



Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024)

Project Title:	Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in Latin-American Countries
GEF ID:	5554
UNIDO ID:	140297
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	GEF-5
Country(ies):	The Argentine Republic, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Peru, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
Region:	LAC - Latin America and Caribbean
GEF Focal Area:	Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs¹:	N/A
Stand-alone / Child Project:	N/A
Implementing Department/Division:	TCS/CCM/RMC
Co-Implementing Agency:	N/A
Executing Agency(ies):	Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Argentine Republic, the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Chile, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Costa Rica, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Ecuador, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of El Salvador, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Guatemala, the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) of the Republic of Honduras, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) of the Republic of Nicaragua, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Panamá, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Peru; the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, and the Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism and Water of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
Project Type:	Full-Sized Project (FSP)

¹ Only for **GEF-6 projects**, if applicable

Project Duration:	94 months
Extension(s):	3
GEF Project Financing:	<i>USD 9,500,000</i>
Agency Fee:	<i>USD 902,500</i>
Co-financing Amount:	<i>USD 35,000,000</i>
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	3/15/2017
UNIDO Approval Date:	4/10/2017
Actual Implementation Start:	4/5/2017
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 9,410,912.49
Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:	8/12/2022
Original Project Completion Date:	3/15/2022
Project Completion Date as reported in FY23:	6/30/2024
Current SAP Completion Date:	12/31/2024
Expected Project Completion Date:	12/31/2024
Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:	11/30/2024
Expected Financial Closure Date:	11/30/2025
UNIDO Project Manager²:	<i>Lamia Benabbas</i>

I. Brief description of project and status overview

Project Objective

The Project focuses on supporting Ministries of Environment and Health in 13 participating countries to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) present in some Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) fractions. The main objective is to strengthen national initiatives and enhance regional cooperation for the environmentally sound management of POPs in WEEE in Latin-American Countries.

Baseline

E-waste has become a prominent issue in the national agendas of several Latin American countries, and the interest is growing steadily within the public and private sectors, as well as in civil society organizations. Political and public concerns about the handling and treatment of e-waste have arisen due to the presence of hazardous components and POPs (mainly Polychlorinated Biphenyls or PCBs, and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers or PBDEs, used for housings/casings of computers, TV monitors and printed circuit boards). At the same time, e-waste seems to offer important economic and business opportunities that can help generate new enterprises and employment, through promoting refurbishment and reutilization, or improving the extraction and commercialization of WEEE containing valuable materials (plastics, ferrous and non-ferrous metals).

Before the project started, some countries in Latin America had already started implementing several initiatives, including the enactment of specific rules and regulations for the proper management and collection of WEEE, as well as awareness-raising activities, and the strengthening of national capacities on WEEE (e-waste) dismantling and recycling. However, due to national differences in policy development and the status of WEEE-related initiatives, progress has not been homogeneous throughout the region. In addition, there is still a shortage of adequate dismantling and recycling infrastructure and lack of specific policies and technical standards on e-waste management. The improper recycling of WEEE, which may

² Person responsible for report content

involve inefficient identification and separation of plastic containing PBDEs and the uncontrolled burning processes of plastic coatings, housings and casings, cause the formation and release of unintentionally produced POPs (u-POPs), such as dioxins and furans. These are highly toxic chemicals that accumulate in living organisms, including humans, and appear in higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain, causing serious toxic effects to both people and wildlife. Thanks to a combination of these factors, the adoption of a successful management model for WEEE at the regional level has stalled. Without this project and support at the national and international levels, this scenario is likely to continue, at least in the short and medium term.

The participating countries have great socio-economic differences, in addition to different levels of technical and regulatory development for WEEE management. This project, therefore, aims to align differences at the national level with the support of regional cooperation. Without GEF support, it is unlikely that participating countries will be able to improve their national capacities for WEEE management as well as the recycling capacity of existing facilities. Consequently, this project seeks to create an inclusive environment with the participation of various stakeholders, based on a strong commitment from national governments. The project also facilitates the assistance of international organizations with extensive experience in e-waste and related issues.

Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and select corresponding ratings for the current reporting period, i.e. FY24. Please also provide a short justification for the selected ratings for FY24.

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. FY23, in the last column.

Overall Ratings⁴	FY24	FY23
Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating	<i>Satisfactory (S)</i>	<i>Satisfactory (S)</i>
The project has achieved that, in most of the participating countries, there is now a legal framework to regulate the management of WEEE. While in some countries these regulations have already been approved by the Ministries in charge, in others they are pending approval, or their drafting is being finalized. On the other hand, the identification, separation and final disposal of WEEE plastics that may contain POPs has contributed to protecting human health and the environment. The project has strengthened national initiatives and improved regional cooperation for the environmentally sound management of WEEE in Latin American countries.		
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	<i>Satisfactory (S)</i>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>
The implementation of components 1, 2 and 3 has been carried out satisfactorily. Although component 2 presented delays in the last report, the measures taken during FY24 showed good results, and great progress was achieved, but there are still activities to be carried out in some countries. It is worth mentioning that the project is recognized as "good practice".		
Overall Risk Rating	<i>Low Risk (L)</i>	<i>Low Risk (L)</i>
No change since FY23		

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

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

II. Targeted results and progress to-date

In this last period, the project focused much of its efforts on completing the activities of component 1, particularly on developing regulatory frameworks on WEEE in countries that were behind. Also notable was the development of national strategies to ensure the sustainability of WEEE management once the project ends, as well as training for public officials, recyclers and awareness campaigns aimed at the general public.

Due to the delay that component 2 had in meeting its objectives, the project intensified the assistance and training that have been offered to the countries and in-person visits were carried out. Thanks to this effort, during this period there was an increase in the identification and separation of tons of plastics with brominated flame retardants that may contain POPs, as well as tons of plastics sent to safe final disposal, in accordance with the guidelines of the Stockholm Convention.

In component 3, the project continued to hold the PREAL Tuesday meetings, as the main South-South collaboration mechanism to exchange experiences and knowledge. An important product of this collaboration is the construction of a map of georeferenced WEEE collection points in the 13 participating countries, which is available on the project website. On the other hand, with the aim of giving greater visibility to the activities carried out by the project, it was agreed to work on monthly newsletters and podcasts where the country teams participate.

Progress on the different outputs is shown below, relative to the KPI targets in the project's logical framework / M&E plan at the time of CEO endorsement / approval.

Project Strategy	KPIs/Indicators	Baseline	Target level	Progress in FY24
Component 1 - STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL E-WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES				
Outcome 1.1 National Policies are drafted or reviewed				
Output 1.1.1: National policies and regulations are drafted or reviewed	# of national e-waste policies and regulations drafted or reviewed	3 countries have national policies, 10 do not have e-waste specific policies	13 countries draft their e-waste policies and corresponding regulations or prepare amendments to them (3 of 3 countries draft amendments and 10 of 10 draft policies)	In this period, countries that had some type of regulation on WEEE management before the project continued to update and implement it. Ecuador was mainly dedicated to the formation of WEEE management systems based on the EPR, Costa Rica finalized the draft of the new regulation and it is already in public consultation, and Peru worked mainly with the municipalities to achieve the collection objectives. Of the countries that did not have specific regulations on WEEE management before the project, Venezuela already approved its regulations in May 2024, while Argentina issued a Decree for the management of solid waste that includes WEEE as special generation universal waste and also a Resolution that approves the procedure for the management of WEEE of the national public administration. El Salvador, Chile and Uruguay have already finalized their drafts of new regulations and are reaching a consensus with other interested parties. Nicaragua, which had already approved a technical standard for WEEE management, has also finalized the draft regulation, and Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama are finalizing it.
Output 1.1.2: National e-waste management strategies are established	# of national e-waste strategies drafted or reviewed	Only few countries have a written strategy for e-waste management	1 strategy per country drafted or reviewed	In this period, countries that had not developed strategies to improve WEEE management did so, mainly on communication, consumer awareness and to improve collection. In the present period, one strategy was reviewed and modified by Honduras, while Costa Rica, Panama, Peru and Uruguay drafted new ones. With this, in total 12 strategies have been reviewed and 39 have been written and implemented.

Output 1.1.3: Guidelines for the e-waste management activities are developed and tested	# of countries using existing/newly developed and tested guidelines	Guidelines exist, but are not fully integrated into the national implementation processes	At least 6 countries use existing/newly developed and tested guidelines to establish their e-waste management strategy	During the reporting period, 4 new guides were produced, totalling 19 guides prepared throughout the project, from 12 of the 13 participating countries. During the project, the countries have developed technical guidelines for WEEE treatment aimed mainly at recyclers, but they have also produced information guides, booklets and brochures aimed at other audiences such as journalists, the general public, public officials and producers of EEE. Additionally, at the regional level, the project created a technical guideline for the identification and separation of plastics with brominated flame retardants and another for their co-processing.
Output 1.1.4: A national financial strategy is defined within policies and regulations	# of countries with sustainable financing strategies in e-waste policies and regulations	Lack of overall financing strategies to sustain the national e-waste management system (operations, administration, monitoring, etc.)	At least 10 countries have developed a sustainable financing strategy for all aspects of the e-waste management system	During the period covered by this report, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama and Venezuela produced new strategies, totalling 9 throughout the project. Although the regulations of all countries have adopted EPR as the main financing mechanism for WEEE management, 8 of the 13 countries have developed complementary financing strategies, such as agreements with national banks.
Outcome 1.2: National Capacity for e-waste management is in place				
Output 1.2.1 Officials and staff on e-waste management trained	# of training participants/trainees (male/female)	Lack of specific knowledge in e-waste management among officials and operational staff	At least 80% of government officials (male/female) responsible for e-waste management pass training. At least 80% of staff from selected facilities involved in e-waste operations are properly trained (according to tests / assessments).	Training on e-waste aimed at government officials and WEEE recyclers was intensified during this period as the end of the project approaches. 74 training events were held, both virtual and in-person, in which a total of 4,199 people participated, of which 1,937 were men and 2,272 women. With this effort, the total number of people trained during the duration of the project amounted to 9,365, 4,527 men and 4,838 women, in 180 training events.
Output 1.2.2 Selected universities include e-waste management in their curricula and research programs	# of universities providing e-waste management curricula and research programs	Lack of learning programs, research opportunities and projects on e-waste management at the university level within the region	At least 5 selected universities (within the region) have incorporated e-waste management into their curricula and research programs.	During the reporting period, 15 agreements were finalized that had been in the works for previous years. These agreements include the linking of universities in diploma courses on WEEE management, the integration of this topic into various subjects in the study plans, research topics, among others. Venezuela, Peru, Peru, Costa Rica and Ecuador stand out in their order. To date, the project has managed to link 37 universities in the region.
Output 1.2.3 National knowledge and information management systems are set and ready for regional exchange	# of national knowledge and information systems implemented # of participants in KM and information system (male/female)	information systems are available to enhance national and regional KM and information exchange on e-waste	Knowledge management and information system available, per country. At least one training/workshop per country on the KM and information system totalling around 200-250 of participants (male/female) regionally	In the current period, 6 new information and knowledge management systems were developed and now 11 of the 13 countries already have one, either integrated into national environmental information systems or as websites dedicated to WEEE issues. In general, those within environmental information systems maintain records of importers, quantities imported and other information related to waste management, such as management plans. Guatemala and Honduras are finalizing their designs. Likewise, during this period, 90 people (37 men and 53 women) were trained in the management of these platforms.
Outcome 1.3: National society is informed and aware of e-waste issues				
Output 1.3.1 Media and journalists are trained on e-waste issues and informed	# of trainings for media and journalists (male/female)	Lack of knowledge on e-waste management and risks associated	2 trainings per country and at least 30 participants /	In the reporting period, 11 countries carried out 12 training sessions for journalists, the vast majority in person, although the virtual

regarding the progress of the national and regional initiatives	# of e-waste related contributions in audio, visual and printed media	with human health and the environment among media and journalists	trainees per event (male / female). 30 e-waste related contributions in audio, visual and printed media.	events registered the highest number of participants. In total, 186 people were trained (100 men and 86 women), thus reaching 2,035 people so far in the project (973 and 1,062, respectively). On the other hand, social networks have become the main means of disseminating news related to WEEE management, although there are also cases of campaigns and interviews in spoken, written and visual media. During this period, 1,665 notes were registered, thus increasing to 2,840 notes related to WEEE.
Output 1.3.2 Awareness raising campaigns / customized events are developed to address the needs of specific target groups (i.e. children, women) and society at large	# of awareness raising campaigns addressing the needs of all targeted groupies (male/ female) # of gender-specific campaigns (e.g. on WEEE handling and disposal); #gender and children-specific information materials	Lack of awareness about e-waste management and risks associated with environment and human health among society and specific targeted groups	At least 4 awareness raising campaigns per country per year, including gender-related issues.	During the reported period, 99 campaigns were carried out, with Costa Rica and Peru being the countries that reported the highest numbers due to the awareness strategies they adopted with municipalities at the national level. 14,773 people participated in these events, of which 7,236 were men and 7,447 women. On the other hand, most countries have developed materials such as children's brochures, school guides, videos that have been broadcast on television, brochures, flyers, etc. In the period covered by the report, 108 pieces were made, for a total of 139 in the entire project. All participating countries in the project have developed awareness campaigns aimed at the general public and specific groups, such as children. Generally, campaigns are carried out with the support of state institutions, private companies and recyclers, but it is important to note that it is not always easy to determine the number or type of participants, since the strategies include dissemination on social networks, text messages, participation in municipal events, etc.
Component 2 - STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPACITIES ON E-WASTE DISMANTLING AND RECYCLING FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE				
Outcome 2.1: E-waste dismantling and recycling facilities or infrastructure are operating efficiently and sustainably in participating countries				
Output 2.1.1: In-depth assessments of pre-selected facilities and infrastructure are carried out to select facilities that will be upgraded/scaled up	# of facilities with detailed assessments	More than 70 formal e-waste recycling companies exist in the participating countries. A pre-selection of eligible facilities to be upgraded / scaled up within the project was carried out based on their level of development.	77 e-waste facilities are assessed in detail for their potential to be upgraded / up-scaled	Following the methodology to evaluate the WEEE management facilities in the 13 participating countries, 26 more facilities were assessed during the reporting period. To date, there are 145 facilities that have been assessed throughout the project, of which 38 have been selected.
Output 2.1.2 Selected facilities are up-scaled to meet SC, BC and other relevant criteria	POPs releases avoided in e-waste (tons). e-waste treated by the selected facilities (tons per year). # of facilities adopting BAT/BEP related with the environmentally sound management of POPs.	A majority of existing facilities lack technical and operational capacities and do not pay special attention to POPs management	90% of up-scaled facilities manage POPs in an environmentally sound manner. 60% of e-waste in each country is treated by the upgraded / scaled up facilities. At least 25 facilities adopted BAT/BEP for POPs	The 38 facilities that the participating countries have selected to work with the project are, for the most part, the largest in the respective countries and manage between 50% and 90% of WEEE generated at the national level, depending on the country. In turn, all of them have received training and support from the national and regional teams on how to identify and separate plastics with brominated flame retardants. The national teams coordinate with partner companies, remove the separated plastic and send it to environmentally safe final disposal.

Output 2.1.3 ESM and final disposal of 600 tons of brominated plastics annually (totalling 2400 tons during the project lifespan) using BAT/BEP	# quantity of brominated plastics disposed of	There are gaps with the e-waste collection system, manual dismantling and safe final disposal of BFR-plastics	Disposal of 600 tons of brominated plastics annually, totalling 2400 tons during the project lifespan	During this last phase of the project, it was possible to send to environmentally safe final disposal 532 tons of plastics that had been previously identified and separated for containing brominated flame retardants, verified by Bromine measurements with XRF equipment. In total, 564 tons have been sent for final disposal, about 68% were sent for co-processing in cement kiln plants and 32% to security cells. To date, more than 550,000 pieces of equipment have been analyzed, representing nearly 4,000 tons in selected WEEE facilities.
Output 2.1.4 Adequate business models are developed to ensure long-term sustainability of the facilities	# of jobs created (male/female). Time to break-even per recycler applying the recommended business model	Identified need to develop business models taking into account the improved framework conditions.	At least 90 jobs in total created at each facility 2 years maximum to break even per recycler applying the recommended business model.	In the current period, 23 new jobs were reported in the selected WEEE facilities (19 men and 4 women). On the other hand, the business models that the project has promoted have been focused mainly on achieving better use of decontaminated plastics, to compensate for the economic effort that the identification and separation of plastics with brominated flame retardants entails for the recycler. Chile and Costa Rica have already developed their own studies, while the other countries in the project are in this process. At the regional level, in July 2023 the project organized a meeting for recyclers participating in the project, in order to show them the benefits of decontaminating plastics and marketing the clean fractions of ABS, ABS-PC, HIPS and PC, among others. 30 people from 23 WEEE recycling companies participated in this event.
Component 3 - ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ON E-WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Outcome 3.1 Key issues of e-waste policies are harmonized at the regional level, with due consideration of the relevant MEAs and mechanism like SAICM				
Output 3.1.1. Comparative analysis of existing national policies / regulations is conducted to identify key issues that need to be addressed at the regional level	Key regional issues identified through comparative analyses of existing national policies	Key issues that need to be addressed at the regional level are being identified during the PPG phase	Agreement among participating countries regarding key regional issues to be tackled in the national policies	The project continues to develop the meetings called "Martes PREAL"; during the reporting period alone, 32 meetings were held. At these meetings, experiences are exchanged, and various topics are discussed with countries, such as key regional issues that need to be addressed in national policies. Although it is difficult to achieve regional harmonization of certain concepts and definitions, the main aspects to be considered have been incorporated into the national policies that the countries have developed. On this specific topic, 8 meetings were held in 2021, 7 in 2022 and 5 more in 2023.
Output 3.1.2. A regional policy platform is operating to facilitate policy harmonization on key issues, with involvement of national MEAs officials	# of countries actively participating in the regional platform to harmonize their policies	No regional policy platform available at this stage.	All participating countries are actively taking part in the regional platform for harmonization purposes	The vast majority of countries continue to actively participate in the exchange of information, in order to keep the project's regional platform updated, which has been operational since the third quarter of 2019. Likewise, the Intranet section where the countries share information such as policies and regulations remained active in the current period.
Outcome 3.2 Knowledge management systems and information exchange are strengthened				
Output 3.2.1. The policy platform is integrated into a regional knowledge / information management system	# of national policies available on regional knowledge / information management system	The existing regional knowledge / information system provides limited information and is not used for harmonization purposes	13 national policies are available on regional knowledge / information management system	In this period, the project website https://residuoselectronicosal.org/normativas-globales/ was kept updated, where all the regulations that have been reviewed, drafted or approved (according to result 1.1.1) are available.

Output 3.2.2. National knowledge / information systems are linked to the regional one	# of national documents of participating countries that are published in the regional knowledge management system	Missing information exchange between countries.	All relevant documents published at the national level within the project are available on the regional knowledge management system	The technical and regulatory documents that were produced in this period were uploaded to the site Documentos Generales – PREAL (residuoselectronicosal.org) and Documentos PREAL – PREAL (residuoselectronicosal.org) .
Outcome 3.3 South -South cooperation is enhanced				
Output 3.3.1 Country cooperation is strengthened in the region through enhanced knowledge sharing	# of regional exchange events	Limited South-South cooperation between the participating countries	At least 5 regional events are organized throughout the project duration.	In May 2024, the regional meeting took place in person in Panama, in which 42 representatives of the countries that are part of the project and 12 invited speakers participated. With this last meeting, the goal of the number of regional events to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of knowledge between the countries was exceeded. As mentioned in previous reports, in 2019 the first EWAM (E-Waste Academy for Managers) was held in person in Costa Rica. In 2020, 16 webinars were held on different WEEE management topics, and in 2021 and 2022, 2 more EWAMs were held virtually. In September 2023, the first EWAS (E-waste Academy for Scientists) was held in person in Limerick, Ireland, with the participation of 21 researchers, 12 of whom represented the countries participating in the project.
Output 3.3.2 Regional post-project action plans and initiatives are developed	Post-project action plan(s) developed	There is a small number of isolated regional initiatives that should be better coordinated	All participating countries have at least one planned activity for the post-project phase. They decide whether or not a new regional project is warranted.	Within the framework of the in-person meeting held in Panama (May 2024), the Project Steering Committee took place, where the central topic proposed to the political representatives of the countries was to present the strategies that they would follow to give continuity to the activities carried out so far (see 524_Steering Committee minutes_23 Mayo 2024_Final_signed). All of the countries recognized the support provided by the project on the issue of WEEE management and expressed their interest and desire for UNIDO to continue supporting them on these issues. On the other hand, the project presented a Call for Action proposal that was discussed by the Committee and it was agreed to accept it as technical recommendations to continue implementing, (see 5554_Call for Action).

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.

	(i) Risks at CEO stage	(i) Risk level FY 23	(i) Risk level FY 24	(i) Mitigation measures	(ii) Progress to-date	New defined risk ⁵
1	Current high interest of governments, NGOs and CBOs in e-waste management could diminish due to changes in governments, which would cause a reduced support for	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Ensure good communication among all stakeholders and help them with information / knowledge sharing mechanisms to keep the interest high and enhance South-South cooperation. During project implementation, invest sufficient time for post-project planning, especially at the regional level, to involve regional institutions	Although changes in government and political instability in some countries represented significant challenges for the project, these difficulties were overcome thanks to the establishment of efficient communication channels between the political and	

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

	the project, thus affecting its implementation and sustainability.			and national governments, while sustaining their interest in e-waste management. Establish sustainable business models for the facilities to ensure long-term planning and to attract investors.	technical representatives of the participating countries, the technical teams and the coordination of UNIDO. A great achievement of the project has been to position the issues of electronic waste management at different levels and ensure that the different actors are empowered, thus guaranteeing sustainability.	
2	Private sector participation is very low or does not occur	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	The risk of “non-participation” of the private sector is very low, since the existing formal recycling industries are very interested in the project. At the moment, more than 74 private facilities apt for the project have been identified and 14 of them have submitted co-financing letters. However, if “non-participation” were detected, it will be addressed by approaching the concerned companies and sharing with them detailed information on the project, so they can clearly identify their own benefits vis-à-vis their required commitments, enabling them to reassess their interest in participating in the project.	The project has focused its efforts on the private sector on two fronts: recycling industries and EEE producers/importers. Although it was not easy to reach all the WEEE companies and convince them to work with the project, this was achieved thanks to unified strategies between the local teams and the general coordination, in which they managed to understand the project as a win-win. Important rapprochements were also achieved with EEE producers/importers and it was possible to make them part of the process. Through producers such as MABE and SAMSUNG, mainly, the creation of a Latin American group has been promoted to discuss topics such as the application of the REP in the Latin American context and future challenges. A first meeting was already held in March 2023 and a second meeting is planned for August 2024.	
3	Enforcement of the e-waste management strategy, collection schemes and treatment options does not work properly. As a result, e- channels or streams occur and there is insufficient input for the dismantling and recycling facilities. In addition, there is inappropriate treatment of some e-waste fractions	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Develop careful planning and communication with the corresponding stakeholders and provide them with proper and sufficient trainings. Ensure appropriate design of the collection scheme, dismantling and treatment facilities, with the best available experts and in close cooperation with the national organizations; pilot them on a small scale to improve them, before scaling them up. Organize frequent trainings and capacity building activities and implement internationally recognized standards at the facilities.	To minimize this risk, the project has focused its strategies on promoting the development of a legal framework that strengthens the formal management of WEEE and a strong component of training and capacity building with an emphasis on health and environmental protection. As mentioned, most countries have already drafted their e-waste policies that include EPR as a fundamental principle. Likewise, the training activities aimed at officials, recyclers, journalists and consumers have been notable, as mentioned in outcome 1.3.	
4	The informal sector will continue its inappropriate activities, or these will become even more prevalent, so a substantial	Moderate (M)	Moderate (M)	Establish attractive options, including business models, with the participation of the informal sector (waste collection, dismantling and recycling activities) to ensure economic sustainability, and integrate	The project has promoted the inclusion of the informal sector as a crucial actor in the development of national strategies for the management of WEEE. In 2021, through an agreement	

	amount of e-waste will not reach the appropriate facilities or recycling streams.			them already during the planning stage of the collection scheme. Ensure a good relationship between the staff of the formal facilities and the informal sector.	with UNIDO, the ILO carried out two pilots in Argentina and Peru with the aim of better understanding the labor dimension in the management of WEEE and promoting decent work in Latin America. With the participation of the Ministries of Labor, it is intended to have policies and programs designed to support the implementation of national decent work strategies and achieve the active participation of relevant actors. In addition, a virtual course was designed for the informal sector so that they understand how to properly manage electronic waste, together with the formal sector. Countries like Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru and Panama are making great efforts on this issue. More recently, the project supported the Ministry of the Environment in Uruguay in entering into an agreement with an Association of informal collectors, through which they have been trained and financially supported to carry out formal WEEE repair practices.	
5	Countries within the region do not have a common understanding of MEAs or they do not agree on the options for e-waste management in the region	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	Organize regional meetings and workshops to discuss joint implementation of MEAs and related projects. Establish an information platform to facilitate communication among participating countries.	Virtual meetings have been organized to discuss, among others, topics such as transboundary movements and WEEE containing POPs (e.g. EWAM 2022). On the other hand, some PREAL Tuesdays have been dedicated to debating these issues. The project participates in the StEP LAC group, where it promoted several meetings with representatives of the Ministries in charge of the Basel Convention and with recycling companies, to discuss the main difficulties and possible solutions. As a result, a document containing the main conclusions was published and is available in both English and Spanish (see 5554_Transboundary Mov_EN final).	
6	Due to improper handling of ODS, the project contributes to climate change.	Low risk (L)	Low risk (L)	The project will deal with selected EEE and WEEE, mainly without ODS. If cooling appliances are included, they will be managed with utmost care so that ODS are not emitted to the environment.	Although the focus of the project is WEEE with plastics containing BFRs, which are not common in refrigeration appliances, the national strategies and regulations developed contemplate the proper treatment of all categories of WEEE, including this one. The project has approached two leading producers of refrigeration equipment in Latin America, who are increasingly	

					participating in the meetings scheduled by the project countries.
7	Illegal or improper e-waste transboundary movements might occur	Moderate (M)	Moderate (M)	Sub-regional and regional activities will include workshops in cooperation with the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention Secretariat and Regional Centres to raise awareness on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and find appropriate solutions for e-waste. Control and monitoring tools will be set in accordance with the relevant MEAs.	As mentioned in number 5, this topic was discussed in several webinars organized by the StEP LAC group (UNIDO not only is a member of StEP LAC group, but it was UNIDO that suggested its establishment, and thus organized meetings with governments and recyclers).

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.

N/A

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

As reported in the previous report, the mid-term review of the project carried out between September and November 2021 recommended the extension of the project, which was studied by the Project Steering Committee in December 2021 and approved its extension until December 2023. Then, due to the delays that the project presents, mainly in component 2, and given that the budget execution of the countries barely reached an average of 62%, the Project Steering Committee at its meeting on June 14, 2023, approved extending the project until June 2024. In the meeting held in May 2024 in Panama, it was agreed that the countries would be allowed to continue executing their available funds until December 2024, as long as they present a work plan to be approved by UNIDO. A Project extension until December 2024 has been granted to conduct the Terminal Evaluation of the Project.

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

Among the main findings of the MTR are:

The project is still highly relevant to address the urgent need to regulate e-waste issues and reduce POPs in the region. It also has a very relevant geographical coverage to advance towards a regional vision and the outcomes remain consistent with the GEF's focal areas and UNIDO's mandate. Its design benefitted from both institutions' technical expertise and experience and, although not underpinned by a comprehensive theory of change (not requested at the time of design), it is solidly founded on the analysis of the main factors affecting the issue of POPs in e-waste (comprehensive baseline and stakeholder analysis).

The PREAL is contributing to strategic objectives and has advanced towards achieving the planned outcomes. One of the main achievements of the project is that it has facilitated and pushed a relevant number of countries to address the issue of e-waste and POPs. It is expected that important outcomes of the project, like the setup of legislation, capacity building, increased awareness and improved control of the recycling infrastructure in the countries will be achieved eventually after the end of the project.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the expected outcomes are achieved by the current deadline (March 2022). The project has delivered quality outputs, but the implementation is significantly delayed (it actually did not start until 2019). In this sense, the indicators and targets are too ambitious and should be revised to reflect changing circumstances and lessons learned during implementation. In fact, the project is currently working with a work plan that goes beyond its deadline and national work plans that go even further (up to 2024).

The PREAL has built on the coordinated capacities of the national and regional partners. The complexity of the project was initially underestimated (e.g. novel sector that involves ground-breaking policies and technology; countries with diverse needs, capacities and priorities; staff and government changes, etc.) This resulted in accumulated delays (e.g. slow start-up, time-consuming arrangements to set-up a multi-stakeholder

partnership, etc.) Nevertheless, the implementation arrangements are paying off in terms of increased ownership and efficiency. In general, the management and overall coordination mechanisms have been efficient and effective contributing to strengthening local ownership. The services provided by the Regional Project Management Unit (R-PMU) and National Project Management Units (N-PMUs) are considered highly satisfactory. On the other hand, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Advisory Committee (PAC) could have played a more significant and defined role.

The project's results framework has been used as an operational management tool and has been able to respond to changing circumstances (e.g. by organizing regular coordination and substantive remote meetings in response to the Covid-19 pandemic). Nevertheless, some indicators are not relevant or realistic and the project is not implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation system which compromises its own learning. In this sense, reporting has not been consistent and responsibilities remain somehow vague.

The project did not develop a comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy to contribute to transformational changes likely to affect gender relations and social norms. Nevertheless, the design included a baseline study that addressed specific women needs. During implementation, concrete efforts were made to address specific issues of interest for women and attention was given to ensure gender participation.

Project component / result	Recommendation	Action taken	Responsibility
Overall Objective	Extend the project's deadline at least until the end of 2023, in line with the procurement agreements signed with the countries (currently running until 2024).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The budget execution of the countries and the project budget were reviewed to study a new extension of the project. ▪ The Project Steering Committee (PSC) approved the extension until June 2024. ▪ Meetings were held with each participating country to adapt the work plans and the payment plan until June 2024 	PSC, Regional Project Management Unit (R-PMU), Project Manager (PM), and UNIDO-GEF Coordination
Overall Objective	Develop a comprehensive theory of change for the remaining implementation period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The roles and contributions of stakeholders, especially WEEE managers, have been more clearly detailed. ▪ The activities have focused more on seeking a change in how the consumer perceives the WEEE problem, the recycler better understands his responsibility in the appropriate treatment and the producer understands his role and responsibility within a management system. 	UNIDO and R-PMU
Overall Objective	Revamp the overall and country work plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each country was asked to update the work plan until June 2024 and prioritize the activities to be carried out. The plans are being reviewed jointly with the R-PMU. ▪ Based on the recommendations of the MTR, the work plan was adjusted at the regional level. ▪ After the Panama meeting, countries were requested to present to UNIDO a new plan showing how they will execute the remaining funds after June 30, 2024. 	R-PMU and National Project Management Units (N-PMUs)

Project component / result	Recommendation	Action taken	Responsibility
Component 1	Focus on completion, approval, publication and application of the legal texts and guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both in individual meetings with each country and in collective meetings (PREAL Tuesday), countries have been asked to give priority to the development of national regulations. ▪ A closer approach has been made with countries having the greatest delays and actions have been taken to overcome the obstacles encountered. For example, meetings with the senior management of the Ministries in charge of the subject. 	R-PMU and N-PMUs
Component 1	Consider playing a more active role in facilitating the internalization of good practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The countries have been carrying out awareness and collection campaigns, although the legislation has not been officially issued. It has been specially requested to involve the different actors, especially the producers so that they internalize the process and ensure its implementation. ▪ WEEE recyclers received training through two events organized by the regional project coordination, and national teams were asked to establish a specific training program for them. ▪ Through PREAL Tuesdays, the exchange of experiences and good practices have been further strengthened. 	R-PMU, N-PMUs
Component 2	Focus on reduced POP quantities by engaging private sector entities in the activities, e.g. developing business models that are attractive for these entities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The countries applied the methodology designed by the project for the identification, separation and treatment of plastics containing BFR. The project maintains periodic meetings with both local coordinators and the recyclers involved ▪ The project has organized meetings between the participating countries and representatives of the recycling industry that have already carried out these activities to learn about their experiences and learn from them. ▪ Countries have been encouraged to create business models based on the recovery of BFR-free plastic. The Colombian Plastics Institute has been invited to participate in several PREAL Tuesday meetings and a regional training event was held for recyclers. As a result, Chile and Costa Rica have already developed their business models 	R-PMU and N-PMUs

Project component / result	Recommendation	Action taken	Responsibility
		and the other countries are in this process.	
Component 2	Strengthening, monitoring and expansion of official WEEE collection channels, with emphasis on actions addressing the informal sector and citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participating countries carry out public campaigns intending to increase public awareness. Producers and recyclers participate in the campaigns, but there are still no formal collection channels or fixed collection points since in some countries the legal framework is in process or the EPR has not yet been implemented. The learnings from these campaigns are shared on PREAL Tuesdays. ▪ On the other hand, the project created a working group in order to create a map that would show the formal collection points that exist in the participating countries. This work was completed successfully, and the georeferenced points can be seen on the project website, https://residuoselectronicosal.org/. ▪ Each point shows the citizen the name of the establishment where the point is located, the address, telephone number, opening hours, among other information. 	R-PMU and N-PMUs
Component 2	Expand treatment practices developed in the project to the entire national sectors through dedicated workshops and presentations of most advanced partners to the whole PREAL community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through its participation in the StEP LAC group, the project promoted the exchange of experiences among WEEE managers in the region, and as a consequence, a Latin American association of WEEE managers (E-waste Latam) was created. ▪ Although it is common practice for countries to share their experiences on PREAL Tuesdays, several of these meetings have been designed for countries to present their best practices and the value chain actors of each country are invited. The recordings of the presentations, the documents and the materials they present are taken to folders or to the project's YouTube channel to be shared. 	R-PMU and N-PMUs

Project component / result	Recommendation	Action taken	Responsibility
Component 2	Continued work with citizens through national communication plans and/or established by regulations to ensure a steady increase in the level of commitment and awareness of citizens and all relevant actors in the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the project guidelines, countries develop their communication strategies and awareness campaigns to raise awareness among citizens and all relevant stakeholders. The communication and dissemination materials prepared by the participating countries are shared with all countries for their adaptation and use. ▪ Although the MTR proposed hiring a communication expert to train participants on how to design a communication campaign and trigger social change, several countries were already doing it individually. For this reason, their results have been used and shared collectively. 	R-PMU and N-PMUs
Component 3	Focus on advancing towards regional harmonization and developing a common view.	Seeking the harmonization of concepts and with the objective that these were taken into account in national regulations, at the policy level, several PREAL Tuesdays were held to explain in detail the elements mentioned in the StEP document "Developing Legislative Principles for e-waste policy in developing and emerging countries". On the other hand, working groups were created with the project participants in order to develop the general guidelines that a technical guide for the management of WEEE should contain, and also the general requirements of a policy to restrict the import of EEE that contain dangerous substances (similar to the RoSH EU Directive). On the other hand, the group for mapping collection points, mentioned above, was also created.	R-PMU and N-PMUs
Component 3	Strengthen the dissemination of the project results so they can be replicated or transferred to other sectors and territories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project traditionally disseminates results through annual events such as the EWAMs and regular webinars, as recommended by the MTR. ▪ To strengthen the dissemination of the project results, the paper entitled "<i>Promoting circular economy through resource efficient electronic recycling across Latin America</i>" was prepared by the project team and presented at the "Going Green Care Innovation 2023" event, held in Vienna, Austria, from May 9th to 2023. ▪ Likewise, the project participated with an article for the SSTIC division of UNIDO (South-South 	R-PMU

Project component / result	Recommendation	Action taken	Responsibility
		<p>and triangular industrial cooperation), where the most relevant facts of the project are presented, related to the cooperation between the participating countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase the dissemination of the project results, during this period the appearance of news through social networks (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, etc.), the preparation of monthly newsletters (22 have been prepared to date) and creating of podcasts (7 chapters so far) which can be heard at https://open.spotify.com/show/2jokk B2XU1GqDeb2iu7hdd 	
Component 4	Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system, including consolidated financial information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The frequency with which countries report performance indicators is every six months. Although the MTR recommended increasing this frequency (for example, quarterly), it was determined that it was not very practical because it is a too short period to notice significant changes. ▪ Likewise, it was recommended to increase the focus on results, impact and causality instead of activities and products. This suggestion was accepted, asking the countries that their work plans have that focus. ▪ Some project performance indicators were revised and better explained to facilitate reporting and uniformity. ▪ Finally, the service of the Monday platform was contracted, through which the monitoring and traceability of the results obtained in component 2 is carried out (see https://preal.monday.com/). 	R-PMU, N-PMUs and UNIDO
Component 4	Strengthen the role of the PSC and PAC.	The PAC has been invited to the Tuesday PREAL meetings in which the countries present their results, but their participation has been very low since not everyone speaks Spanish and this has been a barrier. Several of them have participated as experts to present topics of interest, such as in the case of EMPA. There has been a closer relationship with the PSC, holding more frequent Steering Committee meetings and copying information from which their support is required.	R-PMU, PSC and PAC

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).

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
(i) Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement	N/A	N/A	N/A
(ii) New risks identified during project implementation (if not applicable, please insert 'NA' in each box)	N/A	N/A	N/A

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).

During the current period, special emphasis was placed on greater involvement of WEEE recyclers, to achieve greater commitment and thus increase the volumes of plastic with brominated flame retardant sent for final disposal. This challenge implied, on the one hand, a greater number of training and awareness sessions at the local and regional level, and on the other, greater in-person support at the treatment plants. Fortunately, this effort bore fruit, increasing from 27.7 tons of plastic reported in the previous period to 564 tons reported in the current period.

On the other hand, different activities were devised to maintain the interest and participation of key actors such as the Directorates in charge of WEEE management in the Ministries of Environment and Health, the private sector (producers), municipalities, universities and civil society. The National Committees and working groups that had been created in previous years were strengthened and expanded to ensure their participation. Other actors that have participated with different activities in the project such as the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA), the World Resources Forum (WRF), and United Nations Organizations such as WHO/PAHO, UNITAR, ITU and ILO have participated in various activities planned by the project, such as the one carried out in Panama in May 2024.

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

During the final, closing event held in Panama in May 2024, all countries and other project stakeholders consistently praised the project, as well as the support received from UNIDO. Without this Project, Ministries

would have lacked economic and human resources to advance on the WEEE issue. Few countries had worked on solving WEEE issue before, so this project created the momentum, established links and networks, built capacities, and – overall – created a solid foundation for future work.

A key indication of the project success was the repeated request for a Phase 2. This would ensure the sustainability project activities beyond project closure. All countries asked UNIDO to explore the possibility of a second phase in which they would strengthen the (still incipient) WEEE management systems, increase formal collection and thus begin to implement circular economy projects.

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

In this reporting period, the following were produced:

- 5554_PSC Meeting Presentation May 2024_Reg
- 5554_Steering Committee minutes_23 May 2024_Reg
- 5554_Aide Memoire Closing Event PREAL_Reg
- 5554_Call for Action_Reg
- 5554_Transboundary Mov_Reg
- 5554_project newsletter links: [Noticias y Eventos – PREAL \(residuoselectronicosal.org\)](https://www.residuoselectronicosal.org)

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).

As shown in section II (KPI progress to date), the project has carried out multiple training and awareness efforts through activities such as training workshops, collection campaigns in public, private and municipal entities, recycling fairs, values formation events in Environmental Education (virtual and in-person), training of officials, awareness campaigns for specific groups, training of journalists, etc. In all activities carried out by the project, special attention is paid to gender mainstreaming and inclusion. According to data reported by participating countries, a total of 22,050 men and 22,970 women have participated to date in the aforementioned 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.

In this reporting period, the contract of the contractor in charge of maintaining and updating the instruments that the project has developed to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on e-waste management in Latin America was extended until the end of the project. These instruments are the Website, Intranet, YouTube Channel, Zoom System, social networks (LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook), among others. Likewise, during this period, new tools were devised in order to give greater visibility to the project and make the results known, such as monthly Newsletters that show the main activities of the participating countries and podcasts with interviews with political and technical representatives that give to know their points of view on the activities carried out and how the project has impacted WEEE management in the country.

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

- Website: www.residuoselectronicosal.org

See here the newsletters on activities developed within the framework of the project, country updates, documentation center, videos, etc.

- Intranet: <http://intranet.residuoselectronicosal.org/login/>

Platform for internal information exchange

- PREAL Monday: [monday - Home](#)

A platform for monitoring and recording the activities developed under component 2, especially the tons of plastics with brominated flame retardants identified and processed by each country

- YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBivkHq8zXRr05kBdbMZyIQ>

48 videos containing events, Webinars, and presentations made within the framework of the project are stored and disseminated.

- Social media:

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8978359/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/preal_re/

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057050366403>

Updated information on e-waste and project activities is disseminated around the world

- Spotify - Podcast:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2jokkB2XU1GqDeb2iu7hdd>

9 interviews with project partners

- Reports: Participating countries must submit a semi-annual report on progress and an annual technical and financial report on compliance with the activity plan.

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.

Project governance has gone smoothly. The regional project coordinator maintains regular and fluid communication with the project manager and with the representatives of the 13 participating countries, through emails and bilateral meetings. Likewise, the UNIDO team based in Vienna, led by the project manager, maintains constant communication with the regional coordinator and other interested parties to plan activities and resolve any issues.

Administratively, all contracts of the 13 participating countries and RELAC were amended so that they finalize in line with the project, i.e. by June 30, 2024. However, as detailed in the minutes of the last Project Steering Committee, the countries will be able to execute the remaining funds until December 2024. On the other hand, contracts with regional actors such as UNU/UNITAR, ITU, PAHO/WHO and the ILO have already been successfully completed.

At the regional level, the project has advanced in accordance with the provisions of the Knowledge Management section. The organization of the E-Waste Academy for Scientists (EWAS) with the support of UNU/UNITAR facilitated capacity building and the exchange of experiences among the researchers who participated on behalf of the project countries. Some of the EWAS participants have been invited to support PREAL activities, or as speakers in Webinars or in the implementation of specific activities.

At the country level, during this reporting period, the project mainly accelerated the execution of activities under component 2, since their implementation was delayed. The countries that were most behind (Honduras and Bolivia) received in-person and virtual support, which helped bring them into line with the

other countries. Regarding the drafting/revision of regulations on e-waste management, great support was given through specific meetings on PREAL Tuesday. In general, all countries show good progress and in the current reporting period, the approval of the WEEE regulation was achieved in Venezuela. All countries have a national coordination team that carries out the daily work of the project and the UNIDO regional coordination maintains constant communication with them through emails, WhatsApp, bilateral virtual meetings and weekly meetings (PREAL Tuesday). This has allowed for a timely and efficient response to the concerns and difficulties that arise and the identification of solutions, to support the continuity of the project. In this sense, the UNIDO team has maintained excellent coordination and communication.

The main challenge that the project currently faces is the sustainability of the achieved activities beyond project end. Although at the closing meeting held in Panama each country presented the strategies to continue, we are aware that our Ministries lack sufficient economic and human resources to have personnel dedicated to the WEEE issue. For this reason, all countries asked UNIDO to see the possibility of a second phase in which they could receive support to implement and strengthen the (still incipient) WEEE management systems, increase formal collection and thus begin to implement circular economy projects.

An extension until December 2024 was granted, to carry out the Terminal Evaluation.

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.

	Results Framework	NA
	Components and Cost	
	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	NA
	Financial Management	NA
x	Implementation Schedule	<i>Extension until December 2024 was granted to carry out Terminal Evaluation</i>
	Executing Entity	NA
	Executing Entity Category	NA
	Minor Project Objective Change	NA
	Safeguards	NA
	Risk Analysis	NA
	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	NA
	Co-Financing	NA
	Location of Project Activities	NA
	Others	NA

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

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%.

SUMMARY

- Total Budget executed: USD 9,410,912
- Budget executed in reporting period: USD - 51,239

BREAKDOWN

1. International Consultants and National Consultants (BL 11 and 17): to support the project activities, coordination, communications and monitoring of the project.
 - Total Budget executed: USD 1,043,976
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 125,466
2. Local travels (BL 15) to support implementation, coordinate with stakeholders and monitor progress.
 - Total Budget executed: USD 138,283
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 35,232
3. Contractual Services for the company selected (BL 21).
 - Total Budget executed: USD 8,003,373
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD -242,357
4. Train / fellowship / study (BL 30)
 - Total Budget executed: USD 3,179
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 31
5. Budget allocated to International Meetings (BL 35)
 - Total Budget executed: USD 189,591
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 21,426
6. Equipment and costs related to equipment support (BL 45).
 - Total Budget executed: USD 948
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 875
7. Other direct costs (BL 51).
 - Total Budget executed USD 31,562
 - Budget executed in reporting period: USD 8,088

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.

Outputs by Project Component	Year 8				GEF Grant Budget Available (US\$)
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Component –4 Project Monitoring and Evaluation					70,000
Outcome 4.2: Evaluation					
Output 4.2.1: Evaluation					
Output 1.2: Lessons learned are shared					

Grant Delivery Report is attached.

X. Synergies

1. Synergies achieved:

There are some examples:

1) Since 2013, the Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) project has been implemented in Peru and Colombia, funded by the Swiss government, and implemented through EMPA ("Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research") and the WRF (World Resources Forum). This project complements component 1 of the UNIDO project in Peru very well, as it also seeks to strengthen the developments in the legal and regulatory framework and the development of a national strategy for the environmentally sound management of WEEE and in particular of dangerous fractions, including plastics with BFR. Through the regional coordination of UNIDO, meetings have been promoted between the national representatives of the two projects to create synergies, reaching preliminary agreements.

2) The second example is Chile, where the international initiative "United for Efficiency" (www.united4efficiency.org) of the United Nations Environment Program and the Global Environment Facility is being implemented. This project has several components, but two in particular are related to the UNIDO project: (1) market mobilization and awareness campaigns, and (2) improving the background to implement the environmentally responsible management of WEEE. Since the actors involved in the two projects are similar, synergies are sought to optimize activities and resources, which is expected to minimize efforts and improve expected results.

3) In Ecuador, two other projects are being carried out on the WEEE issue:

a) The first under the PREVENT Waste Alliance which aims to develop a pilot scheme for trialling EPR in Quito, develop a collection centre and to set up a voluntary producer alliance to get the EPR scheme rolling. This will then inform EPR developments at the national level. The project is being implemented by the Municipality of Quito, Wuppertal Institute, Cyclos and Vertmonde.

b) A project implemented by UNDP on the identification, separation and treatment of WEEE plastics with brominated flame retardants. Given that both projects are directly related to the UNIDO project, coordination meetings have been held with the representatives of said projects and synergies have been sought in order not to duplicate efforts and optimize resources.

4) In the current reported period, the project has also made synergy with the project implemented by the UNDP and the Ministry of the Environment of Colombia, in which it has been supported to establish the methodology that leads to the identification, separation and treatment of plastics that contain BFRs. Under this collaboration, experiences have been shared and the countries have received training that facilitates the implementation of component 2.

5) The regional coordination of the project also participates in meetings of organizations such as StEP (Solving the E-waste Problem) and IEMN (International E-waste Management Network), where the results of the PREAL project are disseminated and experiences are exchanged with the other participating countries and organizations.

3. Stories to be shared (Optional)

The project team presented the document titled "Promoting the circular economy through resource-efficient electronic recycling in Latin America" at the "Going Green Care Innovation 2023" event, held in Vienna, Austria, from May 9 to 2023. The project participated with an article for the SSTIC division of UNIDO (South-South and triangular industrial cooperation), where the most relevant facts of the project are presented, related to the cooperation between the participating countries and the project was presented as a successful case. Examples of how the south-south cooperation achieved through the project is translated into practice are the exchanges of experiences at the PREAL Tuesday meetings, but beyond the project's own activities, it is worth highlighting the joint work to prepare the map of existing collection points in the participating countries, the guidelines for the preparation of technical guides for the treatment of WEEE and the draft proposal for regulation similar to the RoSH Directive for Latin America. The project has achieved international recognition and is frequently invited to present its results in different scenarios.

XI. 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 encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location and Activity Description
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina. <i>Buenos Aires, Argentina</i>	-34.60247428248019	-58.37372392922678		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Chile	-33.43900379645838	-70.64910397815773		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Health of the Republic of Costa Rica	9.934336251769695	-84.08635307768733		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Ecuador	-0.20734536848850357	-78.48405442153822		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of El Salvador	13.694535220326305	-89.2321623649497		National Executing Agency

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Guatemala	14.600114780655073	-90.52915101129554		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Health of the Republic of Panamá	8.963857306468922	-79.56070094134874		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Peru	-12.095227122191128	-77.05911073007243		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay	-34.906725313346215	-56.20740270700824		National Executing Agency
Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism and Water of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	10.502762268871463	-66.91548939939652		National Executing Agency
Ministry of Environment and Water of the Plurinational State of Bolivia	-16.52532014251736	-68.10783049218901		National Executing Agency
Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) of	14.093821792196168	-87.20444666354747		National Executing Agency

the Republic of Honduras				
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) of the Republic of Nicaragua	12.149842289599762	-86.15753354824169		National Executing Agency

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

Explanatory note

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.
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 in <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.