



# PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)<sup>1</sup>

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

## PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

<b>Project Title:</b>	Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region		
<b>Country(ies):</b>	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Vietnam	<b>GEF Project ID:<sup>2</sup></b>	4894
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	UNEP	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	00528
<b>Other Executing Partner(s):</b>	Vietnam Environment Administration	<b>Submission Date:</b>	29.08.2012
		<b>Resubmission Date:</b>	05.09.2012 05.02.2013 12.03.2013
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants	<b>Project Duration (Months)</b>	48 months
<b>Name of parent program (if applicable):</b> ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Global Programme on Capacity Building for POPs Analysis to Support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for Effectiveness Evaluation of the Stockholm Convention	<b>Agency Fee (\$):</b>	373,920

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>3</sup>:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) CHEM-1	Outcome 5: Country capacity built to effectively phase out and reduce releases of POPs	Output 5.1: countries receiving GEF support to build capacity for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention	GEFTF	3,686,000	10,070,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
Sub-Total				3,686,000	10,070,000
Project Management Cost <sup>4</sup>			GEF TF	190'000	1,800,000
Monitoring and Evaluation			GEF TF	60'000	0
<b>Total Project Cost</b>				<b>3,936,000</b>	<b>11,470,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

<sup>2</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

<sup>4</sup> GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective:</b>						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Indicative Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Indicative Cofinancing (\$)</b>
1. Existing POPs laboratories have identified their capacities and contributions to existing regional monitoring programmes addressing all 22 POPs in relevant core matrices	TA	Main gaps and needs for POPs analysis and monitoring assessed.  Business plans for long-term operation prepared	1. POPs laboratories identified according to experience with type of POPs and matrix;  2. UNEP POPs Labs database up-to-date with laboratories' capacities and experiences;  3. POPs monitoring programmes identified that can contribute with data and gaps in the programs identified	GEFTF	228,000	1,800,000
2. Training of national laboratories in participating countries including results from mirror analyses in relevant matrices	TA	Parties and laboratories familiar with implementation of sampling networks and POPs analysis in relevant matrices according to international standards	1. Standard operational procedures available and used by POPs laboratories;  2. Laboratories trained in their labs under national conditions and capable to generate high quality data;  3. Numeric results from back-up expert and developing country laboratories available	GEFTF	1,470,000	2,400,000
3. Establishment of a network of sampling stations and protocols for air/ water and human matrices to generate high quality data for global POPs monitoring plan	TA	1. Agreement on structure and maintenance of air/water sampling network and human samples network reached;  2. Sampling and analysis of relevant samples undertaken	Monitoring network for abiotic (air/water) and human samples established and contributing with data to the regional report and the second global report under the effectiveness evaluation	GEFTF	1,358,000	2,200,000

4. Performance of POPs laboratories tested in two rounds of intercalibration studies	TA	Two rounds of intercalibration study performed	1. Performance of POPs laboratories assessed according to matrix and POP; 2. Progress between first and second intercalibration study documented as a basis for international comparison and GMP needs	GEFTF	120,000	1,500,000	
5. Preparation of a regional report containing analytical capacities and country-owned data for core matrices including final training in developed country lab	TA	Countries report their data to the regional report and prepare assessment of their national and regional situation Several years' monitoring allows for assessment of time trends and spatial distribution	High quality data for time trend assessment available from all participating countries	GEFTF	240,000	970,000	
6. Development of a sustainable and practicable long-term monitoring strategy addressing all 22 POPs Business model for sustainability of labs and national/regional monitoring programmes and integration into UNDAF	TA	Infrastructure established for continuation of GMP activities including reservoir of trained laboratories, QA/QC samples and data handling	1. Region capable to contribute with own data to the global monitoring of POPs 2. Parties aware of needs and indicators to produce data for future GMP reporting and assessments.	GEFTF	270,000	1,200,000	
Sub-Total						3,686,000	10,070,000
Project Management Cost <sup>5</sup>					GE	190,000	1,800,000
Project Monitoring and Evaluation costs						60,000	0
<b>Total Project Costs</b>						<b>3,936,000</b>	<b>11,870,000</b>

<sup>5</sup> Same as footnote #3.

**C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)**

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government Cambodia			650,000
National Government Indonesia			1,000,000
National Government Lao PDR			650,000
National Government Mongolia			650,000
National Government Philippines			650,000
National Government Vietnam			1,000,000
Government of Japan (under Ministry of Health and Welfare )	Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC)	Cash	300,000
Private-Public Sector	Participating institutions in 6 countries	In-kind	4,000,000
Implementing Agency	UNEP	In-kind	500,000
Other	Expert Laboratory	In-kind	2,200,000
Other	Secretariat of Stockholm Convention	In-kind	270,000
<b>Total Cofinancing</b>			<b>11,870,000</b>

**D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>6</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>7</sup>	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Persistent Organic Pollutant	Regional	3,936,000	373,920	4,309,920
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				<b>3,936,000</b>	<b>373,920</b>	<b>4,309,920</b>

<sup>6</sup> In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

<sup>7</sup> Please indicate fees related to this project

## PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

### A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

#### A.1.1 The [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF](#) strategies /[NPIF](#) Initiative:

The GEF is the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and, as such, supports activities to meet its objectives. As reflected in Article 16 of the Convention, an important element for effective implementation of the convention is the availability of reliable information on POPs levels in humans and in the environment. Following the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Monitoring Report (UNEP/POPS/COP.4/33), the Conference of Parties requested in its decision SC-4/31 “*the financial mechanism of the Convention (...) to provide sufficient financial support to further step-by-step capacity enhancement (...) to sustain the new monitoring initiatives with provided data for the first monitoring report.*” The project is therefore in line with the GEF chemicals strategy’s objective 1: phase out POPs and reduce POPs releases.

#### A.1.2 For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

N/A

#### A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

N/A

#### A.2 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

The Conference of the Parties during its first meeting in 2005, requested the Secretariat to field test arrangements for monitoring of data on which to base the evaluation at the regional or national level (Decision SC-1/13). Decision paper SC-2/13 from the second Conference of the Parties in 2007, decided to implement the elements for a global monitoring plan. Some of the elements taken into consideration indicated that the plan should be cost-effective, practical, feasible and sustainable and should be inclusive, achieve global coverage.

At its third meeting in May 2007, COP-3 adopted the amended implementation plan for the GMP (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1). Decision SC-3/19 established an organization group for each of the five United Nations regions to facilitate regional implementation of the GMP and invited Parties to nominate members to those groups with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation. The main objectives of the regional organization group are to define and implement the regional strategy for information gathering, including proposal for capacity building, and to prepare the regional monitoring report for the first effectiveness evaluation presented at the Conference of the Parties in May 2009 (COP-4).

At the fourth meeting in May 2009, the COP-4 of the Stockholm Convention, by Decision SC-4/31 on effectiveness evaluation, adopted the GMP for POPs (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, annex II). It also adopted the Terms of Reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the Global Coordination Group for the GMP. Decision SC-5/18 adopted at COP-5 in 2011 set forth the long-term monitoring programme, the capacity building activities to developing countries to implement the monitoring projects, and to initiate monitoring of perfluorooctane sulfonate in surface water in support of future evaluations.

Countries participating in this project have identified POPs monitoring as one of the NIP priorities. For example, **Cambodia** refers to it in chapter 2 (Implementation strategy and action plan). The Cambodia NIP also indicates the development of POPs monitoring guidelines as a national priority. **Indonesia’s** NIP also highlights the importance of POPs monitoring and includes it as a specific activity in the action plans. **Laos PDR**, notes that POPs monitoring is a national priority and indicates that national efforts will be deployed to develop POPs monitoring guidelines. **Mongolia** aims at creating a POPs monitoring system (focusing on Dioxins and Furans) during NIP implementation. The Mongolian NIP also contemplates to build capacity for POPs analysis (laboratories) and to reinforce their regulatory elements concerning POPs monitoring. In the **Philippines**, the NIP indicates that “monitoring releases to the environment is a primary function of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Environmental Management Bureau”. Due to limited resources available, this activity is performed only on limited basis. Philippines also aims at designing

and implementing a national programme on POPs monitoring. It wishes to participate in international studies and programmes. **Vietnam** POPs monitoring (global and regional) has been identified as one of the priorities in Vietnam's NIP. Monitoring activities have taken place but with limitations due to the lack of funding

The survey on POPs capacity analysis carried out under the NIP development process and other capacity building projects also show that all of the participating countries have been facing difficulties setting up the POP monitoring programme. Typically, participating countries lack the human resources, technical capacity, analytical skills and know-how. Regional cooperation is seen as a valuable approach in addressing these capacity gaps. This project will assist participating countries to overcome these difficulties and participate fully in the current GMP programme whilst aiding in the development of a long-term POPs monitoring plan that will include the newly added POPs. The Global GMP programme is carried out by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and UNEP DTIE (Chemicals Branch). The GEF is funding regional GMP projects in four different areas: West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa, Pacific Islands region and Latin America and Caribbean. This project will focus on the Asian region.

As Parties to the Convention, the participating countries to this project are eligible for application of GEF funds to strengthen the monitoring capacity at national level and so to contribute with national data to the GMP.

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

### **B.1 Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:**

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention indicates that the effectiveness of the Convention shall be evaluated four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and periodically thereafter. The Effectiveness Evaluation includes a Global Monitoring Plan (GMP), which monitors the presence of POPs in the environment and in humans. Such monitoring and subsequent assessment should be undertaken at regional basis. One of the objectives of the GMP is to assess regional and global transport. The Conference of Parties (COP) has completed its first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting in 2009 (COP4), and has agreed upon the essential modalities for the environmental monitoring component of the subsequent evaluations.

The Asia-Pacific regional group presented its first report on POPs monitoring to the Secretariat for its inclusion in the first effectiveness evaluation report. It constitutes the "First regional monitoring report for the Asia and Pacific Region under the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs" (Appendix 10). The report also describes gaps and capacity strengthening needs in support of future GMP implementation and is available at the following link:

<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/GlobalMonitoringPlan/MonitoringReports/tabid/525/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

According to the regional report, for Asia-Pacific in general, "the reported average concentrations of POPs in the air were on the high-end side when compared with concentrations in other parts of the world. The reported data provide baseline information of POPs in some countries. However, some POPs were not-detected either because of the levels were really low or the detection limits of analytical method were not low enough, which may provide difficulty for future comparison. Also, some data were collected in particular period of the year as a snap shot, and more data will be necessary for the discussion of the long-range transport". This clearly indicates the clear need to monitor the level of POPs in air in the Southeast Asian countries, following the GMP Guidelines established by the ad-hoc Technical Group for POPs monitoring and adopted by COP-3 and amended at COP-5.

Regarding capacity building, the report indicates that POPs monitoring programs for most countries in the region remain to be top priority and recommendation. Better data on POPs concentration are needed in order to obtain the baseline of POPs levels in the region. In particular, resources are required to improve analytical facilities and methods for the determination of POPs. This entails more trained personnel and the acquisition of appropriate analytical facilities and the funds to maintain and operate the instruments. A major effort associated with improving analytical capability for POPs needs to ensure good quality assurance and quality control among laboratories, which may include the regular use of reference standards

and/or certified reference materials, regional training programs and inter-laboratory comparison exercises, and the identification of reference laboratories in the region for specific POPs. These actions are going to be undertaken by this project.

Regarding the capacity for new POPs, countries participating in the project have not assessed the capacities in their countries to analyse these ten new POPs (nine POPs were listed at COP-4 and one POP was listed at COP-5). Whereas the new chlorinated basic POPs – HCHs, chlordecone, pentachlorobenzene – do not pose any challenges different to this encountered with the OCP analysis undertaken for the initial POPs, perfluorooctane sulfonic acids (PFOS) and their precursors and the polybrominated diphenyl ethers and biphenyls pose additional challenges. Although PBB and the PBDE are lipophilic as the initial POPs, they have different physical-chemical properties that need new analytical approaches. It needs to be explored if the presently used PUF samplers for ambient air can be used. It is assumed that mothers' milk will be an adequate matrix to determine human exposure. The group of the perfluorinated compounds, e.g., perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and precursors do not follow the classic pattern of other POPs by accumulating into fatty tissues, but instead binds to proteins in the blood and liver. PFOS also is water-soluble and not typically transported through air. In these cases, air and mother's milk sampling will not be the optimal media, it would require to revise the core matrices and to consider human blood and water. Brominated compounds require a complex analytical method that will be developed and included in this project.

So far, in Asian developing countries, monitoring of POPs have been carried out in a scattered manner. One of the main challenges on POPs monitoring in the region is the lack of data combined with the limited capacity for POPs monitoring. Regional report presents major gaps on information in the Asian region. For example, the GEF/UNEP project on Regionally-based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS 2002) summarized the available data and gaps in the Reports for the South-East Asia and South Pacific region (Appendix 9) as follows:

- Information on the importation, use and emission of POPs is limited in the region. POPs monitoring in the region has many gaps but the project indicates that mirex and lindane, many of the POPs pesticides have been banned or have not been used for the last 15 years, except DDT. This information on the concentration of most POPs in various environmental compartments (air, water, soil, sediments and biota) was obtained from various sources, mainly published literature reports, project questionnaires and personal communications.
- The levels of PTS in air have been reported to be high in the Southeast Asian countries. In particular, DDTs, chlordanes, HCHs, and PCB were found to be relatively high in air above coastal areas. High levels of DDT and PCBs were found in soils throughout the region but some sites in Vietnam reported to be the most contaminated.
- POPs levels in humans have not been widely analysed in the Southeast Asian region and the participating countries.

Whereas the GEF supported four regional projects on Global POPs Monitoring in the Pacific Islands region, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean from 2009 until 2011, no such project did exist in Asia. This scattered information does not allow establishing time or special trends. Furthermore, only a few of the existing studies report on the POPs content of the core matrices (air, human milk, and human blood) chosen by the COP for the GMP, and some of them did not follow the GMP Guidelines adopted by COP3 (and extended at COP5 what underlines the importance of using such guidelines at global level), so their representativeness and quality still need to be assessed further.

There are some monitoring programmes that will continue, such as the East Asian POPs Monitoring Program. However, many of the data collected for the regional report were obtained from one time project. A mechanism is needed to collect comparable data for the future evaluation.

Depending on the analytical laboratory capacity in the participating countries, POPs labs will be trained in the analysis of POPs. Typically, laboratories specialize in a particular class of compounds or media. Further, there are likely to be some specialized in basic POPs (pesticides and PCB), and fewer with the capacity for

dioxin analysis or analysis of PBDE or PFOS. Dioxin analytical capacity exists in Vietnam. It is anticipated that analytical training courses will be held in each country; each course having between 3 and 10 lab staff.

According to the GMP Guide, there will be one pooled mothers milk sample collected per country. This sample should comprise milk from 50 donor mothers. Large countries might generate two pooled samples of 50 donors each. Each country anticipates that mothers milk sampling would be led by one senior public health scientist and working together with a team of up to 10 nurses or students to establish nation-wide coverage. The teams will receive training in the interviewing and sampling techniques necessary.

The guidance document for the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) recommends that 15-20 sites per region are equipped with passive air samplers (PAS). This project covers about one fifth of the countries in the region. We will follow the present MSP GMPs and establish at least one PAS sampling site in each country. Each sampling site will generate 4 results for each group of POPs so that each country will be characterized with 4 measured data sets per year (8 data sets during 2-years exposure).

Each country will have one PAS network coordinator with people in the field responsible for collecting the exposed PUF samples and exchanging the PUFs in the sampler. The project will build national capacity to maintain the network of PAS.

This project will also develop detailed guidelines, protocols and manuals as well as training of staff in participating laboratories and strengthening the performance of sampling and analysis will enable the national laboratories to improve their ability to analyse POPs according to international standards consistent with GMP Guidelines. In this regard, the project will strengthen the capacity of Asian countries for monitoring POPs concentrations in the key media and will facilitate reporting under the effectiveness evaluation. This project will also develop a long-term effectiveness evaluation plan for the region, which will ensure frequent generation of data and provision of it to the Stockholm Convention.

As Parties to the Convention, Asian developing countries are eligible for application of GEF funds to strengthen the monitoring capacity at national level and so to contribute with national data to the GMP.

B.2 [Incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The global environmental benefit has to be seen in the context of the efforts of the COP to establish an effective global system for monitoring of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. The project contributes to these efforts by strengthening the monitoring capacity at national level and with this enabling the participating countries to contribute national data to the GMP in a regionally and internationally agreed and harmonized approach that meet the minimum requirements established for comparable data in the GMP guidance document.

The capacity building for POPs monitoring programs for most countries in the region remains to be top priority and recommendation. More qualified data on POPs concentration are needed in order to improve and complement the baseline of POPs levels in the region. In particular, resources are required to improve analytical facilities and methods for the determination of POPs. This entails more trained personnel and the acquisition of appropriate analytical facilities and the funds to maintain and operate the instruments. A major effort associated with improving analytical capability for POPs needs to ensure good quality assurance and quality control among laboratories, which may include the regular use of reference standards and/or certified reference materials, regional training programs and inter-laboratory comparison exercises, and the identification of reference laboratories in the region for specific POPs.

The First regional monitoring report for the Asia and Pacific Region under the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs (2008) summarized the available data and gaps as follows:

- The East Asian sub-region has some baseline data on POPs presence on ambient air. However, this data is lacking in the South Asian sub-region.



- The POPs Monitoring Project in East Asian Countries has also monitored POPs (nine pesticides) in the air by high volume sampler in Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Vietnam since 2005.
- Regarding human blood or mother's milk, there is generally even less country information available on the levels of POPs in the human tissues than those of air.

For the future evaluation, establishment of regional/subregional long-term POPs monitoring program such as East Asian POPs Monitoring Program is needed. The following were identified as capacity building/enhancement needs: human capacity, inter-calibration tests, strengthening skills for sampling and analysis infrastructure strengthening of existing laboratories for analyzing the core media, QA/QC, and financial assistance to establish long-term, self-sufficient laboratories.

In order to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in countries and to improve the scientific knowledge on how to accurately analyze POPs in relevant matrices (at least core media), POPs laboratories within the region have to implement modern and robust methods according to international scientific standard, adopt them to their circumstances and prove their capabilities with the successful participation in international intercomparison studies. Capacity building for POPs laboratories is considered one of priorities in this Region GEF funding will be used to reinforce existing analytical capacities in the region, specially the "know how" and the provision of guidelines and training materials to analyse POPs. It will also create regional network of laboratories to allow the region to fully participate in the Global POPs Monitoring Plan. Linkages with expert laboratories, participation in the intercalibration studies (to determine how well laboratories are performing) and development of a business plan and long-term sustainable plan for POPs analysis in the region, are some aspects considered as incremental to the existing scattered and non-continuous initiatives.

- B.3 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF](#).

Based on scientific evidence and the request to address environmental global exposures and human exposures, the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting has decided to use air and human milk/human blood as core matrices for the first evaluation. Therefore, the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) initially focused on the twelve initial POPs and the core media mother's milk/human blood to examine human exposure, and ambient air and water (for PFOS; according to Decision 5/18) to examine long-range transport.

The project will strengthen the national institutions and coordinate chemical analyses across political and economic sectors and thus, strengthen national policies through cooperation within the government and across countries. In this way, the project will reinforce and enhance the capacities at individual, institutional, and societal levels to participate and manage the development process. Women and children are especially susceptible to POPs, and the project, through its role in underpinning national POPs management, contributes to the improving their well-being. The project will empower women in their responsibilities within the laboratory management and will be strengthened further through training activities at international level. Since in-line with the COP decision the project addresses baseline exposures, no group in the population will be targeted.

Human milk and/or blood sampling will imply working very closely with women in participating countries. Women are considered as key players in this project and the results of the analysis will trigger the development of effective measures to protect human health in participating countries.

- B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

The UNEP Regionally Based Assessment project on South East Asia and South Pacific reported that there was limited data on POPs in South East Asia countries and a lack of data on presence of PTS on air and very few data in human blood or milk.

The First Regional Monitoring Report for the Asia Pacific Region submitted to the Conference of the Parties in 2009 during the COP4, also indicated that data is lacking in the region for human matrices. The same study highlights that for air analysis, some POPs were not-detected either because of the levels were really low or the detection limits of analytical method were not low enough, which may provide difficulty for future comparison. Also, some data were collected in particular period of the year as a snap shot, and more data will be necessary for the discussion of the long-range transport. This project will use standardised analytical methods and will follow existing SC guidelines on POPs monitoring, where the frequency of sampling is already defined, allowing comparison with other similar regional initiatives.

The First Monitoring Report for the Asia-Pacific Region highlights that facility for POPs monitoring and inventory is limited in most countries in the region, especially for dioxins analysis. In addition, the knowledge base and techniques of specialists in parts of the Region cannot meet the requirements of up-to-date administration. In some cases, there is also insufficient quality control and data validation, which makes any POPs monitoring programme particularly difficult. This project will focus on training and capacity building activities to strengthen national capacities for POPs monitoring. A training programme for the region will be developed as one of the first activities. For Quality Assurance purposes, a number of samples will be analyzed in experienced partner laboratories.

In general, Risks are relatively low since the project will generate data for the Conference of the Parties and assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The major risk might be timely delivery, which may be a generic issue in regional projects which depend on the administrative procedures and processes at the country level.

#### B.5 Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Key stakeholders and beneficiaries are Governmental Ministries and Agencies including the national focal points for the Stockholm Convention, research institutions, and to a lesser extent private institutions. The main beneficiary is the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and especially the Parties in the South-East Asian region. The participating countries will be able to provide significant input to Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention by providing subregional data to the effectiveness evaluation and the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs.

The main direct beneficiaries will be the participating laboratories receiving training and consumables/spares. Other direct beneficiaries are the environment and health sectors in all participating countries. Jointly, they will collect/organize the collection of mothers' milk and blood samples for the GMP through the mothers donating the breast milk and blood.

Ministries of Environment or other related institutions from the participating countries involved in the implementation of the monitoring component of the NIP will enhance their experiences in ambient air monitoring and interpretation of data.

Since the project aims to strengthen natural structures and institutions and the so generated data comprise the official submissions of the governments to the Conference of the Parties, the benefits for groups and institutions outside the official government-assigned partners will be limited as to the nature of this project.

Indirect beneficiaries are the general public since for most of the countries the first time, national data will be generated in a systematic and comparable way that will characterize their exposure to POPs. The ambient air data will provide information as to the "import" of POPs from neighboring regions and the human data will provide information as to the present exposure at the top of the food-chain. The staff operating the networks together with the laboratories in the region but also in cooperation with the expert laboratories will share experiences and mutually assist each other.

The Civil Society will play a role in the project and it will be determined according to the capacities of the organizations. This project will produce national official data and we expect this data to be generated, stored, interpreted and disseminated by the responsible government institutions. However, explaining the exercise on milk sampling and working with the women involved in the sampling may require the intervention of a sound CSO. If so, this will be clearly identified during project implementation. Academic NGOs will play an important role since they are often sub-contracted by the government for scientific technical aspects.

Indigenous people(s) are not a particular focus in the GMP guide as all samples should be representative of the country. Therefore, they will not be targeted *per se*. However, where indigenous people's habits prevent them from participating in the mothers' milk assessment, such customs will be respected.

The **Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA)** has a dual role in this project: 1. Executing Agency and regional coordinator responsible for the regional delivery of this project, and 2. coordinator for the national data generation.

In its role as the Executing Agency, VEA will undertake the following activities:

1. Organize a sub-regional workshop to prepare a detailed workplan for the project implementation and to agree on Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs);
2. Liaise with the national coordinators in all participating countries, the experts responsible for the air, water, mothers' milk and human blood monitoring networks, and the national laboratories in participating countries and enter into an agreement with them;
3. Coordinate the available sub-regional information for designing the workplan of this project such as existing analytical manuals and procedures, and subsequently assist in the joint development of the training and capacity building needs;
4. Coordinate provision of the necessary infrastructure to collect relevant samples in all participating countries;
5. Write a final report summarizing the activities undertaken in this project including lessons learned and future needs;
6. Provide regular updates on project progress to UNEP Chemicals and assist UNEP in the day-to-day work of project implementation;
7. Write the financial statement on expenditures occurred during project implementation.

Further, VEA will undertake the following activities in Vietnam:

1. Liaise with the national coordinator and the experts for the national ambient air, water, mothers' milk and human blood monitoring networks (where different from VEA);
2. Provide the necessary information for designing the workplan of this project such as existing analytical manuals and procedures, and subsequently assist in the joint development of the SOPs, the training and capacity building needs;
3. Receive or respond to the expert back-up laboratory and UNEP Chemicals for the inspection tour at the onset of the project and convene relevant meetings with governmental sectors concerned with POPs analysis;
4. Grant access for the back-up laboratory to the laboratory/laboratories for the training course and ensure participation of relevant staff at the training course;
5. Coordinate provision of the necessary infrastructure to collect relevant samples in Vietnam;
6. Analyze the agreed samples and submit the results to the expert back-up laboratories and UNEP Chemicals;
7. Participate at the final workshop to discuss results and exchange views;
8. Write a final report on the activities undertaken by the laboratory (at national level) including the results, lessons learned, and future needs;

9. Write the financial statement on expenditures occurred for the national activities undertaken during project implementation for this laboratory.

**Partner Laboratories and Institutions/Consultants** in the other participating countries:

All partner countries – with the exception of Lao PDF and Mongolia - have laboratories with experiences on POPs analysis at different levels. For details on existing capacity and infrastructure, see section 3.6.

Partner Laboratories and National Coordinators (or project staff assigned to different tasks) in the other participating countries will:

1. Identify and assign national coordinator and national laboratories (the national coordinator will liaise with VEA as the sub-regional coordinator);
2. In cooperation with VEA identify the experts for the national ambient air, water, mothers' milk and human's blood monitoring network and enter into an agreement with them;
3. Provide the necessary information for designing the workplan of this project such as existing analytical manuals and procedures, and subsequently assist in the joint development of the SOPs, the training and capacity building needs;
4. Receive the expert back-up laboratory and UNEP Chemicals for the inspection tour at the onset of the project and convene relevant meetings with governmental sectors concerned with POPs analysis (where POPs laboratories exist);
5. Grant access for the back-up laboratory to the laboratory/laboratories for the training course and ensure participation of relevant staff at the training course (where POPs laboratories exist adequately equipped to participate with chemical analyses in this project);
6. Coordinate provision of the necessary infrastructure to collect relevant samples in the respective participating countries;
7. Analyze the agreed samples and submit the results to the expert back-up laboratories and UNEP Chemicals (where POPs laboratories exist adequately equipped to participate with chemical analyses in this project);
8. Participate at the final workshop to discuss results and exchange views;
9. Write a final report on the activities undertaken by the laboratory (also for laboratories where only sampling may be performed) including the results, lessons learned, and future needs as well as from the national experts for air, water, mothers' milk and human's blood networks;
10. Write the financial statement on expenditures occurred for the national activities undertaken during project implementation for this country and submit to the sub-regional coordinator.

**The Expert Laboratory/ies** will provide the following services:

1. Participate at the first regional workshop and provide input to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) development;
2. Undertake an inspection tour to the developing country laboratories – either physically or electronically - to verify infrastructure and operation of the laboratory (this activity is foreseen back-to-back with item 1 above);
3. Define needs for upgrading the laboratory with respect to spares, consumables, and training needs;
4. Prepare a report on the inspection tour and a work program for each of the laboratories for the coming months;
5. Undertake the training in the pilot laboratory according to needs identified; provide and analyze samples as a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) tool;
6. If adequate, organize a central training for the analysis of PFOS and brominated flame retardants if the number of such laboratories will be small;

7. Provide the necessary spares and consumables to the laboratories;
8. Prepare training manuals and final report on work undertaken in the feasibility study;
9. Provide support to the developing country laboratories and to UNEP Chemicals throughout the project.

#### B.6 Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

UNEP Chemicals will implement the UNEP/GEF global project on development of analytical guidance for the new POPs in 2011 and 2012. This project will have direct linkages to the global new POPs GEF project and will use the guidelines developed under that project. This project will also contribute to the UNEP/GEF Global new POPs analytical project through experiences gained on the ground.

The Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) has been working on POPs monitoring with the South East Asian region for a number of years. In doing so, assistance was given to neighboring developing countries in setting up an air network and to undertake analysis of the sorbents in the passive and active air samplers, *e.g.*, PUFs. This programme has generated analytical results for about seven years from the region. However, the programme does not include PCDD/PCDF and dioxin-like PCB in its analysis. Also, the new POPs such as PBDE and PFOS are not included.

All national laboratories are public/state-owned and in close cooperation with the national POPs focal point, in charge of the NIP updating (which is necessary for all parties to incorporate the new POPs).

### C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

This proposal builds upon the experiences and achievements of the global UNEP/GEF project on POPs laboratory capacity which is technically supported by UNEP Chemicals Branch, *e.g.* through the web based global laboratory database. Furthermore, UNEP is currently implementing the GEF supported Global Monitoring Plan for the 12 initial POPs in four regions: Pacific, West Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and Latin America and Caribbean. UNEP has led the development of the guidance for POPs monitoring and will lead the updating of it.

UNEP has initiated a global MSP project on the development of guidance materials and guidelines to include the "new" POPs into the current GMP programme and related documents.

The UNEP Programme of Work for the 2012/2013 biennium recognizes the GEF as a partner to implement strategies to complement and have a bigger impact on core UNEP activities supporting the overall objectives towards the universal sound management of harmful substances and hazardous wastes.

For the biennium 2012/2013 UNEP will implement activities to strengthening implementation and monitoring of the Chemicals and waste MEAs. This project will match and complement UNEP activities on capacity building for POPs analysis to support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

#### C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

UNEP has provided staff and experts to the development of this PIF and has used internal resources to manage, in close coordination with the co-executing agency, the development of the PIF and the formulation of the main project components.

UNEP will provide as co-finance the time of professional staff time, as well as the respective administrative services. Co-finance to be provided by UNEP to the project can be estimated to 500,000 USD during project implementation. However, UNEP's contribution to project preparation and project document formulation is not taken into account in that estimate. UNEP is also in contact with bilateral donors and other potential sources of co-financing for the project, with the goal to facilitate the provision of funds for the project.

#### C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The fifth thematic priority (Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste) of the UNEP Mid Term Strategy has as its objective: *to minimize the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and human beings*. This MTS sets out the main areas of work of UNEP and is in line with UNEP's comparative advantage in the GEF. The UNEP strategy for GEF V is based on the three pillars of the UNEP MTS 2010-2013, which are described as follows:

- a) That States and other stakeholders have increased capacities and financing to assess, manage and reduce risks to human health and the environment posed by chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- b) That coherent international policy and technical advice is provided to States and other stakeholders for managing harmful chemicals and hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner, including through better technology and best practices;
- c) That appropriate policy and control systems for harmful substances of global concern are developed and in place in line with States' international obligations.

All GEF proposed interventions in GEF V, whether POPs, mercury, chemicals or Ozone, are complementary to UNEP's Subprogram 5 (Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste), executed by UNEP DTIE OzonAction and Chemicals Branches, for the years 2010 – 2013. The Mid Term Strategy for the years 2014-2017 is currently under development and will include the Subprogram 5 on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste), so continuous support for the project is ensured.

UNEP has Chemicals and POPs related staff capacity in the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, based in Bangkok, Thailand. The UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific will assist UNEP DTIE to identify further opportunities of cooperation with ongoing and planned activities in the region. Last but not least, experts from the UNEP DTIE and Regional Office for Asia-Pacific offices will provide substantial input throughout the duration of this project.

In line with the UNDAF outcome, the project is aimed to assist Parties in the implementation of their national priorities when implementing chemicals related multilateral environmental agreements.

In Cambodia, the UNDAF Strategy for 2011-2015 addresses chemical related issues, such as sustainable agriculture and fisheries, as well as access to health services. Access to maternal and newborn health and nutrition is also indicated as a 2015 goal under Cambodia's UNDAF strategy.

In Mongolia, the UNDAF Strategy for 2012-2016 list environment protection as National Priority 3, which is in line with MDG priority 7. Mongolia's goal related to this project under this priority refers to the availability to innovative technologies for energy efficiency, green growth and abatement of urban air pollution.

In Vietnam's the Millenium Development Goals' and Socio Economic Plan for 2006-2010, included the implementation of environmental legislation and agreements and it was considered as a key objective.

Furthermore, access to environmental information is considered as a key element to facilitate greater involvement in monitoring and decision making. This project will make available all data produced and reports will be disseminated widely.


Regarding country capacity, the project will make full use of existing capacities (laboratories, infrastructure, staff, technicians, etc) and will not initiate laboratories or buy expensive equipment that cannot be used because of an expensive maintenance not planned in national budgets. Using existing capacity will also ensure smooth implementation of the project, staff time and tasks will be simply added to their workplans.

**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. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>
<b>Mr. Lonh HEAL</b> Technical Director General Phnom Penh, Cambodia	GEF Political/Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	20.02.12
<b>Mr. Dana A. KARTAKUSUMA</b> Special Advisor to the Minister on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs Jakarta, Indonesia	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	27.10.12
<b>Mr. Khampadith KHAMMOUNHEUANG</b> Deputy Director General, Vientiane, Lao PDR	GEF Operational Focal Point	Environment Department Science Technology and Environment Agency (STEA)	15.03.12
<b>Mr. Altangerel ENKHBAT</b> Director of Ecologically Clean Technology and Science Division Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism	12.03.12
<b>Ms. Analiza REBUelta-THE</b> Undersecretary Manila, Philippines	GEF Operational Focal Point	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	24.02.12
<b>Dr. Van Tai NGUYEN</b> Director General Institute for Strategic Policy of Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) Ha Noi, Vietnam	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment -MONRE	24.04.2012

- B. **GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

<b>This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.</b>					
<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Maryam NIAMIR-FULLER Director, UNEP GEF Coordination Office		12/03/2013	Jorge OCAÑA CORREA Task Manager	+41 22 917 81 95	<a href="mailto:jorge.ocana@unep.org">jorge.ocana@unep.org</a>