

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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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	GEF Project ID
Argentina	11451
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Argentina	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9517
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Chemicals and Waste	10/18/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Waste Management, eWaste, Industrial Waste, Hazardous Waste Management, Industrial Emissions, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Plastics, Green Chemistry, Mercury, Non Ferrous Metals Production, Open Burning, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, Emissions, Disposal, Eco-Efficiency, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Large corporations, SMEs, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Communications, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, Exhibit, South-South, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Workshop, Training, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	72
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
9,240,000.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

831,600.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
10,071,600.00	46,400,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
200,000.00	18,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
218,000.00	10,289,600.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

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. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Within recovery from the covid-19 pandemic, Argentina has experienced an important growth in its manufacturing capacity in key industrial sectors, largely represented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Many of these SMEs use or release Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and generate hazardous wastes.

Given geography of the country and constrains of respective capacities in the government authorities, it is difficult to control all new installation of industrial processes by SMEs and ascertain to what extent the companies are able to adopt the Best Environmental Practices (BEP) /Best Available Techniques (BAT) to avoid releases of POPs and other Hazardous Chemicals (HC). What’s more, other relevant productive activities, such as mining, are a main source of mercury emissions in Argentina which require addressing as a health and environmental priority. In addition, due to its favorable environmental conditions and agricultural tradition, Argentina is one of the world leaders in food production. However, this recovery from pandemic has translated into an increase in the use of many agrochemicals including highly hazardous pesticides.

This project intends to ensure the green recovery of economy in Argentina and reduce the use and releases of hazardous chemicals and waste in relevant industries through a comprehensive and integrated interventions, including institutional strengthening, capacity building, updated regulatory measures, pilots of greening the key supply chains, promotion of clean circular activities, innovative and specific financial instruments, as well as awareness, knowledge management and dissemination, monitoring, and evaluation process. This project aims to deliver significant global environmental benefits (GEB) including but not limited to 330,000 MT of sound disposals of e-waste and other hazardous chemicals, reduction of 300 tons mercury emission annually, as well as reduction of CO2 emissions in the industrial process. A total of 3,587,400 people (1,842,802 female and 1,744,598 male) is expected to benefit from the project’s interventions. As such, this initiative will contribute to the green and inclusive recovery and growth for Argentina and a healthy planet for all.

Indicative Project Overview

Project 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 prevention, sound management, and elimination of critical wastes on key productive sectors as well as the development of innovative finance schemes for their replacement.

Project Components

Component 1: Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), 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

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,950,000.00	10,297,193.00

Outcome:

Outcome A) Institutional enabling environment for POPs, HHPs and HC sound management strengthened across government ministries and agencies and across federal, state and municipal level.

Output:

- A1) Intersectoral synergies for strengthening of mechanisms for hazardous chemicals management
- A2) Mainstreaming POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals' management for sustainable financing.
- A3) POPs/UPOPs/New POPs and Mercury Integral monitoring Programme implemented, inventories updated, improved emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update)
- A4) POPs, UPOPs and other hazardous chemicals analytical laboratories capacities for monitoring and ecotoxicological risk assessment enhanced, standards certification system and guideline levels setting.

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 (\$)
3,650,000.00	19,274,234.00

Outcome:

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

Output:

B1) Management plans for source emissions control in environmental concern sites with presence of COPs, and other Chemicals of Global Concern

B2) Pilots (2) for the introduction of BAT/BEP technologies for Industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern emission's prevention in manufacturing industries.

B3) Pilots (4) for management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector

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 (\$)
2,400,000.00	10,280,612.00

Outcome:

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

Output:

C1) Qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards

C2) Disposal of 300 t of mercury waste

Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
400,000.00	2,112,244.00

Outcome:

Outcome D: KM, Awareness-Raising and M&E

Output:

D1) Knowledge management system and communication platform established.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
400,000.00	2,112,244.00

Outcome:

M&E and adaptive management

Output:

M&E and adaptive management developed

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), 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	1,950,000.00	10,297,193.00
Component 2: Environmentally sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other Chemicals of Global Concern, their wastes, and environmental concern sites.	3,650,000.00	19,274,234.00
Component 3. Elimination of Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and other highly hazardous waste stocks	2,400,000.00	10,280,612.00
Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management	400,000.00	2,112,244.00
M&E	400,000.00	2,112,244.00
Subtotal	8,800,000.00	44,076,527.00
Project Management Cost	440,000.00	2,323,473.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	9,240,000.00	46,400,000.00

Please provide justification

Within recovery from the covid-19 pandemic, Argentina has experienced an important growth in its manufacturing capacity in key industrial sectors, largely represented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Many of these SMEs use or release Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and generate hazardous wastes. Given geography of the country and constrains of respective capacities in the government authorities,

it is difficult to control all new installation of industrial processes by SMEs and ascertain to what extent the companies are able to adopt the Best Environmental Practices (BEP) /Best Available Techniques (BAT) to avoid releases of POPs and other Hazardous Chemicals (HC). What's more, other relevant productive activities, such as mining, are a main source of mercury emissions in Argentina which require addressing as a health and environmental priority. In addition, due to its favorable environmental conditions and agricultural tradition, Argentina is one of the world leaders in food production. However, this recovery from pandemic has translated into an increase in the use of many agrochemicals including highly hazardous pesticides. This project intends to ensure the green recovery of economy in Argentina and reduce the use and releases of hazardous chemicals and waste in relevant industries through a comprehensive and integrated interventions, including institutional strengthening, capacity building, updated regulatory measures, pilots of greening the key supply chains, promotion of clean circular activities, innovative and specific financial instruments, as well as awareness, knowledge management and dissemination, monitoring, and evaluation process. The project aims to deliver significant global environmental benefits (GEB) including but not limited to 330,000 MT of sound disposals of e-waste and other hazardous chemicals, reduction of 300 tons mercury emission annually, as well as reduction of CO2 emissions in the industrial process. A total of 3,587,400 people (1,842,802 female and 1,744,598 male) is expected to benefit from the project's interventions. As such, this initiative will contribute to the green and inclusive recovery and growth for Argentina and a healthy planet for all.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly 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

1. Argentina has grown its industrial capacity in the textile, construction and plastics industries, mainly represented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These industries use hazardous substances and chemicals of global concern in their production processes and therefore generate waste with hazardous contents and characteristics (2021 State of the Environment Report). Given the size of the country's industrial network, it is difficult for the national government to control all industrial processes and to verify that they are carried out in accordance with the best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP). According to the 2017 NIP (National Implementation Plan), some productive activities release significant amounts of unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (uPOPs). Other key productive activities such as mining and Caustic Soda production through chlor-alkali processes are important sources of mercury emissions. Together, these activities generate 70 t of mercury waste per year. Additionally, 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. This requires the establishment of control mechanisms for the detection of POPs containing products.

2. Argentina's agricultural activity contributes to more than 50% of the total value of exports and represents 7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 20% when considering the whole agro-processing value chain (Andrade, 2017). In Argentine agricultural industry, the volume of pesticide use has experienced an exponential growth, exceeding 500,000 t/year after 2019, that is, an average of 13 kg/ha (INTA, 2022). This poses a serious risk to health and the environment. Furthermore, Argentina still uses many pesticides (with demonstrated hazardousness) that are regulated or banned in developed countries, (Andrade, 2017).

3. Consequently, there is a need to reduce the use and decrease the emissions and/or releases of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), POPs pesticides, industrial POPs, mercury, and other chemicals of global concern, covering the supply chains and productive branches of the country. This project comes as an enhancement and builds on the capabilities already established by the previous GEF Project 10094 'Environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants, mercury and other hazardous substances in Argentina'. (Results are presented in Annex 1 and Mid Term Evaluation, that has had a very satisfactory evaluation). Despite the difficulties experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Project 10094 managed to prevail, and the objectives are being met as planned. As the country's needs with regards to Chemicals and Waste management are enormous, the current proposal builds on its predecessor's achievements while increasing ambition and scale as not only a POPs, Chemicals, and Waste management structure will be fully established, but significant elimination goals will be carried out. This project also considers the future challenges of managing the new POPs to be listed in the Convention.

4. Findings from GEF Project 10094 MTR concluded that global targets are being met. They also recommended strengthening the relationships with the private sector and highlighted the role of MAYDS as strategic partner on the Project implementation. Both recommendations were considered in the present Project.

5. Argentina generated installed capacities that allowed improving compliance with the implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, as well as leaving permanently installed capacities in the government, which is one of the fundamental objectives of the GEF.

6. The main objective of this proposal is to comply with the goals established in the 2030 Agenda, marked by the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the National Argentina Productiva 2030 plan, which seeks to transform the productive and technological structure of the country, with a focus on green economy and the Plan Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación 2030.

7. In addition, there is a national context where a human rights policy is active in terms of a clean, healthy, inclusive, and sustainable environment, led by organizations such as the Secretariat of Human Rights. Furthermore, gender policies are being strengthened at the institutional level, through the establishment of new national ministries (Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity), provincial and municipal areas, while cross-cutting programs are developed in the different ministries. The National Institute against Discrimination and the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs promotes anti-racist policies, seeking to generate the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups, to whom the actions and results of this project are also directed.

A - POPs Pesticides, Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and their waste

8. According to National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA), 336,000 t of pure active ingredients were imported in Argentina in 2021 (30% increase with regards to 2019). This amount includes 58,000 t of glyphosate, 25,000 t of atrazine, 23,000 t of paraquat, 18,000 t of 2,4D, 16,000 t of s-metolachlor, 14,000 t of clethodim, 3,600 t of chlorpyrifos, and 2,000 t of acetochlor, among others. Active ingredients are mixed with diluents, adjuvants, and other additives. Therefore, the quantity of agrichemicals marketed and used domestically may be greater than the quantities imported.

9. Studies indicate that 107 pesticides authorized in Argentina are banned or not authorized in other countries (Souza Casadinho, 2018). According to a study conducted by the author, of the 433 registered pesticide active ingredients, 29% are within the International Pesticide Action Network list of highly hazardous pesticides.

10. Herbicide use in agriculture increased in Argentina from 17,533 t in 1993 to more than 180,000 t in 2017 (FAO, 2022). According to SENASA data, atrazine, glyphosate and paraquat were the most imported pesticides into the country in 2022. Among insecticides, chlorpyrifos and atrazine are two of the most widely used pesticides in the country. They are still in use in Argentina for pest control in corn, grain sorghum, sugar cane, tea, among others. However, deviations from permitted use have been detected, such as its application in fallow lands and soybean, potato, cotton, wheat, and sunflower crops; according to studies developed as part of Special Program 1 (SP1) UNDP Project ARG/17/010, 'Special Programme for Strengthening National Capacities for Chemicals and Waste Management'. Risks, effects and proposed management actions for other agrichemicals will be evaluated during the implementation of the Special Program 2 "Strengthening national capacities for the environmental management of emerging pollutants and other hazardous substances in Argentina" (which is been implemented in 2023).

11. The vulnerability of human communities with low purchasing power implies greater exposure to pesticides, which generates limited access to basic services, including dependency on potentially contaminated water and food sources, generating negative health effects as cancer (Verzeñassi et al., 2023)

12. Many pesticides including those present in Argentina have been classified as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and some as POPs, acquiring greater relevance in society and leading to bans. Such is the case of 2,4-D (Resolución SENASA N° 466/2019), chlorpyrifos (Resolución 414/2021), fipronil (Resolución 425/2021), dichlorvos (Resolución 149/2018), carbofuran, carbosulfan, diazinon, aldicarb and dicofol and their formulated products (Resolución SENASA N° 263/2018) for which the use, commercialization and/or production is being controlled / banned recently. In the medium term, this situation may lead to the generation of new stocks of obsolete HHPs that will require sound management.

13. Despite being banned for more than 30 years (Decree 2121/90), there is still evidence of the presence of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) in the environment. DDT and dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene

(DDE) have been found in water samples, sediments and fish tissues of the Argentine Antarctic Sector and estuaries of the Atlantic Coast (Villamil Lepori et al., 2013; Oliva et al., 2022). Studies carried out in the country have identified concentrations of DDT, chlorpyrifos and endosulfan in 100% of placenta samples from women studied in Patagonia (Rodriguez et al., 2022). In addition, the report on chlorpyrifos by the MAyDS (2021) indicated that this insecticide is an endocrine disruptor, and a correlation was reported between cancer mortality in the population studied and the use of this chemical. This background highlights the low protection by public and private entities for women, children, and youth from exposure to hazardous chemicals, despite the existence of specific provisions for their protection according to the international code of conduct for the management of pesticides. Therefore, this project will consider a gender-based perspective to approach the problems detected and its management due to the differential impact of chemical substances.

14. The National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention published in 2017 reported the existence of public agency stockpiles containing the approximate amount of 100 t of POPs. During the implementation of GEF Project 10094, up to the beginning of 2023, 37 t of obsolete POPs were eliminated, and 100 t are expected to be eliminated by 2025. However, it is estimated that 300 t of obsolete pesticides and associated residues remain, exclusively for public health and phytosanitary use. However, since there is no consolidated registry, this amount could be higher.

15. During the implementation of GEF Project 10094, the management of empty pesticide containers at the national level and their traceability were evaluated by MAyDS: the country generates around 20 million (15,000 t) pesticide contaminated plastic waste containers annually. Unsound management of containers and other plastic elements represents a risk to health and the environment. There are informal recycling circuits in the country for empty containers that are reinserted into the value chain without the corresponding treatment and are used for illegal purposes according to regulations. As a result, Hazardous and POPs chemicals enter the supply chain.

16. Nowadays in Argentina, there are different criteria to define the appropriate management systems to treat waste from the use of HHPs between different jurisdictions, varying according to the sector, the actor, and the region of the country, which turns it more difficult to make decisions about its control at the national level.

17. GEF Project 10094 carried out the Chemical Monitoring Program, 2021-2023, where considerable concentrations of atrazine, chlorpyrifos, methylphosphonic acid, metolachlor, and mercury, among others, were detected in Coastal areas of the Province of Buenos Aires. Given the results, it is still urgent to carry out a specific survey of these pollutants in water bodies and sediments of the country.

18. Through the National Law 24.051 on Hazardous Waste and its decree 831/93, Argentina set parameters for the evaluation of the quality water bodies, soil and air. However, the limits suggested in the guideline levels lack adaptations according to the characteristics of the water bodies of the national territory (Ferrari, 2015), do not include all substances of environmental relevance and not all matrixes are considered either. There is a need to strengthen national legislation by updating the existing guidance levels, quantifying the baselines to fully understand the state of the situation and incorporating new environmental matrixes and substances of concern, in line with GEF 8 objectives. To this end, it is necessary to carry out periodic monitoring to identify environmental concentrations of POPs and to conduct ecotoxicological studies to demonstrate, based on biological responses, the effect on non-target organisms.

A. POPs

19. Argentina acceded to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on May 17, 2004, by Law 26.011. Since then, the country has ratified amendments to the Convention and developed the NIP 2007, presented its update in 2017 and a new update will be published as a result from GEF Project

10094. This will be the working basis for the future project. Moreover, an update of the National Report will be required between 2025 and 2030. The current proposal will provide assistance for the updating of the inventory.

20. The implementation of the UNDP GEF 10094 project proved challenges in obtaining information on the use of POPs (mainly industrial POPs) in the country. Many of these substances (PFOS, PBDEs) are present in imported finished products (such as auto parts). On the other hand, UNDP project GEF 10094 is producing an assessment report on the use of sulfluramid (PFOS based) in the country and will present an analysis of its potential substitutes. This report will be finalized in 2023. In addition, industrial processes that use candidate POPs such as chlorinated paraffins (C14 y C17) were identified. No information is available on the use of UV-328, Dechlorane Plus and LC-PFCAs.

21. In relation to Unintentional POPs, according to the NIP 2017, a total of 874 gTEQ of PCDD/F emissions were recorded, 50% of which were caused by open burning processes. The update uncovered the need to strengthen mechanisms to minimize, evaluate, and regulate both intentional and unintentional POPs emissions. So far, there is no monitoring of dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) in Argentina because there is limited capacity to evaluate their presence in environmental matrixes.

22. Capacity to identify and introduce safer alternatives to support the elimination of POPs, Hg, and other Chemicals of Global Concern is still limited, especially among public institutions and the private industrial sector: Scarce publicly available information on hazardous chemicals (including their emissions, inventories, etc.) prevents compliance with laws and conventions through intervention at the institutional level; information is often unavailable to non-specialists. Furthermore, low awareness of the issue demands enhanced training opportunities and capacity building for stakeholders in the management of chemicals hinders the introduction of BAT/BEP and safer practices and alternatives.

23. During the development of activities contributing to the update of Argentina's inventories for reporting purposes, 21 sites of environmental concern were identified where POPs have been used or produced, which are potential sources of emissions and/or releases of these substances in general. Due to their high risk, it is necessary to register these sites and repositories in an appropriate national database of sites of environmental concern.

24. In regional project UNIDO-GEF 5554, 2022 "Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in Latin-American Countries" in which Argentina participated, it was estimated that only 3 to 4 percent of e-waste is collected and reportedly managed in an environmentally sound way. More than 200 jobs are registered and approximately 2,000 informal workers perform collection, sorting, disassembly, and recovery of materials in precarious conditions.

25. There is also evidence that the cost of processing the hazardous part of e-waste in an environmentally sound manner (specifically referring to Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) and Lead), can represent up to 50% of the overall operating cost of E-waste scrappers (Magalini et al., 2018).

26. The National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) participated in the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants. The presence of PCBs, PBDEs, HBCD, HxBB, DDT, DDD, DDE, PFAS was identified in air, water, breast milk, sediment, biota (fish) and food (butter) samples taken in 2017 and 2018 (National report for the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants, 2023). Despite being present in all these matrices, few laboratories have the capacity to measure these substances. In addition, there is no monitoring mechanism for all these contaminants in the country.

B. Mercury

27. The Minamata Convention was ratified through Law 27,356 on May 18, 2017. Since then, Argentina has actively participated in the sessions and conferences of the conventions and maintains compliance with its obligations as a state party.

28. The “Initial assessment of national capacities for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina” UNDP Project ARG/18/G25 was executed in 2018-2019. The National Inventory of Emissions and Releases of Mercury prepared highlighted the ten main sources of mercury releases in the country. Among them, the activity of gold extraction by methods other than mercury amalgamation and the production of chlor-alkali with mercury technology were identified as important contributors to Hg emissions.

29. In 2021, Resolution 299 established guidelines for the management of elemental mercury, its blends, and compounds; as well as products with added mercury. Later, in 2022, Resolution 503 set the guidelines for plans for the conversion of production processes that use mercury as a requirement within the framework of exemptions from the use of elemental mercury, its mixtures and/or compounds in production processes and the manufacture of products with added mercury.

30. Currently, the country still has waste containing small amounts of mercury such as dental amalgams, thermometers, thimerosal vaccines, laboratory reagents, among others, for which there is no treatment technology available locally. These wastes are dispersed and represent a management, health and environmental problem.

31. Mercury added products are a potential source of mercury emissions. This is relevant in Argentina thus differentiated collection systems remain uncompleted. In 2016 20.130 kg of mercury were released as mercury added products consume, what represents 20% of the total country’s mercury releases (UNDP Project ARG/18/G25).

32. There are gold mining activities in the country that generate mercury as waste, which implies the need to manage the waste obtained from the process. GEF Project 10094 included funds to support the management for the elimination of 350 t Hg from this sector. It is estimated that the country generates approximately 70 t Hg/year of pure mercury as waste that needs to be exported for environmentally sound disposal.

C. Regulatory framework

33. The MAyDS is responsible for environmental policy, sustainable development, and rational use of natural resources in Argentina. Some of these functions are assumed by the National Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste. By Decree No. 504/2019, the MAyDS is the Designated Authority for four Multinational Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata.

34. Also, Decree 504/2019 gives rise to 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. Even with the existing intergovernmental representation, there is a need to develop a space in which there is an exchange with social and industrial actors through the implementation of a socio-technical mechanism.

35. Argentina is a federal State: as set on the Constitution, natural resources and their protection are the responsibility of the provinces. However, it is the responsibility of the State to direct regulations that establish the minimum environmental protection budgets (limits), which guarantee the right to a healthy, balanced environment for the population. Provinces are required to complement such regulations through the

establishment of environmental protection parameters higher than those dictated by national regulations. In addition, the Provincial environmental authorities are responsible for the enforcement of environmental regulations in their territories. The Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA) is the mechanism that coordinates environmental policy between the federal and provincial governments.

36. Hazardous Waste Law 24.051/91 and its regulatory decree N° 831/93 sets the ground for the activities proposed in this project. In 2017, MAyDS was designated as the implementing entity for the control of all hazardous substances (not only wastes) for the whole country by presidential decree. This also includes the responsibility to control the generators and operators of hazardous wastes within the national jurisdiction.

37. Due to the complexity of the legal framework and the distribution of competences at the federal level on waste management, the possibilities of control at the national level are limited to the scope of Law 24.051. 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 waste generation, transportation, and treatment. This makes it difficult to unify criteria, and the possibility of addressing the associated problems at the national level.

38. Regarding POPs, the country has established regulations to prohibit the production, import, trade, and use of all POPs listed in COP 9 in 2019, including those established in the previous amendments (2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019). After 5 years of extensive work, the lists were finally presented in 2022. In the future, new substances could be included in the POPs list, therefore it will be necessary to produce new information for decision-making processes and update in accordance with the regulatory and management framework.

39. Additionally, a national list of existing, controlled, restricted, and prohibited chemical substances and products was established by Res. 504/2022.

40. The national legal framework is robust in many aspects, but it is currently facing the challenge of incorporating new mechanisms for analysis, control, monitoring and oversight by the State to enhance the capacities of the agencies and institutions involved in environmental management.

41. The establishment of a regulatory framework for dioxins and furans is pending. It is however a priority of the government to advance in this since it is considered important for the implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention in the country. In this sense, it has been reflected in the 2017 update of the Argentina National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

42. Current regulatory frameworks for other key industrial activities in Argentina, such as mining, are outdated and face challenges when supporting the need for an environmentally sound management of the country's resources and their wastes. This calls for an urgent re-thinking of the activity's life-cycle processes as a whole and for adequate management of the hazardous waste produced.

43. In summary, thanks to the successful implementation of GEF 10094 Project, a clearer view of the still further needs and challenges that the country faces for strengthening the current regulatory framework for control and reduction on use, as well as elimination goals in Argentina emerged.

44. A summary of actions addressed to minimize the risk of unsound management of POPs, HHPs, Chemicals of Global Concern and waste to minimize environmental and health impacts, are identified:

- Strengthen capacity and organization of enforcement within and between national and local authorities and consolidate intersectoral coordination.
- Reinforce innovative initiatives focused on reducing the use of POPs, Chemicals of Global Concern and sound management of waste, related to Extended Producer Responsibility

- Contribute to a more detailed identification and evaluation of POPs, Hazardous Chemicals, and obsolete pesticide stockpiles, recognizing that experience generally reflects these are larger than initially estimated.
- Reinforce analytical capacities for Unintentional POPs, new POPs and other hazardous chemicals of global concern.
- Build a stronger monitoring program to control POPs, UPOPs, mercury, Chemicals of Global Concern and their wastes
- To harmonize international regulations fulfillment for POPs, candidate POPs and HHP, increasing knowledge about the use of these substances.
- Increase national capacities to achieve environmentally sound management treatment of POPs, HC and hazardous wastes.
- Keep working on potentially emission source sites not fully identified or not yet characterized in terms of extent and risk
- Help to identify and eliminate the use of mercury and mercury waste in value chains.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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 PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Component 1: Institutional strengthening and enabling environment for sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), 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

Outcome A) Institutional enabling environment for POPs, HHPs and HC sound management strengthened across government ministries and agencies and across federal, state and municipal level.

A1) Intersectoral synergies for strengthening of mechanisms for hazardous chemicals management

The working meetings of the 'Inter-Ministerial Chemicals Roundtable' led to positive results, such as projects on various regulations and the development of management tools that contributed to improving the handling of chemicals. Furthermore, MTR Project 10094 demonstrated that active participation of MAyDS as executing agency/partner in implementation has been fundamental to the achievement of the results obtained, as well as the commitment of other institutions enabled significant progress to be made in meeting the established goals.

This project proposes to strengthen the implementation of the inter-ministerial round table. At this stage, other relevant actors will be encouraged to participate, such as the private sector, industrial associations, CSOs and the direct beneficiaries of the policies involved. Additionally, there is an intention to establish a connection with an intersectoral committee proposed for the implementation of the PRTR. These activities will encourage the generation of new management tools. As the MTR Project 10094 suggested, this project should promote

the establishment of a national guideline, or other policy instrument to expedite permits required for interprovincial transportation.

The project will address the main issues identified as paramount in the previous tables:

- Develop a mechanism to prevent counterfeiting and illegal entry of hazardous chemicals into supply chains, including control and inspection policies, with particular attention to POPs and other associated hazardous substances.
- Create a space for coordinating substance management policies, focusing on the identification of POPs and POPs containing products, evaluation and definition of alternatives for the use (substitution) of POPs and other associated hazardous substances.
- Connect problems along with their solutions. The Project will build an implement to bring together the efforts of policy makers, academic technical assistants and beneficiaries to achieve the best results, ensuring that they are publicly available in accordance with Escazú principles and the implementation of the PRTR.
- Generate synergy between the involved actors to achieve an environmentally sound management of small amounts of mercury added products distributed throughout the country.
- Finally, the results of this output enhance the South-South cooperation with other countries in the Latin America region for the promotion of coordinated regulations for enhanced transboundary management.

A2) Mainstreaming POPs, mercury and hazardous chemicals' management for sustainable financing.

Based on the results of outcome A1, innovative initiatives focused on reducing the use of POPs, Hg, Chemicals of Global Concern, and sound management of waste, related to Extended Producer Responsibility, will be considered.

The proposals will be evaluated and selected according to the relevance of the topic and specific activities accompanied by the project will be carried out.

This output will seek to generate the necessary conditions for the promotion of sustainable finance practices for the generation of pioneering regulatory proposals and the assessment of alternate fiscal incentives for the promotion of low/non-chemical production practices in line with green and sustainable chemistry principle, and innovative taxing schemes, based on principles such as polluter pays, penalties. The main objective of doing this is to create a mechanism to auto sustain the management of chemical waste, by punishing bad practices and enhancing the development of greener procedures.

A3) POPs/UPOPs/New POPs and Mercury Integral monitoring Programme implemented, inventories updated, improved emissions estimation and report submission (NIP Update)

Implementation of project UNDP project GEF 10094, the Chemical Monitoring Programme revealed high presence of POPs, HHPs and Mercury in the country, supporting the generation of a baseline. Using the existing baseline, this output will implement a monitoring program specific to these substances and others of global concern. The results will provide relevant information to the inventory. Environmental concentrations measured on site present in different parts of the country will be quantified and will contribute to the identification of relevant emission sources, provide information for the guide levels and contribute to strengthening control and surveillance tools, to prevent adverse effects on human health and the environment.

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.

This output will contribute to the continuous strengthening of capacities for the presentation of National Inventories of Mercury Emissions and Releases and intentional POPs, UPOPs and new POPs. Work will be done to improve the estimation of emissions/releases. Sites of environmental concern will be identified, which are possible sources of emission of POPs (hazardous waste deposits, industrial establishments, among others).

The output will help comply with the obligations established in the agreements. In turn, the project will collaborate in the preparation of the National Reports to be presented in 2026 and 2030 (Stockholm) and 2027 and 2029 (Minamata). Finally, the output will assist with the review and update of national objectives vis-à-vis the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions, including consultations with new/relevant stakeholders.

A4) POPs, UPOPs and other hazardous chemicals analytical laboratories capacities for monitoring and ecotoxicological risk assessment enhanced, standards certification system and guideline levels setting.

From the National Network of Environmental Laboratories with actors from the public and private sectors, this output will build on existing capacities and will strategically select laboratory facilities belonging to government institutions, public academic or research institutions (such as REDNALAB (National Environmental Laboratory Network), to enhance their capabilities in order to strengthen or improve the analytical techniques of critical POPs: PCDD/F, PBDEs, PBDD/F and relevant industrial POPs. Emphasis will be placed on developing competences to support impact studies and ecotoxicological risk assessment. Inter-laboratory testing will be supported to ensure the ability of laboratories to control POPs and Chemicals of Global Concern in different matrixes. This output will not include procurement of equipment.

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-technic models for reduction and management of POPs, Chemicals of Global Concern and related wastes developed and tested.

B1) Management plans for source emissions control in environmental concern sites with presence of COPs, and other Chemicals of Global Concern

Based on output A3, a prioritization and risk assessment of sites of environmental concern identified as possible POPs emission sources will be developed, such as: hazardous waste deposits or industrial establishments where POPs, and other hazardous chemicals have been manufactured, formulated, packaged, stored and distributed.

An exploratory evaluation of at least 5 sites will be carried out to identify their general and physical characteristics, emission sources, nearby activities, among others. Based on the results, 1 to 3 sites will be prioritized and selected with the objective of generating a detailed plan that includes a integrated management proposal. This will identify the immediate measures to be taken to mitigate the risks of exposure and release of chemicals, POPs and hazardous wastes. This will encompass training on site assessment for relevant government officials and service providers utilizing international standards and guidance materials.

B3) Pilots (2) for the introduction of BAT/BEP technologies for Industrial POPs, new POPs and chemicals of global concern emission's prevention in manufacturing industries.

During the NIP Update, difficulties in obtaining information on the use of POPs in the country, especially industrial POPs. PFOAs, Deca-BDE, diphenyl ether, PFOs, Chlorinated Paraffins (lengths C14 and C17) used in paints, plastics, automotive industry, among other processes, were identified.

In response to the recommendations made in the Project MTR 10094 regarding the strengthening of relations with the private sector, this project proposes the development of two pilots that promote Best Environmental Practices and Best Available Technologies in the identified industrial sectors that use POPs or candidate POPs. The uses, quantities, possible substitutes and life cycle of products that may contain these substances in the country will be evaluated. These pilots will serve as input to strengthen the decision-making process in the management of industrial POPs in use and candidate POPs.

In addition, considering that most industrial sectors such as the above-mentioned ones are male-dominant, activities will be developed to incorporate the gender and diversity perspective for operators, working on stereotypes related to care tasks. Certain male behaviors which are considered legitimate and even 'expected' in certain situations, place men in unnecessary risky situations (UNPFA, 2019).

B3) Pilots (4) for management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants and strengthening of circular economy in the informal sector

Four (4) pilot projects will be implemented for the environmentally sound management of wastes containing brominated flame retardants (especially polybrominated diphenyl ethers PBDEs). Mattresses, foams, armchairs, textiles, plastics, televisions, and cathode ray tube monitors, among others, represent some examples of wastes that may contain PBDEs. This project will provide complementary information to the inventories with measurement data.

At this stage, pilot projects will be implemented with 4 waste management facilities with the objective of implementing best environmental practices for the identification, segregation and disposal of materials that may contain PBDEs and other highly toxic pollutants.

Related to WEEE, the pilots will include from collection through to final disposal/management/recycling of plastics contained in electronic waste: with its main aim to separate/segregate materials containing PBDEs (flame retardants) for their corresponding sound management and to improve the recycling operations. In addition, technical information will be obtained for the safe recovery of strategic metals in the waste through a circular economy approach.

These will be developed with CSOs, micro-enterprises, cooperatives, local governments. Priority will be given to the popular economic sector, who generally work in precarious and informal conditions.

The project implementation will include the formulation of technical guidelines, training and business models. The results of the pilot projects will contribute to the updating of the national inventory of intentional POPs in the framework of the Stockholm Convention as well as reduction of CO₂ emissions from recovery of copper and downcycled plastics. In turn, capacities to identify and assess the presence of PBDEs in these wastes will be strengthened.

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

C1) Qualification assessment of cost-effective commercial options for environmentally sound treatment of POPs, and highly hazardous waste stockpiles consistent with international standards

A study will be developed to evaluate the hazardous waste treatment alternatives available in the country, in particular POPs/Mercury /Chemicals of global concern, for their environmentally sound management.

Based on the stocks that will be identified in this project, 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.

C2) Disposal of 300 t of mercury waste

Considering the commitments assumed by the country in the Minamata Convention, during UNDP project GEF 10094, a pilot project was implemented for the elimination of mercury waste generated by the mining industry, which resulted in the elimination of 356 t of Hg by 2023. Considering that the mining industry will continue producing in the following years, the present project aims to provide, together with MAyDS, support to ensure the effective and correct disposal of mercury. Also, other industrial sectors will be considered. Associated activities will include the adoption of guidelines, capacity building for monitoring and control of the entire process. The private sector will provide co-financing for the disposal of mercury waste.

Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management

Outcome D: KM, Awareness-Raising and M&E

D1) Knowledge management system and communication platform established.

Previous experiences have shown a need for a comprehensive approach to the responsible use of hazardous chemicals was detected. A Multi-year Training Plan with the aim of promoting compliance with regulations and conventions on Chemicals and Waste was designed and developed, intended for the public and public administration, added to a cross-cutting Gender Action Plan. Mobile applications, videos and digital publications were developed, and the website of the Ministry was updated and modernized including a specific site for the network of environmental laboratories.

At this stage, a communication plan will be established to implement training and promote the development of dissemination material according to the context and needs of the population.

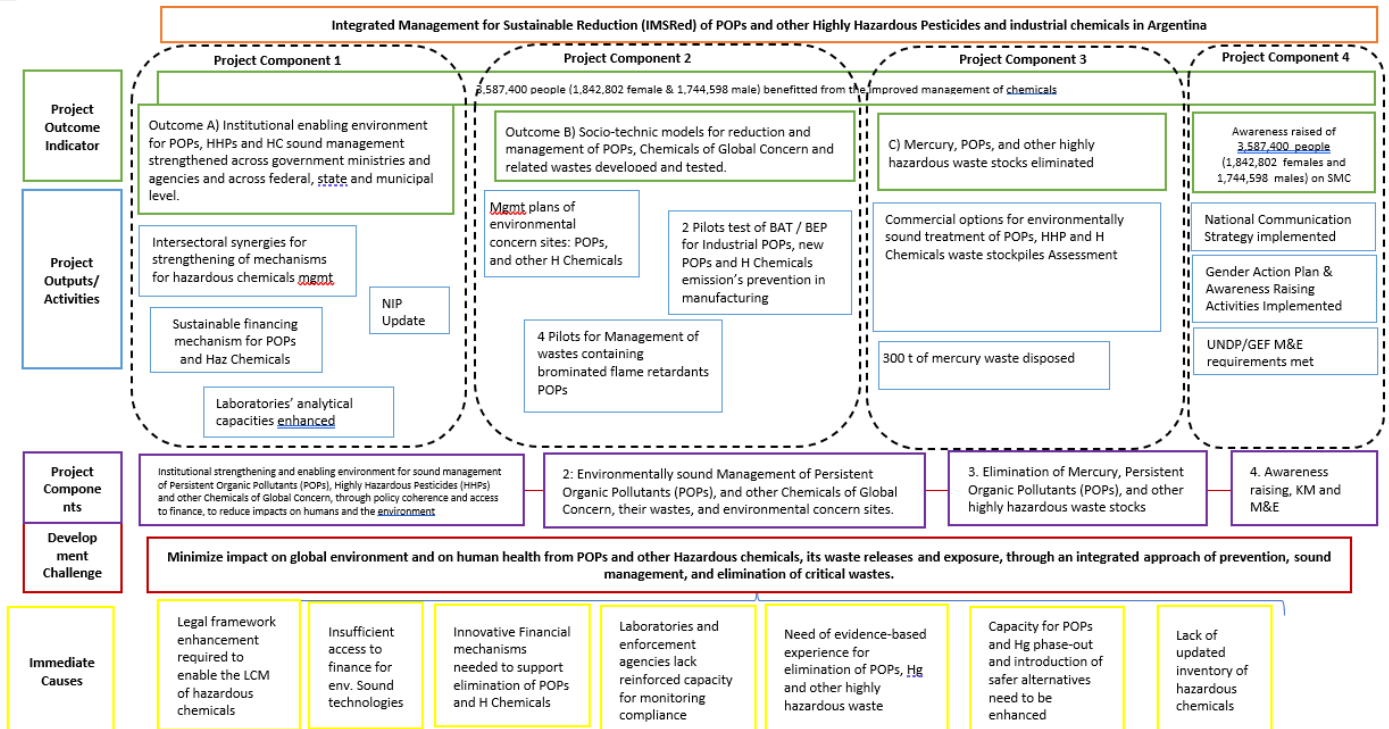
Potential collaboration with similar or compatible existing plans and the implementation of a monitoring system will be encouraged. Furthermore, a knowledge management strategy and the action and communication plan with gender perspective will be established, in the framework of the national policy for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

Therefore, GEF Project 8 proposes to continue carrying out awareness-raising activities among the population directly affected, particularly those who handle these substances in their various uses and applications such as industry workers, recyclers, and public.

M&E and adaptive management developed

The project results as outlined in the project results framework will be monitored and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. The results of the evaluations will be reported in an intermediate and final evaluation and the lessons learned captured will be integrated in the project through adaptive feedback management. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy.

Theory of change



Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. 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

- Similar to UNDP-implemented projects, this initiative will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) in accordance with UNDPs rules and regulation. The MAYDS will be the National Executing Agency and will be responsible for the implementation of the project in Argentina. UNDP will play the standard role as a GEF Implementing Agency and will provide clear implementation support to the Government of Argentina. The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordination will follow standard UNDP-GEF policies as standard practice in all UNDP projects that are being financed by the GEF. The National Project Director is a staff member of the MAYDS and s/he will have overall responsibility of the project implementation. The Project Coordinator will be hired with Project Funds and will oversee the day to day management of the project. He/She will report directly to the National Project Director. The National Project Director will at least annually report to the Project Steering Committee which is composed of the Government of Argentina and UNDP.

As detailed on the Project Description, this initiative will build on lessons learned and experiences from previous initiatives:

- GEF 10094 Project Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina (8,930,250), currently implemented by UNDP and executed by the MAyDS.
- The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (CRBAS) has been based in Argentina since 2005. They provide technical support to projects for the environmental sound management of chemicals and waste mainly through training, information dissemination, awareness raising and technology transfer efforts.
- Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for the Environmental Management of Chemical Substances, (250,000 US\$) which was implemented by UNDP and executed by the MAyDS. The program provides funding for institutional strengthening for the implementation of the Chemicals agenda.
- GEF funded regional programme for Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries (9,500,000 US\$). The allocation for Argentina in the project's budget is US \$795,000 with an estimated duration of 60 months.
- UNEP-led project on Mercury Storage and Disposal in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010). Work was initiated to revise the country's legal framework for hazardous waste. The project also developed an initial mercury source inventory for the chlor-alkali, energy, and health sectors.
- UNEP-GEF NIP update for Argentina (2013-18). Update of the National Implementation Plan in Argentina to take into account the new POPs that have been included under the Stockholm Convention.

In addition, the initiative will build on the inter-agency 'Inter-Ministerial Chemicals Roundtable' among different areas of government.

Core Indicators

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	10000	0	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 CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				

Duration of accounting				
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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 CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	10,000			
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025			
Duration of accounting	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	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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			

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			

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			

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)

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			
Male	1,744,598			
Total	3,587,400		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)

Core Indicator 6:

- For CO₂ eq emissions avoided, the four main materials contained in Ewaste are steel, aluminium, copper and plastic (which account for about two thirds of the total mass), from own calculations with data from different reference sources the following arises: (from virgin minerals) 1.52 t of CO₂e emissions per t of e-waste ; (through recycling of metals) 0.64 t of CO₂e emissions per t of e-waste; therefore, net t 0.88 t of CO₂e emissions are avoided through e-waste recycle. And assuming that the remaining third of the mass includes low energy demands materials, except for the precious and energy transition metals, a conservative 10% extra increase is considered, to give a 0.968 t of CO₂e avoided per t of Ewaste treated.

Core Indicator 9:

- For PBDEs, it is conservatively assumed that ~ 2% of e-waste weight is made up of plastics containing PBDEs in a concentration of ~1600 mg/kg (0.0016 conversion factor) - (see reference by Hedlund).

- 300 t of mercury waste will be eliminated through a partnership with Mining Companies

Core Indicator 10:

- For PBDD/F, an indicative estimation of actual POPs and toxic chemicals emission, when it is estimated that Argentina generated and disposed of 330,000 MT of e-waste in 2019 (plus a conservative 5% of import), is as follows. Assuming that 50 % of the cables and metal/plastic mixtures are burned in an uncontrolled manner for thermal wire reclamation, that would lead to: 330,000 *0.035 (2% weight fraction cables plus 5% metal/plastic mixtures)*12,000 µg TEQ/t = 138.6 g-TEQ/yr in PCDD/F emissions (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 MT*0.017 (1.7 % weight fraction circuit boards) *100 µg TEQ/t = 0.5 g-TEQ/yr in PCDD/F (emission factor for open burning of circuit boards: 100 µg TEQ/t, Hedlund et al. 2005). Total of estimated emissions then is 139.1 g-TEQ/yr for the country.

- For PCDD/F, ewaste is considered to contain 20% plastic and it is assumed that each 1 t of plastic emits 0.00012 gTEQ when inadequately burnt.

Core indicator 11:

- A total of 3,587,400 beneficiaries (1,842,802 female and 1,744,598 male) are expected to benefit from the project's interventions.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation—such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Moderate	As part of the project design, the proposed treatment methods for ewaste waste will be evaluated and selected based on their potential use of energy resources and greenhouse gas emissions. Please see the project’s pre-SESP for details
Environment and Social	Moderate	As part of the project design, social and environmental considerations will be considered in the design of the national communication campaign to raise awareness on risks and damages to health and the environment due to exposure to hazardous chemicals. Please see the project’s pre-SESP for details.
Political and Governance	Moderate	In the situation of a potential turnover at the MAyDS, 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 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.
Macro-economic	Low	Macro-Economic conditions could generate changes in the exchange rate, affecting delivery of the project. UNDP monitors expenditure on a

		daily basis and provides global oversight of project delivery minimizing the risk of operational risk due to currency fluctuations.
Strategies and Policies	Low	In coordination with ongoing initiatives, the MAyDS has continued to enhance its capacity to reduce the exposure of toxic chemicals to the environment and population. Applicable regulations are will continue to be enhanced and improved.
Technical design of project or program	Low	The PPG phase will evaluate technical training programs and will perform capacity building in government institutions, and other interested parties with activities related to POPs and related waste LCM.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	UNDP has performed a capacity assessment of the Government Executing Agency. The MAyDS has extensive experience with the implementation of GEF- Funded Projects and has complied with applicable standards.
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	UNDP has performed a capacity assessment of the Government Executing Agency. The MAyDS has extensive experience with the implementation of GEF- Funded Projects and has complied with applicable standards.
Stakeholder Engagement	Moderate	The main concerns and interests of the key stakeholders for the project will be compiled. A stakeholder engagement strategy will be developed to raise awareness among the stakeholders and the community in general aware of the project's scope, activities, and benefits. Please see the project's pre-SESP for details
Other		Although declared finalized, the COVID-19 pandemic impacts may

		have resulted in difficulties of activities execution due to several causes (which involved people's health and economies negatively impacted).
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	A risk log with management actions will be performed during the PPG phase.

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

Describe 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.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

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. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Through its interventions, the project will dispose of 300 t of Mercury waste, 825 t of plastics containing 1.3 t of pure PBDEs eliminated, 17.4 gTEQ/yr of PBDD/F, and 1 gTEQ of PCDD/F emissions avoided. Total of 18.4 gTEQ emissions avoided, while achieving significant CO2 emissions reductions.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

The table below summarizes stakeholder concerns and expectations, recommendations for the project to address the concerns and meet and/or manage stakeholder expectations, and proposed means of communication with those stakeholders.

Stakeholder group	Participation in the project/affected by	Engagement strategy
1. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible	Responsible for leading and managing the project.	<p>1a) Evaluate an integrated approach to the management of the designed activities, including information dissemination, management training and awareness raising for all project stakeholders.</p> <p>1b) Strengthen the exchange of data and information among stakeholders through the Inter-ministerial Roundtable, ensuring that all participants can contribute and are heard.</p>
2. Other ministries:		
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI). Departamento de Manejo y Gestión de Sustancias Químicas		
Subgerencia de Química y Ambiente	Strengthening the management of chemicals in industries.	<p>2a) Monitor the needs and requirements of all ministries involved in the project to ensure their cooperation and acceptance and provide the necessary assistance to the project to increase its capacity.</p>
Centro Regional de Basilea para América del Sur (CRBAS).	Support and promote the development of standards and agreements for the life cycle management of chemicals in industry.	<p>2b) Increase awareness and provide training on sound chemicals management to improve cooperation among all stakeholders/ministries and support the country's compliance with international commitments through the development and implementation of the National and Local Government Training Plan (activity 1.3.1).</p>
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto- Dirección de Asuntos Ambientales	Promote cleaner production and industrial reconversion activities.	<p>2c) Review or jointly develop regulatory measures.</p>
Former Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo,	Facilitate interaction and engagement with the private sector.	<p>2d) Strengthen dialogue with the Direction of Environmental Education and Public Engagement (part of MAyDS) to improve environmental education related to chemicals.'</p>
Dirección Nacional de Producción Minera Sustentable, Dirección de Industria Sostenible		
Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social, Dirección		

Nacional de Nuevas
Formas de Trabajo.

Administración Nacional
de Medicamentos,
Alimentos y Tecnología
Médica (ANMAT),
Departamento de
Domisanitarios,
Cosméticos y Productos
de Higiene Personal

Dirección General de
Aduanas

Departamento Técnica de
Nomenclatura y
Clasificación Arancelaria.

Coordinación de Gestión
Ambiental,
Coordinación de
Regulaciones
Ambientales.

Superintendencia de
Riesgos del Trabajo,
Unidad “Preventox
Laboral”.

Prefectura Naval
Argentina

División Mercancías y
Residuos Peligrosos

Autoridad de Cuenca
Matanza Riachuelo

3. Public agencies and
companies

Direct role in strengthening institutional
and regulatory capacity related to the
LCM of chemicals.

3a) Monitor the needs and requirements
of all stakeholders involved in the
control of chemicals to ensure their
cooperation, buy-in and aid projects to
meet their obligations and enhance their
capacity.

3b) Review or jointly develop regulatory
measures.

4. Local and provincial
governments

Strengthen the regulations, standards
and requirements for environmental

4a) Monitor the needs of local/provincial
stakeholders and their capacities to

protection established by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and ensuring their application in their respective territories; Provide information for national inventories; Support the design and implementation of pilot projects and participate in training activities.

contribute to the project. These surveys, conducted periodically, can inform the design of a support network that allows each local government to meet its obligations.

4b) Create incentives and recognition for those local/provincial parties that are already fulfilling their commitments. In this regard, the promotion of their individual achievements as part of the national awareness-raising campaign can make a significant contribution.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative 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	4,620,000.00	415,800.00	5,035,800.00
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	Grant	4,620,000.00	415,800.00	5,035,800.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						9,240,000.00	831,600.00	10,071,600.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

18000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	Grant	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	Grant	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/	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
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		Regional/ Global			
Total GEF Resources					0.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CW-1	GET	4,620,000.00	23200000
CW-1	GET	4,620,000.00	23200000
Total Project Cost		9,240,000.00	46,400,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	150000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Argentina (MAyDS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Argentina (Public Agencies)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Private Sector	POPs Possessors	Grant	Investment mobilized	8000000
Private Sector	Mining Company (Hg waste to eliminate)	Grant	Investment mobilized	5000000
Private Sector	Regional / Development / Private Banks	Grant	Investment mobilized	15000000
Private Sector	Recycling / Recovery Companies	Grant	Investment mobilized	10000000
Total Co-financing				46,400,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilized refers to investments that will be done in the future and does not include any past investments. The specific amounts of funding associated to the expected GEBs will be finalized during the PPG phase and will be confirmed through signed co-financing letters. These figures will include:

CO2emissions expected to be reduced (Indicator 6)

t of POPs, Hg, POPs/Hg containing material, and Plastic waste reduced (Indicator 9)

gTeq of UPOPs emissions avoided (Indicator 10)

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Pradeep Kurukulasuriya	10/18/2023	Xiaofang Zhou		xiaofang.zhou@undp.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Martín Illescas	Director General de Proyectos con Financiamiento Externo y Cooperación Internacional	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable	4/11/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Argentine Republic: 38.4161° S, 63.6167° W



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

PIMS_9517_Argentina_POPs_Hg_Waste_SESP

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET