



Final Results Workshop of the UNEP/GEF project on 'Tools for the New POPs' and Inception Workshop for UNEP/GEF project on 'Implementation of the GMP in Asia'

Concept Note

A) Operating Details:

- Joint workshop: Final results workshop on the UNEP/GEF project 'Tools and methods to include the nine new POPs into the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)' and Inception Workshop for UNEP/GEF project 'Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region under the Stockholm Convention'. The UNEP/GEF workshops will be held back-to-back with the project Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries (POPSEA).
- Dates and time: Monday 25 January, 2016 – Wednesday 27 January, 2016 (noon).
- Venue: Daewoo Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam
Address: 360 Kim Ma Street, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Hosting institutions: Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA)
- Participants: Three participants *per* participating country from the seven participating countries (recommended: National coordinator, coordinator for air sampling, and coordinator of the human milk survey)
- Registration: Participants are kindly requested to arrive for registration at the venue at 8:30 a.m. on Monday 25 January with their passports.
- Contact persons: Mr. Nguyen Trung Thuan at the VEA and Mr. Fabrice Clavier at UNITAR.

B) Objectives

- Communicate the outcomes and results how to incorporate into the GMP the new POPs (11 POPs listed by COP4, COP5, and COP6) into the annexes of the Stockholm Convention
- Launch the UNEP/GEF project 'Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region' and detail the activities and responsibilities of principal actors and relevant stakeholders for project implementation with a workplan, timetable and budget.

C) 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. The effectiveness evaluation includes a Global Monitoring Plan (GMP), which records the presence of POPs in the environment and in humans. Such monitoring and subsequent assessment should be undertaken at regional basis. The objectives of the GMP are to identify changes of POPs concentrations with time and assess POPs regional and global transport. The GMP focused initially on the core matrix human milk/blood to examine human exposure, and ambient air to examine long-range transport. With the addition of PFOS to the convention, water has been recommended as a core matrix for this new POP.

The Conference of Parties (COP) completed its first effectiveness evaluation at its fourth meeting in 2009 (COP4) based in part on the Regional Monitoring Reports, summarized in the Global Monitoring Report. Among other things, the Monitoring Report stresses the limited data available and constrained capacity for sustained monitoring in the African region. In order to improve this situation for future assessments, the reports stresses that capacity-building for persistent organic pollutant monitoring programmes for most countries in the region remains the top priority recommendation and provides some detailed recommendations in this regard. These include in particular: performance of interlaboratory comparison tests; improving skills for sampling and analysis; strengthening the infrastructure in existing laboratories to provide capability to analyse the core media; implementation of quality assurance and quality control measures; and financial assistance to establish long term programmes and self-sufficient laboratories as well as networking among POPs monitoring experts.

The COP4 also agreed upon the essential modalities for the environmental monitoring component of the subsequent evaluations and included nine new chemicals in the POPs list (decision SC-4/10-18; Annexes A, B, and C). Later, COP5 listed endosulfan in Annex A (decision SC-5/3), and COP-6 listed hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) into Annex A (decision SC-6/13).

Four GEF MSP projects were conducted in parallel in Africa, LAC and the Pacific regions by UNEP/DTIE Chemicals Branch with financial assistance from the GEF from 2009 to 2012. These projects enabled provision of quality data on human exposure and environmental concentration of the 12 POPs originally included for the effectiveness evaluation. In decision SC-6/23, the COP requested the Secretariat “to continue to support training and capacity-building activities to assist countries in implementing the global monitoring plan for subsequent effectiveness evaluations and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities”. UNEP, with financial support from GEF, is ready to start the implementation of four GMP follow-up projects (GMP2) in the African, Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and Pacific Regions.

The objective of the GMP2 projects is to strengthen the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs GMP, and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of the 23 POPs in each region. The projects have an expected duration of four years. Each regional project will:

1. Secure conditions for successful project implementation;
2. Build capacity and generate data on analysis of core abiotic matrices (air and water)
3. Build capacity and generate data on analysis of core biotic matrices (human milk)
4. Assess existing analytical capacities and reinforce national POPs monitoring; and
5. Secure conditions for sustainable POPs monitoring.

UNEP is the executing agency for the Africa, Asian and Pacific Regions. The Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) in Uruguay is the executing agency for the GRULAC region. The projects will be implemented in close cooperation with, among others, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNITAR, and five expert laboratories (IVM VU University, MTM Oerebro, CSIC, CVUA, and RECETOX).
