MID TERM REVIEW

Draft Consolidated Report

4 regions

Continuing Regional Support for the POPs GMP under Stockholm Convention

December 2018

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK

Promoting safe and sustainable alternatives to hazardous pesticides

This report, produced by PAN-UK, addresses the project titled 'Continuing regional support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention' which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UN Environment in four regions. The purpose of this report is to bring together points that are common to all regions, drawing on key points from the four detailed regional reports and also input from UNEP, the expert laboratories, BRS and others with an overview of the project across all regions.

GEF Agency (UNEP) Project ID	GEF Projects ID	GEF resubmission date	GEF Allocations ($)	Expected co-financing ($)
00957 (Africa)	4886	03/12/2014	4,208,000	10,190,200
00528 (Asia)	4894	15/12/2014	3,936,000	13,164,900
00956 (GRULAC)	4881	16/12/2014	3,636,000	13,375,401
Pacific Islands	1308	16/06/2014	1,995,000	6,448,604

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We wish to thank and acknowledge the authors of the regional reports that contributed to this consolidated report as follows:

Dr Abou Thiam (PAN Africa), Africa report

Dr Meriel Watts (PAN Asia-Pacific), Pacific report

Dr Rina Guadagnini (PAN-UK), GRULAC report

Dr Sheila Willis (PAN-UK), Ms. Sarojeni (PAN Asia-Pacific), Dr Peter Ooi (consultant), Ms Rowena Buena (PAN Asia-Pacific) – Asia report

Executive Summary

The global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) is an important component of the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention and provides a harmonized organizational framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data on the presence of POPs from all regions, in order to identify changes in their concentrations over time, as well as on regional and global environmental transport.

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 on a regional basis. One of the objectives of the GMP is to assess regional and global transport. The GMP focuses initially on the core media mother's milk/blood to examine human exposure, and ambient air to examine long-range transport.

The first and second regional monitoring reports have been welcomed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth and seventh meetings respectively. While the first monitoring reports provide information on the baseline concentrations of the 12 legacy POPs, the second global monitoring report provides first indications as to the changes in concentrations of the chemicals initially listed in the Convention, as well as baseline information on the newly listed POPs.

The second phase of the GMP is ongoing. In line with the GMP implementation plan, the project builds on existing POPs monitoring programmes and networks, and operates in close collaboration with the coordination groups established under the Stockholm Convention.

The present Mid Term Review is intended to assess progress in the implementation during the period of the project, from December 2015 to mid-2018 and to make recommendations for adjustment for the rest of the project duration. This consolidated report presents summary findings, conclusions and recommendations drawn from the four regional reports as well as points taken from interviews with UNEP DTIE, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, the laboratory experts and others with an overview of the project in the four regions (see Annex 6).

Key conclusions (summary)

- The significant delays at the beginning of the project have impacted negatively on the achievement of project objectives to date
- UNEP has not provided adequate staff resources for project delivery. This situation has improved since mid-2018
- The regional structure provided in the GRULAC region seems to deliver better progress, exchange and coordination than running individual country contracts through UNEP DTIE. It is unfortunate that such arrangements have not been successful in the other regions.
- The current arrangement is very reliant on the expert laboratories in Europe to deliver all the training, analysis, interlab assessments, procurement and to run the database. It is noted that suitable laboratories have been identified in Japan and Brazil that could join this group, which seems to be a positive step in terms of adopting a more open process and fostering ownership in different regions.
- In the future, much stronger engagement with decision-makers and linking the project within national structures and frameworks should help to raise the profile of GMP and commitment to it
- After initial delays, sampling of air and water is proceeding well in most countries.
- Sampling of human milk is behind schedule and the extent to which it will be delivered in 2019 is not clear.

- The expert laboratories and the implementing team at UNEP agree that many of the trained labs will not be able to deliver analysis of POPs with sufficient accuracy. There were some successes, though, notably the laboratory in Brazil.
- Addressing the new POPs is challenging and there is still a lot to do to make sure they are adequately addressed
- Thus far, the focus has been on sampling and analysis, while communications and engagement with decision-makers has been very limited. This is being addressed to some extent during a consultative process to develop a sustainability plan
- The interlab assessments are proceeding as planned
- Sampling of air and water is proceeding. Delays continue to affect human milk sampling and other matrices of national interest
- The implementing team lacks the staff capacity to support a better level of engagement and communication with national stakeholders
- As implementation speeds up and data emerges, it will be important to raise the profile of the project and make sure that the meaning of results is explained to stakeholders including GEF Focal Points and national stakeholders and decision-makers
- The opportunities for laboratories and other national stakeholders to share experience and exchange with each other is welcome but rather limited
- There is a lack of adherence to reporting schedules by participating countries
- The interlab reports are difficult to interpret
- The project framework is rather weak. SMART indicators are lacking

Key recommendations

UNEP

For the current project

- Given the shortage of time to complete the planned activities and the large underspend, an extension to the project implementation period should be considered. It will be necessary to consider the implications of a significant extension on the schedule of reporting to the COP
- It is not necessary to wait until GMP3 to begin measures to improve sustainability
- As implementation speeds up and data emerges, it will be important to raise the profile of the project and make sure that progress is reported and the meaning of results is explained to stakeholders including GEF Focal Points and national stakeholders and decision-makers
- Explore options for regional structures that can support national activities under GMP in each region in the future
- Consider bringing new laboratories from different regions into the group of expert laboratories e.g. Brazil, Japan
- Use available opportunities to assess the quality and impact of GMP2 e.g. by interviewing stakeholders; collecting feedback from training participants; using the interlab assessments to calculate measurable improvements
- Ensure that lessons learned are captured and used to inform future projects
- Ensure that the results of analyses are adequately explained to national stakeholders so the data can support better informed decisions on the control of POPs
- Explain the results of interlab assessments to participating labs and, to the extent possible, use the process to support improvements in laboratory practices

- Research / consult to better understand the conditions required before laboratories can make use of training on POPs analysis. Develop transparent qualifying criteria.

For future projects

- Ensure that stakeholders are adequately consulted, including decision makers at national level
- Consider whether resources will be available for comprehensive monitoring of all POPs or whether it will be necessary to prioritise monitoring certain POPs and which ones.
- Develop a robust project framework with SMART indicators
- Make sure the implementing team is ready to start in a timely manner
- Ensure that national stakeholders are well represented in decision-making processes (e.g. Steering Committee)
- Ensure that opportunities for laboratories to share experience are incorporated into the new project throughout the implementation period
- Consider developing new online forums / communications in order to encourage laboratories and other stakeholders to share experience
- Incorporate engagement with national stakeholders throughout the project implementation period, building meetings and workshops into frameworks and annual work plans and making strong efforts to link GMP with national frameworks and objectives
- Develop a robust monitoring plan which measures impact as well as delivery
- Where possible, establish regional structures in each region to support project delivery
- Reduce reliance on the expert group of laboratories and make sure there is better representation of the different regions in this group
- Use qualifying criteria for laboratories to access training. Laboratories that do not meet the criteria should not access training in analysis but they could still participate in sampling and exchange with expert laboratories and laboratories in their own region

Countries

- Intensify efforts to complete collection of samples, especially the core matrices, to the required standard on time and ensure samples are dispatched to the analysing laboratories in a timely manner.
- Consider how the data generated can be used to strengthen efforts to control POPs
- Consider how experience can be shared
- Ensure 6-monthly reports are provided to UNEP.

Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMP	Global Monitoring Plan
GRULAC	Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoH	Ministry of Environment
NIP	National Implementation Plan (of the Stockholm Convention)
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCDD	Polychlorinated dibenzo-*para*-dioxins
PCDF	Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIRs	Project Interim Reports
POPs	Persistent Organic Polluants
PUFs	Polyurethane foams
ROG	Regional Organisation Group
SAICM	Strategic approach to International Chemicals Management
SOPs	Standard operating procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are a group of chemicals including those that had/have been widely used in agricultural and industrial practices and those unintentionally produced and released from many anthropogenic activities around the globe. POPs are characterized by persistence – the ability to resist degradation in various matrices such as air, water, sediments and organisms for months and even decades; bio-accumulation - the ability to accumulate in living tissues at levels higher than those in the surrounding environment; harmfulness – the toxicity to human and/or wildlife to give adverse effects to human health and the environment, and potential for long range transport – the potential to travel long distances from the source of release through various matrices such as air, water and migratory species. Specific health effects of POPs include cancer, allergies and hypersensitivity, damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems, reproductive disorders, and disruption of the immune system. Some POPs are also considered to be endocrine disrupters which can damage reproductive and immune systems of the exposed individuals as well as their offspring by altering the hormonal system.

The ability of these toxic compounds to transport to remote areas of the globe, such as the Arctic, and to bioaccumulate through food webs has raised concerns for the health of humans and the environment, particularly for indigenous people that rely on traditional diets of marine mammals and fish. Because of the international scope of manufacture, use and unintentional releases, and the long distance movement, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was established in May 2001 to “protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants by reducing or eliminating releases to the environment”. The substances presently being addressed under the Convention are aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, PCB PCDD/PCDF, toxaphene, chlordecone, hexabromobiphenyl, pentachlorobenzene, lindane (gamma hexachlorocyclohexane), alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, tetrabromodiphenyl ether and entabromodiphenyl ether (commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether), hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (commercial octabromodiphenyl ether), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS), endosulfan and hexabromocyclododecane.

The GMP phase 2 project (hereinafter “GMP2 project”) intends to build on the results of phase 1 (2009-2012) and continue in assisting countries that are Parties to Stockholm Convention to respect their obligations under Article 16. The project is intended to strengthen the countries’ capacity for implementation of the revised POPs Global Monitoring Plan, generate sufficient high quality data on the presence and transport of POP in the region, and create the conditions for sustainability of the networks. Hence, the staff in participating laboratories will receive further training to consolidate and extend their performance in sampling and analysis of the initial as well as the new POPs and matrices (i.e., water and matrices of core national interest). The project should also allow national laboratories to improve their ability to analyse POPs according to international standards consistent with GMP Guidelines, will develop detailed guidelines, protocols and manuals, and facilitate reporting under the GMP. Finally, the long-term monitoring plan for the region will be developed (through a roadmap). This regional monitoring plan should ensure frequent generation of data and

input into the regional and global monitoring plans, which will feed the report to the Stockholm Convention's Conference of the Parties.

The current project has been designed based on the results from the GEF GMP project (2009-2012), which focused on the 12 original POPs. This project includes the new POPs added during COP-4 and COP-5 and also continues the training of staff in participating laboratories and strengthening the performance of sampling and analysis that will enable the national laboratories to improve their ability to analyse POPs according to international standards consistent with GMP Guidelines.

Expected results:

- Improve/perfect the process established in phase 1, including improving political visibility of the project and its value for Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC),
- improve coordination between national/regional levels, develop mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of experience, more training for laboratory personnel;
- Ensure continuity/sustainability of the effort, including continued inter-calibration studies to improve quality of analysis and comparability of data within the region;
- Include more countries and sites where data were missing for the first report;
- Include new POPs and provide adequate training and capacity-building.

Context and purpose of the evaluation

As stated in the Terms of Reference, the purpose of this evaluation is to assess progress in the implementation during the period of the project, from December 2015 to mid-2018. The mid-term evaluation makes recommendations for adjustment for the rest of the project duration. It covers all key activities undertaken within the framework of the project as described in the project documents. Finally, the MTR will identify the priority work areas for an eventual next phase.

Overall, the MTR assesses the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the project. It looks at signs of potential impact of project activities on beneficiaries and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development.

This midterm review is intended to:

(i) assess the relevance of the project design to relevant frameworks and priorities ('usefulness')

(ii) assess progress made and challenges encountered so far during the project implementation

(iii) provide the donor , UNEP and project participating countries with practical recommendations to achieve the project objectives

In particular, the key elements of the review are:

- Desk review
- Interviews
- Discussion / fact checking / triangulation
- Report drafting and revising based on feedback

The review is structured around the following lines of inquiry:

- Strategic relevance
- Institutional arrangement and collaborations
- Achievement of project objectives
- Effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Communications (internal and outward facing)
- Efficiency
- Procurement management
- Monitoring and reporting the project

Methodology

The Evaluation team used different methods for data collection and analysis to provide evidence for each of the evaluative questions:

Desk review

A review of key documents as follows:

- Relevant background documentation
- Projects design documents
- Annual Work Plans and Budgets or equivalent
- Revisions to the projects, the logical frameworks and budgets;
- Reports – progress reports, partner reports, meeting reports
- Projects outputs

Country visits

The evaluation team members undertook field missions to two countries in each region (Colombia, Ecuador, Senegal, Mali, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Mongolia and the Philippines) to interact with the main beneficiaries among the national counterparts and the regional partner organisations. Regional meetings were also attended in Zambia, Colombia and Mongolia, a coordination meeting in Barcelona in February 2018 and a meeting with UNEP in Geneva in September 2018.

Semi-structured interviews.

Interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders, both face-to-face and by skype or e-mail. Questionnaires, tailor-made to particular target groups, were developed to guide the interviews, in order to make sure that information will be gathered in a consistent manner, covering all relevant evaluation areas. Semi-structured interviews were a key source of qualitative information.

Triangulation of data and information

The information gathered from each stakeholder was compared with that gathered from others (or from documents, data or analytical frameworks) for verification purposes. This general process of triangulation was the basis for all the evidence the evaluation provides.

Assessment of evidence (Findings)

Strategic relevance

The project is designed to meet the needs of the global community for standardised POPs monitoring data as a means to evaluate progress on key objectives of the Stockholm Convention. Therefore, the BRS COP has been a key forum at which the project has been promoted and where endorsement is sought for continued activities. The project works in coordination with other networks including WHO breastmilk monitoring and regional air monitoring programmes.

The issue of POPs is of strategic relevance in all the regions and countries in which the GMP2 projects operate and related issues are well recognised in a variety of global and regional initiatives. The importance of controlling and monitoring POPs is also well recognised in the NIPs for participating countries across the four regions. However, until now there has been very limited consultation or engagement with decision- or policy-makers to explain the process or to highlight potential synergies with national priorities or efforts to improve the control of POPs. This is starting to be addressed and was included in discussions about sustainability in the four regional meetings in 2018.

Institutional Arrangements and collaborations

The GRULAC region is the only one of the four with a regional structure, whereby the project is coordinated by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC Uruguay). The centre manages the project's funds for the GRULAC region, distributes the resources and assists and supports the participating countries. By contrast, Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions no longer have a regional structure. Attempts were made in the past to establish such arrangements but they broke down due to financial / administrative problems and staff changes. Current arrangements involve communications between national representatives and the expert laboratories or directly with UNEP / DTIE (see Figure 1).

The institutional arrangement places a significant burden on the small team at UNEP/DTIE which, until recently, consisted of one senior staff member (P5) who also has other responsibilities, plus an assistant (consultant) and limited additional support on finance. A new P4 position was appointed to the team in mid-2018 and there was also increased allocation of staff time on financial administration.

The current arrangement gives a lot of responsibility to the expert laboratories who take on a very significant role in project implementation and decision-making (delivering training, technical support, procurement of equipment, sample analysis, data processing and presentation, interlab assessments). They also control the data, which is hosted by Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.

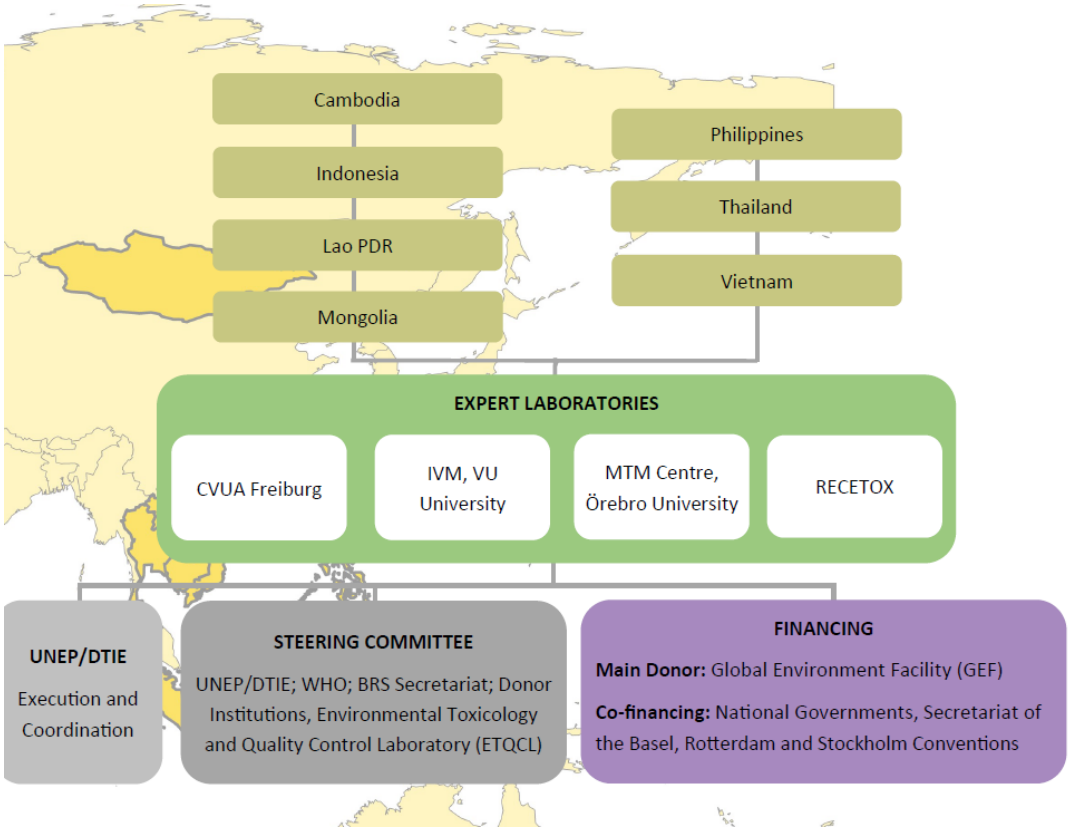
Political engagement in the GMP process is delivered largely through written communications with national focal points to the Stockholm Convention when they attend the COP. There are some

instances of national stakeholders taking the initiative to link the project within national structures and frameworks e.g. in Thailand. However, this has not been a systematic approach across the projects.

Some countries e.g. Mali reported difficulties executing the project due to a lack of formal agreements and defined roles between implementing organisations at national level. Many stakeholders from laboratories expressed the view that the opportunities to network with other laboratories in their region and beyond could be a very valuable aspect of the project and requested additional opportunities to do so.

In addition to the project structures described, Regional Organisation Groups (ROGs) and the Global Coordination Group are supported directly by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. Their last meeting, in June 2018, was hosted by a Stockholm Convention Regional Centre and RECETOX (part of Masaryk University) in Brno, Czech Republic. There are usually three representatives from each region on the ROGs. It is their role to develop the global monitoring Reports, drawing on the results of GMP monitoring and other, selected data. The next GMP report will show the data being collected under GMP2 and it will be presented to the COP in 2021.

Figure 1. Diagram of institutional arrangements, taken from leaflet titled '*Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention In the Asia Region (GMP2)*'



Achievements of project objectives

All regions

All regions were affected by significant delays at the start of the project caused by a variety of issues including staff changes at UNEP/DTIE, a lack of staff resources allocated by UNEP/DTIE, contractual issues with national partners. The project has picked up momentum over the last two years. Additional staff have been allocated to the project by UNEP since mid-2018, and they are working to address outstanding issues in the latter part of the project.

Unfortunately, many countries have not developed detailed work plans or progress reports E.g. Only three progress reports were available from Asia (out of 7 countries).

Taking expected results in turn:

- **Improve/perfect the process established in phase 1, including improving political visibility of the project and its value for Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC)**

The GMP is given political visibility through the delivery of reports and other information resources at the BRS COPs. The fact that the programme has received continued endorsement at the COPs demonstrates a certain level of commitment to GMP aims and objectives. However, many of the stakeholders at national level commented that they would welcome more attention paid to political visibility and to making more explicit links between the project's aims and national frameworks and objectives. Another point that emerged repeatedly in all regions was the need to explain the results of the analyses to a range of stakeholders in in order to better inform decisions concerning the control of POPs. This issue has already been recognised by the implementing team and discussed at regional meetings.

- **improve coordination between national/regional levels, develop mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of experience, more training for laboratory personnel;**

The interlab assessments and regional meetings have provided some (limited) opportunities for national stakeholders, mainly from laboratories, to establish linkages and exchange information and experience. These occasions have been widely welcomed by participants who also called for more opportunities of this kind as well as the development of online forums or other communications that would facilitate greater exchange in future.

The training delivered by the project has been welcomed by participants and their feedback suggests that the training and technical support is of high quality. There was feedback from francophone Africa and some of the Asian countries that the training was not delivered in the most appropriate language. Some of the training has been delivered in 2018 or is planned in 2019, which is very late in the process.

- **Ensure continuity/sustainability of the effort, including continued inter-calibration studies to improve quality of analysis and comparability of data within the region;**

Countries in each of the regions are having difficulties obtaining ethical clearance for human milk sampling and progress on sampling in matrices of national interest is patchy. Air and water sampling is proceeding more smoothly.

Some of the countries in each region have had problems concerning the timely delivery of equipment, which has resulted in some delays. Poor communication (both at national level and between national laboratories and the Expert labs) regarding when to expect deliveries, inappropriate handling of deliveries, problems at customs and breakages have all caused some issues.

The interlab assessments are proceeding as planned. UNEP/DTIE plans to use the results of the assessments to measure the progress of laboratories that have participated twice. The results are anonymised in the published reports, understandably, but the reports are difficult even for participating labs to interpret. This issue has been recognised by the implementing team and they plan to address it this time around. There are practical issues if too many laboratories participate, but these are being addressed by the expert laboratories.

- **Include more countries and sites where data were missing for the first report;**

The countries in Asia are new to the GMP process, although they were already participants in the 'POPs Monitoring Project in East Asia' (POPSEA project), which monitors air samples. New sites have been added in other regions, too. There are still some significant gaps e.g. Central and Western Asia countries.

- **Include new POPs and provide adequate training and capacity-building.**

Guidance (2015) and SOPs have been translated from English into French and Spanish. There is a series of SOPs for the matrices of interest, including short videos and new POPs are being addressed in those resources. Feedback from end users is very positive regarding the clarity and value of the SOPs.

The sampling and analysis of new POPs imposes significant technical and practical challenges on GMP. For some chemicals, such as PCBs, there is no consensus even among experts as to the key values. The methodology for PFOS has been elaborated but only one laboratory has been trained under GMP2 (as of May 2018).

Expert laboratories report that difficulties in many national laboratories with staff turnover, lack of equipment / resources, power outages and other issues make it impossible for some of the laboratories to make good use of their training to build the necessary capacity to deliver quality POPs analysis. However, there are some examples of success, such as the laboratory in Brazil.

GRULAC – see Annex 1

The training and sampling activities are mostly on track apart from some delays with ethical clearance for human milk samples. All the laboratories that are engaged in the project participated in the interlab assessments. Feedback from the expert laboratories describes a good level of engagement and networking between laboratories in the region.

Africa – see Annex 2

The training and sampling activities are mostly on track apart from some delays with ethical clearance for human milk samples. Feedback on the quality of training was mostly positive apart from some feedback about requiring training in French, not English, in some countries.

Asia – see Annex 3

The project got off to a slow start and activities were further delayed by slow disbursement of funds to participating countries. The air sampling is running reasonably well, while other activities are significantly behind schedule. Over 2017/18 the implementing team has made efforts to make up for lost time. They have prioritised the sampling in core matrices and the regional meeting was a useful opportunity to exchange information and to begin discussions concerning the sustainability of the project and communications.

Pacific – see Annex 4

No country has completed sampling and many appear to be well behind the project timeframe. It is unclear whether all sampling can be completed on time except for some countries, such as Kiribati, which benefit from experience in GMP1.

Effectiveness

The project is collecting samples and getting them analysed and reported in a standardised way. New data points are being added and this is a valuable exercise that is supported by parties to the Stockholm Convention. Sampling is proceeding well for air and water in many cases and useful data should be available for the next GMP global and regional reports. The sampling of human milk and matrices of national interest has been more problematic and it is not clear how many of those samples can be shipped and analysed in time.

The data on the GMP database only comes from UNEP-contracted expert laboratories plus China. The data analysis is conducted by the group of expert European laboratories that have supported this process through both GMP1 and 2. There is a high level of expertise and experience in this group and, it seems, effective communication between them. However, there does not seem to be a clear route for laboratories that attain a high standard, e.g. in the interlab assessment, to join the group of expert laboratories and improve regional representation and secure ongoing support to continue POPs analysis.

There was recognition among the implementing team and the laboratory experts that only small proportion of the labs that had received training and technical support would be in a position to undertake their own POPs monitoring / analysis to an acceptable standard. To quote ‘The programme has been training labs since 2002/3 and they are still not performing. We need a reality check.’

In order to have impact at national level, the results of the analysis need to be accessible and clear and the significance of the results need to be understood. This stage has yet to be reached under GMP2. One of the laboratory experts told us that countries must explore the data and make use of

it, but many of the stakeholders in laboratories said that they need support to do that. Stakeholders requested individual country reports with the full data, critical thresholds and an explanation of potential health impacts. These issues are currently under discussion within the sustainability planning process.

Sustainability

Limitations on financial resources will be a major constraint on the GMP going forward. The growing list of POPs and chemicals proposed for listing adds pressure to monitoring programmes and analytical laboratories.

The implementing team has been consulting with laboratory experts, national stakeholders and others to develop a sustainability plan[1] (see presentation http://www.ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/KS-GMP2-project-sustainability-intro-F.pdf). It is intended that this plan will be developed over the next months.

It is clear that many of the trained laboratories are still not in a position to continue to monitor POPs to the required standard of accuracy. Reasons include lack of resources, staff changes, power outages (which damage equipment) and a lack of opportunity to practice the techniques on a regular basis.

The results in Table 1 show that stakeholders in different regions agree on the importance of political engagement and broader awareness-raising at the national level in order to establish the necessary political and financial support for GMP and to maximise its impact on the control of POPs. The stakeholders in Africa also suggested developing reference/expert laboratories in each region in order to reduce dependence on the European labs.

Table 1. Results of consultation with national stakeholders in GRULAC and Africa on sustainability

QUESTION	KEY POINTS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS IN GRULAC	KEY POINTS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS IN AFRICA
What is the further use of data we are getting from POPs monitoring?	Raise awareness informing the government, students and general public.	- Promote debate in national/regional level - Promote research activities in national level - Increasing interest to develop national monitoring activities - Make trend analysis to show increasing or decreasing tendency

[1] The presentation delivered prior to feedback from participants at regional meetings can be found here: http://www.ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/KS-GMP2-project-sustainability-intro-F.pdf

		- Help develop project concept/proposal at national and regional levels - For Policy use
What are key pillars of sustainability in POPs monitoring? Is it technical ability and capacity, political support and funding?	- Political and support and funding - Explain the relevance of POPs monitoring to get political support - Demonstrate how much money the non-implementation of the Stockholm Convention will cost to the government	- Political support - Technical ability and capacity - Funding Regional cooperation
What do we must have in relation to POP monitoring and Stockholm Convention? What could be our criteria when setting priorities in POPs monitoring?	-	- Maintenance of monitoring sites-samples materials, personnel - Analytical laboratories with capacity to provide good quality results - Continue human capacity building - Sustainable funding for monitoring activities - Identification of priority POPs for each country
What do you think are possible elements that could help preparing for the future in the sustainable monitoring of POPs?	- Political support - International pressure - Monitoring of industrial pollution - Improve internal organisation and monitoring management to make it easier	- Political support - Continued training - Sustainable funding - Regional reference laboratories so that regional countries are not dependent on expert laboratories - Provision of quality data - Availability of high-tech equipment and Certified reference materials - Participation in Proficiency Testing Scheme
How to do better in support evidence-based decision making for the Stockholm Convention?	- Among the 3 groups of POPs the easiest to prohibit/eliminate are pesticides. Starting prohibiting them could show the effectiveness of the politic. POPs should be eliminated step by step until achieving enough results to be shared	- By providing research and monitoring data - By use of scientific models and predictive tools - Current matrices monitored should be continued - National samples like bagasse ash, fish, topsoil, sediments

Do we have information gaps in POPs monitoring at regional/national level? Where?	- Even if some parts of the region are not covered in general the information about POPs are good	- By providing research and monitoring data - By use of scientific models and predictive tools - Current matrices monitored should be continued - National samples like bagasse ash, fish, topsoil, sediments
How to tackle identified challenges at technical, scientific and political level?	- Technical level: continuing with this kind of projects - Scientific level: involve experts - Political level: show what is the cost or managing POPs compared to the cost of preventing contamination - International cooperation between governments, technical institutions, universities - Network of links with customs to solve the problem of sending/receiving samples	-

Communications (internal and outward facing)

In general the UNEP website provides a clear overview of the project https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/persistent-organic-pollutants/global-monitoring-plan-5 . Recent changes to the website have resulted in some technical documents no longer being accessible, but some have been restored. The content is a little out of date for GMP2 Asia, still referencing tentative plans for training in February 2018 for example.
The website of the BCCC-SCRC is a good source of information for the GRULAC region because it reports comprehensive technical and narrative information, and the documents are in Spanish so easily accessible to the participating countries.

The GMP data warehouse and other technical information can be found here http://www.pops-gmp.org/index.php

The Stockholm Convention website (http://www.pops.int/Implementation/GlobalMonitoringPlan/Overview/tabid/83/Default.aspx) also carries a variety of documents but they are a little more difficult to navigate and there are draft documents with track changes and duplications. These might be helpful to some individuals who are closely involved with the project, but less so as a 'public face'.

The slow progress and lack of information coming out of the project has meant that there was little to report to the outside world. One key stakeholder explained that this has meant that the project is rather overlooked. A challenge for the latter part of the project, as implementation speeds up and important data emerges, will be to raise the profile of the project and make sure that progress is reported to a variety of stakeholders including GEF Focal Points and national stakeholders.

Apart from the GRULAC region, national stakeholders communicated directly with the small implementing team at UNEP/DTIE. The implementing team at UNEP/DTIE recognises that it lacks staff capacity to deliver a better level of engagement and communication with national stakeholders. Their efforts to secure additional staff capacity have not been successful. In the past they hired UNITAR to fulfil some of this function. The feedback concerning promptness of responses and quality of email communications was mixed but mostly positive. In GRULAC the national stakeholders are in contact with the BCCC-SCRC and report that the information flows easily because the regional centre is responsive and helpful. The stakeholders receive appropriate and timely information and responses to messages.

A key area of communication that was raised by stakeholders related to explaining the results of the analysis to higher level decision-makers and helping them to interpret results in order to improve the control of POPs in the future. This cannot be done until results are available, but there are no clear plans at present for the type of multi-stakeholder engagement at national level that would be required. Feedback from several stakeholders placed high importance on the project helping to make decisions about prioritisation of POPs for action at national level. As one stakeholder put it 'Collaboration and Communication are the key factors of success'.

Stakeholders said that they value the opportunities this project provides to exchange with other experts and laboratories and to share experience. The Interlaboratory assessment process (with the meeting in Beijing) provided a good opportunity along with the inception meetings and the mid-term regional meetings in 2018. Stakeholders would like to see more done to facilitate ongoing exchange.

The SOPs were very well received by stakeholders in laboratories. The production of short video training resources also seems to be a positive step.

Efficiency

The project was very slow to get started. Country agreements were signed very late and, in some instances, this was followed by delayed money transfers.

The implementing team is working hard to make up for delays earlier in the project. However, the late start has meant that outputs have not been delivered in an efficient order. Training and information resources have often been delivered after the countries started sampling, for example. Stakeholders commented that it would have been easier and more efficient for the national stakeholders to have all the necessary information, work plans, training and protocols together early in the project. Training in Asia is planned into 2019, for example. Equipment/materials going missing, getting delayed at customs or getting broken in transit also delayed sampling activity.

Table 2. Disbursement of GMP funds in three regions up to June 2018

	Africa	Asia	Pacific
Total budget	$ 4,208,000	$3,963,000	$ 1,995,000
Expenditure	$ 905,293	$297,350	$548,532
Expenditure as % of budget	21.5%	7.5%	27.5%
Unliquidated obligations	$2,360,980	$2,230,354	$971,868

Figures for GRULAC were not provided to the evaluation team. Please note that there has been a significant increase in project delivery and convening of costly regional meetings since June 2018, so that expenditure is likely to have risen significantly since the last reports. Nonetheless, the figures do show a poor rate of disbursement up to June 2018, particularly in Asia.

Procurement management

The majority of countries received the equipment undamaged. However, there were instances of equipment going missing or getting broken in transit or being damaged after delivery as well as hold ups at customs. Some stakeholders suggested that better communications could have helped to address some of the issues. A larger problem was the shipping of samples, particularly human milk. This has been problematic in all regions and it is not clear whether it can be resolved in time to complete the analyses.

Monitoring and reporting the project

This aspect of the project has not been well addressed. Monitoring largely depends on national progress reports (6 monthly). Many of these are missing and there doesn't seem to be a standard format for them. It was suggested that 6 monthly reports are too frequent because it is politically difficult to report no progress. Many countries have submitted no reports at all.

The project frameworks do not provide clear and measurable indicators. Instead, they lists outputs and the project is reported against planned activities. The activity descriptions combine several elements, which makes them rather unsatisfactory to report against e.g. The Asia framework '*Make national laboratories operational for undertaking analysis of abiotic matrices*' combines various activities and there is no clear measure of what is meant by 'operational'.

Very little has been done to measure the impact of the project. Simple measures, such as collecting and reviewing feedback from training participants, are needed as well as opportunities to capture robust feedback and lessons learned at national level and from the various agencies and institutions involved. There is a plan to use the results of the interlab assessments to assess progress of participating laboratories. This would be a good use of the process to give a measure of impact on laboratories that have participated prior to and following training (not the case for all of the laboratories, however).

Conclusions

Strategic relevance

- The GMP projects are of strategic relevance at global, regional and national levels.
- The GMP could provide the opportunity both for monitoring POPs and increasing the general level of awareness, especially politically, about the health and environmental impacts of chemicals; it could bring attention to bear on a wider range of chemical management issues and data may be used to justify actions to improve the sound management of chemicals
- The GMP can provide valuable institutional strengthening, in terms of monitoring capacity and skills.
- There is a struggle for political priority for POPs monitoring and management in some countries.

Institutional arrangement and collaborations

- The regional structure provided in the GRULAC region seems to deliver better progress, exchange and coordination than running individual country contracts through UNEPT DTIE. It is unfortunate that such arrangements have not been successful in the other regions.
- UNEP has not provided adequate staff resources for project delivery. This situation has improved since mid-2018.
- The current arrangement is very reliant on the expert laboratories in Europe to deliver all the training, analysis, interlab assessments, procurement and to run the database. It is noted that suitable laboratories have been identified in Japan and Brazil that could join this group, which seems to be a positive step in terms of adopting a more open process and fostering ownership in different regions.
- The fact that the expert laboratories are the primary contacts for many national stakeholders has, perhaps, reinforced the view that this project is narrowly defined in terms of collecting data and building laboratory capacity, without attention to wider engagement, sustainability and efforts to control POPs.
- Improvements could be made to institutional arrangements at national level in some countries, with roles, responsibilities and financial arrangements between participating institutions more clearly defined in written agreements
- Political engagement in the GMP process is delivered largely through written communications with national focal points to the Stockholm Convention when they attend the COP. Much stronger engagement with decision-makers and linking the project within national structures and frameworks should help to raise the profile of GMP and commitment to it
- Regional Organisation Groups (ROGs) and the Global Coordination Group are supported directly by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to present the GMP data in the global and regional reports.

Achievement of project objectives

- The significant delays at the beginning of the project have impacted negatively on the achievement of project objectives to date

- The rate of implementation has increased, particularly over the last year, but the compressed time available means that some of the activities are being delivered in a rather haphazard order e.g. training is often delivered a long time after stakeholders initiate sampling.
- After initial delays, sampling of air and water is proceeding well in most countries.
- Sampling of bio-matrices is behind schedule and the extent to which it will be delivered in 2019 is not clear.
- The expert laboratories and the implementing team at UNEP agree that, even after years of training and technical support, many of the trained labs will not be able to deliver analysis of POPs with sufficient accuracy. There were some success stories, though, including the laboratory in Brazil.
- Addressing the new POPs is challenging and there is still a lot to do to make sure they are adequately addressed
- Thus far, the focus has been on sampling and analysis, while communications and engagement with decision-makers has been very limited. This is being addressed to some extent during a consultative process to develop a sustainability plan, which is helping to engage participants in thinking about linking the project to national processes and increasing its visibility.
- New sites and participating countries have been brought into the GMP process
- The interlab assessments are proceeding as planned

Effectiveness

- The project will secure additional data for the GMP database, including new countries and sites
- Sampling of air and water is proceeding. Delays continue to affect human milk sampling and other matrices of national interest
- There is still a lot of work to be done on the new POPs and concerns about the feasibility of adding more POPs to GMP in future
- The project has focused narrowly on the sampling and training aspects of the project, while communications and engagement with decision-makers and national frameworks have been neglected
- The capacity building aspects of the project have been effective in some laboratories but not in others
- Opportunities for networking and exchange are valued by participants
- The interlab assessments are proceeding as planned
- The results of previous interlab assessments have been difficult to understand. For them to be effective it is important that they are better explained to participants
- Plans are being made to use the results of the interlab assessments to measure any improvement in the performance of participating laborties, which is an effective use of resources

Sustainability

- A sustainability plan is being developed in consultation with national partners, to be finalised in late 2019
- Limitations on financial resources will likely be a major constraint on the GMP going forward.
- The implementing team has recognised a need to encourage participating countries to take greater ownership of the process and to make a more active contribution
- It is clear that many of the trained laboratories are still not in a position to continue to monitor POPs to the required standard
- The majority of participating laboratories would require external funding to continue their participation in GMP
- The growing list of POPs and chemicals proposed for listing adds pressure to monitoring programmes and analytical laboratories.

Communications (internal and outward facing)

- The project has made a variety of communications materials and technical resources available online
- The SOPs are very well received
- The implementing team lacks the staff capacity to support a better level of engagement and communication with national stakeholders
- As implementation speeds up and data emerges, will be important to raise the profile of the project and make sure that progress is reported and the meaning of results is explained to stakeholders including GEF Focal Points and national stakeholders, including decision-makers
- The opportunities for laboratories and other national stakeholders to share experience and exchange with each other is rather limited
- There is a lack of adherence to reporting schedules by participating countries, resulting in gaps in the information available to the implementing team
- The interlab reports are difficult for the lay reader to interpret

Efficiency

- The project was very slow to get started. Country agreements were signed very late and, in some instances, this was followed by delayed money transfers.
- The implementing team is working hard to make up for delays earlier in the project.
- As of June 2018 GMP was significantly underspent. This situation has likely improved in the latter part of 2018

Procurement management

- Several laboratories report breakages, delays and missing equipment but these have been largely addressed by now.
- There are still problems with sending human milk samples and other biota to the expert labs for analysis.

Monitoring and reporting the project

- Many of the national progress reports have not been submitted.

- The project framework is rather weak.
- SMART indicators are lacking
- Monitoring and reporting only addresses activities completed, but does not consider the impact of the project or the quality of delivery.

Recommendations

UNEP

For the current project

- Given the shortage of time to complete the planned activities and the large underspend, an extension to the project implementation period should be considered. It will be necessary to consider the implications of a significant extension on the schedule of reporting to the COP
- Consider whether resources will be available for comprehensive monitoring of all POPs in future or whether it will be necessary to prioritise monitoring certain POPs and which ones.
- The Sustainability Plan should be ready as soon as possible so that it can be shared and commented on by stakeholders before being finalised
- It is not necessary to wait until GMP3 to begin measures to improve sustainability
- As implementation speeds up and data emerges, will be important to raise the profile of the project and make sure that progress is reported and the meaning of results is explained to stakeholders including GEF Focal Points and national stakeholders and decision-makers
- Explore options for regional structures that can support national activities under GMP in each region in future
- Consider bringing new laboratories from different regions into the group of expert laboratories e.g. Brazil, Japan
- Use available opportunities to assess the quality and impact of GMP2 e.g. by interviewing stakeholders; collecting feedback from training participants; using the interlab assessments to calculate measurable improvements
- Ensure that lessons learned are captured and used to inform future projects
- Explore ways in which the ROGs could make a greater contribution to project delivery
- Ensure that the results of analyses are adequately explained to national stakeholders so the data can support better informed decisions on the control of POPs
- Explain the results of interlab assessments to participating labs and, to the extent possible, use the process to support improvements in laboratory practices
- Research / consult to better understand the conditions required for laboratories to make use of training on POPs analysis. Develop transparent qualifying criteria.

For future projects

- Ensure that stakeholders are adequately consulted, including decision makers at national level
- Develop a robust project framework with SMART indicators
- Make sure the implementing team is ready to start in a timely manner
- Ensure that national stakeholders are well represented in decision-making processes (e.g. Steering Committee)

- Ensure that opportunities for laboratories to share experience are incorporated into the new project throughout the implementation period
- Consider developing new online forums / communications in order to encourage laboratories and other stakeholders to share experience
- Develop annual work plans with national stakeholders
- Incorporate engagement with national stakeholders throughout the project implementation period, building meetings and workshops into frameworks and annual work plans and making strong efforts to link GMP with national frameworks and objectives
- Develop a robust monitoring plan which measures impact as well as delivery
- Where possible, establish regional structures in each region to support project delivery
- Reduce reliance on the expert group of laboratories and make sure there is better representation of the different regions in this group
- Use agreed and transparent qualifying criteria for laboratories to access training. Laboratories that do not meet the criteria should not access training in analysis but they could still participate in sampling and exchange with expert laboratories and laboratories in their own region, for example.

Countries

- Intensify efforts to complete collection of samples, especially the core matrices, to the required standard on time and ensure samples are dispatched to the analysing laboratories in a timely manner.
- Consider how the data generated can be used to strengthen efforts to control POPs
- Consider how experience can be shared
- Ensure 6-monthly reports are provided to UNEP.

Annex 1. Achievement of project objectives, GRULAC

Project Objective: To strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.				
Project Components/ Programs	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Planned activities**	**Evaluation**
1. Securing conditions for successful project implementation.	Relevant stakeholders for project implementation in the Latin American and Caribbean region are committed to carry out the agreed responsibilities.	Technical and administrative support provided for the implementation of the project and organization of process established in the Latin American and Caribbean	- key stakeholders sign legal documents to carry out POPs monitoring activities for the 23 POPs in the region - organize a regional start-up workshop to start the project and detail the activities and responsibilities with a work plan and budget - update the POPs laboratory data bank with information on new laboratories, new POPs and new matrices	**5** 9 out of 11 countries has signed the MoU. Peru started monitoring even without MoU signature **6** All the participating countries took part to the initial workshop where a planned timetable has been shared **0** The list of POPs labs is not updated http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/GlobalMonitoringPlan/AdditionalResources/tabid/1607/Default.aspx
2. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core abiotic matrices (air and water).	Regional network and national capacity to carry out air and water sampling is enhanced in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and high quality data is generated on the presence of initial and new POPs in the region.	Training reports and sectoral reports on POPs analysis undertaken on two abiotic core matrices (i.e., air and water) in the Latin American and Caribbean Region	- Identify sampling sites for air monitoring in the region, and provide sampling equipment and materials to make them operational - Identify strategic sampling sites for water monitoring in the region, and provide sampling equipment and materials to make them operational - provide equipment, training and guidelines to operationalize national laboratories that perform analysis of abiotic matrices in the region - analyze national air and water samples and report high quality data for the region - summarize the results of the analysis of the region in two distinctive sectoral reports, one for air and one for water	**5** Done in 10 out of 11 countries **6** Done – sampling equipment and materials delivered – sampling ongoing **4** guidelines ready – trainings ongoing – equipment delivery follows trainings plan **4** sampling ongoing – data not yet ready The summary will be don when the samples will be analysed

Project Objective: To strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.				
Project Components/ Programs	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Planned activities**	**Evaluation**
3. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core biotic matrices (human milk).	Regional network and national capacity to carry out human milk sampling is enhanced in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and high quality data is generated on the presence of initial and new POPs in the region.	Training reports and sectoral report on POPs analysis undertaken on one biotic core matrix (6th round of human milk survey) in the Latin American and Caribbean Region	- provide equipment, training and guidelines to countries in the region to carry out a sampling of human milk for the sixth round of the UNEP / WHO survey - provide materials, training and guidance to national laboratories in the region for analysis of human milk - Successfully implement the 6th round of surveys on human milk in the GRULAC region, with high quality data reported by the UNEP / WHO reference laboratory - compare the results of the sixth round of the human milk survey with the data from the previous rounds and inform the global monitoring plan	**4** equipment and guidelines ready – problems with the ethical clearance which has delayed all the countries **5** materials and guidelines ready – a video has been prepared for milk sampling https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LwJ0x2_PXQ&feature=youtu.be **6** equipment and materials sent **4** the sampling is ongoing. It has been difficult in all the countries to obtain the ethical clearance. The data hasn't been analysed yet. **0**
4. Assessment of existing analytical capacities and reinforcement of national POPs monitoring.	Accuracy of POPs assessment in the Latin American and Caribbean region is consolidated by performance evaluation of national laboratories, as well as by analysis of additional matrices of major national interest.	Assessment report of existing analytical capacities prepared and report on POPs analysis undertaken in samples of national priority (other than core matrices) in the Latin American and Caribbean Region	- organize two rounds of the "Bi-annual global interlaboratory assessment for POP laboratories" implementing the third and fourth round and prepare a report summarizing the results of the test - At national level, each country identifies, collects and analyses samples of greatest interest for national chemicals management (such as fish or other foods, but also sediments and soils) with high quality data informing the GMP2	**6** All the participating countries took part to the 3rd interlaboratory assessment **3** Analysis of samples of national interest not done yet, but the INVEMAR institute (linked to the Ministry of Environment) is organising the collection of sediment, fish and bivalves

Project Objective: To strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.				
Project Components/ Programs	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Planned activities**	**Evaluation**
5. Securing conditions for sustainable POPs monitoring.	Contribution to regional report for the GMP is performed, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring for the Latin American and Caribbean region in global context is developed.	Assessment reports contributing to regional report for the GMP undertaken, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring developed for the Latin American and Caribbean region	- develop conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations about GMP2 for the future monitoring plan - prepare a state-of-the-art report to visualize the current situation of POPs in the GRULAC region, in the environment and human beings	**0** **0**

Annex 2. Achievement of project objectives, Africa

Project Objective: To strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs in the Africa Region.				
Project Components/ Programs	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Planned activities**	**Evaluation**
1. Securing conditions for successful project implementation.	Relevant stakeholders for project implementation in the Africa region are committed to carry out the agreed responsibilities.	Technical and administrative support provided for the implementation of the project and organization of process established in the Africa region	- key stakeholders sign legal documents to carry out POPs monitoring activities for the 23 POPs in the region - organize a regional inception workshop to launch the project and detail the activities and responsibilities with a work plan and budget - update the POPs laboratory data bank with information on new laboratories, new POPs and new matrices	All 15 countries has signed the Agreement with UN Environment. Mauritius signed in July 2017 and Nigeria in January 2018 (**Score 5**). All the participating countries took part to the inception workshop in Ghana where a planned timetable has been shared (**Score 6**) The list of POPs labs is not yet updated (**Score 0**)
2. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core abiotic matrices (air and water).	Regional network and national capacity to carry out air and water sampling is enhanced in Africa, and high quality data is generated on the presence of initial and new POPs in the region.	Training reports and sectoral reports on POPs analysis undertaken on two abiotic core matrices (i.e., air and water) in the Africa Region	- Identify sampling sites for air monitoring in the region, and provide sampling equipment and materials to make them operational - Identify strategic sampling sites for water monitoring in	Done in 14 out of 15 countries (**Score 5**) Done in the 6 counties selected for water sampling (Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia and Senegal) sampling

			the region, and provide sampling equipment and materials to make them operational - provide equipment, training and guidelines to operationalize national laboratories that perform analysis of abiotic matrices in the region - analyze national air and water samples and report high quality data for the region - summarize the results of the analysis of the region in two distinctive sectoral reports, one for air and one for water	equipment and materials delivered – sampling ongoing (**Score 6**) Guidelines ready – trainings ongoing done in Kenya, Mauritius, Senegal (Mali), Morocco– equipment delivery follows trainings plan (**Score 4**) **S**ampling ongoing – data not yet ready. No Air samples received by expert labs from Tanzania and Nigeria. Egypt started to analyse PUF and water samples (PCBs and Dioxin) (**Score 3**). Not yet expected (Score 0)
3. Capacity building and data generation on analysis of core biotic matrices (human milk).	Regional network and national capacity to carry out human milk sampling is enhanced in the Africa region, and high quality data is generated on the presence of initial and new POPs in the region.	Training reports and sectoral report on POPs analysis undertaken on one biotic core matrix (6th round of human milk survey) in the Africa Region	- provide equipment, training and guidelines to countries in the region to carry out a sampling of human milk for the sixth round of the UNEP / WHO survey - provide materials, training and guidance to national laboratories in the region for analysis of human milk - Successfully implement the 6th round of surveys on human	**E**quipment and guidelines ready and made available for countries Materials and guidelines ready – a video has been prepared for milk sampling (Score 6) equipment and materials received by all countries (**Score 6**) Sampling delayed in several countries**.** Still ongoing. It has been difficult for some

			milk in the Africa region, with high quality data reported by the UNEP / WHO reference laboratory - compare the results of the sixth round of the human milk survey with the data from the previous rounds and inform the global monitoring plan	countries to obtain the ethical clearance. Countries completed the milk sampling are: D.R. Congo, Mauritius, Senegal, Togo and Uganda. The samples hasn't been analysed yet by expert lab. (**Score 2)** Not completed **(Score 0)**
4. Assessment of existing analytical capacities and reinforcement of national POPs monitoring.	Accuracy of POPs assessment in the Africa region is consolidated by performance evaluation of national laboratories, as well as by analysis of additional matrices of major national interest.	Assessment report of existing analytical capacities prepared and report on POPs analysis undertaken in samples of national priority (other than core matrices) in the Africa Region	- organize two rounds of the "Bi-annual global interlaboratory assessment for POP laboratories" implementing the third and fourth round and prepare a report summarizing the results of the test - at national level, each country identifies, collects and analyses samples of greatest interest for national chemicals management (such as fish or other foods, but also sediments and soils) with high quality data informing the GMP2	8 participating countries took part to the 3rd interlaboratory assessment (**Score 3**) Ghana, Tunisia, Uganda sent all samples of national interest to IVM for analysis ; Ethiopia and Senegal sent some samples; R.D. Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia did not sent any samples.**. A**nalysis of samples not done yet (**Score 2**)
5. Securing conditions for sustainable POPs monitoring.	Contribution to regional report for the GMP is performed, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring for the Africa	Assessment reports contributing to regional report for the GMP undertaken, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs	- develop conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations about GMP2 for the future monitoring plan	Not yet expected (Score 0) Not yet expected (Score 0)

	region in global context is developed.	monitoring developed for the Africa region	- prepare a state-of-the-art report to visualize the current situation of POPs in the Africa region, in the environment and human beings	

Annex 3. Achievement of project objectives, Asia

Activity	Expected comple-tion date	Thailand	Cambodia	Indonesia	Lao PDR	Mongolia	Vietnam	Philippines
Output 1: Technical and administrative support provided for the implementation of the project and organization of process established in the Asia Region								
Activity 1.1: Key stakeholders sign legal documents to carry out activities.	30.04.18	Report missing	Signed 23.2.17	Report missing	Report missing	Signed 20.2.17	Signed August 2017	Report missing
Activity 1.2: Inception workshop, with workplan and budget assigned.	31.05.16	Completed January 2016						
Activity 1.3. Update POPs laboratory databank.	30.04.20	50% completed in 2017 (as reported in the PIR) The POPs Laboratory Databank currently includes 256 laboratories. It is planned that it will also be updated with a new interface and advanced search functions, and will include the results of the Interlabs.						
Output 2: Training reports and sectoral reports on POPs analysis undertaken on two abiotic core matrices (*i.e.*, air and water) in the Asia Region								
Training[2]		Training planned December 2018	Training was planned Feb 2018. No further information.	Technical support mainly by email. No training received as yet, but expected in 2019	No training planned, according to PIR.	Had training in Feb 2017 with persons from different labs. Nobody from the National Laboratory at the ICCT under the Mongolian	No information.	Training planned August 2018

[2] This line has been added to the original framework for the purposes of the report

						Academy of Sciences were involved.		
Activity 2.1: Identify sampling sites for air monitoring and make them operational.	30.11.17	Air sampling reported as going well, detail not reported	2 rounds of air samples collected	2 rounds of samples collected and sent to European labs	No information	4 rounds of samples collected, a fifth is ongoing	At least 3 rounds of air samples collected	2 rounds of sampling completed, started in Jan 2018
Activity 2.2: Identify sampling sites for water monitoring and make them operational.	30.11.17	No sampling as yet	No sampling as yet	Report indicates that water sampling will start in 2019	No sampling as yet	Samples collected 6 monthly since March 2017	At least 3 rounds of water samples collected	No sampling as yet
Activity 2.3: Make national laboratories operational for undertaking analysis of abiotic matrices.	30.8.18	'The project has been helpful to assist laboratory to adopt a standardised approach using the appropriate matrices'		Currently analyse 13 POPs at the Laboratory in Serpong. Requested support to address new POPs		'The project has been useful in improving SOPs and understand-ing appropriate matrices'		
		Questionnaires have been used in order to make the initial assessments for training needs. Sampling of matrices other than air are behind schedule. Just two countries collected water samples in 2018. All the countries are already involved in air sampling under the East Asian POPs Monitoring Network, but						

		stakeholders from two of the countries noted that GMP2 had been useful for understanding the SOPs used outside the region and in other matrices. SOPs were prepared for the sampling of water, matrices of national interest and human milk in English, French and Spanish. The SOPs for the passive and active air sampling were reviewed and the drafts were shared with participating countries. Guidance protocols for the analysis of PFOs, Basic POPs, PBDE and PFAS in water were revised and translated into French and Spanish.						
Activity 2.4: Analyse national samples for air and water, and report high quality data.	31.5.19	Samples still being collected. At a meeting of the regional organization groups (ROGs) and the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan (GMP) was organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in June 2018, it was agreed that the first draft of the 3rd regional report to the SC Secretariat would be drafted June-December 2019. It is to be hoped that the data analysis from GMP2 will be completed in time for its inclusion in that report.						
Activity 2.5: Summarize results of analysis in two distinctive sectoral reports.	30.4.20	See above						
Output 3: Training reports and sectoral report on POPs analysis undertaken on one biotic core matrix (6th round of human milk survey) in the Asia Region								
Activity 3.1: Make countries in the region capable to undertake sampling of human milk for the 6th round of UNEP/WHO survey.	30.11.17	Milk sampling completed 2018	Milk sampling planned, but not started.	The human milk samples are not yet cleared to send abroad. This is a matter of discussion with MoH. Concerns regarding the number of samples required in a large, dispersed population.	Withdrew from milk sampling.	Human milk samples have been collected, pooled and prepared for shipping	Milk samples collected.	At the time of reporting (August 2018) milk sampling was planned but still waiting ethical clearance. It was suggested that the milk should be tested for communicable diseases.

Activity 3.2: Make national laboratories operational for undertaking analysis of human milk samples	28.02.18	See 'training' under Output 2						
Activity 3.3: Implement the 6th round of human milk survey.	28.02.18	See above						
Activity 3.4: Compare results from earlier rounds, and report them to the GMP.	30.04.20	N/A						
Output 4: Assessment report of existing analytical capacities prepared and report on POPs analysis undertaken in samples of national priority (other than core matrices) in the Asia Region								
Activity 4.1: Undertake two rounds of the global inter-laboratory assessment.	31.05.17 and 31.05.19	The interlab assessments were completed in 2017. It appears that several laboratories contributing to GMP2 did not participate in this assessment. In the Philippines, the Environment Management Bureau expressed confusion over the Interlab assessment process for which they wanted clarification from UNEP. Several countries expressed their enthusiasm for participating in the interlab assessment as a means of accessing advice / information from technical experts and it was seen as a type of accreditation.						
Activity 4.2: Identify and analyse samples of major national interest.	28.02.19	Not yet identified due to need for consultation and agreement.	No information	Sampling of fish, soil and sediment planned for first quarter of 2019.	No information	No information	30 sediment samples collected	Planning sampling of fish and sediments.
Output 5: Assessment reports contributing to regional report for the GMP undertaken, and a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring developed for the Asia region								
Activity 5.1: Develop conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations from GMP2 for future monitoring plan.	30.4.20	This will be an important step over the latter part of the project.						

Activity 5.2: Prepare a state-of-the-art report to picture the present situation of POPs in the region's environment and humans.	30.4.20	N/A
Activity 5.3: Develop a roadmap for sustainable POPs monitoring.	30.4.20	The first steps have been taken towards developing a roadmap. A presentation and discussion during the regional meeting in 2018 focused on this issue.

Annex 4. Achievement of project objectives, Pacific[3]

Country	Air	Water	Human Milk	Matrix of National Interest (MNI)	Score
Fiji	1st sample sent to Netherlands & Sweden, Jan 12, 2018	All water samples collected & dispatched to Sweden, Jan 12, 2018	Not completed; sampling bottles distributed	Not identified	2
Kiribati	Sampling started July 2017; completed	Sampling started July 2017; 6 samples collected; to be shipped to lab in June 2018	Sample collection commenced late 2017; all collected; to be sent to lab in June 2018	Identified fish; to be sampled in June 2018	5
Marshall Is	no information	no information	no information	no information	
Niue	no information	no information	no information	no information	
Palau	ongoing	collected 1st samples; ongoing	35 samples collected, aiming for 50; expect to complete by 2nd quarter 2018	identified; awaiting funding before collecting	3
Samoa	Not started; by Jan 2018 – awaiting Customs clearance of "items"; samplers not installed	first sample collected	awaiting permission to collect samples	not identified	0
Solomon Is	Started in 2017; unclear if 2 or 3 samples collected in 2017	Started sampling in 2017. 2 quarters in 2017, and 2 quarters in 2018	awaiting permisison	NMI identified but not sampled	3
Tuvalu	delayed due to equipment missing and incorrect deployment	first sample done but no info on temp and salinity	not done	not identified	0

[3] Based on interviews carried out and materials provided in April/May 2018; and reports furnished to UNEP in Jan/Feb 2018.

Vanuatu	site approved Dec 24th 2017	Sample 1 collected 2017	12 samples collected	not identified	2

Annex 5 Terms of reference

These TOR were developed for the Asia region, but they were almost identical in the other regions.

Mid-Term Review:

Mid-Term Review of the Project entitled "Continuing Regional Support for the POPs GMP under Stockholm Convention in the Asia region"

Terms of Reference

Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMP	Global Monitoring Plan
GRULAC	Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoH	Ministry of Environment
NIP	National Implementation Plan (of the Stockholm Convention)
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCDD	Polychlorinated dibenzo-*para*-dioxins
PCDF	Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIRs	Project Interim Reports
POPs	Persistent Organic Polluants
PUFs	Polyurethane foams
SAICM	Strategic approach to International Chemicals Management
SOPs	Standard operating procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Background and Context of the Project

Project Description

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention indicates that the effectiveness of the Convention shall be periodically evaluated. The Effectiveness Review 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 on a regional basis. One of the objectives of the GMP is to assess regional and global transport of POPs chemicals. The GMP focuses initially on the core media of mother's milk/blood to examine human exposure, water and ambient air to determine long-range transport.

The current project has been designed based on the results from the GEF GMP project (2009-2012), which focused on the 12 original POPs. This project includes the new POPs added during COP-4 and COP-5 and also continues the training of staff in participating laboratories and strengthening the performance of sampling and analysis that will enable the national laboratories to improve their ability to analyse POPs according to international standards consistent with GMP Guidelines.

Expected results:

- Improve/perfect the process established in phase 1, including improving political visibility of the project and its value for Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC),
- improve coordination between national/regional levels, develop mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of experience, more training for laboratory personnel;
- Ensure continuity/sustainability of the effort, including continued inter-calibration studies to improve quality of analysis and comparability of data within the region;
- Include more countries and sites where data were missing for the first report;
- Include new POPs and provide adequate training and capacity-building.

Scope and purpose

This midterm review (MTR) is intended to:

(i) assess the relevance of the project design to relevant frameworks and priorities ('usefulness')
(ii) assess progress made and challenges encountered so far during the project implementation
(iii) provide the donor, UNEP and project participating countries with practical recommendations to achieve the project objectives

Objective and key questions

The main objective of the MTR is to assess progress in implementation and identify those lessons and/or corrections needed to achieve the desired results.

In view of this, the MTR will provide recommendations with regard to the possible need (if any) for adjustments in the approach and activities supported.

Overall, the MTR will assess the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the project. It will look at signs of potential impact of project activities on beneficiaries and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development.

Lines of enquiry

The review will be structured around the following lines of inquiry:

- Strategic relevance
- Institutional arrangement and collaborations
- Achievement of project objectives
- Effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Communications (internal and outward facing)
- Efficiency
- Procurement management
- Monitoring and reporting the project

The detailed questions are outlined in the questionnaire provided. Although it may be fruitful to pursue some additional questions that are of more relevance in your region, it will be important to address all the lines of enquiry and to pay attention to the questionnaire and report template so that there is consistency of approach across the different regions involved in this review.

Methodology

You will use different methods for data collection and analysis to provide evidence for each of the evaluative questions. This will include:

1- **Review of documents**. A thorough identification and assessment of relevant project documentation will be conducted. This will include relevant documents produced/published by the project, UNEP, partners, Ministries in the region.
2- **Travel**

You will undertake field missions to two countries to interact with the main beneficiaries among the national counterparts and regional stakeholders. One of the field missions will be to attend a regional stakeholder workshop in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. The other country should be one that is

relatively low cost and convenient from your location, by prior agreement with PAN and with national stakeholders. The itinerary will be agreed with PAN-UK before bookings are made.

You should see a variety of stakeholders in each country, including laboratory staff and key decision-makers. Your mission should meeting with National Coordinator(s).

Semi-structured interviews. Interviews will be conducted with relevant key stakeholders. Guidance will be developed to make sure that information will be gathered in a consistent manner, covering all relevant Review areas. Semi-structured interviews will be a main source of qualitative information.

Questionnaire; questionnaires, email correspondence and skype will be used to gather information from stakeholders that were not visited for face-to-face interviews.

Triangulation of data and information. The information gathered from each stakeholder will be compared with that gathered from others (or from documents, data or analytical frameworks) for verification purposes. This general process of triangulation will be the basis for all the evidence the Review provides. Data triangulation will be used to verify findings from different sources and methods.

Deliverables

You are responsible for delivering the following within the agreed timeframe:

- Brief summary report: you will submit a brief outline report listing initial findings and recommendations for discussion with PAN-UK and review by the executing agency (UNEP Chemicals branch). Feedback from this summary report will be incorporated into the draft review report.
- Draft Review report: PAN-UK will review a draft of the full Review report to ensure it meets the required quality criteria. The draft Review report may then be circulated among key stakeholders for comments before finalization; you will incorporate suggestions as deemed appropriate by PAN-UK. This report should follow the template provided.
- Final Review report: should include an executive summary and illustrate the evidence found that corresponds to the Review questions. The report will be prepared in English with numbered paragraphs, following the template for report writing provided. Supporting data and analysis should be annexed to the report when considered important to complement the main report. Annexes should include, but are not limited to: TORs for the Review, list of institutions and stakeholders interviewed, list of project's outputs, and the final mission schedule.
- A list of documents consulted for this review.

Annex 6. List of places visited and key persons met

Please see the regional reports for details of stakeholders consulted in each of the regions. In addition, the following meetings/consultations took place:

Details	Country	Institution	Date	Type of meeting / feedback	Contact
Alejandra Claudia Torre González	Uruguay	Co-Directora Centro Regional del Convenio de Estocolmo Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay	Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	atorre@latu.org.uy
Manuela Ábalos	Spain	Laboratory of Dioxins Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA)	Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	manuela.abalos@idaea.csic.es
Abad, Esteban	Spain	Laboratory of Dioxins Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA)	Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	eaheco@cid.csic.es, eaheco@iiqab.csic.es
Ana Witts,	Switzerland	BRS	Several meetings / contact from Feb 2018 – September 2018	Regional meeting, Mongolia, meeting in Barcelona , skype call	Ana.Witt@brsmeas.org
De Boer, Jacob	Netherland		Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	jacob.de.boer@vu.nl
Fiedler, Heidelore	Sweden		Feb 2018 22.5.18	Coordination meeting in Barcelona Skype call,	Heidelore.Fiedler@oru.se
Helps, Kevin	Based in Kenya	UNEP	February and October 2018	Skype calls	kevin.helps@un.org
Jacqueline Alvarez, Project Manager	Switzerland	UNEP DTIE	Several meetings / contact throughout 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona, skype call, meeting Geneva October 2018	jacqueline.alvarez@un.org
Jiao, Haosong	Switzerland	UNEP DTIE	Several meetings / contact	Coordination meeting in Barcelona , skype call, meeting	haosong.jiao@gmail.com

			throughout 2018	Geneva October 2018	
Ludovic Bernaudat Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division	Switzerland	Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division, UNEP	Several meetings / contact throughout 2018	Skype calls, meeting Geneva October 2018	ludovic.bernaudat@un.org
Malisch, Karin	Germany		Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	Karin.Malisch@cvuafr.bwl.de
Malisch, Rainer	Germany		Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	rainer.malisch@cvuafr.bwl.de
Sebkova, Katerina	Czeck Republic		Feb 2018	Coordination meeting in Barcelona	sebkova@recetox.muni.cz

Annex 7. Questionnaire

Mid-Term Review:
Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention

Questionnaire for the evaluation

Project Description

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention indicates that the effectiveness of the Convention shall be periodically evaluated. 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 of POPs chemicals. The GMP focuses initially on the core media of mother's milk/blood to examine human exposure, and ambient air to examine long-range transport.

The current project has been designed based on the results from the GEF GMP project (2009-2012), which focused on the 12 original POPs. This project includes the new POPs added during COP-4 and COP-5 and also continues the training of staff in participating laboratories and strengthening the performance of sampling and analysis that will enable the national laboratories to improve their ability to analyse POPs according to international standards consistent with GMP Guidelines.

Expected results:

- Improve/perfect the process established in phase 1, including improving political visibility of the project and its value for Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC),
- improve coordination between national/regional levels, develop mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of experience, more training for laboratory personnel;
- Ensure continuity/sustainability of the effort, including continued inter-calibration studies to improve quality of analysis and comparability of data within the region;
- Include more countries and sites where data were missing for the first report;
- Include new POPs and provide adequate training and capacity-building.

Purpose of the midterm review

(iv) to assess progress made and difficulties encountered so far during the project implementation,
(v) to provide the UNEP and project participating countries with practical recommendations, measures and actions to achieve the project objectives as planned in the project document, and
(vi) to advise on priorities and adjustments for future action.

Questionnaire

The purpose of the present questionnaire is to collect information necessary for the mid-term review of the project. Please feel free to use additional pages, if needed and to make any additional comments that you may think relevant to the evaluation.

Country :	Date :
Name :	Position: Organisation :
Email :	Tel: Skype :

A. General/introduction – **for all**

1. Please describe your contact with the project and/or your role in it. Click here to enter text.
2. Which do you think would be the most important measures of success for this project? Please explain. Click here to enter text.
3. Please tell us which aspects of the project you think are working well, with examples Click here to enter text.
4. Please describe any aspects of the project that are not working well, with examples. Click here to enter text.
5. Can you suggest ways to address the problems identified? Click here to enter text.
6. Can you suggest any other improvements to the project? Click here to enter text.
7. Has your understanding of POPs monitoring changed as a result of this project? Please explain Click here to enter text.

B. PROJECT DESIGN Institutional arrangements / project design / collaboration / overall impact

1. At national and regional level, do you think the most relevant organisations / institutions have been engaged in the project? Click here to enter text.
2. How regularly do you interact with UNEP in Geneva concerning GMP2? How quickly and appropriately do they respond? Click here to enter text.
3. Are you familiar with the NIP in your country? Click here to enter text.
4. If yes, does it adequately reflect the need to monitor POPS? Click here to enter text.
5. Do you have direct contact with the focal point for the Stockholm Convention in your country? If yes, please describe how you collaborate Click here to enter text.
6. Do you have direct contact with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in Geneva? Yes/no

If yes, please describe Click here to enter text.

7. How are GMP2 activities coordinated in your region? Click here to enter text.
8. Do you think this coordination could be improved? How? Click here to enter text.
9. What motivated your organisation to participate in the GMP? Click here to enter text.
10. To what extent has there been a sharing of experiences and lessons between the project stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels? Please give examples. Click here to enter text.
11. How should the results of the project be communicated and to whom? Click here to enter text.

12. Has the project contributed to changes in the way POPs have been monitored at regional and/or national level? Please explain and provide examples Click here to enter text.
13. Are all the POPs being adequately monitored in your region? Click here to enter text.
14. Has the project contributed to changes in the way POPs have been managed / controlled at regional and/or national level? Please explain and provide examples Click here to enter text. (Note to Meriel and Abou; we're thinking of regulatory actions, enforcement, communications etc to tackle use of POPs)

C. Laboratories

1. Have you received technical support from UNEP under this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what type of support? Click here to enter text.
2. How helpful are the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) provided? Choose a value. Please explain Click here to enter text.
3. Did your laboratory collect biotic samples for POPs analysis? If yes, please explain which kind of samples you collected and how many times they were collected Click here to enter text.
4. Did your laboratory collect abiotic samples for POPs analysis? If yes, please explain which kind of samples you collected and how many times they were collectedClick here to enter text.
5. Have the samples been analysed? In which laboratories? Click here to enter text.
6. Have you had feedback about the results of sample analysis done elsewhere? Click here to enter text.
7. Did you experience any difficulties in collecting, storing or shipping the samples? Yes ☐ no ☐ If yes, please describe
8. Are there some necessary preconditions that are needed before a laboratory can successfully undertake POPs monitoring on a regular basis? Yes/no
   If yes, what are they? Click here to enter text.

9. Has your laboratory participated in the Interlaboratory assessment? ☐ Yes ☐ no

If yes, please answer the following:

- Does your laboratory struggle with any particular aspects of the assessment process? Please describe. Click here to enter text.
- Do you think the assessment process could be improved? How? Click here to enter text.
- How can we learn from the experience of previous assessments to help laboratories to improve standards? Click here to enter text.
- How should the results of the assessment be communicated? To whom? Click here to enter text.

10. Could you provide a report and state at which instrumentation level (I L- X) your laboratory is placed? Click here to enter text.

D. Training and Technical Support, laboratories - participants

1. Please describe any training events in which your laboratory has participated under the GMP2 project Click here to enter text.
2. How many people from the lab participated in it?
3. How many of them are still active in your lab? Click here to enter text.

4. Are there enough trained people in the laboratory to assure good quality of collection, storage and /or analysis of samples? Click here to enter text.
5. Which were the most useful aspects of the training received? Click here to enter text.
6. How could the training have been improved? Click here to enter text.
7. Are there significant training needs relevant to monitoring POPs that you would like to see addressed in the future? Click here to enter text.
8. Has the technical support or training provided by GMP2 affected the way you work? How? Click here to enter text.

E. For technical experts/PSC members who developed the guidance (Guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants - UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/39 - 26 February 2015)

1. Who are the main beneficiaries of the guidance? Click here to enter text.
2. How has the guidance been used? Click here to enter text.
3. Which lessons have you learned from developing the guidance? Click here to enter text.
4. Are there refinements you would like to make to the guidance? Please describe Click here to enter text.
5. Have you had feedback about the guidance? Click here to enter text.

F. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES – for all
Communications, Sustainability, Equity

1. Please describe any aspects of GMP2 that you think will continue beyond the project Click here to enter text.
2. Do you see the national laboratories engaged in the project continuing to monitor POPs without external support? Please explain Click here to enter text.
3. Do you think the project should be more selective about the laboratories it supports to undertake POPS monitoring? Yes/no /don't know
   If yes, which selection criteria should it use? Click here to enter text.
4. How is the project communicated to key people outside the project? (e.g.decision-makers and technical people)?
5. Do you think it could be more effective at communicating the importance of POPs Monitoring? Yes/no If yes, how? Click here to enter text.
6. How successful do you think the project has been in securing political support for GMP? Please explain Click here to enter text.
7. What could be done to improve support for POPs monitoring in national policies and decisions? Click here to enter text.
8. Is there anything more the project could do to ensure that it has a lasting, positive impact on POPs monitoring? Click here to enter text.

G. Extra questions for the UNEP project implementing team

1. How many staff and % time are committed to the four GMP2 projects? Is it adequate? Click here to enter text.
2. What caused the delays in financing the project? Click here to enter text.
3. Do you measure progress against indicators? How? Click here to enter text.
4. Please explain delays in signing contracts. What can be done to overcome this? Click here to enter text.

5. Do you think the project has been efficient in its delivery of the project? Could efficiency be improved? Please explain Click here to enter text.
6. Have you drawn in any new financial resources to deliver the project? Click here to enter text.
7. Are current resources adequate to complete planned activities in the final XX months? Click here to enter text.
8. How relevant do you think the project framework is at this stage? Click here to enter text.
9. How is project progress (activities) monitored? Click here to enter text.
10. How do you assess the quality of training provided by partners? Click here to enter text.
11. How is project impact measured? Click here to enter text.
12. Do you expect to deliver all the target indicators for the projects? Please provide detail. Click here to enter text.
13. What are the priorities for the last months of the projects? Click here to enter text.

H. Lessons Learned and Recommendations – **for all**

1. What are the main lessons learned (positive and/or negative) from this project? Click here to enter text.
2. How effective do you think the project has been at building capacity to monitor POPs in your region? Click here to enter text.
3. To what extent will POPs monitoring be continued without external support? Click here to enter text.
4. Which are the most important gaps in the existing monitoring programme in the region? Click here to enter text.
5. What would be your priorities for future projects concerning monitoring POPs? Click here to enter text.
6. Given that resources are limited, what would you stop doing if there is a follow on project? Click here to enter text.

Thank you for your time and patience. Would you like to add any comments about an important aspect of the project I may have missed? Click here to enter text.

Annex 8. Project framework, Asia

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective:						
Project Component	**Grant Type**	**Expected Outcomes**	**Expected Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**Indicative Grant Amount ($)**	**Indicative Cofinancing ($)**
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[5] GE	190,000	1,800,000
				Project Monitoring and Evaluation costs	60,000	0
				Total Project Costs	3,936,000	11,870,000