



Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Lao PDR and Maldives

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10976

Project Type

EA

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT

CBIT No

Project Title

Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Lao PDR and Maldives

Countries

Global, Lao PDR, Maldives

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Stockholm and Basel Convention Regional Centre, China

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Open Burning, Pesticides, DDT - Vector Management, DDT - Other, Industrial Emissions, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, North-South, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change

Sector

Enabling Activity

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
Stockholm National Implementation Plan (NIP)	4/13/2022	7/1/2022	12/31/2025	12/31/2025

Duration

42In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

59,527.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	626,600.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)		626,600.00	0.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in participating countries through the development, review and update of the NIPs and submission to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Political support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation (funded through project 10785)	1. Developed, reviewed and updated NIPs are endorsed by the national government and roadmaps are adopted by key stakeholders	1.1. Parties are engaged and regularly informed on project progress 1.2 Draft national legislation or mechanism established and roadmap for adoption developed for POPs data collection and management 1.3 NIPs are successfully linked to national development priorities 1.4 Strengthened national and international science-policy interfaces		

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Development of NIP review and update system and related tools; capacity built to use them (funded through project 10785)	2. Strategic approach used and capacities built lead to timely NIP development, review and update	<p>2.1 Methodologies for POPs inventory and other assessments needed for NIP development are available and user friendly; can be easily accessed; and sectoral approaches to POPs inventories are explored</p> <p>2.2 Report on the global production, use and trade of newly listed chemicals developed</p> <p>2.3 National expertise to review and update the NIP is built</p> <p>2.4 Standard structure for national data management system identified and increased cooperation and coordination among different stakeholders owning data</p> <p>2.5 Strengthened capacity to use POPs inventory and monitoring data</p> <p>2.6 Parties are informed on how to access alternatives to POPs to reduce/eliminate their presence in articles/products</p>	10,000.00	

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Knowledge management and information sharing (funded through project 10785)	4. Knowledge sharing led to improvement in the NIP development, update and implementation processes	<p>4.1 New knowledge products and tools are developed and disseminated to target countries and all Parties to the SC</p> <p>4.2 Knowledge platforms at the regional and global levels established and operational</p> <p>4.3 Knowledge transferred and information exchanged using communities of practice and online training/webinars on key issues</p>		
Component 3: NIP development, review and update (Art. 7) in coordination with national reporting (Art. 15)	3. Parties are compliant with Article 7 and 15 of the Stockholm Convention	<p>3.1 Developed or updated NIPs are endorsed by national stakeholders and submitted to the SC Secretariat</p> <p>3.2 National reports submitted to the SC Secretariat</p>	588,000.00	

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation	5. Project successfully implemented with satisfactory performance	<p>5.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF</p> <p>5.2 Independent terminal review conducted and made publicly available</p>	4,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)			602,000.00	0.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
24,600.00				
Sub Total(\$)			24,600.00	0.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			626,600.00	0.00
Please provide justification				

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
				Total Co-Financing(\$)

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Lao PDR	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	313,300	29,763.5	343,063.50
UNEP	GET	Maldives	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	313,300	29,763.5	343,063.50
Total Gef Resources(\$)					626,600.00	59,527.00	686,127.00

Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved

A.1 Background and Context on the Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in May 2001 with the objective of protecting the human health and the environment from POPs. It entered into force on 17 May 2004, initially listing twelve chemicals as POPs. However, from 2009 to 2019, the Conference of Parties (COP) amended the list several times to include the following additional eighteen chemicals into the Annexes, totalling at 30 POPs:

- a) At its 4th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in May 2009, the Stockholm Convention was amended to include the following 9 new POPs (SC-4/10 to SC-4/18). The amendments entered into force for most of the SC Parties on 26 August 2010.

Table 1. POPs listed in SC at 4th meeting of the Conference of Parties (2009)

Chemical	Annex	Specific exemption/acceptable purpose	Remarks
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane	A	None	
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane	A	None	
Chlordecone	A	None	
Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)	A	None	
Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether	A	Use: Articles in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of Annex A	In accordance with paragraph 2 of part IV of Annex A to the Convention, at its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter the Conference of the Parties evaluates the progress that Parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles and review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2030.
Lindane	A	Use: Human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line treatment	These specific exemptions have a limited timeframe and shall expire five (5) years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with respect to that particular chemical (paragraph 4 of Article 4), unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by the Party or an extension is granted by the Conference of the Parties under

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women's empowerment are considered in project design and implementation

For the purposes of comprehensiveness, descriptions of the global component (component 1,2 and 4) that are funded through project 10785 are also included.

B.1 Description of the project (goals, objectives and components)

The proposed project aims at assisting participating countries to comply with their NIP-update and national reporting obligations under the SC while addressing challenges identified in Section A.2 and building on regional expertise and UNEP's experience as well as integrating the new tools developed in project 9884. The project would also complement to the global NIP project (10785) and activities will be closely linked; details are provided in relevant sections.

The overall goal of the Enabling Activity is to reduce the dependency of external expertise and resources to develop NIP and NIP updates through strengthening the political environment and technical capacities of participating countries. Lessons learned and tools/practices developed through this EA can be shared and applied to all Parties of the Convention.

The objective is to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in participating countries through the development, review and update of their respective NIPs and submission to the SC COP.

The project is designed with five (5) components:

- 1) Build political support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation (funded through project 10785);
- 2) Develop tools and methodologies to be used by all Parties to the SC to facilitate the NIP development, review and update process and its implementation (funded through project 10785);
- 3) Support Parties in the development, review and update of their respective NIPs and complete their national reporting following the methodologies development by the SC Secretariat and approved by the COP;
- 4) Ensure development of knowledge products, sharing of knowledge, development of platforms for information exchange and training / familiarisation, knowledge management and reporting at the global level is reached (funded through project 10785); and
- 5) Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation.

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

With the challenges identified and lessons learned from past and ongoing projects, the proposal is designed to benefit from the solid and robust **regional and global component** (components 1, 2 and 4) under the Global NIP update project (10785) and would address the identified barriers and facilitate future NIP development, review and update by Parties to the SC. The objective is also to contribute to the efforts initiated by the project GEF ID 9884 (integrated SC electronic toolkit) and facilitate the familiarisation process to utilize the toolkit in addition to access and use of data contained in NIPs.

The global component in previous NIP update projects have successfully supported countries globally on the development of their NIPs. As a result, a roster of international, regional and national experts on NIP development and implementation has been developed^[1]. As of February 2021, the roster listed more than 130 experts in diverse areas of POPs expertise and regional experience and this roster will be used for the project.

The global component will also organize trainings on data collection, data management, data analysis (including validation), data application, and NIP implementation in partnership with the SC Secretariat, thereby ensuring an efficient use of resources.

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

C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A

Please refer to Appendix H for Theory of Change

C.1 Work intended to be undertaken and output expected from each activity as outlines in Table B

Component 1: political support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation (funded by project 10785)

According to the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, the biggest obstacles to influence policymakers are^[1]:

1. limited technical and financial capacity to generate national evidence-based information regarding the environmental and health hazards associated with POPs;
2. limited technical and financial capacity to implement a policy if approved;
3. policymakers' limited understanding of the issues associated with POPs;
4. poor cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders;
5. frequent staff changes at the line ministries, including the focal points under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); and
6. governmental reforms and slow economic development.

Governments also face several obstacles when engaging with industry and the civil society, including insufficient human and financial resources for outreach to a large number of stakeholders; industry's distrust of government actions on POPs and chemicals management in general; limited or no disclosure about industrial operations, which impedes proactive action on potential pollution affecting society; limited or no financial resources allocated by industry for environmental protection; and poor understanding of the impacts of POPs and other chemicals on human health and the environment.

Many other challenges at the national level lead to less informed decision-making and policies, such as lack of coordination between the line ministries and the national research programmes on policy-related priorities and needs; lack of connection between scientific or technical experts and policy- or decision-makers; lack of or insufficient capacity to understand and assess the national implications of scientific and technical information to support policymaking regarding the Conventions; and lack of cooperation and networking with the regional and global POPs research community.

Therefore, in order to address the challenges identified above, the first component of the project focuses on building and sustaining strong national political support and stakeholder engagement for NIP development, update and future implementation. A solid institutional support is an important pillar for the success completion of NIP and NIP updates. It is also important to link national development priorities with NIP priorities to coherently and effectively achieve the SDGs. Policy makers need to be aware of the cost of inaction and the critical role that POPs data can play on national development as a whole.

Outcome 1: Developed, reviewed and updated NIPs are endorsed by national government and roadmaps are adopted by key stakeholders

Expected Outputs and Activities:

1.1 Parties are engaged and regularly informed on project progress

1.1.1 Organize thematic workshops and side events, e.g. at the COP, to communicate, in particular to decision-makers, on the project outcomes and outputs, importance of NIPs and lessons learned

1.1.2 Identify challenges encountered by participating countries with the final NIP endorsement at the national level based on previous experiences and facilitate the information exchange

1.2 Draft national legislation or mechanism established and roadmap for adoption developed for POPs data collection and management

1.2.1 Develop guidance on institutional modalities and procedures for POPs management and NIP endorsement

1.2.2 Provide capacity building/training on the development and implementation of a national legislation or mechanism to collect POPs data for NIP review and update and national reporting (including TORs for national mechanism)

[1] UNEP (2018). From NIPs to implementation: lessons learned report.

<https://www.unep.org/resources/synthesis-reports/nips-implementation-lessons-learned-report>

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

[3]

<http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/LegalMatters/LegalMattersAdditionalResources/tabid/2245/Default.aspx>

[4]

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[5]

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[6]

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[7]

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

[8]

<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>

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

NIP development and update activities will be supported by the current existing capacities and expertise in participating countries put in place during the initial NIP development (and any post NIP projects) with support from UNEP as the GEF IA and EA (BCRC-SCRC). For countries that are conducting NIP for the first time, a new NCM will be established. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved through fully utilizing the infrastructures and human resources available through EAs.

Other than the global component, the involvement of the international experts is limited to tasks that could not be accomplished by national consultants, in this situation, regional experts will be identified in the available roster developed during previous projects. Suitable qualified national consultants will be identified locally. This will reinforce the national capacity to manage POPs chemicals and contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

EA's coordinators and UNEP's Task Manager will ensure that only essential travel is undertaken and that where possible videoconferencing/Skype conference calls are utilized. For essential travel, EAs will endeavour to maximize resources allocated for travel for workshops and necessary consultations by booking in advance and travelling during low season where possible. Since regional centres will only focus on countries in their region, costs and environmental impact related to travel should be minimized. In addition, regional trainings will either be associated with planned COP meetings or conducted online via virtual platforms, therefore, funding related to meeting organization and travel should also be effectively reduced.

E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

More detailed information about project monitoring and evaluation can be consulted in the project Component 5 - monitoring and evaluation.

Table 8. Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)	Time-frame
National inception workshop	? Awareness raising; ? Build stakeholder engagement; ? Development of Implementation Plan.	EAs	\$0	Within two (2) months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	EAs	\$0	Within four weeks of the Inception Workshop
Project Supervision and Monitoring	Technical and Administrative support provided on a regular basis ensuring that the project is being carried out according to the agreed work plan and budget	EAs	\$0	Regularly
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	EAs	\$0	Quarterly
Financial Progress reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	EAs	\$0	Quarterly
Project Review by NCMs	? Assesses progress, effectiveness of operations and technical outputs; ? Recommends adaptation where necessary and confirms implementation plan.	EAs	Back to back with inception meeting and validation workshops	Month 1 or 2, 12, 24, 36, and 42
Terminal report	? Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan;	EAs	\$0	Three months after the end of project

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

Parties to the SC typically can request up to \$250,000 for each NIP update conducted. This project is an extension of the global NIP project (GEF ID 10785). The project budget is designed to align with the recently approved global NIP project including country allocation of USD 294,000 + 12,300 per country PMC. In addition, USD 5000 per country was added for the expert review of NIPs and is incorporated in Component 2. The design of the proposed project will benefit from a very robust and comprehensive global component from project 10785. UNEP gathered the lessons learned and experiences accumulated from previous and existing global and nationally executed NIP projects to formulate the alternative scenario for the proposed project. Consultations have also taken place with other IAs who are working on NIP and NIP updates and the BRS secretariat to ensure that the identified challenges and barriers will be appropriately addressed with a wholistic approach to reduce the dependency on international expertise and resources to conduct future NIP updates. As the addendum projects will coordinate with and participate in the global component activities, justification provided below are identical to project 10785.

Release of the integrated electronic toolkit will be an integral part of the proposed project for the 3 participating countries, this will be done in coordination with Global project (GEF ID 10785). As a participating requirement, the global component will provide support and ensure that all target countries access, upload and integrate data from their previous NIP and NIP update reports through the toolkit.

Given the geographically balanced group of countries that will be involved in this project, including BCRCs-SCRCs as executing agencies, national and regional capacities will be increased dramatically through proposed project interventions.

Therefore, the below justification is provided for additional funding request towards the global component in order to minimize decrease in funding at the national level:

- Additional training can be organized and provided in a systematic manner to participating countries focusing on identified challenges from past NIP update experiences;
- Additional tools and guidance can be developed, in consultation with BRS Secretariat, to ensure its timely release and can get immediate feedback from participating countries:
 - o Opportunity to develop sectoral approach to POPs inventories;
 - o Opportunity to include PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, currently being recommended by the POPRC to be listed as part of the Convention, as part of the national NIP inventory;
 - o Opportunity to produce a global/regional report on the production, use and trade of new chemicals and products under the SC, including PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds;
 - o Opportunity to establish regional data hubs to ensure sustainability in data management;
 - o Opportunity to establish standard structure for national data management system;
 - o Opportunity to inform Parties on their access to alternatives to POPs and implement best BAT/BEP to reduce uPOPs emissions;
 - o Opportunity to strengthen capacity for costed action plan development;
 - o Opportunity to strengthen capacity to fundraise for NIP implementation; and
 - o Opportunity to provide final quality check of the NIP update.
- Lessons learned from NIP update processes and sample roadmap for legal text adoption can be widely shared among participating countries;

- Project results benefit all Parties of the SC as all tools and guidance will be integrated into the Clearinghouse or a re-invention, of the BRS website including the use of BRS toolkit for NIP submission and reporting;
- Opportunity to organize the meetings and trainings along the margins of the COP, therefore minimize on meeting costs, create greater impact and visibility with high participation from countries (even outside of the project); and
- Opportunity to provide travel support to COP meetings either to extend the stay of focal points or an extra participant.

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

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

Focal Point Name	Focal Point Title	Ministry	Signed Date
Virana Sonnnasinh, Lao PDR	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	3/1/2022
Miruzza Mohamed, Maldives	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Climate and Technology	3/16/2022

B. Convention Participation

Convention	Date of Ratification/Accession	National Focal Point
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION - LAO PDR	6/28/2006	MR. KHONEKEO KINGKHAMBANG
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION - MALDIVES	10/17/2006	MS. AMINATH MAIHA HAMEED
BASEL CONVENTION - LAO PDR	9/21/2010	MS. SISOUPHAN LUANGRATH
BASEL CONVENTION- MALDIVES	4/28/1992	MS. AMINATH MAIHA HAMEED
ROTTERDAM CONVENTION- LAO PDR	10/9/2010	MS. SISOUPHAN LUANGRATH
ROTTERDAM CONVENTION- MALDIVES	10/17/2006	MS. AMINATH MAIHA HAMEED

ANNEX A: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE			Component 2: Technical Capacity (linked to GEF10785)	Component 3: NIP/NIP Update and Nati Reporting	Component 5: M&E	PMC	Total
10	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
	1100	Project Personnel					
	1101	Project Manager				20,600	20,600
	1105	POPs regional expert (technical focus)	10000	32,000			42,000
	1199	Sub-Total	10,000	32,000	0	20,600	62,600
	1200	National NIP experts		200,000			200,000
	1299	Sub-Total	0	200,000	0	0	200,000
16	1600	Travel on official business					
	1601	Travel for EA to national inception workshop				2,000	2,000
	1602	Travel for EA to national validation workshop				2,000	2,000
	1699	Sub-Total	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
	1999	Component Total	10,000	232,000	0	24,600	266,600
30	TRAINING COMPONENT						
	3205	National trainings		180,000			180,000
	3299	Sub-Total	0	180,000	0	0	180,000
	3300	Meetings/conferences					
	3301	National meetings		150,000			150,000
	3399	Sub-Total	0	150,000	0	0	150,000
	3999	Component Total	0	330,000	0	0	330,000
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT						
	5200	Reporting costs (publications, maps)					
	5201	Knowledge Management/Communication Pieces (including design, web work, translations)		26,000			26,000
	5299	Sub-Total	0	26,000	0	0	26,000
	5500	Evaluation					
	5502	Final Evaluation			4,000		4,000
	5599	Sub-Total	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
	5999	Component Total	0	26,000	4,000	0	30,000
	TOTAL		\$10,000	\$588,000	\$4,000	\$24,600	626,600