



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTES ENABLING ACTIVITY

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

Project Title:	Develop the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Initial Assessment for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq		
Country(ies):	Iraq	GEF Project ID:	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01465
Other Executing Partner(s):	UNEP Regional Office for West Asia in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Environment of Iraq	Submission Date:	December 1, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Chemicals and Wastes	Project Duration (Months)	24
Type of Report:	National Implementation Plan (NIP) Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)	Expected Report Submission to Convention	24 months after receipt of the first cash advance

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK*

Project Objective: Develop the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention in order to comply with article 7 under the Stockholm Convention and develop the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) to facilitate the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Project Component	Project Outputs	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co financing ¹
1. NIP development and endorsement	1.1 Capacity building and technical assistance provided to Iraq to develop its NIP while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation; 1.2 Knowledge management services provided; 1.3 Technical guidance and support provided to strengthen the national coordination mechanism for NIP development and future implementation; 1.4 Comprehensive information on the current POPs management institutions, regulatory framework, POPs life cycle in the country and their impacts to human health and the environment compiled and made publicly available;	551,136	0

¹Co-financing for enabling activity is encouraged but not required.

	1.5 Draft NIP developed based on identified national priorities;		
	1.6 Technical support provided to facilitate the NIP endorsement and submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.		
2. MIA development	2.1 Technical assistance provided to Iraq to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation; 2.2 Identified and strengthened NCM dealing with mercury management that will guide the project implementation; 2.3 Conduct a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies), compile and make them publicly available; 2.4 National institutional and regulatory framework and national capacities on mercury management assessed; 2.5 National inventories of mercury sources and releases developed using the UNEP Mercury Toolkit Level II and strategy for the identification of mercury contaminated sites developed; 2.6 Challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Minamata Convention assessed and recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention developed; 2.7 MIA validated by national stakeholders.	151,137	0
3. Monitoring and Evaluation	3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF; 3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available.	25,000	0
Subtotal		727,273	0
Project Management Cost ²		72,727	0
Total Project Cost		800,000	0

* List the \$ by project components. Please attach a detailed project budget table that supports all the project components in this table.

B. SOURCE OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
NA			
Total Co-financing			

²This is the cost associated with the unit executing the project on the ground and could be financed out of trust fund or co-financing sources. For EAs within the ceiling, PMC could be up to 10% of the Subtotal GEF Project Financing.

C. GEF FINANCING RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, COUNTRY AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Iraq	Chemicals and Wastes	POPs	800,000	76,000	876,000
Total GEF Resources					800,000	76,000	876,000

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#)

PART II: ENABLING ACTIVITY JUSTIFICATION

A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Stockholm Convention – NIP

Iraq ratified the Stockholm Convention 06 June 2016. Iraq recognizes its obligation under article 7 of the Convention to develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP) and transmit it to the Conference of the Parties (COP) within two years of entry into force of the Convention. Iraq also recognizes its obligation under article 15 to report at periodic intervals to the Conference of the Parties on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention.

Article 13 of the Convention sets out the principles on which “...developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures that fulfil their obligations under the convention”. The GEF is a principal component of the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and, as such, supports activities to meet its objectives. The GEF Council in its 17th meeting (May 2001) has decided that a typical enabling activity proposal is expected to have a total cost not exceeding \$500,000.

At its fourth meeting, held from 4 to 8 May 2009, the COP, adopted decisions SC-4/10 to SC-4/18 that amended Annexes A (elimination) and C (unintentional production) of the Stockholm Convention to list nine additional chemicals as Persistent Organic Pollutants (new POPs). The COP noted needs for guidance and technical/financial support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of Article 12 of the Convention. The COP also noted that some of the listed chemicals, especially industrial chemicals, are still produced in some countries and used in many countries; others exist globally in stockpiles and wastes that need to be dealt with in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention. Some Parties expressed needs for guidance on how to identify chemicals contained in articles/products and also those released from unintentional production. At its fifth meeting, held from 25-29 April 2011, the COP to the Stockholm Convention, by decision SC-5/4 adopted endosulfan as the tenth new POP. At its sixth meeting, held from 28 April to 10 May 2013 the COP to the Stockholm Convention, by decision SC-6/13 adopted hexabromocyclododecane as the eleventh new POP. At its seventh meeting, held in 2015, the Conference included the adoption of decisions listing hexachlorobutadiene, pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, and polychlorinated Naphthalenes to the Convention. This project will not include chemicals listed in 2015.

At COP-5, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) announced that it would make available grants of up to 250,000 USD to each eligible country embarking upon NIP review and updating. Parties to the Stockholm Convention were requested not only to include information on new POPs but also to update existing information on the twelve initial POPs.

The GEF Programming for its replenishment VI, Program 2 has allocated 20\$ million to “support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets, planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global

monitoring” which highlights the strong commitment of the GEF to support countries to comply with the Stockholm Convention.

Through this project Iraq is applying for funds to develop its first NIP that will take into account 23 POPs listed in the Convention until COP 6.

Minamata Convention - MIA

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The major highlights of the Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury identifies and describes in its Article 13 the financial mechanism to support Parties to implement the Convention. It identifies two entities that will function as the Financial Mechanism: a) the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; and b) A specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance. The GEF financial support of mercury related activities is included in the GEF VI Focal Area Strategies document, which addresses mercury issues under the Strategic Objective 1, Programme 2: Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and action and global monitoring.

Current situation

The following sections present a description of Iraq and its chemicals management infrastructure and policy. These represent the background or baseline for the present project. The information has been gathered by the Ministry Health and Environment / Department of Chemical Management in coordination with other relevant ministries (Oil - electricity - industry - agriculture - Higher Education - Customs Authority).

(a) Overview

Iraq has gone through extremely difficult conditions because of the repeated and continuous wars causing significant damage to all aspects of life. Today, the environment requires a practical reconsideration of the requirements to halt deterioration, protect the environment and biodiversity from pollution, change ways of addressing natural resources to sustainable approaches and activate the role of local authorities and population in planning proper environmental development and management.

The Ministry of Health and Environment (MoE) is the government institution concerned with implementing the state's Environment Protection and Improvement (EPI) policy. The Ministry has assumed this task since its creation in 2003 as a natural development reflecting the deep understanding and attention Government of Iraq attaches to environment and responding to the urgent need to practice environmental work in order to face the grave environmental challenges and problems. MoE has undertaken an important role to introduce Iraq to the international level. Iraq has become an active member in many important international environmental conventions such as on climate change, biodiversity, combating desertification, ozone, RAMSAR, Basel, Stockholm,..etc. MoE has actively cooperated with UNEP and other UN organizations to implement local capacity building projects as well as other environmental projects. Within the Ministry of Health and Environment, there is a division of chemicals control and assessment of contaminated sites whose mandate is chemicals and hazardous waste management.

The National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) approved by the Cabinet in 2013, highlights a vital issue, that is "state institutions and society shall adopt a proper and integrated environmental management approach by applying the concepts of sustainable development, encourage cleaner production, use environment-friendly technology and cleaner fuel, implement policies of optimal utilization of natural resources and promote environmental awareness to build a generation well aware of environmental issues." The integrated and sound management of chemicals is one of its 10 Strategic Objectives (SO) as follows:

1. Protect and improve air quality;
2. Protect and improve water quality;
3. Control land degradation and combat desertification;
4. Maintain marine and coastal environment;
5. Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity;
6. Develop and improve waste management;
7. Reduction of oil pollution;
8. Reduction of radioactive contamination;
9. Integrated management of hazardous chemicals;
10. Develop institutional and legal framework of environment sector.

The wide range of chemicals and hazardous waste in Iraq needs to be managed in a way that ensures the safety and health of human and environment through an integrated system of multiple interrelated aspects and components. As well as, to use proper means consistent with the current conditions taking into account the available resources and the capacities that adopt the best options to meet the environmental standards in a global level at the least costs and high recovery rate.

The Law of Environment Protection and Improvement issued in 2009, paragraphs 19 & 20 lay the foundations for the chemical and hazardous waste management, in addition to the preparation of laws, regulations and instructions relating to environmental protection and improvement.

Lack of integrated waste management causes environmental problems which is affecting human and nature negatively. Hazardous waste integrated management has become a key challenge facing many countries and societies, including Iraq, due to population growth and technological development. Therefore and due to the limited capacity in Iraq compared with other communities and in order to achieve international partnership in the unified environmental work and to preserve environment under its global framework and perspective, Iraq has acceded to Basel convention in January 2011 and to Stockholm Conventions with the depositing of its instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the UN on 8 March 2016. The accession entered into force in Iraq on 6 June 2016.

(b) Country situation with regard to POPs

There are large quantities of POPs hazardous waste in Iraq but their exact locations and quantities are unknown.

The persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are organic compounds that, to a varying degree, resist photolytic, biological and chemical degradation; they are often halogenated and characterized by low water solubility and high lipid solubility, leading to their bioaccumulation in fatty tissues. They are also semi-volatile, enabling them to move long distances. Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems.

In preparation for accession to the Stockholm Convention, Iraq has implemented various activities and efforts towards the elimination and phase out the use of POPs, which are summarized as follows:

1. Gathering basic information for some of the chemicals listed in the Convention;
2. Issue instructions that forbid the import of hazardous chemicals, including chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention to Iraq by stop issuing environmental permits; these chemicals are:
 - ✓ POPs Pesticides;
 - ✓ Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs);
 - ✓ Decabromodiphenyl ether.
3. Organized awareness workshop on the dangers of Dioxins and Furans and their negative impacts on human health and the environment especially with regard to cancer diseases.

(c) Country situation with regard to mercury

Iraq signed the Minamata Convention during the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Kumamoto, Japan, on 10 October 2013 and is taking the following meaningful steps to ratify the Convention:

1. The ratification of the Minamata Convention is now on the agenda of the Council of Ministers for approval;
2. Once approved by the Cabinet, it will be submitted to the Iraqi Parliament for endorsement according to the constitutional procedures;
3. Iraq has been a very active party in the negotiation meeting of the Minamata convention, participating in the seven meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) and in a number of Regional and Arab meetings.

According to the Global Mercury Assessment 2013³, the main sources of mercury emissions in Iraq are:

Table 1: Main sources of mercury emissions in Iraq:

Sector	Activity	Estimate (min)	Emission Estimate, kg	Estimate (max)
Cement production	Cement production	201.600	556.800	2025.920
Caustic Soda Production	Chlor-alkali industry using Hg-cell process, based on plant Cl ₂ production capacity	119.000	340.000	663.000
Waste and other losses due to breakage and disposal in landfill, etc.	Waste and other losses due to breakage and disposal in landfill, etc.	42.758	170.113	565.511
Oil combustion	Combustion of heavy fuel oil	66.852	148.561	245.126
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in industrial uses (oil)	Combustion of heavy fuel oil	24.376	54.169	89.379

³ <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/technical-background-report-for-the-global-mercury-assessment-2013/848>

Oil combustion	Combustion of crude oil	14.702	32.671	53.906
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in other (domestic/residential; commercial; transport; etc.) uses (oil)	Combustion of light fuel oil	5.171	11.492	18.962
Oil Refining	Refining of crude oil in oil refineries	3.737	8.304	13.702
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in industrial uses (oil)	Combustion of light fuel oil	2.456	5.459	9.007
Cremation	Cremation	0.434	1.931	6.879
Waste Incineration	Waste incineration	0.133	0.529	1.757
Stationary fossil fuel combustion in industrial uses (gas)	Combustion of natural gas	0.098	0.218	0.360

(d) Iraq's policies and legislative framework relevant to POPs and mercury

Despite the delay in Iraq's accession to the Conventions because of the administrative and legislative measures, the Ministry of Health and Environment has issued laws, policies and strategies related to POPs and mercury as follows:

1. National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) with objective 9 focused on chemicals management;
2. Law for protection and improvement of the environment in Iraq No. 27 of 2009 sixth paragraph, point 19 & 20 regarding the management of chemicals and hazardous waste;
3. Law of National Committee for the registration and approval of pesticides in Iraq;
4. Instructions No. 6 of 1986 relating to PCBs;
5. Instructions No. 3 of 2012 relating to National emission activities;
6. Establishment of a national committee for synergies between conventions (Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, and Minamata) in addition to the SAICM to follow-up on Iraq's compliance with its obligations in the conventions, includes representatives of 15 ministries.

With regard to Minamata Convention, Iraq has already implemented a few steps to phase out of Mercury products, some of the key steps are:

- 1- Ministry of Health and Environment initiated actions on the assessment of the current situation of Mercury contamination and presence in Iraq;
- 2- Purchase of portable field equipment to measure Mercury fumes;
- 3- Evaluation of industrial locations for their role in Mercury production and use;
- 4- Production of databases on the quantity and quality of Mercury used in Iraqi public institutions.

(e) Relevant institutions and their capacities

To strengthen coordination and synergies among chemicals conventions, the Government of Iraq established the National Committee for Synergies Between conventions (Stockholm - Basel - Rotterdam - Minamata) in addition to the SAICM to follow-up on Iraq's compliance with its obligations in the conventions. The Committee includes representatives of 15 ministries.

The Ministry of Health & Environment

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the government institution concerned with implementing the state's Environment Protection and Improvement (EPI) policy and law, and has assumed this task since its creation in 2003 as a natural development reflecting the deep understanding and attention Government of Iraq (GoI) attaches to environment and responding to the urgent need to practice environmental work in order to face the grave environmental challenges and problems. MoE has supported and implemented several projects for nature preservation, such as biodiversity protection, supported the creation of nature reserves and encouraged using EFTs and modern technology. It has also supported the formation of environment police to enforce environmental legislations as MoE inspection teams control and assess different industrial, agricultural and service activities to reach a clean and pollution-free environment. On 2015, MoE was merged with the Ministry of Health and became Ministry of Health and Environment (MoEnv). There are four Laboratories in the country with competence to identify and analyze chemicals:

1. The Central Environment Laboratory, Ministry of Health and Environment;
2. Ibn Sina laboratories of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals;
3. Laboratory of the Ministry of Science and Technology;
4. Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, it is worth noting that the above laboratories are not qualified to analyze the hazardous chemicals or pesticides included in the Stockholm Convention nor mercury. The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) has identified a number of capacity development needs for the POPs and Mercury management in Iraq (see section f below).

(f) National priorities, UNDAF and SDGs in Iraq

National environmental priorities

As mentioned above, the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) endorsed and launched in 2013 affirmed national vision and priorities with regard to sustainable environment management. The sound management of chemicals is one of its strategic objectives (SO). The NESAP further elaborated on focus areas (themes) and priority actions and projects for each strategic objective. With regard to Chemicals, the NESAP identified the following components and issues.

Table 2: national environmental priorities according to NESAP

1. Identify and evaluate hazardous chemicals	1. Spread of chemicals in the environment
	2. Locally made toxic and hazardous chemicals
	3. Imported toxic and hazardous chemicals
2. Identify and dispose of chemical residues resulted	1. Industrial activity
	2. Hospitals and health centers

from different activities	3. Agricultural activity
	4. Military activity
	5. Scientific and research activity
	6. Sound management to dispose of hazardous chemicals
3. Control the circulation of toxic and hazardous chemicals	1. Manufacturing of toxic and hazardous chemicals locally
	2. Commercially traded toxic and hazardous chemicals
	3. Imported toxic and hazardous chemicals
4. Transfer of toxic and hazardous chemicals	1. International transfer of toxic and hazardous chemicals to and across Iraq
	2. Local transfer of toxic and hazardous chemicals within Iraq

The Ministry of Health and Environment with GEF funding and support from UNEP is currently implementing the National Capacity Self-Assessment for the Global Environment Management (NCSA). The project identifies synergies among conventions including Chemicals. Thematic profiles for each chemical convention was prepared and preliminary priority capacity needs were identified through a survey and stakeholders consultation meetings facilitated by the chemicals team at the Ministry. The following preliminary capacity needs were identified:

1. Training on the inventory of POPs, especially Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (devices, products and contaminated sites) and Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF) (sources identification and estimation of their emissions or determine their concentrations), which need special knowledge and skills;
2. Training on drafting the NIP action plans;
3. Technical assistance and financial support on implementing NIP action plans;
4. Technical assistance on rehabilitation of PCBs contaminated sites;
5. Training on the monitoring and control of POPs, including sampling (air, soil and water) and laboratory analysis.
6. Training for the customs and security officers on monitoring of POPs at the borders of Iraq;
7. Promote the application of Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) in respect of the reduction of health-care waste in order to avoid/ reduce the releases of Dioxins and Furans (PCDD/PCDF) to the environment;
8. Training on the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs wastes, including the safe dispose of obsolete stocks of POPs pesticides and the clean-up of contaminated sites.

With regard to Mercury:

- 1- Management of Mercury waste especially in emergency situations;
- 2- Changing technologies and replacing it with more environmentally friendly ones;
- 3- Environmentally sound temporary storage systems for Mercury compounds in Iraq towards final disposal.

UNDAF in Iraq

The UNDAF in Iraq, which covers the period 2015-2019 was developed against a background of a deteriorating security situation, high unemployment, challenges in the provision of basic social services and pockets of extreme vulnerability within the population of Iraq. The country analysis that informed the UNDAF development process recognized that the degradation of the environment is ongoing in the country, amongst its other challenges, and that this is a major challenge to sustainable development in the country. Key environmental issues are seen as drought, desertification and land

degradation that are reducing available arable lands and affecting livelihoods; increased intensity and frequency of sand and dust storms; diminishing water quantity and its deteriorating quality; solid and toxic waste management; air pollution and loss of biodiversity.

Given the situation in Iraq, the UNDAF is formulated around 2 overarching priorities:

- A. Improving the performance and responsiveness of targeted national and sub-national institutions
- B. Addressing Acute Vulnerability and Participation Gaps

And under these there are a number of outcomes, with 3 of specific relevance to this project:

Outcome A2: National and sub-national government capacities for evidence-based decision making enhanced – with the project providing the Government of Iraq with the necessary data and information on *POPs* amounts and uses domestically, with updated information on international best practice for its management and capacity development among the responsible authorities for implementation of the developed management plans.

Outcome B1: Government and Communities' resilience to disasters (man-made and natural) strengthened – the project will provide the Government of Iraq with updated information on potential challenges of *POPs* management to incorporate into related response strategies.

Outcome B4: Civil society organization capacities to hold government accountable for the provision of equitable and quality services strengthened – the project will work with all stakeholders, encouraging full stakeholder engagement in the assessment and development of the related management plans.

SDGs in Iraq

The NIP development and future implementation, and the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention contribute to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals in Iraq:

- Sustainable Development Goal (3) ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages. The NIP implementation and the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention will prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations to POPs and mercury and consequently contribute to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals (target 3.9);
- The project will also indirectly contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (5) achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. This will be done through the collection of disaggregated data by sex, the participation of stakeholders from both sexes in the consultations and the inclusion of gender sensitive indicators in the project logical framework. As part of the NIP, strategies to prevent exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, will be developed. This strategy will contribute to the development of national sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (target 5c). A chapter with the main findings and recommendations to approach the social and gender aspects of mercury exposure gender considerations will also be developed in the MIA;
- Sustainable Development Goal (6) – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The NIP implementation and the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention will contribute in particular to achieve the target 6.3 improving water quality by reducing the release of hazardous chemicals;
- Sustainable Development Goal (12) – ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. The project will directly contribute to achieve the target 12.4 under this goal that is to achieve the environmentally sound

management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The NIP implementation and MIA development contribute to the environmentally sound management of POPs through the early implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

g) UNEP Programme of work 2016-2017 and 2018-2019

The project also contributes to the achievement of the expected accomplishment A under the UNEP biennial Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017 “countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly, including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements” . More precisely, the project contributes to the PoW outputs 5 “consolidated advisory and support services promote the sound management of chemicals at national level, including mainstreaming into national policies and programmes, instruments and schemes for the governance of chemicals production, use, trade and release”; and 2 “secretariat support provided to the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (the Minamata Convention on Mercury) during the interim period, prior to its entry into force”.

Through this project UNEP will provide national stakeholders with the policy and technical instruments needed to develop the NIP, ratify the Minamata Convention and will strengthen the national institutional capacity to the implementation of these Conventions.

The outcomes of this project are also aligned with the objectives of the proposed PoW and budget for the biennium 2018-2019 approved by UNEA in 2016, expected accomplishment A, policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The project will contribute to the indicator of achievement by increasing the number of countries that have used UNEP guidance in developing an Action Plan that promotes sound chemicals management and implement the Stockholm Convention.

B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES:

The goal of the NIP and MIA development project is to contribute to the efforts of Iraq in implementing the Stockholm Convention and ratifying the Minamata Convention and consequently protect human health and the environment from the risks posed by the unsound use, management and release of POPs and mercury.

The objective of the NIP development is to comply with Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention that states that Parties shall “develop and endeavor to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under this Convention. Through the process of NIP development and the cooperation of main national stakeholders it’s expected that Iraq will also take tangible steps towards mainstreaming chemicals management in the country. The objective of the MIA development is to facilitate the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention and contributes to the protection of human health and the environment from the risks posed by unintentional and intentional emissions and releases, unsound use and management of mercury.

Project Components and Activities:

The NIP and MIA development project has three components, which consist of the activities indicated below. Each component includes information on project activities, and outputs.

Component 1: NIP development and endorsement

Iraq will benefit from and contribute to the work UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch is already accomplishing under the GEF funded project “Global Project on the updating of National Implementation Plan for POPs”(GEF ID 5307). Iraq will benefit from the technical support and capacity building activities while contributing with data and lessons learnt. UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch will mobilize this information and experience to tailor projects, papers and other capacity building materials to country needs, spurring enhanced capacity for ESM of POPS in Iraq and globally.

Expected Outputs and planned activities:

1.1 Capacity building and technical assistance provided to Iraq to develop its NIP while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation.

1.1.1 Organise training on project coordination and lessons learned and good practices from previous projects. A gender expert will be engaged at this stage to ensure gender considerations are fully taken into account in the project implementation;

1.1.2 Organise regional discussions and information exchange on POPs on the basis of updated/developed NIPs.

1.2 Knowledge management services provided.

1.2.1 Update/revise/enhance database of experts on POPs management;

1.2.2 Incorporate inventory data into the SCS clearinghouse;

1.2.3 Identify and disseminate lessons learned.

Iraq will establish a **National Coordination Mechanism** for Chemicals Management (NCM) making full use of existing structures dealing with chemicals management (e.g. National Coordination Group for POPs and/or for SAICM) to coordinate and guide the project implementation. The NCM will seek for synergies and join activities with existing and relevant planned chemical related activities. Additionally, it will identify existing competencies and roles of institutions and organization in chemicals management, particularly on POPS. Sectors to participate in the process as part of the National Coordination Mechanism will include representatives from health, environment, labor, finance, economy, industry, mining and energy, external affairs and planning sectors, trade unions and civil society organizations.

During this project component implementation, the NCM for chemicals and its Terms of Reference will be formalized and reinforced in Iraq. The Terms of Reference will include information on members, the frequency of meetings and the modality of work and roles in the project. The Terms of Reference for the NCM for chemicals will seek for a balanced structure, including representatives from the civil society and POPs affected communities. A gender specialist will be identified in the country to participate actively in the NCM. This project component also aims at enhancing stakeholder's involvement and commitment to the development of the NIP and gaining political support for the NIP endorsement.

After the establishment of the NCM, this component will review and assess the national capacities (technical, administrative, infrastructure and regulatory) on POPs management. It will assess the need for any specific exemptions to the Stockholm Convention. It will also develop inventories for the 23 POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention until COP6 as well as inventory of the national mercury sources, emissions and releases. The POPs inventories will be done using the guidance developed by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>.

International experts will analyse the inventory data in a timely fashion and will train experts in Iraq throughout the whole inventory process. The aim is to ensure the high quality and comparability of the final inventories with others produced by

other countries and build national capacity to use the inventory guidance developed by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

These outputs will set out current understanding of POPs issues in Iraq, including existing control measures and management arrangements as well as POPs inventories. It will establish a ranking of actions based on obligations set out in the Convention and the risks posed to human health and the environment in Iraq and set out cost-effective action plans for the adopted POPs. The draft NIP will be reviewed by national stakeholders and endorsed by them. This process of wide consultation will likely include inter-ministerial meetings, workshops with non-Government stakeholders, written communications and discussions leading to a NIP that is widely accepted and can be endorsed by Government for submission to the Secretariat of the Convention.

Awareness raising and dissemination of the NIP will be performed under this project component under activity 1.6.1.

Expected Outputs and planned activities:

1.3 Technical guidance and support provided to strengthen the national coordination mechanism for NIP development and future implementation.

1.3.1 National inception workshop to identify key stakeholders and agree on their roles; agree on project workplan and budget; development of a monitoring and evaluation plan and an awareness raising strategy to be implemented throughout the project;

1.3.2 Develop initial assessment of institutional needs and strengths;

1.3.3 Develop ToRs for National Coordination Mechanism for NIP development.

1.4 Comprehensive information on the current POPs management institutions and regulatory framework, POPs life cycle in the country and their impacts to human health and the environment compiled and made publicly available.

1.4.1 Develop a comprehensive overview of national infrastructure and regulatory framework to manage POPs and prepare report;

1.4.2 Develop inventories covering all 23 POPs;

1.4.3 Develop an overview of POPs impacts to human health and the environment and prepare report.

1.5 Draft NIP developed based on identified national priorities.

1.5.1 Action Plans for all POPs developed and validated by all stakeholders;

1.5.2 Make draft NIP available to all stakeholders.

1.6 Technical support provided to facilitate the NIP endorsement and submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

1.6.1 Develop and implement NIP outreach strategy report in consultation with key national stakeholders;

1.6.2 Develop and initiate the implementation of a roadmap for NIP endorsement and submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

Component 2: MIA development

Iraq will also benefit from and contribute to the work the Global Mercury Partnership is already accomplishing under other Minamata Initial Assessments. The technical expertise and tools provided will respond directly to country needs identified. With this additional support, Iraq will be able to obtain feedback and ensure rapid response to its queries on the

development of the MIA and will also make full use of the existing capacities and expertise in the region and globally. It will identify opportunities for regional/global cooperation and synergies between countries working on their MIAs.

2.1 Technical assistance provided to Iraq to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation;

2.1.1 *Quality check of mercury inventories developed;*

2.1.2 *Enhancement of the UNEP Hg toolkit, including translation to other UN languages;*

2.1.3 *Undertake knowledge management and information exchange through the Global Mercury Partnership website and/or Partners websites and tools.*

Iraq will identify key national stakeholders involved in mercury management in the country to be part of the **National Coordination Mechanism** for Chemicals Management (NCM) already identified in component 1. The participation of these stakeholders in the NCM will also be part of the Terms of Reference developed in component 1. The purpose will be to enhance stakeholder's involvement and commitment to the development of the MIA and gain political support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq

This component will also review and assess the national capacities (technical, administrative, infrastructure and regulatory) on mercury management. This review and assessment will result in a preliminary identification of national needs and gaps for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The assessments produced under this component will provide Ministries with strong arguments for the ratification of the Minamata Convention and prioritization of mercury management on the national agenda. Once the Convention is ratified, this component outputs will be essential to comply with the reporting obligations of the Convention and to monitor its implementation. This component will ensure that the gender issues and the interests of vulnerable populations are fully taken into account in the assessments.

The national assessment will be complemented by improved data on national mercury sources, emissions and releases. The UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases has been revised in 2013. Iraq will apply the level II version, which is a comprehensive description of all mercury sources, as well as a quantitative analysis of mercury. More specifically, the mercury toolkit will assist Iraq to address: a) Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3); (b) Mercury-added products (Article 4); (c) Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used (Article 5); (d) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (Article 7); (e) Emissions (Article 8); and (f) Releases (Article 9). It will also include a description of mercury storage conditions. An international expert will analyse the inventory data in a timely fashion and will train experts in Iraq throughout the whole inventory process. The aim is to ensure the high quality and comparability of the final inventory with others produced by other countries and build national capacity to use the UNEP Toolkit. This project component will also analyse existing information on mercury contaminated sites and will formulate a strategy to identify and assess mercury contaminated sites, using internationally agreed or any existing criteria successfully used elsewhere.

Taking into consideration the assessment of national capacities, infrastructure and regulatory framework, and the mercury inventory, this project component will be completed by an assessment of the challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention on priority sectors. The main output under this project component is a needs assessment and further recommendations to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury, taking into consideration the role of all key players and their responsibilities, in particular gender concerns and the special needs of vulnerable groups. The MIA will have a chapter with the main findings and recommendations to approach the social and gender aspects of mercury exposure.

Finally, during this project component the draft MIA is reviewed and validated by national stakeholders. This process of wide consultation will likely include National Coordination meetings, workshops with key sectors and stakeholders, written communications and discussions leading to a final MIA document that will allow the Government to ratify the Convention based on a sound national assessment of the mercury situation. Awareness raising and dissemination of key MIA outputs will also be performed under this project component under activity 2.5.2.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

2.2 Identified and strengthened the national coordination mechanism dealing with mercury management that will guide the project implementation.

2.2.1 Organize a National Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective and to have common understanding of the MIA process, including:

- a) Develop ToR for the National Coordination Mechanism;*
- b) Develop a strategy for awareness raising aimed at national stakeholders throughout the project;*
- c) Identify key stakeholders and assign roles.*

2.2.2 Conduct a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies), compile and make them publicly available.

2.3 National institutional and regulatory framework and national capacities on mercury management assessed.

2.3.1 Assess key national stakeholders, their roles in mercury management and monitoring and institutional interest and capacities;

2.3.2 Analyze the existing regulatory framework, identify gaps and identify the regulatory reforms needed for the sound management of mercury in Iraq.

2.4 National inventories of mercury sources and releases developed using the UNEP Mercury Toolkit Level II and strategy for the identification of mercury contaminated sites developed.

2.4.1 Develop a qualitative and quantitative inventory of all mercury sources, emissions and releases;

2.4.2 Develop a national strategy to identify mercury-contaminated sites.

2.5 Challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Minamata Convention assessed and recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention developed.

2.5.1 Conduct a national and sectoral assessment on challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention in key priority sectors;

2.5.2 Develop a report on recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

2.6 MIA validated by national stakeholders.

2.6.1 Draft and validate MIA Report;

2.6.2 Develop and implement a national MIA awareness raising and dissemination and outreach strategy.

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Executing Agency. The project monitoring will start with the inception workshop and the development of a detailed workplan, budget and detailed

monitoring and evaluation plan with key stakeholders. The Executing Agency will develop and submit to UNEP technical and financial reports every quarter describing the progress according to the workplan and budget, identifying obstacles occurred during implementation and the remediation actions to be taken.

UNEP will monitor the project progress according to the workplan on a regular basis and provide guidance to the Executing Agency to progress according to the workplan. Yearly during the GEF PIR UNEP will provide information about the status of the project implementation and the disbursements made.

The terminal report and final statement of accounts developed by the Executing Agency at the end of the project closes the Executing Agency monitoring activities for this project. The final financial audit will review the use of project funds against budget and assess probity of expenditure and transactions. The final audit is to be developed by an independent audit authority (a recognized firm of public accountants or, for governments, a government auditor). The final audit is to be sent to UNEP up to six months after the technical completion of the project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial report, terminal report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UNEP. There is no template for the final financial audit.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation, latest 6 months after completion of the project. The Evaluation Office of UNEP will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager at DTIE Chemicals Branch throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners – UNEP Regional office for West Asia in particular. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. Project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the evaluation report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Expected outputs and planned activities:

3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF.

- 3.1.1 *EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UNEP using UNEP's templates;*
- 3.1.2 *UNEP communicate project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template;*
- 3.1.3 *Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UNEP at project end;*
- 3.1.4 *Identify and contract independent audit company or government auditor to carry out the final financial audit;*
- 3.1.5 *Submit final financial audit to UNEP.*

3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available.

- 3.2.1 *UNEP EO carry out the terminal evaluation upon the request of the UNEP Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UNEP website.*

Table 3 Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)* ¹	Time-frame
Inception workshop*	Awareness raising, building stakeholder engagement, detailed work planning with key groups	EA	0	Within two months of project start
Inception report	Provides implementation plan for progress monitoring	Project coordinator (EA)	0	Immediately following Inception Workshop
Project Supervision and Monitoring	Technical and Administrative support provided on a regular basis ensuring that the project is being carried out according to the agreed work plan and budget	UNEP	0	Regularly
Technical Progress reports	Describes progress against annual work plan for the reporting period and provides activities planned for the next period	Project coordinator (EA)	0	Every three months
Financial Progress Reports	Documents project expenditure according to established project budget and allocations	Project coordinator (EA)	0	Every three months
Terminal report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reviews effectiveness against implementation plan; ✓ Highlights technical outputs; ✓ Identifies lessons learnt and likely design approaches for future projects, assess the likelihood of achieving design outcomes. 	Project coordinator (EA)	0	At the end of project implementation
Terminal evaluation**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Single report that reviews effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, coordination mechanisms and outputs; ✓ Identifies lessons learnt and likely remedial actions for future projects; ✓ Highlights technical achievements and assesses against prevailing benchmarks. 	UNEP EO appointed Independent external consultant	15,000	At the end of project implementation
Independent Financial Audit	Reviews use of project funds against budget and assesses probity of expenditure and transactions	EA	10,000	At the end of project implementation
Total indicative M&E cost*¹			25,000	

*budgeted as part of activity 1

**Amount of terminal evaluation has been extracted from project documents for each participating country. Required amount will be calculated by the UNEP EO at project completion. This amount will include funds to support national terminal report development and/or audit reports.

Project Stakeholders and gender considerations

Participation of the general public, the Consumer Protection Offices, NGOs, and other stakeholders during different stages of the project or during the NIP and MIA preparation contributes to a better awareness of the population and integrates

their interests for health and environmental protection in the policies. There are no specialised NGOs on Chemicals as such but few NGOs that can help in the project implementation mainly in the awareness field.

The future NIP implementation and the ratification of the Minamata Convention will lead to the reduction of risks to the population, especially to the most vulnerable ones. For example, in agricultural communities in developing countries men may be at higher exposure to chemicals pesticides during application, while women and children may be more likely to be indirectly exposed during planting and harvesting. In some developing countries Dieldrin and Hexachlorobenzene (solvent in pesticide) are still used in agriculture⁴. In 2010, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that approximately 70% of all children labourers from 5 to 17 years old work in agriculture. The FAO statistics from 2010 indicate that approximately 43% of all women in the work market work in agriculture. There is also an established link between poverty and the increased risk of exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals. Exposure of poor people to toxic chemicals is often strongly correlated to geography, where low income populations typically reside in places considered undesirable, such as areas in the proximity to a factory, landfills, site incinerators and/or hazardous waste dumps (UNDP, 2011).

This project will also encourage the participation of women and minority groups in the whole NIP and MIA process. Women will have an active role in the different project components and their equal participation will be sought. When possible, data disaggregated by sex you will be collected to allow policy makers to develop public policies that target both women and man and foster gender equity. A gender specialist will be engaged in project component one to ensure gender considerations are fully taken into account in the NIP and MIA development.

At the international level, the project will include:

- a) **UNEP DTIE Chemicals:** as an implementing Agency, UNEP will provide technical oversight and administrative support to the National Coordinating agency and the National Coordinator. UNEP will also provide the global perspective and experience from other countries;
- b) **UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)** has been assigned be the main executing entity providing technical and project management services to deliver on project outputs and objectives. The project will be executed in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Environment. It will provide the technical assistance and guidance needed to support the national teams and organize specialized training and workshops outside Iraq because of the security situation. It will also be possible to organize some events in Kurdistan Region. ROWA will also identify opportunities for regional synergies and areas of cooperation. Some examples may include: coordination of regional information exchange and provision of documents and inventories from other countries in the region, identification of regional experts, etc. The regional coordination will be done together with the UNEP DTIE Science Team, in charge of the global/regional support to the project.
- c) **Stockholm/Basel Regional Centres** in the region: the Centres will coordinate some key technical activities at the regional level and will provide key expert and technical support as needed. Some examples may include: analytical support for POPs identification and characterization, provision of experts to provide training, assessment of the situation regionally, etc;
- d) **Stockholm Convention Secretariat:** provides technical support to a Party on request as a part of their work-programme. UNEP will coordinate with the Secretariat in specific training activities and will provide technical expertise to deliver effective and needed technical support in a timely manner. Examples of activities to be mutually supported by the Secretariat and UNEP include the organization of webinars on specific topics, the organization of training workshops, the provision of guidance materials, etc;

⁴ Chemicals and gender: Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Series (2011). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- e) The **Minamata Convention Secretariat** will provide guidance materials and opportunities to exchange information and to understand the Minamata Convention from a regional and global perspective;
- f) **Others:** such as regional and international consultants, interested Intergovernmental Organizations in particular national/regional representation of WHO, to provide the human health dimension to the project, such as the identification of the impacts to human health of POPs and mercury exposure. It will also provide opportunities for cooperation by making available its mercury and POPs programme and suitable expertise on mercury and POPs and humans.

At the national level, the Ministry of Health and Environment will be responsible for coordination and oversight of all aspects of project implementation in collaboration with line ministries and project implementation partners as follows:

- a) **Ministry of Health and Environment** as national co-executing agency for the project, whose role is to coordinate the NIP and MIA development. Moreover, will be responsible for the preparation of the regulations for the management of the toxic substances, issuing permits for the production of substances and preparations that pose risk properties or are harmful to health. Under this Ministry is Institute of Public Health which performs measurements of the work environment pollution: air, water, noise, toxic substances and infections;
- b) The **Ministry of Agriculture** will address concerns regarding POPs pesticides and will also coordinate closely with the Ministry of Health and Environment;
- c) **Ministries of Industry, Oil, and Electricity** are key stakeholders to be involved in the NIP and MIA development, addressing in particular issues related to the fabrication/use/disposal of items possibly contaminated with POPs and mercury, such as: electronic parts, industrial sheets, interiors, wires, furniture stores, PCBs wastes, batteries, switches and relays, compact fluorescent lamps, etc;
- d) **Civil society representatives:** in charge of disseminating the information on POPs risks to the populations and by participating in the National Consultation they will bring the main concerns from the communities regarding POPs management. The consumers' association will also be considered;
- e) The **Ministry of Higher Education and Science and Technology:** laboratories and research centers contribute to the preparation of studies and research on POPs;
- f) A **National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)** will meet regularly during project implementation. The Committee will include Key National Stakeholders and will evaluate the progress of the project and will take the necessary measures to guarantee the fulfillment of its goals and objectives. The NCM will take decisions on the project in line with the project objectives and these decisions will be implemented by the Executing Agency

c. **DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

At the national level, the National Committee on Synergies between Chemicals Convention will guide the Project. This Committee includes national stakeholders involved in POPs management as indicated above. It will meet regularly and will assess progress made in the project and will also identify problems in executing the project. The outcomes of the Committee meetings will be communicated to the Implementing Agency.

UNEP ROWA as Executing entity will:

1. Provide technical assistance to the EA and the national team to deliver on project outputs;

2. Provide project management services in the form of financial management and reporting;
3. Identify and recruit international experts and guide their work to ensure delivery of project outputs;
4. Organize technical workshops and meetings to train national team;
5. Assist in technical and operational reporting to UNEP/GEF;
6. Support the exchange of expertise and information regionally and globally;
7. Facilitate support that can be provided by regional centers and POPs Secretariat;
8. Provide financial and progress reports on a timely basis to UNEP.

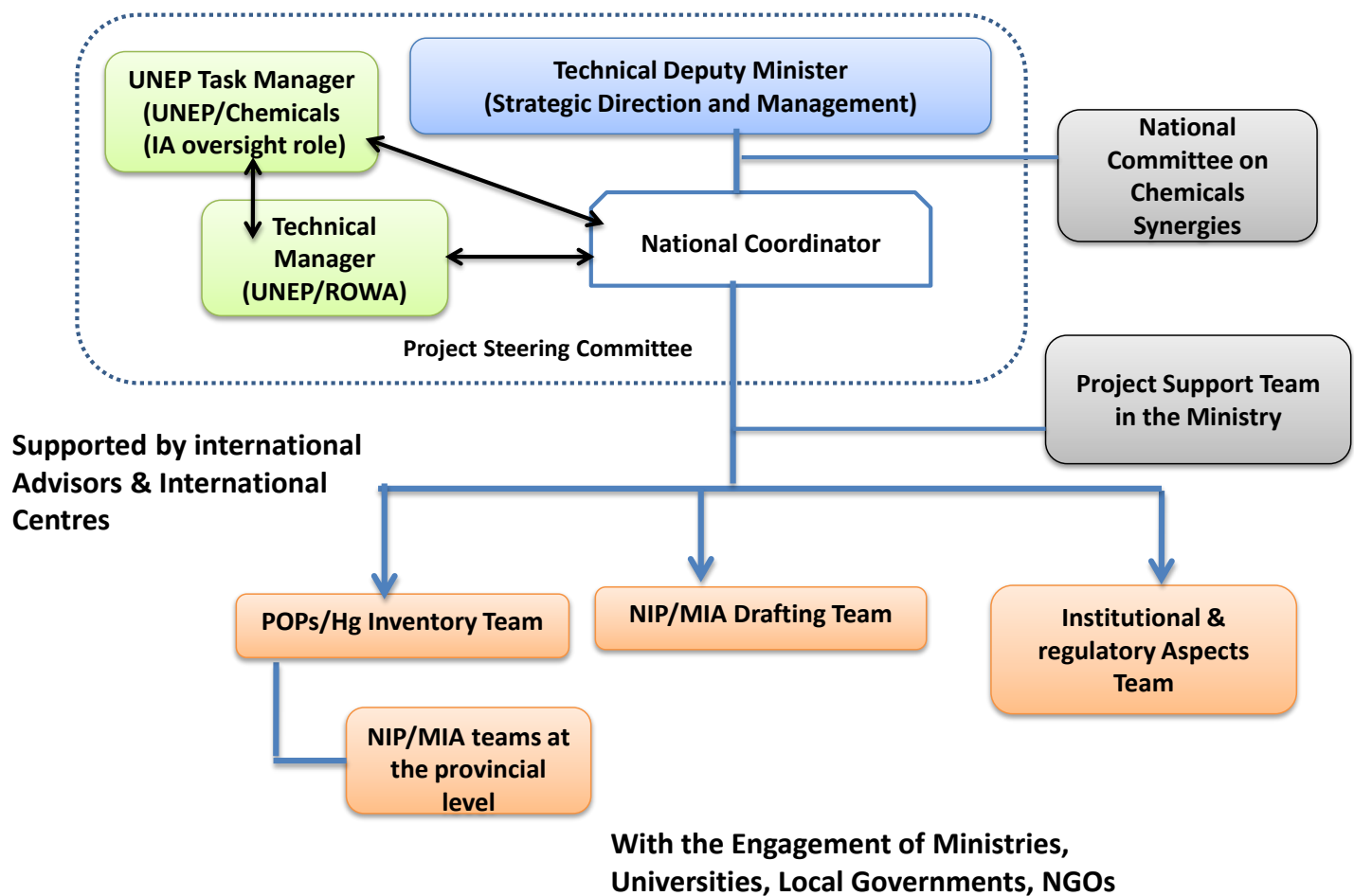
The Ministry of Health and Environment as the National Executing Agency will:

1. Engage a National Coordinator for the duration of the NIP development project. This person will be assigned by the Ministry be responsible for delivering the components of the project;
2. Engage national experts and technical advisors on a part or full time basis, as may be contracted by UNEP/ROWA, to help the National Coordinator deliver the outcomes of the project;
3. Provide the offices and operating expenses of the National Coordinator and the Experts, as appropriate;
4. Have access to additional resources such as to engage consultants as necessary to assist further with specialist tasks such as inventorying and audits;
5. Form the National Coordinating Team, which will have an established place within the Ministry.

UNEP as Implementing Agency will:

1. Undertake the GEF implementation role of the project to ensure adherence to GEF policies and reporting requirements;
2. Facilitate cash flow between GEF, UNEP and UNEP/ROWA as co-executing entity;
3. Provide the global perspective to ensure that knowledge is shared amongst Parties and common approaches are taken. This should produce NIPs that are more comparable;
4. Work, as much as possible, in close cooperation with the BRS Secretariat and the Interim Minamata secretariat to ensure that synergies can evolve, including joint training activities and sharing of guidance materials.

Figure 1: Institutional Arrangements



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

This project will use the recently developed guidance, prepared by UNIDO, to develop the National Implementation Plan on POPs

(<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/GuidanceforDevelopingNIP/tabid/3166/Default.aspx>).

Using the guidance is the first step to ensure that NIPs are comparable and consistent with the Convention objectives.

UNEP will assist Iraq to continue building capacity for POPs management and will make sure that external expertise contracted for specific reasons would truly build capacity. In this sense, regional and global experts will be available to support countries not only for a single intervention but for longer term if needed. This project will also call upon national expertise in the first place. UNEP will also deploy experts to assist with the NIP and MIA development and will work closely with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the interim Minamata Secretariat for the organization of face-to-face meetings with countries and to create joint programmes and initiatives to provide technical advice to countries.

Inter-sectorial coordination is the basis for this project. This will imply that sound planning and coordination will be integrated across government and endorsed by key players. POPs and mercury actions and further implementation will be the responsibility of many key players, not only the Executing Agency. It will imply that POPs and mercury actions will be distributed among a range of ministries implicated or concerned by POPs and mercury. In that sense, investing funds now will save a considerable amount of funds that are likely to be spent in remedial costs.

E. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

More detailed information about project monitoring and evaluation can be consulted in the project component 3 monitoring and evaluation.

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

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

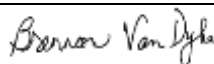
A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
(Please attach the *Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s)* with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (Month, day, year)
Dr. Jasim Abdularzeez Humadi	TECHNICAL DEPUTY MINISTER	Ministry of Environment	April,13, 2006
Dr. Jasim Abdularzeez Humadi	TECHNICAL DEPUTY MINISTER	Ministry of Environment	August, 24, 2016

B. Convention Participation

CONVENTION	DATE OF RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION (mm/dd/yyyy)	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
UNCBD	28/07/2009	Dr. Jasim Abdulazeez Humadi	
UNFCCC	28/07/2009	Susan Sami Jameel	
UNCCD	28/05/2010	Lateef Bonny Hussein	
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	08/03/2016	Yousif Muayad Yousif	
MINAMATA CONVENTION	DATE SIGNED 10/10/2013	NATIONAL FOCAL POINT:	DATE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7 TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT 21/11/2015

C. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies ⁵ and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for Chemicals and Wastes Enabling Activity approval in GEF 6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	E-mail Address
Brennan Van Dyke Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office		December 1, 2016	Kevin Helps Senior Programme Officer DTIE, UNEP	+254-20-762-3140	Kevin.Helps@unep.org

ANNEXES:

⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF.

- A. CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY WITH GEF FUNDING**
- B. GEF OFP ENDORSEMENT LETTER**
- C. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**
- D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**
- E. SUPERVISION PLAN**
- F. GEF APPROVED BUDGET**

ANNEX A: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE ENABLING ACTIVITY WITH GEF FUNDING				
<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ Person Week</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Tasks to be Performed</i>
For EA Management				
Local				
Project Coordinator	600	120	72,000	day to day supervision and coordination of the project, position paid at 25%
For Technical Assistance				
Project Component 2: NIP development				
International				
International expert to support inventories of Hg sources, emissions and releases	2,000	12.5	25,000	(i) International expert to build national capacity on Hg inventories; (ii) International expert to revise national Hg inventories.
International expert to support NIP development	2,000	30	60,000	(i) International expert to build national capacity on new POPs inventories; (ii) International expert to build national capacity on the development of Action Plans with focus on new POPs.

ANNEX B: GEF OFP ENDORSEMENT LETTER

ANNEX C: Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

As part of the GEFs evolving Fiduciary Standards that Implementing Agencies have to address ‘Environmental and Social Safeguards’. To fill this checklist:

- STEP 1: Initially assess E&S Safeguards as part of PIF development. The checklist is to be submitted for the CRC.
- STEP 2 : Check list is reviewed during PPG project preparation phase and updated as required
- STEP 3 : Final check list submitted for PRC showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

UNEP/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

Project Title:	Develop the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Initial Assessment for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq		
GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number		Version of checklist	
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation/submission	Date of this version:	17/10/2016
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Kevin Helps – Senior Programme Officer GEF Operations - UNEP DTIE Chemicals		

In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.

Section A: Project location

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Is the project area in or close to -		The project will assess the situation with regard to POPs and mercury in Iraq. It will not take direct action on the ground but inventories prepared to address priority issues will take socio-economic and environmental considerations into account.
- densely populated area	N.A.	
- cultural heritage site	N.A.	
- protected area	N.A.	
- wetland	N.A.	
- mangrove	N.A.	
- estuarine	N.A.	
- buffer zone of protected area	N.A.	
- special area for protection of biodiversity	N.A.	
- Will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	N.A.	
<i>If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.</i>		

Section B: Environmental impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	N.A.	The project will assess the situation with regard to POPs and mercury in Iraq. It will not take
- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	No	
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	No	

- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	No	direct action on the ground but assessments and POPs and mercury inventories will assist the country to identify priority issues in relation to human health and the environment, where socio-economic and environmental considerations will be identified.
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	No	
- Will project cause soil erosion and siltation?	No	
- Will project cause increase waste production?	No	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	No	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	No	
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No	
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	No	
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section C: Social impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	Yes	It will respect cultural aspects in Iraq.
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	N.A.	
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	N.A.	
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	Yes	The project will develop the terms of reference for a National Coordinating Committee, including all relevant stakeholders. This group will assess project progress at the national level and will propose if necessary corrective actions. Additionally, the Project Implementing Agency will provide technical feedback as assistance to Iraq.
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	Yes	In the medium to long-term it is expected that the national regulatory system will be revised to include provisions in compliance with the Stockholm Convention. It is also expected that the country will ratify the Minamata Convention and will have the necessary information for its early implementation.
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?	No	
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present	No	The project might identify

social and economic activities?		actions to change current practices towards the sound management of POPs and mercury.
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	<i>No</i>	
Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	<i>No</i>	
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	<i>No</i>	
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	<i>No</i>	
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for workers employed as part of the project?	<i>No</i>	Those doing the inventory on the field will use protective equipment to avoid contamination with those chemicals.
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	<i>No</i>	
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	<i>No</i>	
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	<i>No</i>	
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	<i>No</i>	
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	<i>Yes</i>	Close supervision of the expenditures will be done at the national level by the EA and overall by UNEP as IA. Cash advances will be related to outputs and held until proper justification of the expenditures and budget plans are provided.
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section D: Other considerations

























If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	<i>No</i>	
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	<i>N.A.</i>	
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	<i>No</i>	
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	<i>No</i>	No negative impacts
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	<i>N.A.</i>	

ANNEX D: ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BAT/BEP	Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
COP	Conference of the Parties
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
EO	Evaluation Office
EA	Executive Agency
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF SEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GEFTF	Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
GoI	Government of Iraq
IA	Implementing Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEnv	Ministry of Health and Environment
NESAP	National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIP	National Implementation Plans
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCDD/PCDF	Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PMC	Project Management Cost
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PoW	Programme of Work
ROWA	Regional Office for West Asia
SAICM	Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management
SC	Stockholm Convention
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SO	Strategic objectives
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
uPOPs	Unintentional POPs
USD	United States Dollars

ANNEX E: SUPERVISION PLAN

Project Title:		Develop the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Initial Assessment for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq																													
Project executing partner:		UNEP-ROWA																													
Project implementation period (add additional years as required):		Year 1												Year 2												Year 3					
	Mth no	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Executing partner																															
UNEP/DTIE Chemicals (Implementing)																															
Output																															
Activity/Task/Output																															
Output 1.1 Capacity building and technical assistance provided to countries to develop NIPs while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation																															
1.1.1 Organise training on project coordination and lessons learned and good practices from previous projects. A gender expert will be engaged at this stage to ensure gender considerations are fully taken into account in the project implementation																															
1.1.2 Organise regional discussions and information exchange on POPs on the basis of updated NIPs																															
Output 1.2 Knowledge management services provided																															
1.2.1 Update/revise/enhance database of experts on POPs management																															
1.2.4 Incorporate inventory data into the SCS clearinghouse																															
1.2.5 Identify and disseminate lessons learned																															
Output 1.3 Technical guidance and support provided to strengthen the national coordination mechanism for NIP development and future implementation																															
1.3.1 National inception workshop to identify key stakeholders and agree on their roles; agree on project workplan and budget; development of a monitoring and evaluation plan and an awareness raising strategy to be implemented throughout the project																															
1.3.2 Develop initial assessment of institutional needs and strengths																															
1.3.3 Develop ToRs for National Coordination Mechanism for NIP development																															
Output 1.4 Comprehensive information on the current POPs management institutions and regulatory framework, POPs life cycle in the country and their impacts to human health and the environment compiled and made publicly available																															
1.4.1 Develop a comprehensive overview of national infrastructure and regulatory framework to manage POPs and mercury and prepare report																															
1.4.2 Develop inventories covering all 23 POPs																															
1.4.3 Develop an overview of POPs impacts to human health and the environment and prepare report																															
Output 1.5 Draft NIP developed based on identified national priorities																															
1.5.1 Action Plans for all POPs developed and validated by all stakeholders																															
1.5.2 Make draft NIP available to all stakeholders																															
Output 1.6 Technical support provided to facilitate the NIP endorsement and submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat																															
1.6.1 Develop and implement a NIP outreach strategy report in consultation with key national stakeholders																															
1.6.2 Develop and initiate the implementation of a roadmap for NIP endorsement and submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat																															

Output 2.1 Technical assistance provided to Iraq to develop the MIA while building sustainable foundations for its future implementation										+
2.1.1 Quality check of mercury inventories developed										
2.1.2 Enhancement of the UNEP Hg toolkit, including translation to other UN languages										
2.1.3 Undertake knowledge management and information exchange through the Global Mercury Partnership website and/or Partners websites and tools										
Output 2.2 Identified and strengthened the national coordination mechanism dealing with mercury management that will guide the project implementation										+
2.2.1 Organize a National Inception Workshop to raise awareness and to define the scope and objective and to have common understanding of the MIA process										
2.2.2 Conduct a national assessment on existing sources of information (studies), compile and make them publicly available										
Output 2.3 National institutional and regulatory framework and national capacities on mercury management assessed										+
2.3.1 Assess key national stakeholders, their roles in mercury management and monitoring and institutional interest and capacities										
2.3.2 Analyze the existing regulatory framework, identify gaps and identify the regulatory reforms needed for the sound management of mercury in Iraq										
Output 2.4 National inventories of mercury sources and releases developed using the UNEP Mercury Toolkit Level II and strategy for the identification of mercury contaminated sites developed										+
2.4.1 Develop a qualitative and quantitative inventory of all mercury sources, emissions and releases										
2.4.2 Develop a national strategy to identify mercury-contaminated sites										
Output 2.5 Challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Minamata Convention assessed and recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention developed										+
2.5.1 Conduct a national and sectoral assessment on challenges, needs and opportunities to implement the Convention in key priority sectors										
2.5.2 Develop a report on recommendations to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury										
Output 2.6 MIA validated by national stakeholders										+
2.6.1 Draft and validate MIA Report										
2.6.2 Develop and implement a national MIA awareness raising and dissemination and outreach strategy										
Output 3.1 Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the GEF										+
3.1.1 EA develops and submit technical and financial reports quarterly to UNEP using UNEP's templates										
3.1.2 UNEP communicate project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template										
3.1.3 Develop and submit terminal report and final statement of accounts to UNEP at project end										
3.1.4 Identify and contract independent audit company or government auditor to carry out the final financial audit										
3.1.5 Submit final financial audit to UNEP										
Output 3.2 Independent terminal evaluation developed and made publicly available										+
3.2.1 UNEP EO carry out the terminal evaluation upon the request of the UNEP Task Manager and make it publicly available in the UNEP website										

ANNEX F: GEF APPROVED BUDGET

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET BY EXPENDITURE CODE (GEF FINANCE ONLY)										
Project No:						Total GEF funding		876,000		
Project Name: Develop the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Initial Assessment for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Iraq						IA fee (9.5%)		76,000		
Executing Agency: UNEP ROWA						Project funding		800,000		
Source of funding (noting whether cash or in-kind):			GEF Trust Fund Cash							
UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE			BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROJECT COMPONENT/ACTIVITY *				ALLOCATION BY CALENDAR YEAR **			
			Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Project Management	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Total
			NIP development and endorsement	MIA development	Monitoring and evaluation					
			US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$		
10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT										
1161 Project Personnel										
1161 National Project coordinator				72,000	72,000	36,000	36,000	72,000		
1161 Technical Project Officer (ROWA)					0	0	0	0		
1161 Sub-Total				0	72,000	72,000	36,000	72,000		
1161 Consultants w/m										
1161 International Consultants for mercury inventory training				25,000		25,000	12,500	25,000		
International consultants for POPs inventory training and priority setting			60,000			60,000	30,000	60,000		
1161 Sub-Total			60,000	25,000	0	85,000	42,500	85,000		
1161 Administrative support										
1161 Support staff						0	0	0		
1161 Sub-total				0	0	0	0	0		
1561 Travel on official business										
1561 Travel (ROWA)			8,500	8,500		17,000	8,500	17,000		
1561 Sub-Total			8,500	8,500	0	17,000	8,500	17,000		
1999 Component Total			68,500	33,500	72,000	174,000	87,000	174,000		
20 SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT										
2261 Sub-contracts (UN organizations)										
2261 Subcontract UNEP Chemicals			36,000			36,000	36,000	0		
2262 Sub contract Global Mercury Partnership				10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000		
2261 Sub-Total			36,000	10,000	0	46,000	46,000	0		
2261 Sub-contracts (SSFA, PCA non-UN)										
2261 Subcontract for national implementation in Iraq			364,136	71,137	0	435,273	217,637	435,273		
2261 Sub-Total			364,136	71,137	0	435,273	217,637	435,273		
2999 Component Total			400,136	81,137	0	481,273	263,637	481,273		
30 TRAINING COMPONENT										
3302 and 3303 Group training (field trips, WS, etc.)										
3302 and 3303 National Workshop on POPs inventory			20,000			20,000	10,000	20,000		
3302 and 3303 Training workshop on POPs priority			20,000			20,000		20,000		
Training on Hg inventory development				15,000		15,000	15,000	15,000		
3302 and 3303 Sub-Total			40,000	15,000	0	55,000	25,000	55,000		
3302 and 3303 Meetings/conferences										
3302 and 3303 Inception workshop			7,500	5,000		12,500	12,500	12,500		
3302 and 3303 Outputs validation workshops			10,000	5,000		15,000	7,500	15,000		
3302 and 3303 Final workshop for NIP endorsement			10,000			10,000	5,000	10,000		
3302 and 3303 National Coordination Meetings			5,000	2,500		7,500	3,750	7,500		
3302 and 3303 Sub-Total			32,500	12,500	0	45,000	28,750	45,000		
3999 Component Total			72,500	27,500	0	100,000	53,750	100,000		
40 4261 Expendable equipment										
4261 Operating costs					727	727	364	727		
4261 vehicle maintenance						0		0		
4261 Sub-total				0	727	727	364	727		
4261 Non-expendable equipment										
4261 Computer, fax, photocopier, projector						0		0		
4261 Software						0		0		
4261 Sub-total			0	0	0	0		0		
4999 Component Total			0	0	727	727	364	727		
50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT										
5161 Reporting costs (publications, maps, NL)										
5161 Finalization of report and dissemination strategy			5,000	4,000		9,000	4,500	9,000		
5161 Translation			5,000	5,000		10,000		10,000		
5161 Sub-Total			10,000	9,000	0	19,000	4,500	19,000		
5161 Project closing and evaluation										
5161 Terminal Evaluation				15,000		15,000		15,000		
5161 Final audit				10,000		10,000		10,000		
5161 Sub-Total				0	25,000	0	25,000	25,000		
5999 Component Total			10,000	9,000	0	44,000	4,500	44,000		
TOTAL			551,136	151,137	25,000	800,000	409,250	800,000		
IA fee (9.5%)								76,000		
TOTAL GEF COST								876,000		