

Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10785

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

CBIT No

Project Title

Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Countries

Global, Bahamas, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, North Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Montenegro

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centres (China, Caribbean, Czechia, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay), Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, Pesticides, DDT - Other, DDT - Vector Management, Open Burning, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Industrial Emissions, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training, Knowledge Exchange, North-South, Peer-to-Peer, South-South, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

47 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

760,712.00

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start
Stockholm National Implementation Plan Update	3/24/2021	10/1/2021

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	8,007,500.00	737,000.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	8,007,500.00	737,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

Facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in participating countries through the development, review and update of the NIPs and submission to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention

Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Component 1: Political support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation	1. Developed, reviewed and updated NIPs are endorsed by the national government and roadmaps are adopted by key stakeholders	1.1. Parties are engaged and regularly informed on project progress 1.2 Draft national legislation or mechanism established and roadmap for adoption developed for POPs data collection and management 1.3 NIPs are successfully linked to national development priorities 1.4 Strengthened national and international science-policy interfaces	220,000.00
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Component 2: Development of NIP review and update system and	2. Strategic approach used and capacities built lead to timely	.1 Methodologies for POPs inventory and other assessments needed for NIP development are available and user	220,000.00
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related
tools;
capacity
built to use
them

NIP
developme
nt, review
and
update

friendly; can be
easily accessed;
and sectoral
approaches to
POPs inventories
are explored

2.2 Report on the
global production,
use and trade of
newly listed
chemicals
developed

2.3 National
expertise to review
and update the
NIP is built

2.4 Standard
structure for
national data
management
system identified
and increased
cooperation and
coordination
among different
stakeholders
owning data

2.5 Strengthened
capacity to use
POPs inventory
and monitoring
data

2.6 Parties are informed on how to access alternatives to POPs to reduce/eliminate their presence in articles/products and implement BAT and BEP to reduce POPs emissions

2.7 Strengthened capacity for action plan costs development

2.8 Strengthened capacity to fundraise internally and externally for NIP implementation

2.9 NIP quality is checked and final document is validated

Component 3: NIP development, review and update (Art. 7) in coordination with national reporting (Art. 15)	3. Parties are compliant with Article 7 and 15 of the Stockholm Convention	3.1 Developed or updated NIPs are endorsed by national stakeholders and submitted to the SC Secretariat 3.2 National reports submitted to the SC Secretariat	6,200,000.00	707,000.00
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Component 4: Knowledge management and information sharing	4. Knowledge sharing led to improvement in the NIP development, update and implementation processes	4.1 New knowledge products and tools are developed and disseminated to target countries and all Parties to the SC 4.2 Knowledge platforms at the regional and global levels established and operational 4.3 Knowledge transferred and information exchanged using communities of practice and online training/webinars on key issues	1,000,000.00
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Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation	5. Project successfully implemented with satisfactory performance	5.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF	30,000.00		
		5.2 Independent terminal review conducted and made publicly available			
			Sub Total (\$)	7,670,000.00	707,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)					
				337,500.00	30,000.00
			Sub Total(\$)	337,500.00	30,000.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	8,007,500.00	737,000.00

C. Indicative 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(\$)
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC-SCRC China)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	80,000.00
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Senegal (BCRC-SCRC Senegal)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	132,000.00
Other	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in South Africa (BCRC-SCRC South Africa)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	130,000.00
Other	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Czech Republic (SCRC Czechia)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC-SCRC China)	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	70,000.00
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCRC-SCRC)	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	55,000.00
Other	Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCRC-SCRC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	70,000.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	737,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

N/A

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Bahamas	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Bolivia	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Burundi	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Cambodia	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Dominica	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Gambia	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Georgia	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Guinea	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Kenya	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Montenegro	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	North Macedonia	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88

UNEP	GET	Peru	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Senegal	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Seychelles	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Uganda	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Uruguay	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,309.5	36,224.38	417,533.88
UNEP	GET	Zimbabwe	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	381,310	36,224.4	417,534.40
Total GEF Resources(\$)					8,007,500.00	760,712.00	8,768,212.00

Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved

A.1 Background and Context on the Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in May 2001 with the objective of protecting the human health and the environment from POPs. It entered into force on 17 May 2004, initially listing twelve chemicals as POPs. However, from 2009 to 2019, the Conference of Parties (COP) amended the lists several times to include the following additional eighteen chemicals into the Annexes, totalling at 30 POPs:

- a) At its 4th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in May 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to include the following 9 new POPs (SC-4/10 to SC-4/18). The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 26 August 2010.

Table 1. POPs listed in SC at 4th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2009)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption/acceptable purpose	Remarks
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane	A	None	
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane	A	None	
Chlordecone	A	None	
Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)	A	None	
Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphe	A	Use: Articles in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of	In accordance with paragraph 2 of part IV of Annex A to the Convention, at

nyl ether		Annex A	its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties evaluates the progress that Parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2030.
Lindane	A	Use: Human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.
Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)	A and C	None	
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether	A	Use: Articles in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of Annex A	In accordance with paragraph 2 of part IV of Annex A to the Convention, at its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties evaluates the progress that Parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest

			in 2030.
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyle fluoride	B	<p>Production:</p> <p>Acceptable purpose:</p> <p>ü In accordance with part III of this Annex, production of other chemicals to be used solely for the use below. Production for uses listed below.</p> <p>Specific exemption:</p> <p>ü None</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>Acceptable purpose:</p> <p>In accordance with part III of this Annex for the following acceptable purpose, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following acceptable purpose:</p> <p>Insect baits with sulfluramid (CAS No: 4151-50-2) as an active ingredient for control of leaf-cutting ants from <i>Atta</i> spp. and <i>Acromyrmex</i> spp. for agricultural use only</p> <p>Specific exemption:</p> <p>Metal plating (hard-metal plating) only in closed-loop systems</p> <p>Fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in</p>	<p>As revised by Decision SC-9/4 adopted at COP 9 in 2019.</p> <p>These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.</p>

		installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, in accordance with paragraph 10 of part III of this Annex	
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- b) At its 5th meeting of the COP in April 2011, technical endosulfan and its related isomers (SC-5/3) was included in Annex A with specific exemptions for production and use. The amendment entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 27 October 2012.

Table 2. POPs listed in SC at 5th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2011)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption	Remarks
Technical endosulfan and its related isomers	A	<p>Production:</p> <p>As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register of Specific Exemptions</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>Crop-pest complexes as listed in accordance with the provisions of part V I of Annex A.</p>	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.

- c) At its 6th meeting in May 2013, COP decided to include Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) in the Convention's Annex A (SC-6/13) for elimination, with specific exemptions for production for use. The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 26 November 2014.

Table 3. POPs listed in SC at 6th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2013)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption	Remarks
	x		

Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)	A	<p>Production:</p> <p>As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register of Specific Exemptions in accordance with the provisions of Part VII of Annex A of the Convention</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>Expanded polystyrene and extruded polystyrene in buildings in accordance with the provisions of Part VII of Annex A</p>	<p>These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.</p>
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d) the 7th meeting of the COP in May 2015, adopted the amendments of the SC to list the following chemicals:

- Hexachlorobutadiene (HCB) - Annex A (SC-7/12), without specific exemptions/acceptable purposes;
- Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters - Annex A (SC-7/13), with specific exemptions for production and use;
- Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) - Annex A (SC-7/14), with specific exemptions for production and use; and Annex C to the Convention.

The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 15 December 2016.

Table 4. POPs listed in SC at 7th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2015)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption	Remarks
Hexachlorobutadiene (HCB)	A	None	
Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters	A	Production:	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five

rs		As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register of Specific Exemptions in accordance with the provisions of Part VIII of Annex A Use: Pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms in accordance with the provisions of Part VIII of Annex A	(5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.
Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)	A and C	Production: Intermediates in production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene Use: Production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.

e) In May 2017, the 8th meeting of the COP made decision to amend Annexes A and C to list:

- Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) – Annex A (SC-8/11), with specific exemptions for production and use;
- Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) – Annex A (SC-8/10), with specific exemptions for production and use;
- Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) - Annex C Part I (SC-8/12).

The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 18 December 2018.

Table 5. POPs listed in SC at 8th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2017)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption	Remarks
Hexachlorobutadiene	C	None	

Decabromodiphenyl ether (HCBDE)	C	None	
Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE)	A	<p>Production:</p> <p>As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>Additives in the production of transmission belts in the natural and synthetic rubber industry</p> <p>Spare parts of rubber conveyor belts in the mining and forestry industries</p> <p>Leather industry, in particular fatliquoring in leather lubricant additives, in particular for engines of automobiles, electric generators and wind power facilities, and for drilling in oil and gas exploration, petroleum refinery to produce diesel oil tubes for outdoor decoration bulbs, waterproofing and fire-retardant paints</p> <p>Adhesives metal processing</p> <p>Secondary plasticizers in flexible polyvinyl chloride, except in toys and children's products</p>	<p>These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.</p>
Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE)	A	<p>Production:</p> <p>As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register of Specific Exemptions</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of Part IX of Annex A</p>	<p>These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paraara</p>

f) In May 2019, the 9th meeting of the COP made the decision to list:

- Dicofol - Annex A (SC-9/11), without specific exemptions;
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA related compounds - Annex A (SC-9/12), with specific exemptions for production and use.

The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 03 December 2020.

Table 6. POPs listed in SC at 9th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2019)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption	Remarks
Dicofol	A	None	
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA related compounds	A	<p>Production:</p> <p>g) Fire-fighting foam: None</p> <p>h) For other production, as allowed for the Parties listed in the Register in accordance with the provisions of part X of this Annex</p> <p>Use:</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of part X of this Annex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Photolithography or etch processes in semiconductor manufacturing ü Photographic coatings applied to films ü Textiles for oil- and water-repellent use for the protection of workers for 	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under paragraph 7 of Article 4.

nce for the protection of workers from dangerous liquids that comprise risks to their health and safety

- ü Invasive and implantable medical devices

- ü Fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, in accordance with paragraph 2 of part X of this Annex

- ü Use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of part X of this Annex

- ü Manufacture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) for the production of:

- o High-performance, corrosion-resistant gas filter membranes, water filter membranes and membranes for medical textiles

- o Industrial waste heat exchanger equipment

- o Industrial sealants capable of preventing leakage of volatile organic compounds and PM2.5 particulates

- ü Manufacture of polyfluoroethylene propylene (FEP) for the production of high-voltage electrical wire and cables for power transmission

	ü Manufacture of fluoroelastomers for the production of O-rings, v-belts and plastic accessories for car interiors	
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g) At its thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings that concluded in October 2019, the POPs Review Committee (POPRC), pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, completed the risk profile and risk management evaluation for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

The Committee, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention, adopted a decision recommending that the Conference of the Parties consider listing PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions (decision POPRC-15/1).

In order to support Parties and observers and to facilitate the identification of substances, an initial indicative list of PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds has been prepared as set out in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.15/INF/9.

h) Currently, the POPRC is evaluating Dechlorane Plus, Methoxychlor, UV-328 for listing to the Convention. POPRC has not concluded that Dechlorane Plus and UV-328 warrant global action. Methoxychlor is at the risk management evaluation stage.

In accordance with Article 7 of the SC, Parties are required to develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP) describing the measures on how the country will implement its obligations under the SC. Parties are required to transmit their NIPs to the COP within two years of the date the SC entered into force for that country.

Parties are also required to review and update their NIPs regularly, as specified by Article 7 of the Convention. The addition of chemicals to the Annexes of the SC is one of the principal factors triggering the review and update of the NIP for a Party. With the addition of 18 new chemicals to the SC, participating countries are now requesting additional financial support from the GEF, technical support from the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, with UNEP as the Implementing Agency, to undertake their NIPs development, review and update. The revised NIPs aim to include all 30 chemicals currently listed in the Convention, but this will depend on the specific situation of each country included in this project.

According to Article 15 of the SC, each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, every 4 years, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. Therefore, the NIPs development, review and update also take into consideration the data needs and collect the qualitative and quantitative data to enable participating countries to complete and submit their Article 15 reports.

A.2 Key challenges in the NIPs development/update processes and national reporting

As illustrated in the graph below, an increase in the number of industrial POPs among the POPs listed in the Annexes of the Convention has brought new challenges to Parties of the SC. Challenges are related mostly to the development of POPs inventories and the access to alternatives for these chemicals. Developing countries have difficulties managing products containing the newly listed POPs chemicals, including tracking imports and exports of POPs-containing products and collecting accurate and valid information needed for the POPs inventories.

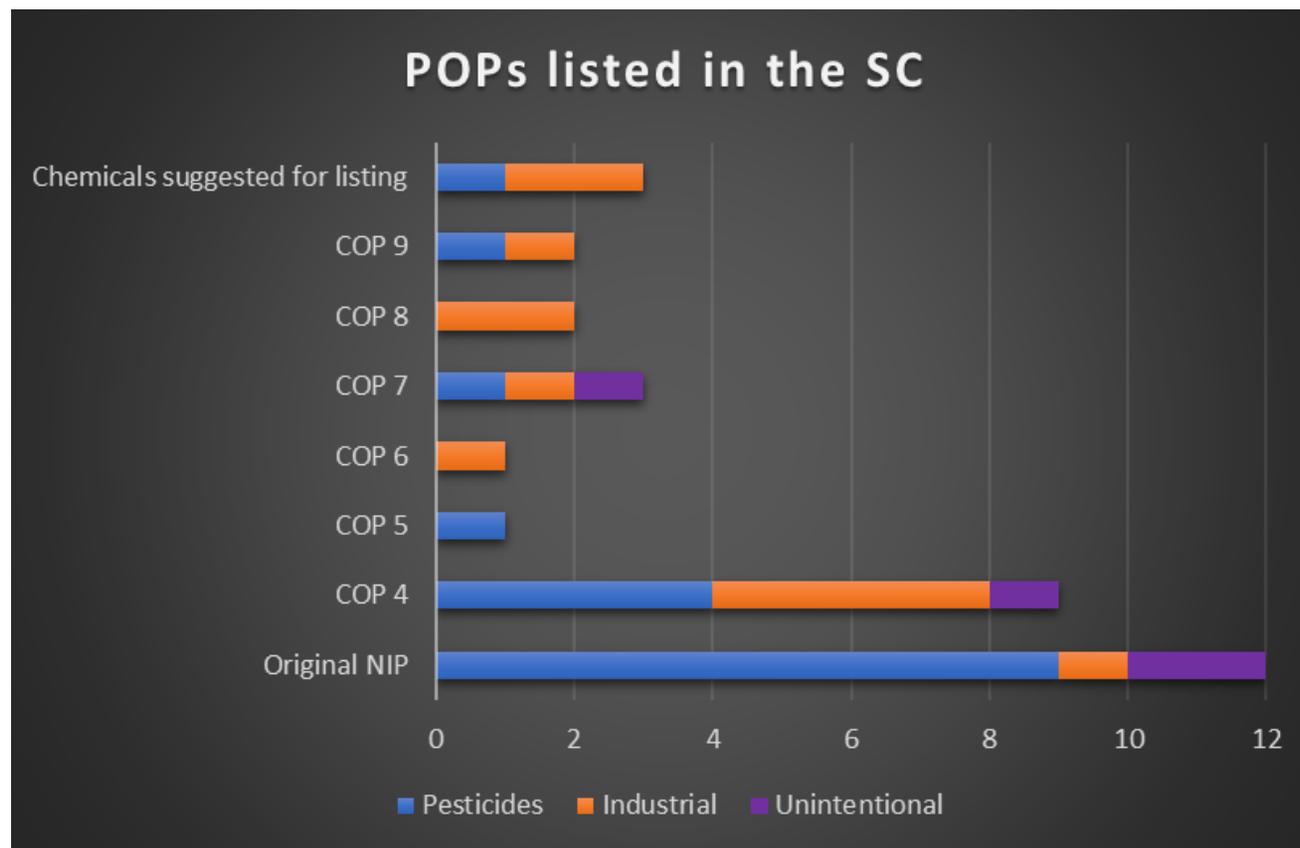


Figure 1. POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention

In addition, as new chemicals are consistently added to the Convention, there is an unrealistic expectation to rapidly and continuously update NIPs. As such, Parties to the Convention that have recently submitted NIPs covering the chemicals listed at COPs 4, 5 and 6 are still technically non-compliant with the Convention because the deadline for the transmission of NIPs including COP 7 and 8 chemicals has already passed (on December 2018 and December 2020 respectively). Even though the SC Secretariat is developing methodologies to prepare POPs inventories after every listing within the SC, many countries struggle to use the POPs inventory guidance to review and update NIPs. Therefore, rather than implementing already developed NIPs, national human resources are being mobilized

NIPs. Therefore, rather than implementing already developed NIPs, national human resources are being mobilized to continuously update the NIPs instead. This has resulted in "NIP fatigue" among Parties to the SC.

The inventories on new industrial POPs are usually organised in three tiers:

- Tier 1: Initial assessment - is carried out to obtain an overview of the relevant uses of POPs and stakeholders to be contacted in the key sector(s) under investigation. Tier I methods usually rely on available literature and statistics in combination with calculations based on already existing information. Developing countries often develop initial assessments that are not sufficiently detailed and precise to plan the SC implementation or to identify global environmental benefits for the development of future GEF projects to support in-country implementation of NIPs.
- Tier II: Main inventory - the objective is to generate data on the main sectors through interviews and questionnaires to the national stakeholders, and further identify missing information. The poor rate and quality of answers to questionnaires from key stakeholders is usually the main obstacle to developing the Tier II inventory.
- Tier III: In-depth inventory - includes sampling and analysis. In most cases, developing countries have no capacity to conduct in-depth inventories of POPs.

Currently, information on the global production, use and trade of newly listed chemicals and their products is still not available, and this poses a significant barrier for developing countries conducting their initial assessments (Tier 1).

Furthermore, Parties face challenges in engaging and obtaining full political support at the national level; validation and endorsement of NIPs and NIP updates often take so long that Parties are delayed in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. In some instances, POPs management may conflict with other priorities in a country's development agenda. Additionally, many countries that have already undertaken multiple NIP updates still do not have a sustainable system in place to conduct further updates and as such continue to require international assistance and funding, further complicating and delaying the process.

Other than the issues related to data collection and management of collected data, analysis/validation is hampered by the low capacity of national and regional laboratories. When data quality is poor and not well managed, NIPs cannot assist policy makers in making meaningful and effective decisions.

Finally, there has been very minimal assistance provided to countries to conduct and complete their national reporting. This has resulted in delays and/or inaccuracies and missing information on the data submitted; for example, discrepancies have been found between NIPs/NIP updates and national reporting data. As a result, an even greater burden is placed on the countries and the Secretariat which in turn negatively impacts the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.

A.3 Completed and Ongoing NIP Projects

UNEP's first global NIP project focused on the initial 12 POPs in 2002 (GEF ID1016). The project assisted 12 pilot c

ountries to develop their original NIPs. The main objective of the global component was to propose guidelines for NIP development. Since then, UNEP's support to countries in the review and update of NIPs have been based on the guidance adopted by the SC Secretariat and approved by the COPs.

Projects developed from GEF 2 to GEF 4 only had a national component and followed the 5 steps of the NIP guidance:

1. Establishment of coordinating mechanisms and organisation of process (Step 1)
2. Establishment of a preliminary POPs inventory (Step 2)
3. Priority setting and determination of objectives (Step 3)
4. Formulation of National Implementation Plan and Action Plans on specific POPs (Step 4)
5. Endorsement of National Implementation Plan by stakeholders (Step 5)

However, these projects lacked a component on lessons learnt and would have benefitted from a platform to share information among countries, especially within a region.

During GEF 5, when the COP 4 chemicals were listed to the Convention, UNEP developed the umbrella projects GEF ID 5307 and GEF ID 5525. Both projects had a global and a national component.

The national component followed the 5 steps of the NIP guidance. The global component was developed to support sharing of information and evaluating NIPs updating with the specific objective to continue strengthening the quality and sustainability of the project through the delivery of specific and additional assistance to participating countries. The expected outcome was to enhance communication and information-sharing to enable Parties to compare and harmonize data and identify lessons learned and good practices. The component had the following outputs:

1. Identify and disseminate lessons learned
2. Identify initial needs and opportunities for exchange of information and expertise
3. Provision of regional/ global training support and encourage information exchange

As a result of this global component, the following outputs were achieved (since the projects are still ongoing, some outputs are not yet complete):

- Lessons learned have been identified and compiled in a report and published in December 2018;
- Data on DDT, PCB and PFOS were transferred to an Excel, harmonized and geo-localised in cooperation with MAPx (a platform for data sharing, analysis and visualization developed by UNEP to use new digital technologies and cloud computing to sustainably manage natural resources) to facilitate POPs data management and risk assessments;
- A roster of global, regional and national experts was developed to facilitate access to POPs experts globally;

- Several trainings and webinars were delivered mostly on new POPs inventories;
- POPs data incorporated into the SC clearinghouse to facilitate access to the information collected in the NIP inventories; and
- A guide on incorporating gender dimensions into national strategy setting in the context of chemicals management and implementation of NIPs was prepared and is currently under peer-review (managed by UN EP Knowledge and Risk Unit).

On November 2017, the project (GEF ID 9884) "Integrated SC Toolkit to Improve the Transmission of Information under Articles 7 and 15" was approved for implementation. The objective of the project is to "facilitate the development, transmission, access and use of data contained in National Implementation Plans (NIP, Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15)". Addressing one of the issues mentioned in section A2 above. For this, an integrated electronic toolkit linking the information needed for the development of National Implementation Plans (Article 7) and the National Reports (Article 15) of the SC has been developed and is currently in trial by selected number of countries. Access to guidance materials is also provided through the toolkit which will be available for use by all Parties in December 2021. However, the roll out of the toolkit, including capacity training for Parties and full operation within the NIP and NIP update process is still lacking.

Based on previous NIP development and update experiences, especially through national executed arrangements, heavy reliance on international funding and expertise have resulted in insufficient use of resources and unexpectedly long period to complete the process. In addition, regional capacity is not built and coordination not improved. Therefore, in order to align with the objective of the BCRCs-SCRCs and to reduce transaction costs, a regional and more harmonized approach is needed for project implementation. Countries should and need to work more closely with BCRCs-SCRCs to strengthen regional capacity, to increase data sharing and exchange of experiences, as first steps to shift toward effective and efficient use of international resources. Furthermore, a knowledge platform (at both regional and global levels) should be tasked with delivering regular trainings and maintaining a database of available documents including lessons learnt from previous projects. The platform would also be linked with the forthcoming electronic toolkit to allow access to NIP data so that regional trends can be identified to develop new interventions. Finally, the platform can provide a workspace where countries can raise questions and seek responses from peers. These areas of work will also foster country to country learning and problem identification /resolution.

A.4 Participating Country Baseline

The following considerations were used to select countries to be part of the project:

1. Ratified the Convention amendments; non-Parties are eligible for the initial 12 POPs only;
2. Not currently involved in an active NIP development or update process;
3. With known large quantities of wastes potentially contaminated with POPs such as electronics, textiles and

- end of life vehicles;
- 4. Not a fragile State or country in conflict;
- 5. Geographical balance among regions;
- 6. Shown positive experiences in previous NIP updates; and
- 7. Availability and interests of regional centers to work with the countries and vice versa.

A total of five regional webinars (3 in English, 1 in French and 1 in Spanish) were organized and conducted by UNEP during the 22-29 March 2021 period to introduce the project and over 40 countries (covering Africa, Asia Eastern European and Latin America and the Caribbean) were reached.

A total of 21 participating countries' baseline assessments are presented in Appendix J. Information is extracted mainly from previous NIP update reports and gender baseline information is provided when available.

1. Bahamas	5. Cameroon	9. Gambia	13. Madagascar	17. Peru
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina	6. Cote Ivoire	10. Georgia	14. Montenegro	18. Senegal
3. Burundi	7. Dominica	11. Guinea	15. North Macedonia	19. Seychelles
4. Cambodia	8. Dominican Republic	12. Kenya	16. Paraguay	20. Uganda
				21. Zimbabwe

Additionally, countries that received support through the Special Programme (Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Kenya, North Macedonia and Uganda) will include their respective Chemical Units as part of the national stakeholder coordinating mechanisms.

B. Enabling Activity Goals, Objectives, and Activities

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework.

B.1 Description of the project (goals, objectives and components)

The proposed project aims at assisting participating countries to comply with their NIP-update and national reporting obligations under the SC while addressing challenges identified in Section A.2 and building on regional expertise and UNEP's experience as well as integrating the new tools developed in project 9884.

The overall goal of the Enabling Activity is to reduce the dependency of external expertise and resources to develop NIP and NIP updates through strengthening the political environment and technical capacities of participating countries. Lessons learned and tools/practices developed through this EA can be shared and applied to all Parties

of the Convention.

The objective is to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in participating countries through the development, review and update of their respective NIPs and submission to the SC COP.

The project is designed with five (5) components:

- 1) Build political support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation;
- 2) Develop tools and methodologies to be used by all Parties to the SC to facilitate the NIP development, review and update process and its implementation;
- 3) Support Parties in the development, review and update of their respective NIPs and complete their national reporting following the methodologies development by the SC Secretariat and approved by the COP;
- 4) Ensure development of knowledge products, sharing of knowledge, development of platforms for information exchange and training / familiarisation, knowledge management and reporting at the global level is reached; and
- 5) Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation.

Relevant national, regional and international stakeholders will be consulted and involved throughout the project implementation process. The developed, updated and endorsed NIPs will provide a basis to identify activities and implement post-NIP projects in accordance with the requirements of the SC.

With the challenges identified and lessons learned from past and ongoing projects, the proposal is designed with a solid and robust **regional and global component** (components 1, 2 and 4) to address the identified barriers and facilitate future NIP development, review and update by Parties to the SC. The objective is also to contribute to the efforts initiated by the project GEF ID 9884 (integrated SC electronic toolkit) and facilitate the familiarisation process to utilize the toolkit in addition to access and use of data contained in NIPs.

The global component in previous NIP update projects have successfully supported countries globally on the development of their NIPs. As a result, a roster of international, regional and national experts on NIP development and implementation has been developed^[1]. As of February 2021, the roster listed more than 130 experts in diverse areas of POPs expertise and regional experience and this roster will be used for the project.

The global component will also organize trainings on data collection, data management, data analysis (including validation), data application, and NIP implementation in partnership with the SC Secretariat, thereby ensuring an efficient use of resources.

Furthermore, the project proposes the inclusion of an extensive knowledge sharing platform at both regional and global levels (building on the existing clearinghouse mechanism on the BRS website). The aim is to ensure linkages among countries and between regions are made, issues and challenges of common concern are identified and associated solutions are developed based on validated and objective data.

In order to further strengthen regional cooperation and build on regional expertise rather than rely on international experts, the project will involve BCRCs-SCRCs as executing agencies. The Centres will ensure NIP guidance is implemented according to the guidance of the Stockholm Convention and obligations under the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions are also considered when relevant. They will also ensure that key national stakeholders are consulted

throughout the project and the project team has a strong political support to facilitate access to information for NIP development. The objective is to capacitate national governments to review and update their NIPs (independently if feasible) in the future rapidly with national resources. By working with the Centres, regional expertise will be built to assist other countries in the future.

The national component (component 3) of the project should follow the NIP guidance as approved by the COPs. As part of the NIP update process, countries will conduct a review of past and ongoing interventions that sought/seek to manage/dispose POPs so that inventories developed from this project will take into account chemicals that have already been managed and disposed.

Finally, chemicals that are currently under consideration for listing in the Stockholm Convention (PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds) will be included as part of the training and inventory activities in the project. Specifically, training related to background, usage, and inventory methods of these chemicals will be included in component 2 while the national NIP update in component 3 will cover inventories of these chemicals. National specificities will be applied as appropriate.

For more detailed information, please refer to Section C below and the project logical framework (Appendix A).

B.2 Project Stakeholders

At the international and regional level the project will include:

- ü **UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch:** UNEP is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. UNEP Chemicals and Health is the UNEP Branch that works specifically to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals and waste on human health and the environment. The implementation of this project contributes directly to reach the main mandate of the Branch;

- ü **UNEP Regional Offices:** UNEP has six regional offices supporting different groups of countries in their efforts towards sustainable development. The UNEP Regional Offices will identify opportunities for regional synergies and areas of cooperation. Some examples may include: coordination of regional information exchange and provision of documents and inventories from other countries in the region, identification of regional experts, etc;

- ü The **Stockholm Convention Secretariat** based in Geneva, Switzerland, exerts the Secretariat role of the Stockholm Convention according to Article 20. The Stockholm Convention Secretariat will be regularly informed on the progress in the implementation of the project to be able to identify opportunities to facilitate assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

- ü The **World Health Organization (WHO)** works to achieve better health for everyone, everywhere. Some of the Persistent Organic Pollutants are among the list of ten chemicals of major public health concern developed by WHO; and this Organization has responded to this health and environmental issue of concern through the development of studies, tools and guidance materials. The UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch will facilitate the access to these materials and will also inform the WHO on identified needs for additional support;

- ü The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** brings together governments, employers and workers to set labour standards, policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for women and men. ILO has already supported initiatives to address the impact of e-waste in relation to occupational safety and health issues. These social aspects will be taken into account in the NIP updating;

- ü The **Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs-SCRCs)** - The Stockholm Convention has established a network of 16 regional and subregional Centres to provide technical assistance and to promote the transfe

r of technology to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. Six BCRCs-SCRCs (China, Caribbean, Czechia, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay) will act as executing agencies in this project.

ü **Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)** – The GGKP is a global network of experts and organizations dedicated to providing the policy, business and finance communities with knowledge, guidance, data, and tools to transition to an inclusive green economy. GGKP's three platforms, Green Growth Knowledge Platform, Green Industry Platform and Green Finance Platform, offer quick and easy access to the latest research, case studies, toolkits, learning products, principles, and protocols to empower policy makers and advisors, and investment community to make evidence based decisions about how to green their operations. Users can browse by sectors, regions, or cross setting themes, such as gender, jobs, climate change, circular economy, and natural capital. GGKP will be involved as the executing agency for Component 4 focusing on dissemination of information to both stakeholders part of and outside of the project, including organization of and reporting on all trainings/webinars, advise on the maintenance or re-invention of Communities of Practice portal as part of the clearinghouse mechanism and liaise with the SC Secretariat in providing information and tools to be integrated with existing materials and make them easily accessible and understandable by all Parties of the SC.

The international partners will provide ongoing support to the project and their engagement will be discussed and agreed upon in the inception meetings.

National Stakeholders

In reference to national stakeholders, strong emphasis will be placed on the participation of the private sector and civil society to ensure their active involvement in the execution of the project and sensitization towards POPs issues. NGOs, including research groups and academic institutions, industrial and professional associations, will be invited to stakeholder's consultations to contribute to the achievements of the project objectives. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of women, as one of the vulnerable groups to POPs, on the National Coordinating Mechanisms (NCMs) to ensure their active involvement throughout the project duration. Further, civil society organizations (CSOs) representatives will be involved in the NCMs as necessary. A preliminary and general list of national stakeholders has been identified below for each country. At a minimum, these agencies and organizations, or their equivalent, should be considered and invited to the NIP development and update process. Final list of national stakeholders will be adopted according to national specificities and previous NIP update experiences in participating countries.

National stakeholder preliminary list include: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labor, Academia, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Private Sector (e.g. manufacturing sector, importers, retailers), Professional Associations (e.g. farmers and agricultural associations), Customs, Port Authorities, Municipal governments (e.g. electricity, mining, statistics), and NGOs. The project will also strongly recommend the formation of permanent inter-ministerial working groups in each country that would facilitate future data collection and amendments under the Stockholm Convention. Countries with established designated Chemical Units (developed through the Special Programme), will include them as part of the national stakeholders coordinating mechanism to streamline national chemical management process.

B.3 Gender Dimensions

In practice, gender mainstreaming means identifying gaps in gender equality using sex disaggregated data, developing strategies to close those gaps, putting resources and expertise into implementing strategies for gender equality, monitoring and implementation and holding individuals and institutions accountable for results. Gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself; it's a process whose goal is to achieve gender equality (Sustainable Development Goal 5).

Gender or vulnerable populations are not explicitly mentioned in the Convention text. Nevertheless, several decisions of the Convention's bodies have referred to gender. For instance, in 2013 the BRS Secretariat released the BRS Gender Action Plan with the vision that "gender equality should be an integral part of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions".

The level of exposure to POPs chemicals and its related impacts on human health are determined by social and biological factors. Women, children and men might be exposed to different kinds, levels and frequency of new POPs chemicals (e.g. in the household, agriculture, industry, school, etc.). The Stockholm Convention Global Monitoring Plan have also monitored persistent organic pollutants in human milk, in recognition to the fact that women are particularly impacted by the poor management of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

This project aims at contributing to the Stockholm Convention Action Plan through the development and implementation of a gender analysis and a gender strategy with SMART indicators to mainstream gender throughout the project. It's recommended that the focal point of the Stockholm Convention follow a training on gender equality for a better understanding of the topic before working on the strategy. The project will follow the guide on incorporating gender dimensions into national strategy setting in the context of chemicals management (this is a deliverable from ongoing GEF ID 5307 and 5525 umbrella projects for NIP updates). Below are some of the elements that have been considered and will be carried out during implementation:

Project Design

- Include the findings of the gender context analysis;
- Ensure strong stakeholder engagement in design and analysis, including women groups and government departments responsible for women and gender;
- Determine the level of financial resources required for gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Determine the problem in which the gender perspective is reflected. For example, for an objective that is intended to address poor uptake of mercury-free or POPs-free technologies by occupational workers, a gender aspect to be considered might be the limited capacity of women to adopt these technologies because of low access to education; and
- Use human rights frameworks or other industry guidelines to inform gender issues and ensuring women's rights in project design.

Project Planning and Activities

- Seek gender parity while setting project management unit;
- Ensure a gender-balanced leadership and decision making in project planning and implementation, this includes technical teams in various government bodies tasked with developing and implementing the NIP;
 - Align project activities with national and regional gender protocols which can be used as benchmarks;
 - Build capacity on gender issues among partners and beneficiaries;
 - Develop and integrate mechanisms to ensure gender-balanced representation and women's participation in project activities; and
 - Capture the voices of women and men and develop gender-sensitive communication plans.

[1] <http://informea.pops.int/NIPsRoster/index.html>

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women's empowerment are considered in project design and implementation

B.1 Description of the project (goals, objectives and components)

The proposed project aims at assisting participating countries to comply with their NIP-update and national reporting obligations under the SC while addressing challenges identified in Section A.2 and building on regional expertise and UNEP's experience as well as integrating the new tools developed in project 9884.

The overall goal of the Enabling Activity is to reduce the dependency of external expertise and resources to develop NIP and NIP updates through strengthening the political environment and technical capacities of participating countries. Lessons learned and tools/practices developed through this EA can be shared and applied to all Parties of the Convention.

The objective is to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in participating countries through the development, review and update of their respective NIPs and submission to the SC COP.

The project is designed with five (5) components:

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Relevant national, regional and international stakeholders will be consulted and involved throughout the project implementation process. The developed, updated and endorsed NIPs will provide a basis to identify activities and implement post-NIP projects in accordance with the requirements of the SC.

With the challenges identified and lessons learned from past and ongoing projects, the proposal is designed with a solid and robust **regional and global component** (components 1, 2 and 4) to address the identified barriers and facilitate future NIP development, review and update by Parties to the SC. The objective is also to contribute to the efforts initiated by the project GEF ID 9884 (integrated SC electronic toolkit) and facilitate the familiarisation process to utilize the toolkit in addition to access and use of data contained in NIPs.

The global component in previous NIP update projects have successfully supported countries globally on the development of their NIPs. As a result, a roster of international, regional and national experts on NIP development and implementation has been developed^[1]. As of February 2021, the roster listed more than 130 experts in diverse areas of POPs expertise and regional experience and this roster will be used for the project.

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Furthermore, the project proposes the inclusion of an extensive knowledge sharing platform at both regional and global levels (building on the existing clearinghouse mechanism on the BRS website). The aim is to ensure linkages among countries and between regions are made, issues and challenges of common concern are identified and associated solutions are developed based on validated and objective data.

In order to further strengthen regional cooperation and build on regional expertise rather than rely on international experts, the project will involve BCRCs-SCRCs as executing agencies. The Centres will ensure NIP guidance is implemented according to the guidance of the Stockholm Convention and obligations under the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions are also considered when relevant. They will also ensure that key national stakeholders are consulted throughout the project and the project team has a strong political support to facilitate access to information for NIP development. The objective is to capacitate national governments to review and update their NIPs (independently if feasible) in the future rapidly with national resources. By working with the Centres, regional expertise will be built to assist other countries in the future.

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The international partners will provide ongoing support to the project and their engagement will be discussed and agreed upon in the inception meetings.

National Stakeholders

In reference to national stakeholders, strong emphasis will be placed on the participation of the private sector and civil society to ensure their active involvement in the execution of the project and sensitization towards POPs issues. NGOs, including research groups and academic institutions, industrial and professional associations, will be invited to stakeholder's consultations to contribute to the achievements of the project objectives. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of women, as one of the vulnerable groups to POPs, on the National Coordinating Mechanisms (NCMs) to ensure their active involvement throughout the project duration. Further, civil society organizations (CSOs) representatives will be involved in the NCMs as necessary. A preliminary and general list of national stakeholders has been identified below for each country. At a minimum, these agencies and organizations, or their equivalent, should be considered and invited to the NIP development and update process. Final list of national stakeholders will be adopted according to national specificities and previous NIP update experiences in participating countries.

National stakeholder preliminary list include: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labor, Academia, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Private Sector (e.g. manufacturing sector, importers, retailers), Professional Associations (e.g. farmers and agricultural associations), Customs, Port Authorities, Municipal governments (e.g. electricity, mining, statistics), and NGOs. The project will also strongly recommend the formation of permanent inter-ministerial working groups in each country that would facilitate future data collection and amendments under the Stockholm Convention. Countries with established designated Chemical Units (developed through the Special Programme), will include them as part of the national stakeholders coordinating mechanism to streamline national chemical management process.

B.3 Gender Dimensions

In practice, gender mainstreaming means identifying gaps in gender equality using sex disaggregated data, developing strategies to close those gaps, putting resources and expertise into implementing strategies for gender equality, monitoring and implementation and holding individuals and institutions accountable for results. Gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself; it's a process whose goal is to achieve gender equality (Sustainable Development Goal 5).

Gender or vulnerable populations are not explicitly mentioned in the Convention text. Nevertheless, several decisions of the Convention's bodies have referred to gender. For instance, in 2013 the BRS Secretariat released the BRS Gender Action Plan with the vision that "gender equality should be an integral part of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions".

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This project aims at contributing to the Stockholm Convention Action Plan through the development and implementation of a gender analysis and a gender strategy with SMART indicators to mainstream gender throughout the project. It's recommended that the focal point of the Stockholm Convention follow a training on gender equality for a better understanding of the topic before working on the strategy. The project will follow the guide on incorporating gender

dimensions into national strategy setting in the context of chemicals management (this is a deliverable from ongoing GEF ID 5307 and 5525 umbrella projects for NIP updates). Below are some of the elements that have been considered and will be carried out during implementation:

Project Design

- Include the findings of the gender context analysis;
- Ensure strong stakeholder engagement in design and analysis, including women groups and government departments responsible for women and gender;
- Determine the level of financial resources required for gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Determine the problem in which the gender perspective is reflected. For example, for an objective that is intended to address poor uptake of mercury-free or POPs-free technologies by occupational workers, a gender aspect to be considered might be the limited capacity of women to adopt these technologies because of low access to education; and
- Use human rights frameworks or other industry guidelines to inform gender issues and ensuring women's rights in project design.

Project Planning and Activities

- Seek gender parity while setting project management unit;
- Ensure a gender-balanced leadership and decision making in project planning and implementation, this includes technical teams in various government bodies tasked with developing and implementing the NIP;
 - Align project activities with national and regional gender protocols which can be used as benchmarks;
 - Build capacity on gender issues among partners and beneficiaries;
 - Develop and integrate mechanisms to ensure gender-balanced representation and women's participation in project activities; and

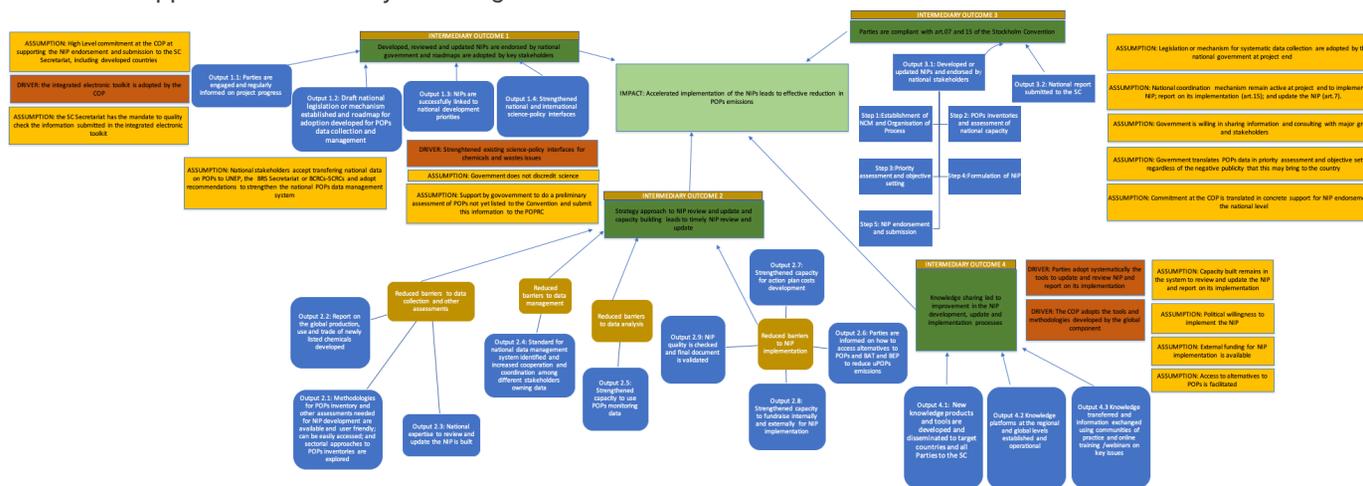
Capture the voices of women and men and develop gender-sensitive communication plans.

[1] <http://informea.pops.int/NIPsRoster/index.html>

C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A

Please refer to Appendix H for Theory of Change



C. Describe the Enabling Activity and Institutional Framework for Project Implementation (Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table B).

Please refer to Appendix H for Theory of Change

C.1 Work intended to be undertaken and output expected from each activity as outlines in Table B

COMPONENT 1: POLITICAL SUPPORT AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT FOR NIP DEVELOPMENT, ENDORSEMENT AND FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

According to the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, the biggest obstacles to influence policymakers are^[1]:

1. limited technical and financial capacity to generate national evidence-based information regarding the environmental and health hazards associated with POPs;
2. limited technical and financial capacity to implement a policy if approved;
3. policymakers' limited understanding of the issues associated with POPs;
4. poor cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders;
5. frequent staff changes at the line ministries, including the focal points under the Multilateral Environmental

- Agreements (MEAs); and
6. governmental reforms and slow economic development.

Governments also face several obstacles when engaging with industry and the civil society, including insufficient human and financial resources for outreach to a large number of stakeholders; industry's distrust of government actions on POPs and chemicals management in general; limited or no disclosure about industrial operations, which impedes proactive action on potential pollution affecting society; limited or no financial resources allocated by industry for environmental protection; and poor understanding of the impacts of POPs and other chemicals on human health and the environment.

Many other challenges at the national level lead to less informed decision-making and policies, such as lack of coordination between the line ministries and the national research programmes on policy-related priorities and needs; lack of connection between scientific or technical experts and policy- or decision-makers; lack of or insufficient capacity to understand and assess the national implications of scientific and technical information to support policymaking regarding the Conventions; and lack of cooperation and networking with the regional and global POPs research community.

Therefore, in order to address the challenges identified above, the first component of the project focuses on building and sustaining strong national political support and stakeholder engagement for NIP development, update and future implementation. A solid institutional support is an important pillar for the successful completion of NIP and NIP updates. It is also important to link national development priorities with NIP priorities to coherently and effectively achieve the SDGs. Policy makers need to be aware of the cost of inaction and the critical role that POPs data can play on national development as a whole.

Outcome 1: Developed, reviewed and updated NIPs are endorsed by national government and roadmaps are adopted by key stakeholders

Expected Outputs and Activities:

1.1 Parties are engaged and regularly informed on project progress

1.1.1 *Organize thematic workshops and side events, e.g. at the COP, to communicate, in particular to decision-makers, on the project outcomes and outputs, importance of NIPs and lessons learned*

1.1.2 *Identify challenges encountered by participating countries with the final NIP endorsement at the national level based on previous experiences and facilitate the information exchange*

1.2 Draft national legislation or mechanism established and roadmap for adoption developed for POPs data collection and management

1.2.1 *Develop guidance on institutional modalities and procedures for POPs management and NIP endorsement*

1.2.2 *Provide capacity building/training on the development and implementation of a national legislation or mechanism to collect POPs data for NIP review and update and national reporting (including TORs for national mechanism)*

1.2.3 *Collect model legislation adopted by other countries and develop legislation text for participating countries consideration*

1.2.4 Identify a national roadmap for adoption of the legal text

1.3 NIPs are successfully linked to national development priorities

1.3.1 Provide guidance and training on the contribution of the implementation of NIP priorities to the achievement of SDGs

1.3.2 Provide guidance and training on the linkage of NIP priorities with SAICM, waste and contaminated sites management strategies, climate change, and biodiversity

1.3.3 Raise awareness on the economic cost, risk and vulnerability of inaction (considering the ChemObs approach)

1.4 Strengthened national and international science-policy interfaces

1.4.1. Develop a strategy to strengthen the national science-policy interface to facilitate, among others, the NIP endorsement (consistent with the SC programme on "From Science to Action")

1.4.2. Develop and deliver a training on the role of the NIP at national level and different uses of POPs data compiled

COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPMENT OF NIP REVIEW/UPDATE SYSTEM AND RELATED TOOLS; CAPACITY BUILT TO USE THEM

Based on previous NIP development and update experiences, there is a range of challenges regarding technical capacity on POPs inventory and management[2]:

1. Difficulties in identifying POPs present in products and articles;
2. Lack of chemical-specific Harmonized System (HS) codes;
3. Lack of capacity and resources to monitor compliance at border entry points and to identify and test chemicals, mixtures, products and wastes;
4. Lack of training for custom officers and, in some cases, not enough human resources for effective customs control and no capacity building opportunities; and
5. Lack or limited coordination among the different key government actors.

Some Parties are still having difficulties controlling the POPs in use throughout their life cycle, the main issues observed are lack of capacity for chemical detection and analysis, including lack of equipment and training opportunities; limited bilateral and multilateral cooperation; poor implementation and effectiveness of the legal framework; lack of research on new POPs at the national level; lack of incentives for manufacturers, importers and others working along the life cycle of POPs to prevent environmental releases; lack of trained personnel; lack of laws and regulations regarding registration of industrial chemicals; lack of a registration system for industrial chemicals; lack of i

auons regarding registration of industrial chemicals; lack of a registration system for industrial chemicals; lack of incentives for importers and manufacturers to shift to alternatives, and; improper handling, storage and disposal of chemical substances.

Many countries specifically expressed that they lack the capacity for controlling and monitoring the products available on the market that may contain POPs. Some countries mentioned institutional problems such as a lack of coordination among ministries on the life cycle management of POPs. Several countries also reported lacking a funding mechanism for end-of-life management. Also, most countries reported that they have not yet started managing contaminated sites, due to challenges such as: limited or no capacity to assess and secure contaminated sites; lack of databases or other such systems for inventorying contaminated sites in most developing countries; lack of analytical capacity in developing countries for assessing sites contaminated with (new) POPs; weak or lacking regulatory frameworks for defining contaminated sites (e.g. limits for POPs in soil or groundwater); and limited availability of best practice case studies of contaminated sites.

Besides the challenges described above, there have been also positive developments for data management. There are three ongoing and similar initiatives related to data management in the Pacific, the Pacific Environment Portal (PEP, see <https://pacific-data.sprep.org>), the Pacific Data Hub (PDH, see <https://pacificdata.org>) and Caribbean Regional Centre (UNIDO, GEF 5558). The purpose is to establish regional data portals with the BCRCs and SCRCs as the collation points for the data collected in the NIP updating projects in their respective regions. The objective is to improve regional data management practices, safely and effectively retain already collected data, and support evidence-based policymaking. This could be replicated in all SC Regional Centres.

Specifically for data analysis, the geovisualisation of NIP inventories developed by other countries working with UNEP is already available at the MAPx. One of the founding principles was to equalize information held by different stakeholders as a prerequisite to better dialogue, decision making and monitoring platform (<https://www.mapx.org/about/>). The platform has been a useful data management tool and is now being upgraded to allow risk assessment and action plan prioritization. The objective is to facilitate decision making by national and international stakeholders. Participating country's inventories will also be translated into specific formats and uploaded in the MAPx platform to facilitate prioritization. Data will still belong to participating countries. Only UNEP, participating countries and the (EA) will have access to the uploaded data, unless it's decided otherwise by the participating countries.

In summary, the process of reviewing and updating the NIPs can be challenging for Parties that lack adequate resources and technical capacity. Parties have expressed the need for assistance, particularly with addressing newly listed POPs that are widely used for industrial purposes and contained in products and articles. Therefore, this component aims at ensuring proper and accurate data collection, management, analysis, application and implementation to strengthen the validity and sustainability of information collected in the NIP and NIP update projects.

PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, currently under review and have already been recommended by the POPRC to be listed as part of the Convention, will be included as part of the tools development, research and training processes.

Outcome 2: Strategic approach used and capacities built lead to timely NIP development, review and update

Expected Outputs and Activities:

To address the barriers toward data collection and other assessments, the following outputs and activities are proposed:

2.1 Methodologies for POPs inventory and other assessments needed for NIP development are available and user friendly; can be easily accessed; and sectoral approaches to POPs inventories are explored

2.1.1: Explore and pilot test sectoral approaches to POPs inventories for selected groups of chemicals

2.1.2: Support the transition of existing methodologies for POPs inventory development and tracking to a user friendly format (taken into consideration the shortcomings faced by countries)

2.1.3: Develop user friendly methodologies and tools (specially virtual tools) for socio-economic assessment, the integration of gender (using the UNEP gender guide) in the NIP update, and track POPs management over time

Integration of gender (using the UNEP gender guide) in the NIP update and track POPs management over time

2.2 Report on the global production, use and trade of newly listed chemicals developed

2.2.1: Develop a global report on the production, use and trade of newly listed chemicals (including PFHxS, its salt s and PFHxS-related compounds) and a section on how to access the relevant international databases and statistics

2.2.2: Prepare a report on the available POPs data or data relevant for POPs estimations produced by international statistics and develop a gap analysis for NIP review and update

2.3 National expertise to review and update the NIP is built

2.3.1: Develop and deliver training/webinars on the methodologies/reports developed or others already available necessary for the NIP review and update

2.3.2: Provide dedicated training on the interlinkages with Stockholm Convention national reporting requested POPs data and the use of the integrated electronic toolkit

2.3.3: Develop a guiding methodology for strengthening the collaboration with national statistical offices as to address the identified gaps related to POPs data or relevant information supporting POPs data estimates (e.g. EEE/W EEE, vehicles in imported/in use/ELVs etc.)

2.3.4: Develop and deliver a training to improve the production of national statistics relevant to the POPs data for NIP review and updating

To address the barriers toward data management, the following outputs and activities are proposed:

2.4: Standard structure for national data management system identified and increased cooperation and coordination among different stakeholders owning data

2.4.1: Develop a standard structure for POPs data management at national level

2.4.2: Develop a regional data management hub at the Regional Centres or the SC clearinghouse to cover the gaps/complement the national data management systems/ensure consistency between granular data at the national level

2.4.3: Develop a strategy for national adoption on medium and long term strengthening of the data management systems

2.4.4: Raise awareness on the use of big data to risk assessment and priority setting

-

To address the barriers toward data analysis, compilation and validation, the following outputs and activities are proposed:

2.5: Strengthened capacity to use POPs inventory and monitoring data

2.5.1: Assess GMP data in combination with the national POPs inventories to identify priority chemicals for which action plans are to be developed and included in the NIP in each country

2.5.2: Compile capacity gap and provide technical support to national or regional laboratories to sample and analyse the chemicals of interest identified in the activity 2.5.1 (data validation)

se the chemicals of interest identified in the activity 2.5.1 (data validation)

2.5.3: Training to policy makers on how to interpret and make use of the POPs inventory and monitoring data

2.5.4: Training on NIP inventory structure and information to be reflected in its chapters (both qualitative and quantitative)

2.5.5: Develop guidance and training on implementation of QA/QC system for POPs data validation

-

To address the barriers toward NIP implementation, the following outputs and activities are proposed:

2.6: Parties are informed on how to access alternatives to POPs to reduce/eliminate their presence in articles/products and implement BAT/BEP to reduce uPOPs emissions

2.6.1: Provide training on the available guidance documents on alternatives to POPs and BAT/BEP and compile information on the challenges faced by countries in accessing alternatives to POPs to reduce/eliminate their presence in articles/products and implementing BAT and BEP to reduce uPOPs emissions

2.6.2: Develop a step by step approach on how to access alternatives to new industrial POPs and implement BAT and BEP to reduce uPOPs emissions (through, among others, collaboration with Green Customs Initiative – informal partnership of international organizations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities and substances covered by relevant MEAs)

2.7: Strengthened capacity for action plan costs development

2.7.1: Training on calculation of the action plan costs development and technical with clear roadmaps for implementation

2.7.2: Training on the LIRA Guidance and identification of measures that can be considered in the NIP implementation

2.7.3: Build capacity on NIP priority setting

2.8: Strengthened capacity to fundraise internally and externally for NIP implementation

2.8.1: Develop and deliver a training on fundraising for NIP implementation

2.9: NIP quality is checked and final document is validated

2.9.1: Develop a framework/check list for final NIP quality check and validation

2.9.2: Make recommendations and provide technical support to countries to ensure the reviewed NIP achieve the standard defined in activity 2.9.1

2.9.3: Validate the final NIP

COMPONENT 3: NIP DEVELOPMENT, UPDATING, ENDORSEMENT AND SUBMISSION TO THE SC SECRETARIAT

Component 3 is the only national component of the project. The executing agencies, in close coordination with the National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) in participating countries, will follow the 5 step NIP development/upd

ate procedure established in previous NIP/NIP update projects. Countries will also conduct a review of past and ongoing interventions so that inventories developed from this project will take into account chemicals that have already been managed and disposed. For countries without an existing NCM in place, a new mechanism will be established. Each step, as described below, is supported by the global component as well.

PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, that have already been recommended by POPRC to be listed as part of the Convention, will be included in the inventory review and update processes in each country.

Outcome 3: Parties are compliant with Article 7 and 15 of the Stockholm Convention

Expected Outputs and Activities:

3.1 Developed or updated NIPs are endorsed by national stakeholders and submitted to the SC Secretariat

3.1.1 Complete NIP development or update procedure (including review of past/ongoing interventions so that inventories developed through this project will take into account the chemicals that have already been managed and disposed)

Step 1: Establishment of NCM and organization of process (supported by Component 1)

Step 2: POPs inventories and assessment of national capacity (supported by Component 2)

Step 3: Priority assessment and objective setting (supported by Component 2)

Step 4: Formulation of NIP (supported by Component 2)

Step 5: NIP endorsement and submission (supported by Component 1)

3.2 National reports submitted to the SC Secretariat

3.2.1 Consultation and coordination with key national stakeholders to collect data for national reporting within the NIP development and update process

NIP development or update

The NCMs of participating countries will be reinstated and complemented by additional stakeholder and ministries dealing with new POPs. The EAs will work together with the newly established and gender balanced NCMs to develop its terms of reference for the implementation of the project. This will include the establishment of working groups; assignment of responsibilities amongst government departments; a mechanism for the continuous identification of other relevant project stakeholders; evaluate and access the progress of the project; and provide advice, policy and institutional guidance to the project. In this regard, relevant governmental institutions will be requested to allocate the necessary human and technical resources to support project implementation through the NCMs of participating countries where it does not already exist. All responsibilities, timelines and budgets will be clearly spelled out by the EAs in order to guarantee the fast, safe and accurate execution of the project.

One national inception workshop will be held in each country, to raise awareness of the project on reviewing and updating the NIP amongst the widest possible range of stakeholders (government institutions, industry and industrial associations, NGOs, university, etc.) and to get a full understanding of the integrated approach needed for the NIP review and update, governmental endorsement, and submission to the Secretariat of the SC.

The integrated approach will involve the assignment of responsibilities among government representatives, stakeholders and project participants. The principal output of the inception workshop is to establish buy-in and commitment of high-level participants in the NIP update process and subsequent endorsement as required by the SC (sup

ported by Component 1). The workshop will also focus on the discussion and endorsement of the project workplan, budget, confirmation of the project institutional arrangements, assessment of national capacities for project implementation and development of capacity building plan, development of a national communication strategy throughout the project implementation, the development of a national gender analysis and a strategy to integrate gender dimensions, identification of potential risks to the project implementation and development of a mitigation strategy at the national level.

NIP development/NIP update will initiate with a desk review of available information on health and environmental impacts of POPs, level of information and awareness on POPs, existing programmes for monitoring POPs releases and environmental and human health impacts, and relevant activities of NGOs on POPs in participating countries, technical infrastructure for POPs assessment, measurement, analysis, alternatives and prevention measures, research and development, technical infrastructure for POPs management and destruction, existence of relevant system for the assessment and listing of new chemicals, existence of relevant system for the assessment and regulation of chemicals already in the market will also be developed as part of the national profile. The draft country profile and POPs inventory reports will be submitted to UNEP for review and to the NCMs for comments and approval.

Based on the POPs profile developed, in consultation with the working groups and the guidance of the EA and global component team, the NCMs will develop criteria for prioritizing the mitigation (and where feasible, the elimination) of the health and environmental impacts of POPs. Based on these criteria, priority issues to address the management of new POPs and a set of objectives to guide preliminary country-specific activities relevant to new POPs will be developed. This step will consider and adjust, where necessary, the POPs priority areas outlined in the original NIP. It is expected that the prioritization exercise will consider participating country's sustainable development priorities.

The working groups and national experts will be the main actors in this component under the guidance of the EAs and the global component team. They will gather relevant data to establish a solid baseline for priority review setting and report under SC. This process would also assess the effectiveness, efficiency and progress of the NIP implementation process thus far. As mentioned earlier, to guide the conduction of the NIP review and updating a set of guidelines have been developed or are under development by the SC Secretariat and will be used in this project. Note that some guidelines and tools may be translated in user-friendly versions in Component 2.

Some of the existing main guidance documents include:

- The SC Secretariat developed guidelines for reviewing and updating the NIPs, including a GEF project 4410 (UNIDO) on "*Development of the Guidelines for updating of the National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention taking into account the new POPs added to the Convention*". The guidelines, among others, include a step-by-step approach on how to conduct inventories on POP-PBDEs (tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta- and decabDEs), HBCD, HCB, PCP, its salts and esters, PCNs, SCCPs and PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. These draft guidelines have undergone peer review and pilot testing and are already in the final stages of completion. The guidelines are also revised periodically the SC Secretariat.
- The draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the SC (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8, revised 2017) and draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/11, revised 2017) will also be applied. The socio-economic assessment will identify and describe any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address gender gaps and promote the empowerment of women.
- The revision of the legal framework and institutional infrastructure will follow the guide "Developing National Legal Frameworks to Implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants" of 2011.
- Draft Guide on incorporating gender dimensions into national strategy setting in the context of chemicals management – developed by UNEP, Chemicals and Health Branch.

The NIPs/updated NIPs will take into consideration the recommended NIP elements as provided in Annex 10 of th

the Guidance document for developing a NIP for the Stockholm Convention - "*Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*".^[5] In addition, use of the integrated toolkit (GEF ID 9884) will be required for all participating countries in this project on the electronic submission of finalized NIPs.

Finally, the NIP update drafting will build on lessons learned from the development of the original NIPs. The action plans will be the main components of the reviewed and updated NIPs in order to meet the requirements of eliminating or phasing out POPs under the SC.

One national priority validation workshop will be held in each country, to validate the proposed criteria, national objectives and priorities for POPs management. Discussions in the validation workshops will inform how the criteria and priorities are tailored to the specific needs of participating countries and used to draft specific action plans for the NIPs that will be prepared with estimated costs for execution, timelines and responsible agencies identified. These action plans will be the basis for developing post-NIP projects. The Draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/INF/11 (revised 2017))^[6] will be applied.

Guidance on POPs alternatives^[7]; BAT/BEP^[8]; control of the import and export of POPs under the SC; and labelling of products and articles that contain POPs^[9] will also be considered when relevant.

The global component team will review and comment on the draft NIP (Activity 2.9.2) using the checklist (developed in Activity 2.9.1) considering the recommendations set out in the SC, revised guidance documents and tools. The comments will be submitted to the NCMs, UNEP and all relevant stakeholders for their feedback and written comments. Written comment submissions will be gathered and validated by the EAs (Activity 2.9.3) and be considered for the final draft NIP. EAs will subsequently work with the NCMs to produce the final draft NIP. Note that the EAs will attend national inception and validation workshops for reviewing and finalizing the NIP.

A one-day endorsement workshop will be held in each country for all relevant governmental bodies and stakeholders to review and endorse the final updated draft NIPs. The workshop will also aim to seek high-level commitment for the early implementation of the NIP. The endorsed NIPs will be submitted by the countries Official Contact Points/National Focal Points to the SC Secretariat for transmission to the COP. The reviewed and updated NIPs will be published on the website of the Stockholm Convention as well as various relevant government websites.

National Reporting

Per Article 15 of the Convention, each Party shall report to the COP on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. Each party shall provide to the Secretariat, every 4 years, the following:

- (a) Statistical data on its total quantities of production, import and export of each of the chemicals listed in Annex A and Annex B or a reasonable estimate of such data; and
- (b) To the extent practicable, a list of the States from which it has imported each such substance and the States to which it has exported each such substance.

Since many Parties have been facing difficulties in transmitting, accessing and using data contained in the NIPs, and due to lack of explicit link between NIPs and national reports, the quality of national reporting has not been optimal or was missing in the last several rounds. In order to provide support to the Parties of the Convention, the electronic toolkit, scheduled to be released by the end of 2021, aims to improve national reporting. Its objective is to assist Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations that will in turn increase NIPs implementation and lead to reduc

ed POPs emission in the long term. The toolkit will include several modules:

- NIP submission module: organize data and information in a template for initial or updated NIPs submissions. The template will use checklist or sets of questions based on the relevant obligations under the Convention to assist Parties to assess whether or not they need to update their NIP
- POPs inventory module: present the inventory guidance documents in an electronic and user-friendly manner
- Guidance module: contain contextualized links to relevant guidance documents and other toolkits, including manual on national reporting
- Queries module: query data and information submitted in the POPs inventory module and NIPs submission module

In summary, the project will utilize the electronic toolkit to improve the quality of national reporting from participating countries. It will provide support to countries to ensure that the access, usage and functionalities of the toolkit are fully understood and operational.

COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

The SC strongly promotes the participation and involvement of the public in the preparation and implementation of NIP-related activities as a major driving force for initiating environmental health improvements. The project seeks public participation by consulting those potentially affected by the production, use and management of new POPs. Public awareness and public education materials on POPs will be developed for participating countries to inform and improve the general public awareness on planned activities and achieved results of the project in a timely manner. In addition, this component will develop tools for participating countries to conduct outreach and consultation with major stakeholder groups, especially the private sector as heavy users of POPs, to ensure their participation in the management of POPs on the national level. The EA for this component will liaise with NCM in each participating country and provide country specific guidance and assistance on dissemination, outreach and private sector engagement. A knowledge management and information sharing strategy will be developed for each country, in coordination with the BCRCs-SCRCs and include regional priorities as well.

In addition to national dissemination and outreach support, knowledge, guidance, experience and tools generated from the project (components 1 and 2) will be managed, proof-read (organization of the peer review process if necessary) and published through this component. Materials will also be delivered as trainings to target countries (per proposed schedule in Table 7 below) and made available to all parties of the Convention through the knowledge sharing platform (either new or re-invention of existing portals) as part of the BRS website. The integrated electronic toolkit (GEF ID9884) will be rolled out to the participating countries and contain all the information and resources (including the ones developed through this project) that Parties need to develop and update their NIPs. This main objective of this component is to ensure that all Parties benefit from the deliverables and lessons learned. All materials will be translated into the six official UN languages.

Furthermore to the annual trainings planned for the target countries, quarterly webinars will also be organized in each region to update national stakeholders on project progress, identify regional trends and facilitate countries to work collectively in developing implementation projects. Each webinar will be technically led by the BCRCs-SCRCs and focus on a chemical/group of chemicals of the region so countries have the opportunity for peer learning and share applicable solutions and successes/failures in inventory exercises and implementation challenges.

Besides the responsibilities of organizing trainings and webinars in this component, the EA will also lead in the knowledge products/materials preparation on presenting project results either in person or in written form at the COP12 scheduled for 2025 (last year of the project). Knowledge products such as brochures, booklets and videos will

..... be included as part of the preparation. The COP will serve as an excellent opportunity to disseminate information and lessons learned from the project to all Parties of the Convention.

Outcome 4: Knowledge sharing led to improvement in the NIP development, update and implementation processes

Expected Outputs and Activities

4.1: New knowledge products and tools are developed and disseminated to target countries and all Parties to the SC

4.1.1: Insert report findings, methodologies and tools (from components 1 and 2) in the integrated electronic tool kit to facilitate NIP review and update (in 6 official UN languages)

4.1.2: Development of tools for outreach and consultation with major groups and stakeholders, particularly the private sector to be customized by Parties

4.1.3: Provide country specific assistance on outreach and information dissemination including development of a strategy per target country

4.2: Knowledge platforms at the regional and global levels established and operational

4.2.1: Consult with the BRS Secretariat on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing information sharing methodologies and approaches

4.2.2: Develop a blueprint for the proposed knowledge platform at both regional and global levels suitable for the proposed project, including linkages to the integrated electronic toolkit

4.2.3: Upon approval of UNEP and BRS Secretariat, establish the new knowledge platform at both regional and global levels

4.2.4: Provide country/regional specific (for both target countries and other Parties to the SC) training and information webinars to ensure that all Parties understand the purpose and functionalities of the platform at regional and global levels

4.3: Knowledge transferred and information exchange using communities of practice and online training/webinars on key issues

4.3.1: Organize quarterly webinars in each region with a focus on regional priorities (technical topics to be led by B CRCs-SCRCs)

4.3.2: Updated project information, guidance and tools are successfully delivered as trainings to target countries and shared with the Communities of Practice of SC clearinghouse mechanism (or re-invention of)

4.3.3: Involve in preparation for presentation of project results at COP meetings

Training workshops on the initial and new POPs inventory methodology, link to SC reporting, along with the additional training on tools/guidance to be developed/revised in components 1 and 2 will first be organized at the global level (face to face trainings will be associated with the COPs) and in alternative years via virtual platforms. Table 7 below describes the proposed training schedule. The EAs and country focal points will be capacitated to provide subsequent additional support if necessary and on a country by country basis.

Table 7. Proposed training/presentation schedule and associated outputs:

Virtual (2021)	Virtual (2022)	COP11 (2023)	Virtual (2024)	COP12(2025)
Output 1.2 establish a national coordinating mechanism for POPs management NIP endorsement	Output 2.1 inventory methodologies, including sectoral approaches	Output 2.5 technical support on data validation; interpretation of POPs monitoring data	Output 2.9 NIP validation, endorsement and transmission processes Output 3.2 national reporting process	Presentation of project results as part of Component 4 on information sharing and dissemination
Output 1.3 proposed legal text to managing POPs data and its adoption	Output 2.3 electronic toolkit and national reporting process and procedures; improve production of national statistical data on POPs	Output 2.6 access to alternatives and BATs/BEPs		
Output 1.4 different uses of POPs data	Output 2.4 raise awareness and standard for national POPs data management; establish regional data hub	Output 2.7 capacity for action plan costs development; priority setting		
		Output 2.8 fundraising for NIP implementation		

COMPONENT 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Periodic monitoring will be undertaken to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. This is a joint responsibility of UN-Environment and EAs. Any changes to the workplan will be done in accordance with the approved Project Document and [GEF document C.39/Inf.03](#).

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the EA through the PM. The project monitoring will start with the inception workshop and the development of a detailed work plan, budget and detailed monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The EA will develop and submit to UNEP technical reports biannually and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the work plan and budget, identifying obstacles occurred during implementation and the remediation actions to be taken.

UNEP will monitor the project progress according to the work plan on a regular basis to provide guidance to the EA, support implementation and ensure that any obstacles pertaining to the project are addressed in a timely manner. Yearly, during the GEF PIR, UNEP will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

Quarterly progress reports will track the project implementation progress towards the expected objectives. These reports will focus on the timelines and quality of achieved outputs; highlight issues requiring decisions and actions, and present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management.

Monthly calls between the EA and the IA will be agreed upon if the project is not progressing according to the work plan.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the EA at the end of the project closes the EA monitoring activities for this project. The final financial audit will review the use of project funds against budget and assess probity of expenditure and transactions. The final audit is to be developed by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of public accountants or, for governments, a government auditor). The final audit is to be sent to UNEP up to six months after the technical completion of the project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial report, terminal report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UNEP. There is no template for the final financial audit.

An independent terminal review (TR) will take place at the end of project implementation, latest 6 months after completion of the project. An independent consultant will be responsible for the TR and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager at the Chemicals and Health Branch of the Economy Division throughout the process. The TR will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements; and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners – EA in particular. The direct costs of the review will be charged against the project review budget. The TR report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the independent consultant in an open and transparent manner. Project performance will be assessed against standard review criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the independent consultant when the review report is finalised. The review report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Outcome 5. Project successfully implemented with satisfactory performance

Expected Output and Activities:

5.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF

5.1.1 EA develops and submit quarterly technical and financial reports to UNEP using UNEP's templates

5.1.2 UNEP communicates project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template

5.1.3 Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UNEP at project end

5.1.4 Submit final financial audit to UNEP

5.2 Independent terminal review conducted and made publicly available

5.2.1 Independent consultant carries out the terminal review upon the request of the UNEP Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UNEP website

C.2 Institutional Framework for Project Implementation

Implementing Agency (IA): This project will be implemented by UNEP and regionally, executed by EAs (BCRCs-SCR Cs: China, Caribbean, Czechia, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay). As Implementing Agency, UNEP will be respon

sible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including on technical issues.

Executing Agency (EA): The EAs will execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. It will establish the necessary managerial and technical teams to execute the project. It will search for and hire any consultants necessary for technical activities and supervise their work. It will organize independent audits in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions audits will be carried out in accordance with EA regulations. EA will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP.

National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs): The National Coordination Mechanisms established for the first NIPs will steer this project (when applicable). It may be necessary however, to include additional stakeholder representatives and ministries dealing with new POPs, especially stakeholders involved in import and export of articles containing new POPs, and stakeholders from industry sectors affected by regulations on production/disposal of waste and articles containing new POPs. The ToRs for revised NCMs will be developed at the inception meetings.

UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch: This is the UNEP Branch in charge of working closely with governments, industry and civil society organizations around the world to develop mainstream solutions for the sound management of chemicals. The Branch has technical expertise and experience to reinforce the quality of the project outputs; the project cost-efficiency; and strengthen project sustainability. A focal point at the Branch will be available to provide ongoing technical support to EAs throughout the whole project.

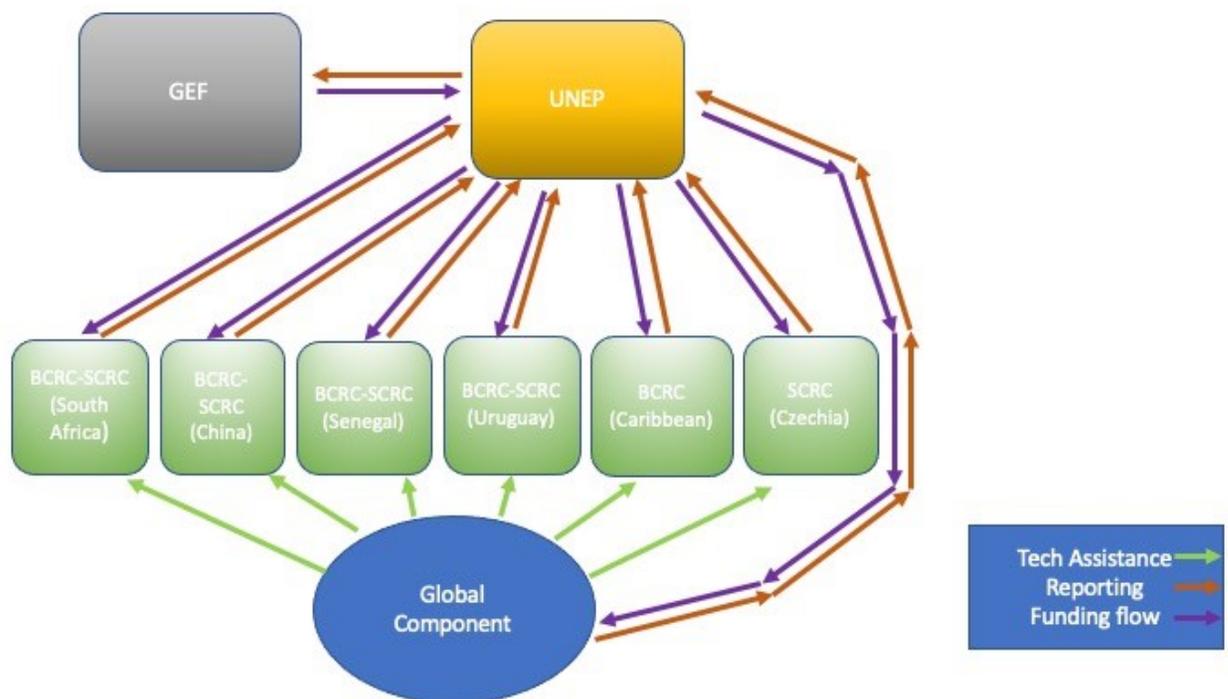


Figure 2: Institutional framework for project implementation at the international level (components 1.2 and 4)

Figure 2: Institutional framework for project implementation at the international level (component 1) and 2)

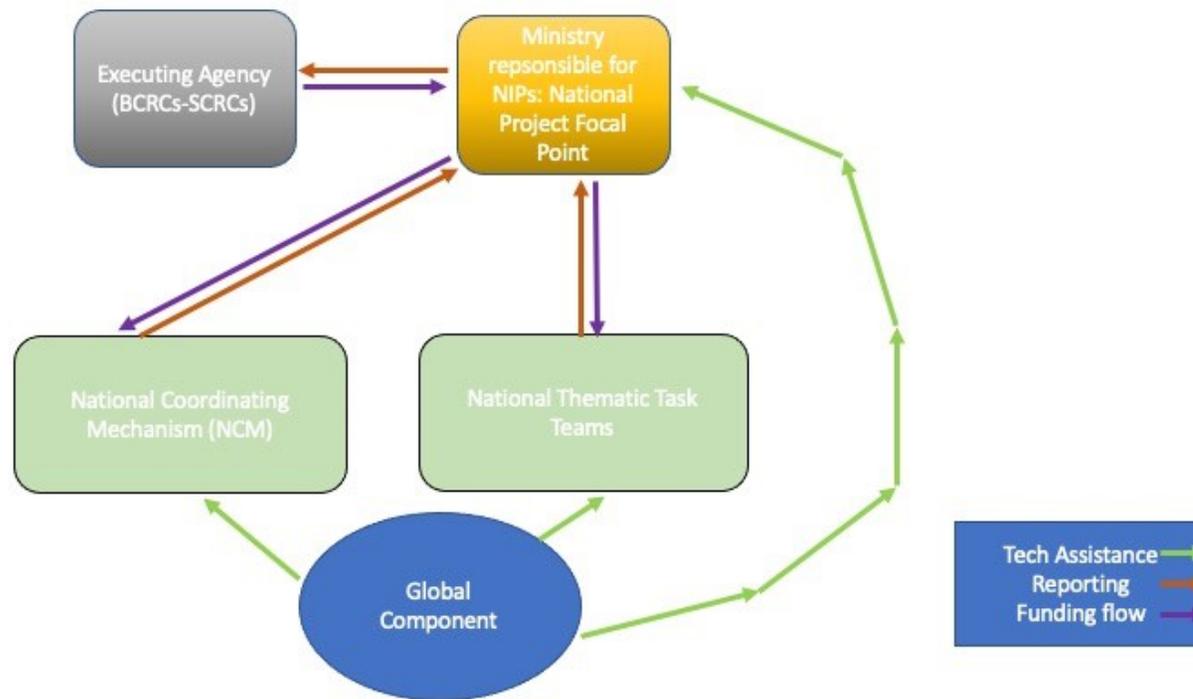


Figure 3: Institutional framework for project implementation at the national level (component 3)

[1] UNEP (2018). From NIPs to implementation: lessons learned report. <https://www.unep.org/resources/synthesis-reports/nip-s-implementation-lessons-learned-report>

[2] UNEP (2018). From NIPs to implementation: lessons learned report. <https://www.unep.org/resources/synthesis-reports/nip-s-implementation-lessons-learned-report>

[3] The conduct of POPs pesticides inventories can also be guided by developed FAO technical guidance and manuals (2009-2011).

[4] <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/LegalMatters/LegalMattersAdditionalResources/tabid/2245/Default.aspx>

[5] <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[6] <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[7] <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[8] <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[9] <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT

NIP development and update activities will be supported by the current existing capacities and expertise in participating countries put in place during the initial NIP development (and any post NIP projects) with support from UNEP as the GEF IA and EAs (BCRCs-SCRCs). For countries that are conducting NIP for the first time, a new NCM will be established. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved through fully utilizing the infrastructures and human resources available through EAs.

Other than the global component, the involvement of the international experts is limited to tasks that could not be accomplished by national consultants, in this situation, regional experts will be identified in the available roster developed during previous projects. Suitable qualified national consultants will be identified locally. This will reinforce the national capacity to manage POPs chemicals and contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

EA's coordinators and UNEP's Task Manager will ensure that only essential travel is undertaken and that where possible videoconferencing/Skype conference calls are utilized. For essential travel, EAs will endeavour to maximize resources allocated for travel for workshops and necessary consultations by booking in advance and travelling during low season where possible. Since regional centres will only focus on countries in their region, costs and environmental impact related to travel should be minimized. In addition, regional trainings will either be associated with planned COP meetings or conducted online via virtual platforms, therefore, funding related to meeting organization and travel should also be effectively reduced.

E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

More detailed information about project monitoring and evaluation can be consulted in the project Component 5 - monitoring and evaluation.

Table 8. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)	Time-frame
National inception workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising; • Build stakeholder engagement; • Development of Implementation Plan. 	EAs	\$0	Within two (2) months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	EAs	\$0	Within four weeks of the Inception Workshop
Project Supervision and Monitoring	Technical and Administrative support provided on a regular basis ensuring that the project is being carried out according to the agreed work plan and budget	EAs	\$0	Regularly
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	EAs	\$0	Quarterly
Financial Progress reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	EAs	\$0	Quarterly
Project Review by NCMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; • Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan. 	EAs	Back to back with inception meeting and validation workshops	Month 1 or 2, 12, 24, 36, and 48
Terminal report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan; • Highlights technical outputs; • Identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects; • Assesses likelihood of achieving 	EAs	\$0	Three months after the end of project implementation (Month 51)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses likelihood of achieving project outcomes. 			
Independent Terminal Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanism and outputs; Identifies lessons learned and likely remedial actions for future projects; Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks. 	UNEP – Economy Division, Independent external consultant	\$30,000	Six months after the end of project implementation (Month 54)
Independent Financial Audit	Review use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions.	EAs	Under PMC	Three months after the end of project implementation (Month 51)
Total indicative Monitoring & Evaluation cost			\$30,000	

F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Parties to the SC typically can request up to \$250,000 for each NIP update conducted. Under the proposed project, UNEP anticipate the participation of 21 Parties. The design of the proposed project includes a very robust and comprehensive global component that has never been developed and implemented before. UNEP gathered the lessons learned and experiences accumulated from previous and existing global and nationally executed NIP projects to formulate the alternative scenario for the proposed project. Consultations have also taken place with other IAs who are working on NIP and NIP updates and the BRS secretariat to ensure that the identified challenges and barriers will be appropriately addressed with a wholistic approach to reduce the dependency on international expertise and resources to conduct future NIP updates.

Release of the integrated electronic toolkit will be an integral part of the proposed project for the 21 participating countries. As a participating requirement, the global component will provide support and ensure that all target countries access, upload and integrate data from their previous NIP and NIP update reports through the toolkit.

Given the geographically balanced group of countries that will be involved in this project, including six BCRCs-SCRCs as executing agencies, national and regional capacities will be increased dramatically through proposed project interventions.

Therefore, the below justification is provided for additional funding request towards the global component in order to minimize decrease in funding at the national level:

- Additional training can be organized and provided in a systematic manner to participating countries focusing on identified challenges from past NIP update experiences;
- Additional tools and guidance can be developed, in consultation with BRS Secretariat, to ensure its timely release and can get immediate feedback from participating countries:
 - o Opportunity to develop sectoral approach to POPs inventories;
 - o Opportunity to include PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, currently being recommended by the POPRC to be listed as part of the Convention, as part of the national NIP inventory;
 - o Opportunity to produce a global/regional report on the production, use and trade of new chemicals and products under the SC, including PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds;
 - o Opportunity to establish regional data hubs to ensure sustainability in data management;
 - o Opportunity to establish standard structure for national data management system;
 - o Opportunity to inform Parties on their access to alternatives to POPs and implement best BAT/BEP to reduce uPOPs emissions;
 - o Opportunity to strengthen capacity for costed action plan development;
 - o Opportunity to strengthen capacity to fundraise for NIP implementation; and
 - o Opportunity to provide final quality check of the NIP update.
- Lessons learned from NIP update processes and sample roadmap for legal text adoption can be widely shared among participating countries;

- Project results benefit all Parties of the SC as all tools and guidance will be integrated into the Clearinghouse or a re-invention, of the BRS website;
- Recruitment of designated knowledge sharing platform (e.g. GGKP) to ensure information generated from the project is managed and disseminated properly;
- Opportunity to organize the meetings and trainings along the margins of the COP, therefore minimize on meeting costs, create greater impact and visibility with high participation from countries (even outside of the project); and
- Opportunity to provide travel support to COP meetings either to extend the stay of focal points or an extra participant.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Ms. Rochelle Newbold	Director	Bahamas/The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection	4/20/2021
Mr. Senad Oprasic	Head of Environment Protection Department	Bosnia and Herzegovina/Ministry of Trade and Economical Relations	4/20/2021
H.E. Mr. Tin Ponlok	Secretary General	Cambodia/Ministry of Environment, National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)	4/8/2021
Mrs. Alimata Kone-Bakayoko	Permanent Secretary	Cote D'Ivoire/Ministry of Economy and Finance, Commission Nationale du FEM	4/1/2021
Mr. Dodou Trawally	Executive Director	Gambia/National Environment Agency	4/6/2021
Ms. Nino Tkhilava	Head of Department	Georgia/Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	4/7/2021
Mr. Ahmadou Sebory Toure	Director General	Guinea/Fonds de Sauvegarde de l'Environnement	3/29/2021
Ms. Jovana Zarić	State Secretary	Montenegro/Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro	3/30/2021
Ms. Vesna Indova	Head of Unit for Coordination and Technical Implementation of IPA	North Macedonia/Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	4/2/2021
Dr. Hery Andriamirado Rakotondravony		Madagascar/Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable	4/8/2021
Mr. Baba Drame	Directeur de l'Environnement et des Etablissements classes	Senegal/Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable	3/29/2021

Mr. Patrick Ocailap	Deputy Secretary to the Treasury	Uganda/Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	4/14/2021
Mr. Tanyaradzwa Mundoga		Zimbabwe/Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate	4/6/2021
Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana	Permanent Secretary	Burundi/Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock	4/7/2021
Dr. Unusa Haman	Sub-Director for Environmental Planning	Cameroon/Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	3/29/2021
Dr. Christopher Kiptoo	Principle Secretary	Kenya/Ministry of Environment and Forestry	3/26/2021
Mr. Will Agricole	Principal Secretary	Seychelles/Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	3/25/2021
Mrs. Martha Carolina Cuba Villafuerte de Cronkleton	Director of Cooperation and International Affairs Office	Peru/Ministry of Environment	4/22/2021
Kimisha Thomas	Environment Coordination Unit	Dominica/Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries	4/27/2021
M. Sc. Ing. Magin Herrera Lopez	Vice Minister	Bolivia/ Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Changes and Forest Management and Development	4/23/2021
Eduardo Alejandro Andres Lopez	National Director of Environment	Uruguay/Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment	4/22/2021

B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
Stockholm Convention	10/4/2004	Albania/ Ms. Rovena Agalliu
Stockholm Convention	9/22/2006	Algeria/Mr. Karim Baba
Stockholm Convention	11/26/2003	Armenia/Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan
Stockholm Convention	10/3/2005	Bahamas/Ms. Rochelle Newbold
Stockholm Convention	3/30/2010	Bosnia and Herzegovina/Ms. Nermina Skejović-Hurić
Stockholm Convention	8/25/2006	Cambodia/Mr. Phet Pichhara
Stockholm Convention	1/20/2004	Cote d'Ivoire/Mr. Gustave Sahouo Bedi
Stockholm Convention	5/4/2007	Dominican Republic/Ms. Elsa Ferreras de Sanchez
Stockholm Convention	1/13/2006	Eswatini/Ms. Hlobisile Sikhosana
Stockholm Convention	1/9/2003	Ethiopia/Mr. Anteneh Teshome Tadesse
Stockholm Convention	4/28/2006	Gambia/Mr. Dodou Trawally
Stockholm Convention	10/4/2006	Georgia/Mr. Alverdi Chankseliani
Stockholm Convention	12/11/2007	Guinea/Ms. Halimatou Tandéta Diallo
Stockholm Convention	11/9/2007	Kazakhstan/Ms. Assel Intymakova
Stockholm Convention	6/28/2006	Laos/Mr. Khonekeo Kingkhambang

Stockholm Convention	2/27/2009	Malawi/Ms. Caroline Theka
Stockholm Convention	3/31/2011	Montenegro/Ms. Dragana Raonic Popovic
Stockholm Convention	5/27/2004	North Macedonia/Ms. Teodora Grncarovska
Stockholm Convention	11/18/2005	Madagascar/Ms. Volanirina Rabearisoa
Stockholm Convention	4/30/2004	Mongolia/Mr. Purev Tsogtsaikhan
Stockholm Convention	4/1/2004	Paraguay/Mr. Ovidio Wilfrido Espínola Pérez
Stockholm Convention	10/8/2003	Senegal/Mr. Ablaye Diao
Stockholm Convention	7/22/2004	Togo/Mr. Matiyou Tchala
Stockholm Convention	6/17/2004	Tunisia/Mr. Youssef Zidi
Stockholm Convention	7/20/2004	Uganda/Ms. Patience Nambalirwa Nsereko
Stockholm Convention	2/9/2004	Uruguay/Ms. Judith Torres
Stockholm Convention	3/1/2012	Zimbabwe/Mr. Abraham Zivayi Matiza
Stockholm Convention	6/3/2003	Bolivia/Mr. Ronald Rene Jorge Veliz
Stockholm Convention	2/8/2005	Burundi/ Mr. Janvier Murengerantwari
Stockholm Convention	2/8/2005	Burundi/ Mr. Janvier Murengerantwari
Stockholm Convention	2/8/2005	Burundi/ Mr. Janvier Murengerantwari
Stockholm Convention	5/19/2009	Cameroon/Mr. Joswa Aoudou
Stockholm Convention	8/8/2003	Dominica/Mr. Lloyd Pascal
