

# Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

12123

**Countries**

Global (Benin, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Mongolia, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Oman, Serbia, Tajikistan)

**Project Name**

Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

11/18/2025

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Itsuki Kuroda  
**Focal Area**  
Chemicals and Waste  
**Project Type**  
EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Section I - Enabling Activity Summary**

#### **Funding elements.**

**Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

Yes.

Not necessarily a request for modification but the paragraph starting from "Within this framework, GGKP has established strong partnerships with..." would be included before the paragraph starting from "NIP Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe is interlinked with NIP Global LAC...".

2/26 PM confirmed the modification

Agency's Comments 24 February 2026: Thank you for the comment. We have incorporated the recommended adjustments.

#### **Cost Ranges.**

**If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?**

Secretariat's Comments Cost is explained sufficiently.

Agency's Comments N/A

#### **Enabling activity summary.**

**Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes

Agency's Comments

### **Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information**

#### **Eligibility Criteria.**

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes

Agency's Comments

**Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

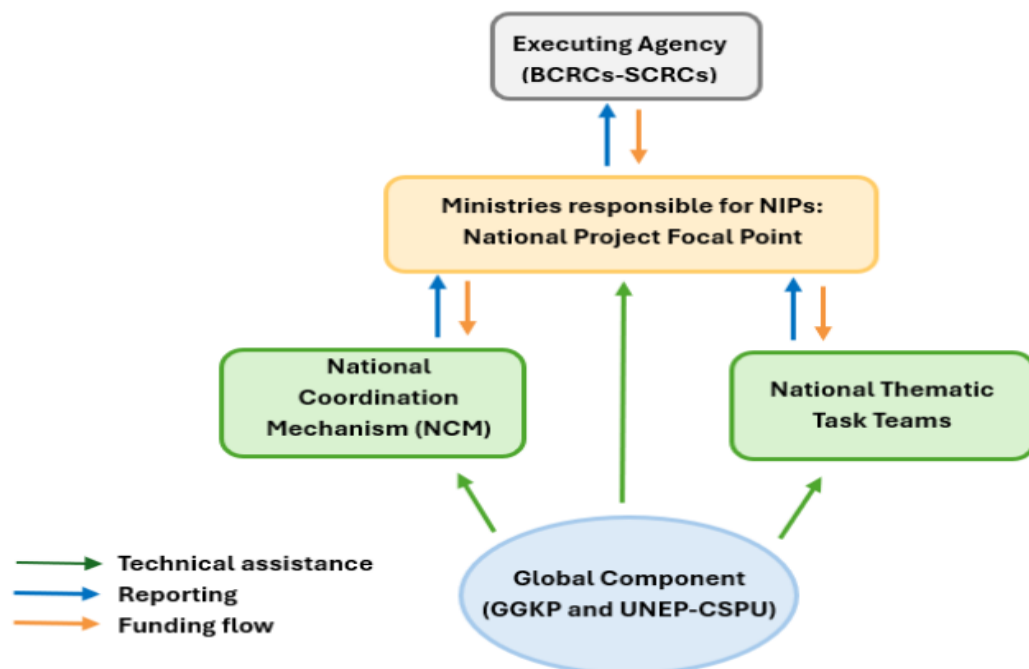
Yes. However, figure 2 is not properly shown in the PDF format. Please modify.

Also international stakeholders include GGKP but figure 2 does not address them. Please modify appropriately.

2/26 PM confirmed the modification

Agency's Comments

24 February 2026: Please note that UNEP-KRU is now known as UNEP CSPU. The role of GGKP and UNEP-CSPU has now been demonstrated under the Global Component, accurately reflecting the project's implementation structure. Figure 2 has been modified in the project document as below:



**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

## Secretariat's Comments

"Notably, GEF Enabling Activities are exempt, by both UNEP and the GEF, from any mid-point performance assessment" - PM confirmed. The GEF Evaluation Policy states that MTR is only compulsory for FSPs and recommended for MSPs ? EAs are exempted.

"An Operational Completion Report is a form of self-reporting that is led by the Task Manager of the project, and a quality check by the Evaluation Office is not required." - PM confirmed. The preparation of the EA Completion Memorandum is guided by IEO's guidelines for reporting o completed EA. These guidelines stipulate the expectations that EA Completion Memo will be self-evaluations.

As for the text "The Operational Completion Report template will be made available by the Policy and Programme Division. ", I assume that the term "The Operational Completion Report" is the EA Completion Memo template has just recently been shared with Agencies. Given that it is already shared please upload it in a timely manner.

2/26 PM confirmed that the agency have aligned the nomenclature, and confirms that upon its finalization, the Completion Memo shall be uploaded to the GEF Portal by the Agency's Task Manager in a timely manner.

## Agency's Comments

24 February 2026: The Agency acknowledges the Secretariat's clarifications regarding the GEF Evaluation Policy. The project document has now been updated to reflect that in line with the GEF Evaluation Policy, and consistent with the 24 February 2026: The Agency acknowledges the Secretariat's clarifications regarding the GEF Evaluation Policy. The project document has now been updated to reflect that in line with the GEF Evaluation Policy, and consistent with the UNEP Programme Manual and Evaluation Policy, all GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment upon reaching operational completion. Notably, GEF Enabling Activities are exempt from Mid-point performance assessment, by both UNEP and the GEF, which remain mandatory for Full-Sized-Projects (FSPs) and recommended for Medium-Sized Projects.

In accordance with the Independent Evaluation Office's guidelines the Operational Completion Report/EA completion memo serves as a self-evaluation prepared by the Project Task Manager and does not require a quality review by the Evaluation Office.

Yes, "the Operational Completion Report" is the EA Completion Memo template. We have aligned the nomenclature, and confirm that upon its finalization, the Completion Memo shall be uploaded to the GEF Portal by the Task Manager in a timely manner.

### Section 3. Information Tables

**GEF resource availability.**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**Yes

### Agency Response

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):  
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's CommentsYes

Agency's Comments  
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments  
**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments  
**Rio Markers.**  
**Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments  
**Country endorsement.**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal**

Secretariat's Comments

Endorsement letters of Djibouti appears to be missing. Please obtain.

There are 2 endorsement letters of Ghana and they appeared to be the same. Please remove one of them if it is the case.

**2/26 PM confirmed the endorsement letters of Djibouti and the Ghana letter.**

Agency's Comments

**24 February 2026: The endorsement letter for Djibouti has been uploaded.**

Regarding Ghana, we are unable to delete the duplicate letter, we request that the Secretariat do this for us at the back end.

**Response to Comments**

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)**

**Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Council comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**STAP comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Project Budget Table.**

**Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Yes

1. Please ensure that the Budget Table uses the GEF template, which includes standard GEF Expenditure Categories, a column for M&E budget, and sufficient details (?Detailed Description? 2nd column) so GEFSEC can understand and make recommendations on the proposed budget lines.

2. For budget lines that represent more than one item ? e.g., 3301 National validation workshop \$375,000, but there are many others ? please use the Detailed Description to explain how many of the item (in this case, validation workshops) will occur under the budget line. Presumably for this cost, there will be one validation workshop per project country. This comment applies to multiple lines, especially 3201 National inventory development and training (2) \$1.8M, project personnel entries, travel, etc.

3. Please remove any budget lines that are empty.

4. Upon resubmission of a Budget Table using the standard GEF template, we may provide additional budget-related comments.

2/26 PM confirmed the modifications made.

### Agency's Comments

24 February 2026:

1. A revised GEF budget template has been completed and uploaded.
  2. Budget lines representing multiple items have been itemized in accordance with Secretariat's recommendation.
  3. Empty budget lines have been removed.
  4. We hope that the changes reflected in revised budget clarifies any comment the Secretariat may have. However, we will be happy to provide necessary clarification as needed.
- Environmental and Social Safeguards.**

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Comments Yes

### Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION  
RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

**REVIEW DATE(S)**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO  
Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat  
comments**

**First Review  
Additional Review (as  
necessary)  
Additional Review (as  
necessary)  
Additional Review (as  
necessary)  
Additional Review (as  
necessary)**