



## **Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Republic of Moldova under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

#### **Project Type**

EA

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT**

CBIT

#### **Project Title**

Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Republic of Moldova under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

#### **Countries**

Moldova

#### **Agency(ies)**

UNEP

#### **Other Executing Partner(s):**

Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO)

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Chemicals and Waste

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Chemicals and Waste, Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Communications, Awareness Raising, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Enabling Activities

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

| <b>Type of Reports</b>                        | <b>Submission Date</b> | <b>Expected Implementation Start</b> | <b>Expected Completion Date</b> | <b>Expected Report Submission to Convention</b> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Stockholm National Implementation Plan Update | 10/4/2019              | 11/1/2019                            | 10/31/2021                      | 10/31/2021                                      |

**Duration**

24in Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

23,750

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

| <b>Objectives/Programs</b> | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>                 | <b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CW-EA                      | GET               | 250,000                               | 32,000                   |
|                            |                   | <b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b> 250,000 | <b>32,000</b>            |

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

Facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the Republic of Moldova through the review, update and submission of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention (COP).

| <b>Project Component</b>                                  | <b>Expected Outcomes</b>   | <b>Expected Outputs</b>   | <b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b> | <b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b> |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Global Technical Support for NIP revision and updating | Guyana is enabled to implement its NIP and contribute to the protection of the human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants | 1.1 Project quality, sustainability and cost effectiveness are strengthened | 12,500                           |                                   |

| <b>Project Component</b>   | <b>Expected Outcomes</b>   | <b>Expected Outputs</b>  | <b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b> | <b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b> |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2. 1. NIP updating, endorsement and submission to the SC Secretariat | Stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova are able to manage the additional POPs with newly developed technical skills, expertise, awareness and data. | <p>2.1 Coordination mechanism in place with stakeholders aware of the risks of new POPs</p> <p>2.2 New POPs inventories developed and the initial POPs updated and validated by relevant stakeholders</p> <p>2.3 National capacities for new POPs management identified and priorities for new POPs risk reduction are set</p> <p>2.4 Updated NIP elaborated and submitted to the SC Conference of the Parties</p> | 195,000                          | 32,000                            |
| 3. Monitoring and evaluation   | Periodic Monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation  | <p>3.1 Periodic monitoring reports developed on a timely basis</p> <p>3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available</p>  | 20,000                           |                                   |
| <b>Sub Total (\$)</b>  |  |  | <b>227,500</b>                   | <b>32,000</b>                     |

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

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22,500

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**Sub Total(\$)**

**22,500**

**0**

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**Total Project Cost(\$)**

**250,000**

**32,000**

**C. Source of Co-Financing for the Project by Name and by Type**

| <b>Sources of Co-financing</b> | <b>Name of Co-financier</b>                      | <b>Type of Co-financing</b> | <b>Investment Mobilized</b>   | <b>Amount(\$)</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Government                     | Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO) | In-kind                     | Recurrent expenditures        | 32,000            |
|                                |  |                             | <b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b> | <b>32,000</b>     |

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**  
not applicable



**D. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds**

| <b>Agency</b>                  | <b>Trust Fund</b> | <b>Country</b> | <b>Focal Area</b>   | <b>Programming of Funds</b> | <b>Amount(\$)</b> | <b>Fee(\$)</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| UNEP                           | GET               | Moldova        | Chemicals and Waste | POPs                        | 250,000           | 23,750         |
| <b>Total Gef Resources(\$)</b> |                   |                |                     |                             | <b>250,000</b>    | <b>23,750</b>  |

## 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

The Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in May 2001 with the objective of protecting human health and the environment from POPs. It entered into force on 17 May 2004, initially listing twelve chemicals as POPs.

Since 2004 until 2017, the Conference of Parties (COP) has amended the list of POPs to include the following 14 chemicals into the Annexes:

- a) At its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in May 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to include the following nine new POPs in Annex A (Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Beta hexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, Lindane, Pentachlorobenzene (also listed in Annex C), Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether) and Annex B (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride). The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 26 August 2010 (SC-4/10 to SC-4/18);
- b) At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP in April 2011, endosulfan (SC-5/3) was included in Annex A with specific exemptions for production and use;
- c) The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP in May 2013, decisions were made to include Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) in the Convention's Annex A for elimination, with specific exemptions for production for use in expanded and extruded polystyrene in buildings given to specific listed Parties to allow time to phase-in safer substitutes. Countries may choose to use this exemption for up to five years after the request for exemption is submitted (SC-6/13);
- d) The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP in May 2015, adopted the amendments of the SC to list hexachlorobutadiene (HCB) in Annex A(SC-7/12), pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters in Annex A (SC-7/13) (with specific exemptions for production and use), and polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) (SC-7/14) in Annex A (with specific exemptions for production and use) and C to the Convention;
- e) In May 2017, the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP made decision to amend part I of Annex A to list short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP) and decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE), with specific exemptions for production and use, as well as the inclusion of hexachlorobutadiene in part I of Annex C.

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



|  |                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |     |     |     |  |     |  |      |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|--|------|
| <i>Reducing environmental risks caused by pesticides in the Republic of Moldova</i>                              | CzDA                    | CzDA, MoEnv, POPs unit                   |  |  |  |  |  | 202 |     | 250 |  |     |  | 452  |
| <i>Eliminating unused and prohibitive pesticide stocks</i>   | National Env Fund       | MoEnv, POPs unit                         |  |  |  |  |  |     |     | 200 |  |     |  | 200  |
| <i>Elimination and destruction of unusable pesticides in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova</i> | OSCE                    | OSCE mission to Moldova MoEnv, POPs unit |  |  |  |  |  |     | 34  | 71  |  |     |  | 105  |
| <i>Destruction of pesticides and hazardous chemicals in the Republic of Moldova</i>                              | NATO, National Env Fund | MoDefence                                |  |  |  |  |  |     | 180 | 537 |  | 320 |  | 1037 |

|   |            |   |          |             |            |          |          |            |            |             |          |            |            |             |
|---|------------|---|----------|-------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| <i>Improvement of capacities to remove hazardous chemicals from the former Soviet space as a model for approaching and preventing pollution caused by the use of pesticides</i> | EU/<br>FAO | FAO,<br>MofAgriculture<br>MoEnv, POPs<br>unit |          |             |            |          |          |            |            |             |          | 147        | 213        | 360         |
| <b>Total</b>  |            |   | <b>0</b> | <b>1107</b> | <b>186</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>202</b> | <b>214</b> | <b>1058</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>467</b> | <b>213</b> | <b>3447</b> |

Besides the Obsolete Pesticides, the country has as well undertaken the steps to undertake the inventory and to seek for the opportunities to eliminate the **Polychlorinated biphenyls**. Thus according to the Governmental Decision nr. 81 from February 2, 2009 on approval of Regulation the country has adopted the legal framework for environmentally sound management of PCB and PCB containing equipment . This regulation secures the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ratified by RM on 19 February 2004), the UNECE Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ratified by the Republic of Moldova on 1 October 2002) and its associated EU Regulation 850/2004/EC of 29 April 2004 on POPs and as well as approximation of the EU Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 PCB disposal.

According the PCB inventory data, as per June 2017, the following quantities were identified:

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total contaminated oil</b> | <b>kg 113553.5</b> |
| Contaminated oil 50-500 ppm   | kg 90207.5         |
| Contaminated oil 500-1000 ppm | kg 11705           |
| Contaminated oil > 1000 ppm   | kg 11641           |

The country has already eliminated some quantities of the PCB containing waste in the frames of the previous projects:

| <b>PCB (tone)</b>                                      |                           |                            |            |            |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |            |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Donor</b>              | <b>Implementing Agency</b> | 2006       | 2007       | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     | 2012     | 2013     | 2014     | 2015     | 2016     | 2017     | Total      |
| <i>Management and destruction of POPs stocks (PCB)</i> | GEF-WB, National Env Fund | MoEnv, POPs unit           | 216        | 718        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 934        |
| <b>Total</b>   |                           |                            | <b>216</b> | <b>718</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>934</b> |

On September 28, 2018, the biggest energy supply company ISC Red Union Fenosa SA has announced the tender for elimination of the dielectric waste oil contaminated with the PCB. The quantities announced for tendering are as follows the total mass of the PCB contaminated equipment equals 29755 kg, the mass of oil is 8139 kg. According to the sampling results of the State Hydrometeorological Service laboratory, the concentration of PCB in oil varies from 56,56 to 428,64 mg/kg/. It was expected that the contract will be done for one year duration with the qualified company to transport the mentioned above quantities for treatment abroad.

The NIP developed in 2004 has allowed to define the list of the actions, that have been reflected within both policy and regulatory country documents, developed further.

At regulatory level, the **acceptance of addendums to the SC Convention** is rather difficult process, due to the fact that the Law on Ratification of the Stockholm Convention (Law Nr. 40-XV from 19.02.2004) includes the provision, that Art. 1 - ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted on 22 May 2001 in Stockholm and signed by Moldova on 23 May 2001 with the following statements:

"In accordance with Article 25 paragraph 4 of the Convention, any amendment to Annexes A, B or C shall enter into force for Moldova after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the amendment." At the same time in order to accept the addendums, it is necessary to present the detailed information of the country's situation with reference to the new listings within the Annexes A, B, C (inventory, costs, etc). Due to economic decline there isn't possibility to finance such in-depth investigations without the TA projects.

In addition, the Law on Waste (nr. 209 of 29.07.2016) includes the specific article 53 and as annex the LIST of substances subject to management of POPs stockpiles and waste.

At present, the POPs priority actions are reflected in the National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals for 2010-2020, approved by the Governmental Decision nr 973 dated 18.10.2010 (Annex 2 List of activities related to needs and priorities for SC implementation) and within the Environmental Protection Strategy as a sector document and Environment as separate goal is set by UN under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Parties are required to review and update their NIPs as specified by a decision(s) of the COP. The addition of chemicals to the Annexes of the SC is one of the principal factors that leads to the review and update of the NIP for a Party. Thus, Republic of Moldova is now requesting the financial support from the GEF with the UN Environment as the Implementing Agency to undertake the NIP review and update.

The NIP update process will enable Republic of Moldova to establish inventories of products and articles containing the newly listed POPs and identify the industrial processes where these POPs are still employed or unintentionally produced. The NIP update will build on existing national coordination mechanisms and capacities established during the original NIP development.

As a Party to the Convention and in response to the commitment regarding the recently added new POPs, the Republic of Moldova is intending to review and update the current version of the National Implementation Plan.

The NIP update process will investigate the extent to which the measures listed in the first National Implementations Plan in relation to the initial 12 POPs have been achieved, and will establish an inventory of products and articles containing new POPs identifying where new POPs are employed or unintentionally produced.

The NIP update will build upon the outputs of the completed and ongoing WB, FAO, NATO/EnvSec/OSCE etc initiatives addressing elimination and improved management of POPs. In addition the recently revived SAICM WG will ensure that the synergies between the proposed measures for the updated NIP and those undertaken by the Basel, ESPOO and Rotterdam Conventions etc are properly explored. Overall implementation of this EA will follow the same approach as carried out for the original NIP and in line with existing SC guidance materials (SC decision 1/12 and UNEP/POPS/COP.1/13 documentation).

The proposed project component will focus on the inventory of the eleven (11) new POPs including a comprehensive assessment of conditions for the use, production, import, storage and disposal of these (as per GEF guidance for such enabling activity NIP category of projects to assess their socio-economic, environmental and health implications at the national level and develop actions plan for reduction and phase-out activities<sup>[2]</sup>). The final number of POPs included for the assessment shall be defined at inception phase of the project implementation.

The inventory process will also look at the effectiveness of the current NIP implementation process in order to identify gaps or barriers that might persist.

This comprehensive information on POPs will facilitate the revision of the national priorities and the development of specific action plans for eliminating or reducing the production, use, import, export and releases of the new POPs. The revision and update of the NIP will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.

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At national level **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** is represented by SAICM national interministerial working group is a functional structure with an advisory role, without legal personality, consisting of representatives of ministries and central public administration authorities with responsibility for chemicals management (governmental members) and representatives of NGOs in science, environment, health, protection of the interests of workers, consumers and industry, involved in chemical safety (non-members), as ex officio members without voting rights. It also advise government institutions in their work on chemicals management, with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote cooperation among governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and encourages proper distribution of the workload between organizations and other bodies within or outside national government in a manner as clear and consistent. The PSC will be strengthened by involving additional stakeholders and experts on the new POPs management. In the PSC, high-level officials, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) will be nominated as the chairperson and national project coordinator (NPC) to ensure the project is facilitated for the government.

**Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO) within “Environmental Projects Implementation Unit” of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova** will be the nominated **Executing Agency** for the provision of technical and project management services related to the activities in the work plan which will be prepared following the project’s approval. The UN Environment will act as the Implementing Agency, that throughout the years has provided to the Republic of Moldova various expertise, thus the Government is keen to continue working with the UN Environment for the update of the NIP. It is expected that UN Environment shall support the country in identifying the relevant international expertise, subject of contracting by EPPO, that will support country to address particularly the issues associated with management the impacts of the newly listed POPs – HBCD, HCB, PCP, PCN, SCCP and deca-BDE. New inventory analyses in terms of supply chain, material flow, and stakeholder analyses may be required to meet the challenges of mitigating/eliminating the hazards and risks associated in consumer products on the market.

Building on these activities and existing national coordinating mechanisms, the GEF assistance will enable Republic of Moldova to fulfill its specific obligation under the SC to review, update and submit the NIP to the COP. In addition to establishing updated inventories of products and articles containing the new POPs, it is envisaged that the project will be sustainable administratively and economically through the strengthening of the institutional POPs management structure, review of the policy and regulatory framework, and raising of public awareness. High-level government involvement will be ensured through the nomination of the chairperson the PSC / Stockholm Convention Focal Point, who will assist the Executing Agency in communicating and consulting with relevant authorities and stakeholders on project matters. Periodic project monitoring as described in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Part II, E) will help identify project implementation gaps and provide time for project adjustments.

Social sustainability will be ensured by strengthening public participation strategies and ensuring equitable access to project outcomes to the general public. During the inventory process, NGOs, local community, women’s and/or children’s groups may be consulted to gather information that can be used to develop mitigation strategies to share relevant POPs information, problems and actions. The relevant public will be informed about POPs-related human health and environmental risks and the benefits from reducing and/or eliminating the production (where applicable), use, storage, transport and disposal of POPs in an unsustainable and non-environmentally friendly manner. The design of prioritized post-NIP action plans, and possibly projects, with assigned national responsibilities and timelines will be part of the reviewed and updated NIP and will provide the basis for the national implementation of the SC.



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[1] [GEF Project ID 2508: POPs Management and Destruction Project](#)

[2] [Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) (updated in 2012 to include the POPs listed in 2009 and 2011)

## **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

**The overall goal of the Enabling Activity (EA)** is to fulfill Republic of Moldova's obligation under Article 7 of the SC which is to review and update the NIP and submit it to the COP.

The objective is to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the Republic of Moldova through the review, update and submission of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention (COP).

The activities will include strengthening the national coordination mechanism by involving additional stakeholders on new POPs, establishing working groups with expertise on new POPs issues, updating and reviewing the original twelve POPs, conducting a preliminary inventory of new POPs, identification of the regulatory options for the ratification of the addendums to SC by the country, assessing the regulatory and policy frameworks and institutional capacities to manage new POPs, prioritizing and drafting relevant objectives and action plans for reducing and phasing out new POPs.

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

The proposed EA project will focus on the attainment of the following outcomes:

- The updated National Implementation Plan (NIP) is endorsed and submitted by the Government of Republic of Moldova to the SC Conference of Parties (COP);
- Participating stakeholders able to manage the additional new POPs with newly developed technical skills, expertise and awareness.

During the NIP review and updating process, **gender dimensions** is a critical component to be considered. Recognizing that 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.); therefore, gender mainstreaming activities will be an integral part of this project. This will be addressed with due regard to UN Environment gender policy, mainly by involving women and vulnerable groups at the sector level, in the Project Executing Agency and project steering committee (PSC) at the stakeholder level, at the informational level (e.g. gathering POPs inventory data on current POPs management practice, on occupational health data, and consultation about potential and practical post-NIP interventions) and during public awareness activities. The socio-economic assessment will also emphasize on the benefits of new POPs reduction and use on human health, especially women and children, and the environment, as well as the use of new POPs in an environmentally sound manner. The results of these interventions will be summarized in the inventory reports to provide a basis for prioritization, development of action plans and the drafting of post-NIP projects.

GEF's promotion of enhanced global synergies is envisaged within the context of the proposed outcomes for the NIP update project. While efforts will be placed to address the specific country needs, the global coherence of activities will be considered. UN Environment will disseminate lessons learned from previous NIP update projects, especially practical experiences gained from conducting new POPs inventories, and recommendations on the inventory procedures.

#### **Project Stakeholders:**

At the international level the project will include:

**UN Environment Chemicals and Wastes:** UN Environment 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. UN Environment Chemicals and Wastes is the UN Environment 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;

**UN Environment Regional Office for Europe:** UN Environment has six regional offices supporting different groups of countries in their efforts towards sustainable development. The UN Environment Regional Office for Europe 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;

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;

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 UN Environment Chemicals Branch will facilitate the access to these materials and will also inform the World Health Organization on identified needs for additional support;

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.

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

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 consultations to contribute to the achievements of the project objectives. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of women on the PSC to ensure their active involvement throughout the project duration. Further, CSO representatives will be involved in the steering committee as necessary. A preliminary list of national stakeholders has been identified and will be strengthened in the inception meeting.

*Table 1: Preliminary list of national stakeholders*

| Stakeholders  | Role in the project   |
|---|---|
| <b>Government</b>   |   |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment | Main environmental, agriculture and regional development central authority of the country, having primary functions in the management of the chemicals and waste functions in the field of environmental protection and agriculture ( including management of plant protection products and fertilizers). At present the ministry as well regulates the management of industrial chemicals. |
| Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure                        | Central government authority empowered to promote the unique state policy in ensuring the country’s economic growth, structural transformation, trade, privatization, industry, public property, energetic sector, transport and IT.  |
| Ministry of Health, Labor and Social protection               | Central national authority empowered with the tasks associated with protection of social welfare, labour and human health of the population.  |
| National Bureau of Statistics                                 | Operation of the official statistics, including data related to responsible authorities and economic agents activities.   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Ministry of Internal Affairs                        | State supervision in the civil protection is undertaken by the Civil Protection and Emergency situation service, subordinated by Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is responsible for overseeing the state of the sapper, radioactive, chemical, medical and biological protection.   |
| Ministry of Finance                                 | Central body responsible for state finance and involved in the development of the financial analysis.  |
| National Food Safety Agency                         | Is the administrative authority responsible for the implementation of state policy in the field of regulation and control for food safety and in the sanitary-veterinary, zootechnical, plant protection and phytosanitary quarantine, seed control, quality of primary products, etc.   |
| <b>Academia</b>                                     | Research and scientific tasks, including laboratory network.   |
| <b>Private sector</b>                               | The role of the private sector is very important in achieving sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste. Nationally the private sector plays an important role in the adoption of sound management of chemicals practices and responding to employee, consumer and community concerns relative to the transportation, trade, storage, manufacturing, repackaging and use of chemicals. The project will ensure that the private sector, industry associations and large private firms dealing with aspects of chemicals management (e.g. mining industry, manufacturing industry) will fully participate in the project's implementation.  |
| <b>Civil society organizations</b>                  | <p>Involvement of CSOs in the project's implementation as well as support of CSOs to the project's objectives is of great strategic importance given the integral role of civil society actors in development. There is growing recognition that engagement with CSOs is critical to national ownership, accountability, good governance, decentralization, democratization of development co-operation, and the quality and relevance of official development programmes. CSOs can have unique skills and knowledge relative to the management of chemicals. They often represent the viewpoints of sectors that are not always actively involved in national discussions. CSOs can be an excellent supporter of chemical safety-related activities, and often have the ear of the public-at-large on environment and human health-related issues. Their support to the project is, in many instances, essential to its ultimate success.</p> <p>The project will ensure that CSOs involved in environment, chemicals and health related issues will fully participate in the project's implementation.</p> |
| Indigenous people                                   | n/a  |
| <b>Other UN organizations at the national level</b> |  |

### 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

#### **Project Component 1. Global Technical Support for NIP revision and updating**

The UN Environment Chemicals Branch has successfully supported countries globally on the development of their NIPs. As a result of the previous NIP updating projects, a roster of international, regional and national experts on NIP development and implementation has been developed[1]. The roster currently lists 132 experts in diverse areas of POPs expertise and regional experience.

The UN Environment Chemicals Branch has also organized trainings on new POPs inventories in Asia, Latin America and Africa in partnership with the BRS Secretariat. A final lessons learned workshop and report has also been developed in consultation with participating countries and international experts. Finally, the POPs inventories were collected, harmonized and inserted in a geo-visualisation platform developed to facilitate POPs data management and risk assessments[2].

In the GEF 7 replenishment, the objective of the global component is to continue strengthening the quality and impact of the project through the delivery of specific outputs. Funds from multiple NIP updating projects will be pooled and common outputs, such as guidance, training, help desk services will be developed answering directly to common country needs.

#### Expected Outputs and Activities:

1.1 Project quality, sustainability and cost effectiveness are strengthened

##### *1.1.1 Quality check of the final NIP by a team of independent consultants*

This activity is directed to each individual country. In Guyana, two reviews will be done. One review of the final inventories; and one review of the final draft NIP. The objective is to ensure the high quality of the main project output. A multidisciplinary team of experts should be recruited to provide the quality check with policy, chemical, legal, and social backgrounds.

##### *1.1.2 Geovisualisation of NIP inventories*

This activity is also directed to each individual country. The geovisualisation of NIP inventories developed by other countries working with UN Environment is already available at the MAPx[3]<sup>3</sup> platform. 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. Guyana's inventories will also be uploaded in the MAPx platform. Data will still belong to Guyana. Only UN Environment, Guyana and the BCRC-Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago will have access to the uploaded data, unless it's decided otherwise by Guyana.

### *1.1.3 Regional trainings and tools developed based on identified country needs in partnership with the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres and the SC Secretariat*

As mentioned previously, the specific workplan for the development of trainings and tools will be adapted in response to country needs. The workplan will be regularly updated in consultation with the GEF Unit and the Chemicals and Health Branch and the Executing Agencies. Initial themes considered for the global component are (1) project development and co-financing to facilitate the implementation of the NIP; (2) how to adopt a circular economy approach to the National Implementation Plan, and; (3) BAT and BEP.

## **Project Component 2. NIP updating**

**Outcome 2. Stakeholders in Republic of Moldova are able to manage the additional POPs with newly developed technical skills, expertise, awareness and data**

**Output 2.1. Coordination mechanism in place with stakeholders aware of the risks of new POPs**

### **Activity 2.1. Re-establish the project coordination mechanism, form and contract working groups**

**Executing Agency (EA):** Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO) within “Environmental Projects Implementation Unit” of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova 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 acquire equipment and monitor the project; in addition, it will organize independent audits in order to guarantee the proper use of GEF funds. Financial transactions, audits and reports will be carried out in accordance with national regulations and UNEP procedures. The Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO) within “Environmental Projects Implementation Unit” of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP. **EPPO as project team** will be in charge of the execution and management of the project and it will report to UNEP and to the Project Steering Committee.

As the Executing Agency, the EPPO will execute and manage the project with the following tasks:

- (1) draft the project work plan including assigning responsibilities amongst government and other relevant stakeholders;
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- (2) manage the project execution to ensure that the project is on track as per deliverables and outputs - including initiation, day-to-day management and monitoring of the project components, hiring of additional international and national expertise, final planning and budget, reporting to the PSC and to UN Environment;
- (3) monitor, coordinate, analyse and report on the technical aspects of the project, organize the inception workshop, other workshops, and consultations with stakeholders throughout the project cycle;
- (4) provide technical support to the project implementation by collecting available statistical data linked with initial and new POPs; customizing inventory forms to gather inventory data.

EA shall accordingly will hire the additional staff needed to assist in the collection and gathering of inventory data and assist in drafting the final inventory reports.

As part of the implementation requirements for the development of the first NIP, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established. At national level **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** is represented by SAICM national interministerial working group is a functional structure with an advisory role, without legal personality, consisting of representatives of ministries and central public administration authorities with responsibility for chemicals management (governmental members) and representatives of NGOs in science, environment , health, protection of the interests of workers, consumers and industry, involved in chemical safety (non-members), as ex officio members without voting rights. It also advise government institutions in their work on chemicals management, with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote cooperation among governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and encourages proper distribution of the workload between organizations and other bodies within or outside national government in a manner as clear and consistent. The PSC will be strengthened by involving additional stakeholders and experts on the new POPs management. The re-established and gender balanced PSC will establish working groups, assign responsibilities amongst government departments, select and nominate relevant project stakeholders evaluate and access the progress of the project, provide advice, policy and institutional guidance to the PCU. In this regard, relevant governmental institutions will be requested to allocate the necessary human and technical resources to support project implementation through the PSC, where it does not already exist.

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 consultations to contribute to the achievements of the EA project objectives. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of women on the PSC to ensure their active involvement throughout the project duration. Further, CSO representatives will be involved in the steering committee as necessary.

Additional expertise, not available within the EPPPO will be hired through the selection and recruitment of national or international experts to guide and assist in specific technical project activities outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The potential candidates will be consulted with UNEP if needed. The contracted experts will assist in the implementation of the project activities, outputs and drafting and/or review of the project reports and deliverables. Following a review and gap analysis of the current NIP, provide technical guidance and training on conducting inventories on new POPs; participate in some national workshops and contribute technical expertise on new POPs; assist in developing criteria, list of priorities and specific action plans on new POPs; and review the updated NIP.

Working groups and EPPPO/national experts with expertise in specific areas will be responsible for informing the conduct of the inventories through stakeholder consultation:

- Inventory groups will be held on the (i) initial and new POPs pesticides; (ii) PCBs and PCNs, SCCP; (iii) POP-PBDEs, HBCD, deca-BDE and HBB; (iv) PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F; and (v) uPOPs (including PeCB)[4]<sup>4</sup>. The members of the working groups should be representatives of all relevant government institutions, and other stakeholders (inclusive of but not limited to the industrial, agricultural, waste disposal and recycling sectors etc...).
- The working group on institutional and legal issues will assess and assist in a gap analysis on the current legislative and institutional framework pertaining to the management of new POPs chemicals and waste. The results will be summarized in a report.

All responsibilities, timelines and budgets will be clearly spelled out in order to guarantee the fast, safe and accurate execution of the project.

## **Output 2.2. New POPs inventories developed and the initial POPs updated and validated by relevant stakeholders**

### Activity 2.2.1. Raise awareness of stakeholders and public on new POPs risks and policy implications

An inception workshop will be held to raise awareness of the EA project on updating and reviewing 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 an integrated approach needed for the NIP review and update, governmental endorsement, and submission to the Secretariat of the SC.

The integrated approach will involve a number of different activities, and assigning 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 within the obligation of the SC.

The workshop will focus on the presentation and discussion of the project workplan, planned activities, associated project management, assigning responsibilities and tasks among relevant project participants, timeframes and defining of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan.

EA will be responsible for mobilizing support, cooperation and consultation of all relevant stakeholders. Special attention will be given to informing producers, importers and distributors of new POPs and/or articles containing new POPs of the obligations of the country under the SC and their involvement in inventory and priority setting processes. Feedback, suggestions and comments received from stakeholders will be reviewed, considered and answered, where necessary by the EA.

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. Relevant community groups, agricultural groups, women and children groups will be involved in new POPs inventory activities and at the same time informed about the human and environmental risks associated with POPs. The information will be assessed and will inform the development of the inventory reports and design of action plans to implement the SC.

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To inform and improve the general public awareness on planned activities and achieved results of the EA project in a timely manner, public awareness and public education materials, on POPs and uPOPs, will be developed for the Republic of Moldova. Special information releases will be prepared and distributed to different public organizations, and key stakeholders, including the media. A detailed communications strategy can be developed using the UNEP guidance on "Developing a communications strategy for National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention on POPs".

#### Activity 2.2.2. Update Inventories of initial 12 POPs and validate updated inventories by stakeholders

A training workshop will be held on the initial and new POPs inventory procedures for the working groups and technical and EA/experts identified at the inception workshop. The International expert will conduct the training, which will elaborate on the following:

- procedures for reviewing and revising the existing POPs inventories;
- procedures for gathering new POPs-related information;
- conducting new POPs inventories of trade, use, stocks and contaminated sites according to new POPs guidelines;
- assessing the national institutional and policy framework;
- assessing the current national level of public awareness on new POPs;
- assessing socio-economic implications of new POPs utilization, elimination and reduction;
- obligations under the SC with respect to new POPs management.

The working groups will be the main actors within activity 1.2.2. The EA will gather relevant information from each working group to update the inventories of the initial 12 POPs in order to have a solid baseline for priority review setting. This process would also assess the effectiveness, efficiency and progress of the NIP implementation process thus far.

The reviewed and updated inventory database, effectiveness assessment reports and reviewed action plans to assure the elimination and/or restriction of the production, use, import, export releases and disposal of the original POPs based on national priority assessment and objective setting will feed into the conduct of the new and updated Inventory. The revised database and inventory reports will be the baseline for activity 1.2.3.

The following inventories and assessments will be developed or updated based on GEF project nr. 9884 on *Enhanced compliance with the Stockholm Convention (SC) through improved transmission, accessibility and use of data (article 16) contained in National Implementation Plans (NIP, Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15) / Increased percentage of data from NIPs is used to report under Article 15 and used in Article 16* project results:

- Annex A POPs pesticides;
- Annex A, Industrial chemicals;

- Annex B chemicals;
- Releases of Annex C chemicals, specifically dioxins and furans;
- Stockpiles, contaminated sites and wastes;
- Requirements for exemptions;
- Monitoring and environmental and human health impacts;
- Awareness and education;
- Relevant activities of non-governmental stakeholders;
- Review of available technical infrastructure for analysis, monitoring of POPs;
- Threats to public health and environmental quality and social implications;
- System for the assessment and listing of chemicals;
- System for the assessment and regulation of chemicals already in the market;
- Review and update list of existing regulations on POPs, including conducting a gap-analysis;
- Review of institutional linkages of relevant stakeholders working on POPs issues and their future cooperation.

Activity 2 2.3. Conduct new POPs inventories and validate by stakeholders

A training workshop will be held on new POPs inventory procedures for the working groups formed /experts contracted at the inception workshop. The expert(s) will conduct the training, which will elaborate on the following:

- procedures for gathering new POPs-related information;
- conducting new POPs inventories of trade, use, stocks and contaminated sites according to new POPs guidelines;
- assessing the national institutional and policy framework;
- assessing the current national level of public awareness on new POPs;

- assessing socio-economic implications of new POPs utilization, elimination and reduction; and
- obligations under the SC with respect to new POPs management.

The major gap in the NIP update process is that the potential consumer/end-users of the new industrial POPs are not known and/or there is a lack of capacity within the government to address such matters. The inventory of the new POPs will closely look at the potential industries that might use these chemicals. To guide the conduction of inventories, UNIDO together with UNITAR and the SC Secretariat developed guidelines for reviewing and updating the NIPs under the GEF project "*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<sup>[5]</sup>, include a step-by-step approach on how to conduct inventories on PBDEs, HBCD, HCB, PCP and its salts, PCN and PFOS. These draft guidelines have undergone peer review and pilot testing and are already in the final stages of completion. These draft guidelines can be found on the SC Secretariat website at [the following link](#). Several training activities (workshops, webinars) on the use of the guidelines are being planned by the SC Secretariat and also by UNIDO for international experts, national consultants and implementing agencies.

EA / experts, in consultation with the working group, will conduct a Tier I inventory of likely presence of new POPs in the country, and will decide on which new POPs or articles containing new POPs need a Tier II inventory<sup>[6]</sup>. Relevant baseline data will be gathered from the working groups on the production, distribution, use, import and export of new POPs pesticides, industrial POPs and u-POPs and on the types and quantities of articles containing new POPs (especially e-waste products).

In each working group consulted, consideration shall be given to stockpiles, and potentially contaminated sites, as well as new POPs alternatives identified at the international level in their overall assessment. A database on new POPs inventories will be designed for determining the national priorities for post-NIP POPs management.

The draft reports and database will be submitted to UN Environment for evaluation and revision, if needed. The revised database and assessment reports will be submitted to the PSC for approval.

EA with input from the working groups, will gather relevant baseline information on the following inventories and assessment of new POPs:

- Annex A POPs pesticides (production, distribution, use, import and export of new POPs, and types and stockpiles of new POPs);
  - Annex A industrial chemicals (production, distribution, use, import and export of new POPs, and types and quantities of articles containing new POPs (especially e-waste products));
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- Exemptions and Alternatives;
- Annex B chemicals (production, distribution, use, import and export of new POPs);
- Unintentional Releases of Annex C chemicals;
- Stockpiles, contaminated sites and wastes;
- Requirements for exemptions;
- Monitoring and environmental and human health impacts;
- Awareness and education;
- Relevant activities of non-governmental stakeholders;
- Overview of technical infrastructure;
- Threats to public health and environmental quality and social implications;
- System for the assessment and listing of new chemicals;
- System for the assessment and regulation of chemicals already in the market.

The inventories and assessments will focus on

- The review and update of all existing national legislation in the field of the new POPs chemicals and waste management;
- The review and update of the list of existing national legislations in the fields of new POPs chemicals and their wastes as provided in the initial NIP;
- The gap analysis of the reviewed and updated existing legislation corresponding to their implementation under the Stockholm Convention;
- Review of the institutional linkages of relevant stakeholders, organizations and other institutions working on POPs issues and their future linkages to new POPs issues, including research and development entities;
- New POPs pesticides, industrial POPs and unintentional POPs related information and will establish a database concerning their production, import, export, use, stocks, and releases, including stockpiles, contaminated sites as well as new POPs alternatives identifies at the international level in their overall assessment;

- The available infrastructure for their analysis, monitoring and disposal including the analysis of potential environmental and health effects.

EA/experts with input from the working groups will carry out the following tasks for Annex A POPs pesticides:

- Develop comprehensive work plan for reviewing and updating the pesticide inventory;
- Develop special inventory forms to facilitate the inventory process;
- Describe the step-by-step methodology for inventory preparation;
- Coordinate the process of data collection;
- Collect and assess statistical data linked with POPs pesticides and obsolete POPs pesticides presence in the country, with assistance of the Inventory Assistant;
- Create an updated inventory, with assistance of the Inventory Assistant, of:
  - Annex A POPs pesticides; and
  - Stockpiles, contaminated sites and wastes.

As part of the action plan development, the EA/ expert will be responsible to develop the following plans in consultation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders:

- Activity: production, import and export, use, stockpiles and wastes of Annex A POPs pesticides;
- Activity: measures to reduce releases from stockpiles and wastes (Article 6);
- Activity: manage stockpiles and appropriate measures for handling and disposal of articles in use;
- Strategy: identification of contaminated sites (Annex A, B and C Chemicals) and remediation in an environmentally sound manner

For the new industrial POPs inventory, EA/experts will:

- Develop comprehensive work plan for reviewing and updating the inventories on POPs industrial chemicals including PBDES, HBCD, and PFOS;

- Develop special inventory forms to facilitate the inventory process;
- Describe the step-by-step methodology for inventory definition;
- Coordinate the process of data collection;
- Collect and assess available statistical data linked with the new industrial POPs, with assistance of the Inventory Assistant;
- Organize regular meetings with the workgroup (s) members, where necessary;
- Create an updated inventory of:
  - Annex A, industrial chemicals;
  - Annex B chemicals.

As part of the action plan development, the PCU and the International expert will be responsible for developing the following plans in consultation with the relevant authorities, stakeholder and NGOs:

- Activity: production, import and export, use, identification, labelling, removal, storage and disposal of Industrial POPs;
- Activity: production, import and export, use, stockpiles and wastes of Annex B chemicals if used in the country;
- Activity: register for specific exemptions and the continuing need for exemptions (Article 4);
- Strategy: identification of stockpiles, articles in use and wastes

For the new u-POPs inventory, the EA/ expert will:

- Collect information on the national technical infrastructure for uPOPs analysis, handling, transportation, disposal, monitoring capacity and other relevant technical expertise;
- Create a database for potential sources for new unintentional POPs in the country;
- Develop comprehensive work plans;

- Organize regular meetings with the workgroup members;
- Collect data gained through emission estimation using the 2013 UNEP Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs and PRTR reference methods identified within the country during the PRTR establishment in 2017.
- Create and update the following inventories:
  - releases of Annex C chemicals;
  - overview of technical infrastructure.

As part of the action plan development, the EA/ experts will be responsible for developing the following plans in consultation with the relevant authorities, NGOs:

- Action plan: identify measures to reduce releases from unintentional production (Article 5);
- Activity: establish research, development and monitoring (Article 11); and
- Activity: identify technical and financial assistance (Articles 12 and 13).

EA will organize a workshop to validate and discuss the key outcomes of the new POPs inventory. All working group members, EA and relevant stakeholders will be invited to the workshop.

### **Output 2.3. National capacities for new POPs management identified and priorities for new POPs risk reduction are set**

#### Activity 2.3.1. Assess national regulatory and policy framework and institutional capacities to manage new POPs

EA/expert will gather information and perform a gap analysis, in consultation with the working group, on the current legislative and regulatory framework in place to meet the requirements of the SC with regard to the new POPs. The starting point will be the information already present in the NIP, however, the database will also be reviewed and updated with potential changes in the legal and institutional framework pertaining to the management of POPs that may have occurred since the first NIP development. An assessment report will be drafted and submitted to the PSC for review and endorsement and will further consult with national experts within the relevant government ministries and agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders who are *au courant* with the institutional and legal issues familiar with the original and new POPs and waste issues; update the list/database of institutions/organizations being engaged in original and new POPs management and coordination, including assigned roles and responsibilities.

EA will gather relevant information and assess the national monitoring, analytical and enforcement capacity with respect to new POPs management. An assessment report will be drafted and submitted to the PSC for review and endorsement.

EA/expert will gather relevant basic data on the socio-economic implication of the use, reduction and management of new POPs, taking into consideration the gender dimensions, as impacts on women and children are different as compared to men within societies. Occupational roles for women and children, especially agricultural and household activities, have an impact on the level of new POPs exposure and consequently human health. The assessment will also highlight the benefits that may be brought about by the environmentally sound management of new POPs and their use reduction.

The draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the SC (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/8) will be used as guidance material. A draft version of the assessment report will be submitted to the PSC for review and endorsement.

#### Activity 2.3.2. Complete prioritization of new POPs risk reduction options based on criteria, cost and benefit and inventory results

EA in consultation with the respective and working groups, will develop criteria for prioritizing the mitigation (and where feasible, the elimination) of the health and environmental impacts of POPs based on the inventory data, assessment reports and recommendations made by the working groups. These criteria will also consider socio-economic impacts and the availability of alternative solutions to new 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. The proposed criteria, objectives and national priorities will be submitted to the PSC for review and endorsement.

A national priority validation workshop will be held to validate the proposed criteria, national objectives and priorities for POPs management. Discussions in the validation workshop, will inform the how the criteria and priorities are tailored to the specific needs of the Republic of Moldova and used to draft specific action plans for the NIP 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.

#### Activity 2.3.3. Independent quality check of the draft NIP with recommendations for improvement

This activity shall be defined at inception phase, based on the progress achieved within the NIP reporting system improvement under the GEF project nr. 9884 on Enhanced compliance with the Stockholm Convention (SC) through improved transmission, accessibility and use of data (article 16) contained in National Implementation Plans (NIP, Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15) / Increased percentage of data from NIPs is used to report under Article 15 and used in Article 16.

### **Output 2.4. Updated NIP endorsed and submitted to the SC Conference of Parties**

#### Activity 2.4.1: Draft updated and reviewed NIP



EA, in consultation with the PSC and working groups, will formulate action plans to reach the country's objectives with respect to each of the sixteen (16) new POPs, with responsibilities assigned and implementing mechanisms well defined. In addition, each section of the original NIP (e.g. country profile, action plans on POPs pesticides and on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production) will be reviewed and information will be updated, where necessary.

The drafting of action plans on new POPs will build on lessons learned from the development of the original NIP. The action plans for the updated NIP will be based on the results of the inventory and priority validation workshop. The action plans will be the main components of the reviewed and updated NIP in order to meet the requirements of eliminating or phasing out POPs under the SC.

Action plans for the updated NIP will generally include the:

- (i) identification of management options, including phasing out, risk reduction options and alternatives to POPs;
- (ii) determination of the need for the introduction of technologies, including technology transfer and possibilities for developing alternatives;
- (iii) assessment of the costs and benefits of management options, and
- (iv) development of a national strategy for information exchange, education, communication and awareness raising, considering the risk perception of POPs by the public.

Regarding the POPs Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, respectively, the action plans should address the need to identify the presence of articles containing these chemicals in the recycling and waste streams and then assess appropriate disposal technologies. The development of action plans for PFOS, its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS-F) should build on the basic inventory of PFOS uses and acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for the production and use of PFOS for which Republic of Moldova has registered.

The following action plans will be developed:

- institutional and regulatory strengthening measures;
- measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use;
- production, import and export, use, stockpiles and wastes of POPs pesticides (Annex A chemicals);
- production, import and export, use, identification, labeling, removal, storage and disposal of industrial POPs (Annex A chemicals);
- production, import and export, use, stockpiles and wastes of Annex B chemicals if used in the country;
- register for specific exemptions and the continuing need for exemptions (Article 4);
- measures to reduce releases from unintentional production (Article 5);

- measures to reduce releases from stockpiles and wastes (Article 6)
- strategies for the identification of stockpiles, articles in use and wastes;
- manage stockpiles and appropriate measures for handling and disposal of articles in use;
- strategies for the identification of contaminated sites (Annex A, B and C Chemicals) and remediation in an environmentally sound manner;
- facilitating or undertaking information exchange and stakeholder involvement;
- public awareness, information and education (Article 10);
- effectiveness evaluation (Article 16);
- reporting;
- research, development and monitoring (Article 11);
- technical and financial assistance (Articles 12 and 13).

In addition, special attention will be drawn to the consideration of post-NIP projects which will assist in speeding up implementation of the updated NIP in the country. Proposed action and funding request packages can be prepared. These funding packages will establish implementation timetables consistent with the obligations under the SC.

EA will be responsible for drafting the updated NIP taking into consideration the recommended NIP elements as provided in Annex 10 of 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*”. Information will be collated from the updated inventories, and stakeholder consultations to reflect the updated national priorities and objectives, progress made in the implementation of earlier action plans and new action plans for the newly listed POPs as necessary.

The International expert will review and comment on the draft NIP, considering the recommendations set out in the SC and in the document. The revised NIP will be submitted to the PSC, the UN Environment and all relevant stakeholders for written comments. The circulation, with the revised draft NIP, of a questionnaire prepared by the International expert who reviewed the document, will aid this process. Written comment submissions will be gathered by the EA and be taken into account for the final draft NIP.

#### Activity 2.4.2. NIP endorsement by the Government and submission to the SC Conference of Parties

A one-day endorsement workshop will be held for all relevant governmental bodies and stakeholders to review and endorse the final updated NIP. The workshop will also aim to seek high-level commitment for the successful endorsement and implementation of the NIP. UN Environment representative will also attend the workshop for reviewing and finalizing the NIP.

*Reviewed and updated NIP made available to the public.*

The reviewed and updated NIP will be published on the website of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment in its capacity as the the Stockholm Convention focal point for the Republic of Moldova as well as various relevant government websites.

*Endorsement and submission of the updated NIP by the Government and transmission to the SC Conference of Parties*

For the successful incorporation of the NIP into the national development planning and sustainable development objectives, it needs to be approved by the government of Republic of Moldova. The government obliges the related institutions to undertake activities for the forthcoming NIP implementation. It might also dedicate future financial resources to be used for certain NIP-update implementation activities.

The reviewed and updated NIP will be endorsed by the government and submitted to the SC Secretariat for transmission to the COP.

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### **Project Component 3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **Outcome 3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

##### **Output 3.1. Periodic monitoring reports**

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

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

UN Environment will monitor the project progress according to the workplan on a regular basis to provide guidance to the Executing Agency, support implementation and to ensure that any obstacles pertaining to the project are addressed in a timely manner. Yearly, during the GEF PIR, UN Environment will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made. Two major technical reviews are planned and will be covered by the project global component. The first one will look at the preliminary inventories of POPs, the other one at the draft NIP.

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 Executing Agency and the Implementing Agency will be agreed upon if the project is not progressing according to the workplan.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the Executing Agency at the end of the project closes the Executing Agency 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 UN Environment 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 UN Environment. 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 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 UN Environment and executing partners – BCRC-Caribbean 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 publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

- 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF.
  - 3.1.1 *EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UN Environment using UN Environment's templates;*
  - 3.1.2 *UN Environment communicates project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template;*
  - 3.1.3 *Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UN Environment at project end;*
  - 3.1.4 *Submit final financial audit to UN Environment.*
  
- 3.2 Independent terminal review developed and made publicly available.

3.2.1 *Independent consultant carries out the terminal review upon the request of the UN Environment Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UN Environment website.*

**Institutional framework:**

**Implementing Agency (IA):** this project will be implemented by UN Environment and executed by EPPO. As Implementing Agency, UN Environment will be responsible for the overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including on technical issues.

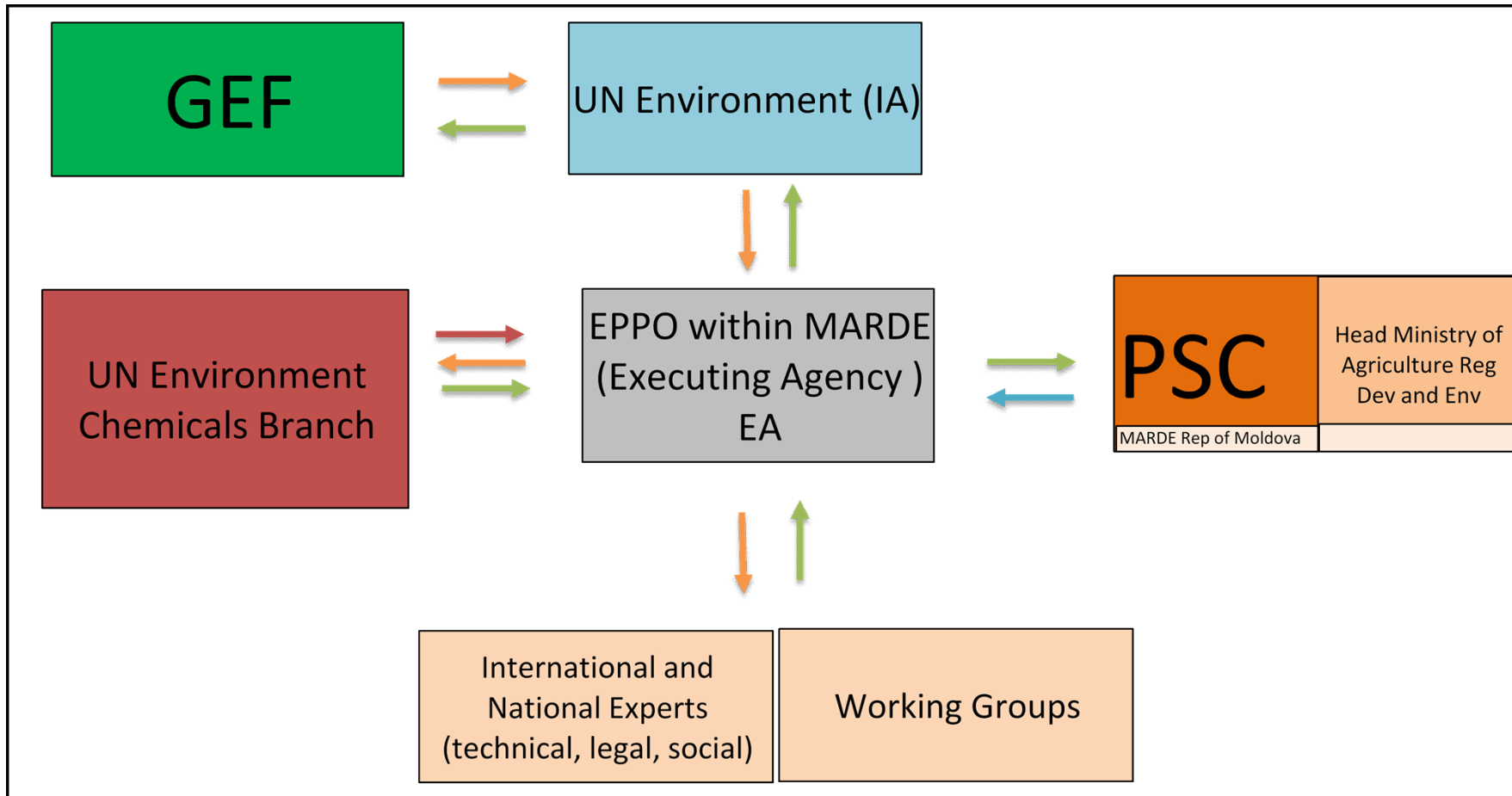
**Executing Agency (EA):** EPPO will execute, manage and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis. Financial transactions, audits and reports will be carried out in accordance with national regulations and UN Environment procedures. EPPO will provide regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UN Environment Chemicals Branch.





**Project Steering Committee (PSC):** The Project Steering Committee established for the first NIP will also steer this project. It may be necessary however, to consult with additional stakeholder representatives and ministries dealing with new POPs, especially stakeholders involved in import and export of articles (e.g. electronic appliances) containing new POPs, and stakeholders from industry sectors affected by regulations on production/disposal of waste and articles containing new POPs, for inclusion in the PSC. The PSC will be strengthened by involving additional stakeholders and experts on the new POPs management

The re-established and gender balanced PSC will establish working groups; assign responsibilities amongst government departments; select and nominate relevant project stakeholders; evaluate and access the progress of the project; and provide advice, policy and institutional guidance to the PCU. In this regard, relevant governmental institutions will be requested to allocate the necessary human and technical resources to support project implementation through the PSC, where it does not already exist. The ToRs for a revised PSC will be developed in the inception meeting.

**UN Environment Chemicals Branch:** This is the UN Environment 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 Executing Agencies throughout the whole project.

Figure 1: Institutional framework for project implementation



| LEGEND  |                      |
|---|----------------------|
|  | Money flow           |
|  | Reporting            |
|  | Technical assistance |
|  | Guidance             |

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

[2] <https://www.mapx.org/stockholm-pops/>

[3] MapX was developed by UN Environment, the World Bank and the Global Resource Information Database (GRID-Geneva) to capitalize on the use of new digital technologies and cloud computing in the sustainable management of natural resources. One of the founding principles was to equalize information held by different stakeholders as a prerequisite to better dialogue, decision making and monitoring. <https://www.mapx.org/about/>

[4] The final list of the POPs will be established at project inception phase, taken into account the updates of the GEF project nr. 9884 on *Enhanced compliance with the Stockholm Convention (SC) through improved transmission, accessibility and use of data (article 16) contained in National Implementation Plans (NIP, Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15) / Increased percentage of data from NIPs is used to report under Article 15 and used in Article 16*

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

[6] Depending on complexity of the inventory, an initial (Tier I) and/or a preliminary (Tier II) inventory will be conducted as guided by the new POPs guidance to get an overview from relevant stakeholders, as well as generate data, detailed statistics and identify missing or incomplete data sets.

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

EA NIP Update implementation will be supported by the currently existing capacities and expertise in the Republic of Moldova put in place during the initial NIP development (and any post NIP projects) with support from UN Environment as the GEF Implementing Agency. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved through fully utilizing the infrastructures and human resources available through Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, its subordinated entities (Env Agency, Env Protection Inspectorate) and other line ministries of the country.

The involvement of the International Experts is limited to only absolute essential tasks. E.g. review of technical documents, training in conduct of inventories, expert review of the final inventory data and NIP texts. This will foster an increase in national capacity to manage POPs chemicals and contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

#### **E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN**

Day to day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency based on the project's work plan. EA will develop and submit to the UN Environment, technical and financial reports reflecting the progress according to the work-plan and the budget. The EA will inform the UN Environment of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion.

UN Environment will monitor the project progress according to the workplan on a regular basis to provide guidance to the Executing Agency, support implementation and to ensure that any obstacles pertaining to the project are addressed in a timely manner. *Two major technical reviews are planned. The first one will look at the preliminary inventories of POPs, the other one at the draft NIP.*

Formal monitoring of the project will follow the principles, criteria and minimum requirements set out in the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy in its current version and the respective guidelines and procedures issued by the GEF Evaluation Office and/or the GEF Secretariat. At the same time, this will comply with the rules and regulations governing the M&E of UN Environment technical cooperation projects, in particular the UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the Guidelines for Technical Cooperation, both in their respective current versions.

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.

An independent terminal review (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation, latest 6 months after completion of the project. The TE 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 UN Environment and executing partners – BCRC-Caribbean in particular. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the independent external consultant in an open and transparent manner.



Project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the independent external consultant when the evaluation report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

UN Environment as the Implementing Agency will involve the GEF Operational Focal Point and project stakeholders at all stages of project monitoring and evaluation activities in order to ensure the use of the evaluation results for further planning and implementation.

*Table 3. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget*

| <b>M&amp;E activity</b>                      | <b>Purpose</b>   | <b>Responsible Party</b>                                      | <b>Budget (US\$)*1</b>                    | <b>Time-frame</b>                               |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| National inception workshop                  | Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups, defining key sectors in Belize   | UN Environment<br>Economy Division<br>Chemicals and Health EA | 0   | Within two (2) months of project start          |
| Inception report                             | Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring   | EA  | Included in budget for Inception Workshop | Within four weeks of the Inception Workshop     |
| Technical Progress reports                   | Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period   | EA  | 0   | Quarterly                                       |
| Financial Progress reports                   | Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations  | EA  | 0   | Quarterly                                       |
| Project Review by Project Steering Committee | Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan.  | EA  | 0   | Month 1 or 2, 12 (TC) and 24                    |
| Terminal report                              | Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan highlights technical outputs identifies lessons learned and likely design approaches for future projects, assesses likelihood of achieving design outcomes | EA  | 0   | At the end of project implementation (Month 24) |

|  |   |   |               |   |
|--|---|---|---------------|---|
| Independent Terminal evaluation                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanism and outputs;</li> <li>• Identifies lessons learned and likely remedial actions for future projects;</li> <li>• Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks.</li> </ul> | UN Environment – Economy Division,<br>Independent external consultant | 15,000        | At the end of project implementation (Month 24) |
| Independent Financial Audit                                | Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions.   | EA  | 5,000         | At the end of project implementation (Month 24) |
| <b>Total indicative Monitoring &amp; Evaluation cost*1</b> |   |   | <b>20,000</b> |   |

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

not applicable

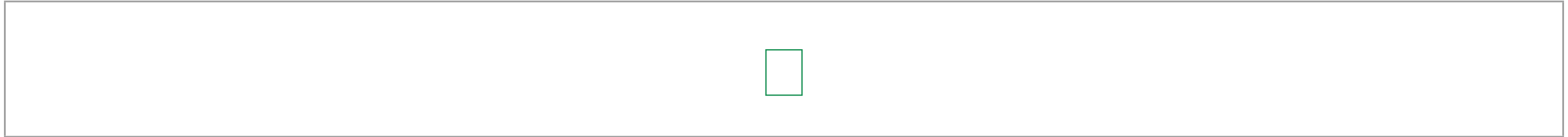
**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):**

| <b>Focal Point Name</b> | <b>Focal Point Title</b>                          | <b>Ministry</b>   | <b>Signed Date</b> |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Ion Lica                | Head of Environmental Projects Management Service | Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment | 4/26/2019          |

**B. Convention Participation**

| <b>Convention</b> | <b>Date of Ratification/Accession</b> | <b>National Focal Point</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SCPOPS            | 4/7/2004                              | MS. SVETLANA BOLOCAN        |



Submitted to GEF Secretariat Review

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