



# PRO-BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONISTS IN UGANDA (PROBICOUG)

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## BACK TO OFFICE REPORT (BTOR)

Name of Participant	<b>Mr. Twebaze Paul</b>
Destination and Date	<b>NAIROBI – KENYA, 16-21<sup>st</sup> September 2012</b>
Purpose of Travel / Learning event:	<b>THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (ICCM3)</b>
Specific objective:	To assess progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); review and consider emerging policy issues; decide on a health sector strategy; and to make plans to reach its 2020 goal.
Participation: who were the Participates?	Government representatives, Inter-governmental Institutions, Private Institutions such as Industry and manufacturing, as well as Non-governmental organizations. There were over approximately 300 government representatives from 117 countries. NGOs were represented at the meeting by a team of approximately 50 NGOs from 31 countries.

Note: Attach all presentations /slides/documents shared during the event

Key Issues / Topics discussed during the meeting /event: Main observations ( i.e. *take home messages*):

### **Some principal results of ICCM3/Observations**

- Consensus decision that endocrine disruptors are a global emerging policy issue and the need for measures that could contribute to reductions in exposures to or the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, in particular among vulnerable populations
- Highly hazardous pesticides emerged as an issue at the meeting when Kenya along with 20 countries, IPEN, PAN, ITUC and others proposed a resolution calling for their elimination, substitution, and addition to the FAO Code of Conduct. The effort will be part of the meeting report.
- A strengthened resolution on eliminating lead paint that includes promotion of national regulatory frameworks.
- Continuation of work on providing information on chemicals in products including activities that seek to raise consumer awareness
- Addition of electronics to the Global Plan of Action and continued work including prioritizing reduction of exposure by eliminating or substituting the hazardous substances of concern.
- Addition of nano to the Global Plan of Action and continued work including approaches to protect workers, the public and the environment from potential harm.
- Adopted a health sector strategy to increase the involvement of health professionals in chemical safety

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- Extended the Quick Start Programme to support activities to enable initial capacity-building and implementation, though no commitments were made for contributions at the meeting

ICCM3 also expressed concern about the need to adequately fund the secretariat and the withdrawal of support by WHO for a staff person in the secretariat. The meeting called for voluntary contributions to support this WHO representative and confirmed the plan for an Open Ended Working Group meeting in 2014.

## **Conclusions**

One of the key issues at ICCM3 was extending the Quick Start Programme (QSP) which was due to expire in 2013, and advancing a solution for long-term financing of SAICM. After a long negotiation, ICCM3 decided to extend the QSP to support activities, “...to enable initial capacity-building and implementation.” Contributions to the QSP can continue until ICCM4 when hopefully a long-term solution is actually in place.

The decision noted the need to have an integrated approach to financing and referenced the UNEP Executive Director’s draft proposal which includes mainstreaming, industry involvement and external financing. ICCM3 requested that SAICM be included in any integrated financing mechanism.