

**REPORT ON WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL GREEN
CUSTOMS INITIATIVE WORKSHOP FOR CUSTOMS
OFFICERS AND CHEMICAL REGULATORY AGENCIES.**

SUBMITTED TO OPIAMU

**PREPARED BY
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3. Representative from Federal Ministry of Environment, Stella Mojekwu
4. The team of Consultants :Johansen T. Voker, A.M. Hui Fu, Arnold Kreilhuber, Ezra Clark, and Dr Idris Goji.

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Introduction:

Green Customs, the Initiative

Environmental Crime is a significant and increasingly lucrative business. National and international crime syndicates worldwide earn an estimated US\$ 20-30 billion annually from hazardous waste dumping, smuggling prescribed hazardous materials, and exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources. Illegal international trade in “environmentally-sensitive” commodities such as ozone depleting substance (ODS), toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, endangered species and living health and the environment, contribute to species loss; result in revenue loss for government; and undermines the success of international environmental agreements by circumventing agreed rules and procedures.

The Green Customs Initiative is an unprecedented partnership of international organizations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities. Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). These include: ODS; toxic chemical products; hazardous waste; fauna and flora; and living modified organisms. This is achieved by raising awareness on all the relevant international agreements as well as provision of assistance and tools to the enforcement community. Green Customs is designed to complement and enhance existing customs training efforts under the respective agreements.

In view of the above, UNDP in collaboration with UNEP organized a 3-day training workshop on Green Customs Initiative at Planet One Entertainment Hotels, Lagos for Customs, Ozone Officers and professionals of Chemical Regulatory Agencies in the West African Sub-region: Nigeria, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Liberia, who will subsequently be involved in enforcement of MEAs.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop was conducted to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Methodology Used For the Workshop

The methodology used for the workshop was based on GCI workshop tools. It was highly participatory and interactive in nature, making use of discussions, question and answer, field visit, group discussion and group work presentation.

Detailed Day To Day Report

DAY 1

The Green Customs Initiative workshop which was essentially on capacity building on Environmental Security for customs officers and chemical regulatory agencies commenced at about 10:15am with an opening remark by Dr. D.B. Omotosho of the Ozone Programme Implementation and Management Unit (OPIAMU), UNDP, the local lead facilitator of the workshop. He welcomed participants and introduced the International facilitator from UNEP, Mr Patrick Salifu. Mr Salifu introduced the resource persons after which he made the participants to build relationship with others making them to by introduce themselves, their organizations, and their expectations for the workshop. He presented the workshop agenda to the participants, which was subsequently adopted.

The International facilitator also outlined the objectives of the workshop which was to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and MEAs. These include: ODS; toxic chemical products; hazardous wastes; fauna and flora; and living modified organisms.

The first presenter of the day was Mr Arnold Kreihumber from UNEP who discussed the Multi MEAs and the role of customs. He defined MEAs as agreements between several parties, which may be states or, in some cases, regional economic integration organizations such as the European Union, to pursue specific measures aimed at protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.

He emphasized the increasing level of compliance with the enforcement of MEAs which has been motivated by worldwide concern on the serious and at times irrevocable effects of human activities on the environment. He stressed the need to put in place various implementation measures that will result in compliance through adoption of national legislative and institutional frame work. He explained there had been some global shifts from development of MEAs to implementation and enumerated reasons for the lack of implementation such as limited awareness, limited capacity, limited resources and convention congestion at the national level.

He explained the need to focus on improving implementation support to countries for a coordinated and synergetic implementation of MEAs at the national level through development of implementing legislation, regulation policies and standards, establishing and strengthening of institutions, and provision of institutional coordination and capacity among others. He stated that the Green Customs Initiative is part of the coordinated approach.

He further stated that the roles of Customs officers include: to regulate legal trade and interdict illegal trade. He mentioned some key MEAs related to trade such as CITES, CBD, Montreal Protocol, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention and the expected tasks of MEAs and Custom officers to carry out these tasks with the support of international actors, like WCO, UNEP, Interpol and MEA secretariats, regional partners and national partners. He concluded that the enforcement chain will lead to weakening of criminal organizations, improve national compliance with and enforcement of MEAs, improved effectiveness related to implementation of MEAs through better coordination and protection of human health and environment.

The second lecture was given by Dr. Ezra Clark who gave an introduction to the Green Customs Initiative by enumerating the scale of environmental crime and various chemicals traded as highlighted earlier. The consequences, he said, include environmental pollution, loss of revenue and its serious implication in undermining MEAs.

He informed participants of the need for action by customs and border protection officers through defense against trans-boundary illegal trade, compliance and enforcement, facilitating legal trade, capacity building and training coordination. He also mentioned various MEAs listed above, including Convention on Biological Diversity, international organizations, chemical weapons and partner organizations.

He enumerated the benefit of Green Customs Initiative to Customs Officers, countries and MEA Secretariat and the global environment. He also mentioned many successful GCI workshops held in 2007 and 2008 in Africa and Asia respectively and the 10 national and regional workshops planned including two jointly held by WCO GCI in Delhi, India and Mombassa, Kenya and other events slated for 2009.

He listed the various achievements recorded through the Green Customs Initiative one of which is the integration of Green Customs into national training curricular and resource mobilization.

The third presenter was Hui-Fu who gave an introduction to World Customs Organization (WCO) and stressed that Customs play a critical role in implementing trade related MEAs at the border. He explained that because Customs officers are not experts on MEAs, they are faced with a number of challenges. He therefore identified information sharing as essential for any successful enforcement and such information should be exchanged in a simple and easy way.

He informed the participants that WCO recommendation on actions against environmental officers in June 2008 called for increased effort to cooperate and exchange information among players responsible for implementing the MEAs. He informed the participants of the introduction of ENVIRONET in early 2009, a communication tool for information exchange and cooperation in the areas of environmental border protection. He said users are connected via addresses with separate login and passwords. He described the system as cost effective, user friendly and free of charge. The objective of the ENVIRONET is to share best practice and provide downloadable training materials. Other objectives are to create a discussion forum for specific topics and facilitate cooperation between customs administration, competent agencies and international organizations.

He discussed the scope of information covered to include that which relates to customs environmental border protection; in particular those related to MEAs; information related to nuclear materials and illegal trade in timbers. Unregulated and uninterrupted fishing may also be included. He went further to identify the group of user and topics. He shed more light on the rules that guide the application which must be submitted to the WCO secretariat. Other issues are e-mail alert, Technical equipment, language privacy protection and liability.

The highlight of the Montreal Protocol was presented by Dr. D.B. Omotosho. He started by defining the ozone layer as a thin layer of three molecules of oxygen 45km above the earth and the life is sustained on earth by fighting dangerous UV rays from the sun.

He said that ODS destroys the ozone layer. These include CFCs used in refrigeration, foam making as Aerosols, Halogens used in fire fighting, methyl bromide used for preservation of grains and for soil fumigation.

He stated that the negative impact of ozone layer depletion to mankind include incidences of eye cataracts, skin cancer, decrease in plant production, suppression of human immune system among others.

He informed the participants of the Vienna Convention of 1985 which was non committal, however resulting to the international convention of 1987 known as the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, an agreement that is legally binding on parties as amended in London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing. He said Nigeria has been a party to the Montreal Protocol and co-sponsor of Article by setting up the MLF. As a demonstration of this commitment, lots of projects have been undertaken in the foam sector, solvent R & A (manufacturing and services) sector. He highlighted the role of customs as the first line of defense against illegal trade in ODS, in the Trainers Workshop of 2006 and the presentation of Gas identifier in 2007. While more training workshops were also put in place in 2007 and 2008. This culminated into the training of Customs agents and Freight forwarders in 2009 and today the UNDP and UNEP have put together the GCI workshop to train Customs officers and chemical regulatory agencies.

The fifth lecture was given by Johansen Voker. The presentation was on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: overview for Customs Officers presented facts and figures on various negotiation and adoption under the convention on Biological Diversity and subsequent ratification of the convention. He said Nigeria became a party on 13th October 2003. He commented that Biosafety protocol is the only International instrument that deals exclusively with living modified organism (LMOs). The protocol defined an LMO as a living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology and the objective is to ensure the safe transfer, handling, and use of LMOs resulting from modern Biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity taking into account the risk to human health.

He discussed the precautionary approach through objective, safety transfer, handling and use of LMOs. He expatiated on the category of LMOs under the protocol and their requirement.

He said that the role of customs officers in promoting implementation of the protocol is to ensure proper approval for LMO imports which should be accompanied with proper documentation, verification, detection of illegal LMO import and taking appropriate measures among others. Other general responsibilities are regular communication with the competent National Authority and detection and escalation to the relevant authorities of possible illegal import and international Trans boundary movement of LMOs.

He concluded by submitting that Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety recognizes the potential of biotechnology if developed and used with adequate safety measures. And the Protocol is intended to ensure safety of LMOs, not to prohibit trade and customs officer have an important role to play in its implementation.

The introduction to Rotterdam convention was presented by Dr. I.A. Goji. He said the objective is to promote shared responsibility for certain hazardous chemicals and cooperative effort among parties in the international trade in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and contribute to their environmentally sound use. This is carried out through warning, various decision regarding future import of chemicals and enforcement of decisions. He discussed the need for protection of health through trade provision by effectively ensuring that trade provisions relevant to the convention is respected. Customs officers directly contribute to the protection of human health and the environment.

He said there is a need for adequate information exchange between those responsible for the implementation of the convention at the national level. The duty of national customs officers is to implement the provision of Rotterdam Convention.

He submitted that the key action required by Customs officers include knowledge of existing materials, import decision and understanding of key parties in trade, relevant information under article 10 and 11 of the convention.

He said the convention does not apply to Narcotic drugs, radio materials and other chemical not likely to affect human health or the environment provided they are imported for the purpose of research or individual use. The Rotterdam convention applies to banned or severely restricted chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulation.

He said the Rotterdam convention contains two key provisions relevant to trade: the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure and Information Exchange. He therefore provided a list of chemicals which are subject to PIC procedure naming 40 chemicals, 25 pesticides, 4 severely hazardous pesticide formulations and 11 industrial chemicals that are currently included.

He said the convention facilitates the exchange of information among parties on a very broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals and reduction of illegal and unwanted trade. He mentioned partner to the convention as Basel convention Stockholm.

He concluded that the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention will continue to provide information at National and regional workshops on the implementation of Green Custom Initiative and are also cooperating with the secretariat of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to ensure synergy in Customs activities among the three conventions is achieved.

DAY 2

The opening ceremony of the workshop on the Green Customs Initiative commenced at about 10:10am with the Comptroller of the Nigerian Customs Service chairing the occasion. There were about eighty participants in attendance. The workshop which was co-sponsored by the UNDP and UNEP was aimed at increasing the capacity of customs officers and staff of chemical regulatory agencies.

The first speaker of the day was the representative from UNEP who expressed pleasure at being present at the development initiative which had started in other countries and is now in African and Nigeria. He said the training workshop will go a long way in strengthening the capacity of the customs officers and the chemical regulators.

The second address was made by the Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment represented by Ibrahim Danbatta. He acknowledged the role of the implementing agencies, UNDP and UNIDO with which they have been enjoying good collaboration in the execution of ODS phase out programme. With UNDP as the lead implementing agency and UNIDO as the cooperating agency for project preparation for HPMP, he counts on the same expert delivery as with previous projects. He thanked the various enterprises, relevant agencies like NAFDAC, SON and The Nigerian Customs Service and of course the press for their cooperation and collaboration towards ensuring a successful implementation of phase out projects in the entire sector.

In her speech, the representative from NESREA expressed her feelings on lack of proper legislation and enabling environment coupled with limited capacity of the enforcement officers. She however

said that to meet the Montreal protocol there was the need to build the capacity of the enforcement officers through training and information sharing. She therefore commended and supported the organizer of the workshop and wishes the participants a worthwhile experience.

The fourth address was given by the Comptroller General of the customs who declared the workshop open. In his opening address he gave a brief review of the good and rewarding collaborative efforts between the customs, the federal ministry of Environment and the OPIAMU in organizing ten training workshop for men of the service in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kano in which more than 500 officers were trained (TOT); which later turned to training of about 500 customs agents and freight forwarders in Lagos. He therefore submitted that the ozone programme of UNDP has assisted the service in steadily building a crop of chemically conscious officers, a progress being taken to a new pedestal with the current Green Customs Initiative Workshop, which we are sure will help the service in its repositioning efforts for greater professionalism aimed at facilitating trade not only with the African neighbors but also with other countries of the world. He therefore pledged to continue to cooperate with all stakeholders in assisting Government to meet its binding obligation not only under the Montreal protocol, but also under all the other MEAs that has signed. He therefore declared the workshop opened.

The last address was given by the representative of UNDP and head of OPIAMU. He provided a little background and reminded the participants of Nigeria's signatory status to the Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. He explained that Nigeria is expected to control the importation and use of the affected substances and finally stop such importation by January 1st 2010. To enable Nigeria achieve this, the executive committee of the Multilateral funds for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol at its 38th meeting approved a national CFC phase out plan for Nigeria. The plan includes, among others, training of customs officers and other chemicals regulators to help implement the required control as well as the provision of gas identification equipment to enable officers identify the affected chemicals under the Montreal Protocol for effective import monitoring and control. He mentioned that various trainings been conducted with the Nigerian customs service since 2006, appraising the collaborative efforts of UNDP, NCS and the Federal ministry of Environments being taken to a higher pedestal with the Green Customs Initiative workshop organized by UNDP through its project office, OPIAMU for customs officers from English speaking West African countries and other chemical regulatory Agencies in Nigeria. The purpose of the workshop is to raise the capacity of customs officers and staff of chemical regulatory agencies on several MEAs at the same time under one programme. This partnership of International organizations aims at enhancing officers' capacity to detect an act of illegal trade in environmentally sensitive items cover by the related agreement. The organization cooperating on the GCIs are The World Customs Organization (WCO), Interpol, The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Secretariats of Six MEAs (Montreal Protocol, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, CITES, and Cartegina Protocol) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He implored the leadership of the customs to incorporate the training into the custom curriculum even as he presented the identification kits on behalf of UNEP and UNDP to the Comptroller general of customs for effective monitoring and control. There were group photographs taken by the participants with the UNEP and UNDP officers before the departure of the special guest.

It was on this note that the first presenter of the day was called upon to make her presentation.

The introduction to the Stockholm convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was presented by Stella Mojekwu from Federal Ministry of Environment. She informed the participants of the objective of the convention to protect human health and environment from persistent organic

pollutants and this came into force in May 17, 2004 with about 106 countries as parties to the convention.

She described the POPs= Persistent Organic Pollutant as highly toxic, persistent, mobile and Bio-accumulating. She also mentioned 12 POP chemicals with 9 additional new chemicals. She said that the convention's controlling strategy is to prohibit/take measures to eliminate/restrict, the production and use of POPs chemicals, import and export of POPs chemical and the article talked on measure to ensure POPs chemicals are imported only for environmentally sound disposal or for a special permitted use. While the PCB, equipment is to be identified, labeled and removed from use by 2025 and should be disposed of / eliminated by 2028, the role of Customs is to control the import and export of i-POPs chemical Information Exchange and reporting. There were questions and answers and contributions by the participant.

There was a presentation on CITES convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna flora. He said the convention aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES has been in force since 1975, and currently has 173 parties. The trade in CITES-listed species is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instrument, timber, tourist curios, medicines and other wildlife products. The convention accords varying degrees of protection to more than 33,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live species or as raw or finished products.

The resource person enumerated the role of Customs officers, or border control officers, in the CITES process to conduct documentary and physical inspections, to check the validity of the document submitted, and to ensure that they correspond to the actual goods. They also combat fraud and check compliance with prohibition and restriction measures, collect duties and taxes, and, in many countries, conduct investigations at traders' premises or carry out checks on the transport of goods within the country. Customs officers also help to inform the public about conservation measures in place for fauna and flora. Some countries have Customs units that specialize in CITES matters.

In carry out this mission, he stressed that Customs officers are not alone. Experts may assist in the identification of specimens, and the CITES Secretariat and various CITES Management Authorities produce manuals on how to identify species. Customs laboratories or other scientific institutions may analyze certain products to determine whether they contain CITES specimens, and CITES Management Authorities help Customs administrations solve the problem of what to do with live animal or plants they seize. There were questions and answers, and contributions from the participants.

The third presentation for the day was on Basel convention. The presenter informed the participants that the convention was established to regulate the Trans boundary movement of hazardous waste and other waste. The obligations and procedure of the convention apply whenever hazardous waste and other waste covered by the convention cross from one national jurisdiction to another, whether or not the waste are being shipped as part of a commercial transaction or under a trading relationship.

He emphasized that because the convention regulates movement across international frontiers, its effective implementation by national Customs officer or frontier controls is essential to ensuring compliance with the convention. The Basel convention was adopted on 22nd March 1989, and it went into force on 5 May 1992*. There are 170 parties to the Basel convention. He stated that the objective of the customs was to reduce Trans boundary movement of hazardous waste and other waste to a minimum consistent with environmentally sound management, to treat and dispose of

hazardous wastes and other as close as possible to their source of generation in an environmentally sound manner, to minimize the generation of hazardous waste and other waste in terms of both quantity and potential hazard. To achieve these objectives, the Basel convention has established a regulatory system based on the following: The requirement of prior informed consent of a State of import and State of transit before a waste can be exported and, to this end, the establishment of a notification procedure and imposition of restriction on exports to a country that is not a party to the convention, as well as a duty to re-import when an expert has not complied with the provisions of the convention.

He therefore informed the participants that Parties are obliged to take the appropriate measures to ensure that the trans boundary movement of hazardous waste and other waste is allowed only if (1) the state of export does not have the technical capacity and the facilities, capacity or suitable disposal sites needed to dispose of the waste in question in an environmentally sound manner (2) the waste in question is required as raw material for recycling or recovery industries in the State of import. The convention permits the parties to adopt other applicable criteria from time to time. Such criteria are normally found in the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, which are binding on all Parties.

Basel convention provides for, and permits parties to place, prohibitions on exports and imports. Specifically, Parties have the right to prohibit the import of hazardous waste or other waste into their jurisdictions for disposal.

- Parties must not allow the export of hazardous waste or other waste to a State or group of State belonging to an economic or political integration organization that has, by legislation prohibited all imports. For example, such legislation may have been adopted by African countries in accordance with the Bamako Convention, which prohibits the import of hazardous waste into Africa.
- A Party must not allow exports to a State when it has reason to believe that the waste in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- A Party is prohibited from exporting wastes to, or importing wastes from, a non party. Such exports/imports are permitted if the Party has entered into a bilateral agreement or arrangement on the Trans boundary movement of hazardous waste or other wastes with the non-Party, or is a party to a multilateral or regional agreement that also involves the non-Party, as long as the agreement does not derogate from the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste as required by the Basel convention.
- Parties are prohibited from exporting waste falling within the scope of the convention for disposal within the area south of latitude 6° south, whether or not such waste are subject to Trans boundary movement (Article 4(6)). The Competent Authority, when considering whether to permit a trans-boundary movement, must verify that the request is consistent with any relevant restriction (for example, import bans on certain waste streams or special procedural requirements provided by national definitions).

He concluded that to foster effective enforcement of the Convention's obligations, the national competent authority should also ensure that customs officers are kept informed of any restriction or requirements that derive from the convention or from measures adopted by individual States, so that they can take these into account when verifying shipments at the border.

The fourth presentation of the day was given by Johansen Voker convention on the prohibition of the Development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction which entered into force in 1997. One hundred and eighty-four States are party to the convention

(see figure 2-12). The main objectives of the convention are to prohibit the development, production stockpiling and use of chemical weapons; to seek the destruction of existing stockpiles of the activities not prohibited under the Convention. The verification regime established by the convention consists of declarations by State Parties and inspection of relevant facilities by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Convention commits its State Parties to working together to promote peaceful uses of chemistry for the purpose of pursuing their economic and technological development. Countries that do not have chemical weapons and that do not feel threatened by chemical weapons join the convention largely because they not only support the ban on chemical weapons, but also want to develop their chemical industries and take part in science and technological exchange in the interest of chemistry for peaceful purpose.

The convention affects a specific segment of the global chemical industry. In accordance with its purposes, the term chemical industry comprises all chemical, pharmaceutical and agrochemical enterprises and other related sector that not only produce, process and consume, but also trade internationally those chemical identified in the convention for verification purposes. Thus not only those firms or plants grouped within the traditional chemical industry sector may be subject to the convention’s provisions, but also companies or facilities within other industries or commercial sectors.

He mentioned the role of customs to include collecting export and import data and Customs officers play a crucial role in helping National Authorities to comply with the convention requirements by: Providing details of declarable import/export data for compilation of CWC declarations, Enforcing restrictions on the transfers of scheduled chemical to State not party, Validating data from different sources, Enforcing national regulations, such as implementing legislation for the convention that may require issuance of import/export licenses for the transfer of scheduled chemical, Resolving discrepancies in data declared by other State Parties that are trading partners through the extensive international Customs networks.

There were contributions questions and answers and the workshop for the day came to a close at about 5:55pm.

DAY 3

The day’s activities commenced at about 9:30am with a recap of the previous day’s session. The participants were divided into four groups to produce an action plan with time frame of which to be accomplished and the responsibility. The participants were therefore grouped as follows;

GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Abdou Jeng, Yancy Cole Barbara Koomson	Aliu G.T J,Voker Babalola A.O

E. Embiemu Mondi Azanor Suleiman A.D Wada C.D R. Bilesanmi Ounyekwelu I.U Ukpanah I.W Ibrahim Shuaibu Dioka Ejionueme Hwesa Maoseh Emmanuel Akpos O. AKunals K.O. Ologe Stella Mojekwa Yunus M.O	George Arinze Ukonu Anyu Kasimu J.S. Mould Y.E S. Otenaike Adeyemo G.O Kolowole Funlee Mundu H.M Nkayuk Sampson Mosh Jamos A.M Aboyoni Jeckson S.O.Tunde Gabriel Sunday Abita Olanifu Nonye Aghaji
GROUP 3	GROUP 4
John Kamara Earl Nablet Ronke Soyomb Ibrahim B.D A.B. Mahommed Ochai N.A Obi D.C	Bakie Minah Emmanuel Osae Quansah Benjamin T. Joseph O. Attah Osuangwu E. Elumelu F. Umoh N.P

Ousioma F	J. Maxwell
Umaru A. B	Idris Goji
Oluwatayin O	Ogunmala Toba
Chinedu .U	Fred .O. Akingbesofe
S.K. Rufia	A.K. Bayero
Bennett O.	Yinka Ibitoye
Ekene Obidike	Orafu V.
Emeka Okoye	Ekon N.E
A.J Adegbuta	Gumel T.A
Imanyi Isaac	K. Ifekaya
Musa MBA	Abubakar M.G

Group Presentations

GROUP 1 PRESENTATION

SN	PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
1.0	Lack of report on trainings	Back to office report to the management of the organization	Immediately	All participants.	
2.0	Lack of awareness of MEAs on the part of the Custom Officers until this workshop	More capacity building and training. MEAs should be included into then Custom curricular particularly for the new intakes.	Ongoing	Federal Ministry of Environment to take the lead in collaboration with customs and all other stakeholders	
		Training of field officers at the borders. Individuals are encouraged to source more information from the website.			
		Ministry of Information and Communication and the National Orientation Agency should be part of the training and implementation the MEAs			Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Ministry of Justice

		Need for joint trainings custom among the ECOWAS group		Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with customs and other stakeholders.	
3.0	Lack of domestication of the MEAs	All MEAs should be properly domesticated to reflect national peculiarities.	Propose and follow up		
4.0	No limitation on the importation of waste and used electronics except e.g. used fridges, air conditioners	There is need for Policy on movement of goods for the ECOWAS group.	Ongoing		
		Other MEAs to source for funds for implementation along the lines of the Montreal Protocol		Federal Ministry of Environment	
		There should be synergy among the MEAs such that capacity building for each particular sector should be done holistically.		Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with customs and other stakeholders	
5.0	No national regulations covering all the MEAs	Countries are encouraged to come up with national regulations as soon as possible	As soon as possible		

6.0	Lack of political will.	Emotional presentation using pictorial evidence of the effects of the effects to the politicians.	As soon as possible		
7.0	Porous border	Apply the knowledge acquired from this workshop to our daily activity		Customs and all participants	
		Intensify border patrol.		Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with Customs and other stakeholders	
		Community policing			
		As soon as Countries ratify these MEAs steps should be taken towards their domestication, awareness raising, implementation and enforcement.		Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with other stakeholders	
8.0	Lack of follow up after ratification of MEAs	All agencies should see themselves as parties in progress in the implementation of the MEAs	Ongoing As soon as possible	Customs to liaise with the Federal Government	

9.0	No proper collaboration between the DNAs and Customs	Mobile custom laboratory for preliminary testing.	On going As soon as possible		
10.0	Lack of laboratory analytical capacity				

GROUP 2 PRESENTATIONS

NO	ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
1	Customs administration to prioritize the issue of enforcement of MEAs.	Immediate [2 months]	All participants	Top priority
1a	Capacity building of officers on environment and to safely handle hazardous chemicals	Immediate [2 month]	All participants of All countries	Top priority
1b	Awareness through the mass media especially on the legal provisions of the MEAs by UNDP	Immediate [continuous]	All stakeholders	Top priority
1c	Cooperation by all stakeholders through prompt action in the case of seizure and detention of environmentally sensitive commodities	Immediate [continuous]	All Stakeholders	
2	Provision of mini port laboratory and equipment for customs	6 Months	Federal Government	Top priority
3	Increase synergies, collaboration and understanding amongst the various service arms responsible for MEAs	Immediate	All Stakeholders	

4	The focal point should [DNA] should always engage the customs on their various meeting to agree on the way forward relative to enforcement of MEAs	Immediate	Ministry of Environment and the DNA's	
5	Forge further collaboration with regional customs as well as EPSs.	Immediate	Customs administrations and Ministries of Environment	
6	Emphasize the importance RILO training and applications and access to WCOs database	Ongoing	WCO, Customs administration	
7	Customs enforcement network on ODS to be expanded to include other MEA's more personnel, more funding.	Immediate	WCO, DNA's AND Customs administration	
8	ECOWAS to facilitate sub regional workshops and the enforcement of the MEAs	1 Year	ECOWAS, National Government, EPAs.	Top priority

GROUP 3 PRESENTATIONS

NO	ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
1	All countries should be encouraged to contact the Secretariat on procedures to become parties signatories to all MEAs of the Green Custom Initiative	Med-Long	Focal point of MEAs, Ministry of Environment, Justice, Foreign Affairs	
2	All countries are encouraged to ratify and Domesticcate the MEAs	Med-Long	Focal Points	
3	Countries should contact the Secretariats with their specific needs of support and capacity building	Short	MEA focal points/Custom	
4	Countries Environment Ministries should endeavor to establish an Environment Desk and request secretariat to fund establishment of Desk	Short	Ministries of Environment	
5	Establish Strong coordination mechanism if it does not already exist	Short	Ministries of Environment	
6	Ministry of environment to persuade cabinet to make budgetary provision to sustain the Environment Desk	Short	Ministries of Environment	
7	Develop sub-regional legislation, policies and harmonized strategies to implement the MEAs	Short-long		
8	Ensure the inclusion of Environmental Education and MEA implementation in the curriculum of custom training			

NO	ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
9	Custom officer to be provided with all the relevant information to implement MEA	Short	MEA/ Min. Of Environment	
10	Countries should establish joint Monitoring Teams at the port of Entry into Countries comprising of Customs and MEA officials	Short	Compliance Agencies	
11	MEAs should be part of the Tariff Technical Committee	Short	Compliance Agencies	
12	Customs to train enforcement and compliance agencies on new documentation and HS coding system to establish the Synergies to ensure the implementation of MEAs	Short	Customs	
13	Custom Officers should be trained in GHS and training Manuals provided to Customs	Short	MEAs/Min. Of Environment/Sec retariats	
14	Countries to facilitate an effective frame work together with the legislation and Judiciary for persecution of culprit	Short-med	Min. Of Environment, Justice, Parliament	
15	Establishment of Green Custom Desk in Customs	Short	Customs	
16	Establishment of a Green custom website for the green custom desk	Short	Customs	

GROUP 4 PRESENTATION

NO	ACTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
1	Active involvement of customs in domesticating the various Protocols and MEAs covered by GCI, to give legal backing to implementation.	12 months (taking into account MEA negotiation timeliness)	National focal point for relevant MEA in collaboration with stakeholders (which must include customs)	
2	Awareness creation to the relevant target groups at the national level on the objectives of the various MEAs	ongoing	All relevant stakeholders (in particular Customs with the Ministry of Environment)	Nigeria Customs Service has been active in the past in creating awareness on the sustainability of the environment at various fora
3	Capacity building of enforcement agencies, on GCI through training and retraining	Ongoing	Customs, WCO, Federal Government, International Agencies, NGOs	
4	Provision of relevant tools and equipment/facilities required for implementation of the various MEAs.	ASAP (Continuous)	MEA secretariats to provide customs with relevant tools and make these readily available.	Enforcement agencies have a role in actively seeking out existing enforcement information and tools.

5	Create a stakeholders committee to have an inter-agency relationship for coordination/collaboration on MEA implementation.	4 Months to initiate	Customs	
6	Activate the operation of the RILOs and other sub-regional intelligence initiatives, including Interpol, and actively promote use of CEN, and ENVIRONET	ASAP	Customs	RILO, Interpol, Use of CEN, ENVIRONET
7	Sub-regional customs exchange programmes	Form Jan 2010	Customs	For enhancing cooperation and knowledge and best practice sharing

After the presentation of group work, there were contribution, questions and answer and recommendation for future project.

Field Visit to Customs Facilities

As part of the GCI workshop, participants had some field experience by visiting The National Aviation Handling Company at the International airport. Deputy controller, J.O. Ajetunmobi the Acting Area controller supported by two other controllers in the area, welcomed the organizer of the workshop and the participants. He later took them to the customs processing centre and explained the responsibility of each processing unit as it affects the clearing of goods from the airport. There was also a comparison of these processing of goods from other sub-Regional African countries like: Ghana, Gambia and the Liberia. In Ghana for instance, where community network is being practiced shows an improvement on the clearing system with that of other countries. It was however, seen that the process of clearing is similar with other African countries. Also, the visit at the customs shed where goods are being stored before clearing is part of NAHCO work activities. The participants were welcomed and a numbers of Hazardous chemical were shown to them as its affect and their negative effects to the environment namely; photography materials, and other chemical gas with different level of hazardous influence to the environment. These chemical are being classified and labeled in a separated shed.

The participants therefore had physical assessment and experience of these hazardous chemical and their impact to the environment. The participant departed NAHCO office at about 12.15pm and Mr. Earl Neblet from Liberia gave the vote of thanks. He expressed satisfaction about the storage and processing procedure seen at the airport. He submitted that the processing and storage are the same even in his own country, while improvement is only required to further protect the safety of human health and the environment. He thanked the management of NAHCO for giving them permission to inspect the existing facilities.

Closing remarks

There were various submissions and expressions of gratitude from participants who described the GCI workshop as an exposure to the import of the Montreal protocol and other conventions, a lot of information was gained from the workshop outside the revenue generation activities of the customs. The participants therefore thanked the organizer of the workshop and UNEP for the training at this time and pleaded for continuation of such a workshop and sustainability of the programme by the governments of the participating countries, with or without UNEP. There was also a remark from the consultants who expressed that they were overwhelmed particularly for bringing together Customs Officers, Ozone Officers, Environmentalist etc as a dream fulfilled. He therefore expressed thanks to the organizer and the Nigerian government for the programme and hospitality accorded them.

The closing remarks were made by the representative of UNDP and head of OPIAMU who expressed his joy and exhortation that as the brothers from sub Africa region leave, they should reflect on the opportunities that the workshop presented and how to key into them so that they can take further action. He commended the UNEP on behalf of UNDP for showing commitment in ensuring that the capacity of customs and chemical regulatory agencies are built. He finally thanked all the teams of consultants present, the organizing committee and the participants for making the event possible.

The workshop came to a close at about 5.45pm.

General comments from the participants

Liberia

The workshop is an exposure to the import of Montreal protocol and appreciates the organizer of the programme, for the wonderful achievements.

Gambia

This kind of sub-regional workshop is a knowledge driven growth and a lot of knowledge have been tab which will help us at home.

Ghana

The representative from Ghana express appreciation and submitted that a lot of information gained from the workshop is more of outside revenue generation, he therefore, plead that the provision of CD,s and more documentary should be made to the participants.

NAFDAC

He described the experience as remarkable and he implored the organizer to organize more training workshop and thanks the UNDP and UNEP for a successful workshop.

Ministry of Environment

She commended that UNEP have been preaching synergy among the convention, he therefore advice the need to sustained the programme whether with or without UNEP.

Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)

It was a workshop that fulfilled my dream

Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)

Thanked the organizer of GCI workshop for good presentation and facilitation, they however want more training on Montreal Protocol