

GROUP DISCUSSION

Kenya

Uganda

Zambia

GMP in important programme:

QUESTION 1: Further use of monitoring data from POPs monitoring

GMP has been very critical for Africa region with respect to providing comparable data, for POPs monitoring, that is critical for effectiveness evaluation. GMP has increased regional visibility in POPs monitoring activities in the region, particularly in assessing the levels of POPs levels in core media.

- a) Particular POPs monitoring data has promoted national and regional debate on the environment and health linkages in trying to understand the impact of environmental contamination on regional and national health. We have witnessed increased activities to implement the Libreville Declaration in Africa on health and Environment linkages.
- b) In addition POPs monitoring data has promoted research activities at national levels trying to look at other POPs releases from spots not covered under the GMP sites.
- c) There is increasing interest at national levels to develop national monitoring activities to determine chemicals releases and their effect to human health.

The UNEP/GEF Capacity enhancing projects have increased the participation of the regional countries to sample collection (for air, water and mothers milk).

- 1) They have also increased training of regional countries in matters of sampling, sample preparation, and analysis. It has also contributed to provision of spares, and other consumables for GC and GC/MS that are critical for POPs analysis. We need to underpin the fact that countries have not fared very well in intercalibration studies and we need to see how to address this. Our view is that one of the gaps in this training has been provision of POPs reference standards that are critical for calibration of the analytical equipment and hence affected the performance in the intercalibration studies.
- 2) Challenges have been lack of high resolution instruments for testing complex POPs such as dioxins/furans.
- 3) Increasing number of POPs analysts listed in the Annexes A, B and C that need to be included in POPs monitoring. The countries appreciate the listing of hazardous chemicals in the POPs list, however, this adds pressure to the countries in terms of rapidly building the necessary capacities for sampling and provision of quality data.

There is a need for further UNEP/GEF Capacity enhancing projects for continued capacity enhancing to enable the region to build capacities for additional new POPs listed from 2015 to date, to allow production of comparable data.

QUESTION 2: What we must have for POPs monitoring and SC

- 1) Maintenance of monitoring sites- sampling materials, personnel
- 2) Analytical laboratories with capability to provide good quality results

- 3) Continued human capacity building – with necessary training for methodologies, techniques and analysis skills.
- 4) Continued QA&QC protocol- Internal and external quality assessment (interlaboratory proficiency tests).
- 5) Sustainable Financial Resources: National and international sources.

QUESTION 3: Key pillars of sustainable POPs monitoring

- 1) Political support
- 2) Technical ability and capacity
- 3) Funding

QUESTION 4: Elements to help future sustainable monitoring of POPs

POPs monitoring is an expensive activity.

- 1) Political support
- 2) Continued training- Technical ability and capacity with hope to develop good regional labs.
- 3) Continued QA&QC assessment
- 4) Sustainable Funding- for monitoring activities

Programme parameters

- 1) Reviewing the number of POPs parameters and congener to be monitored.
- 2) Frequency of monitoring activities: Currently air and water is quarterly. Mothers milk is 5yr intervals.
- 3) Methods of sampling and sample analysis- consider reliable but cost effective alternatives.

QUESTION 5: How to do better to support evidence based decision making for SC

- 1) By providing research and monitoring data
- 2) By use of scientific models and predictive tools.

QUESTION 6: Other criteria besides the Convention text?

The convention provide a good guide for POPs monitoring and means of acquiring data for global assessment.

Longterm sustainability, harmonised, comparable and validated

QUESTION 7: Do we have information gaps in POPs monitoring at regional/national level? Where?

1) Yes:

A) GMP POPs monitoring data gaps

- 1) Southern Africa subregion- Mothers milk data – All POPs data gap.
- 2) Southern Africa subregion- Water data- PFOS

3) Whole region- No adequate data on temporal trends in POPs data in ambient air, mothers' milk and water.

2) National data gaps

All countries- No data from potential hot spots

QUESTION 8: How to tackle identified challenges at technical, Scientific and Political level?

1) Technicals level

- a) Develop project capacity building projects to build human and analytical capacities.

2) Scientific-

- a) Encourage research activities on POPs
- b) Peer Review publications
- c) Collaborative research projects

3) Political

- a) Provide sustainable financial resources
- b) Streamlining POPs in national developing agenda- Develop national monitoring activities.