

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID

6978

Umoja No:

SB-000690.30

Project Title

Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region

Duration months

Planned

Extension

48

30/06/2023 (51)

Division(s) Implementing the project

Economy Division, GEF Chemicals and Waste, Chemicals and Health Branch

Name of co-implementing Agency

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Executing Agency(ies)

UNEP Chemicals Branch, Knowledge & Risk Unit

Names of Other Project Partners

MTM-Research Center School of Science and Technology, Oerebro University (MTM-Orebro), Department of Environment and Health, Vrije Universiteit (Netherlands), Chemisches und Veterinaeruntersuchungsamt Freiburg (CVUA, UN Environment/WHO Reference Laboratory for Human Milk), Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX, Czech Republic), Entox University of Queensland, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology hosted by Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC-LATU), Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, World Health Organization (WHO)

GEF financing amount

USD 1,995,000

Co-financing amount

USD 6,448,604

Date of CEO Endorsement

1-Dec-14

Start of Implementation

15-Mar-15

Date of first disbursement

7-Sep-15

Total disbursement as of 30 June

USD 1,925,000

Project Type

MSP

Project Scope

Regional

Region (*delete as appropriate*)

Asia Pacific

Countries

Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu,

Programme of Work

Chemicals and Pollution Action

GEF Focal Area(s)

Chemicals and Waste

Total expenditure as of 30 June

USD 1,337,455

Expected Mid-Term Date

31-Aug-18

Completion Date

Planned

31-Dec-21

Revised

31-Dec-22

Expected Terminal Evaluation Date

30-Jun-23

Expected Financial Closure Date

30-Jun-23

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

N/A

EA: Link to relevant SDG target(s) & indicator(s)

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination;
Target 3.13: Strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks;

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals
Target 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism;
Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

1.2 Project description

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Pacific Islands Region.

The project has five components: 1. Securing conditions for successful project implementation; 2. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core abiotic matrices (air and water; 3. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core biotic matrices (human milk); 4. Assessment of existing analytical capacities and reinforcement of national POPs monitoring; 5. Securing conditions for sustainable POPs monitoring.

The executing agency is UNEP Chemicals and Health Brnach. Partners of this project include MTM-Research Center School of Science and Technology, Oerebro University (MTM-Oerebro); Department of Environment and Health, Vrije Universiteit (Netherlands); Chemisches und Veterinaeruntersuchungsamt Freiburg (CVUA, UN Environment/WHO Reference Laboratory for Human Milk); Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX, Czech Republic); Entox, University of Queensland, (Australia); Spanish National Research Council (CSIC); Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology hosted by Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC-LATU); World Health Organization (WHO); Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and 9 project countries in the Pacific Islands Region.

1.3 History of project revisions (TM)

Version	Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Rev0 (CEO ED)	1-Dec-14	
Rev1 - Agreement (IA)	18-Mar-15	
Rev2 - Amendment 1	24-Jun-19	Revised budget and project workplan
Rev3 - Amendment 2	30-Jun-21	Revised budget and project workplan
Rev 4 - Amendment 3	10-May-22	Revised budget and project workplan

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

UNEP PoW

UNEP Subprogramme(s)

Subprogramme 5: Chemicals and Pollution Action

Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s)

PoW Outcomes: 3A
PoW Outcome Indicators: i, iii, and vi
Direct outcomes to which project contributes: 3.5, 3.10, 3.11, 3.13

2.1

TM: Progress towards delivering the stated PoW

The project is supporting countries in meeting their obligations towards Stockholm Convention and also contributing to the effectiveness evaluation process of the convention.

2.2. GEF Core Indicators

GEF Core Indicators

N/A (This is a GEF - 5 Project)

N/A (This is a GEF - 5 Project)

Indicative expected Results

TM: GEF core indicators targeted by the

Indicators	Expected value at	
	Mid-term	End-of-project

Implementation Status

2022

Ongoing

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 3.3)
FY 2022	7th	S	S	L
FY 2021	6th	S	S	L
FY 2020	5th	S	S	M
FY 2019	4th	MS	MS	L
FY 2018	3rd	MS	MS	L
FY 2017	2nd	MS	MS	L
FY 2016	1st	S	S	M
FY 2015				

EA: Summary of status
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

In this fiscal year, the project has advanced with the planned activities to deliver the remaining outputs and to compensate the delays caused by COVID-19. Besides, efforts were spent to strengthen conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the region to further contribute to achieving the objective of the project. Most notable are the following activities:

1. POPs monitoring in core matrices was completed as planned. Results of POPs in air and human milk have been generated for 9 project countries in the Pacific Region, including the 23 POPs mandatory under this project as well as those newly listed or being considered by the Stockholm Convention. Results of PFOS in water were generated for the 9 project countries. All of the data generated were validated, shared with project countries, and reported to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse to be used for the Convention's Global Monitoring Plan reports and for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.
2. POPs monitoring in matrices of national interest was completed. Five project countries collected and submitted 41 samples including dairy, egg, fish, meat, sediment and others. Results generated in the expert laboratories were shared with relevant countries. Mirror analysis were conducted in national laboratories where capacity exists. Results generated by national laboratories were included in the project national reports.
3. Due to COVID-19 lockdown, delays have occurred for the trainings and mirror analysis in the national laboratory in Fiji. The trainings had been partially delivered virtually.
4. National, regional and sectoral reports are being drafted to summarize the outputs and outcomes of the project. One country has submitted project national report for review. The draft regional report has been prepared and shared with project countries for comments and inputs, and is being finalized for publication. A number of sectoral and theme reports are being developed to summarize the project results and to support sustainable monitoring of POPs. These include reports on POPs monitoring in air, human milk and water; a report to summarize the capacity building activities conducted under this project; a regional roadmap including review of facts, experienced gained and lessons learnt as well as strategies for sustainability; and a report reviewing the outputs and outcomes of four rounds of global interlaboratory assessments conducted under the UNEP/GEF GMP1 and GMP2 projects since 2008. The publication plan for these reports were shared with GEF task managers and had been approved by UNEP's publication review committee for publication in Q4 2022.
5. In addition to the above-mentioned UNEP reports, project countries and partners also developed other types of publications using the POPs monitoring results to widen the impacts of the project. For example, a handbook summarizing the 6 rounds of UNEP/WHO POPs human milk survey is being drafted. A special issue in a scientific journal on analytical chemistry—Chemosphere—is being developed focusing on the messages of the project as well as findings in national laboratories. The special issue includes over 15 articles from project countries and partner institutes.
6. Seven countries that have leftover funds from completed activities have proposed additional activities to further strengthen national POPs monitoring capacity, enhance awareness among key stakeholders and use POPs monitoring results for national policy making. UNEP has been in close communication with the partner countries to provide technical support.
7. The 4th interlaboratory assessment has concluded with 147 laboratories from all UN regions registered and 117 laboratories reported results. The final report of the 4th interlaboratory assessment has been published online <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/pops-interlaboratory>. The final workshop was held virtually on 21-22 July 2021.
8. To present and explain the analytical results generated under the project, following the regional workshops organized in 2021 on POPs monitoring results in air and water, virtual regional workshops for Analytical Results of POPs in Human Milk and National Samples and Preparation of Project Final Reports were organized on 23-25 November 2021.
9. To support smooth and successful implementation of the project, administrative support has been continuously provided to partners and countries for the implementation of the project. Extension of agreements has been granted to relevant partners and project countries to compensate the time loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project steering committee meeting was organized virtually on 26 October 2021 to share the project progress and plan for next steps towards successful completion of the project. Following the conclusions of the Brisbane stakeholder consultation meeting (December 2019) as well as the remaining fundings, a project extension was processed in March 2022 to revise the project duration and budget allocation to facilitate completion of remaining activities as well as delivery of additional activities to further strengthen national and regional capacities for sustainable monitoring of POPs. including for

example capacity building to use POPs monitoring results for national decision making, and holistic data and knowledge sharing via digital tools such as dashboards and UNEP's World Environment Situation Room.

10. Following the project extension, discussions were held with partners and stakeholders and progress was made to advance the additional activities. To support sustainable monitoring of POPs, an expert consultation meeting on Final Results of the UNEP/GEF GMP POPs Projects in the Africa, Asia, Pacific and GRULAC Regions was held on 5-6 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, back-to-back with the BRS COP10. The meeting identified key findings and gaps in data generation and capacities based on the outcomes of the projects, which provided fundamental facts for communication campaigns and for the implementation of activities that further strengthening sustainable monitoring of POPs.

11. To share the findings of the project with stakeholders for enhanced awareness and commitment, a communication strategy was drafted to guide the development and dissemination of communication materials. Conversations have been held UNEP Communication Division and the GEF communication coordinators in UNEP with workplans developed to integrate POPs monitoring key findings into UNEP's flagship campaigns namely BeatPollution, CleanSea and Clean Air Blue Sky. The first set of social media content developed for CleanSea was posted at <https://www.instagram.com/p/CgFu4yUMDT9/> which attracted more than 10,000 likes on social media, far above the average results of UNEP's posts. A number of videos, infographics and factsheets are being prepared for targeted audience groups. UNEP also presented in the virtual media training hosted by the BRS Secretariat on 27-28 April 2022—which aimed to raise awareness for the upcoming BRS COP10—and used the findings of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP project as examples to show the importance of sound management and sustainable monitoring of POPs. With the media training received good feedbacks from participants, UNEP was invited by the UNDP project Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Industrial and Hazardous Waste Sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina to virtually give presentations in their media and stakeholder trainings on 27-28 June 2022.

12. To strengthen collaboration and linkages with broader stakeholders and networks, a number of workshops, events and outreach activities were organized or attended during this fiscal year. A presentation was given at the side event "Virtual Side Event SC COP10: Tracing POPs in the environment strategic partnerships, knowledge management and capacity building at the global scale" on Outcome of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Projects in the Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands and Latin America and the Caribbean Regions on 28 July 2021 during the Stockholm Convention COP10 online section. UNEP also virtually participated in the 14th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries hosted by POPsEA Japan and gave a presentation on the present status of the UNEP/GEF GMP projects on 3 March 2022. In addition, UNEP participated as observer in the 1st Effectiveness Evaluation meeting on 12-14 April 2022 and will participate in the Stockholm Convention GMP Global Coordination Group meeting on 30-31 October 2022, back-to-back with the 2nd Effectiveness Evaluation Committee meeting on 1-4 November 2022. To strengthen data usage for national policy making such as NIPs updating and reporting, collaborations were established and a side event "From data to action: informed decision-making for Stockholm Convention implementation" organized on 7 June 2022 during the BRS COP 10 in Geneva, Switzerland.

13. Taking into consideration the lifting of COVID-19 concerns globally and the possibility of relaxing restrictions on international travels, the final meeting of the project is tentatively planned to be held in Q1 2023.

Overall, project countries and partners are in good collaboration on the implementation of the remaining activities of the project. UNEP is in close cooperation with the Pacific Islands countries and other partners towards the successful completion of the project.

2.4 Co-finance

EA:Planned Co-finance

USD 6,448,604

EA: Actual to date:

USD 4,480,000

EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

Countries and partner institutes have contributed significant amount of co-finance towards implementation of the project, including investment in lab equipment and consumables, and personnel support such as technical staff and administrative support. University of Queensland also donated an instrument to the national lab in Fiji to support improving the local analytical capacity. However, a lack of regular financial support is reported frequently by partner countries and institutes, which may impact the sustainability of POPs monitoring.

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

All project stakeholders are committed to accomplish the project outcomes and outputs. So far, during the execution and implementation period:

- The expert laboratories, namely MTM-Research Center School of Science and Technology, Örebro University (MTM-Örebro), Department of Environment and Health, Vrije Universiteit (Netherlands) have organized training and mirror analysis of samples, and two rounds of inter-calibration studies. MTM Centre Örebro also serves as reference laboratory for PFOS in human milk.
- Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Freiburg (CVUA, UN Environment/WHO Reference Laboratory for Human Milk) has undertaken the analysis of lipophilic POPs in human milk and assists in matters related to this core matrix
- Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX, Czech Republic) and Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) have provided trainings and assisted in matters related to air monitoring
- The Entox center of University of Queensland, Australia has supported the analysis of national samples and regional analytical capacity building.
- The Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology hosted by Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC-LATU), the co-executing agency for the GMP GRULAC project, has provided support to the four GMP projects on the development of strategies for sustainable monitoring of POPs
- Participating countries from the Pacific Islands Region have provided significant inputs to the project through the establishment and maintenance of the air and water networks; collect/organize the collection of human milk samples for the GMP through the mothers donating the breast milk; provide human milk donors with results of the analysis and the interpretation of it, and will further contribute to Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention by providing sub-regional data to the effectiveness evaluation and the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs. Besides, the project countries also provided staff support on operating the networks together with other countries in the region, such as maintaining the sampling network for ambient air; receive training and consumables/spares; generate national data if applicable in a systematic and comparable way that will characterize their exposure to POPs.
- A number of communication and outreach activities were organized to further strengthen stakeholder engagement, including development of communication materials to share the key findings of the project, collaboration with UNEP's flagship campaigns such as BeatPollution and CleanSea, and the participation and organization of workshops and side events around the BRS COPs.

2.6. Gender

EA: Gender mainstreaming
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project is of a scientific nature and does not directly impact people's productive activities. However, the gender aspects are indirectly addressed through different dimensions such as contribution to POPs emissions reductions. The particular vulnerability to POPs exposure of women in childbearing age is taken into account in the design of the monitoring activities, notably by the incorporation of mother's milk as one of the core matrices of the POPs GMP. The collection of human milk samples will be conducted on the basis of the ethical clearance as required by WHO, and after signature of the statement of interest by both, health and environment sector.

2.7. ESSM

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Environmental impacts:

- Analysis of samples (including biological samples and chemicals used in the analysis) are considered as wastes after analysis. As all laboratories have established waste management standards and routines, the project is able to ensure that an appropriate waste treatment system is in place at the laboratories to avoid unintentional contamination of soil, water or air.

Social Impacts:

- The project has prepared a variety of communication materials including brochures, dashboard, etc. for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness. Progress is being made on strategic branding and mainstreaming of POPs projects to further enhance information uptake.
- Analysis requires usage of chemicals. To ensure a safe working environment, all laboratories are following international safety standards and quality control while conducting lab analysis, which includes the laboratory management of human resources, data reporting and storage, operation of equipment, and disposal of waste.
- UN Rules and standard procedures are followed throughout the implementation of the project to ensure that GEF resources are used for legitimate purposes, to the extent, feasible. The project received midterm review in 2018, and will have its final review and audit after completion of remaining activities.

In addition, the periodic analyses of POPs in the environment and biota to be undertaken during project execution and after will contribute to assessments of the presence of POPs, understanding their national and regional impacts and defining needed interventions. This will contribute to avoiding negative environmental and social impacts of POPs in the long run.

2.8. KM

EA: Knowledge activities and products
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The main activities of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP project are to generate data on the presences of POPs at global level, and to strengthen capacity for the sampling and analysis of POPs. Sampling activities under the GMP project include sampling of abiotic air and water, biotic human milk, and matrices of national interest. Samples collected are analyzed in expert laboratories and in national laboratories with existing capacity. The data generated were validated, shared with project countries, and reported to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse to be used for the Convention's Global Monitoring Plan reports and for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. A dashboard was developed to present and visualize the POPs monitoring results in a user-oriented manner. Progress was also made to integrate the POPs monitoring results in UNEP's World Environment Situation Room to facilitate broader usage of the results.

Besides, various capacity building activities have been delivered under the project. Standard operating procedures and guidelines for the sampling and analysis of POPs are developed and published online at <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/guidance-and-standard>. 10 training has been provided to national laboratories in project countries on the analysis of POPs. In addition, as a tool for quality control/quality assurance (QA/QC), two rounds of international inter-laboratory assessments of POPs laboratories have been conducted. A databank of POPs laboratories have been established and is publicly available online at <http://informea.pops.int/HgPOPLabs/index.html>.

In addition, national, regional and sectoral reports are being drafted to summarize the outputs and outcomes of the project. One country has submitted project national report for review. The draft regional report has been prepared and shared with project countries for comments and inputs, and is being finalized for publication. A number of sectoral and theme reports are being developed to summarize the project results and to support sustainable monitoring of POPs. These include reports on POPs monitoring in air, human milk and water; a report to summarize the capacity building activities conducted under this project; a regional roadmap including review of facts, experienced gained and lessons learnt as well as strategies for sustainability; and a report reviewing the outputs and outcomes of four rounds of global interlaboratory assessments conducted under the UNEP/GEF GMP1 and GMP2 projects since 2008. Besides, project countries and partners also developed other types of publications using the POPs monitoring results to widen the impacts of the project. For example, a handbook summarizing the 6 rounds of UNEP/WHO POPs human milk survey is being drafted. A special issue in a scientific journal on analytical chemistry—Chemosphere—is being developed focusing on the messages of the project as well as findings in national laboratories. The special issue includes over 15 articles from project countries and partner institutes.

2.9. Stories

EA: Stories to be shared
(section to be shared with communication division/ GEF communication)

1. The UNEP/GEF GMP project is almost the only source of data for developing countries especially in the southern hemisphere. The human milk survey counted for over 90% of data for the effectiveness evaluation. The water PFAS monitoring generated baseline information in 22 countries. Air monitoring collaborated with regional monitoring networks and filled in the data gap for many developing countries.
2. In addition to analyzing the requested 23 POPs listed as of Stockholm Convention COP6, the project also extended the analysis to the seven new POPs added since COP6-9, which provided the first set of data on these POPs in the environment and in humans for developing countries. With new POPs detected in remote areas and in developing countries which do not produce or use these chemicals, reconsideration is needed regarding the production and usage of chemicals with potential characteristics of POPs.
3. Detection of POPs at elevated levels in the Pacific Islands countries that do not produce or use these chemicals should raise concerns and actions. For example, PFAS were found at relatively high level in water in Vanuatu and in human milk in Kiribati.
4. Globally declining trends were detected for all POPs. However, it is still far from enough to tell that human and the environment are safe from POPs. Results of PFOS in water from 22 developing countries shows that the Stockholm Convention goal of 50% reduction in ten years was achieved for PFOS by three countries (Kenya, Nigeria, and Antigua and Barbuda) and for PFOA by Antigua and Barbuda only. Extrapolation to ten years may imply that 12 more countries could achieve for PFOS but only seven countries for PFOA (Baabish et al. 2021: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.129612>).
5. About 60% of total load of POPs analyzed in human milk in Pacific comes from Industrial POPs and 40% from pesticides.
6. These findings of the project indicate that:
 - a) High quality data, information and knowledge remain a key pillar for assessment and decision making.
 - b) It is essential to continue investing in generation of critical data to support The Stockholm Convention Effectiveness Evaluation.
 - c) Prevention of regrettable substitutions is essential to avoid continuous additions of new POPs.
 - d) Understanding of data is key for effective actions to implement the Stockholm Convention at national level.
 - e) Knowledge generated on POPs is critical to address other global challenges/agendas such as plastics, air pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.

To Step 2



3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating
Objective						
National capacities for implementing the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) are strengthened, high quality data on the presence and transport of POPs are generated, and conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs are in place in the Pacific Islands Region	# of countries capable to undertake sampling in the core and other matrices for POPs analysis	0	NA	9	All the 9 project countries have completed the sampling activities.	S
	# of countries with reported data on 23 POPs;	0	NA	8	Samples from 9 countries have been analyzed with results on 23 POPs as well as newly listed or voluntary POPs generated by the expert labs.	S
	# of regional roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring published.	0	NA	1	By 30 June 2022, experience gained and lessons learnt from the GMP2 project have been discussed in various meetings with multiple stakeholders including partner countries, experts, and BRS Secretariat. Draft regional roadmap is being developed with the concept note for publication being approved by the UNEP publication review committee.	S
Outcome 1						
Technical and administrative support provided for the implementation of the project and organization of process established in the Pacific	# of national project implementation agreements signed	0	NA	9	9 countries have signed legal agreements with UNEP	S
	# of laboratories submitted information to UNEP for updating information in the databank	0	NA	5	The databank has been updated with 116 labs registered from all UN regions including those from the Pacific Region	S
Outcome 2						
Training reports and sectoral reports on POPs analysis undertaken on two abiotic core matrices (i.e., air and water) in the Pacific Islands Region	# of countries that carried out sampling in abiotic matrices	0	NA	At least 8	9 countries have completed sampling of abiotic matrices	S
	# of training report for analysis of abiotic matrices	0	NA	1	The trainings were provided based on the existing capacities in national laboratories to analyze different matrices e.g. biotic and/or abiotic. One training was conducted to all project countries on the sampling of matrices. The training scheduled for Fiji on analysis of POPs was conducted virtually due to COVID-19.	S
	# of sectoral reports developed in abiotic matrices	0	NA	2	Sectoral reports are being prepared	S
Outcome 3						
Training reports and sectoral report on POPs analysis undertaken on one biotic core matrix (6th round of human milk survey) in the Asian Region	# of countries that carried out sampling in biotic matrices	0	NA	At least 8	All the 9 countries have completed the sampling of biota matrices. Due to COVID-19, the samples from Tuvalu could not be shipped to the expert labs for analysis.	S
		0	NA	1	The trainings were provided based on the existing capacities in national laboratories to analyze different matrices e.g. biotic and/or abiotic. One training was conducted to all project countries on the sampling of matrices. The training scheduled for Fiji on analysis of POPs was conducted virtually due to COVID-19.	S
	# of training report for analysis of biotic matrices					
	# of sectoral reports developed in biotic matrices	0	NA	1	A report is being developed to summarize the results and outcomes of analysis of biotic matrices	S
Outcome 4						
Assessment report of existing analytical capacities prepared and report on POPs analysis	# of rounds for interlaboratory assessments held	0	NA	2	Two rounds of interlaboratory assessments have been held with final reports published online	S

experts prepared and report on POPs analysis undertaken in sam-ples of national priority (other than core matrices) in the Pacific Islands Region	# of countries having high quality data reported for samples of major national interest.	0	NA	At least 7	Standard Operation Procedures were developed and support were provided to all project countries to identify the list of matrices of national interest. Five countries collected and submitted 41 samples including diary, egg, fish, meat, sediment and others. Results generated in the expert laboratories were shared with relevant countries. Due to COVID lockdown, samples collected in a few other countries such as Tuvalu could not be sent out. Mirror analysis were conducted in national laboratories where capacity exists. Results generated by national laboratories were included in the project national reports.	S
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Outcome 5

Assessment reports contributing to regional report for the GMP undertaken, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring developed for the Pacific Islands region	# of assessments on POPs presence in the region and its capacity to analyse them	0	NA	2	Progress has been made to develop the reports. Publication plan was approved by UNEP's publication review committee.	S
	# of regional roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring in the region, with strategy for implementation, milestones and timetable in a regional roadmap	0	NA	1	By 30 June 2022, experience gained and lessons learnt from the GMP2 project have been discussed in various meetings with multiple stakeholders including partner countries, experts, and BRS Secretariat. Draft regional roadmap is being developed with the concept note for publication being approved by the UNEP publication review committee.	S
	# of countries providing inputs to develop conclusions and lessons learned on GMP phase 2, as well as recommendations and future plans	0	NA	At least 8	1 country has submitted draft national reports including a chapter on future plans. Reports are being prepared in the other 8 countries.	S

For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
Under Comp 1 Technical and administrative support provided for the implementation of the project and organization of process established in the Pacific Islands Region					
Activity 1.1: Key stakeholders sign legal documents to carry out activities.	30.04.2020	100%	100%	All partners have signed legal agreements with UNEP. Extension of Agreement has been granted to partner countries to compensate the time loss due to COVID-19.	S
Activity 1.2: Organise inception workshop, with project workplan and budget assigned	31.05.2016	100%	100%	Inception workshop took place in 2016, with project launched and workplan and budget assigned.	S
Activity 1.3. Update POPs laboratory databank	30.04.2020	100%	100%	The POPs laboratory databank has been updated, with new registered labs included. It is available online at http://informea.pops.int/HgPOPLabs/index.html	S
Under Comp 2 Training reports and sectoral reports on POPs analysis undertaken on two abiotic core matrices (i.e., air and water) in the Pacific Islands Region					
Activity 2.1: Identify sampling sites for air monitoring and make them operational.	30.11.2017	100%	100%	With guidance document provided by UNEP, sampling sites for air monitoring have been identified in all project countries. Air monitoring has been undertaken in all project countries	S
Activity 2.2: Identify sampling sites for water monitoring and make them operational.	30.11.2018	100%	100%	With guidance document provided by UNEP, sampling sites for water monitoring have been identified in all project countries. Monitoring activities have been undertaken.	S
Activity 2.3: Make national laboratories operational for undertaking analysis of abiotic matrices.	30.08.2018	100%	100%	National analytical capacity screening has been conducted at the beginning of the project. National labs with existing capacity have been assigned to analyse certain POPs according to their capacity. Mirror analysis was conducted in reference labs to ensure the generation of high quality international comparable data. Trainings have been provided to selected national laboratories, and two rounds of interlaboratory assessment have been organized for quality assurance/quality control.	S

Activity 2.4: Analyse national samples for air and water, and report high quality data.	30.08.2019	100%	100%	Air and water samples have been analyzed and results have been validated and reported to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse	S
Activity 2.5: Summarize results of analysis in two distinctive sectoral reports.	30.06.2023	30%	60%	Sectoral reports are being prepared	MS
Under Comp 3 Training reports and sectoral report on POPs analysis undertaken on one biotic core matrix (6th round of human milk survey) in the Pa-cific Islands Region					
Activity 3.1: Make countries in the region capable to undertake sampling of human milk for the 6th round of UNEP/WHO survey	30.11.2017	100%	100%	Standard Operating Procedures and video tutorials have been provided to guide the implantation of human milk survey. National coordinator for human milk survey were nominated by each project country. Additional support have been provided to countries to obtain ethical clearance	S
Activity 3.2: Make national laboratories operational for undertaking analysis of human milk samples.	28.02.2018	NA	NA	Based on results of capacity screeing, no laboratory in the Pacific Islands Region has the capacity to analyze milk samples.	S
Activity 3.3: Implement the 6th round of human milk survey.	28.02.2018	100%	100%	All project countries have received sampling materials and have completed the human milk survey. Due to COVID-19, the samples collected in Tuvalu could not be shipped to the expert labs for analysis.	S
Activity 3.4: Compare results from earlier rounds, and report them to the GMP.	31.03.2021	100%	100%	Analytical results of 23 mandatory POPs, as well as newly listed POPs and some candidate POPs, have been generated, shared with project countries, and reported to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse.	S
Under Comp 4 Assessment report of existing analytical ca-pacities prepared and report on POPs analysis undertaken in samples of national priority (other than core matri-ces) in the Pacific Islands Region					
Activity 4.1: Undertake two rounds of the global interlaboratory assessment	31.08.2020	100%	100%	Two rounds of interlaboratory assessment were held in 2016-2017 with 175 registrations and in 2018-2019 with 147 registrations. Final reports were prepared and published online.	S
Activity 4.2: Identify and analyse samples of major national interest	30.06.2021	100%	100%	Standard Operation Procedures were developed and support were provided to all project countries to identify the list of matrices of national interest. Five countries collected and submitted 41 samples including diary, egg, fish, meat, sediment and others. Results generated in the expert laboratories were shared with relevant countries. Mirror analysis were conducted in national laboratories where capacity exists. Results generated by national laboratories were included in the project national reports.	S
Under Comp 5 Assessment reports contributing to regional report for the GMP un-dertaken, and a roadmap for sustaina-ble POPs monitoring developed for the Pacific Islands region					
Activity 5.1: Develop conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations from GMP2 for future monitoring plan.	30.06.2022	80%	100%	Steering committee meetings and expert and stakeholder consultation meetings have been organized to discuss findings and messages of the project, lessons learned and recommendations for future monitoring of POPs.	S
Activity 5.2: Prepare a state-of-the-art report to picture the present situation of POPs in the region's environment and humans.	30.06.2023	50%	60%	One country has submitted draft national reports including a chapter on future plans. Reports are being prepared by the other eight project countries. A regioanl report was drafted with comments collected from project countries.	MS
Activity 5.3: Develop a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring.	30.06.2023	55%	70%	By 30 June 2022, experience gained and lessons learnt from the GMP2 project have been discussed in various meetings with multiple stakeholders including partner countries, experts, and BRS Secretariat. Draft regioanl roadmap is being developed with the concept note for publication being approved by the UNEP publication review committee.	MS

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

To Step 3

Implementation Status	PIR 6
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Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating								Variation respect to last rating		
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	PIR 7	Δ	Justification	
Logistical risks inherent to a pro-programme involving nine countries		N/A					M	L	L	=	Most of the planned activities have been completed. Some delays occurred in countries due to COVID-19. UNEP is in close contact with the countries to compensate the time loss.	
Inability to conduct laboratory work		N/A					M	M	L	↓	Analysis of POPs has finished.	
Delays on the approval of ethical clearance for the human milk survey	-						M	L	L	=	Sampling activities have completed	
COVID-19 pandemic impacts: Significant delays have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as analysis of samples in the expert and national laboratories, which consequently caused delays on reporting data to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse, and on the preparation of national, regional and sectoral reports. Delays also occurred on administrative work including issuing financial report and shipment of samples. In addition, due to the high risk and strict regulations on international travels, planned meetings, namely the final result workshop of the 4th interlaboratory assessment and the project final meeting, cannot be held face-to-face.	-						M	M	M	=	Though COVID-19 measures have been lifted in most countries, significant delays have occurred in the past two years for the implementation of the project activities. UNEP is working closely with project partners to compensate the time loss. However, with cases increasing again, it is difficult to foresee no further difficulties would occur in the near future.	
Due to uncertainty for international travel, the final meeting of the project may not be able to be held in person	-							M	L	↓	Some meetings successfully organized in person this year (e.g. BRS COP) have provided positive signal. However, restrictions for international travel still exist. The final meeting of the project is tentatively scheduled to be February 2023 under the assumption that COVID-19 would probably end soon and restrictions for international travel can be lifted.	
										</		

List here only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of **M or worse** in the **current PIR**

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRT-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
COVID-19 pandemic impacts: Significant delays have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as analysis of samples in the expert and national laboratories, which consequently caused delays on reporting data to the Stockholm Convention Data Warehouse, and on the preparation of national, regional and sectoral reports. Delays also occurred on administrative work including issuing financial report and shipment of samples. In addition, due to the high risk and strict regulations on international travels, planned meetings, namely the final result workshop of the 4th interlaboratory assessment and the project final meeting, cannot be held face-to-face.	UNEP was in close contact with partners on the feasible deadlines for the submission of results and final reports, and to grant extensions to legal agreements to compensate the time loss.	Extension of legal agreements have been granted to related partners. Final meeting of the 4th interlaboratory assessment was held virtually.	Extension of legal agreement as needed. Close collaboration with projects and partners to provide timely support.	2022-2023	UNEP

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Medium Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

List
H
S
M
L
Not
Applicable

To Step 4

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Minor amendments	Changes
Results framework	No
Components and cost	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements	No
Financial management	No
Implementation schedule	Yes
Executing Entity	No
Executing Entity Category	No
Minor project objective change	No
Safeguards	No
Risk analysis	No
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	No
Co-financing	No
Location of project activity	No
Other	No

Minor amendments
<p>Taken into consideration the delays caused by COVID, the availability of remaining funds as well as the emerging needs for data interpretation and capacity building, an amendment was processed to extend the duration of the project to 30 June 2023.</p>

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Palau Malakal	7.33503	134.45314		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Palau Malakal	POPs air sampling
Kiribati Bonriki airport	1.379341	173.145018		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Kiribati Bonriki airport	POPs air sampling
Samoa Afiamalu Area	-13.910042	-171.790847		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Samoa Afiamalu Area	POPs air sampling
Solomon Islands Vavaya Ridge, Honaira	-9.43494	159.95435		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Solomon Islands Vavaya Ridge, Honaira	POPs air sampling
Tuvalu Funafuti	-8.525327	179.196647		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Tuvalu Funafuti	POPs air sampling
Vanuatu Port Vila	-17.72416667	168.3380833		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Vanuatu Port Vila	POPs air sampling
Niue Alofi	-19.07694	-169.9258		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Niue Alofi	POPs air sampling
Fiji Nausori meteo office	-18.046722	178.55925		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Fiji Nausori meteo office	POPs air sampling
Marshall Islands Rearlaplap, Arno	7.087	171.907		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP Air sampling site, Marshall Islands Rearlaplap, Arno	POPs air sampling
Kiribati Bonriki	1.3826333	173.152795		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Kiribati Bonriki	POPs water sampling
Palau Airai	7.38583333	134.5525		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Palau Airai	POPs water sampling
Samoa Vaisigano River	-13.844404	-171.757668		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Samoa Vaisigano River	POPs water sampling
Solomon Islands Mataniko River	-9.434066667	159.9671139		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Solomon Islands Mataniko River	POPs water sampling
Tuvalu Fongafale islet	-8.540333333	179.2522222		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Tuvalu Fongafale islet	POPs water sampling
Vanuatu Mele Bay	-17.70538	168.28786		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Vanuatu Mele Bay	POPs water sampling
Fiji Waimanu River	-18.026698	178.368659		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Fiji Waimanu River	POPs water sampling

Niue Alofi	-19.055482	-169.921751		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Niue Alofi	POPs water sampling
Marshall Islands Majuro Atoll	7.116422222	171.185775		UNEP/GEF POPs GMP water sampling site, Marshall Islands Majuro Atoll	POPs water sampling

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

<https://app.powerbi.com/groups/ed7be96b-91bf-42f0-aa1e-6ab2db1161b2/reports/f23431e1-cbf1-4d83-af56-ad008df0e634/ReportSection0df0b4f372382b8789e9;>

<https://data.pops-gmp.org/2020/all/#/gmp3/spatial-distribution>

[Annex any linked geospatial file]