

Final Meeting of the UNEP/GEF projects “Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asia Region” and “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in Pacific Region”

Concept Note

4-5 April 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

Operational Details

- **Subject:** Final meeting of the UNEP/GEF POPs Global Monitoring Plan projects in the Asia and the Pacific Region
- **Date and time:** 4-5 April 2023
- **Venue:** Multi-functional Meeting Room H (MR-H)|United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Ave., Bangkok Thailand
- **Hosting institution:** UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch
- **Participants:** Two representatives per project country, expert laboratories, BRS Secretariat, GEF coordinator, WHO, representatives of the GMP Global Coordination Group, UNEP as well as other stakeholders for a total of 45-50 participants.
- **Contact persons:** Mr. Niti Nuamthanom (nuamthanom@un.org) at UN ESCAP and Ms. Haosong Jiao (e-mail: haosong.jiao@un.org) at UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch.

Objectives

- Discuss on main findings, lessons learnt, experience gained, and recommendations for future monitoring activities.
- Present the outputs and outcomes of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP2 projects.
- Wrap up the projects in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Background

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) requests parties to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention four years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and periodically thereafter, including a Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) which records the presence of POPs in the environment and in humans.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, and with support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented four regional projects to support the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs from 2016 to present

in forty-two countries in the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), including, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), a global survey to generate data on concentrations in human breast milk of the POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention. The main activities of the projects include the provision of quality and comparable data on POPs in air, water, human milk and matrices of national interest, and capacity building at national and regional level to strengthen conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs.

The projects have concluded the planned activities including sampling and analysis of POPs in air, water, human milk and matrices of national interest, two rounds of global interlaboratory assessments and trainings in national trainings. National, regional and sectoral reports are being concluded, including a roadmap on sustainable monitoring of POPs. To further support using the results of the UNEP/GEF GMP projects for informed decision making at the national level, additional activities were conducted including trainings, e-course, among others.

Contributions from the seven project countries in Asia and nine project countries in the Pacific Islands are gratefully acknowledged. Appreciations are also expressed to the national coordinators for the work to collect and process samples. Thanks are also extended to the partner institutes, including the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, for Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology hosted by Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC Uruguay), the MTM Research Centre, Örebro University, Sweden, the State Institute for Chemical and Veterinary Analysis of Food (CVUA), Freiburg, Germany, the Department of Environment and Health, Vrije Universiteit (VU), Amsterdam, Netherlands, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain, the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), Brno, Czech Republic, and the Entox, University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane, Australia. The Japan Environmental Sanitation Center (JESC) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, and the Monitoring Network for POPs (MONET) Programme of the RECETOX are acknowledged for the collaboration on active air sampling.

The final meeting aims to share the outputs and outcomes of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP projects in Asia-Pacific region with partner countries, institutes and stakeholders, discuss on main findings, lessons learnt, experience gained, and recommendations for future monitoring activities, and to wrap up the projects in the Asia-Pacific Region.
