

## Annex

**IFCS Forum V**  
**Plenary Information/Discussion Session on Tools and Approaches for**  
**Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemicals Safety**  
**Information Request for Background Paper**  
**Structured Questionnaire**

### Background Information

Country: **Seychelles**

Ministry/Agency/Institute/Organization: **Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources**

Contact Person: **Flavien Joubert (Mr)**

Contact Details:

Mailing address: **P.O. Box 445, Victoria, Mahe**  
**Seychelles**

Email: **f.joubert@env.gov.sc**

*For telephone and fax numbers, please indicate country and city codes:*

Tel : **(248) 670500**

Fax : **(248) 610648**

**Please submit completed questionnaire by 20 July 2006 to:**

**IFCS Secretariat**  
**Email: [ifcs@who.int](mailto:ifcs@who.int)**  
**Fax: +41 22 791 4875**

**Please note: Unless you indicate otherwise in your response, these submissions will be posted on the IFCS website.**

*Please provide any links or additional supporting materials that provide additional information on particular policies, tools, or activities.*

**National chemicals policy or management:**

1. How is the concept of precaution explicitly or implicitly (in terms of decision-making under conditions of uncertainty) incorporated in national chemicals policy or management in your country/organization?

*Please check all that apply.*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| In the country constitution ?  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| In legislation?  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| In agency/ministry/organization policy?                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| In specific guidance documents for risk assessment or risk management? | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Applied in specific cases but no particular policy?                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not applied at all?  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Please provide greater detail (1 para).

**Precaution (1) mentioned in the Environment Management Plan 2000 – 2010.**

**It has been elaborated in Bio-safety Policy.**

**Applied in cases that has to do with chemical imports and use, but there are no particular policy document guiding its use.**

**Tools and approaches for applying precaution:**

2. What are some of the key tools and approaches used by your country/organization in applying precaution (or making decisions in circumstances of uncertainty) in the context of chemicals safety?

**Not specified. Normally international guidance from EU or UN organizations is followed.**

- a. Is there a defined approach to applying precaution or decision-making under uncertainty?

Yes  No

If yes, can you outline the elements of that approach or provide references to it?

- b. Is precaution integrated in other decision-making processes, tools and approaches such as;

*Please check all that apply.*

- Data collection?
- Prioritization of substances for risk management actions
- Uncertainty characterization?
- Socio-economic analysis (e.g., social impact, proportionality/cost-benefit assessment, trade concern)?
- Risk assessment and risk management options?
- Screening, comparison of alternatives, informed substitution?
- Stakeholder and Public involvement?
- Other

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

c. How are gaps in knowledge addressed?

*Please check all that apply.*

- Though conservative risk assessment assumptions
- Through safety factors
- Through modeling techniques
- Through an assumption that lack of information is indication of potential harm
- Through requesting additional research
- Gaps are not addressed

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

**Most of the agencies would go for conservative risk assessment. Safety factors are sometime used when a consensus is required between competing prescriptions on safety**

3. Please provide details of a particular case (or example) where precaution was applied (or decisions made in the face of uncertainty) in the context of chemicals management?

a. What stimulated/initiated the precaution process/action?

*Please check all that apply.*

- Government concern over hazards and/or exposures
- Stakeholder concerns over the particular threat
- International policy requirements/pressures
- Negative impacts/experience(s) from not acting on a previous chemical risk
- Other

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

**Precautionary measures are applied for chemical imports, where there is uncertainty over risk and where control over exposure / hazard cannot be guaranteed under local condition.**

b. What process was used to make the decision? (please briefly describe the process or tools used to make the decision)

c.

**Information collection on particular import request submitted to the authority, and evaluation of field conditions.**

**Discussion of merits with other agencies through the Pesticide Control Board  
Communication through formal channels to customs and client.**

c. Were there positive or negative impacts of this process/action?

*Please check all that apply.*

<u>Positive</u>		<u>Negative</u>	
Ecological or Health benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ecological or health impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic benefit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved government/industry image	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitutes/alternatives did not work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved government/public morale	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative public reaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improvements to scientific tools/decision processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

**Positive impacts mostly through exposure prevention and hazardous waste reduction.**

**Some reaction from people perceiving that government is too severe.**

d. Were there any unintended consequences from this process/action?

Positive  – please describe

**None**

Negative  - please describe

4. Are there any particular cases in your country/organization where precaution was not applied (decisions not made in the face of uncertain chemical risks) resulting in adverse impacts?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly describe if and how decision-making processes have been modified as a result.

5. Does your government have processes in place to re-examine decisions made based on precaution or made in the face of uncertainty as additional data are available?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly describe the process and how this process may be used to modify decisions, decision-making process, or tools.

## Lessons Learned from applying precaution in chemicals management

6. What are some of the biggest challenges to your country's (organization's) application of precaution in the context of chemicals management or in chemicals management decision-making in the face of uncertainty?

*Please check all that apply.*

- Scientific capacity
- Lack of scientific information
- Legal challenges
- Technical challenges
- Financial challenges
- Trade Challenges
- Other?

For those checked boxes, please briefly indicate what were the implications of these barriers and how have they been addressed or if not yet addressed, how could they be addressed?

**Scientific capacity:** prevent quality input in decision making, not addresses yet.  
**Technical challenges :** need to explore and formalize precaution in decision making procedure.  
**Financial:** economic issues prevent the best available options to be considered .  
**Can only be resolves at the macro-level.**

Are these challenges also applicable to decision-making and actions regarding established risks?

Yes  No

## Next steps

7. What are the most important needs of your country or organization for more effectively applying precaution (or making decisions in the face of uncertainty) and overcoming barriers in chemicals management decision-making?

*Please check all that apply.*

- |                       |   |                                     |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | Data on chemical toxicity/risks                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/> | Tools for prioritization                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/> | Tools for risk assessment                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | Decision-making tools/frameworks                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/> | Technical assistance in risk assessment processes             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | Technical assistance in risk management processes             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/> | Financial support for implementation                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | International dialogue  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/> | Information sharing to facilitate understanding of the issues | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

**There are very few independent experts who can provide services for chemical risk assessment / management.**

**Formalization of frame work is needed.**

**Risk management capacity should be improved.**

**Financing for implementing program on chemical risk.**

8. Briefly describe your perceptions as to some of the concerns regarding application of precaution in the context of chemicals safety?

*Please briefly provide details or links to additional information.*

**It is a necessary part of decision making, and can prove valuable for countries which cannot afford full scientific investigations of all risks and also that has vulnerabilities (population and natural resources)**

9. Do you have any additional information on tools and approaches for applying precaution

that would be helpful to inform discussion?  
*Please provide any additional materials or web links.*

**None**

**Please note: Unless you indicate otherwise in your response, your submission and those**