GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZE PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management Project			
Country(ies):	Republic of Belarus	GEF Project ID:[1]	8017
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5532
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)	Submission Date:	15 Sep 2017
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Waste	Project Duration (Months)	48
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency Fee ($)	798,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[2]

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in $)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
CW-1 Program 2: Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring	Outcome 2.3: All countries have completed their NIP updates under the Stockholm Convention and have established a sustainable mechanism to update them in the future	GEFTF	200,000	48,900
CW-2 Program 3: Reduction and elimination of POPs	Outcome 3.1: Quantifiable and verifiable tonnes of POPs eliminated or reduced	GEFTF	8,200,000	50,758,990
	Total project costs		8,400,000	50,807,890

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: : Protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in the Republic of Belarus

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type[3]	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1.0 Sustainable PCB Management	TA	1.1 PCB phase out plan implementation support for sustainable and accelerated PCB phase out	1.1.1 Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination developed. 1.1.2 Standardized screening practices applicable to	GEFTF	73,560	39,000

[1] Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.
[2] When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF and CBIT programming directions.
[3] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			transformer maintenance respecting cross contamination operational. 1.1.3 PCB inventory and tracking system fully operational and integrated with national and global POPs inventory systems			
	TA	1.2 Sustainable PCB/Chemical waste management infrastructure developed and operational in the Republic of Belarus	1.2.1 Technical support for qualification of HW treatment/destruction facilities at Chechersk delivered. 1.2.2 PCB equipment decontamination and dismantling, PCB cross contaminated mineral oil treatment capability, and PCB treatment and disposal capability developed.	GEFTF	500,000	6,949,000
	Inv	1.3 Environmentally sound elimination of present equipment PCB stockpiles (1,100 t) and accelerated phased out of PCB equipment during the Project (1,270 t)	1.3.1 Environmentally sound elimination of consolidated existing PCB equipment stockpiles (estimated 1,100 t) completed. 1.3.2 Progressive environmentally sound elimination of PCB equipment as generated in accordance with the PCB phase out plan during the project (estimated 1,270 t) completed.	GEFTF	3,550,000	20,762,000
2.0: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies	Inv	2.1 Environmentally sound elimination of remaining OP storage site stockpiles (1,900 t/88 storage sites)	2.1.1 Repackaging, transport and environmentally sound destruction of 1,900 t of currently stored OP stockpiles completed. 2.1.2 Cleanup and restoration of an estimated 88 obsolete pesticide stores completed.	GEFTF	2,850,000	3,726,000
	TA	2.2 Obsolete pesticide burial site assessment and containment (5 sites)	2.2.1 Detailed assessment, containment/ cleanup design and remediation technology selection for fourth remaining OP burial sites undertaken. 2.2.2 Containment, selective excavation of	GEFTF	201,820	1,834,000

			priority OPs and enhanced monitoring from fiver remaining OP burial sites completed.			
3.0: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management	TA	3.1 Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements	3.1.1 An interagency initiative on sound chemicals management action facilitated. 3.1.2 Legislative and regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management bench marked against EU legislation and regional trade requirements.	GEFTF	74,820	73,210
	TA	3.2 Implementation of gender mainstreaming practices for project activities and sound chemical management initiatives	3. 2.1 Increased awareness respecting PCBs in small scale closed applications among households and specifically women realized. 3.2.2 Increased awareness respecting rural OPs among local women realized. 3.2.3 Substantial gender equity achieved in Project employment in supervisory and technical direction achieved	GEFTF	50,000	30,000
	TA	3. 3 Expanded national program for monitoring chemicals in the environment developed and implemented	3.3.1 Detailed assessment of national environmental monitoring and analytical capability undertaken. 3.3.2 Upgraded national environmental monitoring program developed. 3.3.3 Supporting capacity and infrastructure upgrading investment.	GEFTF	250,000	12,568,000
	TA	3.4 NIP Update prepared, endorsed and submitted in accordance with SC obligations	3.4.1 POPs inventories inclusive of current U-POPs tool kit methodology and for "new" POPs updated. 3.4.2 NIP in GEF/SC format based on the POPs National Program developed and submitted	GEFTF	200,000	48,900
	TA	3.5 Supporting public	3.5.1 Continuing public	GEFTF	100,000	4,267,780

		and stakeholder awareness and information exchange for measures on POPs and sound chemicals management	awareness program on POPs and chemicals management imbedded in MNREP activities 3.5.2 Web and social media based tools supporting the public awareness program operational and maintained 3.5.3 Active support for partnerships related POPs and chemicals management with ENGO and civil society organizations sustained			
4.0 Knowledge Management and M&E	TA	4.1: Monitoring and evaluation; knowledge sharing and information disseminatio	4.1.1 Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment 4.1.2 Knowledge sharing and post-project action plan	GEFTF	150,000	110,000
				Subtotal	8,000,200	50,407,890
				Project Management Cost (PMC)[4]	GEFTF	399,800	400,000
				Total project costs		8,400,000	50,807,890

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	384,880
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	320,000
Recepient Government	MNREP	Cash	5,074,010
Recepient Government	MNREP	In-Kind	150,000
Recepient Government	Ministry of Energy	Cash	19,772,000
Recepient Government	Gomel Oblast Administration	Cash	5,960,000
Recepient Government	Grodno Oblast Administration	Cash	1,467,000
Private Sector	PCB Holders	Cash	990,000
Private Sector	Waste Nabagenebt Service Providers	Cash	200,000
Donors	Europeon Union	Cash	16,480,000
Civil Society	Green Economy	Cash	10,000
Total Co-financing			50,807,890

[4] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee [a)] (b)[2]	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Republic of Belarus	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	8,400,000	798,000	9,198,000
Total Grant Resources					8,400,000	798,000	9,198,000

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS[5]

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*hectares*
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	*hectares*
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	*Number of freshwater basins*
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	*Percent of fisheries, by volume*
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	metric tons
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	6,662 [6]*metric tons*
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	*metric tons*
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	*ODP tons*
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries: 1*
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries: 1*

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? NOT APPLICABLE

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Fund) in Annex D.

N/A

[5] Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the *GEF-6 Programming Directions*, will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

[6] This indicator is presented in line with its design (a composite one, following previous similar cases) as it was created at the PIF stage based on both GEF grant and co-finance available as attached to POPs disposal prices for the achievement of the complete GEB. The GEF-supported target, as financially feasible and in terms of superior cost-effectiveness outlined in the document, has increased to 4,270 t, and the composite GEB with co-finance applied has increased to 6,662 t. Further details are explained in the Section "Global Environmental Benefits" pp. 15-17.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF[7]

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[8] strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The following updates the PIF where applicable with respect to the Project background, barriers addressed, baseline scenario, and alternative Project scenario. It reflects the results of PPG stage work and final co-financing commitments. The principle changes relate to work undertaken by national counterparts since the PIF associated with the previous National Program Implementation of the Stockholm Convention during 2014-15, and initial implementation of the current National Program for the period 2016-2020. It also incorporates substantive initiation activities undertaken in relation to management of stockpiles, development of national environmental management and monitoring capability, and attraction of complementary bilateral donor programs, all stimulated by the development of this GEF project. It also provides updated detailed inventories of obsolete pesticide (OP), and PCB stockpiles and in-service PCB equipment as well as current work on development of national hazardous waste (HW) treatment and disposal capability. Overall the project remains the same as proposed in terms of scope, structure and proposed major outcomes but does involve some reallocation of GEF funding between outcomes and increased co-financing, an increase in direct grant financed Global Environmental Benefit (GEB) and cost effectiveness (CE), an increase in actual GEB in terms of POPs chemical elimination, consolidation of two technical assistance outcomes to better reflect counterpart resource availability and operational priorities, and addition of a specific outcome on gender equality and empowerment.

Background

The accumulation of historical POPs and related chemical stockpiles and legacies in the form of phased out PCB equipment, obsolete pesticides (OPs) and addressing associated land/water resource contamination has been a primary focus and priority of the Stockholm Convention since its inception and likewise for the GEF through its Chemicals and Waste focal area. This issue is of particular concern in many countries in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) where, through the period of economic transition, environmental legacies were generally neglected, resulting in substantial inventories of both PCBs (as stockpiles and in aging operational equipment) and OPs remain and continue to present significant local risks to health and the environment as well as a major latent source of POPs and other chemical pollutant transfer into the global environment. Likewise similar legacies in the form of contaminated land and water from POPs and more generally chemical waste have only yet been addressed in a limited fashion.

Among FSU countries, Belarus remains one of the most advanced in addressing this issue on a policy and practical level. It initiated a national program on obsolete pesticides in 2002 with Danish assistance. Following its accession to the Stockholm Convention (SC) in May 2004, the country developed and submitted (in 2007) a comprehensive National Implementation Plan (NIP) with GEF assistance which priorized management of POPs stockpiles and legacies as defined by an initial inventory of PCBs and OPs. This NIP formed the basis for a series of formal National Programs on Implementation of the SC (National Program) with national funding commitments sustained for the periods 2007-10, 2011-2015, and now 2016-2020. However, it should be noted in the context of the original PIF, the current National

[7] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

[8] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

Program, while providing significant state budget contribution to co-financing for this Project, is somewhat less than originally projected at the PIF stage as a consequence of the declining economic capacity of the country and the impact of a significant devaluation of national currency against the US dollar.

To date, the country has successfully eliminated a significant amount of the historical stockpiles of PCBs, POPs Pesticides and OPs, as well secured remaining stockpiles of PCBs and OPs (including OP burial sites) and maintains a comprehensive inventory of these along with remaining in service PCB equipment, most recently fully updated during this Project's PPG work. During the period 2009-2013, a GEF/World Bank project eliminated 1,800 t of POPs pesticide waste from the country's primary POPs pesticide depository at the Slonim burial site, 50 t of OP's from a major storehouse and 823 t of PCBs and PCB based equipment from priority higher risk holders stockpiles. An additional 14.7 t of PCB equipment from small holders was collected, consolidated and eliminated by an innovative NGO "Green Economy" administered program in framework of Small Grants Program (GEF) in the 2015-2016 period. 330 tons of OPs were eliminated in 2015 under an EU/FAO project. Additionally using national resources, remaining OP stockpiles have been consolidated and secured in secure rural stockpile storage installations (1,900 t) and at the national central hazardous waste facility in the Chechersk district in Gomel Oblast (1,755 t) along with 2,160 t of OP contaminated waste from OP burial sites. Remaining OP burial sites (essentially representing monitored contaminated sites) are estimated to contain 4,360 t of OPs and OP contaminated soil. Likewise 1,100 t of out of service PCB based equipment and contaminated materials have been secured in holder's facilities and a comprehensive inventory updated specifically for this Project of remaining industrial PCB equipment in service (2,600 t). 1,927 tons of remaining in service equipment is committed for phase out by the end of 2020 under a formally mandated national PCB Phase out plan. Tabular summaries of current PCB and OP legacies inventories addressed in part by this Project are provided further in the text in an updated baseline inventory summary. In terms of technical and institutional capacity development the country has in place: i) an operational and maintained digital POPs/OP inventory management and reporting system; ii) a comprehensive officially mandated national PCB phase-out plan consistent with the deadline obligations in the SC; iii) current updated reporting of POPs inventories in accordance with SC obligations; iv) dedicated human resource capacity for environmental monitoring and analysis; and v) active public awareness programs on POPs. The country continues to finance the development of a national central hazardous waste facility including the operation of secure OP storage facilities, dedicated PCB storage facilities, and planning of demonstration work on treatment and disposal technology that could operate at this site with substantial financial support from Gomel Oblast.

Barriers

Notwithstanding the gradual progress in addressing POPs stockpiles and waste legacies, Belarus faces continuing barriers as elaborated below that GEF assistance can substantively assist in overcoming. These are: i) financial capacity to eliminate POPs stockpiles and wastes; ii) policy and regulatory implementation barriers; iii) technical capacity limitations; and iv) information and awareness barriers.

National financial capacity remains the main barrier and continues to be increasingly critical with the return of general economic and now political instability in the region. It has created negative impacts on things like exchange rates and overall increased demands being made on the state budget generally. These financial capacity limitations are the primary barrier that the Project can address by effectively incentivizing the rapid elimination of readily available PCB/OP stockpiles and accelerating phase-out of in-service PCB equipment that otherwise would not be addressed in the near future.

In terms of *policy and regulatory implementation*, the country has developed an effective legislative and regulatory framework for the original POPs management requirements of the SC. However there is a need to expand the overall policy and program focus to broader environmental legacy issues and to sound chemicals management generally. The specific gaps that can be addressed with this Project include updating the NIP, adopting supporting enabling legislative and regulatory amendments, broadening technical practice and standards to general chemicals legacy issues. A significant impact linked to the above financial capacity barrier is the delays this has caused in institutionally addressing the development of an integrated framework for sound chemicals management across the involved state stakeholder authorities.

A continuing barrier to sustaining progress and moving into the broader scope of sound chemicals management activities into the future is national *technical capacity.* There remains the need to upgrade skills and tools to deal with challenges associated with remaining legacies and broader sound chemicals management requirements. This includes overall capacity applied to chemicals in the environment as well as the expertise in areas such as general hazardous waste management, supporting efficient appropriate environmental monitoring and analytical capability, and familiarity with commercial application of appropriate and cost effective technologies, all of which are supported by this Project and the leveraging effect it has on broader national and other international support.

Maintaining and furthering *Information and awareness* of both public and industrial stakeholders as well as policy makers related to POPs as well as generally extending it to broader chemicals management issues remains fundamental to sustaining progress and commitment. As such it remains a key barrier and priority supported in the design of this Project going forward as originally proposed.

Baseline Scenario

The substantive component of the baseline is the inventory of remaining stockpiled PCBs and OPs as well as the pending addition to PCB stockpiles as equipment is phased out in accordance with SC obligations. The tables below provide a summary of the current inventories of PCBs and OPs by type and location as updated during the PPG and represent the baseline on which the final project design is related to the principle PCB/OP elimination activities and investments.

Summary of PCB Inventories (2016)

Equipment Type	In-service/Out of Service	Status	# of Holders	# of Units	Total Wt(t)	PCB Wt(t)
Transformers	In-service	Targeted for Phaseout 2017-20	32	180	996	465
		Remainder	19	50	665	141
		Total	32	230	1,661	606
	Out of service/ Stockpiles	Decommissioned-Containing Oil	14	50	225	80
		Decommissioned w/o Oil[2]	0	0	0	0
		PCB Liquid	1	6	1.2	1.2
		Total	15	56	226.2	81.2
Power Capacitors	In-service	Targeted for Phaseout 2017-20	545	21,255	941	307
		Remainder	0	0	0	0
		Total	545	21,255	941	307
		Decommissioned	426	18,940	874	287
Small Capacitors	Out of service/ Stockpiles	Total	5	4,996	1.8	0.5
	Stored as Waste	Total	5	4,000	1.6	0.4
PCB Contaminated Material	Soil	Total	15	n/a	40	<1
	Misc. Waste	Total	1	n/a	8.8	<1
Totals					3,752.8	1,281.2

Summary of Obsolete Pesticide Inventories including minor Amounts of POPs Pesticides Remaining in Burial Sites (2016)

Rural Store Houses			Chechersk HW Facility		Burial Sites		
Oblast	**# of Stores**	**OPs (t)**	**OP from Closed Rural storehouses**	**OP/ Contaminated soil from Burial sites**	**Oblast**	**Site**	**OP/ Contaminated soil**
Brest	0	0	1,755.2	2,158.7	Brest	Brestsk	0
Vitebsk	19	550.5			Vitebsk	Verknedvinsk	454.5
Gomel	0	0				Postav	100.0
Grodno	2	420.3				Gordok	411.4
Minsk	67	919.6			Gomel	Petrikov	2,861.3
Mogilev	0	0			Grodno	Slonim	0
					Mogilev	Dribin	530
Totals	88	1,890.4	1,755.2	2,158.7			4,357.2

This data indicates for PCBs, a current inventory of 1,100 t of stockpiled PCB equipment[9] (containing 368 t of PCBs) is available for immediate elimination and a future requirement of 2,602 t (containing 913 t of PCBs), of which 1,937 t are mandated to be phased out in the 2017-20 period.

For OPs, approximately 1,900 t of packaged material is in the remaining 88 rural storehouses (77 agricultural enterprises) and is available for priority elimination. An additional 1,755 t of packaged OPs originating at 58 storehouses closed in the 2015-16 period is now securely stored at Chechersk facility along with 2,162 t of OPs and contaminated soil removed from burial sites. The remaining OP and contaminated soil inventory in remaining burial sites is estimated to be approximately 4,357 t.

Other aspects of the project baseline identified are the maintenance of the current level of regulatory activity under existing legislation with some modification for the SC amendments as may be nominally addressed in the current 2016-20 National Program. Likewise, National Program funding anticipated in the absence of this Project would be directed to the maintenance and securing of PCB/OP stockpiles and burial sites and pursuing hazardous waste treatment/destruction technology development activities being undertaken by the operator of the Chechersk facility. Similarly, the baseline scenario would assume the implementation of remaining PCB equipment phase out, at least in terms of decommissioning and secure stockpiling at a modest rate as nominally called for in the PCB Phase out program, maintenance of POPs information management, analytical and monitoring activities in MNREP, and continuing public awareness activities. However it would assume that no further direct work would be undertaken with respect to elimination of POPs legacies including contaminated sites generally, nor would any specific policy work broadening activities into more general sound chemicals management be undertaken.

Alternative (Project) Scenario

The alternative scenario retains the same overall structure as defined in the PIF in terms of Components and principal outcomes but as is detailed below the scope of some activities and outputs have been updated to reflect work done by the country in 2014-16, results of PPG activity, and the need to reflect gender issues in Project design. However, the primarily focus remains, namely the priority stockpiles and legacies with complementary technical and institutional capacity support with the overall objective of substantially eliminating them by 2020 and developing sustainable ongoing national POPs and chemical waste management capability in the country.

The Project design and structure is based on the Project having three components. Component 1 addresses PCB stockpiles and accelerated phase out of in-service equipment along with qualification of developing hazardous waste management capability. Component 2 addresses OP rural storehouse legacies and supports securing remaining burial sites, and Component 3 makes provision for support of a sound chemicals management framework, dedicated gender

[9] Excluding small capacitors

equity and empowerment initiatives, continuing national program/NIP update development, key technical support initiatives related to analytical/monitoring capability and continuing support for information and awareness. This structure and scope is tabulated in Project Description Summary above by Component and Outcome (Part I Table B) and is elaborated in the following by specific anticipated outputs and activities.

Component 1- Sustainable PCB Management: This component has three outcomes covering: i) technical assistance in full implementation of the PCB Phase out Plan and where practical its acceleration; ii) developing sustainable support infrastructure for on-going implementation of the plan and maximize the actual management activities that can be undertaken in the country; and iii) environmentally sound elimination of present PCB equipment stockpiles and priority current in-service equipment whose accelerated phase-out over the Project`s life is expected. The following elaborates on each Outcome in terms of anticipated outputs and activities:

Outcome 1.1- PCB phase out plan implementation support for sustainable and accelerated PCB phase out: This outcome has three outputs/activities as follows. Output/Activity 1.1.1 expands on previous work related to establishing and implementing comprehensive technical procedures applicable to both stockpiles and in-service equipment on registration, labelling and reporting inclusive of supporting coordination of prioritization for phase out and further stockpile consolidation and ongoing training/awareness activities with PCB holders. Output/Activity 1.1.2 would expand the evaluation of possible PCB cross-contamination in non-PCB equipment as a standard practice by major holders/operators of such equipment during maintenance cycles, inclusive of training as required. Outcome/Activity 1.1.3 would seek to further strengthen the existing PCB inventory and tracking system including extension to smaller, more widely distributed sources of PCBs, as well as ensuring reporting of results to the Global POPs network.

Outcome 1.2 - Sustainable PCB/chemicals waste management infrastructure developed and operational in Belarus: This outcome is directed to the investigation and development of management capability within Belarus to optimize the handling, treatment and potentially the disposal of PCB and other chemicals waste stockpiles and has been modified to reflect national priorities and recent significant development commitments at the Cherchersk facility. With the recent completion of PCB storage capability funded by the previous natonal program, Output/Activity 1.2.1 is now focused on supporting the technical qualification of a destruction facility being developed at Chechersk for which an initial US$4.21 million in capital funding has been committed by Gomel Oblast (regional governing authority) with anticipated continuing funding from both the Oblast's territorial administration as committed to the project, and international lenders (currently being discussed) to follow in the 2018-2020 period, as well as potentially a technology development support with other GEF-supported regional projects. The contemplated work funded by the GEF will involve technical assistance support for facility commissioning and demonstration testing work targeting the qualification a unit indended to destroy legacy stockpiles of OPs and potentially POPs (PCBs and POPs pesticides) having lower contaminant contamination levels as well as hazardous chemical wastes generally. Outcome/Activity 1.2.2 will assess and potentially develop in-country PCB equipment pre-treatment capability that will allow the overall volumes of PCB waste requiring final environmentally sound destruction out of the country to be minimized in the future as part of the PCB phase out plan. The primary target of this will be development of PCB equipment draining and dismantling capability inclusive of decontamination of recyclable component parts and separation of PCB waste components requiring destruction. In terms of location again these activities may occur at holder's sites or potentially the Chechersk facility. The originally contemplated Output/Activity 1.2.3 involving the investigation and assessment of regional market potential has been dropped due to developing arrangements in progress with neighbouring countries including Russia where GEF and others are supporting POPs management facility development.

Outcome 1.3: Environmentally sound elimination of present equipment PCB stockpiles and accelerated phased out equipment during the Project: This Outcome increases the originally contemplated GEF contribution to the amounts of PCB's eliminated to cover the present estimated (baseline) inventory of 1,100 t of PCB based equipment stockpiles (Output/Activity 1.3.1) and a significant portion (1,270 t) of the estimated in-service equipment (1,937 t) that would be phased out during the course of the project through 2020 (Output/Activity 1.3.2). Provision will made for phased out PCB equipment not eliminated (637 t) to be securely stored for future elimination, and it is hoped that additional financing from holders will be mobilized during project implementation to finance its elimination as well, noting that substancial national financing from a separate national program addressing modernization of the electrical sector is also supporting large scale replacement of PCB based equipment. It is noted that the GEF financial allocation for this

Outcome has been increased relative to that provided for in the PIF in a effort to focus GEF resources on the POPs legacies that provide both the highest actual Global Environmental Benefit (GEB) in terms of POPs chemicals eliminated[10] and also match industrial infrastructure development priorities of the country. For estimating purposes, the costing of destruction remains based on current export prices for environmentall sound destruction in Western Europe undertaken to international standards as defimed in Basel Convention and GEF STAP guidance documents. Final quantities achieved will be dependant on market prices obtained during project implementation.

Component 2 – Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies: This component is designed to support the ongoing work under the National Program related to elimination of the country's significant residual legacy of accumulated OPs, specifically those in vulnerable rural storhouses. As indicated above, the country has made significant progress in securing these stockpiles since preparation of PIF through the movement of 1,755 t to secure long term storage at Cherchersk along with closing the 56 rural storehouses involved, and elimination of 330 t of OPs under an EU/FAO project[11]. On that basis the main investment in elimination has been downsized from the originally proposed 3,000 t in the PIF to cover the remaining 1,900 t of OPs in the remaining 88 rural store houses which will be closed. The design of this component is based on two Outcomes: one targeting elimination of stored OPs and one targeting support of cost effective future management of burial site legacies through application of containment and contaminated site remediation techniques.

Outcome 2.1 – Environmentally sound elimination of remaining OP storage site stockpiles: Under this Outcome, the Project will focus on eliminating OPs from all remaining widely distributed rural stores which represent the least secure locations where these legacy chemical wastes occur. The OPs, now securely stored at Chechersk along with the 2,162 t of OPs and contaminated soil likewise stored, are anticipated to be eliminated separately using the planned hazardous waste disposal capability supported under Outcome 1.2 above. While such development cycles are typically lengthy, such capacity could conceivably be available during the Project period. Similar to the approach taken to existing PCB stockpiles above, for purposes of cost estimating at this stage, it is assumed that dealing with these stockpile sites under Output/Activity 2.1.1 will be the packaging, export and destruction by high temperature incineration (HTI) in Western Europe, although the option of using domestic capability at Chechersk would be considered if competitive (with GEF financial exposure being limited to a market determined commercial cost) and available. It is anticipated that this domestic capability could be used to eliminate OP and contaminated soil stockpiles now securely stored at Chechersk using national funding, either during the Project or in the future. Output/Activity 2.1.2 will address any residual contamination associated with the sites and infrastructure where eliminated stores are taken from.

Outcome 2.2 – Obsolete pesticide burial site containment: A significant lesson learned in part from the Slomin site and particularly the Petrikov site being excavated over an extended period by MES is that a general "dig, pack and ship" approach to such sites can be improved in terms of cost and environmental effectiveness. Similar lessons have been noted elsewhere including on similar GEF/UNDP projects in Vietnam and Georgia. The approach of direct excavation tends to significantly expand the amount of contaminated material that needs to be addressed well beyond the volumes of actual OPs originally deposited, particularly in previously disturbed sites. This increases the costs of addressing such sites. In the case of Belarus the resulting financial exposure to the government due to the large volumes has been a major drain on National Program funding. Likewise, there are extended periods of an open site with resulting spread of contamination and broader release risk. Reflecting this experience and the fact that these remote sites are generally secure in terms of the spread of surface and sub-surface contamination, a more targeted approach for dealing with these sites by this project will be adopted. This will involve, under Output/Activity 2.2.2, more comprehensive front end site assessment to better defining the extent and impact of the burial sites before devoting major resources to their excavation. Such comprehensive analytical site assessment with associated risk assessment would better define the location of concentrated OP deposits and be able to prioritize impacts. This would entail application of several advanced techniques such as using ground penetration radar and digital mapping/modelling along with a comprehensive

[10] Noting that the GEF metric applied to GEB from POPs/OP elimination is based on gross tonnage financed by grant resources, it is also pointed out that OPs generally have a low actual POPs pesticide content (analysis of store house samples undertaken in Belarus indicate a POPs pesticide content of 0.5 %) while the PCB content of PCB stocklpiles is approximately 33% %.

[11] The joint FAO-EU project "Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union"

environmental and public health risk assessment. Based on this, Outcome/Activity 2.2.2 would pursue preliminary development of management/design options for selective contained excavation and adoption of optimium combinations of lower cost on-site active and/or passive treatment, as well as hydrological containment and monitoring.

Component 3 – Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management: Building on the country's progress in estabishing a strong overall environmental management framework, this component is designed to strengthen and extend Belarus' institutional and technical capacity related to sound chemicals management generally. This will initially focus on developing a broad interagency consensus on having an integrated sound chemicals management approach consistent with both the EU and as is evolving under the Eurasia trade agreements in the CIS. Subject areas will include institutional and regulatory measures, expanding and upgrading chemicals and particularly POPs monitoring capacity in the broader environment, and supporting the development and implementation of sustaining national programs related to SC implementation along with formulation of an updated NIP. Consistent with recent adoption of gender focused policies by the GEF, a specific outcome related to gender equality and its mainstreaming has been added.The five Outcomes covering this are elabotaed in the following.

Outcome 3.1 - Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU and Eurasian Customs Union legislation: This Outcome replaces the previous Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 originally proposed in the PIF for which limited direct support or resources were available upon discussion during the PPG. The new Outcome 3.1 is now directed to facilitating an interagency initiative on sound chemicals management action and undetaking a legislative and regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management bench-marked against EU and Eurasian Customs Union. Output/Activity 3.1.1 will support a facilitation initiative under the auspicies of engaged civil society organizations along with MNREP and key stakeholder institutions to develop a comprehensive and integrated sound chemicals management framework. These institutions will include the MNREP, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Industry, and customs authorities. It will address options and approaches including harmonization and linkage within this area with GEF funding support specifically directed to ensuring consistency with current international practice as reflected in progress with the EU-related policies (e.g. EU REACH Directive) and regulations of the Eurasian Customs Union. Output/Activity 3.1.2 will specifically address the legislative, institutional and regulatory implementation aspects of this framework covering chemicals management. In particular, it will support developing a system for identifying and registration of lands contaminated by chemicals with its integration into the lands GIS-system of the Republic of Belarus. An element of potential bilateral co-financing support has been identified through a EU NGO funded initiative negotiated during the recent SC COP on support for Belarus' ratification of the Rotterdamn Convention which the country is committed to.

Outcome 3.2 – Implementation of gender mainstreaming practices for project activities and sound chemical management initiatives generally: Consistent with UNDP and GEF policy direction a dedicated outcome has been integrated into the Project design for purposes of supporting the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan developed during the PPG (Section A.4 below). It involves supporting activities related to three Outputs/Activities namely: i) increased awareness respecting PCBs in small scale closed applications among households and specifically women; ii) increased awareness respecting rural OPs among local women; and iii) achieving gender equity in Project employment at a supervisory and technical direction level. The first two outputs will involve community based meetings/workshops and distribution of information materials. The third will result from direct interventions in hiring practices and in application of contracting of services to maximize the participation of qualified women.

Outcome 3.3 - Expanded national program for monitoring chemicals in the environment developed and implemented: Belarus has a sound basic ambient environmental monitoring system supported by excellent human resource capability and good but aging laboratory infrastucture. This outcome will provide sustaining support in key areas in parallel with substantial support under the current national program and a large parallel EU funded program on environmental monitoring[12]. The GEF supported work developed in detail during the PPG stage will be undertaken by Republican Center for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection who administers national chemicals monitoring activities along with the National Academy of Science. Specific activities will cover: i) improvement of

[12] The EU action"Strengthening Air Quality and Environmental Management in Belarus (SAQEM)"

POPs/chemicals monitoring program regulatory and methodological framework; ii) training of staff involved in conducting POPs monitoring in the environment; iii) international qualification and verification on POPs/chemical analysis; iv) targeted surveys of POPs and other chemicals in environment media; and v) improvement of instrument and analytical capacity.

Outcome 3.4 – NIP Update prepared, endorsed and submitted in accordance with SC obligations: This outcome covers the development of a formal updated NIP for required submission under the SC implementation as provided for as an Enabling Activity by GEF. Building on inventory work undertaken during the PPG stage (financed by the GEF and National Program), it will adopt the methodology and formats prescribed by both the SC Secretariat and GEF for preparation and place specific emphasis on inventory determination and action plans related to dealing with "new" POPs added to the original convention. As committed to in the PIF, during the PPG, initial data collection has been initated with comprehensive updates of all original POPs inventories being completed and work on new POPs inventories initiated. In terms of implementation scheduling, this activity will be prioritized to start immediate upon project approval and funding availability.

Outcome 3.5 - Supporting public and stakeholder awareness and information exchange for measures on POPs and sound chemicals management: This outcome is intended to support the first four Outcomes in Component 3 with a comprehensive public awareness and information exchange program on the measures being taken by the government and specifically under the project in relation to POPs and sound chemicals management generally. A detailed program in this area has been developed during the PPG work with three principle ouputs as follows: i) Provision of public information and education on POPs inclusive of delivery to target groups (schools, vulnerable female populations, employees/management in POPs holding enterprises): ii) development/maintenance of web based instruments (including social networks) supporting public awareness about POPs; iii) proactive support for civil society engagement on the the POPs issue. The program will involve consultation and public information with all stakeholders throughout the project utilizing the established range of information dissemination and communication tools including utilization and expansion of a POPs web-site now operated for the issue, available social media tools and other more conventional tools. As has been the practice previously this activity will utilize partnerships with civil society organizations and ENGOs for consultation with the general public.

Component 4 – 4.0 Knowledge Management and M&E: Consistent with UNDP practice the Project design has component addressing Knowledge Management (KM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), both of which are part of dedicated plans prepared during the PPG stage and detailed in the UNDP Project Document. The M&E scope also covers safeguard monitoring as part of UNDP's supervision activities. This Component's implementation is supported by GEF grant, UNDP and MNREP cash and in-kind funds.

Incremental Cost Reasoning and Financing

The overall incremental cost reasoning and associated approach to co-financing is based on using GEF funding to sustain the substantive progress and continue to leverage high levels of national and bilateral co-financing for elimination of POPs and OP legacies as targeted in the GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste focal area. Associated with this is also facilitating a broader policy focus on sound chemicals management into the future by using GEF support to move this agenda forward within the programmatic approach used by Belarus in implementing environmental management priorities generally. The following discusses the specific incremental reasoning and committed co-financing by Project component.

Component 1- Sustainable PCB Management: The baseline for this component is the country continuing to implement the PCB Phase out Plan initiated during the previous GEF-4 project to the degree capital budgets of PCB holders can sustain that commitment in terms of replacement costs. However, there would not be resources available for environmental sound elimination of the existing stockpiled inventory, replacement of in-service PCB equipment and its elimination with the country being at risk of not meeting its SC phase out obligations. The basic GEF commitment in principle made with the approval of the PIF was an important factor to mainstreaming of finance for replacement of obsolete power equipment in investment priorities of the large-scale state budget financed national Program of the

Electric Power Development for 2016-2020. This provides significant input to leveraging supported by the incremental role of GEF funding of environmentally sound elimination of the PCB equipment in stockpiles and such equipment replaced over the life of the project (Outcome 1.3) has effectively accelerated the phase out and the country's ability to comply with the SC. Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2 are likewise incremental to the baseline in that they address supplemental support for accelerated phase out within the PCB Phase Out Plan, adoption of modern routine screening practices for possible low level PCB contamination and support for the development of national PCB and chemical waste management infrastructure where justified, where this is otherwise unlikely to occur. With respect to financing, the GEF funding allocation to this component will be substantively co-financed by the above state budget electricity modernization program and additionally by holders of PCB equipment both stockpiled and in-service. The GEF grant amount of US$4,123,560 which is an increase from the PIF based on recognizing an opportunity to optimize and effectively increase the Project's GEB. This would leverage an estimated overall co-financing amount of US$27,750,000 of which US$19,772,000 is from the Program of the Electric Power Development for 2016-2020, US$ 4,210,000 is from Gomel Oblast Investment Program for 2017 financing for the Chechersk facility, US$2,500,000 is from the 2010-15 National Program for the Chechersk PCB storage facility, US$78,000 is from the 2016-20 POPs National Program and US$990,000 from currently identified PCB holders. Of this total co-financing only $6,788,000 is considered baseline which would likely be spent in the absence of GEF investment and the state budget funding it has leveraged.

Component 2 – Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies: The baseline for this component as defined in the PIF would be limited to the continued maintenance of widely distributed rural storage of OPs, and the continued storage of OPs from burial sites being addressed as the POPs National Program provides for. It is possible that over time additional closures of rural storage sites and re-location of material to Chechersk might also occur, principally funded by an annual regional budget allocated for the Petrikov site by Gomel Oblast. Likewise at some undefined point in the future this material could be eliminated if and when suitable destruction capability is developed at Chechersk and national funding for doing so is available. Additionally, the EU/FAO project would have been completed. The GEF contribution is essentially leveraging immediate action through to complete elimination of remaining rural storehouse legacies and through Outcome 1.2 above supporting acceleration of availability of national capability to deal with remaining OP legacies. The baseline with respect to burial sites is that no further action would be taken in the foreseeable future, recognizing that MNREP and MES have elected to suspend the previous approach of open end excavation. Therefore the Project's support for the continued activity in this area is entirely incremental and relates to a new approach being adopted based on more comprehensive risk assessment and emphasis on containment and monitoring. The GEF grant amount of US$3,051,820 is associated with US$5,560,000 in overall co-financing. Of this US$1,509,000 is cash contribution, largely through the POPs National Program over the period 2016-2020 from local authorities and US$750,000 in EU grant funds in 2015, and US$1,457,000 in expenditures by Grodno Oblast for the packaging, transportation and storage of 1,755 t of OP from rural storehouses in 2015-16 and closure of the storehouses involved. The support from the Oblast's administration covers the development of Chechersk's storage and destruction facility, along with current discussions on a sovereign loan's related arrangements. Of this total co-financing, US$2,207,000 is considered baseline which would likely be spent in the absence of GEF investment, and includes the EU grant funding and the local agricultural enterprise investment.

Component 3 - Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management: The incremental reasoning associated with this component remains related to the adopted approach of using GEF resources to re-focus policy and program initiatives within MNREP on a broader sound chemicals management agenda as well as on specific measures associated with updating national regulations and documentation for purposes of maintaining compliance with the SC. The overall GEF grant amount of US$674,820 allocated to this Component attracts US$17,013,890 in co-financing primarily from the POPs National Program and in-kind, as well as bilateral funding from an EU program[13]. While the project may serve to leverage some of this and assists in directing priorities, all of the estimated baseline should be considered baseline with the GEF funding as incremental.

[13] The EU project on"Strengthening Air Quality and Environmental Management in Belarus (SAQEM)"

Global Environmental Benefits

The primary Global Environmental Benefits attributed to this project remain associated with the elimination and/or secure containment of POPs and OPs that would otherwise be subject to release into the broader environment with associated environmental and human health impacts. This is summarized as follows:

- Direct environmentally sound elimination of an estimated 2,370 t of PCB equipment containing approximately 1,025 t of PCBs themselves.
- Provision for removal from service (phase out), capture, secure consolidated storage to prevent near and medium-term release of PCBs chemicals of an additional 730 t of PCB equipment during the project, and provision for systematic accelerated phase out of remaining PCB equipment in service (estimated 665 t) consistent with SC convention obligations.
- Direct environmentally sound destruction of 1,900 t of OPs from current remaining rural store houses, the removal of 1,755 t of OPs from rural store houses and their secure storage during the PPG, and development of national capability for future elimination of 3,913.9 t of OPs and associated contaminated soil including that securely stored from closed rural storehouses.
- Primary secure containment and monitoring of an estimated 4,357 t of OPs and contaminated soils in burial sites including detailed site assessment and design for future site remediation work.

In stating the above there has been a change from the PIF in both the determining methodology and quantities listed against the GEF GEB metric used under the above Part I Section E Corporate Result Project Target 5 (POPs eliminated). The PIF Project target of 6,100 t consisted of estimated quantities 1,000 t of stockpiled PCB equipment to be eliminated and 2,100 t of PCB equipment anticipated to be phased out and secured, plus 3,000 t of OPs eliminated in rural storehouses existing at that time. The developed project presented here covers elimination of a confirmed 1,100 t of immediately available PCB equipment stockpiles and an additional 1,270 t of PCB equipment committed for removal under the mandated PCB phase out plan with an additional 637 t of PCBs mandated for phase out being securely stored, and 1,900 t of OPs from remaining storehouses eliminated, plus the 1,755 OP from now closed rural storehouses securely stored. The comparable project target to that stated in the PIF for the developed project proposal is 6,662 t. Therefore there is a **9.2% increase in the GEB project target** when compared on the same basis. However, for purposes of listing the Project target POPs elimination in this document, UNDP has used just the amount of PCB equipment and OPs eliminated directly with GEF funding based on GEF SEC direction on its current practice. Calculated on this basis the project target is listed as 4,270 t while the equivalent number in the PIF would have been 4,000 t which is a **6.75% increase for the currently proposed project**.

As indicated above there is also an increase in actual GEB when viewed in terms of actual POPs chemicals eliminated between the PIF and this detailed project proposal as a result of the change in emphasis from OPs to PCB elimination. **The estimated increase in actual POPs chemicals eliminated is 150% (345 t of POPs for PIF and 858.6 t in the currently presented detailed project)**

The increased GEB described above results in an effective increase in the Project's cost effectiveness noting that the difference in the project target numbers stated herein and in the PIF was initially interpreted by GEF SEC as a decrease in GEB and associated GEF grant cost effectiveness. The cost effectiveness of the current detailed proposal based on the US$8.4 million grant and elimination of 4,270 t of PCBs and OPs is US$1,967/t as opposed to US$2,100/t for the PIF using the comparable GEB metric. The current project compares very favourably to a number of comparable recently approved, implementing or completed projects listed below.

GEF Project	Grant (US$)	Status	OP (t)	PCB(t)	Total (t)	CE (US$/t)
Belarus POPs (UNDP-2017)	8,400,000	Submitted	1,900	2,370	4,270	1,967
Belarus POPs (WB -2013)	5,500,000	Completed	1,793	873	2,166	2,102

GEF Project	Grant (US$)	Status	OP (t)	PCB(t)	Total (t)	CE (US$/t)
Turkey POPs Legacy/Release (UNDP Components -2017)	6,805,000	Under implementation	2,800	250	3,050	2,268
Morocco PCB Elimination * (UNIDO-2018)	1,826,484	Project Approved	-	615	615	2,969
Georgia PCB Elimination* (UNIDO -2016)	3,910,000	Project Approved	-	1,100	1,100	3,554
Montenegro PCB project* (UNDP -2017)	3,500,000	Project Approved	-	900	900	3,889
Georgia POPs pesticides (UNDP -2014)	1,000,000	Completed	250	-	250	4,000
Vietnam OP elimination (UNDP -2014)	4,300,800	Completed	1,000	-	1,000	4,301

*GEF-6 Projects Recently approved for implementation (CEO Endorsed)

Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project is generally conventional in terms of application of approaches and techniques that have been proven and are well established for the management of POPs, building on the experience of an effective previous GEF/WB project and on the mounting experience accumulating in the region. Its use of lessons learned from this involves some innovation through the prioritization of POPs and chemicals issues, notable high impact stockpiles for elimination while utilizing a risk assessment approach to deal with other stockpile (burial site) issues to maximize global environmental benefit and use of financial resources. Additionally the way of developing appropriately scaled national infrastructure and appropriate technology transfer allows an incremental approach to the developing chemical waste management in the country, while also allowing for potential scaling up to potentially serve regional requirements as market, resource availability and political/public policies may permit. In particular it will offer synergies with the parallel UNIDO regional project addressing POPs elimination. This underpins Project's sustainability.

A.2. Child Project? **If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

N/A

A.3. Stakeholders. **Identify key stakeholders and elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project. Do they include civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no☐)? and indigenous peoples (yes ☐ /no ☒)?** [14]

During PPG work, the substantive stakeholder engagement initiated during the PIF stage was continued and expanded. This included interaction with the long standing network of institutional shareholders at a senior level that formally exists through the Coordination Council on Implementation of the Stockholm Convention that was established based on the Government Decree as a permanent inter-agency body and which serves to facilitate institutional participation and has resulted in mandating of various national programs for support of the Project's objectives. Additionally, the interaction with national academic institutions and service providers engaged in POPs and chemicals management activities was expanded with their direct involvement in the PPG preparation work. Likewise, in depth interaction with industrial stakeholders particularly holders of POPs stockpiles and in the case of PCBs remaining in-service equipment

[14] *As per the GEF-6 Corporate Results Framework in the GEF Programming Directions and GEF-6 Gender Core Indicators in the Gender Equality Action Plan, provide information on these specific indicators on stakeholders (including civil society organization and indigenous peoples) and gender.*

was extended to formalization of partnership arrangements for project implementation. This is reflected in the substantive agreements arrived at related to mandated phase out of PCBs, project participation in the development of national hazardous waste management capability and resultant co-financing commitments. Finally, the PPG stage marked a general expansion of interaction with civil society organizations, both national and international, and integration of the project with bilateral assistance programs.

The following identifies the principle institutional, industry, academic, international and civil society stakeholders with whom initial consultations have occurred to date and will be sustained through Project implementation. This specifically includes continued expanded engagement with the national network of ENGOs that have been involved in the development and implementation of previous POPs projects including the original NIP, and who would be involved in the NIP update. These organizations will be directly engaged in the facilitation of the a national sound chemical management initiative (Outcome 3.1), mainstreaming gender equity and empowerment within the project (Outcome 3.2), NIP update development (Outcome 3.4) and the implementation of public awareness and consultation activities (Outcome 3.5) as well as direct local consultation as applicable related to elimination of rural OP storehouses, and PCB equipment in publically sensitive locations.

Stakeholder Organization	Role
Institutional Stakeholders	
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	National Executing Agency, GEF, Basel Convention and SC focal Points, national policy and project implementation coordination
Ministry of Energy	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national electrical utilities including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Industry	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national industrial enterprises including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Transportation and Communication	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national transportation companies and Belarussian Railways including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Coordination of regional and local agricultural organization on the management of OP stores.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	Acts as a government agency responsible for regulation of provisions for the transport of dangerous goods (ADR) and works with hazardous chemicals Service provider for hazardous waste cleanup particular for OPs burial sites
Ministry of Healthcare	Input and participation related to the development of a national sound chemical management program and associated health impact regulation and monitoring activities
State Custom Committee	Coordination related to export\import issues of hazardous waste
Ministry of Finance	Confirmation of co-financing commitments during project registration.
Other line ministries, governmental and regional entities	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated legal entities including allocation of own resources
Republican Center for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection	Operation of national POPs and chemicals Monitoring programs and implementation of project, National Program and EU financed initiatives.
Belarussian Scientific and Research Center “Ecology” under the aegis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	Main information and analytical center of the National System for Monitoring the Environment of the Republic of Belarus Maintenance and update of the register of PCB owners

	and OP storage (electronic POPs database)
Institute of Nature Use of the National Academy of Science	Monitoring in the field of handling of POPs additionally included into SC
Principle Industrial Stakeholders	
SE "BelEnergo" and associated electrical transmission and distribution utilities	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Belarussian Railways	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Industrial and other PCB holders	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Agricultural enterprises and other OP storages owners	Ownership, administration and custody of OP stores and burial sites
Gomel City Executive Committee – Complex for Processing and Disposal of Toxic Waste of the Gomel Region	Service provider for storage and potentially future treatment/disposal of OPs and PCBs with the latter supported by a technical assistance partnership with the project
International Organizations	
World Bank	IA for the previous GEF-4 Project
FAO	IA for current EU Regional OP project
UNIDO	IA for a separate GEF-5 PCB project for Russian Railways and Regional POPs/ODS project.
European Union	Bilateral donor in the area of environmental monitoring and prospectively in sound chemicals management initiatives
Nordic Environment Finance Corporation	Potential donor partner in chemicals management initiatives
Civil Society	
Green Cross Belarus	ENGO active in public consultation activities related to OPs
NGO "Ecological Initiative"	ENGO active in public awareness activities in the POPs area, Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Conventions
NGO "Green Economy"	ENGO active in area collaboration PCB owners
Green Cross Switzerland	Potential participation in Component 3 with mobilized donor support

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. **Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. In addition, 1) did the project conduct a gender analysis during project preparation (yes ☒ /no☐)?; 2) did the project incorporate a gender responsive project results framework, including sex-disaggregated indicators (yes ☒ /no☐)?; and 3) what is the share of women and men direct beneficiaries (women X%, men X%)?** [15]

In terms of direct project impacts as served by its objectives related to the protection of human health and the environment, the main gender considerations relate to the overall issue of the higher risks generally associated with women from exposure to POPs and chemicals generally being distributed in the broader environment, specifically related to their bioaccumulation, transfer through breast milk and potential reproductive impacts. This along with the occurrence of other chemicals in both humans and the food supply has been an active field of monitoring, specifically by the Ministry of Health, in Belarus for a number of years. The project's support directly and through the partnership with a major EU program on monitoring of chemicals in the environment will further this initiative. At a local level in rural areas there are potential gender issues associated with the presence of rural OP stores, noting the general demographic reality that rural populations have a high proportion of older women who have a higher consequence risk

[15] Same as footnote 8 above.

of exposure. The project's prioritization of elimination of these stockpiles will substantially mitigate these gender specific risks. Not only appropriate capacity and safety knowledge will be built in better handling PCBs in various facilities' settings where women might be employed in different functional roles. Occupational hazards will be minimized through such work at specific target sites through the actual removal of PCB equipment from the facilities and reducing direct exposure during material leakages. PCB occurrence in closed applications in obsolete household products (fluorescent light ballasts and small appliance electrical devices) involve potential exposure disproportionally for women. This can be mitigated by dedicated awareness initiatives in this area. Similarly, the operational requirements as reflected in the technical assistance support for PCB and OP management as well as provisions in GEF financed contracting involving exposure to PCBs and OPs will specifically ensure adequate personal exposure protection, medical monitoring and consider exclusion of vulnerable populations such as at risk women.

In terms of gender equality and empowerment, the project work to date has reflected a deliberate policy of ensuring a high level of involvement of highly qualified professional women in the direction and implementation of work to date on the project. Of the 8 professionals directly contracted to undertake preparation work, 4 (50%) have been women. Of the 35 stakeholders representatives involved in preparation 23 (65%) have been women. It is also noted that the main champion directing the project at the most senior level in MNREP is a woman in the role of First Deputy Minister as well as acting as the national and regional GEF political and operational focal point. In all instances, such professional level perspectives helped guide the project preparation process.

In terms of project design, the PPG stage has included a gender analysis focused on development of a gender mainstreaming action plan (summarized below) and incorporated gender related indicators in to the results framework as well as defining a separate Outcome (Outcome 3.2) with an allocated GEF funded budget (US$50,000) with US$30,000 of in-kind co-financing.

Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan

#	Gender-related activity	Indicator	Target	Baseline	Budget	Timeline	Responsibility
I. Component 1- Sustainable PCB Management *Gender mainstreaming in PCB Management and Elimination Activities*							
I.1	*Conduct regular meetings in urban communities mostly attended by women leaders discussing the management of closed application PCBs in housing and consumer applications*	*-Several meetings held that includes women members of the diverse communities - At least 50 persons (20 men, 30 women) are aware of the project and clear about their concerns and needs*	*60% of participants in meetings are women; 40% are men from local communities*	*Zero involvement of community members in waste management services*	*10 meetings, 1,000 USD for each Total USD 10,000*	*Meetings to be conducted over the project life*	*MNREP/ UNDP PMU/ Facilitating Civil Society Organization(s)*
I.2	*Undertake training sessions related to potential health impact issues, specific to women within major holders of PCBs for women*	*Training at 10 major stakeholder sites that includes women staff and technical supervisors - At least 40 persons (30*	*25% of participants in meetings are women; 75% are men from PCB holder's staff*	*Limited awareness of PCB holders staff respecting PCB health risks and specifically those related*	*10 meetings, 1,000 USD for each Total USD10,000*	*Meetings to be conducted in prior to initiation of PCB elimination operations and coordinated*	*PCB holder enterprises and Project PMU*

	staff and technical supervisors	*men, 10 women) are trained and made aware of risks associated with PCBs and linkage to women's health,*		*to women's health*		*with TA activities in Outcome 1.1*	
I.3	*Staffing levels for supervision and technical direction of PCB management operations include women.*	*Encourage PCB holders and contractor to utilize qualified women in supervisory and technical direction positions during implementation of GEF financed elimination operations through agreements and contractual requirements.*	*Number of women and employed in supervisory and technical direction positions during PCB elimination operations*	*Numbers of women currently employed in these operations limited*	*No incremental funding required*	*Through the Project during which PCB elimination operations are undertaken*	*UNDP PMU/PCB holders and contractors*
II. Component 2.0: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies *Gender mainstreaming in Obsolete Pesticides Management Activities*							
II.1	*Conduct regular meetings and awareness session in rural communities hosting OP storehouses mostly attended by women leaders discussing the management and elimination of these storehouses*	*- 10 meetings held that includes women members of the rural communities* *- At least 75 persons (25 men, 50 women) are aware of the project and clear about their concerns and needs*	*67% of participants in meetings are women; 33% are men from local communities*	*Limited involvement of community members in OP management and project activities*	*10 meetings, 1,000 USD for each* *Total USD 10,000*	*Meetings to be conducted in advance of contracting for elimination of the storehouses*	*MNREP/ UNDP PMU/ Facilitating Civil Society organization(s)/ Local agricultural authorities and storehouse owners*
II.2	*Staffing levels for supervision and technical direction of OP storehouse elimination operations include women.*	*Encourage Local authorities, storehouse owners and contractors to utilize qualified women in supervisory and technical direction positions during implementation of GEF financed elimination operations through*	*Number of women and employed in supervisory and technical direction positions during PCB elimination operations*	*Numbers of women currently employed in these operations limited*	*No incremental funding required*	*Through the Project during which rural OP storehouse elimination operations are undertaken*	*UNDP PMU/Local authorities, storehouse PCB holders and contractors*

		agreements and contractual requirements.					
III. Project component: 3.0: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management *Gender mainstreaming in Sound Chemicals Management*							
III. 1	*Integration of gender considerations into the development of an integrated multi-agency approach to a sound chemicals management framework*	*Achieving gender equity in interagency participation in the structures facilitating and developing the national chemical management framework*	*At least 50% of interagency participants are women*	*No existing committee*	*Costs included within Outcome 3.1*	*To be established in the first quarter of the project*	*MNREP, Contracted facilitators, participating agencies*
III. 2	*Conduct four gender sensitization seminar to highlight gender issues in chemicals management and the need for women's involvement in development of the national framework*	*- One seminar conducted per year with emphasis on gender issues and the need for women's involvement* *- At least 50% seminar participants are women*	*Participants in the seminar to be government-al officials, NGOs, women associations and Community members*	*No gender seminars have been conducted on the subject of sound chemicals management*	*4 seminars 5,000 USD per each participant Total 20,000 USD*	*One seminar per year during the project period*	*MNREP, UNDP PMU, Contracted facilitators, participating agencies*
III. 3	*Select an appropriate NGO or specialist social facilitators for implementation of the agreed Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (Outcome 3.2)*	*NGO or specialist social facilitators successfully implement the Action plan*	*NGO or specialist social facilitators are women*	*No history of dedicated gender mainstreamin g undertaken in prior international projects in the sector*	*Budget will be allocated based on the activities the NGO will implement from Outcome 3.2* *USD 20,000*	*Selected in the first quarter of the project*	*UNDP PMU, MNREP*
III. 4	*Ensure gender equity in the delivery of training and technical assistance related to environmental monitoring, NIP upgrade development and delivery of public information (Outcomes 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5)*	*Full gender equity in participation in training and delivery of TA related to environmental monitoring, NIP update, and public information activities achieved.*	*50% or greater gender equity in these activities achieved*	*Historical women's participation reasonably high but can be increased*	*Partially covered in current Outcome budgets but use of dedicated resources can be allocated to enhance training and public awareness participation USD 10,000*	*Throughout project*	*UNDP PMU, MNREP, contracted service providers and beneficiaries*

Total budget allocation:	***80,000 USD***

A.5 Risk. **Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable)**:

Risk	**Risk rating**	**Risk mitigation strategy**
Government policy and financial commitment is not sustained for the project life	Low	The Government of Belarus has a proven track record of a strong and proactive commitment to dealing with environmental issues particularly those associated with man-made releases and legacies, noting the country's particular history related to a global scale industrial accident in the 1980s. Specific to the POPs issue their early preparation of an NIP and sustained implementation of state-funded and periodically renewed National Programs on the issue are evidence of this. Building on the positive experience of the previous GEF/WB project, this project's design is specifically tailored to matching and facilitating the National Program implementation inclusive of direct integration of the substantial state budget resources to be dedicated to it.
Institutional risks associated with poor coordination among institutional stakeholders at the national and international level	Low	A well developed and stable institutional structure in the government with well-defined responsibilities and working relationships was put in place under the National Program for Implementation of the SC and utilized in a similar GEF-4 project between 2009 and 2014. Within the main executing agency (MNREP), there is policy supervision provided by the First Deputy Minister, interagency oversight is provided by the Coordination Council on Implementation of the SC, and operational day to day involvement will be with a project's focal point in the Waste Management Department experienced in working with a resident PMU structure and international organizations on such projects. Similarly, virtually all the major stakeholders come with direct experience on international projects of this type and have good working relationships with all principle stakeholders. At the international level the project involves a GEF Agency with a long successful track record of GEF and other project implementation in the country, a strong portfolio of like projects in the region and globally and good working relationships with other IAs undertaking related activities in the immediate region and major bilateral donors, particularly the European Union.

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation strategy
Cost risks associated with POPs legacy elimination	Low	There are always some uncertainties associated with the cost of eliminating POPs stockpiles, being subject to free market pricing for disposal and specific to this region at this time's exchange rate variability. However, the well-defined inventories already established, the use of current market pricing in cost estimating and contracting in hard currencies in bulk over the project period will all serve to mitigate these risks.
Industrial sector commitment to the project in terms of technical support and co-financing.	Low	The principle risk in this area relates to the inevitable potential that fiscal constraints will prevent major holders of PCBs from being able to undertake the anticipated accelerated replacement programs associated with the project. At this point, positive and proactive action including having a mandated national PCB phase out plan in place along with the required forward and financial planning serves to mitigate this risk.
Level of capacity (technical, institutional) is underestimated	Low	Belarus has demonstrated solid technical capacity developed over the last decade dealing with POPs issues and this depth along with the directed training and capacity strengthening measures designed in to project should substantively mitigate this risk.
Climate risks associated with extreme events impacting project activities associated with burial sites and storehouses	Low	The location of current storehouse, PCB stockpile, and OP burial sites have no identified unique exposure to extreme climate events but activities undertaken at these sites, including planning for potential excavation activities in the future will take the possibility into consideration in determining the containment/remediation design approach.

The project will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis according to applicable GEF and UNDP procedures for results-based management. An annual reporting exercise in the form of the project implementation review (PIR) will take place, where the project will be tracked for progress against the relevant performance indicators (including application of the POPs tracking tool), evaluated for progress made towards development results, and assessed with regard to its degree of adaptive management and its flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

During the PPG stage, a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) study was undertaken on the principle PCB and OP removal and disposal activities proposed for the project including undertaking the required risk assessment under the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). The following summarizes the results of this risk assessment.

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation strategy
Risk 1: The Project may potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (for example, modified, natural or critical habitats, environmentally sensitive areas including legally protected areas (e.g., natural reserves, national parks), areas proposed for protection or recognized as such by authoritative sources) and /or ecosystems and ecosystem services.	Low	Spillage and release of waste in the course of repackaging of obsolete pesticides at storage locations situated in rural areas offering natural habitat, transportation or as may be accidently released during destruction of obsolete pesticides and PCB could potentially cause adverse impacts on such habitats, environmentally sensitive area, and protected areas Risk is mitigated by application of standard accepted international procedures during repackaging and transfer activities including handling of relatively small quantities

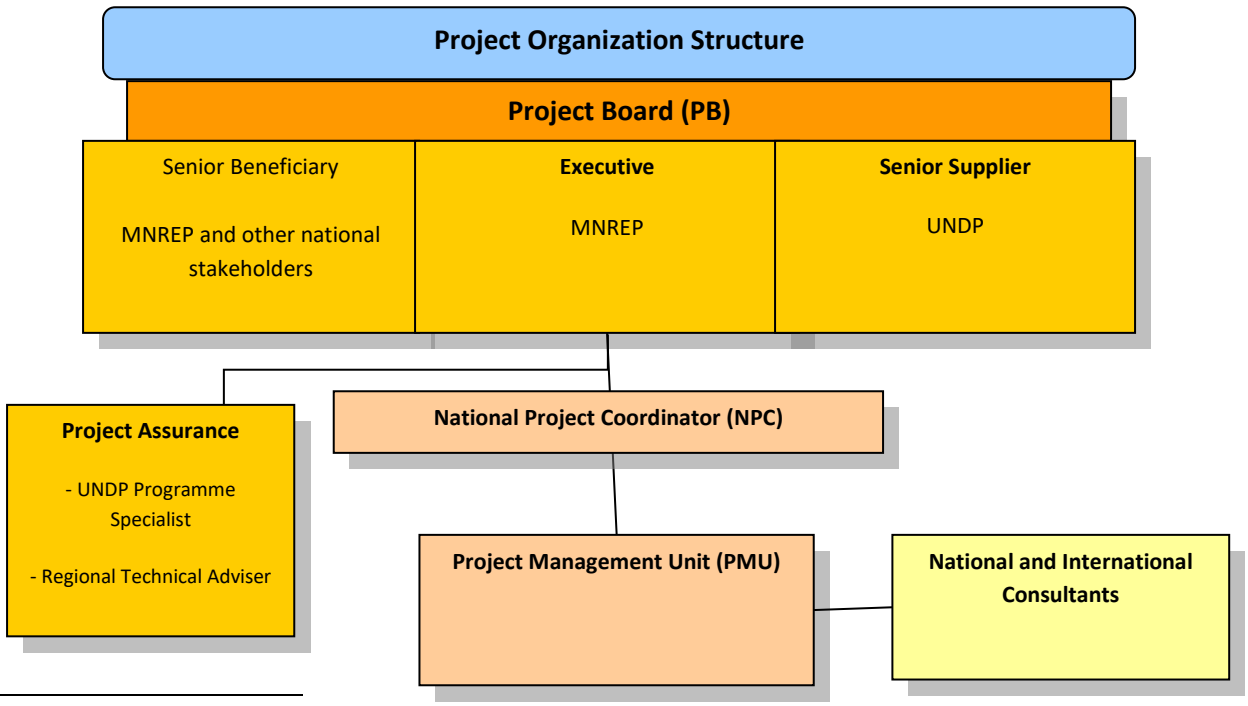
Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation strategy
		at a given time, and provision of immediate spill containment and ground protection during such operations. Likewise such risks during transportation are mitigated by transport in containers internationally approved dangerous goods containment (including secondary containment), restriction of routing to regulated dangerous goods routes, and provision for strict licensing and training requirements and provision for communication, tracking and emergency response capability.
Risk 2: The Project poses potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage and/or disposal of hazardous materials (POPs containing wastes to be managed through the Project activities).	Low	The direct handling, transportation, treatment and destruction of hazardous waste with toxic (albeit chronic as opposed to acute) properties could present perceived inherent risks to communities in proximity of these activities, although this is extremely remote given the nature of the materials involved and application of release prevention and containment practices. Transportation risks leading to release and exposure are mitigated by specification and enforcement of accepted international standards for containment, vehicles, qualification and emergency response. Likewise treatment and destruction is done to international environmental performance and release standards in countries with robust environmental and OHS regulations and enforcement. Noting that all operations are routinely and widely undertaken without issues arising, the overall risk in this very low.
Risk 3: The Project poses potential risks related to occupational safety due to chemical hazards during the Project implementation.	Low	The direct handling, transportation, treatment and destruction of hazardous waste with toxic (albeit chronic as opposed to acute) properties presents inherent risks, to workers directly involved in these operation. However, direct exposure risks are mitigated and effectively eliminated by proven OHS practices, training, and PPE protocols specified and enforced in specifications in contract documents and enforced including mandatory medical examination.
Risk 4: The Project may potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts.	Low	Packaging /repackaging, loading/unloading, transportation and disposal of PCB containing equipment and obsolete pesticides may theoretically involve a risk of environmentally harmful releases to air due to particulate fugitive emissions, and water due to accidental spillage at source and during transportation, and releases from treatment/destruction processes. However, the risk of occurrence and impact of these is considered low with application of current practice, BAT/BEP technology and international performance standards requiring low release limits and high POPs destruction efficiency (99.99%). Source activities will involve containment of fugitive emission and prevention of spillage and containment mitigate release. Likewise at treatment and disposal sites, application of internationally accepted specified international standards and environmental performance requirements, limit releases to very low levels A key tool ii management of this risk is the specification of an environmental management plan (EMP) binding service providers to specific actions and their monitoring.

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation strategy
Risk 5: The Project may potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)	Low	Consumable waste such as spillage residuals and PPE are treated as hazardous waste and included in materials directed to environmental sound disposal. Residuals from treatment and destruction processes (typically incineration bottom ash and air pollution control residuals) are tested as to hazard level, then either returned for incineration or if qualified disposed of in an engineered hazardous waste landfill. Things such as decontaminated transformer shells, and shredded capacitor parts will be recycled as scrap metal.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. **Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

The institutional arrangements for the project will be based on MNREP acting in the capacity of Executing Agency with overall policy direction being provided by the MNREP officially assigned representative with responsibility for the project's implementation. The overall supervisory oversight within the Government is provided by the Coordination Council on Implementation of the Stockholm Convention who oversee the implementation of the National Program. Operational coordination of project implementation is provided by an assigned focal point in the MNREP Waste Management Department who maintains day to day coordination with UNDP and the Project Implementation Unit (PMU).

The Executing Entity will assign a senior official as the National Project Coordinator (NPC)[16] who will provide general coordination and support to the project on behalf of the MNREP. The Project organization structure, as shown in the figure below, will consist of a Project Board, Project Assurance, and PMU.



[16] The NPC will not be paid from the project funds; the NPC's time is an in-kind contribution from the government to the project.

A Project Board (PB) will be established at the Project inception phase to monitor progress, guide its implementation and support the Project in achieving its listed outputs and outcomes. It will be chaired by the NPC and include representatives from the main stakeholders including the MNREP, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Healthcare and UNDP Belarus. Other members can be invited at the decision of the PB on an as-needed basis, but taking due regard that the PB remains sufficiently lean to be operationally effective. The Project Manager (PM) will participate as a non-voting member in the PB meetings and will also be responsible for compiling a summary report of the discussions and conclusions of each meeting. The final list of the PB members will be completed at the outset of Project operations and will be approved by UNDP and MNREP. The first PB meeting will take place within 6 months from the Project registration date. The PB will meet at least twice a year to discuss the issues related to Project implementation. The PB could meet more often if it will be deemed necessary.

The Project Assurance role supports the PB Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with the respective UNDP Belarus Programme Specialist and a UNDPs Regional Technical Advisor in Istanbul's UNDP Regional Hub.

The day-to-day management of the Project will be carried out by the PMU under the overall guidance of the PB. The PMU will include the PM, Administrative/ Financial Assistant and 2 Field Supervision/Coordination Consultants (one for each of components 1 and 2). It will also be supported through the part-time services of a Procurement Specialist. The PMU staff will be selected through an open competitive process in accordance with the respective UNDP rules and procedures taking into account consultations with the MNREP. Effectiveness of the PMU staff's work will be evaluated annually by UNDP Belarus. Based on the evaluation results and consultations with the NPC, a decision will be made on renewal/ non-renewal of the PMU staff contracts. The Project will be supported by international and national expert assingments in the former case to provide due diligence and international level supervision to the safety of oeprations to stay in line with international benchmarks and harmonize activities with SESP parameters.

A work plan for the first year of Project implementation will be developed and approved by the MNREP and UNDP during the inception phase. Work plans for the second and subsequent project implementation years will be prepared during the last month of the work year.

To successfully achieve the objective and outcomes of the Project, it is essential that progress of the different Project components be closely monitored both by the key local and international stakeholders using detailed component-specific work plans and implementation arrangements throughout the entire implementation period. This should facilitate early identification of possible risks to successful completion of the Project together with adaptive management and early corrective action, when needed. During implementation, proper care will be taken to ensure communication and co-ordination mechanisms are in place to address areas of common interest in a cost-efficient way.

Both the PMU and the PB will implement mechanisms to ensure ongoing stakeholder participation and effectiveness with the commencement of the Project by conducting regular stakeholder meetings, the dedicated Project website, conducting feedback surveys, implementing strong project management practices.

In terms of coordination with other relevant GEF financed projects and other initiatives, it is noted that the project itself represents an example of coordination with other GEF initiatives in that it directly builds on the highly successful initial World Bank GEF-4 POPs Stockpile Management Project in Belarus addressing priority POPs stockpiles and legacies. The current project is basically a continuation of that project which will effectively move Belarus into a position of largely having addressed its Soviet era POPs and OP legacies.

During the PPG stage, development of the project has been coordination with a number of completing and implementing relevant UNDP GEF projects in the region and globally something that will be maintained, specifically with respect to ensuring the transfer of experience to and from this project as part of a South-South Cooperation strategy for experience sharing and replication. Specific examples of such linkages are: i) Vietnam GEF-4 Building Capacity for

POPs Pesticide Elimination (Completed) – provides reference experience in cost effective POPs and OP pesticide site assessment and remediation technologies; ii) Vietnam GEF-4 Environmental Remediation of Dioxin Contaminated Hot Spots (Completed) – demonstration of soil remediation technologies; iii) Georgia GEF-4 Disposal of POPs Pesticides and Initial Steps for Containment of Dumped POPs Pesticides (Completed) – site assessment, POPs export, and containment methodologies; iv) Turkey GEF-5 POPs legacy Elimination and POPs Release Reduction Project (Implementing) – elimination of POPs pesticide/PCB stockpiles and POPs destruction facility qualification; v) Kyrgyzstan GEF-4 Management and Disposal of PCBs (completed) – storage and trans-border export issues; and vi) Kazakhstan GEF-4 Design and Execution of a Comprehensive PCB Management Plan (Completed) - PCB airlifting demonstration due to POPs transit challenges).

The Small Grants Program (SGP) of the Global Environment Facility in the Republic of Belarus provides funding up to $50,000 per project for community actions and aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF. 126 projects on the total sum more than US$10 million have been implemented by GEF SGP in Belarus since 2006. 11% of resources have been directed to POPs. In OP-6, SGP in Belarus target certain geographic landscape of significant importance (Mogilev region), where greater strategic impacts can be achieved with limited resources. Unlike the previous operational phases, in GEF-6, the programme will focus its grant-making to multi-focal themes including Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions.

Beyond UNDP's own activities, close coordination is being maintained with two developing UNIDO projects in the region. One of these projects is a Regional GEF-5 Initial Technical Assistance for the Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in the, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia (Under Preparation) that is understood to potentially involve development of longer term future POPs management capability in Belarus The second project is the Russian Federation GEF-5 Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of PCBs for the Russian Railway and other PCB Owners (Implementing) in cooperation with UNIDO. The specific objective of this coordination would be to ensure there is no duplication of GEF funding activities, something that has already been considered in the project design and also leave the option open for the utilization of regional capability by this project which might be developed under these projects and assuming they offer competitive commercial treatment and destruction services.

The project is also being coordinated with several bilateral initiatives in Belarus and neighbouring countries. Within Belarus, the substantial EU commitment to environmental monitoring support represents a significant parallel initiative that through Outcome 3.3 the project is coordinating GEF investments in training, technical assistance and upgrading of sampling and laboratory capability. Likewise the facilitation of a national sound chemicals management is being coordinated with a pending bilateral program on ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. Regionally two investment projects being undertaken by NEFCO in the Russian Federation on behalf of the Arctic Council related to development of POPs and chemicals management infrastructure also have linkages. These involve development of speciality commercial capability for management of both OPs and PCB based equipment.

A.7 *Benefits.* Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The overall socio economic benefits derived from the project are the substantial elimination of critical and high risk POPs and OP stockpiles from the country over the project period and supporting national capacity in terms of expertise and infrastructure to complete residual elimination and more generally to manage future current and legacy chemical wastes, all in a cost effective fashion. In addition to the direct global environmental benefits describe in Section A.1 above, this provides significant socio economic benefit through the elimination of long term fiscal liabilities that if not addressed will grow and have a negative effect on national finances into the future. Likewise, this also substantially mitigates the human health impacts something that is also enhanced by the creation of robust national environmental monitoring capability. An additional socio-economic benefit from the Project is the aggressive adoption of gender

equity and empowerment initiatives as a fully integrated part of the Project design, something that should serve as a model for both future national and international initiatives.

A.8 *Knowledge Management.* Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

Section A.6 above elaborates the linkages with a range of other similar projects that will be mutually supportive in terms of knowledge sharing and transfer which will also be tied into the extensive network of knowledge management initiatives operational both in the region and globally. This will include active participation into the activities of various organizations, groups and networks who provide forum for knowledge sharing, transfer and dissemination. These include the International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA) that provides an extensive forum for knowledge and awareness exchanges, particularly in this region as well as a number of active international NGOs supporting particularly obsolete pesticide initiatives. Likewise, SC Convention based mechanisms like the PCB Elimination Network (PEN) and participation in collective information events such as Webinars organized by the Basel Convention Secretariat will be utilized as knowledge management tools both for following and learning from activities elsewhere, and to disseminate national experience as it evolves. Within the project itself, Outcome 3.5 is intended to serve both a public/stakeholder awareness and knowledge management purposes.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 *Consistency with National Priorities.* Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.:

The over arching national strategy underpinning the project's consistency with national priorities is the National Strategy for Sustainable Development Until 2030 which lists the following measures relevant to the Project i) to destroy POPs stockpiles accumulated in the republic; ii) to reduce POP emissions from unintentional sources in accordance with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention; iii) to implement the transition to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and to approve, as an obligatory element of it, information on the potential risk of a chemical, precautions and first aid measures; iv) to conduct an inventory of hazardous chemicals and create an infrastructure for maintaining databases of hazardous chemicals; v) take measures to develop monitoring of the impact of hazardous chemicals on public health and the state of the environment, including the introduction of biomonitoring technologies in areas affected by hazardous facilities; vi) improve information exchange between responsible state structures and interested organizations, ensure transparency of information, improve access of the general public to data on hazardous chemicals.

The main country middle-term strategic document is the Socioeconomic Development Program of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020) that emphasizes the importance of protection of the environment and human health from the impacts of POPs. It also mandates the phase out of all capacitors and 60% of transformers containing PCBs by 2020 which underpins the Project's design in this area.

More specifically the Project is being undertaken in direct response to the national policy priority on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention that has been embedded as a national priority for the past decade. Since 2007 this has been manifest in a series of National Programs for the periods 2017-2010, 2011-2015 and the current program for 2016-20, each of which had and contines to have allocated pre-approved state budget funding allocated to it. In the case of the current National Program, this is now embedded in the overall State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Natural Resource Management" for 2016-2020 approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 17 March 2016 № 205, thus strengthening linkage to the high priority the country applies to

environmental protection generally. Further, underlining the policy level commitment to the project and linkage to national priorities, the project is integrated with the Program of the Electric Power Development for 2016-2020 such that modernization of electrical infrastructure supports the accelerated phase out of PCB based equipment. A further demonstration of the project being consistent with national priorities is the written policy statement contained in the original endorsement letter from the government for this project (dated February 21, 2016) that states the project is the principle international project supporting its efforts with respect to addressing POPs noting that other regional initiatives would be considered complementary. This position has been reaffirmed in the formal endorsement applicable to this submission for GEF CEO Endorsement.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

Section VII of the UNDP Project Document details the overall M&E plan as aligned with UNDP's standard practice and policies agreed with the GEF. As described above the financing for the M&E plan inclusive of knowledge management totals US$260,000 made up of US$150,000 from GEF and US$110,000 in co-financimg from MNREP and UNDP. A summary of he budgeted plan is provide below in tabular form.

M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Costs to be charged to the Project Budget[17] (US$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
Inception Workshop	UNDP CO	10,000	*5,000*	Within two months of project document signature
Inception Report	PM	None	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP	UNDP CO	None	None	Quarterly, annually
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	PM	10,000	*5,000*	Annually
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	PM and UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Annually
NIM Audit as per UNDP audit policies	UNDP CO	10,000	*None*	Annually or other frequency as per UNDP Audit policies
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	PM	6,040	*15,000*	Annually
Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant	PM UNDP CO	None	*20,000*	On-going
Addressing environmental and social grievances	PM UNDP CO BPPS as needed	None for time of project manager, and UNDP CO	*10,000*	Costs associated with missions, workshops, BPPS expertise etc. can be charged to the project budget.
Project Board meetings	PB UNDP CO PM	5,000	*5,000*	At minimum annually

[17] Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff time and travel expenses.

M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Costs to be charged to the Project Budget[17] (US$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
Supervision missions	UNDP CO	None[18]	*5,000*	Annually
Oversight missions	UNDP-GEF team	None**Error! Bookmark not defined.**	*5,000*	Troubleshooting as needed
Knowledge management as outlined in Outcome 4	*PM*	48,960	*20,000*	On-going
GEF Secretariat learning missions/site visits	UNDP CO and PM and UNDP-GEF team	None	*None*	To be determined.
Mid-term GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by Project Manager	*PM*	*None*	*None*	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and management response	*UNDP CO and PMU and UNDP-GEF team*	20,000	*10,000*	Between 2nd and 3rd PIR.
Terminal GEF Tracking Tool to be updated by Project Manager	Project Manager	None	*None*	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) included in UNDP evaluation plan, and management response	UNDP CO and PMU and UNDP-GEF team	30,000	*10,000*	At least three months before operational closure
Translation of MTR and TE reports into English	*UNDP CO*	10,000	*None*	As required. GEF will only accept reports in English.
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses		150,000	*110,000*	

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

[18] The costs of UNDP Country Office and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[19] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, Executive Coordinator, UNDP Global Environmental Finance			Xiaofang Zhou, Director, MPU/Chemicals	00-1-212-906-5782	xiaofang.zhou@undp.org

[19] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD: 3.1: Solutions developed at national and subnational levels for the sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste: 3.2: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions able to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: 3.1.1 Number of new jobs created through management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste, disaggregated by sex: 3.2.2: Number of policies/regulatory frameworks that incorporate requirements of international environmental conventions
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one): Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste: Objective CW-1 Program 2: Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring, CW-2 Program 3: Reduction and elimination of POPs
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Outcome 2.3: All countries have completed their NIP updates under the Stockholm Convention and have established a sustainable mechanism to update them in the future Outcome 3.1: Quantifiable and verifiable tonnes of POPs eliminated or reduced.
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: Indicator 2.3.1: Number of NIP updates completed Indicator 2.3.2: Number of countries that have integrated the NIP updated process into their own budget. Indicator 3.1: Amount and type of POPs eliminated or reduced

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
Objective: Protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in the Republic of Belarus	• Amounts of major legacy PCB and obsolete pesticide stockpiles and current/pending PCB based equipment eliminated in an environmentally sound manner	• Globally significant large obsolete pesticide (OP) stockpiles remain without committed resources for elimination. • 1,100 t of out of service PCB based equipment and waste are stockpiled • 2,602 t of PCB based equipment remaining in service • 1,900 t of OP stored in 88 vulnerable rural store houses and elimination. • 3,917 t of OP securely stored in a dedicated HW management facility. • 4,357 t of OP waste and contaminated soil remaining in 5 burial sites. • No qualified national capability for destruction of PCB and OP stockpiles in place.	• Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste. • Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste	• Removal of 1,937 t of PCB based equipment and waste and environmentally sound destruction of 1,270 t of this material for project total of 2,370 t. • Assessment and securing with management plans in place all OP burial sites. • National capacity in place for the elimination of remaining securely stored OPs	• Task specific reports and technical documentation • Peer review of technical documentation • Supervisory consultant reports. • Regulatory submission/ approval documents • National report on SC implementation • National POPs data register	• Financing of elimination targeted supported by GEF financing. • Co-financing availability from PCB holders will limit incremental elimination potential/mandated phase out rates of PCB based equipment. • Cost estimates for elimination are conservatively high but remain dependant on market pricing. • Development of future national elimination capacity is dependent on sustainability of committed state funding and attraction of external financing.
	•A long term PCB phase out plan assuring compliance with SC is fully implemented with the majority of PCB legacies eliminated or removed from service by 2021 consistent with OECD country progress in fulfilling SC obligations and capacity is in place to eliminate remaining PCB equipment from service by 2025 and be eliminated by	• Comprehensive and regularly updated National inventory of PCB based equipment in place. • Mandated targets for substantial removal of 1,937 t of remaining PCB based equipment in place under a legislated National Program by 2021	• PCB phase out implementation is being implemented by sector consistent with the mandated time lines in the National Program. • National inventories are updated and reported	• PCB phase out consistent with the mandated targets of the 2016-2020 National Program are achieved. • Mandated measures are in place for a subsequent national program are in place for phase out and elimination of all remaining PCBs.	• Task specific reports and technical documentation. • Supervisory consultant reports. • Regulatory submission/ approval documents • National PCB inventory data base	• Availability of national financing from state budget and PCB holders to achieve 2021 targeted phase out. • Availability of future state/PCB holder funding and access to potential international assistance.

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
	2028.					
	•Legal, institutional and regulatory framework for a national chemicals management policy and action plan in place consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements	• Fragmented and dated regulatory regime for chemicals management exists across multiple institutional agencies. • No current direct policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives in place. • Negative trade and economic implications in relation to regional trade developments. • Outstanding ratification of chemicals related conventions and updating obligations under the SC	• Establishment of an active interagency facilitation mechanism • Completion of legislative and regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management bench marked against EU and regional practice • NIP update completed and submitted	• Adoption of a national policy on sound chemicals management and commitment to implementation of a comprehensive program integrated and interagency program. • Ratification of Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions	• Task specific reports and technical documentation. • Supervisory consultant reports. • Official declarations of policy and regulatory measures	• Sustained commitment to initiate coordinated interagency action on the subject. • Official intentions declared on outstanding joining/sustaining international conventions
Component 1: 0 Sustainable PCB Management						
Outcome 1.1 - PCB phase out plan implementation support for sustainable and accelerated PCB phase out	• Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination and as applicable to screening for cross contamination during maintenance developed and applied	• PCB holders identified and general initial technical assistance provided during previous GEF/WB project • Generally good awareness of PCB issues exists with major PCB holders within formal sectors under government oversight (large majority of holders). • Limited awareness among peripheral industrial holders. • Survey of extent of cross contamination undertaken in GEF/WB project. • No operational screening yet established for	• Best practice guidance manuals developed and distributed to all major PCB holders. • 3 workshop training events completed • Compliance with mandated PCB phase out targets for current mandated program • Technical procedure documentation on cross contamination and screening developed and disseminated	• Best practice technical procedures adopted by all major holders and imbedded in relevant nation technical standards. • 60 technical staff operationally applying best practices. • Planning for next mandated PCB phase out scheduling beyond 2020 in place • Cross contamination screening embedded in operations of at least 4 major holder transformer maintenance practice. • 60 Technical staff trained and equipped	• Supervisory consultant reports. • Regulatory inspection reports • Workshop/ training documentation • Participant feedback surveys • Annual national PCB inventory reports	• No regulatory barriers exist to undertaking the work. • Sufficient resources available • Beneficiary commitment and interest established

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
		transformer maintenance operations		with screening capability		
	• PCB inventory and tracking system fully operational and integrated with national and global POPs inventory systems	• Within the national POPs inventory reporting system, annual reporting of PCBs by sector, regional and major holder in place. • International reporting current and web accessible	• Expanded reporting at the holder level developed. • PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. • Public data access maintained	• National PCB inventory and tracking fully integrated into national POPs inventory system. • PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. • Public data access maintained	• Supervisory consultant reports. • Regulatory inspection reports • Project disposal tracking documentation • National POPs inventory system	• Basic system and resources in place at the outset. • Supported by mandated phase out under legislated national program
Outcome 1.2: Sustainable PCB/Chemical waste management infrastructure developed and operational in the Republic of Belarus serving national and regional markets	• Development of qualified capability to treat and dispose of HW at the at Chechersk facility in Gomel Oblast and for national capability for environmentally sound management of PCB equipment.	• Chechersk facility provides basic infrastructure to host HW treatment/disposal capability • Core capital financial funding dedicated by Gomel Oblast • Feasibility studies on technology selection initiated • With the exception of secure storage at holder sites and the Chechersk facility national PCB management does not exist.	• Selection of treatment/disposal technology completed/procured • GEF supported technical assistance for this process delivered • Completion of a need and option assessment related to PCB equipment management capability requirements	• Treatment/Disposal capability commissioned at Chechersk. • GEF funded qualification/ demonstration testing completed and documented. • Development and business planning completed to have resulted in the selection and implementation of required PCB equipment management options.	• Supervisory consultant reports. • Regulatory inspection reports • Independent due diligence peer review reports	• Environmental approval process established under national regulations. • Commitment to sustained Gomel Oblast core capital funding/external financing available • Facility economic viability can be established. • Need/market can be verified for nation PCB equipment management • Waste import issues do not present barriers • Competing facilities under development in region do not impact PCB facility development •
Outcome 1.3: Environmentally sound elimination of present equipment PCB stockpiles and accelerated phased out of PCB equipment during the Project.	•Amount of currently stockpiled PCB equipment/waste and newly phased out PCB equipment shipped and eliminated.	• 1,100 t of currently stockpiled equipment immediately available for shipping and environmentally sound disposal. • 2,602 t of PCB based equipment remaining in service • Removal of 1,937 t of PCB based equipment	• Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste.	• Environmentally sound destruction of 1,270 t of PCB equipment phased out over the project for total PCB elimination over project of 2,340 t	• Regulatory inspection reports and issued permits • Supervisory consultant reports. • Contract mandated tracking and destruction	• Timely export/transit country/import approvals for destruction received. • Competitive current market pricing for required contracted services • Implementation of phase out as mandated.

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
		and waste mandated under National Program from service			certification documents • National report on SC implementation • National POPs data register	
Component 2: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies						
Outcome 2.1: Environmentally sound elimination of remaining rural OP storage site stockpiles	• Amount of OP removed from rural OP storage sites and number of rural storehouses where OPs are eliminated and sites restored	• 1,900 t of OPs stored in 88 rural stockpile sites. • Environmental conditions on the sites are largely unassessed	• 1,900 t of OP packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with international standards. • 50% of sites assessed and required cleanup completed in accordance with national standards.	• 100% of rural storehouse sites assessed and cleaned up in accordance with national standards.	• Regulatory inspection reports and issued permits • Supervisory consultant reports. • Contract mandated tracking and destruction certification documents • National report on SC implementation • National POPs data register	• Timely export/transit country/import approvals for destruction received. • Competitive current market pricing for required contracted services
Outcome 2.2: Obsolete pesticide burial site assessment and containment (5 sites)	•Number of site assessment reports and containment/clean up action plans with financial commitments identified for containment and clean up	• 5 remaining burial sites nominally monitored • Periodic excavation of Petrikova site ongoing • No new financial commitments to address remaining sites	• 3 basic site assessments completed • 2 preliminary containment/clean up action plans completed	• 5 basic site assessments completed • 5 preliminary containment/clean up action plans completed • Core long term financial resources for containment and clean up mobilized	• Regulatory inspection reports and issued permits • Supervisory consultant reports.	• Public priority for action sustained • Ability to identify and mobilize required financial resources.
Component 3: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management						
Outcome 3.1: Legal, institutional and	•Legal, institutional and regulatory review of	• Fragmented and dated regulatory regime for	• Active interagency facilitation on sound	• 5 interagency workshops/training	• Supervisory	• Sustained policy commitment to pursuing

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements	national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements completed	chemicals management exists across multiple institutional agencies. • No current direct policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives in place. • Negative trade and economic implications in relation to regional trade developments. • Outstanding ratification of chemicals related conventions	chemicals management established. • At least 2 interagency workshops/training events • Legislative/ regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management completed. • At least 1 public consultation event	events • At least 2 public consultation events. • National policy on and framework for sound chemicals management adopted and initiation initiated on a coordinated interagency basis. • Ratification of Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions	consultant reports. • Records of workshops, training events • Official endorsement adoption documents on policies and programs	sound chemicals management agenda • Interagency cooperation
Outcome 3.2: Implementation of gender mainstreaming practices for project activities and sound chemical management initiatives generally	• Implementation of measures set out in adopted gender equity and mainstreaming action plan.(Section A4)	• Currently no gender specific policies in effect associated with POPs management and chemicals management	• 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women • 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women • 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women • 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women.	• 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women • 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women • 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women • 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women.	• UNDP gender expert reports.	• Acceptance of UNDP/GEF gender equity and empowerment policies by project counterparts sustained
Outcome 3.3 Expanded national program for monitoring chemicals in the environment developed and implemented	•Effectiveness of upgraded national environmental monitoring system. • GEF funded training and capacity building programs and upgrading of sampling and	• Basic national environmental monitoring system in place and operation. • Aging sampling and analytical capability limiting effectiveness • Scope limitations related to monitoring of new	• Assessment of environmental monitoring program completed • One training program for staff completed. • Identification and procurement of sampling and	• Upgraded national environmental monitoring program implemented • 2 training programs completed • GEF financed sampling and analytical equipment	• Training documents and participant reports • Supervisory consultant reports. • Program	• Sustained state budget support under current national program • Timely implementation of parallel EU funded initiative • High level of national technical staff capability maintained.

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
	analytical infrastructure implemented	POPs and broader chemical releases • Human resource capacity limitations	analytical equipment initiated • EU program finalized and under implementation	operational	documentation	
Outcome 3.4 NIP Update prepared, endorsed and submitted in accordance with SC obligations	• Current POPs inventories (old and new POPs) updated and updated NIP prepared and submitted per country obligations	• Parallel national program on POPs in place • Inventories of "old" POPs current • Inventories on "new" POPs initiated.	• All inventories completed • NIP prepared, endorsed and submitted	• SC reporting on POPs current	• Supervisory consultant reports. • Inventory study reports • NIP and feedback from SC • POPs reports to SC	• Sustained country commitment to SC • Availability of national resources to prepare NIP
Outcome 3.5 Supporting public and stakeholder awareness and information exchange for measures on POPs and sound chemicals management	Number of public awareness events, information products (including web accessible) produced on POPs and sound chemicals management, as implemented thru active NGO/Civil society partnerships.	• Regular but limited public information and awareness undertaken by MNREP • Maintained Web site on POPs in place • No directed public information/awareness on broader sound chemicals management issues. • Active engagement of a robust NGO/civil society community in MNREP activities.	• 16 public awareness events undertaken • 50 public information products released for dissemination • Upgraded web based platform operational • 2 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities	• 16 public awareness events undertaken • 20 public information products released for dissemination • Web based platform operational and sustained • 3 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities	• Feedback reports from public awareness events • Public information products • Information provided on the public web-site • Feedback survey materials from NGO/Civil society organizations	• Sustained public policy support for engagement of public and civil society in environmental issues
Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&E						
Outcome 4: Knowledge Management and M&E	Knowledge management applied to project in response to needs and opportunities including mid-term and final evaluation findings with lessons learned extracted.	• Knowledge management not part of project baseline situation • Limited M&E applied to project issues and baseline activities	• Knowledge development integrated into project activities • M&E plan adopted and implemented • Mid-term-evaluation of project outputs and	• Knowledge management results reported • Final evaluation report ready in the end of project	• Project document inception workshop report. • Independent mid-term evaluation report.	• Availability of reference material and progress reports • Cooperation of stakeholder agencies and other organizations.

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets		Sources of verification	Risks and assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project		
			outcomes conducted with lessons learnt at 30 months of implementation.		• Project completion report	

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

The single item noted in the final GEFSEC review report (dated March 18, 2015) requested additional information related to "Choice of disposal, i.e. in country or external, and the final amounts that will be targeted by the Project". Based on the PPG work it is anticipated that POPs waste will be exported to qualified facilities in the EU for high temperature incineration and, in the case of transformers, decontamination. The specific facilities utilized will be selected using a competitive tendering process. While not anticipated to be available in Belarus or in a neighboring country in the Project period, should a capability, qualified to international standards and specifically those set out in guidance provided by the Basel Convention and GEF STAP, such national or neighbouring country facilities would be considered in the competitive tender process applied by UNDP. The anticipated quantities to be disposed are defined above based on updated inventories undertaken during the PPG.

The STAP review report (dated May 2, 2015) has noted a number of minor points on which clarification at the PPG stage are requested. The following addresses these:

- *Presentation of PCB inventory data*: The PCB baseline inventory data has been updated during the PPG stage and is presented above. The baseline inventory defines the four categories of PCB based equipment and PCB waste (Transformers, Power Capacitor, small capacitors, and PCB contaminated materials). The project is focused on the large volume categories, namely transformers and power capacitors, and this is what the project quantities quoted for elimination are based on. The small capacitors and PCB contaminated materials categories are quite minor in term of volume or potential impact and will only be addressed by the Project if convenient and where resources are available. It should also be noted that the two primary categories of PCB based equipment (transformers and power capacitors) are further differentiated between equipment that is currently decommissioned (out of service), equipment currently in service but mandated for phase out in the period 2017-20, and the remainder that will continue in-service and be eliminated beyond 2020. The project is targeting all currently decommissioned (stockpiled) equipment estimated to be 1,100 t, and 1,290 t of the 1,937 t of equipment mandated to be removed from service in the 2017-20 period. The reason for not eliminating all of the equipment potentially available in the project period is the project's funding constraints. However, it is hoped that other financing will be available for this either during or following the Project.
- *Obsolete pesticide burial sites:* The current text should make clear that there are five remaining burial sites for which updated estimated quantities of OPs and associated contaminated soil (4,357 t) have been provided in the baseline table above. Likewise, the quantities stored in the Chechersk secure storage facility located in Gomel Oblast (not a burial site) are differentiated in the associated text.
- *Quality of baseline inventories and GEF determination:* The data provided and the numbers presented in relation to GEB are based on a comprehensive ongoing inventory reporting process that in the experience of UNDP's team is among the most rigorous and comprehensive found among GEF client countries. The GEFSEC is invited to discuss this further if it chooses to follow up on its expressed concerns, including involvement with MNREP staff and that of the National Academy of Science and the Belarusian Research Center "Ecology" who are responsible for maintaining the national inventory and reporting mechanisms.
- *Climate Risks*: The remote risks associated with climate related events as might effect excavated burial and stockpiles sites has been included in the risk matrix as requested by the STAP reviewer, noting that the current project does not involve any active site excavations that might be subject to such risks and the project in fact removes the risk of such events to stockpile sites through providing for their elimination.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[20]

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **US$ 200,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Todate***	***Amount Committed***
Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project "GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management Project			
Component A: Technical review	90,000	54,800	35,200
Component B: Institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation	54,000	23,150	30,850
Component C: Financial planning and co-financing investments	46,000	9,380	36,620
Component D: Validation workshop	10,000	3143	6,857
Total	200,000	**90,473**	109,527

[20] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used**)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A