

**Report of the
Global Workshop “From NIPs to Implementation” of the UN Environment/GEF
Projects “Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs”
and “Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs – add
on to umbrella FSP project”**

**23 - 24 October 2018
Montevideo, Uruguay**

I. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome and introduction of participants

The Global Workshop “From NIPs to Implementation” of the UN Environment/GEF Projects “Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs” and “Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs – add on to umbrella FSP project” was organized by UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch in collaboration with the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCRC-SCRC Uruguay). The meeting was held from 23 to 24 October 2018 within the Palladium Business Hotel in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Judith Torres, International Environmental Affairs Officer, Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment in Uruguay. In her opening remarks, Ms. Torres welcomed the participants and highlighted part of the successful achievements of Uruguay in implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Further welcoming remarks were given by Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Head, Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment highlighting the workshop expected outcomes, namely providing feedback and discuss main findings of the “From NIPs to Implementation: Lessons learned report (Draft)”; mapping out the remaining challenges in implementing the Stockholm Convention; and shaping the future potential steps.

The participants introduced themselves by stating their names, affiliation and area of expertise. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted without changes (Annex II).

1.3 Objectives of the meeting

As introduced by Ms. Alvarez, the aim of the meeting was to:

- Disseminate lessons learned/good practices on the NIP development, update and implementation processes at national levels;
- Sharing of information on main findings;

- Identify national and regional opportunities to address remaining challenges in implementing the Stockholm Convention.

II. Meeting proceedings

2.1 Overview on NIPs umbrella component

Ms. Alvarez gave a brief overview on the GEF FSP (ID: 5307) „Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs“ and GEF MSP (ID: 5525) „Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs – add on to umbrella FSP project“ and their global/regional support component. The projects objective is to assist countries to review and update the National Implementation Plan (NIP) in order to comply with reporting obligations (Article 15) and updating of National Implementation Plans (Article 7) under the Stockholm Convention aiming at enhancing communication and sharing information that will enable Parties to compare and harmonize data and identify lessons learned and good practices. Further, Ms. Alvarez highlighted the main outputs under the global/regional support component, as follows:

- compiling the available POPs quantitative data within the NIP and national reports;
- organizing thematic webinars on POPs inventories;
- organizing three training workshops in collaboration with BRS (Indonesia, Panama, Fiji);
- mapping of the available POPs quantitative data from NIPs and national reports (on going);
- incorporation of POPs data gathered into the SSC clearinghouse (on going);
- input and feed in information into new GEF project on Art. 07 and 15;
- development of the Experts on Chemicals and Waste Management Databank¹ and UN Environment Databank of Laboratories²;
- developing and dissemination of lessons learned: organizing face to face meeting at SC COP 8; development of a questionnaire (Word and online versions, as well as English and Spanish versions); and development of the “From NIPs to Implementation: Lessons learned report (Draft)”.

2.2 NIP development, update and implementation lessons learned and good practices – Countries experiences

Prior to the meeting Benin, Brazil, Burundi and Cameroon expressed their interest in presenting their NIP development, update and implementation lessons learned and good practices. The lessons learned and good practices are summarized as follows:

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

² <http://informea.pops.int/HgPOPsLabs/index.html>

a) for Benin:

- integration of universities in POPs inventory actions and implementation of action plans;
- synergic approach of work with Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions and SAICM;
- influencing the policy making to address sound management of chemicals and related waste including Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions and SAICM;
- engaging with all stakeholders to address sound management of chemicals and related waste, including NIP implementation;
- developing and maintaining inter-sectorial coordination mechanism for chemicals related issues;
- capacity building of all stakeholders.

b) for Brazil:

- setting up inter-institutional technical groups and a national coordination group (National Commission on Chemical safety);
- setting up Focal Points in the states and holding permanent working group on NIPs implementation.

c) **Burundi** presented an example of good practice on awareness raising on POP, using awareness raising materials in the mother tongue;

d) for Cameroon:

- develop a sense of government responsibility, support from ministries, commitment and support from stakeholders; National Coordinating Committees, training and ongoing support throughout the process of developing national implementation plans;
- elaboration of a plural and diversified communication strategy keeping in mind national realities and needs;
- creation of a functional website on POPs, with financial resources to allow frequent updates;
- involving civil society in disseminating information on POPs to better reach the target;
- exchanging of information and sharing of expertise between the national coordination of the project and the members of the coordinating committee;
- strengthening the capacity of NGOs to participate in the development of national implementation plans;
- engaging NGOs for specific tasks, including involving public interest NGOs in consultations, awareness campaigns Identify common problems and find acceptable solutions for all;
- involving the private sector in tasks such as reporting, inventories and action planning, including costing;
- involving academic circles in specific tasks such as compilation and provision of existing data, design and implementation of training activities;
- sharing responsibilities for specific tasks between different ministries during the planning process and development of national implementation plans;
- developing or updating a national chemicals management profile at the beginning of the process helps to understand the regulatory framework and identify unclear responsibilities, gaps and overlaps;
- using of a consulting lawyer to support the technical experts to review the legal framework;

- conducting cost analysis for a solid foundation for establishing good legislation;
- raise public awareness and encourage the use of substitutes and environmentally sound methods to reduce the demand for banned substances and chemicals;
- cooperating at the regional level to introduce specific customs codes for chemicals, products and wastes that are POPs;
- involving provincial inspection centers in collecting data in undertaking outreach activities (questionnaires, phone calls, face-to-face interviews) to obtain information for initial inventories;
- adopting an integrated approach to inventory development;
- establishing a common database or data management system for storing, processing, sharing and presenting information;
- creating of a specific unit for POPs;
- facilitating cooperation among ministries and coordinating bodies for POPs / chemicals to strengthen linkages between POPs and other policies. A first practical step is to establish links between strategies at a technical level rather than at higher levels;
- developing action plans that are compatible with the national regulatory framework and take into account local capacities and conditions;
- engaging stakeholders to participate actively in selecting the most appropriate options and developing action plans.

2.3 Report on the lessons learned and good practices within the NIP development, update and implementation processes (Draft)

Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun, Ms. Sandra Castro Scarone and Mr. Roland Weber, Consultants introduced briefly the document “From NIPs to Implementation: Lessons learned report (Draft)”, which was circulated to the participants prior to the meeting. The overall objective of the report is to compile the lessons learned and good practices within the NIP development, update and implementation processes at national level, with the aim of reflecting in the best manner possible those experiences and lessons that will help the global community shape the future activities for Stockholm Convention effective implementation.

Besides the introductory and methodology part, the report is structured by five main chapters with substantive information on the lessons learned and good practices within the developing, updating or revising of the national implementation plans at national level and remaining challenges on NIP development, update and implementation, as follows:

- Lessons learned relating to sustainable capacity, political and stakeholder engagement;
- Lessons learned relating to the technical elements/capacity;
- Lessons learned relating to funding of NIP development, implementation and compliance with the Stockholm Convention;
- Lessons learned relating to further NIP update process;

- Remaining challenges on NIP development, update and implementation.

Additionally, lessons learned as identified by the UNIDO Office for Independent Evaluation developed within the document entitled “Cluster Evaluation of UNIDO projects. Enabling Activities to review and update the National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on POPs” were also compiled in chapter 7 of this report.

During their presentation the three consultants put much emphasis on the chapter on remaining challenges on NIP development, update and implementation, as these needs to be further addressed by SC Parties.

2.4 Work in groups: addressing the report and its conclusions

During this session the participants were divided in working groups by language regime. Therefore three working groups were formed: English speaking group, French speaking group and Spanish speaking group. Each group had to select a chair and a rapporteur of the discussions. The following discussions points were put forward:

- Suggestions to improve the report (additions, gaps, examples);
- Experiences on NIP development, update and implementation;
- Major remaining challenges and priorities.

Following the group discussions, the below were summarized:

a) For French speaking group:

1. Suggestions to improve the report (additions, gaps, examples):

- i) focus on waste management, which is a problem with few funding;
- ii) strengthening public-private partnership for better chemicals management throughout their life cycle;
- iii) better funding and consideration of chemicals at national level.

2. Experiences on NIP development, update and implementation:

- i) availability of data (access to data, inexistence of data);
- ii) weak of cooperation between stakeholders in the countries.

3. Major remaining challenges and priorities:

- i) building capacity for project development for NIP implementation;
- ii) language barrier;
- iii) state commitment;
- iv) lack of flexibility of GEF National Focal Points.

b) For English speaking group:

1. Suggestions to improve the report (additions, gaps, examples):

- i) Provide responses from other Parties involved in GEF projects (out of 34 countries only 21 responded);

- ii) Look for opinion of developed Parties (EU Commission, ONGs, etc.) interested in sharing their experiences;
- iii) Provide breakdown of the responders;
- iv) Improve cooperation with industry;
- v) Better engagement of the media in reflecting NIP implementation;
- vi) Involving ONG in promoting public pressure on decision making;
- vii) Generate interest on researchers for POPs.

2. Experiences on NIP development, update and implementation:

- i) NIP development: Case Study of Kyrgyzstan – updated NIP in 2016 is not approved by the Government, after 3 attempts to promote it.
- ii) NIP update: Case Study of Republic of Moldova: acceptance of amendments to the SC is rather difficult process without GEF support.
- iii) NIP implementation: Case Study Ukraine: NIP implementation with national budget.

3. Major remaining challenges and priorities:

- i) enforcement and stakeholder's involvement (custom authorities – control of export&import, etc.);
- ii) knowledge building and transfer of alternatives technologies;
- iii) monitoring data on new POPs (industrial chemicals, uPOPs);
- iv) provide sufficient financing at national level, increase donor support/ cross sectorial approach (SDG, CC, etc.).

c) For Spanish speaking group:

1. Suggestions to improve the report (additions, gaps, examples):

- i) consider the different realities of the countries that answered the questionnaire by grouping answers by region for example;
- ii) incorporate an Executive summary of the report that contains the challenges for decision makers reading and comprehension;
- iii) include graphic elements and edition that make the reading and understanding of the report easier;
- iv) separate the content of the report from the case studies (placing it in Annexes).

2. Experiences on NIP development, update and implementation:

- i) there were opinions in the group around inventories, preferring a diagnostic approach for the POPs in the first place and evaluate if the inventories are needed or not;
- ii) in the case the inventories are done, it should also include possible actions for POPs management;
- iii) the Dioxins & Furans is a good example of an excellent tool, but other inventories has too many assumptions and the quality of information at last is not good or useful;
- iv) include recommendations on generating databases.

3. Major remaining challenges and priorities:

- i) no budget lines assigned for implementing the NIP;
- ii) sustainability of activities and financing with national funds is not achieved without external funding aid;
- iii) keep people from commissions and committees active outside projects and external financing;
- iv) associate POPs issues to Climate Change, in order to access new resources;
- v) awareness raising and good communication campaigns.

2.5 Highlights of GEF 7 programme directions

Ms. Giovanna Chiodi Moire, Associate Programme Officer, Chemicals and Health Branch briefly introduced the GEF 7 Replenishment Programming Directions for chemicals and waste focal area. She highlighted that the new replenishment is to consider a sectoral approach instead the approach used until now of treating chemicals independently; to focus on sustainable patterns of production and consumption in industrial processes, including the application of circular economy; and focus on supporting the enabling environments for industry to adopt better technologies and practices aimed at becoming more environmentally sustainable, including eliminating POPs. It was also mentioned that under GEF 7 chemicals and waste focal area will comprise of four main programmes, with specific areas that could be addressed when applying for financing:

✓ **Industrial Chemicals Program:**

- Chemicals and Waste at end of life:
 - Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;
 - Prevention of waste/products containing persistent organic pollutants from entering material recovery supply chains (including e-waste management with the aim of preventing e-waste from entering solid waste).
- Chemicals used/emitted from/in processes and products
 - Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced POPs

✓ **Agricultural Chemicals Program:**

- Investments to introduce alternatives;
- Reduction of Endosulfan, Lindane and highly/severely hazardous pesticides that enter the global food supply chain;
- Address end of life, waste and obsolete POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals;

- Safe disposal of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals;
- DDT production and use in disease vector control.
- ✓ **Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States Program:**
 - Projects targeting the special needs of these countries.
- ✓ **Enabling Activities:**
 - National Implementation Plans;
 - Minamata Initial Assessment;
 - National Action Plans;
 - Global Monitoring Plan;
 - Integrated National Planning for MEAs and SDGs.

The indicative GEF-7 Resource Allocation Framework following the conclusion of the replenishment negotiations in Stockholm on April 25, 2018 is as presented below:

	GEF-7		
	US\$ mill.	Share of Total	Share of Total Programming
Chemicals and Waste	597	14.7%	15.3%
Biodiversity	1,287	31.8%	33.0%
Climate Change	798	19.7%	20.5%
Grand Total	4,052	100.0%	

2.6 Initial assessment of NIP data

Ms. Castro Scarone briefly introduced the initial assessment of NIP and other reporting POPs data (PCBs, PFOS and DDT). The objective of the activity was to gather quantitative POPs information presented by Parties, organize the information in a suitable format to be used later in the construction of a global distribution map for the selected POPs and identify information gaps and data uncertainty. The information gathered was obtained from the following sources: NIPs, Governments statistics, projects, Article 15 reports and other SC reports.

The data collected feed into the MapX, an online, fully customizable geo-spatial platform to help connect data and decision makers from a range of different sectors, backed by the neutrality of the UN, as well as will feed into the implementation of national activities for POPs data collection for testing the integrated electronic toolkit to be developed under the on-going GEF project entitled “Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15”.

2.7 Introduction of MapX. Presentation of POPs data MapX mock-ups

Ms. Marion Planque, Research Assistant within the Crisis Management Branch, UN Environment, introduced the MapX an online, fully customizable geo-spatial platform to help connect data and decision makers from a range of different sectors, backed by the neutrality of the UN. The MapX services are: global store of reliable data; tools to contextualize, analyze and visualize; alerts and dashboards for monitoring impacts; and story maps to support communications and outreach. The presentation was followed by a round of questions and answers on margins of the presentation.

2.8 Work in groups: Identifying potential activities for addressing the challenges and recommendations from the working groups

During this session the participants were divided in working groups by language regime. Therefore 3 working groups were formed: English speaking group, French speaking group and Spanish speaking group. Each group had to select a chair and a rapporteur of the discussions. The following discussions points were put forward:

- Is your country relating itself with the remaining challenges presented in Chapter 8 of the Lessons Learned Report?
- What are the most stringent challenges to be addressed in the near future?
- Are there any common challenges that could be addressed together?

Following the group discussions, the below were summarized:

a) For French speaking group:

1. *Is your country relating itself with the remaining challenges presented in Chapter 8 of the Lessons Learned Report?*

- i) maintaining permanent technical committees and developing of legislation;
- ii) building capacity at national universities;
- iii) lack of technical support for uPOPs, PBDEs and PFOS.

2. *What are the most stringent challenges to be addressed in the near future?*

- i) NIP implementation;
- ii) mobilization of human resources.

3. *Are there any common challenges that could be addressed together?*

- i) Unintentional POPs ;
- ii) BAT/BEP ;
- iii) Incinerators.

b) For English speaking group:

1. *Is your country relating itself with the remaining challenges presented in Chapter 8 of the Lessons Learned Report?*

Additional challenges besides those listed in Chapter 8 of the report:

- i) lack of capacity to determine the concentration of POPs in products imported by countries;
- ii) no labeling of POP content in products e.g. PFOS and PFOA content in products;
- iii) no HS Codes for POPs chemicals to allow easy identification by customs during importation;
- iv) little information on articles containing POPs;
- v) low quality of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) accompanying products;
- vi) lack of capacity in countries to enforce the right to know the chemical contents of products put on the market by industry;
- vii) lack of capacity to develop proposals for chemicals and waste projects;
- viii) challenge in linking POPs with programs that have funds e.g. with SDGs, climate change and biodiversity;
- ix) lack of legislation to regulate POPs industrial chemicals;
- x) absence of limits/standards for POPs in various environmental media;
- xi) lack of funding for disposal of POP chemicals and waste;
- xii) low capacity to enforce the obligations of the SC at national level;
- xiii) lack of regional centers for monitoring of POPs;
- xiv) lack of capacity to analyze for POPs in products .

2. What are the most stringent challenges to be addressed in the near future?

- i) lack of capacity countries to enforce the right to know the chemical contents of products put on the market by industry;
- ii) lack of legislation to regulate POPs industrial chemicals;
- iii) absence of limits/standards for POPs in various environmental media.

3. Are there any common challenges that could be addressed together?

- i) lack of capacity to develop proposals for chemicals and waste projects;
- ii) challenge in linking POPs with programs that have funds e.g. SDGs, climate change and biodiversity
- iii) lack of funding for disposal of POP chemicals and waste;
- iv) lack of capacity in countries to enforce the right to know the chemical contents of products put on the market by industry;
- v) lack legislation to regulate POPs industrial chemicals;
- vi) absence of limits/Standards for POPs in various environmental media;
- vii) low capacity to enforce obligations of the SC at national level.

c) For the Spanish speaking countries:

- i) technical experts dealing with POPs do not have a direct access to decision makers;
- ii) lack of enough staff with the right profile and trained to follow the POPs issues;
- iii) lack of science-based decision making;
- iv) scarce coordination among government and academia on chemicals or environment issues;

- v) no link between POPs and other projects related to climate change, WEEE, biodiversity which are feasible and have opportunities for external funding;
- vi) lack of HS codes for POPs;
- vii) lack of socio-economic studies;
- viii) difficulties in addressing POPs contaminated site because of the costs associated with the intervention.

2.9 Introduction of the experts on chemicals and waste management databank and the UN Environment databank of laboratories

Ms. Paun introduced the experts on chemicals and waste management databank and the UN Environment databank of laboratories. She mentioned that on the experts database, there are 132 experts from 65 countries registered up to now, while on the laboratories databank 256 laboratories analyzing POPs and 210 laboratories analyzing Hg are registered currently. Also, she invited the meeting participants to register on the experts database and/or disseminate this information at national level for other available experts to register. In the case of laboratories databank, the registrations should be requested to UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch, which will provide a dedicated form to be completed and based on the information submitted, decides on granting the registration.

III. Workshop conclusions

The meeting participants welcomed the document “From NIPs to Implementation: Lessons learned report (Draft)” and found it very useful from the perspective of the lessons learned and good practices presented, as well as of mapping out the remaining challenges to be addressed.

The report drafters took note of the proposals for improvement/revision of the report made by participants and will consider it as to finalize the report.

The countries which mentioned will provide additional case studies (Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) will be contacted by UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch as to decide upon the length and substantive matters to be included in the case studies.

The final version of the report will be made available to all projects countries, but also to other Parties to SC, by publicizing it on the UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch webpage.

The report chapter on challenges, as well as the results of the group work carried out during the workshop, will be further explored and potential project proposals will be considered.

Annex I

List of participants

**Global Workshop “From NIPs to Implementation” of the UN Environment/GEF Projects
“Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs” and “Global
project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs – add on to umbrella FSP
project”**

23-24 October 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay

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Annex II

Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 23 October 2018		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks Introduction of participants	UN Environment Host country All
09:30 – 09:45	Meeting objectives	UN Environment
09:45 – 10:30	Overview on NIPs umbrella component	UN Environment All
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	NIP development, update and implementation lessons learned and good practices – Countries experiences	Representatives of project countries: Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon
12:00– 13:00	Report on the lessons learned and good practices within the NIP development, update and implementation processes Questions & Answers	Mihaela Claudia Paun Roland Weber Sandra Castro Scarone All
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 17:00	Work in groups: addressing the report and its conclusions	UN Environment All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
17:00 – 17:30	Initial assessment of NIP data Questions & Answers	Sandra Castro Scarone
19:00	Dinner	
Wednesday, 24 October 2018		
09:30 – 09:45	Introduction to Day 2 Highlights of GEF 7 programme directions	UN Environment
09:45 – 10:15	Introduction of MapX Presentation of POPs data MapX mock-ups	UN Environment MapX representative



	Questions & Answers	All
10:15 – 11:00	Work in groups: Identifying potential activities for addressing the challenges and recommendations from the working groups	All
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:00	Work in groups: Identifying potential activities for addressing the challenges and recommendations from the working groups	All
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Working groups reporting to plenary Discussion	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:15	Introduction of the experts on chemicals and waste management databank and the UN Environment databank of laboratories	UN Environment
16:15 – 17:30	Workshop conclusions	All
17:30 – 18:00	Closing words	UN Environment BRS Secretariat All
19:00	Dinner	