



# Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains Integrated Program

## The Issue

Fashion and construction are among the top three economic sectors that contribute significantly through their supply chains to pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, land degradation, water pollution, and threats to biodiversity. Fashion, for example, contributes more GHG emissions than all global transport, including air travel. For its part, construction contributes 39% of global GHG emissions, and contributes significantly to water pollution, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and chemicals pollution.

Previous attempts to green both sectors have made little progress. A more circular supply chain can only be achieved if the sectors are free of harmful chemicals that prevent materials recovery, recycling, etc. Such an approach also ensures technologies and practices to green these supply chains will eliminate harmful chemicals in addition to promoting carbon neutrality and nature-positive actions.

## The Integrated Solution

The Supply Chain Integrated Program seeks to address environmental degradation from globally significant supply chains through the lens of chemicals. Ideally, it will be the catalyst for integrating actions across several environmental dimensions. The program aims to create clean, circular (as far as possible), regenerative, and transparent supply chains that drive innovations in new materials, methods, and policy.

The supply chains of fashion and construction supply chains are not necessarily related, but they have common activities that affect sustainability. The program will stimulate innovations in new materials, technologies, and practices and in tandem, it will create markets and demand for new materials in these supply chains. This will enable products and materials to be green by design.

The program will support institutional and policy changes to support market uptake, barrier removal, and access to finance. These changes will incentivize the flow of new materials into these supply chains. At the same time, it will reduce production of unsustainable materials and practices, so they do not end up in other supply chains.

The program will support strategic actions that unlock investment and innovation in the private and public sectors. In so doing, it will draw on work in green chemistry and waste management where GEF resources help bring new technologies and to commercial scale. The program complements will work with commercial finance, enabling entrepreneurs to access finance to create businesses that can supply new materials and products.



## Coordination

The program would need to engage with multistakeholder platforms, engaging with the global private sector. This is especially true of brands, firms, and relevant sectors to secure offtake of new materials and facilitate access to these materials. It would also need to match with ongoing innovation platforms and identify additional areas to influence new materials, products, and practices. For example, it can bring these criteria into sourcing programs such as gold for the planetGOLD program.

Ideally, the coordination component will share and exchange knowledge and lessons from the program. It will also collect, synthesize, and disseminate best practices to child projects. In this way, it would ensure child projects are working efficiently.

The selection of child projects should consider several criteria. They should ignite imagination and innovation, surfacing technologies, processes, products, and materials that can replace unsustainable ones. All projects should ideally focus on unlocking resources from the private sector and public sector to drive sustainability.

## Expected Results

The program has targets across several focal areas:

- Minimum Core Indicator Estimates:
- CI4 Area of landscapes under improved practices: **1 million hectares (Mha)**
- CI6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated: **6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e)**
- CI9 Reduction of chemicals of global concern and their waste: **25,000 metric tons**
- CI10 Reduction of POPs to air: **246 grams of toxic equivalent (gTEQ)**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support helps developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$22 billion and mobilized \$120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.

Contact for Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains IP:

Anil Bruce Sookdeo  
asookdeo@thegef.org