

UNEP/GEF project “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 Pacific Region

Meeting Report

UNE/GEF POPs GMP2 Asia and Pacific Regional Virtual Meeting

Analytical Results of POPs in Human Milk and National Samples and Preparation of Project Final Reports

25 November 2021, 06:00-08:30 UTC

Background

UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch is implementing the second round of 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 other matrices of national interests in 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 and national samples 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 Human Milk and National Samples (see Annex A Concept Note).

Meeting objectives

- Explain the analytical results on the levels of POPs in human milk and national samples shared with project countries.
- Provide clarifications on data, if any.
- Discuss on preparation of project final reports

The meeting started at 06:00 UTC and finished at around 8:30 UTC, representatives from all project country and experts laboratories participated in this meeting (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 and adopted by the participants (see Annex D Meeting Agenda).

2. Analytical results of POPs in human milk generated by expert labs

3. Mr. Reiner Malisch, State Institute for Chemical and Veterinary Analysis of Food (Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt, CVUA) introduced the analytical results of dioxin-like POPs, PCNs, PCB, OCPs, BFRs and Chlorinated paraffins (SCCP and MCCP). He introduced the general trends of the different levels of POPs for the whole Asian and Pacific regions and made the comparison of country data within the region (see Annex C Presentation 02).
4. Ms. Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro University, introduced the results of PFAS in human milk samples from Asia and Pacific, including country and region-specific levels of these POPs, 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 in the different countries, and advices on follow-up studies and actions.

3. Analytical results of national samples generated by expert lab

6. Mr. Jacob de Boer, E&H Vrije University, presented the results of the study on POPs in national samples, and gave an overview of the mirror study for national labs. He presented the general and country specific results and mentioned that even for commonly sampled materials such as sediment and fish, it is important to take into consideration country specificities when interpreting the results (see Annex C Presentation 04).
7. Ms. Heidelore Fiedler introduced the results of PFAS in the national samples for Asian and Pacific Regions and compared the results at regional and global level (see Annex C Presentation 05).
8. The presentations were followed by a discussion session.

4. Preparation of project final reports

9. Ms. Heidelore Fiedler introduced the structure of the project regional report for the Africa Region. She presented the outline of the report and explained that a draft version will be circulated with project countries soon for comments. She mentioned explicitly to all the participants that inputs are needed from countries in order to complete the report. The final date for completion of the regional report is 31 March 2022.
10. In the discussion session, Mr. Victor Estellano from UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch reminded the participants that the deadline for submission of project national report is 31 December 2021.

5. Any other business

6. Mr. Victor Estellano, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, gave a brief update on next steps and coming events. He emphasized the deadline for the project national reports and the substantial and expenditure reports. He suggested project countries to submit the draft project national reports well in advance of the deadline for comments. Finally, he explained that the project will finish next year.

7. Key messages

11. Participants and experts shared opinions on the results of POPs in human milk and national samples from country and regional specific perspective.
12. The outline and structure of the project regional reports were presented.
13. The deadline for the national reports, and the submission of substantive and financial reports were emphasized. Plans of next steps had been shared with participants.

8. Closure

14. Mr. Victor Estellano thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 08:30 UTC.

9. Annexes

- A. List of Participants
- B. Presentation 01-05
- C. Agenda
- D. Concept note

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UNEP/GEF POPs GMP2 Regional Virtual Meeting

Analytical Results of POPs in Human Milk and National Samples and Preparation of Project Final Reports

Objective:

- Present and explain the analytical results of POPs in human milk and national samples
- Provide clarifications on the results as needed
- Discuss about the preparation of project final reports

Venue: Virtual meeting (2.5 hours)

Time:

- Asia-Pacific: Thursday, 25 November, 06:00-08:30 UTC

Hosting institution: UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch

Presenters/panel members:

- Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro University
- Dr. Rainer Malisch, CVUA Freiburg
- Dr. Jacob de Boer, E&H Vrije University

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 POPs global monitoring plan projects (UNEP/GEF POPs GMP) 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 matrices of national interest in project countries, generation of comparable data on the presence of POPs, and securing of conditions for the sustainable monitoring of POPs.

For data generation on the presence of POPs, the expert laboratories supported analyzing the samples collected by project countries. Results have been generated including 23 POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention as of the Sixth Conference of Parties as well as newly listed and voluntary POPs where applicable. Where capacity existed, the national laboratories in project countries conducted mirror analysis of the same samples. These results shall be reflected in the final national and regional reports of the project.

To facilitate better understanding and usage of the results, four virtual regional meetings were organized in the week of 5-9 October 2020 to explain and present the results of POPs in air and water, and to share the progress of other activities of the project including the preparation of national reports and activities to secure sustainable monitoring of POPs. During the regional meetings, participants also expressed interest in having virtual meetings to discuss the results of POPs in human milk and samples of national interest.

To date, participating countries have received all the human milk results and most of the results for national samples from the expert laboratories individually; this provides an opportunity to exchange between countries and compare the results on a regional basis. The regional virtual meetings aim to 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. Besides, with data generated to be included in the project regional reports, the meetings will also discuss about the final project reports and the next steps towards a successful closure of the project.

Working language:

- English

Provisional Agenda:

- Opening remark *10 min*
- Analytical results of POPs in human milk *30 min*
- Discussion: Clarifications on the results and technical issues related to human milk samples *10 min*
- Analytical results of POPs in national samples *40 min*
- Discussion: Clarifications on the results and technical issues related to national samples *20 min*
- Project final reports *30 min*
- Any other business *5 min*
- Closure *5 min*

Annex B List of Participants

Country/Institute	Name	Email
Cambodia	Ms. Panga Serey	serey_pagna@yahoo.com
Indonesia	Mr. Anton Purnomo	antonpurnomo@gmail.com
Indonesia	Ms. Yuriska	MoEF
Lao PDR	Ms. Vanhna phanphongsa	vanhnatt@gmail.com
Mongolia	Ms. Enkhtuul surenjav	enkhtuulls@yahoo.com
Mongolia	Mr. S. Bayarmaa	saranbaatar.bayarmagnai@un.org
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Thailand	Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwuntikorn	teeraporn.w@pcd.go.th;
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Marshall Islands	Ms. Vivian N. Koroivulaono - RMI	vniedent@gmail.com
Marshall Islands	Mr. Jimson Lajkan	jimson.lj25@gmail.com
Samoa	Mr. Seumalo Afele Faiilagi	afele.faiilagi@mnre.gov.ws
Tuvalu	Ms. Emelipelesa Sam Panapa	emelysamster@gmail.com
Vanuatu	Ms. Roselyn Bue (Guest)	rbue@vanuatu.gov.vu
CSIC	Mr. Esteban Abad	eaheco@idaea.csic.es
MTM	Ms. Heidelore Fiedler	heidelore.fiedler@oru.se
VU	Mr. Jacob de Boer	jacob.de.boer@vu.nl
CVUA	Mr. Rainer Malisch	Rainer.Malisch@cvuafr.bwl.de
UNEP	Mr. Gamini Manuweera	gamini.manuweera@un.org
UNEP	Ms. Haosong Jiao	haosong.jiao@un.org
UNEP	Mr. Victor Estellano	victor.estellano@un.org

Annex D Meeting Agenda

UNEP/GEF project “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 Pacific Region

Provisional Agenda

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Thursday, 25 November, 06:00-08:30 UTC

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
UTC 06:00 – 06:10 <i>Apia: 19:00</i> <i>Alofi: 19:00⁻¹</i> <i>Bangkok 13:00</i> <i>Ulaanbaatar 14:00</i> <i>Ngerulmud: 15:00</i> <i>Port Vila: 17:00</i> <i>Suva: 18:00</i> <i>Geneva: 07:00</i>	Opening remark	Gamini Manuweera, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch
UTC 06:10 – 06:40	Results of POPs in human milk	Rainer Malisch, CVUA Freiburg Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro
UTC 06:40 – 06:50	Discussion: Clarifications related to milk samples, other technical issues and national lab results	All participants
UTC 06:50 – 07:30	Results of POPs in national samples	Jacob de Boer, VU Amsterdam Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro
UTC 07:30 – 07:50	Discussion: Clarifications related to national samples, other technical issues and national lab results	All participants
UTC 07:50 – 08:20	Project final reports	Heidelore Fiedler, MTM Orebro
UTC 08:20 – 08:25	AOB	All participants
UTC 08:25 – 08:30	Closure	Gamini Manuweera, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch