



Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022)

Project Title:	Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs
GEF ID:	5325
UNIDO ID:	140160
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	GEF-5
Country(ies):	Congo
Region:	AFR - Africa
GEF Focal Area:	Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs¹:	NA
Stand-alone / Child Project:	Stand-alone project
Implementing Department/Division:	ENV / IPM
Co-Implementing Agency:	NA
Executing Agency(ies):	Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, sustainable development and of the Congo Basin (previously named « Ministry of Tourism and Environment »),
Project Type:	Medium-Sized Project (MSP)
Project Duration:	36
Extension(s):	6
GEF Project Financing:	USD 975,000
Agency Fee:	USD 92,625
Co-financing Amount:	USD 5,009,220
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	4/17/2015
UNIDO Approval Date:	5/26/2015
Actual Implementation Start:	6/17/2015
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2022:	USD 939,083
Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:	9/30/2020
Original Project Completion Date:	5/26/2018
Project Completion Date as reported in FY21:	12/31/2021

¹ Only for GEF-6 projects, if applicable

Current SAP Completion Date:	12/31/2022
Expected Project Completion Date:	12/31/2022
Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:	2/1/2023
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2/1/2024
UNIDO Project Manager²:	Ms. Lamia Benabbas

I. Brief description of project and status overview

Project Objective	
The Project aims to establish an environmentally sound management system of PCBs and dispose of 200 tons of PCBs contaminated equipment, oil and waste by strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the power sector for sound management of chemicals.	
Indicator 3.1 Amount and type of POPs eliminated or reduced	Quantity (tons)
Disposal of PCB contaminated equipment and waste	200 tons

Baseline
Congo carried out pilot inventory projects through bilateral/multilateral cooperation in the context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention. These preliminary and subsequent inventories helped define further the national profile on PCB management, i.e. amount of equipment, concentration levels, electrical power share, location, economic sectors affected, transformers in use versus abandoned transformers, etc. Following this profile update, the country prepared its National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention. However, the implementation of the NIP remains a major challenge due to a lack of technical and financial resources. Targeted results: Following the adoption of the Stockholm Convention, the project supports an update of the national inventory of PCBs and the establishment of a legal framework on POPs, including PCBs management plan, for meeting the country's requirements in terms of technical and institutional capacities as per the Convention provisions. From the initial NIP's PCB inventory results and the observations of the utility –SNE (whose actual name changed for E2C) - maintenance practices, it is expected that the majority of the PCB contaminated equipment would have relatively low contamination levels. Therefore, the final disposal option of this project is the establishment of a domestic solution using non-combustion PCB disposal technology.

Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and select corresponding ratings for the current reporting period, i.e. FY22. Please also provide a short justification for the selected ratings for FY22.

In view of the GEF Secretariat's intent to start following the ability of projects to adopt the concept of adaptive management³, Agencies are expected to closely monitor changes that occur from year to year and demonstrate that they are not simply implementing plans but modifying them in response to developments and circumstances or understanding. In order to facilitate with this assessment, please introduce the ratings as reported in the previous reporting cycle, i.e. FY21, in the last column.

² Person responsible for report content

³ Adaptive management in the context of an intentional approach to decision-making and adjustments in response to new available information, evidence gathered from monitoring, evaluation or research, and experience acquired from implementation, to ensure that the goals of the activity are being reached efficiently

Overall Ratings ⁴	FY22	FY21
Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>
<p>The budget of the project was insufficient to attract bidders, and call for bids had to be relaunched several times. As a consequence, only part of the project target will be met, with decontamination of 62 low PCB contaminated transformers (50-250 ppm), which is 100.6 tons of equipment instead of 200 tons of equipment that were initially planned. It will not be possible to expedite pure PCB or moderate to highly contaminated equipment, which will thus remain in Congo.</p>		
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>
<p>The budget of the project was insufficient to attract bidders, and call for bids had to be relaunched several times, which caused the need for several extensions of the project. In addition, lack of national co-financing impacted the performance of the execution at national level. Despite a strong engagement and responsiveness of the NEA with a letter prepared by the Minister to the project beneficiaries and partners to accelerate project implementation and the strong and rapid implication of the National project coordinator during FY22, the main beneficiary (E2C) is still slow to answer UNIDO requests. A contract has been signed with FUERA international B.V. during Q1 2022 for the decontamination of low PCB contaminated material during Q2-Q3 2022.</p>		
Overall Risk Rating	<i>Low Risk (L)</i>	<i>Moderate Risk (M)</i>
<p>The project will end soon. An international company (FUERA international B.V.) has been recruited by UNIDO through a bidding process to execute the last project outputs related to outcome 2, which includes the decontamination of equipment with low PCB contamination and the training on decontamination of the personnel of the owner of equipment (essentially E2C). Recruiting an experienced and qualified international company to execute these activities was a delicate step, which has been successfully concluded. Therefore, the risk of the project is lower than during the previous reporting period.</p>		

II. Targeted results and progress to-date

Please describe the progress made in achieving the outputs against key performance indicator's targets in the project's **M&E Plan/Log-Frame at the time of CEO Endorsement/Approval**. Please expand the table as needed.

Please fill in the below table or make a reference to any supporting documents that may be submitted as annexes to this report.

Project Strategy	KPIs/Indicators	Baseline	Target level	Progress in FY22
Component 1 – Legal and institutional framework for sound management of PCBs put in place				
Outcome 1: Legal and institutional framework for sound management of PCBs put in place				

⁴ Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and assure that the indicated ratings correspond to the narrative of the report

Output 1.1: Existing laws and regulations on the sound management of POPs and PCBs assessed	A report on the gaps between Stockholm Convention requirements and existing legal/regulatory	No national legal framework set up for the sound management of chemicals including persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	1 report	1 report was approved No additional activity during FY 2022
Output 1.2: Legal frameworks and institutional tools in place to promote the ESM and final disposal of PCBs	Number of environment policies, strategies, laws, regulation approved/enacted (1); Number of new guidelines and tools adopted (1)	Lack of national legal framework and institutional capacities meeting the mandates of Stockholm Convention	1 1	3, legal text have been drafted and corrected by international experts: (i) for the sound management of PCBs, (ii) for the establishment of a National PCB committee and (iii) for the endorsement of National technical directives. The final versions have been submitted for approval to the Ministry cabinet during Q3 2020, who sub-contracted a review by the private cabinet Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) prior to their injection into the National legislative proceedings. 1 technical guidelines report has been developed and approved at national level on January 17 2019. It is in the process of official approval. During FY 2022, project continued to monitor the adoption of the decree related to technical guidelines on PCB management by Ministry of Environment
Output 1.3 Environmentally sound management of PCB disseminated to stakeholders and public audience at workshops and trainings	· Number of workshops and trainings (3) · Number of training participants/trainees (male/female) (90/30) Number of dissemination materials attentive to gender issues distributed (2 types)	Total has a comprehensive sound management programme regarding security and environment on their site in Pointe Noire.	3 workshops (90/ 30) Posters distributed	3 workshops have been organized since the beginning of project as reported in the last PIR. This included an international workshop on "training and validation of the National technical Directives on sound management and elimination of PCB and contaminated materials in Congo" (January 17, 2019, Brazzaville) and a National Workshop on "training of technicians on Best Environmental Practices in maintaining workshops of electrical transformers" (January 15-19, 2020, Pointe-Noire). No additional workshop has been conducted during the current reporting period. This represents 145/25 (m/w) if considering only the workshops and 176/33 if also considering some meetings during field missions 2: 1 flyer and 1 CD with dissemination material + 1 Flash news on TV on the project No additional activity during FY 2022

Component 2 -- Sound management and final disposal of PCBs contaminated equipment and its waste

Outcome 2: Sound management and final disposal of PCBs contaminated equipment and its waste

Output 2.1: PCB Inventory updated	Number of institutes and companies adopting standard sampling and analytical methods (1) · Number of samples collected and analyzed (TBD) · PCB inventory as well as transformer maintenance record established and updated · Quantity of the following safe-guarded PCB (TBD in tons)	0 institute 1 PCB inventory data carried out in 2006. During the PPG phase of the project, there was no PCB inventory updated using the PCB screening test kits 188 transformers were identified as possibly PCB contaminated equipment, equivalent	· 1 institute · Number of samples (TBD) · PCB and transformer inventory and maintenance record have been established and updated · Quantity of PCBs (TBD)	1 1 PCB and transformers inventory has been done in 2017, but during the first sampling campaign only 223 transformers were sampled (out of 1181, which is 19%) based on selection criteria. Quantity found in 2017 did not reach the project objective of 200 tons of PCB. A complementary campaign has been carried out during Q3 and Q4 2019 to sample more transformers that were suspected to have been contaminated during oil regeneration operations. In total 1068 transformers were sampled within the two sampling campaigns. This included 345 transformers that were sampled at E2C operating sites during
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		to about 500 tons including dielectric oil.		<p>campaign 2019, while only 247 were sampled during the 2017 sampling campaign.</p> <p>Additional consumables and small equipment was provided by UNIDO to the National Project Unit for carrying out the complementary sampling campaign and associated analysis in the laboratory</p> <p>Analysis were performed during Q4 2019 and the inventory was updated with additional contaminated oil and equipment</p> <p>No additional activity during FY 2022</p>
Output 2.2: Technical guidelines and best practice adopted at the transformer maintenance workshops	<p>Number of training and workshops (2)</p> <p>· Number of training participants/trainees (male/female) (48/12)</p> <p>· Number of technical guidelines adopted (1)</p> <p>· Number of companies adopting best practices (2)</p> <p>· Number of new businesses (1)</p> <p>· Amount of incremental investment (TBD in USD)</p>	<p>There are big differences among the transformer owners in Congo:</p> <p>Power sector: At E2C (major owner), there are no standardized operational procedures for the equipment maintenance adopted and no technical guidelines for sound management of transformer maintenance and no PCB management plan established</p> <p>Petroleum Sector: Total has a comprehensive sound management programme regarding security and environment on their site in Pointe Noire.</p> <p>Congo REP has in place an environmental management system in compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements and with exploration and production (E&P) industry standards.</p>	<p>2 training workshops (48/12)</p> <p>· 1 technical guideline adopted</p> <p>· 2 company adopting best practice</p> <p>· 1 new business</p>	<p>0; Three practical on-site trainings are projected to be delivered to the beneficiaries by the company that will perform the decontamination and expedition of contaminated oil and equipment for final elimination during Q3-Q4 2021.</p> <p>1; a national technical guideline on PCB sound management and elimination has been prepared, corrected by international experts and approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and disseminated in Q2 2020.</p> <p>11, This included but is not limited to: E2C (SNE); Eni Congo; TOTAL E & P Congo, Perenco Congo; PAPN; CORAF; SARIS Congo and SNPC that either attended the workshops organized by the project or were visited and made aware of the project and its objectives during field visits</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>During FY 2022, project continued to monitor the adoption of the decree related to technical guidelines on PCB management by Ministry of Environment, sustainable development and of the Congo Basin</p>
Output 2.3 Identified PCB contaminated equipment and waste (200 tons) disposed	<p>· Quantity of PCB eliminated/discontinued (200 tons)</p> <p>· Equivalent CO2 pollution prevented (TBD in tons)</p> <p>· Materials recycled (TBD in tons)</p> <p>· Commercial value of materials recycled (TBD in USD)</p>	<p>PCB equipment identified under the possession of international petroleum companies during the original NIP have been already disposed of (including 130 tons by Total E&P Congo and Congo REP since 2011).</p> <p>0 tons of PCB oil, PCB contaminated oil and equipment were disposed of by the other transformer owners including E2C</p>	<p>200 tons</p> <p>All (TBD in tons) material that could be recycled have been sorted, decontaminated, recycled and sold (TBD in USD)</p> <p>Associated (TBD in tons) CO2 pollution that has been prevented is reported</p>	<p>0 tons of PCB eliminated for the moment</p> <p>0 tons of CO2 pollution prevented</p> <p>0 tons of Material recycled at the moment</p> <p>0 USD from the commercial value of material recycled at the moment</p> <p>The first tender aimed at recruiting an international company for the operation of decontamination of low to medium contaminated equipment and the final elimination of highly contaminated material. It was rejected, since no financial offer was fitting into the budget limits of the project. A second tender was then launched with a restricted budget. Only one offer was received with some reduction of the volume of decontamination and final elimination of</p>

				material due to budget restriction. Negotiations with the company have been done to agree on a solution that fit in the budget and is the most efficient. A contract has been signed during Q2 2022 with FUERA international B.V. to decontaminate by the end of 2022 62 low PCB contaminated transformers (50-250 ppm), which is 100.6 tons of equipment. The company will perform the decontamination onsite, train the employees of the beneficiaries of the project on the techniques of decontamination and expedite abroad contaminated oil for a sound elimination of it.
Component 3 – Monitoring and Evaluation				
Outcome 3: Monitoring and Evaluation				
Output 3.1: Project results monitored and reported	Project steering committee established (male/female) (8/2) · Project office established with each member's responsibility clearly described in job descriptions (1) · Project progress monitored and work plan prepared and updated		8/2 1 · 3 annual reports are ready	1 project steering committee has been established (20 men/4 women) 1 project office has been established 7 annual report submitted over the course of project implementation period, ensuring close monitoring from UNIDO and other implementation partners
Output 3.2: Project evaluated according to the standards of the GEF	· Evaluation adequately conducted according to the GEF's standard		The mid-term evaluation report and the final evaluation are ready	1 mid-term evaluation report has been realized by an international external evaluation expert during Q3-Q4 2020 TE is planned in Q4 2022 as part of a cluster PCB evaluation

III. Project Risk Management

1. Please indicate the overall project-level risks and the related risk management measures: (i) as identified in the CEO Endorsement document, and (ii) progress to-date. Please expand the table as needed.

Describe in tabular form the risks observed and priority mitigation activities undertaken during the reporting period in line with the project document. Note that risks, risk level and mitigations measures should be consistent with the ones identified in the CEO Endorsement/Approval document. Please also consider the project's ability to adopt the adaptive management approach in remediating any of the risks that had been sub-optimally rated (H, S) in the previous reporting cycle.

	(i) Risks at CEO stage	(i) Risk level FY 21	(i) Risk level FY 22	(i) Mitigation measures	(ii) Progress to-date	New defined risk ⁵
1	Lack of government's commitment due to low prioritization of PCB related issues on the Ministries and SNE agenda	Low risk (L)	During the UNIDO's delegate mission of February 2014, three ministerial departments and SNE sent	The relevant ministries and E2C (former SNE) remains committed to the project. They actively participate to the different activities executed to date. Still, mobilization of government co-financing remains a concern and activities have been delayed due to reorganization of E2C (former SNE) in 2018; death of the project coordinator in 2018 and death of		<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵ New risk added in reporting period. Check only if applicable.

			<p>representatives to the site visits in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Such an involvement of the relevant Ministries and SNE will be secured by having them in the decision making flows as well as in formal communication of the project progress from the Department of Environment.</p>	<p>the E2C general Director in February 2019. The project implementation and the commitment of the government has been accelerated since January 2019 with the strong engagement of the Minister of Tourism and Environment and the nomination of a new project coordinator.</p> <p>The E2C has provided a co-financing part by covering the costs of its staffs and associated travels during the sampling campaign (in 2017 and also in July-August 2019). In Q4 2020, the Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mrs. Soudan-Nonault wrote a letter to the CEO of E2C to accelerate the implementation of the last activities of the project related to the final elimination and decontamination of PCB contaminated equipment.</p>		
2	Government officials are either not willing or not available to participate to training activities and lawmaking/regulatory bodies are not responsive to recommendations	Low risk (L)	<p>Government officials are closely involved in project planning to ensure new regulations are feasible and meet the needs at the national and community levels. Relevant stakeholders are members of the steering committee and are closely informed of the project's progress on the new regulations. High level government officials are periodically updated on progress of the project and training activities are organized.</p>	<p>The technical workshop organized on October 2016 to discuss the draft new decree on ESM of PCBs shows this risk did not materialize, as officials of different government departments attended the meeting and participated to the debate. A team of national legal experts have been hired by the NEA to address the comments and oppositions to a number of provisions in the drafted legal text.</p> <p>The Minister of Tourism and Environment personally opened the international workshop on the validation of National guideline in January 2019 and has monitored the implementation of the activities with the National team. The E2C created in Q2 2021 a technical comity on environment and social responsibility of the company to better respond to the technical requirements of the project and in general to future requirements linked to PCB sound management.</p> <p>A mission of preparation of the beneficiaries of the project was carried out in Q1 (June) 2022. It aimed at informing the beneficiaries on the security measures and operation that will be carried out during decontamination of their equipment. It also aimed at agreeing on a power down plan of in-use transformer during decontamination operations.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	There could be delays in development and adoption of proposed laws, regulations, and technical guidelines	Modest risk (M)	<p>Project staff will monitor review and enactment of legal and regulatory measures and will provide technical support.</p>	<p>An improved version of the original text was presented to relevant stakeholders by early 2019.</p> <p>The draft decree together with the corrected National technical guidelines has been reviewed by the project staff and experts and submitted to the Minister cabinet for her review and approval prior to its submission for adoption in the National legal process. In Q3 2020 the cabinet of the Minister submitted the three legal texts for review by the private cabinet Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) prior to their injection into the National legislative process.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
4	PCB owners and other stakeholders	Low risk (L)	<p>PCB owners will be involved</p>	<p>Some of the petroleum companies target of this project and the utility have</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>

	may not be willing to adopt the new business practices. For example, PCB owners may not be willing to decommission PCB contaminated equipment due to a lack of replacement		from the project design phase and will be invited to meetings of the project steering committee. Practical PCB management plans are to be developed in collaboration with PCB owners who will need to have ESM systems of PCBs in place to execute the plans.	already undertaken inventory of their contaminated equipment. Representatives of these companies participated to meetings organized by the project during the FY2019 and continue to show commitment to the project activities despite the fact that its general Director passed away in February 2019. A complementary sampling campaign has been carried out from July to September 2019 to identify more contaminated transformers and oil and better achieve the project objectives.		
5	There may not be adequate technical capacities for key stakeholders to execute the ESM of PCBs	Low risk (L)	Private petroleum enterprises have resources to train employees on the ESM of PCBs and provide them with analytical skills. Therefore, legal framework on ESM of PCBs will be promoted to encourage the private sectors to invest financial and human resources in establishing the ESM of PCBs. The project will support capacity building in the power sector.	The different training workshops organized by the project, including the one on information on PCBs and the one on management of contaminated transformers, attracted 181 (156/25 m/w) stakeholders from public departments and private companies since the beginning of the project. During the FY 2019 an international workshop was organized in Brazzaville to validate the National Technical Directives on 9 January 2019, where 57 men and 9 women participated.		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Selecting technical options may be delayed due to the delay in updating PCB inventories that could require to extend the project	Low risk (L)	Terms of Reference for selecting technical service providers will be developed in parallel to the PCB inventory update so that the obligation for PCB treatment will be completed in the second year.	During the technical workshop held on October 2016 was presented the report on start-up of the PCB inventory and preliminary Plan identifying PCB contaminated equipment. The project remains on track concerning this activity. During FY 2019, it was decided to carry out a complementary sampling campaign since the first results of the inventory do not allow to reach the project objective of the elimination of 200 tons of PCB contaminated oil and materials. This complementary campaign has been smoothly integrated to the yearly planned activities program to reduce the delay occasioned by it.		
7	Climate Change Risk: The potential project sites may have higher flood risks due to	Low risk (L)	The site selection will require an environmental impact	As of now, the climate change related risk did not materialize yet.		

	increasing flooding and a lack of drainage infrastructure		assessment which will include the flood risk assessment as requirement if relevant.			
8	Lack of contributions from the key cofinancing partners	Modest risk (M)	The project is designed to maximize the benefits for the co-financing partners and to align with the co-financing partners' needs so as to ensure their commitment to co-financing activities both in-kind and in cash. The co-financing partners have been involved in the project decision making process consultation and invitation to be part of the Steering Committee. Commitment letters from key co-financing partners are collected to ensure their active collaboration during the project implementation phase. Once the project is approved, there should be also memorandum of understanding to be exchanged between the Ministry in charge of Environment and all other co-financing partners.	As of now, the project mainly executed soft activities such as awareness and technical workshops, to which private companies participated. The equipment for the execution of inventory, analysis (before decontamination) arrived in Congo in February 2017 and was used to carry out the inventory in August 2017 with the support of the E2C, previously SNE (in particular for the laboratory analysis). A similar campaign was carried out during July-September 2019 to complement the initial inventory. The activities related to the decontamination of contaminated material and the elimination of PCB yet to be fully executed would require the materialization of additional co-financing commitments. So far the National cash co-financing was not made available. This include the provision of a proper storage place for PCB transformer and contaminated oil and equipment and also the transport of equipment to the temporary storing sites and then overseas for final elimination and for the replacement of transformers when needed. .		

2. If the project received a sub-optimal risk rating (H, S) in the previous reporting period, please state the actions taken since then to mitigate the relevant risks and improve the related risk rating. Please also elaborate on reasons that may have impeded any of the sub-optimal risk ratings from improving in the current reporting cycle; please indicate actions planned for the next reporting cycle to remediate this.

NA

3. Please indicate any implication of the **COVID-19** pandemic on the progress of the project.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the National Project Unit that is normally hosted within the NEA facilities has been assigned home. At home they don't have any access to internet as they used to in their office, which strongly impacted the project by slowing down its execution and the communication with the UNIDO team in HQ. Private internet connection has been supported by UNIDO to secure communication with the project coordinator (internet and phone connexion) and improve its work efficiency and capacities. The final payment has been transferred to the NEA and an agreement has been reached to allocate part of this payment to internet and phone cost to secure the communication until the end of the project despite COVID restrictions, quarantine periods and home-office obligations. COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted and project execution has resumed in a normal way despite financial constraints.

4. Please clarify if the project is facing delays and is expected to request an **extension**.

No additional extension is foreseen

5. Please provide the **main findings and recommendations of completed MTR**, and elaborate on any actions taken towards the recommendations included in the report.

The overall evaluation of the project in the MTR is rated as moderately satisfactory. The MTR provided the following evaluation conclusions. The project design is satisfactory. Even though the policy and legal framework for managing PCBs is very limited, the project aligns fairly well with that framework. Performance and results of project progress are moderately satisfactory. Indeed, the project remains relevant and its implementation has enabled seven (07) targets to be reached out of the thirteen (13) planned for the period and twenty-five (25) women out of a total of one hundred and forty-five (145) participants have been trained/sensitized. Unfortunately, it has been delayed in its implementation and has already been extended three times. The implementation and management of the project are moderately satisfactory given the delay and the small amount of co-financing. Finally the performance of the partners is satisfactory.

The MTR also provided the following recommendations.

To UNIDO:

- Update the project's logical framework by defining mid-term and end-of-project targets
- Continue and extend the project until completion despite its delay.
- Recruit a junior technical assistant for the national project coordinator.
- Reduce the time required to review technical documents to increase the efficiency of the project.

All these above listed recommendations have been implemented except for the recruitment of a junior technical assistant due to budget restrictions. Nevertheless, the National coordinator has been regularly provided with recommendations from UNIDO HQ to support his work and improve its efficiency, which has been successful.

To the Ministry of tourism and environment (project NEA):

- Continue to follow-up project execution and facilitate the money allocation process to the project management unit after UNIDO bank transfer. This recommendation has been implemented.
- Lobby the Ministry in charge of hydrocarbons to obtain its effective involvement and support in the mobilization of oil companies in the management of equipment and oil contaminated by PCBs. This support should at first allow the inspection of the equipment of these companies likely to be contaminated by PCBs. This recommendation has not been implemented.
- Mobilize and evaluate its co-financing in cash and in kind to facilitate the implementation of the project (especially the achievement of Output 2.3, which is very important for the achievement of Output 2) and its final evaluation. This recommendation will be done at the end of the project.

To E2C:

- Continue its commitment to the project and improve its involvement in the implementation of the project, a commitment that has seemed to wane in recent months. This recommendation has been taken into account.
- Work cooperatively with the company that will be hired to perform the decontamination of low to medium level PCB transformers and the removal of high level PCB contaminated equipment for final disposal overseas by:
 - o Preparing, in conjunction with the decontamination contractor, a de-energization plan for the equipment to be decontaminated this is currently on-going in cooperation with the recruited international company FUERA international B.V.
 - o Planning the de-energization and decommissioning of highly contaminated and in-service transformers that will be removed, transported, and disposed of by the company to be contracted to do so. This is currently on-going in cooperation with the recruited international company FUERA international B.V.
- Conduct an environmental impact assessment, including a flood risk assessment of the sites selected to receive the PCB-contaminated equipment. This has been initiated in 2021 through the creation of a special comity on environment, social impact and corporate responsibilities within E2C.
- Implement the oil and filter drainage recovery systems in the E2C maintenance workshops, which are located in the middle of the city.
- Mobilize and evaluate its co-financing in cash and in kind in order to facilitate the implementation of the project (especially the achievement of Output 2.3, which is very important in obtaining Result 2) and its final evaluation. This will be done at the end of the project.

To oil companies :

- Allow access and inspection of their equipment that may be contaminated by PCBs, commit to the vision of PCB ESG promoted by the project, and adopt within their company the BAT/BEP for PCB management. This recommendation has not been implemented.

IV. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

1. As part of the requirements for **projects from GEF-6 onwards**, and based on the screening as per the UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures (ESSPP), which category is the project?

- Category A project
- Category B project
- Category C project

(By selecting Category C, I confirm that the E&S risks of the project have not escalated to Category A or B).

Notes on new risks:

- *If new risks have been identified during implementation due to changes in, i.e. project design or context, these should also be listed in (ii) below.*
- *If these new/additional risks are related to Operational Safeguards #2, 3, 5, 6, or 8, please consult with UNIDO GEF Coordination to discuss next steps.*
- *Please refer to the [UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures \(ESSPP\)](#) on how to report on E&S issues.*

Please expand the table as needed.

	E&S risk	Mitigation measures undertaken during the reporting period	Monitoring methods and procedures used in the reporting period
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(i) Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement	NA	NA	NA
(ii) New risks identified during project implementation (if not applicable, please insert 'NA' in each box)	NA	NA	NA

V. Stakeholder Engagement

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on **progress, challenges and outcomes** regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project (based on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent document submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

The involvement of private petroleum companies in the project is intended to build on the private sector's resources and capacities that could be engaged in the project's PCB decontamination activities. In this country, there is a large gap in resources and capacities made available between the private petroleum sector and other industrial & public sectors. The project facilitates knowledge sharing routines between the petroleum sector and others in occasions such as technical trainings and pollution control operations. This collaboration is expected to bring cost-effectiveness to the overall project cost as the engagement of locally available resources and capacities that are generally more affordable will be promoted in the project's activities. This collaboration was strengthened and high level agreements should be taken between the different ministries to facilitate the visit of the National project units of the petroleum companies and EEC (former SNE). The EEC has already shown engagement especially during the inventory of PCB. It is expected that the Government also further supports the activities of the project by its contribution in cash that has not been released in complementation of its in-kind contribution. In 2018, the project unit of the NEA previously developed a guideline on the BAT/BEP ("carnet d'entretien") for a sound management of transformers including those that are contaminated with PCBs. This document was the baseline to further develop the National technical guidelines, which are currently under final approval as a legal official document by the cabinet of the Minister of Tourism and Environment. This should be used to encourage the major partners to adopt their own technical guidelines. Furthermore, some national technical guidelines have also been developed and validated during a workshop that took place in Q1 2019 where all stakeholders and partners were invited. The workshop was organised by the NEA, hosted by the major partner (E2C) and opened by the Minister of Tourism and Environment (MTE).

The National technical guidelines have been transformed into a draft legal document together with another decree on the creation of a National PCB committee and a National law on the sound management of PCB. These three legal documents were prepared by the PMU and submitted to the cabinet of the MTE during Q3 2020. In Q3 2020 the cabinet of the Minister submitted the three legal texts for review by the private cabinet Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) prior to their injection into the National legal acceptance process. A first international call for tender was launch during Q2 –Q3 2020 for the decontamination of low contaminated equipment, transport, storage and expedition for final elimination of highly PCB contaminated equipment and oil. However, only one company answered this first call and made an offer which was three times more that the total budget currently available for these activities. Therefore, a second call was launched during Q1 2021 with more details and a clearly announced limited budget of USD 450,000. Considering the available GEF budget allocated for carrying these activities, the company would only be able to carry out a part of the planned activities for decontamination and final elimination. Despite a strong advertisement, only one company answered the call. This may be due to a low budget, which is not attractive for international companies, which are used to operate for larger projects.

Following this bidding process, the Company FUERA International BV has been selected and long negotiations were carried out to fit within the project budget and change the initial ToR associated to the open call for bids. This revised version of the subcontract focuses on the decontamination of PCB low contaminated equipment and the training of the beneficiaries of the project. This appears to be the most cost effective solution. FUERA International BV accepted these changes and signed a contract with UNIDO during Q1 2022.

No cash co-financing contribution has been received so far. This includes some annual budget allocation from the MTE, the provision of appropriate storage sites (at least 1) by project beneficiaries (E2C). The replacement of PCB highly contaminated transformers by the owners (especially E2C, the main beneficiary) with new equipment. This absence of National co-financing will thus impact the targets related to activity 2.3 for PCB decontamination and final elimination of PCB contaminated equipment, since the GEF budget was not designed to cover all project activities.

2. Please provide any feedback submitted by national counterparts, GEF OFF, co-financiers, and other partners/stakeholders of the project (e.g. private sector, CSOs, NGOs, etc.).

At the end of her opening speech of the validation workshop on the National technical directives that was held in Brazzaville in January 2019, The Minister of Tourism and Environment Ms Arlette Soudan-Nonault stated in French:

“ L’atelier qui nous réunit ce jour, vise la formation des parties prenantes sur les directives techniques de gestion écologiquement rationnelle des PCB et les options de leur élimination.

C’est un rendez-vous du donner et du recevoir, très important pour notre pays en proie à l’épineux problème de gestion des déchets dangereux. C’est donc une occasion de vous approprier ces outils nécessaires à la gestion durable de l’environnement. [...], je voudrais exprimer ma reconnaissance au Fonds pour l’Environnement Mondial et à l’Organisation des Nations Unies pour le Développement Industriel pour leurs appuis multiformes tant dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de ce projet de manière générale, qu’à la tenue du présent atelier. Ma gratitude va également à vous, experts venus de l’ONUDI, pour apporter votre savoir-faire à notre pays. Mes remerciements vont à vous tous, représentants des administrations publiques, des sociétés privées, de la société civile, soucieux d’être en harmonie avec les exigences environnementales dans le but d’épargner, tant soit peu, les congolais des effets nocifs des PCB.”

Recently, the last mission report of the national project coordination unit, aiming to raise the awareness of the beneficiaries and prepare them before the last decontamination operations conducted by FUERA International BV, mentioned in French: *“Les résultats attendus ont été obtenus sans difficultés majeures. Ils ont marqué l’engagement des détenteurs à adhérer à la volonté du Gouvernement de La République du Congo de respecter ses obligations vis-à-vis de la communauté internationale en matière de gestion des polluants organiques persistants. Les détenteurs de transformateurs contaminés se sont engagés à disposer leurs équipements pour le traitement, comme l’a souhaité Madame la Ministre de l’Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo dans les lettres adressées à ces partenaires du projet PCB, leur recommandant la présente mission du Coordonnateur National du projet.”* This shows a strong engagement from the minister head of the environment department executing the project and the beneficiaries of the project.

3. Please provide any **relevant stakeholder consultation** documents.

Please list here the documents which will be submitted in addition to the report, e.g.:

- *Project Steering Committee minutes*
- *Aide Memoire*
- *Meeting Agenda, etc.*

*All attachments are to be named as per the GEF required format, i.e.: “**GEFID_Document Title**”, e.g. 9714_PSC minutes.*

2020-2021:

- **5325_LettreMinTE_E2C-2020**: letter of Minister of Tourism and Environment to E2C to accelerate the implementation of final activities
- **5325_rapport_suivi_textes_legaux**: exchanges of emails from the project coordinator with the cabinet of the Minister regarding the final review of legal documents
- **5325_Transmission_cadre_juridique**: letter of the project coordinator to the MTE cabinet to introduce the draft of three legal texts

- **5325_EXPOSE DE MOTIF COMITE PCB:** official explication from the project coordinator to the cabinet of the MTE for the legal text for the establishment of a PCB National committee.
- **5325_EXPOSE DE MOTIF DECRET PCB:** official explication from the project coordinator to the cabinet of the MTE for the legal text on PCB sound management in Congo
- **5325_EXPOSE MOTIF ARRETE DIRECTIVES PCB:** official explication from the project coordinator to the cabinet of the MTE for the legal text for the endorsement of PCB National directives
- **5325_Compte Rendu reunionE2C_Nov2020:** Meeting report between E2C and the project coordinator held in November 2020 regarding the implementation of the final project activities.
- **5325_RAPPORT D'AVANCEMENT DU PROJET:** last project progress transmitted by the project coordinator
- **5325_rapport financier_March 2021:** last financial report transmitted by the project coordinator
- 5325_compte rendu validation du rapport actualis
- 5325_LISTE PRESENCES VALIDATION INVENTAIRE

2021-2022:

- 5325_Letter Ministry Congo_Signed
- 5325_rapport mission prep 0622
- 5325_LISTE transformateurs a decontaminer

VI. Gender Mainstreaming

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please report on the **progress achieved on implementing gender-responsive measures and using gender-sensitive indicators**, as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval (in the project results framework, gender action plan or equivalent),.

The gender dimension has been incorporated into the project design and log-frame with proper indicators selected following the UNIDO's policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. There are currently no female workers engaged at the transformer maintenance workshops in E2C both in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. There are some female officers both in other divisions of E2C as well as Direction of Environment of the MTE. By measuring the gender-segregated indicators, the project encourages key stakeholders to become aware of the gender balance, develop gender-sensitive technical guidelines and awareness raising activities, and make efforts to give priorities and project related tasks to their female officers and workers. Having female workers and technicians in the power sector may take much effort due to a lack of qualified candidates. However, it is expected that the gender-sensitive technical guideline will encourage more balanced decision processes and practices by leading the guideline users to improving their occupational standards to safeguard more vulnerable workers' health conditions. The project encourages women to participate to meetings and workshops and reports on it. Since the beginning of the project 30 female and 189 male participated to the project activities.

VII. Knowledge Management

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please elaborate on any **knowledge management activities / products**, as documented at CEO Endorsement / Approval.

Awareness among policy makers, employees of the key stakeholders, potential buyers and users of possibly contaminated oil, academic communities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as general public with strong interests has been properly raised to support the establishment and consequent enforcement of the legal framework during the inception workshop (in 2016) and the technical workshops held in 2016 and 2017. This gave opportunities to the major stakeholders to provide their feedback. In

addition, awareness raising events also help the country absorb the knowledge through different social actors which would provide a check and balance function for the enforcement of the established legal framework. The gender balance of the participants has been monitored at all meetings. Appropriate organizations representing vulnerable actors such as women and current artisanal users of the used transformer oil have been invited as well. Awareness raising and training materials have been prepared in a gender sensitive manner and distributed during these events.

2. Please list any relevant knowledge management mechanisms/ tools that the project has generated.

- **5325_rapport inventaire final**: final inventory of PCB after complementary sampling campaign of 2019
- **5325_AVANT PROJET DE DECRET PCB FINAL** : final draft of legal text on sound management of PCB in Congo
- **5325_DECRET COMITE NATIONAL PCB**: final draft of legal text for the establishment of a National PCB committee
- **5325_DIRECTIVES TECHNIQUES SUR PCB FINAL**: final version of the National technical directives to be adopted by a decree
- **5325_arrêté directives**: draft of a decree to adopt the National technical directives
- 5325_Video FRANCAIS SEMINAIRE POPS
- 5325_Video LOUAMBA SEMINAIRE POPS
- 5325_Depliant projet PCB Congo
- 5325_Brochure_CongoPCB_2018
- 5325_CARNET D'ENTRETIEN 2

VIII. Implementation progress

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on progress, challenges and outcomes achieved/observed with regards to project implementation.

A legal text and technical guidelines on the sound management of PCBs have been drafted and corrected by international experts. The review of these documents by the National expert team was delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the associated reduced communications in Congo. The documents have reached their final version and were submitted during Q3 2020 to the cabinet of the MoTE who transferred them for review by the private cabinet Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) prior to their approval and injection into the National legal acceptance process.

A complementary sampling campaign has been carried out during Q3 2019 and samples analyses were done during Q3-Q4 2019, allowing a more accurate and representative inventory of PCB and contaminated equipment and oil by PCBs in Congo. As expected an increased amount of low contaminated transformer were identified during this additional campaign.

The direction of E2C has changed in Q4 2019 and the communication between the NEA and E2C on the project has been slowed down since then. Nevertheless, the National project coordinator regularly communicates with E2C to clarify some aspects linked to the execution of the project.

The international bidding process for the decontamination of PCBs-contaminated transformers was finalized during the reporting period. After an unsuccessful call for tender carried out in FY2020 that resulted in only one offer three times above the available budget, a second call was launched during Q1 2021 with a clearly announced limited budget of USD 450,000 and additional information on the

equipment to be decontaminated. As a result of this second bid, one offer was received, focusing only on local decontamination of transformers up to 250 ppm and export of resulting waste abroad for final elimination. The bidder declared that the available budget would not allow exporting highly-contaminated transformers for final elimination. In the best interest of the Project, UNIDO accepted this solution as the best offer that could be made within the project remaining budget and timeframe and signed a contract with FUERA International BV during Q1 2022.

The identification of temporally storing sites has been discussed, several options are possible including the use of some properties of E2C in Brazzaville, Bouensa and Pointe Noire and the involvement of a private company specialized in the storage of contaminated equipment and waste in Pointe Noire. According to national and international regulation, the pre-identified sites will first need an environmental and social impact assessment by a certified company to be used for the temporary storage of the project PCB oil and contaminated equipment prior to their expedition abroad for their final elimination according to BAT/BEP. To overcome this difficulty UNIDO included this task in the international call for tender and the recruited international company will also have the responsibility of establishing a temporary storage site in collaboration with a local partner.

The National project unit mentioned that the steering committee meeting was cancelled in Q3 and Q4 2019 to save costs associated to it and allocate it to the complementary sampling campaign that was conducted in 2019. This additional sampling campaign was necessary to identify enough quantities of PCB to enable the establishment of BAT/BEP solutions and temporary storage sites in a cost-effective way. In 2020 and 2021, there was no opportunity to organize a project steering committee meeting due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the associate reduced communication means of the project unit.

To ensure sustainable and sound management of PCBs in Congo, the National project unit has requested the Ministry of Environment to establish a National PCB committee in charge of monitoring sound management of PCBs in Congo and providing advice and expertise after project completion.

2. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments⁶ to the approved project that may have been introduced during the implementation period or indicate as not applicable (NA).**

Please tick each category for which a change has occurred and provide a description of the change in the related textbox. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Results Framework	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and Cost	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Management	Considering the budget of USD 450 000, it was not possible to perform both decontamination of low to medium PCB contaminated equipment and final disposal of highly contaminated equipment and of pure PCB. FUERA International BV will focus on the decontamination of PCB low contaminated transformers that are in use. It will also transport and eliminate abroad the PCB contaminated oil extracted during the decontamination operations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Schedule	6 extensions have been carried out corresponding to 4 years of extension. The

⁶ As described in Annex 9 of the *GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines*, **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%.

		project will end by the end of December 2022 instead of mid-year 2018 as initially planned in the CEO endorsement document. The project suffered delays due to COVID-19 and several years were needed to find a subcontractor for PCB elimination. The budget of the Project was insufficient to attract bidders, and call for bids had to be relaunched several times
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity	The entity is the same but its name has changed since the beginning of the project: It is actually named: "Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, sustainable development and of the Congo Basin" (previously named « Ministry of Tourism and Environment »)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor Project Objective Change	The project will focus on the decontamination of PCB low contaminated equipment and the training of the beneficiaries of the project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-Financing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Project Activities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	

3. Please provide progress related to the **financial implementation** of the project.

All activities related to strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the sound management of PCB have been carried out under Outcome 1. A final workshop of the project is projected during Q4 2021.

Regarding Output 2.2, some technical trainings of the technical personnel of the transformer owners in Congo on PCB decontamination techniques are projected during Q3-Q4 2022.

The project is now in its final phase and a budget of USD 450,000 has been obliged under output 2.3 for the payment of the recruited international company FUERA international B.V. for the decontamination of low PCB contaminated equipment in Congo and the final elimination abroad of PCB contaminated oil.

Under Outcome 3, USD 45,000.85 are held for final audit of the project.

Please see the project delivery report in attachment

IX. Work Plan and Budget

1. Please provide **an updated project work plan and budget** for the remaining duration of the project, as per last approved project extension. Please expand/modify the table as needed.

Please fill in the below table or make a reference to a file, in case it is submitted as an annex to the report.

Outputs by Project Component	Year 2022				GEF Grant Budget Available (US\$)
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Output 1.1: Existing laws and regulations on the sound management of POPs and PCBs assessed					11.47
Output 1.2: Legal frameworks and institutional tools in place to promote the ESM and final disposal of PCBs			X	X	86.32
Output 1.3 Environmentally sound management of PCB disseminated to stakeholders and public audience at workshops and trainings			X	X	88.71
Output 2.1: PCB Inventory updated					388.08
Output 2.2: Technical guidelines and best practice adopted at the transformer maintenance workshops					319.89
Output 2.3 Identified PCB contaminated equipment and waste (200 tons) disposed			X	X	936.67
Output 3.1: Project results monitored and reported				X	4,081.06
Output 3.2: Project evaluated according to the standards of the GEF				X	30,004.06

X. Synergies

1. Synergies achieved:

Describe potential synergies arising out of UNIDO internal cooperation and/or cooperation with (external) bilateral and multilateral projects/programmes, if applicable.

NA

3. Stories to be shared (Optional)

Please provide a brief summary of any especially interesting and impactful project results that are worth sharing with a larger audience, and/or investing communications time in. Please include links to any stories/videos available online.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.
2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the project manager in consultation with the Division Chief and Director.
3. **Evaluation:** For the report to be used effectively as a tool for annual self-evaluation, project counterparts need to be fully involved. The (main) counterpart can provide any additional information considered essential, including a simple rating of project progress.
4. **Results-based management:** The annual project/programme progress reports are required by the RBM programme component focal points to obtain information on outcomes observed.

Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) ratings	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <u>all</u> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its <u>major</u> global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its major <u>relevant</u> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modes overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environmental benefits.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve <u>some</u> of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <u>achieve only some</u> of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected <u>not</u> to achieve <u>most</u> of its major global environmental objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <u>any</u> of its major global environmental objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Implementation Progress (IP)	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of <u>all</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of <u>none</u> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk ratings	
Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
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.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Moderate 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 moderate risk.
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 low risks.