



Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10094

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT

NGI

Project Title

Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina

Countries

Argentina

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s):

Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

10/4/2018

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2020

Expected Completion Date

1/1/2026

Duration

72In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

848,373

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-1-1	Strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their waste through better control, and reduction and/or elimination	GET	7,930,250	42,625,509
CW-1-2	Strengthen the sound management of agricultural chemicals and their wastes, through better control, and reduction and/or elimination	GET	1,000,000	4,000,000
Total Project Cost(\$)			8,930,250	46,625,509

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Minimize the risk posed by POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals to human health and the environment and to promote compliance to the Stockholm and Minamata Convention in Argentina.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Institutional strengthening of government and other stakeholders, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Number of policies, regulations and/or standards for strengthening the national legal framework to support the management of hazardous chemicals.</p> <p>1.2 National and local capacity for monitoring and analysis of hazardous chemicals in place, measured by % of implementation of the Chemical Monitoring Programme and number of laboratories staff/technicians trained.</p> <p>1.3 National and Local Capacities for Regulations and Chemicals and Waste Conventions compliance strengthened measured by number of people trained.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Eight (8) policies, regulations and/or standards developed/enhanced to strengthen capacities in the LCM of hazardous chemicals.</p> <p>1.2.1 Analytical Capacity Building Plan and Chemical Monitoring Programme Implemented and 40 laboratory staff/technicians trained (at least 20 females).</p> <p>1.3.1 Training Plan for enhancing compliance of chemicals and waste Conventions and regulations fully implemented. 400 people trained (at least 150 female).</p>	GET	1,688,000	7,333,482

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Improved management and disposal of POPs (excl. PCB), highly toxic chemicals and mercury	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1 Percentage [%] of implementation of the National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy to improve the management of POPs and Hg.</p> <p>2.2 Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in place.</p> <p>2.3 Number of Pilot Projects implemented resulting in the disposal of MT of mercury and MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs).</p>	<p>2.1.1 National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy drafted and fully implemented.</p> <p>2.2.1 National PRTR System Developed and 1 PRTR pilot project implemented.</p> <p>2.3.1 Four (4) Pilot Projects fully implemented. 370 MT of waste containing mercury and 100 MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs).</p>	GET	4,128,500	11,733,572

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 Capacity improved to assess, monitor and prepare for the disposal of remaining PCBs in the country, measured by progress:</p> <p>1 - Inventory Updated; 2 - Disposal Capacity Assessed;</p> <p>3 - Feasibility study and financial scheme completed;</p> <p>4 - National Management and Disposal Strategy updated.</p> <p>3.2 PCB cross-contamination minimized through capacity building for maintenance/repair shops by the development of a guideline and implementation of a training plan measured by number of maintenance workshops staff trained.</p> <p>3.3 Number of tonnes (MT) of PCBs eliminated from sensitive sites and/or industry.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Feasibility study completed, financial scheme for total PCB elimination established and National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs updated/improved.</p> <p>3.2.1 100 maintenance workshops staff trained in transformer maintenance and one (1) guideline for best practices in hazardous waste management published.</p>	GET	2,057,500	22,489,346

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&E	Technical Assistance	4.1 Number of people involved/participants in the Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals.	4.1.1 4,800 people (2,600 females and 2,200 males) involved/participants in the Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals.	GET	631,000	2,737,834
		4.2 Application of standard UNDP/GEF M&E and adaptive management processes in response to project oversight needs and Mid-Term Evaluation findings.	4.2.1 GEF UNDP M&E requirements met and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) findings.			
Sub Total (\$)					8,505,000	44,294,234
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	425,250	2,331,275
Sub Total(\$)					425,250	2,331,275

Project Management Cost (PMC)

Total Project Cost(\$)

8,930,250

46,625,509

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Private Sector	TREDI	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,420,800
Private Sector	Barrick	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,398,460
Private Sector	Barrick	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,826,916
Government	INTI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000
Private Sector	Vairo	Grant	Investment mobilized	951,544
Private Sector	Faisan SA.	Grant	Investment mobilized	107,443
Private Sector	Faisan SA.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	25,333
Private Sector	CABOT Argentina SAIC	Grant	Investment mobilized	140,000
Private Sector	CABOT Argentina SAIC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	322,000
Private Sector	PROFERTIL	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,470,000
Private Sector	PROFERTIL	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,154,000
Private Sector	BASF	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,600,000
Private Sector	BASF	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	485,100
Private Sector	Huntsman Argentina	Grant	Investment mobilized	17,220
Private Sector	Huntsman Argentina	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	45,500

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Private Sector	Martini Recovering	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,449,961
Private Sector	Stockton	Grant	Investment mobilized	262,000
Government	TRENES ARGENTINOS	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000
Government	TRENES ARGENTINOS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,200,000
Government	Minsterio de Salud	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,735,000
Government	MERCADO CENTRAL	Grant	Investment mobilized	509,900
Government	MERCADO CENTRAL	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	136,650
Government	SENASA	Grant	Investment mobilized	725,000
Government	SENASA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	109,168
Government	Secretaría de Ambiente y DS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,366,368
Private Sector	INDUPA	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,226,146
Government	Reglamentos Técnicos	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,741,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
			Total Co-Financing(\$)	46,625,509

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilized makes reference to investments that will be done in the future and does not include any past investments. Activities involve the PCBs, Hg and other Hazardous chemicals' that are aimed to be eliminated during the Project's implementation Period. Among the activities that have been identified there are namely: Export of Mining Waste (Mercury), Elimination of PCB containing materials, and Transformer dechlorination (PCB) among others.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	7,084,150	672,994
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	1,846,100	175,379
Total Grant Resources(\$)					8,930,250	848,373

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	140,000	13,300
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	60,000	5,700
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000	19,000

Core Indicators

Indicator 9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
5,470.00	5,470.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
Select				<input type="checkbox"/>
Select Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	5,000.00	5,000.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select Aldrin	100.00	100.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
370.00	370.00		

Indicator 9.3 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
1			

Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 9.6 Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	4,400	921,401		
Male	3,600	872,299		
Total	8000	1793700	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

There are no changes, the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description), are the same as presented at PIF stage

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

There are no changes, the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, are the same as presented at PIF stage

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

This section describes planned project interventions and elaborates in detail on project activities and how these will contribute to achieve the project's targets, outcomes and overall objective.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: MINIMIZE THE RISK POSED BY POPS, MERCURY AND OTHER HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH THE STOCKHOLM AND MINAMATA CONVENTIONS IN ARGENTINA

Objective Indicators

§ *5,000 MT of PCBs; 100 MT of Pesticides (POPs/HHP); 370 MT of mercury contaminated waste eliminated*

§ *1,793,700 beneficiaries (921,401 female + 872,299 male)*

PROJECT COMPONENT 1: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND THEIR ELIMINATION

Outcome Indicator 1.1 Number of policies, regulations and/or standards for strengthening the national legal framework to support the management of hazardous chemicals

Target 1.1 Eight (8) policies, regulations and/or standards developed/enhanced to strengthen capacities in the LCM of hazardous chemicals

Activity 1.1.1 Develop a Secondary Level Regulation for the Chemicals Risk Management Law

Through this activity the project will support the development of a secondary level regulation for implementation of the chemicals risk management law. The project will provide technical support and ensure coordination among the various sectors involved in the management of chemicals and to whom this regulation will apply. The regulation that will support the implementation of the chemicals risk management law will include technical specifications and criteria for the prioritization of substances, including specifications/criteria related to quantities of use/consumption at national level; areas of application; gender related issues; etc.

Activity 1.1.2 Fulfill commitments under chemicals-related international agreements

The project will develop regulations that will enable Argentina to fulfill the necessary requirements and ensure the implementation of chemicals and waste related International Conventions, in particular the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

With respect to the Stockholm Convention, the project will support the ratification of the Conventions' amendments and ensure that newly listed chemicals (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019), as well as chemicals that might be listed in the future (during the timeframe of the project), are adequately reflected in national regulations.

In addition, the project will support the revision and updating of the National Legal Framework pertaining to PCBs in order to enhance its ease of implementation to meet the Stockholm Convention's 2025 and 2028 related targets and obligations.

Finally, the project will also develop and implement control mechanisms for the implementation of provisions under the Conventions that are related to "acceptable uses and exemptions" for Convention chemicals for which Argentina has requested exemptions, to ensure that Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) are implemented and applied to manage these chemicals in a sound and environmentally safe manner during their exemption periods.

Activity 1.1.3 Design and/or strengthen the implementation of six (6) legal instruments to improve the LCM of hazardous chemicals

Establish six (6) national level legal instruments, that will strengthen the Life-Cycle Management of Hazardous Chemicals, in the following fields:

- ü Contaminated Sites Management, including the identification, prioritization, remediation and/or controlled monitoring of contaminated sites.
 - ü Implementation of the current national legal framework of Hazardous Waste and "Universal Waste[1]" (REGUS: Residuos Especiales de Generación Universal).
 - ü Standards and regulations for emissions and air quality, including technical guidelines to encourage the use of BET/BAP to reduce emissions and releases.
 - ü Effective implementation of the Hazardous Waste Management legal framework.
 - ü The management of agrochemicals including: registration, permits, usage, applications, traceability and monitoring.
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ü The effective implementation of the existing “*Minimum Environmental Standards for the management of Phytosanitary Containers (Law 27.279)*” and its *decree 134/18*.

The project will also undertake an assessment on potential tax reform proposals or other cost recovery strategies, which would allow tax exemptions for industrial activities which promote and/or adopt best practices in the LCM of chemicals.

In addition, this project activity will also promote the development of a “Science to Policy” mechanism in partnership with the National Science Secretariat. The main purpose of this mechanism is to establish parameters and guidelines for science to contribute to the development and definition of environmental policies and regulations.

Activity 1.1.4 *Establish coordination mechanisms with the private sector*

Develop and establish a coordination mechanism with private sector entities involved in areas related to the management of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals. The establishment of this coordination mechanism aims to increase private sector investments in hazardous waste management by developing incentives for the private sector and enhancing dialogue and collaboration between producers, importers and users of hazardous chemicals. The coordination mechanism will include workshops, trainings sessions and opportunities to participate in technical discussions as part of the development process of new regulations/standards/guidelines, etc.

Outcome Indicator 1.2 National and local capacity for monitoring and analysis of hazardous chemicals in place measured by % of implementation of the Chemical Monitoring Programme and number of laboratories staff/technicians trained

Target 1.2 Analytical Capacity Building Plan and Chemical Monitoring Programme implemented and 40 laboratory staff/technicians trained

Activity 1.2.1 *Develop an analytical Capacity Building Plan (Capacity built for at least 20 National Labs)*

The project will assess (including economical aspects) the existing national analytical capacities for the analysis of hazardous chemicals currently listed under the Conventions, those chemicals that are expected to be listed under the Conventions as well as other potentially hazardous chemicals of particular national concern. Subsequently the project will identify and enhance the analytical capacity for at least 20 National Labs to analyze hazardous chemicals, and support inter-laboratory comparisons and certifications of public, private and academic institutions.

The project will also support the identification of sources of financing to promote and enhance the capacity of public/private institutions to carry out R&D for POPs sampling and analysis.

Activity 1.2.2 *Design a Chemicals Monitoring Programme*

Embedded within the Federal Environmental Monitoring Network (REDFEMA), and the Network for Aquatic ecosystems monitoring (REMAQUA), establish a monitoring programme for chemicals in coordination with identified public/private institutions (See Activity 1.2.1) that have the necessary capacity for environmental monitoring and analysis of POPs, mercury and other hazardous substances.

The monitoring programme also aims to include the monitoring of gender related data that can provide insights and evidence on the use of and exposure to hazardous chemical and their impact.

As part of activity 1.2.2, the project will also support the development of strategies within the National System for Health Surveillance (in cooperation with the Directorate of Epidemiology of the National Health Secretariat) to strengthen the surveillance of events related to hazardous chemicals exposure and intoxication.

The project will also support a national food survey to assess the health and nutritional status of a nationally representative sample of children and adults from different regions of Argentina. This survey will provide inputs for the pesticide dietary exposure assessment and possible risk evaluations. This activity will be developed in coordination with the National Health Authority, SENASA, the National Food Authority (INAL) and the MAGyP.

Outcome Indicator 1.3 National and Local Capacities for Regulations and Chemicals and Waste Conventions compliance strengthened measured by number of people trained

Target 1.3 Training Plan for enhancing compliance with regulations and chemicals and waste Conventions fully implemented. 400 people trained (at least 150 female).

Activity 1.3.1 Develop and implement a training programme for enhanced compliance.

Inspectorates: The project will support the development of a training programme/plan that aims to strengthen the enforcement capacities of national and local government inspection teams to enable inspections of chemicals processes as well as the treatment/disposal or elimination of POPs and hazardous wastes and support the assessment and development of response and remediation plans following chemical accidents. The training programme/plan will also entail setting up a Quality Management System within the Directorate for Inspections and establish 20 different certifications for inspectors in sample drawing of solid, liquid and gaseous effluents. In addition, the project will provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for inspectors. All trainings will include a gender module and participation of women in trainings will be highly encouraged.

Private Sector/Industry: The training programme/plan also aims to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of the industrial sector to i) introduce best practices for the management of hazardous chemicals and ii) ensure their compliance with the national legal framework.

National/local governments: The training programme/plan will also strengthen the capacity of national and local governments to meet requirements under national regulations and international chemicals- and waste- Conventions.

PROJECT COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF POPS (EXCL. PCB), HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS AND MERCURY

Outcome Indicator 2.1 % of Implementation of a National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy to improve the management of POPs and Hg

Target 2.1 National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy drafted and fully implemented

Activity 2.1.1 Develop a National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy.

A National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy will be designed based upon the chemicals- and waste- Conventions; the MERCOSUR plan for chemicals and waste management; the chemicals and waste plan under the intergovernmental network for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – SAICM and its post-2020 vision; the Operative Annual Plan for Risk Management (POAGIR); and the Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

The strategy will include environmental, economic, social, health and labor aspects related to the sound and safe management of agricultural and industrial chemicals (including those present in articles and products) throughout all stages of their life-cycle, with a view to promote sustainable development.

The strategy will also include aspects such as: Measures to support risk reduction; Improving storage and stock management of chemicals; Strengthening knowledge and information; Improving capacities of institutions; Developing regulations and policies; Addressing illegal international traffic; and, Improving general SMC practices.

Activity 2.1.2 Develop/Update National Implementation Plans and update POPs/UPOPs and mercury Inventories

The project will support the development and updating of inventories (including the updating of the POPs/UPOPs and mercury inventories) in line with national regulations and Stockholm- and Minamata- Convention requirements.

The project will also support the development of a National Chemical Inventory in support of the recently adopted resolution Res192/2019 “*National listing of existing, restricted and prohibited chemical substances*” and other chemicals that might be required to be included during the course of the project’s implementation in-line with national regulations.

In support of the implementation of the Minamata Convention and in support of its Article 20, the project will develop and publish an Implementation Plan based on the results of the Minamata Initial Assessment Project and its lessons learned.

In support of the Stockholm Convention, the project will also prepare and publish two updates of the National Implementation Plan (2021, 2025).

Activity 2.1.3 Conduct a technical and economic feasibility study for potential substitutes of newly listed/industrial POPs

As part of the previous NIP update (2018), a PBDE inventory was undertaken which focused on the transportation and electronics sector, while a PFOs inventory focused on the production of Sulfuramide and manufacturing industries involved in lining metals. The NIP update indicated that other industrial POPs are no longer produced or imported in Argentina.

Argentina requested an exemption to continue the use of Sulfurimides which was granted by the Stockholm Convention. The project would like to assess how to use these chemicals in a safe manner during the exemption period and review and assess possible alternatives in line with this exemption. In order to do so the project will start with undertaking an assessment on the usage/consumption and impact of Sulfuramides in the country.

In addition, the project will also consider similar in-depth assessments on the usage/consumption of chemicals of particular concern (within various industries), such as Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR) as well as Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs).

Subsequently, the project will assist in prioritizing and implementing interventions (including undertaking economic and technical feasibility studies) that would aim to increase the capacity of industries (predominantly Small and Medium Enterprises – SMEs) in order to enable industries to substitute or gradually reduce the use of priority hazardous chemicals through the introduction of Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT).

Activity 2.1.4 Develop a strategy for the identification, management and remediation of contaminated sites (POPs, Hg and other hazardous substances)

Existing guidelines and procedures for the identification of contaminated sites will be reviewed and subsequently strengthened and improved, by providing specific guidelines for the identification of sites contaminated with POPs, mercury and other hazardous substances, as well as procedures for priority setting.

This project output will also encompass the remediation of 1 to 4 contaminated sites^[2]. During the first year of the project, information will be gathered from local governments on already identified contaminated sites. In order to select contaminated sites for remediation during the project, a prioritization formula will be applied which will use various criteria, such as: alleged responsibility (national, provincial, private); social impact; total affected area; planned land use; contaminants (POPs, mercury or hazardous substances); gender considerations, etc.

Outcome Indicator 2.2 Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in place

Target 2.2 National PRTR System developed and 1 Pilot Project on PRTR implemented

Activity 2.2.1 Develop and review a national PRTR Proposal

As part of the Project's Preparation Phase, an assessment was carried by an international PRTR expert, with the purpose of assessing the current environmental legal framework in Argentina relevant to PRTR. Initial findings indicated that the current legal framework is uneven and contains several pre-constitutional reform procedures.

The findings of the PRTR assessment have been presented in Annex O. Annex O also contains an initial proposal for the establishment of the core elements for an Argentinian PRTR. The proposal has been drawn up on the basis on available information related to Argentina's current environmental legislation as well as international experiences in

PRTRs. The proposal will be further developed in the first year of project implementation to fine-tune details on PRTR characteristics. In addition, extensive stakeholder consultations will be undertaken in order to reach consensus on the design of the national PRTR system.

This project activity will also draft the necessary legislation to establish the PRTR registry and information system. The system will be designed in such a way to ensure that all legal, institutional, technical and administrative requirements and specifications for the national PRTR system are adequately addressed. Initially, a national database will be set up as a basis for the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), which will include data on the releases or transfer of chemicals between various media. A prototype for the PRTR will be developed and tested, after which it will be transferred to SAyDS for its verification and ultimate implementation. Throughout the entire process, the necessary training will be provided by the project to those officers involved in the development and implementation of the system.

Activity 2.2.2 Implement a PRTR Pilot Project

A pilot project will be developed and implemented to test and apply the PRTR for a priority industrial zone^[3]. The results and lessons-learned will be taken into account in order to further improve the PRTR system at national level.

Outcome Indicator 2.3 Number of Pilot Projects implemented resulted in the disposal of MT of mercury and MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs)

Target 2.3 Four (4) Pilot Projects fully implemented. 370 MT of waste containing mercury and 100 MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs)

Note on the design and implementation of pilot projects: Because of the very limited time that was used for the Project Preparation Phase, it should be kept in mind that the Pilot Projects I, II, III and IV (See Annexes P, Q, R and S) will be worked out in even further detail in the period between CEO Endorsement Submission and the actual launch of the project. The experts (under the leadership of SAyDS) who have been involved in the development of the pilot projects will remain engaged throughout this period and will have the responsibilities to prepare the project for a quick project launch as well as providing additional pilot project details on the i) Timeline; ii) Budget; iv) Clear indication of the responsibilities of the project and project target groups; v) Detailed list of activities to be undertaken, etc. It should also be noted that if during the project's preparation or project's implementation it is deemed necessary to change the direction or interventions proposed as part of the pilot projects to more effectively achieve project targets, the Project Board might take such decisions.

Activity 2.3.1 Implementation of one (1) Pilot Project on the management and disposal of 350 MT of mercury containing waste from the mining sector

The main objectives of Pilot Project I entitled “*Pilot project on the management and disposal of mercury containing waste from the mining sector*” (described in detail in Annex P) are to:

- § Improve the capacity for the management and disposal of mercury containing waste originating from the mining sector.
 - § Streamline the export process for mercury containing waste from the mining sector, in particular for the Veladero Gold Mine during its remaining operation.
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§ Dispose of 350 MT of elemental mercury and mercury waste originating from the Minera Andina del Sol SRL mining processes.

The Veladero Mine, owned and operated by Minera Andina del Sol SRL (MAS), is located in the department of Iglesia in the province of San Juan in Argentina, located approximately 280 km from the provincial capital of San Juan. The Veladero mine has an open-pit design, and MAS operations include mining of gold-silver ore, two-stage crushing, and extraction of precious metals using valley-fill heap leaching and Merrill-Crowe recovery. Mercury is inevitably obtained as a by-product of the gold and silver extraction process. Table 1 below summarizes the amounts of mercury generated as a by-product of gold and silver extraction [kg/year].

Table 1: Mercury recovered at the Veladero mine [kg]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mercury Production [kg]	55,125	52,292	59,481	134,186	54,469

In 2011/2012, 164.2 MT of mercury generated as a by-product through the mining processes of MAS, was exported to a U.S. company for recovery, recycling and demobilization. This arrangement changed in 2013 when the U.S. prohibited the import of mercury. Since then, MAS has started to accumulate elemental mercury. As of December 5, 2018, the company had 447,58 MT of elemental mercury in storage. It is estimated that by the end of the life of the mine (LOF), a total of 590 MT of elemental mercury will have been generated.

The pilot project expects to manage, package, transport, export, treat/stabilize and dispose of 350 MT of elemental mercury using the procedures and processes described in Annex P. The mercury will be stabilized to mercury sulphide (HgS, “cinnabar”) through an operation classified under the Basel Convention as “D9” Physico chemical treatment undertaken by the BATREC company located in Wimmis (Switzerland). After stabilization, the waste will be sent for final disposal to a salt mine located in Germany, which is operated by the firm "K + S HERFA NEURODE".

To ensure the implementation of this pilot project, MAS will provide the necessary financial resources through grant co-financing and ensure the safe execution and implementation of the pilot project, while the responsibility of the national authority (supported by the project) will be to ensure the control, monitoring, provision of technical assistance and issuance of necessary permits for operation, national transit and export.

The pilot project is expected to result in the safe treatment/disposal of 350 MT of mercury while building the capacity of the mining sector, waste operators and government institutions in Argentina to make the management, packaging, transportation, export, treatment/stabilization and disposal process as efficient and cost-effective as possible for future replication.

Activity 2.3.2 Implement one (1) pilot project to demonstrate the feasibility of the disposal of waste that contains or is contaminated with mercury (20 MT)

-

The main objectives of Pilot Project II entitled “*Pilot project on the decommissioning of Argentina’s last Chlor-Alkali mercury cells and the sound management and disposal of mercury related wastes*” (described in detail in Annex Q) are to:

§ Improve the control and management of mercury containing wastes (at least 20 MT) originating from the Unipar-Indupa plant to ensure it is managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner, by coordinating regular inspections with local environmental authorities.

§ Support the development of the decommissioning plan of the mercury cells.

This pilot project aims to introduce Best Environmental Practices (BAP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT) to minimize releases of mercury and ensure the sound management and disposal of wastes containing mercury, during the continued operation of the plant until the mercury-cell decommissioning has been completed (anticipated for 2025). In preparation for the decommissioning of the mercury cells, the pilot project will work on a plan for the sound and safe decommissioning of the mercury-cells and decontamination of the plant.

Unipar-Indupa (UI) is a petrochemical company that produces mainly Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), Caustic Soda and Sodium hypochlorite. In order to produce PVC, the Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM), caustic soda (NaOH) and chlorine (Cl₂) need to be produced as intermediate products. In order to produce chlorine, the UI plant uses two independent methods - mercury cells and mercury-free membrane cells. As a result of the use of the mercury cell process, mercury emissions and releases to air and water as well as mercury contaminated wastes are generated at the UI plant. See Table 2 below.

To compensate for emissions and operational losses, elemental mercury is regularly added to the mercury cell process. At this point in time the company has 18 working cells, with a total annual consumption of approximately 6,000/7,000 kg of Hg per year.

Table 2: Mercury releases and emissions [kg Hg/yr]

		<i>Hg Outputs (kg/year)</i>	<i>Total (kg/year)</i>	<i>Distribution Factor</i>
Products	Caustic Soda	20.68	22.80	0.37%
	Sodium Hypochlorite	2.05		
	Hydrochloric acid	0.07		
Air	Cell room	200.10	210.00	3.36%
	H2 venting	2.20		
	H2 to boilers	7.70		

Sludge	LMH	1,919.20	6,015.00	96.25%
	Sludge discharge treatment	4,095.80		
Water discharge	Unified effluent	1.60	1.60	0.03%
Hg input=output (kg/year)			6,249.40	100%

The production of Chlor-alkali is one of the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention. The Minamata Convention set an elimination date on the use of the mercury cell process by 2025, except in the situation when a Party has obtained an exemption under Article 6 of the Convention. On June 2017, UI requested an exemption to operate the mercury cell process until 2030, which was granted. However, UI has recently informed the Government of Argentina that it plans to stop using the mercury cell process by December 31, 2025.

With the aim of minimizing emissions and releases of mercury, it is imperative that the management of mercury and mercury containing wastes during the period 2020 - 2025 is carried out in an environmentally sound manner. Furthermore, UI's plans for the decommissioning of the mercury cells by 2025, needs to be thoroughly assessed and implemented in the safest, most-effective manner possible.

UI has presented a plan that aims to decommission the mercury cells by 2025 through three stages, which have been presented in more detail in Annex Q. UI estimates that a total of 90MT of elemental mercury would be extracted after the mercury cells are decommissioned.

Currently UI uses a registered and approved waste operator at provincial level for the treatment and disposal of High Mercury Content (HMC) and Low Mercury Content (LMC) sludge from treatment processes. However local capacity needs to be thoroughly assessed to make a decision if local waste operators would be able to safely manage the decommissioning process and treatment of contaminated wastes or whether international waste operators would need to be engaged to build local capacity and support the overall process.

The type of the support the project would provide to the implementation of Pilot Project II has been described in chapter 5 of Annex Q but has not yet been set in stone. It includes the provision of support to i) Introduce additional measures in the period 2020 – 2025 to further reduce mercury releases and the generation of mercury contaminated waste and improve its management; ii) Support the development of a plan for the sound and safe decommissioning of the mercury-cells and decontamination of the plant.

During the period between the submission of the CEO endorsement request and the actual project's launch, the PPG project team will continue to work on the further development of the pilot project. During that period the pilot project will provide additional details on anticipated activities, a timeframe, implementation plan, role of UI, the project team, and other stakeholders involved.

Activity 2.3.3 Implement one (1) pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticides (POPs and HHP) (100 MT)

The main objectives of Pilot Project III entitled “*Pilot project on the sound management and disposal of POPs and Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Argentina*” (described in detail in Annex R) are:

§

- § Elimination of at least 100 MT of POPs pesticides and/or Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).
- § Analysis and assessment of national treatment capacity for obsolete POPs pesticides and HHPs.
- § Identification of obsolete POPs pesticides and Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) stocks/quantities stored at government facilities.
- § Implementation of a cost-effective and environmentally sound approach to manage (repack, store, transport and dispose of POPs and Highly Hazardous pesticides using existing national capacity when possible).

This pilot project will work with three government institutions (Ministry of Health, SENASA and the Argentine Train Operations - TAO) on the sound management and elimination of stockpiles of POPs pesticides and HHPs owned by these 3 institutions by creating new innovative schemes for collaboration among owners of POPs/HHPs, service providers for POPs treatment/management and Federal and Provincial authorities.

Pilot project activities/interventions will focus on obtaining in-depth knowledge on the type/quantities/locations of existing POPs inventories/stockpiles; the identification of Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) at national level that are able to treat/manage obsolete pesticides in an environmentally sound manner; and, the development and implementation of a systematic process for the sound environmental elimination of identified stockpiles.

Before disposal, a consolidation plan considering each type of waste will be developed and implemented to reduce costs for the three entities. Since SENASA and TAO will finance the process for the disposal of their own obsolete pesticides (see co-financing letters), the project will finance the disposal of the obsolete pesticide stocks belonging to the Ministry of Health. Quantities of obsolete stockpiles owned by the Ministry of Health which have been identified to date are presented in Table 3 below. In addition, 14.7 MT of DDT have also been identified. That said, additional quantities might be identified.

Table 3. Obsolete pesticides identified to date [kg]

Type of pesticides	Weight [kg]	%
Phosphorous	21,935.00	6.10
Chlorinated	51,269.98	14.26
Bromated	1,939.05	0.54

Other1	284,292.24	79.09
TOTAL	358,836.27	100

Source: Ministry of Health reports

A total of 53,209.03 kg of halogenated (chlorinated + bromated) pesticides and 364,400.27 kg of non-halogenated pesticides have been identified to be in the possession of the Ministry of Health and TAO. For the obsolete pesticides identified as non-halogenated, national waste operators with the technical capacity for the treatment and disposal of these obsolete stockpiles will be identified and used.

Around the third year of the implementation of the Pilot Project, 30 MT of halogenated pesticides will be exported for treatment/disposal. The remaining 23 MT will be exported in the second half of the Pilot Project.

- **Activity 2.3.4** Implement one (1) pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticide containers

The main objectives of Pilot Project IV entitled “*Pilot Project on the Integrated Management and Disposal of Pesticide Containers in Argentina*” (described in detail in Annex S) are:

- § Coordination with stakeholders and regional plans to enhance the sound disposal of pesticide containers.
- § Assessing local container management systems in place and subsequently improving them.
- § Strengthening the implementation of the traceability system for empty pesticide containers.
- § Analyzing national capacity for the final disposal and recycling capacity of empty pesticide containers.
- § Ensuring that recovered materials do not pose risks to human health or the environment.

The Pilot Project will assess current national capacity for the management of empty pesticide containers and subsequently support the establishment of a robust system for their sound management. The Pilot Project will coordinate efforts of several stakeholders, including government entities, NGOs, agricultural companies and waste recycling companies, and ensure that the system for container management that will be put in place, reflects the shared responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the agro-chemicals sector. The Pilot Project will also engage with private sector partners interested in the manufacturing of products made from plastics recovered from pesticide containers, as well as academia to test the safety of these products.

Argentina is one of the world’s main exporters of agricultural chemicals. The agrochemical manufacturing sector produces a large amount of special waste, including pesticide containers. The mismanagement of empty pesticide containers poses a risk to the environment and human health. To mitigate such risks and improve the management of empty

pesticide containers, a national law (27.279) has been adopted which regulates the responsibility of all actors involved in the supply chain of the commercialization of phytosanitary products.

The law prescribes minimum budgets for the environmental protection from the management of empty phytosanitary containers; formalized the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle for manufacturers; and prohibits the burying, incineration, reuse or resale of containers, their disposal or their recycling without prior decontamination; and, prohibits the discharge of any type of pesticide residue into water courses. Despite the law and existing guidelines, the management of empty containers is still inadequate in Argentina.

To achieve the objectives indicated above, the Pilot Project will work with a number of stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGyP) who will be involved in the establishment of new local and regional management systems for empty pesticide containers: i) The Waste Directorate (WD) which will support the identification of plastic recyclers located in the areas where empty pesticide containers are being generated. The Directorate is also developing a “*Traceability System for Empty Packaging of Phytosanitary Products*”; ii) Campo Limpio (a nonprofit organization representing the phytosanitary industry) which designs, operates and monitors management systems for empty phytosanitary containers, offers training programmes on the sound management of empty phytosanitary containers as part of Good Agricultural Practices and which manages Transitional Collection Centers (CATs) where rinsed, perforated and recyclable pesticide containers are collected for temporary storage before recycling; and, iii) Industrial Technology National Institute (INTI) which will analyze and assess products made from recycled plastic originating from pesticides containers, to ensure that the uses of recovered material do not pose risks to human health or the environment.

PROJECT COMPONENT 3: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PCBs

Outcome Indicator 3.1 Capacity improved to assess, monitor and prepare for the disposal of remaining PCBs in the country, measured by progress: 1 - Inventory Updated; 2 - Disposal Capacity Assessed; 3 - Feasibility study and financial scheme completed; 4- National Management and Disposal Strategy updated

Target 3.1 Feasibility study completed, financial scheme for total PCB elimination established and National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs updated/improved

-
Activity 3.1.1 *Update the National PCB Inventory*

Update the national PCB inventory by collecting information from potential PCB holders located in all the provinces, including from electricity generators, electricity distribution entities, cooperatives, small- and large-scale users, as well as stocks containing high concentrations of PCBs. The project will also develop and establish digital inventories within local governments.

Activity 3.1.2 *Complete a PCB disposal capacity assessment*

The project will conduct a capacity assessment for national level PCB treatment as well as capacity for export, assess costs and identify which capacities would need to be created/improved at national level.

-

Activity 3.1.3 *Develop a feasibility study and financial plan for PCB elimination*

Undertake an economic feasibility study and design a financial plan that will optimize the disposal of PCB stockpiles disposals (treatment and/or export) owned by small PCB holders, public PCB owners and small energy distributors.

Activity 3.1.4 *Update/Improve the National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs in line with the Stockholm Convention*

Update the national management and disposal strategy (in line with the 2025 and 2028 Stockholm Convention deadlines) based on the outcomes of the updated inventories and the assessed disposal/export capacity.

-
Outcome Indicator 3.2 PCB cross-contamination minimized through capacity building for maintenance/repair shops by the development of a guideline and implementation of a training plan measured by number of people trained in transformers maintenance workshops

Target 3.2 100 maintenance workshops staff trained in transformer maintenance and one (1) guideline for best practices in hazardous waste management published

Activity 3.2.1 *Design and implement a training plan for 100 transformer maintenance/repair shops*

Develop and implement a training plan for workshops, facilities and personnel in charge of/involved in the handling, maintenance and repair of electrical equipment in order to prevent and avoid spills, cross-contamination and mismanagement of potentially PCB contaminated equipment. All trainings will include a gender module and participation of women in trainings will be highly encouraged.

-
Activity 3.2.2 *Publish one (1) guideline*

Develop and publish a guideline for best environmental practices in handling, managing and maintaining electrical equipment and insulating oils to prevent and avoid spills, cross-contamination and mismanagement of potentially PCB contaminated equipment. The guideline will include gender-sensitive language.

Outcome Indicator 3.3 Number of tonnes (MT) of PCBs eliminated from sensitive sites and/or industry

Target 3.3 5,000 MT of PCBs eliminated

Activity 3.3.1 *Decontaminate and/or export national PCB stockpiles*

The project will support, in close coordination with private sector and PCB holder led initiatives, the elimination of PCB stockpiles through the decontamination of low PCB content waste and stockpiles (<5000 ppm) and the export of high PCB content waste and stockpiles (>5000 ppm) for treatment/disposal abroad.

The project will support the elimination and disposal of PCB waste from electricity distributors and cooperatives, medium and high electricity users, as well as small PCB holders and public holders. In total the project aims to achieve the disposal of 5,000 MT of PCB containing waste, using project funds to finance the treatment/disposal of PCB equipment owned by small holders, and using co-financing from large PCB holders and treatment/disposal companies for the disposal of PCB equipment owned by large holders.

Grant co-financing to the project is significant. Of the 5,000 MT of PCBs to be disposed of with project support, elimination and disposal costs for 4,800 MT of PCBs will be covered by the private sector, while project resources will be allocated to support the disposal of 200 MT of PCBs owned by small PCB owners, public PCB owners and small energy distributors^[4] who do not have sufficient capital to cover disposal costs. As such project resources will be used in the most cost-efficient way, while optimum effectiveness of the project is achieved in terms of high disposal rates by bundling project and private sector resources and efforts.

As grant co-financing for PCB disposal committed during the Project Preparation phase turned out much higher than estimates made during the PIF's development, funding was reallocated from Component 3 to Component 2 to increase the scope of the pilot projects and other activities foreseen under Component 2. However, if during the project's implementation certain PCB holders or waste operators are unable to commit to the pledged co-financing levels, due to a challenging economic situation or inflation beyond their control, the Project Team and Project Board would be encouraged to approve a budget revision, and reverse (in part or in whole) the budget reallocation from Component 2 to Component 3. The purpose of the budget revision would be to allow the project to provide additional support to PCB holders to ensure that the project's target to dispose of 5,000 MT of PCBs will be achieved.

PROJECT COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND M&E

Outcome Indicator 4.1 Number of people involved/participants in Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals

Target 4.1 4,800 people (2,600 females and 2,200 males) involved/participants in Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals

Activity 4.1.1 Implement a Gender Action Plan and Awareness Raising Activities

Implement the Gender Action Plan detailed in Annex H "*Gender Analysis and Action Plan*" and briefly described in the section below on "*Gender equality and empowering women.*"

The project will implement awareness raising activities detailed in Annex G "*Stakeholder Engagement Plan*" and described in the section below on "*Stakeholder engagement plan*". The project aims to raise the awareness of 4,800 people, of which 2,600 females and 2,200 males. In Annex T "*Number of project beneficiaries & Number of people of whom awareness will be raised*" is the number of people (disaggregated by sex) of whom awareness will be raised by the project indicated by project component and activity.

Activity 4.1.2 Implement a National Communications Strategy (social media, publications, scientific papers, articles, lessons learned etc.)

Design and implement a National Communications Strategy with a gender perspective based on recommendations and proposed activities detailed in Annex G “Stakeholder Engagement Plan”.

Outcome Indicator 4.2 **Application of standard UNDP/GEF M&E and adaptive management processes in response to project oversight needs and Mid-Term Evaluation findings**

Target 4.2 **GEF UNDP M&E requirements met and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) findings.**

-
Activity 4.2.1 *UNDP Quarterly and annually reports submitted*

Activity 4.2.2 *Audits completed (in line with UNDP requirements)*

Activity 4.2.3 *Six (6) PIRs completed/submitted*

Activity 4.2.4 *MTE and TE completed*

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

The alignment with GEF focal area strategies is the same as presented at the PIF stage

The project is aligned with the following Focal Area objectives:

CW-1-1 Strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their waste through better control, and reduction and/or elimination (Components 1, 2 and 3)

CW-1-2 Strengthen the sound management of agricultural chemicals and their wastes, through better control, and reduction and/or elimination (Component 1 and 2)

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

It is important to not only consider environmental, but also technical, economic and political aspects in Argentina because of the particular economic and social conditions in the country. In order to address the sound management of POPs and mercury and their elimination, the country requires GEF support to advance with the sound management of chemicals in an integrated manner. The initiatives outlined in this project demonstrate that opportunities for the development and implementation of a cost-effective integrated strategy focusing on POPs and mercury elimination exist, which in addition to addressing POPs and mercury issues will also strengthen legal aspects and enforcement capacity for other toxic chemicals. The project will enhance baseline knowledge on the management of hazardous substances and their disposal and complement other internationally supported projects.

SAyDS and its Chemicals Directorate will support the enforcement of the new regulations that are in the process of being issued and/or already released/adopted. This support will be critical in addressing the sound management of the hazardous substances described in this proposal, as SAyDS is the entity assignment for waste enforcement. Additionally, the project will build upon the results obtained by the UNDP-GEF PCB project that eliminated a large quantity of PCBs (approximately 8,000 MT). The legal and policy framework for PCB management has already been established and the main focus of this project will be on assessing PCB disposal capacity and the final disposal of 5,000 MT of PCBs. The project will also put in place a plan for Argentina to comply with its 2025/2028 Stockholm Convention obligations on PCBs.

The project's approach will require interest and collaboration (technically and financially) from the private sector, to achieve the projected results, outcomes and project targets. In particular, support from the holders of PCB contaminated equipment and materials, pesticides users and producers as well as mining companies and the chlor-alkali industry will be critical. The project will provide Technical Assistance to the sectors mentioned in the proposal. The project will subsidize the pilot projects identified in the proposal, but it is important to note that the main share of the cost will be borne by the private sector. The GEF proposal will add value in many ways, but two important things are important to note. The project will help assuring that disposal activities are done in accordance with international standards, and secondly, the project will play a coordination role among possessors of PCBs, other POPs, mercury, etc. which will lead to lower disposal costs for the country through an improved coordination among all the stakeholders.

It is important to note that Grant co-financing to the project is significant. Of the 5,000 MT of PCBs to be disposed of with project support, elimination and disposal costs for 4,800 MT of PCBs will be covered by the private sector, while project resources will be allocated to support the disposal of 200 MT of PCBs owned by small PCB owners, public

PCB owners and small energy distributors^[5] who do not have sufficient capital to cover disposal costs. As such project resources will be used in the most cost-efficient way, while optimum effectiveness of the project is achieved in terms of high disposal rates by bundling project and private sector resources and efforts.

As grant co-financing for PCB disposal committed during the Project Preparation phase turned out much higher than estimates made during the PIF's development, funding was reallocated from Component 3 to Component 2 to increase the scope of the pilot projects and other activities foreseen under Component 2. However, if during the project's implementation certain PCB holders or waste operators are unable to commit to the pledged co-financing levels, due to a challenging economic situation or inflation beyond their control, the Project Team and Project Board would be encouraged to approve a budget revision, and reverse (in part or in whole) the budget reallocation from Component 2 to Component 3. The purpose of the budget revision would be to allow the project to provide additional support to PCB holders to ensure that the project's target to dispose of 5,000 MT of PCBs will be achieved.

6) Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) of the project at the CEO endorsement stage, are the same as presented at the PIF stage.

The project's GEBs include the following reductions:

PCBs: Elimination of 5,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated materials.

Pesticides: 100 tonnes of POPs/HHPs pesticides will be eliminated/disposed of.

Mercury: 350 tonnes of elemental mercury will be treated/disposed of.

Mercury containing waste: 20 tonnes of mercury containing waste will be soundly treated/disposed of.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness: The innovation of this project is based on the integrated holistic approach that the project will take to improve at national, provincial and local level and in various economic sectors, the sound management of numerous hazardous chemicals and wastes containing them, rather than simply taken a chemical-by-chemical approach.

This will be the first time in Argentina that such a coordinate effort on the sound management of chemicals, hazardous waste management and disposal will be undertaken at such scale. The project is expected to increase awareness among stakeholders about their obligations on POPs/UPOPs/Mercury management while at the same time identifying cost effective options to meet such obligations.

Sustainability: The sustainability of project efforts and results will be ensured by the establishment of sustainable national systems and mechanisms for the Life Cycle Management of Chemicals in combination with the elimination, phase-out and disposal of large quantities of Hg, POPs, HHPs, etc. – amounting to 5,470 MT. The establishment and enhancement of national systems and capacities during the project will allow Argentina to sustain, scale-up and replicate project results after the project comes to an end.

The project will support the following interventions that will instill long-term sustainability of project results: i) **Strengthen the national legal framework to support the management of hazardous chemicals and improve the capacity for the LCM of hazardous chemicals**, through the development of eight (8) policies, regulations and standards; ii) **Establish a private sector coordination mechanisms on the management of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals** to increase private sector investments in hazardous waste management by developing incentives for the private sector and enhancing dialogue and collaboration between government, producers, importers and users of hazardous chemicals; iii) **Built the capacity of 20 laboratories and establish a national chemical monitoring programme for POPs, mercury and other hazardous substances**; iv) **Build the capacities of enforcement entities, industries and national and local government agencies to enable compliance with chemicals-related Conventions**; v) **Develop and implement a National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy** to improve the management of POPs and Hg, introduce safer alternatives to new/industrial POPs and identify contaminated sites; vi) **Develop and operationalize a PRTR system**; vii) **Build the necessary capacity to assess, monitor and prepare for the disposal of remaining PCBs in the country**; viii) **Build capacity of transformer maintenance/repair shops to keep cross-contamination to a minimum**; ix) **Design and implement a National Awareness Raising Campaign** to raise awareness among stakeholders on SMC and disseminate lessons-learned and experiences for replication purposes.

Project sustainability is also ensured by the elimination and sound disposal of 5,470 MT of hazardous chemicals and empty pesticide containers, the remediation of contaminated sites, and the introduction of safer alternatives to new/industrial POPs. Such interventions will ensure that these chemicals will never again be able to impact human health or the environment as their threats have been removed.

National ownership will be ensured by assigning the lead role for implementation of various project interventions and pilot projects to different government and private sector partners (See Table 4). Furthermore, the implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy (see Annex H) will also help the project and the lead implementing agency to better engage the project's stakeholders at key times, ensure commitment to project goals and instill a sense of ownership in the project's implementation and its results.

Potential for scaling-up: The potential for scale-up is immense. Firstly, based on the most recent PCB inventory, over 15,000 metric tons (MT) of pure PCB oils and PCBs-containing equipment still exist in the country. As part of Component 3, the project itself aims to eliminate and soundly dispose of 5,000 MT of PCBs over its life-span. To enable Argentina to phase-out (by 2025) and dispose of (by 2028), all remaining PCB-containing equipment as per the Stockholm Convention, the project will in addition update the national PCB inventory; complete a PCB disposal capacity assessment; undertake a feasibility study and prepare a financial plan for elimination of the entire national PCB inventory; and update/improve the National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs in line with the Stockholm Convention (Outcome 3.1). Putting in place this enabling environment for PCB elimination and disposal will allow for replication and scale-up across the country and the ultimate phase-out and disposal of remaining PCBs by the Stockholm deadlines.

Additional scale-up opportunities will arise from the four (4) pilots (implemented as part of Component 2). Each of these pilot projects will implement interventions to manage and dispose of challenging waste streams, and experience from these pilots is expected to be scaled-up or replicated to other provinces, other countries, other types of chemicals/wastes, larger volumes, among other possibilities. The 5 pilot projects on the management and disposal of 350 MT of elemental mercury from the mining sector; 20 MT of waste that contains or is contaminated with mercury; 100 MT of obsolete pesticides (POPs and HHPs); and, pesticide containers will result in detailed insights into various feasible technical solutions and the financial feasibility of applied approaches while building hands-on experience of involved stakeholders. After the successful implementation of these pilot projects, systems and expertise will be in place to scale-up and replicate efforts.

Also, as part of Component 2, the project will conduct an assessment on the use of hazardous chemicals in industry and undertake technical and economic feasibility studies on potential substitutes for newly listed and industrial POPs. Results from these assessments and studies will be used to scale-up the use of identified safer alternatives in industry. In addition, the strategy for the identification of contaminated sites that will be developed with project support and the experiences that will come out of the remediation of 1 – 4 contaminated sites as part of the project, will position Argentina to replicate similar interventions across the country.

[1] Universal waste is a category of waste materials designated as "hazardous waste", but containing materials that are very common, such as batteries, pesticides, mercury containing equipment, lamps, electronics, paints, anti-freeze, etc.

[2] To date 2 potential sites are being considered (1 DDT contaminated sites where currently stockpiles of obsolete DDT are kept; and 1 for petrochemical sites contaminated with lead for which lead blood levels in children hve already been undertaken) although a final decision on the number of contaminated sites to be selected, and the actual selection of sites, will be undertaken after the strategy has been completed and criteria for selection have been agreed upon

[3] The selection of the industrial zone where the PRTR system will be tested and applied (implementation of pilot project) will take place during the implemented of activity 2.2.1. For now, potential industrial zones that might be subject to the pilot project testing of the PRTR system are ACUMAR or Zarate-Campana.

[4] University of Buenos Aires: Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism (26 MT); National Service for Food Quality (SENASA) (6.5 MT); Argentine Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), Ezeiza, Buenos Aires Province (24 MT); Central Market of Buenos Aires (130 MT); Entity for Sports and Recreation – Mar del Plata City – Buenos Aires Province (5MT); Entity for Sport in Mendoza City - Mendoza Province (9 MT).

[5] University of Buenos Aires: Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism (26 MT); National Service for Food Quality (SENASA) (6.5 MT); Argentine Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), Ezeiza, Buenos Aires Province (24 MT); Central Market of Buenos Aires (130 MT); Entity for Sports and Recreation – Mar del Plata City – Buenos Aires Province (5MT); Entity for Sport in Mendoza City - Mendoza Province (9 MT).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Argentina (38.4161° S, 63.6167° W)

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed for this project can be found in Annex G of the UNDP Project Document

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Prior to developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the project undertook a Stakeholder Analysis which can also be found in Annex G. The Stakeholder Analysis describes the various stakeholders that have been identified to have an interest in the project. Table 3 (“Stakeholder Identification and Analysis”) in Annex G (and included here below) summarizes stakeholders’ concerns and expectations, recommendations for the project to address concerns and meet and/or manage stakeholder expectations and proposed means of communication with these stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

Name of Stakeholder	Key Concerns (C) and Expectations (E)	Recommendations	Means of Communication
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GOVERNMENT

Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Directorate of Chemicals

Directorate of Waste

Directorate of Monitoring and Prevention

Directorate of Environmental Quality

Directorate of Inspections

Directorate of Infractions

Directorate of Inter-Jurisdictional Affairs

Coordination of Environmental Information

Compliance with international commitments assumed (E)

Project to succeed (E)

Provide support to address capacity needs (E)

Support from all stakeholders (C)

Promoting dialogue and addressing all parties' needs

Regular reporting on the status and activities of the project

Mechanisms put in place to encourage the participation of all parties involved

Regularly organize roundtables to promote dialogue and exchange experiences

Face-to-face meetings

GOVERNMENT

Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers

GOVERNMENT

Other Ministries

Ministry of Production and Labor

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery

Secretariat of Mining Policy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

G. Directorate for International Cooperation

G. Directorate for Environmental Affairs

Ministry of Science and Technology

Secretariat of Science and Technology

Ministry of Health and Social Development

Ministry of Transport

Ministry of Security

Government Secretariat of Modernization

Government Secretariat of Energy

Effects on their responsibilities as a result of the project (C)

Provide support to address capacity needs (E)

Involvement in all stages of the project and their interests taken into consideration (E)

<p>GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Public Agencies</p> <p>Argentine Customs Office</p> <p>National Gendarmerie</p> <p>Super-intendency of Labor Risks</p> <p>Argentine Coast Guard</p> <p>National Agri-food Health and Quality Service (SENASA)</p> <p>National Register of Precursor Chemicals</p> <p>Organismo de Control de Energía Eléctrica de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (OCEBA)</p> <p>National Electricity Regulatory Agency (ENRE)</p> <p>Argentine Foreign Office</p>	<p>Effects on their responsibilities as a result of the project (C)</p> <p>Provide support to address capacity needs (E)</p> <p>Involvement in all stages of the project and their interests taken into consideration (E)</p>		<p>Regularly organize roundtables to promote dialogue and exchange experiences</p> <p>Face-to-face meetings</p>
<p>GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Local -Provincial- Governments</p>	<p>Effects on their local communities as a result of the project (C)</p> <p>Effects on their responsibilities as a result of the project (C)</p> <p>Provide support to address capacity needs (E)</p> <p>Involvement in all stages of the project and their interests taken into consideration (E)</p>		<p>Meetings within COFEMA</p> <p>Face-to-face meetings with government entities involved in specific project activities</p> <p>Workshops and training events</p>

ACADEMIA & RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America (CRBAS)

National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)

National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)

Argentine Standards and Certification Institute (IRAM)

National Institute of Women (INAM)

Argentine Toxicological Association (ATA)

Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS)

National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT)

National Council of Technical and Scientific Research (CONICET)

National Statistics Institute (INDEC)

Data quality (C)

Recognition of the time devoted to public service versus the time devoted to research (E)

Promoting a mindset of exchange and collaboration

Fostering better recognition of their work and contributions devoted to public service

Organization of roundtables to promote dialogue and the exchange of experiences

CONICET Ad-hoc groups such as Red de Seguridad Alimentaria (RSA); Red de Evaluación; Monitoreo de los Sistemas Acuáticos (REMAQUA)

Workshops

Organization of task groups and technical committees

CIVIL SOCIETY

NGOs

Taller Ecologista

Latam Pesticide Action Network (RAP-AL)

FARN

Health Care Without Harm

Argentinean Association of Doctors for
the Environment (AAMMA)

Los Verdes

Ecohouse

CIVIL SOCIETY

National Ombudsman Office

Transparency of decision-making and communication
processes (E)

Transparency in data reporting that can influence decision-
making (E)

Ensuring there is access to
information for every
organization whenever they
request it

Organization of
roundtables to promote
dialogue and the
exchange of experiences

Face-to-face meetings

PRIVATE SECTOR

Chambers of Industry

Chamber of Agricultural Health and Fertilizers (CASAFE)

Chamber of Fertilizers and Agrochemicals (CIAFA)

Argentine Chamber of Chemical Products

Argentine Chamber of Plastic Recycling Industry (CAIRPLAS)

Chamber of Environmental Enterprises

PRIVATE SECTOR

Energy Generation and Distribution

Electric Energy Generators (grouped under AGEERA)

Electric Energy Distributors (grouped under ADEERA)

Electric Energy Transporters (grouped under ATEERA)

Electricity Wholesale Market Administrator Company (CAMMESA)

PCB's Treatment Companies

Argentine Federation of Electricity Cooperatives (FACE)

PRIVATE SECTOR

Private Companies

Barrick Argentina

INDUPA

Effects on their businesses as a result of the project (C)

Provide support to address capacity needs (E)

Involvement in all stages of the project and their interests taken into consideration (E)

To enable the private sector to comply with rules and regulations to avoid penalties (E)

Establishing incentives to ensure cooperation

Via industrial chambers

Organization of roundtables to promote dialogue and the exchange of experiences

Face-to-face meetings

Targeted campaigns

Workshops and training events

<p>BENEFICIARIES</p> <p>Vulnerable Population Groups</p> <p>Rural population groups exposed to agrochemical contamination due proximity</p> <p>Pesticides applicators working in informality</p> <p>Population groups living near contaminated sites</p> <p>Population groups exposed to potential releases by accident</p> <p>Working population groups exposed to hazardous chemical substances</p> <p>Population groups particularly exposed (e.g. to mercury-contaminated food)</p>	<p>Impacts on their lifestyles and health brought on by the management of chemical substances (C)</p> <p>For them to be acknowledged and their concerns to be considered (E)</p> <p>Access to information and ability to engage (E)</p> <p>Governments and industry leaders correcting deviations (E)</p>	<p>A deep understanding of each population group in order to remain clear and accessible to them.</p> <p>Human-centered methodologies could help empathize with them.</p>	<p>Targeted campaigns</p> <p>Workshops</p>
<p>BENEFICIARIES</p> <p>General Public</p>	<p>Impacts on their lifestyles and health brought on by the management of chemical substances (C)</p> <p>For them to be acknowledged and their concerns to be considered (E)</p> <p>Access to information and ability to engage (E)</p> <p>Governments ensuring general wellbeing (E)</p>	<p>Clear, engaging and accessible communication, in relevant languages and formats</p>	<p>Public information</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>Internet</p>

The main project stakeholders identified by the stakeholder analysis have been summarized in the Table below. Following the stakeholder analysis, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed. The plan (see Table below) describes the various activities and engagement strategies through which the project aims to engage the project's stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Stakeholder Group	Project involvement /affected by	Engagement Strategy
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1. Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Responsible and accountable for leading and managing the project

1a) Assess an integrated approach to the management of the activities designed for the project that include information dissemination, management training and awareness raising for all project stakeholders.

1b) Strengthen data and information exchange between stakeholders through existing inter-ministerial dialogue roundtables, ensuring every participant can contribute and will be heard.

1c) On a regular basis, inform all stakeholders on project progress.

1d) Organizing a roundtable on Gender Dialogues, with the aim of ensuring that there is a tool for considering recommendations, suggestions, proposals and points of view on the activities to be implemented by the project (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).

1e) Raise awareness on gender perspectives and how to incorporate gender mainstreaming in all project activities, whenever possible (for further details please refer to the Gender Annex).

1f) Conduct an assessment on successful regulations pertaining to the management of hazardous chemical substances that other countries have developed and are implementing. This assessment would support learning but will also function as a tool to engage in conversation with different stakeholders regarding outcome 1.1 activities.

1g) Consider the feasibility of strengthening the information obtained from all project data collection related activities (national registers, national surveys, trainings) with adding information/date on sex, age, roles, among else.

1h) Increase access to information and training for National and Local Environmental Inspectors through the development and implementation of the enforcement capacities Training Plan (activity 1.3.1). Survey their needs and interests in advance in order to address them during the training sessions.

<p>2. Other Ministries</p>	<p>Can play a direct role by strengthening the life cycle management of chemicals within industries:</p> <p>Support and promote the development of standards and agreements for the life cycle management of chemicals in industry</p> <p>Promote cleaner production activities and industrial conversion activities</p> <p>Facilitate the interaction and engagement of the private sector</p> <p>Actively participate in the interventions designed for this project</p>	<p>2a) Monitor the needs and requirements of all ministries involved in the project to ensure their cooperation and buy-in and provide required project assistance to increase capacity.</p> <p>2b) Raise awareness and train on the sound management of chemicals, in order to enhance the process cooperation among all concerned stakeholders/ministries and support compliance of the country with international commitments through the development and implementation of the national and local governments Training Plan (activity 1.3.1)</p> <p>2c) Raise awareness of ministry stakeholders on gender perspectives and how to mainstream gender into project activities whenever possible (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).</p> <p>2d) Jointly review or develop regulatory measures.</p> <p>2e) Strengthen the dialogue with Environmental Education and Public Engagement Directorate in order to improve environmental education related to chemicals.</p>
<p>3. Public Agencies</p>	<p>Can play a direct role by strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity pertaining to the life cycle management of chemicals.</p>	<p>3a) Monitor the needs and requirements of all involved in chemical substances control to ensure their cooperation, buy-in and to provide project assistance in meeting their obligations and increase capacity.</p> <p>3b) Jointly review or develop regulatory measures.</p>

<p>4. Local- Provincial- Governments</p>	<p>Can play a direct role by strengthening regulations, standards and requirements for environmental protection set by Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development and ensuring their implementation in their respective territories;</p> <p>providing information for national inventories;</p> <p>supporting the design and implementation of pilot projects; and, participating in training activities.</p>	<p>4a) Monitor the needs of local/provincial parties/stakeholders and their capacities to contribute to the project. These surveys, carried out periodically, can inform the design of a support network that allows each local government to meet their obligations.</p> <p>4b) Create incentives and acknowledgment for those local/provincial parties that are already fulfilling their commitments. In this regard, the promotion of their individual achievements as a part of the national awareness campaign may represent a significant contribution.</p> <p>4c) Raise awareness and train on the sound management of chemicals, in order to enhance the process cooperation among all concerned stakeholders/ministries and support compliance of the country with international commitments through the development and implementation of the national and local governments Training Plan (activity 1.3.1)</p> <p>4e) Raise awareness on gender perspectives and how to mainstream gender into project activities whenever possible (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex)</p> <p>4f) Jointly review or develop regulatory measures.</p>
<p>5. Academia</p>	<p>Collaborate on building knowledge related to the life cycle management of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals and support the enhancement of national capacities.</p>	<p>5a) Set up a task force within one or several academic institutions to monitor and survey progress on priority issues, as well as develop specific activities within the project.</p> <p>5b) Assess stakeholder involvement on technical support and definitions in legal framework development.</p> <p>5c) Assess stakeholder involvement on the development of a “science to policy” mechanism.</p>

6. Civil Society	Collaborate on generating and disseminating information, as well as raising awareness on POP's, mercury and other hazardous chemicals.	<p>6a) Prepare a quick assessment of civil society initiatives of interest to the project, which the project could learn from or build on.</p> <p>6b) Encourage organizations to play a role in specific assessments or data collection that could contribute to the project.</p> <p>6c) Assess the involvement of new civil organizations and women's organizations of interest to the project in order to enrich the project's dialogue roundtables.</p> <p>6d) Encourage civil society and women organizations to provide advise on how to improve the project's concept and implementation strategy from a gender equality perspective (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).</p>
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7. Private Sector	Can play a substantial role by providing data on production, consumption, emissions, wastes etc. as a result of their activities and through implementation and participation in the project's interventions and pilot projects.	<p>7a) Provide incentives and acknowledgment to those organizations that are fulfilling their commitments. The promotion of their individual achievements as a part of the national awareness campaign may provide a significant incentive for others to do the same.</p> <p>7b) Design campaigns for internal use within private sector entities to educate and raise awareness on the sound management of chemicals, focusing on the specificities of the industries concerned. A gender perspective module should be included in this campaign.</p> <p>7c) Establish enabling mechanisms within the various industries concerned to support the creation of women groups (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).</p> <p>7d) Identify the main relevant industry leaders that should be engaged and design a campaign to raise awareness on the sound management of chemicals, enhancing cooperation among all private sector entities involved in the project and support compliance of the country with international commitments. Gender perspective should be a part of the communication (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).</p> <p>7e) Raise awareness and train on the sound management of chemicals, in order to enhance the process cooperation among all concerned private sectors and support compliance of the country with international commitments through the development and implementation of the private sector Training Plan (activity 1.3.1)</p>
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8. Vulnerable Population Groups

Rural population groups exposed to agrochemical contamination due to their proximity to agricultural lands.

Informal workers engaged in the application of pesticides.

Population groups living and/or working near contaminated sites.

Population groups exposed to potential accidental releases.

Working population groups who are exposed to hazardous chemical substances in their work environment or due to their occupations.

Population groups which are particularly exposed (e.g. to mercury-contaminated fish)

8a) Assess and understand the degree of relevance to the project of each vulnerable population group and ensure there are no groups which remain unidentified.

8b) Assess the implementation of human-centered methodologies to increase understanding of these communities and to co-create better solutions with them.

8c) Raise awareness on the impact of hazardous chemicals on the environment and on human health, how women and men are impacted differently and through different routes and what governments and other sectors are doing to address these issues (further details have been provided in the Gender Annex).

<p>9. General Public</p>	<p>Exposed to chemical substances (some of which might be hazardous) that are contained in products used in daily life.</p> <p>Can play a direct role in reducing the release of chemicals contained in everyday products, by supporting the use of safer alternatives and practicing sound waste management.</p>	<p>9a) Design a national communication strategy to promote a clear understanding of the sound management of chemicals, raise awareness on the impact of hazardous chemicals on the environment and on human health, how women and men are impacted differently and through different routes, what governments and other sectors are doing to address these issues and the steps every individual can take to reduce exposure to hazardous chemical substances.</p> <p>9b) Raise awareness on the global impact of our individual actions and disseminate information on safer alternatives which are being promoted/introduced with government support, as well as ways on how to dispose of spent products containing hazardous chemicals.</p> <p>9c) Involve all stakeholders (national government, provinces, academia, civil society) in the dissemination of the same campaign content which will help build up trust among the general public.</p>
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In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Details can be found in Annex G of the UNDP Project Document

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

During the Project Preparation Phase, a Gender Analysis (see Annex H of the UNDP Project Document) was conducted by a national gender expert. The objective of the gender analysis followed by the development of the Gender Action Plan is to warrant that the gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the project to ensure that women and men have equitable access to the benefits and opportunities resulting from the project's planned activities, and that gender inequalities are not perpetuated during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project's components.

Based on the outcomes of the Gender Analysis, a Gender Action Plan was formulated to help design project interventions (component/outcomes and activities) that would contribute towards women empowerment and to overcoming gender inequality. The Gender Action Plan can be found in Annex I and

has been developed in line with the recently launched Equal Opportunities and Rights Plan – PIOD (2018-2020) developed by the National Women's Institute (INAM).

The findings from the gender analysis and the interventions proposed as part of the Gender Action Plan have been integrated into the project's strategy, theory of change and results framework.

Course of Action	Gender related activity	Indicator / How to Bring it to life	Mid Term Target	End Of Project Target
Course of Action 1: Capacity building for gender mainstreaming (4 activities) Key audience: Project Technical Team & key Project Decision Makers Main Goal: Raise awareness on gender issues				

<p>1.1 Include within the operational structure of the project a technical consultant responsible for gender issues.</p>	<p>The successful hiring of a technical consultant responsible for gender issues to participate in the implementation phase of the project.</p>	<p>1 technical consultant responsible for gender issues hired.</p>	<p>1 technical consultant responsible for gender issues hired.</p>
<p>1.2 Include a “Gender Module” in all training and capacity building programmes developed within the framework of the project.</p>	<p>Design a module with basic concepts regarding gender and chemical substances, for use during all stakeholder workshops and other training activities planned as part of the project’s implementation.</p>	<p>The design and development of gender content related to hazardous chemicals.</p>	<p>The Gender module included in all training and capacity building programs</p>
<p>1.3 Establish a women’s only roundtable.</p>	<p>Map the various relevant sectors and the different roles women (can) play in those sectors. Identify influential women linked to project activities.</p>	<p>6 roundtables organized. 120 women from several sectors and roles invited.</p>	<p>15 roundtables organized. 250 women from several sectors and roles invited.</p>
<p>1.4 Develop and implement gender capacity development trainings for project staff.</p>	<p>Schedule 1 meeting per project year with project staff (including management). All of these meetings would preferably be facilitated by the gender focal point responsible for gender issues engaged by the project.</p>	<p>3 meetings with project team facilitated by gender focal point.</p>	<p>6 meetings with project team facilitated by gender focal point.</p>
<p>Course of Action 2: Visibilization and empowerment of women (<i>4 activities</i>)</p> <p>Key audience: Women coming in contact with the hazardous chemical substances addressed by the project</p> <p>Main Goal: Undertake activities to ensure that women's voices are taken into account</p>			

<p>2.1 Awareness raising workshops (including topics such as masculinities, women's leadership and empowerment, gender roles and stereotypes, etc.) for men and women who are part of vulnerable and potentially affected population groups</p>	<p>Women and men working in agriculture, industry, electricity generation, waste collection, recycling and management, among other sectors relevant to the project's activities.</p>	<p>100 sensitized people: 60 female + 40 male.</p>	<p>250 sensitized people: 150 female + 100 male.</p>
<p>2.2 Incorporate the gender perspective approach into all decision-making mechanisms where ideas with project stakeholders are generated and/or exchanged.</p>	<p>Ensure that a gender specialist and/or a recognized feminist related to the main focus of the project is invited to collaborate in the round table meetings.</p>	<p>1 gender specialist participates each time a round table is organized.</p>	<p>1 gender specialist participates each time a round table is organized.</p>
<p>2.3 Establish mechanisms to provide support for the creation of women groups in the different sectors in which the project will support activities.</p>	<p>The creation/establishment of 3 women groups related to project areas of interest, to help them create networks and strengthen their autonomy. For example: Women and energy (PCB), women and agriculture (POP) women and health (Mercury).</p>	<p>3 women group meetings promoted by the project.</p>	<p>9 women group meetings promoted by the project.</p>
<p>2.4 Involve a Civil Society Organization related to women's rights in project activities.</p>	<p>Identify the concerns of Civil Society Organizations about the impact of the chemical substances and gender inequalities.</p>	<p>A list of the 5 most prominent Civil Society Organizations on women's rights whose interests may touch upon the fundamental goals of this project.</p>	<p>At least 1 Civil Society Organization involved in the project.</p>

Activities for Course of Action 3: Conduct a National Survey (7 activities)

Key audience: Women and men coming in contact with the hazardous chemical substances addressed by the project

Main Goal: Gather information on gender and hazardous chemicals substances addressed by the project and measure the participation, empowerment and the living and working conditions of women related to such substances.

<p>3.1 Carry out a national baseline survey related to gender, environment and hazardous chemicals.</p>	<p>Design the survey and development plan in stages to achieve a national scope.</p>	<p>1 National Survey designed.</p>	<p>1 National Survey designed and implemented.</p>
<p>3.2 An assessment applying qualitative research methods complementary to the national baseline survey could be undertaken.</p>	<p>A research team/specialist hired to carry out field work.</p>	<p>1 Research report.</p>	<p>1 research report and 1 article published.</p>
<p>3.3 The creation of a National Inventory that provides an overview of past and existing research projects related to gender and the chemical substances addressed by the project.</p>	<p>Survey the research projects registered in national institutes, doctoral theses, etc. (CONICET, UBA, UTN, among others).</p>	<p>2 National and Regional Institutions surveyed.</p>	<p>5 National and Regional Institutions surveyed.</p>
<p>3.4 Communication campaign directed at private sector leaders and management levels.</p>	<p>Creation and implementation of the campaign.</p>	<p>Communication campaign designed and implemented in 3 different industries.</p>	<p>Communication campaign implemented (at least 10 industries sensitized).</p>
<p>3.5 A Communication campaign ("The environment has gender") directed at the Secretariat of Environment and other Ministries, national agencies and government stakeholders involved in the project</p>	<p>The creation and execution of the campaign.</p>	<p>Communication campaign designed and implemented for government (national, local and other government stakeholders). 1,000 people sensitized (at least 50% women)</p>	<p>Communication campaign implemented for government (national, local and other government stakeholders). 2,500 people sensitized (at least 50% women)</p>

3.6 A communication campaign targeting workers in relevant industries, who live around contaminated sites, who handle materials or are in direct contact with substances addressed by the project.	The creation and execution of the campaign considering the development and distribution of brochures with information regarding POPs, Mercury and PCB (based on National survey results).	1 brochure developed.	3 brochures developed.
3.7 If possible gender issues will be considered in the Communication Campaign aimed at the general public	Identify the main gender concepts to be communicated as part of the national communications campaign.	2 communication events (one per each project year).	5 communication events (one per each project year).

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The project has a significant number of private sector partners (see also section 2 "Stakeholders"). A good indicator of private sector engagement in the project's implementation is that 60% of the project's co-financing (~ 34 million US\$) is being provided by the private sector. Of this amount, 82% is grant co-financing.

Private sector partners are involved in the implementation of the Pilot Projects (I, II, III, IV and V), the disposal of the 5,000 MT of PCBs, the implementation of the PRTR system, introduction of POPs-free alternatives, among other activities, either as lead implementor, project partner, contractor or beneficiary (e.g. Waste generator, Industry, Waste Operator, Waste Transporter, Waste Recycler, etc.).

The private sector partners who are engaged in the project's implementation can be grouped as follows:

Chambers of Industry:

- § Chamber of Agricultural Health and Fertilizers (CASAFE)
- § Chamber of Fertilizers and Agrochemicals (CIAFA)
- § Argentine Chamber of Chemical Products
- § Argentine Chamber of Plastic Recycling Industry (CAIRPLAS)
- § Chamber of Environmental Enterprises

Energy Generation and Distribution (involved in the phase-out and disposal of PCB containing electrical equipment):

- § PCB Treatment Companies (E.g. Tredi, Vairo, Martini Recovering)
- § Electric Energy Generators (grouped under AGEERA)
- § Electric Energy Distributors (grouped under ADEERA)
- § Electric Energy Transporters (grouped under ATEERA)
- § Electricity Wholesale Market Administrator Company (CAMMESA)
- § Argentine Federation of Electricity Cooperatives (FACE)

Private Companies (responsible for the generation of hazardous wastes, treatment/disposal, recycling, etc.)

§ Veladero Gold Mine in Valle del Cura - Barrick Argentina

§ INDUPA - Unipar-Indupa (UI) - a Chlor-Alkali facility

§ Companies treating hazardous waste (Batreco, K+S Herfa Neurode, Desler-Ipes Group (IPES))

§ Pesticide containers/plastic recyclers.

Industrial zones (participation in the PRTR pilot project's implementation):

§ ACUMAR or

§ Zarate-Campana industrial zone

As such it can be concluded that Private Sector Engagement for this project is significant.

5. Risks

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The project has identified a number of potential risks (listed in the table below) as well as proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.

The same risks table can be found in the Project Document in Chapter V “*Results and Partnerships*” in the subsection “*Risks and Assumptions*”.

Description	Type	I & P	Countermeasures / Management Response	Owner	Status
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<p>Risk 1: The project may exclude affected stakeholders and potentially marginalized groups participating in decision making regarding the selection of contaminated sites for decontamination/remediation.</p>	Strategic	I = 4 P = 2	<p>During the selection of contaminated sites for remediation/decontamination and/or the contracting of hazardous waste operators for project related treatment/disposal activities, surrounding communities will be closely involved and engaged through the stakeholder engagement plan that has already been prepared. The plan aims to ensure effective engagement between various stakeholders by creating and disseminating information, fostering cooperation, and enhancing capacities. Stakeholders identified include representatives from central and local government, private sector, NGOs and civil society, academia and research institutions, vulnerable population groups and the general public.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
<p>Risk 2: Change of Government, will might result in new management and technical appointees within entities that are project partner, requiring additional efforts to ensure buy-in for project support, which might slow down the speed of project implementation at the start of the project.</p>	Political	I = 4 P = 4	<p>In the situation that this would happen, technical personnel from SAyDS, UNDP CO staff and the UNDP Panama RTA will do their utmost to inform and convince new decision makers on the importance of the project, the reasons why it was developed and the positive impact it will have on human health and the environment in Argentina.</p> <p>Furthermore, to ensure a speedy start of the project, the LPAC will be held just after submission to the GEFSEC and the project document will be signed as soon as CEO endorsement has been granted presumably before the end of the year. Furthermore, the project's coordinator and technical consultants will continue to be engaged and paid by the project using PPG funds, so they can make the necessary preparations for the project's launch (work and budget planning, preparing TORs and preparing for recruitment and procurement processes, detailing of pilot projects, etc.).</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
<p>Risk 3: Inflation keeps increasing, jeopardizing the purchasing power of PCB holders, resulting in holders disposing of fewer tonnes of PCBs than initially planned jeopardizing achievement of project targets.</p>	Financial	I = 3 P = 3	<p>During the development of the project, co-financing pledged from the private sector and in particular PCB holders was significant. Based on co-financing commitments received and PCB disposal targets that could be achieved with this co-financing, the project shifted excess budget allocations from Comp 3 to Comp 2. However, if indeed the economic situation in Argentina impacts to a great extent the achievement of the project PCB targets, the project will likely reallocate funding from Comp 2 to Comp 3 to ensure that project PCB targets will be met.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change

<p>Risk 4: The project could reproduce existing discriminations against women through excluding them from decision-making on project components and capacity building initiatives.</p>	Strategic	I = 3 P = 3	<p>During the development of the project, a Gender Analysis and Action Plan was prepared. The plan focuses on three objectives as part of the project: i) Capacity building for gender mainstreaming; ii) Visibilization and empowerment of women; and iii) Information gathering regarding gender and hazardous chemicals by conducting a National Survey. The proposed actions to support these objectives will be undertaken to address the identified risk and leverage it for multiple benefits. Opportunities for improving the lives of women and girls were identified in the Gender Analysis and built into the design of the project. Full details of those measures can be found in Annex H of the Project Document.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
<p>Risk 5: The remediation of contaminated sites, the decommissioning of mercury-cells at the Chlor-Alkali facility, the extraction and packaging of hazardous waste for disposal/treatment abroad (POPs pesticides, HHPs, elemental mercury) and the treatment of hazardous wastes at national level (empty pesticide containers, obsolete pesticides, mercury containing wastes) with project support may pose potential health and safety risks to workers involved in these processes as well as local communities in the project areas.</p>	Environmental Health	I = 4 P = 2	<p>Based on initial assessments and consultations, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed for the project. In line with the ESMF, an ESMP will be developed in accordance with IFC Health and Safety Guidelines, once contaminated sites have been identified and project activities for the remediation of such sites, as well as the removal, packaging, transport, export, treatment/disposal of hazardous wastes have been further defined.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
<p>Risk 6: The project may pose a risk to community health and safety due to the transport and interim storage of hazardous chemicals (PCBs, POPs pesticides, HHPs, Mercury).</p>	Environmental Health	I = 3 P = 1	<p>Based on initial assessments and consultations, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed addressing this risk and proposing measures to avoid chemical hazard exposure to the public during storage and transportation in accordance with IFC Health and Safety Guidelines.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
<p>Risk 7: The project may pose risks to occupational health and safety due to exposure to harmful chemicals during decontamination of sites, transport and interim storage of chemicals and their treatment/final disposal. Workers may also be exposed to risk of accidents and physical injuries on the job.</p>	Health	I = 4 P = 2	<p>Based on initial assessments and consultations, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed for the project. In line with the ESMF, an ESMP will be developed addressing the occupational health and safety risks in accordance with IFC Health and Safety Guidelines.</p>	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change

Risk 8: As the project will lead to employment opportunities in hazardous conditions, the risk of child labor, which is prevalent in the target country, exists, in contravention to principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions.	Health	I=4 P=1	Based on initial assessments and consultations, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed for the project. In line with the ESMF, an ESMP will be developed in order to ensure employment in accordance with International Labour Standards on Child labour.	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
Risk 9: Some project activities may potentially result in the accidental release of POPs, HHPs, mercury or PCBs into the environment due to improper handling, storage, transport and treatment/disposal of these chemicals.	Environmental Health	I = 4 P = 2	Based on initial assessments and consultations, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed for the project. In line with the ESMF, an ESMP will be developed on handling and transport of chemicals in accordance with IFC Health and Safety Guidelines.	SAyDS - UNDP	No Change
Risk 10: Currency risk and inflation effects are a variable in Argentina macroeconomics. Currency devaluation makes daily monitoring of project balance highly relevant.	Operational	I = 3 P = 3	UNDP monitors expenditure on a day to day basis. Further UNDP HQ provides global oversight of project delivery minimizing the risk of operational risk due to currency risks.	UNDP	No Change

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The same text has been provided in the Project Document’s Chapter VI “Project Management” and Chapter IX “Governance and Management Arrangements”

Institutional arrangements for project implementation:

The project will be implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring and use the offices of the Secretariat of Environmental and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) located on San Martín 451, Buenos Aires (C1004AAI).

The Substances and Chemicals Directorate (under SAyDS) will ensure the coordination for the implementation of this project along with the implementation of other chemicals and waste projects that may complement and contribute to the LCM of chemicals and that are being implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring.

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism: The project will be implemented following UNDP's national implementation modality, according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Argentina, *signed on February 26th, 1985 and approved by Law No. 23.396 on October 10th, 1986* and the Country Programme.

The **Implementing Partner** for this project is *Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS)*. The Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for:

- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

The project organisation structure is as follows:

Project Manager:

Substances and Chemicals Directorate

Project Board/Steering Committee

Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Three Tier Project Assurance (country, regional and global)

UNDP Argentina, Regional Technical Advisor, Principal Technical Advisor

Project Support

Executing Unit: Sectorial and Special Programmes and Projects Coordination

Administrative / Financial team

Project Organization Structure

Technical Teams: Waste, Emissions & Releases, Contaminated Sites, Chemicals, Monitoring, Enforcement

Project Executive:

Secretariat of environmental monitoring and control - Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

Development Partner:

UNDP Resident Representative

A Project Board will be established for this project. It will be composed of: a representative of the Secretariat for Foreign Coordination and Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult as a Government Coordinating Body, a representative of UNDP and a representative of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development designated as Implementing Partner. The Project Directorate will be chaired by the Implementation Partner.

The Project Board will be responsible of: a) approving and signing of the Multiannual Project Work Plan, b) Monitor the development of the Project, c) Approve the budget and substantive revisions and d) Approve the technical and financial reports. The Projects Directorate will meet at least once per calendar year, and extraordinarily when one of its members requires it.

The Secretariat for External Coordination and Planning participates in the Project Directorate in its role as Government Coordinating Body to ensure the alignment of the project to national priorities and is responsible for the overall supervision of the achievement of the project products.

Project Board: The Project Board (also called Project Steering Committee) is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the project manager;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;

- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF;
 - Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;
 - Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;
 - Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
 - Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;
 - Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
 - Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
- Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;
- Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Address project-level grievances;
- Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:

Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive is: Secretariat of Environmental monitoring and control - Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Beneficiary Representative: Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representative(s) can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representative is: Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development & Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Development Partner: Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is UNDP.

Project Assurance: UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality

assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides a three – tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of the Project Management function.

Project Manager: The Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Board within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager’s prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

The Implementing Partner appoints the Project Manager, who should be different from the Implementing Partner’s representative in the Project Board.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Provide direction and guidance to project team(s)/ responsible party (ies);
- Liaise with the Project Board to assure the overall direction and integrity of the project;
- Identify and obtain any support and advice required for the management, planning and control of the project;
- Responsible for project administration;
 - Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the project results framework and the approved annual workplan;
 - Mobilize personnel, goods and services, training and micro-capital grants to initiative activities, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors’ work;
 - Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring schedule plan/timetable, and update the plan as required;
 - Manage requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP, through advance of funds, direct payments or reimbursement using the fund authorization and certificate of expenditures;
 - Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
 - Be responsible for preparing and submitting financial reports to UNDP on a quarterly basis;
 - Manage and monitor the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log;
 - Capture lessons learned during project implementation;
 - Prepare the annual workplan for the following year; and update the Atlas Project Management module if external access is made available.

- Prepare the GEF PIR and submit the final report to the Project Board;
- Based on the GEF PIR and the Project Board review, prepare the AWP for the following year.
- Ensure the mid-term review process is undertaken as per the UNDP guidance, and submit the final MTR report to the Project Board.
- Identify follow-on actions and submit them for consideration to the Project Board;
- Ensure the terminal evaluation process is undertaken as per the UNDP guidance, and submit the final TE report to the Project Board;

The head of the Implementation Partner will serve as the National Director of the Project. Among the responsibilities of the Implementation Partner there are: the planning and general management of the activities of the Project, the presentation of reports and accounting, the supervision of the other parties responsible for the implementation and the administration and audit of the use of project resources. Therefore, the National Project Director is responsible to the Project Board for:

- a) The project's management and results, the achievement of its objectives, the use of its resources and the application of the rules and procedures.
- b) The custody and proper use of the project inputs, and will provide, in accordance with the instructions in this document, the necessary advice on its use.
- c) The presentation of financial reports and respond for the custody and appropriate use of project funds.
- d) The supervision of the responsible parties (if applicable).

The following activities are responsibility of the National Director of the Project and cannot be delegated in any case: a) Signature of the Project Document and its respective revisions, b) Signature/Conformity of the Combined Statement of Expenses (CDR) and Financial Reports (FACE), c) Performance the opening and management of the project's bank account (if applicable).

The National Project Director may designate a Coordinator who will be responsible for project management. The Coordinator will report to the National Director for the coordination, management, planning and supervision of the work teams and preparation of reports. The Ministry of Foreign Coordination and Planning will perform, together with UNDP, its appointment of that position.

Technical Team: The **Technical Team** will consist of different technical areas from the Secretariat of Control and Environmental Monitoring. This team will ensure the proper and suitable assistance in every area involved in chemicals life cycle management. The following areas needs to be included: Waste, Enforcement, Emissions & Releases, Contaminated Sites, Chemicals and Monitoring.

Governance role for project target groups: The Project Manager will ensure the engagement of target groups in decision making for the project by following the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, where a stakeholder identification and analysis was carried out. This analysis includes concerns and expectations as well as recommendations in order to ensure that there is enough support for the project. This exercise helps build local ownership, strengthens project integrity and design, and helps create foundational relationships that may contribute to constructive problem solving if difficulties or challenging issues arise.

“National Implementation by the Government of Projects Supported by UNDP: Guidelines and Procedures” is the regulatory framework agreed between UNDP, the Secretariat for Foreign Coordination and Planning and the Implementation Associate for national implementation projects. Likewise, the provisions of the Country Program Action Plan apply to this document.

The beginning of the Project will take place when the contributions stipulated for its financing are available and that it is established as a financial obligation by the GEF, in accordance with the Multiannual Work Plan that is part of this Project Document. The financial resources of this Project will be managed according to the aforementioned Guide and during its implementation the activities will be adjusted to the level of contributions actually deposited, in accordance with the schedule in the Revenue Plan.

Transfers of funds to the Project will be made by UNDP as programmed in the Multiannual Work Plan using the following modality (ies):

- a) Funds transferred to the Project’s bank account.
- b) Direct payment to suppliers or third parties of the obligations contracted by the Project.

Administrative actions must be processed through the online Information System that operates through the establishment of simultaneous communications between the Project, the Secretariat for External Coordination and Planning and UNDP. For the use of the UEPEX system, the Implementing Partner authorizes UNDP and the Ministry of Coordination and External Planning to access a permanent visualization profile during the entire period of project implementation, making the necessary steps to register it.

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Planned Coordination with other relevant GEF financed projects and other initiatives:

The project will be implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring (under SAyDS), which is also responsible for the implementation of four (4) other Chemicals and Waste projects. The coordination for the implementation of this project along with the implementation of the other chemicals and waste projects that will complement and contribute to the LCM of chemicals and that are being implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring will be ensured. In this manner overlap is avoided and the efficient use of human resources as well as financial resources is warranted.

Projects that are also being implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring throughout the duration of this project, include:

- Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for the Environmental Management of Chemical Substances, which is being implemented with UNDP support (250,000 US\$). The program provides funding for institutional strengthening for the implementation of the Chemicals agenda in the country.
- Specific International Programme Trust Fund (250,000 US\$). Capacity Building Programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention (GEF Funded, UNIDO supported).
- Strengthening of National Capacities for Notification of Regulatory Measures on banned or restricted products based on scientific information (98,400 US\$), implemented with FAO support.
- GEF funded regional programme for Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries (9,500,000 US\$). The allocation for Argentina in the project's budget is US \$795,000 with an estimated duration of 60 months.

In addition, South-South cooperation plays an important part in informing the development and implementation of project interventions, while on the other hand (in collaboration with other Chemicals and Waste projects implemented by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring) outcomes and results from the project will inform and help advance similar initiatives in the region. On-going south-south collaboration initiatives that are being supported by the Secretariat for Control and Environmental Monitoring and that will continue to be supported by this project, include:

§ **MERCOSUR:** Mercosur is an association intended to promote trade among member states. It currently includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay as full members and other Latin American countries participating as associate members. Mercosur countries agree on the development of policies aimed at addressing a wide variety of issues, including the control of chemicals for specific end-uses (e.g. food contact materials or cosmetics). These are typically addressed as GMC (Grupo Mercado Común - Common Group Market) Resolutions, which are adopted by member states, however states generally establish additional requirements (e.g. registration procedures with specific national agencies).

Within the context of Mercosur, the working group on environmental issues (SGT N°6) recently approved (2018) a work plan on chemicals and waste management for the biennium 2019-2020. Among the activities included in the plan, regulatory cooperation on the development/improvement of chemicals regulations was included, as well as other important topics such as the management of contaminated sites, the use of GHS, and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Currently the working group is focusing on a proposal for the revision of customs code (HS codes at the sub-region level) in order to properly identify imports and exports of products listed under the Conventions.

§ **Inter-Governmental Network for Chemicals and Waste Management under the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean:** This network recently approved a work plan and countries are cooperating and developing joint activities on several subjects related to the management of chemicals and waste: Governance; Information, SAICM; BRS; Mercury and Lead; and Waste.

§ **Brazil:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in place between Argentina and Brazil on regulatory cooperation on the design and development of chemicals and waste related regulations.

§ **Uruguay:** Argentina and Uruguay are in discussion on a proposal to work on chemicals management and implementation of the Chemicals and Waste Conventions. A general MOU is currently in place, but a more specific agreement is expected to be developed.

Finally, the project also build on projects which have been concluded but which will provide critical insights to achieve anticipated objectives:

- The GEF funded Minamata Initial Assessment (200,000 US\$) implemented by UNDP and executed by SAyDS, which was concluded in August 2019.
 - UNDP - GEF Environmentally Sound Management and disposal of PCBs in Argentina (3,400,000 US\$) approved in 2011 and successfully completed in 2018.
 - UNDP-GEF Global Healthcare Waste Project (2008-2013). This project assisted Argentina with the development of sustainable healthcare waste management practices to protect public health and the global environment from the impacts of dioxin and mercury releases.
 - The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (CRBAS) has been based in Argentina since 2005. It has provided technical support to projects for the environmental sound management of chemicals and waste mainly through training, information dissemination, awareness raising and technology transfer efforts.
 - UNEP-led project on Mercury Storage and Disposal in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010). Work was initiated to revise the country's legal framework for hazardous waste. The project also developed an initial mercury source inventory for the chlor-alkali, energy, and health sectors.
- UNEP-GEF NIP update for Argentina (2013-18). Update of the National Implementation Plan in Argentina to take into account the new POPs that have been included under the Stockholm Convention.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

No changes as compared to the original PIF.

This project is consistent and aligned with National Priorities taken up in the:

§ National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

§ Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

§ National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The project has been developed based on baseline information taken up in the recently updated (2018) National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the recently presented (August 2019) Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) report under the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Furthermore, SAICM priorities, as well as the ongoing process of revising SAICM objectives after 2020, have also been considered. Other national, regional and global strategies such as the recently developed Agreement of Principle 10 of the Rio declaration, the SDGs national implementation strategy and the OECD recommendations on chemicals and waste management, have also been taken into account.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Of the project's four components, one component (Component 4) has been dedicated to "*Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation*". Component 4 has a budget allocation of 631,000 US\$ and receives 2,800,000 US\$ in co-financing.

As part of Component 4, the project will i) Implement a Gender Action Plan (Annex I - Gender Analysis and Action Plan); implement awareness raising activities (detailed in Annex H - Stakeholder Engagement Plan) to raise the awareness of 4,800 people, of which 2,600 females and 2,200 males; and, Implement a National Communications Strategy, making use of social media, the preparation of publications, scientific papers, articles, lessons learned reports, among else. (detailed in Annex H "*Stakeholder Engagement Plan*").

In particular, knowledge will be gathered, managed and disseminated through the below listed activities which will capture lessons-learned and experiences and publish them in publications and lessons-learned reports. The timeframe for the implementation of these activities can be found in Annex A - Multi-year Work Plan (attached to the UNDP Project Document).

- Activity 1.2.1* Develop an analytical Capacity Building Plan (Capacity built for at least 20 National Labs)
- Activity 1.3.1* Develop and implement a training programme for enhanced compliance.
- Activity 2.1.3* Conduct a technical and economic feasibility study for potential substitutes of newly listed/industrial POPs
- Activity 2.1.4* Develop a strategy for the identification, management and remediation of contaminated sites (POPs, Hg and other hazardous substances)
- Activity 2.2.2* Implement a PRTR Pilot Project
- Activity 2.3.1* Implementation of one (1) Pilot Project on the management and disposal of 350 MT of mercury containing waste from the mining sector
- Activity 2.3.2* Implement one (1) pilot project to demonstrate the feasibility of the disposal of waste that contains or is contaminated with mercury (20 MT)
- Activity 2.3.3* Implement one (1) pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticides (POPs and HHP) (100 MT)
- Activity 2.3.4* Implement one (1) pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticide containers
- Activity 3.2.1* Design and implement a training plan for 100 transformer maintenance/repair shops
- Activity 3.2.2* Publish one (1) guideline
- Activity 3.3.1* Decontaminate and/or export national PCB stockpiles

In addition to that, it should be noted that UNDP annually organizes meetings for Government Officers and Project Coordinators of all the UNDP-GEF funded Chemicals and Waste Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. In these meetings, lessons learned, and best practices are shared among the countries which has created a coordination mechanism among all the projects in the region.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation. Describe the budgeted M & E plan.

The budgeted M&E plan has been summarized in the table below:

Mandatory GEF M&E Requirements and M&E Budget

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget[1] (US\$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
Inception Workshop	UNDP Country Office	11,000	\$11,000	Within two months of project document signature
Inception Report	Project Coordinator	None	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP	Project Coordinator	24,000		Quarterly, annually
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	UNDP Country Office	None	None	Annually before PIR
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	UNDP Country Office / UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Annually
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	Project Coordinator	None	None	Annually
Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant	Project Coordinator / SES Specialist	60,000		On-going
	UNDP Country Office / GEF Team		None	
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Project Coordinator	36,000	None	On-going
	UNDP Country Office	None		
Gender Action Plan	Project Coordinator / Gender Specialist	54,000.00	None	On-going
	UNDP Country Office	None	None	

	UNDP GEF team	None	None	
Addressing environmental and social grievances	Project Coordinator	None	None	On-going
	UNDP Country Office			
Project Board meetings	Project Steering Committee	7,900	None	At minimum annually
	UNDP Country Office			
	Project Coordinator			
Supervision missions	UNDP Country Office	None	None	N/A
Oversight missions	UNDP-GEF team	None	None	N/A
GEF Secretariat learning missions/site visits	UNDP Country Office and Project Coordinator and UNDP-GEF team	None	None	N/A
Mid-term GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by <i>(add name of national/regional institute if relevant)</i>	Project Coordinator	10,000	None	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and management response <i>(add name of national/regional institute if relevant)</i>	UNDP Country Office and Project team and UNDP-GEF team	30,000	None	Between 2nd and 3rd PIR.
Terminal GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by Project Coordinator	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A for GEF 7
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) included in UNDP evaluation plan, and management response	UNDP Country Office and Project team and UNDP-GEF team	30,000	None	At least three months before operational closure
Translation of MTR and TE reports into English	UNDP Country Office	5,000	None	As required. GEF will only accept reports in English.
TOTAL indicative COST		267,900	11,000	
Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses				

For additional details kindly refer to Chapter VIII “Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan” of the UNDP Project Document – on page 46.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The budgeted M&E plan has been summarized in the table below:

Mandatory GEF M&E Requirements and M&E Budget

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop	Implementing Partner Project Coordinator	\$11,000	Within two months of project document signature
Inception Report	Project Coordinator	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Coordinator will oversee national institutions/agencies charged with collecting results data.	\$24,000	Annually prior to GEF PIR. This will include GEF core indicators.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Regional Technical Advisor UNDP Country Office[1] Project Coordinator	None15	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring all risks (Atlas risk log)	Project Coordinator	<i>None</i>	On-going.
Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant	Project Coordinator	<i>\$60,000</i>	On-going.
Monitoring of stakeholder engagement plan	Project Coordinator/SES Specialist	\$36,000	On-going.
Monitoring of gender action plan	Project Coordinator/Gender Specialist	\$54,000	On-going.
Project Board Meetings	Implementing Partner Project Coordinator	<i>\$7,900</i>	Annually.
Reports of Project Board Meetings	Implementing Partner Project Coordinator	None	Annually.
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	Project Coordinator	None	Annually.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Supervision missions	UNDP Country Office ¹⁴	None ^[2]	Annually
Oversight missions	UNDP-GEF RTA and UNDP-GEF Directorate	None ¹⁵	Troubleshooting as needed
<i>Mid-term GEF and/or LDCF/SCCF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools</i>	<i>List name of institution/agency that will collect this data</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>Before mid-term review mission takes place.</i>
<i>Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and management response</i>	UNDP Evaluation Specialists and independent evaluation consultants.	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Add date included on cover page of Project Document</i>
Terminal GEF Core indicators	List name of institution/agency that will collect this data	None	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) and management response	UNDP Evaluation Specialists and independent evaluation consultants.	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Add date included on cover page of Project Document</i>
TOTAL indicative COST		\$262,900	

[1] Or equivalent for regional or global project

[2] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

For additional details kindly refer to Chapter VIII "Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan" of the UNDP Project Document – on page 45.

[1] Or equivalent for regional or global project

[2] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) of the project at the CEO endorsement stage, are the same as presented at the PIF stage. The positive impacts of the project will include the following reductions:

PCBs: Elimination of 5,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated materials.

Pesticides: 100 tonnes of POPs/HHPs pesticides will be eliminated/disposed of.

Mercury: 350 tonnes of elemental mercury will be treated/disposed of.

Mercury containing waste: 20 tonnes of mercury containing waste with the soundly treated/disposed of.

Pesticide containers: The amount of pesticide containers that will be soundly managed and recycled will be significantly increased.

Additional economic and social benefits that will be brought on by the project:

§ Reduced health impact from the exposure to hazardous chemicals, including PCBs, POPs pesticides, mercury, new industrial POPs, and other hazardous chemicals. The project aims to directly benefit 1,793,700 people, of which 921,401 females and 872,299 males.

§ Job creation through opportunities created in the waste treatment and recycling industry.

§ A general increase in awareness about the environmental impacts of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals, as well as gender dimensions related to chemicals. The project estimates to increase awareness of 4,800 people, of which 2,600 females and 2,200 males.

§ Improved policy, regulatory, monitoring and analysis frameworks, to safeguard human health and the environment.

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

<p>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-being” protecting local, regional and global populations from the health impact of hazardous chemicals; SDG 5 “Gender Equality” promoting gender perspective; SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation” protecting water resources from contamination; SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” supporting industry in reducing its harmful releases; SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” phasing out products containing harmful substances; SDG 14 “Life below water” safeguarding marine life from exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes.</p>					
<p>This project will contribute to the following country outcome included in the UNDAF/Country Programme Document: Outcome: 4 “By 2020, the country will have reinforced the sustainable management of natural resources and implemented adaptation and mitigation policies with respect to climate change and man-made damage, using a gender and intercultural approach”</p>					
<p>This project will be linked to the following output of the UNDP Strategic Plan: #4 SUSTAINABLE PLANET 1.4.1 Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains 1.4.1.2 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime: (f) Amount of chemicals reduced or disposed (metric tons)</p>					
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Data Collection Methods and Risks/Assumptions[1]
Project Objective: Minimize the risk posed by POPs, mercury and other hazardous	Number of tonnes (MT) of PCBs; Pesticides (POPs/HHP) and	The GEF/UNDP project’s PCB inventory estimated that over 15,000 metric tons (MT) of pure PCB oils and PCB-containing	1,500 MT of PCBs; 30 MT of Pesticides (POPs/HHP); and, 120 MT of mercury	5,000 MT of PCBs; 100 MT of Pesticides (POPs/HHP); and,	<i>Data sources:</i> Official reports from environmental authorities; Certified disposal certificates from treatment/disposal facilities.

<p>chemicals to human health and the environment and to promote compliance to the Stockholm and Minamata Convention in Argentina.</p>	<p>mercury contaminated waste eliminated.</p>	<p>equipment still exist in the country.</p> <p>The 2007 NIP identified at least three (3) deposits of obsolete pesticides, combined containing approximately 100 MT of POPs and Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).</p> <p>Argentina has a gold mine which extracts 70 MT of Hg/year as a by-product which should be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The mine currently has 400 MT of mercury in storage.</p> <p>Argentina's only remaining chlor-alkali plant using mercury cells technology has to manage its Hg waste in an environmentally sound manner and guarantee proper management of Hg contained in the mercury-cells until the end of its operations.</p> <p>Several cities are introducing energy saving lights on a large scale. Some spent lights contain Hg, however currently no sound disposal/treatment options are in place for such lamps.</p>	<p>contaminated waste eliminated.</p>	<p>370 MT of mercury contaminated waste eliminated.</p>	<p><i>Risks:</i> High costs for decontamination or export/disposal; Pledged co-financing by holders/disposal companies does not materialize; Unavailability of technologies; Insufficient local capacity for decontamination or export/disposal.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> Sufficient capacity and technology available in the country (if not waste can be exported); Fulfillment of co-financing commitments.</p>
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	0 direct project beneficiaries	0 direct project beneficiaries	591,921 beneficiaries (304,062 female + 287,859 male)	1,793,700 beneficiaries (921,401 female + 872,299 male)	<p><i>Data sources:</i> Training Certificates; Training Attendance Sheets; Population census of the areas where the project provided support; Reports on awareness activities and stakeholder engagement reported against figures presented in Annex U (Number of project beneficiaries & Number of people of whom awareness will be raised).</p> <p><i>Risks:</i> Challenges to determine who benefits directly or indicated from reduced chemicals exposure.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> The risk of exposure of communities living close to contaminated sites, industries, storage facilities for hazardous wastes, as well as people being exposed as a result of their professions to hazardous chemicals will be reduced as a result of the project.</p>
Component 1: Institutional strengthening of	1.1 Number of policies, regulations and/or standards for	The Argentinian Government has implemented various actions to improve and promote SMC.	Three (3) policies, regulations and/or standards	Eight (8) policies, regulations and/or standards	<i>Data sources:</i> Copies of draft and/or approved policies, regulations and/or standards

government and other stakeholders, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination	strengthening the national legal framework to support the management of hazardous chemicals.	However, some policies /regulations/standards should be developed or further improved in order to further strengthen the country's capacity for the LCM of hazardous chemicals. Annex N describes the current legal framework in Argentina and the gaps that should be addressed during the implementation of the project.	developed/enhanced to strengthen capacities in the LCM of hazardous chemicals.	developed/enhanced to strengthen capacities in the LCM of hazardous chemicals.	<p><i>Risks:</i> Hard to reach agreements between different national authorities; Lack of support from local authorities/private sector; Lengthy approval processes; Conflict of interests among relevant actors.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> The project creates through the implementation of its stakeholder engagement plan and gender action plan, as well as the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of project activities, sufficient opportunities for dialogue with relevant actors which facilitates reaching of agreements; The project will also reach an agreement with the executive power, to shorten the review and approval processes for legislative documentation.</p>
	National and local capacity for monitoring and analysis of hazardous chemicals in place, measured	REDNALAB (National Environmental Laboratory Network) is a network of 30 public/private laboratories that can conduct POPs analysis. Further enhancement of analytical	Chemical Monitoring Programme designed and 30% of Plan's activities implemented.	Analytical Capacity Building Plan and Chemical Monitoring Programme Implemented and 40	<i>Data sources:</i> Number of national laboratories registered in REDNALAB with capacity to analyze POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals. REDFEMA has a chemical monitoring programme in place.

	<p>by % of implementation of the Chemical Monitoring Programme and number of laboratories staff/technicians trained.</p>	<p>capacity for POPs, new hazardous substances and additional matrixes are needed, as well as expansion of the network to include new labs. REDFEMA (National Monitoring Network) provides country-wide environmental information on water and air quality but lacks a chemical monitoring programme.</p>	<p>Analytical Capacity Building Plan designed, and 15 laboratory staff/technicians trained.</p>	<p>laboratory staff/technicians trained (at least 20 females).</p>	<p><i>Risks:</i> REDNALAB: High costs for quality assurance (equipment, lab supplies, etc.); Risks for REDFEMA: Unwillingness of entities (who have data) to share data or for data to be communicated; data hard to harmonize.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> REDNALAB: Sufficient technical know-how to design and implement the analytical capacity building plan; the National Institute for National Technology (INTI) will support implementation through its National Quality System. REDFEMA: A lot of information is expected to be already available.</p>
	<p>1.3 National and Local Capacities for Regulations and Chemicals and Waste Conventions compliance strengthened measured by number of people trained.</p>	<p>National enforcement capacity is limited, and the no. of inspectors is very low and, in some provinces, almost absent. Inspectors require training in SMC to be able to assess technologies used for the disposal/elimination of POPs. Improved enforcement capacity would potentially allow the country to make better use of</p>	<p>Training Plan for enhancing compliance of chemicals and waste Conventions and regulations developed and 120 people trained.</p>	<p>Training Plan for enhancing compliance of chemicals and waste Conventions and regulations fully implemented. 400 people trained (at least 150 female).</p>	<p><i>Data sources:</i> Copy of training plan; Training Certificates and Training Attendance Sheets of i) National & Local Environmental Inspectors trained in hazardous chemicals management. National & Local Governments staff trained in hazardous chemicals management. Industries representatives/engineers/technicians trained in hazardous chemicals management.</p>

		existing operating disposal facilities in the country and minimize the need for hazardous waste export. In addition, to enhance compliance with chemicals and waste conventions, national and local governments as well as the private sector, require training on contaminated sites, the management of chemicals, emissions control, hazardous waste management, etc.			<p><i>Risks:</i> Lack of support from potential trainees; Logistical difficulties to coordinate trainings; Knowledge not passed on to those who did not participate in training or who joined agencies after the training.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> Experts/Trainers available to conduct training; Private sector and local/national governments willing to coordinate training sessions.</p>
<p>Component 2: Improved management and disposal of POPs (excl. PCB), highly toxic chemicals and mercury.</p>	2.1 % of implementation of the National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy to improve the management of POPs and Hg.	The management of chemicals and waste in Argentina requires improvement in terms of risk management; response to chemical emergencies, contaminated sites management etc. The development of a National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy, including short and long-term objectives in support of SAICM, international chemicals- and waste- Conventions and MERCOSUR, will enhance the inclusion of priority issues in the development of national policies and ensure the sustainability of actions taken.	National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy drafted and 30% of Strategy's activities implemented.	National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy drafted and fully implemented.	<p><i>Data sources:</i> Copy of the National Hazardous Chemicals Management Strategy and its report.</p> <p><i>Risks:</i> Change in national policies and/or priorities.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> Continued political commitment to implement the national chemical agenda; The institutional/bureaucratic structure for the management of chemicals continues to exist.</p>
	2.2 Pollutant Release and Transfer	Argentina's legal framework pertaining to emissions and	National PRTR System Developed.	National PRTR System Developed	<i>Data sources:</i> PRTR system in place and fully functional; Pilot project report.

	Register (PRTR) in place.	releases of pollutants is diverse and not yet harmonized at national level. Furthermore, the country does not dispose of a public database on emissions/releases of pollutants, nor a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR).		and 1 PRTR pilot project implemented.	<p><i>Risks:</i> A legal framework needs to be designed, approved and implemented before the PRTR can be implemented. Delays in the approval of the PRTR's legislative framework can significantly delay the completion of the PRTR system; Industries are unwilling to provide data necessary to populate the PRTR system as information might be sensitive.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> Data/Information is available in the country and data harmonization is possible.</p>
	2.3 Number of Pilot Projects implemented resulting in the	<i>Mercury as a by-product from gold mining:</i> Argentina has a gold mine which extracts 70 MT of Hg/year as a by-product which	150 MT of waste containing mercury; 30 MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs).	Four (4) Pilot Projects fully implemented. 370 MT of waste	<i>Data sources:</i> Official reports from environmental authorities; Certified disposal certificates from treatment/disposal facilities.

	<p>disposal of MT of mercury and MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs).</p>	<p>should be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The mine currently has 400 MT of mercury in storage.</p> <p><i>Mercury from a chlor-alkali plant:</i> Argentina counts 1 chlor-alkali plant with mercury cells technology that will continue to operate this technology until 2025. The plant has to manage its Hg waste in an environmentally sound manner and guarantee proper management of Hg contained in the mercury-cells until the end of its operations.</p> <p><i>Pesticides:</i> Argentina has several deposits of obsolete pesticides that should be managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. To date 3 sites have been identified which combined contain 100 MT of obsolete POPs/HHPs.</p> <p><i>Pesticides Containers:</i> According annually around 17 million pesticide containers are used and discarded, corresponding to approximately 13,000 MT (SENASA/MAGyP). There are still many municipalities that have not yet put in place a containers management system in line with the national law (27279).</p>		<p>containing mercury and 100 MT of pesticides (POPs/HHPs).</p>	<p><i>Risks:</i> High costs for decontamination or export/disposal; Pledged co-financing by holders/disposal companies does not materialize; Unavailability of technologies; technical difficulties, Insufficient local capacity for decontamination or export/disposal; Commitment and/or involvement of several stakeholders is required but might not materialize.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> The existing legal framework in combination with newly revised or drafted regulations will provide sufficient encouragement to stakeholder to participate in the pilot projects.</p>
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Component 3: Environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs	3.1 Capacity improved to assess, monitor and prepare for the disposal of remaining PCBs in the country, measured by progress: 1 - Inventory Updated 2 - Disposal Capacity Assessed 3 - Feasibility study and financial scheme completed 4 - National Management and Disposal Strategy updated	Based on the most recent PCB inventory, it is estimated that over 15,000 metric tons (MT) of pure PCB oils and PCBs-containing equipment still exist in the country. The project needs to put in place measures to ensure that the country is able to phase-out (by 2025) and dispose of (by 2028), all remaining PCB quantities.	National PCB inventory updated, and PCB disposal capacity assessment completed.	Feasibility study completed, financial scheme for total PCB elimination established and National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs updated/improved.	<i>Data sources:</i> Updated National PCB Inventory; Copy of finalized PCB disposal capacity assessment; Copy of elimination feasibility study; Copy of financial plan for PCB elimination; Copy of National Management and Disposal Strategy. <i>Risks:</i> Higher than expected costs for decontamination or export/disposal; difficulties with obtaining export permits; Identification of additional stockpiles; Unwillingness of local governments to conduct and submit local PCBs inventories. <i>Assumptions:</i> PCB inventories are conducted within a reasonable time-frame so they can inform the feasibility study, financial plan and disposal strategy and won't negatively impact the implementation speed of the project; PCB holders are willing to provide data in order to meet legal requirements.
	3.2 PCB cross-contamination minimized through capacity building for maintenance/repair shops by the development of a guideline and implementation of a training plan measured by number of maintenance workshops staff trained.	One of the main problems and challenges that Argentina faces is to avoid new equipment becoming contaminated with PCBs through cross-contamination. The country does not have a quality management system in place to avoid or minimize the risk of cross-contamination as a result of using contaminated oil or a contaminated oil filter.	(1) guideline for best practices in hazardous waste management published.	100 maintenance workshops staff trained in transformer maintenance and one (1) guideline for best practices in hazardous waste management published.	<i>Data sources:</i> Copy of training materials; Copy of training certificates; Copy of training attendance sheets. <i>Risks:</i> Even after the trainings have been completed, workshops and repairmen continue to apply improper practices that can lead to cross-contamination; <i>Assumptions:</i> Maintenance and repair shops are willing to improve and implement good practices.

	3.3 Number of tonnes (MT) of PCBs eliminated from sensitive sites and/or industry.	<p>To date, Argentina has disposed of 39,000 MT of PCBs.</p> <p>Based on the GEF UNDP PCBs project's inventory it is estimated that over 15,000 MT of pure PCB oils and PCB-containing equipment still exist in the country.</p>	2,000 MT of PCBs eliminated.	5,000 MT of PCBs eliminated.	<p><i>Data sources:</i> Official reports from environmental authorities; Certified disposal certificates from treatment/disposal facilities.</p> <p><i>Risks:</i> Higher than expected costs for decontamination or export/disposal; difficulties with obtaining export permits; Identification of additional stockpiles; Lack of sufficient enforcement capacity that slows down elimination/disposal efforts.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> The development and approval of the National Management and Disposal Strategy for PCBs facilitates accomplishment of the objectives.</p>
Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&E	4.1 Number of people involved/participants in the Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities of whom awareness	<p>As part of previous SMC related projects, awareness was raised of:</p> <p>- 300 people (180 female + 120 male) Special Programme for Strengthening the National Capacities for Chemicals and Waste Management.</p>	1,500 people (850 females and 650 males) involved/participants in the Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities	4,800 people (2,600 females and 2,200 males) involved/participants in the Gender Action Plan and Communication Strategy Activities	<p><i>Data sources:</i> Implementation reports of the Gender Action Plan; Stakeholder Engagement Plan; and, National Communications Strategy. Social media postings; Publications; Scientific Papers; News articles/internet articles; Lessons-learned report; Videos (You Tube/TV/etc.); etc.</p>

	has been raised on the sound management of chemicals.	- 500 people (300 female + 200 male) Minamata Initial Assessment. - 700 people (420 female + 280 male) Environmental Sound management of PCBs in Argentina.	of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals.	of whom awareness has been raised on the sound management of chemicals.	<p><i>Risks:</i> Lack of proper planning, or overlap in activities, due to multiple awareness raising activities and objectives contained in the PRF, Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and National Communications Strategy. Few successful communication activities due to sensitive information.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> Favorable environment at national and project level to promote gender mainstreaming; Project team has a good handle on the planning and timing for awareness raising activities. Project stakeholders and general public interested in the environmental and health implications associated with hazardous chemicals and their wastes.</p>
	4.2 Application of standard UNDP/GEF M&E and adaptive management processes is response to project oversight needs and Mid-Term Evaluation findings.	0 GEF UNDP M&E requirements met and no adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) findings.	GEF UNDP M&E requirements met and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) findings.	GEF UNDP M&E requirements met and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) findings.	<p><i>Data sources:</i> PIRs; MTE report; Audit reports; (Field) Mission reports; TE report; etc.</p> <p><i>Risks:</i> Lack of proper planning according to multiple requirements.</p> <p><i>Assumptions:</i> the project will have at its disposal a qualified team that is able to ensure proper planning and following-up on multiple requirements.</p>

[1] Data collection methods should outline specific tools used to collect data and additional information as necessary to support monitoring. The PIR cannot be used as a source of verification.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Note: Initial agency responses were submitted to the GEFSEC on 18 November 2018 during the PIF review/approval stage. The responses have been updated with additional information obtained during the PPG stage.

Comment by Elizabeth Nichols from US Department of State, Council, United States made on 12/13/2018

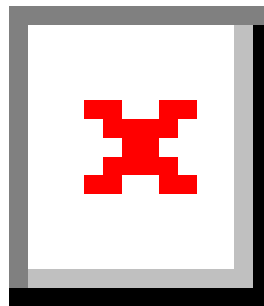
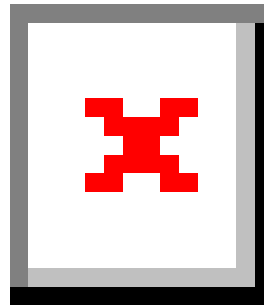
Comment/question	Response at PIF approval stage	Response at CEO endorsement stage
Are there any plans for an Environmental Impact Assessment for mercury waste disposal site?	Mercury waste will be disposed in Germany on a hazardous waste facility approved for such activity under applicable local regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The stabilization of the elemental mercury recovered from gold mining (Pilot Project I, see Annex P) will take place at BATREC in Wimmis, Switzerland, where elemental mercury will be transformed to mercury sulphide (HgS) or cinnabar through an operation classified under the Basel Convention as “D9” Physico chemical treatment. After stabilization, the waste will be sent for final disposal to a salt mine located in Germany, which is operated by the firm "K + S HERFA NEURODE. No EIA will be undertaken by the project for these disposal procedures as stabilization and disposal takes place abroad.

<p>Where will the waste be disposed of?</p>	<p>The waste will be exported, and final disposal will be in Germany</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The stabilization of the elemental mercury recovered from gold mining (Pilot Project I, see Annex P) will take place at BATREC in Wimmis, Switzerland. After stabilization, the waste will be sent for final disposal to a salt mine located in Germany, which is operated by the firm "K + S HERFA NEURODE. <p><i>Note:</i> In 2019, 96 MT of elemental mercury generated as a by-product by MAS were successfully and safely exported and disposed of using the process referred to above (and described in more detail in Annex P).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently mercury contaminated waste (High Mercury Content and Low Mercury Content sludge as well as Hg containing lamps generated by the Chlor-Alkali facility) are currently treated and stabilized on the Chlor-Alkali site by a registered Waste Operator (Desler-Ipes Group - IPES)) and subsequently disposed of in secure hazardous landfill cells for exclusive use of waste produced by the Chlor-Alkali facility. The processes applied for Micro-encapsulation for LMC waste and Macro-encapsulation for HMC waste are technologies authorized by the Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development (PASD). Additional details on these processes are provided in Annex Q. <p><i>Not</i></p>
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Will the liquid mercury waste be treated before disposal to prevent volatility and risk of leaching into environment? These points should be touched upon more concretely.

The mercury will be transported as elemental mercury in accordance with national and international regulations on the transport of hazardous waste. The elemental mercury will be stabilized in Switzerland and sent for final disposal to Germany.

- The mercury will be transported/exported as elemental mercury in accordance with national and international regulations on the transport of hazardous waste. The elemental mercury will be stabilized in Switzerland to mercury sulphide (HgS) or cinnabar and sent for final disposal to Germany for storage/disposal in a salt mine.
- In order to comply with "BATREC" guidelines and export requirements, the elemental mercury will be packaged in pressurized stainless-steel bottles with a capacity of 2 MT each. Bottles will be provided by BATREC. The bottles are sealed and labeled (see photos below).



<p>In order to locally dispose of mercury, the elemental Hg will likely need to be treated/stabilized. Will this happen locally?</p>	<p>No. The Mercury will be stabilized in Switzerland</p>	<p>No. The elemental mercury will be exported as elemental mercury and will be treated and stabilized at BATREC in Wimmis, Switzerland to mercury sulphide (HgS) through an operation classified under the Basel Convention as “D9” Physico chemical treatment.</p>
<p>If so, what is the feasibility/profitability of such a stabilization facility established in Argentina?</p>	<p>This is not applicable for Argentina as the mercury waste from the gold mine will be exported for final disposal to Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Argentina has no intention of establishing a facility for the stabilization of elemental mercury at this point in time. Past experiences of Argentina in the export of elemental mercury and its stabilization abroad have indicated that this approach is safe, efficient and cost-effective for the situation of Argentina. ▪ In 2011 and 2012 MAS exported a total of 164.2 MT of Hg to Bethlehem Apparatus Company U.S., recognized at the time as a leader in the recovery, recycling and treatment of mercury waste. This arrangement changed in 2013 when the U.S. prohibited the import of mercury. In 2019, 96 MT of elemental mercury generated as a by-product by MAS were successfully and safely exported to Switzerland for stabilization by BALTREC and disposed by K + S HERFA NEURODE.
<p>If there is not sustained supply of mercury to be treated over time, such a stabilization facility would not be profitable, therefore the project would be unsustainable.</p>	<p>This is not applicable for Argentina as there is no intention to set up such a facility in Argentina at this point in time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Argentina has no intention of establishing a facility for the stabilization of elemental mercury at this point in time. Past experiences of Argentina in the export of elemental mercury and its stabilization abroad have indicated that this approach safe, efficient and cost-effective for the situation of Argentina.
<p>Can the agency clarify that a more robust description of the mercury waste disposal site will be made available in the forthcoming PPG?</p>	<p>The Mercury will be stabilized in Switzerland and sent for final disposal to Germany. UNDP will make available a robust description of the mercury waste disposal site at CEO Endorsement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More detailed information on the stabilization and ultimate disposal of the elemental mercury recovered from gold mining (Pilot Project I, see Annex P) at BATREC (Wimmis, Switzerland) and K + S HERFA NEURODE (Germany), is provided in the Annex which describes the pilot project.

Has GEF considered a regional approach, where Argentina could potentially act as mercury stabilization service provider for its neighbors in order to ensure profitability/sustainability? (Basel Convention import/export regulations would need to be harmonized across the region to facilitate flows of Hg for treatment and disposal purposes.)

Argentina has not considered providing regional services for neighboring countries for mercury Stabilization. Argentina's regulations prohibit the entrance of hazardous waste from other countries. The same regulations apply to most countries in the region. A regional approach is not feasible because of legal and economic issues.

- Argentina has not considered providing regional services for neighboring countries for mercury stabilization. Argentina's regulations prohibit the entrance of hazardous waste from other countries, and at this point in time the export of elemental mercury and its stabilization abroad have indicated that this approach safe, efficient and cost-effective for the situation of Argentina.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Project preparation grant to finalize the project: Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina	200,000	113,223.34	86,776.66
Total	200,000	113,223.34	86,776.66

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

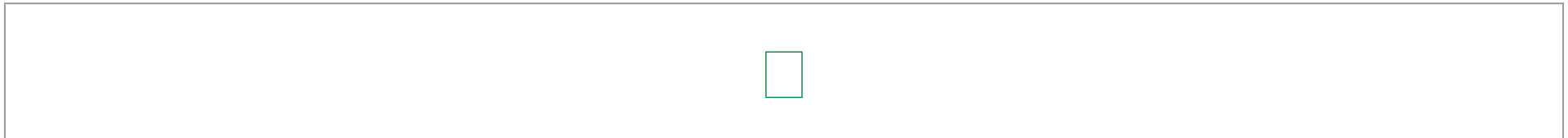
Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Argentina (38.4161° S, 63.6167° W)



Submitted to HQ

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