



Midterm Review of the GEF-UNEP Project
***“Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and
legal and institutional strengthening for the Sound
Management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)***
”

GEF Project ID: 9080

Final Report

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Chemicals & Health Branch of UNEP

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Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and legal and institutional strengthening for the Sound Management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)
GEF Project ID 9080
November 2020

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ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Joint Evaluation: No

Report Language(s): English

Evaluation Type: Midterm Project Review

1. **Brief Description:** This report is a midterm review of a UNEP -GEF project whose implementation started in September 2017 and planned to be close in September 2022. The project was designed to strengthen national and regional institutions to implement priority chemicals and waste related interventions for improved health and environment in the nine project countries.

The midterm review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of performance and results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among the main stakeholders active in the project including UNEP , executing agencies, donor and recipient governments.

Key words: institutional capacity building, sound chemicals management, chemical and health observatory, African ChemObs.

Acronyms and Abbreviation

AI	Africa Institute
BRS	Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CCT	Country Task Team
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DDT	3-5 Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane
DMT	Decision Making Tool
EA	Demonstrating and Scaling up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FSP	Full Size Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
IA	Implementing Agency
IC	International Consultant
ICA	Internal Cooperation Agreement
LOA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multi Environmental Agreement
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
MTR	Med Term Review
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NPI	National Progress Indicator
NC	National Consultant
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee
PAN UK	Pesticide Action Network United Kingdom
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PSC	Project Steering Committee
ROA	Regional Office for Africa
RPC	Regional Project Coordinator
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SANA	Situation Analysis and Need Assessment
SCM	Sound Chemicals Management
STC	Scientific and Technical Committee
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UCT	University of Cape Town
UN	United Nations
UNEP CMB	United Nations Environment Programme Crisis Management Branch
UNEP CHB	United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch
WESR	World Environment Situation Room
WHO AFRO	World Health Organization World Regional Office for Africa

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Project Identification Table

Identification	9080	SB-00742
Project Number + Project Title	<i>Integrated Health and Environment observatories and legal and institutional strengthening for the sound management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs).</i>	
Duration months	<i>Planned</i>	60 months
	<i>Extension(s)</i>	
Division(s) Implementing the project	<i>Economy Division, GEF Chemicals and Waste, Chemicals and Health Branch</i>	
Executing Agency(ies)	<i>Africa Institute and WHO</i>	
Names of Other Project Partners	<i>Pure Earth; UNEP Chemicals Branch, Pollution and Health Unit; University of Cape Town, Pesticide Action Network, UK; MapX</i>	
Project Type	<i>FSP</i>	
Project Scope	<i>Regional</i>	
Region (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	<i>Africa</i>	
Names of Beneficiary Countries	<i>Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Gabon, Mali, Madagascar and Senegal</i>	
Programme of Work	<i>PoW 5: Chemicals, waste and air quality</i>	
GEF Focal Area(s)	<i>Chemicals and Waste</i>	
UNDAF linkages	<i>See below</i>	
Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s)	<p><i>Goal 3, Target 3.9: substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</i></p> <p><i>Goal 6, Target 6.3: improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</i></p> <p><i>Goal 12, Target 12.4: By 2020, to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment</i></p>	
GEF financing amount	<i>USD 10,500,000</i>	
Co-financing amount	<i>20,332,000</i>	
Date of CEO Endorsement	<i>4 April 2017</i>	
Start of Implementation	<i>1 September 2017</i>	
Date of first disbursement	<i>18 September 2017</i>	
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2020	<i>1,747,958</i>	
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2020	<i>1,559,574</i>	
Mid-Term Date	<i>August - December 2020</i>	

Completion Date	<i>Planned</i>	20 June 2023
	<i>Revised</i>	N/A
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	1 June 2023	
Expected Financial Closure Date	20 June 2023	

I. Executive Summary

A. Introduction

[1]. The regional full size project "*Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and legal and institutional strengthening for the Sound Management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)*" funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is being implemented by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) from September 2017 to September 2022 by UNEP in Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Africa Institute (AI) is the executing agency for the five Anglophone countries and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) is executing the project in the four Francophone countries. The UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch (CHB) and the University of Cape Town (UCT) were also executing partners of the project. At national level, the Ministries of Environment and Health of the respective country are executing the project.

[2]. The objective of the project is to strengthen national and regional institutions to implement priority chemicals and waste related interventions for improved health and environment in project countries for improved health. The purpose of the midterm review (MTR) is to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP , executing agencies, donor and recipient governments.

[3]. For this midterm review, given the Covid19 pandemic no field visits were undertaken. The assessment was mainly based on in-depth review of project documentation, skype (zoom, telephone, or other form of communication) interviews, and feedback gathered through an online survey targeting the national project coordinators. Based on the findings of the review and the discussions held, a revised theory of change of the project's "impact pathways" was proposed by the evaluation and the review of outcome to impacts was also done, which led to the following findings.

[4]. **Relevance:** The project is in line with UNEP Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste. It is also consistent with GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal, which is to prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance.

[5]. **Efficiency:** Due to its complexity, the project was slow to start. It took eighteen months for the bulk of activities to start in the countries. However, through dedication the project team (the implementation and executing agencies) has been able to put the project on the right track and has gained momentum. However, the Covid19 pandemic slowed down the implementation

process. At midterm, although the project has been quite cost effective, the delivery of output has been below expectation due to the slow start and the pandemic.

[6]. Effectiveness - Availability of outputs, achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact: The assessment for the availability of the thirteen outputs was solely based on whether the targets at midterm as per the project logframe were achieved. The ratings for the thirteen outputs are as follows: satisfactory: 1 output, moderately satisfactory: 4 outputs; moderately unsatisfactory: 4 outputs and highly unsatisfactory: 4 outputs. Given the poor delivery of outputs, the midterm targets for three outcomes were not also achieved. However, there are already some indications of impact at midterm, 997 tons have been secured in Ethiopia and the service provider for its disposal has already been sub-contracted.

[7]. Sustainability: Although it is too early to assess, chances for sustainability of project results exist. Ownership of the project is high in most of the participating countries; the authorities are giving strong support to the project. On the other hand, according to feedback received from the survey questionnaire some financial as well as institutional risks have been identified that might jeopardize the sustainability of the project.

[8]. Project implementation and management: The agreed approach was adopted for implementation. UNEP was the GEF implementing agency and a task manager was nominated, who is providing adequate supervision and close oversight of project progress through the monitoring of activities and progress reports. WHO AFRO and AI the two executing agencies were responsible for the day-to-day management and monitoring of the project activities including oversight of the performance by the participating countries. There is evidence that they are performing satisfactorily. UNEP CHB was responsible to subcontract international consultants, who were responsible to develop the vulnerability and risk, and economic tools as well as the project website.

[9]. Stakeholders' participation: There is strong evidence that the international consultants hired to develop tools, guidance documents and the project website are cooperating closely. At national level, the engagement of the stakeholders was moderate initially, but as the implementation progressed, their involvement became more active.

[10]. Country ownership and driven-ness: Ownership is high in most countries. The project is benefitting from strong governmental support and significant co-financing has materialized at midterm, mostly in kind however.

[11]. Financial planning and management: The GEF funds are being adequately managed. All in the agencies are applying their internal standard procedures for the management of funds. Before the disbursement of funds, the finance officer would ensure that the required documents (e.g. progress and financial reports) have already been submitted through communication with the project manager.

[12]. Monitoring and reporting: The monitoring and evaluation is consistent with the UNEP standard procedures. However, the indicators are not adequate to track progress at results. The evaluation is proposing a new set of indicators. The monitoring plan is operational. However, the project team is not using the all the set of indicators provided in the project logical framework to the track results and progress towards project objectives.

Evaluation Criterion	Rating
A. Strategic Relevance	Highly Satisfactory
B. Quality of Project Design	Moderately Satisfactory
C. Nature of External Context	Moderately Favourable
D. Effectiveness	Moderately Unsatisfactory
E. Financial Management	Satisfactory
F. Efficiency	Moderately Unsatisfactory
G. Monitoring and Reporting	Satisfactory
H. Sustainability	Moderately Likely
I. Factors Affecting Performance	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Project Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory

B. Lessons learned

[13]. **Lesson 1:** In regional projects involving many countries speaking different UN languages, the availability of documents in these different UN languages prior to the inception of the project would avoid delays in project execution.

[14]. **Lesson 2:** When designing project proposals, the timing for the disbursement of funds for a given output should be consistent with the timing of its delivery.

C. Recommendations

[15]. **Recommendation 1:** The delivery of outputs has been delayed due to the slow start of the project. However, the evaluation considers that the project will be able to achieve all its objectives by the end of the project. For this to happen, it is recommended that the executing agencies should closely supervise and monitor activities and provide the necessary support to countries in order to avoid further delays. In particular, they should ensure that they facilitate the process for a functional observatory to be established regionally or in all participating countries by the end of the project.

[16]. **Recommendation 2:** Many countries were faced with the challenge of obtaining relevant data / information to be used in the calculators. Nevertheless, the countries used the available data they had for their respective reports on risk and vulnerability, and economic cost of inaction. For Kenya, the estimation for childhood exposed to chemicals would cost the country approximately \$46.0 billion owing to reductions in Intelligence Quotients (IQs) and earning potential. Noting that the 2019 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Kenya was \$95.5 billion according to the World Bank, project management, in consultation with the international

consultants, needs to take a decision regarding the usability and relevance of the calculators for the project.

[17]. **Recommendation 3:** Knowledge management for this project can be done through MapX platform of the project portal. Furthermore, the evaluation believes that the website is key to show case as well as share with counterparts, the wider community, and potential donors the project results for communication, awareness raising and support fundraising. However, UNEP CMB, whose contract expired in April 2020, has been benevolently managing the project website site beyond April 2020. The website has domain registration, hosting, and support for one year, which will expire in February 2021. The integration of the PAN-UK Pesticides in Use application would make sense as this would complete the cycle of data collection, adding to the current data analysis and visualization features. For the continued good functioning of the project website, project management should consider the following recommendations (i) Appoint focal point for management of the ChemObs web portal (ii) Create long-term hosting and domain plan for the ChemObs web portal (iii) Explore integration of the PAN-UK Pesticides in Use application.

[18]. **Recommendation 4:** It was planned to implement, IRIS, a web-based application, in each project country. This system would have enabled the proper management of country data. WESR, global environmental online platform, superseded IRIS. As an alternate solution to MapX, project management should explore opportunities how countries could benefit from this platform.

[19]. **Recommendation 5:** In Ethiopia, 971 tons of obsolete DDT from two big storage facilities are currently being safeguarded before shipment to Europe for final disposal. Due to lack of funding, it was not possible to safeguard a further 500 tons of DDT found at different sites across the country. The project needs to take the necessary actions to secure these sites with adequate fencing and signing, and strictly forbid access to these sites.

[20]. **Recommendation 6:** The francophone countries raised concerns that the English and French versions of documents are not available at the same time; guiding documents are produce in English. Project management should take action to address this issue.

[21]. **Recommendation 7:** A number of activities will be undertaken during the second part of implantation phase. Where relevant, the project should ensure that the gender equity aspect is considered for these activities. In particular, the communication and awareness raising activities should target vulnerable as well as women's groups.

[22]. **Recommendation 8:** In the design, there was confusion in the output titles for Component 1. The titles in the project logical framework are different to those mentioned in the project document body text. For consistency, the IA and EAs should agree on the same set of output titles for Component 1 when reporting. The evaluation also proposed some changes regarding output titles and outcome indicators; project management should consider accepting these changes and adopt the new outputs and outcome indicators.

[23]. **Recommendation 9:** The project team was not using all the set of indicators provided in the project logical framework to the track results and progress towards projects objectives. This is clearly evidenced in the PIR reports.. The risk of not using all these indicators is to miss some

important elements of the project such as gender equity or use of IRIS by the countries. It is recommended that the revised logical framework indicators be used for tracking progress.

[24]. **Recommendation 10:** National consultants have been hired to undertake the project activities. Most of the time a consultant report is linked to one particular output. It happens that one report is linked to more than one output. For a common understanding among project partners, when reporting, the EAs should clearly indicate to which output(s) a particular report is linked.

II. Introduction

1. The Mid-Term Review of the Full-Size Project (FSP) "*Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and legal and institutional strengthening for the Sound Management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)*"¹, carried out on behalf of the UNEP, covered the implementation period from September 2017 to August 2020². This 5 year-project planned to end in June 2023, benefitted from core funding from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for an amount of \$ 10,500,000, and secured co-financing from the national governments, World Health Organization (WHO), Pure Earth, University of Cape Town (UCT), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNEP, for a total amount \$ 20,332,000 (cash and in-kind). The implementing agency (IE) is the Economy Division, GEF Chemicals and Waste, and Health Branch of the UNEP. The Africa Institute is executing the project in five Anglophone countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and the WHO regional office for Africa (WHO AFRO) is executing agency (EA) for four francophone countries (Gabon, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal). At national level, the Ministries of Environment and Health of the participating countries are jointly executing the project.

2. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is undertaken to analyze whether the project is on-track, what problems or challenges the project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required. The MTR will assess project performance to date (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of the project achieving its intended outcomes, including their sustainability.

3. The MTR has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of performance and results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among the main stakeholders active in the project including UNEP, executing agencies, donor and recipient governments.

III. Evaluation methods

4. The MTR used a participatory approach whereby key stakeholders were consulted and kept informed throughout the review process. Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods were used as appropriate to determine project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts. The MTR was based on a combination of desk review of documents³ and interviews with key stakeholders / partners⁴ including UNEP task manager, Africa Institute, UCT, Pure Earth, PAN UK, WHO AFRO, Regional Project Coordinators (RPCs), National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and consultants (national and international). Information was also gathered from national counterparts through a survey questionnaire (Annex 5). As far

¹ The Project has been referenced as ChemObs Project.

² Start date of the MTR

³ See Annex 6 for list of documents consulted

⁴ See Annex 3 for lists of persons interviewed

as possible, triangulation of findings was done to reduce information gaps. Due to the Covid19 pandemic prevailing worldwide, it was agreed that field mission would not be undertaken, and instead only online interviews were carried out to gather and triangulate information⁵.

5. To verify factual errors and interpretation of key findings, a presentation of the preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations was made during an online Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting that was held in two sessions on 28 – 29 October and on 11 December 2020. The comments and suggestions made during this presentation were considered in this report.

IV. The Project

A. Context

6. Africa's contribution to global chemicals production is currently small but a clear trend indicates a shift in chemicals production and use from developed to developing countries. The chemicals sector is thus expected to play an increasingly important role in the economies of specific African countries (UNEP, GCO, 2012). In most African countries, industrial and agricultural production has intensified, accompanied by the corresponding use of chemical inputs. UNEP's Costs of Inaction Report reveals that the costs of injury (lost work days, outpatient medical treatment, and inpatient hospitalization) from pesticide poisonings in sub-Saharan region alone amounted to USD \$4.4 billion in 2005, and conservatively projected to US\$6.2 billion in 2009. Heavy metals such as lead and mercury; Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); and highly hazardous pesticides, which are either controlled or withdrawn in the developed world, continue to be used in Africa with major environmental and health impacts. Chemical substances and their derivative are widely used in industry, agriculture, mining, water purification, public health (particularly disease eradication) and infrastructure development.

7. African populations face risk of both acute poisonings, through occupation hazards, or exposure at chemical waste disposal sites, and also cumulative exposure to various chemicals and toxins. These exposures are not quantified, and data on women and other vulnerable groups is particularly lacking, despite the fact that human health impacts of unsound chemicals and waste management are often gender differentiated and socially determined, with the greatest burdens carried by women, children and members of poor and disadvantaged communities. Unlike other environmental issues, such as climate change or water management, there is a lack of analysis and evidence on the short and long term effects of chemicals on women's health (WECF 2016, Women and Chemicals - The impact of hazardous chemicals on women: A thought starter based on an experts' workshop). Gender-sensitive approaches are also applicable to addressing other biological or socio-economic determinants of increased vulnerability, such as for children, people with immune system disorders, migrant or informal sector workers.

8. The root causes of the current problems include lack of awareness and capacity at national level. Consistent with the GEF6 Programming Direction, greater awareness of the

⁵ Carried through Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, Microsoft Team Meeting and telephone

impacts, including the health impacts, of harmful chemicals and waste needs to be communicated to policy makers at the national level so that sound management of chemicals and waste is fully integrated into national budgets and sector level plans. Realizing the dramatic health gains that could be achieved through preventive strategy that protects populations from major environmental hazards, African health and environment Ministers gathered at Libreville on 29 August 2008, and adopted the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa. Reflecting on the need for an environment and health information system to support decision-making, Ministers agreed in the Declaration to support the establishment of an African network for surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those with environment determinants. In November 2010, at the Second Inter-ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa in Luanda, Angola, Ministers adopted the Luanda Commitment in which they committed to accelerate the implementation of the Libreville Declaration and identified chemicals management as one of the top continental health and environment priorities to be addressed for the years to come.

9. A Situation Analysis and Need Assessment exercise (SANA) completed in 2013 in 34 African countries, including project countries, reveals that quantitative up-to-date data for immediate use in decision-making and action is crucially missing. This is due to incomplete information systems, fragmentation of surveillance activities, insufficient coordination among the various established systems, unharmonized methodologies, obsolete tracking tools and lack of standardized indicators. Even where data are available, its analysis to adequately inform decision-making processes remains poor. In circumstances where policy recommendations exist, there are challenges in the uptake and implementation of such recommendations. Regional assessment conducted in 2014 by WHO in 40 African countries reveals that only 38% of the countries have legislation that govern all chemicals comprehensively, 27% of the countries have established intersectoral coordination, 60% have no surveillance capacities.

10. Key findings from national chemicals management profiles that have been developed by a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition include: the lack of appropriate legal framework or poor enforcement, absence of coordination/coordination mechanisms within national governments and among stakeholders, unavailability of information and data sharing mechanisms, difficult access to existing information, lack of sustainable human and financial resources and technical expertise, limited knowledge of stakeholders and the public in general regarding risks associated with chemicals and waste and sound management of chemicals and waste, among others. It was also recognized that no countries were in full compliance with regard to their reporting and other obligations to the BRS Conventions.

11. The baseline line reports also revealed the existence of significant amount of obsolete pesticides including POPs. For instance, over 1,000 tons of obsolete DDT were stored across the country in Ethiopia, with no adequate in-country disposal/management options.

B. Results framework

12. The objective of the project is to strengthen national and regional institutions to implement priority chemicals and waste related interventions for improved health and environment in project countries. The project is proposing to develop of national integrated health and environment observatories, including a core set of indicators enabling data aggregation, that are expected to provide timely and evidence based information to better predict, prevent and reduce chemicals risks to human health and the environment. The project is also seeking to build national capacities to identify causal pathways for key pollution issues and for risk ranking and priority settings, and to support activities to break the links of these causal pathways, thereby improving health and environment conditions. To achieve these objectives, three substantive project components / outcomes, and the corresponding outputs have been designed and are described below.

13. Outcome Component 1: Institutional and technical barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes reduced and sound data available to the established national Chemical Observatories.

- *Output 1.1:* Integrated health and environment Observatory established in each country
- *Output 1.2:* Major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action are identified and prioritized
- *Output 1.3:* Key progress indicators established to measure improvements in sound chemicals management
- *Output 1.4:* Institutional / legal and capacity building needs assessed, and capacity building activities identified

14. Outcome Component 2: Sound management of chemicals mainstreamed into the decision making processes and national planning and national implementation of chemicals related MEAs and voluntary instruments advanced

- *Output 2.1:* No of Countries reporting under Basel and Stockholm Conventions and notification of final regulatory actions under the Rotterdam Convention and identification of new POPs improved
- *Output 2.2:* Identification of population sub/vulnerable group needs that are particularly exposed to chemicals
- *Output 2.3:* Benefits and cost of action to mitigate risks and specific interventions are defined and compared to the estimated costs of inaction
- *Output 2.4:* National action plans developed, including business case for investment, & integrated into national development plans

15. Outcome Component 3: Governments are able to implement actions from national action plans and monitor changes in exposure to chemicals and wastes

- *Output 3.1:* Training for key stakeholders to strengthen capacity for on-the-ground action to mitigate health risks
- *Output 3.2:* Communities informed about the local level public health risks of chemicals exposure, and communication for behavioral impact undertaken to support community-based responses and reporting to regulators

- *Output 3.3:* Implementation of situation-specific interventions and policy measures (including clean-up, import control improvements, and pilot activities)
- *Output 3.4:* Dissemination of accessible, policy-relevant messages, on scope of pollution, and impacts of hazardous chemicals and wastes
- *Output 3.5:* Financial plan for observatories discussed with governments

C. Stakeholders

16. The mapping of key stakeholders⁶ has been properly done in all nine participating countries, and the project document outlines their respective engagement in both the project preparatory phase, and their planned engagement during the implementation / execution phase. The stakeholders include different ministries (e.g. environment, health, agriculture, etc.), academia and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector (e.g. importers chemicals and manufacturers). Where relevant, they are expected to be actively engaged in the project as members of the national project steering committees, as participants in training workshops, and as resource persons for awareness raising activities targeting local and grassroots communities, and populations at risk including women and children.

D. Project implementation structure and partners

17. UNEP is the implementing agency (IA) of the project, and it is responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports. It would also report the project implementing progress to GEF and would take part in the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The IA will closely collaborate with the executing agencies (EAs) and provide them with administrative support in the implementation of the project.

18. The Basel / Stockholm Regional Centre for English Speaking Countries based in Pretoria, South Africa (Africa Institute or AI) is the executing agency (EA) for the Anglophone project countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe). As EA, AI's key roles include:

- Establishing and house the Anglophone project implementation unit (PIU)
- Acting as joint Secretariat (with WHO Afro) for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- Oversee that the project runs according to the agreed work plan, budget and reporting tasks in Anglophone countries

19. WHO Africa Regional Office in Congo Brazzaville (WHO AFRO) is executing activities in the Francophone project countries (Madagascar, Gabon, Senegal and Mali). As EA, WHO AFRO's key roles include:

- Establishing and house the Francophone project implementation unit (PIU)
- Acting as joint Secretariat (with WHO Afro) for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

⁶ Mapping of stakeholders properly described in Section A.3 of Project Document. See also Table 3 - Stakeholder Analysis - of the Inception Report for this MTR

- Oversee that the project runs according to the agreed work plan, budget and reporting tasks in Francophone countries
20. The PIU (housed jointly at AI and WHO Afro) will be staffed by a Project Manager (at AI) and a Project Coordinator (at WHO AFRO). The role of the PIU is to:
- Ensure Project execution (all technical aspects of project implementation)
 - Ensure project governance and oversight of the financial resources from GEF investment
 - Provide staff time and expertise in guiding and advancing the project
 - Sharing all achievements and project products/outputs with stakeholders
 - Supervise the consultants and project partner organizations to deliver against their contracts and in time
 - Organize the PSC meetings and serve as its secretariat
 - Management and implement the project results and output level M&E framework, to evaluate project performance
 - Manage the flow of information from the field and producing periodic monitoring reports.
21. The Project Steering Committee's membership includes IA, EAs, country National Coordinating Committee, ECOWAS, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and other stakeholders. The role of the PSC is to:
- Oversee the GEF Project
 - Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties
 - Provide overall supervision for project implementation
 - Approve the annual work plan and budget
 - Oversee the implementation of corrective actions
 - Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other ongoing initiatives
22. The Country Task Team (CTT) for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration is an intersectoral group of competent professionals from a range of interested institutions including ministries, academia, research institutions, as well as representatives of other stakeholders such as development partners and civil society etc. The CTT works under the supervision of the government. The CTT will serve as the interface between the beneficiary governments and the national technical, research or academic institutions that would be identified as implementing institutions at the country level. The following organogram outlines the project management structure (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Proposed project governance structure (Source: Project Document)

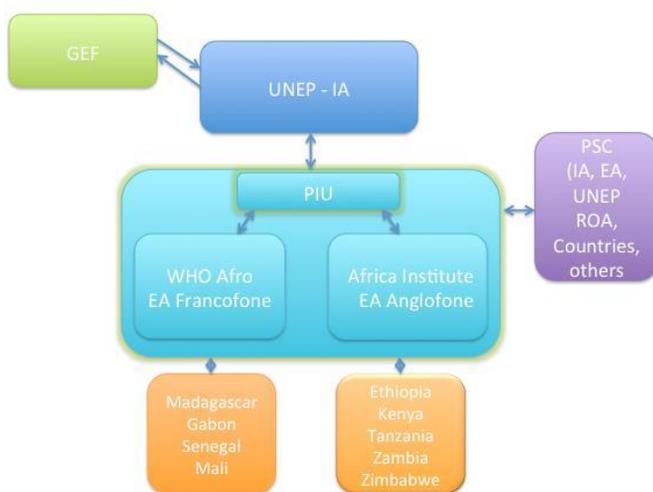
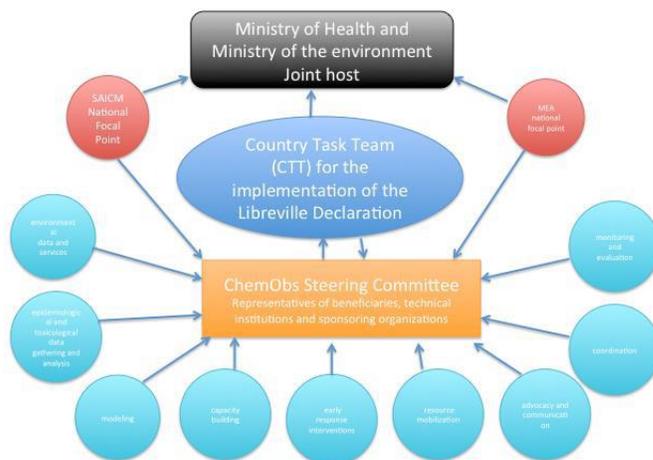


Figure 2: Proposed national institutional arrangements (Source: Project Document)



E. Changes in design during implementation

23. One major change in the design was the reallocation of GEF funds for the sound disposal of DDT in Ethiopia (Component 3). In the original design, \$3M were budgeted for the disposal of 1000 tons. However, after a complete inventory it was found that the total amount of DDT to be disposed was bigger (about 1,471 tons). The contractor cost of disposal was also higher than anticipated. During the second PSC meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11 – 12 December 2019, the committee took the decision to reallocate an additional \$1.08M for disposal of 971

tons. The project and Government of Ethiopia are looking for additional external funding to soundly dispose of the remaining 500 tons.

F. Project financing

24. The project funding for GEF grant and co-funding are given in Table 1. The table also shows expenditure per component.

Table 1: Budget at design and expenditure by component (Source: Project Document)

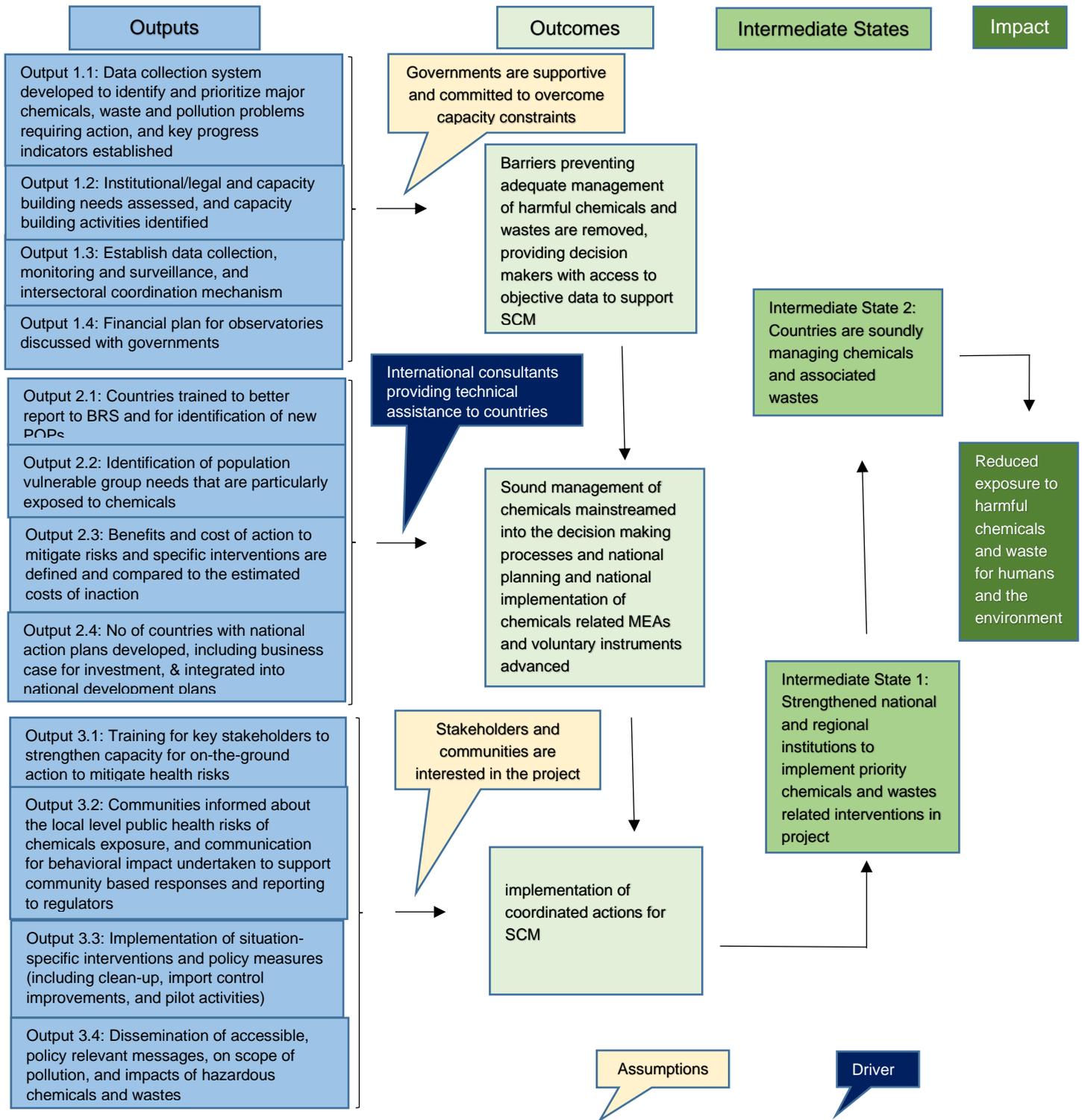
Components	GEF (\$)	Co-funding (\$)
1. Strengthen capacity of relevant national government departments and institutions to monitor pollution, prioritize areas for intervention as well as plan and implement solutions through active involvement of local communities	1,950,000	5,000,000
2. Development of broad-based action plans to promote sound chemicals management and reduce negative impacts on health and the environment	2,150,000	5,500,000
3. National action plan implementation	5,400,000	8,362,000
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	500,000	470,000
Sub-total	10,000,000	19,332,000
Project Management Cost	500,000	1,000,000
Total project costs	10,500,000	20,332,000

V. Theory of Change at Evaluation

25. A theory of change (TOC) diagram⁷ is proposed in the project document. The TOC adequately captures the causal pathways from outputs through outcomes towards long term impact. However, the evaluation considers that the proposed impact statement "*Improved health and environment assessment and coordinated actions*" is not adequate and a new one is being proposed: "*Reduced exposure to harmful chemicals and waste for humans and the environment*". In addition to the intermediate state (*Strengthened national and regional institutions to implement priority chemicals and wastes related interventions in project*) proposed in the TOC, the evaluation is suggesting a second one "*Countries are soundly managing chemicals and associated wastes*". Two key assumptions and one driver have been included in the TOC to guide project management on the key points to act on to ensure impact of the project. Figure 3 depicts a revised TOC that takes into consideration the proposed changes. Note that some changes have been made to outputs (See Section VI B)

Figure 3: Revised Theory of Change

⁷ Annex P of the project document



VI. Evaluation Findings

A. Strategic Relevance

26. This project is highly relevant as it is aiming to support the participating countries implement their priorities regarding the sound management of chemicals and wastes. The project is also building the countries' capacities for the identification of new POPs and to fulfill their reporting obligations to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions.

27. The project is in line with the UNEP Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste. In particular, this project is consistent to a number of complementary initiatives implemented by UNEP such as *Capacity Building for Environmental Data Sharing and Reporting in Support of a Shared Environmental Information System*⁸ or *Disposal of PCB oils contained in transformers and disposal of capacitors containing PCB in Southern Africa*⁹.

28. This project is consistent with the GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal, which is to prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance, including POPs, mercury and ozone depleting substances, through a significant reduction in the production, use, consumption and emissions/releases of those chemicals and waste. In particular, the project is relevant to the Program 1 that promotes the development and demonstration of new tools and economic approaches for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner.

29. The rating on Relevance is **Highly Satisfactory**.

B. Quality of Project Design

30. The quality of the project design was based on the assessment¹⁰ done for the inception report of this MTR. The assessment was restricted to information given in the project document and the associated annexes. After reviewing these documents, the evaluation noted the following **Strengths** in the design:

- Comprehensive situation analysis of countries lacking institutional capacity for the sound life cycle management of chemicals and associated wastes.
- Highly relevant project built within a larger global effort in order to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste by building and strengthening institutional capacity in the relevant national authorities taking into account national needs and priorities and new emerging issues.
- The project will take advantage on past and on-going initiatives. For instance, the country task teams (CTTs) established in the context of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment Linkages will be invited to play a role in the implementation of the project.
- A comprehensive intervention logic and a clear and consistent approach with adequately planned activities to deliver outputs and outcomes proposed.

⁸ Initiative funded by European Union and implemented by UNEP

⁹ GEFID 5532 – Project approved for funding in 2016 under GEF 5

¹⁰ Annex C of the Inception report for this terminal evaluation. It is an Excel sheet rating the different aspects of project design

- Key stakeholders as well as their roles properly described.
- The gender equality and women's empowerment issue adequately addressed in all the components of the project.
- Adequate institutional arrangement for project implementation and coordination at regional and national level proposed.
- An adequate costed M&E plan proposed

31. Some identified **Weaknesses** of the project design are:

- One major weakness of the design was the inappropriate timing of disbursement of funds for an output. The midterm target proposed in the logical framework for Output 3.3 was 'the sound disposal of 1000 tons of DDT'. This target was impossible to achieve at the onset as the planned disbursement for this output was as from the third year of implementation, which is after the midterm. The planning of the disbursement should have been right from the start of the project.
- Confusion in the output titles for Component 1 (see Table 2)
- Some of the proposed output titles do not reflect the need to develop key tools and guidance documents to achieve success.
- The indicators proposed in the logical framework not adequate to track results and monitor progress at outcome level.
- The impact statement proposed in the TOC not appropriate.
- Assumptions and drivers not mentioned in the TOC

32. One of the weaknesses of the design is the confusion in the output titles for Component 1. As reported in Table 2, the titles in the project logical framework are different to those mentioned in the body text. However, the set of indicators proposed in the logical framework (see Table 5A) better match the set of output titles given in the body text rather than those proposed in the logical framework. For consistency, the IA and EAs should agree on the same set of output titles for Component 1 when reporting. Furthermore, the evaluation considers output titles do not emphasize the importance of key tools and guidance documents that need to be developed in order to achieve success. For example for output 1.2, in order to identify major chemicals, waste and pollution problems that require immediate actions, there is need to develop a data collection system. The evaluation is proposing a new title for Output 1.2 to stress this need. The evaluation is also proposing the redesigning of some Outputs as well as renaming of some Outcomes. The proposed changes are reported in Table 3.

Table 2: Output titles for Component 1 not consistent

Output	Titles in logical framework and in PIR reports	Titles in project document text and in progress reports of EAs
Output 1.1	Major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action are identified and prioritized	Integrated health and environment Observatory established in each country
Output 1.2	Key progress indicators established to measure improvements in sound chemicals	Major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action are identified and prioritized

Output 1.3	Institutional/legal and capacity building needs assessed, and capacity building activities identified	Key progress indicators established to measure improvements in sound chemicals management
Output 1.4	Establish data collection, monitoring and surveillance, and intersectoral coordination mechanism	Capacity development plan for institutional/legal and capacity building needs assessed

Table 3: Proposed changes to Outputs and Outcomes

Output / outcome proposed in project document	Proposed changes made to Output / outcome
Outcome 1: Institutional and technical barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes reduced and sound data available to the established national Chemical Observatories.	Outcome 1: Evidence-based barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes removed providing decision makers with access to objective data to support SCM.
Output 1.1	No change
Output 1.2: Major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action are identified and prioritized	Output 1.2 renamed into: Data collection system developed and used by countries for identification and prioritization of major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action, and key progress indicators established
Output 1.3: Key progress indicators established to measure improvements in sound chemicals management	To integrate Output 1.3 in Output 1.2
Output 1.4: Capacity development plan for institutional/legal and capacity building needs assessed	Output 1.4 becomes Output 1.3
Output 1.4: Financial plan for observatories discussed with governments	New Output 1.4, originally was Output 3.5
Outcome 2:	No Change
Output 2.1: No of Countries reporting under Basel and Stockholm Conventions and notification of final regulatory actions under the Rotterdam Convention and identification of new POPs improved	Output 2.1 renamed into: Countries trained to better report to BRS and for identification of new POPs
Output 2.2: Identification of population sub/vulnerable group needs that are particularly exposed to chemicals	Output 2.2 renamed into: Chemical risk and vulnerability tool developed and used by countries

	in identification of population and vulnerable group needs exposed to chemicals
Output 2.3: Benefits and cost of action to mitigate risks and specific interventions are defined and compared to the estimated costs of inaction.	Output 2.3 renamed into: Standard tools developed and used by countries to define benefits and cost action to mitigate risks and specific interventions and compare to the estimated costs of inaction
Output 2.4	No Change
Outcome 3: Governments are able to implement actions from national action plans and monitor changes in exposure to chemicals and wastes	Outcome 3 renamed into: Implementation of coordinated actions for SCM by governments
Output 3.1 to Output 3.4	No change
Output 3.5: Financial plan for observatories discussed with governments	Output 3.5 removed from Component 3 and included in Component 1 and becomes Output 1.4

33. Indicators not appropriate to track results and monitor progress at outcome was another weakness identified in the design. The evaluation is proposing a new set of indicators in Table 4.

Table 4: Proposed indicators for Outcomes

Outcome	Indicators proposed in ProDoc	Proposed indicators by evaluation
Outcome 1: Barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes are removed, providing decision makers with access to objective data to support SCM.	<p>No. of national observatories established.</p> <p>No. of identification and prioritisation reports</p> <p>No. of sets of national progress indicators</p> <p>No. of needs and assessments completed</p>	<p>No of countries where the established national observatory is providing decision makers with relevant and reliable information / data to support SCM</p> <p>Resources allocated by countries to support Observatory in long term</p> <p>No of experts with increased capacity for SCM</p>
Outcome 2: Sound management of chemicals mainstreamed into the decision making processes and national planning and national implementation of chemicals related MEAs and voluntary instruments advanced	<p>No. of BRS reports submitted.</p> <p>No. of Vulnerable groups identified and ranked according to risk.</p> <p>No. of Regional costs of inaction estimated.</p> <p>No. of National action plans in place.</p>	<p>No of countries having explicitly linked an action plan for SCM into national plans</p> <p>No of countries timely reporting to BRS</p>

Outcome 3: Improved health and environment assessment and coordinated actions for SCM	No. of Situation-specific interventions resulting in risk reduction	No. of Situation-specific interventions resulting in risk reduction
	No. of Stakeholder consultations	No. of community reports to regulators
	No. of community information sessions held	
	No. of nationally message packs developed and disseminated	

34. The rating on quality of project design is **Moderately Satisfactory**.

C. Nature of external context – Conflict, natural disaster and change of government

35. The project document reported only on natural disaster as a possible risk to the project. It mentions the possible impacts of climate change on participating countries could be variable. To mitigate these climate risks, the project would ensure that all repackaging activities (disposal of DDT in Ethiopia) would be undertaken during the dry season. On the other hand, the document did not mention conflict and change of government as potential risks. Yet, according to available information¹¹, persistent attacks by extremist groups, which started as from 2012, continue to undermine peace and security in some parts of Mali, and the project did not cover these regions. It was not possible to collect data on chemicals used by the agricultural sector in these high-risk regions. More recently, protests had been ongoing since June 2020, with protesters calling for the resignation of the President. In August 2020, elements of the Malian Army began a mutiny that resulted in the detainment several government officials including the President, who resigned and dissolved the government. This coup has created instability in the country and affected the day-to-day running of government institutions¹². Another participating country mentioned the frequent change of authorities responsible in the execution of the project is of great concern and this could negatively impact project implementation¹³. For these reasons, rating for nature of external context is **Moderately Favourable**.

D. Effectiveness

i. Availability of outputs

36. To achieve the goal of the project, thirty-two activities were planned to deliver thirteen outputs that would contribute to three substantive outcomes. The assessment for the availability of outputs was solely based on whether the targets at midterm as mentioned in the project logical framework were achieved. As 1 September 2017 (date of first disbursement of

¹¹ Interview with national coordinators of Mali

¹² Information gathered from media and interview data

¹³ Interview data

funds) was the official start of the project, 1 March 2020 would then be the midterm of this 5-year project. However, the MTR was based on achievement made up to December 2020, when first draft report of the MTR was available. The assessment was thus based on information available in the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report for the financial year ending June 2020, progress reports of EAs, and any relevant report submitted by end October 2020. The rating scale used ranges from Highly Satisfactory (**HS**) if all indicators at midterm are available to Highly Unsatisfactory (**HU**)¹⁴ if no indicator is available. Table 5A below provides a detailed assessment and ratings for the outputs. Table 5B gives the reports submitted by countries at October 2020.

37. Analysis of Table 5A clearly indicates that delivery of outputs at midterm has been below expectations. The thirteen outputs have been rated from Satisfactory (**S**), the highest rating allocated, to **HU**; **S**: 1 output; **MS**: 4 outputs, **MU**: 4 outputs, **U**: 1 output and **HU**: 3 outputs. These ratings are fully justified; either the project could not fully achieve the midterm targets in all the countries or activities have not yet started (Table 5A). These ratings are consistent with the much longer time that the project is taking to deliver the key deliverables compared to the planned timeline proposed in project document¹⁵. Indeed as reported in Table 6, while the regional inception report was available as planned, it is taking much longer for the other key deliverables.

38. A slow start of the project caused the poor delivery of outputs at midterm. The slow start was mainly due to the complexity and the over ambitious scope of this innovative project involving many partners, and requiring the development of very technical tools and guidance documents by international consultants (ICs) to be used at country level. The outgoing regional project coordinator (RPC) of WHO AFRO as well as the actual RPC of Africa Institute confirmed this complexity. They highlighted the challenge of bringing all the activities / components together in a very comprehensive and coherent manner for execution. They took much time to plan and strategize for the implementation of the project. As a result, WHO AFRO and Africa Institute took almost one year to establish project cooperation agreements (PCAs) with the participating countries (Table 7). In most countries, the project was launched nationally several months after the signature of the PCA. Due to its complexity, many National Project Coordinators (NPCs) highlighted that they had to put much effort to understand the scope of the project, and had the challenge to explain the project to the key stakeholders in order to get their engagement and adherence to the project¹⁶. The late sub-contracting of the ICs (Pure Earth and PAN UK), in November / December 2018, by the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP (UNEP CHB) also contributed to the slow start. The ICs were responsible to develop the decision-making tools (DMTs), guidance documents and a data collection system that were used by national consultants (NCs) to produce the key reports for Components 1 and 2. The identification, selection and sub-contracting NCs was done during the period March 2019 and mid-2020, after the tools and documents became available (Table 7). Eighteen months had already elapsed between the official start of the project (1 September 2017) and the actual start date of activities

¹⁴ HS: Highly satisfactory, S: Satisfactory, MS: Moderately Satisfactory, MU: Moderately Unsatisfactory, U: Unsatisfactory, HU: Highly Unsatisfactory

¹⁵ Annex I – Key deliverables and benchmarks

¹⁶ Interview data with NPCs

at country level (date of hiring of NCs). Therefore, de facto, except for key deliverables 8 and 16 all the others were already behind schedule, as their time lines are 18 months or less (Table 6). Due to the pandemic, some NCs, who were co-opted in the national Covid19 committee/task force, had to be replaced, which further delayed project implementation. In other countries, identification and selection of NCs took time, and those NCs missed the first training sessions on the use of the DMTs. It should be noted that a national consultant was sub-contracted by Africa Institute in October 2018 to support the work on DDT disposal in Ethiopia (Output 3.3).

39. The focus of Component 1 is on strengthening capacity of selected existing relevant national government departments and institutions to monitor pollution, prioritize areas for intervention as well as plan and implement solutions through active involvement of local communities. The key output for this component is the establishment of an integrated health and environmental observatory in all the countries (Output 1.1). At midterm, although all the countries have identified a suitable institution to host the observatory, however, they have not yet finalized the arrangements and terms of reference (TORs) to establish it, thus Output 1.1 has been rated **MU**. Given its utmost importance in providing decision makers with relevant and reliable information for the sound management of chemicals, project management should closely monitor that countries are taking the necessary actions to establish the observatory by the end of the project and ensure that it is fully functional. Output 1.2 has been rated moderately satisfactory (**MS**). While standardized tools for data collection has been developed (by Pure Earth and PAN UK) and shared with all the countries, only seven of the nine countries completed the data survey tables and only six have reported. Several countries reported the challenges in accessing data. Sometimes stakeholders were not willing to provide their data, and very often, they were in hard copy¹⁷. The Chemicals and Waste Branch of UNEP in close collaboration with the UNEP science team and national consultants was supposed to rollout the IRIS system, a web-based application¹⁸, in each project country. This system would have enabled the countries to properly manage and process their national data and to enable the timely production of reports. According to information available, the World Environment Situation Room (WESR)¹⁹ has superseded IRIS. WESR is a global environmental online platform that is implementing the Big Data Initiative, a global project with overarching environmental policy relevance and impact. The platform is a powerful tool that can facilitate the transformation of data into information products and services. According to its website, WESR will be implemented in different cities, countries and regions. Project management should seize this opportunity, and explore possibilities how the project countries could benefit from this global online platform. Currently, information about and link²⁰ to the preliminary results of the project are reported under the topic chemicals and wastes²¹ of WESR. Output 1.3 was satisfactorily achieved. The national inception meeting in all participating countries validated the baseline situation analysis and need assessment. However, there is no indication whether the gender issue was considered during the analysis and need assessment. For Output 1.4, which is rated **MS**, only seven of the nine countries have submitted their Guidev adaptation report, which seeks to design the standard

¹⁷ Interview data and information taken from the PSC meeting held in December 2019

¹⁸ <https://wesr.unep.org/myiris>

¹⁹ <https://wesr.unep.org>

²⁰ <https://chemobsafrica.org/guidance/mapx/>

²¹ <https://wesr.unep.org/topic/index/4>

overall institutional, legislative, regulatory framework for health and environment. Only five countries have developed capacity-building plans. On the other hand, UNEP Crisis Management Branch (CMB) and the Global Resource Information Database - Geneva (GRID-Geneva), subcontracted by the project, have created a fully functional project web portal that contains relevant information about the project²². One of the key feature of the project portal is the use of MapX²³, an open source cloud solution platform, in combination with the DMTs (cf. next paragraph on Component 2) to display project results that enable the sharing of information through interactive dashboards. Currently, interactive dashboards for Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania have been created, and not for the other countries as they have not yet submitted their data. Although their contract with the project has expired since April 2020, UNEP /GRID Geneva extended their support to create the pending dashboards on a no-cost basis (until September 2020). During several webinars and PSC meetings, they also proposed to the countries full accessibility (including uploading and editing data) to their MapX data projects. However, none has taken up on this offer. The countries are encouraged to take full advantage of this possibility, which will facilitate the management and processing their national data for policymaking as well as for BRS reporting. In their final report, UNEP CMB/GRID Geneva²⁴ made recommendations regarding the project website management, for it to remain functional, and for its improvement. The recommendation on the appointment of a focal point for management of the portal is particularly relevant, as the UNEP CMB, has benevolently been managing the site beyond April 2020, date on which their contract ended. The website has domain registration, hosting, and support for one year, which will expire in February 2021. The proposed recommendation on the creation of long-term hosting and domain plan for the website is therefore very relevant. The recommendation to integrate the PAN-UK Pesticides in Use application would make sense, as this would complete the cycle of data collection, adding to the current data analysis and visualization features. In view of the afore-discussed reasons, project management should consider implementing the proposed recommendations during the second phase of the project.

40. Component 2 is focused on the development of broad-based action plans to promote sound chemicals management and reduce negative impacts on health and the environment. In particular, it aims at the adoption of tools and their application in the participating countries to produce evidence-based analysis and prioritization of chemicals and wastes issues. Overall delivery for this component has been poor. Two of the four outputs are rated **MU**, **one is rated MS** and the last one **HU** respectively (Table 5A). The **MS** rating for Output 2.1 is justified as although the review of the national reporting systems for BRS convention system is still ongoing, Madagascar and Ethiopia reported under the Basel Convention for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, and Zimbabwe reported for 2019. None reported under the Stockholm Convention as the last obligation was 2018 and the project just had started. . Under this output, the University of Cape Town (UCT) is in the process of finalizing a professional masters programme on chemicals risk management. The masters programme has been specifically developed to build the capacities of the participating countries on chemicals and risk management, and for BRS

²² <https://chemobsafrica.org/>

²³ <https://www.mapx.org>

²⁴ Section 3 of UNEP CMB/GRID Geneva final report

reporting. Eligible candidates from the participating countries are encouraged to enroll on this programme, and they would benefit from bursaries granted by the project. The Francophone countries raised concerns about the language barrier. To mitigate this issue, UCT would deliver some courses in French initially and is working on offering the full programme afterwards. For Outputs 2.2 and 2.3, PAN UK and Pure Earth developed the chemical risk and vulnerability, and the economic calculators (DMTs) respectively. Prior to making them available to countries, they tested the calculators using data they gathered mid 2019 in three pilot countries, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania as well as data from scientific publications, national and international reports. The MapX platform supported the first preliminary results of the calculators for the three pilot countries, and afforded a simple and readable way to aggregate, disaggregate, and communicate the data in geo-localised format within the country as well as globally. The calculators as well as the MapX results were introduced to the countries at the second Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya 15-16 October 2019. The countries showed much interest in the MapX platform as an information management system and requested the need to be trained on its use. On the other hand, regarding the economic calculator developed by Pure Earth, the countries raised concerns about the high technical level of the model that may be too complex and could discourage the NCs. They expressed the need for trainings of NCs by the ICs. The first training session was undertaken during the PSC meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 2019. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the training workshop scheduled in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2020 was cancelled, and instead the training of NCs was carried out through webinars. Although translators were available, three of the four Francophone countries found the webinar sessions difficult to follow as the translators were not translating everything the ICs were explaining. They could not also get clarifications for all the queries they had, given the relatively short session (1 to 1 ½ hour) of the webinars. They also pointed out that had all the tools and documents been available in French version as well, it would have been much easier for them during the webinars. The French versions were available several months after²⁵. Upon requests, the Francophone countries benefitted from one on one assistance from the ICs. NCs of some countries missed the first training sessions due to late recruitment by the project. Many of the NCs raised the issue of the non-availability of / or the difficulty in obtaining relevant data for the calculators. At midterm, only four of the nine countries have submitted risk and vulnerability reports and four countries have submitted their cost action/cost of inaction reports (see Table 5B), which fully justify the **MU** rating for Outputs 2.2 and 2.3. Output 2.4 is rated **U** as activities at country level have not yet started, but the draft business cases as well as the related guidance document in both languages were presented and shared at the last PSC meeting in October 2020 by UNEP CHB.

41. Component 3 pertains to the implementation of specific actions from national action plans and the monitoring of changes in exposure to chemicals and wastes. As activities for three (Outputs 3.2, 3.4 and 3.5) of the five outputs for this component have not yet started, a **HU** rating has been attributed to these outputs. The project has performed moderately satisfactory for the remaining two outputs. For Output 3.1, as discussed previously, training for the DMTs commenced in Addis Ababa, and continued through webinars due to the pandemic. However, there is no evidence that consultations with key stakeholders, aiming for 50% women

²⁵ The economic calculator has not been translated.

participation, have been completed in six countries. On the other hand, a fully functional project website (<https://chemobsafrica.org>) incorporating MapX, a very useful platform for the managing and processing the data of the participating countries, has been successfully created. The evaluation believes that the website is key to show case as well as share with counterparts, the wider community, and potential donors the project results for communication, awareness raising and support fundraising. In that respect, subject to availability of funds (\$350,000), project management should consider sub-contracting UNEP / GRID Geneva for the second phase, which aims to automate the workflows for collecting and preparing data in MapX. For Output 3.3, the midterm target was the environmental sound disposal of about 1000 tons of DDT from Ethiopia. The project faced a number of challenges such delays in the completion of DDT inventory, delays in the procurement personal protection equipment, and the much longer time required for the selection and contracting of the service provider for DDT disposal²⁶. Thus, the midterm target could not be achieved. The project has identified an estimated amount of 1471 tons of DDT, of which 471 and 500 tons that are stored in big facilities at Adami Tullu and Adama City respectively, and the remaining 500 tons are found in small stores across Ethiopia. As discussed earlier (cf. Section E), due to a higher disposal cost, in addition to the planned \$3 M the project re-allocated a further \$1.08M for the disposal of 971 tons (at the Adami Tullu and Adama City sites). The project entered a two-year agreement with Veolia (UK), in May 2020, for a total amount of \$3,964,156. Currently, Veolia is safely packaging the 471 tons of DDT at the Adami Tullu site (Phase I) that would be shipped for high temperature destruction at a dedicated facility in Europe. The Adama City stock will be soundly managed during the second year of the contract (Phase II). Pending the availability of external funding, there is an option of extending the contract with Veolia for an additional year to dispose of the remaining 500 tons (Phase III) located at different sites across Ethiopia. In the meantime, the project needs to take the necessary actions to secure all the Phase III sites with adequate fencing and signing, and access to these sites should be strictly forbidden. The Research Centre for Toxic Compounds (RECETOX) in the environment, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic has been hired for DDT air monitoring in Ethiopia.

42. The validation of NC reports, which cuts across the three components, was not possible due to the pandemic. With the loosening of the lockdown, NPSCs were able to meet and validate the reports. However, in Kenya, the NC reports are not yet validated. This is not due to the pandemic but rather to delays in signature of financing agreement by the National Treasury. Kenya has not yet received project funds, and therefore no national meetings and committees have been undertaken since the start of the project. The document has already been submitted for signature, and as soon as funds are received, a first NPSC will be held to validate the reports²⁷.

Relevance of the calculators

43. Many countries were faced with the challenge of obtaining relevant data / information to be fed in the calculators. Nevertheless, the countries used the available data they had for their

²⁶ Interview data with the national consultant supporting the DDT disposal activities and with the UNEP task manager

²⁷ Interview data from the National Project Coordinator of Kenya.

respective reports on risk and vulnerability, and economic cost of inaction. For Kenya, the estimation for childhood exposed to chemicals would cost the country approximately \$46.0 billion owing to reductions in Intelligence Quotients (IQs) and earning potential. Noting that the 2019 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Kenya was \$95.5 billion according to the World Bank²⁸, the project management, in consultation with the ICs, needs to take a decision regarding the usability and relevance of the calculators for the project.

44. Based on the ratings reported in Table 5A, rating for availability of outputs is **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

Table 5A: Assessment and rating of outputs for the Project

Outputs	Midterm target as per Logical Framework of the project document	Achievements as per PIR2020	Rating*
Output 1.1: Integrated health and environment Observatory established in each country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall regulatory framework developed to guide countries Working groups (WGs) established at national level to debate Chemical Observatories Observatory hosting arrangements agreed for each country and term of reference developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 4 countries have completed the overall regulatory framework – ongoing in other countries WGs established in all countries Institution to host observatory identified in all countries but arrangements and ToRs not yet finalized 	MU
Output 1.2: Major chemicals, waste and pollution problems requiring action are identified and prioritized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 integrated health and environment data collection system developed 9 prioritization reports 9 countries using IRIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adapted standardized tools for data collection has been developed and shared with all the National Consultants 8 out 9 countries have completed their data survey tables and 7 have submitted their data survey report. 6 countries have completed their prioritizing scoping paper Preliminary results of 5 countries reported in the World Environment Situation Room website (https://wesr.unep.org) that has superseded IRIS 	MS
Output 1.3: Key progress indicators established to measure improvements in sound chemicals management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 sets of national NPIs agreed, including gender-specific indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national inception meeting validated the baseline situation analysis and need assessment including gender specific indicators. 	S
Output 1.4: Institutional/legal and capacity building needs assessed, and capacity building activities identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess capacity building needs in each country including gender specificities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 7 of the 9 project countries have submitted their Guidev adaptation report, which seeks to design standard overall institutional, legislative, regulatory framework for health and environment 	MS

²⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=KE>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate and agree capacity building activities in each country • Needs, time-bound, and gender-tailored, capacity building activities identified. • UNEP Live ChemObs Community of Practice (CoP) established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 countries have developed capacity building plans • No evidence whether capacity building activities have been identified in all countries • ChemObs website developed https://chemobsafrica.org/ 	
Output 2.1: No of countries reporting under Basel and Stockholm Conventions and making notification of final regulatory actions under the Rotterdam Convention and identifying new POPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 countries BRS reports improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of the national reporting systems for BRS convention system is ongoing • Madagascar and Ethiopia reported under Basel for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Zimbabwe reported for 2019. 	MS
Output 2.2 Identification of population sub/vulnerable group needs that are particularly exposed to chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 4 vulnerable groups identified in 9 countries. Gender data available on each group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only four countries have submitted risk and vulnerability reports in which gender data was available. On-going in other countries 	MU
Output 2.3: Benefits and cost of action to mitigate risks and specific interventions are defined and compared to the estimated costs of inaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 standard guidance for conducting benefits and cost of action analysis • Regional cost of action/cost of inaction report published (covering 9 project countries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard guidance document developed • Regional report not yet available as only 4 countries have submitted their cost action/ cost of inaction report 	MU
Output 2.4 National action plans developed, including business case for investment, & integrated into national development plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORs for national action planning process agreed • Define benefits for women in each country and presented to stakeholders • National workshops to debate and agree on recommendations and plans • 9 national action plans complete, with benefits for women and men clearly outlined • 9 national business case scenarios for investment drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft business cases presented at the last PSC meeting October 2020; plus the guidance on developing business cases developed& shared by UNEP CHB 	U
Output 3.1: Training for key stakeholders to strengthen capacity for on-the-ground action to mitigate health risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders identified in 6 countries, including analysis of % men, women, and children • Consultation with key stakeholders in 6 countries complete (aiming for 50% of participants women) • Online platform to make set of guidance on cost and benefits accessible and practical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for the DMTs on-going with the first one commenced in Addis Ababa, Dec 2019, during the Steering Committee meeting. A number of Webinars done, targeting NCs • No evidence that consultation completed • ChemObs Website created https://chemobsafrica.org/guidance/ 	MS
Output 3.2: Communities informed about the local level public health risks of chemicals exposure, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 community information sessions held (50% of participants women) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities not yet started, no indicators available 	HU

communication for behavioural impact undertaken to support community-based responses and reporting to regulators			
Output 3.3: Implementation of situation-specific interventions and policy measures (including clean-up, import control improvements, and pilot activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000+ metric tonnes of POPs waste sent for environmentally sound disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Ethiopia: On-going – Inventory done, service provider selected through an international bidding exercise, most of DDT stocks secured 	MS
Output 3.4: Dissemination of accessible, policy-relevant messages, on scope of pollution, and impacts of hazardous chemicals and wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1: National communications and awareness strategies developed. Mid-Point Target: Preparation of regional level messages (for tailoring). Gender analysis completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities not yet started, no indicators available 	HU
Output 3.5: Financial plan for observatories discussed with governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential donors identified in each project country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities not yet started, no indicators available 	HU

***HS**: Highly Satisfactory, **S**: Satisfactory, **MS**: Moderately Satisfactory, **MU**: Moderately Unsatisfactory, **U**: Unsatisfactory, **HU**: Highly Unsatisfactory

Table 5B: Reports submitted by countries by October 2020

Project Output	Consultant reports	SE*	ML	MD	GA	ZI	KE	TA	ET	ZA
1.1: Integrated health and environment observatory	• Theory of change report	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	• Strategic policy and advocacy plan	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
1.2 Major chemical and waste and pollution problems	• Completed Data Survey Table	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	• National Survey Report	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	• Prioritization Scoping Paper	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
1.4 Capacity development plans for institutional and legal needs	• Stakeholder engagement and capacity building plan	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	• Guidev national adaptation report	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.2 Identification of vulnerable groups	• National vulnerability assessment survey report	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
2.3 Benefits and costs of action	• National cost benefit study report to justify investment on selected priorities	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

*SE: Senegal; ML: Mali; MD: Madagascar; GA: Gabon; ZI: Zimbabwe; KE: Kenya; TA: Tanzania; ET: Ethiopia; ZA: Zambia

Table 6: Status of key deliverables to be available at midterm

No	Key deliverables	Time line (months after project start) in ProDoc	Status at midterm (deliverable available months after start*)
1	Inception meeting report	2	Regional inception report (2) National inception reports (11 – 12)

2	Standard overall institutional, legislative, regulatory framework for health and environment integrated management of chemicals	5	Completed in 5 countries, on-going in others (24 – on-going)
3	Observatories established in each country	13 - 18	Not established yet
4	Chemicals and hazardous waste integrated health and environmental data collection system	9	Completed in 6 countries, on-going in others (24 – on-going)
5	Identification of major pollution problems in participating countries	11	Completed in 5 countries, on-going in others (24 – ongoing)
6	National priorities set	11	Completed in three countries only (24 – 30)
7	National capacity building needs assessed	18	Completed in 7 countries, on-going in others (24 – on-going)
8	Agreed national capacity building actions undertaken	28	Completed in 4 countries, on-going in others (24 – on-going)
9	National BRS Reporting integrated with ChemObs activities	15	On-going in all 9 countries
10	UNEP IRIS in place in each country	11	No online reporting system in place in countries
11	Three Masters Course modules developed by UCT	12	On-going
12	Vulnerable groups ranked according to risk in each country	18	Completed in 4 countries, on-going in others (30 – on-going)
13	Standard guidance for cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of sound chemicals management in place	15	Completed (31)
14	CBA completed for specific interventions	18	Completed in 2 countries, on-going in others (36 – on-going)
15	ChemObs staff trained in CBA and cost of inaction	18	Only national consultants trained, and not ChemObs staff (34 – on-going)
16	National action plans developed and agreed	27	Activities not yet started

*months required for deliverables to be available

Table 7: Document Signature and National Inception Workshop dates

	PCA signature date country / EA	National inception date	Sub-contracting date of NCs by EAs
Ethiopia	20 April 2018 / 2 Aug 2018*	2 August 2018	Not available
Gabon	4 June 2018	21 June 2018	December 2019
Kenya	8 Feb 2018 /17 April 2018*	2018**	August 2019
Madagascar	April 2018	July 2018	March 2019, July 2020, Aug 2020
Mali	5 January 2018	September 2018	Not available
Senegal	26 June 2018	13 August 2018	December 2019
Tanzania	April 2018	13 August 2018	October 2019
Zimbabwe	1 February 2018	4 July 2018	October 2019
Zambia	17 January 2018	21 June 2018	December 2019***

*1st date: signature of Africa Institute / 2nd date: signature of country; **exact date not provided; *** NCs hired by the country

ii. *Achievement of project outcomes*

45. The assessment of the achievement of the project outcomes was based on whether the midterm targets proposed in the project logical framework was achieved. Table 8 summarizes

this assessment. Overall, the achievement of outcomes has been poor at midterm, which was expected as the project has underperformed in terms of output delivery. Outcome 1 relates to institutional and technical barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes reduced and sound data available to the established national Chemical Observatories. While all countries have agreed on the NPIs agreed, arrangements for the observatory are not yet agreed upon as well as institutional capacity needs have not been identified in all participating countries. Outcome 1 is rated **MU**.

46. Outcome 2, which concerns sound management of chemicals mainstreamed into the decision making processes and national planning and national implementation of chemicals related MEAs and voluntary instruments advanced, is rated **U**. Both midterm targets have not been achieved: the regional cost of inaction report, as well as national action plans are not available.

47. Governments are able to implement actions from national action plans and monitor changes in exposure to chemicals and wastes is the focus of Outcome 3. The outcome was also rated **U**, as the project could not achieve any of the midterm targets.

48. Achievement of project outcomes is rated **Unsatisfactory**.

Table 8: Assessment of Project Outcomes

Outcome	Midterm target as per Logical Framework	Achievements as per PIR 2020	Rating*
Outcome 1: Institutional and technical barriers preventing adequate management of harmful chemicals and wastes reduced and sound data available to the established national Chemical Observatories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observatory hosting arrangements • NPIs agreed • Needs identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements not yet agreed upon in all participating countries • NPIs agreed in all countries • Needs not identified in all countries 	MU
Outcome 2: Sound management of chemicals mainstreamed into the decision making processes and national planning and national implementation of chemicals related MEAs and voluntary instruments advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional cost of inaction report • 9 national action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 2 out of the 9 countries submitted cost of inaction report – Regional cost of inaction report not yet available • No national action plans available yet 	U
Outcome 3: Governments are able to implement actions from national action plans and monitor changes in exposure to chemicals and wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders identified, including analysis of % men, women and children • 40 information sessions held (with 50% participants women) • Regional-level gender sensitive messages developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders not identified in all 9 participating countries • Information sessions not yet held • Regional-level gender sensitive messages not yet developed 	U

***HS**: Highly Satisfactory, **S**: Satisfactory, **MS**: Moderately Satisfactory, **MU**: Moderately Unsatisfactory, **U**: Unsatisfactory, **HU**: Highly Unsatisfactory

iii. *Likelihood of impact*

49. Assessment of impact can be associated to the extent to which project interventions have brought about changes in the human condition or in the environment. Changes, whether intended or unintended, can be positive or negative. For this project, the evaluation has not found any evidence of negative impacts on human health or on the environment because of project interventions so far. Likelihood of impact can also be assessed on the extent to which the two intermediate states proposed in the TOC (Figure 2) are occurring in the participating countries. However, midterm is too early for this assessment, which would be more appropriate during the terminal evaluation.

50. Five risks that may have negative effects on the project were identified at the design and mitigation measures that the evaluation considers adequate have been proposed. At midterm, the project faced three of the five risks. By taking the necessary measures and actions, the project was able to address them adequately. For example, for the risk 'Situation-specific policy measures are outside the project budget' that occurred in Ethiopia for DDT disposal, the project allocated additional funds and the Government of Ethiopia is putting a lot of effort to secure additional bilateral funding as well. As already mentioned previously (cf. Component 3 under availability of outputs), the project has already contracted a service provider for the sound disposal of 997 tons of DDT, which will contribute to protect the vulnerable populations living near the DDT sites as well as reducing emissions to the global environment.

51. Likelihood of impact is also dependent on the extent to which the project is playing a catalytic role or is promoting longer-term scaling up and/or replication. To this end, the NPCs were requested to provide feedback to the following two questions set in the survey questionnaire: *Have the project results (e.g. capacity building plan for sound chemicals management – SCM) been nationally adopted / mainstreamed so far? Is there any plan for replication or scaling up of the project results?* Six countries provided favourable responses and the remaining three considered that it was too early to answer the questions. The favourable responses were:

- Project results have not been achieved because there has been a delay in starting the project implementation. However, the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is keen to adopt the results of the ChemObs Project once the project is implemented.
- The capacity-building plan is yet to be completed by the National Consultant, as it is one of the key deliverables. The second phase of the project aims at developing a business case, which will focus on scaling up activities including capacity building.
- The Strategic Policy and Advocacy Action Plan for the Establishment of ChemObs is still under development. Definitely, but the process will be guided by the project preliminary outcomes.

- A number of reports have been produced, but they are not yet integrated into the routine activities of the institutions concerned. The establishment of partnership protocols between the Observatory and the institutions concerned was mentioned. Local environmental units have always been involved in the process of setting up the Observatory. The involvement of these local actors in the implementation of the Observatory is part of the future activities of the project.
- There is a plan to adopt the results of the project outcomes to other aspects of chemical and waste management particularly other obsolete non-organophosphate pesticides. The SCM plan is not adopted yet
- A national consultant has been recruited for this and is currently working on it. This project is a national project. Therefore, the project will cover whole country from municipalities to small localities.

52. The responses from the other three countries were:

- At this stage of project execution, we cannot answer these two questions with certainty.
- Cannot answer questions as project not implemented yet.
- Not yet as the project still at the early implementation stage.

53. Although, it is too early to assess this criterion, there are good indications that impact of the project in the participating countries would be likely. However, as the project was considerably delayed and delivery of outputs has been unsatisfactory at midterm, **Likelihood of impact** is therefore rated **Moderately Likely**.

54. **Effectiveness** is rated **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

E. Financial management

55. As agreed the execution of the project would be done by the three EAs. They were subsequently sub-contracted: AI in June 2017, WHO AFRO in August 2017, UNEP CHB in November 2017, and UCT in January 2019. According to information available, the management of GEF funds was compliant with the relevant UN financial procedures. For instance, once the project cooperation agreement was signed with AI, the UNEP task manager informed the UNEP financial office for an initial cash disbursement of US\$90,000 as per the terms of the PCA. For subsequent disbursements, the UNEP task manager ensured that financial and other technical reports were received before informing the financial officer to release the funds. At the level of the EAs, there is evidence that the internal procedures were applied to manage the GEF funds. The RPC had close communication with the financial officer to ensure that all necessary procedures and protocols were followed for payments and for disbursement of funds to the countries or to the consultants.

56. To assess the level of expenditure during the first part of the project, the available financial information from the three main EAs (AI, WHO AFRO and UNEP CHB) was organised in the form of accumulated expenditures since the start of the project to a given quarter. It was

also organized as expenditure rate, which corresponds to the percentage of accumulated expenditures to a given quarter with respect the total funds managed by the EAs (Table 9). The last row of Table 9 gives the planned accumulated expenditures as per calendar year²⁹ for the funds managed by the three EAs (\$5,321,000). As discussed in depth earlier (cf. Section D – attainment of outputs), the project was very slow to start. The expenditure information reported in Table 9 is consistent with this slow start. For example, the accumulated expenditures for the three EAs should have been \$2,338,400 at Q4 2018, which would correspond to an expenditure rate of 43.9%. The actual expenditure rate at this quarter was only 8.6 %. At Q3 2020, the rate was 27.1%, still well below the planned accumulated expenditures mentioned in the project document. However, it is worth noting that the expenditure rate for UNEP CHB started to increase when the EA recruited the ICs in November / December 2018. The rate reached 86.4% by Q3 2020, by which time the ICs had delivered most of the products (DMTs, guidance documents, web portal, etc.) they were contracted for. For AI and WHO AFRO, the recruitment of NCs as from Q2 2019 was not accompanied by a marked increase in expenditure rate. This is consistent with the poor delivery of outputs by the countries at midterm. At Q3 2020, the project overall expenditures including the cost for DDT disposal, which is being directly managed by the IE (the service provider was contracted in May 2020), was \$6,174,384, representing an expenditure rate of 58.8%. Noting that according the UN procedures, given that the cost of the DDT disposal was above \$200,000, the selection and contracting of the service provider was done by the procurement service of the United Nation Office of Nairobi (UNON).

57. The IE through its task manager ensured that the EAs were adequately managing the project funds as per the terms of agreement, and that they were also timely reporting using the common template developed by UNEP . All the quarterly financial reports were available. The task manager found that one of the EA was overspending for project management component, whose limit was \$8,750 per quarter while the reported expenditure was much higher for three successive quarters (Q1 2018: \$67,801; Q2 2018: \$58, 254 and Q3: \$48,758). The task manager took immediate action, and requested the EA to refund the over spent funds. Regarding co-financing, the task manager emphasised on the importance and the requirement of EAs to report during the first PSC meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2019. However, according to information available, only the AI co-financing report (in the appropriate format) for the year ending June 2018 was available. There is no evidence that the co-finance reports for the other financial years and reports from the WHO AFRO have been submitted. The task manager should ensure that the EAs are timely submitting these reports in the required format.

58. Rating on **Financial Management is Moderately Satisfactory.**

Table 9: Quarterly Expenditures by the Executing Agencies

		Q3-2018	Q4-2018	Q1-2019	Q2-2019	Q3-2019	Q4-2019	Q1-2020	Q2-2020	Q3-2020
UNEP CHB (\$575,000)*	Acc. Exp. (\$)	90,099	95,801	103,255	177,484	189,280	269,990	413,390	413,390	496,636
	Exp. rate (%)	15.7	16.7	20.0	30.9	32.9	46.9	71.9	71.9	86.4

²⁹ Annex G of ProDoc: Workplan, detailed GEF budget and detailed co-finance budget

Afri. Institute (\$2.95M)*	Acc. Exp. (\$)	138,847	259,854	310,248	392,252	438,210	495,566	507,346	N/A	618,972
	Exp. rate (%)	4.7	8.8	10.5	13.3	14.9	16.8	17.2	-	21.0
WHO AFRO (\$1.796M)*	Acc. Exp. (\$)	84,354	103,106	124,178	179,410	235,625	287,836	296,295	318,853	327,800
	Exp. rate (%)	4.7	5.7	6.9	10.0	13.1	16.0	16.5	17.8	18.3
Total 3 EAs (\$5,321,000)	Acc. Exp. (\$)	313,300	458,760	537,681	749,149	863,113	1,053,392	1,217,031	-	1,443,408
	Exp. rate (%)	5.9	8.6	10.1	14.1	16.2	19.8	22.9	-	27.1
Expend.** (\$5,321,000)	Acc. Exp. (\$)	-	2,338,400	-	-	-	3,332,600	-		4,326,800**
	Exp. rate (%)	-	43.9	-	-	-	62.6	-		81.3

*Total amount managed by EA; Acc. Exp.: accumulated expenditures; **Planned expenditures as per project document; ***As planned expenditures are given per calendar year in the ProDoc, figures for Q4 2020 (4,356,800) were considered for comparison

F. Efficiency

59. The project was officially launched during the regional inception workshop held on 27 – 28 June, Nairobi, Kenya. The three EAs were subsequently sub-contracted: AI in June 2017, WHO AFRO in August 2017 and UNEP CHB in November 2017. However, due to the slow start of the project, it took more than 18 months before activities at country level started (cf. Section D – attainment of outputs). Save the inception report, all the other key deliverables due at midterm were already behind schedule (see Table 6). The project also faced a number of challenges during implementation (see Section D), which further contributed to the delayed delivery of outputs. To mention a few, the challenges included the Covid19 pandemic, difficulty to recruit NCs, the difficulty of NCs to use the calculators, difficulties to get relevant data at country level, and non-availability of the tools and documents in both languages at the beginning, and the much longer time to select and sub-contract the service provider for DDT disposal amongst others. Some countries mentioned that the change of RPC at WHO AFRO affected the implementation process to some extent. The outgoing RPC left in July 2020 and the incoming one took over in October 2020. The Director of WHO AFRO supported the incoming RPC in the taking over of the project. The evaluations notes that the outgoing RPC was an experienced Programme Officer of the Public Health and Environmental Unit, who was also managing the GEF project *"Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)"*³⁰. The incoming RPC, a Technical Officer for Environmental Health Promotion, has also experience in project management but at national level only. Despite coming from an English speaking country, like the out-going RPC, the current RPC has adequate proficiency in French that would be an asset during communication with the participating countries.

60. Table 10 reports the total expenditure of the project funds at Q3 2020. The PSC revised the project budget allocation during the second meeting held in Ethiopia in December 2019. This revision was required, as the countries could not mobilize funds for national meetings (Table 10, row 8), and due to the higher DDT disposal costs (Table 10, row 6). At midterm, there are indications the project funds are being effectively managed, and the project is getting value for

³⁰ The outgoing RPC was managing the ChemObs project at 25% of his time.

money. The EAs are applying appropriate procedures to identify, select and sub-contract quality NCs within planned budgets. At Q3 2020, the expenditure rate for consultants was 34.0%. To select the service provider for DDT disposal, UNON applied the standard UN procedures. After the publishing of an expression of interest in February 2019, UNON received twenty-one responses, and only four bidders prequalified for the request for proposal (RFP) stage. The contract was finally awarded to Veolia (UK) based on the most responsive proposal considering all the factors. To assess whether the project applied some cost effective measures such as building on previous initiatives, the following question was asked in the survey questionnaire: *Has the project taken advantage on results / data produced by previous initiatives such as the inventory made during NIP on POPs or other?*. The responses received from the countries clearly indicate that the project benefitted from previous initiatives:

- The mercury inventory results obtained through the Minimata Initial Assessment (MIA) were used by the project.
- The NCs have significantly relied on data collected through other MEA – chemicals related, particularly the National Chemical Profile compiled under the POPs project and many others.
- The data from NIP was used on the development the baseline report.
- The NIP has been used as a reference document in populating the data required in the calculators.
- For the preparation of reports, the consultants used the NIP data.
- Previously available data were used by local and international consultants (PAN UK)
- The project was developed based on key findings of the NIP.
- The project made use of the various national reports produced within the framework of the implementation of chemical related MEAs conventions, including the NIP on POPs.
- Yes, the project has taken advantage on results / data by previous initiatives such as the inventory made during NIP on POPs.

61. The materialization of significant amount of co-financing at midterm is also contributing to cost effectiveness of the project. At midterm, a total of \$11,990,853 has materialized against a total \$20,332,000 pledged at design. Some countries reported significant co-financing amounts for the years 2017 and 2018, and yet national activities started only as from beginning of 2019. Project management should ensure that co-finance reporting is consistent with the amount of activities undertaken in the countries.

62. The project has suffered a slow start and the delivery of outputs has been considered delayed. However, project management has taken some actions to speed up implementation. For instance, to gain time, the PSC recommended the EAs / countries to extend the contracts of the current NCs for the remaining outputs. Based on available information, the project will be able to achieve all its objectives by the end of the project. For this to happen work, the IE and EAs need to closely supervise and monitor activities and provide the necessary support to countries in order to avoid further delays.

63. Although the project has been quite cost effective so far, as the delivery of products have been much delayed, the rating on Efficiency is **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

Table 10: Status of expenditures of GEF funds at Q3 2020

No	Item	Original Budget (\$)	Expenditures (\$)	Balance (\$)	% spent
1	Project personnel	500,000	187,662	312,338	37.5
2	Consultants	1,080,000*	367,027	712,973	34.0
3	Administrative Support	570,000	96,961	473,039	17.0
4	Travel on official business	50,000	46,951	3,049	93.9
5	Sub-contracts for cooperating agencies	550,000	471,636	78,364	85.8
6	Sub-contracts for commercial purposes	5,680,000**	4,741,552***	938,448	83.5
7	Group training	785,000	35,536	749,464	4.5
8	Meetings/Conferences	925,000****	217,684	707,316	23.5
9	Equipment and premises	26,000	6,995	19,005	26.9
10	Reporting costs	34,000	0	34,000	0.0
11	Monitoring and evaluation	300,000	2,380	297,620	0.8
	Total	10,500,000	6,174,384	4,235,616	58.8

*Revised budget, original budget was \$1,980,000;**Revised budget, original budget was \$5,100,000;

Including contract with Veolia; *Revised budget, original budget was \$605,000

Table 11: Co-financing status at midterm

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Government of Kenya	In-kind		56,000
Recipient Government	Government of Madagascar	In-kind		892,515
Recipient Government	Government of Senegal	In-kind		555,000
Recipient Government	Government of Zambia	In-kind		63,400
Recipient Government	Government of Mali	In-kind		600,000
Recipient Government	Government of Tanzania	In-kind		50,000
Recipient Government	Government of Ethiopia	In-kind		93,000
Recipient Government	Government of Zimbabwe	In-kind		55,000
CSO	Pure Earth	In-kind		7,045,938
Others	University of Cape Town	In-kind		400,000
Others	University of Cape Town	Cash		100,000
GEF Agency	UNEP, CHB	Cash		1,500,000
GEF Agency	UNEP, CHB	In-kind		180,000
GEF Agency	UNEP, Science	In-kind		400,000
Total Co-financing				11,990,853

G. Monitoring and reporting

i. *Monitoring design and budget*

64. A plan consistent with UNEP standard procedures for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) was proposed in the project document. The evaluation considers that the plan is adequate, however it would allow for the proper monitoring of progress at output level but not at results level. As discussed previously (cf. Section VI B), the set of indicators proposed for outcomes is not adequate, and the evaluation is proposing a new set that the project might want to consider for the monitoring of progress at results level (see Table 4) during the second phase of implementation. The proposed objectively verifiable SMART indicators for outputs as well as their sources of verification in the project logical framework are considered adequate³¹. Adequate reporting requirements and responsibilities indicating the content and timing as well as the responsibility for reporting have been proposed in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan³². The M&E plan was budgeted for a total amount of \$500,000. \$300,000 were allocated for the M&E component: \$150,000 for the MTR, terminal and audit of the project, and \$150,000: for country missions (two per country) to be undertaken by the two RPCs for project supervision at national level. **Monitoring design and budget** is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Monitoring of project implementation

65. The monitoring system is operational. However, while the project team is adequately monitoring project activities, but they are not using the set of indicators provided in the project logical framework to track results and progress towards projects objectives at monthly or quarterly intervals. The monitoring is largely based on the whether the reports of NCs are available. The risk of not using these indicators is missing some important results / elements of the project such gender equity or use of IRIS by the countries. In that respect, for the remaining period the evaluation recommends that the project team makes of these set of indicators. Furthermore, some of the reports are sometimes linked to more than one output. For a common understanding among project partners, when reporting, the EAs should clearly indicate to which outputs the reports are related.

66. The PSC was established, and the planned meetings as well as the inception workshop were held. According to the reports of the inception report and the first two meetings, there is clear evidence that the PSC has been providing adequate overall guidance and supervision for project implementation. It has also recommended corrective actions whenever there was deviation from approved work plans, or has been making timely recommendations to overcome challenges met during implementation. For example, at the first PSC meeting in February 2019, it made recommendations regarding (i) management issues, (ii) work plan, budget and project reporting, and (iii) issues of strategic relevance to the project. Under management issues for instance, it was stressed that the project was running behind time and countries needed to accelerate implementation of the activities. To that end, the PSC recommended the NPCs should

³¹ Annex A of the project document

³² Annex H of the project document

ensure that NPSCs are operational in their respective countries, and the EAs shall make an official notification of the conclusions of the PSC meeting via a memo to the highest-level decision makers in the relevant ministries. The evaluation was invited to present the preliminary findings and key recommendations of the MTR at the third PSC meeting (28 -29 October 2020), that was held online due to the pandemic. Other than requesting for some clarification, the participants did not comment on the findings and the recommendations of the MTR. **Monitoring project implementation** is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

ii. Project Reporting

67. The EAs were not timely reporting during the initial reporting periods. After several reminders and guidance from the IA, the reporting improved, and since then they have been regularly providing quarterly expenditure reports (still with short delays in some cases) and half-yearly reports. However, as pointed out previously (Section VI E), there is no evidence that all the EAs are reporting on co-financing.

68. The PIR reports for the financial years ending 2018, 2019 and 2020 were available. These reports are of good quality; all relevant sections completed, and covered all the UNEP and GEF reporting requirements. All the corrective actions indicated in these reports to mitigate risks or to overcome challenges have been implemented (cf. Section VI D (i)). However, the tracking tool that relates to the management and disposal of obsolete pesticides including POPs (DDT for the project) needs to be updated with more recent information. On the other hand, the tables of the CEO Endorsement template³³ have been completed. **Project Reporting** is rated **Satisfactory**.

69. The rating on Monitoring and Reporting is **Moderately Satisfactory**.

H. Sustainability

70. Sustainability is understood as the likelihood of continued benefits after an intervention ends. Although too early to assess, this criterion has been assessed in terms of the risks confronting the project, the higher the risks the lower the likelihood of endurance of project benefits. For this MTR, all the three dimensions or aspects of risks to sustainability as mentioned in the terms of reference, namely socio-political, financial, and institutional risks were assessed. A structured survey questionnaire was sent to the NPCs of the nine beneficiary countries to gather information. The assessment for the three dimensions of sustainability is largely based on the responses received from this survey

i. Socio-political sustainability

71. To assess this dimension of sustainability, the following question was asked in the survey questionnaire: "*Are there any social or political factors that may influence positively or negatively the project results?*" In general, there were more favourable responses than unfavourable ones.

³³ The Consultant(s) should verify that the annual Project Implementation Reviews have been submitted, that the Tracking Tool is being kept up-to-date and that in the CEO Endorsement template Table A and Section E have been completed.

72. The responses from the countries that were categorized as favourable:
- The need to safely dispose the obsolete chemical from where it has been stored for a decade had a positive influence both on the government and on the community living near by the stores.
 - Frequent changes at political level in charge of the execution of the project are of great concern. However, at the operational level, the presence of the technical government officers persons who negotiated the project on behalf of the ministries of health and the environment constitutes a guarantee of continuity and stability for the project.
 - There is political support and will from the government, which is a positive influence on the project.
 - Chemical incidents, such as the one in Lebanon, could be strong arguments to convince authorities to support the effective implementation of the Observatory
 - The effective implementation of the country obligations, in particular the chemical emergency component of the international health regulations are in favor of the establishment of the Observatory
73. The responses, considered as socio-political risks, are listed below.
- Political influence may interfere on where to host the Observatory. However, depending on where the Observatory would be hosted it may have an influence on the performance and achievement of the desired goal as the level of expertise and infrastructure differ among institutions.
 - Among the factors affecting the project include: COVID-19, instability in some sandy regions and other emergencies like flooding
 - The non-availability of data to be used by DMTs might affect the project.
74. One country reported that this aspect of sustainability would be determined once the project results are acquired.
75. The rating on **Socio-political Sustainability** is rated **Moderately Likely**.

ii. Financial sustainability

76. In order to identify whether there some financial risks that may jeopardize the project sustainability, the following two questions were set in the survey questionnaire: "*To what extent are the continuation of project results and eventual impact dependent on availability of financial resources?*" and "*Can these financial resources be mobilized nationally?*" While some countries mentioned that financial resources would be available nationally for continuation of results, some others reported that they would require international financial assistance for long term sustainability of project results. Responses of countries where national funding would be available were:

- Yes, national financial resources would be available.
- Government's position on this matter will be guided by the finalization of the national guidance documents.

- The operation of the Observatory could be supported by the country through the Ministry of Environment.

77. Responses from countries that would require financial assistance were:

- As we have repeatedly indicated the safeguarding and disposal of DDT requires a very big investment, beyond the estimated budget and this a significant obstacle even in the next plan of similar projects.
- Currently the project is dependent on the availability of additional resources and funds we are trying to mobilize.
- The observatory will assist the Government in providing a decision-making information system. Its activities are expected to generate income to self-finance its operations. However, during the first five years, a substantial subsidy should allow the necessary installation tools to be put in place. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to capitalize on the results obtained under the project.
- The mainstreaming of the Observatory in Government institutions may help to mobilize local resources. However, startup resources may be needed.

78. The responses from two countries that could not reach to a conclusion regarding financial risks at this stage of project implementation were:

- Since we have not reached a stage of seeing project results, it is premature to anticipate financial resource mobilization at this stage.
- This will be evaluated once the project is implemented and results are achieved.

79. Since some risks have been identified, **Financial Sustainability** is rated **Moderately Likely**.

iii. Institutional sustainability

80. The NCs were asked the following question to assess institutional sustainability: "*Are the capacity built within the project robust enough to continue delivering benefits beyond the lifetime of the Special Programme?*" Some countries mentioned that the capacities built would be adequate to continue deliver benefits in a sustainable manner; others mentioned that additional support would be required; and two mentioned that it was too early to judge.

81. The positive responses from four countries were:

- It is anticipated that capacity built will be beneficial beyond the life of the project.
- Yes.
- The project is supporting the training of key stakeholders in Pesticide Risk Management. The mainstreaming of the Observatory in Government institutions will encourage sustainability and continue delivering benefits beyond the project life.
- Once the project implementation starts, the project team will ensure that robust capacity building is done to ensure benefits continue to be reaped beyond the project life.

82. Three negative responses were reported:

- There is capacity building in the coordination and implementation of the project, but extra effort is needed.
- No.
- The members of the ChemObs committee are involved in the process, and they have all requested training on the sound management of chemicals according to their area of expertise. Likewise, support is required to equip dedicated laboratories with equipment and material for analysis, prevention and intervention activities.

83. Two countries found it too early to assess this criteria:

- Too early to answer this question
- Too early stage of the project implementation, therefore it is premature to have credible assessment

84. The rating on **Institutional Sustainability** is **Moderately Likely**. Based on the ratings given to the three dimensions of sustainability, overall **Sustainability** of the project results at midterm is rated **Moderately Likely**.

I. Factors Affecting Performance

Preparation and Readiness

85. Although the roles and responsibilities of the different partners as well as the project structure were reviewed and discussed during the inception workshop, the complexity of the project caused much delay on the actual implementation of the project. The EAs took much time to understand, analyze and break down the project in an effort to make it more practical and simpler for the project countries. In this process, they developed detailed consultant TORs with clear deliverables that were linked to the project outputs. Furthermore, due to the high technicality of the calculators, it took several training webinar sessions and support from the ICs for the NCs to be able to use them properly to produce the respective reports. The non-availability of French version of the calculators as well as guidance documents at the start complicated the task of the francophone countries. The initial staffing at the level of the EAs was adequate. However, the turnover of the WHO AFRO RPC affected project implementation to some extent. Due to a financial agreement issue, no national meetings or committees have taken place yet in Kenya (See Section VI D (i)). Preparation and readiness is rated **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

Quality of Project Management and Supervision

86. As documented in Section IV.D the project's management structure is made up of an execution modality involving four agencies directly contracted by the Implementing Agency (UNEP CHB, WHO AFRO, AI, and UCT) and a number of partners (PAN UK, UNEP CMB/GRID Geneva, and Pure Earth) working together. The specific roles and obligations are detailed in the respective signed agreements.

87. UNEP was the GEF implementing agency. A task manager was nominated, and she was responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the

monitoring of the project activities and progress reports. The establishment of a monthly call³⁴ with the EAs at the beginning of 2018 allowed the task manager to monitor and review progress in project execution on a regular basis. The task manager attended all the PSC as well as Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) meetings. UNEP was reported to effectively manage the project. An adaptive management approach was used when facing budget constraints (reallocation of funds for DDT disposal) or during the lockdown, webinars were undertaken to train the NCs on the calculators.

88. WHO AFRO and AI are responsible, through a RPC nominated within each EA, to establish and house the project implementation unit (PIU) and to oversee that the project runs according to the agreed work plan, budget and reporting tasks in the Francophone and Anglophone countries respectively. They are also responsible to act as joint Secretariat for the Project Steering Committee. The two EAs adopted different approaches to execute the project. While AI is directly executing the project, WHO is executing the project through its Country Offices. Under this modality, the evaluation notes that the national counterparts as well as the NCs of the Francophone countries do not communicate / deal directly with the RPC but rather with the Country Offices. The transfer of funds, sub-contracting of the NCs as well as reporting are done through Country Offices. This modality seems to be working properly as both EAs were highly rated by the NCs. In the survey questionnaire developed by the evaluation, the NCs were requested to rate "*the guidance & support provided by the EA / RPC*"³⁵. Both RPCs obtained an average rating of 4.25 (against a maximum of 5) indicative that their support was highly appreciated by the countries. There is evidence also that the RPCs organized the PSC meetings satisfactorily.

89. The late sub-contraction of the ICs, who were responsible to develop the DMTs, key tools for Components 1 and 2, by UNEP CHB contributed to the slow start of the project. Noting that the project started officially stated in July 2017, the ICs were sub-contracted in November / December 2018.

90. At national level, the NPCs were responsible to coordinate project activities. They organized the Inception Workshop and the PSC meetings, and they facilitated the work of the NCs. The rating on Quality of Project Management and Supervision is **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

91. There is strong evidence that the ICs collaborated closely to develop the DMTs, the guidance documents and the project web portal. In particular, this collaboration was necessary to incorporate the data / results of calculators in the MapX platform of the project the web portal. There is also documented evidence (Section V1 D (i)) that the ICs provided the NCs with the adequate support and guidance on the use of calculators that enabled them complete their tasks. According to available information, one of the partners benevolently translated the guidance documents into French.

³⁴ Monthly call via Skype or other communication means

³⁵ Rating ranged from HS: 5; S: 4; MS: 3. MU: 2 and U: 1.

92. At the national level, a number of key stakeholders that include representatives from Ministries (e.g. Environment, Health, Agriculture, etc.), academia, other governmental institutions such customs and standard bureau as well as NGOs and the private sector were identified at design to be active partners in the project. All the nine countries have established National Project Steering Committees (NPSCs), which include many of these identified key stakeholders. The National Inception Workshop and the NPSC meetings held in countries have provided these key stakeholders with opportunities to discuss and cooperate to have a better understanding of the scope of the project and the expected deliverables. Currently, in most of the countries the strategic dialogue is to select the host institution for the national integrated observatory. There is evidence also that they provided the NCs with data / information. In Ethiopia, the relevant governmental officers are effectively cooperating with international consultants for the disposal of DDT stocks. The relevant key stakeholders are anticipated to be actively involved in national training and communication activities that are planned in the second phase of the project.

93. Rating for **Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation** is **Satisfactory**.

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equity

94. The design did not identify indigenous peoples as key stakeholders to be incorporated in the project implementation. On the other hand, gender equity was adequately addressed in all the project components³⁶, and gender disaggregated data, and indicators have been included in logical framework³⁷

95. According to the indicators of the project logical framework, the outputs linked to gender equity are Outputs 1.3; 1.4; 2.2; 3.1 and 3.4. Based on the activities completed, only the first three outputs were relevant to the reporting period. The reports submitted so far have adequately addressed the gender equity aspect. They included recommendations for improving opportunities for women, as well as gender progress indicators. The main challenge remains however, the availability and access of reliable gender disaggregated data over time and space appropriate for effective decision making on chemicals in countries. To remain compliant with GEF requirements, the evaluation recommends that, where relevant, the EAs should ensure that the gender aspect are considered in the remaining project activities. This criterion is rated **Satisfactory**.

Environmental, social and economic safeguards

96. The UNEP/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist³⁸ has been duly filled and the adequate measures have been proposed whenever the project might have negative social or environment impacts. The project is adequately implementing the proposed measures. For

³⁶ Part II Section A.4 of the project document.

³⁷ Annex A of the project document

³⁸ Annex M of the project document

instance, in Ethiopia there is evidence that the workers involved in the handling of DDT in Ethiopia have been trained based on international best practices and they are equipped with the appropriate personal protective equipment. **Environmental, social and economic safeguards** is rated **Satisfactory**

Country Ownership and Driven-ness

97. As discussed under the section Stakeholder participation and cooperation, the key stakeholders of the participating countries were actively involved in the project. Furthermore, the NPCs reported the project is benefitting from a strong support from their respective governments³⁹. The significant amount of co-financing materialized at midterm (See Table 11) confirms this support. Many countries reported that the observatory would be embedded in the government institutions although they might face some financial challenges (cf. Section on Financial Sustainability). In Ethiopia, besides providing resources for the sound disposal DDT, the Government is trying to secure additional funding for the remaining stock (cf. Section VI D (i)). As the countries have not yet decided on modalities for the hosting of the observatory, which a strategic output for the project, this criterion is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Communication and Public Awareness

98. Communication and public awareness raising activities is the focus of Output 3.4, and they have not started yet. This work is planned to be led by an international communications consultant, who will derive policy relevant messages from the project reports and outcomes. The project has already identified a consultant, who made a convincing presentation during the online PSC meeting on 29 October 2020. In consultation with the national consultants, the consultant is expected to prepare tailorable regional level messaging. The national consultants will then transpose these into national message packs. In collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders, these messages will then be delivered key community groups throughout the country. The EAs need to ensure that women's as well as vulnerable groups are targeted by these communication activities.

99. As reported under Section VI.D, currently the project's results are being shared on the MapX platform embedded within the project website. Pending the implementation of recommendations made previously for its management, the MapX platform could be used by project partners for knowledge sharing and communication. As activities to raise awareness in the countries have not started yet, **Communication and public awareness** is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

A. Conclusions

³⁹ Interview data and feedback from questionnaire.

100. This GEF funded and UNEP implemented regional project that covers nine countries region is being executed by AI and WHO AFRO. Due to its complexity, this innovative protect was very slow to start. By taking the appropriate actions, the project team has been able to put the project on the right track and has gained momentum. Unfortunately, the Covid19 pandemic slowed down the process.

101. Due to the delayed start of the project, at midterm the delivery of outputs has been below expectation. For instance, the countries are yet to agree on the terms of agreement for the establishment of the observatory, and many are behind schedule with respect to their work plan of 2020. However, based on available information, the evaluation considers that the project will be able to achieve all its objectives by the end of the project. For this to happen, the partners need to collaborate closely, and the project team need to effectively supervise and monitor activities and provide the necessary support to countries in order to avoid further delays.

102. Overall, the project is rated **Moderately Unsatisfactory**. The ratings of the different evaluation criteria are summarized in the table below.

Table 6: Summary of Performance Ratings

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
A. Strategic Relevance		HS
<i>1. Alignment to MTS and POW and the GEF strategic priorities</i>	The project is in line with the UNEP Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste.	HS
<i>2. Alignment to UNEP /Donor/GEF strategic priorities</i>	This project is consistent with the GEF6 chemical and waste strategy's long term goal	HS
<i>3. Relevance to regional, sub-regional and national environmental priorities</i>	This project is aiming to support the participating countries implement their priorities regarding the sound management of chemicals and wastes.	HS
<i>4. Complementarity with existing interventions</i>	The project is complementary to the initiative Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Africa Region funded by GEF	HS
B. Quality of Project Design	A comprehensive intervention logic and a clear and consistent approach with adequately planned activities to deliver outputs and outcomes. Some identified weaknesses such inadequate indicators to track progress at results level	MS

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
C. Nature of External Context	Political unrest in one country affected implementation to some extent	MF
D. Effectiveness⁴⁰		MU
<i>1. Delivery of outputs</i>	Due to slow start of project, delivery of outputs below expectation at midterm	MU
<i>2. Achievement of direct outcomes</i>	Midterm target for the three outcomes not achieved	U
<i>3. Likelihood of impact</i>	Some indications that impact would be likely by the end of the project	ML
E. Financial Management		S
<i>1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures</i>	Standard UNEP procedures being applied for disbursement of funds	S
<i>2. Completeness of project financial information</i>	Co-financial reports not available	MS
<i>3. Communication between finance and project management staff</i>	There is evidence that this is happening in all agencies	S
F. Efficiency	Project has been quite cost effective, but the delivery of products has been much delayed.	MU
G. Monitoring and Reporting		S
<i>1. Monitoring design and budet</i>	Outcome indicators not adequate to track progress	MS
<i>2. Monitoring of project implementation</i>	Logical project indicators not used to track progress	MS
<i>3. Project report</i>	PIR reports timely submitted	S
H. Sustainability		ML
<i>1. Socio-political sustainability</i>	Some risks identified	ML
<i>2. Financial sustainability</i>	Some financial risks identified	ML
<i>3. Institutional sustainability</i>	Some institutional risks identified	ML
I. Factors Affecting Performance⁴¹		MS

⁴⁰ Where a project is rated, through the assessment of Project Design Quality template during the evaluation inception stage, as facing either an Unfavourable or Highly Unfavourable external operating context, ratings for Effectiveness, Efficiency and/or Sustainability may be increased at the discretion of the Evaluation Consultant and Evaluation Manager together.

⁴¹ While ratings are required for each of these factors individually, they should be discussed within the Main Evaluation Report as cross-cutting issues as they relate to other criteria. Catalytic role, replication and scaling up should be discussed under effectiveness if they are a relevant part of the TOC.

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Rating
1. <i>Preparation and readiness</i>	EAs faced with challenges at the beginning due to complexity of the project	MU
2. <i>Quality of project management and supervision</i> ⁴²	Late sub-contracting of international consultants delayed start of activities at national level	MS
3. <i>Stakeholders participation and cooperation</i>	Good cooperation amongst partners of the project	S
4. <i>Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity</i>	Gender equity aspect adequately addressed at midterm	S
5. <i>Environmental, social and economic safeguards</i>	Adequate measures proposed to mitigate risks	S
6. <i>Country ownership and driven-ness</i>	Countries not yet agreed on modalities to host observatory	MS
7. <i>Communication and public awareness</i>	Project website sharing project results	MS
Overall Project Rating		MU

*Not applicable: criteria not rated

B. Lessons Learned

103. The project has been completed and the following lessons have stemmed out.

Lesson 1: In regional projects involving many countries speaking different UN languages, the availability of documents in the different UN languages would avoid delays in project execution.

104. The francophone countries found it very challenging to understand and use the calculators that were available only in the English versions initially. They found it easier when the French versions became available. It was also much easier for them to follow the online training webinar sessions.

Lesson 2: When designing project proposals, the timing for the disbursement of funds for a given output should be consistent with the timing of its delivery.

105. The midterm target proposed in the logical framework for Output 3.3 was 'the sound disposal of 1000 tons of DDT'. This target was impossible to achieve at the onset as the planned

⁴² In some cases 'project management and supervision' will refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to implementing partners and national governments while in others, specifically for GEF funded projects, it will refer to the project management performance of the Executing Agency and the technical backstopping provided by UNEP, as the Implementing Agency.

disbursement for this output was as from the third year of implementation, which is after the midterm. The planning of the disbursement should have been right from the start of the project.

C. Recommendations

106. Recommendation 1: The delivery of outputs has been delayed outputs due to the slow start of the project. However, the evaluation considers that the project will be able to achieve all its objectives by the end of the project. For this to happen, it is recommended that the executing agencies should closely supervise and monitor activities and provide the necessary support to countries in order to avoid further delays. In particular, they should ensure that a functional observatory to be established regionally or in all participating countries by the end of the project.

107. Recommendation 2: Many countries were faced with the challenge of obtaining relevant data / information to be used in the calculators. Nevertheless, the countries used the available data they had for their respective reports on risk and vulnerability, and economic cost of inaction. For Kenya, the estimation for childhood exposed to chemicals would cost the country approximately \$46.0 billion owing to reductions in Intelligence Quotients (IQs) and earning potential. Noting that the 2019 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Kenya was \$95.5 billion according to the World Bank, project management, in consultation with the international consultants, needs to take a decision regarding the usability and relevance of the calculators for the project.

108. Recommendation 3: Knowledge management for this project can be done through MapX platform of the project portal. Furthermore, the evaluation believes that the website is key to show case as well as share with counterparts, the wider community, and potential donors the project results for communication, awareness raising and support fundraising. UNEP CMB, whose contract expired in April 2020, has been benevolently managing the project website site beyond April 2020. The website has domain registration, hosting, and support for one year, which will expire in February 2021. The integration of the PAN-UK Pesticides in Use application would make sense as this would complete the cycle of data collection, adding to the current data analysis and visualization features. For the continued good functioning of the project website, project management should consider the following recommendations (i) Appoint focal point for management of the ChemObs web portal (ii) Create long-term hosting and domain plan for the ChemObs web portal (iii) Explore integration of the PAN-UK Pesticides in Use application.

109. Recommendation 4: It was planned to implement, IRIS, a web-based application, in each project country. This system would have enabled the proper management of country data. WESR, global environmental online platform, superseded IRIS. As an alternate solution to MapX, project management should explore opportunities how countries could benefit from this platform.

110. Recommendation 5: In Ethiopia, 971 tons of obsolete DDT from two big storage facilities are currently being safeguarded before shipment to Europe for final disposal. Due to lack of funding, it was not possible to safeguard a further 500 tons of DDT found at different sites across

the country. The project needs to take the necessary actions to secure these sites with adequate fencing and signing, and strictly forbid access to these sites.

111. Recommendation 6: The francophone countries raised concerns the English and French of documents are not available at the same time. Project management should take action to address this issue.

112. Recommendation 7: A number of activities will be undertaken during the second part of implantation phase. Where relevant, the project should ensure that the gender equity aspect is considered for these activities. In particular, the communication and awareness raising activities should target vulnerable as well as women's groups.

113. Recommendation 8: In the design, there was confusion in the output titles for Component 1. The titles in the project logical framework are different to those mentioned in the project document body text. For consistency, the IA and EAs should agree on the same set of output titles for Component 1 when reporting.

114. Recommendation 9: The project team was not using all the set of indicators provided in the project logical framework to track results and progress towards projects objectives. This is clearly evidenced in the PIR reports. The risk of not using these indicators is to miss some important elements of the project such as gender equity or use of IRIS by the countries. It is recommended that the logical framework indicators be used for tracking progress.

115. Recommendation 10: National consultants have been hired undertake the project activities. Most of the time a consultant report is linked to one particular output. It happens that one report is linked to more than one output. For a common understanding among project partners, when reporting, the EAs should clearly indicate to which output(s) a particular report is linked.