

UNEP/GEF projects “Implementation of the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Asia Region and “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Africa, Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Regions

Meeting Report

GMP2 Pacific Islands Virtual Meeting on POPs Analytical Results of Air and Water

8 October 2020, 13:00-16:00 UTC

Background

UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch is implementing the second round GEF-funded POPs global monitoring plan projects (UNEP/GEF POPs GMP II) in 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands and Latin America and Caribbean regions from 2016 to present. The activities comprise capacity building for sampling and analysis of POPs in core matrices and others in the project countries, generation of comparable data on the presence of POPs, and securing of conditions for the sustainable monitoring of POPs.

To date, most of the results of POPs in core matrices have been generated and shared with project countries; however, the results have not been exchanged between countries and compared on a regional basis. A virtual meeting was convened by UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch to discuss with national coordinators, national technical staff and expert laboratories on the analytical results of POPs in air and water (see Annex A Concept Note).

Meeting objectives

- Explain the analytical results on the levels of POPs in air and water shared with project countries.
- Provide clarifications on data, if any.
- Discuss on including the data in national project final reports

The meeting started at 13:00 UTC and finished at 15:30 UTC, with a total of 12 participants from 6 GMP2 project countries and four expert laboratories (see Annex B list of participants).

1. Opening of the meeting

1. Mr. Gamini Manuweera, Programme Management Officer, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, opened the meeting. He welcomed all participants, introduced the background, objectives and the panelists of the meeting (see Annex C Presentation 01 Meeting Objectives).
2. The meeting agenda was then introduced by Mr. Manuweera (see Annex D Meeting Agenda). The meeting mainly focused on the discussion of four topics:
 - Analytical results of air generated by expert labs;
 - Analytical results of water generated by expert lab;
 - Follow up of technical reports; and

- Any other business, including tentative arrangements of upcoming major events/meeting.

2. Analytical results of POPs in air generated by expert labs

3. Mr. Jacob de Boer, E&H Vrije University Amsterdam, introduced the analytical results of PCB, OCPs, BFRs and toxaphene. He introduced in details the different levels of POPs for each of the project countries, and also a comparison from a regional perspective. He also identified POPs of concerns for relevant countries and explained the interpretation of related analytical terminologies used in data reporting (see Annex C Presentation 02).
4. Ms. Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro University, introduced the results of PFAS and dl-POPs in air in Asia, including country and region-specific levels of these POPs, levels of POPs according to income level and population density, as well as a comparison between GMP1 and GMP2 (see Annex C Presentation 03).
5. Following the presentations, participants and experts had an active discussion on technical issues, possible reasons of detected levels of POPs, and advices on follow-up studies and actions. It is also discussed that bilateral meetings could be arranged to facilitate discussion on more details.

3. Analytical results of water generated by expert lab

6. Ms. Heidelore Fiedler introduced the results of PFAS in water in Asia, including the country and region-specific levels of PFAS, and levels of PFAS according to income levels and population density (see Annex C Presentation 04). The presentation is followed by a discussion session.

4. Follow up of technical reports

7. Mr. Manuweera introduced the three types of technical reports to be prepared: national reports, regional reports, and scientific reports and publications. He emphasis the importance of presenting data as well as national activities implemented under the project, including sustainability of capacities acquired through the project and lessons learnt to facilitate continued contribution to monitoring of POPs at national level. Mr. Boer and Ms. Fiedler provided further explanation on the scientific publications, in particular a special issue on Chemisphere and a handbook on 30 years of human milk survey. They emphasized the importance and benefits of having the scientific findings of the project publicly available to support future researches and informed decision making, and welcomed project countries' participation in this exercise.

5. Any other business, including tentative arrangements of upcoming major events/meeting

8. Ms. Haosong Jiao, Associate Programme Management Officer at UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, gave a brief update on next steps and coming events. She emphasized the status of legal agreements and progress reports, the deadline for the shipment of collected samples, the upcoming meetings, as well as updates on communication activities.

6. Key messages

9. Participants and experts shared opinions on the results of POPs from country and regional specific perspective. It is agreed that virtual meetings on other matrices (e.g. milk, national samples) or bilateral discussions can be organized upon request.

10. Clarification was given on the template of national and regional reports, and on the scientific reports and publications and was welcomed by the participants.
11. The deadline for shipment of samples, and the urgency of extension of legal agreements and submission of substantive and financial reports were emphasized. Plans of next steps had been shared with participants.

7. Closure

12. Mr. Gamini Manuweera thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 09:00 UTC.

8. Annexes

- A. Concept note
- B. List of Participants
- C. Presentation 01-04
- D. Meeting agenda

Annex A Concept Note

UNEP/GEF projects “Implementation of the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Asia Region and “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” in the Africa, Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Regions

POPs Analytical Results of Air and Water

Regional virtual meeting

Subject: Presentation of POPs analysis data

Objective:

- Explain the analytical results on the levels of POPs in air and water generated by the expert labs
- Provide clarifications on data, if any
- Discuss on including the data in project final reports

Venue: Virtual meetings (3 hours)

Time:

- Asia: Monday, 5 October, 06:00-9:00 UTC
- Africa: Tuesday, 6 October, 06:00-9:00 UTC
- Pacific: Thursday, 8 October, 05:00-08:00 UTC
- GRULAC: Friday, 9 October, 13:00-16:00 UTC

Hosting institutions: UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch

Presenters/panel members:

- Ms. Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro
- Mr. Jacob de Boer, E&H Virjie University
- Mr. Esteban Abad, CSIC

Participants : National coordinators and project implementation teams

Background

In support of Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has implemented two rounds of its POPs global monitoring plan projects (UNEP/GEF POPs GMP II) in 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands and Latin America and Caribbean regions. The activities comprise capacity building for sampling and analysis of POPs in core matrices and others in the project countries, generation of comparable data on the presence of POPs, and securing of conditions for the sustainable monitoring of POPs.

As part of the generation of comparable data on the presence of POPs, the expert laboratories supported the project implementation and analyzed the samples collected by the project countries for POPs. Where capacity existed, the national laboratories in the project countries conducted mirror analysis of the same samples. Results for the POPs in core matrices have been generated, including 23 POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention as of the Sixth Conference of Parties, and newly listed and voluntary POPs where

applicable. The results of these analyses shall be reflected in the national and regional reports of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP II projects.

To date, participating countries have received most of the results from the expert laboratories individually; however, the results have not been exchanged between countries and compared on a regional basis. The regional virtual meetings will provide an opportunity to have a look at the results from a regional perspective, compare with data generated by national labs and clarify any open questions as to data generation or interpretation.

Working language:

- Asia: English
- Pacific: English
- Africa: English
- GRULAC: English/Spanish

Tentative Agenda:

- Opening remark
- Technical session:
 - Analytical results of core matrices generated by expert laboratories
 - Analytical results of core matrices generated by national laboratories if applicable
- Discussion: Clarifications related to samples and other technical issues
- Preparation of the project national reports and regional reports
- Any other business
- Closure

Annex B List of Participants

Country/Institute	Name	Email
Palau	Ms. Metiek Ngirchchol	eqpb.lab@gmail.com
Solomon Islands	Ms. Rosemary Apa	rosemaryapa@gmail.com
Kiribati	Mr. Teema Biko	t.biko@melad.gov.ki
Tuvalu	Mr. Soseala Tinilau	butchersn@gmail.com
Fiji	Mr. Vincent Lal	vincent.vishant.lal@gmail.com
Samoa	Ms. Fiasosoitamalii Siaso	fiasoso.siaso@gmail.com
CSIC	Mr. Esteban Abad	eaheco@idaea.csic.es
MTM	Ms. Heidelore Fiedler	6acob6ore.fiedler@oru.se
VU	Mr. Jacob de Boer	6acob.de.boer@vu.nl
UQ	Mr. Jochen Mueller	j.mueller@uq.edu.au
UNEP	Mr. Gamini Manuweera	gamini.manuweera@un.org
UNEP	Ms. Haosong Jiao	haosong.jiao@un.org

Annex D Meeting Agenda

Topic	Time							
	Monday 5 October (Asia)		Tuesday 6 October (Africa)		Thursday 8 October (Pacific)		Friday 9 October (GRULAC)	
	UTC		UTC		UTC		UTC	
Opening: Welcome, objectives, virtual meeting rules	06:00	Bangkok: 13:00 Ulaanbaatar 14:00 Geneva: 08:00	06:00	Accra: 06:00 Cairo: 08:00 Nairobi: 09:00 Port Louis: 10:00 Tunis: 07:00 Geneva: 08:00	05:00	Apia: 19:00 Alofi: 18:00 Ngerulmud: 14:00 Port Vila: 16:00 Suva: 17:00 Geneva: 07:00	13:00	Bridgetown: 09:00 Lima: 08:00 Montevideo: 10:00 Geneva: 15:00
Introduction of panel	06:10	10 mins	06:10	10 mins	05:10	10 mins	13:10	10 mins
Analytical results of air generated by expert labs	06:20	50 mins	06:20	50 mins	05:20	50 mins	13:20	50 mins
Discussion: <i>Clarifications related to air samples, other technical issues and national lab results</i>	07:10	30 mins	07:10	30 mins	06:10	30 mins	14:10	30 mins
Analytical results of water generated by expert lab	07:40	20 mins	07:40	20 mins	06:40	20 mins	14:40	20 mins
Discussion: <i>Clarifications related to water samples, other technical issues and national lab results</i>	08:00	10 mins	08:00	10 mins	07:00	10 mins	15:00	10 mins

Follow up technical report	08:10	40 mins	08:10	40 mins	07:10	40 mins	15:10	40 mins
Any other business: <i>including tentative arrangements of upcoming major events/meeting</i>	08:50	10 mins	08:50	10 mins	07:50	10 mins	15:50	10 mins
Closure	09:00	Bangkok: 16:00 Ulaanbaatar 17:00 Geneva: 11:00	09:00	Accra: 09:00 Cairo: 11:00 Nairobi: 12:00 Port Louis: 14:00 Tunis: 10:00 Geneva: 11:00	08:00	Apia: 22:00 Alofi: 21:00 Ngerulmud: 17:00 Port Vila: 16:00 Suva: 20:00 Geneva: 10:00	16:00	Bridgetown: 12:00 Lima: 10:00 Montevideo: 13:00 Geneva: 18:00