



INTERGOVERNMENTAL NETWORK  
ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UN   
environment  
programme

# Progress report 2019-2020

Action Plan for regional cooperation in the sound  
management of chemicals and waste.  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Biennium 2019-2020

Report prepared by the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste  
UN Environment Programme - Latin America and the Caribbean Office

December 2020

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## Introduction

The **Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean was established** in 2016 within the framework of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and in accordance with its **Decision 8** on Chemicals and Waste, with the main objective of improving environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, strengthening regional cooperation, and facilitating exchange of information and best practices

The Network is composed of government focal points nominated by the countries of the region and other non-governmental organizations, in order to promote an integrated and intersectoral vision of all actions to be addressed by the Network. The Network has a Steering Committee made up of two governmental members from each of the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee led the development process of the first Action Plan 2019-2020 for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management (hereinafter the “Action Plan”), through an inclusive and participatory consultation process in which regional cooperation priority issues were identified by national focal points. The Plan was adopted at the **XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean** (Buenos Aires, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2018), through Decision 1 on Chemicals, marine litter, and waste management.

The main objective of this Action Plan is to identify the priority areas for cooperation and actions at the sub-regional and regional levels to enhance implementation of the chemicals and waste management agenda in Latin America and Caribbean and to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway.

The Action Plan includes **33 specific actions**, within **19 priority sub-topics** and **6 priority topics or work areas** for the Network, namely:

1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence
2. Knowledge, information and monitoring
3. Priority topics under the SAICM Global Plan of Action
4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
5. Mercury and Lead
6. Waste management

During the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministries of Environment, held on 5-6 November 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados, work undertaken by the Intergovernmental

Network until now was presented, , in particular work related to the implementation of the Action Plan 2019-2020. Participants highlighted the importance of continuing the implementation of the Plan through the continued involvement of all national focal points, a renewed effort to mobilize additional resources, and coordination with other related initiatives.

As stated in the Action Plan 2019-2020, the Steering Committee of the Network shall submit periodic progress reports to the other focal points, as well as a final report for the biennium 2019-2020. In this regard, summary progress reports were submitted to all focal points in **September 2019, February 2020, and September 2020**. The present report is the final descriptive report of the set of activities carried out during the **2019-2020 biennium**.

## Summary of progress made under the Action Plan

According to **Figure 1**, around **80%** of the actions have been completed, partially completed or are ongoing (19 completed actions, 8 partially completed), and about **20%** are to be initiated (6 actions). **Annex 1** provides details for each of the Plan's actions. In total, **more than 40 regional cooperation activities** that contribute to the implementation of the actions proposed in the Plan have been registered. This report describes the activities registered as completed or partially completed.

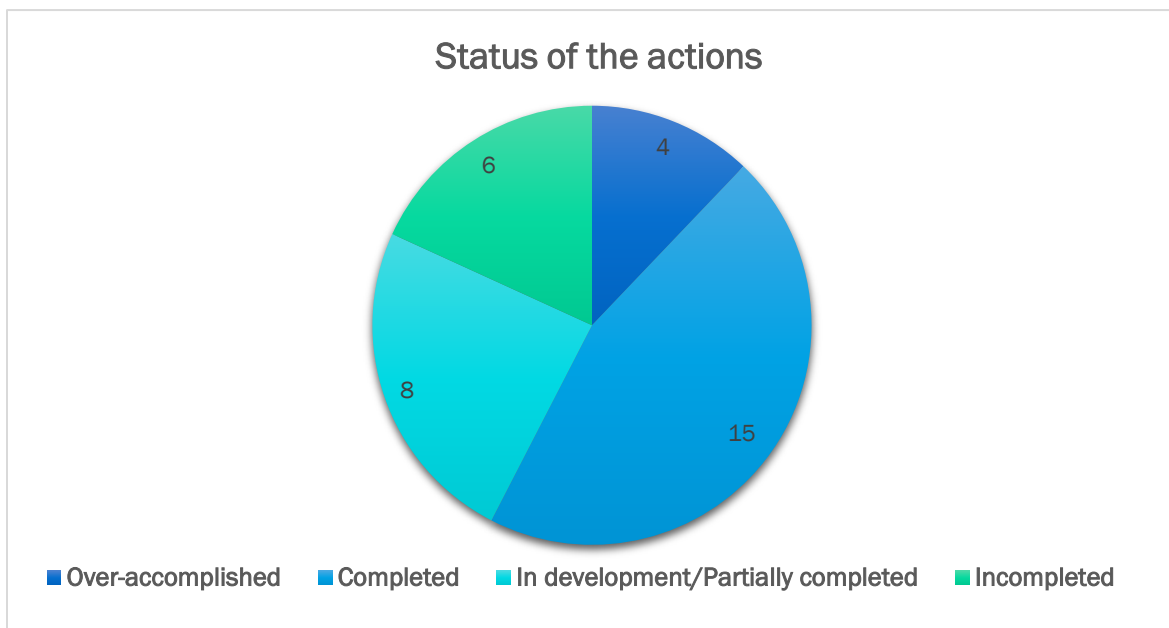


Figure 1. Status of actions to date: December 2020

In general, progress was made in all six priority areas, particularly in the areas of governance; knowledge, and information; issues related to SAICM; mercury and lead; and waste management, while several actions are to be initiated under BRS, as well as in the field of chemicals emergencies.

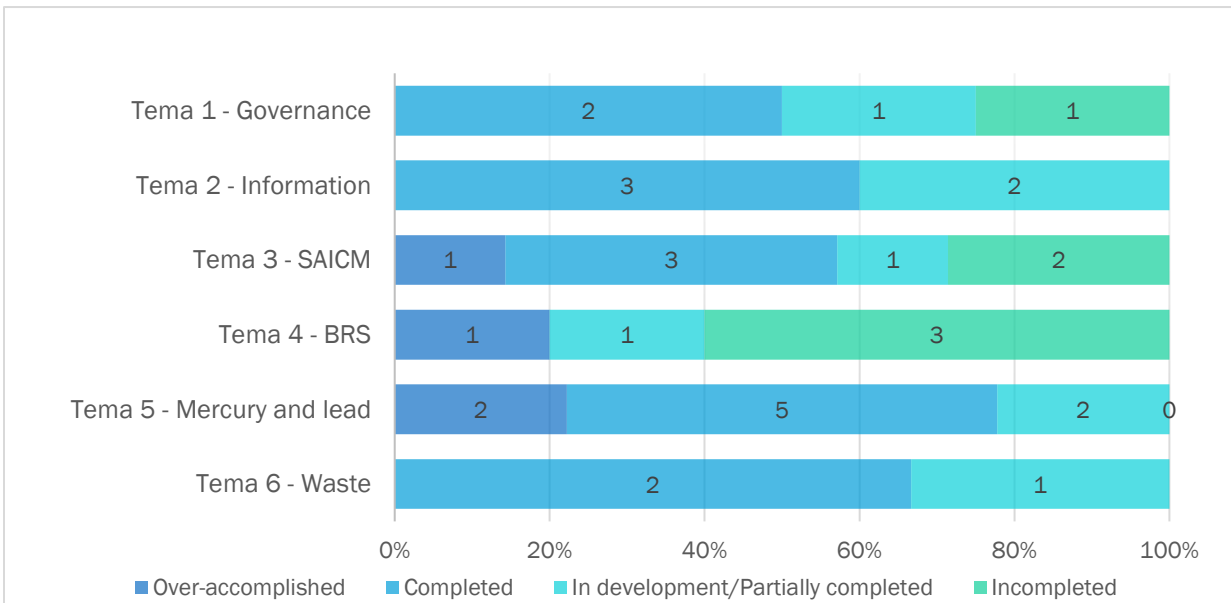


Figure 2. Progress made by sub-topic (December 2020)

The total estimated number of beneficiaries of the registered activities is **3885 persons** (911 participants in face-to-face activities, and 2974 participants through online events). The majority of meetings and events during 2020 were done on a virtual basis, due to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown measures.

Progress achieved is thanks to the follow-up and voluntary participation of the countries that compose the Network, which have reported regional cooperation activities implemented in their countries, or within the framework of regional projects. The level of progress is also related to the collaboration of different organizations, such as the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Centers in the region, which are also part of the Network, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the Pan-American Health Organization, the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the industrial and academic sectors, amongst others. This has allowed the direct or indirect mobilization of resources estimated at a total equivalent of around 700,000USD for all reported activities. Some resource mobilization actions, as well as organization of certain activities have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation, which are expected to be resumed for the next biennium.

## Description of activities

### 1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence

1.1. Review and strengthen chemicals and waste legal and institutional frameworks

1.1.2 Undertake regional education and awareness raising, including presentation at high level events, on the benefits of developing integrated legal frameworks and strengthening the institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as the mainstreaming into the development agenda and budgeting processes

1. Report on “**Legal and institutional frameworks on integrated management of chemicals in Latin America and the Caribbean countries**”, encouraged by UNEP as a technical document of the Network, with the contributions of the Focal Points and the support of Basel Regional Center for South America located in Argentina (CRBAS-Argentina), and the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean located in Uruguay (BCRC-Uruguay).

2. A **model Integrated Chemicals Management Act** was developed as an output of the legal consultancy for the region thanks to the support of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean). Following this output, the 8 project countries in the Caribbean are to coordinate the integration of the model framework for implementation in each country national level. In 2019 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines moved the Act forward and it was presented to Cabinet for endorsement. Suriname has used elements of the Act in its updated Environmental Legislation 2020. Several other countries are synergizing with the update of existing Pesticides legislation and advancement is expected by 2021.

1.1.2 Undertake regional education and awareness raising, including presentation at high level events, on the benefits of developing integrated legal frameworks and strengthening the institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as the mainstreaming into the development agenda and budgeting processes

1., **The 23<sup>rd</sup> APEC Chemical Dialogue** (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), was held in the city of Puerto Varas, Chile, from 23 to 25 August 2019, with the participation of various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives from the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile, and Mexico, among others, jointly with the regional and international chemical industry, discussed regulatory cooperation.



2. The “**Second Latin American Meeting on Integrated Management of Chemicals**” was organized in the city of Buenos Aires, on 20 and 21 November 2019, jointly by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Argentine Secretariat of Government for Environment and Sustainable Development (SGAyDS), the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), and the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Chamber of Argentina (CIQYP). The main objectives of this meeting included cooperation in regulatory matters, through the coordination of regional activities related to the integrated management of chemicals, capacity building, the distribution of the results of the UNEP Special Programme in Argentina and the institutional experience of the

Argentine government for the development of the project.



lessons learned and success factors on the preparation of a project proposal.



3. The virtual workshop “Towards a cooperation model for the integrated management of chemicals for industrial use in Latin America” was held, on 9 September 2020, with the participation of **17 Latin American countries and 78 online participants**. It was organized by the Latin American Regulatory Cooperation Forum, with the support of the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Chamber of Argentina (CIQYP)

4. Development of a **video** and an **infographic** with key messages and data on the importance of chemical and waste control, with the support of BCRC-Uruguay. *Under development*

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1.2.1. [Identification of funding and Project options on mainstreaming and promoting goals contained in the SDGs related to chemicals management](#)

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1. The Webinar “**Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the implementation of Chemicals and Waste Conventions**”, in view of the Programme's 4th round of applications, was held on March 4th, 2020, in which **12 LAC countries participated**. The Secretariat of the Special Programme informed about the new round of applications and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina presented

## 2. Knowledge, information, and monitoring.

2.1 Establish methodologies and institutional regimes for health and environment risk assessment of chemicals and risk management of chemicals and waste, and promote relevant legal cooperation

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2.1.1 [To organize a comprehensive regional training on institutional methodologies for risk evaluation \(health-environment\).](#)

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1. The workshop on “**Risk assessment for Human and Environmental Health generated by COPs**” was celebrated on 22 March 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago, introducing **32 participants** to the process of measuring the impact of POPs on human health and the environment, using risk assessments tools, techniques, and procedures

The workshop was organized by the Basel Center for the Caribbean, where various countries of the region, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, participated.

2. ILSI Argentina organized jointly with the Argentina Secretariat of Government for

Environment and Sustainable Development and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC-ARG), a **working day on the analysis of toxicological risk on humans and the environment** on 16 August 2019. Various Latin American and Caribbean countries participated (three face-to-face; twelve on-line), with a total of **eighty participants**. The activity was aimed at deepening the concepts and methodologies of risk assessment as a tool for decision making and risk mitigation measures resulting from the use of hazardous substances and chemicals.

3. The on-line symposium **“Implementing Chemicals Risk assessment Procedures in Latin America: Where Should we go?”**, jointly organized by the SETAC International Programs Committee (IPC) and SETAC Argentina, was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The webinar informed on best practices and highlighted scientific advancements on the evaluation of environmental risks associated with chemical substances. Sixteen LAC countries participated in this meeting reaching a total of **210 participants**.

#### 2.1.2 To promote a postgraduate training programme on chemical risk assessment

The CIIMET/SCRC, in the framework of REDCIATOX/OPS, has developed a postgraduate programme on toxicology, and is being currently discussed for adoption by different universities in Central America. Coordination meetings have been held with the countries involved, with the support of the Network’s Secretariat, and have continued during the months of January, February and March 2020.

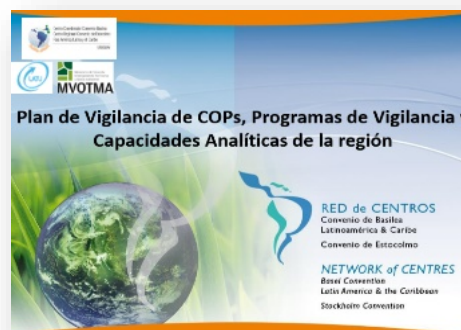
2.2 Strengthening capacities of national laboratories on sampling and analysis of POPs and other priority chemicals in water, air, soil and products

#### 2.2.1 Dissemination of information on existing initiatives in the region related to the strengthening of laboratory capacities for sampling and analysis of POPs

1. A workshop on **“Analytical Methods/Sampling and Analysis of POPs”** was conducted on 21 March 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago. Thirty-two participants were trained on the process of generating POPs data by a demonstration on the appropriate use of sampling techniques, analytical methodology, and quality assurance procedures to the generation of high-quality POPs’ data.

The following countries of the region participated in the meeting organized by the BCRC-Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

2. The Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre located in Uruguay (BCRC-Uruguay) conducted a webinar on **“POPs Monitoring Plan, monitoring programmes and analytical capacities in the region”** on February 20, 2020, with **51 participants**.



2.4 Awareness raising of the civil society about the adverse effects to human health and the environment of chemicals included in the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the Emerging Policy, and about the responsibilities for the management of those chemicals



2.4.1 To undertake information dissemination campaigns, taking into account: issues of importance for groups of countries with a same language; the target populations of those information campaigns; information materials that are available and that should be developed; partners interested in supporting education and information campaigns (in addition to authorities, NGOs, industry, academia, etc.)

To raise awareness on the management of POPs, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) delivered communication materials and conducted workshops in eight countries to introduce a set of communicational tools and assist in the development of national public strategies on awareness raising. The initiative benefited Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. In this context, the BCRC-Caribbean developed the [STOP the POPs campaign](#).



### 3. Priority topics under the SAICM Global Plan of Action

#### 3.1 Building capacities of healthcare personnel to identify and prevent poisoning cases and diseases related to chemical exposure

3.1.1. Convene a face-to-face workshop with key stakeholders from each country (from healthcare sector) to elaborate a program to improve prevention of poisoning and exposure in the region (including key stakeholders in the emergency response and disaster preparedness sectors). Utilization of train-the-trainers approach.

1. The workshop "Importance of the pharmacovigilance in health systems and their management models at national and international levels", was organized by the Center for Investigation and Medical and Toxic Information (CIIMET-Panama, in its Spanish acronym) of the University of Panama, with the support of the Program on Work and Health in Central America (SALTRA, in its Spanish acronym), and UNEP. It was held on July 4th, 2020, with **115 attendees**.

2. The workshop on "Toxicovigilance: systems, importance and challenges for health systems", facilitated by the University of Panama, the SALTRA Programme, the Ibero-American Society for Environmental Health, and UNEP, had **349 participants**. In this meeting, presenters of Argentina, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Uruguay, and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) participated.

#### 3.1.2 To develop awareness raising material for healthcare personnel and the civil society (which can be used in the whole region)

The Brazilian Ministry of Health initiated the translation process of the guidance documents "Brazilian Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute Pesticide Poisoning", with the objective of orienting health staff on procedures to address acute poisoning cases caused by chemicals, such as pesticides and pyrethroids, in order to make them accessible to all the countries of the region.

#### 3.2 Promote implementation of the GHS, including the appropriate enforcement mechanisms

3.2.1 Convene a webinar on GHS and to share GHS implementation experiences in the region, including experiences on enforcement mechanisms

1. A workshop on the **IOMC toolbox (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals)** was held in May 2019, with the participation of various experts from nine Latin American countries (Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Argentina). It was held in Peru, Experiences regarding the proper and sustainable management of chemicals were exchanged in the meeting, as for example the case of the application of the GHS, with the final objective reduce their risks to the health of the population or the environment.

In this regard, the application of a digital tool to support decision-making related to this type of product was presented.



2. A training workshop on the management of chemicals was organized by the Ministry of Environment of Peru for the private sector, to provide an overview of the optimum management of hazardous chemicals that circulate in the national market.

This workshop entitled **“Towards an Integrated Management of Chemicals”** took place in October 2019, and was addressed to representatives of the national chemical industry, with the special participation of representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Chile and the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (ABIQUIM).

3. A webinar on **"GHS Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities"**, was jointly organized by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the Regulatory Cooperation Forum in Latin America, which took place on December 4th, 2020. It was attended by **224 participants** from twelve countries of the region.

[3.2.2 Convene a face-to-face regional training for Customs officers and other stakeholders on harmonizing tariff codes. Training of](#)

[trainers approach and exchange of experiences.](#)

1. The **“Green Customs Initiative”** Workshop was held for custom agents in the city of Asunción, Paraguay, from 20 to 22 August 2019. **Seventeen officials** from fifteen countries of the region participated, jointly with officials from the Montreal Protocol.

The training included a review of multilateral environmental agreements, including BRS and Minamata. Also, a session was specially dedicated to the tariff codes which will be used in the chemicals and waste conventions, given by a representative of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

2. The BCRC-Caribbean held virtually on November 2020 the **Regional Introductory Workshop for Customs Training in Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs**, joined by 8 Caribbean countries.



3.4 Identification and, where feasible, remediation of contaminated sites

[3.4.1 To host at least one webinar to share methodologies for sampling, analysis and remediation technologies of contaminated sites, as well as legal instruments related to contaminated sites.](#)

The Peruvian Ministry of Environment organized the **14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Committee on**

**Contaminated Lands** in the Latin American region, with the presence of 70 participants. This meeting was celebrated on 23 and 24 October 2019 in the city of Lima, where representatives of the public sector (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador), and representatives of the public and private sector from Chile participated.

The main objective of this meeting was to promote the exchange of information, regulations, and experiences among international policymakers, and experts in the management of contaminated sites.

#### 4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)

##### 4.2 Build capacities to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste

4.2.1 To hold a webinar on main considerations to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste, reduce main gaps in the region to prevent it, experiences from other regions

1. A webinar “**Illegal traffic and international trade in chemicals and waste**” was organized on 12 November 2019 by the Basel Regional Center for South America located in Argentina (CRBAS-Argentina), in which the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) was presented, as well as study cases regarding the illicit traffic and international trade in chemicals and waste in the Latin American region. The webinar had **53 on-line participants**.

2. Webinar on “**Transboundary movement and illicit traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in Latin America in times of the pandemic**”, held on 28 May 2020 in collaboration with the Regional Centers of Chemicals Conventions of Argentina, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay with the aim to strengthening proper management in the framework of the COVID-19 situation. **189 participants**.



#### 5. Mercury and Lead

5.1 Management of mercury waste (collection, storage, treatment, disposal), giving special attention to waste products containing mercury

5.1.1 To hold a regional face-to-face workshop in cooperation with the Minamata Secretariat to disseminate and discuss on suitable alternatives for the management of mercury waste in the region and to share lessons learned about the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)

1. Workshop on “**Environmental Sound Life-Cycle Management of Mercury-Containing Products and their Wastes**” celebrated in Colombia in May 2019, with a total of **100 participants**.

Eight countries of Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the meeting: Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Honduras, Ecuador, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama.

2. Webinar on the “**Minamata Convention: implementation in Argentina – lessons learned and challenges for the region**”, was held with the participation of **30 people on-line**. It was developed on 23 October 2019. Argentina shared its experience and outcomes of the development of the Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), as well as lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of this Convention on mercury.

3. In order to train different institutions that generate waste with mercury, on May 28-29 2019,

the **Regional Workshop for Mercury Waste Management** was held in San José, Costa Rica, with the participation of public officials from Colombia, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala, as well as **40 officials** at the national level from hospitals, universities, ministries, electric companies, etc.

Five modules were delivered, in which topics such as handling, separation, collection, labeling, storage, and mercury waste, were addressed.

4. On August 22, 2019, the BRCR-Caribbean held a regional workshop to share lessons learned and experiences **on the implementation of the MIA 2 project**, and promote the cooperation among Caribbean countries conducting Minamata Initial Assessments. **Twenty-six** participants from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

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#### 5.1.2 Identify funding for projects for the sound management of mercury waste in the region

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In December 2020, the national focal points of the Network were informed about the opening of the **3rd Round of applications to the Specific International Programme**, which directly supports eligible Party governments in strengthening their capacity to implement the Minamata Convention.

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#### 5.2.1. Facilitar el acceso e intercambio de información sobre alternativas al uso de mercurio en la ASGM, producida por diferentes proyectos en la región.

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1. The webinar **“ASGM and National Action Plans in the LAC region: “lessons learned, tools and implementation”** for the Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and Caribbean region presented the global status and progress made on NAP development and reviewed the available tools and assistance from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and others. Honduras and Ecuador shared the challenges that national teams have

encountered during NAP development processes or related projects. The webinar was attended by **211 participants**.




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#### 5.3 Establish/strengthen mechanisms to control legal and illegal trade in mercury.

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##### 5.3.2 To develop a training activity with the authorities responsible for the control of mercury trade (including customs), to enhance capacity and international cooperation

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A **Subregional workshop** was conducted in October 2019 in La Paz, Bolivia, with the support of the Minamata Convention Secretariat and the Government of Bolivia. The meeting was attended by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Information on mercury trade in Latin America and the Caribbean was exchanged at the workshop, and countries were assisted in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. In this regard, countries presented their national and regional experiences and challenges in controlling mercury trade.

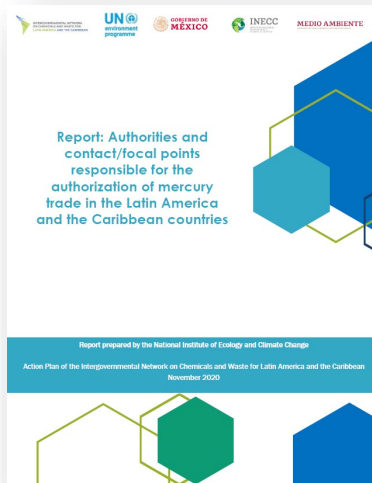
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##### 5.3.3 To compile a list of authorities and contact/focal points responsible for the authorization of mercury trade in the LAC countries

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The report entitled **“Authorities and contact/focal points responsible for the authorization of mercury trade in Latin America and the Caribbean countries”** was developed with the support of the **Mexico National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)**. This report consisted in the

compilation of a list of authorities and contacts or focal points responsible for the authorization of mercury trade in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with emphasis on establishing or strengthening mechanisms to control the legal and illegal trade of mercury in the region and therefore contributes to the fulfillment of the Minamata Convention.



5.4 Improve public knowledge and awareness on health and environmental impacts of one of these priority substances (mercury/lead)

5.4.1 Develop and implement a public education and awareness campaign on the health and environmental impacts of mercury/lead

1. With the support of the BCRC-Caribbean, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago joined from March to December 2019 in different workshops and activities. Students from these countries also participated to raise awareness on the results of the **Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)**, sharing communication materials and assisting countries to identify action priorities to the effective ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention. Videos were also produced highlighting the result of the mercury inventories carried out in each of the project countries, along with posters to raise awareness of the issue.

2. During July and November 2019, several Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) developed **informative videos to raise awareness of issues related to mercury in products and aquatic species in the region**, as well as the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) in the Caribbean.

5.5 To support actions for a sound management of lead in products

5.5.1 To hold a regional face-to-face workshop in cooperation with the Minamata Secretariat to disseminate and discuss on suitable alternatives for the management of mercury waste in the region and to share lessons learned about the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)

1. Webinar "The Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Battery in Latin America" held on 8 October 2020 and organized by the Basel Regional Center for South America (CRBAS), and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre (BCRC-Uruguay), along with the participation of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). A total of **100 people** participated in the event from several Latin American countries, and the case of Uruguay was presented.



2. Webinar on "The Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries in Latin America and the Caribbean" held on 23 October 2020 in English, and organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The experiences of Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and

Tobago were exposed. A total of **73 people** participate from several countries of the Caribbean.



3. Report on “**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes for Lead-Acid Batteries (ULABs) in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region**”, which identifies the main lessons learned and challenges in their implementation. It is being developed as a technical document of the Network, thanks to the contributions of the Focal Points and the support of Basel Regional Center for South America (CRBAS-Argentina), and the Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (BCRC-Uruguay). *Under development.*

[5.5.2 To hold a webinar/workshop/conference about progress made in the region to develop regulations for the elimination of lead in paints](#)

1. Webinar related to lead paint held on October 24, 2018, during the **International Week for the Elimination Lead Paint** (October 21-27, 2018). The

Webinar was conducted by Brazil and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), involving **70 online** attendees.

During this activity, the Government of Brazil informed about the **draft bill** on lead paint which

establishes the 90 ppm lead limit, while the US EPA, which chairs the *Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint*, shared with the participants an overview about the global efforts and current trends in the region regarding this issue.

2. Regional meeting where the authorities from the environment and health sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean analyzed specific measures to ban the use of lead in paint in their countries, was celebrated in Panama City, from 12 to 13 June 2019. The meeting was organized with the support of the *Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint*, under the auspices of the GEF/SAICM Project. It was attended by 50 participants from 17 LAC countries, UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the US EPA.

At the Workshop, called “**Promoting regulatory and voluntary actions by government and industry to phase out lead in Paint**”, civil society and industry exchanged ideas to address this challenge and identified next steps to reduce the hazard of exposure to this dangerous metal in the region.

3. Subregional workshop regarding lead paint was held in Peru, on 18-19 June 2019, where around **50 participants**, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, and the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and the United Nations Environment Programme, discussed the issue of lead paint in the



countries of the Andean Community and regulatory developments in each country relating to lead paint.

## 6. Waste management

6.1 Develop systems to measure and characterize waste generation, including hazardous waste, keep up to date national waste inventories, and enhance waste management schemes

6.1.1 Convene a series of webinars on (i) waste inventories and lessons learned from other regions, (ii) regulations and technologies in countries for waste treatment (for different types of waste, including electronic waste), and (iii) the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on different waste streams, (iv) principles of minimization, recovery and integrated management of waste under sustainable approaches

1. With the support of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRC), the second meeting of Working Group for the 2020-2021 biennium of the Basel Convention Partnership on Household Waste was held, dealing with topics such as finalization of the draft guidance document in the environmentally sound management of household waste, as well as issues related to the coordination of outreach activities and cooperation with other organization working in the field of management.

The meeting was celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago, from 4 to 12 September 2019, with **30 participants**, including representatives from Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

2. A short course on **sustainable integrated solid waste management in the Caribbean** aimed at providing professionals in the solid waste management sector across the region with an opportunity for professional development in sustainable water management and to facilitate interaction among these professionals for solving water problems in the region. This meeting took place in March 2020, in Trinidad and Tobago, and was led by the University of Waste Indies, with the support of UNEP and the Latin America and the

Caribbean University Consortium, with the participation of **33 people** from Grenada, St. Lucia, Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Guyana, etc.



3. Webinar on **“Waste Management in LAC during health emergencies: measures taken, and lessons learned”** held on 7 May 2020, in order to increase awareness and provide guidance on the issue of waste management during the COVID-19 crisis. **593 people** participated and it was facilitated thanks to the support of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the Inter American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

**Webinar** 7 de mayo, 2020 2:00 - 3:30 pm (GMT-5)

**LA GESTIÓN DE RESIDUOS EN PAÍSES DE AMÉRICA LATINA DURANTE LA EMERGENCIA SANITARIA: MEDIDAS ADOPTADAS Y LECCIONES PARA EL FUTURO.**

**Introducción**  
 Jordi Pon, Programa de la ONU para el Medio Ambiente  
 Marcelo Koro, Organización Panamericana de la Salud  
 Atilio Savino, ARS-Argentina

**Situación en países de América Latina**  
 Argentina: Marcelo Rosso, ARS-ISWA-Argentina  
 Chile: Cristian Rojas, AEP-ISA-Chile  
 Ecuador: Francisco de la Torre, AIDIS-Ecuador  
 México: Rodrigo Allano Corsi, DS-ISWA-México  
 Uruguay: Luis Horta, CEGRU-ISWA-Uruguay

**REGISTRESE AQUÍ**

Ante el contexto actual de pandemia por la COVID-19, la gestión de residuos constituye un servicio público urgente y esencial con el fin de minimizar posibles impactos secundarios sobre la salud y el medio ambiente. Los países afectados en el marco de esta contingencia se han visto enfrentados a la dificultad de intervenir correctamente en la gestión de los residuos, generando residuos oportunos de higiene, manejo, biodegradabilidad y tratamiento de los mismos.

Este webinar pretende mostrar la situación de la gestión de residuos en países de América Latina, incluyendo una revisión de las medidas adoptadas hasta la fecha, y los posibles elementos a considerar para fortalecer la capacidad de respuesta en la región.

4. Webinar on “**Waste Management in LAC during health emergencies: measures taken, and lessons learned**”, which was held in the framework of the International E-Waste Day on October 14, 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Health and the University of Panama. The webinar was attended by **64 people**.

6.2 Good practices and best technologies to implement integrated management of hazardous waste (e.g. e-waste, mercury surplus and waste, used oils, used lead acid batteries, biomedical waste, and obsolete highly hazardous pesticides)

6.2.1 To promote public-private regional partnerships to promote and implement extended producer responsibility schemes or systems on waste. Lead by countries with experience.

On July 23, 2020, a webinar on “**Extended Producer Responsibility and the Circular Economy**” it was organized in coordination with the ISWA Regional Chapter, in which **390 people participated**. Experiences and regulatory aspects of the Latin American and Caribbean region were exchanged, with emphasis on countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.



2. Webinar on “**Public-private partnerships on waste management**”, organized with the ISWA Regional Chapter of LAC and the German cooperation (GIZ) on December 11, 2020. It was

attended by **127 participants** from more than 17 countries in the region.

6.2.2 To facilitate study tours on hazardous waste management to different countries

On 11 September 2019, in the framework of the **Constitutive Meeting of the Voluntary Coalition of Governments and Relevant Organizations for the Progressive Closure of Dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean**, a field trip took



place in Buenos Aires to CEAMSE-3 facilities, including sanitary landfill, mechanical biological treatment, composting, leachates and biogas treatment. It was organized by UNEP and ISWA-ARS Argentina.

About **15 participants** from 7 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean joined this activity (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Uruguay).

## 7. Other activities conducted

1. BCRC-Caribbean, with the support of the Chemicals and Waste Branch and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, carried out a webinar on 15 August 2019, with the objective to present the outcomes of the **Global Chemicals Outlook II**, which was joined by 15 participants from different parts of the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname), and Brazil.





2. Diffusion of the Global Webinar Series “**Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19**” focused on preparedness and response to chemical risks. It was facilitated by UNEP and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). A total of **89 people** participated in the event from 22 Latin American countries.

3. Webinar on **Waste management in the context of COVID-19** focused on minimizing impacts on

health and the environment. It was facilitated by UNEP and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with the support of AIDIS and ARS. **768 people** participated.

4. Webinar on “**Multilateral Environment Agreements on Chemicals and the post 2020 SAICM process**” jointly organized by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the Regulatory Cooperation Forum in Latin America. The session took place on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and was attended by **127 participants**.

## Annex 1

### List of Actions and status

As of December 31, 2020

TOPIC	SUBTOPIC	ACTION	COOPERATION ACTIONS	STATUS
1	1.1 Review and strengthen chemicals and waste legal and institutional frameworks	1.1.1	1.1.1 Host a webinar to disseminate existing initiatives on integrated chemicals management policies, regulations, financing and cost recovery, and coordination mechanisms among the Network focal points	Completed
1	1.1 Review and strengthen chemicals and waste legal and institutional frameworks	1.1.2	1.1.2 Undertake regional education and awareness raising , including presentation at high level events, on the benefits of developing integrated legal frameworks and strengthening the institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as the mainstreaming into the development agenda and budgeting processes	Completed
1	1.2 Mainstreaming chemicals and waste into national strategies and plans for sustainable development, as well as in national budgeting processes	1.2.1	1.2.1 Identification of funding and Project options on mainstreaming and promoting goals contained in the SDGs related to chemicals management	Partially completed OR On-going
1	1.2 Mainstreaming chemicals and waste into national strategies and plans for sustainable development, as well as in national budgeting processes	1.2.2	1.2.2 To host a webinar on best practices in mainstreaming of sound chemicals and waste management into national development plans, strategies and budgeting processes	Not initiated
2	2.1 Establish methodologies and institutional regimes for health and environment risk assessment of chemicals and risk management of chemicals and waste, and promote relevant legal cooperation	2.1.1	2.1.1 To organize a comprehensive regional training on institutional methodologies for risk evaluation (health-environment).	Completed
2	2.1 Establish methodologies and institutional regimes for health and environment risk assessment of chemicals and risk management of chemicals and waste, and promote relevant legal cooperation	2.1.2	2.1.2 To promote a postgraduate training programme on chemical risk assessment with participation of WHO, UN Environment, US EPA, OECD, KEMI, CETESB, industry and academia	Partially completed OR On-going
2	2.2 Strengthening capacities of national laboratories on sampling and analysis of POPs and other priority chemicals in water, air, soil and products	2.2.1	2.2.1 Dissemination of information on existing initiatives in the region related to the strengthening of laboratory capacities for sampling and analysis of POPs	Completed

TOPIC	SUBTOPIC	ACTION	COOPERATION ACTIONS	STATUS
2	2.3 Support the development of national registers of chemicals e.g. Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), National Chemical Inventories or Electronic Manifest Tracking System for Chemicals (life cycle data recording and management mechanism) and chemical inventories	2.3.1	2.3.1 Identification of funding and Project options to promote South-South cooperation in the development of national chemical registers, chemical inventories and inventories of new POPs	Partially completed OR On-going
2	2.4 Awareness raising of the civil society about the adverse effects to human health and the environment of chemicals included in the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the Emerging Policy, and about the responsibilities for the management of those chemicals	2.4.1	2.4.1 To undertake information dissemination campaigns, taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues of importance for groups of countries with a same language;</li> <li>• The target populations of those information campaigns;</li> <li>• Information materials that are available and that should be developed;</li> <li>• Partners interested in supporting education and information campaigns (in addition to authorities, NGOs, industry, academia, etc).</li> </ul>	Completed
3	3.1 Building capacities of healthcare personnel to identify and prevent poisoning cases and diseases related to chemical exposure	3.1.1	3.1.1 Convene a face-to-face workshop with key stakeholders from each country (from healthcare sector) to elaborate a program to improve prevention of poisoning and exposure in the region (including key stakeholders in the emergency response and disaster preparedness sectors). Utilization of train-the-trainers approach.	Completed
3	3.1 Building capacities of healthcare personnel to identify and prevent poisoning cases and diseases related to chemical exposure	3.1.2	3.1.2 To develop awareness raising material for healthcare personnel and the civil society (which can be used in the whole region)	Partially completed OR On-going
3	3.2 Promote implementation of the GHS, including the appropriate enforcement mechanisms	3.2.1	3.2.1 Convene a webinar on GHS and to share GHS implementation experiences in the region, including experiences on enforcement mechanisms	Over-accomplished
3	3.2 Promote implementation of the GHS, including the appropriate enforcement mechanisms	3.2.2	3.2.2 Convene a face-to-face regional training for Customs officers and other stakeholders on harmonizing tariff codes. Training of trainers approach and exchange of experiences.	Completed
3	3.3 Building capacities for the prevention and effective response of chemical accidents and spills	3.3.1	3.3.1 Convene a face-to-face regional workshop with key stakeholders from the emergency response sector in each country to improve chemical accident and spill response	Not initiated
3	3.3 Building capacities for the prevention and effective response of chemical accidents and spills	3.3.2	3.3.2 To develop awareness raising material for response sector and the civil society (which can be used in the whole region)	Not initiated
3	3.4 Identification and, where feasible, remediation of contaminated sites	3.4.1	3.4.1 To host at least one webinar to share methodologies for sampling, analysis and remediation technologies of contaminated sites, as well as legal instruments related to contaminated sites	Completed

TOPIC	SUBTOPIC	ACTION	COOPERATION ACTIONS	STATUS
4	4.1 Implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions	4.1.1	4.1.1 To hold a regional face-to-face workshop in cooperation with the BRS Secretariat to build capacities on BAT and BEP	Not initiated
4	4.1 Implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions	4.1.2	4.1.2 To adapt the global BAT and BEP guidelines <sup>10</sup> to the regional reality. In coordination with on-going/upcoming activities with the BRS Regional Centres.	Not initiated
4	4.1 Implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions	4.1.3	4.1.3 To support the development of cooperation projects in countries (with a focus to review BAT/BEP available in the region)	Partially completed OR On-going
4	4.1 Implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions	4.1.4	4.1.4 To hold a webinar to exchange experiences and lessons learned from projects implemented by countries of the region	Not initiated
4	4.2 Build capacities to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste	4.2.1	4.2.1 To hold a webinar on main considerations to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste, reduce main gaps in the region to prevent it, experiences from other regions	Over-accomplished
5	5.1 Management of mercury waste (collection, storage, treatment, disposal), giving special attention to waste products containing mercury	5.1.1	5.1.1 To hold a regional face-to-face workshop in cooperation with the Minamata Secretariat to disseminate and discuss on suitable alternatives for the management of mercury waste in the region and to share lessons learned about the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)	Over-accomplished
5	5.1 Management of mercury waste (collection, storage, treatment, disposal), giving special attention to waste products containing mercury	5.1.2	5.1.2 Identify funding for projects for the sound management of mercury waste in the region	Partially completed or on-going
5	5.2 To support actions to reduce and, when feasible, eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM and in priority activities	5.2.1	5.2.1 To facilitate the access and exchange of information on alternatives to mercury use in ASGM identified by different projects and initiatives in the region.	Completed
5	5.3 Establecer/fortalecer mecanismos para controlar el comercio legal e ilegal de mercurio	5.3.1	5.3.1 Support the development of national and regional assessments on legal and illegal trade of mercury	Partially completed OR On-going
5	5.3 Establecer/fortalecer mecanismos para controlar el comercio legal e ilegal de mercurio	5.3.2	5.3.2 To develop a training activity with the authorities responsible for the control of mercury trade (including customs), to enhance capacity and international cooperation	Completed
5	5.3 Establecer/fortalecer mecanismos para controlar el comercio legal e ilegal de mercurio	5.3.3	5.3.3 To compile a list of authorities and contact/focal points responsible for the authorization of mercury trade in the LAC countries	Completed

TOPIC	SUBTOPIC	ACTION	COOPERATION ACTIONS	STATUS
5	5.4 Improve public knowledge and awareness on health and environmental impacts of one of these priority substances (mercury/lead)	5.4.1	5.4.1 Develop and implement a public education and awareness campaign on the health and environmental impacts of mercury/lead	Completed
5	5.5 To support actions for a sound management of lead in products	5.5.1	5.5.1. To facilitate the information exchange about experiences on the sound management of lead-acid batteries	Completed
5	5.5 To support actions for a sound management of lead in products	5.5.2	5.5.2 To hold a webinar/workshop/conference about progress made in the region to develop regulations for the elimination of lead in paints	Over-accomplished
6	6.1 Develop systems to measure and characterize waste generation, including hazardous waste, keep up to date national waste inventories, and enhance waste management schemes	6.1.1	6.1.1 Convene a series of webinars on (i) waste inventories and lessons learned from other regions, (ii) regulations and technologies in countries for waste treatment (for different types of waste, including electronic waste), and (iii) the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on different waste streams, (iv) principles of minimization, recovery and integrated management of waste under sustainable approaches.	Completed
6	6.2 Good practices and best technologies to implement integrated management of hazardous waste (e.g. e-waste, mercury surplus and waste, used oils, used lead acid batteries, biomedical waste, and obsolete highly hazardous pesticides)	6.2.1	6.2.1 To promote public-private regional partnerships to promote and implement extended producer responsibility schemes or systems on waste. Lead by countries with experience.	Completed
6	6.2 Good practices and best technologies to implement integrated management of hazardous waste (e.g. e-waste, mercury surplus and waste, used oils, used lead acid batteries, biomedical waste, and obsolete highly hazardous pesticides)	6.2.2	6.2.2 To facilitate study tours on hazardous waste management to different countries	Partially completed OR On-going