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ROTTERDAM



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SERNA
SECRETARÍA DE RECURSOS
NATURALES Y AMBIENTE



Resumen Ejecutivo
**“Perfil Nacional
para la Gestión de
Productos Químicos
en el marco del Convenio
de Rotterdam”**

**“Caso Estudio para el Fortalecimiento de
la capacidades Nacionales de Gestión de
Productos Químicos Industriales”**

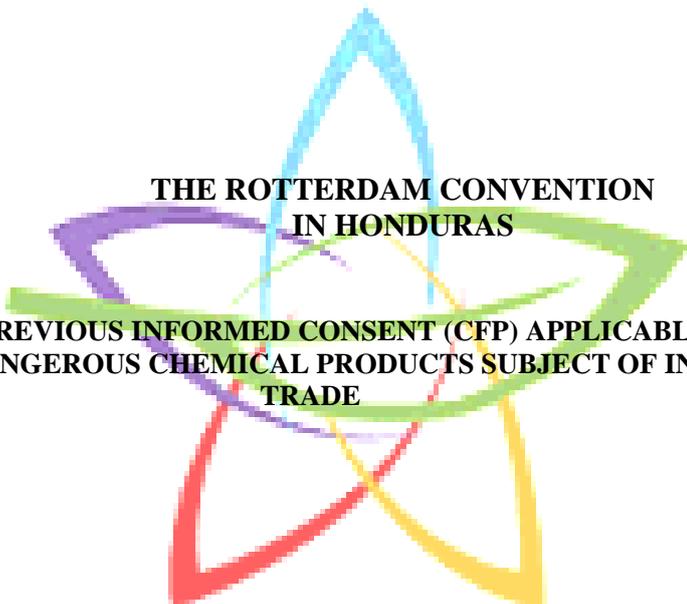
Convenio de Rotterdam en Honduras



**SECRETARIAT OF ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENT AND MINES (SERNA IN SPANISH)**

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND CONTROL OF CONTAMINANTS (CESCCO IN
SPANISH)**

SECRETARIAT OF THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



**THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION
IN HONDURAS**

**REGARDING THE PREVIOUS INFORMED CONSENT (CFP) APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN
PESTICIDES AND DANGEROUS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL
TRADE**

**“Case Study for Strengthening National Capacities for the Management of Industrial
Chemical Products under the Rotterdam Convention” Project**

Executive Summary
**“National Profile for the Management of Chemical Products in the
Framework of the Rotterdam Convention”**

**Tegucigalpa, MDC., Honduras, C.A.
10 April 2014**



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Executive Summary



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Introduction

1. Context and General Vision

Chemical products include artificial and natural substances and are increasingly utilized in the human, industrial and agricultural consumption sectors in every society. While chemical products have become indispensable for many economic activities, there is increasing evidence daily that they can contribute to environmental and health problems through several of the phases of their life cycle, from production/importing through disposal, as well as the result of their unintended presence. These problems include contamination generated during production processes, inadequate handling and accidents during storage and transport, accidents and illnesses in the work place, and environmental contamination due to inadequate storage methods and poor practices.

Today it is recognized that chemical products should be handled correctly in order to achieve a sustainable level of agricultural and industrial development and a high level of protection of human and environmental health. An important phase in the strengthening of national systems for handling chemical products is the preparation of a National Profile that includes: (i) a thorough evaluation of the national infrastructure and capacities related to legal, institutional, administrative and technical aspects of the handling of chemical products, as well as the nature and degree of disposal and use of chemical products in the country throughout their life cycle; (ii) an analysis of capacities, gaps and existing needs and (iii) a preliminary identification of priorities and an outline of proposed actions associated with these priorities.

The National Profile provides a nationally recognized information base that can be used to measure progress made in the fulfillment of specific national or international objectives in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (Dubai, 2006), as well as the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) for the sound management of chemical products no later than 2020 and the United Nations 2015 Millennium Development Objectives, which are related to environmental sustainability.

2. Background on the Framework for International Policy

Program 21 and Chemical Security

Since 1992, many international efforts to address the management of chemical products were a result of the "Rio Conference" – more formally known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (CNUMAD in Spanish). Chiefs of State from more than 150 United Nations member countries adopted *Program 21*, a comprehensive document that emphasizes the responsibilities of the States towards the goal of sustainable development. Chapter 19 of Program 21 is titled "Ecologically Sound Management of Toxic Chemical Products, including Prevention of the International Illicit Traffic of Toxic and Dangerous Products", and provides an international strategy to achieve sound management of chemical products during their entire life cycle, an objective agreed upon by all countries present at the Rio Conference.

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

The International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) was established in 1994 during the International Conference on Chemical Safety held in Stockholm, Sweden as a means for the countries to regularly discuss their activities and priorities for the sound management of chemical products, including progress made on the implementation of Chapter 19 of Program 21.



World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which was held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, adopted a plan for application and a political declaration (the Johannesburg Political Declaration on Sustainable Development) to continue achievements since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and implement activities to achieve sustainable development objectives, as established in Program 21. A series of new commitments were agreed on related to the management of chemical products and wastes.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The SAICM is an initiative adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) during its first meeting in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on February 6, 2006 to promote chemical security globally. It is formed by the Dubai Declaration – in which the high level political commitment to the SAICM is stated as well as an Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) that establishes the scope, needs, objectives, financial considerations, principles and criteria and the dispositions for its application and evaluation. The Declaration and the OPS, both approved by the ICCM, are accompanied by a Global Plan of Action (GPA) that serves as the tool and orientation document to support application of the SAICM and other relevant instruments and initiatives. Activities in the GPA – actually a total of 273 – should be implemented by the interested parties, according to their applicability and according to what is appropriate. The SAICM provides a regulatory framework to orient efforts aimed at fulfilling the objective of the Johannesburg Application Plan, no later than 2020, for the chemical products produced and utilized in a manner as to not cause adverse effects for human health and the environment.

United Nations Millennium Development Objectives (MDO)

The achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Objectives (MDO) – as related to achieving environmental sustainability – seeks the reduction of exposure to toxic chemical substances and the improvement of frameworks for the management of chemical products.

Policy Instruments

Since the end of the decade of the eighties, many international policy instruments have been adopted dealing with specific aspects in the management of chemical products.

3. Establishment/Strengthening National Programs for Sound Management of Chemical Products

The Republic of Honduras adopted the majority of international policy instruments for the Sound Management of Chemical Products and is gradually incorporating them in its national policies. In this context, in the framework of the facilitating phase for implementation of the Stockholm Convention (Project PNI-POCs 2006-2009, *GEF-PNUD/SERNA*), the “*National Profile for Management of Chemical Substances in Honduras, with an emphasis on POCs*” was prepared in 2007. In 2009 under the Project of “*Strengthening National Governance for Implementation of the SAICM (QSP TF-2008-2009 UNITAR-PNUD/SERNA)*” developed and published the “*National Profile for Management of Chemical Substances in Honduras*”, carried out with the objective of evaluating national capacities for implementation of the SAICM, by formulating the Plan for Implementation of the SAICM for Honduras (SIP), in consonance with the goal set in Johannesburg that by 2020 chemical products would be adequately managed in order to reduce health and environmental risks.

During the 2011-2013 period, the Project of “*Insertion of Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in the Country Plan (QSP-TF PNUD-PNUMA/SERNA)*”, was executed in synergy with the



Project of “*Strengthening National Capacities for the Management and Reduction of the Release of POCs in Honduras (POCs 2-GEF-PNUD/SERNA)*” 2011-2015, similarly, the “*Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in Honduras*” (Executive Decree PCM-029-2013) was updated and approved. In addition, the National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products (CNG) was formalized (Executive Decree PCM - 035 - 2013), as well as the SIP, which was expanded through 2022. All of these instruments were aligned with the Law for the Establishment of a Country Vision through 2038 and the Adoption of a Country Plan for Honduras through 2022.

It is important to emphasize that in 2011 the Government of Honduras adopted all legally binding instruments in the international chemical agenda, with the adherence to the Rotterdam Convention on the “*Procedure for Prior Informed Consent Applicable to Certain Pesticides and Dangerous Chemical Products Subject to International Trade*”. In 2013 in this context, CESCOCO/SERNA, as Official Point of Contact for the chemical agenda in International Conventions, developed the pilot project of “*Case Study for Strengthening National Capacities for Management of Industrial Chemical Products under the Rotterdam Convention*”, with the objective of formulating a national plan for the management of industrial use chemical products, for which it was necessary to *update the “National Profile for the Management of Chemical Products” and the development of a case study of a “Legal Framework for Management of Chemical Products in Honduras”*.

4. Objectives and Possible Benefits in the National Profile

To know and value advances made in the management of chemical products experienced in the country as of 2008 associated with implementation of the SIP and other national and international chemical agenda instruments.

Benefits:

- Improved efficiency in government, social, economic/commercial operations and more effective participation in international activities.

5. How the National Profile was Prepared

The National Profile for the Management of Chemical Products was prepared through a broad, inclusive, participative and transparent process with the main actors involved in the issue, going through several phases including its preparation, planning, execution and finalization, led by the Department of Management of Chemical Products at the Center for Studies and Control of Contaminants at the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (CESCCO/SERNA in Spanish).

The preparation phase began in February 2013 with the “*Initial Workshop for Awareness and Evaluation of the Needs for the Environmentally Sound Management of Industrial Chemical Products*”, coordinated by the Department of Management of Chemical Products at CESCOCO/SERNA, carried out from February 5 through 8, 2013, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, CA., followed by the planning phase in June 2013, during which a plan of action was prepared for the preparation of the profile. Subsequently, from July to December 2013, a series of activities were carried out for the preparation of the profile, emphasizing the preparation of the information gathering instruments and the facilitation of three workshops carried out on July 4, August 1, and December 10, 2013, respectively. Participants in the workshops included representatives from SERNA, the Secretariat of Health (SESAL), the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation, and Housing (SOPTRAVI), the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security (STSS), the Secretariat of Industry and Commerce (SIC), the Secretariat of Finance (SEFIN), the Executive Directorate of Revenue (DEI), the Fire Department, the Permanent Contingencies Commission (COPECO), the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN), the POCs 2 Project, the



National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and the Central American Technological University (UNITEC).

Other important activities includes direct interviews with those responsible in the entities involved in the management of chemical products who agreed to participate in the process and completing information gathering instruments. Finally, in January and February 2014, the profile was subject to a round of reviews which resulted in the acceptance and approval of the results by those involved.

Chapter 1: Framework of National Information

1.1 Geographic Context

- Location, size of the country (area in square km) and map:

The Republic of Honduras is located in the center of the Central American region. It has a territorial extension of 112,492 square kilometers. The capital city is Tegucigalpa (see figure 1.1).

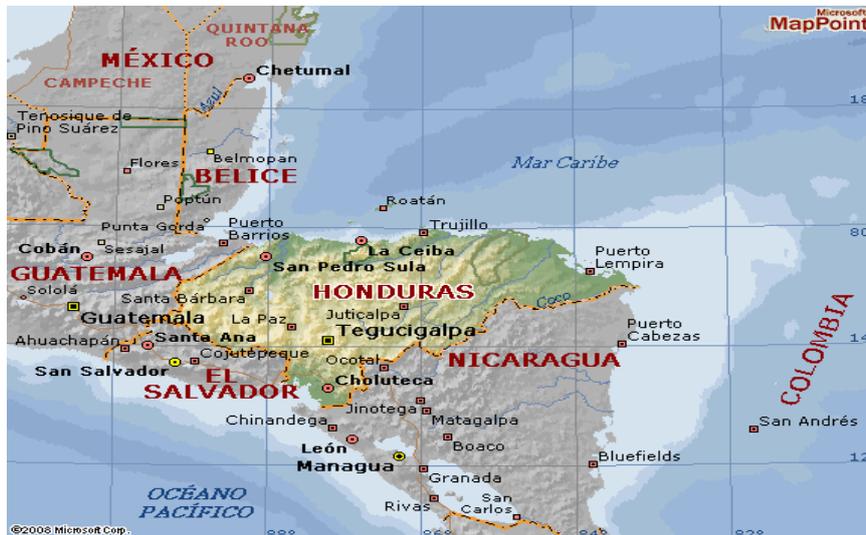


Figure 1.1. Location of the Republic of Honduras in the Central American region
Source: ENCARTA (http://www.voyagesphotosmanu.com/mapa_geografico_honduras.html)

- Weather:

In general, the climate in the country is between humid and dry, with no great variations in temperature. The rainfall regime is very variable throughout the country, oscillating between 900 y 3,300 mm throughout the different regions

- Terrain:

The topography in Honduras is very mountainous and broken with strong slopes and shallow, recent soils. Approximately 42 % of the country is covered by mountainous zones, 30 % by hills, 6.5 % by hilly zones and 21.5 % by plains.



- Elevations:

Honduras is a mountainous country with an average of 1,000 meters above sea level. Its territory includes the confluence of the foothills of the Sierras Madre in the North and the Andes in the South leaving the country a great quantity of mountain peaks and chains.

- Natural dangers:

Various studies position Honduras as one of the countries in the world with greater vulnerability to natural disasters such as floods, storms, landslides, floods and droughts.

1.2 Demographic Context

- Population:

During the 2008 – 2012 period, the estimated population in Honduras increased from 7,706,907 to 8,385,072 inhabitants. However, a slight tendency to decrease from 2.21% to 2.03% was detected in the yearly growth rate.

- Urban population (percentage and definition of 'urban'):

The urban population increased from 50.3 % in 2008 to 52.3 % in 2012. In 2008, the departments of Francisco Morazán and Cortés, which constitute the main economic development centers, concentrated 37.5% of the country's population.

- Rural population (percentage and definition of 'rural'):

In relation to the rural population a slight decrease was demonstrated during the 2008 – 2012 period, from 49.7 % to 47.8 %, respectively.

- Distribution by age:

The distribution by gender is heterogeneous with a slight predominance by the female gender, representing 50.7 % of the total population in relation to the male population of 49.3 % (see chart 1.1). The composition of the population by age continues to include a young structure with a predominance of those less than fifteen years old (38.37 %). The working age population group is in the highest percentage of 57.50 %, with this group being with the greatest levels of economic production.

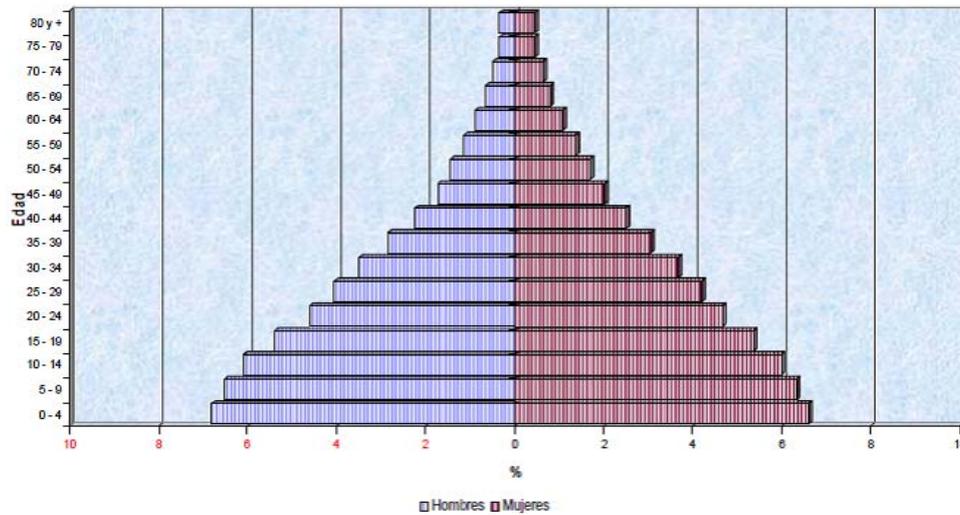


Chart 1.1. Pyramid of Population in, 2010. Percentage of the total population

Source: Flores, M (2007b). Pyramids of the Honduran Population 1950-2015

- Average Age:

The estimated average age of the country's population is 21.0. For the female population the average age is 21.4 and for the male population it is 20.6.

- Birth rate:

During the period of 2008 - 2012, the gross birth rate, or the number of births occurring yearly for every 1,000 inhabitants, demonstrated a slight reduction from 29 to 26.9 per one thousand inhabitants for the country.

- Life expectancy:

In 2010, life expectancy at birth was 73.6 (77.2 for women and 70.1 for men) and demonstrated an increase of 1.4 in relation to the period of 2001–2005.

- Important changes in population migration, including immigration and refugees:

The migratory panorama in Honduras demonstrates a small country with little internal mobility (in relation to the other countries in Latin America), although not negligible, is directed towards greater relative development. The population census in the other countries (2010 round) register 677,950 Hondurans living abroad, mainly in the United States of America.

- Language(s) (official and local):

The official language in Honduras is Spanish. However, seven indigenous groups live in the country as well as two afrodescendant ethnic groups who speak their own languages. The Miskito indigenous group speaks the misumalpa language, the tolupán group speaks tool, the chortí group speaks chortí (Mayan), the tawahka speaks tawahka and the pech group speaks pech/paya.



- Literacy rate:

The average number of years of school attendance is 6.5 years. The global percentage for literacy for population older than 15 was reduced from 17.5 % in 2006 to 14.6 % in 2012, but this continues to be high in particular for population in rural areas with 22.0 % in comparison to 7.8 % in the urban areas and affects both genders equally.

- School attendance expectancy (primary education through high school):

According to the 2013 Human Development Report, today's school age children have the possibility of achieving an average 11.4 years of education.

- Working age population:

In 2012, 79.8 % of the total population of the country was of working age (more than 10 years old). The economically active population increased to 3,364,688 persons, which is 40.5 % of the total population. In 2012, it was estimated that of the total working age population, around 3,243,877 persons were working (96.4 %). Of them, 38.2% were employed in agriculture, 21.9 % were working in trades and 13.4% in industry.

- Unemployment rate:

During the period of 2008 – 2012 the open unemployment rate varied from 3 to 3.6 % of the economically active population. In 2012, it was estimated that persons with problems finding employment increased to two million (59.44 % of the economically active population).

- Percentage of women working outside the home:

In Honduras, the rate of economic participation for women is 34.9 %, in comparison to 70.4 % for men.

1.3 Political Structure of the Country

- Form of government:

Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Honduras (Decree 131 – 1982), establishes that the form of government is republican, democratic and representative. It is exercised by three powers: legislative, executive and judicial, which are complementary and independent having no relationships of subordination.

- Number of administrative divisions (departments and municipalities):

The administrative territorial division in Honduras is formed by 18 departments, 298 municipalities 3,731 villages and 30,591 hamlets (see figure 1.2).



Figure 1.2. Municipal Division of Honduras
Source: SINIA/SERNA, 2004

- Description of regional government entities (municipalities):

In the Departments, the highest hierarchical civil authority is the governor who is appointed by the Secretary of State in the Offices of the Interior and Population. The municipalities are administratively autonomous entities that are hierarchically dependent of the corresponding departmental authority. The main authority in the municipality is the municipal corporation, elected every four years and is composed by a mayor with the faculties for general administration and the legal representation of the municipality, along with several aldermen.

In 2009, as mandated by article 5 of the Law for the Establishment of a Country Vision and the Adoption of a Country Plan for Honduras (Legislative Decree No. 286-2009), 16 geographic regions were created, defined in function of the main watersheds of the country for the purpose of planning and maximize the development of the country. In figure 3, the development regions are specified created by the Law: Region 1. the Sula Valley; Region 2. the Valley of Comayagua; Region 3. the West; Region 4. the Lean Valley; Region 5. the Aguán Valley; Region 6. Nombre de Dios Mountain Range; Region 7. Region of North Olancho; Region 8. the Valleys of Olancho; Region 9. Río Plátano Biosphere; Region 10. The Mosquitia; Region 11. El Paraíso; Region 12. The Central Region; Region 13. The Gulf of Fonseca. Region 14. The Lempa River; Region 15. The Meso American Reef and Region 16. Santa Bárbara (see figure 1.3).

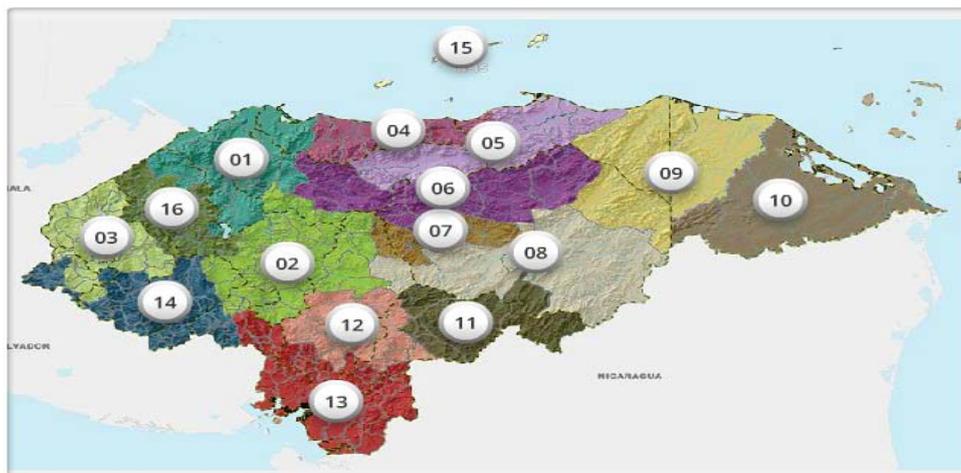


Figure 1.3. Development Regions created in Honduras 2010

Source: 2010-2022 Country Plan

- The division of responsibilities among national, regional and local governments in the areas of health and environmental control as well as land use for economic development:

- **Environment Sector**

The environment sector is formed by different executive power organisms: Secretariats of State, deconcentrated and decentralized entities (autonomous institutions and municipalities or municipal corporations), with competencies in the issue of the environment, led by SERNA, who is responsible for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the environment as well as research services and control of every form of contamination.

- **Health Sector**

The health sector is formed by all organizations, institutions and resources oriented to carrying out actions with the main purpose of improving the health of the population. It includes government organizations, professional groups, financing agents, private, community and local organizations and service providers. The health system is a mixed system, formed basically by the public sector, including the Secretariat of Health, the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS in Spanish) and the for profit or nonprofit private sector. The Secretariat of Health is the steward entity of the sector.

- **Land use for economic development**

In 2009, classification of land use denotes a forestry vocation for the land in the country as well as the predominance of livestock farming. Forest cover occupies 59 % of the total land surface of the national territory, while 41 % of the remaining land was classified for other uses with agriculture at 24.7 %.

- **Location of different ethnic groups**

The State of Honduras is multi-ethnic and multicultural and recognizes the existence of nine indigenous and Afro-Honduran people: lencas, miskitu, tolupan, pech, maya-chortí, tawahka, nahuas, garífunas and islander Afro-descendants who speak English.



1.4 Industrial, Agricultural Sector and other Key Economic Sectors

In 2012, the main contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was from the services sector with 67.99%, followed by the industrial manufacturing sector with 18.64% and the agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors with 13.13%. The mining and extraction sector provided 0.24% to the GDP. Activities in the agricultural sector associated with the utilization of agrochemicals and fertilizers contribute with 11.47% to the GDP and activities in the manufacturing industries sector related to the production of petroleum derived substances and chemical products, rubber and plastic products contribute with 1.01% to the GDP.

Of all economic sectors, in 2012 the agricultural and fisheries sector occupied the largest part of the economically active population (38.21 %), followed by the commercial sector with 21.87%, while manufacturing and industries sector occupied 13.37% and mining and extraction only 0.35 % of the total.

1.5. Priorities emissions by main economic sectors

By 2013, the country continued without the official unified information available of the priority emissions generated by the main economic sectors. Nevertheless, for the national profile for the management of chemical substances in Honduras in 2009, a qualitative exercise was carried out to identify the main emissions of contaminants by type of chemical generated by different economic sectors and related activities. As such, in 2012 as a part of national efforts to identify sources, sectors and geographic areas with greater emissions of contaminants, CESCO/SERNA prepared a national executive proposal for the implementation of the Record of Emission and Transfer of Contaminants in Honduras (RETC), with the objective of assisting in decision making and the formulation of policies on the issue of prevention and environmental control. A total of 111 chemicals were defined which form an extensive list of chemical substances and different parameters, with multiple origins and different natures.

1.6 Evaluation

The Republic of Honduras has a strategic geographic location in the Central American region that in addition to providing comparative advantages from the economic perspective also makes it susceptible to climate threats. In this scenario of vulnerability, there is also the possibility of increased exposure of the population to dangers caused by chemical products utilized in different economic sectors and related activities such as the agricultural sector. Land use in the country is traditionally of forestry vocation, progressing towards agriculture, in an economy dominated by the services and manufacturing industry sector, but whose main source of employment is generated by the agricultural sector. Therefore, a sustained increase in imports and use of agro-chemical products is expected as well as for industrial use.

The model for territorial occupation is based on the “T for development” that favors the concentration of services, connectivity (telephone, highway and airports) and population, which could also be influencing problems related to chemical products because it promotes the concentration of economic activity and with it pressures on land use and the natural resources, along with greater utilization of industrial and agricultural chemical products that as a function of their management could result on impacts on the environmental components and affect the health of the population.

For effective management of chemical products in the country, it is necessary to consider that the country’s population is predominantly young and vulnerable to the effects on health caused by exposure to chemical agents and has an average education of 6.5 years with a global percentage of illiteracy of 14.6 %, greater in the rural area population with 22.0 % in comparison to 7.8 % in urban areas. In addition to the Spanish language there are also seven indigenous groups and two afro-descendants ethnic groups with their own native languages.



Chapter 2: Production, Imports, Exports, Storage, Transportation, Use and Final Disposition of Chemical Products

This chapter provides a summary of basic information on the situation of the management of chemical products, through imports and exports, as well as in relation to storage, transport, use, export and final disposition of chemical products and the management of chemical residue in the country.

2.1 Background

The country is recognized as an importer of chemical products destined for different uses such as agricultural, industrial, domestic and for public health, all of which are subject to different regulations and demands by different Secretariats of State, in accordance to their use, physical and chemical properties and toxic effects.

2.2 Production, Importing and Exporting Chemical Products

• Production

The country does not produce primary synthesis chemical substances or products. These are imported and utilized in the preparation of formulations or secondary synthesis products for their direct commercialization if they enter the country in transit to other countries in the area. Nevertheless, the country exports raw materials and minerals derived from extraction processes.

• Imports

The entry of merchandise in the country is authorized and controlled by the Adjunct Directorate of Customs Income of the DEI, a deconcentrated entity which is part of the Secretariat of Finance. Beginning in 2010, the DEI has available the “CAUCA IV-RECAUCA IV” Manual of Administrative Procedures, which explains the general process for declaring merchandise. The Central American Import Tariff for the Central American Tariff System – SAC - (5th Amendment), that appears as Annex A of the Convention on the Central American Tariff and Customs Regime, subscribed by Honduras in 1992, through the SIC, is the instrument that contains the nomenclature for the official classification of merchandise susceptible for importing in the territory of the State Parties. The Adjunct Directorate of Customs Revenue of the DEI verifies that all merchandise that enters the national customs territory meets the tariff classification. In relation to chemical industry products or related industries, these are grouped in codes 28 to 38 in Section VI of the SAC (see chart 2.1).

Chart 2.1. Section VI. Products of Chemical Industrial of Related Industries of the SAC

Code	Description
28	Inorganic chemical products; precious metal inorganic or organic compounds; of radioactive elements, of rare earth metals.
29	Organic chemical products
30	Pharmaceutical products
31	Fertilizers.
32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; pigments and other colors; paints and varnishes; mastics; inks.
33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery preparations; toilet or cosmetic.
34	"Soap; organic surface active agents; preparations for washing; lubricant preparations; prepared waxes, cleaning products, candles and similar articles, modeling pastes, "dentistry waxes" and preparations for dentistry" and preparations for use in dentistry with plaster base.
35	Albuminoidal substances; starch or cornstarch based modified products; glues; enzymes.
36	Gun powder and explosives; Fireworks articles; matches; pyrophoric alloys; combustible materials.
37	Photography or cinematography products
38	Diverse chemical industry products.

Source: Central American Tariff System (SAC in Spanish)



In addition to the DEI, other government institutions participate in the process of regulating the imports of some products and materials, which include:

1. SAG: fertilizers, agricultural pesticides and veterinary products.
2. SESAL: asbestos, domestic use pesticides and controlled substances
3. SERNA: substances that deplete the ozone layer.
4. SIC: products derived from petroleum.
5. Secretariat of National Defense: control and supervision of the sale, stockpiling and use of explosives.
6. Secretariat of Foreign Relations: chemical weapons.

By 2013, it was evident that there wasn't a specific procedure for the entry of industrial chemical products in the country. Nevertheless, these are subject to the general procedure for the declaration of merchandise, as defined in the "CAUCA IV-RECAUCA IV" Manual of Administrative Procedures.

As of June 2009, the DEI has been utilizing the Automated System of Customs Revenue in Honduras (SARAH in Spanish), in all customs offices in the country. On the other hand, the National Service of Agricultural Health (SENASA in Spanish) of the Secretariat of Livestock keeps a record of pesticide and fertilizer imports. As such, the Administrating Commission of Petroleum of the SIC (CAP/SIC in Spanish), has information on the importing and commercialization of petroleum derived fuels. In the case of the Secretariat of Health, through the Unit for the Regulation of Health Products of the Department for the Management and Health Control of Goods in the General Directorate of Health Regulation, supervises and controls drugs and maintains records of import permits for controlled substances.

Chart 2.2 presents a summary of imported chemical products in the country during the 2008-2012 period, corresponding to the category of agricultural use pesticides (fungicides, herbicides and insecticides), fertilizers and petroleum products. The imported quantities demonstrate significant variations during the period, by interspersing increases and reductions.

Chart 2.2. Imports of Chemical Products by Category
Honduras 2008 - 2012

Categories of Chemical Products	Quantity Imported									
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)
Fungicides	-	-	791.34	1 109 599.60	1 758.10	1 738 598.56	1 081.14	2 486 488.27	855.21	18 132 581.60
Herbicides	-	-	280.68	6 267 549.38	291.56	7 782 027.13	23 296.18	9 154 104.46	2 712.69	19 436 023.95
Insecticides	-	-	1 618.61	882 706.24	3 376.75	8 551 457.35	4 298.79	2 567 084.17	2 862.77	2 477 493.46
Total Agricultural Pesticides ¹	2 029.26	13 165 969.13	2 690.64	8 259 855.22	5 426.41	18 072 083.04	28 676.120	14 207 676.90	6 430.68	40 046 099.00
Fertilizers ¹	342 185.29	915 862.51	354 340.67	1 098 766.65	330 029.92	732 958.38	500.95	823 132.72	4 239.62	8 973 116.10
Petroleum Products ² : fuels (millions of barrels) ³		18.7		15.9		16.8		17.5		18.0

Notes: ¹ Information provided by Emérita Ávila from SENASA/SAG, 2013

² Central Bank of Honduras, July, 2013.

http://www.bch.hn/esteco/sector_externo/cuenta_corriente/importaciones/anual/importacionescif_combustiblesa.xls

³ Barrel of crude /United States petroleum: 42 United States gallons; 158.987294928 liters

T=tons



Industrial chemical products

The Central Bank of Honduras yearly reports the total volume of imports related to chemical industry products or related industries (Chapters 28 to 38 of Section VI of the SAC) in the Statistics System for Commerce in Central America (SEC). According to the SEC, the volume of imports of chemical products from 2008 – 2012, experienced variations; however, the general tendency was an increase of 42%. The chemical products of greater importance for the country are contained in chapters 28, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of Section VI of the SAC, corresponding to inorganic chemical products, fertilizers, extracts, tanning and dyeing extracts, essential oils and soaps/cleaning products, respectively.

▪ Exports

FOB exports of the country's goods indicate that the main export products are agricultural and livestock such as coffee, bananas, shrimp and lobster, among others. To a lesser degree, the country exports manufactured products such as palm oil, cigars and cigarettes, soaps and detergents and tobacco. It is necessary to emphasize that as opposed to the numbers for FOB exports of goods, in the SEC the country reports exports of chemical products according to the classification in chapters 28 to 38 of Section VI of the SAC, classifying the country in theory as a producer of these products, although in practice imported products are transformed in formulated products or products such as fertilizers, detergents, soaps and some hygiene products, among others. According to the SEC, the chemical products that are exported most are included in chapters 28, 29, 31 and 34 of Section VI of the SAC, corresponding to inorganic, organic products, fertilizers, and soaps/cleaning products.

Chart 2.3 is a summary of exports of agricultural pesticides in the country reported by SENASA/SAG for the 2009 – 2013 period. A total of 4,403.77 tons of pesticides and 51,668.70 liters respectively were exported. Exports increased from 8.9 tons in 2009 to 2,192.59 tons in 2012. These pesticides correspond to products that have been reformulated in the country and then exported.

Chart 2.3. Exports of Agricultural Pesticides, Honduras 2009 - 2013

Categories of Chemical Products	Amount Exported									
	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)	Solid (T)	Liquid (Liters)
Agricultural Pesticides ¹	8.90	0	1 005.98	0	1 038.34	0	2 192.59	2 000.00	157.93	46 688.00

Notes: ¹ Information provided by Emérita Avila from SENASA/SAG, 2013
T=tons

Chart 2.4 is a comparison of the quantities of imported and exported chemical products by year. The data demonstrates that the country is an eminent importer of chemical products, with exception of data reported in 2011 - 2012 which reflect the contrary, possibly due to the effect of triangulation.

Chart 2.4. Quantities of Chemical Products Imported and Exported by Honduras between 2008 and 2012 according to Section VI of the SAC

Year	Quantity (tons)	
	Imported	Exported
2008	636 215.36	154 475.86
2009	601 289.82	107 295.44
2010	587 046.82	332 652.34
2011	790 258.66	901 661.13
2012	905 100.61	1 551 306.55

Source: Statistics System for Commerce in Central America (SEC), SEC, 2013.
<http://estadisticas.sieca.int>



In 2013 the National Port Authority (ENP in Spanish), reported imports and exports of a total of 6,072 containers with dangerous merchandise at Puerto Cortés. Of these, 5,673 tons correspond to imports and 399 to exports. Chart 2.1 demonstrates the amounts of containers imported and exported monthly at Puerto Cortés.

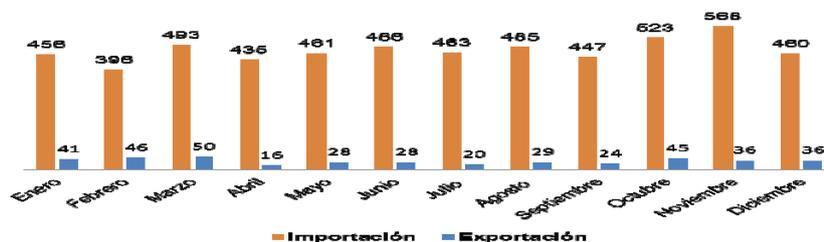


Chart 2.1 Imports and Exports of Containers with Dangerous Merchandise, ENP 2013
Source: ENP, 2013

2.3 Use of Chemical Products by Category

In general, the country does not have a unified system of systematic controls or traceability for the use of chemical products, which makes it difficult to estimate and know the quantities of tons utilized yearly by the different sectors and by product class. By 2013, some institutions such as the SESAL, SAG and CAP/SIC were keeping records on the use of chemical products in their areas of competency for regulatory purposes.

2.4 Storage of Chemical Products and Related Aspects

Imported chemical products that enter the country through different air, maritime and land customs offices are temporarily deposited in public bonded DEI tax warehouses. In addition, there are private bonded warehouses authorized by the DEI. In 2013, the country did not have a national inventory of storage facilities for chemical products.

2.5 Transportation of Chemical Products and Related Aspects

- **Inland transportation**

- **Infrastructure**

Sector infrastructure is provided and maintained by the government through SOPTRAVI and consists of an official highway network of 14,296 kilometers, of which 3,220 kilometers (23 %) are paved and 11,076 kilometers are unpaved (77 %), formed by dirt and gravel roads. Seventy seven percent of the paved roads are concentrated in the development T (see figure 2.1).

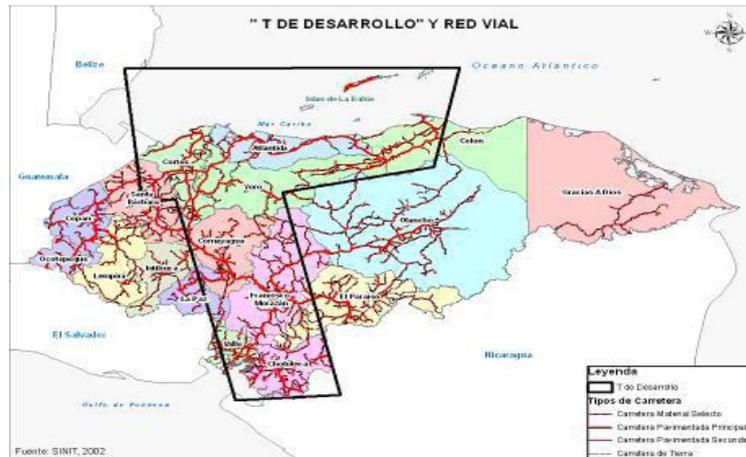


Figure 2.1 Development T of Honduras and Highway Network
Source: World Bank, 2007a

- **Transportation vehicles**

As of July 2013, the number of different kinds of vehicles in Honduras increased to 1,275,711. Of this amount, some 111,329 vehicles have “rental” license plates (passenger cars, mainly taxicabs, buses and minibuses, trucks, cabs for moving containers, dump trucks and others), which qualifies these as vehicles utilized to provide cargo services and for moving persons, nationally or internationally.

Transportation by highway in Honduras is mostly for moving persons and cargo at national level in comparison with other modes of transportation such as railroad, airplanes and boats.

- **Transportation operations or activities**

In the specific scope of the transportation of chemical products, the operation is provided by the private sector under the direction and regulations of the SOPTRAVI General Directorate of Transportation (DGT in Spanish), which keeps records of the transportation units.

▪ **Maritime transport**

- National cargo maritime transport market

The maritime market in Honduras actually represents a fundamental factor for the country’s foreign trade, and also for the rest of the countries in the Central American isthmus, mainly El Salvador and Nicaragua.

- Port infrastructure

The Honduran port system includes 11 commercial ports: Puerto Cortés, Roatán, La Ceiba, Puerto Lempira, Guanaja, Tela, Útila, Castilla, Amapala, Omoa and San Lorenzo. The larger ports are managed by the National Port Authority (ENP in Spanish) and at the rest which is managed by concessionaires, there is a presence of the Port Authority. The main port of the country and one of the most important in the region is Puerto Cortés with the greatest traffic between the country’s ports and one of the most important at Central American level, along the Atlantic coast of Honduras.



- Port authority

Since its creation through Decree No. 40 dated October 14, 1965, the ENP is the decentralized entity of the Government of Honduras responsible for operating the previously described maritime ports. The ENP coordinates actions with the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine (DGMM in Spanish) attached to SOPTRAVI, which is responsible for formulating policies and executing actions associated to maritime transportation.

- **Air transportation**

The airport system in Honduras is formed by four main international airports which are administered and operated by Interairports S.A. – Airports of Honduras – through a concession awarded by the government in 2000. These airports are located in the cities of Tegucigalpa (Capital city), San Pedro Sula (industrial city), La Ceiba and Roatán.

- International regulations

The Republic of Honduras is subject to Conventions, International Agreements and entities that regulate the sector.

- National regulation

The Law of Civil Aeronautics and regulations, was created through Decree No. 55-2005 for the purpose of promoting national development by supporting and promoting activities associated with the subsector of civil aeronautics, creating the necessary conditions and executing administrative actions, operations for regulating and promoting in order to operate internal and international air transportation services in an orderly, safe, efficient and trustworthy manner.

- National regulating entities

The General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC/SOPTRAVI), is the specialized organism in the aviation sector, created to dictate standards and exercise supervision and surveillance of all activities related to civil aviation developed in the Republic of Honduras, framing its actions in the limitations established by the laws of the country and the Treaties and International Conventions subscribed by the government.

2.6 Management of Chemical Residues

- Groups of chemical residues (classes)

As indicated in section 2.2, the country does not produce chemical substances or products. Nevertheless it is an importer, marketer and user of different types of products destined for agricultural, industrial, domestic and public health activities, which are converted into different groups (classes) of chemical residues after being utilized, that in function of their physical-chemical, toxicological or eco-toxicological properties require entering into differentiated specialized management systems for controlling, temporary storage, recollection, treatment and final disposal.

- Generation of chemical residues

Currently, the different kinds of chemical products that enter the country either are formulated based on secondary synthesis products, do not follow a traceability system that facilitates tracking and follow up in the subsequent phases of the life cycle from temporary storage, transport, uses, chemical residues,



recycling, treatment and final disposal. Among other things, this makes it difficult to estimate quantities and groups of chemical residues generated in the country.

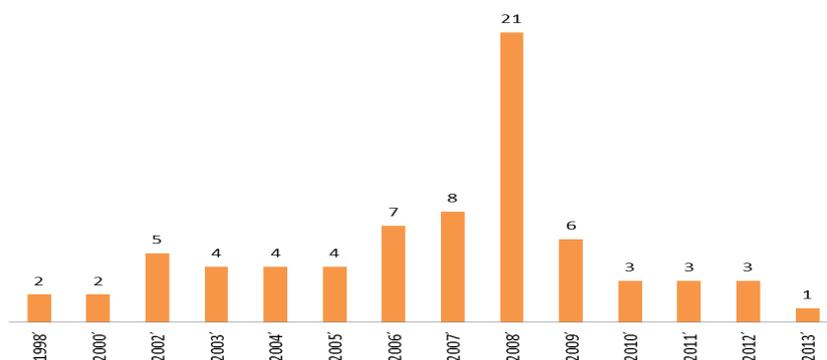
- Importing chemical residues

As related to imports of chemical residues, it is assumed that this activity does not exist because article 8 of the General Law of the Environment prohibits the introduction of radioactive toxic waste, domiciliary waste, sewage sludge or mud and others that are considered harmful or contaminants.

- Exporting chemical residues

In 2013, CESCO/SERNA published the “*Diagnostic of trans-boundary movements of dangerous waste in Honduras in the framework of the Basil Convention*”. The main results demonstrate that during the 1998 – 2013 period 73 shipments of dangerous waste moved through the country, for an average of 5.2 shipments each year and a total of 48, 916 tons including transformers and equipment contaminated with PCBs, COP pesticides, acid-lead batteries and other wastes (see chart 3). The requests were from 11 countries in North, Central and South America.

As such, during the 2008-2013 period, the country exported a total of 28,930.00 tons of dangerous waste composed mainly of COP pesticides and transformers contaminated with PCBs, as well as acid-lead batteries from automobiles and thermal energy generators sent for recycling or disposal.



Source: CESCO/SERNA, 2013a.

- **Obsolete Chemical Reserves, Chemical Waste land-fills and Contaminated Sites**

During the 2006 – 2009 period and as part of the activities of the Project of “*Assisting the Government of Honduras to meet its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POCs*” conducive to the formulation of the National Implementation Plan, CESCO/SERNA developed national inventories where obsolete chemical reserves, waste land-fills and sites contaminated with POCs were identified:

- First national inventory of POC pesticides and other pesticides prohibited in Honduras.
- First national inventory of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

In 2013, as part of Project (00075733): “*Strengthening National Capacities for the Management and Reduction of Releases of POCs in Honduras*” “*Project POCs 2*”, CESCO/SERNA carried out several complementary activities associated with management of PCBs, such as: the second national PCB inventory, the elimination of PCB stocks at national level, the design of a collection center for the environmentally sound management of electrical equipment and residues with PCBs and the evaluation of sites potentially contaminated with PCBs and the preparation of a remediation plan, as well as the manual



for better environmental practices for sound environmental management for electrical transformers with PCBs. As such, CESCCO/SERNA prepared a preliminary draft for a Ministerial Agreement for “*Sound Environmental Management for equipment and waste that contain or are contaminated with PCBs*”.

- Lead

In addition, lead contaminated sites were identified and evaluated in a timely manner where battery manufacturers were operating.

- **Technical Facilities for the Recovery and Recycling of Chemical Products**

By 2013, the country still did not have official information available regarding technical facilities for the recovery and recycling of chemical products.

- **Capacity of final disposal of chemical waste**

By 2013, the country did not have official information available regarding facilities for final disposal of chemical waste.

2.7 Involuntarily Generated Chemical Substances

In the first national inventory of sources and estimates of releases of dioxins and furans in Honduras published in 2009, with a base year of 2005, it was estimated that releases reached 442.31 g EQT/year. By 2013, as part of Project POCs 2, CESCCO/SERNA had developed several pilot projects for the integrated management of solid residues in nine municipalities in the area of intervention of the Project, for the purpose of reducing dioxin and furan emissions.

2.8 Evaluation

The Republic of Honduras is not a chemical product or substance producing country, but is an importer of diverse types of products that enter in variable volumes through the different customs offices in the country, all subject to specific regulations in function of their composition, physical and chemical properties and usefulness, by different institutions of the central government, having instruments, administrative procedures and independent records, according to their competencies and delegated functions.



Chapter 3: Legal Instruments and non-Regulatory Mechanisms for the Sound Management of Chemical Products

This chapter provides a summary of the legal instruments and non-regulatory mechanisms for the management of chemical products, including their application and fulfillment, and to identify strengths, weaknesses and pertinent gaps.

3.1 General Vision of National Legal Instruments that Approach the Management of Chemical Products

The legal panorama of dangerous chemical products in the country includes a series of dispersed and sometimes contradictory regulations that provide a broad framework of regulations but create confusion and contradiction among the standards themselves.

In Honduras the legal regulations determine social, economic, political and legal behavior in the country. Beginning with the Constitution of the republic, created through legislative decree 131 and in force as of January 20, 1982 and is the supreme standard and point of departure for all legal regulations in Honduras. It constitutes the legal instrument from which are derived all statements on the management and conservation of the environment, including in Article 145, the right to the protection of health and the duty of all Hondurans to participate in the promotion and preservation of personal health and of the community. As such, it institutes that it is the duty of the State to conserve an adequate environment in order to protect the health of persons.

Although there is no specific mandate regarding the management of chemical products, it is established in Article 59 that: “The human person is the supreme goal of society and the State and all have the obligation of respecting it. The dignity of the human being is sacrosanct.” These two mandates provide sustenance and the guide for the design and implementation of policies and strategies aimed at regulating production, commercialization, use, transport and final disposal of chemical products with the primary goal of protecting human life and the environment.

In this context, the international treaties which due to their binding legal character have been converted into national laws, present the opportunity to carry out adjustments on this issue, that permit meeting their dispositions and those established in other international instruments closely related to chemical products. To date 21 Treaties or International Conventions have been identified as being directly or indirectly related to the management of chemical products. The most outstanding are shown below in order of their ratification or publication in the Official Journal of La Gaceta (see Table 3.1):

Table 3.1 International Treaties ratified by Honduras, applicable to the Management of Chemical Products

Treaty of Convention	Decree	
	Number	Date
1. Prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological, biological and toxic weapons and on their destruction	581	12/19/78
2. Convention on the dumping of waste in the ocean	844	20/06/80
3. International Convention for the Safety of Human Life at Sea, 1974 and 1978 Protocol (SOLAS 74/78)	--	--
4. Constituent Convention for the Protection of the Environment	14-90	04/03/90
5. Constitution of the Inter-Regional Organism for Agricultural Health, OIRSA	24-93	03/02/93
6. Regional Agreement on Trans-boundary Traffic of Hazardous Materials	40-93	03/16/93



and Annexes		
7. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) and annexes	73-93	05/04/93
8. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	26-95	02/14/95
9. Basil Convention on Control of Trans-Boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal	31-95	02/21/95
10. Approval of the Regional Convention on Climate Change (Guatemala 1993)	111-96	07/30/96
11. International Convention on Civil Responsibility for Damages Caused by Contamination of Sea Water from Hydrocarbons	26-97	04/15/97
12. Convention for the Prevention of Contamination from Ships (1973) MARPOL, protocols and annexes	173-99	10/30/99
13. Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD)	35-97	--
14. Kyoto Protocol for the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change.	37-2000	04/17/2000
15. Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer	141-2000	09/19/2000
16. Free Trade Agreement between Central America-the United States and the Dominican Republic DR-CAFTA	10-2005	03/03/2005
17. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Contaminants	24-2004	05/23/2005
18. Convention on Chemical Weapons	--	09/28/2005
19. Framework Convention on the Struggle against Drug Trafficking		
20. Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for the commerce of hazardous chemical products	--	09/26/2011
21. Minamata Convention on the management of mercury		To be signed and ratified

In 1993 the General Law for the Environment was approved and since then, the country has been submitted to the enactment of many laws with an emphasis on the issue of the environment as well as broad standards at the level of general and special regulations that directly regulate environmental aspects in different administrative and judicial institutions (Sánchez, 2011).

Because of this, the legal regime for chemical products in Honduras is not concrete, nor does it include precise instruments for regulation, therefore, is not dynamic or subject to continuous evaluations that permit adaptation towards more sustainable management of these products and adequate management during their life cycle as well as the gradual substitution for other less hazardous options. However, the recently approved Policy for the Management of Chemical Products, seeks to harmonize the regulatory instruments through specific guidelines on this issue. Below are details of some legal instruments that address management of chemical products in Honduras (see Figure 3.1):

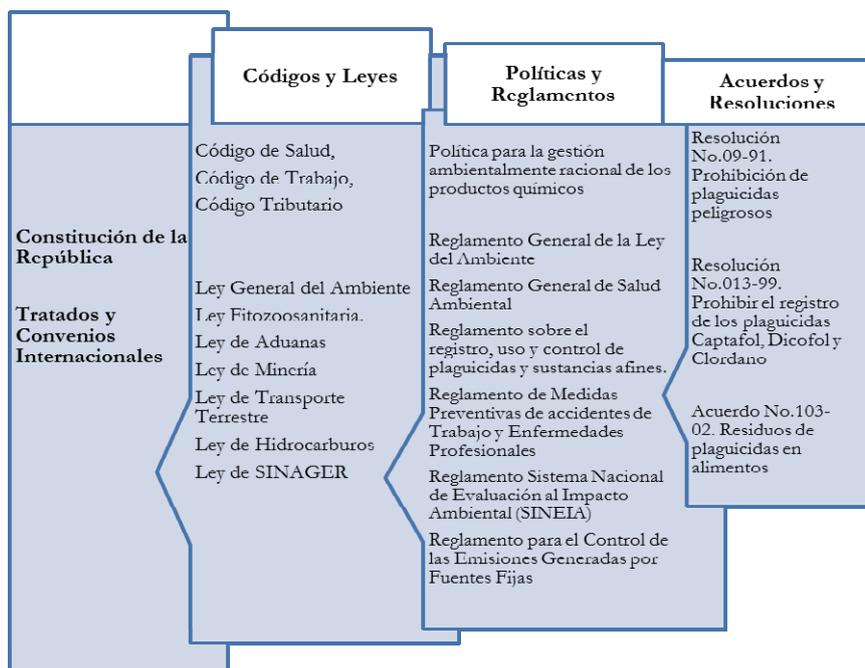


Figure 3.1 Legal instruments that address Management of Chemical Products in Honduras.

Nota del traductor: La figura 3.1 arriba es una imagen y no se puede manipular para traducirla. Abajo esta la traducción de lo que aparece en esa figura:

	Codes and Laws	Policies and Regulations	Agreements and Resolutions
Constitution of the Republic	Health Code Labor Code Taxa Code	Policy for the environmentally sound management of chemical products	Resolution No. 09-91, Prohibition of hazardous pesticides
Treaties and International Conventions	General Law of Environment Plant Health Law Customs Law Mining Law Land Transportation Law Hydrocarbon Law SINAGER Law	General Regulations of the Environmental Law General Regulations of Environmental Health Regulation on the registration, use and control of pesticides and similar substances Regulation for Preventive Measures for Labor Accidents and Professional Diseases Regulations for the National Evaluation System for Environmental Impact (SINEIA) Regulations for the Control of Emissions Generated by Fixed Sources	Resolution No. 013-99, Prohibit the registration of Captafol, Dicofol and Chlordane Pesticides Agreement No. 103-02 Pesticide Residues in Foods

However, it is important to mention that recently some proposals for regulation projects have been prepared and discussed, associated with management of chemical products, such as the Regulation for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Chemical Substances in Honduras and others described below, which are in different phases with a view to their approval by national authorities (see Table 3.2):



Table 3.2. Regulations Projects associated to the management of chemical products

Project	Objective
1. Regulation for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Chemical Substances in Honduras	Regulate integrated management of all hazardous chemical substance and residue in the national territory.
2. Regulation for Recording Emissions and the Transfer of Contaminants (RETC)	a) Establish the Record of Emissions and the Transfer of Contaminants in Honduras, which will operate through a digital data base with information accessible to the public. b) Regulate the functioning of the Record of Emissions and Transfer of Contaminants, in order to organize, process, and systematize the information required for the generation of instruments and policies for environmental management. c) Promote with the population, access and consultations on national environmental information referring to emissions and the transfer of contaminants.
3. Regulation for the Management of Sites Contaminated with Chemical Substances	Regulate the different phases of management of sites contaminated with chemical substances and hazardous residues, with the purpose of preventing and reducing risks to the health of the population and the environment
4. National Standard for Soils and Sediments	Regulate the problem of contaminated land and the mechanisms associated with contamination of groundwater. Also sediments in the natural environment by establishing soil quality criteria based on analysis of environmental risks and the systems for the treatment of contaminated soil and groundwater
5. Regulation for highway transportation of Hazardous Substances, Merchandise and Waste	Regulate the transportation of hazardous substances and residues by taking prevention and control measures to prevent adverse effects on the health of persons and negative impacts on the environment
6. Ministerial Agreement for “Environmentally Sound Management of Equipment and Waste that contain or are contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls”	Establish the procedures, measures, terms and responsibilities of the environmentally sound management of equipment and waste that consist of, contain or are contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in order to prevent contamination and protect the environment
7. National Regulation for the Discharge and Reutilization of Residual Water.	Structure a system for recording, authorizing, monitoring and control of discharges of liquid contaminants in bodies of water, in such a manner to ensure the protection of human health and the protection and restoration of the quality of natural water and bodies of water and receptor bodies in general, through the regulation of discharges of residual water and other contaminants that could alter them.
8. Law for the Control of Traffic, Development, Production, Storage and Employment of Precursor Substances for Chemical Weapons and their Destruction.	Establish the standards that will govern control of chemical substances that are susceptible to rerouting for the manufacturing of chemical weapons, according to stipulation included in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Employment of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction;
9. Environmental Policy of Honduras	Orient coherent actions of the Government and of society in order to achieve elevated environmental quality and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, improving the quality of life of the population, in the framework of sustainable economic growth and maintaining opportunities for future generations.
10. National Policy for the Integrated Management of Solid Residues with a focus on the 3 Rs (reducing, reutilizing and Recycling)	Orient the integrated management of solid residues through planned and coordinated actions among all public, private, population and international cooperation sector actors that contribute to reducing risks or damage to health and the



Project	Objective
	environment.

In relation to the mechanisms of coordination in Honduras, there are several inter-ministerial commissions created through Ministerial Agreements or Executive Decrees, as appropriate (See table 5). The National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products (CNG in Spanish) recently created in a meeting with the President of the Republic in the Council of Ministers, under Executive Decree number PCM-035-2013, has the purpose of coordinating the System for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products, through the integration of different sectors at national level, including public, private, academia and civil society.

3.2 Additional Information on Legal Instruments Related to Chemical Products

The Constitution of the Republic of Honduras (1982) as general regulator of the functioning of the State is the generating source for national legal standards and in the particular case of chemical products, implicitly establishes their regulation in virtue of human health and of protection to the environment. As such, it has propitiated the issuance of secondary laws by the Legislative Power and secondary standards by the Executive Power that jointly constitute the regulatory framework for chemical products.

Below is a summary of the most relevant instruments in relation to chemical substances and products in Honduras:

a. **Basil Convention on the Control of Trans-Boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.**

The Basil Convention was signed and ratified by Honduras on December 27, 1995 under Decree 31-95 for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment to address the adverse effects that could be derived from the generation and management of hazardous waste and residues. In 2000, Honduras carried out the first environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes, specifically POCs and obsolete pesticides (100 tons) destined for Holland, under the requirements of this Convention.

In July 2013, through the Department for Management of Chemical Products (DGPQ in Spanish) CESCOCO carried out a diagnostic of the trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste in Honduras in the framework of this Convention, which demonstrated that during a period of 15 years (1998 to 2013), 73 shipments of hazardous waste moved through Honduras, for an average of 5.2 movements each year, with a reduction observed during the past few years. The largest number of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste was 21 movements in 2008. (CESCCO-SERNA, 2013).

b. **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Contaminants**

The Stockholm Convention on persistent organic contaminants (POCs) is a legally binding international treaty that obligates the governments to manage POCs, highly hazardous chemical substances, for the purpose of protecting human health and the ecosystems worldwide from the effects caused by these substances during all phases of their life cycle. Some POCs are pesticides, others are industrial chemical substances and some are unintentional by-products from certain combustion processes and from the chemical industry.

Honduras ratified this Convention in 2004 which was in the Official Journal of La Gaceta under edition number 30,678 on April 23, 2005 with the Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA in Spanish) as the focal point for the Convention, through the Center for Studies and Control of Contaminants (CESCCO in Spanish). As such this executed the project of "Assisting the Government of Honduras in meeting its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Contaminants



(POCs)", also known as the National Implementation Plan POCs, which was financed by the Global Environmental fund. This project fulfilled two specific objectives during a three year period of work (2006-2009). These were, to prepare a National Implementation Plan for the fulfillment of obligations acquired by Honduras according to the Stockholm Convention in relation to POCs, with the participation of sectors participating in the management of chemical substances through the formation of mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination known as "National Commission for the Management of Chemical Substances and Hazardous Residues (CNG in Spanish)" and to contribute to strengthening national capacities for managing chemical substances and hazardous residues in Honduras, through the formulation of a policy for the environmentally sound management of chemical products.

Furthermore, and simultaneously with the process to prepare the National Implementation Plan, Honduras requested the GEF for the Project of: "Strengthening National Capacities for the Management and Reduction of Emissions of Persistent Organic Contaminants (POCs) in Honduras", which is currently executed by UNDP, with an expected duration of four (4) years (2011-2015). It is providing a framework of opportunities for the investment of funds in the institutional area, the strengthening of national capacities, education and development of pilot sites for management of chemical products with an emphasis on persistent organic contaminants, and consistent with the National Implementation Plan Honduras.

In May 2013, the Project was initiated for Updating the National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention, which is for the general purpose of reviewing and updating the National Implementation Plan, including the 12 initial POCs and 11 new POCs. This project is financed by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and is under administration of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

c. Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure applicable to certain pesticides and hazardous chemical products which are subject to trade, entered into force on February 24, 2004¹ at international level. Honduras made it official on April 16, 2011 once it was published in the official journal of La Gaceta, under Decree number 68-2009.

The Convention represents an important step to guarantee protection for the population and the environment in all countries of the possible dangers implied by the trade of highly hazardous pesticides and chemical products. It will contribute to saving lives and protecting the environment against the adverse effects of toxic pesticides and other chemical products. It will establish a first line of defense against future tragedies by preventing the undesired imports of hazardous chemical products, in particular to developing countries. When all countries are provided the capacity to protect themselves against risks from toxic substances, this places all of them on an equal footing and increases the global standards of protection of human health and the environment.

The Convention has the objective of establishing a mechanism of authorization previous to importing and exporting hazardous chemical substances and commercial pesticides, known as Prior Informed Consent, PIC in English – and is frequently known by those initials in the convention. It has the purpose of having all the necessary information in order to know the characteristics and risks implied by managing these substances, permitting the importing countries to decide which chemical substances they wish to receive and exclude those they can't safely manage in order to avoid risks to human health and the environment.

In 2013, the Government of Honduras received technical assistance from the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to execute the Project of "Case Study for Strengthening National Capacities for Managing Industrial Chemical Products under the Rotterdam Convention", the objectives of which were: facilitate and promote the development of integrated and harmonized national legal and administrative frameworks on

¹ The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention took place in September 20 to 24, 2004 in Geneva and the second in September 27 to 30, 2005 in Rome.



industrial chemical products, and analyze priorities for future activities in order to achieve sound management of industrial chemical products.

d. Other national and international legal instruments related to chemical products:

- International Health Regulation (IHR)
- Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- International Convention for the Safety of Human Life in the Ocean and protocol
- International Convention to prevent Contamination by Ships (MARPOL)
- Uniform Central American Customs Code and Regulations
- Health Code
- Labor Code
- General Law of the Environment
- Plant and animal health Law
- Traffic Law
- General Regulation on Environmental Health
- Regulation for the Registration, Use and Control of Pesticides and Similar Substances
- Regulation for Agricultural Quarantine
- Regulation for the Health Control of Products, Services and Facilities with Health Interest
- Regulation for Preventive Measures for Work Accidents and Professional Diseases

3.3 Coverage of the Life Cycle Phases of Chemical Products in Existing Legal Instruments

The following table (3.3) is based on information provided in sections 3.2 and has the purpose of providing a general vision of the coverage of legal instruments through the life cycle of the management of chemical products.

Table 3.3. Coverage of the Life Cycle of Chemical Products in Existing Legal Instruments

Category of Chemical Product	Imports	Production	Storage	Transport	Distribution/ Marketing	Use/ Manipulation	Export	Final Disposal
Pesticides (Agriculture, public health and consumer use)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fertilizers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Industrial Chemical Products (used in processing factories and manufacturing)	X	X	X		X		X	
Petroleum Products	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Consumer Chemical Products	X	X	X	X		X		
Chemical Waste	X						X	
Others								

As demonstrated in the previous table, the final disposal phase of chemical products shows greater deficiency in relation to the legal framework, which is congruent with the category of Chemical Waste.



In relation to Industrial Chemical Products, some are considered as precursors for drugs and narcotics, which are recorded and audited by the Secretariat of Health, however, there is a large gap around the rest of the substances that are still not controlled.

3.4 Summary Description of Key Administrative Procedures for the Control of Chemical Products

- **Regulation on recording, use and control of pesticides and similar substances. Agreement No. 642-98**

This regulation has the purpose of establishing technical, administrative and legal dispositions framed in the Plant and Animal Health Law referring to recording, importing, manufacturing, formulating, re-packaging, transportation, storage, sale, use, management and exporting of agrochemicals, biological, bio-technologicals or similar substances.

- **General Regulation on Environmental Health. Agreement 94-97**

This regulation develops the group of rules to obtain effective compliance of the dispositions for environmental health contained in the Health Code and for purposes of managing chemical substances and also include those related to the promotion and protection of health.

- **Regulation for agricultural quarantine. Agreement No. 1618-97**

This regulation establishes that imports of animals, vegetables, animal and vegetable origin products and byproducts and products and articles for agricultural use, will be subject to obtaining a plant health or animal health permit for importing, which will be authorized to the requester as established in the corresponding manuals of requisites for imports to be prepared by SENASA.

- **Regulation for health monitoring of Products, Services and facilities. Agreement No. 06-2005**

The Regulation for Health Monitoring of Products, Services and Health Facilities is based on the following principles: a.- Protect the health and life of users and consumers in relation to products, services and health facilities. b.- Regulate innocuous conditions, effectiveness and safety of products, services and health facilities.

Health products covered by the regulation include: foods, drinks, medications, biologicals, cosmetics, hygiene products, hazardous substances, medical devices and equipment, natural products, laboratory reagents.

- **Regulation of Preventive Measures for Work related Accidents and Professional Disease. Agreement No. STSS-053-04**

This Regulation establishes the standards that govern application of Title V on the Protection of the Health of Workers and other dispositions on the issue contained in the Labor Code. The objective is to establish the conditions of security and health in which work should be developed in work centers, without prejudice to regulations that are dictated for each particular activity.

- **Regulation of the National System for the Evaluation of Environmental Impact (SINEIA in Spanish). Agreement 189-2009.**

The National System for the Evaluation of Environmental Impact is defined as a group of processes and procedures which seek to provide sustainable development for the country, by seeking a balance between the development of projects, works and activities and the care and preservation of the environment. The fundamental responsibilities aim at evaluation and environmental control of new human activities or activities in operation capable of generating adverse effects on the environment.



3.5 Legal Instruments for Related Activities that Influence Management of Chemical Products

Many of the broader areas of the legislation not related specifically or directly to chemical products could have an important impact on managing chemical products. This section provides an opportunity to review these additional areas of the legal and political instruments as to sound management of chemical products.

a. Law for the establishment of a Country Vision (2010 – 2038) and Country Plan

The approval of the “Law for the establishment of a Country Vision (2010 – 2038) and Country Plan (2010 – 2022)”, under Legislative Decree No. 286-2009, initiates an effort for the redefinition of the roles and functions of the government-institutional structure by establishing four strategic objectives:

- 1) A Honduras free of poverty, which is educated and healthy, with consolidated social security ecosystems
- 2) A Honduras that develops in democracy, with security and without violence
- 3) A productive Honduras, generator of opportunities and employment, that utilizes its resources in a sustainable manner and reduces environmental vulnerability
- 4) A modern state, which is transparent, responsible, efficient and competitive

b. General Water Law

This law has the purpose of establishing the principles and regulations applicable to water resources for the protection, conservation, valuation and use of water resources to propitiate integrated management of this resource at national level.

The use, exploitation, development, applications and any use of water resources as well as the exploitation or use of related ecosystems and resources will be administered by the State through the water authority according to the law and other associated laws. Ownership of the administration of water, and associated goods and rights correspond to the central government.

c. Law of the National System of Risk Management (SINAGER in Spanish)

The SINAGER Law has the purpose of creating the National System for Risk Management, which will also be known as “SINAGER”, constitutes the Honduran legal framework oriented towards the country having and developing the capacity for preventing and reducing the risks for potential disasters in addition to preparing ourselves, responding and recovering from real damages provoked by natural phenomena that could impact us or those generated by human activity.

3.6 Non-Regulatory Mechanisms for Managing Chemical Products

• Free Trade Treaty between Central America, United States and the Dominican Republic (DR-CAFTA)

In the area of the environment, Honduras has received a strong impetus for regulation as of the entry into force of the Free Trade Treaty between Central America, United States and the Dominican Republic (DR-CAFTA). The DR-CAFTA is the first commercial treaty that dedicates an entire chapter to the field of environmental protection. For the area of labor it does not contribute measures of procedures, moreover it aims only to obligate the States to fulfill existing national and international laws.

• Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM)

The Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM) is a framework of policies to promote chemical security globally. The general objective of the SAICM to achieve sound management of chemical products during the life cycle so that by 2020, chemical products are produced and utilized in a manner as to reduce significant adverse effects on human health and the environment to a minimum. This "objective 2020" was adopted by the Global Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 as part of the Johannesburg Implementation Plan (SAICM, 2013).



At national level during the 2008-2009 period, the Project for Strengthening National Governance for Implementation of SAICM (PNUD/UNITRA/SERNA) was developed, the objective of which was to strengthen the national capacity for the development of a country plan for implementation of the Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM), by developing the following activities: Updating the National Profile for the Management of Chemical Substances (2009), the Evaluation of National Capacities for Implementation of the SAICM, the Establishment of National Priorities and Actions Plans, and the Design of a Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products.

Subsequently in 2011, the SAICM-2 project for “The Insertion of Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in the Country Plan” was executed during the 2011-2013 period with support from PNUD-PNUMA. This Project included two priority activities: The Insertion of Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in the Country Plan in fulfillment of the national policy for the implementation of the SAICM in Honduras and the Consolidation of the National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products (CNG) to meet the SIP Honduras goals.

- **Other Non-Regulatory Mechanisms for Managing Chemical Products:**

- International code of conduct for pesticide management
- International Narcotics Control Board

3.7 Evaluation

Honduran legislation does not coherently regulate the life cycle of chemical products. Further, current regulatory dispositions for chemical products are disaggregated in a diversity of codes, laws and regulations, all of which results in a distortion of their application. Another negative characteristic of the legal framework for chemical products is that the standards issued were carried out during different time periods and moments, under particular momentary interests which have not permitted harmonizing the regulations since there has been a sectorial vision rather than one that is integrated for managing chemical products.

Something that is important to emphasize is that in Honduras, according to constitutional standards, environmental protection and control of contaminants, including chemical products, are for the purpose of protecting human health. Therefore, this constitutional mandate establishes that from a legal viewpoint human health is the primary factor in the management of chemical products.

This situation has resulted in legal gaps or loopholes, which generates a situation of obscurity or gaps in the environmental law which in this case, has suffered from the legal pathology of omitting from its text the concrete regulation for a specific situation in part or totally, for which there is no specific legal response. As such, this obligates those applying the law (judges, attorneys, state attorneys, legal secretaries, etc.) to employ techniques to fill in those gaps in order to obtain efficient responses. These gaps are more evident in some issues such as in cases related to regulations for the final disposal of chemical products, public consumption substances, standards for control and prevention of chemical disasters.

Another aspect to consider, are the environmental incentives already foreseen. Despite the fact that the General Law of Environment establishes a system of environmental incentives, in practice these are not implemented, making the responsible management of chemical products by the companies, individuals and the government itself mostly voluntary.



Chapter 4: Ministries, Agencies and Other Government Institutions that Manage Chemical Products

This chapter summary describes and analyzes the mandates and programs of the different Secretariats of the government, agencies and other responsible government institutions associated with various aspects of the management of chemical products.

4.1 Responsibilities of Different Secretariats of State, Agencies and other Government Institutions

Chart 4.1 presents the main government institutions with intervention in the management of chemical products and their responsibilities, in relation to different life cycle phases of chemical products.

Chart 4.1. Responsibilities of Different Secretariats of State, Agencies and Other Government Institutions

Secretariats of State, Agencies Interested Government Institutions	Life Cycle Phases							
	Imports	Production	Storage	Transportation	Distribution/ Commerce	Use/ Manipulation	Final Disposition	Recycling
SERNA:								
▪ CESCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
▪ Directorate of Environmental Evaluation and Control (DECA in Spanish)						X	X	X
▪ Technical Unit on Ozone in Honduras (UTOH in Spanish)	X					X	X	
▪ Honduran Geology and Mines Institute (INHGEOMIN in Spanish)						X	X	
Secretariat of Health:								
▪ General Directorate for Health Regulation (DGRS in Spanish)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
▪ General Directorate of Health Surveillance (DGVS in Spanish)						X	X	
▪ Department of Hospitals						X	X	
Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS in Spanish)						X	X	
Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock:								
▪ SENASA:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
STSS			X	X	X	X	X	
SIC:								
▪ Petroleum Administering Commission (CAP in Spanish)	X		X		X			
Secretariat of Finance (SEFIN in Spanish):								
▪ Executive Directorate of Income (DEI in Spanish). Adjunct Directorate of Customs Revenue	X		X					
SOPTRAVI:								
▪ General Directorate of Transportation			X	X				
▪ General Directorate of the Merchant Marine				X				
▪ General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics				X				
National Port Authority (ENP in Spanish)			X					
Secretariat of the Interior and Population:								
▪ Fire Department			X	X		X	X	
▪ Municipalities			X	X	X	X	X	
Permanent Commission of Contingencies (COPECO in Spanish)			X	X		X	X	



4.2 Description of the Authorities and Ministerial Mandates

- **Central Government Entities**
 - **Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA in Spanish)**

The Sub-secretariat of Environment of this Secretariat includes three Directorates with direct competencies in the management of chemical products. These are the General Directorate of Evaluation and Environmental Control (DECA), the Directorate of Environmental Management (DGA) and CESCOCO. In addition, SERNA includes the Technical Unit on Ozone in Honduras (UTOH) created in 1999 for the regulation of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

In the scope of the international chemical agenda, CESCOCO/SERNA is the international level focal point for the Conventions of Basil, Stockholm and Rotterdam, as well as the SAICM. In 2009, the Department for the Management of Chemical Products was created at this entity which emerged for the purpose of driving the fulfillment of the regulatory framework and strengthen inter-institutional coordination for the environmentally sound management of industrial chemical products in Honduras, as well as to promote the management of mechanisms and tools to access information for decision making by the central government and the Honduran population. Likewise, it contributes to the implementation of the Conventions and international initiatives in the area of management of chemical which are the conventions of Basil, Stockholm, and Rotterdam, the SAICM and the PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register)..

- **Secretariat of Health (SESAL in Spanish)**

The organic structure of this Secretariat includes political and technical/regulatory level entities associated with the management of chemical products that coordinate national and local level actions. Some of these entities are the National Commission for the Health of Workers in Honduras (CONASATH in Spanish), the Unit for the Management of Environmental Health (UGSA), the Sub-secretariat of Sectorial Policy, the General Directorate for Health Regulation (DGRS) and the General Directorate of Health Surveillance (DGVS) of the Sub-secretariat of Population Risks and the Department of Hospitals of the General Directorate of Systems Development and Health Services of the Sub-secretariat of Networks and Services.

The Unit for Drug Oversight and Control exists in the Unit for the Regulation of Health Products of the General Directorate of Health Regulation, which fulfills functions of coordination and the execution of actions of control of products and health facilities that import and distribute controlled substances. Further, it implements the “*Health Register for Pesticides and Professional*”, which was transferred to the Secretariat of Health in June 2012.

The General Directorate of Health Surveillance publishes the “*Weekly Bulletin of Mandatory Notification Diseases*”, which includes intoxications due to pesticides and not categorized. Chart 4 summarizes the accumulated cases reported in the Bulletin during the 52 weeks of the epidemiological calendar for each corresponding to the 2011 – 2013 period. In 2012, the largest number of cases of intoxication was recorded in comparison to 2011, although the rates for both years were stable at 14.0 for every 100 mil inhabitants. In 2013, 902 accumulated cases of intoxications had been reported through epidemiological week 42, with a rate of 11.0 for every 100,000 inhabitants. This data reflects that in the country around three intoxications are occurring daily and highlights the practices of management of chemical products in the country and the risks to the health of the country’s population.

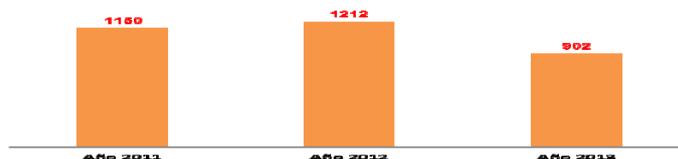


Chart 4. Intoxications by Pesticides, Honduras 2011-2013

Source: Secretariat of Health "Weekly Bulletin of Obligatory Notification Diseases"
Notifications through Epidemiological Week 52 Weekly, Accumulated Cases and Rates per 100,000 inhabitants
Country: Republic of Honduras. Years: 2011 – 2012 and 2013 (Week 42).

- **Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG in Spanish)**

For the exercise of its functions, the SAG includes the Sub-secretariat of Agriculture and the Sub-secretary of Livestock. Of all the instances in the Sub-secretariat of Livestock, the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) has direct competencies in the management of chemical products, although other instances in this Sub-secretariat hold some association with the issue such as the Service for Agricultural Education, Training and Agro Business Development (SEDUCA).

The Department of Records, Control and Use of Plant Health Articles for Crops in the Technical Sub-Directorate for Plant Health of SENASA, has competencies in all life cycle phases for management of agricultural use pesticides and fertilizers. For this, it carries out activities to authorize, regulate, surveillance and control. Further, this Department administers the National Registry of Pesticides.

- **Secretariat of Labor and Social Security (STSS in Spanish)**

This Secretariat includes six general directorates in its organizational structure, affiliated to the Sub-secretariat of State. Among these is the General Directorate of Social Benefits which is responsible for coordinating the benefits and social security institutions and attends issues related to policies regarding these matters as well as labor education. The Directorate includes the Department of Occupational Medicine, Hygiene and Safety for the purpose of protecting the health of the country's work force. It has competencies in the storage, use and manipulation of agricultural and industrial use pesticides and industrial chemical products. It develops surveillance activities for these products, without prioritized groups of chemical products.

- **Secretariat of Industry and Trade (SIC in Spanish)**

For the exercise of its functions, this Secretariat includes three Sub-secretariats. These are Entrepreneurial Development and Internal Trade, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Economic Integration and Foreign Trade. In addition, it includes the Petroleum Administering Commission (CAP in Spanish), which depends directly on the Offices of the Secretary of State of Industry and Trade. The Sub-secretariat of Economic Integration and Foreign Trade is integrated by four General Directorates of which the General Directorate of Treaties and the General Directorate of Economic Integration and Trade Policy are associated with management of chemical products.

The General Directorate of the Administration of Treaties coordinates, executes and participates in technical work meetings at national and regional level with collaboration from the Secretariat of Health, Secretariat of Agriculture and private sector institutions, for the purpose of socializing proposed Projects by the Central American Technical Regulations (RTCA in Spanish) in the context of the Central American Customs Union. For its part, the Petroleum Administering Commission (CAP/SIC), has the attributions of authorizing, regulating surveillance of petroleum products during the phases of importing, storage, transportation (only surveillance), distribution and trade.



- **Secretariat of Public Works and Transportation (SOPTRAVI in Spanish)**

This Secretariat is divided into two Sub-secretariats: the Sub-secretariat of Public Works and Housing and the Sub-secretariat of Transportation. The General Directorate of Highways, the General Directorate of Conservation of Highways and Airports, the General Directorate of Public Works and the General Directorate of Housing and Planning are associated with the Sub-secretariat of Public Works and Housing. The General Directorate of Transportation, the General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics and the National Geography Institute are associated with the Sub-secretariat of Transportation. The General Directorate of the Merchant Marine, as a deconcentrated entity, is associated with SOPTRAVI.

Two Directorates of the Sub-secretariat of Transportation and a deconcentrated entity have a direct relationship with the management of chemical products, in the scope of their competencies and functions. These are the General Directorate of Transportation (DGT in Spanish), the General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC in Spanish) and the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine (DGMM in Spanish).

- **Other Central Government Entities** with competencies associated with the management of chemical products are the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE) and the Public Ministry.
- **Central Government Deconcentrated Entities** with competencies associated with the management of chemical products are the General Directorate of Revenue, the Fire Department of Honduras, which includes specialized unit on hazardous materials. One of its responsibilities is to establish security standards for the management, transportation and storage of hazardous materials, as well as the transportation of persons. Another associated entity is the INHGEOMIN.
- **Central Government Decentralized Entities** with competencies associated with management are the Honduran Social Security Institute, the National Port Authority, the Permanent Commission for Contingencies, and the Municipalities.
- **Other important Central Government Decentralized Entities** such the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH).

4.3 Evaluation

Of the 20 Secretariats of the State, six have direct legally binding competencies delegated by the respective legal instruments to exercise actions in the management of chemical products. They are SERNA, SESAL, SAG, STSS, SIC and SOPTRAVI. Likewise, two central government deconcentrated entities have direct competencies in the management of chemical products (DEI and the Fire Department) and one has indirect competencies (INHGEOMIN). In the same manner, at the level of decentralized entities, at least four have direct or indirect links with the management of chemical products: IHSS, ENP, COPECO and the Municipalities.

As the institutional aspects are observed, it is noted that around 13 government Honduras public administration entities have direct and indirect competencies in the management of chemical products. In the area of institutional competencies, the regulatory mandates for the six secretariats of the state are well defined in their legal instruments and the same applies to the deconcentrated and decentralized entities. However, aspects associated with the stewardship of the management of chemical products appear diffused and without conceptual clarity, especially between SERNA and Health. On the one hand, SERNA exercises mandates on the issues of environment and on the other, the Secretariat of Health deals with all health issues without carrying out complementary and consistent actions that lead to the effective management of chemical products. Similar detachments are observed in the rest of the executive power institutions.

In consideration of this, we deduce that the stewardship function for the management of chemical products in the country is incipient. Evidence of this is that of the six Secretariats of State only SERNA includes a Department for the Management of Chemical Products in its organizational structure which is associated



with CESCO, created through Executive Decree. The rest of the institutions approach the issue in a diffused and fragmented manner, according to the mandates delegated to the instances in their organizational structures.

Another aspect related to stewardship is that each institution has its own general or specific administrative procedures to attend matters related to the management of chemical products according to their mandates. Thus, there is no one harmonized or unified procedure to facilitate integrated approaches to the issue. On this point, we should emphasize the fact that some institutions don't even have the procedures to make their mandates effective in this scope.

Since 2006, efforts by the government of Honduras to advance towards effective stewardship in the management of chemical products have been focalized on the creation of the “*National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products*”, as an intersectorial mechanism for coordination, consultation and socialization between the sectors involved with the issue, as well as the instance that recommends resolutions, opinions, action plans, among others, that must be approved, to decision makers at policy level in order to succeed in this area. The Commission was approved through Executive Decree PCM - 035 – 2013 and published in the official journal of La Gaceta No.33206 dated August 19, 2013.

Chapter 5: Relevant Activities of the Industry, Public Interest Groups, Professional Associations and the Research Sector

This chapter summary describes and analyzes the activities of the non-government organizations that support national efforts for management of chemical products.

Information is provided on all programs carried out by non-government organizations, including the industrial sector, public interest groups, professional associations and the research sector. This information is significant given the importance of the role that must be fulfilled by non-governmental organizations in the sound management of chemical products.

5.1 Description of the Organizations /Non-Government Programs

Below are descriptions of non-government organizations and relevant programs associated to the management of chemical products.

▪ Industrial Organizations and Entities

The following industrial organizations and entities are directly and indirectly involved in the production, import, formulation, sale/marketing, storage, transportation, use, export or final disposal of chemical products:

- Honduran Private Enterprise Council (Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada - COHEP).
- National Association of Industrials (Asociación Nacional de Industriales de Honduras - ANDI).
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Honduras (Federación de Cámaras de Comercio e Industrias de Honduras - FEDECAMARA).
- Honduran Association of *Maquila* Producers (Asociación Hondureña de Maquiladores - AHM).
- Other Associations and Federations:



- Association of Sugar Producers of Honduras (Asociación de Productores de Azúcar de Honduras - APAH).
- Federation of Poultry Producers of Honduras (Federación de Avicultores de Honduras - FEDAVIH).
- National Federation of Farmers and Cattlemen of Honduras (Federación Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos de Honduras - FENAGH).
- Honduran Entrepreneurial Council for Sustainable Development (Consejo Empresarial Hondureño para el Desarrollo Sostenible - CEHDES).
 - National Center for Cleaner Production of Honduras (Centro Nacional de Producción Más Limpia de Honduras - CNP+LH).
 - Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial - FUNDHRSE).
- Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola - FHIA).
- CropLife Honduras.
- Honduran Coffee Institute (Instituto Hondureño del Café - IHCAFE).

▪ **Labor Unions and Associations:**

The union federations represent the maximum category of workers' organizations and there are three at national level: the Confederation of Workers of Honduras (CTH in Spanish), the Union Confederation of Workers of Honduras (CUTH in Spanish) and the General Confederation of Workers (CGT).

▪ **Professional and Scientific Entities and Associations:**

- College of Agronomist Engineers of Honduras (CINAH in Spanish).
- College of Agricultural Sciences Professionals of Honduras (COLPROCAH in Spanish).
- Others

▪ **National System of Quality:**

It is part of the Directorate of Competitiveness and Innovation of the Secretariat of Planning and External Cooperation (SEPLAN) and is integrated by three technical organisms:

- Honduran Organism of Standardization (OHN in Spanish).
- Honduran Metrology Center (CEHM in Spanish).
- Honduran Accreditation Organism (OHA in Spanish).

▪ **Universities and Research Institutes:**

- There are 20 universities which are higher education institutions.

▪ **Public Interest Groups and Other Non-Government Organizations:**

- Action Network in Pesticides and its Alternatives in Latin America (RAP-AL in Spanish).
- Honduran Association of Environmental and Agroforestry Journalists (AHPAAG in Spanish).

5.2 Summary of Information Available Outside the Government

This provides a general vision of the type of information available in non-government organizations that could provide support for national programs and policies related to the management of chemical products, comprising information collection, experimentation of chemical products, evaluation, communication and risk reduction, policy analysis, classifying and ticketing, training and education, accreditation, research of alternatives, monitoring health surveillance, environmental surveillance, fulfillment, information to the



workers, information for specific professional groups, public information, diagnostic and treatment of intoxications.

5.3 Evaluation

In the scope of non-government organizations associated with the management of chemical products, we identify a diversity of entities that encompasses industrial organizations, workers unions and associations, professional and scientific entities and associations, research universities and institutes and public interest groups and act in function of their vision, mission, objectives and specific interests to address the issue.

In this order, the support and contributions from this broad spectrum of non-government organizations for national efforts in the management of chemical products is isolated, dispersed and diffused, since it does not follow criteria of complementarity, integration and focalization towards objectives, goals and common and precise indicators which is a direct consequence of not having policy guidelines, strategies and official action plans by the Government.

On June 25, 2013 in the Council of Ministers the Government approved the “*Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in Honduras*” (Executive Decree PCM-029-2013, published in the official journal of La Gaceta, No.33201 dated August 13, 2013). In general, the policy guidelines expand the opportunities for non-governmental organizations to obtain information related to the management of chemical products by the government.

With respect to the opportunities for the non-government organizations to supply the government with information related to management of chemical products, practically all policy guidelines define specific actions for the exchange and feedback of information among the involved actors. This also applies to international NGOs.

Chapter 6: Inter-ministerial Commissions and Coordination Mechanisms

This chapter summary describes and analyzes the mechanisms that facilitate coordination and cooperation between ministries, agencies and other government and non-government organisms in specific areas of the management of chemical products.

6.1 Description of the Inter-ministerial Commissions and Coordinating Mechanisms

Commissions associated with the management of chemical products:

- Inter-institutional Pesticide Commission (CIP).
- National Commission for the Health of Workers (CONASATH).
- Technical Interinstitutional Committee of Environment and Health (COTIAS).
- National Technical Water Quality Committee (CTN - Calagua).
- National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius of Honduras.
- Presidential Commission for the Modernization of the Customs Services (COPREMSA).
- National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products (CNG).

Commissions with some association with the management of chemical products:

- National Commission for the Development of Alternative Education in Honduras (CONEANFO).



- Inter-institutional Committee for Attention to Early Childhood (CIAP).
- National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES).

6.2 Description of Inter-ministerial Commissions and Coordination Mechanisms

▪ **Inter-institutional Commission on Pesticides**

This commission was created through Agreement No.1132-99 dated October 4, 1999, associated with the General Directorate of Agricultural Health (SENASA) of the Secretariat of State in the Offices of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).

▪ **National Commission for the Health of Workers (CONASATH)**

This is a tripartite commission presided by the Secretariat of Health and is integrated by representatives of the offices, institutions and organizations listed in article 110 of the Health Code. It was created through Executive Agreement No.137 -1992, in the framework of the International Year of the Health of Workers by the World Health Organization, with the objective of coordinating public and private actions in the area of occupational health.

▪ **Technical Inter-institutional Committee of Environment and Health (COTIAS)**

The Technical Inter-institutional Committee of Environment and Health was created through Executive Agreement No. 056 dated March 15, 2001, reformed according to Agreement No. 636 for the general purpose of coordinating actions in matters of health and environment. It is integrated by a broad number of public institutions and organizations.

▪ **National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius of Honduras**

It was created in 1992 through agreement No. 0141-92 with the Secretariat of Health as point of contact. Through Agreement No. 521-03 dated June 2, 2003 the point of contact was transferred to the Secretariat of Agriculture which is the entity that regulates the National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius of Honduras.

▪ **National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products**

It was created in the framework of the 2006 – 2009 National Implementation Plan, during the enabling phase of the Stockholm Convention as the “*National Committee for the Management of Chemical Substances and Hazardous Residues*” attached to the Secretariat of Natural Resources and coordinated by CESCO. Through Executive Decree PCM - 035 - 2013, the President of the Republic in Council of Ministers approved the creation of the National Committee which was published in the official journal of La Gaceta No.33206 dated August 19, 2013. The Decree defines the attributions, the Commission Organisms, the Board of Directors, the Permanent Committee, the Ad Hoc Committees as well as the final and transitional dispositions.

The Commission is formed by members of the following national institutions and organizations: the Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security, the Secretariat of Agriculture, the Secretariat of Planning, the Secretariat of Industry and Trade, the Secretariat of the Interior and Population, the Secretariat of Education, Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, the Secretariat of Finance, the National Electrical Energy Enterprise, the National Service of Aqueducts and Sewers, Executive Directorate of Revenue, the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine, the Fire Department of Honduras, Honduran Private Enterprise Council,



Federation of Chambers of Commerce, National Center for the Production of Cleaner Production of Honduras, among others.

Article 3 of Executive Decree PCM – 035-2013 defines the attributions of the Commission as follows:

1. Coordinate the System for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products
2. Prepare, validate, evaluate and update the Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in Honduras, as well as coordinating implementation through the adoption of the SAICM.
3. Evaluate and approve the National Plan for the Implementation of the SAICM, known as SIP Honduras and other national plans derived from fulfillment of the Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in Honduras and of the international treaties ratified by the government in the area of the environment.
4. Promote national level validation of the framework of governance for the Management of Chemical Products, previous to its approval by competent authorities.
5. Discuss and generate proposals for instruments and administrative and organizational measures necessary to be applied by the public administration for the achievement of the management of chemical products.
6. Approve the internal regulations and other operational instruments necessary for its functioning and the achievement of the purposes of the policies and legal standards related to the issue of chemical products.
7. Coordinate actions with other instances or mechanisms related to the issue of Management of Chemical Products.
8. Present proposals for the solution and recommendations for the environmental problems of the country in issues related to the Management of Chemical Products.
9. Other related attributions in the Management of Chemical Products

6.3 Description of the Mechanisms for Obtaining Suggestions from Non-government Organizations

As established in the General of the Environment and the Law of Municipalities, the Government and Municipal Corporations have the obligation of promoting the active and organized participation of the inhabitants in decision making and actions that tend to protect and improve the environment.

6.4 Evaluation

Diverse inter-ministerial commissions have been created in the country for specific and independent purposes and coordination mechanisms directly or indirectly related to the management of chemical products. In terms of the functioning of the seven identified commissions, one is not operating (COTIAS), three are partially functioning (Inter-institutional Pesticide Commission, CONASATH y CTN-Calagua) and three are fully operating (Codex Alimentarius, COPREMSA and the CNG). When evaluating the effectiveness of these commissions, from a qualitative vision, the majority is placed at a low and medium level, considering some variables such as periodicity of the meetings, budget, and their contributions to the management of chemical products. Expanding on the issue of the budget, commissions directly associated with the management of chemical products do not have their own financial resources to operate (Inter-institutional Pesticide Commission, Codex Alimentarius and the CNG). They depend on the budgets assigned by the institutions to their representatives and from cooperating agencies projects.



Chapter 7: Information Management, Access and Use

This chapter summary provides a general vision of the capacity of management of information in the country related to the sound management of chemical products, and in particular, the availability of data and how it is used for the reduction of chemical risks at national and local level.

The first section of this chapter refers to the quality and quantity of available information for decision making. The second and third sections respectively refer to the location of the information and the national procedures for gathering and disseminating. The fourth refers to the availability of international literature and data bases and the fifth to government information systems, the capacity of the information technology and the exchange of information.

7.1 Availability of Information for the Management of Chemical Products

Chart 7.1 provides the available information for different categories of chemical products according to specific needs for the decision making process. Pesticides (agricultural, health and public use) are products for which the most information is available because the country's economy is based on agricultural activities traditionally associated with the imports and use of fertilizer and agro-chemicals in order to maintain productivity in this sector. In addition, there is access to international information with respect of the risks to the environment and health of these products.

Chart7.1. Sufficient Quantity and Quality of Available Information¹

Information necessary for:	Pesticides (Agricultural, Health, and Public Use)	Industrial Chemical Products	Chemical Products for Consumption	Chemical Waste
Framework of priorities	X		X	
Impact Evaluation in local Conditions				
Risk Evaluation (Environmental /Health)	X			
Classification/Labeling	X	X		X
Records	X		X	
Licenses (Use)	X	X		
Permits (Importing)	X		X	X
Decisions for Risk Reduction				
Preparation and Response to Accidents	X	X	X	X
Control of Intoxications	X	X		
Inventories of Emissions		X		
Inspections and Audits (Environmental and Health)		X ²		
Information for the Workers	X	X		
Information for the Public	X	X ³		
Others				

Source: Information updated in function of the National Profile for the Management of Chemical Substances in Honduras 2009 (CESCCO/SERNA, 2009a).

¹ We consider that for those activities marked with an X there is available information.

² Very limited information

³ Little information

7.2 Sources of National Data and its Access and Format

- There is information available in the country on statistics on imports as well as exports of chemical products, located in different government offices and stored in different formats.
- In the majority of cases, access to information is limited (under authorization), having to request it in writing to the highest level official responsible for the entity where the information is located.
- There are no records of toxic chemical substances or a record of imports or producers.
- In relation to work and occupational health, the "Profile of Occupational Health in Honduras 2013", points out that some of the most important occupational risks to which workers are exposed to are chemical substances, especially pesticides.



7.3 Procedures for the Collection and Dissemination of Local/National Information

Below we describe some procedures for the collection and diffusion of data related to the management of chemical products:

- **Agro-chemicals:**

In 2013, the National Service of Agricultural Health/Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SENASA/SAG in Spanish) designed an Information System for the National Registry of Pesticides in Honduras, freely accessible in their institutional web site.

- **Industrial chemical products:**

The Unit for the Regulation of Health Products of the Department of Management and Sanitary Control at the General Directorate of Health Regulation of the Secretariat of Health is responsible for authorizing imports of controlled substances, special imports of controlled substances, authorizing exports of controlled substances and authorizing records for the control of incoming and outgoing. It includes records of clients and data bases for the authorizations (chemical substances and precursors, narcotic drugs, psychotropics) standardized with the Adjunct Directorate of Customs Revenue of the DEI.

- **Petroleum Products:**

Information on petroleum derived products, including imports, price, quality, use, technical information, and other can be found at the Petroleum Administering Commission/Secretariat of Industry and Trade.

- **Domestic use pesticides:**

Since June 2012, the Unit for the Regulation of Health Products of the Department of Management and Sanitary Control of the General Directorate of Health Regulation at the Secretariat of Health is responsible for the Register of Domestic and Professional Use of Pesticides. Import permits are accessible at the transparency portal of the Secretariat of Health.

- **Record of Emissions and Transfers of Contaminants (RETC):**

In 2012, CESCO/SERNA designed the RETC, for the purpose of implementing a record of contaminants in the country that in addition to serving as an environmental management tool, would report to the regional RETC. The general objective of the RETC is to establish a national inventory of emissions and transfers of contaminants that would contribute to decision making and the formulation of policies on the issue of prevention and environmental control.

- **Information on hazardous waste:**

The procedures for recording notifications are based on the official format for the notification of Trans-boundary Movements approved at the Conference of the Parties for the Basel Convention during its eighth meeting in December, which approved the revised versions of the formats for notification and movement documents, including the instructions for completing those formats. Information on notification records is available at the Department for the Management of Chemical Products at CESCO/SERNA.



- **Chemical incidents:**

There are no mechanisms for the systematic collection of information on chemical incidents, as well as for chemical incidents occurring at the work place. The Fire Department of Honduras keeps a timely record of incidents they attend, including those related to chemical products. On the other hand, the International Sanitary Regulation (RESI), of which Honduras is a part through the Secretariat of Health, contains a chapter on emergencies.

7.4 Availability of Literature and International Data Bases

Charts 7.2 and 7.3 provide details of international literature and data bases accessible in the country, including their location in order to facilitate access to all interested parties.

Chart 7.2. Availability of International Literature

Literature	Yes/No	Location(s)	Who has access?	How to access?
SAICM Information Exchange Center	Yes	http://www.saicm.org/ich	Technical staff from CESCO/SERNA General Public	Free access via the internet
Guideline Documents for Decisions on Prior Informed Consent Chemical Substances (FAO/PNUMA)	Yes	http://www.pic.int/en/Table7.htm		Free access via the internet
Data Sheets on Materials Safety (Industry)	Yes	http://www.msds.com/index.asp http://www.permabond.com/ http://www.3ecompany.com/Industries_Application/chemical_distributors.htm		Free access via the internet
Chemical Emergencies Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (REQUILAC in Spanish)	Yes	http://www.bvsde.paho.org/requilac/e/requilac.html		Free access via the internet
Toxicology Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (RETOXLAC)	Yes	http://www.bvsde.paho.org/bvstox/e/retoxlac/retoxlac.html		Free access via the internet
Information on International Conventions on Chemicals	Yes	www.chm.pops.int www.basel.int www.pic.int www.synergies.pops.int		Free access via the internet

Chart 7.4. Availability of International Data Bases

Data Base	Yes/No	Location(s)	Who has access?	How to access?
OIT CIS (International Information Center on Labor Safety and Health)	Yes	http://www.ilocis.org/	Personal técnico de plaguicidas SENASA/SAG	Free access via the internet
OMS/IPCS INCHEM (International Program and Chemical Safety)	Yes	http://www.inchem.org/		Free access via the internet
IRPTC (International Record of Potentially Toxic Chemicals)	Yes	http://www.chem.unep.ch/irptc/irptc/databank.html		Free access via the internet
Data Base of Chemical Abstracts (CAS)	Yes	http://www.cas.org/		Free access via the internet
Global Information Network on Chemical Products (GINC)	Yes	http://www.nihs.go.jp/GINC/		Free access via the internet
STN Data Base (United States Chemical Abstract Service)	Yes	http://www.cas.org/products/stnfamily/index.html		Free access via the internet
BUSCA-TOX	Yes	http://busca-tox.com/		Free access via the internet
CANUTEC (Canadian Center for Transportation Emergencies)	Yes	http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/canutec/menu.htm		Free access via the internet



7.5 National Information Exchange Systems and Information Technology Capacities

As related to the exchange of national information between the diverse secretariats and other institutions and interested parties, there is no one facilitator mechanism such as a national web site for chemical products/waste. In relation to information technology capacities, we observe that the secretariats and institutions that are associated with the different aspects of the management of chemical products have different capacities including personnel and access to computers, it should be emphasized that no national diagnostic of information technology capacities exists.

7.6 Evaluation

Weaknesses in information systems persist in records, surveillance and vital statistics and continue to be a serious problem in Honduras. To this you can add the diversity of presentations and the origin of the reported data, making disaggregation, comparison and other statistics processes difficult. The digital information that exists in different institutions and organization requires systematization in inter-relatable data bases, so that in the future these can be accessible through a national level information system for all instances involved in the management of chemical products in the country.

Chapter 8: Technical Infrastructure

This chapter summary provides a general vision of the technical infrastructure in the country in relation to the sound management of chemical products and in particular, the analytical capacity necessary for their control, at the level of the quality of chemical products or residues in environmental matrices and in foods.

8.1 General Vision of the Laboratory Capacity

Main Laboratories

It is estimated that by 2013 there were around 24 laboratories with the analytical capacity for monitoring and surveillance of chemical products and their residues in the life cycle. These laboratories belong to government institutions, universities and research institutes and private laboratories, that according to their competencies carry out different kinds of physical, chemical, bacteriological analyses in environmental matrices (water, air, soil, sediments, biota and others) and foods.

As to the infrastructure of the laboratories for the regulatory chemical analysis, nine government laboratories are identified such as the DEI Customs Laboratory, the CESCO/SERNA laboratories, the INHGEOMIN laboratory, the National Residue Analysis Laboratory (LANAR) and the SENASA/SAG San José Laboratory, the National Autonomous Aqueduct and Sewer Services (SANAA) Quality Control Laboratory, the Food Control Laboratory of the Secretariat of Health Metropolitan Health Region, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene and the Public Ministry Directorate of Forensic Medicine Criminal and Forensic Sciences Laboratory.

Of this group of laboratories, only the CESCO/SERNA Laboratory carries out analyses directly linked to the application of policies for the management of chemical products and is the principal government sector laboratory with the capacity for environmental surveillance of organophosphates and chloroorganics, including POCs and PCBs, as well as other chemical residues (heavy metals) in different environmental matrices. Government organisms do not have clinical laboratories for analytic toxicology to exercise their responsibilities in the surveillance of health aspects.

Regarding the laboratory infrastructure for monitoring and analysis that could support programs and policies for the management of chemical products, fifteen laboratories are identified dedicated to this



activity. Of these, six are in the private sector, six are at universities, one is at the government sector and two are part of research foundations or institutes.

- **Utilization of internationally recognized protocols**

In general, laboratories utilize international protocols which they modify according to their needs and capacities.

- **Formal quality assurance systems (internal or external programs)**

Through Decree No.29-2011 dated July 8, 2011, “Law for the National System of Quality”, the National System of Quality (SNC in Spanish) was established as the national infrastructure charged with activities of development and demonstration of quality to promote the competitiveness of national enterprises, provide confidence in the transaction of goods and services, facilitate the fulfillment of international commitments in the area of evaluation of conformity, promote a culture of quality and provide technical support to regulating entities.

The Honduran Office of Accreditation is recognized as the National Organism for Accreditation to carry out activities of accreditation in the scope of evaluation in conformance with the volunteer framework. The National Honduran Organism for Accreditation is recognized in Spanish by the acronym of OHA. By 2013 it had accredited thirteen laboratories, seven of which are associated with analysis of environmental samples of chemical substances or products.

- **National programs to improve the quality and quantity of data produced by the laboratories**

Currently, the OHA is part of the National System of Quality, exercises a program of accreditation for those laboratories that request it and submit to the requisites stipulated by this entity.

- **Programs (formal or informal) for cooperation between countries to share the use of laboratories or the results of their experiments**

- Convention of cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica and the Honduran Council of Science and Technology (COHCIT in Spanish) in 2005.
- Other programs

Some national laboratories participate in training, research, and intercalibration by test programs, at the invitation of laboratory networks or through participation in regional or international projects.

8.2 Other Pertinent Areas to Technical Infrastructure

In 2012, COPECO received an environmental laboratory for the analysis of water and air quality from the government of Spain. Further, two of the country’s cement factories, CENOSA S.A and Lafarge Cementos S.A. de C.V (Cementos Argos S.A), are developing projects for the co-processing of residues and have the laboratory equipment for analyzing residues. As such, the hazardous materials unit of the Fire Department of Honduras has portable equipment for detecting gases. Some companies such as Recycle S.de.R.L and Honduras Environmental Services, S. de R.L that recover hazardous residues, carry out measurements of organic vapors, oxygen, carbon monoxide (CO) and sulphydric acid (H₂S), etc., in work areas, as well as emissions from generating sources or transfers of contaminants. On the other hand, there have been attempts to organize a National Laboratory Network for Chemical Analysis Reference, without satisfactory



results. Nevertheless, SERNA keeps a record of environmental services providers that includes environmental analysis laboratories.

8.3 Evaluation

The laboratories are generally located in the largest cities such as San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa and are unable to satisfy the infrastructure needs throughout the country. Further, we observed that there are few laboratories that carry out analyses of chemical products or their residues. Only three carry out POC determinations to provide coverage for the national needs in relation to the current situation.

National laboratories do not have the capacities for the analysis of dioxins and furans, however, a private laboratories provides sample taking services to be sent abroad. This is one of the areas of chemical analysis in which the country should have the support of outside laboratories for specific activities.

A national Network of Laboratories for Chemical Analysis Referrals has not been formed.

Some of the main problems and obstacles in the provision of laboratory services in the country are the insufficient financial resources for the preventive and corrective maintenance of the laboratory equipment and facilities, especially in the government sector.

Chapter 9: Preparation, Response and Following up Chemical Emergencies

This chapter summary provides a general vision of the capacity in the country in relation to the preparation, response and following up of emergencies involving chemical products.

The chapter provides information on the available facilities in the countries for the preparation, response and following up chemical emergencies. These emergencies could occur following industrial or transportation incidents, or others related to toxic substances, including wastes. These could be a consequence of accidental or deliberate contamination of foods, potable water and consumer goods. This kind of contamination could happen due to natural chemical substances or those created by human beings.

Natural disasters can also provoke chemical emergencies (for example, earthquakes, floods or storms that destroy facilities containing toxic materials that are released into the environment; toxic gases from volcanoes).

9.1 Planning for Chemical Emergencies

- **Chemical Emergency Plan**

Despite well-known advances made in national policies, laws, regulations and plans for risk management, today the country does not have an operational plan for chemical emergencies.

- **Emergency preparedness**

Currently, there are no inventories of facilities and transportation routes that run the risk of incidents with chemical products. Not all police, rescue or emergency services are adequately equipped and trained to address chemical accidents. Nor is there a system for identifying the risk of chemical disasters which is in force and obligatory throughout the country, for the transportation sector as well as the industrial and commercial sectors. The country does not have a system of toxicological information to provide information on chemical products, available 24 hours a day to provide advice in case of a chemical



emergency. There aren't specialized communications services for emergency cases. Information is provided to the public through the communications media through general coordination, i.e., through COPECO, with the issuance of written or oral communications.

9.2 Response to Chemical Incidents

The Fire Department of Honduras is responsible for responding to chemical incidents. It keeps a record of incidents attended, including those related to chemical products. However, the scientific and technical evidence is still not rigorously generated in the country to provide effective and timely response to chemical incidents that could continue to happen in the country probably with greater frequency and magnitude, as a consequence of the population growth and a greater demand for goods and services the country currently experiences.

9.3 Follow up and Evaluation of Chemical Incidents

Currently, the country lacks formal and informal mechanisms for investigating chemical incidents and the consequences. Therefore, there are no standard formats for collecting relevant information of the incidents. In the specific case of the Fire Department, emergencies are recorded manually in a log book.

Whenever a chemical incident occurs, a formal investigation is initiated on the causes and responsibilities of all the implied parties. The Fire Department, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment and the Special Attorney for the Environment participate in this process. This investigation generally does not lead to activities to follow up, for example, epidemiological studies, studies for the improvement of the prevention of fires in shops, among others.

On the other hand, there isn't an official record of incidents and accidents with chemical products. As mentioned previously, only the Fire Department has a log book where the events they attend are systematically recorded. Some universities carry out academic exercises to record incidents and accidents.

The health services do not include mechanisms for following up surveillance and rehabilitation for those persons who are exposed to chemical products who could suffer long term incapacities and some type of after effects.

Cleaning activities of affected areas after an incident or accident are the direct responsibility of whoever generated them and the corresponding local level authorities with the accompaniment and supervision of competent national authorities. Follow up of damages to the natural or physical environment is generally not carried out unless there is particular interest in intervening in the situation.

9.4 Evaluation

In aspects of planning for chemical emergencies, the country still lacks a national plan for chemical emergencies that is linked to the entire legal and institutional structure in force for risk management. It is imperative to have this plan in order to advance towards the adequate planning for chemical emergencies.

On the other hand, preparation for chemical emergencies demonstrates a series of limitations that demand attention, for example the fact that there isn't an inventory of facilities and transportation routes that run the risk of chemical product incidents. In the same manner, not all rescue, police and other emergency services have specific equipment and trained staff to confront chemical incidents. To this we should add that there isn't a system for identifying the risk of chemical disasters in the transportation sector as well as in the industrial and commercial sectors. Nor is there a toxicological information service that contributes to providing the measures for the prevention and attention to the incidents and accidents by chemical products as well as to provide guidelines to local hospitals and health or emergency services in relation in services of



decontamination for the patients, reserves of antidotes and medications, the adequate equipment for chemical emergencies, transportation of persons who have been exposed to chemical products.

In the same manner, aspects related to the response to chemical incidents and accidents need a thorough analysis, since the current approach denotes a series of legal, institutional and procedural limitations that in the end affect the correct approach. One of these is that the country does not have official records for capturing, analyzing, and divulging valid, pertinent and timely information on chemical incidents and accidents occurring at national level and support decision making at the corresponding political and technical levels.

Follow up and evaluation of chemical incidents and accidents is another weak aspect that is necessary to strengthen through the creation of formal or informal mechanisms for investigating any chemical incident and the consequences, along with the design of standard formats for gathering the relevant information of the incidents. Another issue to consider is the design of the mechanisms to follow-up surveillance and rehabilitation for persons exposed to chemical products who could suffer from long term incapacity and some kind of after effects. Cleaning activities of affected areas after an incident or accident must be framed in specific harmonized procedures and facilitators of this type of activities just as for the mechanisms for following up damages to the natural or physical environment.

Chapter 10: Awareness/Understanding of the Workers and the Public and the Formation and Education of Target Groups and Professionals

This chapter summary provides a general vision of (i) the available mechanisms to provide information to workers and the general public regarding possible risks related to chemical products and (ii) the capacity of formation and education of target groups affected by chemical products.

This chapter summarizes the instruments, programs, and legal policies and related activities for:

- Promoting awareness and understanding on chemical security risks throughout the country and
- Provide education and training to specific sectors of society that are charged with the application of the sound management of chemical products and wastes

10.1 Awareness and Understanding of the Risks of Chemical Security

In the country today there is little recognition of the risks related to chemical safety and how exposure to chemical products and waste could give rise to serious health deterioration and environmental degradation which in turn produce adverse effects on human welfare and economic development.

This section describes the activities carried out to promote awareness and understanding of the risks of chemical safety.

- Provide information to workers

By law, the Honduran Social Security Institute and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security have the attributions of providing information to the workers on how to protect their health and safety in the face of risks from chemical products.



- Provide information to the public

Currently, the function of providing the public with information on risks to the environment, health, and safety caused by chemical products and also information on measures that should be taken for protection against acute or chronic exposure to hazardous chemical substances in daily life, as well as during a chemical emergency falls on several government organizations, universities, non-government organizations and private sector initiatives described as follows:

- Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment
 - Secretariat of Health
 - Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock
 - National Autonomous University of Honduras
 - Non-government organizations
 - Private sector initiatives
- Sensitize and educate the public

In the scope of sensitizing and educating the public to achieve effective participation in national initiatives for environmental management, activities led by the POCs 2 Project are worth emphasizing.

- Sensitize decision makers

It is necessary to continue the sensitization process with those charged with decision making and the legislators with regards to chemical safety and to incentivize the application of timely measures to start up measures for the sound management of chemical products.

- Improve understanding in communicators and the communications media

It is necessary to improve understanding in communicators and the communications media on chemical risks and encourage them to better communicate these issues in order to improve understanding and promote actions for chemical safety by the public and civil society in general.

10.2 Education and Formation on the Sound Management of Chemical Products and Waste

Below we describe the initiatives for education and formation on the sound management of chemical products and waste undertaken in the country:

- Develop education programs on chemical risks in school and university programs

Since 2011, one of the results towards which actions of the CESCco/SERNA POCs 2 Project are oriented is the education and sensitization of the Honduran population with regards to the nature and risks associated with chemical products. As such, we are working on the implementation of strategies for the insertion of the issue of chemical products in the formal education system at the level of primary and middle school education, as well as at the postgraduate level focused on the environmentally sound management of chemical products and in the informal education.

- Insertion of the issue of chemical products in the formal education system at the level of primary and middle school education



The following activities were developed during this process:

1. The design of a strategic plan for the insertion of management of chemical products in the national education system (2011).
2. The diagnostic for the insertion of the issue of environmentally sound management of chemical products at basic and middle levels (2012).
3. The diagnostic of the insertion of the environmentally sound management of chemical products in post graduate education (2012).
4. The identification of other spaces for insertion of the issue (2012-2013).

Based on these issues, in 2012-2013 the Project prepared the *“Methodological Guide on Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products”*, oriented towards basic and middle school teachers. In 2012 the POCs 2 project carried out the *“Diagnostic of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices with Basic and Middle Education Teachers”*, which permitted learning the level of knowledge of the teachers with respect of the focus of environmentally sound management of chemical products and the attitudes towards a process of perfecting and teacher formation.

- Insertion of the issue of chemical products at post-graduate education focused on the environmentally sound management of chemical products

The opportunities for insertion of the issue of environmentally sound management of chemical products have been identified, for the purpose of supporting its inclusion in the pertinent space.

- Informal education

During this process, diagnostics have been made of the possibilities of insertion of the issue in higher education, leading to the preparation of a quality plan by university for the curricular thematic insertion in and thematic diffusion, along with alliances with the National Commission for the Development of Informal Alternative Education (CONEANFO in Spanish), to carry out the 2013 Expodidactive in Tegucigalpa in October 8 and 9, 2013) with the event known as: *“Management of Chemical Products: A Challenge for Informal Education”*.

- Promote necessary awareness for administrators to carry out risk evaluation and the regulation of the use of available data and a focus based on tests

The CESCO/SERNA POCs 2 Project, in coordination with UNITEC, has planned to issue a *“Specialist Certificate in Management and Environmental Control of Chemical Products”*, with a duration of 240 hours, for a period of nine months.

On the other hand, the subject of management of chemical products will be imparted during the ESNACIFOR Master’s Degree in Management of Environmental Structures. This is a result of the alliance with the COP 2 Project. Further, alliances are projected with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, the UNA and the University of San Pedro Sula.

- Promoting training on the job for a broad range of professionals involved in aspects of the sound management of chemical products, ranging from customs offices workers to persons who manipulate and transport chemical products to the users of those products, such as agricultural and industrial workers and those employed by small and medium companies (PYMES).

The SALTRA FASE II Program has driven actions for the promotion of on the job training in Honduras.



10.3 Evaluation

Despite these limitations, distinct actions of differing significance are being developed to promote awareness and understanding of the risks of chemical safety, by providing information to the workers and the public. This function falls on government and non-government organizations, the universities and the private sector that carry it out according to their competencies, attributions and institutional scope.

In aspects of providing information to workers, the Social Security Institute and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security have defined and specific functions that implicitly encompass issues of the management of chemical products. Nevertheless, given the diversity of issues that both institutions must attend, it isn't possible to know the level of priority each assigns to the management of products and if the general interventions they carry out affect the level of awareness and understanding in the workers.

On the other hand, the public receives information from different sources such as the Secretariat of Natural Resources, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Autonomous University of Honduras, non-government organizations and private sector initiatives. For the moment there isn't an evaluation or evidence of the effect the information divulged by these organizations has on the public.

Education and formation on the sound management of chemical products and wastes reports some substantial advances, focused on the development of the education programs on chemical risks in school and university programs, driven by the CESCO/SERNA POCs 2 Project, which marks a milestone in the country and demonstrates consistent long term efforts for driving and consolidating this emerging issue.

Chapter 11: International Links

This chapter summary describes the participation and national involvement in organizations and international agreements as concerning the management of chemical products and the identification of opportunities for a national level integrated focus.

11.1 Cooperation and Participation in Organizations, Agreements and International Organisms

Chart 11.1 establishes the manner in which the country is involved in international activities and makes the known concerned parties with the responsibility of establishing contacts with international organizations.

Chart 11.1. Participation in Organizations, Programs and International Organisms

International Organization /Program/Organism	National Focus Point (Ministry/Agency and Main Point of Contact)	Other Involved Ministries/Agencies	National Related Activities
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)	Secretariat of Foreign Relations	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment Other Secretariats and organizations linked to the environment	Technical and financial assistance for SERNA for the development of the 2013 GEO Honduras Report. Development of the "Insertion of Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in the Country Plan" project.
UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centers	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	National Center for Cleaner Production of Honduras (CNP+LH) Honduran Entrepreneurial Council for Sustainable Development (CEHDES) Chambers of Industry and Commerce	Development and implementation of clean production agreements jointly with industry. Preparation of national policies. Education and training.



Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)	Secretariat of Health	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) Other Secretariats and organizations	Repackaging of DDT and other POCs Mobilization of toxicology expert in the management of intoxications, 2012.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, Secretariat of Industry and Trade Secretariat of Health	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the distribution and utilization of pesticides
United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO)	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, Secretariat of Industry and Trade Others	Resource management for Project development
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Secretariat of Labor and Social Security	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	Work inspections ad industries and agriculture. Hygiene and occupational health for workers. IPEC Program
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	CESCO/SERNA Department of Management of Chemical Products	National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products	POCs 2 project administration. Financial resources administration. Resource management and mobilization
United Nations Institute for Professional Formation and Research (UNITAR)	CESCO/SERNA Department of Management of Chemical Products	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	Development of the "Design of the Key Characteristics of a RETC and the Implementation of a first pilot test of the RETC in Honduras" project. Technical assistance (training). Logistical Support. Rec. Fin.
World Bank	Secretariat of Planning	Secretariats of State	Financial and technical assistance for the country.
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Secretariat of Planning	Secretariats of State	Financial and technical assistance for the country
Regional Development Bank (Central American Bank for Economic Integration -CABIE)	Secretariat of Planning	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat of Tourism Others	Development of joint support projects for national policies of different state institutions
Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OCED)	Secretariat of Planning		Follow up of the Implementation of the Principles of the Paris Declaration
UNO Regional Economic Commissions (CEPAL)	Secretariat of Planning		Coordinate actions aimed at promoting economic development in the country.
International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA in Spanish)	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock	Executive Directorate of Revenue	Training and divulging agricultural health issues in Central America. Quarantine Treatment Service between Central American isthmus countries
Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA in Spanish)	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	Development of plant and animal health projects in agriculture for the Central American region
Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD in Spanish)	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	Secretariat of Health Other secretariats and government institution	Institutional strengthening Technical assistance
Latin American Network of Contaminated Sites (ReLASC in Spanish)	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment	National Commission for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products	Exchange of experiences

11.2 Participation in Relevant Technical Assistance Projects

The country participates in different multilateral and bilateral assistance activities related to management of chemical products. The following projects are currently under development:

1. "Strengthening National Capacities for the Management and Reduction of Releasing COPs in Honduras "COPs 2" (2011-2015). GEF/PNUD/SERNA
2. "Updating the National Plan for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention" (2013-2014). GEF/ONUDI/SERNA



11.3 Evaluation

The Government of Honduras is involved in a series of agreements and international activities linked to management of chemical products. The international programs work with specific national counterparts or official points of contact appointed by the competent secretariat or organization and are responsible for aligning proposed activities with institutional planning. As such, the degree of development of national implementation activities of international agreements varies from organization to organization in function of priorities, the availability of personnel, financial resources and available logistics.

The level of implementation of international agreements by the organizations is variable and at the moment there is no formal and official mechanism for evaluating them. Documental evidence suggests a series of obstacles for the adequate implementation of international agreements.

The work of international organizations is integrated in national programs through different modalities that go from the preparation, application, approval and implementation of specific projects through signing agreements between the parties for the development of planned actions. Currently, it is not possible to determine how well the work of international organizations is integrated in the national program, because there is no formal and official mechanism for evaluations.

On the other hand, existing mechanisms for coordination with respect of implementation of activities and international agreements in the area of management of chemical products at national level are incipient and the available documental evidence is limited for determining if these are appropriate. With legalization of the CNG it is expected that the inter-institutional coordination will strengthen and consolidate.

With respect of the development of synergies between agreements during application in the country, this aspect has not been evaluated and there is little documental evidence. However, synergies are observed between some projects coordinated by agencies of the United Nations System such as the UNEP, PNUD, ONUDI, PAHO/WHO and UNITAR, in the framework of assistance of the UNDP.

In the scope of the management of chemical products, the CNG is organizing in the procedure to ensure coordination between secretariats and responsible agencies for activities in support of development and those responsible for the protection of health and environmental safety.

International agencies could improve the effectiveness of current programs in the country, by supporting mechanisms of harmonization and alignment in conformance with the mandates of the Declaration of Paris, forming a table of cooperating agencies for the management of chemical products that would improve mechanisms of coordination, redefine priorities and adapt international programs to local conditions.

As previously made evident, the country presents diverse obstacles as referring to implementation of international agreements, among which are the high dependence of financial resources for implementing programs and projects which in turn are timely, and as such there is a high risk of losing continuity when they finalize.



Chapter 12: Available and Necessary Resources for Management of Chemical Products

This chapter summary provides a general vision of the available resources in the government and non-government organizations related to diverse aspects of the management of chemical products (including human and financial resources) and analyzes the needs for resources.

This chapter primarily deals with resources provided by the government, needed by the government departments and institutions.

12.1 Available Resources at the Ministries/Government Institutions for Managing Chemical Products

This provides a general vision of the resources available for the secretariats, organisms and other institutions to specifically address the responsibilities of the government in the area of sound management of chemical products. This includes information on the availability of professional staff with specific abilities as well as financial resources.

12.2. Necessary Resources for the Government to Meet Responsibilities Related to the Management of Chemical Products

This provides a general vision of the needs for resources in the national government (secretariats, agencies and other institutions) to meet their responsibilities in the management of chemical products.

12.3 Available Resources in Non-Government Organizations for the Management of Chemical Products

There is no national information available for incorporating in this section. However, we consider that the industrial and commercial sectors provide considerable contributions through investments in security measures and control of contamination, as well as the application of classification systems and labeling. Non-government organizations provide resources through, for example, their own activities in formation and awareness.

12.4 Resources Obtained through Assistance Activities for Development

The country is currently in economic transition and benefits from multilateral and bilateral assistance activities related to the management of chemical products. The section provides a general vision of the resources that are at the disposal of the country through assistance for development and technical cooperation with United Nations organisms such as ONUDI, UNDP, UNEP and UNITAR as well as projects for the development of capacities with GEF and bilateral donors.

12.5 Evaluation

In relation to available resources in different government organizations participating in the management of chemical products in the country, there isn't a uniform pattern of strengths in technical capacities. All have different capacities that respond to their legal competencies and institutional objectives.

Some organizations have departments with specific responsibilities to which human and limited financial resources are assigned, for example, the CESCO/SERNA Department of the Management of Chemical Products, Secretariat of Health DGRS Unit for the Registration of Health Products, the SENASA/Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock Department of Registration and Surveillance of



Pesticides, the Petroleum Administering Commission/Secretariat of Industry and Trade and the Fire Department.

Other important government organizations such as the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, and the Executive Directorate of Revenue do not have specific departments to deal with the management of chemical products; however, they approach the issue of managing chemical products generally throughout their offices.

On the other hand, government organizations identify the need to strengthen, the development of capacities and the formation of human resources in the following specific areas of the management of chemical products:

- Regulation
- Coordination
- Management of information on chemical products
- Management of chemical spills
- Chemical toxicology
- Investigation of chemical incidents
- Management of security data documents
- Formulation of security programs for managing chemical products
- Designing procedures and tools for managing chemical products
- Transportation of hazardous substances, merchandise and waste
- System of registration in data bases for authorization of specialized cargo
- Use, management, regulation, conventions, contingency plan designs and investigations of land accidents as concerning national and international transportation of chemical products
- Management of chemical products
- Clean up of areas affected by chemical incidents
- Procedures for importing explosives
- Training on the use of protective equipment for chemical spills

The gaps in the available qualified human resources for managing chemical products safely are mainly technical and in higher level professionals with formation in different areas of managing chemical products.

On the other hand, the measures being taken by government organizations to guarantee sustainability of activities that currently receive assistance resources for development are unknown.

The “*Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products in Honduras*”, approved in 2013 should be utilized as a strategic tool to mobilize sufficient technical and human resources to ensure the sound management of chemical products in the country.

Finally, the possibility exists of promoting public-private collaboration in the areas of importing, stockpiling, transportation, treatment of chemical products and final disposal of chemical residues, because the country has the legal instruments for this purpose, such as the Law for the Promotion of Public-Private Alliances and the General Regulations of Public-Private Alliances.



Chapter 13: Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter offers a summary of the most relevant general conclusions regarding the situation concerning the management of chemical products in the country and the priorities and recommended actions considered most important.

13.1. Conclusions

Based on the collected, reviewed and analyzed scientific and technical evidence on the management of chemical products in the country, a group of general conclusions is derived related to each of the chapters in the profile, described as follows.

Chapter 1: Framework of National Information

- The Republic of Honduras is the second country in the Central American region with the largest territorial extension, with a highly mountainous and broken topography, a variable predominantly humid and dry climate, positioned as one of the countries with great vulnerability to natural disasters, a product of weak implementation of risk management strategies in urban and rural planning.
- The agricultural sector continues to be the main source of employment in the country, followed by trade and industry.
- In relation to land use for the country's economic development, the predominant use of land is for forestry and agriculture.
- The GDP demonstrates that the country's productive base is sustained mainly by activities in the services sector and to a lesser degree, by the manufacturing industries and the agriculture sector. Agriculture sector activities linked to the utilization of agro-chemicals and fertilizers contribute 11.47 % of the GDP and the manufacturing industries sector contributes 1.01 % to the GDP.

Chapter 2: Production, Imports, Exports, Stockpiling, Transportation, Use and Final Disposal of Chemical Products

- The country does not produce primary synthesis chemical products or substances, although it exports raw materials and minerals derived from extractive processes.
- Imports of chemical products are authorized primarily by the Executive Directorate of Revenue and secondly, by other institutions such as the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Secretariat of Industry and Trade, etc. However, there isn't a specific procedure for importing industrial chemical products in the country, which is an importer of these products.
- In relation to the use of chemical products, there isn't a unified system of systematic controls or traceability which makes it difficult to estimate and know the quantities of tons utilized by the different sectors annually and by type of product.
- The country does not have a national inventory of the facilities for stockpiling chemical products. As such, the number of units dedicated to transporting by type of chemical product is unknown.
- In aspects of managing chemical residues, the country generates different currents of chemical residues; however, there are no estimates available of the quantities generated by activities of different sectors.
- Importing chemical residues is prohibited by law, while in the matter of exporting residues CESCO/SERNA manages focalized information records on trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste in Honduras in the context of the Convention of Basel.



- In relation to obsolete chemical reserves, waste landfills and contaminated sites, CESSCO/SERNA has limited information of national POC pesticides and other prohibited disused pesticides in Honduras, PCBs, dioxins and furans and sites contaminated with lead.
- The country does not have official information on technical facilities for the recovery, recycling and final disposal of chemical waste.

Chapter 3: Legal Instruments and Non-Regulatory Mechanisms for the Sound Management of Chemical Products

- Honduran legislation does not coherently regulate the life cycle of chemical products and is disaggregated in a diversity of codes, laws and regulations.
- The issued standards have been carried out in different periods of time, under momentary particular interests, which has not permitted harmonizing regulations since there is a sectorial and not an integrated vision of the management of chemical products.
- The legal gap around the management of chemical products is more evident in some issues such as the final disposal of chemical products, industrial chemical and public consumption products, standards for the control and prevention due to incidents related to chemical products.
- Despite the fact that the General Law for the Environment establishes a system of environmental incentives, in practice these are not implemented for which the responsible management of chemical products by the companies, individuals and the government itself is mostly voluntary.
- Diverse Conventions and International Treaties signed and ratified by the Government of Honduras influence the management of chemical products, however, there are no national capacities for the effective fulfillment of these acts.
- There aren't enough national technical standards for the management of chemical substances making the application of the laws and regulations difficult and complex.
- The level of fulfillment of the current legal framework continues to be low.

Chapter 4: Ministries, Agencies and Other Government Institutions Managing Chemical Products

- The direct responsibilities for the management of chemical products fall on different government entities such as the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security, the Secretariat of Industry and Trade and the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing and central government de-concentrated entities such as the Executive Directorate of Revenue, the Fire Department and INHGEOMIN. Some decentralized entities such as the Social Security Institute, the National Port Authority, the Permanent Commission of Contingencies and Municipalities have indirect competencies on the issue. This denotes a great dispersion of actors, procedures, instruments and actions that influence the environmentally sound management of chemical products.
- In the scope of institutional competencies, the regulatory mandates of the six secretariats of state are well defined in their legal instruments, with the same applying to the de-concentrated and decentralized entities. However, aspects linked to stewardship of the management of chemical products appear to be incipient, diffused and without conceptual clarity, especially between the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment and the Secretariat of Health.
- The Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment is the only government institution with a specific Department for the Management of Chemical Products in its organizational structure, attached to CESSCO/SERNA. The rest of the institutions exercise their mandates in accordance with their competencies and specific functions (Secretariat of Health, Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, Secretariat of Labor and Social Security, Secretariat of Industry and Trade and the Secretariat of Public Works, Transportation and Housing), approaching the management of chemical products from a completely regulatory, diffused and fragmented perspective.



- The health effects from exposure to chemical agents are only being attended to marginally by the Secretariat of Health through recording intoxications caused by pesticides, without considering the generality of chemical products circulating nationally, making the magnitude of the effects caused by these agents on the health of the population invisible, as well as their inclusion in health sector policies.

Chapter 5: Relevant Industry Activities, Public Interest Groups, Professional Associations, and the Research Sector

- From the perspective of non-government organizations and programs, diverse industrial organizations and entities are identified that are directly and indirectly involved in the phases of the life cycle of the management of chemical products. These include industrial organizations, labor unions and associations, professional and scientific entities and associations, universities and research institutes and public interest groups that exercise their mandates in function of their vision, mission, objectives and specific interests on the issue.
- The support and contribution of these organizations and entities to national efforts for the management of chemical products are perceived as fragmented and diffused, in view of the fact they do not obey criteria of complementarity, integration and focalization towards objectives, goals and common and precise indicators based on Government policies on the issue.

Chapter 6: Inter-Ministerial Commissions and Coordination Mechanisms

- Diverse inter-ministerial commissions exist in the country with specific purposes and coordination mechanisms, directly or indirectly related to the management of chemical products. Not all are operational or function partially and others function broadly with low to medium effectiveness and don't have their own operating resources.
- In 2013, through Executive Decree PCM - 035 - 2013, the creation of the National Management Commission was approved as inter-sectorial mechanism for coordination, consultation and socialization between sectors involved in this issue, as well as the instance that recommends to policy level decision makers with regards to resolutions, legal opinions, action plans, among others, that are to be approved to ensure success in this matter. As such, this Commission is visualized as the most important mechanism to strengthen management of chemical products at national level.

Chapter 7: Information Management, Access and Use

- Availability of information for management of chemical products is variable. In general, the majority of information available is regarding pesticides. On the other hand, the availability of information for risk evaluation (environmental and health) is limited.
- There are sources of national data linked to the management of chemical products in different formats which are not compatible, with restricted access to the public.

Chapter 8: Technical Infrastructure

- Laboratory capacities are limited for the regulatory chemical analysis as well as for monitoring and analysis, because laboratories that carry out chemical or residue analysis are scarce and the majority are concentrated in the larger cities which can't meet the infrastructure needs of the whole country.
- There isn't a National Laboratory Network for Chemical Analysis Referrals.



Chapter 9: Preparation, Response and Follow up of Chemical Emergencies

- With regards to planning for chemical emergencies, the country still lacks a national chemical emergency plan that would link to all the current legal and institutional risk management structure.
- Preparation for chemical emergencies exhibits a series of limitations, including the lack of inventories of facilities and transportation routes, as well as the industries and businesses that run the risk of incidents with chemical products. As such not all rescue, police and other emergency services have specific equipment and trained staff to confront chemical incidents. Nor is there a toxicological information service that contributes to dictating the measures for the prevention and attention to incidents and accidents from chemical products.
- Response to incidents and accidents denotes limitations, for example the lack of official records for capturing, analyzing and divulging valid, pertinent and timely information on chemical incidents and accidents occurring in the country.
- Following up and evaluations of chemical incidents and accidents is another weak aspect because there are no formal or informal mechanisms for investigating chemical incidents and the consequences.

Chapter 10: Awareness/Understanding of the Workers and the Public and the Formation and Education of Target Groups and Professionals

- Awareness and understanding of the risks of chemical safety has a low level of recognition, although some timely uncoordinated efforts are carried out to provide information to the workers, by the Social Security Institute and the Secretariat of Labor and Social Security and to the public by the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, the Secretariat of Health, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Autonomous University of Honduras and EDUCSA/RAP-AL and private sector initiatives such as those executed by CropLife.
- Substantial advances are reported on education and formation on the sound management of chemical products and wastes, focalized on the development of education programs in the school and university programs on chemical risks, supported by the POCs2 Project at CESCO/SERNA. This marks a milestone in the country and denotes consistent and long term efforts for supporting and consolidating this emerging issue.

Chapter 11: International Links

- The Government of Honduras is involved in a series of international agreements and activities linked to the management of chemical products. International programs work with specific national counterparts or official points of contact appointed by the competent secretariat or organization and are responsible for aligning proposed activities with institutional planning.

Chapter 12: Available and Necessary Resources for Management of Chemical Products

- In relation to the available resources in different government organizations involved in the management of chemical products in the country, there isn't a uniform pattern of strengths in technical capacities. All have different capacities that respond to their legal competencies and institutional objectives.
- Practically all government organizations have the need for strengthening, the development of capacities and the formation of human resources in the different areas of management of chemical products.



13.2. Recommendations

This section provides a consolidated list of national priorities and proposed actions considered to have greater national importance.

Chapter 1: Framework of National Information

- It is necessary for the framework of national information for the profile to be prepared in a participative manner and with official information provided by the competent institutions in the corresponding issues. This will facilitate access to information that is reliable, credible and comparable in time.

Chapter 2: Production, Importing, Storage, Transportation, Use and Final Disposal of Chemical Products

- As related to imports it is necessary to generate harmonized instruments for collecting import data of chemical products as well as specific official publications on the importing of chemical products and to have a sectorial study available on the market for chemical products at national level.
- In aspects of exports it is necessary to have a homologous and harmonized record of exports of chemical products.
- In relation to the use of chemical products it is appropriate to analyze the pertinence of implementing a unified system of systematic controls and for the traceability of chemical products to be prioritized for the country.
- With respect of storage and the means for transporting chemical products, it is fundamental to have national information available, including the preparation of national inventories in these aspects.
- In reference to the management of chemical residues, the priorities are to identify the main currents and quantities of hazardous chemical residues generated in the country, having official national information on the exports of chemical residues (mapping), expand existing inventories of COPs and PCBs to other prioritized currents of residues which could be called the national inventory of contaminated sites. It would also be timely to identify and map the technical facilities for the recovery and recycling of the products and carry out a supplementary national study on the practices for final disposal of chemical waste for the purpose of knowing the real national capacities in these aspects. Further, the need is identified to expand the national inventories of sources and estimates of dioxins and furans throughout the national territory, including residuality in foods and the environment.

Chapter 3: Legal Instruments and Non-Regulatory Mechanisms for the Sound Management of Chemical Products

- Harmonize the legal framework for chemical products through a proposed Framework Law for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Products that organizes the competencies of each actor and regulates the management process.
- Achieve approval of different legal instruments that are currently at the level of draft projects, including the regulation for the management of chemical substances, among others.
- Strengthen the regulatory framework of the phases of the life cycle of chemical products, especially the final disposal phase.
- Manage economic resources that support the establishment of control programs that in turn help to evaluate valid legal instruments and make adjustments as required.
- Incentivize the industry and private enterprise in the responsible management of chemical products through the use of best environmental practices and the best available technologies.



Chapter 4: Ministries, Agencies and other Government Institutions Managing Chemical Products

- It is necessary to advance towards effective stewardship of the management of chemical products, which is one of the necessary steps to achieve carrying out a thorough analysis of the institutional mandates delegated to the main entities involved in the management of chemical products in Honduras and formulate the mechanism of evaluation and quantitative follow up of the fulfillment of institutional mandates linked to the stewardship and regulatory functions of the competent institutions in the management of chemical products.
- Have a harmonized or unified procedure for the management of chemical products prioritized by the government of Honduras.

Chapter 5: Relevant Activities of the Industry, Public Interest Groups, Professional Associations and the Research Sector

- Generate mapping of non-government organizations related to the management of chemical products and formulate a plan of action for the socialization and appropriation of the policy of the environmentally sound management of chemical products for non-government organizations.
- Create a two way mechanism for the non-government organizations to provide information related to the management of chemical products to the government sector.

Chapter 6: Inter-Ministerial Commissions and Coordination Mechanisms

- Prepare a thorough and detailed official record of the inter-ministerial commission directly linked to the management of chemical products, by identifying competencies and responsibilities in the life cycle of chemical products.
- Carry out a thorough review of the effectiveness of existing coordination mechanisms through a quantitative methodology.

Chapter 7: Information Management, Access and Use

- Carry out mapping of the available information for the chemical products in the country.
- Prepare a proposal for the design and execution of a defined mechanism for exchange and complementarity for access to information for all parties involved in the management of chemical products. This could consider the creation and development of an information center (documentation) on the management of chemical products.

Chapter 8: Technical Infrastructure

- Carry out a national diagnostic and inventory of the capacities of the laboratories of chemical analysis in the country and prepare a plan to strengthen capacities.
- Carry out a study on the supply and demand of services for the regulatory chemical analysis and improvement of the existing laboratory infrastructure.

Chapter 9: Preparation, Response and Follow up of Chemical Emergencies

- Formulate, design, validate and approve a national chemical emergency plan.
- Formulate a system of official records to capture, process, analyze and divulge valid information on chemical incidents and accidents at national level.



Chapter 10: Awareness/Understanding of the Workers and the Public and the Formation and Education of Target Groups and Professionals

- Support the development of a standardized methodology to measure the impact of the interventions to support awareness and understanding of the risks of chemical safety.
- Support the development of a group of validated indicators to evaluate the impact of the support interventions for awareness and understanding of the risks of chemical safety.

Chapter 11: International Links

- Formulate a proposal for a design of a formal mechanism to know the degree of implementation of international agreements subscribed and ratified by the Government of Honduras in the scope of the management of chemical products.
- Formulate a proposal for a design of mechanisms to determine the degree of the integration of the work of international organizations in the national program.
- Generate a map of cooperating agencies involved in the management of chemical products.

Chapter 12: Available and Necessary Resources for the Management of Chemical Products

- Carry out a thorough diagnostic of available resources in different government and non-government organizations involved in the management of chemical products.
- Prepare a plan of action for standardizing and homologizing the technical capacities in the different government and non-government organizations for dealing with the management of chemical products.

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