



SAICM/UCT CSDG CoP DISCUSSION 4 TRANSCRIPT

Title: Environmental Injustice Issues to Consider for Chemical Risk

Date: 23 November 2022

Presenters: Rico Euripidou (groundWork)

12:52 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Hello Everyone and welcome to today's discussion. I am Andrea Rother, Head of the Env Health Division at UCT in South Africa.

12:55 PM Tatum uct: Hi all, welcome to the last SAICM/UCT CSDG Discussion for 2022! Kindly can you introduce yourself (name, job title, organization, and country) in the chat section. Please note, only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions attendees should be typed in the chat section. Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion.

12:58 PM Rico Euripidou: Hi everyone. I am Rico Euripidou from groundWork, friends of the Earth South Africa

12:58 PM Tatum uct: Welcome to the last SAICM/UCT CSDG Discussion for 2022! Kindly can you introduce yourself (name, job title, organization, and country) in the chat section. Please note, only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any comments or questions attendees should be typed in the chat section. Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion.

12:59 PM OECD, Marie-Ange Baucher: Hello! I am Marie-Ange Baucher from the OECD.

1:00 PM Leah: Hello everyone, Leah Utyasheva from the Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention, University of Edinburgh, UK

1:00 PM Tefera Getaneh: Hello everyone, I am Tefera Getaneh from Environmental protection authority environmental and social impact assessment expert ,in Ethiopia

1:00 PM Michelle Bloor: Michelle Bloor, University of Glasgow

1:00 PM SAICM- Delfina Cuglievan: Hello everyone. My name is Delfina from the SAICM secretariat. Welcome all



1:01

PM Jasmin Beakam: Good Day, Jasmin Beakam, SHE Specialist , Port of Durban. SA

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1:01

PM Tatum uct:

1:01

PM Naomi: Hello everyone, I am Naomi Chitsa from UCT, South Africa.

1:01

PM Union Mapxashike: Good day, my name is Union Mapxashike, an Environmental Officer, from the Environmental Management Agency Zimbabwe

1:01

PM Ijumaa Bakari: Ijumaa Bakari from Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority, Tanzania.

1:04

PM Olga Irimca: Irimca Olga from National Agency for Public Health, Moldova

1:04

PM kidus Workineh: Im Kidus Workineh from Ethiopia, MCRM student

1:06

PM kidus Workineh: Im not hearing any voice from the discussion

1:09

PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Kidus - check your mic as we can here.

1:09

PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Please do continue to introduce yourself with your name country and organization.

1:10

PM Debbie Muir: Debbie Muir, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa

1:10

PM Maimouna-PAN AFRICA: Maimouna DIENE (Senegal), Regional coordinator PAN Africa

To those just joining us, welcome to the last SAICM/UCT CSDG Discussion for 2022! Kindly can you introduce yourself (name, job title, organization, and country) in the chat section. Please note, only the presenter and facilitator will speak. Any

1:16

PM Tatum uct:



comments or questions attendees should be typed in the chat section. Please kindly keep you microphone muted and cameras off during the discussion.

1:17 PM Blessings: Greetings all. My name is Blessings Mulima from Malawi. I work as a Pesticides Monitoring and Enforcement Officer for the Pesticides Control Board

1:17 PM Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: Greetings to all from Hamraah Foundation, New Delhi. It's my great pleasure to attend this privileged session.
Regards,
Mohammed Javed Qureshi
Chairman
Hamraah Foundation
New Delhi
India
Phone: +919312062483
info.hamraah@gmail.com
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Skype: javed.qureshi
www.linkedin.com/in/hamraah-foundation-49056860

1:18 PM HUSAM: Husam alkilany, environmental manager, NCPC jordan , royal scientific society , Jordan

1:18 PM Heba Safi: Hello everyone, This is Heba Safi, UNV Technical Assistant-Air Quality and Chemical Safety, WHO/ Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Jordan)

1:18 PM HUSAM: Greeting to all

1:21 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Welcome all! If you are just joining us, please introduce yourself with your name, organization and country. thanks.

1:21 PM Luis Francisco Sanchez Otero PAHO: Hello to everyone. Luis Francisco Sanchez, Regional Advisor Health, Environment and Climate Change in Pan American Health Organization /WHO. im located at Panama

1:21 PM Shannon Lisa: Hello everyone - great session topic. My name is Shannon Lisa (USA) of the UNEP MGCY Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform. My day job is spent as a "toxic waste detective," empowering communities living on or near chemical contamination with access to scientific data and independent experts to get local impacted sites cleaned up and balance the structure of power



between who produces environmental data and who has access to that environmental data. Email: shannoneileenlisa@gmail.com

- 1:22 PM Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, CARPIN, UTech, Jamaica: Good day everyone, Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, Poison Information Coordinator, CARPIN, UTech, Jamaica
- 1:22 PM Anna: Hello everyone: Anna Odur, Research Associate/Secretary, Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE Uganda)
- 1:23 PM Bamiji Oyekanmi: Hello everyone, my name is Bamiji, MPH student from UCT.
- 1:23 PM Debbie Muir: Thank you Rico
- 1:25 PM Debbie Muir: In SA, there are many, the agri industry is a huge health and environmental polluter

Question 1: In your country, are there polluting industries or practices that impact people’s health? If so, which industries or practices cause pollution and where are they more likely to be situated? What are the impacts of these polluting industries on the health and well-being of the communities they are in? (List your country in your response.)

- 1:25 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Hello Shannon and welcome. As a waste detective, do you have any examples for the first question.
- 1:25 PM Debbie Muir: HHP's in SA are a huge concern as their impacts are not fully understood by the workrrs spraying them
- 1:26 PM Debbie Muir: *workers
- 1:26 PM Tatum uct: Click here to answer the poll: <https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>
- 1:27 PM kidus Workineh: In Ethiopia, there plenty of polluting industries across the country. the main polluting industries are, tanneries, textile industries and pharmaceutical industries.
- 1:28 PM kidus Workineh: Most of them are situated in the center of towns which makes them impact worse

1:28
 PM

Bamiji Oyekanmi:

The number 1 pollution in Nigeria today is the hydrocarbon pollution. The pollution are mostly from the transport industry (air pollution) and petroleum industry (air pollution from gas flaring + oil spillage during extraction and transportation).

1:28
 PM

Blessings:

Malawi - Waste disposal sites are a major concern for polluting industries. They act as a breeding ground for different vectors and have a huge impact on public health. Secondly, waste disposal from local industries as no proper environmentally sound structures are in place. These disposal sites are situated at the outskirts of cities but still surrounding residential areas.

1:28
 PM

Tefera Getaneh:

Yes there are, most of textile industries have the impact on human health and they are located around the capital city of the country which have more population density

1:28
 PM

Maimouna-PAN
 AFRICA:

Senegal: industry on pesticides reformulation in the locality named Louga impacted on health and environment of people living on this area. Also we have a industry of recycling lead in Dakar wich impacted health of people around the industry.

1:29
 PM

Sherika
 Whitelocke-
 Ballingsingh,
 CARPIN, UTech,
 Jamaica:

Bauxite Industry, high incidence of cancer in communities where industry is located, and also the contamination of water affecting marine lives (numerous fish killed reported in the media), Agricultural communities have high incidence of cancer. Industries are located in rural and suburban areas Country, Jamaica

1:30
 PM

Shannon Lisa:

United States: despite being a nation considered to be a leader in environmental protection laws and regulations, environmental impacts from chemical industries are widespread, and particularly concentrated in predominantly black and brown communities, economically challenged communities, and communities with low political power. One issue I work on is vapor intrusion: often colorless and odorless chemical vapors migrating from beneath the ground and into the indoor air of homes, businesses and schools. Common vapor intrusion chemicals are chlorinated solvents, linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, and many other permanently damaging body effects. Often the most impacted population are children and youth. See one of the sites we have worked on in Franklin, Indiana:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/seeking-to-solve-a-pediatric-cancer-mystery-johnson-county-indiana/#app>

- 1:31 PM Heba Safi: Chemical industry is the biggest industrial user of fossil fuel for both feedstock and energy purposes, and it is third largest industrial emitter of CO2. The chemical industry generates 140 Mt of methane and 287 million tonnes of CO2 as a secondary products per year (Global Chemical outlook)
- 1:31 PM Blessings: How can we help in exposing the double standards in chemicals that is perpetrated by the global north?
- 1:33 PM Debbie Muir: proper management of the cradle to grave principle as the end of the lifecycle is not always managed properly (empty containers and obsolete pesticides) SA
- 1:34 PM Debbie Muir: *grave
- 1:34 PM Heba Safi: A growing evidence shows that rising temperatures, extreme weather events, melting ice sheets, rising sea levels (all of these proven features of climate change) have the potential to amplify the release of chemical pollutants into the environment and will increase the toxicity of some chemicals, especially pesticides, PoPs, and Mercury.
- 1:35 PM Tatum uct: @we have 5 minutes left to discuss question 1
- 1:35 PM Debbie Muir: Pesticide decanting into unlabelled containers being sold resulting in more pesticide poisonings - also sold illegally - SA
- 1:36 PM Debbie Muir: SA- street pesticides - agricultural pesticides being sold for use in households
- 1:36 PM Debbie Muir: *agricultural
- 1:36 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Some good examples....thanks.
- 1:37 PM Tatum uct: Click here to answer the poll:
<https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>
- 1:37 PM Debbie Muir: Alumunium phospide - agricultural pesticide used for fumigation of households leading to deaths - where unreigtered PCO's are using pesticides improperly - SA

1:37
PM Tatum uct: Repost: Question 1 - In your country, are there polluting industries or practices that impact people's health? If so, which industries or practices cause pollution and where are they more likely to be situated?

1:40
PM Debbie Muir: The polluters are more likely situated in the urban surrounding where the pollution risk is the most extreme if a potential contamination occurs- SA

1:40
PM Blessings: great point! extraction of raw materials is often overlooked.

Question 2: In your experience, which conditions that support informed decision-making for chemicals, are linked to environmental justice? How can environmental justice considerations in chemical risk management fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? List the SDGs in your response.

1:41
PM Bamiji Oyekanmi: Yes, the government always look the other way when it comes with extraction topic because it generates money for them but high time we move on from extractive economy

1:42
PM Debbie Muir: Chronic health toxicity conditions such as reproductive and developmental health - HC 5 and carcinogenicity - HC 3

1:43
PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: In order to have informed decision making about chemicals, we need to make sure that the "right to comprehend" has been adhered to. That is that people making the decision have access to and are supported to understanding what the information means and how it applies in their context.

1:43
PM Debbie Muir: Mutagenicity - HC6 as these all impact on community health and HC 7 and 8 which effect the environment

1:44
PM Anna: Transparency and including of everyone in planning and decision making for the chemicals sector.

1:44
PM Shannon Lisa: Q2: Imbalance of power also stems from disadvantaged communities not having access to and/or resources to hire scientists and attorneys to "fight in their corner" the way that chemical industries have deep pockets to hire the best experts money can buy. A majority of the client base for private environmental consulting firms is industry.

1:45
PM Tatum uct: Click here to answer the poll:
<https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>

- 1:45 PM Debbie Muir: we should all check the labels and if it says HC 7 and HC 8 - if WILL effect the environment and our water so we should think twice before using those pesticides near the water we drink
- 1:46 PM Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 number SDGs will be impacted majorly
- 1:47 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Rico - which SDG is the most important, do you think, for environmental justice and chemicals?
- 1:48 PM Debbie Muir: I think we should first get past the capture of the NDA in our countries before we can move on
- 1:48 PM Debbie Muir: *capture
- 1:49 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Debbie - what is the first step, do you think, to addressing corporate capture in South Africa (and other countries)?
- 1:49 PM Debbie Muir: I think SDG 6 is important as HC 7 & * deals with environmental toxicity pesticides
- 1:49 PM Debbie Muir: HC 8
- 1:50 PM Debbie Muir: If we have no water we have nothing
- 1:50 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Shannon - chemical companies lobbying of regulators is a big issue linked to corporate capture in the US. Is this being addressed by activists and how?
- 1:52 PM Bamiji Oyekanmi: As a follow up question, but how is 'lobbying' different from "bribing"?
- 1:52 PM Debbie Muir: @ Prof, transparency and getting the regulations right and promulgated in line with global BP
- 1:53 PM Debbie Muir: I think this is where environmental justice and lobbying can assist, in my view
- 1:53 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Debbie - how does one prevent the industry from controlling what is put in legislation that favours industry?



1:55
PM

melaniel.itzkovitch:

Labelling is important, but it has to be comprehensible for the average person (e.g., about the risks rather than the chemical composition).

1:55
PM

Shannon Lisa:

Chemical industry lobbying is a priority issue for activists in the US, albeit one that is hard to break through with deeply intertwined relationships between industry lobbyists/political donors and Congressional representatives. There is also the issue of the Department of Defense (military bases) in the USA being some of the biggest polluters, whilst having legal protection from being held accountable to damages caused in communities. Recently, families living in contaminated communities from across the United States gathered in Washington D.C. to advocate for strengthened protections by the Environmental Protection Agency: <https://insideepa.com/daily-news/protesters-vow-continue-epa-advocacy-after-lackluster-responses>

1:58
PM

Andrea Rother -
UCT, South Africa:

Melaniel: yes indeed. Many people think putting pictograms on labels is enough for low literate populations to understand what the risks/hazards are and how to prevent these. Yet, they are not intuitively obvious and people need to be informed as to exactly what they mean.

1:58
PM

Andrea Rother -
UCT, South Africa:

Thanks Shannon.

1:59
PM

Debbie Muir:

Agreed Prof as most people I have spoken to can only recognise the skull pictogramme as danger

2:00
PM

Andrea Rother -
UCT, South Africa:

Thanks Debbie - yes.

2:00
PM

Tatum uct:

@all we have 5 minutes left to discuss question 2

2:00
PM

Andrea Rother -
UCT, South Africa:

Please continue to respond to the poll.

2:00
PM

Debbie Muir:

People also think all plastic can be recycled and it is safe

2:00
PM

melaniel.itzkovitch:

Exactly Andrea. Education is critically important so that people can make informed choices about the products they use or consume.

2:00 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Click here to answer the poll:
<https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>

2:02 PM Debbie Muir: People also don't check which plastic can be recycled so they throw ALL the plastics together into the recycling

2:02 PM Debbie Muir: *recycling

Question 3: What conditions are missing in your country, or multilaterally, to fully enable informed decisions for chemicals? How can these be included in chemical management strategies? Who are the leading sectors to do this? (List your country in your response)

2:03 PM Doris Ndebele: I don't think disclosure outside the supply chain is important because it may actually be meaningless. What is important in this part of the chain is to understand the impacts of chemicals on the environment and health. Then how to be responsible and protective of the environment

2:06 PM Tefera Getaneh: In Ethiopia, there is misarrangement of chemical and pesticide management that does not empower Environmental protection authority on chemicals management

2:06 PM Debbie Muir: ALL co-formulants etc in the chemicals to allow a full ESRA on the chemicals to inform the strategy on the use in your local conditions. The leading sectors would be Agriculture, Environment, Health, Labour, Supply chains and labour movements

2:07 PM Tefera Getaneh: Rather the ministry of agriculture is more concerned on pesticides

2:07 PM Debbie Muir: SA

2:07 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: South Africa - what is missing is information on which chemicals are used in SA, where, in what products and the quantities so one can focus on the most hazardous chemicals first.

2:08 PM Blessings: Malawi - Unlike the west where the public hold their institutions accountable throughout the whole supply chain, Malawi relies mostly on established agencies within the government to take up issues particularly in legislation as well as overall enforcement. I think consumers need to be empowered with adequate knowledge and have their voices heard when they demand safer environments free from pollution

- 2:08 Andrea Rother -
PM UCT, South Africa: Debbie - for the others, can you spell out ESRA
- 2:09 Andrea Rother -
PM UCT, South Africa: [Click here to answer the poll:](https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p)
<https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>
- 2:09
PM Tatum uct: [Click here to answer the poll:](https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p)
<https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p>
- 2:09 Anna:
PM Anna: Uganda: Improving overall coordination of the chemicals sector. Currently regulated by the National Environmental Management Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Awareness raising of HHPs for example, should be high on the agenda.
- 2:09 Hamraah
PM foundation- Javed Qureshi: in india inclusiveness of scientific communities and communities living specially around the pollution zones may be helpful in forming impactful decisions
- 2:10 Debbie Muir:
PM Debbie Muir: A complete list on what is registered in the country, then the prioritization of a HHP list. The HHP list should htnbe prioritise for phase out starting with the most hazardous (WHO 1a, !b,)), then the next lot (maybe the 2a, Carc's and those with unmanageable risk etc) then the next etc) then my first comment. SA
- 2:11 Debbie Muir:
PM Debbie Muir: ESRA - Environmental and Social Risk Assessment
- 2:12 kidus Workineh:
PM kidus Workineh: Ethiopia; lack of coordination, transparency and no clear roles and responsibilities among chemical management sectors
- 2:13 Tatum uct:
PM Tatum uct: CBI = Confidential business information
- 2:15 Suresh Amichand:
PM Suresh Amichand: Guyana. Concentration percentage of each chemical is required as it's a determining factor in assessing the overall risk of the Chemical in addition, some product may have more that one chemicals in the formulation hence each active ingredient is required by percentage so as the determining the possible risk of the combine substances
- 2:15 Debbie Muir:
PM Debbie Muir: Rico, no it is not good enough as this is not CBI as the information is not CBI, this information is needed for the health and environmental contamination cleanup

- 2:15 PM glory boniventure: I like your response Rico most of chemical legislations are too general, lacks opportunity to regulated specific products(imported one).
- 2:15 PM Adetonah Sounkoura: Thanks a lot for clear answers
- 2:16 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Suresh - are those concentrations disclosed on the label or only to the regulators?
- 2:16 PM Debbie Muir: 750 of which of 350 were HHP's
- 2:17 PM Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: even if it is a part of CBI, the disclosure must be made as it seriously linked with human and environmental health
- 2:17 PM Debbie Muir: many of those first responders were taken up in hospital with respiratory problems
- 2:17 PM Suresh Amichand: @ Andrea in pesticides they are but not for all toxic chemicals so it is a gap in the assessment process
- 2:17 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: This is an important example of how the lack of information disclosure lead to a major environment injustice.
- 2:19 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: Thanks Suresh.
- 2:21 PM Shannon Lisa: Great case studies
- 2:21 PM Debbie Muir: Environmental justice can play an important role in forcing disclosure
- 2:21 PM Rico Euripidou: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-02-13-upl-cornubia-catastrophe-highly-toxic-cocktail-of-chemicals-in-smoke-plume-finally-identified/>
- 2:21 PM Adetonah Sounkoura: Thanks for
- 2:21 PM Tatum uct: @all we have 5 minutes left to discuss question 3



- 2:21 Adetonah
PM Sounkoura: Many thanks for sharing Rico

- 2:21 Rico Eurpidou: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-10-24-chemical-disaster-upl-hunkers-down-in-right-to-silence-legal-trench/>

- 2:21 Samia Kassid
PM (privately): Many thanks

- 2:22 Debbie Muir: Pesticide companies hide behind CBI

- 2:23 Debbie Muir: many times the toxicity information is hidden behind CBI where it is not CBI

- 2:24 Andrea Rother -
PM UCT, South Africa: Yes, that has become the norm Debbie that regulators have supported.

- 2:25 Debbie Muir: Thnaks very much Rico, this was a very informative session

- 2:25 Debbie Muir: *Thanks

- 2:26 Shannon Lisa: Curious if Rico might have any opinions on how environmental injustice issues can be approached in the development of the new intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention

- 2:27 Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: thanks @shannon, very good idea

- 2:27 Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: thats the most relevant forum

- 2:28 Andrea Rother -
PM UCT, South Africa: In order for these issues to get into the SPP, there will need to be published research on this...mostly in peer reviewed journals.

- 2:29 Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: i wish we have such binding fora here in India

- 2:29 Shannon Lisa: Very well produced session. Thank you!



- 2:29 PM Tatum uct: [Click here to answer the poll:
https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p](https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p)

- 2:29 PM Maimouna-PAN AFRICA: thanks Rico for this informative session

- 2:29 PM Rico Euripidou: Thanks everone

- 2:29 PM kidus Workineh: Thank you everyone

- 2:30 PM Blessings: Thank you all.

- 2:30 PM Debbie Muir: Thanks everyone!

- 2:30 PM Anna: Thank you all!

- 2:30 PM Lloyd Nundwe-Zambia: Thank you all!!!

- 2:31 PM Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, CARPIN, UTech, Jamaica (privately): Thanks for an interesting session

- 2:31 PM Tefera Getaneh: thanks

- 2:31 PM Andrea Rother - UCT, South Africa: [Click here to answer the poll:
https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p](https://www.menti.com/alvhgkq1jt4p)

- 2:31 PM Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: thanks all

- 2:31 PM Hamraah foundation- Javed Qureshi: it was pleasure to attend



Division of Environmental Health | UCT



School of Public Health
Departement Openbare Gesondheid
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu



2:31

PM Leah: excwllent session thank you

2:31

PM Doris Ndebele: Thank you very much

2:31

PM Samia Kassid: Thank you very much

3:09

PM Ruth Spencer: Good Morning from Antigua-I cannot hear anything.

This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component. This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.