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**Eighth meeting of the Executive Board  
of the Special Programme**  
Geneva, 15-17 February 2023

**REPORT ON THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CLOSED PROJECTS  
UNDER THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME**

1. As reported at the seventh meeting of the Executive Board, held online from 28 March to 1 April 2022, the Secretariat made arrangements to undertake an assessment of the closed projects under the Special Programme. The aim of this exercise was to take stock of what had worked well and identify what could have been improved in the projects. The exercise would also retroactively assess the results of these earlier projects against the core indicators that had been adopted by the Board. The findings and recommendations of this exercise would feed into the Special Programme Secretariat's future work. The target audience for this exercise would be Special Programme Secretariat itself, the Executive Board, the Secretariats of the Instruments, and Governments that had completed or were implementing projects under the Special Programme.

2. The Report on the Independent Assessment of Closed Projects under the Special Programme is presented as annex to this document. The Report was produced by a team of three independent experts (one lead expert and two experts) following the Terms of Reference provided to the Executive Board at its seventh meeting, which were edited to incorporate feedback from some Board members after the meeting. The Report covers eleven closed projects and provides an overview of the progress made using the Core Indicators launched with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy adopted by the Executive Board in October 2020. In addition, the Report presents a compendium of lessons learned and recommendations addressed to Special Programme secretariat.

3. The report is presented for information to Executive Board.

# Independent Assessment of the Closed Projects under the Special Programme



**UNEP**  
Economy Division  
Chemicals and Health Branch  
December 2022

# Independent Assessment of the Closed Projects under the Special Programme

## **Final Report**

**December 2022**

### **Countries covered<sup>1</sup>**

**Argentina**

**Belarus**

**Benin**

**China**

**Dominican Republic**

**Iraq**

**Kyrgyzstan**

**Republic of Moldova**

**Serbia**

**Tanzania**

**Uganda**

*The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Assessment Team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the UNEP.*

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the guidance provided by the United Nation Editorial Manual regarding country names, this report is using the short country names listed by the United Nations. See: <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/editorial-manual/country-names>.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## TABLE OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BC</b>	Basel Convention
<b>BRS-C</b>	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
<b>BRS</b>	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
<b>BRS-M conventions</b>	Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and Minamata Convention
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CLP</b>	Classification, Labelling and Packaging
<b>REACH</b>	European Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals
<b>EPR</b>	Extended Producer Responsibility
<b>FRA</b>	Final Regulatory Action
<b>FR</b>	Final Report
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GHS</b>	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
<b>IR</b>	Inception Report
<b>ICT/IT</b>	Information and Computer Technologies/Information Technologies
<b>IWG</b>	Interdepartmental/Intersectoral Working Group
<b>JIS</b>	Joint Information System
<b>Logframe</b>	Logical Framework
<b>MCW</b>	Management of Chemicals and Waste
<b>MSDS</b>	Material Safety Data Sheet
<b>MC</b>	Minamata Convention
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>MELSAP/MELT</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy and Action Plan / Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit
<b>MEAs</b>	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
<b>NDA</b>	National Designated Authority
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PoPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>PBDEs</b>	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers
<b>PCBs</b>	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
<b>PIC</b>	Prior Informed Consent Regulation
<b>PCA</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement
<b>PCC</b>	Project Coordination Committee
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>ROM</b>	Results Oriented Monitoring
<b>RC</b>	Rotterdam Convention
<b>SMC</b>	Sound Management of Chemicals
<b>SMCW</b>	Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
<b>SP</b>	Special Programme
<b>SPS</b>	Special Programme Secretariat
<b>SC</b>	Stockholm Convention



<b>SAICM</b>	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>COP14</b>	The 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
<b>MIA</b>	The Minamata Initial Assessment
<b>NIP</b>	The National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>UNEP ROWA</b>	UNEP Regional Office of West Asia
<b>uPOPs</b>	Unintentional POPs
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEA</b>	United Nations Environment Assembly
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNITAR</b>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

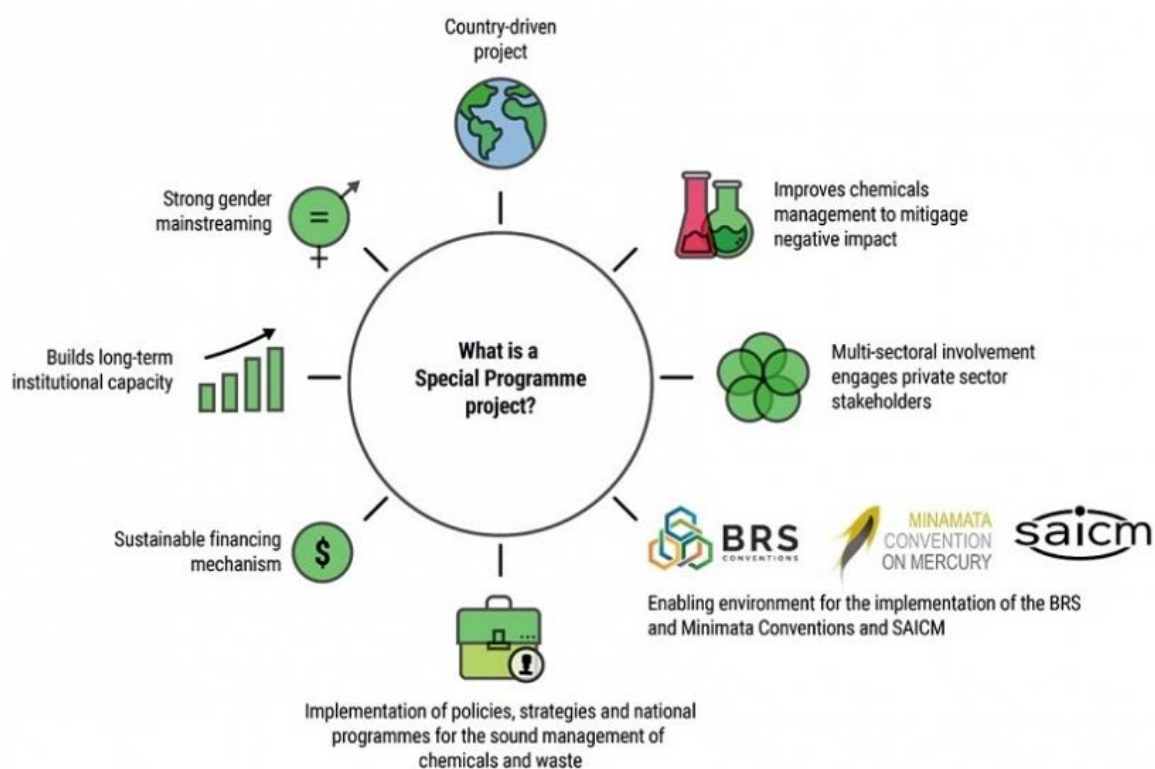


# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. BACKGROUND OF ASSESSMENT

The objective of the UNEP Special Programme (SP) on chemical and waste is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to **increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes** throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS), the Minamata Convention (hereinafter referred to as “MEAs” – multilateral environmental agreements”), and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

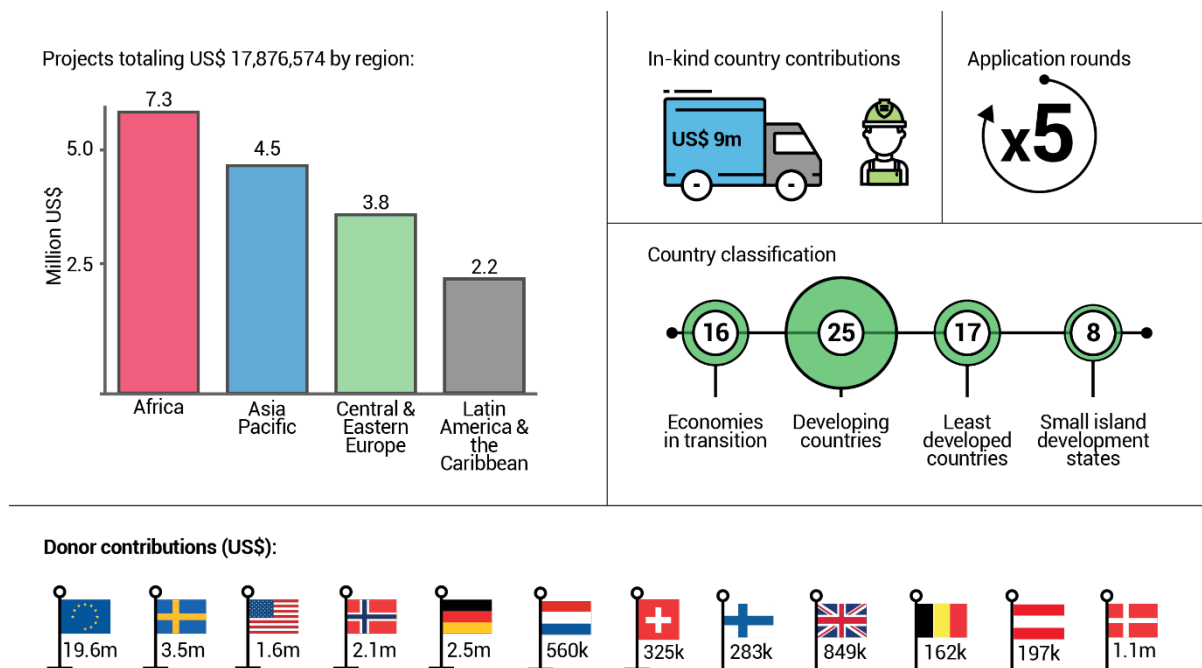
Figure 1: Summary of Special Programme



Source : [https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special?\\_ga=2.165254335.1055018394.1656171331-1434798745.1648050717](https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special?_ga=2.165254335.1055018394.1656171331-1434798745.1648050717)

Since its creation in 2015, the Special Programme has **approved 66 projects for funding via 5 calls for applications**. Each project is limited to 24-36 months duration. Simple Special Programme projects have a maximum of 250,000 USD as budget. All countries applying for a SP project are required to provide at least 25% of in-kind contributions. The overall figures of the SP can be found here below.

Figure 2: Summary of 5 Rounds Applications of Special Programme



Source: Summary of the Special Programme

The SP directly contributes to achievement of the **2030 Agenda** and the **SDGs**. In particular, it mainly contributes to SDG12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Under it, it addressed the target 12.4: “environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes through their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks” and Indicator 12.4.1 “Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement”.

## 1.2. ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Since the first 11 projects from the 1st and 2nd Call for Applications of the SP have recently completed implementation, it is a good time to take stock of what has worked well and identify areas for improvement. In this context, the SP Secretariat commissioned the Assessment of the closed projects which will also provide information in relation to the progress made under the Core Indicators launched with the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy and Action Plan (MELSAP)**<sup>2</sup> that was adopted by the Executive Board in October 2020. In line with the overall objective of the SP, the Assessment measures the extent to which the projects supported the respective governments to take affirmative **action to implement the BRS, Minamata Convention and SAICM** and the extent of support to the development and implementation of **policies, legislation, and regulation at the national level that enables them to manage chemicals and waste in a soundly manner**. In addition, further aspects affecting performance and sustainability in maintaining and financing established institutional capacity are assessed.

<sup>2</sup> <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35798?show=full>

Table 1: Overall Information of the 11 Closed Projects

Country	Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA)	Project Title	Implementation Partner	PCA Timeframe (including addendum)	Budget (USD)
<b>Argentina</b>	UN to UN Agreement with UNDP Argentina Office	Strengthening National Capacity for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste. Operationalization of the SP to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Ministry of Environment Protection of Serbia with UNDP as implementing agency	01/10/2017 - 31/03/2021	245,565
<b>Belarus 1</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus	Operationalization of the SP to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Laboratory of Preventive and Ecological Toxicology of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene"	15/05/2018 - 30/06/2021	249,647
<b>Benin</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Living framework and Sustainable Development of Benin	Strengthening capacities for national implementation of chemicals and waste related international agreements in Republic of Benin	Ministry in charges of environment of Benin	01/06/2017 - 30/12/2021	248,384
<b>China</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China	Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China	04/05/2018 - 28/02/2022	400,000
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Operationalization of the SP to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	01/01/2018 - 30/06/2020	250,000
<b>Iraq</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Strengthening institutional structure for the management of chemicals and waste in Iraq	UNEP Regional Office of West Asia working with Ministry of Environment	28/05/2017 - 31/12/2021	250,000

<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Public Association Independent Ecological Expertise	Operationalization of the SP to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Public Association "Independent Ecological Expertise"	10/04/2017 - 30/06/2020	250,000
<b>Republic of Moldova 1</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova	Improving sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management throughout their lifecycle in the Republic of Moldova	Ex: Environnemental Pollution Prevention Office, Now: Experts Association Promediu	15/07/2018 - 30/06/2021	218,190
<b>Serbia 1</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia	Operationalization of the SP to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM	Ministry of Environmental Protection	15/06/2018 - 30/06/2021	250,000
<b>Tanzania</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Government of the United Republic of Tanzania	Strengthening institutional capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste in the United Republic of Tanzania	Vice President's Office - Division of Environment	01/06/2017 - 30/09/2021	235,000
<b>Uganda</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) of Uganda	Strengthening national institutional capacity in sound management of chemicals and waste in Uganda	National Environment Management Authority	01/06/2018 - 31/03/2022 <sup>3</sup>	250,005

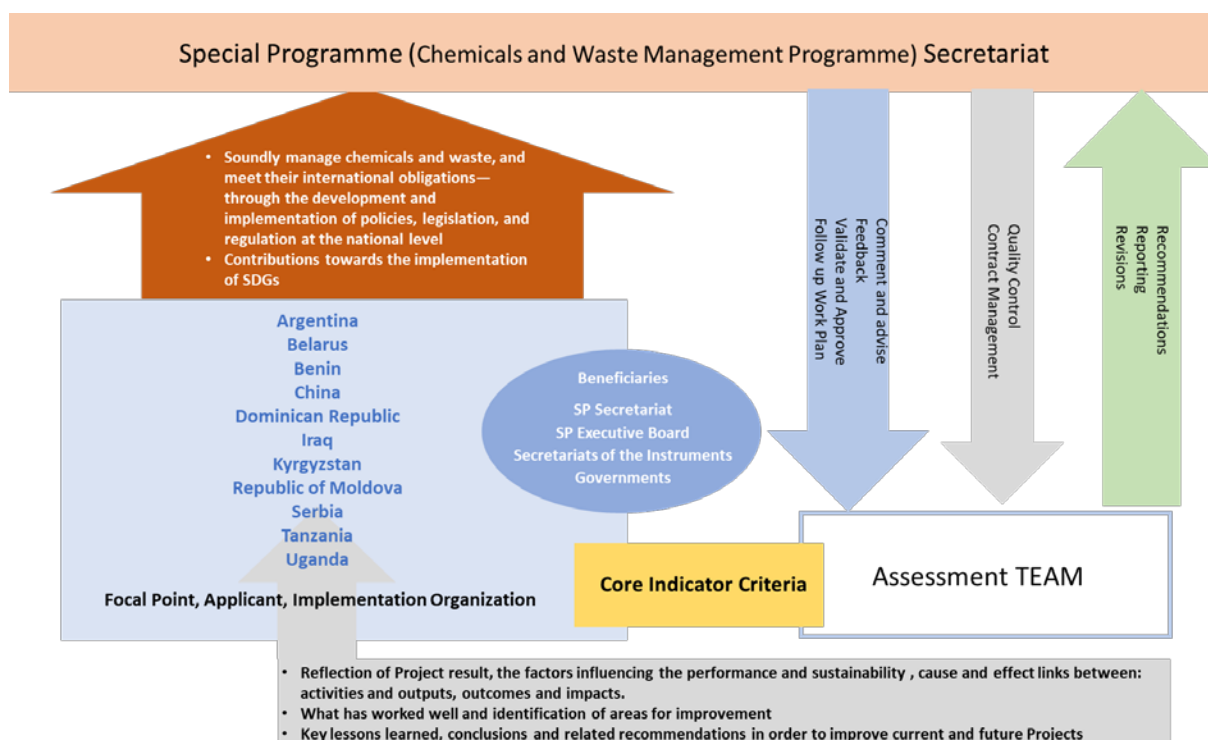
*Note: The country projects marked with "1" have currently a second project that is being implemented as part of a later round of funding. In these cases, only the first project is part of the Assessment of Closed Projects under the SP.*

The Assessment used the criteria of **effectiveness, factors affecting performance and sustainability**, and assessed whether aspects relating the promotion of **gender equality** and whether a **human rights-based approach**, including the rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities were integrated.

The overall Assessment landscape can be represented as below:

<sup>3</sup> 31/03/2022 is the final reporting time. PCA is valid till 30 June 2023.

Figure 3: Overall Assessment Organization



Under the facilitation of the SP Secretariat, the Assessment was conducted by 3 experts/assessors (namely Lead expert, Team Member 1, Team Member 2), who reviewed the documentation, conducted a survey, interviewed stakeholders, and collected the data for analysis. The geographical coverage of the 11 projects as well as the division of labour among the three experts is represented below.

- Lead expert: China, Iraq, Tanzania, Uganda
- Team member 1: Belarus 1, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova 1, Serbia 1
- Team Member 2: Argentina, Benin. Dominican Republic

## 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. INDICATORS AND CRITERIA

The Assessment used the Core Indicators contained in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit (MELT) and in particular the **Core indicators Scoring Sheets** (see in the ToRs<sup>4</sup> Annex III). In addition, to answer the ToR questions, a set of the non-core indicators/criteria, i.e. the extent of the gender and human rights inclusion, factors affecting the project performance, and sustainability, were also developed. The Assessment indicators are presented in the Assessment Design Matrix (see Annex 2 also with the assessment results).

### 2.2. SCORING SYSTEM

For the assessment criterion **effectiveness**, the Generic Scorecard Template for Core Indicators (see Annex 3) was used as Assessment Design Matrix. The Scorecard contains progress markers that give a score for each level of progress. For Core Indicator 1 and the criteria under it, the score ranges from 0 to 5 and for Core Indicator 2 and the criteria under it, the score ranges from 0 to 3 (also see Annex 3).

The assessment criteria covering the **factors affecting performance** and **sustainability**, were not measured with the Core Indicators, as they fall outside their scope. For this reason, the Assessment

<sup>4</sup> Available as Annex 1 of this report

developed its own scoring system. In some cases, a scale from 0 to 4 or from 0 to 5 was used and in other cases binary factors (yes and no).

## 2.3. ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

As requested in the ToR, the following questions were answered by the Assessment:

### 2.3.1. EFFECTIVENESS

Assessment questions	Specific Core Indicator Criterion addressed
Q1: To what extent did the projects support the respective governments to take affirmative action to implement the BRS and Minamata Convention and SAICM through one or more of the following parameters?	
Q1.a. establishing or increasing public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and waste by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. introducing national chemical and/or waste databases and having the appropriate staff making use of it,</li> <li>ii. developing chemical and/or waste management expertise within the Government, and/or</li> <li>iii. establishing or improving chemical and/or waste management unit or organization with appropriate staff and funding</li> </ul>	1.1 1.2 1.3
Q1.b. establishing a multi-stakeholder approach to chemical and waste at country level	1.4
Q1.c. mainstreaming sound management of chemicals and waste into national strategies and plans by developing, updating and or implementing policies, plans or strategies	2.1
Q1.d. establishing or improving and maintaining the national legislative & regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management including defining roles and responsibilities	2.2 2.3
Q1.e. submitting reports to the MEAs to which the countries are a party	2.4

### 2.3.2. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

Assessment questions	Specific point addressed
Q2: To what degree were <b>gender and human rights</b> (including the rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities) considered in the project design and implementation?	Gender and human rights
Q3.a: To what extent was the implementation of your SP project, the production of outputs and achievement of the project objective affected by <b>Socio-political Factors</b> ?	Factors affecting performance



Q3.b: To what extent was the implementation of your SP project, the production of outputs and achievement of the project objective affected by <b>Financial Factors</b> ?	Factors affecting performance
Q3.c: To what extent was the implementation of your SP project, the production of outputs and achievement of the project objective affected by <b>Institutional Factors</b> ?	Factors affecting performance
Q3.d: To what extent was the implementation of your SP project, the production of outputs and achievement of the project objective affected by <b>Global COVID-pandemic</b> ?	Factors affecting performance

### 2.3.3. SUSTAINABILITY

Assessment questions	Specific point addressed
Q4: To what extent did the project adopt <b>exit strategies</b> aimed at ensuring sustainability??	Sustainability
Q5: What is the likelihood of the project results being sustained considering the <b>associated domestic measures</b> , including financing, put in place by the respective Governments?	Sustainability

Based on the ToRs questions, a set tailored questions were developed to collect the answers directly from the stakeholders, be it through the survey or during the interviews (refer to the Assessment Questionnaire in Annex 4).

## 2.4. ASSESSMENT APPROACH

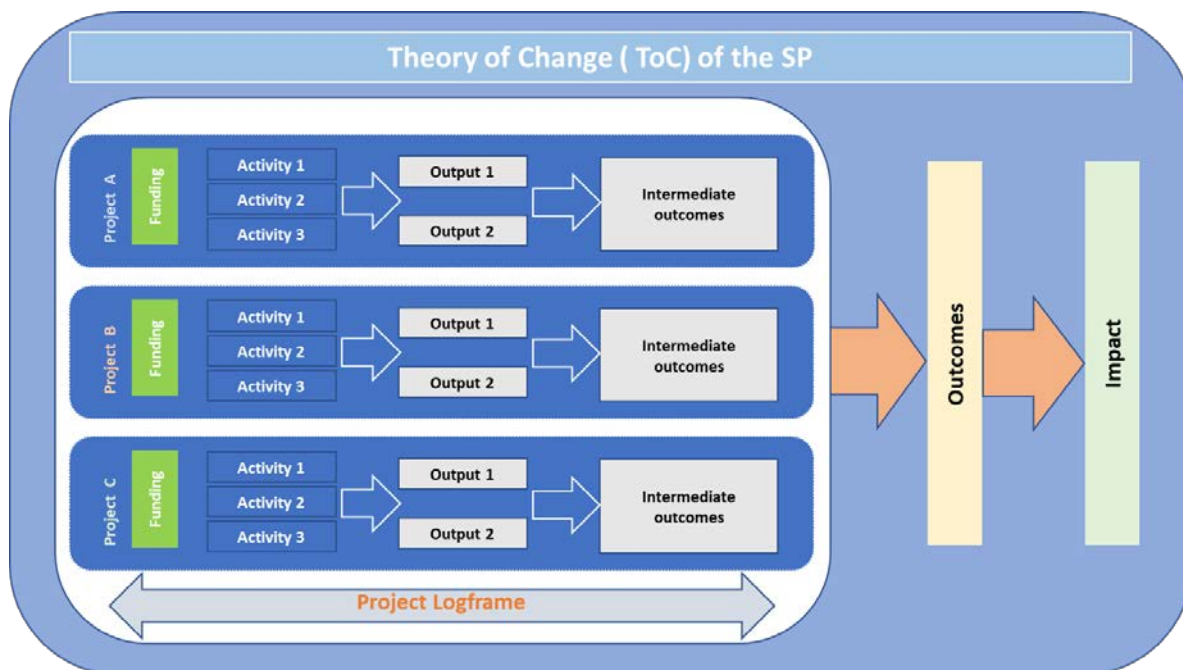
### 2.4.1. Identification of the Relevant Core Indicators and Definition of the Assessment Parameters

The process of identifying the relevant Core Indicator criteria for each of the 11 projects was an exercise of reverse engineering. At the time of the implementation of the 11 projects, the Core Indicators did not exist and as result were not used by the teams implementing projects. It was only in October 2020 that the MELSAP/MELT, which contain the Core Indicators, were launched. For this reason, the first task of the Assessment was to review the Project Application Forms, Reports, and other relevant documentation, and to identify which Core Indicator criteria were applied to each project.

As a first step, the assessors reconstructed a logical framework for each project, which enabled the selection of specific M&E data and to link it to the tools used for this Assessment. In the reconstructed logframes for each project, the assessors captured all activities, outputs, results, respective indicators, baselines and sources of verification and organized them in a hierarchical manner. The reconstructed logframe template for the individual projects can be found in Annex 5.

As a second step, the Assessment aggregated the 11 project logframes. This was the basis to obtain the overall data for the progress of the SP, which is captured in the Theory of Change of the SP (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Project Logframes in the Context of Overall ToC of the Special Programme



#### 2.4.2. Assessment Matrix

The reconstructed logframe of each of the projects was the basis upon which the methodology, questions, criteria and indicators were used. The data collection tools and sources were selected to provide information to the questions and criteria. The Assessment approach and the results are summarized in the Assessment Design Matrix and Results (Annex 2). This matrix formed the empirical basis for the formulation of the Assessment findings, from which the conclusions were drawn, with these in turn serving as evidence and logical basis for the formulation of the recommendations.

#### 2.4.3. Data Collection

To conduct the Assessment, the following data sources were used: desk review, survey, and interviews.

- The assessors collected and reviewed the preliminary data from the project documentation in the Assessment Desk Phase (refer to the Annex 6: Documents Reviewed).
- To supplement this data and obtain additional information, an online survey (using Survey Monkey) was conducted. In line with the Assessment Design Matrix and the Assessment questions, the Assessment questionnaire combined rating scale questions, Likert scale questions, open-ended questions, and binary (yes-no) questions. These were developed to capture quantitative and qualitative data.
- Finally, interviews were conducted to ensure accuracy, completeness, and quality of the data.

As agreed in the kick-off meeting, the stakeholders of the Assessment include the **project focal points, applicants, implementation organizations of the project, and current SP Secretariat staff** who lead the oversight of these projects. The survey targeted the project focal points and interviews were conducted with other selected stakeholders. The Secretariats of BRS, Minamata and SAICM were contacted to obtain feedback regarding the changes on **Availability of reporting, Availability of data, Quality of data and Quality of analysis** of reporting received from 11 Projects participating countries, and on the improvements of implementing SAICM plans. The detailed lists of the survey target and of the conducted interview are to be found in Annex 7 and 8.

The data of project implementers and project beneficiaries were collected in a disaggregated manner to the extent possible, taking into account gender (see Annex 9).

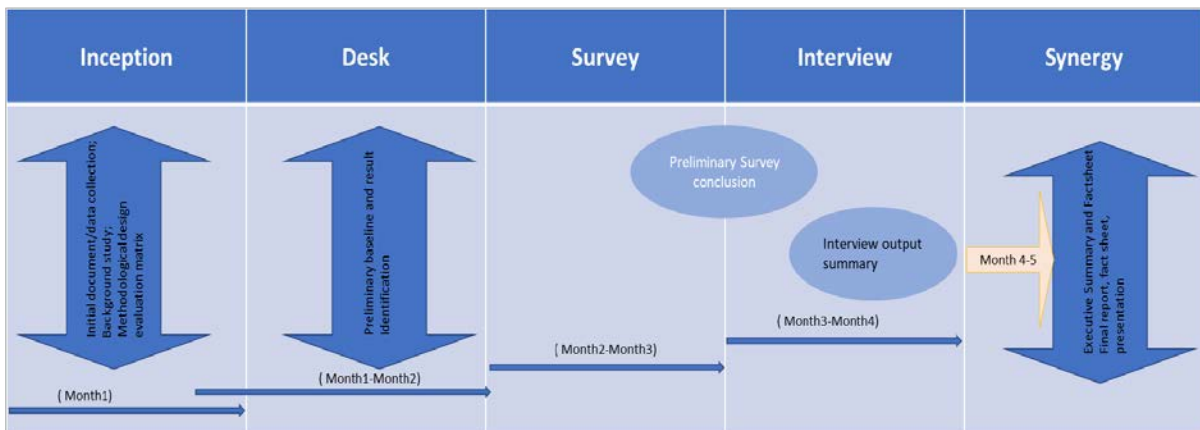
#### 2.4.4. Data Analysis

The assessors analysed the **quantitative data** to understand the information collected in the Desk Review, Survey, and Interview Phase. For the purpose of sound interpretation of **qualitative data**, the assessors used the documentation prepared by each project, the interviews with stakeholders, and the answers provided in the surveys. All the information was cross-checked, analysed and compared (triangulation of data or sources of information). The data was analysed in a disaggregated manner to the extent possible, taking into account the opinions of the different groups defined by gender, minorities and disability.

#### 2.4.5. Assessment schedule and organization

The Assessment was organized in **5 stages** (inception phase, desk review, survey, verification, and consolidation of the data through interviews, and final synergy phase for reporting). The detailed work schedule with milestones is presented in the Annex 10. The overall organization of the Assessment is presented here:

Figure 5: Overall Assessment Plan



## 2.5. INCEPTION PHASE/DOCUMENTATION REVIEW

The Lead Expert liaised with the SP Secretariat for the following:

- Kick off meeting between the SP Secretariat and Lead Expert to ensure the same understanding of the scope of the project by all counterparts;
- **Identification and analysis of the stakeholders** and elaboration of the reconstructed Theory of change of the intervention to shape the model and scope of the Assessment tools;
- **Definition of Assessment Questions** and objectively verifiable **indicators** used to answer them, to be summarised in the Assessment Design Matrix;
- Identification of further sources of information and documents to analyse the Projects/Programme individually and jointly;
- Review of the entire desk-based information and finalisation of a list of relevant stakeholders;
- Planning the assessment organization, definition of challenges and the mitigation measures;
- Inception report.

## 2.6. DESK PHASE

The phase focused on the document review and collection to obtain preliminary answers to the designed questionnaire. The review was based on a **reconstruction of the intervention logic for each of the projects** to be elaborated by the assessors. The reconstructed intervention logic for each of the projects identified assumptions of the cause-effects logic which were at the basis of the projects' strategy. Preliminary baselines and results were identified as hypotheses that were then tested during the Assessment.

## 2.7. SURVEY PHASE

The survey aimed at double checking the data provided from primary sources (project documentation) and collecting available quantitative and qualitative information from sources secondary (stakeholders of the Project).

A **structured questionnaire** was designed for the survey in the Inception Phase and sent as on-line survey. The survey was carried out to obtain a more accurate and measurable assessment of the general and specific aspects of each project. The survey was addressed to the focal points of each of the projects. The survey replies were captured in a summary table. At the end of this phase, the assessors verified the summary table, analysed the data, and identified the data needs to be acquired during the interviews.

## 2.8. INTERVIEW PHASE

Interviews were organized to further verify and complement the assessment data collected and to fill the gaps of the data missing from the earlier stage. They were organised as in-depth conversations with individuals (representatives of a stakeholder group) via telephone, WhatsApp or teleconference. The interviews were used to gather qualitative information of those persons responsible for / involved / affected by the activities. The technique used was **semi-structured interviews**<sup>5</sup>, as this technique enables open discussions and at the same time keeps the interviews structured and focused on the main issues at stake.

At the end of this phase, each assessor presented the following information for the sum of the projects that he or she was in charge to assess:

- **Preparatory documentation with:**
  - reconstructed logframe
  - survey summary
  - analysis
  
- **Output Summary with:**
  - factsheet
  - key findings for each SP project
  - draft conclusion
  - preliminary recommendations

The separate summaries and data were gathered by the Lead Expert. The outline of the data and information summary was formulated in each phase of the Assessment based on the Assessment Design Matrix.

## 2.9. SYNERGY PHASE

The Lead Expert further checked the data and the information collected and conducted an in-depth analysis of the information collected. After a systematic analysis, during which the information was cross-checked and synthesized, the draft Final Report was prepared which contained main findings, lessons learned and recommendations. This report was shared with the SP Secretariat to incorporate feedback and comments to consolidate to the Final Report.

## 2.10. QUALITY CONTROL

The assessment report followed the required structure and editorial format; responded to the terms of reference and answered all assessment questions. A quality control process was conducted throughout the assessment process. It was verified that the data was collected from sufficient and appropriate sources, that findings were validated through cross-checking information and that the findings, lessons learned and conclusions were coherent. The Team Leader peer reviewed all SP project profiles to ensure consistence. All comments from the SP Secretariat were addressed.

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<sup>5</sup> The guiding questions used in interviews are available in Annex 11.

### 3. MAIN FINDINGS

The findings represent the aggregated results achieved by the 11 projects that were under review and their contribution to the performance of the Special Programme in relation to its objective as set out in its Terms of Reference<sup>6</sup>. A separate section (see report Chapter 6: individual country project) presents the results for each of the 11 projects.

The main findings are structured in three parts. **Part one** captures the effectiveness of the Special Programme by using the Core Indicator Criteria approved by the Executive Board in the Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Toolkit. **Part two** analyses the different factors affecting the performance of the Special Programme projects; and **Part three** focuses on the sustainability of the results.

In each of the parts, the assessment directly responds to the questions the external experts were tasked to address in the terms of reference which were endorsed the Executive Board at its seventh meeting.

During the assessment, the responses from men and women were collected and analysed in a disaggregated manner. However, the views of men and women did not differ in the findings presented.

#### PART ONE: EFFECTIVENESS

**Q1: To what extent did the projects support the respective governments to take affirmative action to implement the BRS and Minamata Convention and SAICM through one or more of the following parameters?**

**Core Indicator 1: Extent of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to support development and implementation of National Strategies for Chemicals and Waste Management as a result of funding from the Special Programme**

#### Criterion 1.1 Level of development of national chemical/waste database

##### Overall results

8 of the 11 projects<sup>7</sup> focused on developing a national chemical or waste database or registry and all of them made progress. The chemical and waste databases cover the substances stipulated in the MEAs and SAICM. The databases and registration systems have become critical national tools to promote information sharing, classify hazardous properties, support evaluation and monitoring of risks, and control the management of chemicals and waste. They allow synergistic data collection and analysis, which in turn supports better reporting to the MEAs. To give an overview:

- 3 projects<sup>8</sup> developed a national chemical or waste database or registry covering all MEAs and SAICM. These databases or registries are fully functional and have their accompanying software and IT systems in place to collect and consolidate the data related to the different groups of chemicals and waste. In addition, the key users and stakeholders, such as the focal points for BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention, data providers, ICT staff and public users, have been trained with manuals, videos and materials developed through the projects.
- 4 projects<sup>9</sup> developed a national chemical or waste database or registry covering the four MEAs. These databases or registries are not yet fully operational. They are, however already being used internally or partially by key national chemicals and waste management bodies. The reasons for the databases not being fully operational are among others: IT services are not available, statutory instruments are not ready, or the users do not have sufficient skills yet. These databases are still in the process of completing their operationalization.
- 1 project (Belarus) developed a national register of industrial chemicals and pesticides mainly regulated by the Rotterdam Convention in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System.

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<sup>6</sup> The definition of the objective in the Terms of Reference is the following: "The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management".

<sup>7</sup> Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uganda

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Moldova, Dominican Republic, and Serbia

<sup>9</sup> China, Iraq, Tanzania, and Uganda

The project also set up a chemical manufacturers database to manage the chemicals production and waste generation.

**Baseline**

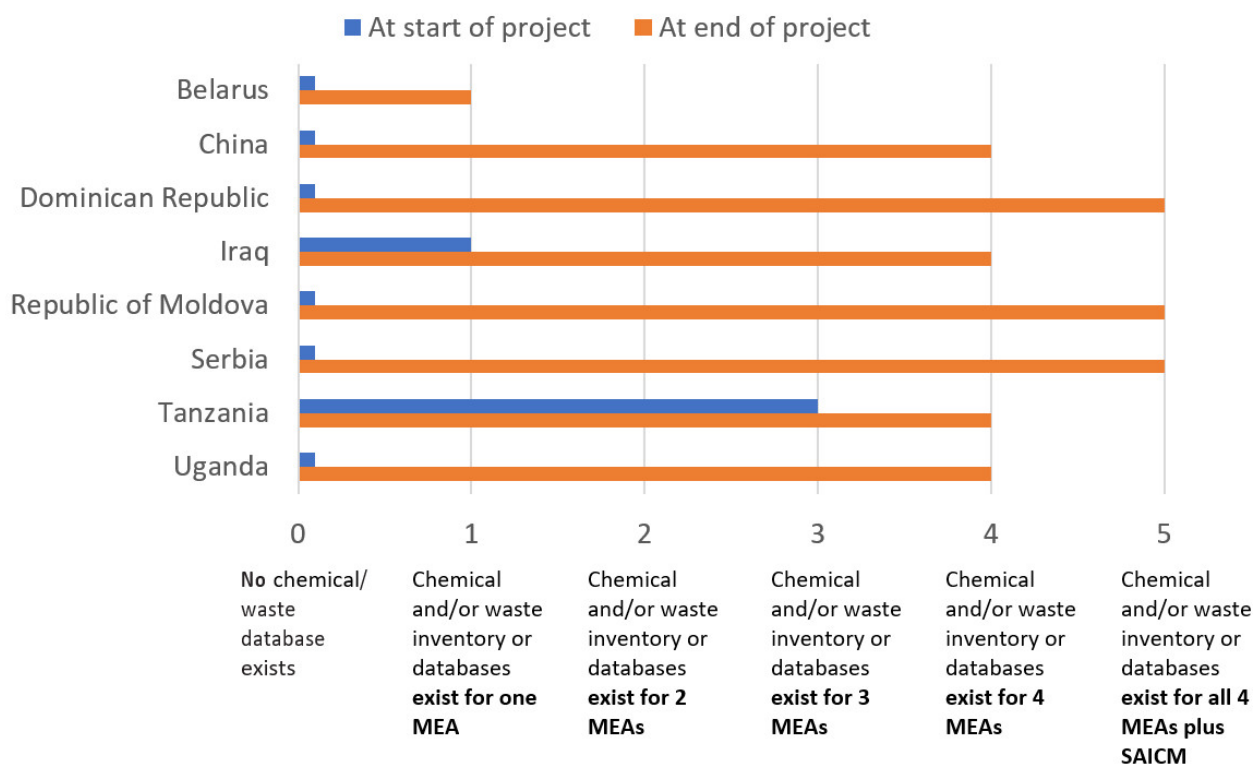
Before the start of the SP projects:

- 6 out of the 8 countries<sup>10</sup> did not have any existing chemicals and waste management tool that could be used as an integrated national database or registry system to cover the needs for the SMC (sound management of chemicals).
- Iraq relied on an existing chemical and waste database, which was a small-scale control mechanism for chemicals import with inadequately managed information.
- Tanzania had several information registries covering the chemicals and wastes related to the BSR-conventions. However, these information systems were scattered and did not meet the needs at the national level.

The progress made by each project is represented in the following graph:

*Figure 6: Progress of Development of National Chemical/Waste Database*

**Level of development of national chemical/waste database**



**Criterion 1.2 Level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise**

**Overall results**

All the 11 projects under review focused on developing the knowledge or expertise on chemical or waste management. The purpose of developing the knowledge and expertise was two-fold:

- to strengthen the capacities of national institutions to develop policies and regulations and to mainstream SMCW (sound management of chemicals and waste) into the country development planning process; and

<sup>10</sup> Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Uganda

- to increase the capacities of stakeholders - government agencies, technical institutions, manufacturers, business sectors, industries, agriculture practitioners, NGOs, waste collectors/treaters and communities - to develop and implement activities to better comply with MEAs obligations.

The projects achieved their results with customised activities aimed at addressing the country needs by:

- carrying out capacity needs assessments, regulatory gaps identification or case studies;
- drafting guidance documents or templates;
- developing training/public awareness raising materials; and
- holding capacity building activities such as workshops, seminars, trainings, peer learning sessions or study tours.

Among others, the countries increased their knowledge and expertise on how to:

- develop technical regulations and procedures addressing the chemical life cycle management under MEAs;
- carry out SAICM reporting and evaluations;
- develop and operate chemical and waste management databases;
- propose, review and update legislative and regulatory documents;
- respond to chemical substances alarms and emergencies; and
- develop further projects to mobilize new funds for the SMCW.

Overall, 10 out of the 11 projects successfully enhanced the knowledge and expertise for the national SMCW.

In specific terms:

- 8 projects<sup>11</sup> built the core national capacities for the SMCW in the vast majority of the national government competent authorities<sup>12</sup>. The knowledge on SMCW was then disseminated to the local governments and to the public to meet the daily management needs.
- 1 project (Serbia) developed the capacities of all the required personnel to integrate chemical management into the development planning process. This included decision-makers, experts, academia, CSO representatives, industry and business sector representatives.
- 1 project (Dominican Republic) trained personnel from 3 departments<sup>13</sup> to use an information system aimed at managing the import/export of chemicals classified by GHS, and to respond to emergencies caused by chemicals and waste.
- 1 project (Benin) had planned to develop the chemical and waste management capacities in the country, but no progress in this regard could be verified<sup>14</sup>.

## Baseline

Before the start of the SP projects, most of the countries had technical and management staff working on environment or pollution management. National laws and regulations and the international environmental regimes established under the instruments guided their work. However, there were considerable gaps<sup>15</sup> to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, such as:

- inadequate implementation of policies and enforcement of the regulatory framework;
- insufficient financial and human resources;
- scarcity of facilities for the environmentally sound management of chemicals;
- inadequate adoption of best practices and techniques; and

<sup>11</sup> Argentina, Belarus, China, Iraq; Kyrgyzstan; Republic of Moldova; Tanzania and Uganda

<sup>12</sup> i.e. all of relevant institutions and government units involved in the chemicals and waste management. In some countries there are more than 4 ministries that are mandated in the environment management and MEAs implementation (e.g. China has 6 ministries and commissions).

<sup>13</sup> Department of Hazardous Substances of Environmental Quality Directorate, Fire Department of the National Defence Directorate, and Directorate General of Customs.

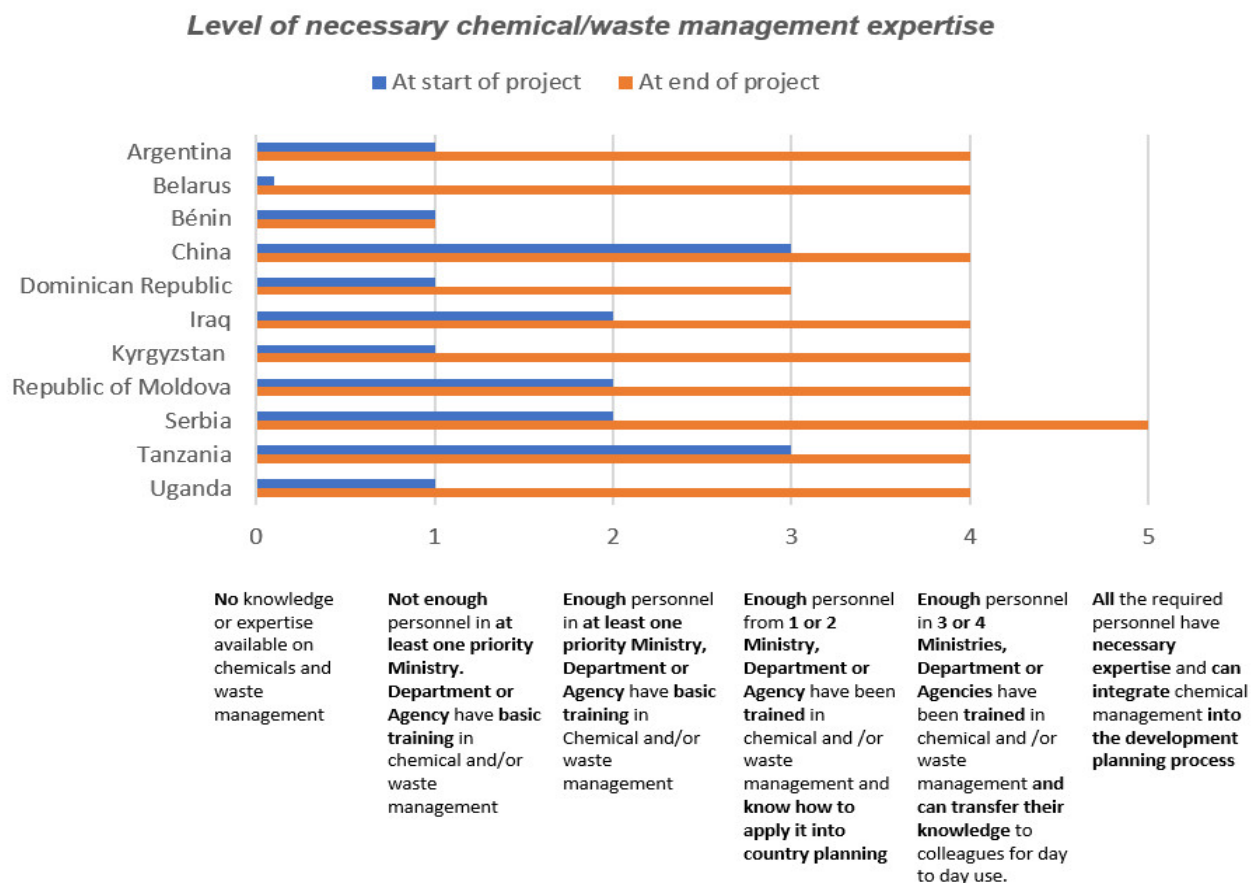
<sup>14</sup> The logframe of the project included the training of officials. However, it cannot be confirmed that these training sessions were conducted. The country did not provide any documentary evidence, despite the SP Secretariat following up and requesting the evidence several times.

<sup>15</sup> These gaps were identified by the capacity needs assessments that were conducted as part of the projects.

- low public awareness.

The following graph represents the progress made, by country:

Figure 7: Progress of Necessary Chemical/Waste Management Expertise



### Criterion 1.3 Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department

#### Overall results

4 of the 11 projects<sup>16</sup> focused on establishing a unit, agency or directorate for the sound management of chemicals and waste. In specific terms:

- 1 project (Argentina) supported the creation of a Directorate of Chemicals and Waste
- 1 project (Iraq) created in its existing structure dedicated units for each MEA.
- 1 project (Republic of Moldova) drafted a regulation to create a Chemicals Agency. The regulation was, however, not adopted at the time of the assessment.
- 1 project (Belarus) developed a road map and legislation identifying the Ministry of Health as the responsible entity for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and the Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene for implementing the Prior Informed Consent procedure. However, the legislation had not been adopted at the time of the assessment.

#### Baseline

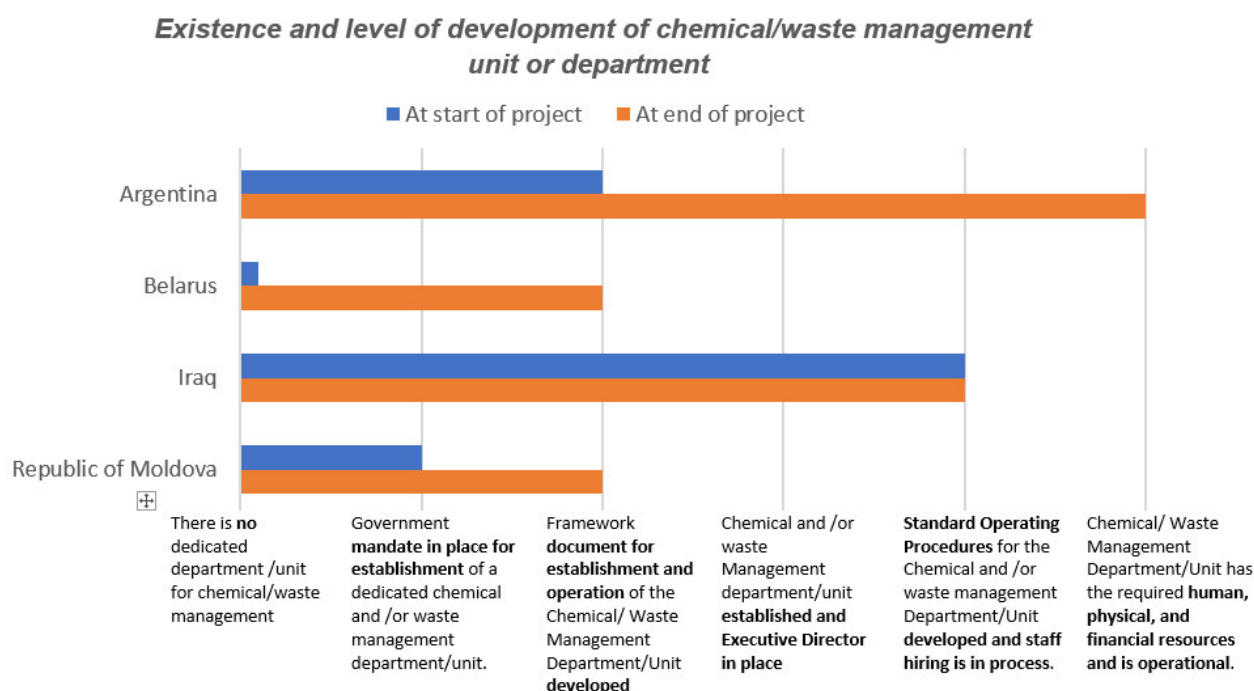
In the 4 countries, before the SP projects started the responsibilities for chemicals management were dispersed among different government entities and there were gaps in the provision of the necessary measures. The collaboration among the different entities was insufficient in most of the cases due to very rigid procedures.

<sup>16</sup> Argentina, Belarus, Iraq, and Republic of Moldova



The following graph shows the progress made by each country:

Figure 8: Progress of Development of Chemical/Waste Management Unit or Department



#### Criterion 1.4 Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management

##### Overall results

10 of 11 projects<sup>17</sup> focused on establishing or further developing a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The following parameters were relevant to capture the progress of each coordination mechanism:

- its functionality and level maturity;
- inclusion of participants from government and non-government entities, such as NGOs, academia and private sector;
- coverage of one MEA or several MEAs; and
- existence of joint knowledge exchange tool.

Overall, the level of progress can be clustered as follows:

- 5 projects<sup>18</sup> contributed to developing coordination mechanisms covering the overall SMCW. These mechanisms have regular meetings and adequate participation from government and non-government stakeholders, and joint knowledge exchange platforms. Their work enables the participants to jointly design and implement activities for the SMCW and to jointly plan how to manage chemical substances and products. Further, they facilitate the joint review of policies and draft policy recommendations, to contribute to preparing national strategies on the SMCW, and to integrate the implementation of the MEAs into the national development agenda of the countries.
- 2 projects supported the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms with a limited scope within chemicals management. The mechanism developed in the Dominican Republic focuses on coordinating chemical emergency responses and in China on POPs and

<sup>17</sup> Only the project in Benin did not include the establishment of multi-stakeholder approach for SMCW in the project output.

<sup>18</sup> Argentina, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, and Serbia

mercury<sup>19</sup>. Both mechanisms have regular thematic coordination meetings and adequate participation from government and non-government bodies.

- 3 projects (Belarus, Tanzania and Uganda) helped to create regulatory and non-regulatory coordination mechanisms for the SMCW, which include government, private and non-state actors. These multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms have started their activity and their full operation is expected in the near future.

### Baseline

Before the projects started:

- 3 countries (China, Iraq and Moldova) had already a multi-stakeholder or inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for the SMCW with clear roles and responsibilities. However, they were not able to efficiently meet the obligations under the MEAs.
- 4 countries (Argentina, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Tanzania) had a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism. However, the representation of the responsible government agencies was limited, and the roles and responsibilities were not fully assigned.
- 3 countries (Belarus, Serbia, and Uganda) did not have a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for the SMCW.

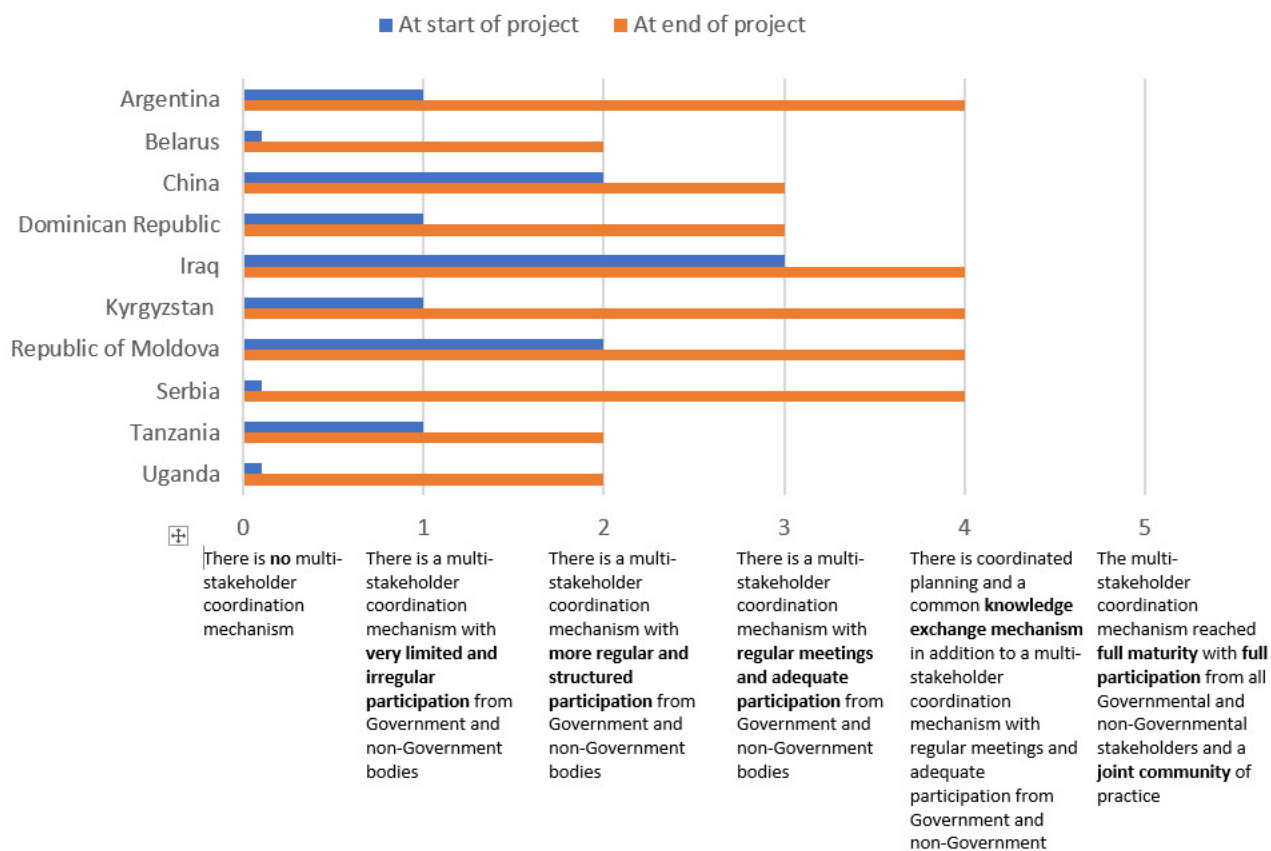
The level progress of the multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms is represented by country in the following figure:

*Figure 9: Progress of Development of Multi-stakeholder Coordination Mechanism for Chemical/Waste Management*

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<sup>19</sup> This coordination mechanism was created to implement the Stockholm Convention and Minamata Convention. The common knowledge exchange mechanism for chemical management and coordination mechanism for Basel Convention is still to be ratified and approved by the government of China.

### Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management



### Indicator 2 Degree of integration of chemical and waste management into national and sector planning - formally proposed, adopted, or being implemented including required reporting to the relevant Conventions and voluntary reporting to SAICM

#### Criterion 2.1 Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy

##### Overall results

8 of the 11 projects<sup>20</sup> contributed to update or develop a national strategy, policy or action plan related to the SMCW. The development of the strategies, policies and action plans benefited from a) the studies, assessments and policy recommendations conducted by the projects, and b) from the work done by the multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms (see criterion 1.4). At the end of the projects, different stages were reached: either proposal, review, approval or implementation<sup>21</sup> of the national strategy, policy or action plan. The strategies, policies and action plans which started being implemented directly enhance how chemicals and waste are being managed in the respective countries.

To give an overview:

<sup>20</sup> Benin, China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uganda

<sup>21</sup> For this criterion, the specific status of the strategies/policies/action is available in the country pages.

- 6 projects<sup>22</sup> contributed to strategies, policies or action plans, which were approved and are being implemented<sup>23</sup>.
- 1 project (Serbia) contributed to the elaboration of a policy and another guidance document for the implementation of BRS conventions<sup>24</sup>. Both documents were at the proposal stage at the end of the project.
- 1 project (Benin) aimed to implement a National Program for Environmental Management of the Ministry of Environment. At the end of the project only the Terms of Reference for the National Program and related documents had been drafted, including the Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues.

### Baseline

Prior to the projects, most of the countries<sup>25</sup> had a national overarching strategy or policy for the SMCW. However, they were not able to fully meet the requirements for the SMCW. The main reasons for this were:

- The technical contents or requirements were outdated and no longer met the requirements of the MEAs that have been updated with new chemical substances and actions.
- The strategies and policies were not being implemented efficiently due to low coordination between agencies, weak ownership and monitoring.
- The existing strategies were no longer able to fully ensure citizen health, environment quality and security of the chemicals production and consumption.

An overview of the progress by country is provided in the following chart:

*Figure 10: Progress of Development and Implementation of Chemical/Waste Management Policy, Plan or Strategy*

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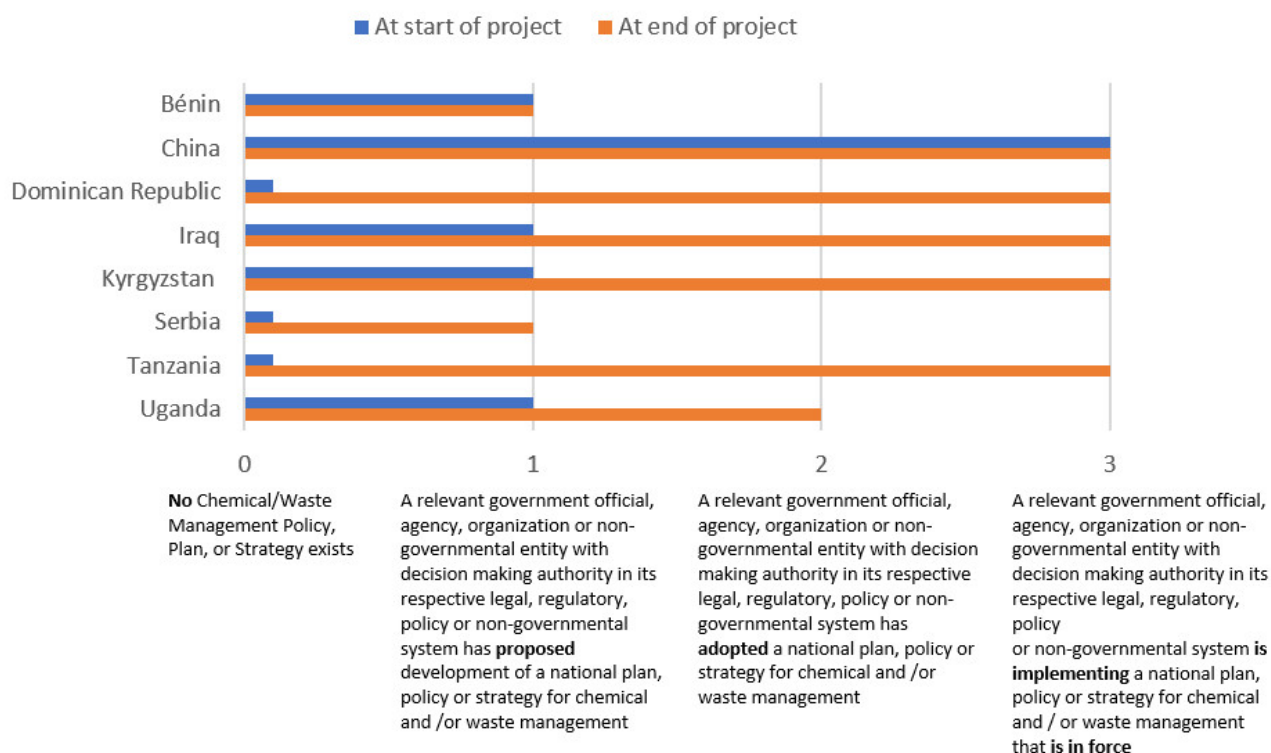
<sup>22</sup> China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and Tanzania

<sup>23</sup> Full list strategies, policies and action plans: 3 strategies: National chemical Security Strategy of Iraq; and National Strategy of Sound management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste for Tanzania; and Strategies of Chemicals and Waste incorporated in National Chemicals Profile (2020) for Uganda. 3 action plans: Action Plan of International System of Hazard Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (2019-2023), and SMC Action Plan for Kyrgyzstan; National Emergency Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Substances for Dominican Republic. 2 law/policy updates: Law of Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste of China (from 1995 to 2020 version), and National Environmental Policy (from 1997 to 2021 version) for Tanzania.

<sup>24</sup> Full name of both documents: Action Plan for the synergistic implementation of the BRS-M Conventions and policy paper to address priority mercury-related issues.

<sup>25</sup> It is noted that Serbia, Dominican Republic and Tanzania did not have an overall management strategic guideline for the MCW at the country level before the project started.

### Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy



### Criterion 2.2 Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation

#### Overall results

5 of the 11 projects<sup>26</sup> contributed to developing a legal framework to ensure the countries are legally and institutionally ready to accede to or ratify specific MEAs. In practical terms, the projects supported countries to draft or approve primary legislation at the national level through specific decrees, decisions, resolutions or laws. With the support of the projects, the countries achieved the following result:

- Iraq ratified the Minamata convention in September 2021.
- Belarus drafted the law for the “Accession to Rotterdam convention on PIC<sup>27</sup> for certain hazardous chemical substances and pesticides in international trade” which is ready for adoption.
- Argentina approved the Decree 504/2019 designating the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as the national authority for implementing the MEAs.
- Benin drafted the “Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues” which creates a regulatory framework and integrates the ratified MEAs into national legislation.
- Kyrgyzstan approved in 2019 two resolutions to adjust their legal framework<sup>28</sup>.

#### Baseline

Before the projects started in 2017 and 2018 respectively, the situation varied from country to country. In terms of primary legislation, some countries had already established a national legal framework meeting the requirements of the MEAs they had ratified, whereas others still needed to improve their legal provisions to meet the requirements of the ratified MEAs. In some other cases, countries were

<sup>26</sup> Argentina, Belarus, Benin, Iraq, and Kyrgyzstan

<sup>27</sup> Prior Informed Consent

<sup>28</sup> The two resolutions are a) the resolution of “Amendments to measures aimed at protecting the environment and public health from the adverse effects of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides” and b) the resolution on “Amendments to Certain Decisions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Field of Ensuring Chemical Safety”

preparing their legal and institutional frameworks to be able to ratify a specific MEA<sup>29</sup>. An overview of the accession and ratification status of the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention for the 5 countries is provided in the following table.

Table 2: Accession and Ratification Status of the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention

Country	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention	Minamata Convention
	R = Ratification and A = Accession			
Argentina	R: 27/06/1991	R: 11/06/2004	R: 25/01/2005	R: 25/09/2017
Belarus	A: 10/12/1999		A: 03/02/2004	
Benin	A: 04/12/1997	R: 05/01/2004	R: 05/01/2004	R: 07/11/2016
Iraq	A: 02/05/2011	A: 18/04/2017	A: 08/03/2016	<b>R: 16/09/2021</b>
Kyrgyzstan	A: 13/08/1996	R: 25/05/2000	R: 12/12/2006	

Source:

<http://www.brsmeas.org/Decisionmaking/PartiestotheConventions/Statusofratification/tabid/5936/language/en-US/Default.aspx> and <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties>

### Criterion 2.3 Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation

#### Overall results

9 of the 11 projects<sup>30</sup> strengthened the regulatory frameworks<sup>30</sup> to better implement the relevant MEAs in the respective countries. In concrete terms, the projects supported the governments to update or draft new regulations. They reached the following results:

- 5 projects<sup>31</sup> developed and updated regulations which are already being implemented. The regulations cover topics such as a) regular collection, analysis and reporting of information on the chemicals and wastes regulated by BRS; b) catalogues of pesticides and agrochemicals for use; c) transportation management of hazardous chemical substances and waste; and d) the implementation of the “Basel Convention plastic waste amendment” from COP14.
- 4 projects<sup>32</sup> contributed to developing legal orders or regulations, but not the entirety of the regulations in each country has been approved yet<sup>33</sup>.

#### Baseline

Before the projects started, 4 countries<sup>34</sup> had no regulatory framework to implement the MEAs, 2 countries<sup>35</sup> had a regulatory framework at the proposal stage, and 3 countries<sup>36</sup> already had regulations which were further improved thanks to the projects (see as well information under criteria 1.4 and 2.1).

Figure 11: Progress of Development of Regulatory Framework/Secondary Legislation

<sup>29</sup> For example, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Iraq had started their preparations to ratify the Minamata Convention; and Belarus for the Rotterdam convention.

<sup>30</sup> Argentina, Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Tanzania

<sup>31</sup> Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Tanzania

<sup>32</sup> Belarus, Iraq, Republic of Moldova, and Serbia

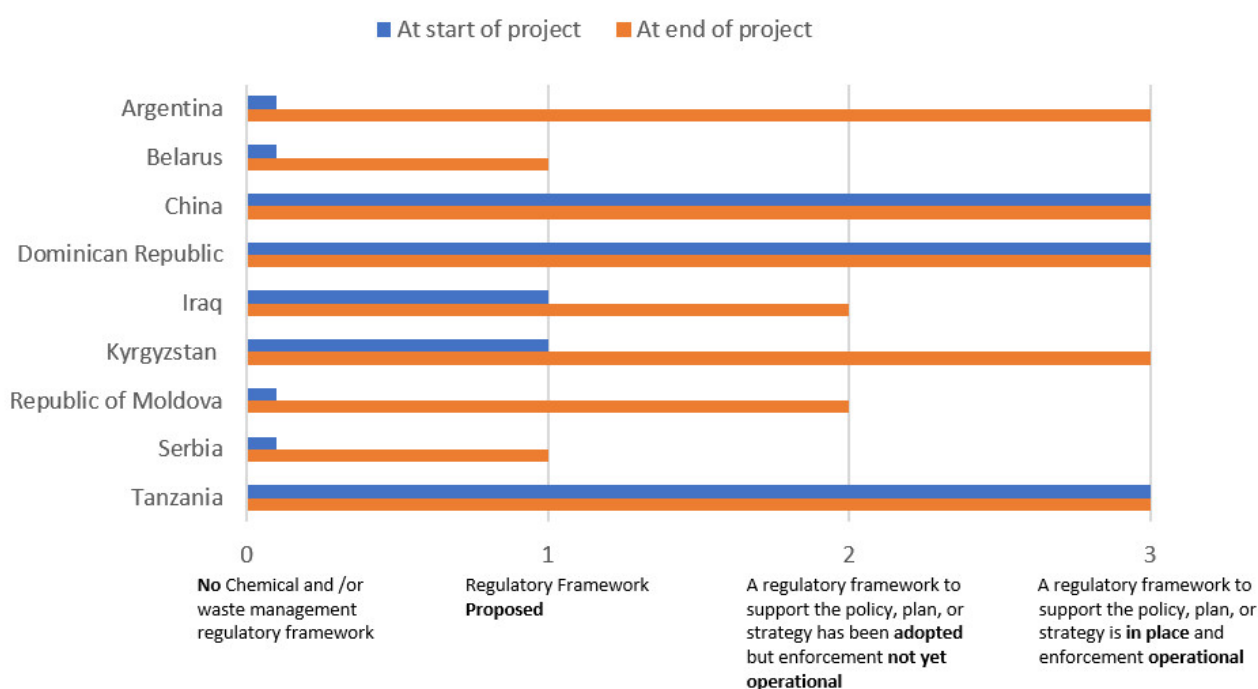
<sup>33</sup> In the 4 countries: **5 orders/regulations were approved**: Iraq: a) “Diwani Order Number 42” to form a committee tasked to unify the laws related to chemicals management and to develop a strategy to implement the national chemical policies; and b) “Diwani Order approving the Proposal for achieving chemical security and control over chemical contaminants and other chemical supplies”; Moldova: a) “PIC Regulation on the Export and Import of Hazardous Chemicals” and b) “Regulation on Waste Shipment” and Belarus successfully introduced a ban on pesticides on relevant chemicals subjected to PIC. **6 regulations are still in the proposal or approval stage**: Belarus: a) “Draft Regulation on the exchange of information on chemicals regulated by the Rotterdam Convention” and b) “Draft Regulation on the exchange of information on chemicals within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union; and Iraq: a) “Prohibition and phase out of Asbestos” and b) “Instruction to arrange chemical stores and the environmental licences”; Moldova: “Creation of the national agency for the regulation of nuclear, radiological and chemical activities”; and Serbia: “Draft Regulation on Construction Waste Management”.

<sup>34</sup> Argentina, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, and Serbia

<sup>35</sup> Iraq, and Kyrgyzstan

<sup>36</sup> China, Dominican Republic, and Tanzania

### Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation



#### Criterion 2.4 Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party

##### Overall results

5 projects<sup>37</sup> focused on supporting the countries to meet their reporting obligations to the MEAs and 4 out of 5 obtained positive results.

The assessment found that the preparation of the reports became easier thanks to the results achieved under the previous criteria. More and better data was available thanks to the chemical or waste database or registry systems; MEA focal points in the respective countries and responsible staff for the SMCW had strengthened capacities; and the institutional frameworks to implement the MEAs in the countries were clearer and stronger. In addition, the participation in activities in relation to technical groups and expert panels, and the evaluation of documents and the compliance review facilitated the preparation of the reports.

At the time of the assessment, not all the reports submitted to the MEA Secretariats had been reviewed yet. The Basel Convention reports for 2020 were still under review (they are submitted annually). The Stockholm Convention reports were only available for 2018, as the reports for 2022 are still pending (the Stockholm Convention has a four-year cycle). For this reason, the overall trend in the quality of reporting of all the five countries could not be verified.

Taking this into consideration and based on the feedback obtained from the BRS Secretariat, the following reporting improvements were noticed:

- Argentina: The quality of the Stockholm Convention reports improved during the project. Overall, the quality of these reports was good and the feedback of Stockholm Convention Secretariat was properly integrated. The Basel Convention reports for 2019 and 2020 were transmitted in time, whereas the 2018 report was not submitted and the report prior to the project (2017) had been submitted late.
- Kyrgyzstan: The quality of the Stockholm Convention reports was fine and most of the feedback from Stockholm Convention secretariat was integrated.
- Republic of Moldova: A significant number of national legislation texts were submitted with the 2019 report to the Basel Convention Secretariat; the quality of the Stockholm Convention

<sup>37</sup> Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Tanzania

reports was fine and most of the feedback from Stockholm Convention secretariat was integrated.

- Serbia: A significant number of national legislation texts were submitted with the 2020 report to the Basel Convention Secretariat. In addition to the submission of national reports, the country also submitted several Forms for Notification of FRAs (Final Regulatory Action) under the Rotterdam Convention and 10 notifications were published in the FRA database in 2020.

The assessment also noticed that Tanzania did not submit its Basel Convention reports for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The Stockholm Convention reports for 2018 and 2022 cycle were also not submitted.

Overall, the quality and availability of the reports was also directly influenced by the factors affecting performance (see next part on factors affecting performance).

None of the projects assessed included activities specifically addressing reporting under the Minamata Convention. Benin, however, had submitted its full national report under the convention, but did so after the deadline.



## PART TWO: FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

### Q2: To what degree were gender and human rights (including the rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities) considered in the project design and implementation?

#### Gender balance and content specifically addressed to women

The 11 projects under review did not integrate gender at the design stage. However, during the implementation phase, many efforts were made to integrate gender in the project activities. Projects included gender during their implementation for example in the following manner:

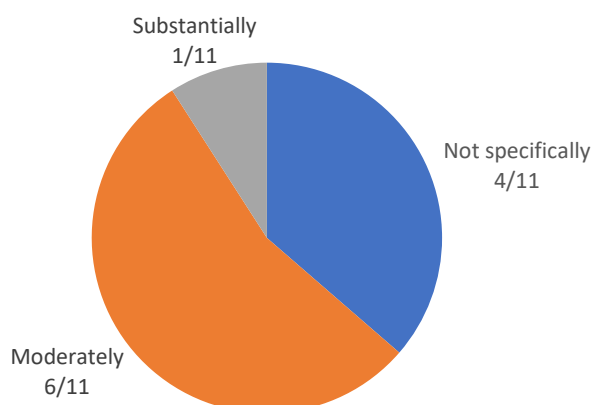
- Women were part of the project management team;
- Adequate women's participation was ensured in capacity building activities;
- Awareness raising materials were designed with specific content on the impacts of chemicals on women, and were distributed to specific gender targets, such as women groups and local communities;
- Women's needs and gender equality were included when developing policies, and government agencies responsible for women's/children's affairs were integrated in the policy making process;
- Women were included in newly established institutions for the SMCW; and
- Gender considerations were mainstreamed in the development of action plan on SMC.

To give an overview, of the 11 projects:

- 1 project (Argentina) substantially integrated gender content when implementing the project activities.
- 6 projects<sup>38</sup> moderately integrated gender content when implementing project activities.
- 4 projects<sup>39</sup> had equal participation of men and women in their project activities, but did not include specific gender content when implementing the project activities.

Figure 12: Number of Projects including Gender Content

#### Number of projects including gender content



Regarding the level of participation of women in activities organized by the projects - such as workshops, trainings or other capacity building activities - the following results were obtained:

- 3 of 11 projects<sup>40</sup> had up to 30% women participation.
- 3 of 11 projects<sup>41</sup> had up to 45% women participation.

<sup>38</sup> Belarus, Benin, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, and Republic of Moldova

<sup>39</sup> China, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uganda

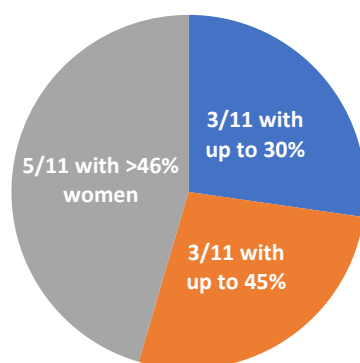
<sup>40</sup> Benin, Dominican Republic, and Tanzania

<sup>41</sup> Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, and Uganda

- 5 of 11 projects<sup>42</sup> had over 46% women participation.

Figure 13: Level of Participation of Women in Project Activities

Number of projects with the corresponding level of participation of women in project activities



### Vulnerable population groups

Only one project included a measure specifically addressing the needs of vulnerable populations – be it indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities. Serbia conducted a targeted awareness raising campaign for the Roma population involved in the collection of secondary raw materials, and conducted a training of trainers for young Roma.

**Q3: To what extent was the implementation of the project, the production of outputs and achievement of the project objective affected by socio-political factors, financial factors, institutional factors and the COVID pandemic?**

### Socio-political and institutional factors

The implementation of the 11 projects was facilitated or hindered by the socio-political environment in the respective countries. Full details are provided in the individual project profiles. To give an overview:

- In 4 countries<sup>43</sup> the implementation was **facilitated** by an enabling socio-political environment. The stable social and political structures combined with high-ranking politicians being aware of the importance of the SMCW made it possible to have the political support to implement all the planned activities, including updating and passing laws, policies and action plans.
- In 2 countries (Belarus and Kyrgyzstan) the implementation was **slightly hindered** by the socio-political situation. However, the implementation could widely be kept as planned.
- In 3 countries (Dominican Republic, Republic of Moldova, Iraq) the implementation was **moderately hindered** by frequent government changes, parliamentary elections or constitutional crises<sup>44</sup>. These circumstances delayed the approval of regulations proposed as part of the projects, which in turn lead to having to suspend subsequent actions.
- In 2 counties (Argentina and Benin) the implementation was **substantially hindered** by the socio-political situation<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> Argentina, Belarus, China, Iraq, and Serbia

<sup>43</sup> China, Serbia, Tanzania and Uganda

<sup>44</sup> **Dominican Republic:** had a change of government and several changes of Special Programme project coordinator. **Moldova:** had parliamentary elections in February 2019 and July 2021 and constitutional crisis in June 2019, **Iraq:** had its Ministry of Environment - which was the implementation partner of the project - merged with the Ministry of Health in 2015. In 2020, both Ministries were separated again.

<sup>45</sup> In **Argentina** two significant events had an impact on implementation of the project: 1) An initial reorganization of the entire national cabinet and 2) national and provincial elections in 2019 resulting in a new national cabinet. This had an impact on the institutional structures and the way project staff could organize their work. In **Benin** it became clear from the interviews that there was strong opposition from industrialists and importers - two groups with great political influence to pass the Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues.

Under institutional factors, the assessment observed that in 4 countries<sup>46</sup> the internal restructuring of ministries or units that went along with assigning clearer roles for the implementation of the MEAs became an enabling factor to implement the projects.

### Financial factors

5 of the 11 countries<sup>47</sup> had no financial challenges to implement their SP projects, as the in-kind contributions for the implementation of the activities were disbursed in a timely manner and in parallel to the funds disbursed by the Special Programme.

In contrast, 6 of the 11 countries were impacted by the delayed availability of the in-kind contributions, which in turn affected the implementation of the activities. According to the survey:

- 2 projects were substantially impacted (Benin and Iraq).
- 2 projects were moderately impacted (Republic of Moldova and Uganda).
- 2 projects were impacted to a minor extent (Belarus and Tanzania).

The reasons for the delays were a) modification of mandates within the government; b) administrative constraints; and c) the actual budget availability. The challenges were overcome over time through ad hoc solutions.

### COVID pandemic

The irruption of the COVID pandemic in early 2020 happened during the implementation time of all 11 projects. The global health crisis impacted the project activities of 9 of the 11 projects at different levels: in-person meetings, capacity building activities and public awareness campaigns had to be halted or cancelled and the adoption of strategies, laws or proposals for the SMCW had to be postponed, which in turn prevented their implementation. Given the existing constraints, several of the projects requested an extension of their Project Cooperation Agreements. The following table presents the initial duration of the Project Cooperation Agreements, the duration of their extensions as well as the level of impact of COVID-19 to the projects in each country.

Table 3: Project Duration and Level of Impact by COVID-19

Project	Duration as in original PCA (months)	Extension as in PCA amendment (months)	Level of COVID-19 impact
Argentina	27	15*	substantially
Belarus	30	7.5	substantially
Benin	37	18	substantially
China	40	6	substantially
Dominican Republic	27	3	moderately
Iraq	31	24*	substantially
Kyrgyzstan	39	0	no
Republic of Moldova	27	7.5	moderately
Serbia	27	7.5	slightly
Tanzania	30	21*	no
Uganda	38	4**	substantially

\*The initial extensions were not initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the time of these extensions, however, the project activities of Argentina and Iraq were impacted by the pandemic.

\*\* The extension makes reference to time when the project submitted its final report. The PCA, however is still valid until 06/2023.

Despite the limitations caused by the pandemic, the project teams made every effort to continue with the implementation of the projects. Some project activities were revised or rescheduled and other activities, such as trainings or meetings, were conducted online. As a result, travel costs could be

<sup>46</sup> Argentina, Iraq, Belarus, and Republic of Moldova

<sup>47</sup> Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia

reduced and the savings used for other activities, such as establishing a distance learning platform on the SMCW.

### PART THREE: SUSTAINABILITY

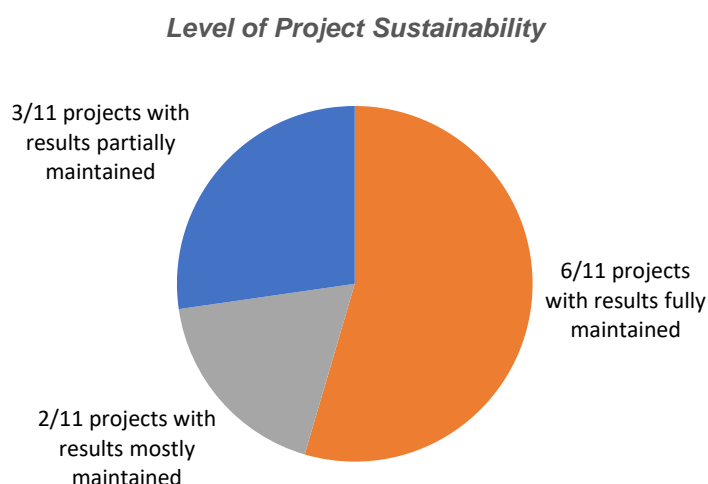
#### Q4: To what extent did the project adopt exit strategies aimed at ensuring sustainability?

The projects under review did not have explicit exit strategies. However, all 11 projects under review took specific measures aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the results. These measures included, among others:

- incorporating a specific budget line in government plans for the SMCW<sup>48</sup>;
- incorporating the SMCW as a key element to support national environment protection, biodiversity, and climate change issues<sup>49</sup>;
- training relevant stakeholders and assigning them the respective MEAs obligations<sup>50</sup>; and
- involving the private sector for the SMCW<sup>51</sup>.

#### Q5: What is the likelihood of the project results being sustained considering the associated domestic measures, including financing, put in place by the respective Governments?

Figure 14: Level of Project Sustainability



The graph just above presents the number of country projects indicating the likelihood of sustaining the results achieved. At the time of the assessment, the assessors were able to verify the following:

- 6 countries<sup>52</sup> were able to fully maintain the results achieved by their projects. In these countries, the project results were used by the governments to take additional steps to further strengthen the SMCW. For instance:
  - Governments are taking further steps to reach the full maturity of the databases or registries they have developed. The databases are now key tools to collect and analyse the data required to report to the respective MEAs;
  - Governments continue to use the strategies, action plans, and policies developed during the projects. They use these texts as the basis to develop new regulations and guidance documents for the SMCW;
  - The multi-sector/inter-agency coordination mechanisms for the SMCW continue to be fully functional and have proven their effectiveness;

<sup>48</sup> Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, and Uganda

<sup>49</sup> China, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uganda

<sup>50</sup> Argentina, Belarus, China, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Tanzania

<sup>51</sup> Tanzania

<sup>52</sup> Belarus, China, Dominican Republic, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uganda

- Trained government staff - especially the focal points of the conventions - continue their work and are taking new steps to further strengthen the SMCW;
  - Staff who developed their capacities as trainers during the projects continue to deliver trainings in their respective countries; and
  - The training and communication materials developed as part of the projects are available online and continue to be a key knowledge source used by the relevant stakeholders and the general public.
- 2 countries (Argentina and Iraq) were able to maintain most of the project results:
    - in Argentina the continuation of the work of the Directorate on Chemicals and Waste in its current composition depends on the upcoming government; and
    - in Iraq the policy proposals and the concept notes aimed to develop new projects are still to be developed.
  - 3 countries (Benin, Kyrgyzstan, and Republic of Moldova) could only partially maintain their project results. The domestic reasons for it were:
    - key government staff had inadequate capacities (training activities were not executed during the project and as a result their initial capacities could not be raised);
    - political dynamics and constant government changes; and
    - domestic measures were allocated with insufficient funds.

As a further measure of sustainability and to complement public domestic financing for the SMCW, governments are taking different steps, such as:

- Continuing to apply for public international funding, such as by submitting new applications to the Special Programme. This is the case for Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Serbia which have obtained funding for a second project under the Special Programme and China that submitted an application under the sixth round of funding.
- Starting to involve the private sector<sup>53</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> *The project in Tanzania attracted investment from private sector for the management of hazardous waste.*

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

### RELATED TO THE PROJECTS

#### MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

1. Having **high-level coordination** by a top-ranking government institution - such as vice president's office, minister's office or national committee - contributes to the efficient project implementation. Possible examples are:
  - A Project Steering Committee composed of senior officials from relevant government ministries oversees the project progress and endorses the annual work plans.
  - A government institution with ministry status oversees the implementation of the project and secures government support from other ministries.
2. Creating a **Project Management Unit** supports having an effective implementation of the project activities and of the associated domestic measures.
3. Having a **project team comprising staff drawn from different entities** ensures that different skills, knowledge, and expertise for SMCW are covered. It contributes to overcoming the siloed approach of institutions, confers ownership and strengthens sustainability.
4. Having a project team with **well-defined realistic responsibilities** based on their area of expertise is critical to avoid having activities not being implemented or implemented with delays.

#### COORDINATION

5. Bringing diverse governmental stakeholders together for **joint work** and capacity building events helps to build partnerships and inter-governmental cooperation, understand each other's challenges and jointly find possible solutions.
6. Establishing a **coordination mechanism** for the implementation of the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention enables policy makers and other stakeholders to effectively monitor and support the implementation of the conventions at the country level.
7. Highly **participatory processes** with wide participation of government and non-government actors ensure that the project activities respond to the needs of the users and promote the sustainability of results.
8. For SP projects with an external implementing agency - be it an UN entity, an NGO or a public association - **close collaboration** between the government and the implementing agency strengthens effectiveness, ownership and sustainability.

#### COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

9. Developing customized communication materials jointly with NGOs/associations can help to better reach the target audiences.
10. Raising awareness not only of legislators but as well of the private sector and the general public about the importance of the SMCW can:
  - increase the likelihood of being able to pass a law on the SMCW.
  - increase the public involvement in the sustainable chemicals production and consumption.
  - reduce health risks caused by the use of chemicals.

#### PROJECT ELEMENTS

11. The simpler and more straightforward the results are formulated in the **logframe**, the clearer it is to make the connection between the different project activities and outputs and the easier it becomes to monitor and report on the results.
12. **Training government officers** on the SMCW and on how to report to the MEAs contributes to having the country better meeting its MEA obligations. It also contributes to enhancing the quality of project outputs and to the overall sustainability of the project.

13. **Preliminary studies and baseline assessments** are useful to identify capacity and policy gaps and to propose tailored capacity building plans and institutional and legislative changes.
14. In order to properly address the specific **risks and needs of women and vulnerable groups** - such as indigenous peoples – the projects need to ensure adequate participation in project activities of these social groups and tailored content needs to be developed.
15. The likelihood of a project being implemented in a timely manner is increased when clear **mitigation measures** are included at the planning stage, considering among others how to overcome:
  - administrative delays for setting up the project, and
  - relying on very few staff with strong SMCW expertise who might leave or fall ill affecting the continuity of the project.
16. Including in each activity how its results will be maintained is decisive to have a strong overall **exit strategy** and to be able to ensure sustainability of the project.

## FINANCING

17. Public awareness campaigns and capacity building activities contribute to enhancing the likelihood of being able to mobilize private funding for the SMCW.
18. Enforcing new laws and regulations on the SMCW can be used to create a new source of funding for the SMCW.
19. Implementing SP projects in parallel or in partnership with other internationally funded projects creates synergies. This contributes to the efficient use of financial resources and to maximize the impact.
20. When the technical capacities or financial means of a government are not sufficient, support from stakeholders and development partners can play an important role to sustain project results.

## SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

### Little national expertise available

21. In the specific circumstances when national experts cannot be found, access to international expertise and technical assistance can be important to:
  - ensure the soundness of certain project deliverables, such as chemicals and waste databases or strategies/policies for the SMCW;
  - strengthen the capacities of national staff to implement the BRS Convention and Minamata Conventions and/or become national trainers.
22. Well-organized study visits to other countries and projects can foster learning and gives incentives to replicate successful practices.

### Political changes or political/social instability

23. In the context of political changes and social or political unrest, the involvement of an established NGO in the country or an international organization can be beneficial to secure institutional legacy of the project and to build upon the project results.
24. In contexts where there is high turnover of high-ranking officials, the involvement of mid-level government staff is essential to ensure continuity, ownership and sustainability of the project results.

### Project facing implementation challenges

25. During the implementation reaching out regularly to the SP Secretariat - beyond just submitting the annual progress reports - is useful to obtain possible guidance when projects face difficulties.

## RELATED TO SPECIAL PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

26. Turnover of Special Programme Secretariat staff affected in some cases the fluidity of the communication between the project teams and the Special Programme Secretariat.
27. Learning from the achievements of other SP projects could be useful for tapping into previous successful experiences, especially in technical areas such as:
  - Methodologies for databases

- Knowledge Toolkits about SMCW
  - Policies and action plans
  - Strategies for ratifying the MEAs
28. Having the achievements of projects accessible online could be a very efficient way to share best practices and showcase results.
29. The monitoring of results could be improved when project focal points are introduced on how to best monitor them and how to use the Core Indicators.



## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

### DISSEMINATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. The Special Programme Secretariat should make the compendium of lessons learned prepared as part of this report accessible online and include it as reference document for future rounds of applications.
  - ➔ This would promote the design of future projects that integrate the lessons learned from previous projects.
2. The Special Programme Secretariat should showcase in its website the achievements and results of its closed projects.
  - ➔ This would allow countries intending to apply or currently implementing SP projects to learn about the achievements of past projects.

### TECHNICAL ELEMENTS

3. The Special Programme Secretariat should ensure that the results in the project design (logframes) are formulated in a simple a straightforward manner.
  - ➔ This would allow the project teams to better monitor and report on the results.
4. The Special Programme Secretariat should ensure that projects integrate gender already at the planning stage.
  - ➔ This would ensure that the specific risks related to women and chemicals and waste are specifically addressed.
5. The Special Programme Secretariat should strengthen monitoring by continuing to roll out the Core Indicators for all new projects.
  - ➔ This would allow projects to have clearer metrics to monitor and obtain data that can be aggregated at the level of the Special Programme.

### SUSTAINABILITY

6. The Special Programme Secretariat should ensure that projects explicitly integrate exit strategies at the design stage.
  - ➔ This would ensure the sustainability element is integrated from the project start.
7. The Special Programme Secretariat should provide guidance on how the results of SP projects can be maintained through domestic financing.
  - ➔ This would ensure that recipient countries have specific domestic financing options they can consider to maintain and further develop the results obtained in their projects.

## 6. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PROJECTS

Argentina ..... 33

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Tanzania..... 74

Uganda..... 79

# ARGENTINA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening National Capacity for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in Argentina”

**Implementing partner:** UNDP and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

**Agreement timeframe:** October 2017 to March 2021

**Budget:** 245,564 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

The effectiveness of the project was high. All activities were completed. The project strengthened the capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste by a) creating a Directorate of Chemical Substances and Wastes b) training staff of this Directorate and other stakeholders, c) establishing an intersectoral coordination mechanism; d) updating the existing legislation and regulations, and e) participating in activities proposed by the BRS Convention and Minamata Convention.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management	1	
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

### Specific results:

- With at least 38 activities related to capacity building, the project was extremely active in strengthening the expertise for the sound management of chemicals and waste of officials and institutions. All the activities were part of a training strategy that was developed and implemented by the project in a very effective manner with a multitude of partnerships with national and international institutions. The capacity building activities included training workshops, webinars and summits/meetings<sup>54</sup>.

<sup>54</sup> 27 training courses/workshops, 6 training webinars and 5 summits/meetings

Criterion 1.3: Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> had been done		
1. The Government <b>decided on a mandate</b> to establish a unit		
2. The Government developed a <b>framework document</b> detailing how the unit would be established and would operate	2	
3. The unit was <b>established</b> and had an <b>executive director</b>		
4. The unit was established and had an executive director. In addition, <b>standard operating procedures</b> were developed, and <b>staff</b> were hired		
5. The unit had all human, financial and physical resources and was <b>fully operational</b>		5

### Specific results:

- The project supported the establishment of the Directorate of Chemicals and Waste<sup>55</sup>.

The Administrative Decision No. 311/2018, which was adopted and came into force during the project, defines the primary responsibilities, missions, and functions of the Directorate. These are, among others to:

- propose and implement actions and management tools on chemical substances and products throughout their life cycle,
- minimize their adverse effects on health and the environment, and
- propose regulations on chemical substances and products, in accordance with the international commitments assumed by the Argentine State to protect the environment.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	1	
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government		4
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity with full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

### Specific results:

- The project supported the creation of the **Interministerial Roundtable on Chemical Substances and Products** under Decree 504/2019. The roundtable comprises technical representatives of each of the 18 participating agencies with the mandate a) to work in an articulated manner in the design, implementation and execution of national policies on chemical substances and products, b) to ensure effective compliance with the commitments under the chemicals conventions, and c) to articulate objectives and generate common work commitments.

In addition, to **promote exchange of information** among the members of the Interministerial Roundtable a shared Google Drive folder<sup>56</sup> was created.

<sup>55</sup> By Administrative Decision 262/2020, the Directorate of Chemical Substances and Wastes was elevated to a National Directorate. At the end of 2021, the Directorate was renamed the National Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste. In the organizational chart, the Hazardous Waste Coordination Department operates under the Directorate. There are also two additional work teams within the Directorate: The Chemical Substances Unit and the Transboundary Movements Unit. At the time of the final report, the Directorate had a total of 39 staff members.

<sup>56</sup> Google Drive is not an official platform for the exchange of information within the Argentine State, but it does serve to overcome administrative barriers.

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to integrate the MEAs into national legislation		
2. The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was <b>adopted</b>	2	
3. The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being <b>implemented</b>		3

### Specific results:

**The project supported to implement several legislative texts for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste.**

- At the beginning of the project, the Directorate responsible for the execution of the Special Programme did not exist. The Administrative Decision No. 311/201 established its primary responsibilities, missions, and functions of the Directorate.
- The Decree 504/2019 established the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as the Authority of Application of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The decree was signed and approved by the Argentine Republic.
- Other activities were also carried out to update the existing legislation:
  - A Draft Law to establish the **National Inventory of Chemicals** and mechanisms of risk management was prepared and was submitted to Congress for its parliamentary handling.
  - A Draft Law "**Minimum Environmental Standards for the integral management of Hazardous waste**" to update Law 24.051 was prepared and submitted to Congress. It includes a new system of information management and other concepts related to waste issues.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		3

### Specific results:

- The project developed and implemented **10 regulatory texts** to meet the requirements of the conventions (see footnote for full list<sup>57</sup>).
- In addition, the National Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste:
  - prepared a **regulatory compendium** that brings together all the legislation in force on chemicals and hazardous waste with the aim to facilitate the access to information for the broader public; and
  - established new links with academia and civil associations and jointly **proposed complementary regulations** for hazardous substances and phytosanitary products, and good practices for the management of chemicals and their wastes.

<sup>57</sup> Full list: 1) Decree to formalize the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development as the designated National Authority (DNA) in Argentina; 2) Administrative decision to require intervention from the DNA in customs for tariff codes reached by Rotterdam Convention; 3) National regulations for the analysis of chemicals listed in the Annex III of Rotterdam Convention; 4) Administrative decisions to require intervention from the DNA in customs for tariff codes reached by Minamata Convention; 5) Ratification file of the Stockholm amendments; 6) Ratification file for the ratification of the amendment on plastic waste of the Basel Convention; 7) Development of the Resolution 355/2020 on environmental management and elimination of PCBs; 8) Development of the Resolution 291/2020 on the restrictions of the production, imports and exports, trade, and use of POPs under the scope of the Stockholm Convention; 9) Development of a Resolution on imports and exports procedures related to Rotterdam Convention Regulations; and 10) New regulation issued in order to comply with Minamata Convention.

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No reports were submitted		
1. Only the outlines of the reports were prepared ( <b>unfinished</b> draft)	1	
2. The reports were <b>drafted</b>		2
3. The reports were <b>submitted</b> to the relevant MEA Secretariat		

### Specific results:

Argentina actively participated in many activities proposed by the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention<sup>58</sup>. In addition, the project worked on supporting the preparation of reports for the Secretariats of the Conventions.

- Regarding the Stockholm Convention, Argentina has submitted all the 5 national reports and feedback from the BRS Secretariat indicates that the quality of the reports has improved between the cycles, reaching a good quality.
- Regarding the Basel Convention, Argentina submitted its annual reports for 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020<sup>59</sup>. However, the report for 2018 was not transmitted.
- In addition, Argentina submitted additional information on a voluntary basis, such as the self-review of its legislation<sup>60</sup>.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** The level of participation of women in the capacity building activities was about 46%, which corresponds to the ratio of women within the Government administration. In terms of substance, the project developed a communication campaign<sup>61</sup> for the proper use of household products and prevention of accidents and poisoning with household chemicals. Due to cultural and historical factors, they tended to be used mainly by women.
- **Socio-political factor:** During the life of the project, two significant events occurred at the institutional level that had an impact on the development of the activities. The first was a process of reorganization of the entire national cabinet, which included the change of hierarchy level, transforming the Ministry into a Secretariat. The second change was a product of the national and provincial elections of 2019, which resulted in a different political party in charge, and a new organization of the national cabinet, hierarchizing the environmental portfolio at the Ministry level. This had an impact on the forms and organization of the work of the project staff.
- **COVID-19:** The set of measures adopted in the country in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including quarantine and displacement ban, and the climate of uncertainty, led to the need to adapt and/or suspend previously planned face-to-face activities such as travel, events, training, and meetings. As a result, the activities and budget to be executed had to be modified and a 15-month

<sup>58</sup> In relation to the **Basel Convention**, Argentina sent technical representatives in working groups related to marine debris and microplastics, electronic waste, plastic waste, mercury and, technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. In relation to the **Rotterdam Convention**, Argentina prepared and evaluated documents to be sent to the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and participated in the CRC panel of experts. In relation to the **Stockholm Convention**, Argentina sent technical representatives to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP), the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Small Working Group (PCB SWIG), and the PCBs Elimination Network. In relation to the **Minamata Convention**, Argentina sent technical representatives in working groups related to effectiveness, mercury wastes, releases, contaminated sites, and compliance committee. In addition, 1) Argentina also participated in the Conferences of the Parties, for which it held preparatory meetings of the technicians of the Directorate of Chemicals with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant government agencies, industry associations, NGOs, and academia, 2) it conducted a Risk Assessment with technical support from FAO and the Rotterdam Secretariat, and 3) Developed an internal process to respond to Rotterdam Convention the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) requests with the Active participation in the Transboundary Movements Unit (UMT).

<sup>59</sup> The report for 2016 was late and incomplete, the report for 2017 was on time and complete, the report for 2019 was complete and the report for 2020 was on time and is currently under review.

<sup>60</sup> Document UNEP/CHW/CC.15/5/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW/CC.15/INF/8

<sup>61</sup> This campaign included dissemination videos, content for social networks, and a webinar. All this content is published and available on the official website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The videos are also available on [Youtube](#) and on the [channel](#) of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. These activities were framed within the framework of a Communication Plan, which actually differs from the one included in the PCA, since the purpose of the former was to communicate to the relevant stakeholders about the functioning of the project and the working spaces (IWG, scientific-academic working group).

extension of the SP completion date had to be requested.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project **results have been sustained** through the government domestic financing and the established institutional capacities and mechanisms.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	2+
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	

- Knowledge generated in governmental and non-governmental actors that is applied to day-to-day management and activities.
- Interministerial Roundtable on Substances and Chemicals continues its meetings.
- The National Directorate of Chemical Substances and Products is functioning with no major restrictions.
- Support was received from GEF (Global Environment Facility) for the implementation of UNDP Project ARG 20/G27 "**Environmentally sound management of POPs, mercury and other hazardous substances in Argentina**".
- All current regulations created to comply with the agreements are still in effect.
- The upcoming presidential elections (2023) may impact the maintenance of the results of the project, since when new authorities and ministers take office, all areas of the State are subject to revisions and restructuring. Therefore, the continuity of the National Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste depends on the interests and objectives of the future officers.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- The project was comprehensive in the sense that it created a new technical directorate at the state level, proposed new legislation and adapted the country to comply with the pace required by international conventions, but there are opportunities still for Argentina to expand its strategy by creating a **database linked to chemical substances**.
- The turnover of staff for political reasons and the limited recognition of technical expertise or career civil servants, forces to train new staff repeatedly, limiting the continuity of policies and a stronger long-term orientation. As previously mentioned, changes in government can hinder the continuity of programs and the officials in charge of their execution, regardless of their quality or expected results.
- A training plan for officers to improve the capabilities for the sound management of chemicals and their reporting to the different MEAs is very helpful. The knowledge is generated within the responsible entity and does not depend on activities offered by other affiliated institutions.

# BELARUS

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** "Establish a sustainable national infrastructure to join and support the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the Republic of Belarus"

**Implementing partner:** Laboratory of Preventive and Ecological Toxicology of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene"

**Agreement timeframe:** May 2018 to June 2021

**Budget:** 249,647 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

The project completed all the activities and outputs as planned. It was also successful with regards to achieving the intermediate outcomes. It strengthened the sound management of chemicals and waste by a) developing a national register of industrial chemicals and pesticides; b) building institutional capacities on the sound management of chemicals; c) developing a national multi-stakeholder approach to manage chemicals and waste and c) preparing the institutional, legal and regulatory basis to join and implement the Rotterdam Convention.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		1
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		

### Specific results:

- **The project developed a national register of industrial chemicals and pesticides regulated by the Rotterdam Convention<sup>62</sup>.** The register includes information on 74 chemicals detailing their hazardous properties, classification and marking in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System.
- The project also created the database of chemicals' manufacturers in Belarus which includes 13 enterprises. The database contains information on manufacturers' address, names and types of manufactured chemicals.
- The inventory of chemicals showed that the chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention are not used or imported in Belarus. Moreover, the register and screening of legal acts allowed the identification of those hazardous chemicals that were not officially banned in the country.

<sup>62</sup> A special questionnaire was developed and sent out to industrial organizations and suppliers of chemicals for creating a registry.



Criterion 1.2: Level of chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available	0	
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

**Specific results:**

- The project contributed considerably to building institutional capacities of stakeholders regarding the requirements of the Rotterdam convention and the sound management of chemicals (SMC). Within the project's implementation four seminars<sup>63</sup> / round table discussions were held.
- As a result of the capacity building activities, a pool of national experts have been formed for the conduct of continuous training events, implementation of PIC procedures, and for the chemicals/wastes management under the Rotterdam Convention (e.g. on the requirements for establishing national registers and databases).
- Furthermore, under the project, the implementing partner elaborated educational programs on chemicals management and started offering them for: a) agricultural specialists in the field of pesticides and agrochemicals, b) specialists in the hazardous chemical industry, c) private businesses - hazardous chemicals in consumer goods, d) specialists of the paint and varnish industry and e) students of higher education institutions studying in toxicological and chemical areas.
- To reach a wider audience, the project made all the project-produced and Rotterdam Convention related materials available on its website (<http://chemsafety.rspch.by/information.html>).

Criterion 1.3: Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. Nothing had been done	0	
1. The Government decided on a mandate to establish a unit		
2. The Government developed a framework document detailing how the unit would be established and would operate		2
3. The unit was established and had an executive director		
4. The unit was established and had an executive director. In addition, standard operating procedures were developed, and staff were hired		
5. The unit had all human, financial and physical resources and was fully operational		

**Specific results:**

- The project prepared the institutional basis to join and implement the Rotterdam Convention in Belarus. For this purpose, the project conducted a situation analysis based on which it developed a Roadmap for establishing the relevant national infrastructure.
- Based on the Roadmap, the project facilitated the elaboration of the draft law and supplementary justification documents for joining the convention. This legal act identified the Ministry of Health as a

<sup>63</sup> Two seminars included the start-up and final seminars on presenting the project and its results respectively (with about 50 participants each). The third seminar was held on the implementation of the technical regulation of the Eurasia Economic Union No 041/2017 on Chemicals Safety which incorporates the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention (43 participants). The fourth international seminar was held on the topic of Capacity Building for Chemicals Life Cycle Management under the Rotterdam Convention (attended by 61 participants) which included practical simulation exercises for the implementation of certain provisions of the convention.

national designated authority (NDA) for the Rotterdam Convention's implementation. Moreover, the Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene (one of the units of which implemented the project under the assessment, later referred to as the Center) was identified as an entity for the PIC's implementation.

- The project also helped with the development of justification documents detailing, among many others, the financial needs for the NDA's functioning over the course of four years, starting from 2021. The government financed one of the major activities of the Center, which was the inventory of all the chemicals<sup>64</sup> in use in Belarus.
- Another important result in terms of institutional strengthening was the establishment of the educational center under the Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene and the development of educational programs on sound management of chemicals. These educational programs were incorporated into the Center's curricula and are offered on a regular basis to different audiences, including to the representatives of government, academia and business sectors.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism	0	
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		2
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity with full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

#### Specific results:

- **The project facilitated the establishment and functioning of a multi-stakeholder approach to chemical and waste management at a national level.** Following the Order of the Ministry of Health of August 2018 an Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) was established for the implementation of the project under the assessment. This group involved the representatives of all the relevant government institutions, NGO and a private sector and according to progress reports the IWG was involved in the review and discussions of project outputs. The IWG was also involved in all the capacity building events held by the project.
- It should be noted that the meetings of the IWG are not documented. The progress reports do not provide information on the number of working group meetings held and they also do not include the minutes of the meetings.
- After the end of the project, the members of the IWG continue working in the SMC area under a second project funded by the Special Programme.

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to integrate the MEAs into national legislation		1
2. The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being <b>implemented</b>		

<sup>64</sup> The Center collected information on over 60,000 chemicals and by the time of this assessment the data is being processed.

**Specific results:**

- **The project contributed greatly to the development of a legal framework for the accession of the country to the Rotterdam Convention.** As noted earlier, the project developed a draft Law on "Accession to the Rotterdam Convention on the PIC for Certain Hazardous Chemical Substances and Pesticides in International Trade", as well as the relevant accompanying documents. These documents included the justification of the need for adopting the law, financial and economic justification, and the list of legal acts for revision upon the country's accession to the convention.
- To guide the process of adopting the draft law, the project developed an algorithm for actions and by the project end it implemented most of the actions. 13 government institutions reviewed the draft law and accompanying documents and many of them provided their approval without any comments. The only comment received was from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection (MNREP). This ministry, along with the Ministry of Health, was identified by the draft law as a government institution responsible for Rotterdam Convention implementation. The MNREP considered that the relevant responsibilities were falling mostly under the Ministry of Health's competence and requested to be removed from the list of responsible parties.
- For the government's 2022 spring session all the documentation was ready for submission, however, due to the challenging geopolitical situation connected with the war in Ukraine, the government's spring session was not held. The implementing agency planned the submission of the draft law for the approval by the Council of Ministers for the government's fall session.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		1
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		

**Specific results:**

- **The project assisted the government with the elaboration of two draft regulations relevant to Rotterdam Convention implementation:** 1) A draft Regulation on the exchange of information on chemicals regulated by the Rotterdam Convention between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations; 2) A draft Regulation on the exchange of information on chemicals within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The approval of these regulations is expected by the end of 2022.
- Moreover, as a follow-up on the chemicals inventory process (see Criterion 1.1), the team of project experts reviewed relevant legal acts and discovered that while many of the chemicals subject to PIC were banned for use in Belarus, a few of them were not officially prohibited. Based on this discovery, the project team initiated the introduction of a ban and through working with the Council on Pesticides under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the ban on relevant chemicals was approved by the Council prior the project's end.

**FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

- **Gender:** About half of participants of the project-organized events were women and the content of developed materials was equally applicable to both women and men.
- **COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic did not allow to conduct in-person meetings at the final stage of the project's implementation and online sessions were held instead. This resulted in the costs savings (e.g. on international consultants' travel) and the saved funds were used for the establishment of a distance learning platform on SMC.
- **Other:** Access to international expertise and information exchange helped with the development of educational modules for continued education/training courses and strengthening the potential of national trainers.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

The project fully maintained the results achieved by the project's end. More specifically:

- The training center on SMC continues its functioning and delivers training sessions to interested stakeholders. All the ten trainers, whose capacities were built on the Rotterdam Convention and SMC, continue delivering capacity building events.
- As the government staff turnover, especially at mid-level, is low, the built capacities remain in the government.
- Members of Interdepartmental Working Group continue working in the SMC area under the second phase of the SP project.
- Based on the project-created chemicals database (chemicals regulated by the Rotterdam Convention), the government updated and conducted an inventory of all the other chemicals with budgetary resources, encompassing over 60,000 chemicals.

The project implementing team provides follow-up for the adoption of the draft law for the RC's accession.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Inclusion of international experts in capacity building events promotes the exchange of international experience.
- Bringing diverse governmental stakeholders together for joint work and capacity building events builds/strengthens partnerships and inter-governmental cooperation through understanding each other's challenges, arriving jointly to possible solutions and forming closer working relationships. At the beginning of the project there were challenges with inter-governmental cooperation that were overcome through the provision of avenues for joint planning and discussions.
- Having a stable government institution (with low rate of staff turnover) as an implementing partner promotes ownership of results and the provision of necessary follow-up.

# BENIN

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Legal and institutional strengthening for the sound management of chemicals in Benin”

**Implementing partner:** General Direction of Environment - Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development

**Agreement timeframe:** June 2017 to December 2021

**Budget:** 248,384 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

During the project's execution period, not all of the planned activities were completed. Drafts of the national regulatory framework for the responsible management of chemicals have been prepared but have not been implemented. This was due to three factors: the initial delay in the disbursement of funds, the medical leave of the person responsible for project implementation, and the delays in approval of the Law. The draft Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues (PGPC)<sup>65</sup> in the Republic of Benin the most important result of this project. However, it is still pending approval by the National Assembly, which prevented the subsequent implementation of a National Environmental Management Program.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered three of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
<b>0. No knowledge or expertise available</b>		
<b>1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management</b>	1	1
<b>2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management</b>		
<b>3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning</b>		
<b>4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use</b>		
<b>5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process</b>		

### Specific results:

- The logframe of the project included training officials a) on the legislative & institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals, and b) on tools for the sound management of chemicals. The indicator for these activities proposed to train at least 70 staff members in six sessions. However, it cannot be confirmed that these training sessions were conducted. The country did not provide any documentary evidence, despite the SP Secretariat following up and requesting the evidence several times.

<sup>65</sup> PGPC is the acronym in French for “Portant gestion des produits chimiques”

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan	1	1+
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>		
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		

#### Specific results:

- The project aimed to implement a *National Program for Environmental Management* of the Ministry of Environment. The National Program foreseen would a) ensure the implementation of the institutional and legislative framework, and b) create a permanent committee for the sound management chemicals and wastes which would strengthen the institutional framework and ensure its sustainability.
- At the end of the project the Terms of Reference and other documents related to the National Program had been drafted, including the Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues (see further below under criterion 2.2).

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to integrate the MEAs into national legislation		1
2. The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being <b>implemented</b>		

#### Specific results:

- The 1990 Constitution provides a broad policy basis for environment protection<sup>66</sup>, although there is no specific law for the responsible management of chemicals.
- As a first step, the project prepared a baseline status report on the legal and institutional framework for chemicals management.
- As next step, it formulated parts of the draft The Law on the Management of Chemical Products and their Residues to provide a regulatory framework and integrate the MEAs ratified by the Government<sup>67</sup> into national legislation.
- Finally, the draft law was entrusted to the Law, Administration and Human Rights Commission and the Planning, Equipment and Production Commission but - at the time of the assessment – did not yet receive parliamentary treatment given the 2019 legislative elections and the COVID-19 crisis.
- Despite the law not having been passed yet, efforts are already being made to implement the MEAs ratified. In specific terms, the national authorities have already sent the first draft of the initial assessment report to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** The ratio of participation of women in project activities was about the same as in the overall administration, which ranges 16%-30%. In terms of content, no output was developed addressing women's specific exposure to chemicals. Benin is, however, working within the framework of the agreements to train women in the use of chemical products and the disposal of containers; also, on

<sup>66</sup> through its articles 11 and 27

<sup>67</sup> At the time of applying to the Special Program (SP) in 2016, Benin was party to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. Also, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was ratified in July 2017. Benin participates in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

food poisoning due to pesticide contamination.

- **Institutional structure:** Members of the project put great effort to raise the awareness of legislators about the importance of passing the PGPC Law and they directly explained the serious public health and sanitary risks. However, from the interviews, it became clear that there was strong opposition from industrialists and importers - two groups with great political influence in Benin - who understood that the law would increase their costs. Finally, the elections and COVID pushed the passing of the PGPC Law further down among the priorities of the legislators.
- **COVID-19:** The pandemic stopped the project activities. The postponement of the Law on the Management of Chemicals and their Residues prevented the subsequent implementation of the National Program.
- **Other:**
  - The first instalment of funds was disbursed at the end of September 2017, which meant a delay of five months in the start of the project (PCA signed in May 2017).
  - Occasionally, institutions were not well coordinated, and duplications of lines of action occurred among different institutions, agencies, or ministries.
  - Given the interdependence of the activities, a delay in one activity, such as the formulation of an initiative lead to delays in further activities, such as the one involved with their implementation.
  - The person responsible for coordinating the implementation of the project experienced health issues, which hindered the follow-up of some activities. A replacement was not designated during the period of the officer's absence because there was nobody available with the requisite knowledge or time to absorb all the functions of the coordinator.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Funding is assured only for the maintenance of the most basic elements of the project, which are the costs associated with the personnel in charge of project activities and the revision of documents produced during the project.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	1
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	

- While the law on the Management of Chemicals and their Residues is still in the process of being passed, UNITAR is supporting a review of the draft text before its approval.
- The country has taken some steps outside of the project to enhance the sustainability of the sound management of chemicals and waste, by:
  - integrating a budget line into the budget of the Ministry of the Environment with another project on the management of chemicals and the creation of the Ministry's laboratory for environmental monitoring, and
  - launching of a program for chemicals and Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment with a government action program 2021-2026.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Two factors can help in avoiding the non-implementation of planned activities. 1) The team implementing the project needs to have technical qualities and well-defined tasks (independent of the size of the team). 2) It is important to ensure that the established goals are plausible, and if not, that they are quickly replaced by other concrete objectives.
- It is key to raise awareness and support for the law to be finally passed, not only in the members of the National Assembly, but also in the society at large, including the private sector.
- The project implementation was centralized, and project activities were monitored by a single local authority. An alternative focal point would have helped to prevent delays in the project.

# CHINA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “China - Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation for the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and SAICM”

**Implementing partner:** Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection

**Agreement timeframe:** May 2018 to February 2022

**Budget:** 400,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

All project objectives were met thanks to an active engagement of the relevant ministries, academic entities, and international and regional platforms. The project strengthened the capacities of the competent authorities by conducting technical trainings on laws on chemicals and MEAs requirements and by creating an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the Stockholm & Minamata Conventions. In addition, the project supported the update national regulations, developed a chemical management database, and raised the awareness on the sound management of chemical and waste.

### Results & progress by core indicator criteria

The project covered five of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		4
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		

### Specific results:

In order to promote information sharing and to support the risk evaluation of chemicals under the BRS and Minamata Conventions, the project developed a **toxic and hazardous chemicals database** for environmental management which is now for internal use. The database was created based on a comprehensive analysis of foreign existing toxic and hazardous chemicals databases of developed countries.

Criterion 1.2: level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning	3	
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		



**Specific results:**

- The project conducted **4 technical training sessions**<sup>68</sup>, public awareness raisings and law-enforcement activities related to the implementation of international conventions on chemicals and waste, **targeting government officials** (including ministries and commissions<sup>69</sup>, institutes directly under MEE, as well as bureaus and departments of ecology and environment at provincial, municipal and county levels), enterprise technical staff, and the public for **more than 2500 participants**.
- In particular, the project **strengthened the capacity** of the 3 institutions participating in the project, FECO/MEE, MEESCC, and BCRC/SCRC<sup>70</sup> of Tsinghua University, which are in charge of the implementation of the BRS Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM.
- The project produced a wide range of communication and awareness raising materials<sup>71</sup>.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	2	
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		3
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity with full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

**Specific results:**

- The project strengthened the national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions which had been set up in 2015 and 2017 before the SP project had started. The project **established an intra-ministerial coordination mechanism** (Joint POPs & Mercury Advisory Committee consisting of 72 members) within MEE for those two Conventions.
- During the project implementation, 6 thematic coordination meetings for different conventions implementation were conducted to strengthen the overall planning, guidance and coordination, and to facilitate the work of the two National Coordination Groups for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.
- The project carried out research<sup>72</sup> and developed a Scheme for the Development of an Interdepartmental Coordination Mechanism for the Management of Transboundary Movements of Chemicals. Based on it, the project **proposed an inter-sectoral mechanism** and issued a **policy recommendation to improve the coordination of competent authorities** on chemicals and waste transboundary movement management to MEE which is to be approved by the National

<sup>68</sup> National training on solid waste and chemicals in 2020, National training on chemicals management and convention implementation in 2020 and 2021, a law-enforcement in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in 2019

<sup>69</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Management, State Administration for Market Regulation, General Administration of Customs, National Energy Administration and other related ministries and commissions

<sup>70</sup> MEESCC - Solid Waste and Chemicals Management Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment;  
MEE - Ministry of Ecology and Environment;

FECO/MEE - Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment;

..BCRC/SCRC - Basel/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific of Tsinghua University

<sup>71</sup> i) Information and materials on the BRS-M Conventions and SAICM (in Chinese); ii) 5 pieces of transcript for publicity towards the public released on the social media Wechat for over 1000 reviewers; and iii) 3 pieces of PowerPoint slides and 3 video recordings of lectures on the BRS-M Conventions and SAICM targeting enterprise staff and officials in environmental protection fields (in Chinese).

<sup>72</sup> Review of the Synergy Process of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Chemicals and Waste Cluster, Report on Coordination Mechanism on Chemicals and Waste Transboundary Movement Management, Study on the Selected Technical Documents Relevant to the International Environmental Conventions in the Chemicals and Waste Cluster and the SAICM

Council.

- The project conducted studies on selected technical documents relevant to the MEAs in the chemicals and waste cluster (via the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific). These studies resulted in establishment of an information collection and reporting mechanism for plastic waste import and export and other related matters.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan		
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>		
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>	3	3+

#### Specific results:

The project analysed regulatory gaps in terms of chemicals and waste management throughout their life cycle, and proposed policy recommendations on Improving the Coordination of Competent Authorities under the Basel Convention and on the Construction Scheme for the Environmental Management Database of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals. These **policy recommendations are being implemented** as they were included in the revised "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention & Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste" which was adopted in April 2020 and entered into force in September 2020.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>	3	3+

#### Specific results:

At the start of the project, China had already secondary legislation for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Thanks to the project, this secondary legislation was updated. The project conducted studies on selected technical documents relevant to the MEAs in the chemicals and waste cluster (via the Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific). These studies resulted in establishment of an information collection and reporting mechanism for plastic waste import and export and other related matters (see also criterion 1.4). As a result, the State Council **promulgated the regulatory document** titled "Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution", which supports the implementation of the COP 14 adopted "Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendment".

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** A large majority of the project team of FECO/MEE, of the two implementing partners - MEESCC, BCRC/SCRC China of Tsinghua University, and of the consultants procured by the project were women.
- **COVID-19:** The pandemic delayed the project training activities. Finally, all the project activities were completed in 2021 with 6-month project extension.
- No other factors seriously affected the project implementation.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project **results have been sustained** through the government domestic financing and the established institutional capacities and mechanisms.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

- The project intervention's scope was limited. However, it **highly contributed to the long-term management** of Chemicals and Waste scheme for China. The outputs of the project have been carried on to next steps.
- The training materials developed during the project continue to be used by the local authorities via the platform of the Centre for Environmental Education and Communications of MEE.
- MEESCC plans to further improve physicochemical, ecological, health, and production data based on the existing database to further support China's convention implementation and chemicals management.
- China is working on the **new application** of the SP Programme to further consolidate the project result and address the action gaps of sound management of Chemicals in the country and promote MEAs the implementation in both China and the rest of Asia and the Pacific region.
- Due to the stronger political focus on the sound management of chemicals and waste, the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) specifically includes the sound management of emerging pollutants. In addition, the State Council has developed specific action plan to manage emerging pollutants.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Public awareness needs to be raised at the national level about the direct linkages between the sound management of chemicals and waste and its contribution to prevent further worsening of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.
- The project results have been sustained by government domestic financing and the established institutional capacities and mechanism. Due to the limitation of the project duration and work scope, further efforts are necessary to: i) Mature the project developed chemicals database to be approved by MEE for public use; ii) implement the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism on transboundary movement of chemicals and waste.

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Convention and SAICM in Dominican Republic”

**Implementing partner:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

**Timeframe:** January 2018 to June 2020

**Budget:** 250,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

All planned activities were completed. The project contributed to strengthening the sound management of chemicals in the Dominican Republic by focusing on a) the creation of an import and export database of chemicals; b) conducting capacity building activities; c) creating an inter-institutional coordination mechanism for chemical emergency response; d) preparing a National Chemical Emergency Plan and e) updating existing regulations.

### Results & progress by core indicator criteria

The project covered five of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		5

### Specific results:

- The project supported the design and implementation of an electronic system to record all chemical imports/exports and authorizations for entry into the country. The Directorate General of Customs worked together with other Government Institutions so as to create a one-stop-shop system. The public version of the system is not available yet. The reason for it is that, given the change in Government, the Technology Directorate requested to modify some criteria. The system is, however, operational internally and environmental quality officials have access to all movements of chemicals regulated by MEAs and to requests for imports.

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management	1	
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		3
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

**Specific results:**

- The project strengthened the capacities through two streams of training activities.
- **Capacity building for the use of one-stop-shop system for chemical imports** (see criterion 1.1).
  - Staff from the Department of Hazardous Substances of the Environmental Quality Directorate were trained on how to use Microsoft Excel and to manage the one-stop-shop system for chemical imports, and
  - Staff from the Directorate General of Customs were trained on the Global Harmonized System and on how to use one-stop-shop system for chemical imports.
- **Emergency response training for chemical substances**
  - The Department of Hazardous Substances developed a specific emergency response training for chemical substances in coordination with the Emergencies Operation Center, the Fire Department and the National Defence Directorate. Throughout 2019, the project organized eight training sessions for first emergency response teams and members of the National System of Chemical Emergencies.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	1	
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		3
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity</b> with <b>full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

**Specific results:**

- **The project supported the creation of an inter-institutional coordination mechanism** to respond to chemical emergencies. The coordination mechanism is called *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Response System*. The system was developed based on the Risk Management Law 147-2 and comprises the Emergency Operations Center of Chemical Substances Management Directorate, the National Emergency and Security Response System 911, and the National Institute of Transit and Land Transportation.
- Among the members of the coordination mechanism, a procedure to respond to chemical emergencies was developed to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each entity.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan	0	
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>		
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		3

**Specific results:**

- The **National Emergency Plan with Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) substances** was proposed, adopted and is being implemented by the

Emergency Operations Centre<sup>73</sup> in collaboration with the Department of Hazardous Substances.

- As part of the implementation of the plan, a chemical emergency drill was conducted in 2019 to ensure that the emergency response mechanisms are ready for any emergency.
- In parallel, a national risk guide for management of CBRNE substances was developed which creates a scientific & technical consultation mechanism to best manage the risk of CBRNE substances before, during and after any response measure.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>	3	3+

### Specific results:

#### The project supported updating the existing environmental regulatory framework for chemicals management.

In specific terms, it

- updated the Environmental Technical Regulations for the management of hazardous chemical substances and wastes in the Dominican Republic<sup>74</sup>. The purpose of these regulations is to establish the legal responsibilities and technical requirements for all stages of the management of chemical substances and wastes with hazardous properties, characteristics, or conditions, to ensure the safety and protection of human health and the environment. Meetings were held with relevant stakeholders and a public hearing was conducted to obtain feedback on the Environmental Technical Regulations. These regulations were approved by Resolution No. 0016/2020 of the Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic.
- updated the Environmental Technical Regulations for the Land Transportation of Chemical Substances and Hazardous Materials<sup>75</sup>. These regulations oblige all companies to register with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to obtain an authorization to transport hazardous substances over land. After a public consultation on the regulation, these regulations were approved by Resolution No. 0020/2020 of the Ministry of the Environment.
- updated the Technical Regulations for the Transportation of merchandise in the Dominican Republic in which the regulations for the transportation of dangerous merchandise by roads are included. (rev. 2018-2019). This was done in dialogue with the Department of Hazardous Substances, the National Institute of Transit and Land Transportation (INTRANT).

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- Gender:** The overall level of women participation in capacity building activities was 16%-30%. The reason for this percentage was that most capacity building activities were targeting first aid teams for chemical emergencies, and in the Dominican Republic most members of these teams are men for the moment. The remaining activities as such did not have a gender component.
- COVID-19:** The pandemic stopped the project activities, a 3-month extension was granted due to COVID-19.
- Other:** During the lifetime of the project, the person from the SP Secretariat responsible to follow up with the project focal point changed several times. This in combination with the language barriers between the SP Secretariat and the project focal point made the liaison and communication more

<sup>73</sup> The Emergency Operations Center (COE for its acronym in Spanish, Centro Operativo de Emergencias) is the operative body of the National Risk Management System, which is responsible for promoting and maintaining coordination and joint operation between the different levels, jurisdictions and functions of the institutions involved in the management and attention to emergencies and disasters in the country.

<sup>74</sup> <https://ambiente.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/BORRADOR-Reglamento-gestion-sustancias-y-desechos-peligrosos.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> <https://ambiente.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Reglamento-Técnico-Ambiental-para-la-Transportación-Terrestre-de-Sustancias-y-Materiales-Peligrosos.pdf>

difficult.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- All the results achieved by the project have been maintained to date.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

- In specific terms, there is a National Budget line for chemicals management which includes an amount aimed at maintaining the results.
- In addition, most of the results of the project are regulatory documents which are currently in force.
- Two major political events impacted the work of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources after the project closure: the assassination of its Minister and the overall change of Government structure. However, this did not impact the maintenance of results of the project, except for the full development of the database and its maintenance which will depend on the decision of the new authorities.
- The country also has the technical and financial support of UNDP in the GEF project<sup>76</sup>, which shows the authorities' interest in deepening the lines of work in the management of chemical substances.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- The Dominican Republic provided a positive example of how a small team (between 5 and 10 people) can achieve favorable results if the tasks are correctly distributed and everyone is aware of their responsibilities.
- Splitting the tasks of the project - technological component, transport regulations and emergency plan - based on their area of expertise of each staff helped the project to be very effective.
- The institutions rely on a very small number of employees with strong expertise on the sound management of chemicals and waste. This might be a risk for sustainability in case any expert decides to leave.
- The development of partnerships with other government agencies (as DNA or INTRANT) with specific capacities that were able to provide the necessary technical expertise was fundamental to achieve the objectives of the project.

<sup>76</sup>The Dominican Republic participates in the "Implementation of the Sustainable Development of Chemicals and Non-Chemicals in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - Caribbean Child Project". This program addresses the sound management of chemicals and wastes by strengthening the capacity of subnational, national and regional institutions and reinforcing the policy and regulatory framework in these countries. Its main objective is to prevent the build-up of materials and chemicals in the environment containing POPs (Persistent organic pollutants) and mercury and other harmful chemicals in SIDS, and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and materials in SIDS.

See url: [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/10279\\_CEO\\_Endorsement\\_Package.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/10279_CEO_Endorsement_Package.pdf)

# IRAQ

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening institutional structure for the management of chemicals and waste in Iraq”

**Implementing partner:** UNEP Regional Office of West Asia working with Ministry of Environment

**Agreement timeframe:** May 2017 to December 2021

**Budget:** 250,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

The effectiveness of the project was high as all project objectives were largely met. The project supported the sound management of chemicals and wastes by developing a new national chemicals registry, conducting trainings, reorganizing the internal structure of the Department of Chemicals Management and creating four intersectoral committees. In addition, it supported decision makers to develop and update the legislative and financial framework, and contributed to Iraq’s ratification to the Minamata Convention.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered seven of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry		
1. Database or registry covering 1 <b>Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)</b>	1	
2. Database or registry covering 2 <b>MEAs</b>		
3. Database or registry covering 3 <b>MEAs</b>		
4. Database or registry covering 4 <b>MEAs</b>		4
5. Database or registry covering 4 <b>MEAs and SAICM</b>		

### Specific results:

- The project developed a *Concept Note and Design of a National Chemical Registry for Iraq*, which laid the groundwork for an improved data collection of hazardous chemicals and provided significant information for guiding national authorities to start establishing the comprehensive chemicals register for the country. As a result, a **new national chemical registry** has been in the progress of development. The registry is currently operating with the existing annual inventories on chemicals. There is, however, still demand for further budget to reach the status of a complete registry. In addition, IT capacities are still needed to have the system fully operational. The new registry represents a considerable improvement as it replaces the previous chemical control mechanism which solely covered the import of chemicals<sup>77</sup>.
- In addition, the project applied GHS<sup>78</sup> and MSDS<sup>79</sup> to classify chemicals and hazardous waste. As a result, **two chemical management tools were developed:** i) *List of updated banned and restricted pesticide by the Ministry of Agriculture* and ii) *Hazardous chemicals waste classification controls for the oil industry, industrial and service sectors*.

<sup>77</sup>The previous registry was under the power of the Environmental Protection and Improvement Act No. 27 of 2009. It served as the database and chemical control platform. It was set up under the assumption that by controlling the import of chemicals, all the chemicals in the country would be controlled. - Ref. “Concept note and design of a national chemical registry for Iraq”.

<sup>78</sup> GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

<sup>79</sup> Material Safety Data Sheet



Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management	2	
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

### Specific results:

- The project developed two background reports<sup>80</sup> which guided the elaboration of the following **training activities** that strengthened institutional capacities of staff:
  - review and a capacity building online workshop<sup>81</sup> on the development of a national register for chemicals in Iraq;
  - capacity building workshop<sup>82</sup> for the project development and funding for the environmentally sound elimination of obsolete pesticides stockpiles in Iraq;
  - capacity building workshop<sup>83</sup> for the project development and fund mobilization on the disposal of PCBs<sup>84</sup> contaminated equipment; and
  - technical consultation workshop and training on sound management of chemicals and wastes was conducted with a focus on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling for Chemicals (GHS)<sup>85</sup>.
- As a result of the training activities, two new project proposals were developed<sup>86</sup>. In addition, a *Concept Note on Performance Management System for Chemicals Management* was drafted that guides institutions and individuals to meet their chemicals management goals via continuous improvement.

Criterion 1.3: Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. Nothing had been done		
1. The Government <b>decided on a mandate</b> to establish a unit		
2. The Government developed a <b>framework document</b> detailing how the unit would be established and would operate		
3. The unit was <b>established</b> and had an <b>executive director</b>		
4. The unit was established and had an executive director. In addition, <b>standard operating procedures</b> were developed, and <b>staff</b> were hired	4	4+
5. The unit had all human, financial and physical resources and was <b>fully operational</b>		

<sup>80</sup> "Individual enhancement of capacities for chemicals and waste management" and "Training needs and assessment Plan for Iraq".

<sup>81</sup> on 6 September 2021 for the training and on 7 November 2021 for the review, which provided theoretical information (Classification of Chemicals and Hazard Communication, Notification and Registration Systems for Chemicals, Chemical Risk Assessment and Restriction/Ban of Chemicals) on how to prepare a chemical register system with different examples from different countries; participants are technical staff from line ministries and national agencies who are involved in the sound management of chemicals.

<sup>82</sup> on 7 October 2021 for 29 participants from environment, health, agriculture sectors.

<sup>83</sup> on 8 September 2021 for 18 participants from relevant ministries and national agencies.

<sup>84</sup> polychlorinated biphenyls

<sup>85</sup> 4 day training workshop (17-20 June, 2019) for 5 different training sessions (Mercury, PCBs; UPOPs; Pesticides; GHS) for about 60 Iraqi participants from various sectors and Ministries from Iraq such Ministry of Health and environment, Oil, Agriculture, Interior, Industry and Minerals, Electricity and many more, it was conducted by 6 international trainers that are pioneers in their fields to deliver the necessary material.

<sup>86</sup> Project proposals: 1) Taxonomy Elimination of POPs and Pesticides in Iraq - for the elimination of obsolete pesticide stockpiles in Iraq, and 2) Elimination of PCBs in Iraq-GEF - for environmentally sound disposal of PCBs in Iraq.

**Specific results:**

At project start, a department of chemicals management already existed. It had been established in 2009 and consisted of five branches<sup>87</sup> covering core chemicals management areas. The department of chemicals management was in charge of the implementation of the MEAs. For this, it had to coordinate its work with other agencies and stakeholders under very rigid procedures defined in the policies and strategies.

The project assessed these internal procedures and adapted them to better meet the obligations under the MEAs. As a result, **a separate unit was established for each MEA under the existing five branches**. In addition, a unit for the Stockholm Convention was established in 2018 when Iraq joined this convention.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	3	
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		4
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity</b> with <b>full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

**Specific results:**

The project strengthened intersectoral coordination by involving key ministries and agencies. It **created four intersectoral committees** which meet regularly to discuss and take action on issues related to integrated & sound management of chemicals and waste.

- Higher Committee for the Synergy of the Chemical Agreements (BRS, Minamata & SAICM) provides information and data on chemical agreements; gives guidance on the management of hazardous waste; makes recommendations on critical issues of SAICM (particularly high-risk pesticides and inhibitors of endocrine and nanomaterials); and contributes to the preparation of national strategies.
- Legislative Committee reviews laws and regulations related to the management of chemicals. It was established 28 November 2017.
- Committee to unify the chemical related law and develop plan implements the national chemical policies. It was created in 2021 by Diwani Order number 42.
- A Ministerial Committee for the development of the environmental security strategy was created in 2021.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan		
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>	1	
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		3

<sup>87</sup> Branches: chemicals management, hazardous waste management, contaminated sites assessment, oil pollution, and environmental carcinogens.

**Specific results:**

The project supported the **development of two strategies**. One is being implemented and the other is at the approval stage.

- The **National Chemical Security Strategy** addresses the security situation in the high-risk chemicals sector including physical, electronic and human elements protection. It takes into account the international effort in the management, control and direction of dangerous chemicals to be safer and more effective. It started being implemented after its approval 25 November 2018.
- The **Strategy for Combatting Pollution in Iraq (2021)**<sup>88</sup> tackles pollution in Iraq in an integrated manner. It addresses different priority areas of pollution in Iraq and was developed based on an evaluation of situation in the country. It is currently at the approval stage.

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to integrate the MEAs into national legislation		
2. The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was <b>adopted</b>	2	
3. The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being <b>implemented</b>		3

**Specific results:**

The project addressed institutional and legal the gaps to strengthen the sound management of chemicals. Many reforms have been proposed. Among others,

- **The Law for the ratification of the Minamata Convention** was developed and passed in December 2020. As a result, Iraq ratified the Minamata Convention in September 2021.
- A **National Chemical Profile** was developed, which provides an overview of the chemical management system in Iraq.
- The Ministry of Environment became a separate entity from the Ministry of Health in 2020, in order to better lead the environmental related management.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations	1	
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		2
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		

**Specific results:**

**Several secondary laws and regulations have been proposed and some adopted.**

Legal orders passed in 2021:

- Diwani Order (Number 42) to form a committee to unify the laws related to chemicals management and put forward a strategy to implement the national chemical policies.
- Diwani Order approving the Proposal for achieving chemical security and control over chemical contaminants and other chemical supplies.

Legal orders still at proposal stage:

- Proposal for instruction to arrange the chemicals stores and the environmental license.
- Proposal for the prohibition and phase out of Asbestos in Iraq.

<sup>88</sup>Ref. Project Final Report Annex A2.1: Laws, Regulations and Institutional Structure for Integrated Chemicals Management, Republic of Iraq, December 2021

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** About 45% of the participants in the project activities were women. In addition, gender concerns were addressed in the training and awareness raising materials and a specific chapter focusing on women was included in the National Chemical Profile.
- **Institutional structure:** The project was affected by institutional changes. The implementation partner of the project - the Ministry of Environment - was merged in 2015 with the Ministry of Health. In 2020, both Ministries were separated again. As a result, the fund transfers and the overall project implementation became more complicated.
- **COVID-19:** The project was substantially impacted by COVID. Many of its activities such as training activities had to be cancelled during the pandemic. As a result, the project needed an extension of 30 months, but all activities were completed.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project **results have been mostly sustained**. The capacity building activities have enabled the government to independently continue with the sound management of chemicals. For this, the government is providing funding to maintain staff salaries, scientific research, and the equipment/laboratories. The Ministry of Environment and the Department of Chemicals Management continue their work and are able to maintain the results, among others by addressing the obligations under the Stockholm Convention to eliminate PCBs and POPs.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	2
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	

- However, two items are pending execution i) the policy proposals, and ii) the concept notes which should be developed as individual projects addressing specific areas of chemicals and waste management.
- Finally, Iraq has been successful in attracting international funding to further support the work on chemicals and waste<sup>89</sup>.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- A Project Coordination Unit was established in the Ministry of Environment at project start. This helped the organizing and implementing the project as the roles and responsibilities of the entities and the experts were defined from the beginning.
- The direct contact with international experts was important to transfer the desired expertise and knowledge to Iraq.
- The project was implemented in parallel with NIP/MIA<sup>90</sup> projects related to the Stockholm Convention on POPs and Minamata Convention on mercury. This helped to have synergy, use the technical and financial resources efficiently and to maximize the impact of the project outputs.

<sup>89</sup> Such as the "Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) Management Project" financed by the GEF <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10972> and executed by the World Bank: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P178935>.

<sup>90</sup> MIA - The Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Development for the Minamata Convention (2021): funded by GEF (Global Environment Facility) in 2017. An inventory on the mercury sources in Iraq was developed in 2021.

NIP - The National Implementation Plan (NIP) Development for the Stockholm Convention, funded by GEF in 2017. Three Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) inventories were developed as well as the NIP report.

# KYRGYZSTAN

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening capacity for national implementation of chemicals and waste related international agreements”

**Implementing partner:** Public Association "Independent Ecological Expertise"

**Agreement timeframe:** April 2017 to June 2020

**Budget:** 250,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

The effectiveness of the project was high as it met all the targets at output and intermediate outcome level in a timely manner. The project contributed to strengthening the institutional capacity of the country by a) increasing capacities of government institutions; b) facilitating the establishment of a coordination mechanism; c) assisting with the elaboration of two action plans; d) strengthening the national legislative & regulatory frameworks; and e) supporting to meet the reporting requirements under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.

### Results & progress by core indicator criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management	1	
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

### Specific results:

- **The project increased the institutional capacities of 12 government institutions<sup>91</sup> for the sound management of chemicals and wastes.** Prior to the project start the expertise was mainly available at the Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF).
- One of the important mechanisms for capacity building included the participation of key stakeholders in the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) and Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG) meetings where the discussions were held around the project deliverables. As a result, the stakeholders became better aware of the relevant issues and were able to propose and plan appropriate measures that are well documented in the minutes of PCC and IWG meetings.
- Another mechanism included the provision of guiding principles and templates for directing the relevant institutions' work on sound chemicals management (SCM) (e.g. information exchange mechanisms).
- Moreover, the project provided training workshops for the BRS and Minamata Conventions National Focal Points and other stakeholders on topics such as: a) illegal traffic of chemicals, b) synergies

<sup>91</sup> These institutions include the Ministries of Economy, Agriculture, Health, Emergency Situations, Agency of Environment Protection, National Statistical Committee, State Customs Office, State Committee on Industry, Energy and Mining, State Inspection on Environment and Technical Safety, State Inspection for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety, and Agency for Architecture and Construction.

between international agreements on chemicals safety, c) European and international regulations, d) key developments on BRS and SAICM, e) SAICM reporting and evaluation, and f) Minamata Convention. The regulations covered by the training included REACH<sup>92</sup>, Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP), Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) and Prior Informed Consent Regulation (PIC). Participants were also trained in customs procedures and regulations; regulation system for chemicals movement both within the territory of the EU and between the EU and non-EU countries; and the management of chemicals and waste in the European Union.

- The project also contributed to the increase of awareness of interested groups and wider public with regards to sound management of chemicals and wastes. This was done through communicating the project news and SMC related materials to over 1,500 electronic subscribers of the implementing organization, producing various types of information materials (e.g. summary reports, infographics, etc.), engaging mass media in publishing and posting 13 articles, and holding six communication events.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	1	
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		4
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity</b> with <b>full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

#### Specific results:

- **The project facilitated the establishment and functioning of a multi-stakeholder group on chemicals and waste management.** More specifically, the project helped with the elaboration of the TOR and Annual Action Plans for IWG and supported the conduct of 10 IWG meetings during its implementation. It should be noted that a similar mechanism, a Coordinating Commission for SCM, was established by the government decree in 2012, however, this commission had a limited representation of the government agencies, responsible for chemicals management, and it did not fully carry out the functions assigned to it.
- The IWG is comprised of the representatives from government and non-government institutions. It has contributed to the development of action plans and legal acts. It should be noted that the workplans for the IWG were approved by the Vice Prime-Minister.
- The IWG is continues to function after the end of the project. A specific role was entrusted to it in the context of the new action plans for improving the legislative framework and sound management of chemicals.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan		
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>	1	
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		3

<sup>92</sup> European Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals

**Specific results:**

- The project assisted the government with the elaboration of two action plans in the field of chemicals/waste management.** The first action plan was developed for the implementation of the government program on the international system of hazard classification and labelling of chemicals for 2019-2023; the second action plan was developed for the same time period for the sound management of chemicals. These action plans identified responsible institutions and timeframe for the implementation of each of the listed measures. In addition, the SMC Action Plan also included cost-calculations and the sources of financing and corresponding gaps in financing. The government resolution, containing these **two action plans** as appendices, was **approved in December 2019** and its implementation started before the end of the project.

Criterion 2.2: Level of development of legal framework/primary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
<b>0. Nothing</b> was done		
<b>1.</b> The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to integrate the MEAs into national legislation	<b>1</b>	
<b>2.</b> The integration of the MEAs into national legislation was <b>adopted</b>		
<b>3.</b> The MEAs were integrated into national legislation and being <b>implemented</b>		<b>3</b>

**Specific results:**

- The project strengthened the national legislative framework for the protection of the environment, public health, and for ensuring the effective implementation of relevant MEAs.** This was achieved by undertaking legislation analysis, facilitating the preparation of the action plan for strengthening and improving the national legislative framework, and based on that facilitating the development and adoption of the following legal acts:
  - Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on “Amendments to Measures aimed at protecting the environment and public health from the adverse effects of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides” (approved in June 2019) which introduced a ban on the import and use of certain chemicals and pesticides.
  - Resolution of the Government on “Amendments to Certain Decisions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Field of Ensuring Chemical Safety” (approved in December 2019). This resolution included two action plans in appendices that were discussed under Criterion 2.1 above.
  - Additionally, the project facilitated the preparation of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Kyrgyzstan on “Production and Consumption of Wastes” which introduced an extended producer responsibility in the area of waste production and consumption.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
<b>0. Nothing</b> was done		
<b>1.</b> The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations	<b>1</b>	
<b>2.</b> The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
<b>3.</b> The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		<b>3</b>

**Specific results:**

- The project strengthened the regulatory framework** for the sound management of chemicals via facilitating the development of two important legal acts: 1) “Regulation of interaction in the field of chemicals and waste management in the Kyrgyz Republic” that was approved by the PCC and signed by 11 ministries and departments in 2018. This legal act ensures regular collection, analysis and reporting of information on the chemicals and wastes regulated by the BRS conventions; 2) Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Irrigation of the Kyrgyz Republic on “Approval of the catalogue of pesticides and agrochemicals allowed for use in the Kyrgyz Republic” (approved in July 2018, and the catalogue was compiled after the approval).

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No reports were submitted		
1. Only the outlines of the reports were prepared ( <b>unfinished</b> draft)	1	
2. The reports were <b>drafted</b>		
3. The reports were <b>submitted</b> to the relevant MEA Secretariat		3

### Specific results:

- The project supported the country in meeting its reporting requirements under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.** At the start of the project, the country reports to the Basel and Stockholm conventions had only been submitted until 2014. Based on the work done under the project, the following reports were submitted: National reports on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for the 3rd (2014) and 4th cycles (2018)<sup>93</sup>; National annual reports on the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2014-2017<sup>94</sup>. The collection of information to prepare the reports was facilitated thanks to the implementation of the “Regulation of interaction in the field of chemicals and waste management” (see specific results under previous criterion).

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- Gender:** The project management ensured the involvement of women in its activities. Thus, up to 60% of training participants were women. Women constituted 40% of the project steering committee members and 25% of the intersectoral working group members. Furthermore, the project to a certain extent mainstreamed gender considerations in the development of an Action Plan on SMC<sup>95</sup>.
- Socio-Political factor:** The only factor that to a limited degree impacted the pace of the delivery of a few outputs was the October 2017 presidential elections and a related government staff turnover which concerned mostly the higher-ranking government officials at that time. As the inter-sectoral working group included mostly the middle-ranking government employees, these changes did not affect much the project implementation.
- Other:**
  - Close collaboration between the implementing NGO and the government counterparts and a strong support from the government institutions enabled the effective implementation of the project's activities and the achievement of planned targets.
  - The conduct of studies and assessments<sup>96</sup> informed the project implementation and ensured that the proposed institutional and legislative changes were based on evidence and addressed the identified gaps.
  - The use of robust communication tools and partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations helped to reach target audiences with communication messages on relevant MEAs' requirements and the country's efforts for meeting those requirements.
  - UNITAR's involvement in the delivery of capacity building events and technical assistance helped to ensure the transfer of knowledge on the best international practices to relevant key stakeholders. Furthermore, the inclusion of practical components for the delivery of training sessions (e.g. an exercise on filling out export/import forms for the chemicals regulated by the Rotterdam Convention) promoted the application of built capacities for MEAs' implementation.

<sup>93</sup> In the view of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, the quality of reports was considered “fine”, most questions were responded in both 2014 and 2018 reports, but some important details were not provided.

<sup>94</sup> National reports for 2016 and 2017, on which the feedback was provided by the Basel Convention Secretariat, were considered incomplete).

<sup>95</sup> Plan of Action on SMC for 2019-2023 foresees the elaboration of recommendations for mitigating the risks to human health, including pregnant women.

<sup>96</sup> Thus, the project conducted legislation analysis based on which the action plan was developed on strengthening the legislative framework for SMC. The project separately analyzed the situation with regards to data exchange among the government agencies and produced an analytical note based on which the relevant regulation was developed on information exchange. The project also conducted the analysis to determine the possibilities of phasing out the use of glyphosate and made recommendations for developing relevant regulatory legal acts.



## SUSTAINABILITY

At the project end, the prospects for sustainability of results looked promising. The project had ensured the ownership of results, built capacities of stakeholders, facilitated the development of three action plans<sup>97</sup>, and enabled the development of mechanisms for information exchange and reporting under the relevant MEAs.

However, due to the unrest surrounding the 2020 annulled parliamentary elections and the subsequent structural changes to the form of the government and its institutions, the continuation of certain measures was put on pause.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	1
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	

For example, prior to the unrest, the action plans were being implemented and the coordination mechanism established by the project was functioning. However, both measures were halted in 2020. A further consequence was that most of the high and medium-level government employees who were cooperating with the project are no longer working for the government. The expertise is partially lost in a few government institutions. On the positive side, the legal acts that were approved by the government are still in force, however, they will need to be revised to reflect the institutional changes.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Close collaboration with the mid-level government employees proved to be an effective way for overcoming the challenge of frequent turnover of high-ranking government officials/decision makers.
- Oversight of SMC projects by the government institution that has a ministry status<sup>98</sup> and/or by the government apparatus proved to be beneficial in terms of securing wider government support. (SAEPF, an institution responsible for the environment protection, did not have a ministry status when the project was implemented.)
- Access to international expertise and technical assistance is important when a pool of relevant national experts is not available or is insufficient. The country lacked local experts to conduct capacity building events on BRS-M conventions' implementation issues and UNITAR's involvement in capacity building was instrumental in increasing the capacities of national counterparts.
- The involvement of an established NGO in the context of political changes in a country can be beneficial in terms of securing an institutional memory, providing certain follow-up and pushing for action.

<sup>97</sup> These plans were developed for improving the legislative framework and sound management of chemicals. The workplan was developed also for the IWG's work for a two-year period following the project's end.

<sup>98</sup> For the SP project it was the Ministry of Environment.

# REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Improving sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management throughout their lifecycle in the Republic of Moldova”

**Implementing partner:** Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO, currently Experts Association Promediu)

**Agreement timeframe:** July 2018 to June 2021

**Budget:** 218,190 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

**The effectiveness of the project was high as it met all the targets.** The project contributed to strengthening legislative framework and institutional capacity of the country for chemicals and waste management by a) laying the foundation for the creation of chemicals registry and coordination mechanism, b) building capacities of relevant stakeholders on SMC issues, including the reporting under Basel, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, and c) developing regulatory frameworks.

### Results & progress by core indicator criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		5

### Specific results:

- **The project laid the groundwork for the creation of a chemicals registry in Moldova.** More specifically, the project elaborated a technical concept on chemicals registry that was approved by the government in July 2020. The Chemical Registry has the approach of a “one-window” system that captures four groups of waste: a) those imported to Moldova, b) exported from Moldova, c) in transit on the territory of Moldova, and d) transferred exclusively on the territory of Moldova.
- The project also developed a software for the chemicals registry and conducted its functional testing. The software was created for covering chemicals under all the relevant conventions and SAICM and currently its maintenance is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MADRE)<sup>99</sup>.
- Moreover, the project updated the national chemicals management profile in 2020 based on the working meetings and on the analysis of data collected from all the relevant institutions.

<sup>99</sup> The maintenance of the registry, according to the Law on Chemicals is expected to be done by the Chemicals Agency. Therefore, this function will be transferred to the Chemicals Agency once it is established.

Criterion 1.2: Level necessary for chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management	2	
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

### Specific results:

- **The project contributed to the increase of capacities of various stakeholders on SMC by:**
  - Holding the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings where its members identified and discussed chemicals and wastes related issues, reviewed project deliverables and provided comments (five PSC meetings were held in total during the project implementation).
  - Organizing a study tour to Serbia which, according to the final evaluation report, helped five participants from the government and business sectors to get insights on how the processes for chemical and wastes management can be organized, including institutional, legislative and procedural aspects. The visit also built the foundation for further cooperation between the two countries.
  - Holding working meetings and trainings for relevant stakeholders. More specifically, the project organized two working meetings with businesses representatives for the development of regulations and chemicals registry. The project also conducted the following trainings: a) two-day training for 50 waste collectors and recyclers on Waste Evidence and Reporting, b) three online trainings for 40 participants (including national and local authorities, farmers, businesses, NGOs) on agrochemicals management, c) two-day training for over 30 representatives from public and private sectors (one day for each target group) on environmental risk assessment, REACH and CLP regulations<sup>100</sup>. This training was conducted by an international expert.

Criterion 1.3: Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. Nothing had been done		
1. The Government <b>decided on a mandate</b> to establish a unit	1	
2. The Government developed a <b>framework document</b> detailing how the unit would be established and would operate		2
3. The unit was <b>established</b> and had an <b>executive director</b>		
4. The unit was established and had an executive director. In addition, <b>standard operating procedures</b> were developed, and <b>staff</b> were hired		
5. The unit had all human, financial and physical resources and was <b>fully operational</b>		

### Specific results:

- **The project created the preconditions for strengthening the institutional framework for relevant MEAs' implementation** by developing the draft regulation on the establishment of Chemicals Agency<sup>101</sup> under MADRE. By the time of this assessment the regulation was not adopted

<sup>100</sup> REACH (Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) and the CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging regulation) are the two main instruments of the EU chemicals legislation.

<sup>101</sup> The baseline situation was that the responsibilities for chemicals management were dispersed among different government institutions with gaps in the provision of necessary measures and poor collaboration among them. The proposed function of the

due to the government changes. It is believed that the establishment of the agency will help with the national coordination of chemicals management and will provide a single interface for importers/exporters, manufacturers, government agencies and other stakeholders for the activities related to chemicals management.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	2	
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		4
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity with full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

#### Specific results:

- The project strengthened the multi-sectoral / multi-agency collaboration and coordination mechanism for chemicals and wastes management** through facilitating the establishment of the Interministerial Council<sup>102</sup> for coordinating actions under all relevant MEAs. The key project stakeholders identified members and assigned roles for this national coordination mechanism, based on which the mandate was elaborated and approved. The Council members comprised of the representatives of public institutions, academia and NGOs.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		2
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		

#### Specific results:

- The project strengthened regulatory framework required for the implementation of relevant MEAs** through supporting the development of the following regulations:
  - Regulation on the creation of the National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear, Radiological and Chemical Activities (see also Criterion 1.3) that envisaged the reorganization of the National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities into an agency for integrated chemicals management under MADRE. The project submitted and obtained approvals from different line ministries; however, it is still pending the approval from the government.
  - PIC Regulation on the Export and Import of Hazardous Chemicals that was approved by the government decision in July 15, 2020.
  - Regulation on Waste Shipment which transposed two European regulations: Regulation No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste and Regulation No 1418/2007 concerning the export for

*Chemical agency is the SCM / MEAs' implementation. Even though the regulation for establishing the Agency was approved by the government, the work for its establishment is still ongoing.*

<sup>102</sup> *An inter-ministerial working group (IWG) had been functioning since 2006 under SAICM and different conventions, however it did not cover all groups of chemicals. The newly established national coordination mechanism was supposed to continue functioning under the Chemicals Agency upon its establishment.*

recovery of certain wastes. By the end of 2020, the project conducted the first round of consultations with line ministries and submitted the draft regulation to MADRE for the subsequent follow-up. However, the approval of this regulation was delayed due to the lack of expertise for the provision of necessary feedback. The stakeholders, including the project experts who developed the regulation, were not sure about certain provisions of the regulation<sup>103</sup>, and only with the arrival of the competent EU High-Level Adviser to MADRE, the issue was clarified. The mentioned adviser provided technical assistance in the revision of the regulation and its appendices, after which it was approved in 2022.

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No reports were submitted		
1. Only the outlines of the reports were prepared ( <b>unfinished</b> draft)		
2. The reports were <b>drafted</b>		
3. The reports were <b>submitted</b> to the relevant MEA Secretariat	3	3+

### Specific results:

- **The project contributed to improving the reporting under the Basel, Minamata and Stockholm Conventions** by enhancing the availability and quality of data. More specifically, the project:
  - Supported the Basel Convention focal point in preparing three annual reports for 2017-2019. These three reports were transmitted on time and the quality was considered good by the Convention Secretariat. As of October 2022, however, the report for 2020 had not been transmitted yet.
  - Updated an inventory of mercury emissions for 2018 for the reporting under the Minamata Convention. This update allowed the assessment of economic impacts and of public health risks associated with the mercury pollution.
  - For reporting requirements under the Stockholm Convention the project a) made an inventory of uPOPs emissions for 2016 and recalculated the emissions for 2001, b) mapped obsolete pesticide stocks using GIS platform and mapped the diffuse emissions from pesticides' applications, c) calculated the emissions of dioxins and furans for 2016 and revised their numbers for the year of 2018. Overall, Moldova submitted 3 out of 5 national reports under the Stockholm Convention. The overall quality of the reports was considered good by the Stockholm Secretariat. As of October 2022, the latest had not been transmitted yet.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** The project management ensured corresponding participation of women in its activities (up to 45% of project participants were women). Moreover, one of the capacity building events for importers and distributors of pesticides addressed the impacts of certain chemicals on women.
- **Socio-political factor:** Frequent government changes following the February 2019 parliamentary elections and the constitutional crises of June 2019, delayed the approval of regulations.
- **COVID-19:** Covid-19 hindered the conduct of in-person meetings/workshops in 2020. Online sessions in view of the project management worked well with the public sector, but less so with farmers and private sector.
- **Other:**
  - According to the project's final evaluation report, the project implementation unit and employed experts had a good knowledge in the chemicals and wastes management area, as well as an extensive experience in policymaking and capacity building activities. This experience helped to incorporate lessons learnt from previous interventions<sup>104</sup>.
  - Partnerships with the Ozone Unit and EU4Climate project, that are supported by UNDP, contributed to the development of Chemicals Registry.

<sup>103</sup> The verbal inquiry with the Basel Convention's secretariat's contact person also did not clarify the issue (based on the interview with the project manager).

<sup>104</sup> E.g. for the development of a system for chemicals registry or for building the needed capacities of relevant stakeholders.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	1
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	

The project results are partially maintained due to the following:

- The functioning of the Interministerial Council by the time of the current assessment had been put on hold following the July 2021 Parliamentary elections. This was due to the constant institutional and human resources changes in the government. Once the changes are over, there will be a need to revise the relevant Ministerial Decree on the composition of Interministerial Council.
- The constant government change also affected the adoption of the regulation on the Chemicals Agency establishment.
- PIC and waste shipment regulations are being implemented with the support of SP2 project. The same project also supports the work on chemicals inventories.

## LESSON LEARNED

- Well organized study visits foster learning and provide incentives for replicating successful practices. As a result of the study visit to Serbia, the capacities of public and business organizations increased in the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) principles. After the study visit the environmental agency participating in the study tour was able to incorporate some practical considerations into the new regulation on waste packaging, and the country has also seen an increase in the registered EPR associations on e-waste.
- Access to specific technical assistance is sometimes vital to ensure the soundness of project deliverables. Two of the EU regulations transposed by the project required the EU's technical assistance, which was obtained after the project end. As a result, the relevant draft regulation was corrected later.

# SERBIA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions at the national level in the Republic of Serbia”

**Implementing partner:** Ministry of Environment Protection of Serbia with UNDP as executing agency

**Agreement timeframe:** June 2018 to June 2021

**Budget:** 250,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall assessment

**The effectiveness of the project was high as it achieved all the targets at output and intermediate outcome levels.** The project contributed to strengthening institutional capacity of the country by a) establishing a coordination mechanism for the management of chemicals and waste, b) developing an IT infrastructure for synergistic data collection and reporting under BRS-M Conventions, c) building capacities of relevant stakeholders on sound chemicals management issues, and d) by providing relevant institutions with important policy and guidance documents.

### Results & progress by core indicator criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		5

### Specific results:

- The project assisted the Government of Serbia with the establishment of a Joint Information System (JIS) for data collection and reporting under the BRS and Minamata Conventions** which speeded up data collection/consolidation processes. The project produced two videos on the IT system use and developed user and system administrator manuals<sup>105</sup> to ensure the proper use of the developed system by the relevant stakeholders. In addition, several trainings were organized for different users<sup>106</sup>, such as focal points of the BRS conventions, data providers, and the ICT unit of the Ministry of Environment Protection (MoEP). The responsibility for the JIS system maintenance lies with MoEP<sup>107</sup> which is hosting the system (<https://brsm.ekologija.gov.rs>).

<sup>105</sup> This manual contained instructions on the installation, configuration, backup and restore procedures.

<sup>106</sup> All users have their own login details.

<sup>107</sup> The engaged IT company was supporting the system maintenance until June 2022.

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management	2	
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		5

### Specific results:

- **The project strengthened the capacities of national institutions for the development of policies and regulations and mainstreaming SMC into the development planning processes through:**
  - Holding capacity building events, including two workshops for decision-makers and experts, one workshop for academia and CSO representatives, one workshop for industry and business sector representatives, and initial and final project conferences for diverse types of stakeholders<sup>108</sup>. The final project conference was a hybrid event attended by over 50 representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, which helped with the exchange of SMC experiences.
  - Provision of guidance documents to relevant stakeholders (see Criterion 2.1).
  - Peer-to-peer learning with the colleagues from Moldova, where the two country representatives shared their experiences related to SMC management issues.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was no multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism	0	
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with very limited and irregular participation from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with more regular and structured participation from Government and non-Government bodies		
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government bodies		4
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached full maturity with full participation from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a joint community of practice		

### Specific results:

- **The project supported establishment of the national coordination mechanism for chemicals and waste management** in support of monitoring and implementation of the BRS and Minamata Conventions. This mechanism, in the form of a Working Group (WG), was created in July 2020 with the Decree of MoEP. The project helped with the elaboration of the rules and procedures for the WG, identification of its members<sup>109</sup> and development of the workplan for the WG functioning.
- Criterion 1.4 received high rating due to the highly participatory and coordinated planning processes that took place during the project's implementation, with the participation of WG's members and

<sup>108</sup> Each of the workshops was attended by about 40 individuals.

<sup>109</sup> The group was composed of the representatives of all relevant government institutions, academia and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia which is a national association of Serbian businesses. The MoEP acts as an ad hoc Secretariat since all four Nationally Designated Authorities and Focal Points are within that ministry.



other relevant stakeholders.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan	0	
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>		1
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		

#### Specific results:

- **The project contributed to the elaboration of important policy and guidance documents for the implementation of BRS conventions, including:**
  - Action Plan for the synergistic implementation of the BRS-M Conventions that included many measures implemented by the project (e.g. the establishment of the national coordination mechanism and IT system for BRS-M monitoring and implementation)
  - Manual for customs and other enforcement bodies on control of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes
  - Manual for the recycling industry concerning identification and separation of PBDEs<sup>110</sup> from the e-waste
  - Policy paper to address priority mercury-related issues in the Republic of Serbia. This paper provided an analysis of the current situation and defined the desired change, including the ratification of Minamata Convention, development of the national programme to reduce mercury emissions from the energy sector, national programme for decommissioning of chlor-alkali electrolysis plants including decontamination of contaminated sites.
  - Assessment of remediation costs of two mercury contaminated sites which, according to BRS-M focal points, provided an additional justification for ratifying the Minamata convention.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done	0	
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		1
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>		

#### Specific results:

- **The project strengthened the regulatory framework for SMC by supporting:**
  - The elaboration of Draft Regulation on Construction Waste Management. The draft was approved by the working group, and its adoption is expected by the new government in 2022.
  - The elaboration of Forms for Notification of Final Regulatory Action (FRA) to ban or severely restrict chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention<sup>111</sup>. In total 63 forms for notification of FRA were developed under the project, notifying about the ban for 61 chemicals and severe restrictions for two chemicals. Part of these notifications were sent to the Secretariat as the collection of additional information for those forms continues. By the time of this assessment,

<sup>110</sup> Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers

<sup>111</sup> Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention sets out the obligations of Parties with respect to notifying the Secretariat of their final regulatory actions. If a Party takes an FRA to ban or severely restrict a chemical for health or environment reasons, it shares the information with all Parties by notifying the action to the Secretariat. Upon receipt of a notification of final regulatory action the Secretariat must verify whether it meets the information requirements of Annex I of the Convention. If the notification is found to be complete a summary is prepared and published in the PIC Circular. The summary briefly describes the scope of the action and the reasons, including information on hazards and risks of the chemical to human health or environment and the expected effect of the regulatory action.

the Rotterdam Convention Database of Notifications<sup>112</sup> of FRA contains 10 notifications from Serbia which were published in December 2020.

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. No reports were submitted		
1. Only the outlines of the reports were prepared ( <b>unfinished</b> draft)		
2. The reports were <b>drafted</b>		
3. The reports were <b>submitted</b> to the relevant MEA Secretariat	3	3+

### Specific results:

- **The project contributed to improving the reporting system under the BRS conventions and ensuring the submission of relevant reports.** According to the BRS focal points in the country this was made possible thanks to the joint information system that improved coordination of data collection and reporting activities. It should be noted, however, that the JIS system became operational only towards the end of the project.
- During the project implementation the government of Serbia submitted:
  - Three reports for 2018, 2019 and 2020 under the Basel Convention<sup>113</sup>. The completeness of reports was rated high for the years 2016 (prior to the project), 2018 and 2019 by the Basel Convention Secretariat<sup>114</sup>. The 2020 report was, at the time of the Assessment, still under the review by the Secretariat of the Convention.
  - National Report to the Stockholm Convention for 2018 in a timely manner. As the reporting under this convention is done once in four years, the next report is due in 2022. The Stockholm Convention secretariat noted that the quality of the reporting was good and that the country responded to most of the questions in its last report.

As noted under Criterion 2.3 the country submitted several Forms for Notification of FRAs under the Rotterdam Convention and 10 notifications were published in the FRA database in 2020.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** About half of participants of the project-organized events were women and the content of developed materials was directed towards broader population or specific groups (e.g. customs officers) that was equally applicable to both women and men.
- **COVID-19:** The project was slightly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and that was the reason for requesting the extension. The project, however, adapted successfully to COVID-19 restrictions by conducting online and/or hybrid meetings.
- **Vulnerable population groups:** The project promoted the protection of health from harmful effects of hazardous waste and chemicals by conducting an awareness raising campaign for the Roma population involved in the collection of secondary raw materials<sup>115</sup>.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project results are fully maintained. One of the major results, the coordination mechanism and IT infrastructure, is still in place and financially supported for collecting data and meeting the reporting requirements of BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.pic.int/Procedures/NotificationsofFinalRegulatoryActions/Database?tpl=std>

<sup>113</sup> The 2018 report under the Basel Convention was submitted in a timely manner, while the reports for 2019 and 2020 were submitted late.

<sup>114</sup> The report for 2017, which is also prior to the project, was not submitted.

<sup>115</sup> The project conducted Training of Trainer trainings for young Roma population and produced and disseminated different brochures in 30 towns, including one with pictures. Such brochures responded to the needs of Roma people with low level of education.

0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

- The project-developed policy guidance documents and manuals were disseminated to relevant stakeholders and are in use. One of the successful cases, according to the respondents to this assessment, is the use of the specially developed manual for the recycling industry. Representatives of this industry currently separate potentially Bromine-containing plastic parts from e-waste, when prior the project only metals were separated. The beneficiaries learnt, for example, how to use the same instruments and equipment for separating plastic parts of electronics and what procedures to follow thereupon.
- The government personnel whose capacities were built within the project, especially the focal points of the conventions, continue functioning in the SMC field and are ready to provide the necessary follow-up. They will push for the ratification of the Minamata Convention once the new government is in place, and they will also work on the second phase of the SP project that builds on the results of the previous one.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Close collaboration between the executing agency (UNDP) and the government during the project implementation ensured the ownership of results and subsequent follow-up.
- Highly participatory processes promote sustainability of results and strengthen collaboration between the government and non-government actors. The project, for example, developed the JIS through regular consultations with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the system responds to end-users needs. The project also conducted joint meetings and workshops for the government and industry representatives that helped public servants to better understand the industry concerns, communicate certain requirements and promote compliance with legal provisions.
- Establishment of synergies among BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention (e.g. through coordination mechanisms and the JIS) enables policy makers and other stakeholders to effectively monitor and support the implementation of those conventions.

# TANZANIA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening institutional capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste in the United Republic of Tanzania”

**Implementing partner:** Vice President’s Office - Division of Environment

**Agreement Timeframe:** June 2017 to September 2021

**Budget:** 235,000 USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

The project objectives were largely met. The project contributed to strengthening institutional capacity of the country by a) developing an IT infrastructure for synergistic data collection and reporting under BRS-M Conventions, b) building capacities of relevant stakeholders on SCM issues, c) establishing a coordination mechanism for the management of chemicals and waste, d) developing a national strategy & updating an existing policy and e) developing a new regulation on mercury. The project also supported in the preparation of reports to meet the obligations of the conventions. However, not all reports were submitted.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry		
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs	3	
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		4
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		

### Specific results:

Before the project start, Tanzania had several information registries covering the chemicals and wastes related to the BRS Conventions. However, these information systems were separate and not integrated. Thanks to the project, Tanzania **developed an integrated database** called *Chemicals and Waste Information Management System*. This new database gathers data from local government authorities, Ministries, Departments and Authorities related to chemicals and hazardous waste.

Since Tanzania ratified the Minamata Convention in 2019, the new integrated database directly **included information related to the Minamata Convention**. The database will be of great support in preparing the reports to be submitted to the Secretariat of the four conventions. The new integrated database is about to be operational thanks to the support of IT services and trained users.

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management		
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning	3	
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

### Specific results:

The project drafted a Capacity Needs Assessment Report on chemicals and waste management in Tanzania. Based on it, **four training workshops** were conducted between October 2018 and January 2019. Training manuals were prepared and disseminated to participants during training sessions.

Further, trainings have been replicated to other groups of population to achieve sound management of chemicals and waste in the country as a whole, such as:

- In collaboration with Government Chemists Laboratory Authority (GCLA) and Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), **125 Agriculture Extension Officers** were trained on chemicals and waste management including pesticides management.
- In collaboration with GCLA, **157 persons from Regulatory Authority and Local Government Authorities** were trained on chemicals and waste management in oil and gas sector.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was no multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism		
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with very limited and irregular participation from Government and non-Government bodies	1	
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with more regular and structured participation from Government and non-Government bodies		2
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government		
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached full maturity with full participation from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a joint community of practice		

### Specific results:

At the start of the project, there were several mechanisms that facilitated the coordination management between the government, private agencies, and non-state actors. These mechanisms covered the management of very specific chemicals such as: pharmaceuticals, pesticides, radioactive materials, petroleum products and industrial and consumer chemicals. However, the status of a fully operational multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for the national sound chemicals and waste management was not yet reached.

The project established a **Multi-sectoral Technical Group** under the Vice President's Office, which comprises 15 members from Government Ministries and Agencies, Academia and NGOs. It assisted in executing project activities. The structure will be maintained and its aim is to coordinate and undertake the activities related to chemicals and waste management in the country.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan	0	
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>		
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		3

#### Specific results:

- The project developed a **National Strategy** for Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste (2020 — 2025). The Strategy provides a national framework for enhancing sound management of chemicals and waste in the areas of chemicals management, environmental management, public health and sustainable development in the country. The strategy is now being implemented.
- The project did not develop the new “National chemicals and waste management policy” it had planned. Instead, the project **updated the existing National Environmental Policy**. In its revision, it included six new issues to comply with the MEAs, including e-waste. This revised policy entered into force in October 2021 and provides a new approach for the integrated planning and sustainable management of chemicals and waste in Tanzania.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>Nothing</b> was done		
1. The relevant authority <b>proposed</b> to develop regulations		
2. The regulations were <b>adopted</b>		
3. The regulations were in place and being <b>implemented</b>	3	3+

#### Specific results:

In addition to the existing regulations covering the obligations under the BRS conventions, the project **developed Regulations on the Control and Management of Mercury** between September 2018 and November 2019 in collaboration with key stakeholders through technical working sessions. These Regulations aim at i) ensuring domestication of legal obligations of the Minamata Convention, ii) enforcing national standards on allowable mercury emissions and releases from point sources; and iii) facilitating effective implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to	Project Start	Project End
<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
0. <b>No</b> reports were submitted		
1. Only the outlines of the reports were prepared ( <b>unfinished</b> draft)	1	
2. The reports were <b>drafted</b>		2
3. The reports were <b>submitted</b> to the relevant MEA Secretariat		

#### Specific results:

The new Chemicals and Waste Information Management System helped in the **preparation of draft reports** to meet the reporting obligations under the chemicals and waste Conventions. However, not all the reports were submitted to the Secretariats<sup>116</sup>. The Regulations on the Control and Management of Mercury facilitated the ratification of the Minamata Convention in October 2020 and guided the inputs to the report submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

<sup>116</sup> Tanzania did not submit the Basel Convention annual reports for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. It also did not send the Stockholm Convention quadrennial reports for 2014, 2018 and 2022. The quadrennial reports for 2007 and 2012 were submitted late.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

- **Gender:** One of the main deliverables - the National Strategy for Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste directly includes gender into its action points. The participation of women in project activities only reached 30%.
- **Financial factor:** The vast majority of the project activities were finalized in time, although the project output “monitoring and evaluation report” could not be finalized until September 2021 due to budget issues.
- **Institutional structure:** The project was well managed as the VPO-DoE<sup>117</sup> enabled the timely coordination of the project activities. Small delays occurred due to the following reasons:
  - Some stakeholders did not deliver the required inputs for the production of various documents in time.
  - Government Offices moved from the old Headquarters in Dar es Salaam to the new Headquarters in Dodoma City.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project **results have been fully sustained** through government domestic financing and in-kind support. The new capacities and mechanisms were maintained.

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

- The Project Steering Committee continues overseeing the execution of chemicals and waste related activities: i) Enforcement of "Regulations on the control and management of mercury and mercury compounds (2020)"; ii) Implementation of the "National Strategy for Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (2020-2025)"; iii). Dissemination of the project outputs, including the training materials to various stakeholders on chemicals and waste; and iv) Undertaking initiatives to address issues identified in the Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment Report, including development of funding proposals.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- The high-level coordination by the VPO-DoE and the efficient project organization set up contributed to the success of the project. In specific terms, a **Project Steering Committee** was set up with 16 senior officials from relevant government departments who endorsed the annual work plans and project progress, and a **Project Management Unit** was set that facilitated the project activities and approved the associated resources.
- The project used government and non-state institution experts to implement some project activities instead of hiring consultants. This had a double positive effect as it i) fostered the involvement of all key stakeholders including Ministries, Departments and Agencies; NGOs; and Private sector; and ii) contributed to creating their capacities and sharing knowledge among them.
- The project was able to overcome implementation challenges by setting clear priorities and implementing **mitigation measures**.
- The project attracted **investment from private sector**<sup>118</sup> for hazardous waste management. About 40 permits for hazardous waste management were issued to private companies between July 2018 and July 2019.

<sup>117</sup> Vice President Office Division of Environment

<sup>118</sup> Most of the treatment and disposal facilities for industrial and healthcare in the country are privately owned, e.g. oil and gas extraction waste, health care waste, mining related chemical waste, which are inadequate and inefficient for the chemical and waste management in the country. The project facilitated locating more facilities and improving capacity regarding types of waste to be handled.

- The long-time experience of the project implementer VPO-DoE and the partners GCLA<sup>119</sup> and TPRI<sup>120</sup> and the fact that they integrated NEMC<sup>121</sup> and OSHA<sup>122</sup> in their trainings contributed to the success of the training activities on chemical and waste management.

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<sup>119</sup> GCLA -Government Chemist Laboratory Authority

<sup>120</sup> TPRI -Tropical Pesticides Research Institute

<sup>121</sup> NEMC - National Environment Management Council

<sup>122</sup> OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Authority



# UGANDA

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Title:** “Strengthening national institutional capacity in sound management of chemicals and waste in Uganda”

**Implementing partner:** National Environment Management Authority

**Agreement timeframe:** May 2018 to June 2022<sup>123</sup>

**Budget:** 250,005USD

## RESULTS

### Overall Assessment

Most of the project objectives were met. The project contributed to mainstream the sound management of chemicals in Uganda’s Vision 2040 and the National Development Plans and Sectoral Plans.

### Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The Project covered four of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No database or registry	0	
1. Database or registry covering 1 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)		
2. Database or registry covering 2 MEAs		
3. Database or registry covering 3 MEAs		
4. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs		4
5. Database or registry covering 4 MEAs and SAICM		

### Specific results:

The project developed the **Uganda National Chemicals and Waste Database** which provides information on chemicals across their entire lifecycle. The database is integrated under URA<sup>124</sup> and under MoGLSD<sup>125</sup>, but only partially. For the database to be fully operational, the regulations on hazardous chemicals management need to be first finalized.

Criterion 1.2: Level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. No knowledge or expertise available		
1. Not enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in chemical and/or waste management	1	
2. Enough personnel in at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency have basic training in Chemical and/or waste management		
3. Enough personnel from 1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency have been trained in chemical and /or waste management and know how to apply it into country planning		
4. Enough personnel in 3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies have been trained in chemical and/or waste management and can transfer their knowledge to colleagues for day-to-day use		4
5. All the required personnel have necessary expertise and can integrate chemical management into the development planning process		

<sup>123</sup> The PCA is still valid till 30 June 2023

<sup>124</sup> Uganda Revenue Authority

<sup>125</sup> Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

**Specific results:**

The project strengthened the capacities on chemicals and waste management of different stakeholders.

- The project developed **training materials** for the sound management of chemicals and waste<sup>126</sup>.
- The project **trained staff on how to use the National Chemicals and Waste Database**. The two training events included staff from UNBS<sup>127</sup>, URA<sup>128</sup>, Ministry of Agriculture, MAAIF<sup>129</sup> and MoGLSD<sup>130</sup> as well as from NEMA<sup>131</sup> to ensure the database is fully understood within host institution.
- The project conducted **two trainings focusing on oil and gas stakeholders** for about 50 participants.

In addition, the project undertook awareness raising workshops on chemicals and waste for different groups. Information was also disseminated through print media and radio.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism	0	
1. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
2. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		2
3. There was a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies		
4. There was <b>coordinated planning and a common knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism <b>with regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government		
5. The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity</b> with <b>full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice		

**Specific results:**

A **Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee** on chemicals management was established and started being operational. The Committee is composed of 22 members of the National Government, NGOs<sup>132</sup>, CSOs<sup>133</sup> and private sector. Members include among others: UMA<sup>134</sup>, NAPE<sup>135</sup>, Universities, Ministries and other bodies.

The Committee led the preparation of the national positions for participation in 2019 and 2022 to the BRS COPs and drafted the regulations for the management of hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals. These regulations establish a **Committee on Chemicals Management** with a clear mandate, membership and roles.

Criterion 2.1: Level of development and implementation of chemical/waste management policy, plan or strategy	Project Start	Project End
Rating Scale	Rating	
0. There was <b>no</b> strategy, policy or plan		
1. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>proposed</b>	1	
2. The strategy, policy or plan was <b>adopted</b>		2
3. The strategy, policy or plan was in place and <b>being implemented</b>		

<sup>126</sup> Example of training materials: Chemical Waste Management, Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) for Chemicals, Testing, Monitoring and Reporting for Chemicals, Understanding Classification and Labelling of Chemicals using GHS

<sup>127</sup> Uganda National Bureau Standard

<sup>128</sup> Uganda Revenue Authority

<sup>129</sup> Ministry for Animal Industry and Fisheries

<sup>130</sup> Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

<sup>131</sup> National Environment Management Authority

<sup>132</sup> Non-Governmental Organizations

<sup>133</sup> Civil Society Organizations

<sup>134</sup> Uganda Manufacturers Association

<sup>135</sup> National Association of Professional Environmentalists

**Specific results:**

With support of the project, the **National Chemicals Profile** was updated from the 2003 version to a new 2020 version, and subsequently endorsed by the Minister of Water and Environment in January 2021. The Profile contains the **Strategies for Chemicals and Waste**. These define how the sound management of hazardous chemicals and e-wastes should be promoted and call for establishing a modern waste management infrastructure. They are part of Uganda's Vision 2040 for a green and clean environment with no water and air pollution.

**FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

- **Gender:** The Project was not gender responsive in its design. However, up to 45% of participants in activities such as workshops and trainings were women.
- **Institutional structure:** During the implementation of the project, the National Environment Fund which received the money from the Special Programme was merged with another Government fund. As a result, the funds aimed at recruiting project staff were not immediately available. To mitigate this situation, the Authority assigned staff within their own institution to start executing the project.
- **COVID-19:** The pandemic affected the timeline of the project. Due to the second lockdown, consultative meetings and awareness activities had to be rescheduled. As a result, the project had a no cost extension.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

- The project **results have been fully sustained.**

Sustainability of Results	After the End of the Project
Rating Scale	Rating
0. Results <b>not</b> maintained	
1. Results <b>partially</b> maintained	
2. Results <b>mostly</b> maintained	
3. Results <b>fully</b> maintained	3

- Financing for chemicals management has been integrated in the activities of NEMA and other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- Through the National Environment Act of 2019, new Technical Committees with specific NEMA budget lines will be created. To be fully operational, the corresponding regulations will need to be finalized which will spell out the mandate of the Technical Committees.
- The National Chemicals and Waste Database will be fully operational once the regulations on hazardous chemicals management will be finalized.
- The capacity building programmes, such as training activities and knowledge sharing platforms will continue after the project end and ensure the sustainability of results.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- Not having a fully operational project team due to administrative delays affects the timely execution of the planned activities.
- Having a multi-sectoral team implementing the project brings many advantages. It ensures that different skills, knowledge and expertise are covered, and contributes to overcome the siloed approach of institutions. In addition, the likelihood of the results being sustained is much higher as the level of ownership is stronger.
- The project was successful in implementing its project activities. However, to maintain its results, sustained technical and financial support from stakeholders and development partners is needed.

## 7. ANNEXES

### 7.1. ANNEX 1: ToRs OF ASSESSMENT

[ToRs of Assessment of Closed Projects](#)

## 7.2. ANNEX 2: ASSESSMENT MATRIX AND RESULTS

The table captures the Core Indicator criteria applicable to each of the projects. If a specific Core Indicator criterion is not applicable to a project, the field is filled in grey. If the Core Indicator criterion is applicable to a project, two values are entered: “B” stands for “baseline” and “R” for “result”, which is the value that project reached at the end of its implementation. The meaning of the numbers for each of the Core Indicator criterion can be consulted under the progress markers of the Core Indicator Scorecard which is to be found under Annex 3.

Project	Implemented Measures /strategies /Fact brief	MEL Core -Indicator 1 Criterion								MEL Core -Indicator 2 Criterion								Means of verification Sources of Information (SOI), Survey and Interviews
		1.1		1.2		1.3		1.4		2.1		2.2		2.3		2.4		
		B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	
Argentina	Refer to the project assessment page “Results” section for the detailed narrative presentation			1	4	2	5	1	4			2	3	0	3	1	2	Refer to the project assessment page “Results” section for the individual means of verification
Belarus 1		0	1	0	4	0	2	0	2			0	1	0	1			
Benin				1	1					1	1+	0	1					
China		0	4	3	4			2	3	3	3+			3	3+			
Dominican Republic		0	5	1	3			1	3	0	3			3	3+			
Iraq		1	4	2	4	4	4+	3	4	1	3	2	3	1	2			
Kyrgyzstan				1	4			1	4	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	
Republic of Moldova 1		0	5	2	4	1	2	2	4					0	2	3	3+	
Serbia 1		0	5	2	5			0	4	0	1			0	1	3	3+	
Tanzania		3	4	3	4			1	2	0	3			3	3+	1	2	
Uganda		0	4	1	4			0	2	1	2							

The table summarises the non-core indicator assessment results of all the 11 projects together. Please refer to the Survey Questionnaire in Annex 4 for a detailed explanation of each of the categories in the table.

Non- Core -Indicator			Factor affecting the project performance								Means for verification	
Criterion	Question Matrix	Survey Questionnaire	Number of projects   level of indicator								Sources of Information Interview and survey	
Gender balance	Q2	Q2.1	NA	4	Negligibly		Modestly	6	Moderately	1	Substantially	Refer to the project assessment page “Factor affecting the project performance, and Sustainability” sections for the individual means of verification, and for a detailed narrative explanation
Woman participation rate	Q2	Q2.2	NA		0-15%	3	15-30%	3	30-45%	5	45%- more	
Indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities	Q2	Q2.3	2	8		1						
Socio-political and Institutional factors	Q3c Q3b	Q2.4 Q2.6	NA	4	Negligibly	2	Modestly	3	Moderately	2	Substantially	
Financial factors	Q3a	Q2.5		5		2		2		2		
COVID-19 pandemic	Q3d	Q2.7		2		1		2		6		
Other factors	Q2	Q2.8	4 projects mentioned other factors									
Non- Core -Indicator			Sustainability									
Criterion	Question Matrix	Survey Questionnaire	Yes /No	Number of projects   level of indicator								
Achieved results maintenance	Q4	Q3.1		0	Not maintained	3	Partially maintained	2	Mostly maintained	6	Fully maintained	
Specific measures incorporation	Q4	Q3.2	11 Yes									
Secured financial investment	Q5	Q3.3		1	No financing secured	3	Financing secured just for maintaining the most basic results	3	Financing secured for maintaining the majority of the results	4	Full financing secured for maintaining all the results	

### 7.3. ANNEX 3: GENERIC SCORECARD TEMPLATE FOR CORE INDICATORS

INDICATOR 1 Extent of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to support development and implementation of National Strategies for Chemicals and Waste Management as a result of funding from the Special Programme.					
<b>Criterion 1.1: Are there National chemical and/or waste databases?</b> <i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct</i>					
<b>0</b> No chemical/ waste database exists	<b>1</b> Chemical and/or waste inventory or databases <b>exist for one MEA</b>	<b>2</b> Chemical and/or waste inventory or databases <b>exist for 2 MEAs</b>	<b>3</b> Chemical and/or waste inventory or databases <b>exist for 3 MEAs</b>	<b>4</b> Chemical and/or waste inventory or databases <b>exist for 4 MEAs</b>	<b>5</b> Chemical and/or waste inventory or databases <b>exist for all 4 MEAs plus SAICM</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here: Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above: Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>					
<b>Criterion 1.2: Is the necessary Chemical and/or Waste Management expertise available?</b> <i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct</i>					
<b>0</b> No knowledge or expertise available on chemicals and waste management	<b>1</b> <b>Not enough</b> personnel in <b>at least one priority Ministry. Department or Agency</b> have <b>basic training</b> in chemical and/or waste management	<b>2</b> <b>Enough</b> personnel in <b>at least one priority Ministry, Department or Agency</b> have <b>basic training</b> in Chemical and/or waste management	<b>3</b> <b>Enough</b> personnel from <b>1 or 2 Ministry, Department or Agency</b> have been <b>trained</b> in chemical and /or waste management and <b>know how to apply it into country planning</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Enough</b> personnel in <b>3 or 4 Ministries, Departments or Agencies</b> have been <b>trained</b> in chemical and /or waste management <b>and can transfer their knowledge</b> to colleagues for day to day use	<b>5</b> <b>All</b> the required personnel have <b>necessary expertise</b> and <b>can integrate chemical management into the development planning process</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here: Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above: Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>					
<b>Criterion 1.3: Has a department been established for Chemical and/or Waste Management and provided with the necessary resources?</b> <i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct</i>					

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
There is <b>no</b> dedicated department /unit for chemical/waste management	Government <b>mandate in place for establishment</b> of a dedicated chemical and /or waste management department/unit.	Framework <b>document for establishment and operation</b> of the Chemical/ Waste Management Department/Unit <b>developed</b>	Chemical and /or waste Management department/unit <b>established and Executive Director in place</b>	<b>Standard Operating Procedures</b> for the Chemical and /or waste management Department/Unit <b>developed and staff hiring is in process</b>	Chemical/ Waste Management Department/Unit has the required <b>human, physical, and financial resources and is operational.</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:                  Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:                  Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>					
<p><b>Criterion 1.4: Does the government participate in a Multi-stakeholder Coordination Mechanism for Chemical &amp; Waste Management?</b>                  Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct</p>					
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
There is <b>no</b> multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism	There is a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>very limited and irregular participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	There is a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>more regular and structured participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	There is a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with <b>regular meetings and adequate participation</b> from Government and non-Government bodies	There is coordinated planning and a common <b>knowledge exchange mechanism</b> in addition to a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism with regular meetings and adequate participation from Government and non-Government	The multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism reached <b>full maturity with full participation</b> from all Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders and a <b>joint community</b> of practice
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:                  Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:                  Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>					



INDICATOR 2			
Degree of integration of chemical and waste management into national and sector planning - formally proposed, adopted, or being implemented including required reporting to the relevant Conventions and voluntary reporting to SAICM.			
Criterion 2.1: Are Chemical and /or waste Management Policy, Plan, Strategy developed or updated and being implemented?			
<i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the statements that is correct</i>			
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No</b> Chemical/Waste Management Policy, Plan, or Strategy exists	A relevant government official, agency, organization or non-governmental entity with decision making authority in its respective legal, regulatory, policy or non-governmental system has <b>proposed</b> development of a national plan, policy or strategy for chemical and /or waste management	A relevant government official, agency, organization or non-governmental entity with decision making authority in its respective legal, regulatory, policy or non-governmental system has <b>adopted</b> a national plan, policy or strategy for chemical and /or waste management	A relevant government official, agency, organization or non-governmental entity with decision making authority in its respective legal, regulatory, policy or non-governmental system <b>is implementing</b> a national plan, policy or strategy for chemical and / or waste management that <b>is in force</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:</i>  <i>Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:</i>  <i>Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>			
Criterion 2.2: Is the necessary chemical and /or waste management legal framework in place? It refers to the laws/conventions which the country has ratified.			
<i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the statements that is correct</i>			
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No</b> legal framework in place	Legal Framework <b>proposed</b>	A legal framework to support the policy/plan or strategy has been <b>adopted</b>	Legal framework to support policy, plan or strategy is <b>in place</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:</i>  <i>Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:</i>  <i>Attach any documentation as proof it needed</i></p>			
Criterion 2.3: Is the chemical and / or waste management regulatory framework in place? It refers to the specific regulatory steps the country has taken to ensure the laws /conventions are implemented on the ground.			
<i>Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct</i>			
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No</b> Chemical and /or waste management regulatory framework	Regulatory Framework <b>Proposed</b>	A regulatory framework to support the policy, plan, or strategy has been <b>adopted</b> but enforcement <b>not yet operational</b>	A regulatory framework to support the policy, plan, or strategy is <b>in place</b> and enforcement <b>operational</b>
<p><i>Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:</i></p>			

*Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:  
Attach any documentation as proof it needed*

**Criterion 2.4: Are reports to the MEAs to which the country is a party to being submitted?**

*Fill the box just below with a shading color for the one of the six statements that is correct*

0	1	2	3
<b>No</b> reporting to relevant MEAs is being done	Preparations for reporting to relevant MEAs have begun - A <b>TOR</b> for the report is being <b>drafted</b>	A <b>report</b> to the relevant MEA is being <b>drafted</b>	<b>Report</b> to the relevant MEA is <b>nearing completion/dispatched</b>

*Write the code [=number] for the statement that applies to your project here:  
Explain in max. 30 words why you selected the statement just above:  
Attach any documentation as proof it needed*

## 7.4. ANNEX 4: ASSESSMENT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Assessment Survey Questionnaire

## 7.5. ANNEX 5: RESTRUCTURED PROJECT LOGFRAME - KEY BASELINE AND RESULT BY CRITERION

The following template was used to screen the project progress against the MEL, the Core Indicators criteria and to i) establish the initial baseline under the criteria for each project, and ii) determine the progress under the criteria for each project.

Project		Proposed Measures of Project	MEL Indicators	Baseline (Incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Actual Value	Sources and means of verification	Additional information/ Context
Country (Project Title)	Intermediate Outcomes							
	Outputs							
	Activities							

## 7.6. ANNEX 6: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Documentation related to SP as a whole:	
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mandate</b> See attachments with UNEA resolution, ToRs of special programme and presentations that include the extension of the SP-ToRs Annex to UNEA 1_5</li> <li>▪ Sixth round of funding <a href="https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special?_ga=2.99084446.1600632457.1654075748-984948008.1619445156">https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special?_ga=2.99084446.1600632457.1654075748-984948008.1619445156</a></li> <li>▪ <b>Communication material</b> <a href="https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/communication-resources">https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/communication-resources</a></li> <li>▪ Monitoring and evaluation material <a href="https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/considerations-project-monitoring">https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/considerations-project-monitoring</a></li> <li>▪ <b>Projects database</b> <a href="https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database">https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database</a></li> </ul>
<b>Assessment and Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2020 Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation</li> <li>▪ UNEG Norms &amp; Standards for Evaluation_English-2017 (3)</li> </ul>
<b>MEL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEL Strategy and Action Plan Nov 2020 2</li> <li>▪ MEL Strategy Toolkit Nov 2020 2</li> </ul>
<b>Mid Term Evaluation &amp; ROM Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mid-Term Evaluation of SP</li> <li>▪ D-38333_ROM Report_20190412_Final</li> </ul>

Documentation related to the specific projects:											
	Projects	Application Forms	Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA)	Number of PCA Amendment	Progress Reports			Final Progress Report (FPR)	Project Closure Report	Number of Supporting Documents in Final Progress Report	Project Evaluation Report
					1	2	3				
Lead Expert	China	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	NA	14	
	Iraq	x	x	2	x	x	x	x	NA	36	
	Tanzania	x	x	2	x	x	x	x	x	0 <sup>136</sup>	x
	Uganda	x	x	2	x	x	x	Interim report in 03/2022 <sup>137</sup>	NA	0 <sup>138</sup>	Mid Term
Team Member 1	Belarus 1	x	x	1	x	x	Not required by PCA	x	NA	76	
	Kyrgyzstan	x	x	1	x	x		x	NA	61	
	Republic of Moldova 1	x	x	5	x	x		x	NA	30	x
	Serbia 1	x	x	1	x	x		x	NA	87	x
Team Member 2	Argentina	x	UN to UN Agency Agreement with Ministry of Argentina	1	x	NA	x	x	NA	133	
	Benin	x	x	1	x	x	x	x	NA	7	
	Dominican Republic	x	x	1	x	2019 and 2020 reports are technical audit documents only		x	x	55	

<sup>136</sup> 25 available from progress reports of 2017,2018,2019

<sup>137</sup> PCA is valid till June 2023

<sup>138</sup> However, 19 supporting documents available in the progress reports of 2018,2019 and 2020

## 7.7. ANNEX 7: LIST OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

The online survey was responded by the representatives of the projects, which are:

Project	Project Cooperation Agreement	Project Focal Point	Name and Contact
Argentina	UN to UN Agreement with UNDP Argentina Office	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	<b>Mr Jorge L. Etcharrán</b> Director of National Chemical, Undersecretary of Supervision and Recomposition Director of National of Chemical Substances and Products <a href="mailto:jetcharran@ambiente.gob.ar">jetcharran@ambiente.gob.ar</a> 011 43488990 int. 8756
Benin	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Living framework and Sustainable Development of Benin	Ministry in charges of environment of Benin	<b>Ms. Maurille T. ELEGBEDE</b> Environmental Management Risk Service Coordinator <a href="mailto:melegbede@yahoo.fr">melegbede@yahoo.fr</a> +229 95 49 04 88
Belarus 1	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus	Laboratory of Preventive and Ecological Toxicology of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene"	<b>Ms. Vasilieva Marina</b> Researcher Project manager <a href="mailto:vasmm11@gmail.com">vasmm11@gmail.com</a> +375297676725
China	Project Cooperation Agreement with Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China	Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China	<b>Ms. Caili Zhang</b> Deputy section chief Project manager <a href="mailto:zhang.caili@fecomee.org.cn">zhang.caili@fecomee.org.cn</a> +86-10-82268581
Dominican Republic	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	<b>Mr. Wilson Tejada</b> Environmental Management Analyst Technical project analyst, collaborator for the development of project activities <a href="mailto:Wilson.Tejada@ambiente.gob.do">Wilson.Tejada@ambiente.gob.do</a> +1809 698 7260
Iraq	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment of Iraq  UNEP Regional Office	<b>Mr. Luay Sadeq Almkhtar</b> Chief Engineer/director Technical manager <a href="mailto:luay_al_mokhtar@yahoo.com">luay_al_mokhtar@yahoo.com</a> +9647901467889  <b>Ms. Carla Ayoub</b> Chemicals Management Officer <a href="mailto:carla.ayoub@un.org">carla.ayoub@un.org</a>

<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Public Association Independent Ecological Expertise	Public Association "Independent Ecological Expertise"	<b>Mr. Oleg Pecheniuk</b> Chairman Project Manager <a href="mailto:op_67@mail.ru">op_67@mail.ru</a> +996 312 57 83 72
<b>Republic of Moldova 1</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Moldova	ex Environnemental Pollution Prevention Office, now Experts Association Promediu	<b>Ms. Tatiana TUGUI</b> Director National project coordinator <a href="mailto:tuguitatiana@ymail.com">tuguitatiana@ymail.com</a> +37369249539
<b>Serbia 1</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia	Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP)	<b>Ms. Sonja Roglic</b> National SAICM Focal Point, Contact point for Minamata Convention Member of project team <a href="mailto:sonja.roglic@eko.gov.rs">sonja.roglic@eko.gov.rs</a>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with Government of the United Republic of Tanzania	Vice President's Office - Division of Environment	<b>Mr. Said Athumani</b> Town planner Project coordinator <a href="mailto:saidathumani@gmail.com">saidathumani@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:athumani.said@vpo.go.tz">athumani.said@vpo.go.tz</a> + 255 66 919 199
<b>Uganda</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) of Uganda	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	<b>Ms. Patience Nsereko</b> Principal Environment Inspector Project Manager <a href="mailto:patience.nsereko@nema.go.ug">patience.nsereko@nema.go.ug</a> + 256 772 656218

**Note:** The projects marked in **purple** were approved under the Second round of funding of the SP, whereas the projects in black letters were approved under the first round of funding of the SP.

Representatives of the MEA Secretariats having provided information for the assessment:

Secretariat	Position	Name and Contact
<b>BRS</b>	Head of Unit (Programme Resources and Oversight Unit)	<b>Mr. Frank Moser</b>
<b>MINAMATA</b>	Programme Management Officer for Capacity Building and Technical Assistance, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	<b>Ms. Marianne Bailey</b>
<b>SAICM</b>	Programme Officer, SAICM Secretariat	<b>Mr. Jose de Mesa Alcalde</b>

## 7.8. ANNEX 8: LIST OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

The Interviews took place during the data collection phase are listed below:

Project	Date	SP secretariat	Date	Project Applicant	Date	Implementing Organization
Argentina	08/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Ms. Nicole Caesar</b> Associate Programme Officer of SP <a href="mailto:nicole.caesar@un.org">nicole.caesar@un.org</a>	30/08/2022 Google Meet	<b>Ms. Verónica Bernárdez</b> Coordinator of SP project, National Direction of Hazardous Substances and Wastes <a href="mailto:vbernardez@ambiente.gob.ar">vbernardez@ambiente.gob.ar</a>  Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	30/08/2022 Google Meet	<b>Mrs. María Eugenia Di Paola</b> Coordinator of Environment and Sustainable Development <a href="mailto:maria.eugenia.di.paola@undp.org">maria.eugenia.di.paola@undp.org</a>  United Nations Development Programme – Country Office
Belarus 1	09/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Nicole Caesar</b> Associate Programme Officer of SP <a href="mailto:nicole.caesar@un.org">nicole.caesar@un.org</a>			24/08/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Irina Iliukova</b> Head <a href="mailto:toxlab@mail.ru">toxlab@mail.ru</a> Laboratory of Preventive and Environmental Toxicology at RSPCH  <b>Ms. Marina Vasiliyeva</b> Researcher <a href="mailto:vasmm11@gmail.com">vasmm11@gmail.com</a> Laboratory of Preventive and Environmental Toxicology  Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center of Hygiene" (RSPCH) <a href="mailto:rspch@rspch.by">rspch@rspch.by</a>
Benin	13/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Ms. Dina Abdelhakim</b> Programme Officer of SP <a href="mailto:dina.abdelhakim@un.org">dina.abdelhakim@un.org</a>	13/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Mr. Martin Pépin AINA</b> General Director of Environment <a href="mailto:Ainamartin72@gmail.com">Ainamartin72@gmail.com</a>  Ministry of Environment	31/08/2022 Zoom	<b>Ms. Ilako A. Maurille T.</b> ELEGBEDE Coordinator of Environmental Management Risk Service <a href="mailto:melegbede@yahoo.fr">melegbede@yahoo.fr</a>  Ministry of Environment
China	07/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Katherine Theotocatos</b>	05/09/2022	<b>Mr. Zhen Peng</b>	05/09/2022 Wechat and	<b>Ms. Caili Zhang</b> Project Manager of SP Project



		<b>Coordinator of SP</b> <a href="mailto:katherine.theotocatos@un.org">katherine.theotocatos@un.org</a>	Wechat and email	<b>Chief of Department, Senior Specialist</b> <a href="mailto:peng.zheng@fecomee.org.cn">peng.zheng@fecomee.org.cn</a>  <b>Ms. Chen Jiang</b> <b>Senior Specialist</b> <a href="mailto:jiang.chen@fecomee.org.cn">jiang.chen@fecomee.org.cn</a>  Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China (FECO)	email	<b>Deputy Section Chief</b> <a href="mailto:zhang.caili@fecomee.org.cn">zhang.caili@fecomee.org.cn</a>  Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China (FECO)
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	07/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Ms. Katherine Theotocatos</b> <b>Coordinator of SP</b> <a href="mailto:katherine.theotocatos@un.org">katherine.theotocatos@un.org</a>	07/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Mr. Bautista Rojas Gomez</b> <b>Former Minister</b> <a href="mailto:bautista.rojas@ambiente.gob.do">bautista.rojas@ambiente.gob.do</a>  Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	07/09/2022 Google Meet	<b>Ms. Elsa Ferreras</b> <b>Head of the Department of Chemical Substances Management</b> Directorate of Environmental Quality <a href="mailto:elsa.ferreras@ambiente.gob.do">elsa.ferreras@ambiente.gob.do</a>  Ministry of Environment  <b>Mr. Wilson Tejeda</b> <b>Environment analyst</b> <a href="mailto:Wilson.tejeda@ambiente.gob.do">Wilson.tejeda@ambiente.gob.do</a>  Ministry of Environment
<b>Iraq</b>	07/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Katherine Theotocatos</b> <b>Coordinator of SP</b> <a href="mailto:katherine.theotocatos@un.org">katherine.theotocatos@un.org</a>	01/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Mr. Luay Sadeq Al-Mokhtar</b> <b>Cheif Engineer/director</b> <a href="mailto:luay_almokhtar@yahoo.com">luay_almokhtar@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:moen.iraq@gmail.com">moen.iraq@gmail.com</a>  Ministry of Health and Environment, Technical directorate/ chemicals management and contaminated site department	01/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Carla Ayoub</b> <b>Chemicals Management Officer</b> <a href="mailto:carla.ayoub@un.org">carla.ayoub@un.org</a>  West Asia Office of UNEP
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	05/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Dina Abdelhakim</b> <b>Programme Officer of SP</b> <a href="mailto:dina.abdelhakim@un.org">dina.abdelhakim@un.org</a>			22/08/2022 WhatsApp	<b>Mr. Oleg Pecheniuk</b> <b>Chairman</b> <a href="mailto:expertise@eco-expertise.org">expertise@eco-expertise.org</a> +996777 910630  Public Association "Independent Ecological Expertise"

Republic of Moldova 1	09/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Nicole Caesar</b> <b>Associate Programme Officer of SP</b> <a href="mailto:nicole.caesar@un.org">nicole.caesar@un.org</a>			25/08/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Tatiana Tugui</b> <b>Manager at EPPO</b>  <b>Ms. Marina Blanari</b> Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO) <a href="mailto:info@epo.md">info@epo.md</a> <a href="mailto:tuguitatiana@ymail.com">tuguitatiana@ymail.com</a>  Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova
Serbia 1	05/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Dina Abdelhakim</b> <b>Programme Officer of SP</b> <a href="mailto:dina.abdelhakim@un.org">dina.abdelhakim@un.org</a>	31/08/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Sonja Roglic</b> <b>Head of Department of Chemicals</b> <b>National SAICM contact point,</b> <b>Contact point for Minamata Conv.</b> <b>FP for Stockholm Conv.</b> <a href="mailto:sonja.roglic@ekologija.gov.rs">sonja.roglic@ekologija.gov.rs</a>  <b>Ms. Suzana Andrejevic</b> <b>Stefanovic</b> <b>Head of Division for Chemicals</b> <b>Management</b> <b>FP for Rotterdam Convention</b>  <b>Mr. Ivan Djurickovic</b> <b>Department for Chemicals</b> <b>Official Contact Point for</b> <b>Stockholm Convention</b>  Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP)	24/08/2022 TEAMS	<b>Mr. Miroslav Tadic</b> <b>Portfolio Manager</b> <a href="mailto:miroslav.tadic@undp.org">miroslav.tadic@undp.org</a>  UNDP
Tanzania	06/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Dina Abdelhakim</b> <b>Programme Officer of SP</b> <a href="mailto:dina.abdelhakim@un.org">dina.abdelhakim@un.org</a>	07/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Kemilembe Mutasa</b> <b>Acting Assistant Director of Environment</b> <a href="mailto:kemilembe.mutasa@vpo.go.tz">kemilembe.mutasa@vpo.go.tz</a>  Pollution Control Section / Division of Environment of Vice-President's Office	07/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Mr. Athumani Said</b> <b>project coordinator of SP Project</b> <b>Town Planner</b> <a href="mailto:athumani.said@vpo.go.tz">athumani.said@vpo.go.tz</a>  Vice President's Office

<b>Uganda</b>	06/09/2022 TEAMS	<b>Ms. Dina Abdelhakim</b> <b>Programme Officer of SP</b> <a href="mailto:dina.abdelhakim@un.org">dina.abdelhakim@un.org</a>	05/09/2022 via TEAMS	<b>Mr. Isaac Ntujju</b> <b>Oil and Gas Lead, Principal.</b> <b>Environment. Inspector</b> <a href="mailto:isaac.ntujju@nema.go.ug">isaac.ntujju@nema.go.ug</a>  National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	05/09/2022 via TEAMS	<b>Ms. Nsereko Patience</b> <b>Principal Environment Inspector</b> <b>Project Manager of SP Project</b> <a href="mailto:Patience.nsereko@nema.go.ug">Patience.nsereko@nema.go.ug</a>  National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

## 7.9. ANNEX 9: OVERVIEW OF DATA COLLECTION BY GENDER

Project	Online Survey		Interview	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Argentina	1			3
Belarus 1		1		3
Benin		1	1	2
China		1	1	3
Dominican Republic	1		2	2
Iraq	1		1	2
Kyrgyzstan	1		1	1
Republic of Moldova 1		1		3
Serbia 1		1	2	3
Tanzania	1		1	2
Uganda		1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>45%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>72%</b>

## 7.10. ANNEX 10: WORK PLAN FOR THE OVERALL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Activity	Indicative Date/Timeline
<b>Inception/Documentation Review</b>	
▪ Kick-off meeting between the SP Secretariat and Lead Expert	Week 1
▪ Initial documents collection and review	Week 1-2
▪ Elaboration of Assessment methodology, Assessment design matrix; work planning	Week 1-2
▪ Submission of draft Inception Report	Week 3
▪ Draft Inception Report amendments	Week 4
▪ Submission of final Inception Report	Week 4
<b>Desk Phase</b>	
▪ Screening the assessment indicator and criteria per project	Week 5
▪ Preliminary responses to each Assessment questions - Re-defining Logframe and scoring the indicator according to the documentation	Week 5-6
▪ Defining of Assessment tools (questionnaire) and preparation of survey mission	Week 6-7
▪ Briefing with the UNEP SP Secretariat	Week 7
<b>Survey phase</b>	
▪ Distribution of the questionnaire and collection of the responses	Week 8-9
▪ Verification the responses and analysis the data	Week 8-9
▪ Identification of the data needs to be acquired by interviews	Week 9
▪ Preparation of the interview mission	Week 9
<b>Interview phase</b>	
▪ Interviews with stakeholders (focal point, implementing organization, and SP Secretariat staff), and relevant beneficiaries	Week 10-11
▪ Summarize the interview outputs	Week 12
▪ Briefing with the UNEP SP Secretariat	Week 13
<b>Synergy phase</b>	

Activity	Indicative Date/Timeline
▪ Analysis and Judgements, Final analysis of findings (with focus on the Assessment Questions)	Week 14-15
▪ Submitting draft final report (Formulation of the overall assessment, conclusions, and recommendations)	Week 16
▪ Collection of and addressing comments from UNEP SP Secretariat	Week 18
▪ Presentation of Executive Summary and Factsheet	Week 19
▪ Submission of the Final Report, Fact sheet, Presentation to UNEP SP Secretariat	Week 20

## 7.11. ANNEX 11: GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWS

The following list contains the generic questions. For the interviews, these questions were adjusted by the three assessors to adapt to the specificities of each project. Additional specific questions were also developed to verify the information obtained through the survey and the desk research, and to obtain further information.

### **To the project implementation team and partners:**

- What are the most important milestones that resulted from the project implementation?
- What were the key factors that facilitated the success of the project achievements? What were the key challenges to fulfill the project implementation needs and progress?
- Are there any changes on the ground after the project is finished? (including both positive or negative ones, such as the chemical management action plan helped waste management transparency, reduced the chemical management cost, cleaned the waste disposals, reduced the women exposure to chemical harm, and the feedback on the environmental improvement from communities, etc.).
- For those projects resulting in policy development, at what stage are you in the policy process? (such as Agenda setting, Policy formulation, Policy adoption, Policy Implementation, Monitoring of the implementation of the policy, Evaluating/revising the policy). What actions are you taking to move to the next steps? Is something being done? If yes, what? If not, what are the challenges?
- What are the lessons learned from the project implementation? Which part could be improved? What could be suggested in the future project application and implementation?

### **To the SP staff:**

- What was the SP's/your role in the project – starting from the project preparation/review to the project closure and beyond?
- What type of support was provided to the implementing partners, if any? (e.g. supplying contacts of experts, providing technical advice – with specific examples if it could be recalled).
- How would you assess the capacities of implementing partners in terms of carrying out the planned activities / accomplishing tasks for meeting the set targets?
- In your view, what were the best practices and lessons learned?
- What do you see are the challenges to the sustainability of results in each country?
- How does SP assess the needs/weaknesses of the eligible countries (already had or not have SP projects) and if SP targets these needs and designs the corresponding support in the new call for applications?
- How long can the countries receive the support from the SP? Can they continue to apply for all rounds of funding?