GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular)	
Region	GEF Project ID
Uruguay	11434
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Uruguay	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9537
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Chemicals and Waste	10/18/2023
Project Sector (CCM Only)	

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Management, Emissions, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Open Burning, Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Uninentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, Disposal, Plastics, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Paris Agreement, Climate Change Mitigation, Technology Transfer, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Communications, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Innovation

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,639,726.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
250,774.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,890,500.00	28,300,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
100,000.00	9,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
109,500.00	3,000,000.00
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)

Over the past few years, Uruguay has made great efforts to transition to a circular economy. Several policies were developed, and more specific measures are under consideration to enhance circularity of materials for resource efficiency. Recently, in 2019 the country published its National Waste Management Plan named 'Uruguay + Circular', which constitutes a remarkable milestone as the current strategic planning instrument at the national level setting the pathway to the transition towards a more circular Uruguay with focus on an upstream solution such as the change of product design and business models to minimize the generation of wastes. . It generates a set of opportunities for the innovation of new businesses and local initiatives and collaborates in a fairer and more inclusive development.

The Project "Towards a more circular Uruguay" is based on the strategic priorities of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan for structural transformation towards sustainability, zero waste and zero pollution with the following expected Outcomes:

- Institutional and legal capacities and financial instruments strengthened for the transition to a circular economy.
- Circular models, including financial instruments, applied to food, plastics, vehicles, construction value chains with a socio-inclusive approach.
- Knowledge and information disseminated to all stakeholders in the whole society to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The project will be led by the Ministry of Environment with the participation of multiple stakeholders from the public and private sector, academia and organized civil society.

Through its different interventions the Project will directly benefit 685,000 people (328,800 men; 356,200 women) and will evidence result in the following Global Environmental Benefits: 38 MT of POPs (HBCD, PBDE and UV-328) reduced; 6,184 MT of plastic waste containing POPs avoided; 16.2 gTEQ avoided and 1,089,000 MT of CO_2eq mitigated.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Reducing pollutant emissions and releases (GHG, UPOPs) through chemicals and waste integrated management towards a circular economy in Uruguay.

Project Components

Component 1. Strengthening institutional capacities to ensure circular governance and management.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
640,000.00	6,993,790.00

Outcome:

1. Institutional and legal capacities and financial instruments strengthened for the transition to a circular economy.

Output:

1.1 Strengthening of the regulatory framework towards the circularity of materials, including financial instruments.

1.2 Coordination and articulation on waste and circularity - strengthened and operational. (Local governments and private sector involvement)

1.3 Creation and strengthening of monitoring and follow-up programs and procedures (early warning systems), control and enforcement.

1.4 Strengthening National Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment (DINACEA)´s institutional and technical capacities for the implementation of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan.

1.5. Development of the "Materials Circularity Observatory" tool.

1.6. Cost-benefit analysis for the reduction, substitution and elimination of POPs based on the Stockholm National Implementation Plan (NIP) update.

Component 2. Development of socio-inclusive circular models in strategic sectors.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,140,660.00	11,918,511.00

Outcome:

2. Circular models, including financial instruments, applied to Food, Plastics, Vehicles, Construction with a socio-inclusive approach.

Output:

2.1. Demonstration project for the reduction of Food Losses and Waste (FLW) in the production, post-harvest and processing stages from a circularity approach. Reduction of GHG associated with organic waste and capacity building of relevant stakeholders (Objective GEN5).

2.2. Establishment of a competitive fund mechanism for the implementation of projects to promote innovation, eco-design and circular business models for the reduction of plastic products (including single-use plastics) (OBJECTIVE GEN 2).

2.3. Design of programs for the promotion of construction works that incorporate circularity principles (Objective GEN 10).

2.4. Formalization and organization of the supply chain of recycled materials (intermediaries). Development of suppliers and integration of the private sector.

2.5. Optimization of municipal collection systems and disposal sites to minimize associated greenhouse gas emissions and promote materials circularity through selective collection.

2.6. Demonstration project for the end-of-life vehicles management.

Component 3. Knowledge management and capacity building to drive behavioral change.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
607,000.00	6,633,173.00

Outcome:

3. Knowledge and information disseminated to all stakeholders in society to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Output:

3.1. Waste and circular economy information system implemented.

3.2. Pickers National Registry strengthened.

3.3. Promote research and innovation in circular economy within the private sector and academia.

3.4. Behavioral change and demonstration activities on life extension of materials, waste sorting (composting and recycling) in homes, businesses, and schools.

3.5. Visibility, communication, education, and participation strategy, with an intersectional approach (territory, gender, generation, socioeconomic level, ethnic), to promote the involvement of the population, institutions, and key sectors, which also favors the adoption of responsible habits and practices.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
129,486.00	1,414,997.00

Outcome:

4. Monitoring and evaluation tools and products delivered throughout project´s lifecycle.

Output:

4.1. M&E and adaptive management applied to assess project performance and GEB impact.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Strengthening institutional capacities to ensure circular governance and management.	640,000.00	6,993,790.00
Component 2. Development of socio-inclusive circular models in strategic sectors.	1,140,660.00	11,918,511.00
Component 3. Knowledge management and capacity building to drive behavioral change.	607,000.00	6,633,173.00
M&E	129,486.00	1,414,997.00
Subtotal	**2,517,146.00**	**26,960,471.00**
Project Management Cost	122,580.00	1,339,529.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**2,639,726.00**	**28,300,000.00**

Please provide justification

PMC will be covered with funds from the focal area of Chemical and Waste.

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

Uruguay, through its Ministry of Environment (MA), is making numerous efforts towards a more circular country. A new paradigm is being promoted to shift the conception and relationship with waste, from a circular economy, participation, and shared responsibility perspective. A circularity that invites to conceive waste as resources, identify the opportunity to transform them, bet on their revaluation and, as a first step, seek to minimize their generation. A circularity that also challenges and invites to rethink the consumption habits, practices, and responsibility in each case, involving every key stakeholder to be part of the cultural change.

Within the framework of the National System of Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC), in 2017 Uruguay presented its National Climate Change Policy (PNCC) and its First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), with a horizon to 2025. Both instruments were approved by Executive Decree 310/017. More recently, in 2021 Uruguay elaborated the long-term climate strategy (ECLP) for a low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate resilient development, and its second NDC with a 2030 horizon. Both the PNCC and the NDCs consider the circular economy as a principle for implementing their lines of action and meeting their objectives. The circular economy approach is particularly mentioned in the adoption of low-carbon technologies through the development of a legal framework and appropriate incentives, and in the promotion of integrated solid waste management to reduce GHG emissions. Moreover, the circular economy approach is explicitly mentioned in the National Adaptation Plan in cities and infrastructure as a strategy to reduce vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change on the environment and communities.

The Circular Economy will contribute to the implementation of National Climate Change strategies and policies by identifying models that contribute in a concrete and practical way to the mitigation and adaptation objectives and measures. At the same time, it proposes to limit the increase in temperature, taking into account that Uruguay, as a developing country, intends to reach the aspirational goal of CO2 neutrality by 2050, and a stability in CH4 (methane) and N2O (nitrous oxide) emissions, which will imply continuing to contribute to global food production without contributing to additional warming.

In addition, Uruguay its signatory of the Stockholm Convention The country signed it in May 2001 and ratified it by Act 17,732, on December 31, 2003. It was enforced on May 17, 2004. During 2017 the country published its latest revision and update of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the period 2017-2030. This update considered not only the first pollutants included in the initial Plan (published in 2006), but also those newly added during the 2009-2015 period, the challenge being to understand their life cycles, to identify their uses and stocks, obsolete substances that contain them, polluted sites, unintentional emissions, etc. all this being a decisive step for meeting Uruguay's commitments under the Convention. This NIP, which is currently being updated, has as one of its pillars identifying and environmental sound managing stockpiles of chemical substances, products and wastes contaminated with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as well as preventing the future buildup of hazardous chemicals and waste stockpiles in the environment. It directs specific efforts for the application of a life cycle management approach of chemical substances, materials and products encouraging preventive and upstream measures to minimize the generation and a sustainable development.

In 2019, Uruguay approved the Law 19,829 "Integrated Waste Management", which marks a milestone in national regulations, as it establishes the foundations for waste management planning and policy at national and departmental level; and aims for a qualitative leap, promoting sound, resilient, inclusive, and modern management, emphasizing the minimization of generation at source and promoting a circular economy approach. The law and regulatory processes aim to strengthen the circular economy strategy linked to the production and consumption, addressing from the waste policy measures to reduce the consumption of materials and resources, increase the useful life of products, and ensure the circularity of materials in order to decouple economic growth from waste generation.

As a strategic planning tool within the framework of the mentioned Law Uruguay has recently published, in December 2021, its first National Waste Management Plan named "Uruguay + Circular"[1][1]. The Plan has been designed with a circular economy approach establishing specific results related to the reduction of waste generation and circularity of materials. It promotes strategic lines of action addressing the entire life cycle management of materials with special focus on upstream actions of the production and consumption chains.

The ultimate goal of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan is an effective transition to a more circular Uruguay and its achievement is structured through the definition of 10 global results related to the improvement of a circular economy model that prioritizes actions from its waste generation to its final disposal. All waste streams or flows considered within the Law 19,829 are included in the "Uruguay + Circular", these are: household waste, waste from economic-productive activities, construction waste, contaminated soil, special waste, and healthcare waste. Moreover, it is important to highlight that the elaboration process was led by the Ministry of Environment, with the broad and diverse participation of institutions, organizations, academia, trade associations and industrial chambers in the country.

Within the framework of the National Waste Management Plan and Circular Economy Strategy, during the period 2022-2023 Uruguay developed the National Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Food Losses and Waste (FLW) through a broadly participatory process. Its objective is to constitute a planning tool to prevent, reduce and improve the management of FLW in the country, based on a comprehensive approach of the problem and the identification of the main causes that contribute to the generation of FLW along the value chain. The National Strategy proposes a temporal scope of 10 years and a country vision to 2050 aligned to the transition towards a circular, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems. It also has an informative and awareness-raising approach for the general population, with special emphasis on the educational and cultural dimension of the problem and on the importance of social involvement for behavioral change.

The National Circular Economy Strategy is currently being developed and expected to be completed by early 2024. The Strategy is being elaborated through the joint work of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. This strategy will be a complementary framework to the Uruguay + Circular Plan, addressing complementary resources such as water.

Currently in Uruguay it is estimated that the total generation of solid waste exceeds four million tons per year. This volume is mainly comprised of the following streams: Solid industrial and similar waste (1.6 million tons per year); Household and commercial waste (1.5 million tons per year); Construction waste (0.88 million tons per year); and Special waste, which includes lead-acid batteries, post-consumer packaging, waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), agrochemical packaging and end-of-life tires (0.142 million tons per year).

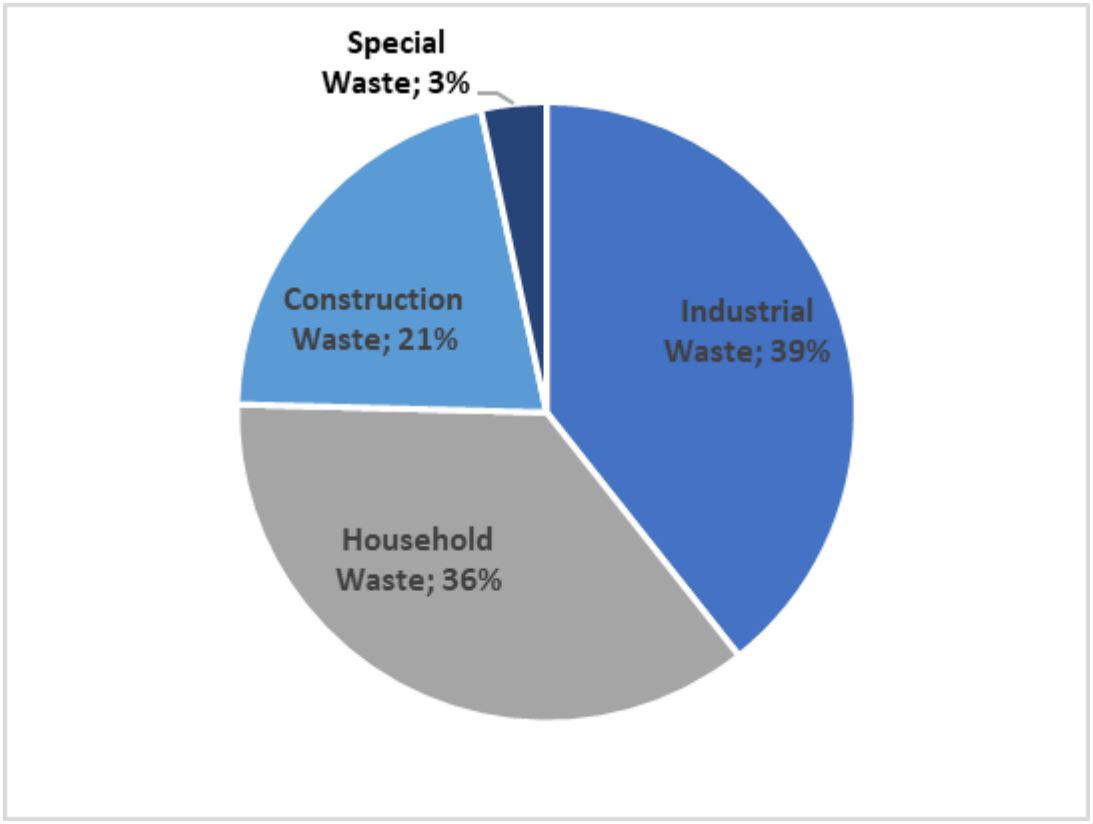

Figure 1. Uruguay annual waste generation volume.

Source: National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) – Chapter 2 Baseline Information

As per the available information, *industrial waste* constitutes the largest volume of waste annually. The environmentally sound management of industrial waste (industrial, agro-industrial and similar solid waste) is regulated by Decree No. 182 of 2013 (Dec.

182/013, 2013). This regulation establishes the conditions for the integrated management of waste from its generation to the destinations of recycling, recovery/treatment, final disposal and/or elimination, including storage and transportation. In general terms, Decree No. 182/013 defines the concept of solid industrial waste or waste from similar activities, and prioritizes the minimization of waste generation, considering treatment and final disposal alternatives as options of last resort.

Regarding the final destinations of industrial waste, it is noteworthy that, unlike other waste streams, recovery is the main destination. At the close of 2020, 68% of the total tons generated (dry basis) and 99% of the total m^3 of waste generated were derived to valorization destinations (re use, recycling, and energy recovery). Similar results were observed from 2016 to 2019.

The generation rate of *household waste* in the country is 1kg/inhab. /day. The organic fraction (organic matter, wood, branches and pruning) represents around 45% of the waste generated. This fraction, in addition to being the one that is generated in the greatest proportion, presents various problems during its handling and disposal, such as the generation of unpleasant odors, proliferation of flies and other vectors, generation of leachates and emission of greenhouse gases during its final disposal. On the other hand, the dry fraction (plastics, paper, cardboard, tetrabrick, glass and metals) constitutes about 38%. Although it has the greatest potential to be recycled for the production of new products and to avoid entering final disposal sites, it is necessary to consider that its quality may affect the effective recovery of these materials.

The current management of household waste, for most municipalities, consists only of the collection of mixed waste, which can be carried out in various ways, and the subsequent transport to the nearest disposal site with its corresponding burial. This is due to the fact that in most of the departments, selective collection systems with a large territorial scope have not been implemented. For municipalities that have implemented selective collection systems, a parallel process is added that involves the collection of waste segregated at source by households, under various collection modalities (door-to-door, voluntary drop-off points, differentiated containers, among others) and its transfer to sorting plants or units. Waste collection coverage is estimated to be close to 100% of the urban area and includes, in some cases, the collection of rural areas. It should be noted that some municipalities have difficulty in providing the service with the necessary quality.

The status of the final disposal sites in Uruguay differs greatly among the different departments, both in terms of infrastructure and operation. At present, only six sites are operating as sanitary landfills (Montevideo, Maldonado, Rocha, Florida, Fray Bentos and Paso de los Toros). These account for approximately 65% of the waste destined for final disposal. On the other hand, considering the departmental capitals of the remaining 14 departments, which account for 30% of the waste for final disposal, although the final disposal sites correspond to landfills and not to sanitary landfills, they are sites that, in general, have a certain degree of control. Finally, the remaining 5% of waste is deposited in open dumps associated with small towns, most of which have a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants.

The main environmental and social impacts generated by the lack of control and the operational failures of the landfills are centered on contamination of watercourses due to leachate runoff and infiltration, atmospheric contamination (GHG and UPOPs) caused by open burning and the decomposition of organic matter, which also causes odors and vectors in the surrounding areas. Likewise, in the absence of vegetation pits, waste blasting is not usually controlled. Furthermore, due to the lack of adequate fencing and income control, people from outside the operation tend to move around, either to dispose of waste without authorization or to carry out sorting tasks in inadequate conditions, both from a sanitary and environmental point of view.

The *construction* is a key sector of the national economy, both for its direct contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and for its integration with the entire productive sector of the country from a value chain approach. Based on data from the Central Bank of Uruguay (BCU) between 2013 and 2018 this sector has represented annually about 10% of the national GDP. Construction has a key role in the production of investment goods: transport infrastructure; sanitation and drinking water supply works; the assembly of industrial plants or the production and rehabilitation of housing. The increase in the level of construction activity also leads to an increase in the generation of waste, which must be properly managed.

Law No. 19,829 of September 18, 2019, establishes that construction waste (ROC) is the one generated in construction, renovation or demolition activities and includes excavated soil related to construction. The only exceptions are those from minor domestic repair works, which are considered to be included in household waste. However, it is one of the wastes streams which management has not yet been regulated.

Recently in July 2023, the Ministry of Environment formed a broad inter-institutional working group to prepare a technical document that will be the basis for the ROC regulation (via regulatory decree of the Waste Law No. 19829 of 2019). The group is made up of national and departmental government institutions, chambers and sectoral associations, the academic and certification sector, civil society, and companies that provide goods and services related to the area (debris transportation, dump trucks, big bags, excavation, and demolition companies). In addition, work is being done on a technical guide containing the criteria for the classification of waste on site, and on the definition of criteria for the use of ROC as backfill material in quarry remediation processes.

As per the last National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention (2017), the use of Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) in the construction sector has been identified. The inventory carried out at that time showed that during 2015 the construction industry used an estimated amount of 73.4 tons of HBCD as building insulation and imported foams. Likewise, HBCD volume in rubble was not possible to estimate because waste classification was not specific enough. It is important to highlight that Uruguay is currently in the process of updating its NIP where more accurate information is sought in terms of HBCD available stockpiles within construction sector.

Referring to *special waste*, Uruguay has made progress through the development of regulations that establish the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for its management. Article 5 (H) of the Integrated Waste Management Law defines a list of special wastes, composed of the following: packaging waste, battery and battery waste, end-of-life tires, used edible oils, other plastic waste (other than packaging), electrical and electronic waste, used non-edible oils, and end-of-life vehicles.

At the national level, the special waste streams that are currently regulated under the EPR principle are post-consumer packaging waste; packaging waste from chemical or biological products from animal or plant production; waste from end-of-life lead-acid batteries; waste from end-of-life tires and tubes; and waste containing mercury. Regarding the electrical and electronic waste, the regulation is currently under the approval process. On the other hand, edible and non-edible used oils and end-of-life vehicles are not yet regulated. When considering end of life vehicles management, it should be remarked that the latest National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention (2017), has identified Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) in the transport sector. A total amount of 7,783 kgs of POP-PBDE in cars was estimated for the year 2015. Likewise, with the update of the NIP currently under development, more accurate information is expected.

The following table provides detail of the status of the special waste streams currently regulated:

Table 1. Main special waste streams, annual generation.

Special Waste Stream	**Annual Volume (Tons)**
Post consumer packaging (Decree 260/007)	84,000
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) - *Regulation under the approval process*	37,600
End-of-life tires (Decree 358/015)	12,300
Lead acid batteries (Decree 373/003)	5,000
Agrochemical Containers (Decree 152/013)	3,000

Source: National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) – Chapter 2 Baseline information.

When analyzing post-consumer packaging, this waste stream is regulated by Decree 260/007 which main objective is the implementation of clean circuits for the collection and classification of primary packaging waste for subsequent recovery, while promoting the social inclusion of waste pickers. There are three Management Plans: Packaging Management Plan (Plan VALE) - Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (PGE-CIU); Pharmaceutical Sector Plan - Association of National Laboratories (ALN) & Chamber of Pharmaceutical and Related Specialties (CEFA); and Automotive Spare Parts Sector Plan - Association of Automotive Spare Parts of Uruguay (ARRAU).

The plan financed by the PGE-CIU, known as the Central Plan, includes most of the companies covered by Decree 260/007. As of November 18, 2021, 2,304 companies are members of the PGE-CIU. This plan is implemented through public-private agreements whereby the brand owner and importer sector of packaged products placed on the market finances part of the operating expenses and necessary investments. This is done through contributions made by the companies that are members of the PGE-CIU Trust Fund, determined on the basis of the cost of the system and in relation to the number of containers placed on the market by each company.

According to the affidavits of brand owners and importers, within the framework of Decree 260/007, the average amount of non-returnable primary packaging placed on the market is around 80,000 tons/year. One of the main components is plastic (42%), followed by glass (25%), paper and cardboard (17%). Details of the average number of non-returnable packaging placed on the market are as follows:

Table 2. Average annual volume of packaging placed on the market.

	Average	
	Tons	%
Paper/Cardboard	13,800	17.2

Plastic PET	15,520	19.4
Plastic PEAD	4,018	5.0
Plastic PEBD	4,703	5.9
Plastic PVC	714	0.9
Plastic PP	3,777	4.7
Plastic PS	1,214	1.5
Multilaminates	3,302	4.1
Aluminum Metal	5,954	7.4
Tin Metal	4,250	5.3
Glass	19,900	24.8
Tetra	2,789	3.5
Others	204	0.3
Total	**80,145**	**100**

Source: National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) – Chapter 2 Baseline information.

Based on information from plans implemented in 2019, the level of packaging waste recovery represented only 4% of the total amount of packaging placed on the market. Among the different packaging materials, paper and cardboard have the highest recovery rate, reaching 15%. Meanwhile, plastics, which together account for 40 % of the packaging placed on the market, have a recovery rate of less than 3 %. The recovery levels for metal and glass packaging are even lower.

In terms of plastics packaging materials, it is relevant to highlight that based on the recent UNEP technical report "Chemicals in plastics"[1], the additive UV-328 which has been listed under the Annex A of Stockholm Convention as a Persistent Organic Pollutant substance can be typically found in the amount of 0.1-10% in single use plastics (PE, PP, PVC).

In 2021, the Ministry of Environment approved the Ministerial Resolution 271/2021 "Minimum targets for recovery and recovery of non-returnable post-consumer packaging", establishing new targets for the recovery of packaging waste (VALE Plan). The following is a summary of the obligations arising from it:

- By December 2021, territorial coverage should reach all of the country's departments. (*Up to date: The plan is only operational in 6 departments (Montevideo, Canelones, Maldonado, Flores, Rivera, Rocha).)*
- 30% recovery of containers by weight as of December 2023. *(Up to date: Only 4% of the containers placed in the market is recovered)*
- 50% recovery of packaging by weight as of December 2025.
- As of January 1, 2025, beverages in non-returnable plastic containers marketed in Uruguay must ensure that the container contains at least 40% recycled material.
- Expansion of the scope to include not only products in non-returnable containers but also other packaging materials such as trays, film and disposable tableware.

The new Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (CIU) packaging management plan was submitted and approved in 2022. Although the deadlines established in the Ministerial Resolution were lower, the internal negotiation processes of the CIU and the initial questioning of the established goals led to delays. These delays had repercussions on the operation of the new plan and continue to generate delays to this day.

With reference to the pharmaceutical sector (PLESEM) and the automotive spare parts sector (ARRAU) packaging management plans, the average weight of containers placed on the market in the 2017-2019 period corresponds to 89 tons and 1,528 tons, respectively. Regarding the recovering rates, results were slightly better but likewise insufficient being 15.3% for ARRAU and 20% for PLESEM.

Informality in the waste management chain

There are multiple actors in the recyclable waste commercialization chain, among whom a web of relationships is established. These actors are Waste pickers; Personnel from the municipalities dedicated to selective collection tasks and their corresponding transportation; non-household waste haulers; Micro (informal) and small intermediary facilities (mostly informal); Medium-sized intermediary enterprises (formal); Recycling industry and exports. In other words, the basis of the chain has high presence of informal

workers and facilities, usually associated with precarious infrastructure and operational conditions, and it becomes more formal as it goes up in the supply chain.

Waste Pickers: Although multiple efforts have been made to quantify the number of waste pickers, it is difficult to estimate as it fluctuates strongly according to the economic cycle of the country, the value of the materials and public policies related to the activity. Estimates vary between 3,000 and 8,000 pickers, approximately.

Waste collection and sorting tasks are largely performed on public roads, with access to containers and dump trucks. In addition, some waste pickers collect and sort waste at household final waste disposal sites. This happens mainly at final waste disposal sites that are in irregular situations, i.e. operating as open dumps without fencing and entrance guard post.

Collection and sorting are usually related to family undertakings, i.e. several family members, including minors, participate in the sorting task, particularly in those cases where the waste is taken to the home of the waste pickers for a second segregation.

In general, working conditions in the informal waste sorting sector involve significant risks to health and physical integrity, low and fluctuating income, and exclusion from the social security system. In addition, the task of sorting is strongly rejected by society and is not socially valued as a productive activity. In summary, due to their living and working conditions, this population is highly vulnerable to social vulnerability, as well as more exposed to environmental conditions.

Chapter VI of the Integrated Waste Management Law (Law No. 19,829 of September 18, 2019) proposes a series of tools to promote the social, labor and productive inclusion of waste pickers in the formal waste management system and assigns responsibility to the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) to ensure its design and implementation. Among the tools that make up the social inclusion system provided for in the law are the creation of a registry of waste pickers (art. 33) and a public inventory of social and productive inclusion initiatives (art. 32).

The registration of waste pickers has begun to be implemented in 2020. Its implementation in the territory is done in coordination with the departmental municipalities and mainly in waste disposal sites and other places where waste pickers are present (streets, collection centers, sorting plants). In particular, most of the pickers currently registered work in open dumps. As of September 2023, the registry has 1,179 registrants nationwide (63% men and 37% women). Considering the estimates of the total number of pickers mentioned above, it is concluded that the registry has between 15% and 29% of the pickers registered. This registry will make it possible to identify situations that require referral to support networks and to evaluate the results of the support tools for the social and labor inclusion of classified individuals.

Intermediaries: The warehouses (small, medium and large) work as intermediary links between the collection and segregation activity by the waste pickers and the process of recovery of the materials by the recycling industry.

Since some of these activities are carried out outside the formal sector there is a significant lack of information about their management and their contribution to the materials recovery chain. In particular, the number of existing warehouses, the links between small, medium and large ones, the modality of operation and the volume of waste they handle are not known, despite specific research performed in 2013 for the metropolitan area of Montevideo.

To address this situation, the Integrated Waste Management Law proposes measures to achieve the regulation and formalization of the activities that make up the recycling chain. In particular, this law states that only duly authorized and registered individuals or legal entities may carry out the various operations related to the procurement and marketing of materials for recycling.

Investment and Financing

During 2021, the Ministry of Environment (MA) worked with a consulting team to size the financial gap of household solid waste management. That is, the increase in investments and operating costs that should be disbursed to achieve the goal established in the “Uruguay + Circular” Plan in terms of mixed and selective collection, transportation, and final disposal of waste. As a result of the scenarios designed, a total investment of US$97 million at constant 2021 prices were estimated for the country as a whole.

As for the financial gap, there is an average annual gap of US$62 million, which would represent an estimated 60% increase in net outflows in comparison to the current situation.

Consistent with this baseline, global result 6 of the “Uruguay + Circular” Plan addresses economic sustainability. One of the first actions during the implementation of the “Uruguay + Circular” Plan was the MA requesting funds from public budget to support local government investments in waste management, which will make possible to improve the infrastructure conditions for municipal solid waste management. Thus, an allocation of US$17 million was made available to be distributed in similar amounts among the 19 municipalities. A technical team from the MA is working with the departmental teams to define the investment projects, which will result in the signing of agreements with each of the municipalities. The projects are mainly aimed at the environmental closure of

open dumps, the construction of sanitary landfills and transfer stations, the construction or refurbishment of waste sorting plants, and the purchase of machinery, vehicles, equipment and scales. The projects also include financial commitments on the part of the municipalities as a counterpart.

To date (9/24/23), 10 agreements have been signed and work is underway to define the remaining 9. The agreements already signed (signed or about to be signed) total an amount of more than USD 8.3 million committed by the Ministry of Environment, and a counterpart of almost USD 11 million from the municipalities. Between signed and agreed agreements, there is a total operational and financial commitment for the closure of 39 open dumps, the construction of 23 transfer stations and 4 new landfills, the construction of 3 sorting plants and the adaptation of 3 others, as well as the purchase of machinery, vehicles, scales, and equipment.

Contributions to Climate Change

It is important to note that implications of waste sector on climate change as per IPCC methodologies it is only referring to the generation of direct GHG emissions generated in three types of activities: final waste disposal, biological treatment of waste (composting and anaerobic digestion) and incineration and open burning of waste.

Emissions from waste collection and transportation to sorting, collection, treatment, transformation, recycling or final disposal plants are included in the road transportation subcategory of the Energy sector. Emissions from the physical or chemical transformation of recovered materials (not from fuel consumption) are considered in the industrial processes and product use (IPPU) sector. However, all these emissions are not quantified independently, so it is not possible to differentiate the activities exclusive to waste management from the remaining activities of the sectors.

The contribution of emissions from the waste sector in Uruguay for 2019 is detailed below:

Table 3. GHG Emissions from the Waste Sector, year 2019

	CO2 (Gg)	CH4 (Gg)	N2O (Gg)
Disposal of solid waste	-	43.2	-
Biological waste treatment	-	3.8E-1	2.3E-2
Incineration and open burning of waste	1.19	4.3E-5	7.2E-5
Wastewater treatment and disposal	-	7.4	2.4E-1
Total Waste Sector	**1.19**	**51.0**	**2.6E-1**

Source: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2019.

According to the INGEI 1990-2019, CH4 emissions from final disposal sites corresponding to the year 2019 were 43.2 Gg (1,210 Gg de CO_2-eq GWP 100AR5), becoming the main source of climate impact in the Waste sector. When analyzing the contribution by waste type to CH4 emissions at final disposal, the following detail can be given: 45.9% Food; 34% Paper; 8.4% Diapers; 5.4% non-biogenic materials (such as glass, plastics, metals, etc.)

Uruguay at its Nationally Determined Contribution 2 established the following as binding mitigation measures for the waste sector:

By 2030, 80% of the tons of household solid waste disposed of in final disposal sites will be disposed of in projects that have methane capture and flaring, with or without electricity generation.

By 2030, a National Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Food Losses and Waste and an Action Plan in prioritized sectors are being implemented, incorporating the climate change dimension in a cross-cutting manner.

By 2030, selective collection systems have been promoted to reduce the tons of recyclable waste sent to final disposal and the impact on the reduction of GHG emissions has been determined.

By 2030, the incorporation of organic waste recovery strategies in departmental waste management plans has been promoted.

Uruguay Food Losses and Waste (FLW): In 2017, at the initiative of FAO, the study 'Estimation of food losses and food waste in Uruguay: scope and causes'[1] was developed. This study was based on the primary product groups that represent more than 90% of the country's gross value of agricultural production. The results indicate that, for the period 2011 - 2016, of the total food available for human consumption, approximately 10% is lost or wasted annually. In volume, this represents about 1 million tons per year. In economic terms (on a raw material basis), the volume of food losses and waste translates into an estimated loss of USD 600 million annually.

If analyzed throughout the value chain, 40 % are concentrated in the production stage, 26 % in post-harvest, 15 % during processing, 8 % in distribution and marketing, and 11 % in households (Figure 1). It is noteworthy that 66 % of food losses and waste occur in the production and postharvest stages, which are the initial stages of the agri-food supply chain.

Source: National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2019.

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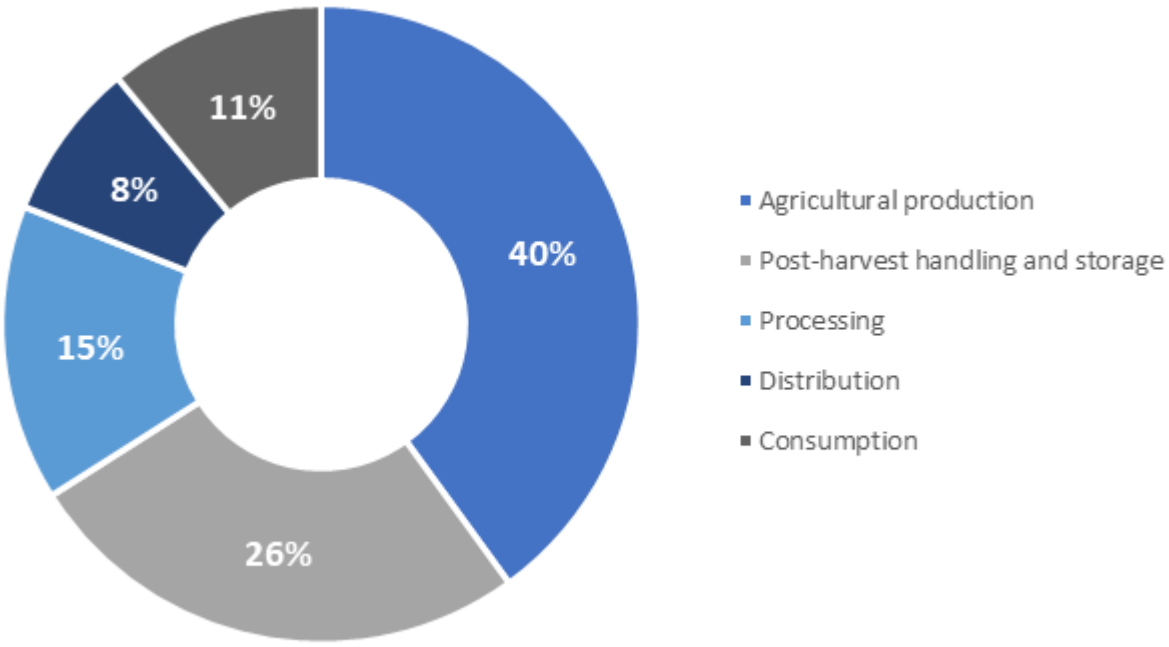


Figure 2. Uruguay food losses and waste throughout the supply chain (%).

Source: estimation of food losses and waste in Uruguay: scope and causes. FAO (2017).

Food production along the entire production and supply chain involves, among other environmental aspects, the generation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (INGEI) is prepared in accordance with the IPCC Guidelines. According to this methodology, the emissions of the chain are aggregated within the different sectors of the INGEI, which does not allow the individualization of the emissions corresponding to each stage of the chain. There, emissions due to the decomposition of food waste at final disposal sites are clearly reflected, which for the year 2021 were 1,365 Gg CO_2-eq GWP100AR5/year.

There are some tools such as The Food Loss and Waste Value Calculator developed by The Food Loss & Waste Protocol[1] that allow us to have estimated values for the main food supply chains. Based on the use of this tool, the following is a first estimate of GHG emissions in CO2 equivalent associated with the production and final disposal of FLW for the main food production chains at the national level. To construct this estimate and considering that there is currently insufficient information on the final destination of lost or wasted food, a maximum possible emission scenario was considered, assuming that 100% of the FLW are destined for final disposal.

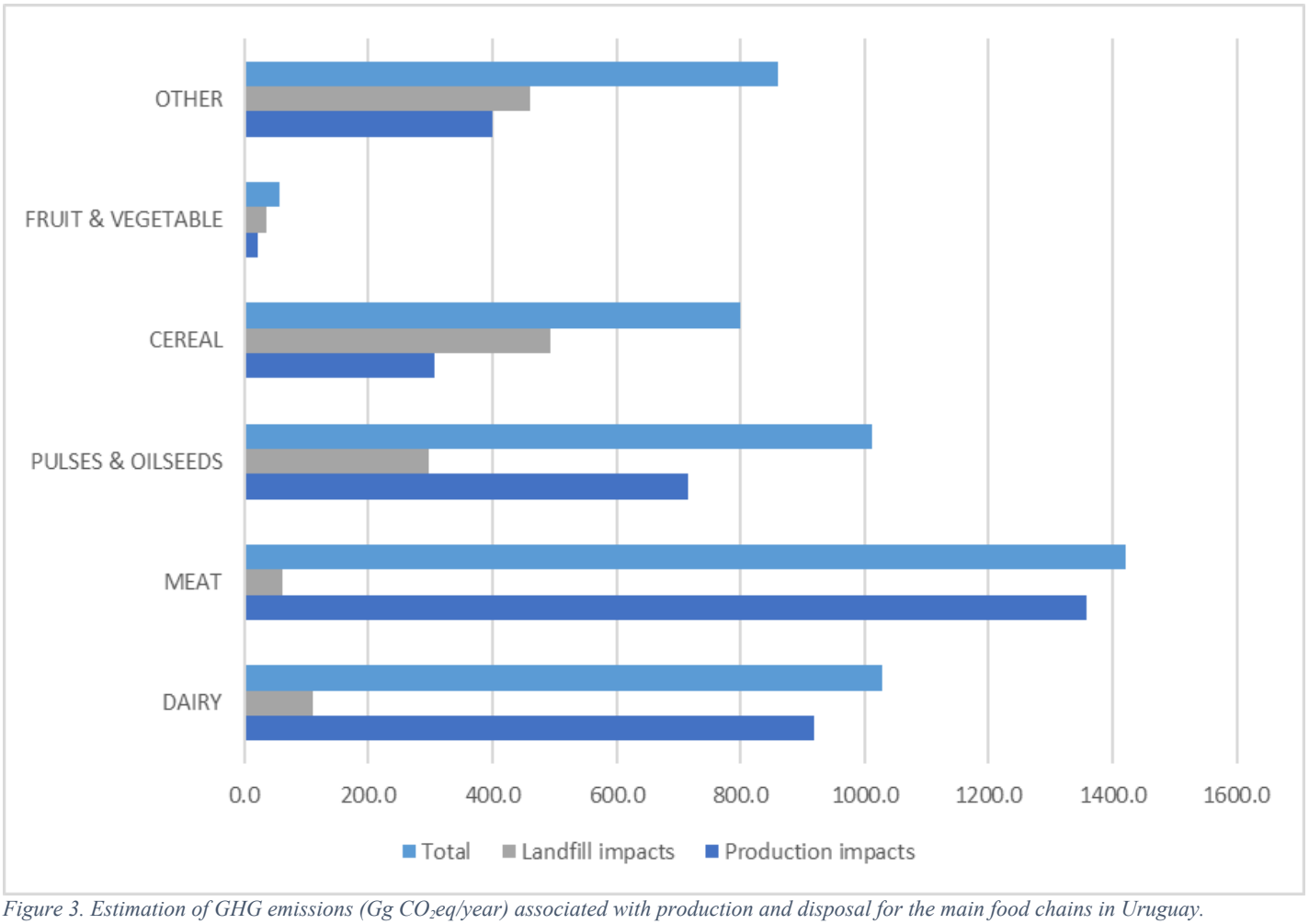


Figure 3. Estimation of GHG emissions (Gg CO_2eq/year) associated with production and disposal for the main food chains in Uruguay.

As can be seen, the greatest weight of emissions in all chains, except for cereals and others, is in the production phase. This graph shows the importance of actions to prevent and reduce FLW in the early stages of the chain in order to mitigate GHG emissions that contribute to climate change.

Contributions to Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Current waste management practices are also contribution to the releases of Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants such as Dioxins and Furans. According to the last update of the National Dioxins and Furnas Emission Inventory (2015), the following should be highlighted:

Table 4. 2015 dioxins and furans inventory related to waste management.

	Emissions gTEQ/year (2015)
Municipal Solid Waste incineration (Cat. 1)	0.15
Hazardous Waste incineration (Cat.1)	0.546
Fires at dump sites (Cat. 6)	1.832
Uncontrolled burning of Municipal Solid Waste (Cat. 6)	1.200
Sanitary landfills and dumpsites (Cat. 9)	7.066
Subtotal	**10.794**

It is worthy to highlight that 10.794 gTEQ represents 45% of the total amount of dioxins and furans releases estimated by the 2015 inventory (23.73 gTEQ/year). Activities aimed at first reducing waste generation and then improving the management of existing waste streams through the circularity of materials and the adoption of best practices for their reuse and recycling, make it possible to minimize the release of these pollutants.

As previously mentioned, National Implementation Plan is being updated and more accurate information for POPs inventory will be available.

Waste management and circularity

The economy in Uruguay continues to be basically linear. Despite the efforts that have been made in recent years, recycling of materials and consumption of secondary materials is minimum. In order to promote a circular economy, waste management policy is a key aspect, and the actions developed by the waste sector have a transversal effect on all sectors of activity.

In recent years, Uruguay has made progress in waste management, driven largely by the development of waste management regulations. However, waste management in Uruguay continues to be inadequate and insufficient in several aspects. The prevailing model is based on the landfilling of waste, the less preferable alternative in the hierarchical scale of management established in the Integrated Waste Management Law. This situation is aggravated by the fact that the infrastructure for final waste disposal is deficient. While approximately 75% of city waste is disposed of in sanitary landfills, open dumps and controlled dumps continue to operate in the country´s territory. As a result, negative environmental impacts are generated throughout the country, such as water contamination by waste or leachates, air pollution due to uncontrolled burning and the generation of contaminated sites. It is a sector that has lagged behind in technological incorporation, research and process optimization. In addition, regarding household waste, there is a lack of planning in the processes, which has repercussions, among other things, in the insufficient allocation of economic resources to provide services with the necessary quality standards, which in turn contributes to a low willingness by the population to pay for the services.

One of the greatest challenges at the national level is to change the predominant model, based on landfill, towards a model that effectively prioritizes the reduction of generation and recovery.

Although there is a strong social perception that waste is one of the main environmental problems in our country, part of the population has not yet internalized the essential guidelines for proper waste management. This phenomenon can be seen in the generation of endemic garbage dumps, the abandonment of waste in public places (beaches, squares, streets) and the inadequate use of waste containers, among other practices.

On the other hand, there are many local initiatives through which different actors in society promote the transition towards more sustainable production and consumption models, hand in hand with more efficient, robust and socially inclusive waste management systems. These include: beach clean-up movements; community and household composting initiatives; projects for the recovery of food losses and waste for social purposes; initiatives for the selective collection of materials, among others. As a result, there is a greater involvement and participation of the population in general in waste-related problems. These initiatives are aimed at questioning the predominant production and consumption models and offering alternatives aligned with the transition to a circular economy.

Integrated waste management within the paradigm of the circular economy is at the core of current issues related to sustainable development, as it has an impact on environmental, social and economic issues. At the same time, due to its cross-cutting nature, the approach of circular economy in the integrated waste management offers the potential to be a driving force for transformations in all sectors of society.

Problem analysis: barriers and root causes identified to be addressed.

The proposed full-size project aims to reduce pollutant emissions and releases (GHGs, UPOPs) through integrated chemicals and waste management towards a circular economy in Uruguay. For that purpose, a preliminary analysis of barriers and root causes to be addressed was conducted. The analysis resulted in three main root causes listed in below:

a) Insufficient/Incipient implementation of existing policies and plans for waste management with a circularity approach.

Over the last few years, Uruguay has made significant progress in the development of different regulatory instruments, policies, national strategies, and management plans directing efforts of different stakeholders towards improving waste management with focus on the minimization of waste generation and increasing materials circularity. Those measures are currently giving an excellent framework to boost the desired change to circularity but so far, no major progress has been made in their implementation.

Referring to the policies and plans most of them have experienced different delays and the need of re defining their objectives. In terms of the regulatory framework some laws and regulations are pending of development while the implementation, control, and enforcement of those currently in force are facing several challenges.

Additionally, it is of great relevance consistency and articulation of different levels of governments (national, departmental, and municipal). Currently, there is evidence of disparity between the capacities and degrees of implementation among the different departments.

This root cause is mainly linked to different institutional barriers that were assessed and identified as follows:

- Insufficient resources for the implementation of existing plans.
- Insufficient capacity for monitoring and control of implementation.
- Weak inter-institutional articulation (nation, departments, municipalities).
- Deficiencies in the institutional and technical capacity of the municipalities for waste management.
- Lack of information on the financial structure of the waste management system at the departmental level.
- Insufficient information on volumes and streams of waste generated and its management, including the circularity of materials.
- Disparity in regulatory frameworks at the departmental level.
- Insufficient planning at the departmental level.
- Deficiencies in the institutional and technical capacity of the municipalities.
- Lack of synergy between the systems applied by the municipalities.

b) Low levels of financing and investment for the adoption of circular models in the different sectors of the economy (linked to different waste streams).

Experience and evidence of the adoption of circularity principles along different value chains of the economy are not widely spread. Linear production models and waste treatment-oriented management still predominate. The focus continues to be on the implementation of downstream improvements without clear trends in the importance of incorporating upstream measures that make it possible to minimize waste generation and, in the second instance, facilitate the circularity of materials (reuse, repair, recycle). The role of the private sector is key to meeting the challenges associated with this root cause as well as the approach to business models with a socio-inclusive perspective.

This root cause is mainly linked to different technical/investment barriers that were assessed and identified as follows:

- Insufficient financial resources for the implementation of pilot and circular production initiatives.
- Limited technical capacity in the different actors for the management of the life cycle of materials.
- Isolated local initiatives to promote sustainable production and consumption.
- Lack of knowledge and experience in the implementation of circular models.
- High degree of informality in the waste recovery and valorization chain (waste pickers and intermediaries).
- Low technological incorporation, research and process optimization.
- Lack of effective instruments to stimulate the adoption of alternative materials and incorporate eco-design in products of interest.

- Limited selective collection, low levels of recovery and valorization.
- Insufficient information and traceability on polluting substances in the different value chains.
- Deficient infrastructure and significant operational deficiencies in most of the final disposal sites.
- Lack of interaction between municipalities and related private companies.
- Inefficient collection system.

c) Difficulty in generating incentives and building capacity at different levels to enable the transition to the circular economy (individuals, companies, organizations, etc.

One of the greatest challenges to definitely achieve a shift towards a circular economy is to reach the commitment and involvement of every stakeholder in the society. Each of the stakeholders within the value chain requires different but equally important competencies and commitments. Undoubtedly is the importance of the public engagement. The absence of dissemination of relevant information and knowledge impedes each of the actors to effectively contribute to the behavioral change required.

This root cause is mainly linked to different knowledge, information and behavioral barriers that were assessed and identified as follows:

- Unequal waste management systems between departments that generate confusion among the population.
- Lack of adequate and timely information to know the status and evolution of waste management and to identify priorities.
- Underutilization of existing communication channels.
- Low incorporation of essential guidelines for waste management.
- Isolated initiatives to promote sustainable consumption.
- Lack of continuity in awareness and communication campaigns aligned with the measures implemented, as a way of supporting changes in the population's habits.
- Lack of publicly available information on waste management by municipalities.
- Lack of awareness of health and environmental impacts

[1] National Waste Management Plan - Uruguay + Circular

[2] Chemicals in Plastics - UNEP, 2023.

[3] 'Estimation of food losses and food waste in Uruguay: scope and causes' – FAO 2017.

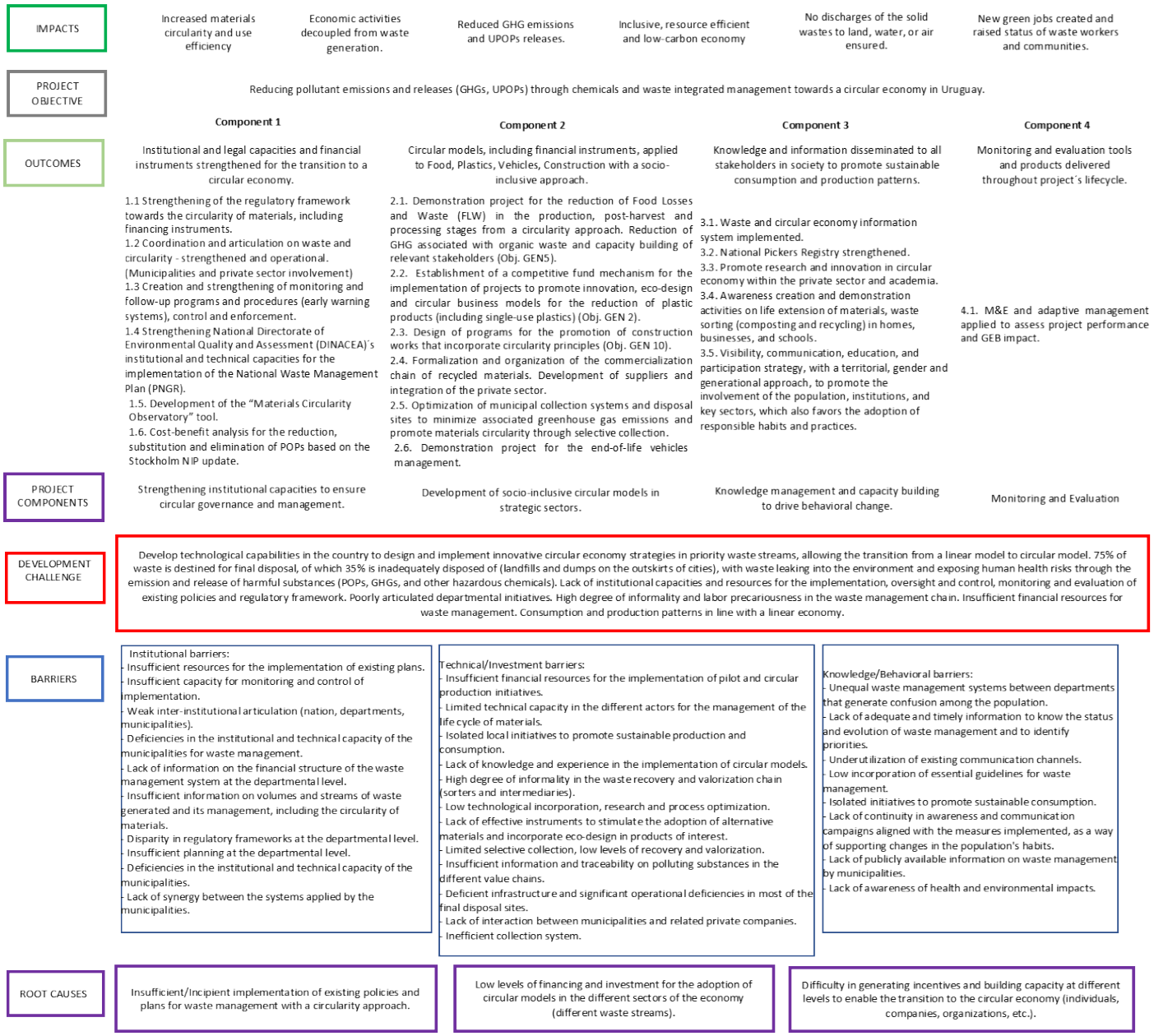
[4] *The Food Loss & Waste Protocol* (2018) *The Food Loss and Waste Value Calculator*. https://flwprotocol.org/why-measure/food-loss-and-waste-value-calculator/

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

The following project´s theory of change has been developed which understands and include previously identified barriers and challenges to deliver proper interventions and effective actions to address them, for the achievement of the project´s objective:



The Project is based on the strategic priorities and global results of the "Uruguay + Circular" - National Waste Management Plan (PNGR) as is the current strategic planning instrument at the national level setting the pathway to the transition towards a more circular Uruguay through the improvement of waste management. The "Uruguay + Circular" Plan is led by the Ministry of Environment and with the participation of multiple stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, academia and organized civil society.

Based on the previous problem analysis, the project is proposed to be structured through three main components and a fourth one destined to the Monitoring and Evaluation activities throughout project life. It is important to highlight that this Project has been designed considering the recently approved GEF/UNDP Project Shifting to Zero Waste Against Pollution (SWAP) in which Uruguay is participating through its metropolitan area of Montevideo (including San José and Canelones). This Full-Size Project establishes in each of its Components clear scopes and synergies with SWAP activities in order enhance the common objective of promoting circularity in the country. Moreover, it will be ensured that best practices and lessons learned in each of the projects are captured and duly shared at both the national and local levels, in each department and municipality.

COMPONENT 1: Strengthening institutional capacities to ensure circular governance and management.

This component seeks to enable the Ministry of the Environment to respond to the technical needs for the application of public policy, as well as to propose and implement actions for promoting circular solutions in the use of resources and waste management at different levels, as a sustainable development strategy. Within the Ministry special institutional strengthening and technical capacity building will be directed to the National Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment (DINACEA) for its strategic role in the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan.

Additionally, this component will strengthen the regulatory framework by supporting the development of remaining legal instruments as well as suitable mechanisms for the monitoring, control and enforcement of the existing policies and programmes resulting from strategic planning towards a circular economy.

Finally, it will ensure the establishment of coordination spaces where different stakeholders from public sector at national and local level, as well as private organizations, academia and civil society organizations efficiently interact and undertake commitments towards a circular Uruguay.

OUTCOME 1: Institutional and legal capacities and financial instruments strengthened for the transition to a circular economy.

Output 1.1. Strengthening of the regulatory framework towards the circularity of materials, including financial instruments.

In particular this Output will focus on the development of the required legal instruments to manage the following materials with a circularity approach: Construction waste; End-of-life vehicles; Oils; Additives in plastics, and Microplastics. Standards will be also developed for the incorporation of circular economy criteria in environmental permitting processes and strengthening of the sustainable public procurement strategy. Also, this output will contribute to the strengthening of capacities for the design of suitable financial and economic instruments towards circular business models in identified sectors as developed under component 2.

In addition, actions will include the strengthening of departmental regulations in synergy with the national ones (second phase policy development).

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Output 1.2. Coordination and articulation on waste and circularity - strengthened and operational. (Local governments and private sector involvement)

This Output aims to establish coordination mechanisms where government institutions (at national, departmental and municipal level), related private entities, workers' unions, professional associations, and cooperative federations articulate to move forward in Uruguay´s circularity. The establishment of this coordination mechanism aims to increase private sector investments in circularity and waste management by developing incentives for the private sector and enhancing dialogue and collaboration between producers, importers and users of key strategic sectors. The coordination mechanism will include working groups, workshops, trainings sessions and opportunities to participate in technical discussions as part of the development process of new regulations/standards/guidelines, etc.

Output 1.3. Creation and strengthening of monitoring and follow-up programs and procedures (early warning systems), control and enforcement.

Within this output, activities will be destined to at first design proper monitoring systems with early warning indicators for the effective implementation of existing programmes and plans. Main focus will be destined to circularity of materials and the monitoring of indicators of the National Waste Management Plan (Uruguay + Circular).

The monitoring data will include gender related data that can provide insights and evidence on the use of and exposure to hazardous chemicals and their impact.

In addition, this output will contribute to enhance current control and enforcement capacities of the related regulatory framework.

Output 1.4 Strengthening National Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment (DINACEA)´s institutional and technical capacities for the implementation of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan.

This Output aims to contribute to enhance National Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment (DINACEA) capacities as the lead role in the implementation of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan. Capacity building will be aligned to meet requirements under national regulations and international chemicals and waste conventions as well as BAT/BEP practices within the integrated waste management and design of circular projects.

The strengthening of the DINACEA will enable the transfer of knowledge and capacity to the departments/municipalities.

Output 1.5. Development of the "Materials Circularity Observatory" tool.

The "Materials Circularity Observatory" is a tool that will define monitoring tools and alert system, with consequent mitigation measures in case of facing market barriers, in the different material streams where circularity and recycling activities are promoted. The objective of this tool is to mitigate market instability that could negatively impact efforts directed towards circularity and recycling of materials. This tool will be part of the Unique integrated information system of Waste and circular economy (SUIIR) to be implemented within Output 3.1.

Output 1.6. Cost-benefit analysis for the reduction, substitution and elimination of POPs based on the Stockholm National Implementation Plan (NIP) update.

This Output aims to provide technical assistance to undertake a cost-benefit analysis for the substitution and phase out of POPs and Highly Hazardous Chemicals. The analysis will take into account health and environmental impacts. If the information required at the beginning of the project is not available for a cost-benefit analysis, this Output will conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis, this will be further assessed during PPG phase. Activities will be performed in partnership with relevant enterprises, ministries, and the chamber of industries (CIU), to determine which processes/operations can be developed/adjusted to decrease POPs. The objective is to analyze available alternatives in the market and understand barriers for their introduction and use. The outcomes of the study will provide relevant decision-making information for ministries and will provide stakeholders options and related costs for phaseout.

This Output will use as inputs the results from the Stockholm National Implementation Plan (NIP) currently being updated.

Synergies of Component 1 with SWAP Project:

The SWAP initiative through its Component 1 has the objective to enable conditions to promote the integrated planning of the metropolitan area (Montevideo, Canelones and San José) waste management towards zero waste cities. The interventions within mentioned Component will support the development of policies and governance strategies for the metropolitan area waste management based on local reliable and accurate data and incentives to achieve zero waste going to landfills. And consequently, promote and support the adoption of circularity approaches in available value chains for different waste streams in the metropolitan area. Through this component the SWAP Initiative aims to address current Uruguay metropolitan area waste challenges faced by Montevideo, San José and Canelones cities, but with focus on designing a clear pathway to a zero-waste municipality by building institutional capacity, appropriate governance structure and designing suitable policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks that encourage concrete actions towards sustainable production and consumption, circular economy business models, waste reduction, green procurement, sustainable material management, among others.

While the SWAP Initiative will strengthen institutional and governance at metropolitan area level, this Full-Size Project (FSP) aims to strengthen government institutions at national level providing with technical capacities and proper tools such as the "Materials Circularity Observatory" and "Early Warning Systems" to effectively implement current National Plans, Policies and Strategies towards circularity in Uruguay.

In addition, identified pending national regulatory framework will be supported and developed. This FSP will support each of the municipalities in Uruguay (excluding Canelones, San José and Montevideo) to ensure that their departmental regulations are aligned with national regulations and by strengthening national institutions the Project aims to provide appropriate guidelines to the effective implementation of national strategies towards circularity in each of the municipal territories to promote a national outreach.

This project will also take advantage on the currently being updated NIP and provide inputs for a national strategy and for decisions makers to substitute POPs available in the country.

Synergies and coordination among national and local government authorities and relevant institutions will be sought in both projects.

COMPONENT 2: Development of socio-inclusive circular models in strategic sectors.

Objective: This Component aims to build national capacity through the implementation of different demonstration and/or pilot activities in key strategic sectors for the adoption of circular models. These piloting activities aims to provide evidence to the selected sectors of the economy of the technical and financial sustainability of the implementation of circularity principles in business models. Additionally, activities will help to build capacity in key stakeholders and lessons learned will be captured for proper dissemination under Component 3. The activities will seek to support departmental governments in their competences for waste management, considering that they are priority actors as well as a socio productive inclusive of informal recyclers and gender approach.

The Project through the activities within this Component will also seek to leverage private funds towards circular business models in identified sectors. For this purpose, the design of suitable financial and economic instruments will be supported. Further assessment of the required instruments will be conducted during PPG phase.

OUTCOME 2: Circular models, including financial instruments, applied to Food, Plastics, Vehicles, Construction with a socio-inclusive approach.

Output 2.1. Demonstration project for the reduction of Food Losses and Waste (FLW) in the production, post-harvest and processing stages from a circularity approach. Reduction of GHG associated with organic waste and capacity building of relevant stakeholders (Objective GEN5).

This Output will support the development of a pilot project in upstream food value chain where the majority of the food losses and waste occurs (as identified in the baseline information based on the study conducted by a FAO, near 60% of total food losses and waste in Uruguay). This activity will support the assessment and introduction of circularity principles in the production, post-harvest and processing stages through partnership with relevant stakeholders. This Output will be properly articulated with the research and innovation in circular economy to be promoted within Output 3.3.

Output 2.2. Establishment of a competitive fund mechanism for the implementation of projects to promote innovation, eco-design and circular business models for the reduction of plastic products (including single-use plastics) (OBJECTIVE GEN 2).

This activity aims to design a strategy for the establishment of a competitive fund mechanism stimulating innovative proposals that promote the development of solutions for the reduction of plastics (including single-use plastics). This competitive fund will consider initiatives that introduce eco-design, green chemistry, substitution, sustainable production, circularity principles, etc. for plastic products of relevance within the country. The strategy will also incorporate a socio-productive inclusive approach and gender considerations. This Output will be properly articulated with the research and innovation in circular economy to be promoted within Output 3.3.

This Output will deliver results linked to the POPs reduction (UV-328 additive).

Output 2.3. Design of programs for the promotion of construction works that incorporate circularity principles (Objective GEN 10).

This Output aims to accelerate the adoption of the circular economy in the construction sector. Material and resource efficiency is at the heart of circular approaches in construction, as well as designing infrastructures/buildings for adaptation, and disassembly and to preserve the value of materials beyond their initial use. The activity will support the definition of national programs to encourage the shift to think of buildings not just for their primary purpose, but also as a method of storing thousands of tons of valuable products and materials, which can be traded and reused at the end of the building's life, rather than just discarded. Furthermore, chemicals of concern being used in the construction sector will be identified for enhancing its phasing out.

This Output will be properly articulated with the research and innovation in circular economy to be promoted within Output 3.3.

This Output will deliver results linked to the POPs reduction (HBCD).

Output 2.4. Formalization and organization of the supply chain of recycled materials (intermediaries). Development of suppliers and integration of the private sector.

Through this Output the project will support Uruguay in strengthening tools to promote the social, labor and productive inclusion of intermediaries in the formal waste recovery system required by the Integrated Waste Management Law (Law No. 19,829 of September 18, 2019), Chapter VI. There are multiple actors in the recyclable waste commercialization chain. The middle link of this

chain is integrated by different warehouses (intermediaries), from micro entrepreneurs, going to small deposits and then to medium sized ones, that lastly sell the recovered materials to local recycling industries or export them. Most of the micro and some of the small intermediaries are informal operators and develop their activities in vulnerable contexts and precarious conditions. The formalization and organization of the materials commercialization chain will contribute to overcome harmful practices of informal work with impacts on the health of waste pickers, their families and other people around them, as well as on the local environment, transforming it into socially inclusive waste management schemes. The formalization of the supply chain of recycled materials will foster the adoption of circularity principles and BAT and BEP in the collection of materials. The activity will also ensure proper linkage and engagement of the related private stakeholders.

Output 2.5. Optimization of municipal collection systems and disposal sites to minimize associated greenhouse gas emissions and promote materials circularity through selective collection.

This Output will support intendencies in conducting technical and environmental assessment on their collection systems and waste logistics and design a strategy to optimize them in a sustainable way to provide an efficient and quality service with the consequent reduction of associated greenhouse gasses. Additionally, technical assistance will be provided to support methane capture and flaring at disposal sites (with and without energy recovery). This Output presents synergies with the Uruguay´s first and second Nationally Determined Contribution to climate change mitigation.

In line with the National Strategy for the Prevention of Food Losses and Waste, a management model will be established for the production of household compost, which will promote the development of organic vegetable gardens and will support the municipalities in its implementation.

Output 2.6. Demonstration project for the end-of-life vehicles management.

Legal framework for the sound management of vehicles at their end of life will be supported under Component 1. This Output will therefore provide support for the development of a pilot project for the management of vehicle plastics and waste through their lifecycle and end of life. The pilot will be implemented through public private partnership and support a feasibility analysis for a business model for the management of this type of waste. It will also strengthen vehicle management network, provide training and guidance of BAT/BEP.

This activity will also assess and provide guidance on the adoption of circular principles within the automotive industry. This Output will be properly articulated with the research and innovation in circular economy to be promoted within Output 3.3.

This Output will deliver results linked to the POPs reduction (PBDE).

Synergies of Component 2 with SWAP Project:

In terms of the materials and/or waste streams in which to promote the application of circular principles, this project seeks to direct efforts to build capacity at the national level in a complementary manner to those that will be addressed by the SWAP project at metropolitan level.

Regarding Food Losses and Waste, this FSP seeks to improve the upstream stages of the value chain according to the “Estimation of food losses and waste in Uruguay: scope and causes” developed by FAO (2017). The upstream stages means: agricultural production; post-harvest handling and processing. On the other hand, the SWAP Initiative will focus the management improvement among the Distribution and Consumption phase due to its major relevance and concentration within the metropolitan area.

In terms of Construction waste and materials circularity, complementarity will be based on terms of government competencies and territory of implementation. This Full-Size Project will contribute to design and implement programs which encourage circularity within the activity as a national strategic framework to boost experiences and practices in different departments at national levels. This activity aims to give national support to avoid chemicals of concerns in building and construction sector and provide assistance to municipalities for avoiding the mismanagement of this waste stream within its territories. To leverage results at national scale, lessons learned from the SWAP Initiative will be duly taken into account. The SWAP Initiative will provide evidence in local context to increase recycling and reuse of materials in the value chain, introducing circular business models and identify and phase out chemicals of concern.

The End-of-Life Vehicles management national regulatory framework is not yet in place and this Full-Size Project will be aligned in timeline to support both the regulations and the pilot activities to evidence technical and economic feasibility of its sound

management as well as the adoption of circular business models. On the other hand, the SWAP Initiative in Uruguay will not allocate resources to address End of Life Vehicles management at metropolitan level.

Plastics as one of the major problems at local and national level will be duly addressed by both projects. This Project will focus on single-use plastics due to the due to the national strategy related to the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan in a complementary manner to enhance their solution throughout the territory. Additionally, this Project will deal with topics related to plastics that have not been addressed in the country so far, such as: microplastics and additives and chemicals in plastics. The SWAP Initiative will focus on packaging plastics due to its wide availability and high consumption in the metropolitan area. Activities will be destined to apply green chemistry and circularity principles to phase out chemicals of concern and introduce circular business models.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the electrical and electronic equipment will be fully addressed by the SWAP Initiative since these kinds of products are mostly available in the metropolitan area as well as the existing e-waste managers.

COMPONENT 3: Knowledge management and capacity building to drive behavioral change.

Component 3 focuses on information systems and knowledge management within the framework of the implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of the National Waste Management Plan. The success of the implementation of this policy towards a transition to a circular economy depends to a large extent on establishing a systemic vision, including environmental, social, cultural, economic, and technological parameters at every stage. To this end, the involvement of key public and private stakeholders, as well as society as a whole, is a priority to ensure that waste management is recognized as an opportunity for the extended generation of value, quality jobs and environmental protection.

OUTCOME 3: Knowledge and information disseminated to all stakeholders in society to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Output 3.1. Waste and circular economy information system implemented.

The Ministry of Environment is currently directing efforts towards the development and implementation of a Unique integrated information system of Waste and circular economy (SUIIR). The main objective is to promote a continuous and fluid process of monitoring achievements, challenges, and opportunities to transform the view: from waste to resources and thus tend to a more circular Uruguay. The system will generate systematic information reflecting parameters and standards for analysis, reports and evaluations to support the design of accurate public policies and institutional decision making. This Output will support the development of different modules within the system. These modules could be: Materials Traceability; National inventory of circular economy initiatives, to promote their dissemination; Circular economy indicators; Register of repairers; Register of sustainable alternatives; Materials circularity; among others.

Output 3.2. Pickers National Registry strengthened.

The Integrated Waste Management Law No. 19829 of 2019, creates in its article 33 the National Registry of Pickers as a basis for the implementation of the social inclusion actions provided for in the law. This Output will support the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) for the effective implementation of the National Pickers Registry and the monitoring of the social inclusion of waste pickers. The activity seeks to broaden the scope of the registry to make it more representative of the universe of pickers and generate a platform that facilitates both the uploading of information (registration and updating of persons) and its consultation by companies.

The implementation of the Social Inclusion Initiatives Inventory will be also supported by this activity.

Output 3.3. Promote research and innovation in circular economy within the private sector and academia.

This Output will support a strategy to foster research and innovation in circular economy, different initiatives will be explored, such as: i) Facilitate collaboration between academia and the private sector by establishing partnerships, joint research initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Encourage cross-disciplinary collaborations to bring together diverse expertise.; ii) Offer grants, funding, and incentives to encourage research and innovation in circular economy practices.; Establish dedicated research centers, labs, or institutes focusing on circular economy studies.; iii) Integrate circular economy principles into academic curricula at various levels, including undergraduate and graduate programs.; iv) Facilitate the transfer of research outcomes and technologies from academia to the private sector. Provide mechanisms for startups and businesses to access and implement innovative circular solutions.

Output 3.4. Behavioral change and demonstration activities on life extension of materials, waste sorting (composting and recycling) in homes, businesses, and schools.

This Output will enhance population engagement through different demonstration activities for raising awareness and generate commitment in waste prevention, materials circularity, product life extension through reuse and repair as well as waste sorting (with focus on composting and recycling). Information and guidelines for sustainable consumption will be also disseminated to encourage behavioral change through behavioral economics lessons and tools. This activity will mainly target homes, schools, business, national local and public offices and universities.

Output 3.5. Visibility, communication, education, and participation strategy, with a territorial, gender and generational approach, to promote the involvement of the population, institutions, and key sectors, which also favors the adoption of responsible habits and practices.

The main objective of this Output is to build capacity in different key stakeholders in society by providing knowledge and information for the adoption of sustainable behaviors towards a more circular Uruguay. This Output will also guarantee the dissemination of the knowledge produced and lessons learned during the implementation of different Project Outputs.

Synergies of Component 3 with SWAP Project:

This Full-Size Project will enhance the information availability at national level by contributing to the development of a unique, robust information system, ensuring interconnection and exchange with remaining departments and municipalities within the territory, lessons learned within SWAP Initiative will be taken into consideration. Additionally, support will be destined to strengthen the National Pickers Registry which will undoubtedly contribute to strengthen and benefit informal workers labor conditions. Demonstration activities and communication strategy will be also enabling replicability and scale-up at national level. Whereas the SWAP Initiative will support the dissemination and information availability at local level for raising awareness of every key stakeholder, including the informal sector, in the waste management chain. It will contribute to test, validate, improve, and operationalize mechanisms for information and knowledge exchange between municipal/departmental (Montevideo, Canelones and San José) and national level.

COMPONENT 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

OUTCOME 4: Monitoring and evaluation tools and products delivered throughout project´s lifecycle.

Output 4.1: M&E and adaptive management applied to assess project performance and GEB impact.

The project results will be monitored periodically during implementation to ensure that the project effectively achieves its results. The results of the evaluations will be reported in an intermediate and final evaluation and the captured lessons learned 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.

A Technical Advisory Committee composed of the key stakeholders will be formed to advise on the implementation of the project and strengthen the participation of every relevant stakeholder.

Innovation, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up:

Innovation:

The innovation of this project is based on the integrated approach based on the National Waste Management Plan as the current strategic planning tool of Uruguay towards a circular economy by addressing waste management in key strategic sectors with a socio inclusive perspective. The integrated approach consists of, on the one hand, the systematic improvement of the institutional, policy and legal framework, and on the other hand, the design and implementation of different demonstration activities and pilot projects.

For the Institutional strengthening the project aims to develop pending already identified legal instruments that will complete the legal framework for promoting circularity through waste streams management. Simultaneously, institutional, and technical capacity will be built for the effective implementation of the National Waste Management Plan and proper guideline to different departments/municipalities within the territory in alignment with national framework. Additionally, innovative tools like the “Materials Circularity Observatory” and early warning systems for proper monitoring and follow up will be developed. The socio

inclusive perspective will be given by the strengthening of the National Pickers Registry, the formalization and organization of the commercialization chain of recycled material, and the engagement and capacity built of these groups in the demonstration and pilot activities.

The proposed pilots and demonstration activities will provide innovative, environmentally, and economically sustainable solutions for the reduction of POPs containing waste, UPOPs releases and GHG emissions linked to different key strategic sectors such as Food Losses and Waste, End of Life Vehicles, Plastics, Construction by introducing circularity principles. Activities destined to improve existing Collection Systems as well as technical support for landfill gas capturing will be supported.

Finally, the project will support the development of the Waste and Circular Economy National Information System, the first integrated system of national scope that will contribute to make knowledge and information available for every stakeholder.

Sustainability:

Sustainability of the project interventions beyond its completion will be mainly ensured as follows:

Through Component 1, by strengthening the legal framework and the institutions capacities, in particular DINACEA´s to guarantee the proper implementation of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan as well as other National Strategies towards circularity, as well as give proper guideline to departments and municipalities throughout the territory. In addition, the development of monitoring tools will ensure the follow up of programs and procedures, enabling also taking corrective actions when required.

This Component also foresees the strengthening of coordination mechanisms where government institutions (at national, departmental and municipal level), related private entities, workers' unions, professional associations, and cooperative federations articulate to move forward in Uruguay´s circularity. These mechanisms will constitute spaces for dialogue and articulation that will perpetuate beyond the life of the project.

Through Component 2, pilots and demonstration activities will be designed based on national needs and will be implemented to guarantee its social, environmental, and economical sustainability. In addition, the implementation will ensure the required capacity built in key stakeholders enabling technical and operational sustainability of the installed capacity. The formalization and organization of the supply chain of recycled materials (intermediaries) together with the development of suppliers and linking to private sector will contribute to the market sustainability enabling materials circularity. This Component will also develop suitable financial and economic incentives to ensure investment sustainability.

Through Component 3, behavioral change activities will be key to promote the desired change in every stakeholder in society to start introducing in their daily activities and decisions circularity principles such as sustainable consumption. Engaging the academia and private sector in circular economy research will contribute to its promotion beyond the project´s life.

The Uruguay + Circular Project will be also linked to the Plastics IP, the Chemicals in Supply Chains IP which addresses construction, the ISLANDS program and the Electric Mobility Program. Close coordination and exchange of information and sharing of best practices will be ensured with the mentioned initiatives mainly available at regional level for ensuring an effective design and implementation of the activities within the Uruguay + Circular Project.

Scale up:

The project has been designed to integrate and promote up-scale and amplification of successful experiences. The capacity building approach mainstreamed in all components is to ensure knowledge and experiences stay and replicate in country within relevant institutions.

In particular, under Component 1 the engagement of the private sector in the institutional coordination and articulation mechanisms on circularity together with local authorities will foster private investment towards circular business models. Furthermore, the development of national programmes, competitive funding mechanisms as well as financial/economic incentives will be tools that will favor the scaling up of results in the mentioned direction.

Through Component 2, the potential for scale up is based on the pilot projects that will serve as the basis for replication in other cases in the country, supported by the feasibility study developed. The results and lessons learned from each of the pilot projects will be shared among the relevant stakeholders in each of the sectors to encourage their implementation.

Lastly in Component 3, scaling up will be enhanced through the development and implementation of a Unique integrated information system of Waste and circular economy (SUIIR). The system aims to promote a continuous and fluid process of monitoring achievements, challenges, and opportunities to transform the view: from waste to resources and thus tend to a more circular Uruguay. The system will generate systematic information reflecting parameters and standards for analysis, reports and evaluations to support the design of accurate public policies and institutional decision making. Furthermore, the national communication and education strategy will prove knowledge and information for the adoption of sustainable behaviors towards a more circular Uruguay.

Finally, it´s worth to highlight that the design of interventions aligned and in synergy with the SWAP Initiative in the metropolitan area of Uruguay contributes to the three dimensions of innovation, sustainability and scaling up of this Full-Size Project.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

Yes

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

CO supported National Implementation Modality will be used. UNDP will document all execution arrangements clearly in the CEO endorsement request. Strong country ownership and separation between oversight and execution functions will be ensured, as key principles.

Table 1. On-Going Initiatives

On Going Initiatives/projects	Implementation site	Main relevance to this Project
SWAP Initiative	Global (Sierra Leone, China, Uruguay, Tunisia, Turkey)	The SWAP Initiative it's a Global GEF/UNDP Project aims to reduce chemical pollution in the value chain and wasting of resources by supporting the Metropolitan Area (Montevideo, San José y Canelones) in Uruguay towards a zero-waste vision in line with green chemistry, circular economy, and waste hierarchy principles for sustainable production and consumption. Its alignment with this project is unquestionable and during the design of this FIP it has been taken into account to enhance results. The expected synergies between the two projects were described in section B "Project Description"
Building institutional and technical capacities to meet the commitments under the Paris Agreement´s Enhanced Transparency Framework (CBIT 2)	Uruguay-national scope	The CBIT 2 GEF/UNDP project is aimed to strengthen the capacity of Uruguay to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for action and support, established by Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT 2 project will enhance the country´s MRV system for NDC tracking, The institutional arrangements, to ensure regular updating and sustainability of the NDC tracking system will be enhanced, including the synchronization of information gathering and the generation of new datasets to feed the system. Uruguay+Circular project will contribute to NDC commitments of GHG emission reduction from the waste sector and therefore its results and information produced will feed the NDC tracking system, under the measures

		tracking sections and the GHG reduction objectives tracking section.
Climate Promise 2– From pledge to impact	Uruguay-national scope	The Climate Promise 2 project (funded by Germany- BMU) will support the government of Uruguay in the implementation of priority actions for NDCs compliance, such as developing a climate financing strategy including from the private sector, starting the execution of the Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change, as well as preparing the second NDC taking into consideration the Long-Term Climate Strategy for Low Emissions and Climate Resilient Development. Both projects are aligned since the Climate Project is working on the involvement of society in climate and environmental policy to promote cultural change towards the adoption of more sustainable behaviors and responsible consumption. Furthermore, the Climate Promise is mainstreaming gender in the climate policy including the waste sector and the industrial sector as part of the NDC.
Fourth Biennial Report and Sixth National Communication to the UNFCC (BUR4-NC6)	Uruguay-national scope	The BUR4-NC6 GEF/UNDP project aims to assist Uruguay in the preparation and submission of its 6th National Communication and 4th Biennial Update Report for the fulfillment of the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)-The National GHG Inventories are prepared with the support of this project. Both projects will coordinate regarding methodologies and emission factors for the estimation of GHG emission reductions from the implementation of Uruguay+Circular project activities.
Strengthening investment for adoption of alternatives and sustainable management of agrochemicals and agricultural plastics in Africa and Latin America through pilots in Kenya and Uruguay	Child project (Kenia-Uruguay) Uruguay-national scope	Policy and regulatory capacity and surveillance enhanced to improve the management of agricultural plastics Best practices and knowledge inform environmentally sustainable management of pesticides and hazardous pesticide waste, agricultural plastics and adoption of safer alternatives.
Promoting the transition to a circular economy in Uruguay through cleantech innovations	GCIP Global Uruguay-national scope	To accelerate the uptake and investments in cleantech innovations and promote coordination and ecosystems connectivity under the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme. The GCIP child project #10453 'Promoting the transition to a circular economy in Uruguay through cleantech innovations', has two main areas of intervention, one aimed at Power-to-X and the other aimed at promoting the circular economy in agro-industrial value chains, mainly in the dairy sector. The latter will have the greatest synergy with the “Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular)” Project, promoting capacity building for a circular economy approach throughout the food industry value chain. In addition, the project GCIP seeks to generate technical capacities at the national level to promote the circular economy approach, which will generate benefits in the implementation of this Full-Size Project (FSP).

		While the GCIP project will strengthen the circular economy approach in the industrial sectors of the food production chain, mainly dairy, this FSP seeks to develop socio-inclusive circular models in other strategic sectors such as plastics, vehicles, and construction. In relation to the food sector, this project will address the food sector from the perspective of food loss and waste prevention throughout the production, distribution, sales, and consumption value chain, while the GCIP addresses industrial aspects aimed mainly at the processing of secondary materials in the food industry, including the circularity of nutrients.
Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Uruguay-national scope	Update of dioxin and furan inventories, update of the Stockholm Convention National Plan, evaluation of new POPs and design of strategic lines of action.

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 CO_2e (direct)	1089000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	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 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)	1,089,000			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025			
Duration of accounting	5			

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)
38.00	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)
Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE)	3.00			
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)	35.00			

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)

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			

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)
6,184.00			

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)
36,180.00			

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)
16.20			

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	356,200			
Male	328,800			
Total	**685,000**	**0**	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: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated.

GHG avoidance will be achieved through different interventions resulting from the optimization of collection systems, minimizing food losses and waste, increasing circularity in key strategic sectors: food, construction, vehicles and plastics, reduction of waste going to landfills. It is estimated that through project interventions a gradual improvement of a 30% from the 2nd year of project implementation onwards will be achieved. For the estimation the baseline information of 1,210 Gg de CO2-eq GWP 100AR5 emissions linked to the disposal of solid waste corresponding to the National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory - INGEI 1990-2019 prepared in accordance with the IPCC Guidelines (detailed in Section A) was considered.

During the 5 years of project implementation GHG mitigated will be 1,089,000 MT CO2e accrued value.

Considering a time frame of 15 years, as a result of project direct investments and useful life of the adopted technologies, GHG mitigated can be expected at 5,445,000 MT CO2e accrued value.

Core Indicator 9: Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced.

CI.9 - 9.1 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed.

POPs reduction will be achieved through different interventions (improving waste sorting, collection, treatment, and disposal, phase out POPs containing products) mainly in working on the following waste streams: Single Use Plastics, Construction Waste, Vehicles end of life. The project foresees a gradual improvement of 40% on the identified waste streams.

During the 5 years of project implementation 38 MT of pure HBCD, PBDE and UV-328 will be reduced.

The baseline information considered: 7.7 MT of PBDE in vehicles (NIP 2016); 73.4 MT of HBCD in construction (NIP 2016); 14.65 MT of UV-328 in single use plastics (0,1% of stabilizers estimation based on Chemicals in Plastics – UNEP 2023).

CI.9 – 9.8 Plastic waste containing POPs avoided will be achieved through different interventions that will minimize generation of plastic waste, improve sorting, collection and recycling rates, and adoption of circular business models. It is estimated a gradual improvement of a 20%.

During the 5 years of project implementation 6,184 MT of plastic waste containing POPs will be avoided (accrued value)

It is relevant to highlight that the project during its lifetime will also lead to the reduction of plastic waste in an estimated amount of 36,180 tons (accrued value).

Core Indicator 10: Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced.

UPOPs reduction will be achieved by avoiding waste being inadequately incinerated and/or openly burnt, and reduction of waste being disposed in landfills. It is estimated a gradual improvement of a 50%.

During the 5 years of project implementation Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced will be 16.2 gTEQ accrued value.

The baseline information is based on the 2015 NIP Inventory, considering the following: Municipal Solid Waste incineration (Cat. 1); Hazardous Waste incineration (Cat.1); Fires at dump sites (Cat. 6); Uncontrolled burning of Municipal Solid Waste (Cat. 6); Sanitary landfills and dumpsites (Cat. 9).

CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments.

The project is expected to benefit the inhabitants of the country who are directly involved in the different activities of the project.

During the 5 years of project implementation 685,000 people (328,800 men and 356,200 women) will benefit from project activities.

* In Core Indicator Table, the 35 MT of HBCD corresponds to 29.2 MT of HBCD and 5.8 MT of UV-328.

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	Please see the project´s pre SESP for details
Environment and Social	Moderate	Please see the project´s pre SESP for details
Political and Governance	Low	Potential change of Government (next government elections October 2024) might result in new management and technical appointees within entities that are a project partner which might slow down the speed of project implementation at the start of the project. If that is the case, UNDP CO as well as UNDP Regional will provide required support to inform and engage new decision-makers on the national importance of the project.
Macro-economic	Moderate	Fluctuations in macroeconomic indicators may affect project total budget execution. For that purpose, the UNDP CO monitors expenditure on a daily basis and UNDP HQ provides global oversight of project delivery.
Strategies and Policies	Low	The Project has been designed in absolute accordance with national policies and strategies. In particular, it can be highlighted the National Waste Management Plan and the Uruguay´s first and second Nationally Determined Contribution

		to climate change mitigation. In addition, the project is fully aligned to International Chemicals and Waste Conventions adopted by Uruguay.
Technical design of project or program	Low	UNDP Uruguay and the Ministry of Environment have wide experience in Projects funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) related to chemicals and waste and climate change focal areas. Furthermore, the project design foresees the involvement of key stakeholders (at municipal and national level) in different activities to ensure accurate and effective interventions and results.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Moderate	Different key stakeholders, such as government authorities (at national and local levels), private sector, CSO, etc. may lack of knowledge and capacities within the scope of the project to effectively implement different activities. For that purpose, during the PPG phase, awareness raising will be developed during Stakeholders consultations (Inception Workshop, workshops and bilateral meetings). In addition, the different Outputs of the project will be designed including the required associated training and capacity building for different stakeholders ensuring effective implementation and results.
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	Within this category the following was considered: - Currency and inflation effects may impact budget execution: UNDP has suitable monitoring mechanisms in place to minimize this risk. The UNDP CO monitors expenditure on a daily basis and UNDP HQ provides global oversight of project delivery. - Private sector is not willing to participate in project execution:

		during PIF development, consultations were held with the private sector to ensure alignment and engagement. Uruguay already has in place policies and legal frameworks that requires an active role of the private sector which facilitates their involvement. Additionally, during PPG phase, different spaces for consultations will be planes and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be prepared for ensuring alignment and involvement during project implementation.
Stakeholder Engagement	Moderate	Please see the project´s pre SESP for details
Other		None.
Financial Risks for NGI projects		N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	

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)

This project will deliver on the objectives of the Chemical and Waste Focal Area set for the GEF 8 Programming Directions. The detail of how this project is aligned is given below:

Chemicals and Waste: The GEF has developed three key strategic objectives in GEF-8 that seeks to take a systems approach to addressing chemicals and waste and using GEF resources to unlock private and commercial finance to amplify the impact of the GEF supported work. This project aims to contribute to:

- Objective 1: Create, strengthen, and support the enabling environment and policy coherence to transform the manufacture, use, and sound management of chemicals and to eliminate waste and chemical pollution.
- Objective 2: Prevent future buildup of hazardous chemicals and waste in the environment.

The Project is based on the strategic priorities and global results of the “Uruguay + Circular” Plan as it is the current strategic planning instrument at the national level setting the pathway to the transition towards a more circular Uruguay through the improvement of waste management with focus on an upstream solutions approach. This approach will contribute at first to build capacity to adopt proper BAT/BEP for management of targeted waste streams reducing chemical pollution, simultaneously introducing upstream interventions to reduce generation at source by changing consumption and production patterns preventing future buildup of chemicals and waste.

Moreover, the Project is aligned and will support the implementation of the last National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention: 2017-2030 and will build on the results of the of the NIP updates that are currently under development which will provide more current and accurate baseline information and required strategic actions to address POPs in Uruguay.

The current proposal is aligned to SAICM agenda. In particular, the project aims to address the issue of additives and chemicals in plastics. Up to now, there is not enough information in terms of available additives as well as chemicals in plastics within the country. For this purpose, the Project will assess the national situation and develop the required regulatory framework for the proper identification and management. The project also seeks to address microplastics. Although Uruguay has made great progress in the management of plastics, the issue of microplastics is still pending.

Additionally, this Project will support the design and implementation of solutions based on a circularity approach, promoting integration with a model of sustainable and circular cities. This approach through intervention in strategic sectors of the country's economy, by implementing demonstration activities and in synergy with existing on-going initiatives will allow Uruguay to move towards a more efficient use of resources, both energy and materials. In addition, this Full-Size Project will present synergies with the Uruguay´s first and second Nationally Determined Contribution to climate change mitigation, since specific Outputs will be destined to Greenhouse Gases emission resulting from inefficient collection systems as well as technical assistance to implement methane capture and flaring at disposal sites (with and without energy recovery) at national level.

Finally, the project will also contribute to positively impact the protection and conservation of biodiversity. This is mainly related to the fact that the project will reduce plastic pollution that, due to bad practices, ends up in aquatic ecosystems, as well as promote the reduction of POPs emissions into the environment. Addressing waste management and its informality will prevent polluting waste loads from negatively impacting watercourses and altering terrestrial ecosystems, including wetlands.

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

During PIF development consultations with different stakeholders were held. These consultations covered the key public institutions and private organizations which interests and activities are aligned with the project objective. The detail of these consultations are as follows:

- Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) -Esteban Charbonier. August 21, 2023.

- Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) - Heber Freiria. August 21,2023.

  The MTSS, in coordination with MIDES, is responsible for carrying out the National Registry of Waste Pickers, the social inclusion policy for waste pickers and the inventory of initiatives.

- Congress of mayors - Macarena Rubio Congress Executive Secretary; Diego Irazabal, Congress Executive Secretary advisor. August 10, 2023.

  The Congress of Mayors is the coordination unit of the 19 municipalities. The MA is working on a strong link with the Congress of Mayors to strengthen the management of household waste and the circular economy in each of the departments. Independently of the Congress, within the framework of the agreements that are being developed between the MA and each municipality for the closure of open dumps, there is a direct work with each municipality.

- Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (CIU) - Agustin Tazani President of Plan Vale and secretary of the CIU environmental commission. September 26,2023.

  The Chamber of Industries is the guild that brings together all the guilds of the manufacturing industry. The Chamber of Industries and the Ministry of the Environment have a long history of working together on industrial waste, cleaner production technology programs and everything related to the Packaging Management Plan and in particular the new packaging plan called Plan Vale.

  For the purposes of this project, the work with the food chambers that make up the CIU stands out in particular in the Food Loss and Waste Strategy.

- Construction Chamber of Uruguay

  The Chamber of Construction is one of the guilds linked to the construction activity. Since 2021, the Ministry of Environment has been working in coordination with the Chamber to address the management of construction waste and promote the circularity of materials in construction. It is currently actively participating in the development of the construction and demolition waste standard.

- Plastics Technology Center - Maria Dabezies, General Coordinator CTplas. October 3, 2023.

  The Plastic Technology Center (CTplas) is a joint initiative of the Uruguayan Association of Plastics Industries (AUIP), the Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (CIU), the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU) and the Julio Ricaldoni Foundation (FJR), which aims to consolidate the sustainable development of the plastics and recycling industry in Uruguay through the provision of technological services to incorporate innovation, training and technology transfer in companies, considering aspects of competitiveness and environmental impact.

  The MA has been working since 2020 articulating all the lines of work associated with the certification of plastic products and the quality of this material.

- Corporate Commitment to Recycling (CEMPRE) - Marisa Cirillo, Executive Director, October 11, 2023.

  The MA works in a coordinated and articulated manner with CEMPRE to promote recycling and circular economy processes in packaging material.

- PIT CNT Plenario Inter-Union Workers' Plenary (PIT) and National Workers' Convention (CNT) - Jorge Ramada Commission Coordinator, Health and Environment Commission.

  Interlocutor of the PIT CNT in the working groups of the Ministry in relation to the Waste Law and the National Waste Management Plan.

In addition, during the PPG phase further stakeholders' consultations are foreseen. These consultations will scope a broader coverage of stakeholder groups and will include different activities such as Inception/Validation Workshop, bilateral meetings and/or technical workshops, etc. During the PPG phase a stakeholder engagement plan will be developed for ensuring proper engagement activities for each of the identified stakeholders' groups during project implementation.

(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 ($)
UNDP	GET	Uruguay	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	Grant	2,639,726.00	250,774.00	2,890,500.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**2,639,726.00**	**250,774.00**	**2,890,500.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

100000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Uruguay	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	Grant	100,000.00	9,500.00	109,500.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**100,000.00**	**9,500.00**	**109,500.00**

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**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CW-2	GET	2,639,726.00	28300000
Total Project Cost		**2,639,726.00**	**28,300,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	15000000
Recipient Country Government	Departmental governments,	Grant	Investment mobilized	11000000

Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Private Sector	Business chambers (Industry and construction chambers)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800000
Total Co-financing				**28,300,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilized was identified by the Ministry of Environment leading the consultations and information exchange with potential co-financer, who estimated the potential co-finance. The investment mobilized refers to investments that will be done in the future and does not include any past investments.

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

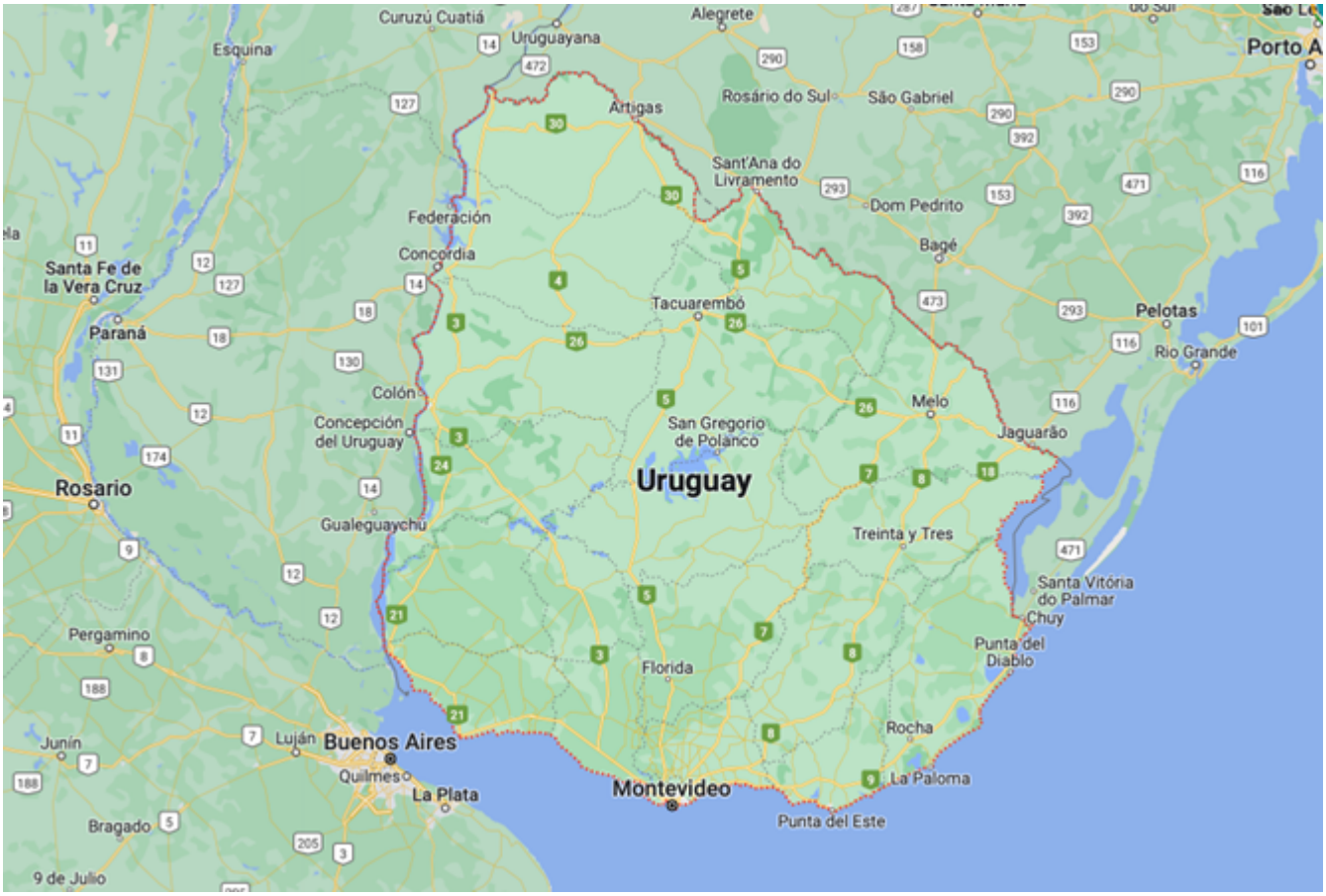
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Robert Bouvier	Minister	Ministry of Environment	11/10/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Project will be conducted at national level.



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
UNDP SESP Uruguay - 16

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

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
☒ Influencing models			
	☒ Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	☒ Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	☒ Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	☒ Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	☒ Deploy innovative financial instruments		
☒ Stakeholders			
	☐ Indigenous Peoples		
	☒ Private Sector		
		☐ Capital providers	
		☐ Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		☐ Large corporations	
		☒ SMEs	
		☒ Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		☐ Non-Grant Pilot	
		☐ Project Reflow	
	☒ Beneficiaries		
	☒ Local Communities		
	☒ Civil Society		
		☒ Community Based Organization	
		☐ Non-Governmental Organization	
		☒ Academia	
		☒ Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	☒ Type of Engagement		
		☒ Information Dissemination	
		☒ Partnership	
		☒ Consultation	
		☒ Participation	
	☒ Communications		
		☒ Awareness Raising	
		☒ Education	
		☐ Public Campaigns	
		☒ Behaviour Change	
☒ Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	☐ Enabling Activities		
	☒ Capacity Development		
	☒ Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	☐ Targeted Research		
	☒ Learning		
		☒ Theory of Change	