GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina	
Region Argentina	GEF Project ID 11451
Country(ies) Argentina	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID 9517
Project Executing Entity(s) Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet	Project Executing Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Chemicals and Waste	Submission Date 1/28/2025
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 72
GEF Project Grant: (a) 9,240,000.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 831,600.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 10,071,600.00	Total Co-financing 67,446,437.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 18,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 10,289,600.00	
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	
Project Sector (CCM Only)	

Taxonomy

Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Chemicals and Waste, Focal Areas, Disposal, Emissions, Industrial Emissions, Open Burning, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, eWaste, Waste Management, Industrial Waste, Hazardous Waste Management, Plastics, Civil Society, Stakeholders, Academia, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Private Sector, SMEs, Large corporations, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Non-Grant Pilot, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Enabling Activities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Learning, Targeted Research, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Course, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Knowledge Exchange, Exhibit, Conference, South-South

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The industrial sector in Argentina uses a considerable amount of hazardous chemicals in their production lines as the country is one of the largest economies in Latin America. Nevertheless, since all international environmental commitments became effective, substantial progress has been made to achieve the objectives these conventions have embraced.

However, one of the biggest challenges is that the new POPs are intended for industrial use and are often not imported as inputs, but already included in finished products such as PFOA, PFOS, and PBDES. These products are present in electrical and electronic equipment, as well as in imported vehicles, textiles and their recycling. There is still a gap related to the lack of information about these and other hazardous substances. It is also necessary to increase the technical capacities needed to promote innovative actions for detecting these POPs in products and thus generate information for decision-making and policy-making based on data.

Up to now, the baseline actions have regarded this context with significant limitations; one of these is the need to ensure, jointly, the maximum delivery of GEBs with prevention, reduction and elimination of toxic chemicals and waste, because of the high levels of human exposure to these substances in Argentina, while boosting national development. All this needs to be done within the framework of the wide variety of sectors in the industrial economy that already use chemical substances in multiple applications. In response, this FSP has been prepared under the following strategy:

The heart of Component 1 “Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of POPs, HHPs, Hg, and other Chemicals of Global Concern” is to strengthen national policy, technical skills and the regulatory and institutional frameworks in order to make the transition to a more efficient environment for the sound management of hazardous chemical substances, integrating more supportive data-driven public policies, planning, and investment decisions by the private sector, for both, the short and long term.

For Component 2 “Environmentally sound Management of POPs, and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites”, and based on the findings of preceding GEF/UNDP project (GEF ID: 10094), the proposed activities will support the identification of environmental concern sites and

pilot demonstration projects to introduce BAT/BEP, for example, in the plastics present in WEEE, from being reintroduced into the production cycle, as well as the improvement of production processes to reduce emissions of dioxins and furans.

The core of Component 3 “Elimination of Mercury, POPs, and other highly hazardous waste stocks”, is to develop strategies to strengthen cost-efficient technologies in accordance with the implementation of the standards adopted in international guidelines, establishing the basis for implementing improvements in hazardous waste treatment processes in accordance with the Argentine context, and

Component 4 “Knowledge Management, Awareness-Raising and Monitoring and Evaluation” includes the design of an awareness-raising campaign and gender sensitive training materials to be developed and made widely available, as well as facilitating inclusive and sustained engagement with a variety of stakeholders in the industrial sector.

After six years of execution, the project will provide GEBs by avoiding 10,000 MTCO2e (indirect) (CI6), reducing 1.3 tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste (CI9.1), 300 Tn of mercury reduced (CI9.2), 330,000 of POPs/mercury containing materials or products directly avoided (CI9.6) including 1,485 MT of plastic waste avoided (CI9.8), reducing 19.04 gTEQ (CI10), and benefiting at least 1,896,439 women and 1,774,943 men, for a total of 3,671,382 beneficiaries (CI11).

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Achieve Global Environmental Benefits for the integrated management of substances for industrial use (especially industrial POPs), mercury and other hazardous substances of global concern (Hazardous Chemicals of global concern), the products that contain them and their associated waste in Argentina.

Project Components

Component 1. Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of POPs, HHPs, Hg, and other Chemicals of Global Concern

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,140,000.00	15,706,291.00

Outcome:

Outcome A

Institutional enabling environment for POPs, HC and harmful chemical waste sound management, strengthened of ministries and public agencies across Federal, provincial and municipal levels

Output:

Ouput A.1. Strengthened intersectoral coordination mechanisms for the management of hazardous chemicals

Ouput A.2. Mainstreaming POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals' management for sustainable financing carried out

Ouput A.3. Integral monitoring Programme for POPs and UPOPs implemented, inventories updated, emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update) improved

Ouput A.4. Technical skills for monitoring POPs, UPOPs and other hazardous chemicals and ecotoxicological risk assessment enhanced, standards certification system and guideline levels set

Component 2. Environmentally sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,643,900.00	27,225,076.00

Outcome:

Outcome B

Socio-technical models for reduction and management of POP, Chemicals of Global Concern and related wastes developed and tested

Output:

Ouput B.1. A more favorable environment is enabled for innovative materials and more sustainable inputs to substitute non-renewable materials.

Ouput B.2. Introduction of BAT/BEP for Industrial POP, new POP and chemicals of global concern emissions prevention in manufacturing industries successfully developed

Ouput B.3. Management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants, other POP, and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector implemented

Component 3. Elimination of Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other highly hazardous waste stocks

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,399,550.00	17,899,416.00

Outcome:

Outcome C

Mercury, POPs, and other highly hazardous waste stocks eliminated

Output:

Output C.1. Carried out a qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards

Output C.2. Disposal of mercury waste achieved

Component 4. Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
566,550.00	4,247,093.00

Outcome:

Outcome D

Knowledge Management, Awareness-Raising and Monitoring and Evaluation achieved

Output:

Output D.1. Knowledge management system and communication platform established

Output D.2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and adaptive management applied

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
250,000.00	

Outcome:

Outcome E

Accountability and adaptive management is ensured to track and maximize program results.

Output:

Output E.1. M&E and adaptive management applied.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

Component 1. Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of POPs, HHPs, Hg, and other Chemicals of Global Concern	2,140,000.00	15,706,291.00
Component 2. Environmentally sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites	3,643,900.00	27,225,076.00
Component 3. Elimination of Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other highly hazardous waste stocks	2,399,550.00	17,899,416.00
Component 4. Knowledge Management	566,550.00	4,247,093.00
M&E	250,000.00	
Subtotal	**9,000,000.00**	**65,077,876.00**
Project Management Cost	240,000.00	2,368,561.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**9,240,000.00**	**67,446,437.00**

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The Republic of Argentina is located on the southern end of South America, bordering with Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The country has a population of 45,892,285 people as of July 1, 2022. The territorial organization is made up of 23 provinces (federated states) and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, which is the capital of the nation, and home to the headquarters of the Federal Government. There are 1,165 municipalities and approximately 1,086 local governments without municipal status.

The industrial sector in Argentina plays a crucial role as the country is one of the largest economies in Latin America. The industrial manufacturing sector includes all processes and activities that have, as their main purpose, the transformation of raw materials into processed products, and this involves the use of chemical substances and products. However, partially due to their size, industrial processes have significant environmental impacts, ranging from land and resource use to chemical and waste pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, through long, complex, and fragmented value chains.

From the point of view of chemical supply, Argentina's chemical and petrochemical industry is the second largest industry in South America and the third largest in Latin America. The industry in Argentina is made up of both large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The sector represents 110,000 direct jobs (8% of industrial employment), of which 50% are represented by SMEs.

From the demand side, the consumption of chemicals is composed of a wide range of subsectors covering the entire production cycle, from the production of raw materials to semi-processed materials and substances, to product manufacturing for local and international markets. The industrial sector consumes a wide variety of chemical substances and products, some of global concern, in their production processes and therefore generates wastes and emissions with hazardous contents.

In addition, during the Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) management process, special/hazardous waste may be generated, specially composed by POPs containing material. This is aggravated by the fact that the environmentally adequate management of these wastes implies an additional cost that cannot be covered in a market that is mainly informal. The contribution that the project could make consists in strengthening this value chain, thus avoiding the release of hazardous chemical substances into the environment in an uncontrolled manner, which will also reduce the risk of human exposure.

The current situation for POPs and UPOPs:

According to the National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention 2023, various production activities release significant amounts of unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (dioxins and furans). According to the updated NIP 2023, a total of 617 gTEQ of PCDD/F emissions were recorded in 2020, of which approximately 45% were caused by landfill disposal processes and 25% by open burning practices. Furthermore, it should be noted that so far there is no monitoring of dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) because the capacity to assess their presence in environmental matrices is limited. The NIP update highlighted the need to strengthen mechanisms to minimize, assess and regulate both intentional and unintentional POPs emissions in various activities and production processes. There is also a need to generate a collaborative work strategy between organizations and the creation of dialogue spaces to promote inter-institutional and inter-sectoral articulation mechanisms, to contribute to the participation of all actors involved in the environmentally sound management of POPs.

One of the biggest challenges is that the intentional POPs and new POPs are intended for industrial use and are often not imported as inputs but already included in product parts or finished products. It has been identified the use of POPs contained in products such as PFOA, PFOS and PBDES. These chemical substances are present in electrical and electronic equipment, as well as in imported auto parts, vehicles, textiles and recycled materials. However, there is still a gap related to the lack of information for these and other hazardous substances, including but not limited, to the use of UV-328, Dechlorane Plus and LC-PFCAs (chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C14–17), highly used in the plastics, construction, textile, electronics and the chemical sector. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the technical capacities to promote innovative actions for detecting these POPs in products and the new pops to be included in the convention, thus generating information for decision-making and policymaking based on data.

On the other hand, it was estimated that in Argentina only between 3 and 4 percent of electronic waste is collected and properly managed in an environmentally sound manner. When looking at the baseline values, there is an increasing trend in the generation rate of WEEE. This type of waste tends to accumulate in both households and institutions and there are large pieces of equipment that are not accounted for in the per capita generation rate. This activity reports around 200 formal jobs and approximately 2,000 informal workers who carry out the collection, classification, disassembly and recovery of valuable materials nationwide. These

workers are grouped in cooperatives to regularize their employment status to provide services and manage common activities. However, the condition of vulnerability in terms of substance management persists.

During the implementation of the UNDP/GEF Project 10094 it was estimated that at least 200 tons of obsolete pesticides remain, exclusively from health applications and phytosanitary use in public services. This stock does not have an official consolidated registry, which is a major gap for its sound management.

For mercury:

There are gold mining activities that generate large amounts of mercury as waste, which demands the need to manage it. UNDP/GEF Project 10094 included activities to support the elimination of 350 metric tons of elemental mercury from this sector, but this is not enough. Presently, there are two mining projects in execution in the San Juan Province that generate mercury during gold mining. It is estimated that the country generates approximately 70 tons of mercury each year as waste that still needs to be treated following environmentally sound disposal.

There are gold mining activities that generate large amounts of mercury as waste, which demands the need to manage it. Presently, there are two mining projects in execution in the San Juan Province that generate mercury during gold mining. It is estimated that the country generates approximately 70 tons of mercury each year as waste that still needs to be treated following environmentally sound disposal.

The country also generates waste containing small amounts of mercury from different sources. This waste, that needs to be assessed, is widely dispersed and represents a management, health and environmental problem and, in general, is not adequately managed. The following table shows the relevance of small amounts of mercury to total emissions:

Small amounts of mercury releases in Argentina by source

Air Releases	Amount (kg)	Water Releases	Amount (kg)	Soil Releases	Amount (kg)
Open burning	8,760	Dental amalgams	2,731	Final disposal without control	12,544
Final disposal without control	1,569	Final disposal without control	1,569	Cemeteries	507
Incineration of Hazardous Residues	916	Extraction of natural gas	846	Polyurethane production	497
Extraction of natural gas	635	Medical and laboratory instruments	547	Dental amalgams	394
Consumption of natural gas	514	Thermometers	442	Mercury lamps	367
				Thermometers	295

Use of HCs and hazardous waste generation:

Given the considerable amount of hazardous chemicals in a wide variety of industrial sectors in Argentina, it is necessary to improve upstream and downstream practices in industrial production. The following Table depicts the overall context of the use of chemicals in the industrial sector:

Overall context of hazardous industrial chemicals in Argentina

Production of Industrial Chemicals (national and imports)	
Main industrial poles	San Lorenzo-Puerto San Martin / Campana-San Nicolas / Gran Buenos Aires / Ensenada / Bahía Blanca / Plaza Huincul / Lujan-Cuyo /Rio Tercero / San Luis
Number of industries	2,365
Large	202
Small and medium	2,163
Labor (direct jobs)	110,000
Main Chemical Substances and Finished Products per Sector	
Main market sectors	
Basic chemical substances	Solvents, coatings, surfactants, disinfectants and a wide range of consumer products with chemical content.
Organic chemicals	Methanol, olefins such as ethylene and propylene, and aromatics such as xylene, benzene and toluene.
Inorganic chemicals	Acids and bases, salts, industrial gases and elements such as halogens.
Agrochemicals	Agricultural chemicals use active ingredients such as glyphosate, atrazine, paraquat, 2,4D herbicide, s-metolachlor, clethodim, chlorpyrifos, and acetochlor to produce pesticides such as herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, nematicides, rodenticides and fungicides, as well as fertilizers.
Pharmaceutical products	The country consumes nearly 2,000 active compounds as inputs for medicine products, most imported.
Construction	There is a variety of products such as plastics, thermal insulators and pipes with an extensive use of PVC and polypropylene.
Petrochemicals and energy	In addition to a large national petrochemical industry, lithium, cadmium, and lead are some of the significant elements commonly used in the energy industry.
Textile	Primary chemical products for the textile industry include oils, starch, waxes and surfactants, alkylphenols and perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), heavy metals; and for other specializations such as flame retardants, dirt and water repellents and dyes.
Plastics	National production of plastics includes polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
Electronic and Electric Equipment	EEE contains a large number of intentionally dangerous substances or as trace contaminants, including lead, mercury and other metals, flame retardants and certain phthalates used for plasticizers.
Chemical Wastes	
Main types of hazardous waste	Permethrin, deltamethrin, cypermethrin, fenitrothion, temephos, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls and among others.
Stockpile volumes	• 200 tons of obsolete pesticides. • 200 tons of mercury. • 500 tons of PCB. • 66,000 tons of WEEE per year.

Institutional Framework:

The Argentine Federal State was created in 1853 and completed with the first constitutional reform in 1860. According to the National Constitution (CN), the Authorities of the Nation will be:

a) the Federal Government (arts 87 to 107 CN),
b) the Provincial Governments (arts 121 to 129 CN) and into this,
c) the Municipalities (arts. 5 CN and 123 CN), and
d) the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (129 CN).
Thus, the State is structured with a total legal order represented by the National Constitution and composed of a central partial legal community -Federal Government- and local partial legal communities -provinces-, municipalities, and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

Before 1994, environmental regulation was a local matter. In other words, if the Nation dictated a regulation, it was up to the provinces to adopt it (named as the Adhesion Law). An example of this is Law 24.051 on Hazardous Waste, enacted in 1992 to implement the Basel Convention at national level, which is still in force and is one of the main objects of this project.

Since then, according to art. 41 of the National Constitution (CN), it is up to the Nation to dictate the regulations that contain the Minimum Budgets for Environmental Protection (*MBEP law*) and up to the provinces those that are necessary to complement them. This means, the Nation has the competence to dictate a basic level of regulation, operational throughout the territory of the country, without the need for adhesion from local governments, with the aim of establishing a uniform treatment of the components of the environment and guaranteeing federal equality.

Furthermore, the provinces have the power to complement the national regulation (*MBEP law)*; this means to dictate regulations that represent a higher protection. The Provinces also have the main responsibility for the application of environmental policies under their jurisdiction. In the same way, the municipalities and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires have the power of dictating a second level of complementary regulations, according to the national and provincial laws (principle of congruence).

In addition, regarding natural resources, the provinces have the original domain (art. 124 CN), which implies the power to regulate their uses, not their ownership. Another conflict opens here, which is the necessary balance between the national competence to prescribe minimum budgets (art. 41 CN) and the original provincial domain of natural resources (art. 124 CN). This is because the MEBP law budget principle applies to systems (air, water, soil, flora, fauna and cultural heritage) and this affects the natural resources of the provincial domain.

In summary, in Argentina, certain portion of the jurisdiction belongs to Federal Government. This applies to environmental matters: the Nation has the jurisdiction to regulate the minimum budgets for the “rational use of natural resources” under its jurisdiction, although their original domain belongs to the provinces.

The impact on the reduction of POPs and other chemical substances on people and the environment depends on a concurrent management regulation in a vertical sense, between the Nation and the Provinces, due to the federal form of State in Argentina (referred above). It is also integrated in a horizontal sense, since it is a relevant issue for different public portfolios in topics such as industry, mining, environment, transport, foreign

policy, among others. In this regard, the public agencies related to the implementation of this project are summarized as follows:

- The Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet is in charge of determining the objectives and policies in the environmental area, among other functions. Within its structure is the Secretariat of Tourism, Sports and Environment, which intervenes in the scope and application of environmental regulations. Within the Secretariat is the National Undersecretary of Environment, which assists in the formulation, implementation and execution of the environmental policy and its sustainable development, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the National Constitution and other regulations and conventions that regulate the matter.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic: it is responsible for the country's participation in regional or international integration and the handling of conventions.
- Ministry of Economy: within the scope of this Ministry, the following secretariats have influence over the multilateral environmental agreements: (a) Industry and Commerce, (b) Mining, (c) Energy, (d) Transportation, and (e) Bioeconomy. Also attached to this Ministry are the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), which is a national agency responsible for the generation and transfer of technological solutions. Its mission is to support the growth of SMEs and to promote industrial development and the National Agri-Food Health and Quality Service (SENASA), which is a national agency responsible for the management of pesticides throughout the country.
- Ministry of Human Capital: within the scope of this Ministry, the following secretariats have influence over sectorial areas linked to project-related activities: (a) Education, (b) Work, employment and social security (c) Childhood, Adolescence and Family
- National Customs Service: controls the import of chemical substances, raw materials and products used in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Its main institutional function is to control the entry and exit of merchandise, people and their means of transportation.
- Federal councils: Federal Environment Council (COFEMA) and the Federal Mining Council (COFEMIN) will be key stakeholders given their transcendent role to coordinate national and provincial competencies in environmental and mining matters.

Legal and Regulatory Framework:

A comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to address the adverse environmental impacts of hazardous chemicals is already in place in Argentina, both, at the national and subnational (provincial and municipal) levels. This framework defines obligations and responsibilities in terms of clean production and the proper management of waste and hazardous chemical substances, products that contain hazardous chemicals, and industrial processes.

National regulations on chemicals and waste in Argentina have led to a path that aligns provincial policies with the country’s environmental targets. However, ensuring social and environmental compliance from the informal sector remains a challenge. The relevant regulatory framework at national level, in the context of this project, includes:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Argentina.
- Law 23.922 approves the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

- Law 26.011 approves the Stockholm Convention.
- Law 25.278 approves the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade to manage international commerce of highly dangerous pesticides and chemicals and prevent their unwanted entry.
- Law 27.356 approves the Minamata Convention to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.
- Law 27.566 approves the Escazú Agreement, which guarantees access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.
- General Environmental Law 25.675 (LGA) establishes the minimum budgets for achieving a sustainable and adequate environmental management.
- Law 25.612 on Industrial and Service Waste Management declares a minimum sectorial budget regulation that attempted to replace Law 24.051 on Hazardous Waste (which is a tax regulation prior to the minimum budget system), but it has not yet been implemented.
- Law 24.051 on Hazardous Waste and its Regulatory Decree 831/93, based on the Basel Convention, regulates the total life cycle of hazardous waste whenever it is developed in an interjurisdictional territorial scope (between two or more Provinces).
- The Mining Code approved by Law 1919, regulates the exploration and exploitation phases, but the management, control, supervision and sanctioning of industrial processing is delegated to the provinces.
- Law 24.196 on Mining Investments obliges private companies -in order to receive national development funds- to prove compliance with environmental guidelines in the provincial territories where they operate, and the National Secretary of Mining is the enforcement authority.
- Decree 504/2019 establishes the institutional framework for the *'Interministerial Table on Chemical Substances and Products'*, a public initiative that addresses the design, implementation and execution of national public policies on chemical substances and products throughout their life cycle. Even with the existing intergovernmental representation, it is necessary to expand its scope to generate exchange mechanisms with other stakeholders from the public and private sectors, including academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the industrial sector.

Thus, the national legal framework in Argentina is robust in many aspects, but it is currently facing the challenge of incorporating new mechanisms for analysis, control, monitoring and oversight by the Federal State to enhance the capacities of the agencies and institutions involved in environmental management. For instance, the establishment of a monitoring regulatory framework for dioxins and furans is pending, within a context of higher priority for the Federal Government to advance the implementation of the country's provisions under the Stockholm Convention.

Additionally, there are several ongoing initiatives to integrate environmental awareness in the industrial sectors to enhance sustainable driven markets. These could be 'engines' that drive cutting-edge and environmentally friendly production practices for this project, i.e.:

- **National Argentina Productive 2030 Plan (Res. 236/2022)**, which seeks to transform the productive and technological structure of the country, with a focus on green economy.
- **The National Plan of Science, Technology and Innovation 2030 (Law 27.738)**, which defines, organizes and communicates the set of policies, strategies and instruments addressing all public and private stakeholders that make up the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation (SNCTI).

- **Energy Management Systems** (SGEn). The National Subsecretary of Energy Planning promotes the adoption of management systems in productive sectors through two programs, the "*Learning Networks"* and the *"Argentina Efficient Award"*, to help organizations and companies to improve their energy efficiency and reduce costs using distributed power such as solar panels.
- **National Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production.** This strategy was prepared and published by the former Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through a participatory process of consultation and dialogue with key stakeholders. It is based on scientific studies carried out by the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Program. This national policy seeks to promote an economic development model that minimizes environmental impact and optimizes the use of natural resources in all productive sectors.
- **Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change** (RAMCC), through this network, municipalities collaborate with local industries located in their territories to implement renewable energy, waste management, and water efficiency projects. An outstanding example is the Bahía Blanca project, where initiatives to mitigate industrial waste and CO_2 emissions are being implemented. Several lessons from this initiative will be learned to enhance the overall impact of this FSP.

The above list of ongoing institutional initiatives highlights the need for setting up an operational mechanism to coordinate policy implementation among different parties including Federal ministries, provincial and municipal governments, academia and research institutes, financiers, NGOs, and private entrepreneurs. This would facilitate compliance with the Argentina's obligations under the four related MEAs and the Escazu Agreement, therefore, enhancing the strategic role of the industrial sector for the overall development of Argentina. This project is designed to support committed stakeholders in this endeavor.

Gender:

Consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, this project recognizes the differentiated exposure risks related to vulnerabilities in the different industrial sub-sectors in production processes that use dangerous chemical substances. Analyzing exposure risks in producing environments requires both gender-disaggregated (i.e. occupational roles, salary levels and frequency of harmful chemical contact in men and women) and sex-disaggregated data, because gender-determined occupational roles have a direct impact on the exposure to toxic chemicals. Therefore, specific policies focused on the relationship between gender and the hazards of polluting substances are urgently needed.

To ensure that gender is mainstreamed effectively throughout this project, the PPG stage and the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) have identified potential risks differentiated by gender and mitigating actions. Risks identified included potential reinforcement of discrimination. Furthermore, a series of stakeholder meetings and communication exchanges with reliable sources were conducted to yield the information for the gender analysis.

A Gender Analysis was developed to mainstream a Gender Action Plan throughout the project's activities (Annex 10). Its purpose is to upscale the opportunities for women and *vulnerable groups* to benefit from training and employment opportunities and develop gender-disaggregated data accounting for multiple factors (i.e., race, ethnicity, nationality, education level, occupation, age, and social security affiliation) to strengthen the view that workers in the industrial sector should reduce their exposure to hazardous chemicals.

To ensure equality of results and benefits during its implementation, this project will actively engage vulnerable groups as change agents and participants, not merely as victims of inequalities or forms of discrimination that constrain equal access to and control of resources. This necessarily implies promoting best practices to facilitate access to funding for grassroots organizations of women working on issues related to the environment, industrial products and the environmentally sound management of chemical waste.

Considering the objectives of this project to work specifically with the industrial sector (chemical and petrochemical, textile, construction, paint, hazardous waste treatment and transport among others), it is necessary to have reliable data on the distribution of its workers according to gender, ethnicity, age and other vulnerabilities. The industrial sector is a big national employer and accounts for around 12% of total employment nationwide, particularly in the manufacturing industry, 29% of total workers are women, and in oil and mining it drops to 13% and 15%, respectively. Given that the industrial sector has a high degree of masculinization, the focus should be on raising awareness of this gap, in addition to empowering women.

There is also a need to consider other vulnerable groups as well as gender since the life cycle of hazardous chemicals and its related wastes also relies heavily on migrant, rural, youth, illegal, and informal labor, with high risks of intersectionality creating extreme vulnerabilities. To address the needs identified, pilot projects were designed to focus on territorial work with these communities. For example, it is planned to work with recycling cooperatives, of which women represent 18% (of the total registered), 27% (of the total unregistered) and 36% (of the total self-employed) of the workforce.

In addition, there is evidence that professional training in the academic field with a gender perspective reduces the labor and income gap so that, in the call for training sessions to be carried out by this FSP, priority will be given to the attendance of women, ethnic minorities, diversities, among others. This is in response to the fact that this population is underrepresented in the exact sciences, while concentrated only in the initial levels of scientific careers and faces greater difficulties than men in training and accessing funding.

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Through different efforts, the former MAyDS had previously carried out activities aimed at reducing the gender gap in terms of time and care tasks, health, income, and work. One of those activities was the implementation of the *"Pilot Test of the National Survey on Chemical Substances and Gender"*, where it was observed that the feminization of care tasks has a negative impact on exposure to chemical substances and products. In this sense, Argentina needs more gender and sex disaggregated information related to the level and frequency of exposure to toxic chemicals and their impacts on human health, as well as on developing indicators to measure the impact of hazardous chemicals on women, men and other identities.

This information should provide inputs for the development of actions during the project's implementation, specifically designed for women and vulnerable groups, triggering the analysis of the different social dynamics on specific environments. As a result, the gender perspective is present both in the layout and in the execution of activities as set forth in this project, for institutional communication, convening and content creation.

Objective of the project:

The development challenge of this Full-Size Project is to overcome a series of gaps that delay the national capacity in Argentina for managing POPs and other hazardous chemicals with the objective to:

"*minimize impact on global environment and on human health from POPs and other hazardous chemicals, its waste releases and exposure, through an integrated approach of policy coherence, prevention, sound management, and elimination of critical wastes in key productive industrial sectors, and the development of innovative financing schemes for their substitution*".

The main objective of this Full-Size Project is to achieve *Global Environmental Benefits* for the integrated management of substances for industrial use (especially industrial POPs), mercury and other hazardous substances of global concern (Hazardous Chemicals of global concern), the products that contain them and their associated waste in Argentina.

This challenge will be faced within the framework of national and international guidelines on chemical substances and hazardous waste management, under an environmentally sound management approach.

Key barriers and root causes that need to be addressed by the project:

The analysis of the development challenge carried out at the PPG stage for the preparation of the problem tree has distinguished three different levels of causes for managing POPs and other hazardous chemicals, its waste releases and exposure, within the framework of the national legal and regulatory framework and to comply in due time with the commitments signed by Argentina under the Stockholm, Minamata, Rotterdam and Basel conventions, i.e.: immediate causes, underlying causes and structural/root causes, as follows:

Immediate cause #1. *Need to enhance the legal and regulatory framework required to enable the Life-cycle Management of hazardous chemicals*

Underlying causes identified as the basis of this immediate cause are as follows:

i. *Limited enforcement of existing regulations for the sound environmental management of POPs, Mercury and other hazardous chemicals and their waste releases and exposure.*

This phenomenon occurs due to the double command generated by the fact that the regulation of environmental matters is composed - ideally - of a national norm of minimum budgets and 23 complementary provincial norms, with the bulk of the application of the matter (industry, mining, waste) under the responsibility of local environmental authorities.

This concurrence in the legislation is not consistent with the concurrence in the application, where the national Application Authority (which would be the national environmental authority) has limited and subsidiary powers (only for interjurisdictional aspects, or for international responsibility) and not to order and standardize the entire system. The full management of these aspects is the responsibility of provincial authorities, atomizing the structure with possible disparate treatments for the same issues. Hence, the strengthening of the powers of the national environmental authority for the control and management of substances, waste and chemicals covered by international instruments such as Basel, Stockholm and Minamata, is key to the fulfillment of this project's implementation objectives. To ensure uniform implementation, efforts must be made to widen the gap between exceptions and strengthen the functions of the national environmental authority.

Due to the complexity of the legal framework and the distribution of powers at the Federal level in the area of waste management, the possibilities of control at the national level are limited to the scope of Law 24.051, a law that has remained in force but that follows the regulatory system prior to the Argentine constitutional reform of 1994, being a law of adhesion. The absence of a law with minimum budgets in this area conspires against the lack of powers in favor of the national environmental authority to standardize the local structure, guarantee the regulatory basis and thus, protect equal treatment within the federation, especially considering the obligations assumed under the international conventions.

In addition, due to the characteristics of the legal framework at the Federal level, there are local registries of varying nature and complexity that gather information on chemical waste generation, transportation, and treatment. This makes it difficult to unify criteria, and the possibility of addressing the associated problems in a holistic manner.

There is also a need to strengthen national legislation by quantifying the baselines to fully understand the state of the situation and incorporating new environmental matrixes and substances of concern, carrying out an update of the list of POP substances flowing in the country, in line with GEF 8 objectives.

ii. *Need to enhance institutional coordination between the public and other sectors.*

The complexity of the matters covered by the agreements is not only present in the vertical division of power (Nation, provinces and municipalities) but also in a horizontal sense, between the various portfolios of the National Public Administration.

Among the aspects that interest the agreements that occupy the project appear competencies of the mining area, production, of the chancellery, of the environment, of agriculture and livestock, infrastructure, transport, etc. To organize the management and adopt decisions that integrate various areas of government, it is recommended to advance mechanisms of coordination both forced (binding) and voluntary (non-binding). For this, two types can be recognized: the procedural ones that will order the decision-making in administrative procedures, and the organic ones, where committees and working groups are created.

Even though the Decree 504/2019 established the '*Interministerial Roundtable on Chemical Substances and Products'* to address the design, implementation, and execution of national public policies on chemical substances and products throughout their life cycle, these functions are still limited.

There is a need to develop Intersectoral synergies for exchange with other stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector to enhance the implementation of public policies, to minimize impact on global environment and on human health from POPs and other hazardous chemicals.

iii. *Need to enhance the flow of information on the amounts used, applications, people exposure and the impact on the environment of industrial chemical substances.*

There is an official registry on the import, trade, production and use of industrial chemical substances under the Unit of Transborder Movements (UMT), within the National Subsecretary of Environment which belongs to the Secretariat of Tourism, Sports and Environment in the Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet. However, there are indications that there is no exhaustive control at the national level and that a list of products with potential POP content is needed. There are specified tariff positions that are under surveillance, but they cover chemical substances and not the “products containing” those substances. Regarding the producers who do declare the substance, the tariff headings are controlled by Customs.

Many industries are unaware of which products they use in their processes contain or could contain POPs and how the regulations could affect them.

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iv. Need to enhance a suitable regulatory framework for dioxins and furans.

A priority for the Federal Government is to advance towards the implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention to other chemicals by complementing the current regulatory framework for dioxins and furans with the analytical capacity to detect this type of chemical substances in the environment.

Immediate cause #2. *Insufficient financial access for environmental sound technologies and best practices*

The underlying causes identified as the basis of this immediate cause are as follows:

v. Lack of inclusive and innovative financial mechanisms that allow cooperatives and SMEs to access resources for the elimination of hazardous chemicals in the supply chain.

In the current context of financing for environmental projects, it is essential to have viable options that allow cooperatives and SMEs to implement practices for the elimination of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals, their wastes and reduce their exposure. However, these financial mechanisms must be tailored to the capacities of these organizations to ensure effective access.

This barrier is directly related to the need to develop mechanisms that classify the substances to be eliminated and determine their environmental impact, which will facilitate the mobilization of adequate and accessible financing.

vi. Socio-environmental impacts of uncontrolled chemical substances.

The vulnerability of local communities, with low purchasing capacity and limited access to basic services, implies greater exposure to toxic chemicals, including dependency on potentially contaminated water and food sources, generating negative health effects, especially for women, children and youth.

vii. Limited awareness of cost-effective alternatives.

In Argentina's industrial sectors, many companies are unaware of both the new incorporations of restricted chemical substances and the possible presence of POPs in their production processes. This is due to a lack of information and awareness of the risks that these substances pose to public health and the environment. In addition, industries, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are not aware of the cost-effective alternatives available to replace these hazardous products.

This scenario highlights the need to improve access to up-to-date information and tools that facilitate knowledge about regulations and safer alternatives. For SMEs, the use of appropriate technologies can be key to identifying and addressing these issues, enabling them to adopt more responsible practices aligned with international safety and sustainability standards, while improving their production processes.

Immediate cause #3. *Need to strengthen capacity building at the Federal and provincial levels*

The underlying causes identified as the basis of this immediate cause are as follows:

viii. Lack of chemical analytical capacity.

The chemical analytical capacity features the operation of national laboratories and enforcement agencies, both at the Federal provincial and municipal levels, all of them with limited capacity for monitoring compliance.

In Argentina there is no analytical capacity for the monitoring of dioxins and furans (PCDD/PCDF) in environmental matrices. Furthermore, there is a gap in analytical capacity for the measurement of POPs (i.e.: PFOA and PBDE) and new POPs (i.e.: UV-328) not only in environmental matrices but also in other matrices such as plastics. In addition, it is necessary to increase the quality standards of analytical procedures to meet the needs of control and auditing.

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ix. Lack of reliable information for the design of public policies on dangerous chemical substances.

People have difficulty accessing data, publications and information available for the design of comprehensive public policies that account for exposure to chemical substances at the local and national level, due to bureaucratic barriers and poor dissemination of information that bounds compliance with existing laws and regulations, and under the commitments of the Stockholm, Minamata, Rotterdam and Basel conventions. More recently, with the adherence of Argentina to the Escazu Agreement ratified in 2021 by Law 27566.

Likewise, there are gaps regarding the exposure of substances and chemical products from a gender perspective. Specifically lacking is the generation of data disaggregated by gender and its respective analysis.

For private producers, the development of knowledge management of Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) is limited by low awareness and the need to enhance training opportunities for stakeholders in the management of POPs, hazardous chemicals and their waste.

x. Need to update the National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention and the National Action Plan (NAP) under the Minamata Convention.

During the NIP 2023 update, several difficulties were identified in obtaining information on the use of products with POPs content, especially Industrial POPs such as PFOAs, PFOs, PBDEs, Chlorinated Paraffins (lengths C14 and C17) commonly used in paints, plastics, and the automotive industry, among other industrial processes.

There is also a need to gather and systematize information related to the requirements established for Argentina under the Minamata Convention.

Immediate cause #4. *Need to enhance national capacity for safer alternatives and elimination of hazardous waste*

The underlying causes identified as the basis of this immediate cause are as follows:

xi. Mercury stockpiles need to be eliminated.

Based on the stocks of mercury identified by this project during the PPG stage, there is a need to strengthen the national capacities for the treatment of these types of wastes for their environmentally sound management, in accordance with the implementation of the standards and disposal protocols adopted in the international guidelines.

xii. *Mercury added products are a potential source of mercury emissions.*

The country still has waste containing small amounts of mercury (Table 2 above) such as dental amalgams, thermometers, thimerosal vaccines, laboratory reagents, luminaries, among others that need to be managed. These wastes are dispersed and represent management, health and environmental problems.

xiii. Increase technical capacities and alternatives for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, mercury and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards.

In Argentina, the capacity to eliminate certain types of chemical waste (such as organochlorine compounds) is not fully enabled, mainly due to the lack of analytical capacity at the national level to identify other chemical substances, such as dioxins and furans that are generated in the process. This limits the implementation of environmentally responsible practices and hinders the adoption of technologies that meet international standards.

The above group of immediate and underlying causes are the consequence of significant structural/root causes that prevent Argentina from achieving an environmentally sound management of POPs and other hazardous chemicals and waste, which guides the intervention principles of this project.

xiv. Absence of a long-term and holistic strategy.

The need to structure and implement a long-term vision (for 2030) is a key step for the development of technical capacities and institutional strengthening at the Federal, provincial and municipal levels.

xv. Lack of capacity to guarantee compliance with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The large complexity of the institutional arrangements at the Federal, provincial and municipal levels limits the governance for the overall compliance with global environmental conventions and agreements.

xvi. Critical need of mainstreaming gender and vulnerable groups.

Low wages, high informality in the SMEs and recycling cooperatives, abundance of unskilled tasks, together with a wide variety of social and cultural issues for women working with highly hazardous industrial substances and products, put their human rights at high risk and greatly limit gender equality.

In addition, women are the ones who carry out most care tasks at domestic level and, therefore, exposure to various chemical products is greater due to their unequal distribution.

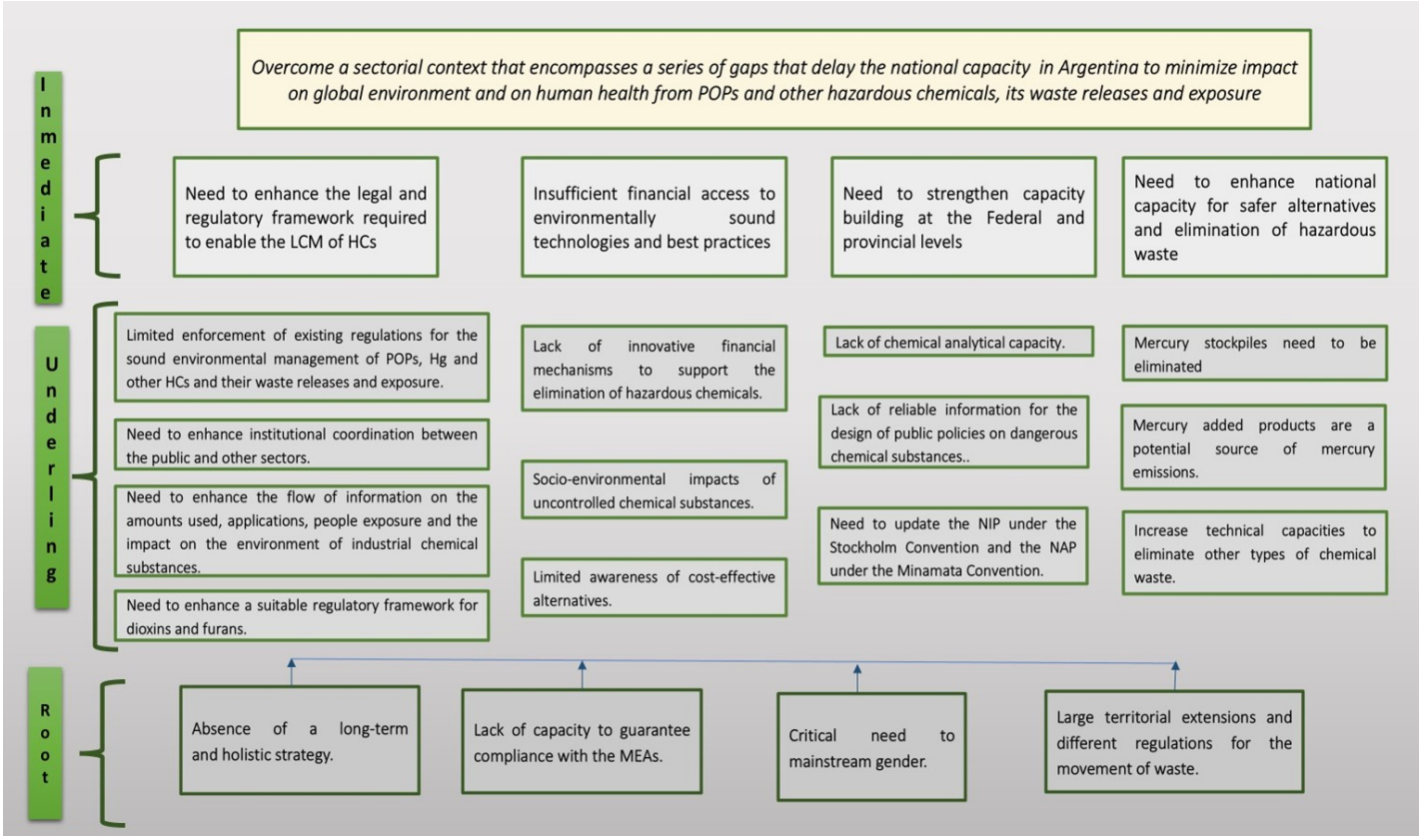
Usually, the social aspects of gender vulnerabilities are related to salaries, work risks and access to education. In industrial areas, the work force is male in its majority. It is therefore important to promote leadership of women in management areas and technical capacitation as aspects to be considered between the planned interventions.

xvii. Large territorial extensions and different regulations for the movement of waste.

There is a need to determine the optimal logistical needs for broad elimination, due to the long distances between the location of the stockpiles of POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals and the most appropriate elimination/destruction procedures, as well as the different level of development among the provinces.

This set of root causes and underlying causes has as a consequence that a group of immediate causes may delay, not only the compliance with the national commitments of the corresponding Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), but also the need to restore land and ecosystems by reducing chemicals of global concern and their waste; reducing and avoiding emissions of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) into the air, and mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The above set of shortfalls is summarized in the Figure below.



To achieve the planned outputs and outcomes of this FSP, it will be necessary to engage various stakeholders that will be critical to deliver on the GEBs, i.e.: national and sub-national authorities, mainly the Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Human Capital. These public stakeholders will be partnering with provincial and municipal governments such as COFEMA and environmental authorities of provinces of Buenos Aires, San Juan, and Rio Negro, whose main interest is the achievement of the project's overarching objective of development by carrying out the necessary implementation of national policies, under the mandate of the MEAs already ratified by Argentina.

The implementation of this project also requires the active participation of numerous and diverse allies from the industrial, mining and recycling sectors such as private companies, cooperatives and SMEs committed to becoming greener partners. Financiers, such as BICE and CFI, and the academia, will also offer learning spaces and generate synergies among the stakeholders at the national level, integrating gender equality, Gender-based Violence prevention, and socio-economic approaches.

There is a group of GEF-financed projects and other initiatives at the national and regional levels currently under implementation related to the development challenge this project is also addressing, which could provide additional support to strengthen this institutional partnership approach in the Argentinian context. Specifically, this FSP will ensure coordination and count on the capacity built and knowledge gathered from the concurrent projects that are already in progress.

Thanks to the involvement of the same institutional partners in some of them, under the leadership of the Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet, it is expected that the achievement of the outcomes for this FSP will be of mutual benefit, for instance with the project "*Strengthening of national capacities in the environmentally sound management of emerging pollutants and other dangerous substances in Argentina"*, carry out by UNEP, and coordination of related activities with the *Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America*.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The challenge of this project is to move towards integrated management for the sustainable reduction of POPs, Mercury and Highly Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina linking the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Rotterdam and Basilea Conventions, the global SAICM initiative, and the Escazú Agreement. All of these addresses contamination by chemical substances and hazardous waste in

the industrial sector, as well as to the need to install permanent capacities in the public sector, which are fundamental objectives of the GEF. Gender mainstreaming will be critical to all project activities, and a Gender Action Plan has been developed to support this (Annex 10).

The project focuses on the integrated management of substances for industrial use (especially industrial POPs), mercury and other Hazardous Chemical substances of global concern, the products that contain them and their associated waste. The need to integrate environmental content in all stages and processes also derives from the mandate of Environmental Act of the General Environmental Law 25.675, which provides that "*the different levels of government shall integrate environmental provisions into all their decisions and activities, aimed at ensuring compliance with the principles set forth in this law*".

This project also aims at providing a significant impulse to continue strengthening the national capacity to manage industrial POPs within the framework of the national regulatory and political context –and international guidelines on chemical substances and hazardous waste management –technically speaking- following the satisfactory Mid-term Review of the preceding UNDP/GEF Project 10094 where was suggested to strengthening-the relationships with the private sector, CSOs, academia and scientific and technological sector, under the leadership of the national environmental authority.

One of the main conclusions of the UNDP/GEF Project 10094 is that, based on the update of the inventory of POPs from intentional and unintentional generation, 21 sites of environmental interest were identified as possible sources of POPs emissions, as shown in the following Table.

Identified sites with hazardous waste repositories in Argentina

Main locations of hazardous waste repositories by province	Main identified substances	Main environmental impacts
11 sites in the Province of Buenos Aires 10 sites in the provinces of Río Negro, CABA, Córdoba, Catamarca, Chubut, Santa Cruz and La Rioja	● —HCH ● —Metals, asbestos ● chlorophenols ● chlorinated pesticides ● PCBs ● HCB precursors, such as: perchloroethene, trichloroethene, tetrachloromethane	● Accidents affecting people and surrounding ecosystems ● Fires due to liquid spills and other materials ● Release of dioxins and furans

Source: PPG Team, 2024 based on Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Argentina (2024).

The "integrated management" is challenging because it requires incorporating most of the hazardous chemicals from industrial production as well elemental mercury obtained as a result of the extractive mining process. This management approach evaluates all aspects and stages of the life cycle of hazardous chemicals,

avoiding a segmented view. In this project it means grouping the various productive sectors and integrating the negative externalities that their activities produce derived from the use of these chemical substances and hazardous waste, without segmenting them by a specific MEA or by substance.

The Industrial and Service Waste Act (Law 25.612) classifies management as "integral" in its art. 1. It defines the integral management of industrial and service waste as *"a set of interdependent and complementary activities, which include the stages of generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment or final disposal of the same, and which reduce or eliminate the risk levels in terms of their dangerousness, toxicity or harmfulness, as established by the regulations, to guarantee environmental preservation and the quality of life of the population".* Although this principle has not been regulated, its content is important to advance its implementation.

Under this guidance, two main purposes emerged, i.e.: the first one is to protect human health and the environment from POPs while strengthening collateral socio-economic and environmental sustainability actions, for large industries, SMEs and recycling cooperatives. The second purpose is to trigger innovative actions for replicating the project´s outcomes for industrial POPs to manage them in an environmentally sound manner, a topic that needs immediate attention under the MEAs commitments.

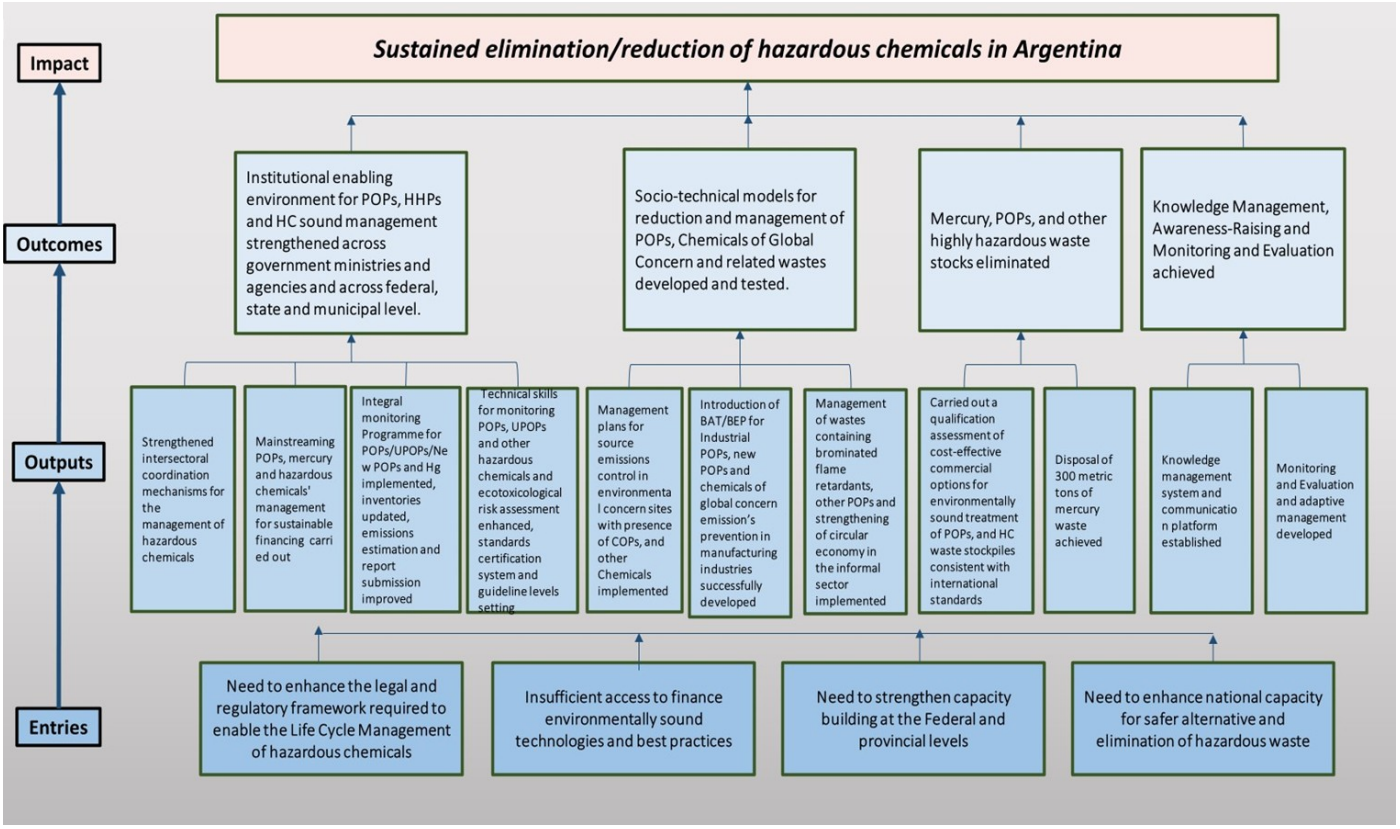
This initiative will bring about integrated institutional support and coordination of ground-breaking technological interventions though innovative pilot projects aligned with national policy regulations and their enforcement at the provincial and municipal levels where programmes and policy initiatives will be undertaken, mainly for industrial producing SMEs and recycling cooperatives. For these stakeholders, long-term successful continuance remains a challenge due to the need to support a holistic approach for the implementation of alternative paths to manage feasible business-like solutions to manage industrial POPs and improved management of wastes in their commercial practices.

The project seeks to mainstream the gender and inclusion perspective in all the activities, as well as to develop a communication strategy for them. Through this approach, awareness-raising activities will be carried out among the population directly affected, particularly those who handle these substances, such as industry workers, recyclers and the public. Consideration will be given to the differential exposure and impact of hazardous chemicals on children, women this an inclusion criterion will be applied.

Finally, in terms of the geographical scope, the project will intervene in key industrial regions of the country in partnership with key stakeholders, as well as in the locations with the highest volume of national manufacturing processing, such as the regions of Santa Fe, the Gran Buenos Aires and Bahía Blanca. The prioritization of these territories has considered connectivity criteria for the transportation and marketing of inputs, products, and derivatives.

There are significant challenges that need to be addressed to improve the provisions to protect human health and the environment against the use of hazardous chemicals in the industrial sector and to overcome the

drivers and barriers described in the previous section. As summarized from the Theory of Change Analysis, the following Figure shows the alternative pathway and solutions, based on the entries identified in the Problem Tree Analysis.



The Project Approach

The project's approach is based on various assumptions that will be critical for achieving the expected changes as per the Theory of Change analysis. The ToC analysis for the IMSRed project has validated the following assumptions:

- Causal: these are on how the proposed outputs contribute to the intended outcomes,
- Implementation: the assumption that the chosen inputs will deliver the intended output, and
- External: assumptions about the influence of issues outside our area of work.

Causal:

- Effective synergies and communication created among the public authorities at the Federal, provincial and municipal levels, private producers, academia, scientific and technological sector and civil society organizations, will enable a favorable environment.
- A collaborative approach to policy making that is continuously maintained and improved, integrating gender related issues across the implementation of the proposed activities.
- This project seeks to promote the adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and, where possible, procured locally.

- Compilation of lessons learned would encourage continuous improvement during the implementation phase and help develop innovative demonstration approaches and test for similar implementations elsewhere after project completion.
- SMEs, recycling cooperatives and tech-based companies can overcome existing barriers in access to finance.

Implementation:

- Institutions are willing to receive training on improved technical skills for environmental management and the public entities commit to making adequate human resources available for the duration of the project and beyond.
- Successful implementation of the Gender Action Plan will help strengthen equality by improving the working conditions when vulnerable groups directly participate in the activities related to the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, deployment of alternative technologies and best practices along all links in the industrial supply chains.
- A proactive commitment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be maintained with all stakeholders in the value chains of the industrial sector, through the implementation of the project to ensure that relevant partners are committed and willing to participate, adopt the proposed alternatives, the best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).
- Compilation of lessons learned would encourage continuous improvement during the implementation phase and help develop innovative demonstration approaches for similar implementations elsewhere after project completion.

External:

- Success in the implementation of the co-financed planned activities, therefore, committed producers can easily access services.
- Political stability at the national level guarantees timely execution of the proposed activities.

4.1.1 Component 1. Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of POPs, HHPs, Hg, and other Chemicals of Global Concern

The heart of this component *"Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Mercury (Hg), Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and other Chemicals of Global Concern, through policy coherence and access to finance to reduce impacts on humans and the environment"*, is to strengthen national policy, technical skills and the regulatory and institutional frameworks in order to make the transition to a more efficient environment for the sound management of POPs, Hg, HHPs and other HCs, integrating more supportive data-driven public policies, planning, and investment decisions by the private sector, for both, the short and long term. Hence, it is necessary to clearly identify the sectors, activities, products and stakeholders using HCs, which in turn, will facilitate exposure analysis and risk assessments for alternative substances to Industrial POPs and introduce innovative changes to production processes.

It should be noted that in Argentina the problem is not so much the absence of regulations to deal with the sustainable management of waste but the complexity of the legal framework and the spread of environmental responsibilities within the Federal structure. Under this component, the project will support Argentina with policy and institutional actions to address the challenge of a “weak enforcement” for tackling environmental aspects of industrial producers through the articulation of all the sectors involved and the need to develop a system of financial incentives for sustainable production with SMEs and cooperatives.

Under Component 1, this project also proposes strengthening the implementation of the 'Intersectoral *Chemicals Roundtable*', with a new-public-private articulation mechanism, encouraging the participation of other relevant stakeholders such as the private sector (mining and chemical companies), industrial associations (industrial, chemical and mining chambers), academia (universities and research institutes), CSOs (GROW, OAA and SETAC), and direct beneficiaries such as SMEs sand cooperatives[1][1].

[1] For a detailed identification and key concerns and expectations of these stakeholders, please refer to Annex 8: Stakeholder Engagement Plan, page 16.

The following outcome and four outputs are proposed to trigger desirable change in the current paradigm:

Outcome A. Institutional enabling environment for POPs, HCs and harmful chemical waste sound management, strengthened ministries and public agencies across Federal, provincial and municipal levels

As the country’s needs with regards to chemicals and waste management are enormous, this project builds on its predecessor’s achievements, i.e. UNDP/GEF Project 10094 while increasing ambition and scale for the elimination goals of POPs, chemicals, and establishing waste management structures. This outcome will enhance the ground to cope with the policy and regulatory barriers identified during the Theory of Change analysis. During its implementation, this project will also consider the future challenges of managing the new POPs to be listed under the Stockholm Convention.

To promote voluntary compliance with environmental legislation, it is necessary to identify the complementary roles assigned to a particular group of stakeholders. Therefore, the participation of the different governmental levels is important. In Argentina, the strengthening of cooperation is facilitated when the different sectors have continuous interaction on the environmental issues. This allows interests, objectives, capacities, and roles to be better identified. For that reason, it is important, under this project, to promote

communication systems that allow for the production and dissemination of guidelines, checklists, technical and legal assistance.

In tune with the above rationale, this outcome will enable a strong management for the reduction/elimination of hazardous chemicals thus strengthening the links between public institutions with key relevant sectors. In this regard, this project also proposes strengthening the implementation of institutional mechanisms encouraging the participation of other relevant stakeholders. It will promote the establishment of suitable policy instruments, such as a national guideline on best environmental practices for the management of chemicals of global concern.

Regarding gender mainstreaming in this Outcome, predominantly in the axis of access to knowledge developed in the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10) will be addressed. In this sense, actions will be developed to reduce difficulties in accessing technical knowledge for those populations and promoting their entry to STEM careers (Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math). The inclusion of gender and vulnerability perspective will be promoted in extension and territorial linkage projects implemented from universities.

Output A.1 Strengthened intersectoral coordination mechanisms for the management of hazardous chemicals

This output will seek to coordinate with industrial actors to establish alliances of mutual support that allow, on the one hand, to improve practices in relation to regulated substances, and on the other, to comply with the international commitments signed by Argentina.

The correspondence of environmental competences requires coordination among the different government levels, at the national, provincial and municipal levels (vertical coordination) as well as the integration of several areas that are related to the same legal matter (horizontal coordination), guaranteeing the intervention of relevant stakeholders that participate in the management of hazardous chemicals and industrial products. On the other hand, it is key to consider the participation of this project in pre-existing national or regional articulation spaces, for instance, in the '*Intersectoral Chemicals Roundtable*'.

In this sense, these activities seek to improve institutional coordination to strengthen the management of mercury, POPs and other associated hazardous substances of global interest by establishing the following activities through a mechanism of institutional coordination with representatives of the private sector, industrial associations, academia, the scientific and technological sector, provincial and municipal authorities, CSOs and direct beneficiaries of the policies involved.

A.1.i Intersectoral coordination to strengthen the management of hazardous chemicals

The Decree 504/2019 established the '*Interministerial Roundtable on Chemical Substances and Products*' which addresses the design, implementation, and execution of national public policies on chemical substances and products throughout their life cycle, however, it is necessary to establish a deeper synergy with other sectors. Under this activity, the project will bring together the efforts of policy makers, private sector, CSOs (mostly industry associations), academia, scientific and technological sector and direct beneficiaries to achieve the best results, ensuring that they are publicly available in accordance with the principles of the Escazu Agreement, through the following actions:

Strengthening participation, for example by:

- Increasing participation in international cooperation associations in order to organize knowledge exchange for instance, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region, Latin America Regulatory Cooperation Forum (LARCF), Responsible Care initiative (RCLA), to name but a few.

- Strengthening South-South strategic mechanisms among Latin American countries for the cross-border management of dangerous products. In this way, it is necessary to analyze existing MERCOSUR regulations on chemical substances and products.

- Linkage at all government levels, both vertically (national, provincial and municipal) and horizontally (various areas of the National or regional governments) such as the Federal Council for the Environment (COFEMA), to establish coordinated policies for the sound management of hazardous chemical substances.

Enhancing promotion/communication, for example by:

- Maintaining the flow of information, for instance, the enforcement of a new POPs and upcoming events at the national and global levels aligned with Activity D.1.i of Component 4 *"Developing a Communication and Content Dissemination Plan"*, through an institutional network integrating public and private stakeholders. Also, organize and participate knowledge exchange through workshops, online dialogues and webinars.

- Making opportunities available for financial innovation in accordance with the activities under Output A.2.

- Identifying and facilitating opportunities for creating strategic alliances between private stakeholders.

- Informing and promoting opportunities for capacity building in accordance with Output D.1.

- Establish ongoing relationships with the laboratories that belong to the "*Network of Environmental Laboratories (RLA)"*, especially those linked to scientific-technological institutions. It will seek to connect with technology-based solutions that can be provided by this group of actors. To this end, coordination at the territorial level among academic institutions, national agencies and local authorities will be encouraged.

Supporting production/management linked to standards, for example by:

- Strengthening regulations regarding the Pollutant Emissions and Transfer Registry (PRTR), including activities such as drafting, debate and dissemination of the regulatory project.
- Enforcing suitable standards for new substances incorporated into the Stockholm Convention through amendments. (Ex.: Methoxychlor: SENASA Resolution 32/2019; ANMAT Provision 8224/2016 and Dechlorane Plus and UV-328 of which Argentina has not yet ratified amendment).
- Develop a mechanism to identify those products that are imported/used that may contain POPs in conjunction with other public agencies such as Customs, Gendarmerie, Prefecture, and SENASA.
- Strengthening the national management tools for the emissions of dioxin and furans. This tool will improve inventories of these substances.
- Validating the scope of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- Identifying and assessing alternatives for the use (substitution) of POPs and other associated dangerous substances, and treatment alternatives for waste containing POP or Hg in line with outputs B.2 "Introduction of BAT/BEP for Industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern emissions prevention in manufacturing industries successfully developed", C.1 "Carried out a qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards" and C.2 "Disposal of mercury waste achieved ", taking into consideration socioeconomic and environmental factors..
- Promoting environmentally sound management of products with small amounts of added mercury distributed throughout the country as per Activity A.1.ii *Achieving environmentally sound management of small amounts of mercury added products*.
- Exchange mechanisms that favor regulatory updating, especially referring to the national list of existing, controlled, restricted and prohibited substances and chemical products (Res. 504/2022).
- Carrying out a national study on the use of POPs, Pesticides POPs, new POPs, candidate POPs in industry (especially those suspected to be used as plastic additives such as UV-328, dechlorane-plus and medium chain paraffins, among others), in close coordination with INTI. Possible substitutes will be identified and assess the economic feasibility of substitution in the identified industrial sectors, taking into consideration socioeconomic and environmental factors.
- Monitoring the local implementation of national regulatory standards.

A.1.ii Achieving environmentally sound management of small amounts of mercury added products

This activity will focus on the identification of key mercury containing products, assessments of treatment alternatives of chemical waste by creating synergies among the stakeholders involved and propose viable management strategies for the small amounts of mercury-added products distributed throughout the country. A

comprehensive strategy will be proposed that will include key actions, aligned with national regulations and the international commitments assumed by the country. For example, it may include the following actions:

- Develop and implement a national Hg waste management strategy as a guided environmental policy, adopting a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach.
- Carry out survey of previous programs that have been proposed for the management of small amounts of mercury added products, such as the SIP Project 2018/01/LAC/ARG '*Capacity Building Program for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina' (2018-2020)*". This information will make it possible to map the sources and key actors involved in the management of this waste.
- Identify stocks and the treatment and final disposal technologies available in the country, considering the limitations of interjurisdictional movement.
- Define treatment alternatives in line with Activity C.2.ii, taking into consideration environmental and social impact associated with each alternative..
- Promote instances of articulation that allow for more effective waste management, facilitating cooperation between different actors and the exchange of information and resources in line with Activity A.1.i.
- Establish measures to minimize health and environmental risks from mercury exposure, especially in affected vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen the capacities of local governments, institutions and key stakeholders for the development and implementation of specific programs in different jurisdictions for the collection, treatment and final disposal of waste containing mercury.

Output A.2 Mainstreaming POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals' management for sustainable financing carried out

The development of innovative financing schemes is key to minimize the impact of hazardous chemicals and wastes, such as POPs and other chemicals of global concern, on the global environment and human health, through an integrated approach of investment in prevention, environmentally sound management and disposal.

Argentina lacks significant precedents of intersectoral collaborative work that addresses this sort of schemes. Considering the recommendations established in the Escazú Agreement, unlike large companies, in the SME sector, there is a lack of knowledge and lack of resources to carry out this type of initiative.

There has been a shift in paradigm towards sustainable finance under the triple bottom line management approach: Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG). This implies a profound change in business

models and the way of taking decisions and became fundamental for organizations to implement voluntary compliance mechanisms.

Specific activities will be designed and implemented to create the necessary conditions to promote sustainable financing practices, facilitate cooperation between public and private actors, and enhance the impact of green initiatives in the country, special tech-based, with an approach that considers the circular economy and energy transition and decarbonization, responsible production and the comprehensive management of chemical substances of global concern.

A.2.i Strengthening collaboration channels with financial institutions to leverage finance

This activity aims to articulate between the financial sector and actors interested in accessing green financing schemes, promoting the inclusion of sustainability criteria. To this end, the following actions could be pursued:

- Promoting new management tools to encourage environmental management in line with the principles of sustainability.
- Facilitating the creation of partnerships between the private and public sectors to co-finance hazardous chemicals management initiatives.
- Establishing inter-institutional working groups for the coordination of efforts to promote sustainable financing, for example through working groups involving public or private financial institutions, international financing agencies, cooperatives, SMEs (for instance technology-based companies) and other enterprises to discuss green financing opportunities.
- Organizing information sessions and workshops, for example, on international financing opportunities and application requirements, development of effective proposals to access green finance and international credits, among others.

A.2.ii Strengthening capacity building to promote innovative actions

Through this activity, the project will support local actors, mostly SMEs (technology-based companies will be considered) and recycling cooperatives, in the preparation of proposals that meet green financing requirements, to facilitate access to international financing and other sources of financing for sustainable chemicals and waste management investments.

Private-driven companies that align their priorities with sustainability and the SDGs can strengthen their engagement with customers, employees and stakeholders. Arguably, the main reason why the SDGs and sustainable development have become such important global priorities is the realization that “business as usual” is no longer working.

To this end, the following actions shall be considered:

- Develop specific training programs for small and medium industrial producers and recycling cooperatives on the implementation of improvements in environmental management, formulation of environmental impact assessments, measurement of carbon footprint and greenhouse gases (GHG), certification procedures, and reverse market analysis to set prices and compliance with current environmental regulations.

- Provide technical assistance to recycling cooperatives and SMEs for the formulation of projects for the sustainable management of hazardous chemicals and their associated wastes.

- Act as an intermediary between local actors and international organizations.

- Support in the drafting and reviewing of proposals and technical documentation to apply for national and international funds.

Initially, the following financial mechanisms will be explored for the proposed activities, without prejudice to the additional financial windows that may be approached during the implementation phase of the project:

- Argentine Development Bank (BICE): which provides access to a sustainable bond mechanism, an innovative financial instrument in Latin America and the Caribbean, which combines productive projects with social and environmental impacts.

- Galicia Bank: this financial institution provides several lines of sustainable finance, from a "*Sustainable Investment Pool"* composed of local assets to a line of financing to support private companies that promote diversity and inclusion.

- The Federal Investment Council (CFI) also provides credits for green financing. This mechanism offers financial resources for projects that promote environmental sustainability.

Output A.3 Integral monitoring Programme for POPs and UPOPs implemented, inventories updated, emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update) improved

Under the Stockholm and Minamata conventions, parties are responsible for preparing national inventories of mercury and POPs emissions following the guidance adopted by the COP. In this regard, this output will contribute to the continuous strengthening of capacities for the presentation of National Inventories of Mercury Emissions and Releases and Inventory of POPs and emissions and releases of UPOPs. Work will be done to improve the calculation of emissions and releases. Also, new substances could be included in the Stockholm Convention (New POPs or POPs proposed for listing), therefore, it will be necessary to produce new information for decision-making processes.

The execution of the previous UNDP/GEF Project 10094 revealed a high presence of POPs, highly hazardous chemical substances, and mercury in the industrial sectors under the different environmental monitoring implemented, which contributed to the generation of a national baseline for these harmful substances.

In addition, there is a Specific Agreement between the former MAyDS and the Universidad Nacional General San Martin (UNSAM), and a Specific Agreement between the former MAyDS and the Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda (UNDAV), both of which aim to promote participation in collaboration, mutual exchange, cooperation, training, information transfer and related tasks to contribute to the proper environmental management of mercury at the national level. Activities under this agreement include monitoring of mercury and its compounds and metals in environmental matrices and training in sampling and analytical techniques.

Particularly, the Specific Agreement between the former MAyDS and the UNSAM was signed to contribute to the management of chemical substances and products and their hazardous and non-hazardous wastes using the equipment supplied by the Project SIP 2018/01/LAC/ARG.

In this way, using the existing baseline, this output will enhance the implementation of an "*Overarching Program of identification and detection of POPs, mercury, HHP and other substances of global concern in environmental matrixes*". Environmental concentrations measured on specific sites with high industrial activity in different parts of the country will be quantified and will contribute to the identification of relevant emission sources, provide information for the guideline levels and contribute to strengthening control and surveillance tools, to prevent adverse effects on human health and the environment.

This project also will focus on the detection of POPs (PBDEs, PFOAs, UV-328, SCCPs and MCCPs, among others) Hg and HHP (Highly Hazardous Pesticides) in specific products, such as plastics, paint, textiles and waste under a new program named "*Comprehensive Program of Identification and Detection of POPs and mercury and other substances of global concern in products and waste*".

A.3.i Overarching Program of Identification and Detection of POPs, HHP, mercury and HCs in environmental matrixes.

This activity will contribute to the continued strengthening of the technical capacity to develop national inventories of emissions and releases of hazardous chemicals. This will improve the identification of emission sources at the local level, for the generation of new information for decision-making processes.

For instance, an "*Overarching Program of Identification and Detection of POPs, HHP and mercury*" will be developed for the identification of PBDE, PFAS, PFOA, UV 328, HHP, Hg and other HCs in the environmental matrixes (i.e.: air, soil, water and biota) in areas of high industrial activity that can be

considered sources of emissions. Socio-environmental variables will be considered, such as differences and effects of exposure to HCS associated with gender roles.

In accordance with Output D.1.i, the information obtained in these activities can be transferred to decision makers, controllers, the productive system and various social actors (CSOs and others), together with the corresponding management proposals.

Coordination between local authorities on the chosen sites will be encouraged, such as the existing institutional articulation in the Bahía Blanca Estuary, Municipality of Bahía Blanca (Executive Technical Committee Laboratory), the Bahía Blanca Port Consortium and the Argentine Institute of Oceanography (IADO– CONICET).

A.3.ii Comprehensive Program of Identification and Detection of POPs and mercury and other substances of global concern in products and waste.

For instance, a first-of-a-kind inventory that will consider the identification and assessment of the use and generation of POPs in various industrial sectors such as the plastics industry, the chemical and petrochemical industry, the automotive industry, textile, among others. Considering that data on the content of Industrial POPs in products is hard to find, products and wastes will be sampled to carry out a qualitative and quantitative physical and chemical analysis to determine the presence and concentration of Industrial POPs and other substances of global concern.

For this activity, the project will support the sampling of a representative collection of products and goods of concern. This sampling can also include articles of daily use. This analysis will help to establish, through statistical methods, an estimate of the type and number of products or waste quantities that may contain Industrial POPs. Economic and socio-environmental variables that include the gender perspective will be considered in the diagnosis stage.

In addition, work will be done with plastics from WEEE that contain flame retardants or other POPs additives. Initially, it will be surveyed which WEEE families could contain POPs based on pre-existing information. Next, those stakeholders working with this type of WEEE will be selected to finally carry out identifications of PBDEs and other POPs in plastics. This activity will also make it possible to determine which WEEE family is contaminated with POPs, in order to manage them appropriately.

A.3.iii Update of the National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions: updating of national inventories.

As a State Party to the Stockholm and Minamata conventions, Argentina has assumed the obligation of updating National Implementation Plans (NIP) and presenting the National Reports regularly.

The project will contribute to the review and updating of national objectives in relation to the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions, including consultations with new or relevant stakeholders. In turn, the project will collaborate in the preparation of the National Reports that will be presented in 2026 and 2030 (Stockholm), and 2027 and 2029 (Minamata).

In this line, this activity will contribute to updating the national implementation plans of the Stockholm and Minamata conventions integrating SESA principles, the national inventories of emissions of POPs and mercury and to the preparation of national reports, including estimates of mercury and POPs according to the national context. To this end, work will be done to improve the quality of the baseline data of use/emission of POPs/Hg, focusing on UPOPs/Hg emission sources and products with POPs/Hg in the industrial sector. Thereby, an improvement in the estimates of the releases will be made.

For the implementation of the above aspects, which in many cases depend on industrial policies that are under the responsibility of each province, these plans will consider viable implementation stages that could be arranged through different mechanisms, such as:

- whether based on the enforcement by regulation of the 'control system on the development of anthropogenic activities', as per Art. 8.3 of the General Environment Law 25.675, operating directly in provincial areas due to the minimum budget,
- through specific agreements with direct local authorities, or
- through Federal Councils, i.e.: COFEMA, COHIFE or COFEMIN.

In addition, emphasis will be placed on the gender perspective in the reports, as well as collaborating in the design of the gender action plans that are discussed in the secretariats of both conventions.

Output A.4 Technical skills for monitoring POPs, UPOPs and other hazardous chemicals and ecotoxicological risk assessment enhanced, standards certification system and guideline levels set.

Under the scope of the Network Environmental Laboratories (RLA) made up of stakeholders from the public and private sectors, this output will build on existing capacities and will strategically prioritize laboratory facilities belonging to government institutions, and public academic or research institutions to strengthen their analytical capabilities for POPs measurement such as PCDD/PCDF, PBDE, PFAS, PFOA, UV 328 and other relevant industrial POPs.

Inter-laboratory testing will be supported to ensure the ability of laboratories to monitor POPs and Chemicals of Global Concern in different matrixes. Under this output, activities will also focus on promoting quality criteria in analytical procedures in the country's laboratories.

Likewise, to ensure the development of an integrated information system at the national level, coordination among laboratories, universities, industries and civil organizations, will be promoted to strengthen territorial links between relevant stakeholders and improve the flow of information and knowledge management.

A.4.i Enhancing national capacities for laboratory facilities and analytical techniques of POPs and other hazardous chemicals.

This activity will contribute to the development and/or increase of analytical capacity related to measurements of POPs in products and dioxins and furans at the source that currently is only detected in environmental matrixes. This activity may include actions such as:

- Training in POPs measurement protocols and validation of techniques and quality in analytical procedures.
- Training aimed at detecting POPs in products and/or dioxins and furans at the source. In this way the sources/products that release POPs into the environment can be identified and managed beforehand in a way where the approach is preventive management and not just monitoring the amounts of POPs in the environment.
- Strengthening environmental laboratories based on detected needs, for instance, financing of certifications and inter-laboratory testing, procurement of standards, improvement in the quality of analytical procedures.
- Enhance the functions of the RLA to strengthen the detection and analysis capabilities of dangerous substances in the country, supporting the consolidation and self-management of the National Meeting of Environmental Laboratories as a space for exchange among institutions.
- Organizing exchange activities between laboratories that carry out POP measurements that are not carried out in the country through South-South cooperation.
- Developing ecotoxicological studies to evaluate risk and promote the setting of guideline levels.
- Strengthen analytical skills for mercury measurements in different matrixes.

The relevant partners considered for the execution of this activity include the National Agri-Food Health and Quality Service (SENASA) through its Dioxin and Furan Laboratory, the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) through its PBDEs, PFAS and PFOS Measurement Laboratory, the National University of San Martín and the National University of La Plata through the Center for Environmental Research (CIM), the National University of the South, the National University of Mar del Plata, the National University of Río Negro, the Municipality of Bahia Blanca (CTE), among others.

4.1.2 Component 2. Environmentally sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites

The preceding GEF/UNDP project (GEF ID: 10094) has found that Argentina must further strengthen more its data gathering and analysis on the identification, classification and treatment for source emissions control in environmental concern sites with presence of POPs, and other chemicals of global concern. Based on these findings, this Component will support the identification of environmental concern sites and pilot demonstration projects to introduce BAT/BEP.

In response to this need, this component is also aimed to introduce -improvements introduced in the 'process management' to prevent POPs that are already found in products, for example in the plastics present in WEEE, from being reintroduced into the production cycle, as well as the improvement of production processes to reduce emissions of dioxins and furans. In alignment with Activity D.1.ii of Component 4, it will also substantively integrate the gender dimensions considering the risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals by gender.

The following outcome and three outputs are proposed to trigger desirable change in the current paradigm:

Outcome B. Socio-technical models for reduction and management of POPs, Chemicals of Global Concern and related wastes developed and tested

Based on the activities carried out under Outcome A, under this Outcome, the project will carry out a management plan for the sites of environmental concern identified as possible POPs emission sources such as hazardous waste deposits or in industrial locations.

BAT/BEP will also be introduced for processes that use industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern to prevent emissions in manufacturing industries and to prevent the entry of these pollutants into supply chains. To this end, pilot interventions will be carried out focusing on the reduction of POPs use and emissions and on the environmentally sound management of POPs products.

For gender mainstreaming in this Result, the project will work with the specific actors of the pilot projects described below. All the addresses mentioned in the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10) will be worked on. Among the activities to be developed, work on gender stereotypes related to work with dangerous substances, particularly with masculinities, is contemplated by promoting care in the workplace and the democratization of care tasks. Likewise, the entry and permanence of women and vulnerable groups in formal employment and decision-making positions will be addressed, especially in positions that require technical knowledge. To this end, the aim is to design a strategy appropriate to the different types of actors involved in the pilot projects and their capacities.

Output B.1 Management plans for source emissions control in environmental concern sites with presence of POPs, and other Chemicals of Global Concern implemented

The management of chemical emission sources is a priority to prevent the entry of POPs into ecosystems and supply chains. Based on the results of the lines of work established by the national environmental authority and the work carried out under the UNDP/GEF Project 10094, 21 sites of environmental concern where POPs have been used or stored were identified, which are potential sources of emissions, as introduced in Table 01 of Section II. However, given the large size of the country and the low number of sites identified, it can be concluded that there are more potential emission source sites that require attention and proper management.

Therefore, to prevent the release of POPs and potential POPs into the environment, it will be necessary to generate new information about source emission of POPs, especially in the industrial sector, and update existing data used for decision-making processes, in accordance with the regulatory and institutional framework.

From an inclusion perspective (Annex 10), actions under this Output include the Identification of gaps and causes of segregation in the workplace specifically aimed at large industries such as chemical and petrochemical corporations, industrial estates, large enterprises, and other stakeholders related to sites of environmental concern. The IMSRed project will also analyze the causes of the predominance of vulnerable groups in informal jobs by retrieving updated data and staff reports, specifically aimed at SMEs and recycling cooperatives included in pilot projects (Output B3) and in key industrial sectors, such as the petrochemical, textile, and paint (Output B.2)

B.1.i Carrying out an exploratory evaluation of five (5) sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions.

Sites of environmental concern, which are potential sources of POPs emissions such as hazardous waste repositories, mining impact zones, industrial areas and production facilities, petrochemical plants, open air dumps that emit POPs or HCs will be identified and selected for monitoring during the project's implementation. The result will contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Stockholm and Minamata conventions.

An exploratory evaluation of at least five (5) sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions will be carried out to identify their general and physical characteristics, emission sources, and nearby impacts, among others. The proposal and application of this activity will include:

- Prioritize relevant hotspots distributed geographically along the country (deposits of products that contain POPs, unintentional POPs releasing sites, among others), considering the results of Output A.3 "Integral monitoring Programme for POPs and UPOPs implemented, inventories updated, emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update) improved".
- The preliminary assessment of these sites will consider: the activities carried out at the facility, chemical composition of raw materials, storage, transportation and integrated waste and effluent management.

- Identification of relevant stakeholders, for instance large industries such as chemical and petrochemical corporations, industrial estates, large enterprises, public utilities, committed municipalities and public institutions.
- The organizational distribution (for example workforce, jobs hierarches) and the people that could be affected in these sites of potential sources of POPs emissions will be considered in terms of Output D.1.ii.

B.1.ii Design a management plan for sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions.

From Activity B.1.i "Carrying out an exploratory evaluation of five (5) sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions", priority will be given to three (3) sites based on the presence of POPs or chemicals of global concern. This activity will include:

- The identification of the immediate measures to be taken to mitigate the risks of exposure and release of POPs, POPs candidates and HCs.
- A detailed assessment that will include field visits and environmental analysis to determine the presence of the substances of concern in matrices such as soil, water and air, with the objective of generating a management plan.
- Coordination between local authorities, local scientific and technological institutions and the private sector will be promoted to develop management plans for these 3 sites, for example in the Province of Río Negro for its extensive mining activity and the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fe, given the importance of these provinces in the industrial sector at the national level. To strengthen these links, training will be provided to decision-makers: local authorities, managers of private companies and technical personnel working with chemicals, in control and inspection abilities utilizing international standards and guidance materials.
- In line with Outcome D.1, Activity D.1.ii of Component 4, i.e. *"Implementation of the Gender Action Plan"*, this step includes specific training sessions for workers.

Output B.2 Introduction of BAT/BEP for Industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern emissions prevention in manufacturing industries successfully developed

It should be considered that, during the 2023 NIP Update, difficulties were identified for obtaining information about the use of industrial POPs in Argentina, such as PFOAs, Deca-BDE, diphenyl ether, PFOs, Chlorinated Paraffins (C14 and C17 lengths), and UV-328 among others. Therefore, there is an information gap that will be the starting point for the implementation of the two (2) pilot projects considered in this Output.

At the same time, in response to the recommendations made in the Mid-term Review of the UNDP/GEF Project 10094 regarding the need to strengthen linkages with the private sector, this project proposes the development of two (2) pilots that promote BET/BAT in key industrial sectors, such as the petrochemical, textile, and painting industries. This will serve as an innovative input to strengthen the decision-making

process in the overall management of industrial POP currently used or released nationwide and other candidate POPs and HCs emissions such as greenhouse gases.

In addition, considering that most industrial sectors, such as the above-mentioned, are male-dominant, activities will be developed to incorporate the gender perspective, considering that certain male behaviors which are considered legitimate and even 'expected' in certain situations, place men in unnecessary risky situations.

B.2.i Carrying out two (2) pilot projects for the introduction of BAT/BEP technologies for chemicals of global concern in the manufacturing sector.

This activity requires, for each alternative, a targeted assessment of the risks associated with these pilots and development and implementation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), in line with the ESMF for each activity.

During the inception phase of the project, the PMU, in coordination with the participating parties from the private sector, will select at least two pilot projects based on the following alternatives:

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Alternative #1: "Evaluation of the use and release of industrial POPs for the introduction of BAT/BET in the Industrial zone of Bahía Blanca"

Estimated cost: USD690,000

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Location: Industrial zone located in a petrochemical location of the Bahía Blanca Industrial Hub.

-

Objective: Prevent emissions to the environment and the introduction of industrial POPs in supply chains through the implementation of BAT/BEP in key private companies located in Bahía Blanca.

-

Activities: The following actions will be considered:

- An industrial census at the local level will be conducted in an area that is a petrochemical location in the Municipality of Bahía Blanca, in coordination with local authorities. There is evidence of the presence of certain POPs in the Bahía Blanca estuary, according to scientific publications. For example, chlorinated paraffins and other hazardous chemicals of global concern, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), were identified in this coastal environment.·

- The first step will be to carry out an assessment of which products/substances may contain POPs that are used in the selected locations. The flow of raw materials and waste, as well as the emissions of POPs and other HCs of global concern will be evaluated.
- If necessary, analytical determinations (quantitative or semi-quantitative) will be carried out to evaluate the presence of these hazardous substances.
- Based on the previous action, sound environmental practices will be evaluated for appropriate management of hazardous waste and reduction of HCs emissions.
- At a later stage, the project will facilitate a direct intervention with a specific private company, for the introduction of BAT/BEP and a cost-effective analysis of chemical alternatives to prevent the entry of hazardous substances into the supply chains. For instance, in the industrial hub of Bahía Blanca there is a private company that produces PVC that could be using hazardous additives in the production process. The project will facilitate an assessment of the sort of chemicals used and with this information, BAT/BEP will be assessed during the project's execution.
- Besides, the composition of personnel according to gender will be analyzed, emphasizing the perception of risks associated with exposure in industries that use/emit hazardous chemical substances.

Relevant stakeholders: *Municipalidad de Bahía Blanca, Parque industrial de Bahía Blanca, Consorcio del Puerto, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía (IADO-CONICET), Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Unipar.*

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Alternative #2: "Optimization of production processes in key industrial sectors by the implementation of BAT/BET"

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Estimated cost: USD400,000

Scope: Key industrial sectors (paint, automotive, textile, hazardous waste treatment industries)

Objective: Eliminate or reduce the release and use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and improve waste management through the implementation of BAT/BEP in key industrial sectors, promoting sustainable practices that optimize production processes and minimize the use of hazardous substances, the generation of hazardous waste and CO_2 emissions.

Activities: The following actions will be taken:

- Industries that through the implementation of BAT/BEP can optimize their production chains, improve energy efficiency and can replace the use of POPs in their processes will be identified and selected. A comprehensive assessment of current practices in selected facilities of paint, textile and plastics industries

will be conducted, focusing on the use of raw materials, hazardous waste generation, CO_2 emissions and the removal of POPs. Priority will be given to industries that consider alternative processes for energy production or waste revalorization in their processes.

- This analysis will identify opportunities for improvement in the implementation of BAT/BEP considering the flow of raw materials, products and waste and recognizing the process stages that could use or emit POPs. This will allow detecting areas where emissions can reduce the carbon footprint.

- In addition, analytical determinations will be made to quantify emissions and waste generated, prioritizing the reduction and the elimination of POPs. These determinations will be made in those links of the production chain(s), previously identified, where there is a suspicion of the existence of POPs.

- To ensure the effective adoption of these sustainable practices, key actors from the industrial sector will collaborate, promoting a coordinated approach to environmental management and the protection of public health in all sectors involved.

Relevant stakeholders: Environmental authorities, Chambers of industry, Plastics, Textile, Painting, INTI, UNSAM, United Recyclers Cooperative of Avellaneda, *Cyclus*.

Output B.3 Management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants, other POPs, and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector implemented

The implementation of this Output will include the formulation of technical guidelines and the strengthening of capacities to identify and assess the presence of flame retardants (PBDEs among other POPs) in plastics, as well as their comprehensive management to prevent POPs from entering supply chains. The activities will be developed in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), recycling cooperatives, academic institutions and local governments.

It is important to say that during the NIP 2023, it was identified that a significant part of the POPs intentionally generated are present in Argentina in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), so an important contribution to the circulation of POPs in the supply chain occurs through the recycling of this type of waste. In this context, the project will launch a portfolio of pilot interventions for the environmentally sound management of these wastes, which will also provide complementary information to the Stockholm Convention chemical inventories.

These interventions will consider the specific needs of each stakeholder group (SMEs and recycling cooperatives). A differential approach will be taken that considers the labor organization and particularities in terms of access to opportunities and assistance, among other aspects that may increase inequalities previously identified in the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10). Also, from this perspective, analyze the obstacles to acquiring technical skills and identifying training needs in recycling cooperatives and SMEs involved in pilot projects from Output B3 to reduce difficulties in accessing technical knowledge.

B.3.i Preparing technical guidelines, training and business models.

The implementation of this activity will include the formulation of technical guidelines and training sessions for the environmentally sound management of products containing POPs, especially PBDE, other Chemicals of Global Concern, and their waste.

This activity will focus on capacity building for the implementation of best practices in the management of POPs-containing wastes, such as WEEE, focusing on actions to prevent the introduction of contaminated materials into the circular economy. When possible, the use of digital solutions and carbon footprint measurement will be integrated in the design of such guidelines.

Particularly, the development of management tools will be encouraged for compliance with Activity *"D.1.ii Implementing the Gender Action Plan"*, and environmental regulations in line with international conventions ratified by Argentina, to reduce the risks associated with the exposure of chemicals.

Also, the design and dissemination of informative material for local (provincial and municipal) governments will be promoted for the implementation of better practices associated with the management of material containing POPs. This will also enhance coordination with SMEs and recycling cooperatives associated with the management of this type of waste, in accordance with activity D.1.i. "*Developing a Communication and Content Dissemination Plan".*

Also, the project, through the PMU, will assist interested stakeholders in the presentation of business models and financial proposals to potential financiers, in accordance with Activity A.2.i of Component 1 *"Strengthening collaboration channels with financial institutions to leverage financing".*

B.3.ii Carrying out pilot project interventions for the management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants, other POPs and strengthening of circular economy.

Pilot project interventions will be carried out for the implementation of best environmental practices for the segregation and disposal of materials that may contain POPs and other highly toxic pollutants, for instance, wastes such as WEEE containing brominated flame retardants (especially PBDE).

Recycling cooperatives and SMEs have difficulties in separating the POP-contaminated plastic fraction from the clean fraction for subsequent marketing and recycling. This, in some cases, reduces revenues and increases hazardous waste management costs.

The implementation of these pilot projects will include all the steps along the supply chain, from collection through to final disposal, including management and recycling of plastics contained in electronic waste. The main purpose is to trigger a new culture of separating materials containing PBDE and other POPs for their corresponding sound management and to improve the business-as-usual recycling operations, focusing on preventing the re-entry of contaminants into the supply chain.

Recycling workers often operate in precarious conditions and with high exposure to hazardous chemicals, these projects will therefore focus on improving their working conditions. These workers are grouped together in cooperatives as a way of regularizing their employment situation to provide services and manage common activities. However, the condition of vulnerability in terms of substance management persists, so in this Output priority will be given to as strategic stakeholders.

On the other hand, all recycling cooperatives have different conditions, since they manage different types of waste and consequently different types of plastics that may contain PBDE. This generates different conditions for the revaluation and installation of sustainable business models at the local level that have to do with the existing value chains in the sites, the types of waste handled by each cooperative and the scientific and technological environment, so the pilot interventions must be adapted to each context.

Therefore three (3) pilot projects will be implemented, contemplating the different business models developed by the actors involved in the management of WEEE with POPs, geolocated in various points within the country, which modifies the particular working condition of each SME and/or cooperative; business models will be analyzed and proposed for the management of WEEE containing POPs and other hazardous waste. Alternatives for the safe recovery of strategic metals present in the printed circuit boards will be evaluated, through a circular economy approach.

This activity requires a targeted assessment of the risks associated with POPs waste management/disposal and development and implementation of an ESMP for each alternative.

The following actions will be adopted in the three proposed pilot alternatives:

- Evaluate available technologies and current methods for the detection of POPs.
- Establish a methodology to determine the presence of POPs in WEEE according to the processes developed by recycling cooperatives and SMEs.
- Develop a protocol for the separation of plastics contaminated with POPs in recycling facilities to be applied in a particular facility for appropriate management and final disposal, the same will be done for other types of waste generated in the process.

- Carry out a training and dissemination campaign for recycling cooperatives and SMEs, related to Output D.1 *"Knowledge management system and communication platform established"*. and D.1.ii *"Implementing the Gender Action Plan"*.

Alternative #1: Strengthening capacities for the separation of POPs-contaminated material in the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires

Estimated cost: USD700,000

Scope: Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires (AMBA) / La Plata (Buenos Aires)

Objective: Strengthen the relationship between institutions that manage knowledge and have efficient operational systems and those that face greater challenges in their processes, with the aim of generating conditions to separate materials contaminated with POPs in an industrial and highly populated area.

Activities:

- Strengthen technology transfer for the improvement of POPs-contaminated material separation processes. This pilot project will be carried out in partnership with EKOA and Oikoscrap.

- Implement a pilot test for the implementation of separation technologies, allowing knowledge transfer. This will be carried out in association with EKOA, an entity that operates under the orbit of the Universidad Nacional de la Plata dedicated to the re-functionalization of computer equipment for its subsequent donation with the objective of reducing the technological gap. It has extensive experience in the generation of training for recycling cooperatives and in the development of facilities for the separation of plastic materials. Another relevant stakeholder, Oikoscrap, has installed capacity for the segregation of all WEEE families on a larger scale and with specific equipment. This constitutes an opportunity for learning and dissemination of knowledge in the detection capacities of plastics with POPs to be transferred to recycling cooperatives.

- Establish business networks that involve the local productive network and validate or rebuild the business models of the recycling cooperatives and to consider cost-effective and environmentally sound alternative circuits for waste treatment.

- Engage with the academic sector to strengthen the capacities to detect different types of hazardous substances and the dissemination of knowledge and technology transfer for SMEs and cooperatives. A strategic actor in this area is the National University of La Plata (UNLP) due to its territorial incidence.

- Improve working conditions through the transfer of knowledge to reduce exposure to hazardous substances and ensure the correct disposal of POPs and hazardous waste in facilities that manage WEEE.

Relevant stakeholders: *EKOA, UNLP, OikoScrap, Tecnoraee, Recicladores Unidos de Avellaneda*

Alternative #2: Implementation of best practices for the separation of waste and knowledge transfer to enhance capacities at local level in scattered facilities in the south of the Buenos Aires Province.

Estimated cost: USD300,000

Scope: Buenos Aires Province

Objective: Establish links between actors involved in the local management of waste with POPs content for their environmentally sound management in focused areas of waste production that are scattered and disjointed.

Activities:

- Strength effective links between actors located in different municipalities in the south of the Province of Buenos Aires. There, waste management is disjointed and with little relationship among them.
- Enhance effective links between municipalities and recycling cooperatives. These partnerships not only strengthen local capacity building but also have the potential to generate long-term employment.
- Implement a cost-effective and environmentally sound approach to managing (recycling, storing, transporting and disposing) plastics with POPs using the existing capacity and other kinds of waste generated by the segregation process, in a sector where there are targeted areas of high industrial density (e.g. chemical and petrochemical industry) and high waste generation rates, but separated from each other.
- Develop a protocol for the separation of POPs-contaminated plastics in recycling facilities, that contemplates treatment capacities at the local level
- Bring together stakeholders to ensure an improvement in logistics from a circular economy approach and foster synergy among stakeholders to scale up in a way that positively impacts business models.
- Strengthen the exchange between recycling cooperatives, academia and local governments to strengthen knowledge-based decision-making processes.

Relevant stakeholders: *COPRAEE, Creando Conciencia, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Municipalidad de Bahía Blanca.*

Alternative #3: Strengthening institutional relationships at the territorial level for the elimination of POPs from supply chains, in the framework of novel and alternative models of organization.

Estimated cost: USD400,000

-

Scope: Santa Fe Province

Objective: Foster partnerships through knowledge management and technology transfer to enable digital inclusion and access to technology for disadvantaged communities.

Activities:

This pilot project is territorially limited to the central area of Santa Fe, where there is a strong presence of actors already working in the field of WEEE in recent years. The main objective of this pilot project is to articulate all those actors present in the same territory to ensure the operational capacity, technical assistance and the necessary management tools. In this sense, it will seek to establish ties between recycling cooperatives, local universities and the provincial government, respectively. Specifically in this project, the presence of the FEM *Recicla* Cooperative, the first cooperative entirely formed by women, is important as a model of organization and for its strengthening.

- Strengthen relationships in the territory between strategic actors with capacity for the management of POPs contaminated materials.
- Exchange among sectors involved in the waste value chain to promote technology transfer.
- Promote the management of Hazardous Waste associated with the management of WEEE containing POPs through a profitable business model for the cooperatives.
- Strengthen the knowledge and techniques associated with the activity developed by women in the WEEE recycling chain. In addition, in each case, working conditions will be studied to improve the democratization of the use of time in the workplace and in the household care tasks. Technical training will be provided especially to female staff and vulnerable groups belonging to CSOs and SMEs.

Relevant stakeholders: *Cooperativa Tau, FEM Recicla, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Gobierno de Santa Fe.*

4.1.3 Component 3. Elimination of Mercury, POPs, and other highly hazardous waste stocks

The rationale for this Component is that there is a need to develop Argentina's capacity to phase-out hazardous chemical waste and promote the use of feasible alternatives. This evolves identifying treatment for hazardous waste already available in the country, particularly POPs, mercury and chemicals of global concern, and their environmentally sound management, considering the stocks that have been identified in the country.

The following outcome and two outputs are proposed to trigger desirable change in the current paradigm:

Outcome C: Mercury, POPs, and other highly hazardous waste stocks eliminated

This outcome will propose strategies to strengthen cost-efficient technologies in accordance with the implementation of the standards adopted in international guidelines, establishing the basis for implementing improvements in hazardous waste treatment processes in accordance with the Argentine context.

Under this Outcome the project will also support measures to gradually phase out, develop, and implement national strategies for devices such as thermometers, sphygmomanometers, luminaires, batteries, circuit boards, and other devices that contain mercury. The adoption of precise, affordable, and safe mercury-free alternatives will be encouraged, improving the management of products that contain small amounts of this substance. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance the identification and management of these wastes in close coordination with the activities proposed under Output A.3 (A.3.i for identification and A.3.ii for management).

The scope of these actions will cover both public and private institutions, including cooperatives and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In relation to the gender mainstreaming of this elimination approach, within the framework of the planned training, activities under this outcome will raise awareness about the relationship between risks and work environments in the presence of dangerous chemical substances and the necessary best practices to reduce differentiated exposure by gender.

Output C.1 Carried out a qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards

Based on the activities carried out under Output A.3 of Component 1, a prioritization and risk assessment of sites of environmental concern identified as possible sources of POPs emissions will be developed.

C.1.i Carrying out a study to evaluate the hazardous waste treatment alternatives available in the country.

A study will be prepared to evaluate the treatment alternatives for hazardous waste available in the country, particularly POPs, mercury and other chemicals of global concern, for their environmentally sound management.

The following actions will be taken in alignment with the environmental management plans of relevant stakeholders from the private sector:

- Analysis of the feasibility of technologies and technology transfer strategies: This action considers the assessment of existing technologies at the national level for the treatment and final disposal of mercury-containing waste, including contaminated compounds, and analyze the operational capacity of current facilities.

- Evaluate the feasibility of transferring technology not available in the country considering technical and regulatory requirements, as well as adaptation to Argentine conditions, for instance, by supporting scholarships, courses and field visits to enhance knowledge management related to the overall objective of the project.

- Identification of socioeconomic and environmental barriers and impacts: Considering the Theory of Change Analysis presented in Section II, the project will conduct a detailed analysis of the technological, economic and social barriers that may hinder the implementation of new technologies, as well as their potential social and environmental impacts. This analysis will allow the development of strategies to overcome prevalent barriers and maximize the benefits of implementing environmentally friendly technologies.

C.1.ii Designing and implementing a training program for the treatment of highly hazardous waste.

Based on the stocks identified in the country, the national capacities for the treatment of these types of wastes will be evaluated. Strategies will be proposed to strengthen these technologies and to know their efficiency, in accordance with the implementation of the standards adopted in the international guidelines.

For highly hazardous chemical waste, the implementation of a Training Plan for the hazardous waste treatment alternatives include:

- According to Outcome A.1, promoting exchange of experiences with other international actors whose objective is relevant to the implementation of the project, particularly the strengthening of relations with other Latin American countries for the promotion of coordinated standards to improve cross-border management of hazardous substances and products.

- Preparing a Training Plan with enough flexibility for its implementation through the lifetime of the project including courses, workshops and seminars related to the relevant topics developed by this project. This Plan should include at least:

- Addressing concerns raised by the project and its relationship with the gender approach in terms of exposure and differentiated impact.
- Supporting financing for scholarships, courses and field visits to enhance knowledge management related to the overall objective of the project.
- Coordinating with public technical scientific organizations such as universities and research institutes that carry similar lines of work.
- Integrate an occupational health and safety chapter in the Training Plan.

- According to Activity D.1.i, organize workshops that contribute to the dissemination of guidelines or technical manuals included in the project´s activities.

C.1.iii Implementing the elimination of products containing or contaminated with POPs and new POPs.

This activity will focus on the comprehensive disposal of products containing or contaminated with POPs, as well as candidate POPs and new POPs that are included in the Stockholm Convention list during the project implementation phase. This project will include those wastes containing substances of global concern that will be identified during project implementation to prevent emissions and releases of POPs into the environment and their introduction into supply chains.

The activity will include technical and specialized advice, along with management recommendations to adjust the handling, transport, treatment or final disposal procedures existing in the country, guaranteeing compliance with national and international standards.

Waste management entities will also be trained to adjust their operating procedures based on Activity D.1.i 'Developing a Communication and Content Dissemination Plan' and in accordance with the proposal in Activity C.1.ii 'Designing and implementing a training program for the treatment of highly hazardous wastes'.

Output C.2 Disposal of mercury waste achieved

Article 8 of the Minamata Convention addresses emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere and establishes the commitment of all Parties to controlling and, where feasible, reducing these emissions. Following this guideline, this project will also support a holistic approach to improve the management of mercury waste and the adoption of alternatives to respond to the need to halt mercury pollution by large industrial activities.

The prevailing responsibility for the management of industrial processes in this output (mining and waste treatment and disposal) is eminently provincial, with national competence being subsidiary, motivated by international responsibility as the authority for the application of the Minamata-Convention. Consequently, all these actions are designed to be implemented by the national/Federal authority but in coordination with local authorities.

The activities, under this Output, require a targeted assessment of the risks associated with mercury waste disposal and development and implementation of an ESMP for each activity.

C.2.i Implementing the elimination of mercury waste generated by the mining industry.

Considering the commitments assumed by the country in the Minamata Convention, during UNDP/GEF FSP 10094, a pilot project was implemented for the elimination of mercury waste generated by the mining industry, which resulted in the elimination of 356 metric tons of mercury by 2023. Considering that the mining industry will continue mining activities in the coming years, this project, together with the national environmental authorities, aims to provide support to ensure the effective and appropriate disposal of mercury by large mining corporations.

In accordance with this national policy, this activity will support the elimination of at least 300 tons of mercury waste from large-scale mining operations in the Province of San Juan.

C.2.ii Implementing the elimination of waste generated by Hg-containing products.

Based on the result of Activity A.1.ii of Component 1 *"Achieving an environmentally sound management of small amounts of mercury added products"*, this activity includes the elimination of mercury waste from public facilities, including in a first stage, the identification of quantities of mercury waste and the presence of small amounts of mercury in commercial products in other sectors throughout the country, such as mercury lamps, dental amalgams and medical and laboratory instruments, facing the challenge of generating synergies between the different governmental levels.

4.1.4 Component 4. Knowledge Management, Awareness-Raising and Monitoring and Evaluation

This Component includes the design of an awareness-raising campaign and gender sensitive training materials to be developed and made widely available, as well as facilitating inclusive and sustained engagement with a variety of stakeholders in the industrial sector.

This project will support awareness-raising on risks associated with the use of Industrial POPs and other hazardous chemicals in manufacturing processes, and the use of products and goods containing Industrial POPs that takes gender considerations/needs into account in accordance with the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10).

It is important to note that awareness will be created on the impact of hazardous chemicals through the POPs/UPOPs/New POPs and Mercury Integral Monitoring Programme (Output A.3) and on the current use and application of POPs in various industrial sectors (textile, automobile assembly, construction, waste management, among others) and their potential negative impacts on health and the environment. The project will support the selection of Stockholm Convention recommended feasible alternatives to Industrial POPs and will also create awareness among producers/manufacturers on potential POPs alternatives as well as in the proceedings set up by the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The following outcome and two outputs are proposed to trigger desirable change in the current paradigm:

Outcome D: Knowledge Management, Awareness-Raising and Monitoring and Evaluation achieved

Potential collaboration with similar or compatible existing plans and the implementation of a monitoring system will be encouraged. Furthermore, a knowledge management strategy and the action and communication plan with gender perspective will be established, in the framework of the national policy, for coordination between sectors/ministries, and Human Rights national and local policies.

Output D.1 Knowledge management system and communication platform established.

Previous experiences have shown a need for a comprehensive approach to the responsible use of hazardous chemicals as described in Section II above. A Multi-year Training Plan with the aim of promoting compliance with national regulations and international conventions on Chemicals and Waste will be designed and developed, intended for the general population and public administration, added to a cross-cutting Gender Action Plan. The use of digital solutions, such as mobile applications, learning videos, digital publications will be highly enhanced.

D.1.i Developing a Communication and Content Dissemination Plan.

At this stage, a "*Communication and Content Dissemination Plan"* will be established to implement training and promote the development of dissemination material according to the country's context and the needs of the population. Therefore, this project proposes to continue carrying out awareness-raising activities among the population directly affected, those who use these substances in their various applications, such as industry workers, recyclers and the public. Specific training activities should also be designed for decision-makers in the private and public sector related to the management of hazardous chemicals, as well as experts from laboratories with analytical capacities for studying these substances as well as for public authorities.

This Plan for the project's activities covers the development of content for different audiovisual platforms, namely editorial publications, brochures, and content for social networks or videos, among others. It includes retaining an expert specialized in audiovisual communication for the preparation and development of the Plan.

The Plan should also have enough flexibility for its implementation through the lifetime of the project, containing courses, workshops and seminars related to the topics developed in the project. The plan should take into consideration addressing concerns raised by the project and its relationship with gender (exposure and differentiated impact).

The training must consider the **framework of behavioral economics** to design strategic activities aimed at different audiences related to the management of hazardous chemical substances. Research in this area of study will be given priority for the generation of data and diagnoses on the different stakeholders.

The lines of action to be developed include:

- Create a specific platform for projects from the United Nations environmental portfolio and other related initiatives so that all generated information is available online, with national, regional and global scope.
- Create content to support the activities that will be carried out by the project. This line of action will include, among others, the following:
  - Overview of existing lessons based on the implementation of the previous UNDP/GEF project UNDP/GEF Project 10094.
  - Learn from other relevant initiatives, both at the national and regional levels, as indicated in Table 9 *"Associated relevant initiatives"* above.
  - A specific budget allocation for this task is included in the project's budget for Output D.1 "*Knowledge management system and communication platform established*".
- Bold and clear communication aimed at the different stakeholders who will participate in the implementation of the project, which includes products such as management manuals, academic publications, and best practices implementation guides.
- Design and implement an audiovisual content campaign aimed at different audiences.
- Engage with the communication agent corresponding to the responsible party implementation area in which the project is marked.

- Supporting financing for scholarships, training events, and field visits to enhance knowledge management related to the overall objective of the project, as mentioned above in Activity C.1.i *"Carrying out a study to evaluate the hazardous waste treatment alternatives available in the country"*.

- Coordinating with public technical scientific organizations such as universities and research institutes that carry out similar lines of work.

- Build a strategy directed to key industrial sectors referred above that promote best practices focused on incentives for the entry and permanence in employment by designed training in key industrial sectors, such as the petrochemical, textile, and paint, as the Gender Action Plan (Annex 10).

D.1.ii Implementing the Gender Action Plan.

Activities will be developed within the framework of the Gender Action Plan aimed at working with women and vulnerable groups to develop strategies to prevent the adverse effects of chemicals on their health, as indicated in the SESP (Annex 5). The gender strategy that will be implemented also aims to address the barriers to preventing Gender-based Violence (GBV) in these value chains so working with masculinities in workspaces is essential to achieve these goals. This activity will also consider the need to disaggregate data by gender and its respective analysis. The design must be flexible enough to adapt to the implementation of the project.

Actions, under this activity, will include:

- Mainstreaming the gender perspective.
- Organizing training sessions on gender for selected stakeholders of the project based on the context and sector.
- Articulating with gender areas of local organizations to generate actions in conjunction with environmental authorities within the framework of the pilot projects to be carried out by the project.
- Generate data on exposure to industrial chemicals and substances with a gender perspective.
- Advocating gender equality quota in the capacity building programs implemented by the project.
- Complying with current national and international obligations on gender and GBV subjects.
- Elaborating guidelines for the implementation of the gender perspective in public policies on chemical substances.

- Build focused training based on the analysis of each facility to create spaces for reflection in different work environments, as per the Line of Action of Annex 10.

- Design a specific technical training plan in accordance with the analysis and evaluating the results with the stakeholders involved to reduce difficulties in accessing technical knowledge, as per the Line of Action of Annex 10.

Output D.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Adaptive Management applied

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of this project is based on a monitoring strategy with S.M.A.R.T. indicators that incorporates the gender approach, Gender-based Violence (GBV) risk management, Global Environmental Benefits, and co-benefits. This output was developed to measure project progress on a regular basis. Lessons learned on GBV risk management and related best practices can be incorporated into project monitoring reports, Mid-term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE).

As a standard practice for every UNDP project, continuous monitoring of project's results and achievements will be ensured, while the application of adaptive management of the project after conclusion of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) will be warranted. The Project Management Unit (see Section VIII Below on Governance and Management arrangements for detailed information) will design the project´s M&E system and be responsible for implementing the project´s M&E Plan (see Section VII below), including the Project´s Inception Workshop, annual planning workshops and Project Implementation Reports (PIRs).

The project's results as outlined in the Project Results Framework (Section VI), will be monitored periodically during implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results; these will be reported in the Mid-term Review (MTR) and the Terminal Evaluation (TE) reports. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP's Evaluation Policy.

For M&E, technical and institutional capacity, information will be needed to address extreme natural events vulnerability and enhance project and place-based resilience. This Output will develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategy, implementing and evaluating the selected extreme natural events vulnerability management options in the chosen pilot project locations over the project lifetime and evaluating the projected impact uncertainties beyond that period.

Implementation and monitoring of identified risks and mitigation measures are required throughout the life cycle of the project. During project implementation, certain circumstances require the revision of the completed design-stage screening. These include but are not limited to:

a. where new information becomes available such as through a social and environmental assessment,

b. where there are substantive changes to the project (e.g., changes in design, additional components), or

c. where changes in the project context might alter the project's risk profile. If the revised screening results in a higher risk category, then the revised SESP needs to be reviewed by the Project Board or a subsequent PAC process (and where relevant by the GEF). The UNDP Risk Register (Annex 6) should be updated accordingly.

The following incremental activities will be carried out to achieve Output D.2:

D.2.i Carrying out the Project's Inception Workshop (IW).

This activity, which will take place during the first two months after the project's implementation takes off, will be organized by the Project Management Unit (PMU) in a very participatory manner allowing the inclusion of multiple stakeholders involved during the PPG phase and those committed to the FSP´s execution phase.

In case a significant amount of time elapses between the time of the CEO Endorsement and project initiation, by the time of the IW, it is highly recommended the PMU also reviews and update the SESP (Annex 5) to ensure the assessment reflects the current social and environmental risk profile of the project. If needed, the PMU will strengthen the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8) to reexamine up-to-date stakeholders' context, proposed pilot projects, and site-specific targeted beneficiaries and promote their effective engagement throughout the implementation of the project.

D.2.ii Carrying out the Mid-term Review (MTR).

The MTR will be carried out after the second submission of the Project Implementation Report (PIR); it will assess the progress of each project activity and attainment of the project's indicators presented in the Project Results Framework (Section VI) and the Multiyear Workplan (Annex 4).

This review will also consider one Gender Assessment of project impact completed as part of MTR and the disbursement of financial resources, co-financing provided by project partners, reporting of GEBs and co-benefits, and it will monitor and assess administrative aspects for the execution of the project. The MTR will also inform the adaptive management of the project and improve its implementation for the remainder of the project's duration.

D.2.iii Monitoring and Reporting.

The project will provide narrative reporting bi-annually on key activities and areas of progress toward achieving the program and project-specific indicators.

Under this activity, monitoring and reporting will include the Project Results Framework (Section VI) with outcome indicators, GEF Core Indicators, baseline, and annual target indicators and ProDoc annexes. The monitoring will capture and track progress regarding attainment of the project's results, adherence to the results framework, and program functioning as an integrated effort.

During its implementation, the project will also monitor differences related to vulnerable groups in key aspects that have been identified in research and scientific literature, including potential differences in access to finance, businesses, employment, impacts, exposure and awareness and knowledge of chemicals, and

biodiversity risks, and the resulting behavioral differences to ensure effective mainstreaming and the full participation and benefit of vulnerable groups.

D.2.iv Reporting of Global Environmental Benefits and Co-benefits.

This project is meant to achieve global environmental benefits through an integrated approach.

The calculations carried out during the PPG stage will be updated accordingly for the MTR Report and for the Terminal Evaluation at the end of the project, in accordance with Annex 17 "GEF Core indicators" of this ProDoc.

Measuring and tracking Global Environmental Benefits from the project

Under this activity the project will submit data on the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) **once per year,** using the four core indicators shown in the following Table 5:

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

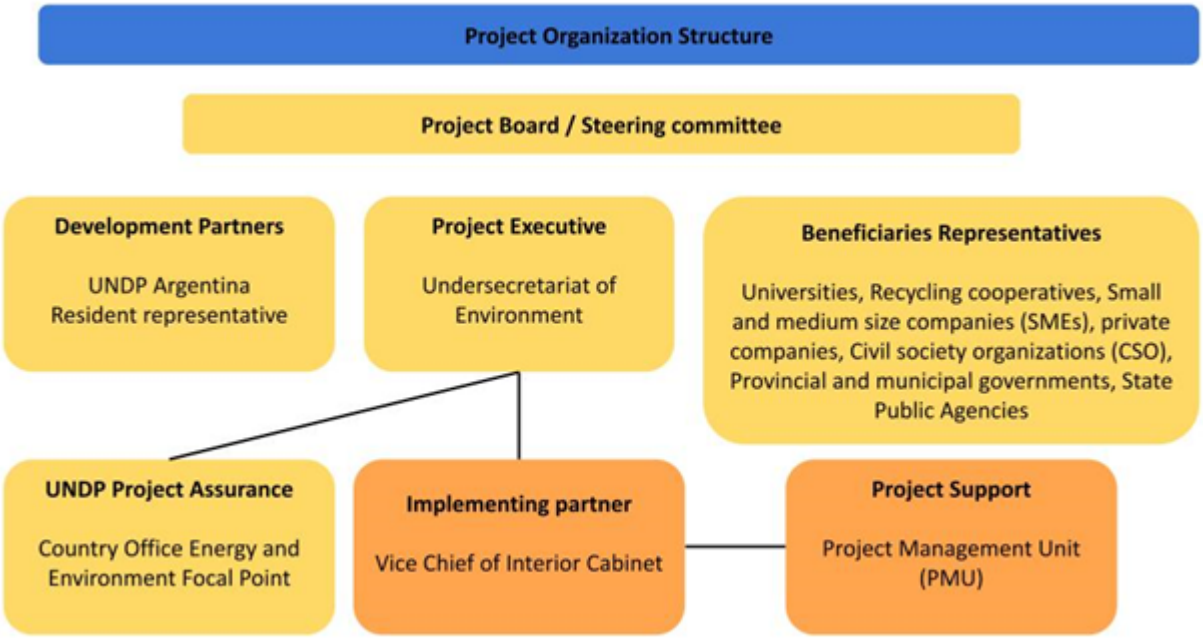
The Executing Agency for this project on behalf of the Government of Argentina is the **Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet** with the following specific tasks:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

As the Implementing Agency for this projects, UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project.

The stakeholders of the project correspond to a diversity of entities including the Government of Argentina and public agencies with an interest in the implementation of the activities, local stakeholders, private sector and CSOs. Partnerships of the FSP include private producers, universities, financial intermediaries, and research centers who can engage with the methodologies of the project, having similar approach and goals for the elimination of hazardous chemicals, community health, sustainability, and financing.

The following diagram outlines the proposed structure of the project governance structure:



Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, and/or suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and reports to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

There are several ongoing initiatives and projects related to the development challenge this project is also addressing. It is expected that the achievement of the outcomes for this FSP will be of mutual benefit. Specifically, this FSP will ensure coordination and count on the capacity built and knowledge gathered from the concurrent initiatives and projects that are already in progress such as the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Action Plans, i.e.: NDC, NIP, and Global Framework on Chemicals. The design and implementation of this project´s activities are key to achieve Argentina's global commitments and can also deliver immediate and direct health and economic benefits for the Argentinan people.

At the regional level, the project will coordinate with initiative *"Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries"* and with The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (CRBAS), by reinforcing national initiatives, regional cooperation, information exchange systems and knowledge management. Co-finance partners will be engaged in the different roles in the project and enable the project to build upon existing industry and sector initiatives including financiers such as the Argentine Development Bank and the Federal Investment Council, recycling cooperatives, SMEs, and private companies from different industrial sectors.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	10000	10000	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	10,000	10,000		
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2025		
Duration of accounting	6	6		

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
301.30	301.30	0.00	0.00

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

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether	1.30	1.30		

Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
300.00	300.00		

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indicator 9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
330,000.00	330,000.00		

Indicator 9.7 Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated

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

Indicator 9.8 Avoided residual plastic waste

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
825.00	825.00		

Indicator 10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced

Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at PIF)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at MTR)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at TE)
18.40	19.04		

Indicator 10.1 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

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

Indicator 10.2 Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

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

Female	1,842,802	1,896,439		
Male	1,744,598	1,774,943		
Total	**3,587,400**	**3,671,382**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

For CI #6.2: In terms of avoided CO2eq emissions, the four main materials contained in e-waste are steel, aluminum, copper and plastic (accounting for approximately two thirds of the total mass).

Based on calculations carried out during the PPG using data from different reference sources, it shows the following: (from virgin ores) 1.52 tCO2e emissions per ton of e-waste; (by recycling metals), 0.64 tCO2e emissions per ton of e-waste; thus 0.88 tons of net CO2e emissions are avoided by recycling e-waste.

Assuming that the remaining third of the mass includes low energy demand materials, except for precious and energy transition metals, a conservative additional 10% increase is considered, that is 0.968 tons of CO2e avoided per ton of e-waste treated.

It is estimated that, through the pilot interventions, approximately 10,000 tons of WEEE will be properly recycled, giving a total of approximately 10,000 tons will CO2e avoided indirectly by the project.

For CI #9.1: The project will intervene in the management of approximately 30% of the tons of e-waste (4.950 x 0.00087 x 0.30 = 1.29 tons of PBDEs), which will prevent the re-entry into the supply chain of 1.3 tons of PBDEs.

S: Argentina generates 70 tons of elemental mercury annually as waste from the gold mining activities under the scope of this project. It is conservatively assumed that the project manages to reduce at least 300 tons of mercury waste.

For CI #9.6: Based on an estimated 330,000 MT of WEEE that will be directly or indirectly covered by the Project.

For CI #9.8: According to the values obtained in the PPG phase (indicator 9.6), it is considered that 30% of the waste is plastic and that 5% of this could contain POP (PBDE). It is assumed that 30% of that amount will be managed through the proposed pilot interventions. This is 330,000*0.3*0.05*0.3=1,485 tons of avoided residual plastic waste.

For CI #10: For PBDD/F, an indicative estimate of the actual emission of POPs and toxic chemicals, considering 330,000 MT of waste (Indicator 9.6). It is assumed that 7% of WEEE corresponds to cables and that 20% of this electronic waste is burned in an uncontrolled manner.

Then: 330.000*0.07*0.5*12,000 µg TEQ/t (category 2 l toolkit factor) = 55.44g TEQ in PCDD/F emissions (Ref.: emission factor for open burning of cables: 12,000 µg TEQ/t, UNEP Toolkit for identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs 2013, Cat. 2, Class m), while the uncontrolled burning of circuit boards could be responsible for: 330,000 TM*0.017 (fraction in weight of 1.7 % circuit boards) *100 µg TEQ/t = 0.11 g TEQ in PCDD/F (Ref.: emission factor for open burning of circuit boards: 100 µg TEQ/t, Hedlund et al. 2005).

Therefore, the total estimated emissions are 55.55 gEQT at the national level during the project implementation time.

For PCDD/F, e-waste is considered to contain 20% plastic and one ton of plastic is assumed to emit 0.00012 g TEQ when improperly burned, giving a total of 330,000*0.2*0.00012 g TEQ/Tn = 7.92 gTEQ during the life of the project, for a total of 63.47 gTEQ (55.55 + 7.92).

If it is considered that through the pilot interventions the uncontrolled burning of 30% of the WEEE will be avoided, then 19.04 gTEQ (63.47 x 0.30) will be avoided.

For CI #11: The population of the country is 45,892,285 people (Census 2022).

It is estimated that 8% of the population -living in the territories where the pilot interventions will take place- will benefit from the project after six (6) years of execution.

For the sub-indicators: Calculations were mostly based on communications with the stakeholders engaged throughout the execution of the PPG phase and validated with the national authorities who will be responsible for the execution of the project.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Assessment: Natural disasters could eventually affect the locations and operations where mercury and POPs waste may be stored or disposed (Output C.1 and C.2) Mitigation measures: Within the framework of this project, it is planned to build capacity with the involved stakeholders, especially for SME producers, as well as with the project staff, for the immediate response to manage global change related risks, primarily in the surroundings of the facilities of the pilot projects, including vulnerability factors to natural events and environment changes. The project will implement a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategy, implementing and evaluating the selected environmental vulnerability management options in the chosen project pilot locations over the project lifetime and evaluating the projected impact uncertainties beyond that period (Output D.2).
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Assessment: Potential loss of income for SME producers who do take part in project activities including the pilots in Output B.2 or otherwise transition to more sustainable practices including the substitution of POPs and other associated dangerous substances (Activity A.1.i). Mitigation measures: Comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation and awareness-raising mechanisms will be developed to promote alternative and less harmful chemical substances, with special attention to the management of waste generated, promoting traceability and circularity. The project will establish a support for SME producers who are technically and financially restrained (Output A.2), and fully engage them, also ensuring a significant reduction of the use of hazardous chemicals for these stakeholders over the long run. Assessment: Discrimination against marginalized communities due to elite capture of compensation mechanisms for residual environmental damages (Activity A.2.i). Mitigation measures: The project will put in place measures to ensure equitable distribution of compensation in the developed mechanism to

		avoid elite capture. In addition, the project has developed a SEP that ensures participation of all stakeholders in project activities. During implementation, it will put in place a GRM to provide meaningful means for local communities and affected populations to raise concerns and/or grievances when activities may adversely impact them. Assessment: Overall, the implementation of the project could lead to gender discrimination reproduced through limiting women's ability to contribute to decision-making and to benefit from the project. Mitigation measures: A Gender Action Plan (Annex 10) has been prepared to mitigate the identified risks and propose measures that ensure that women are represented in decision-making on project activities and are included in capacity building activities. Implementation of the Gender Action Plan will help strengthen gender equality and empower women and diversities by improving their working conditions when directly participating in the activities related to the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, deployment of alternative technologies and best practices in the industrial sector. Assessment: Critical habits or environmentally sensitive areas may be affected by accidental release of harmful chemicals during the implementation of pilot projects and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2). Mitigation measures: In line with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a targeted assessment of potential impact on natural habitats from accidental releases of harmful chemicals will be conducted and Waste and Spill Management Plans will be developed for the pilot projects (Activities B.2.i and B.3.ii) and for disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2) to ensure that hazardous materials are stored and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. As part of the project design, the introduction of BAT/BEP and the management of chemicals and hazardous waste in the industrial park or selected industrial facilities (Activity B.2.i) will be evaluated to ensure lower generation of hazardous waste and reduction of emissions. Assessment: Downstream impacts on critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas may occur during implementation of Hg waste management strategy (Activity A.1.ii), National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions (Activity A.3.iii) and management plan for sites of environmental concern (Activity B.1.ii) if there are any planned activities nearby resulting from these strategies and plans. Mitigation measures: In line with the ESMF, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach will be adopted during preparation of the Hg waste management strategy (Activity A.1.ii), updating the National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions (Activity A.3.iii) and management plan for sites of environmental concern (Activity B.1.ii) to take into consideration environmental and social issues when developing the strategy and plans. Assessment: Potential health and safety risks to the local community from exposure to hazardous material due to improper handling, transport or disposal of POPs and toxic chemicals during the implementation of the pilot project for the separation of plastics contaminated with POPs in recycling facilities (Activity B.3.ii) and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste (Output C.1 and

		C.2). Mitigation measures: In line with the ESMF, targeted assessments of the potential for community exposure to hazardous material due to accidental release or improper handling of chemicals and Waste and Spill Management Plans will be developed for the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2) and the pilots for separation of plastics contaminated with POPs in recycling facilities (Activity B.3.ii) to address these risks. As part of the project design, the introduction of BAT/BEP and the management of chemicals and hazardous waste in the industrial park or selected industrial facilities (Activity B.2.i) will be evaluated to ensure lower generation of hazardous waste and reduction of emissions. Assessment: Working conditions within project activities may be in contravention to principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions during training aimed at detecting POPs and other hazardous material (Activity A.4.i), site assessments (Activity B.1.ii), carrying out a survey of the industrial park (Activity B.2.i), enhancing management recommendations in order to introduce BAT/BEP (Activity B.2.i), carrying out a training campaign for recycling cooperatives and SMEs (Activity B.3.ii), implementation of pilot projects (Activities B.2.i and B.3.ii) and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2). Mitigation measures: Occupational health and safety (OHS) measures should be integrated into the training program for detecting POPs and other hazardous material (Activity A.4.i), enhancing management recommendations in order to introduce BAT/BEP (Activity B.2.i), carrying out a survey of the industrial park (Activity B.2.i), and generating a management plan for sites of environmental concern (Activity B.1.ii) such as ensuring that PPEs are available, monitoring of mercury and POPs emissions and providing adequate OHS training to workers. The responsible parties shall comply with best practice for protecting workers' rights and non-discrimination based on the international standards and national labor laws. Assessment: Pollution of air, soil or water may result from the accidental leakages or spills due to the improper handling, transport or disposal of POPs and toxic chemicals during implementation of pilot projects (Activities B.2.i and B.3.ii) and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2). Mitigation measures: In line with the ESMF, a targeted assessment will be undertaken to analyze this risk. Waste and Spill Management Plans will be developed for the pilot projects (Activities B.2.i and B.3.ii) and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles (Output C.1 and C.2) that adopt best practices outlined in the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Basel Convention on Controlling Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. As part of the project design, the introduction of BAT/BEP and the management of chemicals and hazardous waste in the industrial park or selected industrial facilities and the reconversion plan for the use of mercury (Activity B.2.i) will be evaluated to ensure lower generation of hazardous waste and reduction of air emissions. Assessment: Pollution and emission risks from the improper handling, transport or disposal of POPs and toxic chemicals during implementation of Hg waste management strategy (Activity A.1.ii), updating the National Implementation Plans of Stockholm and Minamata

		Conventions (Activity A.3.iii) and the management plan for sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions (Activity B.1.ii). Mitigation measures: In line with the ESMF, a SESA approach will be adopted during preparation of Hg waste management strategy (Activity A.1.ii), updating the National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions (Activity A.3.iii) and management plan for sites of environmental concern as potential sources of emissions (Activity B.1.ii) to take into consideration environmental and social issues when developing the strategy and plans.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Assessment: Change of political authorities, both at the Federal and provincial levels, that might result in new management and technical appointees within public entities, requiring additional efforts to ensure buy-in for ongoing project activities, which might slow down the proposed annual workplans. Mitigation measures: The project will work on identifying public institutional partners and schemes for managing unexpected changes of senior officers and support the implementing actions with a wide variety of partners, from the private sectors, CSOs, and academia. In the event of a potential turnover at the National Subsecretary of Environment belonging to the Secretariat of Tourism, Sports and Environment in the Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet, technical personnel from UNDP CO staff and the UNDP RTA for Latin America and the Caribbean will do their utmost to inform and convince new political decision makers on the importance of the project, the reasons why it was developed and the positive impact it will have on human health and the environment in Argentina.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Assessment: Poor information outreach and communication throughout the project implementation. Mitigation measures: Low policy implementation and enforcement will weaken the incentive structure for all stakeholders to take actions and political support is needed to drive private sector engagement. During the implementation of the FSP, awareness-raising, research and technical training programs will be developed and implemented, as well as capacity building in national and provincial authorities and other public parties who are working on issues related to the use of hazardous chemicals in the industrial sector, to generate the knowledge and experience needed to carry out their tasks properly (Output D.1).
Technological	Moderate	Assessment: Limited capacity in project monitoring and stemming from co-financed activities. Mitigation measures: The project foresees in its Component 4, Output D.2, a series of activities aimed at a periodic monitoring and follow-up on the overall development of this project and comprehensive reporting during the MTR, where possible deviations from the programmed actions can be identified early, as well as compliance with the proposed objectives.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Assessment: Uncertainties due to cost recovery with the proposed alternatives. Mitigation measures: The project, as in Component 4, will increase knowledge

		management activities which consider the cost of externalities and explore the impact of subsidies on the market to reverse potential adverse effects.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Assessment: Inconsistent regulatory framework (incoherent, non-congruent and non-complementary). Mitigation measures: In coordination with ongoing initiatives, the designated National Executing Agency must monitor the evolution of national (Federal) regulations as well as their implementation in provincial and municipal areas, in compliance with the objectives of the international conventions targeted by this project, seeking to reduce the exposure of the environment and the population to toxic chemical substances.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Assessment: Stressful national economic context and political instability discourages clients, co-financiers and investors. Mitigation measures: For FSP expenses, UNDP monitors expenditure on a regular basis. Further UNDP HQ provides global oversight of project delivery minimizing the risk due to economic unrest. For the execution of this FSP, UNDP has performed a capacity assessment of the designated Government Executing Agency, which has extensive experience with the implementation of GEF-funded Projects and has complied with applicable standards. For co-financiers along the supply chains, the FSP will coordinate among the owners to obtain the lowest possible disposal cost through economies of scale and strengthening of both supply chains.
Stakeholder	Low	Assessment: Deficiencies in communication and relationships with stakeholders. Mitigation measures: As part of the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8), briefings with a wide variety of stakeholders were organized during the PPG phase and will continue during the full implementation of the FSP under Output D.1, to raise awareness of the project's scope, activities, and benefits.

Other		

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	An evaluation of the likelihood of a risk and the potential impact on the objectives of each individual risk identified, the overall risk rating remains moderate. It is important to note that, if required, the risk analysis will be adjusted when more information becomes available during project implementation.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Argentina has endorsed several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related to the use of chemical substances and products, such as:

- The *Stockholm Convention* on Persistent Organic Pollutants, ratified by Law 26.011 in 2004. It urges countries to reduce their emissions and release of these chemical compounds through bans and restrictions on their manufacture and use.
- The *Minamata Conven*tion on Mercury, signed in 2017 and approved by Law 27.356. It establishes measures to reduce and, when feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds.
- The *Rotterdam Convention*, approved by Law 25.278 in 2004, regarding trade in hazardous chemicals.
- The *Basel Convention*, ratified in 1991 by Law 23.922. It creates rules to follow when hazardous waste needs to be mobilized to other countries for their treatment. In Argentina, this framework is enforced under the scope of Law 24.051 where the Federal authority enables the interprovincial transport.
- More recently, the *Escazu Agreement* ratified in 2021 by Law 27.566. It reaffirms Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which establishes that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.

Since all international commitments were instated, substantial progress has been made to achieve the objectives these conventions have embraced, related to the identification, prevention, reduction and elimination of hazardous chemicals and their waste, as well as to guide the actions of the different stakeholders involved for its integral management.

This Full-size Project (FSP) is directly aligned with the issues raised in the GEF-8 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area, which seeks to eliminate or significantly reduce man-made harmful chemicals and chemical formulations that are used in every sector including agriculture, construction, pharmaceuticals, textiles, energy, petrochemical, plastics, electronic and electric products, among others. The key Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) aim at reducing chemicals of global concern and their waste, reducing and avoiding emissions of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and mercury into the air, water and soil, aligned with the corresponding Multilateral Environmental Agreements signed by Argentina, whose purpose is to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants –POPs-, Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), Mercury, and other Industrial Chemicals.

This project will also contribute to sustainable bioeconomy-based processes, circular design, cleantech innovation and commercialization, collaborative supply chains, and increased traceability, transparency, and accountability that drive innovations in new policies, materials, and industrial processes, from the lens of chemicals.

It will also gather information in relation to the MEAs' obligations across all focal areas. Through this, the project will contribute to the commitments under the MEAs signed by Argentina. It will also help the Government to advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project activities will support the stakeholders in the implementation of behavioral changes required to fulfill those commitments, and in the production of circular and sustainable products and business models in the industrial sector.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	Grant	5,240,000.00	471,600.00	5,711,600.00
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	Grant	4,000,000.00	360,000.00	4,360,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**9,240,000.00**	**831,600.00**	**10,071,600.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

18000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**200,000.00**	**18,000.00**	**218,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CW-1	GET	9,240,000.00	67446437
Total Project Cost		**9,240,000.00**	**67,446,437.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	484350
Others	Universidad Nacional del Sur	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10406000
Others	Universidad Nacional del Sur	Grant	Investment mobilized	4852500
Others	Universidad Nacional de la Plata	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2800770
Others	Universidad Nacional de la Plata	Grant	Investment mobilized	2357780
Others	Universidad Nacional de San Martin-CONICET	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Others	Universidad Nacional de San Martin-CONICET	Grant	Investment mobilized	2800000
Others	Universidad Nacional de San Juan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	286039
Others	Universidad Nacional de San Juan	Grant	Investment mobilized	34896
Others	Universidad Nacional del Litoral	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000
Others	Universidad Nacional del Litoral	Grant	Investment mobilized	16860

Others	Universidad Nacional del Comahue	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20000
Others	Universidad Nacional del Comahue	Grant	Investment mobilized	65000
Recipient Country Government	Subsecretaría de Ambiente de la Nación	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4160235
Recipient Country Government	Municipio de Bahia Blanca	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3891000
Recipient Country Government	Municipio de Bahia Blanca	Grant	Investment mobilized	2925000
Recipient Country Government	SM-Dirección Nacional de Producción Minera Sustentable	Grant	Investment mobilized	3313915
Recipient Country Government	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750000
Recipient Country Government	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1500000
Civil Society Organization	Centro Regional de Basilea para América del Sur (CRBAS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Civil Society Organization	Grow - Género y trabajo	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600000
Civil Society Organization	Organismo Argentino de Acreditación	Grant	Investment mobilized	52500
Private Sector	Minera Andina del Sol SRL	Grant	Investment mobilized	11600000
Private Sector	Puerto de Bahía Blanca - Consorcio	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	654500
Private Sector	Puerto de Bahía Blanca - Consorcio	Grant	Investment mobilized	1758500
Private Sector	CYCLUS S.R.L	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50000
Private Sector	Oikoscrap S.A.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2300000
Private Sector	Oikoscrap S.A.	Grant	Investment mobilized	2100000

Private Sector	CoopRaee	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	360000
Private Sector	CoopRaee	Grant	Investment mobilized	340000
Private Sector	FEM RECICLA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2152891
Private Sector	FEM RECICLA	Grant	Investment mobilized	226455
Private Sector	NODO TAU	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2604485
Private Sector	NODO TAU	Grant	Investment mobilized	621276
Private Sector	Reciclando conciencia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	53282
Private Sector	Reciclando conciencia	Grant	Investment mobilized	175203
Private Sector	Reciclando Trabajo y Dignidad	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	160000
Private Sector	Reciclando Trabajo y Dignidad	Grant	Investment mobilized	370000
Total Co-financing				**67,446,437.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The investment mobilized includes the Pilot interventions expected to yield Global Environment Benefits with support from the Project's partners and stakeholders.

Interventions include pilots on key industrial sectors, such as the petrochemical, textile, and painting industries as well as for the introduction of BAT/BEP technologies for chemicals of global concern in the manufacturing sector.

Finally, the investment mobilized will support the disposal of at least 300 metric tons of mercury waste.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	1/27/2025	Ms. Nancy Bennet	+19177746577	nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	1/27/2025	Ms. Xiaofang Zhou	+16467034826	xiaofang.zhou@undp.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Martín Manuel Illescas	Director GEneral de Proyectos con Financiamiento Externo y Cooperación	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible	4/11/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 3 / SDG 5 / SDG 6 / SDG 9 / SDG 10 / SDG 11 / SDG12 / SDG 14

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: *Outcome 3: "By 2025, the population will have benefited from the country's progress in implementing its environmental regulatory frameworks, based on the strengthening of policies for climate action, pollution prevention, reduction and control, waste management, disaster risk management, energy, sustainable development, and sustainable production and consumption. Evidence-based and nature-based solutions will be promoted, and human rights, intersectoral, and gender approaches will be integrated"*

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: *Output 2.1:*

Signature Solution 4:

Environment 4.1 Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods

4.1.2 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access, and benefit-sharing regime: Amount of chemicals reduced, disposed or avoided (metric tons

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and Industrial Chemicals in Argentina

Objective and Outcome Indicators[1][2] **(no more than a total of 20 indicators)**	**Data Source** *List the source of the baseline data and targets and*	**Baseline**[1][2][3] *Must be determined during PPG phase*	**Mid-term Target**[3][4] *Expected level of progress before MTR process starts*	**End of Project Target** *Expected level when terminal evaluati*	**Data Collection Methods**[4][5] *Explain how data was collected and how it should be*	**Risks/Assumptions** *Explain risk and assumptions that were made when the objective was*

		explain how this			*on underta ken*	*collected during project implementat ion. Detail which methodolog y should be used (e.g. GEF GHG measuremen t methodolog y).*	*selected, and the project theory of change developed. What risks were identified that if materialized will stop the project from reaching its objective/outco me. Include any assumptions made when estimating the target values.*
Project Objective :	**The integrated management of substances for industrial use (especially industrial POPs), mercury and other hazardous substances of global concern (Hazardous Chemicals of global concern), the products that contain them and their associated waste in Argentina.**						
	<u>Indicator 1</u>: *(GEF Core Indicator #6)* GHG emissions mitigated (tCO2e) (indirect)	Technical reports from SMES on WEEE processing treatment reports on emissions reductions in key industries as the result of pilot intervention s.	0	5,000	10,000	Official reports of the National Execution Agency based on the annual reporting of project's PIRs. Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU and reports from SMES on WEEE treatment and reports on emissions reductions in key industries as the result of pilot interventions.	<u>Risk:</u> Potential loss of income for SME producers who decide not to take part in the project or otherwise transition to more sustainable practices and of jobs of informal waste recovery people. Associated to Risk 1 (*of SESP*). <u>Assumption:</u> This project seeks to promote adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and where possible, procured locally.
	<u>Indicator 2</u>: *(GEF Core Indicator #9)*	Official hazardous waste managemen t from the national environmen	0	100 MT Mercury 0.4 MT PBDE	300 MT Mercury 1.3 MT PBDE	Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU, including the elimination of	<u>Risk:</u> Critical habits or environmentally sensitive areas may be affected by accidental release of harmful

	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (tons)	tal agency and technical reports from recycling cooperatives and SMES.		100,000 MT POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided, of which, 825 tons belong to avoided residual plastic waste.	330,000 MT POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided, of which, 1,485 tons belong to avoided residual plastic waste.	residues and WEEE treatment and and municipal and provincial government reports.	chemicals during the implementation of pilot projects and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles. Associated to Risk 4 and Risk 5 (*of SESP*). - Assumption: This project seeks to promote the adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and where possible, procured locally.
	Indicator 3: (GEF Core Indicator 10) Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention and reports form SMES and recycling cooperatives. (Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	0	5.7	19.04	Progress reports of activities related to pilot project interventions and treatments of WEEE and releases of unintentional POPs.	Risk: Critical habits or environmentally sensitive areas may be affected by accidental release of harmful chemicals during the implementation of pilot projects and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles. Associated to Risk 4 (*of SESP*). - Assumption: This project seeks to promote the adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and where possible, procured locally.
	Indicator 4:	The source of the	0	1,101,414	3,671,382	Quarterly progress	Risk:

	(GEF Core Indicator #11) Number of direct and indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)[5]6	reference data is obtained from official sources and records of public entities at the national level, focusing mainly on the number of inhabitants of the regions where the pilot pilots will be carried out.		568,932 (F) 532,482 (M) Total population benefited directly and indirectly from the implementation of the project and the pilot interventions by reducing its exposure to dangerous chemical products.	1,896,439 (F) 1,774,943 (M) Total population benefited directly and indirectly from the implementation of the project and the pilot interventions by reducing its exposure to dangerous chemical products.	reports by the PMU, including participation and awareness logs.	Overall, the implementation of the project could lead to gender discrimination reproduced through limiting women's ability to contribute to decision-making and to benefit from the project. Associated to Risk 3 (*of SESP*). <u>Assumptions:</u> Successful implementation of the Gender Action Plan will help strengthen gender equality and empower women by improving their working conditions when directly participating in the activities related to the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals, deployment of alternative technologies and best practices along all links in the industrial supply chains. A collaborative approach to policy making that is sustained and continuously improves, integrating gender related issues across the implementation of the proposed activities.
Project Component 1	**Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for the sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), Mercury and other Chemicals of Global Concern (HCs), through policy coherence and access to finance, and to reduce impacts on humans and the environment**						
	Indicator 5:	Records of revised and/or	0	3	8	Technical standards, updated	<u>Risk:</u>

Project Outcome A Institutional enabling environment for POPs, HCs and harmful chemical waste sound management, strengthened ministries and public agencies across Federal, provincial, and municipal levels	Number of policy management tools such as new/enhanced policies or regulatory frameworks influenced (at regional, national or sub-national levels) to reduce/eliminate hazardous chemicals.	developed policy initiatives (regulations or technical standards) related to sustainability, clean production and/or circularity in the industrial sector directly related to the consumption of hazardous chemicals, with multi-stakeholder participation during the project's execution period.				policies and regulations related to sustainability, clean production and/or circularity in product design, directly related to the consumption or treatment of hazardous chemicals, officially cleared by national and-or provincial/ municipal governments and progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU.	Potential loss of income for SME producers who do take part in project activities including the pilots in Output B.2 or otherwise transition to more sustainable practices including the substitution of POPs and other associated dangerous substances. Associated to Risk 1 (*of SESP*). - <u>Assumption:</u> A collaborative approach to policy making that is sustained and continuously improves, integrating gender related issues across the implementation of the proposed activities.
	Indicator 6: Number of programs for the identification and detection of POPs in environmental matrixes and in products and number of management plans for small mercury added products prepared.	Official records of the national environmental authority regarding the identification and detection of POPs in environmental matrixes and in products. Official records of the national environmental authority regarding the identification of small mercury added products.	0	1	3	Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU, such as small mercury added products management plan and programs for identification and detection of POPs in environmental matrixes and in products, among others.	<u>Risk:</u> Downstream impacts on critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas may occur during implementation of Hg waste management strategy if there are any planned activities nearby. Pollution and emission risks from the improper handling, transport or disposal of POPs and toxic chemicals during implementation of Hg waste management strategy, updating the National Implementation Plan of Minamata Convention. Associated to Risks 5 and 10 (*of SESP*) <u>Assumption:</u>

							A collaborative approach to policy making that is sustained and continuously improves, integrating gender related issues across the implementation of the proposed activities.
Outputs to achieve Outcome A	Output A.1 Strengthened intersectoral coordination mechanisms for the management of hazardous chemicals Output A.2 Mainstreaming POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals' management for sustainable financing carried out Output A.3 Integral Monitoring Programme for POPs and UPOPs implemented, inventories updated, emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update) improved Output A.4 Technical skills for monitoring POPs, UPOPs and other hazardous chemicals and ecotoxicological risk assessment enhanced, and standards certification system and guideline levels set						
Project Component 2	**Environmentally sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites**						
Outcome B Socio-technical models for reduction and management of POPs, Chemicals of Global Concern and related wastes developed and tested	***Indicator 7:*** Number of management plans developed for sites of environmental concern.	Official records of the national environmental authority relating to the identification of sites of environmental concern	0	1	3	Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU, including the identification of sites of environmental concern.	Risk: Critical habits or environmentally sensitive areas may be affected by accidental release of harmful chemicals during the implementation of pilot projects and POPs waste stockpiles. Downstream impacts on critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas may occur during implementation of management plans for sites of environmental concern if there are any planned activities nearby resulting from these strategies and plans. Natural disasters could eventually affect the locations and operations where POPs waste may be stored or disposed. According to Risks 4, 5 and 6 (*of SESP*)

							- Assumption: This project seeks to promote the adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and where possible, procured locally.
	Indicator 8: Number of pilot projects identified as innovative alternatives (BAT/BEP) to Industrial POPs	Number of agreements officially signed with interested parties actively participating in the project.	0	2 (at least one pilot project in accordance with the activities of Output B.2 and Activity B.3.ii)	5 (at least five pilot projects in accordance with the activities of Output B.2 and Activity B.3.ii)	Progress and final reports from private partners reporting the reduction and/or elimination of hazardous chemicals and their waste and officially approved by national / provincial / municipal governments.	Risk: Downstream impacts on critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas may occur during implementation of management plans for sites of environmental concern if there are any planned activities nearby resulting from these strategies and plans. Associated to Risk 5 (*of SESP*). Assumption: Effective synergies and communication created among the public authorities at the Federal and provincial levels, private producers, academia and civil society organizations will enable a favorable environment.
Outputs to achieve Outcome B	Output B.1 Management plans for source emissions control in environmental concern sites with presence of COPs, and other Chemicals of Global Concern implemented Output B.2 Introduction of BAT/BEP technologies for Industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern emissions prevention in manufacturing industries successfully developed Output B.3 Management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants, other POPs, and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector implemented						
Project Component 3	**Elimination of Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other highly hazardous waste stocks**						

Outcome C Mercury, POPs, and other highly hazardous waste stocks eliminated	***Indicator 9:*** Number of technical reports on hazardous waste treatment technologies aimed at the implementation of good practices for the reduction of emissions.	Official records of the national environmental authority regarding technical guidelines for POPs treatment and international technical guides.	0	1 In accordance with the activities of Output C.1.	2 In accordance with the activities of Output C.1.	Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU, technical standards, scientific papers, among others.	Risk: Critical habits or environmentally sensitive areas may be affected by accidental release of harmful chemicals during the implementation of pilot projects and the disposal of mercury and POPs waste stockpiles. Associated to Risk 4 (*of SESP*). Assumption: This project seeks to promote the adoption of technologies, processes, alternatives to harmful chemicals and waste that are accessible (financially, geographically and culturally) and where possible, procured locally. Effective synergies and communication created among the public authorities at the Federal and provincial levels, private producers, academia and civil society organizations will enable a favorable environment.
	Indicator 10: Number of training sessions for key stakeholders in the public and private sectors related to the treatment of mercury-added products, POPs and hazardous chemical waste.	Official records gathered by the national environmental authority about training sessions related to treatment of mercury added products, POPs and hazardous	0	4	8	Progress reports of the project's activities by the PMU, including training sessions about treatment of mercury added products, POPs and hazardous chemical waste.	Risks: Uncertainties due to cost recovery with the proposed alternatives. Associated to Risk 11 (*Non-SESP*). Stressful national economic context and political instability discourage clients, co-financiers and investors.

	added products, POPs and other hazardous chemical waste.	chemical waste.					Associated to Risk 12 (Non-*SESP*). <u>Assumptions:</u> Success in the implementation of the co-financed planned activities, therefore, committed producers can easily access services. A proactive commitment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be maintained with all stakeholders in the value chains of the industrial sector, through the implementation of the project to ensure that relevant partners are committed and willing to participate, and adopt the proposed BAT/BEP.
Outputs to achieve Outcome C	Output C.1 Carried out a qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards Output C.2 Disposal of at least 300 metric tons of mercury waste achieved						
Project Component *4*	**Awareness-raising and Knowledge Management**						
Outcome D Knowledge Management, Awareness-Raising and Monitoring and Evaluation achieved	***Indicator 11:*** Awareness raised, knowledge created and disseminated through a Communication Plan, implemented on national platforms by number of people through different communication modes (e.g. online,	Digital and printed materials produced and disseminated at the national and sub-national levels such as audiovisual publications of success stories, technical manuals, guidelines and/or BAT/BEP.	0 Knowledge of chemicals management in the industrial sector is not always readily available.	1 Communication Plan designed Products designed and elaborated such as audiovisual publications of success stories, technical manuals and/or BAT/BEP.	1 Communication Plan fully implemented Products made available to the general public and disseminated as audiovisual publications of success stories, technical manuals	Systematization of physical and digital publications of success stories, findings, learning and results, through a knowledge management system, in accordance with activities under Output D.1. Record of interactions with information: comments, contacts,	<u>Risk</u>: Poor information outreach and communication throughout the project implementation. Associated to Risk 13. (Non-SESP) <u>Assumption:</u> Compilation of lessons learned would encourage continuous improvement during the implementation phase and help

	in-person, via SMS, WhatsApp, etc.) and by gender (female or male).	Website tracking data, digital engagement analytics. Number of people disaggregated by gender participating in the Gender Action Plan.		Website tracking data, digital engagement analysis, benefiting at least: 1,600 (F) 1,400 (M)	and/or BAT/BEP. Website tracking data, digital engagement analysis, benefiting at least: 1,600 (F) 1,400 (M)	shares, web posts and digital platforms.	develop innovative demonstration approaches for similar implementations elsewhere after project completion.
	Indicator 12: Percentage of project expenditure on the FSP planned activities	Annual implementation reports (PIRs) prepared the PMU	0%	35%	100%	Compliance with the ProDoc M&E Plan (Section VII)	<u>Risk:</u> Limited capacity in project monitoring and stemming from co-financed activities. Associated to Risk 15. <u>Assumption</u>: A proactive commitment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be maintained with all stakeholders in the value chains of the industrial sector, through the implementation of the project to ensure that relevant partners are committed and willing to participate, adopt the proposed alternatives, the best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).
Outputs to achieve Outcome D	Output D.1 Communication and Content Dissemination Plan and Gender Action Plan established Output D.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and adaptive management applied						

[1] *UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.*

***[2]** Baseline, mid-term and end of project target levels must be expressed in the same neutral unit of analysis as the corresponding indicator. Baseline is the current/original status or condition and needs to be quantified. The baseline can be zero when appropriate given the project has not started. The baseline must be established before the project document is submitted to the GEF for final approval. The baseline values will be used to measure the success of the project through implementation monitoring and evaluation.*

[3] *Target is the change in the baseline value that will be achieved by the mid-term review and then again by the terminal evaluation.*

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

***[5]**. This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support or assistance from a given GEF-financed project or program and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving either: (a) Targeted support. This includes individuals whom can be identified as receiving direct support or assistance, can be counted individually and are aware they are receiving support in some sort and/or use the specific resources. This implies a high degree of attribution to the project; or (b) High intensity of support. This means receiving a high level of support/effort provided per person, assessed on a continuum with broad levels from Low to Medium and High, where only high intensity of support qualifies as direct beneficiary as per Table 1 (page 26) of the GEF's Guidelines on the Implementation of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework*

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
International Project Development Specialist	30,000.00	24,000.00	6,000.00
International Safeguards Expert	4,950.00	4,950.00	0.00
National PPG Coordinator	13,650.00	13,650.00	0.00
Consultancies	48,000.00	48,000.00	0.00
Travel	58,000.00	21,200.00	36,800.00
Translation (Spanish - English)	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
Inception and validation workshops	38,400.00	11,334.00	27,066.00
Total	**200,000.00**	**123,134.00**	**76,866.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional del Sur (Cofinancier)	-38.71830372140736	-62.267281738490254	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional del Sur (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Component 2- Output B: B.3.ii

Component 4. Output D: D.1.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (Cofinancier)	-38.00521669700278	-57.571538041408736	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Component 2- Output B: B.3 ii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de San Martin (Cofinancier)	-34.57902853564684	-58.52616189154704	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de San Martin (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Component 2- Output B: B. 2 i- B.3.ii

Component 4- Output D: D.1.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Cofinancier)	-34.91285280676975	-57.95150535930799	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Component 2- Output B: B.3.ii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de Rio Negro (Cofinancier)	-39.031487997984016	-67.5724670805841	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de Rio Negro (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Cofinancier)	-40.552213422808016	-64.9779817450126	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Cofinancier)	-38.94009814284106	-68.05746518939658	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de San Juan (Cofinancier)	-31.53647482308968	-68.5208075597867	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de San Juan (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad Nacional de Rosario (Cofinancier)	-32.94426151802308	-60.648158172610756	

Location Description:

Universidad Nacional de Rosario (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Component 2- Output B: B.3.ii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universidad del Litoral (Cofinancier)	-31.634072019653832	-60.70485683477017	

Location Description:

Universidad del Litoral (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 1- Output A: A.1.i- A. 3.i- A.4.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Parque Industrial de Bahia Blanca	-38.75717815476636	-62.28601015582163	

Location Description:

Parque Industrial de Bahia Blanca

Activity Description:

Component 1 - Output A: A.2.ii

Component 2- Output B: B.2.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sector Minero	-30.41444	-69.22361	

Location Description:

Sector Minero

Activity Description:

Component 2- Output B: B.2i- B. 2ii

Component 4- Output D: D.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Industrial (INTI) (Cofinancier)	-34.576019343191206	-58.51346759137865	

Location Description:

Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Industrial (INTI) (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2- Output B: B.2i- B. 2ii

Component 4- Output D: D.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Planta piloto EKOA (Cofinancier)	-34.89050256216502	-57.97180094258619	

Location Description:

Planta piloto EKOA (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3.ii

Component 4 - Output D: D.1.i

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Oikoscrap (Cofinancier)	-34.73061787209537	-58.33406207201471	

Location Description:

Oikoscrap (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3.ii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tecnoraee (Cofinancier)	-34.412727868620166	-58.77445041963519	

Location Description:

Tecnoraee (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3.ii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Universo Raee (Cofinancier)	-37.32466915189098	-59.12940264178505	

Location Description:

Universo Raee (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3 iii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Reciclando conciencia (Cofinancier)	-37.10830399801413	-56.88279251213652	

Location Description:

Reciclando conciencia (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3 iii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cooperativa Nodo Tau (Cofinancier)	-32.924746746164246	-60.718125025505586	

Location Description:

Cooperativa Nodo Tau (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3 iii

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
FemRecicla (recifem) (Cofinancier)	-32.9582650229528	-60.647010349564326	

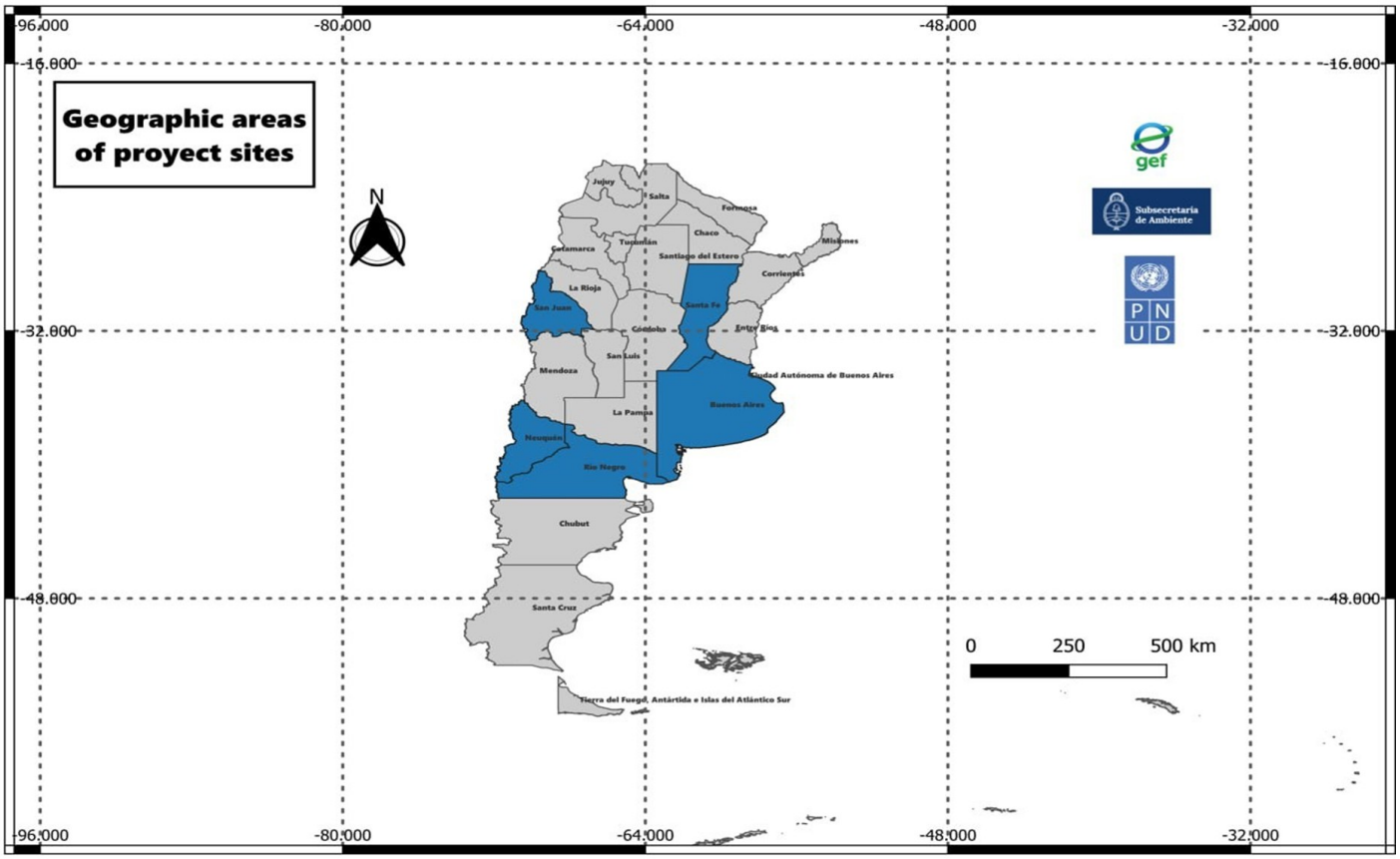
Location Description:

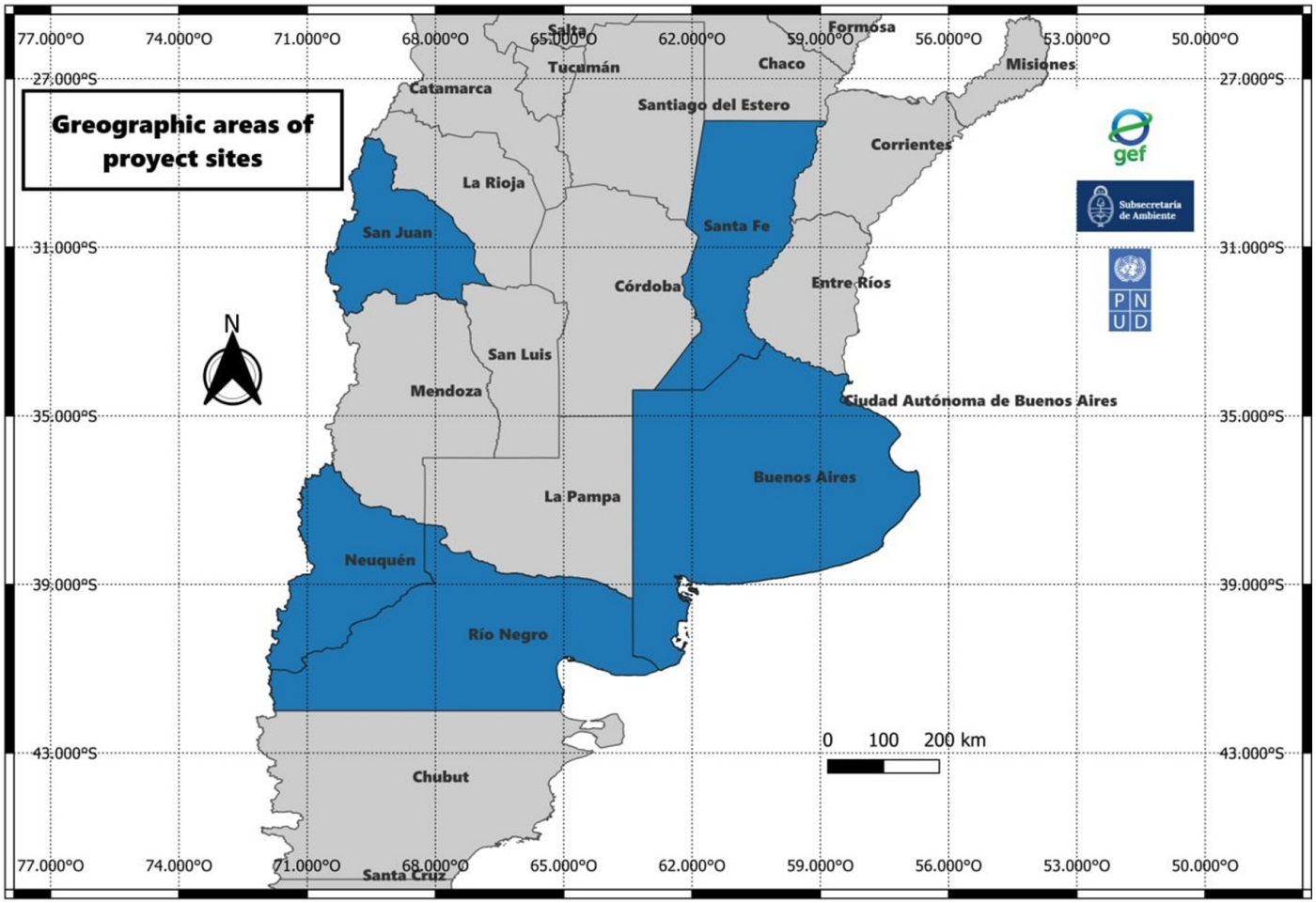
FemRecicla (recifem) (Cofinancier)

Activity Description:

Component 2 - Output B: B.3 iii

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.


Geographic areas of proyect sites
N
96.000
-80.000
-64.000
-48.000
-32.000
16.000
32.000
48.000
Jujuy
Salta
Formosa
Chaco
Tucumán
Catamarca
Santiago del Estero
Misiones
Corrientes
La Rioja
San Juan
Santa Fe
Córdoba
Entre Ríos
San Luis
Mendoza
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
Buenos Aires
La Pampa
Neuquén
Río Negro
Chubut
Santa Cruz
Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur
0
250
500 km
gef
Subsecretaría de Ambiente
PNUD



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title
ARG_POPs_Annex9_PIMS_6681_GEFID_11451_ESMF_13
ARG_POPs_Annex5_PIMS_9517_GEFID_11451_SESP_13

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	*Component 2*	*Component 3*	*Component 4*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
Equipment	Standard IT equipment					-		30,000	30,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Equipment	Standard office equipment (Work desk and chair)					-		13,000	13,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Individual	**15% of the Project Coordinator's cost ($38,000 / yr), $2,850/yr for year 1 and 7 and $5,700/yr for years 2 to 6, will be charged to Outcome C (output C1 and C2)**			34,200		34,200			34,200	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Individual	**30% of the Project Coordinator's cost ($38,000 / yr), $5700/yr for year 1 and 7 and $11,400/yr for years 2 to 6, will be charged to Outcome B (outputs B1, B2, B3)**		68,400			68,400			68,400	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Individual	**40% of the Project Coordinator's cost ($38,000 /**	91,200				91,200			91,200	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	yr), $7600/yr for year 1 and 7 and $15,200/yr for years 2 to 6, will be charged to outcome A (outputs A1, A2, A3 and A4)									
Contractual services-Individual	**5% of the Project Coordinator's cost ($38,000 / yr), $950/yr for year 1 and 7 and $1,900/yr for years 2 to 6, will be charged to output D1**				11,400	11,400			11,400	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Individual	One Project Administrator at $12000/yr for year 1 and 7 and $24,000/yr for years 2 to 6. And **10% of the Project Coordinator's cost ($38,000 / yr)**, $1900/yr for year 1 and 7 and $3,800/yr for years 2 to 6, will be charged to PMC output.					-		166,800	166,800	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Individual	One Project Monitoring & Evaluation Officer engaged for the coordination, implementation, oversight					-	138,000		138,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	and follow-up of the Mandatory reports production at $11,500/yr for year 1 and 7 and $23,000/yr for years 2 to 6. Activities include M&E of GEF core indicators and project results framework, GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), and Monitoring of Environmental Social and Management Framework and Plan.									
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services to support the development and implementation of management plans for source emissions controls in environmental concern sites at USD$425,000 for output B1 Pilot projects for the introductions BAT/BEP for industrial POPs, new POPs, and chemical of global		2,395,000			2,395,000			2,395,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	concern emissions prevention in manufacturing industries at USD$700,000 for output B2, including costs of $10,000 for the implementation of the ESMF Pilot projects for the improvement of management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants, other POPs, and strenghtening of circulal economy in the informal sector at $1,270,000 for output B3, including costs of at least $10,000 for the implementation of the ESMF.									
Contractual services-Company	Provision of services for the piloting for cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of Highly Hazardous Waste Stockpiles at $845,000 for output			1,595,000		1,595,000			1,595,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	C1 Contractual services to support the elimination of 300 MT of Hg from the Gold Mining Sector in Argentina at $750,000 for output C2, including costs of at least $10,000 for the implementation of the ESMF									
Contractual services-Company	Provision of services for the production of communication and content dissemination plans, surveys and relevant awarenes s-raising materials for output D1				250,000	250,000			250,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Contractual services-Company	Provision of services to support private-driven companies to improve their sustainability practices in order to access innovative finance windows at USD$60,000 for output A2 Contractual services for laboratory analysis for the detection of POPs in	860,000				860,000			860,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	products and environmental matrixes at USD$ 500,000 for output A3 Provision of services for financing of laboratory certifications, purchasing of standards, and inter-laboratory testing at USD$ 300,000 for output A4									
International Consultants	International consultant at USD$5,000 / yr for 5 years to provide advice and best practices for the strenghtening of intersectoral mechanisms for chemicals management.	25,000				25,000			25,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International expert on Sustainable Finance for the Sound Management of Chemicals at USD$15,000 / yr for 1 year and USD$5,000 / yr for 4 years	35,000				35,000			35,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International consultant to support the quality	50,000				50,000			50,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	assurance of the drafting of Reports for Chemicals MEAs at USD$25,000 / yr for 2 years.									
International Consultants	International consultant to support the introduction of BAT / BEP for the development of analytical capabilities in the country at USD$12,500 / yr for 2 years.	25,000				25,000			25,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International consultants to provide advisory services on QA, BAT/BEP, and management plans for the sound management of chemicals and their wastes at USD$5,000 / yr for 2 years.		10,000			10,000			10,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International consultant to provide advisory services on QA, BAT/BEP, and management plans for the sound management of chemicals and their wastes for pilots under B2)		10,000			10,000			10,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	at USD$5,000 / yr for 2 years.									
International Consultants	International consultant to provide advisory services on QA, BAT/BEP, and management plans for the sound management of chemicals and their wastes for pilots under output B3) at USD$5,000 / yr for 2 years.		10,000			10,000			10,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International expert to provide training for the introduction of cost-effective technologies for the treatment of chemicals and their waste at USD$10,000 / yr for 2 years.			20,000		20,000			20,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	International expert to provide training on Best Practices for Mercury Elimination at USD$10,000 / yr for 2 years.			20,000		20,000			20,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
International Consultants	One International Consultant for the MTR at $25,000					-	25,000		25,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

International Consultants	One International Consultant for the TE at $25,000						25,000		25,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant for the provision of services for the evaluation of nationally available commercial options for environmentally sound treatment technologies at USD$10,000 / yr for 2 years			20,000		20,000			20,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support the development and coordination of activities for the introduction of cost-effective treatment alternatives for Output C1 at $33,000/yr for 5.5 years.			181,500		181,500			181,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant for the coordiation of relevant stakeholders to support the disposal of mercury and HHCh's and their waste at USD$10,000 / yr for 5.5 years			55,000		55,000			55,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

Local Consultants	Local consultant to support coordination and activities for mercury and HHCh's elimination at $52,000/yr for 5.5 years.			286,000		286,000			286,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to assist with the implementation of management plans for source emissions control in sites of environmental concern under output B1), and the implementation of pilot projects under Outputs B2) and B3) at USD$2,500 / yr for 1 year USD$10,000 / yr for 4.5 years.		47,500			47,500			47,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	local consultant to support the development of management plans for hazardous substances and its waste control at $28,000/yr for 5.5 years		154,000			154,000			154,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

Local Consultants	Local consultant to assist with the implementation of pilot projects under Outputs B2) for the introduction of BAT/BEP technologies in manufacturing industries, and the implementation of management plans in sites of environmental concern and pilot project under B3) at USD$10,000 / yr for 4.5 years		45,000			45,000			45,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to coordinate the introduction of BAT / BEP through the sound coordination of the Output Pilots' implementation at $40,000/yr for 5.5 years		220,000			220,000			220,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to assist with the implementation of pilot projects under Outputs B3) for management of wastes containing brominated flame		45,000			45,000			45,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	retardants and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector, and the implementation of management plans in sites of environmental concern and pilot project under B2) at USD$10,000 / yr for 4.5 years									
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support the project's interventions on Circular Economy through the coordination of the Output Pilots' implementation at $66,000/yr for 5.5 years		363,000			363,000			363,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support activities under Outcome A, including Outputs A1, A3, and A4) at USD$7,500 / yr for 5 years and USD$5,000 for 1 year	42,500				42,500			42,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support legal aspects related to the	110,000				110,000			110,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	institutional strenghtening activities for the strenghtening of mechanisms for Hazardous Chemicals Management at $20,000/yr for 5.5 years.									
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support the development of financial mechanisms for Chemicals management under Output A2) at USD$30,000 / yr for 1 year and USD$20,000 / yr for 1 years	50,000				50,000			50,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support the development of financial mechanisms for POPs, Hg, and Chemicals Management at $15,000/yr for 5.5 years,	82,500				82,500			82,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support activities under Outcome A, including Outputs A1, A3, and A4) at USD$10,000 / yr for 5.5 years.	55,000				55,000			55,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

Local Consultants	Local consultant to support the Coordination of the development of Argentina's NIP Update at $15,000/yr for 5.5 years.	82,500				82,500			82,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support activities under Outcome A, including Outputs A1, A3, and A4) at USD$10,000 / yr for 5.5 years.	55,000				55,000			55,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support coordination activities for the improvement of National Analytical Capabilities at $18,000/yr for 5.5 years	99,000				99,000			99,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support awarenes s-raising with populatio ns engaged directly and indirectly by the project and general stakehold er engageme nt coordinati on at USD$4,00				22,000	22,000			22,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	0 / yr for 5.5 years									
Local Consultants	Local consultant to support Knowledge Management, Safeguards and Gender activities of the Project at $23,500/year for 5.5 years				129,250	129,250			129,250	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Inception workshop.					-	10,000		10,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training workshops, seminars and meetings to strengthen project management capabilities					-		9,000	9,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshops, and conferences for Output A1), Output A2), Output A3), Output A4)	289,300				289,300			289,300	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshops, and conferences for Output B1), Output B2), Output B3)		25,500			25,500			25,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshops, and conferences for Output C1) and Output C2)			50,000		50,000			50,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops and training to enhance knowledge management on Hazardous Chemicals Waste and its management, through courses, conferences and field visits, as needed.				45,000	45,000			45,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Travel	Supervision and learning missions.					-	46,250		46,250	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Travel	Travel to support Output A1), Output A2), Output A3), Output A4)	153,500				153,500			153,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Travel	Travel to support Output B1), Output B2), Output B3)		241,000			241,000			241,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Travel	Travel to support Output C1 and C2			114,000		114,000			114,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Travel	Travel to support Output D1				103,050	103,050			103,050	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Office Supplies	Basic office supplies for duration of project period					-		9,200	9,200	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Other Operating Costs	Audit Services (USD$2,000 per year for 6 years)					-		12,000	12,000	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Other Operating Costs	Awareness-raising material for Output A1),	34,500				34,500			34,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet

	Output A2), Output A3), including the presentation of the reports submitted to the Secretariats, Output A4)									
Other Operating Costs	Awareness-raising material for Output B1), Output B2), Output B3)		9,500			9,500			9,500	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Other Operating Costs	Awareness-raising material for Output C1) and Output C2)			12,450		12,450			12,450	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Other Operating Costs	Awareness-raising material for Output D1)				17,250	17,250			17,250	Vice Chief of Interior Cabinet
Other Operating Costs	Translation services (English - Spanish) for the MTR and TE					-	5,750		5,750	
Grand Total		**2,140,000**	**3,643,900**	**2,388,150**	**577,950**	**8,750,000**	**250,000**	**240,000**	**9,240,000**	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.