

**SAICM/UCT
 Chemicals and Sustainable Development Goals Community of Practice
 Discussion 4 2022 Guide**

Title	Environmental Injustice Issues to Consider for Chemical Risk Management
Date	23rd November 2022
Time	14:00 pm – 15:30 pm (GMT+2)
Facilitator	Prof Andrea Rother, Univ. of Cape Town
Presenter	Mr. Rico Euripidou, groundWork
WebEx registration link	https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?RGID=rb38a48301c909da1e5ce55920c4fcf33
SAICM/UCT CSDG CoP Sign-up link	Make sure you have signed up for the CSDG CoP: https://saicmknowledge.org/community
What's App Group	Join the CSDG CoP What's App Group to receive information: https://chat.whatsapp.com/BKTKGwt5cnNCgG9BOzYK1i

Should you require assistance or have questions, contact: uctcops@outlook.com

Discussion Format:

- This is not a Webinar, but rather a discussion among different stakeholder groups.
- The discussion presenter/s will briefly present a verbal introduction and introduce the questions listed in this discussion guide.
- Three questions will be posted during the 1 ½ hour discussion. The presenter/s will address questions and comments posted by members in the chat room and participants are encouraged to respond to each other as well.
- All are encouraged to join the discussion which will be held in English. Feel free to write in another language and members will assist where possible with translation.

Two steps are required to join this discussion:

1) Sign up to the CoP, if you have not done so previously, at:

<https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

Should you require assistance or have questions, contact: uctcops@outlook.com

2) Register for the 23rd of November WebEx discussion at:

<https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?RGID=rb38a48301c909da1e5ce55920c4fcf33>

We encourage you also to join the CSDG CoP WhatsApp group by clicking on this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BKTKGwt5cnNCgG9BOzYK1i>

PRESENTER BIOSKETCH

Rico Euripidou works as a Campaign Coordinator at groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa. groundWork is a non-profit environmental justice organisation working primarily in South Africa and seeks to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people. Rico manages and supports campaign staff in the strategic alignment of groundWork's six campaigns (Climate & Energy Justice, Coal, Environmental Health, Waste, Environmental Justice School, and Global Green and Healthy Hospitals). He has been with groundWork since 2005. His interests are on issues of energy, chemicals policy, climate change and public health, all which are, closely interrelated.

QUESTION 1

(14h00 – 14h30 GMT+2)

Environmental justice is about social transformation directed towards meeting basic human needs and enhancing our quality of life (e.g., economic welfare, health care, housing, human rights, environmental protection, and democracy).

When linking environmental and social justice issues, the environmental justice approach challenges the abuse of power such as, lower income households suffering from the effects of environmental pollution and damage more than higher income households. This includes workers and communities who are exposed to dangerous chemical pollution. It recognizes that environmental damage has the greatest impact on low-income groups, and other vulnerable groups such as, agricultural workers, women, and children.

At its core, environmental justice is about incorporating environmental issues into the broader intellectual and institutional framework of human rights and democratic accountability.

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.)

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

1. Johnston J, Cushing L. Chemical Exposures, Health, and Environmental Justice in Communities Living on the Fenceline of Industry. *Curr Environ Health Rep.* 2020 Mar;7(1):48-57. doi: 10.1007/s40572-020-00263-8. PMID: 31970715; PMCID: PMC7035204. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7035204/>

Polls

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute your responses:

1. What role does the chemicals industry have to play in the just transition to a resource efficient and low-carbon economy? (Open-ended)

QUESTION 2 (14h30 – 15h05 GMT+2)

Background: Environmental injustice issues to consider for chemical risk management are linked to the disclosure of information in supply chains. Gaps in information disclosure in the supply chains include chemical constituents, origins or processing locations of the products and articles. As a result, this makes it challenging for authorities to track buyers, fails workers' rights to know the risks associated with their workplace, and undermines effective procedures to lodge complaints."

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.

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

1. Almroth B.C et al (2022). Circular economy could expose children to hazardous phthalates and chlorinated paraffins via old toys and childcare articles: *Journal of Hazardous Materials Advances*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hazadv.2022.100107>
2. Plastic treaty – transparency requirement for chemicals constituents in plastic is a must: <https://www.globalchemicaltransparency.org/#a13lightbox-work-12609>
3. Boedeker, W., Watts, M., Clausing, P. et al. The global distribution of acute unintentional pesticide poisoning: estimations based on a systematic review. *BMC Public Health* 20, 1875 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-09939-0>

Polls:

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute your responses:

1. Are there national initiatives in your country to disclose information on chemical identities and hazards?
 - Yes, voluntary hazard labelling according to GHS
 - Yes, voluntary hazard labelling according to national or industry standards
 - Yes, binding hazard labelling according to GHS
 - Yes, binding hazard labelling according to national standards
 - Yes, voluntary disclosure schemes for chemicals in materials and products
 - Yes, binding disclosure schemes for chemicals in materials and products
 - None of the listed types of initiatives
 - I do not know
2. Is disclosure of information on chemical composition of materials and products outside the supply chain important for the fulfilment of environmental justice?
 - Yes
 - No (list why not in the chatroom)
 - I do not know

QUESTION 3 (15h00 - 15h30 GMT+2)

Background: The Just Transition Declaration, agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in December 2021, recognized the need to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to net zero economies – particularly those working in sectors, cities, and regions reliant on carbon-intensive industries and production.

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)

Resources/Information for the Discussion:

1. Supporting the conditions for a just transition internationally:
<https://ukcop26.org/supporting-the-conditions-for-a-just-transition-internationally/>
2. Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_432859/lang--en/index.htm

Polls:

We encourage you to think about the poll questions before the discussion so you can contribute your responses:

1. If only the identity of a chemical in materials and products is disclosed and not concentration, is this in conflict with respect to the principle of Confidential Business Information?
 - Yes (describe what the issues are in the chatroom)
 - No
 - I do not know