Project Summary

Project Background
The TC measure focused on the Bangladesh RMG/textile as well as the leather product and tannery sectors. The former is the most important sector and engine for the economic development of Bangladesh with a contribution of 13% of GDP and more than 4 million, mostly female, workers. The number of companies has grown steadily in recent years to about 6,000. The leather industry is a new growth market, which already employs 850,000 people and has considerable export potential. With regard to environmental standards, wastewater treatment, control of air emissions and, more recently, the disposal of effluent treatment sludge have become compulsory. The actual disposal of treatment sludge in line with the legal requirements posed practical challenges. Resource efficiency concepts (e.g. energy efficiency, climate-friendly buildings, water footprint and chemical management) were still new to most companies in the textile sector and are increasingly demanded by international buyers. In view of the serious environmental problems caused by the traditional tanneries in Hazaribagh cluster (Dhaka), the relocation of the tanneries to a separate industrial zone in Savar (outside Dhaka), equipped with common effluent treatment plant and other common facilities, has been initiated after many years of delay.

Project Objectives
PSES II aimed at supporting factories - especially in the textile and leather sector – to increasingly comply with national labour and environmental laws as well as conform to corresponding international standards, including the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Project Results
The environmental component contributed to this objective by working towards the following results:
1) 196 additional factories achieve improvements in at least one of the following areas of sustainable manufacturing: (i) Sound chemicals management, (ii) reduction of water consumption (by 10%), (iii) reduction of energy consumption (by 10%), (iv) enhanced electrical safety, (v) proper disposal of effluent treatment sludge, (vi) integration of EMS;
2) In 10 factories with improved social and environmental standards of work and resources the productivity increases by 5%.

Services Provided
Within this framework, the contractor provided following services:
• Advised the Department of Environment (DoE) in improving the environmental control systems for textile and leather industry
• Enhanced the capacities of DOE environmental inspectors in verifying factories’ performance in terms of wastewater treatment, sludge disposal and resource efficiency
• Developed and disseminated concepts, programmes and services towards improved compliance with environmental standards, such as chemical management
• Supported pilot projects in the areas of resource efficiency (water energy, chemicals), waste water management and disposal of effluent treatment sludge
• Advised public and private educational institutions in the development and launch of environmental education and training programmes for industry personnel as well as service providers
• Advised to the players in the leather industry (mainly tanneries), organizations, businesses and service providers to resource efficiency and environmental issues as part of the relocation of tanneries in the designated leather industry zone
• Disseminated and promoted common good manufacturing practices and best available techniques (BAT) with focus on reducing resource consumption (water, energy, supplies), reducing emissions to water, air and soil, enhancing end-of-pipe techniques (wastewater treatment, waste management, air treatment)
• Supported service providers and business intermediaries in enhancing their environmental training and advisory services
• Identified, documented and disseminated success stories in form of case studies and best practices fact sheets
• Liaised with development partners in Bangladesh and abroad on issues pertaining chemical management (e.g. ZDHC) on behalf of GIZ PSES