meetings with stakeholders, organize online surveys, obtain documentary evidence and any other logistical matters related to the assignment. The UNEP Task Manager and project team will, where possible, provide logistical support (introductions, meetings etc.) allowing the consultants to conduct the evaluation as efficiently and independently as possible.

66. The Principal Evaluator and Evaluation Specialist will be hired over a period of 6 months January – June 2021 and should have the following: a university degree in chemistry, environmental sciences, international development or other relevant chemcials area is required and an advanced degree in the same areas is desirable; a minimum of 7 years of technical / evaluation experience is required, preferably including evaluating large, regional or global programmes and using a Theory of Change approach. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this consultancy, fluency in oral and written English is a requirement. Working knowledge of the UN system and specifically the work of UNEP is an added advantage. The work will be home-based with possible field visits.

67. In close consultation with the Evaluation Manager, the evaluation consultants will be responsible for the overall management of the evaluation and timely provision of its outputs, data collection and analysis and report-writing. More specifically:

Inception phase of the evaluation, including:

- preliminary desk review and introductory interviews with project staff;
- draft the reconstructed Theory of Change of the project;
- prepare the evaluation framework;
- develop the desk review and interview protocols;
- draft the survey protocols (if relevant);
- develop and present criteria for country and/or site selection for the evaluation mission;
- plan the evaluation schedule;

- prepare the Inception Report, incorporating comments until approved by the Evaluation Manager

Data collection and analysis phase of the evaluation, including:

- conduct further desk review and in-depth interviews with project implementing and executing agencies, project partners and project stakeholders;
- (where appropriate and agreed) conduct an evaluation mission(s) to selected countries, visit the project locations, interview project partners and stakeholders, including a good representation of local communities. Ensure independence of the evaluation and confidentiality of evaluation interviews.
- regularly report back to the Evaluation Manager on progress and inform of any possible problems or issues encountered and;
- keep the Project/Task Manager informed of the evaluation progress.

Reporting phase, including:

- draft the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that the evaluation report is complete, coherent and consistent with the Evaluation Manager guidelines both in substance and style;
- liaise with the Evaluation Manager on comments received and finalize the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that comments are taken into account until approved by the Evaluation Manager
- prepare a Response to Comments annex for the main report, listing those comments not accepted by the evaluation consultant and indicating the reason for the rejection; and
- (where agreed with the Evaluation Manager) prepare an Evaluation Brief (2-page summary of the evaluand and the key evaluation findings and lessons)

Managing relations, including:

- maintain a positive relationship with evaluation stakeholders, ensuring that the evaluation process is as participatory as possible but at the same time maintains its independence;
- communicate in a timely manner with the Evaluation Manager on any issues requiring its attention and intervention.

13. Schedule of the evaluation

68. The table below presents the tentative schedule for the evaluation.

Table 3. Tentative schedule for the evaluation

Milestone	Tentative Dates
Evaluation Initiation Meeting	
Inception Report	
Evaluation Mission (may not be possible due to COVID-19)	
E-based interviews, surveys etc.	
Powerpoint/presentation on preliminary findings and recommendations	
Draft report to Evaluation Manager (and Peer Reviewer)	
Draft Report shared with UNEP Project Manager and team	

Milestone	Tentative Dates
Draft Report shared with wider group of stakeholders	
Final Report	
Final Report shared with all respondents	

14. Contractual Arrangements

69. Evaluation consultants will be selected and recruited by the Evaluation Office of UNEP under an individual Special Service Agreement (SSA) on a "fees only" basis (see below). By signing the service contract with UNEP /UNON, the consultant(s) certify that they have not been associated with the design and implementation of the project in any way which may jeopardize their independence and impartiality towards project achievements and project partner performance. In addition, they will not have any future interests (within six months after completion of the contract) with the project's executing or implementing units. All consultants are required to sigh the Code of Conduct Agreement Form.

70. Fees will be paid on an instalment basis, paid on acceptance by the Evaluation Manager of expected key deliverables. The schedule of payment is as follows:

Schedule of Payment for the Principal Evaluator and Evaluation Specialist:

Deliverable	Percentage Payment
Approved Inception Report (as per annex document 7)	30%
Approved Draft Main Evaluation Report (as per annex document 13)	30%
Approved Final Main Evaluation Report	40%

71. Fees only contracts: Air tickets will be purchased by UNEP and 75% of the Daily Subsistence Allowance for each authorised travel mission will be paid up front. Local in-country travel will only be reimbursed where agreed in advance with the Evaluation Manager and on the production of acceptable receipts. Terminal expenses and residual DSA entitlements (25%) will be paid after mission completion.

72. The consultants may be provided with access to UNEP's Anubis information management system and if such access is granted, the consultants agree not to disclose information from that system to third parties beyond information required for, and included in, the evaluation report.

73. In case the consultants are not able to provide the deliverables in accordance with these guidelines, and in line with the expected quality standards by the UNEP Evaluation Office, payment may be withheld at the discretion of the Director of the Evaluation Office until the consultants have improved the deliverables to meet UNEP's quality standards.

74. If the consultant(s) fail to submit a satisfactory final product to UNEP in a timely manner, i.e. before the end date of their contract, the Evaluation Office reserves the right to employ additional human resources to finalize the report, and to reduce the consultants' fees by an amount equal to the additional costs borne by the Evaluation Office to bring the report up to standard.

Annex 1: Tools, Templates and Guidance Notes for use in the Evaluation

75. The tools, templates and guidance notes listed in the table below, and available from the Evaluation Manager, are intended to help Evaluation Managers and Evaluation Consultants to produce evaluation products that are consistent with each other and which can be compiled into a biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report. The biennial summary is used to provide an overview of progress to UN Environment and the UN Environmental Assembly.

76. This suite of documents is also intended to make the evaluation process as transparent as possible so that all those involved in the process can participate on an informed basis. It is recognised that the evaluation needs of projects and portfolio vary and adjustments may be necessary so that the purpose of the evaluation process (broadly, accountability and lesson learning), can be met. Such adjustments should be decided between the Evaluation Manager and the Evaluation Consultants in order to produce evaluation reports that are both useful to project implementers and that produce credible findings.

77. ADVICE TO CONSULTANTS: As our tools, templates and guidance notes are updated on a continuous basis, kindly download documents from the link (to be shared by email) during the Inception Phase and use those versions throughout the evaluation.

List of tools, templates and guidance notes available:

Document	Name
1	Evaluation Process Guidelines for Consultants
2	Evaluation Consultants Team Roles (Principal Evaluator and Evaluation Specialist)
3	List of documents required in the evaluation process
4	Evaluation Criteria (summary of descriptions, as in these terms of reference)
5	Evaluation Ratings Table (only)
6	Matrix Describing Ratings by Criteria
7	Weighting of Ratings (excel)
8	Project Identification Tables
9	Structure and Contents of the Inception Report
10a	Template for the Assessment of the Quality of Project Design (Word template)
10b	Template for the Assessment of the Quality of Project Design (Excel tool)
11	Guidance on Stakeholder Analysis
12	Gender Note for Evaluation Consultants
13	Use of Theory of Change in Project Evaluations
14	Assessment of the Likelihood of Impact Decision Tree (Excel)
15	Possible Evaluation Questions
16	Structure and Contents of the Main Evaluation Report
17	Cover Page, Prelims and Style Sheet for Main Evaluation Report
18	Financial Tables
19	Template for the Assessment of the Quality of the Evaluation Report

Annex 12: Assessment of likelihood of impact using UNEP tool

A GUIDE FOR THE RATING LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT

Reset Form

Select Response

			Likelihood of impact						Likelihood of impact					
			HU	U	MU	ML	L	HL	HU	U	MU	ML	L	HL
Drivers to support transition from Outputs to Project Outcomes are ...	In place		Not in place	Partially in place	Partially in place	In place	In place	In place				1	1	1
Assumptions for the change process from Outputs to Project Outcomes ...	hold		Do not hold	Partially hold	Partially hold	Hold	Hold	Hold				1	1	1
Proportion of Project Outcomes fully or partially achieved?	some		None	Some	Some	Some	Some	All		1	1	1	1	
Which Project Outcomes? (the most important to attain intermediate states / impact or others)	The most important to attain intermediate states/impact		n/a	Others	Others	Most important	Most important	n/a				1	1	
Level of Project Outcome achievement?	Partial		n/a	Partial	Full	Partial	Full	Full		1		1		
Drivers to support transition from Project Outcome(s) to Intermediate States are ...	In place		n/a	Not in place	Not in place	Partially in place	Partially in place	In place						1
Assumptions for the change process from Project Outcomes to Intermediate States ...	hold		n/a	Do not hold	Do not hold	Partially hold	Hold	Hold					1	1
Proportion of Intermediate States achieved?	some		n/a	n/a	None	None	Some	All					1	
Level of Intermediate State achievement?	partial		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Partial	Full					1	
Drivers to support transition from Intermediate States to Impact are ...	in place		n/a	Not in place	Not in place	Not in place	Partially	In place						1
Assumptions for the change process from Intermediate States to Impact ...	hold		n/a	Do not hold	Do not hold	Do not hold	Partially	Hold						1
									0	2	1	5	7	6

OVERALL RATING

LIKELY

Annex 13: Quality Assessment of the Evaluation Report

Evaluand Title:

Defining and demonstrating best practices for exchange of information on chemicals in textile products (GEF 5662) *Consultants:*

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All UNEP evaluations are subject to a quality assessment by the Evaluation Office. This is an assessment of the quality of the evaluation product (i.e. evaluation report) and is dependent on more than just the consultant's efforts and skills.

	UNEP Evaluation Office Comments	Final Report Rating
Substantive Report Quality Criteria		
Quality of the Executive Summary: The Summary should be able to stand alone as an accurate summary of the main evaluation product. It should include a concise overview of the evaluation object; clear summary of the evaluation objectives and scope; overall evaluation rating of the project and key features of performance (strengths and weaknesses) against exceptional criteria (plus reference to where the evaluation ratings table can be found within the report); summary of the main findings of the exercise, including a synthesis of main conclusions (which include a summary response to key strategic evaluation questions), lessons learned and recommendations.	Final report: Also translated. All elements are covered.	**5**
I. Introduction A brief introduction should be given identifying, where possible and relevant, the following: institutional context of the project (sub-programme, Division, regions/countries where implemented) and coverage of the evaluation; date of PRC approval and project document signature); results frameworks to which it contributes (e.g. Expected Accomplishment in POW); project duration and start/end dates; number of project phases (where appropriate); implementing partners; total secured budget and whether the project has been evaluated in the past (e.g. mid-term, part of a synthesis evaluation, evaluated by another agency etc.) Consider the extent to which the introduction includes a concise statement of the purpose of the evaluation and the key intended audience for the findings?	Final report: Brief section meeting the guidance	**5**
II. Evaluation Methods A data collection section should include: a description of evaluation methods and information sources used, including the number and type of respondents; justification for methods used (e.g. qualitative/ quantitative; electronic/face-to-face); any selection criteria used to identify respondents, case studies or sites/countries visited; strategies used to increase stakeholder engagement and consultation; details of how data were verified (e.g. triangulation, review by stakeholders etc.). Methods to ensure that potentially excluded groups (excluded by gender, vulnerability or marginalisation) are reached and their experiences captured effectively, should be made explicit in this section. The methods used to analyse data (e.g. scoring; coding; thematic analysis etc.) should be described. It should also address evaluation limitations such as: low or imbalanced response rates across different groups; gaps in	Final report: A clear section, completed just prior to UNEP Evaluation Office providing new guidance on methods sections.	**5**

documentation; extent to which findings can be either generalised to wider evaluation questions or constraints on aggregation/disaggregation; any potential or apparent biases; language barriers and ways they were overcome. Ethics and human rights issues should be highlighted including: how anonymity and confidentiality were protected and strategies used to include the views of marginalised or potentially disadvantaged groups and/or divergent views. Is there an ethics statement?		
III. The Project This section should include: • *Context:* Overview of the main issue that the project is trying to address, its root causes and consequences on the environment and human well-being (i.e. synopsis of the problem and situational analyses). • *Results framework*: Summary of the project's results hierarchy as stated in the ProDoc (or as officially revised) • *Stakeholders:* Description of groups of targeted stakeholders organised according to relevant common characteristics • *Project implementation structure and partners:* A description of the implementation structure with diagram and a list of key project partners • *Changes in design during implementation:* Any key events that affected the project's scope or parameters should be described in brief in chronological order • *Project financing:* Completed tables of: (a) budget at design and expenditure by components (b) planned and actual sources of funding/co-financing	Final report: All elements are addressed.	**5**
IV. Theory of Change The *TOC at Evaluation* should be presented clearly in both diagrammatic and narrative forms. Clear articulation of each major causal pathway is expected, (starting from outputs to long term impact), including explanations of all drivers and assumptions as well as the expected roles of key actors. This section should include a description of how the *TOC at Evaluation*[91] was designed (who was involved etc.) and applied to the context of the project? Where the project results as stated in the project design documents (or formal revisions of the project design) are not an accurate reflection of the project's intentions or do not follow UNEP's definitions of different results levels, project results may need to be re-phrased or reformulated. In such cases, a summary of the project's results hierarchy should be presented for: a) the results as stated in the approved/revised Prodoc logframe/TOC and b) as formulated in the *TOC at Evaluation*. *The two results hierarchies should be presented as a two-column table to show clearly that, although wording and placement may have changed, the results 'goal posts' have not been 'moved'.*	Final report: TOC is presented in graphic form and causal pathways through to intermediate states are discussed.	**5**

[91] During the Inception Phase of the evaluation process a *TOC at Evaluation Inception* is created based on the information contained in the approved project documents (these may include either logical framework or a TOC or narrative descriptions), formal revisions and annual reports etc. During the evaluation process this TOC is revised based on changes made during project intervention and becomes the *TOC at Evaluation*.

V. Key Findings **A. Strategic relevance:** This section should include an assessment of the project's relevance in relation to UNEP's mandate and its alignment with UNEP's policies and strategies at the time of project approval. An assessment of the complementarity of the project at design (or during inception/mobilisation[92]), with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups should be included. Consider the extent to which all four elements have been addressed: i. Alignment to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme of Work (POW) ii. Alignment to Donor/GEF Strategic Priorities iii. Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities iv. Complementarity with Existing Interventions	Final report: All elements adequately addressed.	**5**
B. Quality of Project Design To what extent are the strength and weaknesses of the project design effectively summarized?	Final report: Succinct presentation of strenghts and weaknesses	**5**
C. Nature of the External Context For projects where this is appropriate, key external features of the project's implementing context that limited the project's performance (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, political upheaval[93]), and how they affected performance, should be described.	Final report: Addressed.	**5**
D. Effectiveness **(i) Outputs and Project Outcomes:** How well does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of the a) availability of outputs, and b) achievement of project outcomes? How convincing is the discussion of attribution and contribution, as well as the constraints to attributing effects to the intervention. The effects of the intervention on differentiated groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation, should be discussed explicitly.	Final report: Discussed in detail. Despite several attempts, supported by translators, the question of why less take up has been seen among SMEs was not followed through sufficiently to allow useful insights to be gained.	**5**
(ii) Likelihood of Impact: How well does the report present an integrated analysis, guided by the causal pathways represented by the TOC, of all evidence relating to likelihood of impact? How well are change processes explained and the roles of key actors, as well as drivers and assumptions, explicitly discussed?	Final report: Well discussed and presented.	**5**

[92] A project's inception or mobilization period is understood as the time between project approval and first disbursement. Complementarity during project implementation is considered under Efficiency, see below.

[93] Note that 'political upheaval' does not include regular national election cycles, but unanticipated unrest or prolonged disruption. The potential delays or changes in political support that are often associated with the regular national election cycle should be part of the project's design and addressed through adaptive management of the project team.

Any unintended negative effects of the project should be discussed under Effectiveness, especially negative effects on disadvantaged groups.	Risks and mitigation measures identified in the CEP endorsement are discussed here.	
E. Financial Management This section should contain an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under financial management and include a completed 'financial management' table. Consider how well the report addresses the following: • *Adherence* to UNEP's financial policies and procedures • *completeness* of financial information, including the actual project costs (total and per activity) and actual co-financing used • *communication* between financial and project management staff	Final report: All elements well covered.	**5**
F. Efficiency To what extent, and how well, does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of efficiency under the primary categories of cost-effectiveness and timeliness including: • Implications of delays and no cost extensions • Time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe • Discussion of making use during project implementation of/building on pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. • The extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint.	Final report: Adequately addrssed.	**5**
G. Monitoring and Reporting How well does the report assess: • Monitoring design and budgeting *(including SMART results with measurable indicators, resources for MTE/R etc.)* • Monitoring of project implementation *(including use of monitoring data for adaptive management)* • Project reporting *(e.g. PIMS and donor reports)*	Final report: All elements covered.	**5**
H. Sustainability How well does the evaluation identify and assess the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the persistence of achieved project outcomes including: • Socio-political Sustainability • Financial Sustainability • Institutional Sustainability	Final report: All sub-categories discussed.	**5**
I. Factors Affecting Performance These factors are <u>not</u> discussed in stand-alone sections but are **integrated in criteria A-H as appropriate**. Note that these are	Final report:	**5**

described in the Evaluation Criteria Ratings Matrix. To what extent, and how well, does the evaluation report cover the following cross-cutting themes: • Preparation and readiness • Quality of project management and supervision[94] • Stakeholder participation and co-operation • Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity • Environmental and social safeguards • Country ownership and driven-ness • Communication and public awareness	All elements addressed here and within the report.	
VI. Conclusions and Recommendations **i. Quality of the conclusions:** The key strategic questions should be clearly and succinctly addressed within the conclusions section. It is expected that the conclusions will highlight the main strengths and weaknesses of the project and connect them in a compelling story line. Human rights and gender dimensions of the intervention (e.g. how these dimensions were considered, addressed or impacted on) should be discussed explicitly. Conclusions, as well as lessons and recommendations, should be consistent with the evidence presented in the main body of the report.	Final report: Succinct conclusions, strategic questions addressed.	**5**
ii) Quality and utility of the lessons: Both positive and negative lessons are expected and duplication with recommendations should be avoided. Based on explicit evaluation findings, lessons should be rooted in real project experiences or derived from problems encountered and mistakes made that should be avoided in the future. Lessons are intended to be adopted any time they are deemed to be relevant in the future and must have the potential for wider application (replication and generalization) and use and should briefly describe the context from which they are derived and those contexts in which they may be useful.	Final report: Useful lessons identified.	**5**
iii) Quality and utility of the recommendations: To what extent are the recommendations proposals for specific action to be taken by identified people/position-holders to resolve concrete problems affecting the project or the sustainability of its results? They should be feasible to implement within the timeframe and resources available (including local capacities) and specific in terms of who would do what and when. At least one recommendation relating to strengthening the human rights and gender dimensions of UNEP interventions, should be given. Recommendations should represent a measurable performance target in order that the Evaluation Office can monitor and assess compliance with the recommendations. In cases where the recommendation is addressed to a third party, compliance can only be monitored and assessed where a contractual/legal agreement remains in place. Without such an	Final report: Actionable recommendations presented.	**5**

[94] In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the executing agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP.

agreement, the recommendation should be formulated to say that UNEP project staff should pass on the recommendation to the relevant third party in an effective or substantive manner. The effective transmission by UNEP of the recommendation will then be monitored for compliance. Where a new project phase is already under discussion or in preparation with the same third party, a recommendation can be made to address the issue in the next phase.		
VII. Report Structure and Presentation Quality		
i) Structure and completeness of the report: To what extent does the report follow the Evaluation Office guidelines? Are all requested Annexes included and complete?	Final report: . UNEP Evaluation Office structure followed.	**5**
ii) **Quality of writing and formatting:** Consider whether the report is well written (clear English language and grammar) with language that is adequate in quality and tone for an official document? Do visual aids, such as maps and graphs convey key information? Does the report follow Evaluation Office formatting guidelines?	Final report: Clear and professional style.	**5**
OVERALL REPORT QUALITY RATING		**5**

A number rating 1-6 is used for each criterion: Highly Satisfactory = 6, Satisfactory = 5, Moderately Satisfactory = 4, Moderately Unsatisfactory = 3, Unsatisfactory = 2, Highly Unsatisfactory = 1. The overall quality of the evaluation report is calculated by taking the mean score of all rated quality criteria.

At the end of the evaluation, compliance of the evaluation process against the agreed standard procedures is assessed, based on the table below. *All questions with negative compliance must be explained further in the table below.*

Evaluation Process Quality Criteria	Compliance	
	Yes	**No**
Independence:		
1. Were the Terms of Reference drafted and finalised by the Evaluation Office?	**Y**	
2. Were possible conflicts of interest of proposed Evaluation Consultant(s) appraised and addressed in the final selection?	**Y**	
3. Was the final selection of the Evaluation Consultant(s) made by the Evaluation Office?	**Y**	
4. Was the evaluator contracted directly by the Evaluation Office?	**Y**	
5. Was the Evaluation Consultant given direct access to identified external stakeholders in order to adequately present and discuss the findings, as appropriate?	**Y**	
6. Did the Evaluation Consultant raise any concerns about being unable to work freely and without interference or undue pressure from project staff or the Evaluation Office?		**N**
7. If Yes to Q6: Were these concerns resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both the Evaluation Consultant and the Evaluation Manager?	**N/A**	
Financial Management:		
8. Was the evaluation budget approved at project design available for the evaluation?	**Y**	
9. Was the final evaluation budget agreed and approved by the Evaluation Office?	**Y**	
10. Were the agreed evaluation funds readily available to support the payment of the evaluation contract throughout the payment process?	**Y**	
Timeliness:		
11. If a Terminal Evaluation: Was the evaluation initiated within the period of six months before or after project operational completion? Or, if a Mid Term Evaluation: Was the evaluation initiated within a six-month period prior to the project's mid-point?		**N**
12. Were all deadlines set in the Terms of Reference respected, as far as unforeseen circumstances allowed?	**Y**	
13. Was the inception report delivered and reviewed/approved prior to commencing any travel?	**Y**	
Project's engagement and support:		
14. Did the project team, Sub-Programme Coordinator and identified project stakeholders provide comments on the evaluation Terms of Reference?	**Y**	
15. Did the project make available all required/requested documents?	**Y**	
16. Did the project make all financial information (and audit reports if applicable) available in a timely manner and to an acceptable level of completeness?	**Y**	
17. Was adequate support provided by the project to the evaluator(s) in planning and conducting evaluation missions?	**Y**	
18. Was close communication between the Evaluation Consultant, Evaluation Office and project team maintained throughout the evaluation?	**Y**	
19. Were evaluation findings, lessons and recommendations adequately discussed with the project team for ownership to be established?	**Y**	
20. Did the project team, Sub-Programme Coordinator and any identified project stakeholders provide comments on the draft evaluation report?	**Y**	
Quality assurance:		
21. Were the evaluation Terms of Reference, including the key evaluation questions, peer-	**Y**	

reviewed?		
22. Was the TOC in the inception report peer-reviewed?	**Y**	
23. Was the quality of the draft/cleared report checked by the Evaluation Manager and Peer Reviewer prior to dissemination to stakeholders for comments?	**Y**	
24. Did the Evaluation Office complete an assessment of the quality of both the draft and final reports?	**Y**	
Transparency:		
25. Was the draft evaluation report sent directly by the Evaluation Consultant to the Evaluation Office?	**Y**	
26. Did the Evaluation Manager disseminate (or authorize dissemination) of the cleared draft report to the project team, Sub-Programme Coordinator and other key internal personnel (including the Reference Group where appropriate) to solicit formal comments?	**Y**	
27. Did the Evaluation Manager disseminate (or authorize dissemination) appropriate drafts of the report to identified external stakeholders, including key partners and funders, to solicit formal comments?	**Y**	
28. Were all stakeholder comments to the draft evaluation report sent directly to the Evaluation Office	**Y**	
29. Did the Evaluation Consultant(s) respond adequately to all factual corrections and comments?	**Y**	
30. Did the Evaluation Office share substantive comments and Evaluation Consultant responses with those who commented, as appropriate?	**Y**	

Provide comments / explanations / mitigating circumstances below for any non-compliant process issues.

Process Criterion Number	**Evaluation Office Comments**
	Translation services were provided by two intern colleagues. This support was very much appreciated.