



Training Workshop of the UNEP/GEF project on ‘Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs’
and
Inception Workshop for the Second Round UNEP/GEF project on ‘Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention’ in the Pacific Region

Monday, 4 April – Friday, 8 April 2016
The IAS Conference Room
The University of the South Pacific
Suva, Fiji

Report of the Workshop

1. The Training Workshop of the UNEP/GEF project on “Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs” and the Inception Workshop for the Second Round UNEP/GEF project on “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region” were held back to back and organised jointly by UNEP and University of the South Pacific (USP). The workshops took place at the IAS Conference Room, the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, from 4th to 8th April 2016.
2. The NIPs training workshop aims at assisting participants in updating and reviewing of NIPs under article 7 of the Stockholm Convention in light of the GEF project “Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs”. The GMP2 project “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” aims to record the presence of POPs in the Pacific Islands and to strengthen their capacity to monitor.

3. Twelve countries from the Pacific Region involved in the NIPs project were present at the workshops, namely: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Palau failed to participate because of sudden natural disaster. In the inception workshop, the nine countries participating in the second round Global Monitoring Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants except Palau were presented, namely Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, as well as Tonga who is interested in the 6th round human milk survey. In total 28 participants registered and attended the workshops.

1. Monday, 4th April 2016

1.1 Opening of the NIPs Training Workshop

4. The University of the South Pacific (USP), together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) welcomed the participants on Monday 4th April 2016.
5. Prof. William Aalbersberg, University of the South Pacific, welcomed the participants to the NIPs training workshop. He welcomed the support from UNEP, BRS Secretariat and the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) for the support to the countries in the Pacific Islands to review and update the national implementation plan (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (Article 7) and to support countries in understanding and complying with other obligations such as reporting obligations (Article 15).
6. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, appreciate the University of the South Pacific on hosting the two back-to-back workshops, and briefly introduced UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch's role on executing the global/regional support component "Support to share information and evaluate NIPs updating worldwide" under the UNEP/GEF project "Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs", including the identification and dissemination of lessons learned, the identification of initial needs and opportunities for exchange of information and expertise and the provision of regional/global training support.
7. The participants of the workshop then introduced themselves in turn.

1.2 Overview of the process for developing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and situation in the participating countries

8. Ms. Katarina Magulova, BRS Secretariat, explained the necessity of and requirements to review and update the national implementation plans (NIPs) in each party of the Stockholm Convention.
9. She further explained that the changes of chemicals management and the progresses made since the implementation of NIPs indicate the insufficient of the current NIPs to fully satisfy the requirements of the Stockholm Convention. Thus, each party is required to develop and endeavour to implement a NIP for the implementation of its obligations

under the Convention, transmit its NIP to the COP within two years of the date when the Convention enters into force, and review and update, as appropriate, its NIP on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the COP.

10. To indicate the concrete procedures on updating the NIPs, Ms. Katerina Magulova summarized a seven-step strategy, namely 1) Identification of the need to review and update NIP, 2) Initiate process to review/ update NIP, 3) Coordinating mechanism and process organization, 4) Assessment of the effects of the external/internal triggering factors, 5) Formulation of revised/Updated NIP, 6) Endorsement and 7) Transmission.
11. Besides, Ms. Katarina Magulova introduced that the timeline for the NIPs updating was adjusted to the timeline of the amendment of the Stockholm Convention.
12. Regarding each of the seven suggested sectors, Ms. Magulova detailed explained the balance of maintaining existing strengthens and adjusting to the new requirement of the real world. Specifically, she suggested each of the party to make reference to the Guidance on technical assistance, continuing using the existing coordinating mechanisms, such as advisory committees to address issues under the convention, etc.
13. About the assessment of the effects of the external/internal triggering factors, Ms. Magulova specifically mentioned that When dealing with a change in the obligations arising from an amendment to the Convention, each party needs to 1) follow Phase II of Guidance for NIP development: establishment of inventories and assessment of national infrastructure capacity, 2) follow Phase III of the NIP guidance « Priority assessment and objective setting . Besides, when dealing with other internal or external factors, parties should reassess their national priorities vis-a-vis those already in their NIP and adjust their Plan accordingly and follow Phase III of the NIP guidance “Priority assessment and objective setting”.
14. In addition, Ms. Magulova introduced the full list of guidance and their website address. Those guidance includes definition and criteria for pesticides, industrial chemicals and UPOPs, control of import/export of POPs, methodology for the restriction of POPs, as well as assessment for the implementation of NIPs, etc.
15. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/3._intro_to_the_process_of_reviewing_a_nip_k._magulova.pdf

1.3 POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention and exercise on countries' priority for addressing specific POPs and sectors

16. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez introduced the POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention and highlighted the importance and significance of the NIPs projects in supporting countries to achieve the objectives under the Stockholm Convention. Specifically, Ms. Alvarez briefly introduced the status quo of the execution of the NIPs projects in the Pacific Region.

17. The Stockholm Convention requires parties to prohibit, restrict or take measures to reduce the release of listed 11 initial persistent organic pollutants and the 12 new POPs added in COP4, 5 and 6 in the year of 2009, 2011 and 2013. Specifically, Ms. Alvarez introduced the existence, life-cycle and human exposure to PBDE, PFOS and Endosulfan, as well as the current practice on measuring and restricting the use of these chemicals.
18. Based on the condition of the Pacific Islands, Ms. Alvarez introduced the NIPs priority action, including setting up and running a Chemicals Unit for 5 years, the establishment of the chemicals and Waste Management Unit in 2011, Undertaking travelling workshop on each island, preparing the action plan on policy and legislation, as well as the Kiribati Amendment Environment Act 2007 as a case.
19. Ms. Alvarez also presented cases of NIPs in the Pacific region. As she mentioned, in Kiribati, chemicals and waste management at the political level and the legislation level were conducted, with an amendment environment act ratified in 2017. In the case of Tuvalu, Ms. Alvarez introduced that at the government level, three target areas deserve more attention, namely electricity (PCBs transformers), agriculture (pesticides) and public health (medical wastes). Besides, the reduction or elimination of releases from intentional production and use of POPs, the unintentional production of POPs, the releases from stockpiles and wastes, as well as the measures related to information exchange and public awareness should be considered as priorities. Ms. Alvarez also introduced the cases in Micronesia, Samoa and Palau.
20. In addition to the cases mentioned in Ms. Alvarez's presentation, representatives from countries also introduced their national practices on setting up the priorities for addressing the specific POPs and sectors.
21. With countries sharing their practices and experiences, as well as the difficulties and questions raised during their implementation, UNEP and the international experts provided necessary explanation and technical support.
22. Full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/4_pops_listed_in_the_stockholm_convention_j_alvarez.pdf

1.4 Key outcomes from the human milk survey

23. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler presented the results of the previous five rounds of human milk survey at the global level and in the Pacific Region. Dr. Fiedler mentioned that the study was part of the GEF MSP project "Developing and implementing standardized methodologies for the new POPs under the POPs GMP". The project provided input to the GMP guidance with the objective to insure that sampling and analysis of POPs in various media would follow the same procedures in order to obtain comparative results.
24. Specifically, Dr. Fiedler presented the scope of the previous human milk survey and the statistical results, including the results of DDT, PCBs, dl-PCB, PCDD/PCDF, Basic POPs, dl-POPs, and PFAS at regional and global levels.

25. Dr. Fiedler further introduced the sampling methodology, including the differences in human pool analysis and individual analysis, the expert laboratories' role and the importance of mirror analysis at national level.
26. Dr. Fiedler concluded that the Pacific Islands countries have been active partners in the human milk surveys, for example, Fiji, Kiribati – participated in more than one round of the surveys and all those countries participating in UNEP/GEF GMP1 provided human milk samples. For industrial POPs - PCB, PBDE (exception Tonga), PFOS – and unintentionally generated POPs – PCDD, PCDF, dl-PCB – concentrations in the Pacific Islands population is comparatively low. For some POPs pesticides - DDTs, lindane – some Pacific Islands countries are at the higher end of the concentrations found.
27. Dr. Fiedler expressed that she looks forward to the next round of the human milk survey to provide further insight.
28. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/5._key_outcomes_from_the_human_milk_surveys_h._fiedler.pdf

1.5 Main difficulties, success stories and lessons learned

29. In this discussion section led by Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, participants from the Pacific Region presented their achievements in the NIPs projects, as well as difficulties and problems met during the implementation.
30. Ms. Alvarez, Ms. Katarina Magulova from BRS Secretariat, Dr. Heidelore Fiedler from Orebro University, shared with the participants the success stories in the Africa, Asia and GRULAC regions as examples for the implementation of the NIPs project in the Pacific Region. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler also highlighted the importance of frequently referring to the NIPs guidance. As she mentioned, the methodologies listed in the NIPs guidance, the listed examples illustrated many ways to get through obstacles and will greatly support the countries in the implementation of the NIPs projects. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau, Secretariat of the Pacific region Environment Programme (SPREP) also shared SPREP's experience on project implementation in the Pacific Region and provided suggestions.

1.6 Strategy for environmentally sound management of POPs pesticides

31. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau, Secretariat of the Pacific region Environment Programme (SPREP) briefly introduced the strategy for POPs pesticides management in the Pacific Region based on the understanding of specific problems in this region.
32. Besides, Ms. Ralogaivau introduced the concern of UPOPs from the aspects of toxic, environmental resistance, life cycle, human exposure and its long range transportation.
33. Then, Ms. Ralogaivau introduced SPREP's current and upcoming projects on the sound management of POPs pesticides in the Pacific Region, given the condition that agriculture

is an important component in the Pacific Island Countries. She further mentioned that the next pilot project will be conducted in Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.

1.7 Lessons learned from updating POPs pesticides inventories and stockpiles management: experience of countries

34. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau, Secretariat of the Pacific region Environment Programme (SPREP) presented SPREP's experience on updating POPs inventories and stockpiles management in the Pacific Islands countries.
35. Ms. Ralogaivau expressed highly expectation of the NIPs updating since most of the officers involved in the original teams have moved on or displaced, many of the new officers are not aware of the background to why the NIPs were developed or how they were developed, in this regards, updating the current NIPs exercise will become a case of developing a new NIP from scratch – time consuming and tedious exercise.
36. Countries cooperated with SPREP on NIPs implementation also shared their experience and expectations of the new NIPs. BRS and UNEP provided further explanation on relevant questions.

1.8 Capacity building work being done in the Pacific on implementation of the cluster of Multilateral Environment Agreements on chemicals and on pesticide risk reduction

37. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau, Secretariat of the Pacific region Environment Programme (SPREP) started with the capacity building project at Fiji National University as an example of regional level chemicals management, followed by the introduction of the J-PRISM project, the Basel and Waigani Conventions work programs, the Chemical training national project through the University of the South Pacific, as well as the PacWaste Project. Besides, she explained the objectives and the outcomes of these projects in strengthening regional capacity in chemicals management.
38. In the Q&A section, participants asked about the relevance of these projects to the NIPs, the coverage of SPREP's projects and their next-step plan on expanding the projects to cover more countries in the Pacific Region. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau answered and suggested further discussion with countries interested in those projects.

1.9 Revising and updating inventories of unintentional POPs

39. Ms. Katarina Magulova, BRS Secretariat, briefly introduced the background and scope of the revising and updating of the toolkits for the inventories of unintentional POPs, then explained the process for updating and revising source inventories and release estimates of unintentionally produced POPs in details, followed by three case studies.

40. Ms. Magulova started with highlighting the list of unintentional produced POPs mentioned in the Stockholm Convention Annex C, namely Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD), Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF), Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and Pentachlorobenzene (PeCBz). Specifically, she highlighted the necessity of Focusing on PCDD and PCDF as indicative of the presence of other unintentional POPs to identify and prioritize sources of all such substances and for devising applicable control measures.
41. After briefly mentioned the importance and necessity of revising and updating of the Toolkit, she introduced the main elements updated in details. The sectors namely quality assurance / quality control, data quality, guidance on updating and revising source inventories, and the dioxin emission factors were revised. Specifically, under the dioxin emission factor, the preliminary PCB and HCB emission factors were updated, as well as revised class definition, and additional source classes for metal industry, residential heating and cooking, brick production and open burning processes. In addition, Ms. Magulova highlighted the importance of baseline release estimates.
42. Using workflow chart and graphs, Ms. Katarina Magulova introduced concretely on the process of updating and revision of the inventories. She mentioned that the updating of the inventory begins with an examination of the previous/baseline inventory to identify the approach used, including classification of sources and emission factors used, information sources used to estimate activity rates, assumptions and expert judgment applied to fill gaps, etc.
43. In a second step, Ms. Magulova mentioned that the developer of the inventory should review changes in data since the baseline inventory, in particular by checking for factors that may influence changes in releases over time. Important is also to check, whether the methodology, in our case the Toolkit, has been revised and new or revised emission factors became available. after this, the developer of the inventory will be able to calculate updated releases and establish consistent trends in releases over time.
44. Ms. Magulova then used three examples to illustrate the update and revision of the inventories. In the first case, Ms. Magulova presented the update and revision of a single source class, open burning of domestic waste, which is triggered by the revision of the EF in the Toolkit. After that, a case of hypothetical inventory, where the revision of the baseline inventory will be triggered by an additional class included in the revised Toolkit methodology was presented. Besides, Ms. Magulova used the revision of the baseline inventory is not triggered by the changes in the methodology, but rather by availability of better information at the country level during the inventory updating process to illustrate the practice under more complex situations.
45. In the end, Ms. Magulova concluded that the main message is that the same approach needs to be applied consistently in all release estimates to ensure consistency of results over time and to enable correct assessment of time trends. She also mentioned that if the approach changes over time, if new or corrected information or knowledge becomes available at the country level, previous inventories need to be revised accordingly and one single approach used for all inventories. Otherwise it would not be possible to compare data from different years and establish consistent time trends.

46. In the Q&A section, many questions were asked regarding the process of updating and revising the inventories, especially linked to the condition of each country. Besides, participants were also curious about more details regarding the changes of factors. Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau answered and suggested that after the following exercise section, they will have a better understanding.

47. The full presentation is available at

http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/8._revising_and_updating_inventories_of_unintentional_pops_k._magulova.pdf

1.10 Exercise on unintentional POPs inventory

48. Participants formed small discussing groups based on their similarity in the previous inventories and their selection of factors. Group discussed about their opinion on updating and revision of inventories in their countries using the process suggested in Ms. Magulova's presentation.

49. UNEP, BRS and the international expert joined their group discussions to answer questions and provide suggestions.

50. Participants presented their plan of updating and revision of the inventories, specifically highlighted their updates of factors which were based on the special condition in their countries.

51. UNEP, BRS and the international expert commented on each participant's presentation and provided suggestions on further steps.

52. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch closed the day by summarizing the group discussion outcomes and appreciated the participation of everyone. She also encouraged the participants to communicate the outcomes today with their national team.

2. Tuesday, 5th April 2016

2.1 Inventories of PFOS and PBDEs: approaches and methodologies

53. After a short warm up, Dr. Heidelore Fiedler started the day's workshop by introducing the approaches and methodologies used for the updating and revising of inventories of Erfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs).

54. Dr. Fiedler expressed the significance of reporting of inventories, and highlighted the essential elements of the reports, which are 1) objectives and scope, 2) description of data methodology used and how data were gathered, 3) final results of the inventory in each sector considered a priority for that country , 4) results of the gap-analysis and limitations identified for completion of the inventory and 5) further actions (e.g. stakeholder involvement, data collection strategies) to be taken to complete the inventory and

recommendations. To better assist the countries on the updating of the inventories of PFOS and PBDEs, Dr. Fiedler listed the available and revised guidance.

55. In details, Dr. Fiedler introduced the structure of the PBDE guidance, including the detailed steps on reporting the inventories and the methodology for data collection. Besides, Dr. Fielder mentioned main industrial sectors with concerns about PBDEs, such as the electrical and electronic equipment and related waste and the transport sector.
56. After the theoretical introduction, Dr. Fiedler gave three cases for the participants to discuss about the elements need attention in reporting PBDE inventories.
57. Regarding the PFOS inventories, Dr. Fiedler introduced the concentration of PFOS in different chemical formulas and products, and also the structure of the PFOS inventory reporting guidance.
58. Dr. Fiedler answered participants' questions and offered further discussion regarding detailed questions related to various country situations.
59. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/10._inventories_pfos_and_pbdes_j._alvarez.pdf

2.2 Priority setting

60. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez introduced the principles on priority setting, including principles and approaches frequently used in the NIPs updating projects, methodology for identifying roles and value of assessing priorities, as well as elements to be considered during the process.
61. Ms. Alvarez mentioned that under the NIPs updating is based on the country's situation. With the strategies suggested by UNEP and BRS adopted, countries are required to come up with an action plan, followed by the implementation of the projects and activities. With new POPs and other changes adopted by the Stockholm Convention, the NIPs are requested to be revised and updated.
62. Ms. Alvarez further introduced the steps of priority setting. She highlighted five steps to be followed during the process, namely 1) Identify the key problems with the new POPs , 2) Qualitative assessment, specifically the relevance of the new POPs contained in products or articles in your country, 3) first line of defense, 4) apply a priority setting process for selecting the most efficient additional measures for NIP implementation and 5) plan/implement the identified priority measures: second line of defence.
63. Besides, Ms. Alvarez highlighted the key problems of the old and new POPs.
64. In addition, Ms. Alvarez explained the background and the procedure for quality assessment, and introduced ways of possible sequence measures. Specifically, she highlighted the necessity and advantages of including food samples into measures.

65. In the end, Ms. Alvarez discussed with the participants about the elements and criteria need to pay attention to during the priority setting and suggested the participants to always refer to the guidelines.
66. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/11_setting_priorities_j_alvarez.pdf

2.3 Working group exercise and presentation of results

67. Participants formed small discussing groups based on their similarity in the priority setting in the current NIPs. Group members were suggested to update their priority setting using the strategy and approaches introduced in Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez's presentation and discuss with each other the reason and potential results of such settings.
68. UNEP, BRS and the international expert joined their group discussions to answer questions and provide suggestions.
69. Participants presented their lists of priorities, specifically highlighted their linkages to the old priority list as well as the reasons and necessity of the updated lists of priorities.
70. UNEP, BRS and the international expert commented on each participant's presentation and provided suggestions on further steps.
71. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch closed the day by summarizing the group discussion outcomes and the individual presentations. She also encouraged the participants to further discuss about the priority setting with their national team referring to the suggestions and guidance provided today.
72. The full exercise materials are available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/12_exercise_j_alvarez_h_fiedler.pdf

3. Wednesday, 6th April 2016

3.1 Monitoring plan and effectiveness evaluation

73. Ms. Katarina Magulova, BRS Secretariat, started the day's workshop by overviewing the outcomes of first and second phase of the global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention.
74. Ms. Magulova introduced the background and the arrangement of the effectiveness evaluation, as well as relevant documents posted on the BRS website.
75. Besides, Ms. Magulova briefly introduced the role of strategic partnerships, the regional implementation and as well as the monitoring activities undertaken in each region.

76. In details, Ms. Magulova introduced the available guidance for the global monitoring plan, especially the areas covered by the guidance. She highlighted that the guidance includes a set of technical and practical documents in order to provide comparable information in all regions. Besides, guidance are also provided to describe a harmonized regime for the preparation of monitoring reports.
77. Ms. Magulova also introduced the ways of presenting of the final results of the global monitoring plan, including regional and global reports, data visualization, as well as data warehouse. Specifically, Ms. Magulova introduced the online databank prepared by RECETOX.
78. In addition, Ms. Magulova presented the results of air and human milk sampling in the first phase of global monitoring plan at regional and global level, and highlight recommended Pacific countries' participating in the GMP1 project.
79. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/13._brs_gmp_gef_inception_workshop_pacific_islands_k._magulova.pdf

3.2 Discussions on follow-up activities to implement NIPs projects

80. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch led the discussion with all participants on the issues related to the follow-up activities on implement the NIPs projects. Specifically, the participants discussed about the development of regional position on POPs on the basis of updated NIPs, the development of an information exchange platform using the BRS CHM, the incorporation of inventory data into the BRS CHM, the identification and dissemination lessons learnt, as well as further training plans.
81. The participants expressed great interest in participating in further training plans and agreed on providing more detailed plan on the implementation of NIPs projects in their countries.
82. The full presentation is available at
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/14._gmp2_grulac_unep_j._alvarez.pdf

3.3 Wrap-up and assessment of the workshop

83. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez briefly summarize the outputs of the workshop, appreciated the participating of each representative, and encouraged them to communicate the outcomes of this workshop with their national team in order to better support their NIPs updating procedure.

4. Thursday, 7th April 2016

4.1 Opening of the inception workshop of the second round Global Monitoring Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants

84. Since representatives from countries that do not participate in the GMP project left, and new representatives from countries not involved in the NIPs project arrived, Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, together with Prof. William Aalbersberg, University of the South Pacific, welcomed participants for joining the inception workshop for the second round Global Monitoring Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
85. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, and Ms. Katarina Magulova (BRS Secretariat) made reference to the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) funded Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). They introduced to the participants that the new UNEP/GEF project responds to Article 16 of the convention, which requires to evaluate the effectiveness of the convention four years after entry into force then periodically, by monitoring the concentration of POPs in the environment and in humans. The project aims at producing high quality monitoring data, which is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention and for developing regulations, policies and programs. However, data quality requires good analytical capacities.
86. The participants of the workshop then introduced themselves in turn.

4.2 Overall presentation of the UNEP/GEF projects on analysis and monitoring of POPs

87. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, presented the main features of the UNEP/GEF projects on analysis and monitoring of POPs. In an overview of the UNEP/GEF GMP projects, Ms. Alvarez briefly introduced the progress since the start of the first Global Laboratory Capacity Building project executed from 2005 to 2008. The first phase of Global Monitoring Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants started its preparation since 2009 and was wrapped up on 2013, with the monitoring activities taken place from 2010 to 2011, followed by the Development of New Tools and Methods to Analyse the new POPs (2012-2015). The second round Global Monitoring Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants will be conducted from 2016 to 2019. During the GMP1 project, Ms. Alvarez highlighted that countries in the Pacific Region provided high quality data and efficiently supported the achievement of the goals of capacity building and the monitoring of POPs in the environment and in human beings in this region. and to start the human milk surveys during the first phase of GMP. Due to the overall large area of the Pacific region, the importance of sustainable capacity building and the improvement national laboratory condition, the second round of GMP project will involve more countries and will provide training to the national laboratories that have the equipment for POPs analysis.
88. Ms. Alvarez also introduced the parallel projects of the UNEP/GEF Global Monitoring Plan in the Asia, Africa and the GRULAC Region. Including the GMP2 project in the Pacific Region, the four regional projects cover a total of 43 countries with 15 in Africa, 12 in GRULAC, 7 in Asia and 9 in the Pacific Islands. UNEP is the executing Agency for the projects in Asia, Pacific and

Africa. The objectives are to strengthen capacity for the implementation of the updated GMP and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of the 23 POPs in each region. The total budget of the projects is 56,954,105 USD, of these 13,775,000 USD from the GEF Trust Fund (4,208,000 USD for Africa) and 43,179,105 USD of co-financing (10,190,200 USD for Africa). In addition, UNEP have sub-contracted expert laboratories (CVUA, IVM, MTM, RECETOX) in order to perform training and analysis.

89. Countries participating in the GMP2 project are requested to complete the Agreements with the participating countries (SSFA) which is tailored according to the national activities; in order to proceed with the SSFA, the capacities and training needs of the countries will be assessed; countries are invited to provide all the information and labs checklists as soon as possible.

90. The presentation can be found at the following link:

http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/14._gmp2_grulac_unep_j._alvarez.pdf

4.3 Highlights and outcomes of the UNEP/GEF GMP1 project

91. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler briefly overviewed the outcomes of the GMP1 project in the Pacific region. She started with mentioning that in the first round of interlaboratory assessment, only Fiji has a national lab with the capacity of analysis of basic POPs, which indicate a continues need of efforts on capacity building in the Pacific Region.

92. Then, Dr. Fiedler presented the main highlights of the first phase of the GMP projects, which took place between 2009 and 2012. The objective of the project was to build regional capacity on analysis and data generation for POPs in core matrices to enable the participating countries to contribute to the regional GMP reports submitted to the Stockholm Convention COP. The UNEP GMP1 phase consisted of four medium-size sub-regional projects paralleled in the Pacific Islands region, West Africa, East and Southern Africa, and GRULAC, with 32 countries and over 2.4 millions USD of GEF funds in total. This was complemented with two SAICM QSP projects, one in Cuba and the other in the Bahamas, Barbados and Haiti. The projects produced/contributed to a series of reports which can be found at:

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/POPs/AnalysisandMonitoring/GlobalMonitoringPlan/GMPImplementation2009-2012/tabid/1059888/Default.aspx>

93. Dr. Fiedler briefly mentioned the conclusions of the terminal evaluation of the four UNEP/GEF projects. The projects were rated as “highly satisfactory” overall, including delivery of activities and outputs, relevance, efficiency, attainment of results, sustainability, country ownership, and UNEP supervision. She then provided further details, as well as the drawbacks. On the political side, important ‘drivers’ were put in place to ensure the project impact, sustainability was secured through national planning (as Parties to the Stockholm Convention), and the strengthening of institutional framework seemed adequate in most countries.

94. Dr. Fiedler also mentioned the participation in the second round of the biennial global interlaboratory assessment which mainly focus on the analysis of basic POPs. She mentioned that laboratories from GRULAC performed better than others, yet a clear need was identified for further capacity to produce quality data. There is still a large gap between the capacity of POPs analysis and the necessity of POPs monitoring in the Pacific Region.

95. The full presentation can be found at:

http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/15._highlights_and_outcomes_of_the_unep_gef_gmp1_projects_h._fiedler.pdf

4.4 Human milk surveys: roles of the different stakeholders

96. Ms. Maraia Meo, World Health Organization (WHO), gave an overview of the UNEP WHO human milk surveys and WHO's role in this project. In her presentation, Ms. Meo highlighted the achievements of the previous five rounds of UNEP WHO human milk surveys, including the scope and coverage of the survey, the results and the positive effects on the monitoring of the existence of Persistent Organic Pollutants in human. In details, she explained the importance of human milk survey on the Persistent Organic Pollutants in regards to the risk, safety standards and the benefits of breastfeeding.

97. Then, Ms. Maraia Meo explained the role of WHO and its cooperation with UNEP in the human milk survey. She introduced that the survey is jointly implemented by the BRS Secretariat, UNEP and WHO. WHO provides the comprehensive protocol guidelines for the sampling activities. Besides, samples are analysed by the WHO reference laboratory, CVUA Germany.

98. The presentation is available at:

http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/16._human_milk_survey_who_m._meo.pdf

4.6 Presentation of the instructive movie for the cleaning of PUF disks for passive sampling of ambient air

99. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler, MTM, Orebro University, introduced the guidance video prepared by RECETOX at Czech Republic "Monitoring of POPs in Ambient Air by Passive Sampling" and shows the different steps of handling, cleaning and sampling process. Everything has to be cleaned with solvents before use, but it is also recommended to use pre-extraction paper. The video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBnFptglyPA>

4.7 The role of the expert laboratories in the project

100. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler listed the different roles the expert laboratories will play in the UNEP/GEF GMP2 projects. Those include technical advice, assistance in the interlaboratory studies, training and mirror analyses, and communication. The presentation is available at:

http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/17._the_role_of_the_expert_laboratories_h._fiedler.pdf

101. In details, Dr. Fiedler described the process for POPs analyses, from extraction to analysis (which requires to get rid of all interferences) to quantification. Valuable materials are available for calibration. She also presented the laboratories' performance for different compounds and instruments (GC-MS; LC-MS/MS).
102. Specifically, Dr. Fiedler highlighted the cooperation between countries and the expert laboratories in the interlaboratory assessment, with some key results of the 2nd round interlaboratory study presented. She mentioned that the interlaboratory assessment initiative is one of the biggest in the world. The study stressed that the required experience for POPs analysis needs regular analyses instead of one-off projects. The level of expertise of participatory laboratories should be maintained and improved, which requires to do hands-on training of their own technicians, among others. The trainings by expert laboratories for the interlaboratory assessments are needs-oriented and on-site. They thus need very detailed information from countries. The national laboratories have the responsibility to make sure everything is ready before the training, while the expert laboratories, on the other hand, send the consumables and provide advices.
103. Dr. Fiedler briefly introduced the support that the expert laboratories will provide for the mirror analyses, which is another part of the training and are to be decided by the participating laboratory. In this activity, countries will have the flexibility to choose the type of materials to be analysed (fish, sediment, etc.) and half of the samples will be sent to the expert laboratories for analysis while the other half are analysed in the national laboratory. The criteria for this analysis is that all laboratory should come up with the same sample analysis results under the same standard.

4.8 The role of UNITAR in the project

104. Mr. Jost Dittkrist, UNITAR, gave a short introduction of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the reason why it became involved in the UNEP/GEF GMP2 projects. This was due to the transition UNEP experienced in the Chemicals and Waste Branch Science and Risk Unit as well as in the administration of the organisation. UNITAR was thus contracted by UNEP to provide technical and administrative support to UNEP, as well as to establish the organisation of the processes during the first year of the project, in order to ensure a smooth and timely start of the projects. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler is hired as an external consultant to provide the technical backstopping. A list of all the activities to be carried out by UNITAR was then provided.
105. (<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/gef.gmp2.asia.iws.pre.8.pdf>)

4.9 Set-up of the national and cross-cutting activities in the UNEP/GEF Pacific Islands GMP2 Project (Workplan and timetable)

106. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler introduced the principles and strategy of setting up the national and cross-cutting activities, especially the workplan and timetable for the implementation of the GMP 2 project in each country, including administration and technical requirements for the passive air sampling, water sampling and human milk sampling.
107. Dr. Heidelore Fiedler presented the table of national coordination teams, highlighting the importance of the cooperation of the national coordinator, the air/water coordinator and the human milk coordinator in the successful implementation of the sampling activities. Then, the table was discussed and amended according to each country's administrative changes.
108. National laboratories capacities and needs were discussed, led by Dr. Heidelore Fiedler. Dr. Fiedler briefly overviewed the results of laboratory capacity survey. Most countries in the Pacific Region do not yet have national laboratories that can analyse persistent organic pollutants. Only the University of the South Pacific in Fiji has experience of POPs analysis. Besides, Samoa's new national laboratory may have the capacity on the equipment but lacks experience. Further information needed to be confirmed.
109. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez presented the sampling sites of the 1st round Global Monitoring Plan passive air sampling in the Pacific Region, and changes of sampling sites for the 2nd round air sampling according to the information provided by countries. Further discussion was hosted to confirm the geographical coordinates of the air sampling sites. Besides, Ms. Alvarez introduced the criteria for the selection of water sampling sites. Then, discussion was hosted on the selection of water sampling sites in each country.

4.10 National budget

110. Dr. Fiedler presented the detailed budget table, explained the funds to be provided to each country for the sampling of air, water and human milk, as well as for the project administration and reporting.
111. In the Q&A section, the countries asked about the guidance and protocols for the implementation of the sampling activities (e.g., administration needs, transportation costs, maintenance costs, etc). UNEP explained that expert laboratories will provide necessary protocols, and that costs for maintenance and administration of the sampling activities is covered in the project fund and need to be organized by each county. Besides, UNEP highlighted that the amount of fund was decided according to the project document endorsed by the GEF, which went through thorough consultations with countries and received countries' endorsement. Dr.Fiedler emphasised that the budget should be comfortably sufficient

5. Friday, 8th April 2016

5.1 IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management

112. Mr. Jost Dittkrist, UNITAR Chemicals and Waste Management, started the fifth day of the workshops introducing the IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management. He explained the importance of adopting the IOMC Toolbox in decision-making in chemicals management and the challenge behind the origination of the toolbox, as we are all aware of the hundreds of tools and guidance documents that are relevant for countries in order to implement sound management of chemicals.
113. Then, Mr. Jost Dittkrist detailed introduced the complexity and difficulty in directly applying the IOMC Toolbox in daily practivies. The toolbox is a free online platform that presents to the users the relevant IOMC resources, guidance documents, and training material available for consultations. Besides, The toolbox provides the solution and identify the most relevant and efficient national chemicals management actions, at the same time highly depending on the resources available.
114. In details, Mr. Jost Dittkrist introduced the seven schemes in the IOMC Toolbox for chemicals management, namely: (i) National Management Scheme for Pesticides; (ii) Occupational Health and Safety System; (iii) Chemicals Accidents Prevention and Response; (iv) Industrial Chemicals Management System; (v) Classification and Labelling System (GHS); (vi) Supporting Health Authorities in Management of Chemicals; (vii) Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTRs).
115. The presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.unitar.org/cwm/sites/unitar.org.cwm/files/uploads/21.iomc_toolbox_j.dittkrist.pdf

5.2 Discussions on the agreement between UNEP and the countries participating in GMP2

116. To decide the detailed activities to be undertaken by each country during the GMP2 project, group and individual discussions were hosted between UNEP, UNITAR and the participating countries.
117. Representatives from countries provided more details about national capacity and expressed the willing to undertake more activities, such as national sampling and analysis. Based on further discussion, it got an agreement that all the countries will do passive air sampling on basic POPs, PCB, PFOS, PBDE and dl-POPs. Except for University of the South Pacific in Fiji, which will do national analysis of basic POPs, all other samples will be sent to the expert laboratories for analysis. Other details were also discussed and the UNITAR will update the draft SSFAs according to the discussion results.

6. Final Remarks

118. The training workshop for the NIPs updating project provided detailed guidance and explanation to the countries in the Pacific Region. Through discussions, exercises, as well as question and answer sections, the representatives from the Pacific countries, the experts, UNEP and BRS as the implementing agencies, got the change to communicate directly, which deepened the participants' understanding about the background, the procedures as well as the key elements in the updating of national implementation plans.
119. The inception workshop for the 2nd round Global Monitoring Plan in the Pacific Region held in Suva, Fiji is the third regional inception workshop (following the one in December 2015 in the GRULAC region and the one in January in the Asia Region). After the last presentation, Ms. Alvarez took the floor for a wrap up session, in order to make sure that no questions/doubts were left behind. Then she started a round of final greetings/lesson learned and all the participants expressed their positive impression during the 5 days of the meeting.
120. Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez briefly summarize the outputs of the workshop, appreciated the participating of each representative, as well as the University of the South Pacific in support of hosting these five-days workshops.
121. The Workshop was seen as a successful discussion for initiation of the projects. In the final conclusions made it was underlined that for a successful updating of NIPs and the implementation of the GMP2 project in the Pacific Region, the strengthening of capacity building at national level is crucial for the current and future sustainability of the monitoring, analyses and management of POPs.

List of Annexes:

- **Annex I : List of acronyms**
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Annex I: List of acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
dl-POPs	Dioxin-like persistent organic pollutants
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (of UNEP)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMP	Global Monitoring Plan
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HCB	Hexachlorobenzene
NIPs	National Implementation Plans
PBDE	Polybrominated diphenyl ethers
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCDDs	Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins
PCDFs	Polychlorinated dibenzofurans
PeCBz	Pentachlorobenzene
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PFOS	Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PUF	Polyurethane foam
QA	Quality assurance
QC	Quality control
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SSFA	Small scale funding agreement
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific region Environment Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UPOPs	Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants
WHO	World Health Organization



Annex II: Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Lead/Speaker
Monday, 4th April, 2016		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening of the workshop	USP, UNEP, BRS
Training workshop on the updating of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for POPs		
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction of the participants	All participants
9:30 – 10:00	Overview of the process for developing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and situation in the participating countries	Katarina Magulova (BRS Secretariat)
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30 – 12:00	POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention and exercise on countries' priority for addressing specific POPs and sectors	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
12:00 – 12:30	Key outcomes from the human milk surveys	Heidlore Fiedler (International Expert)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 – 14:00	Main difficulties, success stories and lessons learned	All participants
14:00 – 14:45	Strategy for environmentally sound management of POPs pesticides	Lusiana Ralogaivau (SPREP)
	Lessons learned from updating POPs pesticides inventories and stockpiles management: experience of countries	Lusiana Ralogaivau (SPREP)
	Capacity building work being done in the Pacific on implementation of the cluster of Multilateral Environment Agreements on chemicals and on pesticide risk reduction	Lusiana Ralogaivau (SPREP)
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	Revising and updating inventories of unintentional POPs	Katarina Magulova (BRS Secretariat)
16:00 – 17:00	Exercise on unintentional POPs inventory	Heidlore Fiedler (International Expert)
Tuesday, 5th April, 2016		
9:00 – 10:30	Inventories of PFOS and BDEs: approaches and methodologies	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and

		Waste Branch)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Priority setting: A) Principles and approaches B) Methodology for identifying roles and value of assessing priorities C) Elements to consider	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Working group exercise and presentation of results	All participants
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30 – 17:00	Working group exercise and presentation of results (con.)	All participants
18:30	<i>Welcome dinner/Cocktail</i>	
Wednesday, 6th April, 2016		
9:00 – 10:30	Monitoring plan and effectiveness evaluation	Katarina Magulova (BRS Secretariat)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:15	Discussions on follow-up activities to implement NIPs projects	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
12:15 – 12:30	Wrap-up and assessment of the workshop	All participants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
Inception Workshop of the Second Round Global Monitoring Plan (GMP2) on POPs in the Pacific Region		
13:30 – 14:00	Registration of participants	
14:00 – 14:15	Opening remarks	UNEP, BRS, WHO, USP
14:15 – 15:00	Overall presentation of the UNEP/GEF projects on analysis and monitoring of POPs	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
15:00 – 15:30	Highlights and outcomes of the UNEP/GEF GMP1 projects	Heidelore Fiedler (International Expert)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:00 – 17:00	Human milk surveys: roles of the different stakeholders	Maraia Meo (WHO)
Thursday, 7th April, 2016		
9:00 – 10:10	Introduction to the UNEP/GEF project “Continuing Regional	Jacqueline Alvarez

	Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” (including the role of UNEP as the project EA)	(UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
10:10 – 10:30	Presentation of the instructive movie for the cleaning of PUF disks for passive sampling of ambient air	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	The role of the expert laboratories in the project	Heidelore Fiedler (International Expert)
12:00 – 12:30	The role of UNITAR in the project	Jost Dittkrist (UNITAR)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Set-up of the national and cross-cutting activities in the UNEP/GEF Pacific Islands GMP2 project (workplan and timetable) A) Air sampling and analysis B) Water sampling and analysis C) Human milk sampling and analysis	Heidelore Fiedler (International Expert)
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30 – 17:00	National budgets	Heidelore Fiedler (International Expert)
Friday, 8th April, 2016		
9:00 – 10:30	IOMC toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management	Jost Dittkrist (UNITAR)
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Discussions on the agreement between UNEP and the countries participating in GMP2	Jacqueline Alvarez, Heidelore Fiedler, Jost Dittkrist
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Discussions on the agreement between UNEP and the countries participating in GMP2 (con.)	All participants
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:45	Discussions on the agreement between UNEP and the countries participating in GMP2 (con.)	All participants
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-up and assessment of the workshop	Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch)



Annex III: Concept Note for the NIPs Training Workshop

A) Operating Details:

- Training workshop: The training workshop aims to assist participants in updating and reviewing of NIPs under article 7 of the Stockholm Convention in light of the GEF project “Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs”.
- Dates and time: Monday 4 April, 2016 – Wednesday 6 April, 2016.
- Venue: tbc
Address: tbc
- Hosting institutions: The University of South Pacific.
- Participants: One participant *per* participating country (recommended: NIPs focal point coordinator).
- Registration: Participants are kindly requested to arrive for registration at the venue at 8:30 a.m. on Monday 4 April, 2016 with their passports.
- Contact persons: Mr. William Aalbersberg (E-mail: william.aalbersberg@usp.ac.fj) at the USP and Ms. Haosong Jiao (E-mail: Haosong.Jiao@unep.org) at UNEP.

B) Objectives

- Opportunities for enhancing regional coordination and understanding main aspects of Stockholm Convention obligations, including among others effectiveness evaluation and reporting obligations.
- Increase capacity of parties to the Stockholm Convention to update their NIPs – and thus fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

C) Background

The UNEP/GEF project “Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs” (GEF ID 5307, 5525; UNEP Code 4E40) aims to assist countries to review and update the National Implementation Plan (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (Article 7) and to support countries in understanding and complying with other obligations such as reporting obligations (Article 15). Within this project, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch executes the global/regional support component “Support to share information and evaluate NIPs updating worldwide”. This includes the identification and dissemination of lessons learned, the identification of initial needs and opportunities for exchange of information and expertise and the provision of regional/global training support.

Article 7 of the Convention states that Parties shall “review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by the decision of the Conference of the Parties”. To date, more than 130 Parties have submitted their NIPs and some other countries are about to submit them shortly. Under the umbrella of the GEF 12-country project, in 2006, UNEP conducted a series of consultations with Parties and identified lessons learned and good practices. During these consultations countries expressed their difficulties in developing accurate inventories on PCBs, Dioxins and Furans and in taking care of obsolete pesticides. UNEP understands the development of inventories and action plans as a continuous process, where information and data gathering improves with time and working with key

stakeholders is a need.

This project assists countries to update and/or develop their national implementation plans and also includes a regional/global support component to provide technical expertise and tools to facilitate the updating of the NIPs and information exchange. The Global/regional support component of this project enhances communication and information sharing among Parties to compare and harmonize data and identifies good practices and lessons learned. The initial NIPs development flagged few challenging issues, such as the need for harmonized approaches (the guidance documents were interpreted in different manners or not taken into account at all), the need for suitable experts that can deliver the same message and core expertise to countries, the need to develop mechanisms to facilitate country reporting, and more information exchange among countries regionally and globally. The Global/regional component includes:

- a) Regional and global assessments on the initial NIPs development process to identify gaps and needs in regions and countries;
- b) Development of an information exchange system including discussion forums, expert sessions, etc.;
- c) Enhancement of the SC clearinghouse (in close collaboration with the BRS Secretariat) and facilitation of national reporting;
- d) Development of an expert database by region, language, and field of expertise, also in close collaboration with the BRS Secretariat;

Development and dissemination of lessons learned.

Annex III: Concept Note for the GMP2 Inception Workshop

A) Operating Details:

- Inception workshop: The GMP2 project “Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention” aims to record the presence of POPs in the Pacific Islands and to strengthen their capacity to monitor.
- Dates and time: Wednesday 6 April, 2016 – Friday 8 April, 2016.
- Venue: tbc
Address: tbc
- Hosting institutions: The University of South Pacific.
- Participants: One participant *per* participating country (recommended: National coordinator)
- Registration: Participants will be registered at the venue at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday 6 April, 2016 with their passports.
- Contact persons: Mr. William Aalbersberg (E-mail: william.aalbersberg@usp.ac.fj) at the USP and Ms. Haosong Jiao (E-mail: Haosong.Jiao@unep.org) at UNEP.

B) Objectives

- Launch the UNEP/GEF project ‘Continuing Regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region’.
- Detail the activities and responsibilities of principal actors and relevant stakeholders for project implementation with a workplan, timetable and budget.
- Strengthening the capacity for implementation of the updated POPs GMP in the Pacific Region.

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’ concentration 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.

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 availability and constrained capacity for sustained monitoring in the Pacific Islands. 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 prior recommendation and provides some detailed recommendations in this regard. These include in particular: performance of interlaboratory comparison tests; improving skills for sampling and analysis where appropriate; 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.

Four GEF MSP projects were conducted in parallel in Asia, Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean (GRULAC) 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. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention 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, has started the implementation of four GMP follow-up projects (GMP2) in the African, Asian, 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).



Annex IV: Work plan and Timetable

UNEP as Executing Agency is included in overall coordination and in general, in all activities.

	Activity	Country / Actors	Dates / deadlines	Objective / Remarks
1	Organization of a regional inception workshop Objective: Launching of project and Preparation of detailed workplan for project implementation	All countries	6-8 April 2016	Launch the GEF-funded project to prepare regional support for the GMP in the PICs and detail the activities and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders for project implementation with a workplan and budget
2	Assignment of responsible staff for air monitoring, mothers' milk monitoring, and POPs analysis (including identification of national POPs lab)	Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 15 May 2016 to be sent to UNEP 	
3	Identification of sampling sites – for AIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries Expert laboratories Samplers and instructions to be send by Recetox	<u>PASSIVE AIR SAMPLING</u> (for all countries, 1 site each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries to send GIS coordinates and name of the site (street address) to UNEP by 22 April 2016 Name and address where the samplers will be received (Name of person and address, phone number and country code) – send to UNEP by 15 April 2016 By 15 May 2016 Samplers and PUFs to be sent by Recetox and UNEP will e-mail the national 	From 1 st January 2017 and thereafter every 3 months for 2 years 8 samples in total for air passive sampling (Remember you will receive 5 PAS and 50 PUFs (to be stored at -18 C). Sample obtained the sample should be labelled (as indicated) and stored at -18 C.

	Activity	Country / Actors	Dates / deadlines	Objective / Remarks
			<p>coordinator to tell materials were sent.</p> <p>NOTE: Sampling starts on 1 January 2017</p>	<p>Samples should be sent to the expert laboratory – when to be decided by each country and the expert laboratories.</p>
4	WATER sampling (PFOS) and analysis (national and expert lab)	<p>All countries</p> <p>Containers and instruction will be send by MTM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries to send GIS coordinates to UNEP by 30 April 2016 <p>NOTE: Sampling takes place on 1st January 2017</p>	<p>From 1st October and thereafter every 3 months for 2 years</p> <p>- 8 samples needed</p> <p>Remember you put the container in the water and take it out (several times), but the container should not stay in the water.</p>
5	AGREEMENTS with countries	UNEP/UNITAR / Country national coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 15 April 2016 UNEP to send reminder of information requests if needed. By 1 June 2016 agreement signed back to UNEP (Fund transfer will start) 	UNEP/UNITAR to approach each country to determine terms of reference.
6	Identification of potential donors of mothers' milk in the PICs	<p>Countries</p> <p>Samplers and instructions to be send by CVUA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name and address where the samplers will be received (Name of person and address, phone number and country code) – send to UNEP by 22 April 2016 <u>National protocol</u>: example developed by USP (available in the USB key) – examples in USB Interested, countries to initiate process to get ethical clearance as soon as possible to enable start of sampling as soon as possible in 2016. Send information to UNEP and Heide UNEP to inform CVUA as soon as possible, not later than 2 weeks after reception of information 	Send to WHO Reference lab/Freiburg for analysis (aliquots to MTM Örebro for POS analysis)

	Activity	Country / Actors	Dates / deadlines	Objective / Remarks
			<p>from countries. No later than 2 weeks after CVUA will send the materials to the countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples sent to CVUA as soon as possible but no later than October 2017. <p>Samples to be stored in the fridge at -18C</p>	
7	<p><i>Training needs</i></p> <p><i>Laboratory infrastructure / situation</i></p>	Expert laboratories, cc to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National laboratories sent check list by 15 April 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire to update the laboratory database provided as part of USB key • For planning purposes on training
8	<i>Hands-on training in national laboratories</i>	MTM Centre Örebro	<p><i>USP - Date to be confirmed</i></p> <p><i>Others??</i></p>	The laboratory should be prepared/operational
9	<i>Participation in international interlaboratory assessment</i>	IVM/MTM	<p>Periods 2016/2017 and 2018/2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations being sent to labs to participate • By 30 April 2016 (and 2018): Registration closes • From 15 June 2016 (and 2018) until end of July 2016 (and 2018): Shipment of test samples to participating labs • By September 2016 (and in 2018): Results reported by participating labs (possibilities of revising results reported) <p><i>Note: countries can invite laboratories to participate</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New invitation/confirmation to labs participating at interlaboratory assessment sent (by countries) • Registration until: 30 April 2016 • Samples to be sent at the latest by 1 July 2016 / 2018 • Results reported by labs until: 5 September 2016 / 2018 <p>Evaluation of analytical data and interpretation of results (MTM, IVM) Expert labs will contact</p>

	Activity	Country / Actors	Dates / deadlines	Objective / Remarks
			<p>– Send to IVM/MTM information before 30 April 2016</p> <p>Participation is free of costs for developing countries laboratories</p>	developing country labs and exchange results
10	Exchange of national samples for POPs analysis in developing country laboratory and mirror analysis in back-up laboratory	Countries, expert labs	By 31 December 2017	



Annex V: List of participants

GOVERNMENTS

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