

Final Meeting of the UNEP/GEF project “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Africa Region”

Concept Note

28-30 November 2023

Casablanca, Morocco

Operational Details

- Subject: Final meeting of the UNEP/GEF POPs Global Monitoring Plan projects in the African Region
- Dates and time: 28-30 November 2023
- Venue: Casablanca, Morocco
- Hosting institution: UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, Government of Morocco
- 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. Mohammed El Bouch (elbouch21@yahoo.fr) at the Government of Morocco and Mr. Victor Estellano (e-mail: victor.etellano@un.org) at UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch.

Objectives

- Conclude and communicate the outputs and outcomes of the UNEP/GEF POPs GMP2 project with partner countries and key stakeholders.
- Discuss on main findings, lessons learned, experience gained, and recommendations for future monitoring activities.
- Wrap up the projects in the African 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 under the Stockholm Convention 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 fifteen project countries in African region 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. The Monitoring Network for POPs (MONET) Programme of the RECETOX are acknowledged for the collaboration on air sampling.

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