

ACTION PLAN FOR BENIN

The National Workshop on the Phase-out of Leaded Gasoline in Benin, jointly organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Employment Promotion, and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, has adopted an action plan containing the essential measures for phasing out leaded gasoline.

Two types of measures are envisaged: technical or logistic, and institutional.

- Technical measures deal with all the adaptations to be made to the current storage and distribution infrastructure and those concerning the national vehicle fleet. These measures will make it possible to list and remove all constraints on the phase-out of leaded gasoline by 2005.
- The institutional measures include legislative and regulatory reforms needed in order to phase out leaded gasoline. This harmonization will also take into account current actions on the part of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

These measures will be briefly assessed. Some, however, will be further refined during specific studies.

The purpose of this action plan is to phase out unleaded gasoline without increasing the cost to the consumer or causing social disruption.

ACTION PLAN OF BENIN

ACTIONS	OBJECTIVES	ACTORS	TIMETABLE
1. Building of a 3,500 m pipeline	To connect storage facilities to Cotonou Autonomous Port through specialized pipelines	SONACOP-SA	By 2004
2. Installing diaphragm floats and replacement valves for tanks	To adapt existing equipment to new product	SONACOP-SA	By 2004
3. Information, education, and communication (IEC) of consumers and informal sector leaders	To reform national petroleum product market	State, oil companies, NGOs, artists, etc.	Ongoing for three years
4. Control and sanction of fraudulent import and distribution of petroleum products	To reform national petroleum product market	State (DCCI, Customs, MISD, MDN, etc.)	Occasional
5. Training and retraining of maintenance personnel	To improve quality of maintenance services	State, NGOs, development partners	2003-2004
6. Introduction of first category of customs tariff nomenclature for unleaded gasoline	To adapt customs tariff nomenclature to the new product	MFE (DGDDI)	2003
7. Dissemination of laws and regulations on air pollution control in Benin	To protect the air and human health	- DE/DDEHU - DHAB/DDSP	06/02-30/12/02
8. Study of lead standards in Benin	To determine the authorized lead threshold in the air in Benin	Research centers (Universities...)	2003-2005
9. Adoption and enforcement of new regulations on the import of new vehicles with catalytic converters	To promote the use of unleaded gasoline	- MEHU - MTPT - MFE - MICPE	2002-2003

10. Adoption and enforcement of tax laws exempting materials used in the provision of unleaded gasoline	To promote the use of unleaded gasoline	- MEHU - MTPT - MFE - MICPE - MJLDH	2002-2003
11. Training or retraining of mechanics	To train mechanics in new technologies	- METFP - MEHU	2002-2003
12. Training of teachers	To train teachers in new technologies	- MEHU - METFP - Consultant	2002
13. Social mobilization meeting	To raise public awareness	-MEHU -Mini-new technologies and communication	2003-2005
14. Organization of monitoring meetings	To ensure effective use of unleaded gasoline	-MEHU -MSP -MTPT -MISD	2003-2004
15. Elaboration and implementation of IEC program on use of unleaded gasoline	To elaborate the national IEC program	-MEHU -MSP -MTPT -MFE -MICPE -Consultant	2002-2000
16. Equipment of technical and vocational trainers with appropriate materials	To equip technical and vocational trainers with appropriate materials	-MEHU -METFP -MFE	2003-2005
17. Drafting of a decree establishing the terms of reference and functions of the follow-up committee	To establish and put in operation a follow-up committee	All relevant bodies	2002
18. (a) Study of storage and distribution	To adapt and strengthen capacities of current facilities and reorganize the	-Oil companies -MICPE	2003

capacities in response to the elimination of the informal sector and subsequent growth in demand; (b) Implementation of adaptations resulting from this study	logistics of distribution		
19. Elaboration of negotiation position for prices of petroleum products supplied by Nigeria	To seek the best terms of supply to eliminate informal sector operations	-MICPE -MFE -MEHU -MAEIA	2002
20. Study of supply/acquisition costs of petroleum products in UEMOA region	To benefit from tariff diversion	-MICPE -MFE -MEHU	2002-2003
21. Campaign to trace lead in blood and urine	To learn more about the levels of lead in populations exposed to lead pollution	-MSP -MEHU	2003-2005
22. Amendment of existing legal provisions to follow up the introduction of unleaded gasoline (laws, decrees, regulations) N.B.: Establishment of standards and sanctions for non-compliance	To amend existing legal provisions in Benin and harmonize them with those of UEMOA	-MEHU -MJLDH -MEMH	2004
23. Air quality monitoring program in main cities of Benin	To determine the state of air pollution in the main cities of Benin	MEHU	2003-2005
24. Study of the vehicle fleet and ways of adapting it to unleaded gasoline (problem of valve seat recession)	To learn more about what measures to take for vehicles requiring adaptation	-MEHU -MTPT	2003

Key to abbreviations: SONACOP = Société Nationale pour la Commercialisation des Produits Pétroliers (State-owned oil company); MEHU = Ministry of Environment, Housing, and Urban Affairs; MISD = Ministry of the Interior, Security, and Decentralization; MDN = Ministry of National Defense; MFE = Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; DGDDI = Office of Customs and Indirect Taxes; DE/DDEHU = Office of the Environment/Departmental Office of Environment, Housing, and Urban Affairs; DHAB/DDSP = Office of Hygiene and Basic Sanitation/Departmental Office of Public Health; MTPT = Ministry of Public Works and Transportation; MICPE = Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Employment Promotion; MJLDH = Ministry of Justice, Legislative Affairs, and Human Rights; METFP = Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training; MSP = Ministry of Public Health; MAELA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration; MEMH = Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Water Resources.