

**REPORT:  
PRIORITY ISSUES ON CHEMICALS AND  
WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR LATIN  
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND  
POTENTIAL PRIORITY COOPERATION  
ACTIVITIES FOR 2018-2019**



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Non-professional translation (original version in Spanish).

## Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a consultation process on chemicals and waste management priority issues for the Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC). The consultation was done through a survey to the national focal points of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for LAC (the Network). National focal points were encouraged to hold their own consultations with other stakeholders at the national level while responding to the survey.

The report intends to provide input to the development of a 2018-2019 strategic action plan for the Network on potential South-South cooperation activities on chemicals and waste.

## Background

An intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste for LAC (the Network) was established in 2016 as per Decision 8 of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The network was mandated to develop a biennial regional action plan that identifies priority areas of cooperation and activities for the next two years to support and strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste in the region.

A working group of the intergovernmental network is currently working on developing the action plan. In order to identify the key priorities issues for the region, the working group undertook a comprehensive review of diverse initiatives, plans, strategies and high-level decisions by different forums and groups<sup>1</sup>. These key topics identified by the working group were shared with all national focal points of the Network in a survey requesting the following feedback:

- (i) Which priority issues should be included in the regional action plan for 2018-2019; and
- (ii) What are the key cooperation areas that the Network can implement in order to address those priority issues.

<sup>1</sup> A complete list of the reviewed sources is provided in Annex 1.

## Participation to the survey

Responses from national focal points were received over the months of May-July 2017. Response rate was high, with **23 respondents** (70% of national focal points in the region) as shown in the following map (Figure 1) and Table 1.

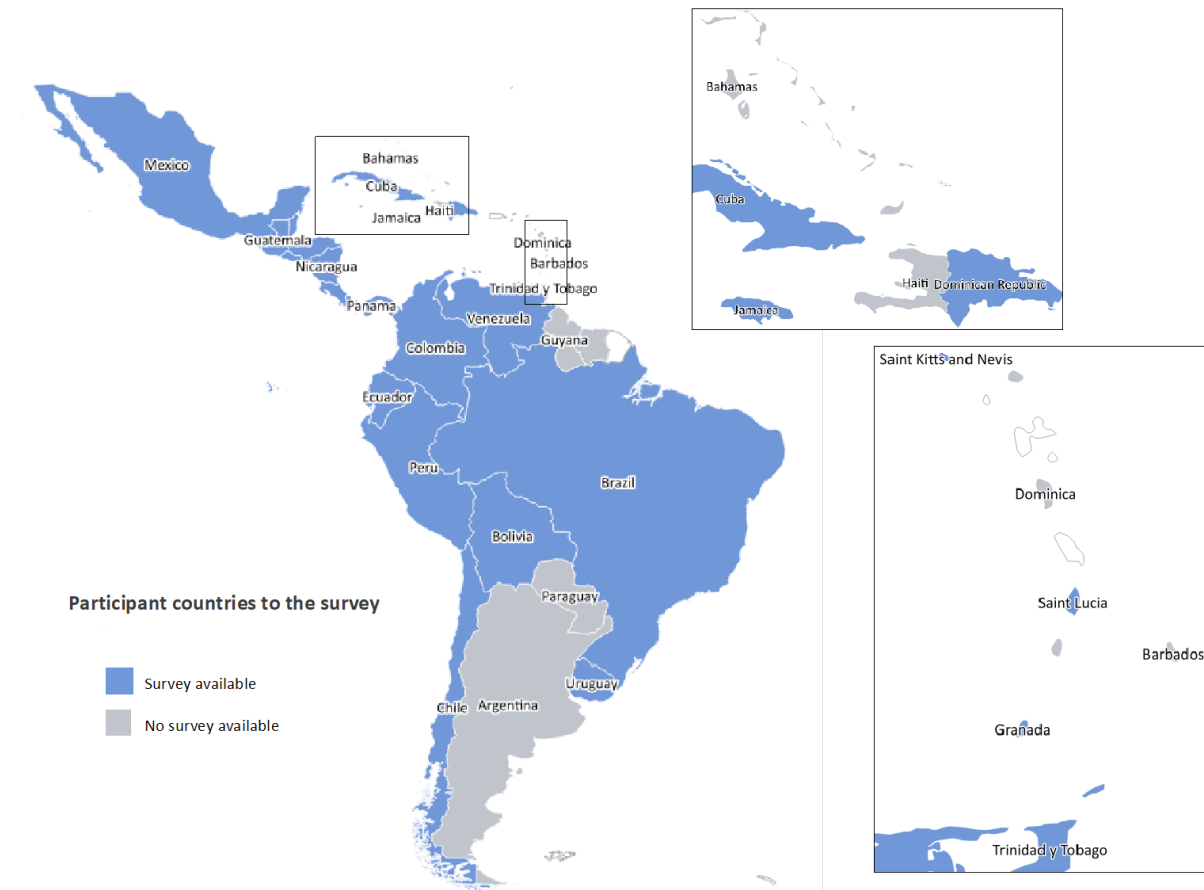


Figure 1 - Countries (national focal points of the Network) that responded to the survey on priority issues on chemicals and waste in LAC

Table 1. Response rate to the survey on chemicals and waste management priorities in the LAC region.

Sub-region	Countries per sub-region	National focal points that responded*	Representation per sub-region (%)
Mesoamerica	8	8	100%
Caribbean	15	7	47%
Andean	5	5	100%
Southern Cone	5	3	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>70%</b>

\*Countries per sub-region:

**Mesoamerica:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

**Caribbean:** Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Andean:** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

**Southern Cone:** Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

## The survey and the analysis of results

The survey included three sections, namely a first section to identify priority issues for the region, a second section to identify potential cooperation areas, and a third section to identify already ongoing cooperation activities in the region.<sup>2</sup>

The first section provided a list of several issues that were identified by the working group as potential key priorities for the region. These issues were pre-classified into the following categories, which take into account the topics included in Decision 8 of the Forum of Ministers of Environment:

1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence
2. Knowledge, information and monitoring
3. Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
5. Mercury and Lead
6. Waste management

In order to obtain a manageable set of priorities for a biennial action plan, respondents were requested to select and rank only 5 priority sub-topics under each category above.

<sup>2</sup> The survey is attached in Annex 2.

The second section of the survey requested respondents to rank a list of potential regional cooperation activities to address the priority topics in the first section, namely:

- Face-to-face trainings/workshops
- Webinars
- Online training modules
- Development of guidance and tools (Toolbox, Lira, and others)
- Dialogue and planning meetings
- Undertake regional assessments on specific issues of concern
- Develop regional or sub-regional strategy and action plans on specific issues of concern
- Establish regional database and/or clearinghouse
- Support of project proposal development
- Regionally-coordinated awareness-raising campaign
- Resource mobilization and facilitate access to financial resources
- South-South exchange programme, i.e. physical exchange of human resources, exchange of lessons learnt, study tours, etc.
- South-South cooperation for technology transfer

Lastly, the third section of the survey requested respondents to report on any ongoing cooperation activities or strategies among countries in the region in order to build the biennial action plan upon existing activities and avoid duplications. This section had an open-question structure, which was responded by some countries.

The results from the first and second section were analyzed by (i) the frequency of responses to each issue (number of respondents) and (ii) the “aggregated ranking” to each issue. The aggregated ranking is the sum of all pondered values given by respondents to each ranked topic.

Results from the third section are summarized at the end of the report, as to provide baseline information for the plan on the current situation on some of the cooperation activities on chemicals and waste in the region, taking into account that this does not represent a comprehensive review.

## Results

Results are shown per categories previously identified by the working group of the Network. The summary under each category presents:

- The **most highly ranked** sub-topics per category
- A chart comparing **the aggregated ranking versus frequency** for all sub-topics - in order to identify any issue that was frequently mentioned by respondents despite a lower ranking compared to other prioritized sub-topics
- A chart summarizing the aggregated ranking given to each sub-topic **per sub-region** – in order to visualize similarities and differences among sub-regions -
- A Map to summarize the **top one priority topic** of the category for every country that participated to the survey – in order to visualize any geographic trend

## Section 1: Priority issues for the region



### 1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence

Under this category, the top priority sub-topics at regional level are the following:

- i. Review and strengthen chemicals and waste **legal framework** (1.1)
- ii. **Mainstreaming** chemicals and waste into **national strategies and plans** for sustainable development, as well as in national budgeting processes (1.5)

These were followed by other sub-topics such as:

- iii. Review and strengthen chemicals and waste **institutional framework** (1.2)
- iv. Development of **national registers** of chemicals (e.g. industrial chemicals) (1.4)
- v. Strengthen **enforcement** of the chemicals and waste **regulatory framework** (1.3)

Topics related with the international agenda and implementation of MEAs<sup>3</sup> obtained the lowest ranking.

**Figure 2** compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where majorly a tendency of correlation is seen. However, a weaker correlation is found for sub-topic 1.10. *Promoting engagement of various stakeholders in the chemicals and waste management planning and initiatives* was frequently selected by respondents as a priority issue, although it was always given a low ranking in comparison to other priority issues. This may show that most respondents recognize importance of a participatory approach with all stakeholders, even though they consider that other sub-topics should be considered of more priority.

<sup>3</sup> Multilateral Environmental Agreements



# PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE REGION

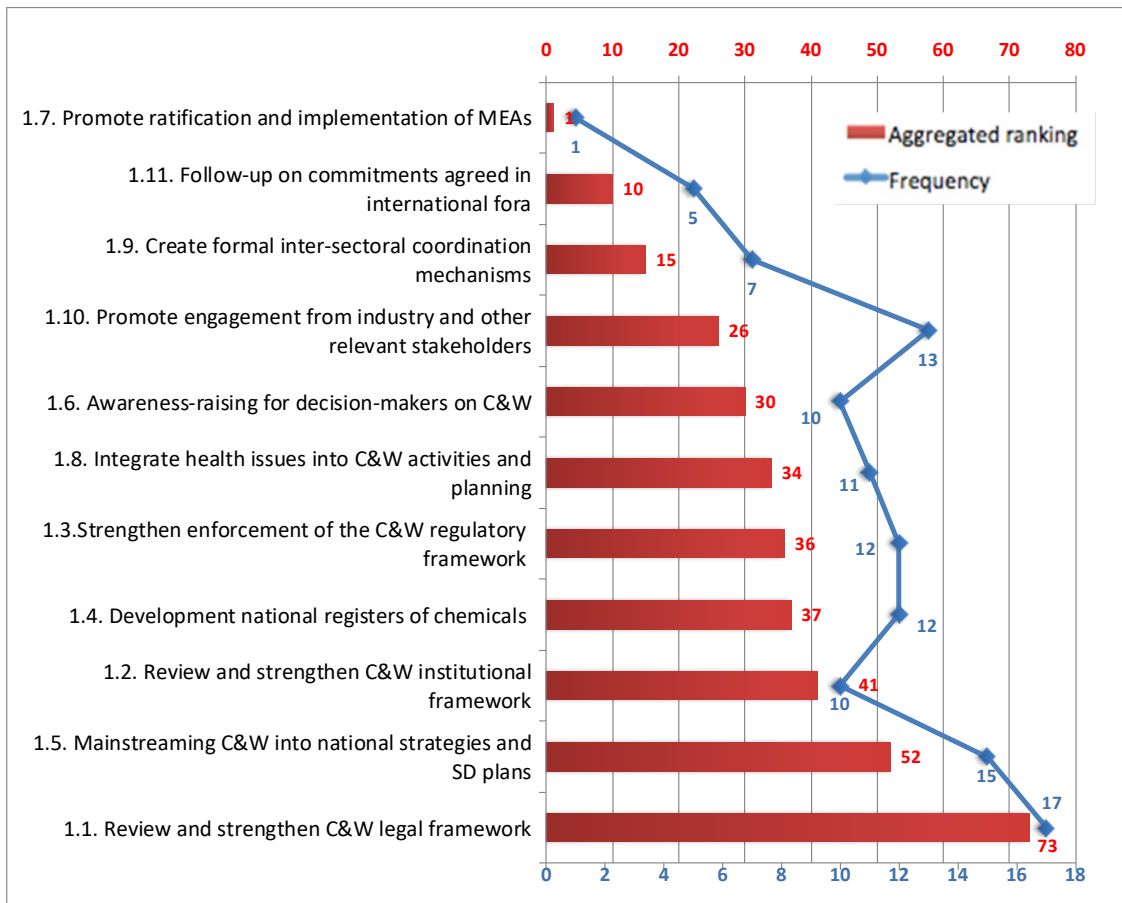


Figure 2. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 1 – Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence.

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**, some differences can be observed compared to the regional average aggregated rankings.<sup>4</sup> The *strengthening of the legal framework* is a higher priority in most of the sub-regions, namely Caribbean, Andes and Southern Cone, while in Mesoamerica the *integration of health issues into chemicals and waste activities and planning* appears to be the top ranked issue. The other topics pointed out above (**mainstreaming, institutional framework, enforcement, and registers**) are consistently prioritized in most of the sub-regions.

**Figure 3** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

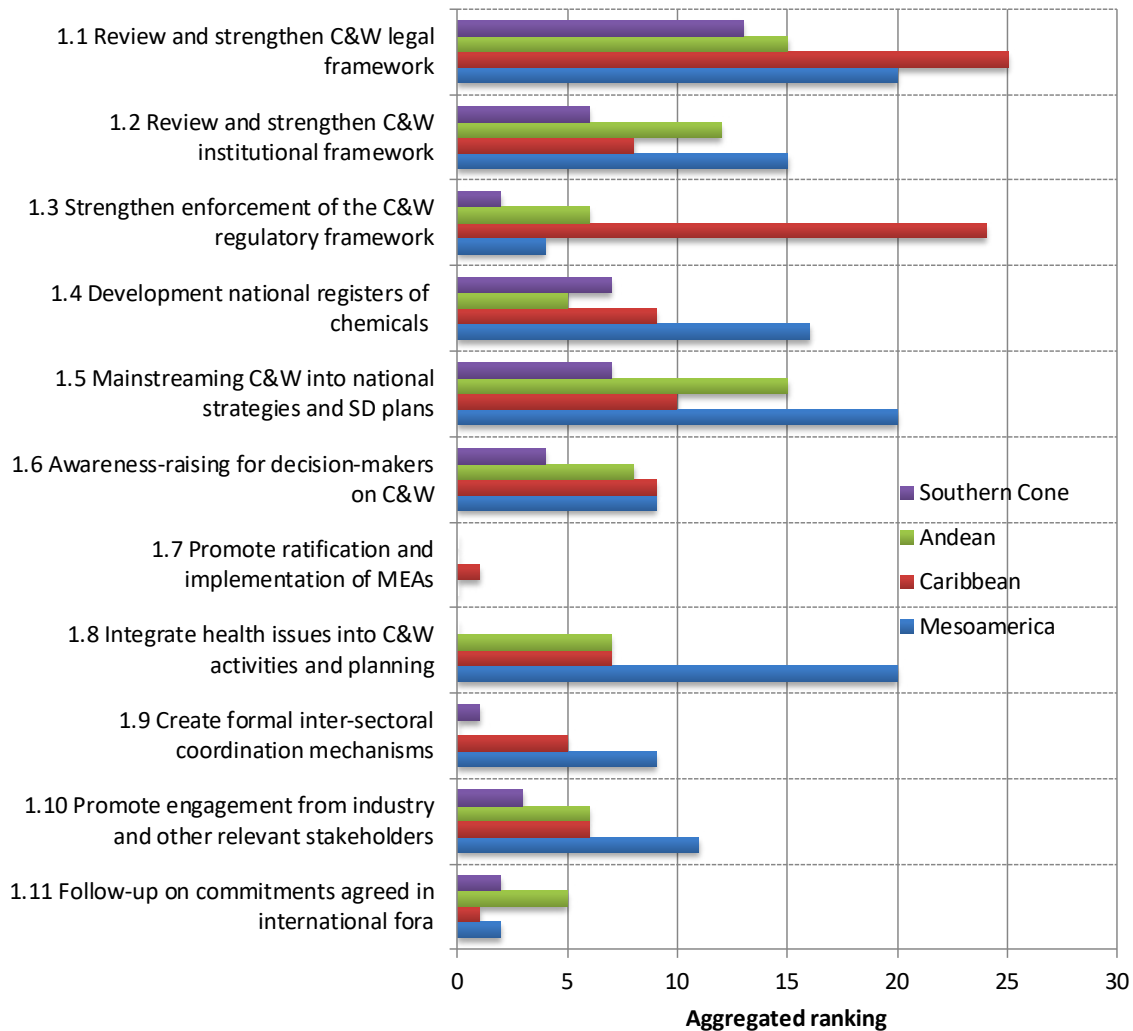


Figure 3. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 1 – Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence.

<sup>4</sup>See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 1 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 4** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 1 - Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence.



Figure 4 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 1 – Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence



## 2. Knowledge, information and monitoring

The top priority sub-topic at regional level, according to aggregated ranking is:

- i. Establish **methodologies and institutional schemes** for health and environment **risk assessment** of chemicals (2.7)

This was followed by other sub-topics such as:

- ii. Create **capacities in the region for sampling and analyzing** all POPs, mercury, and other priority chemicals, in all environmental, biological, and human matrices (2.10)
- iii. Keep up-to-date **national registration or database systems on chemicals and waste**, such as Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and others (2.2)
- iv. Identify and implement appropriate **methodologies to develop chemicals inventories** (2.3)
- v. Establish a **list of priority chemicals** to monitor and monitoring parameters for all environmental, biological and human matrices (2.9)

Other subjects as *promoting a regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring and surveillance systems* (such as the regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring systems) and *the establishment of a system of recognition and awards for different categories of good practices and initiatives by industry on sound management of chemicals and waste* obtained the lowest ranking.

**Figure 5** compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where majorly a tendency of correlation is seen. However, a weaker correlation is found for sub-topics 2.3 (methodologies to develop chemicals inventories), 2.4 (tailored awareness raising campaigns) and 2.8 (integrated H&E<sup>5</sup> monitoring systems).

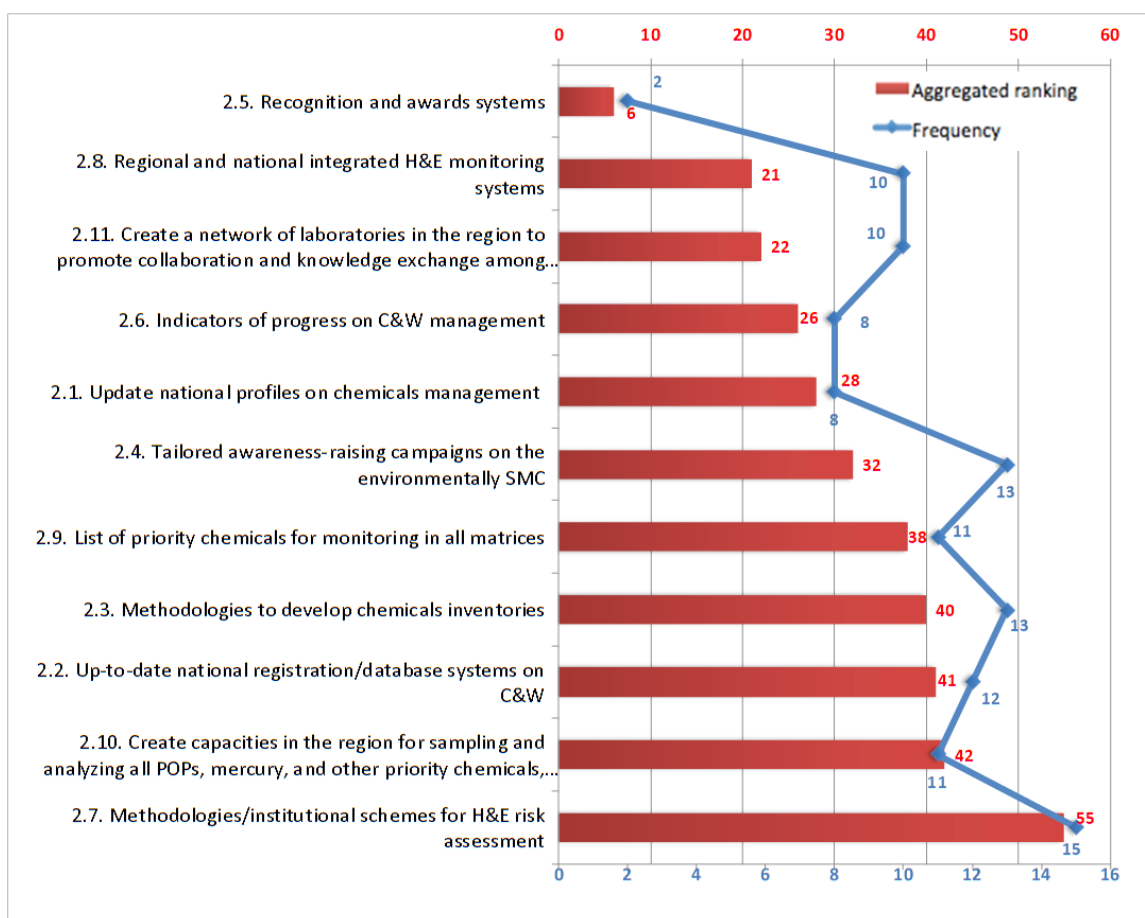


Figure 5. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 2 – Knowledge, information and monitoring.

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**, some differences can be observed compared to the regional average aggregated rankings.<sup>6</sup> *Establish methodologies and institutional schemes for health and environment risk assessment of chemicals* which is the regional priority in average, appears to be one especially in the Mesoamerica and the Southern Cone region whereas it presents a medium priority in the Andes and a low priority in the Caribbean.

<sup>6</sup> See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.

Per sub-region, the priority topics seem heterogeneous. For instance, *create capacities in the region for sampling and analyzing all POPs, mercury, and other priority chemicals* is the second priority according to the regional average. However, while it is the top priority reported for the Andes and the Caribbean, it shows a medium-low priority in Mesoamerica and was not considered by the Southern Cone. Moreover, *keep up-to-date national registration or database systems on chemicals and waste, such as Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)*, is rather a priority for the Mesoamerica and the Andes region. The Caribbean sub-region has also prioritized *the development of awareness-raising campaigns, and the development of chemicals inventories*. In general, **listing, inventorying and registration of chemicals is a priority issue in the region.**

**Figure 6** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

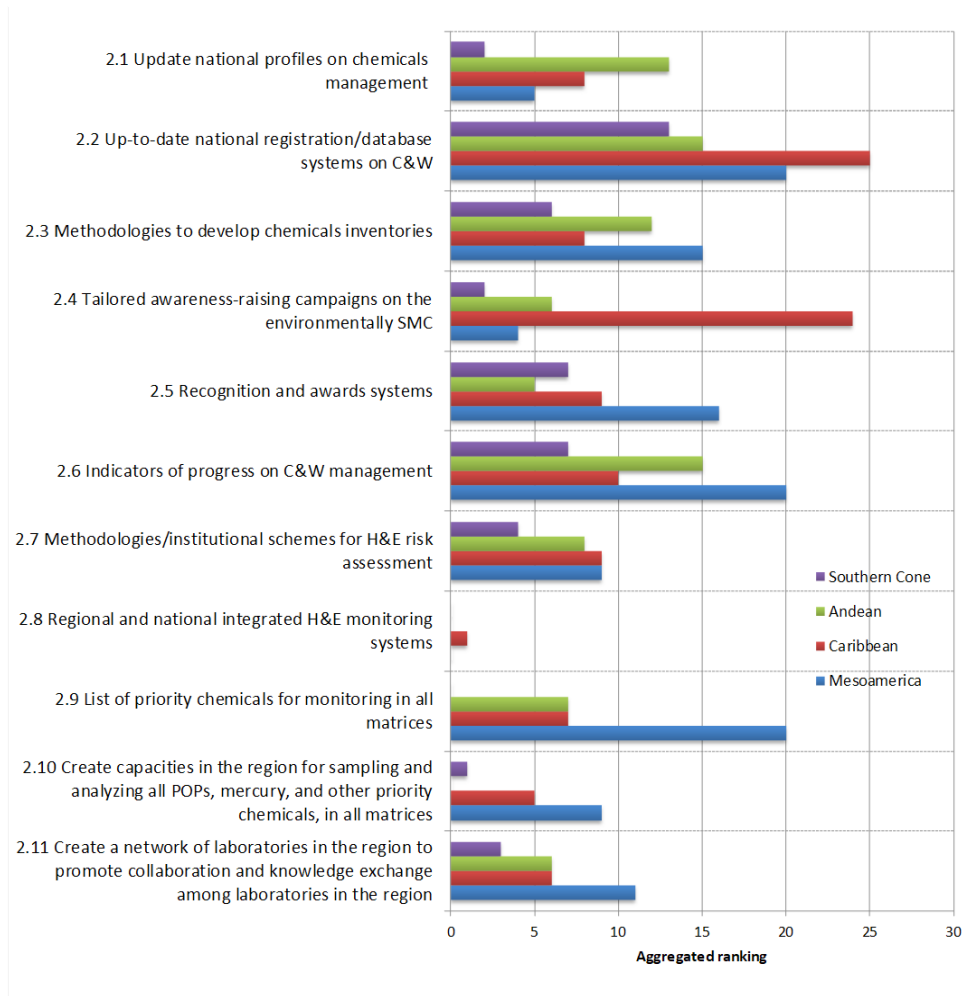


Figure 6. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 2 – Knowledge, information and monitoring.

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 2 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 7** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 2 - Knowledge, information and monitoring.

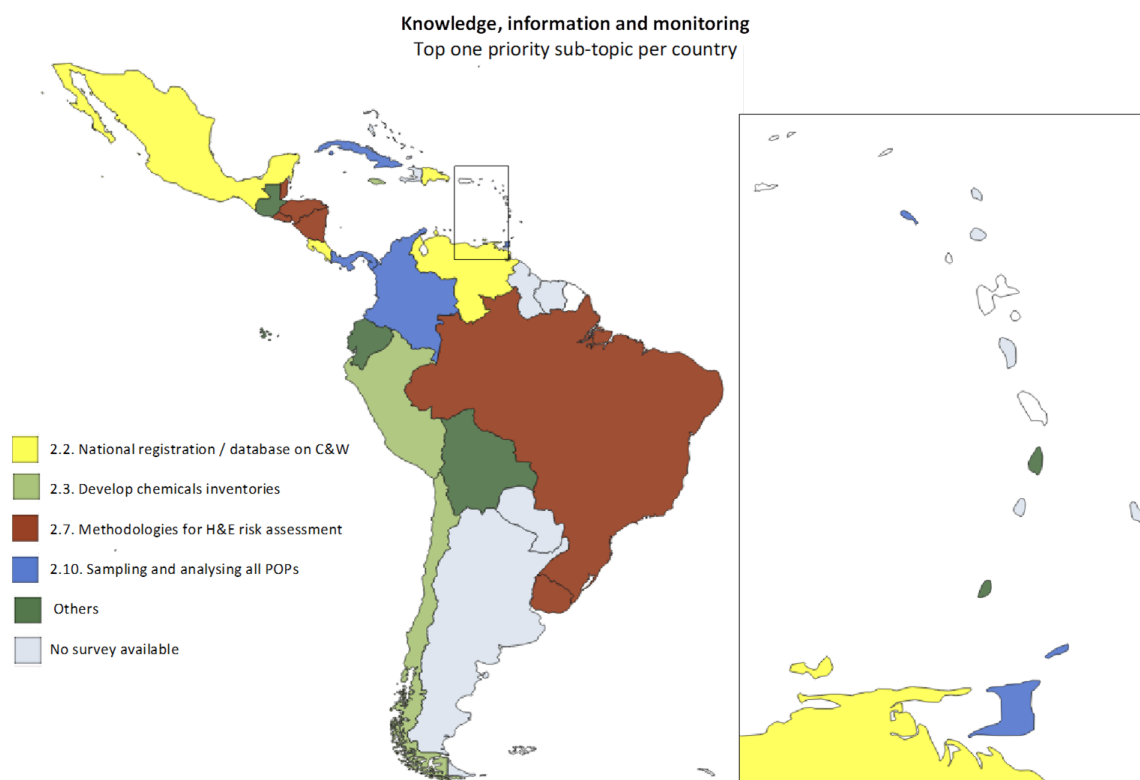


Figure 7 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 2 – Knowledge, information and monitoring



## 3. Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The top priority sub-topic at regional level, according to aggregated ranking is:

- i. Building **capacities of healthcare personnel on poisoning and diseases** related to chemical exposure (3.4)

This was followed by other sub-topics such as:

- ii. Promote implementation of the **Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals** (GHS) (3.5)
- iii. Identify **contaminated sites and exposed populations** to implement sound management of these sites (3.10)
- iv. Development and promotion of **environmentally sound and safer alternatives** on use and management of chemicals (3.13)

The areas related with the SAICM Emergent Policy Issues, including *strengthening information and research on endocrine disruptors* and *strengthening science-base of persistent pharmaceutical products* comparatively obtained the lowest ranking.

**Figure 8** compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where there is a consistent correlation.



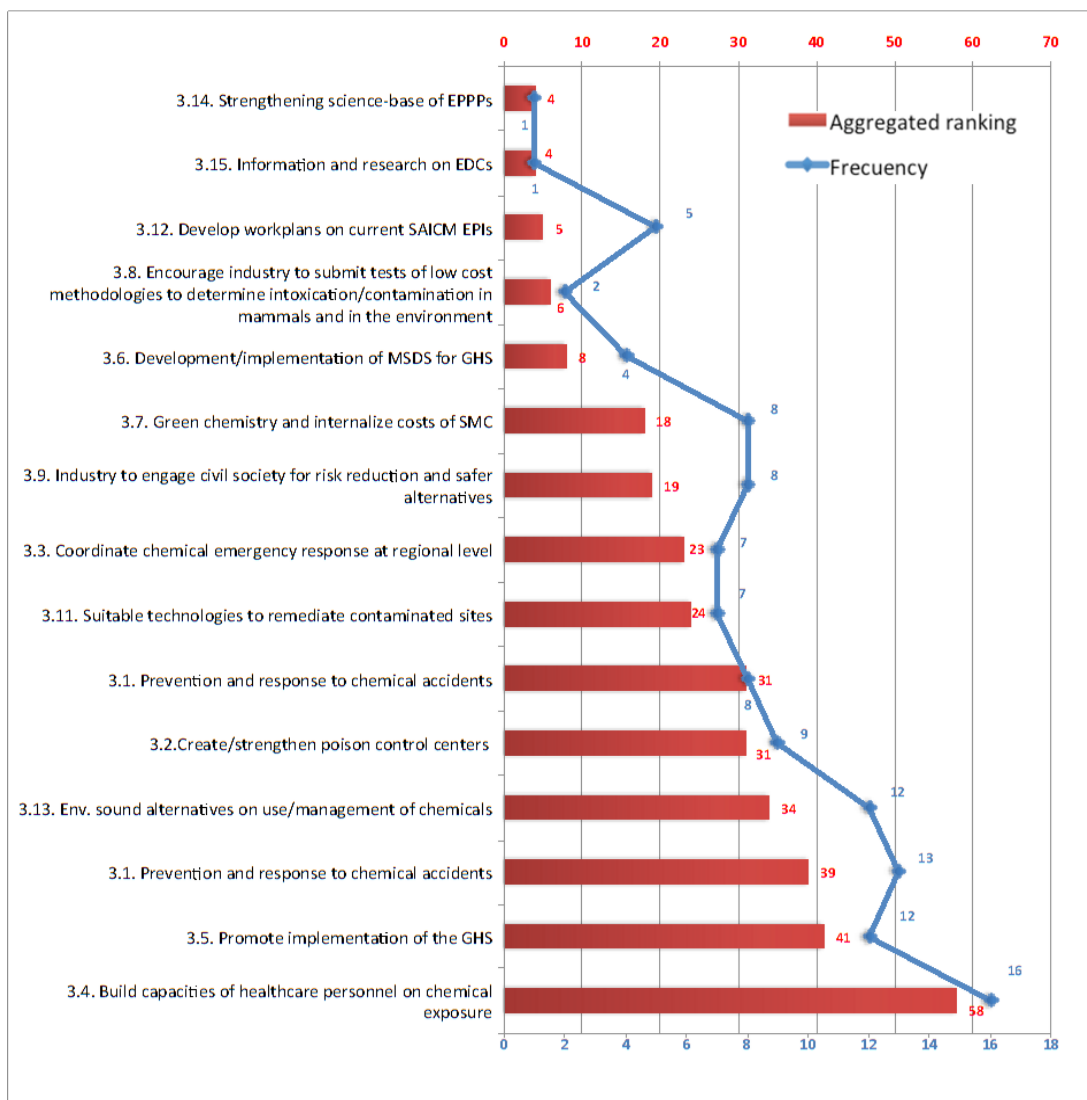


Figure 8. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 3 - Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**, some differences can be observed compared to the regional average aggregated rankings.<sup>7</sup> ***Building capacities of healthcare personnel on poisoning and diseases related to chemical exposure***, which is the average regional priority, appears as the main one in the Andean, Caribbean and Mesoamerica sub-regions whereas it is not considered by the three countries that responded the survey in the Southern Cone sub-region, where *implementation of the GHS* is clearly the top priority. GHS implementation is also moderately ranked in the other sub-regions. *Identification and remediation of contaminated sites* is highly ranked in Mesoamerica, the Andean region and the Southern Cone. *The development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives on use and management of chemicals* is a high priority for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. A distinctive finding in the Caribbean is the priority allocated to *prevention and emergency response to chemical accidents*. Some consideration of SAICM related EPI<sup>8</sup> can be observed in Mesoamerica, where the *strengthening of poison control centres* is also a priority.

**Figure 9** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 3 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 10** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 3 - Knowledge, information and monitoring.

<sup>7</sup> See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.

<sup>8</sup> Emerging Policy Issues

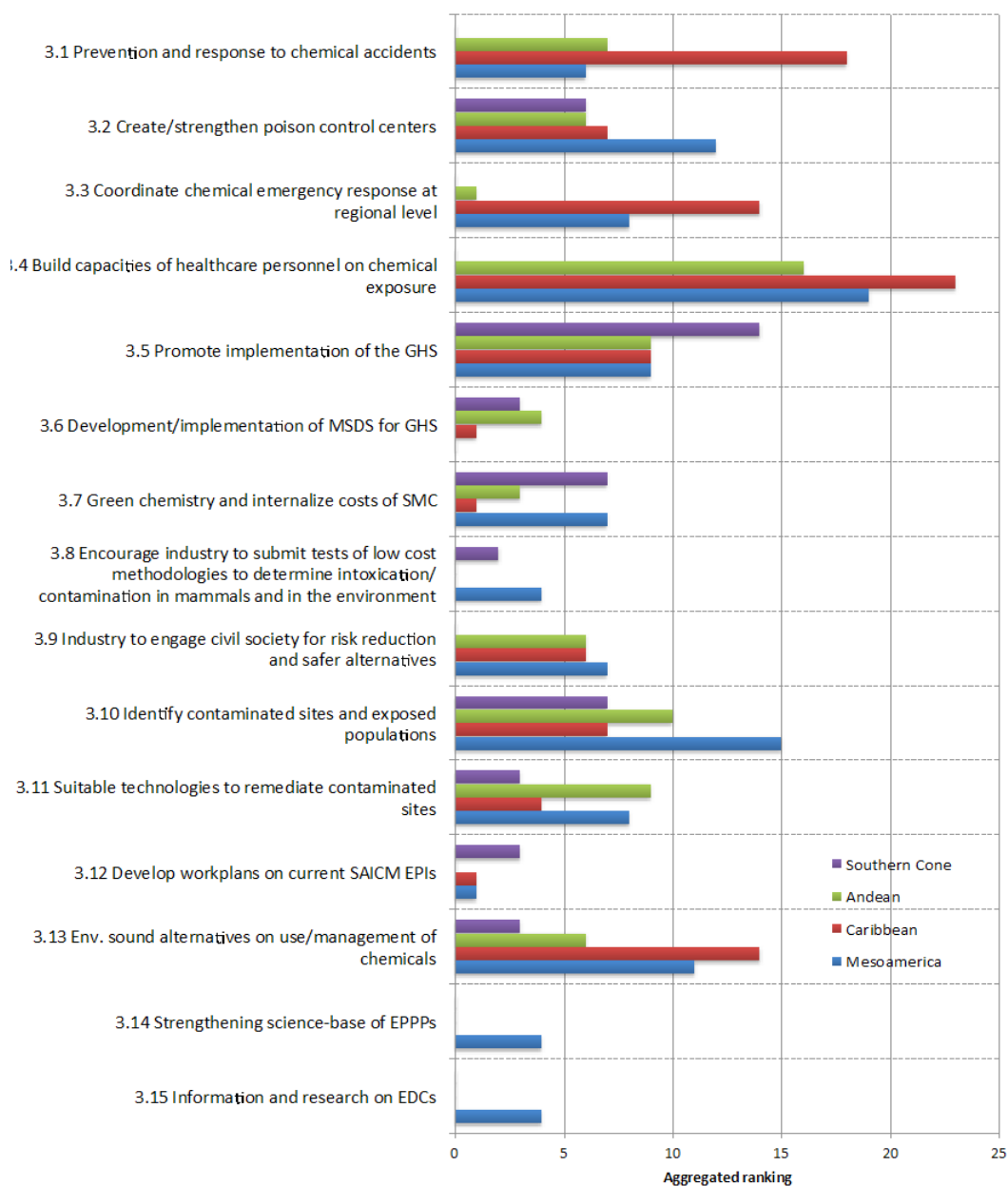


Figure 9. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 3 – Knowledge, information and monitoring.

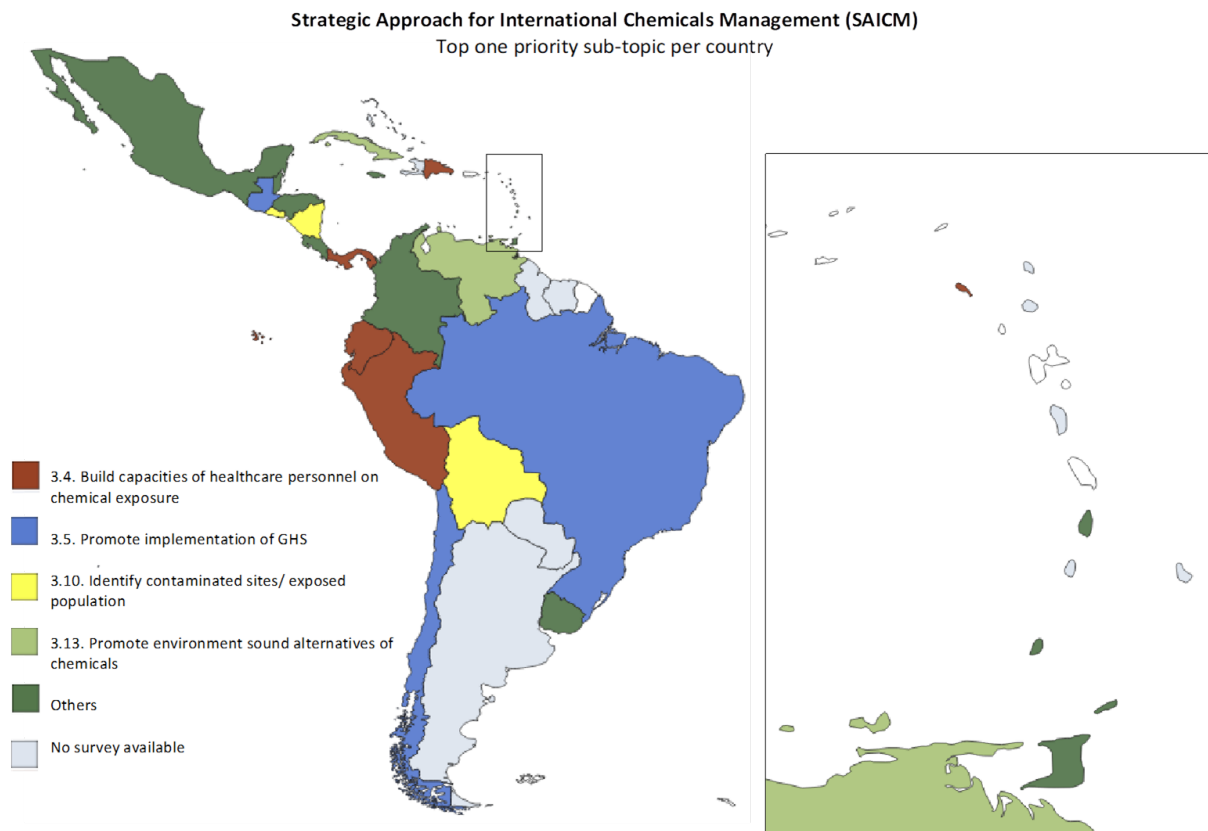


Figure 10 - Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 3 – Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)



## 4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)

The top priority sub-topic at regional level, according to aggregated ranking is:

- i. Implement **Best Available Techniques (BATs)** and **Best Environmental Practices (BEPs)** for activities with unintentional POPs emissions (4.2)

This was followed by other sub-topics such as:

- ii. Build capacities in the region to **prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste** (e.g. customs officers) (4.4)
- iii. **Technical assistance** to develop inventories of **hazardous waste and other waste** (4.8)
- iv. **Sound management** of POPs stocks (4.1)
- v. Development of **inventories of new POPs** (4.3)

The topics related with *training labor stakeholders* and the *technical assistance on the online reporting system to submit national reports* obtained the lowest ranking.

**Figure 11** compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where there is a consistent correlation.

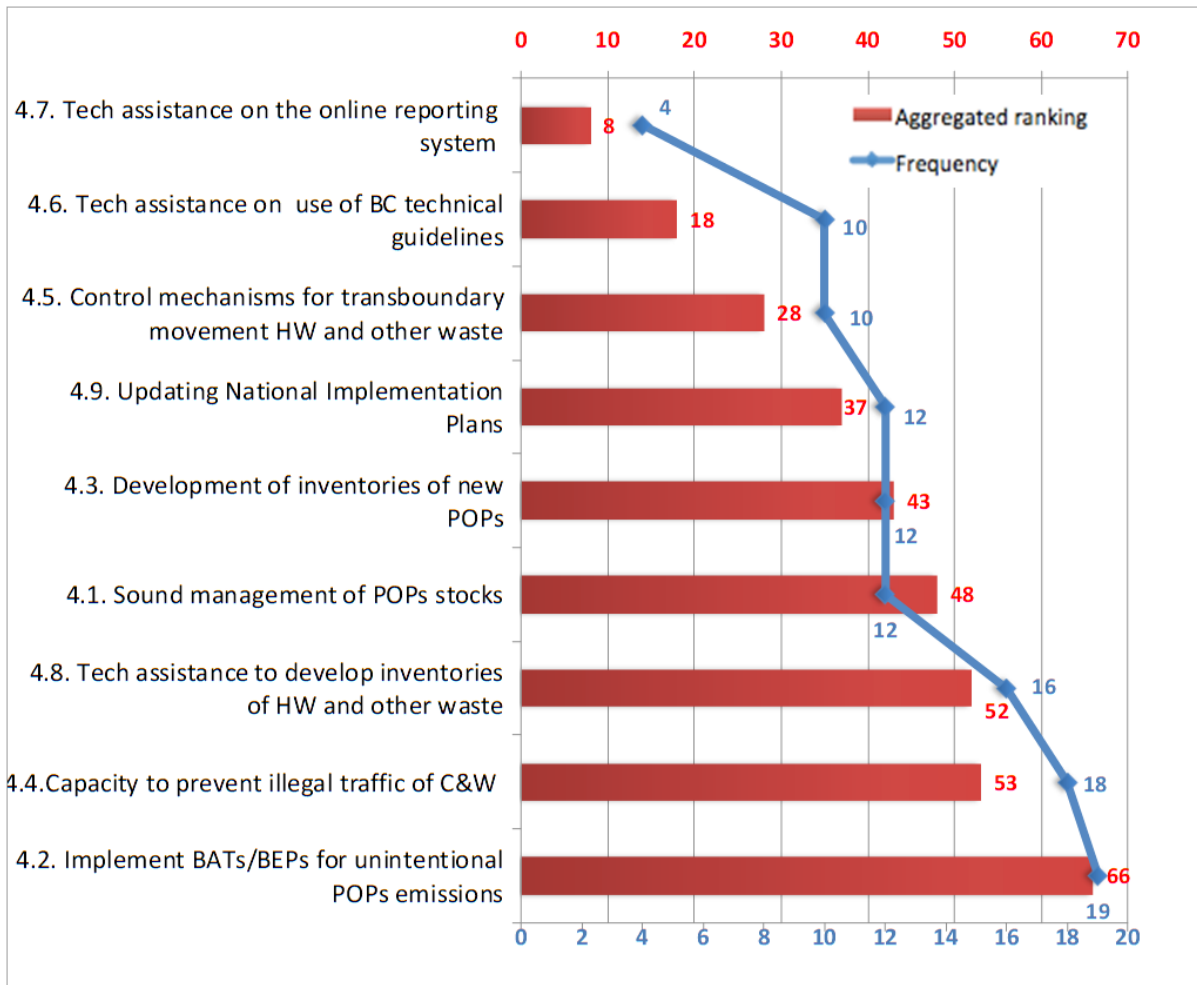


Figure 11. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 4 – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**<sup>9</sup> (Figure 12), the **Implementation of Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions** and **Sound management of POPs stocks** is a high priority in all the four sub-regions. However some differences can be observed in the ranking of priority sub-topics particularly in the Southern Cone where *technical assistance to develop inventories of hazardous waste and other waste* is not prioritized as it is in other sub-regions. *Prevention of illegal traffic* is highly ranked in Mesoamerica, Caribbean and Andes. The *sound management of POPs stocks* is mainly ranked in the Andean countries and the Southern Cone. *The inventorying of new COPs and the updating of NIPs* is a high priority for the Caribbean.

<sup>9</sup>See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.

**Figure 12** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

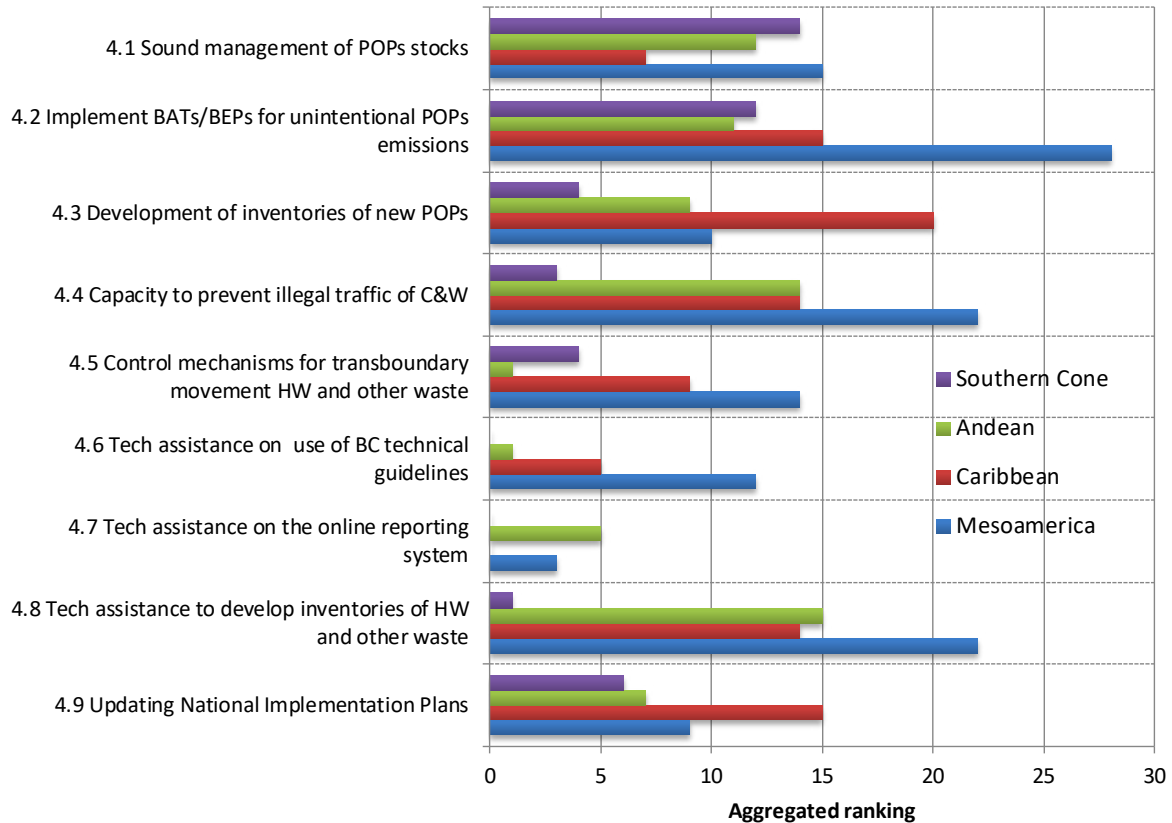


Figure 12. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 4 – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS).

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 4 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 13** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 4- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

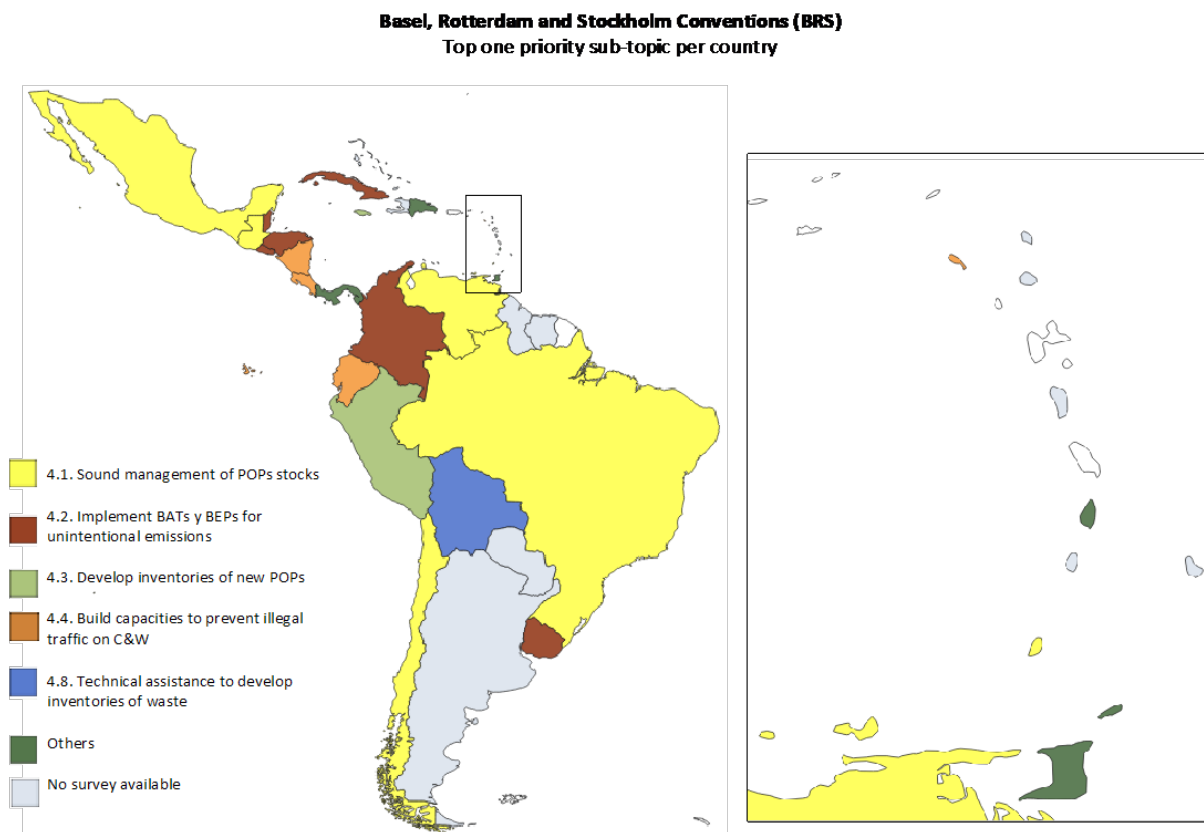


Figure 13 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 4 – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions





## 5. Mercury and Lead

The top priority sub-topic at regional level, according to aggregated priority is:

- i. **Management of mercury waste** (collection, storage, treatment, disposal) (5.8)

This was followed by other sub-topics such as:

- ii. Develop **inventories of mercury-containing products** (5.2)
- iii. Develop **inventories of mercury emissions and releases** (5.1)
- iv. Develop strategies and plans to reduce and, when feasible, **eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM** (5.4)
- v. Identify and standardize/**harmonize tariff coding systems** of mercury-containing products (including regulation of labeling) (5.3)

Other topics such as *promote the phase-out of lead in paint* and *regional information exchange mechanism on mercury priority issues* obtained comparatively the lowest ranking. This can be related with the combination of the mercury and lead issues within the same category.

**Figure 14** compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where majorly a tendency of correlation is seen.

However, a weaker correlation is found for sub-topics 5.3 and 5.4. The majority of respondent prioritized sub-topic 5.3 on *harmonization of tariff coding systems of mercury-containing products*, although it was always given a low priority compared to other selected items. While sub-topic 5.4 on *having plans and strategies to reduce mercury use in ASGM* was selected with medium frequency, but it was given a high rank by those respondents who selected it. This is consistent with the importance the sub-topic when it is present in a country or a sub-region. It is interesting to point out that sub-topic 5.4 was selected more frequently in Mesoamerica than in the Andean sub-region, where ASGM is very active. Probably this is seen because countries in the Andean sub-region have already ongoing activities on reducing mercury in ASGM and therefore did not find it as a priority to be included in the 2018-2019 plan.

<sup>10</sup> Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

# PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE REGION

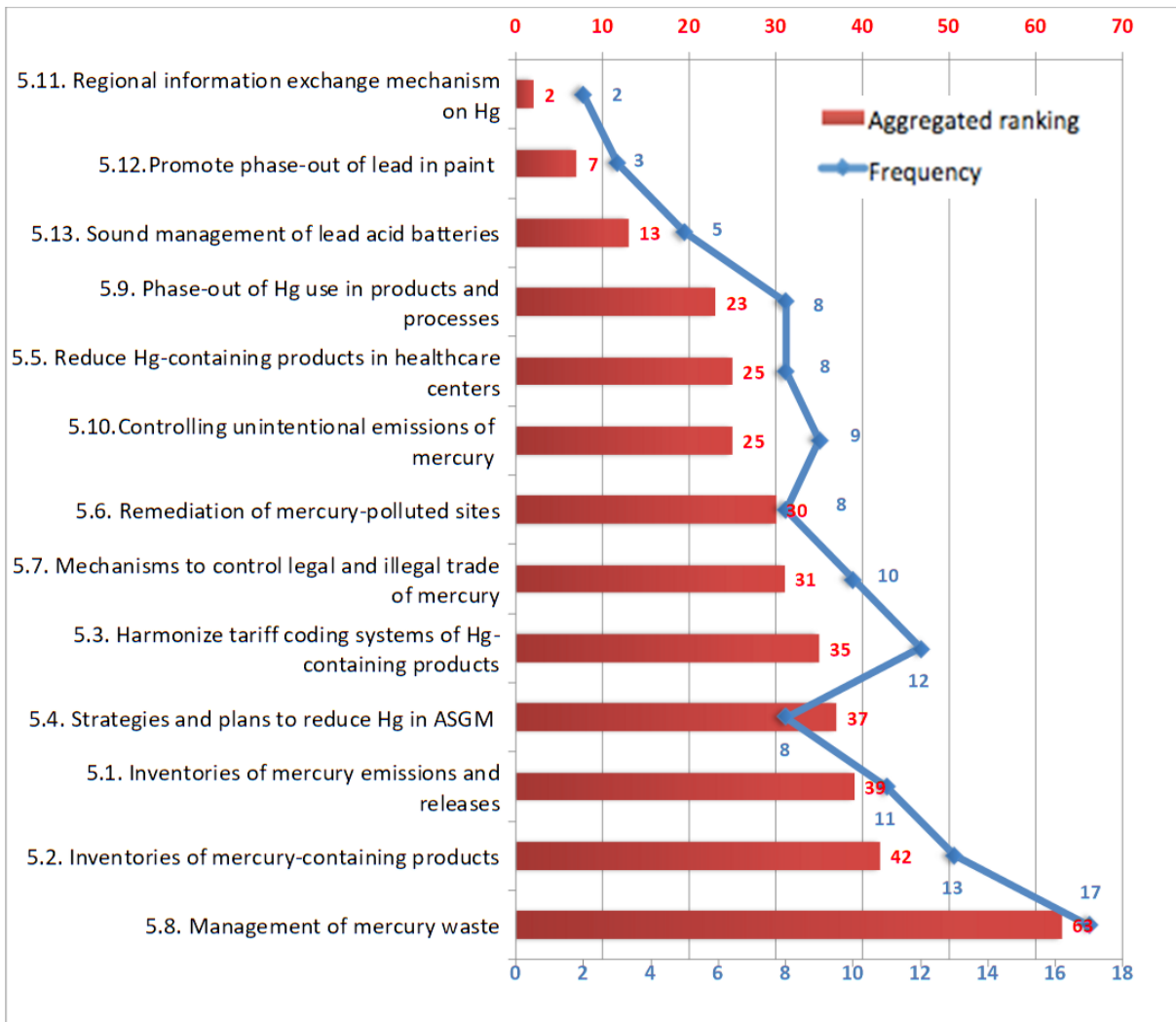


Figure 14. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 5 – Mercury and Lead.

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**, the regional average topics seem homogeneous. Indeed, **management of mercury waste** appears as a top priority in all sub-regions, with some lower ranking in the Andean region. The other topics pointed out above (*inventories of mercury-containing products, inventories of mercury emissions and releases, strategies and plans to reduce Hg in ASGM institutional framework, enforcement, and registers*) are consistently prioritized in most of the sub-regions.

However, per sub-regions, some differences can be observed.<sup>11</sup> *Develop strategies and plans to reduce and, when feasible, eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM* is the top priority in Mesoamerica whereas it's a low one in the Caribbean and the Andean sub-region, possibly for different reasons (lack of ASGM in many Caribbean countries; already existing plans and strategies in Andean countries). *Mercury trade related issues (legal and illegal)* are reported as a priority in the Andean sub-region, while *controlling and inventorying mercury emissions* are also within the top priorities in the Southern Cone.

**Figure 15** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 5 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 16** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 5 – Mercury and Lead.

<sup>11</sup> See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.

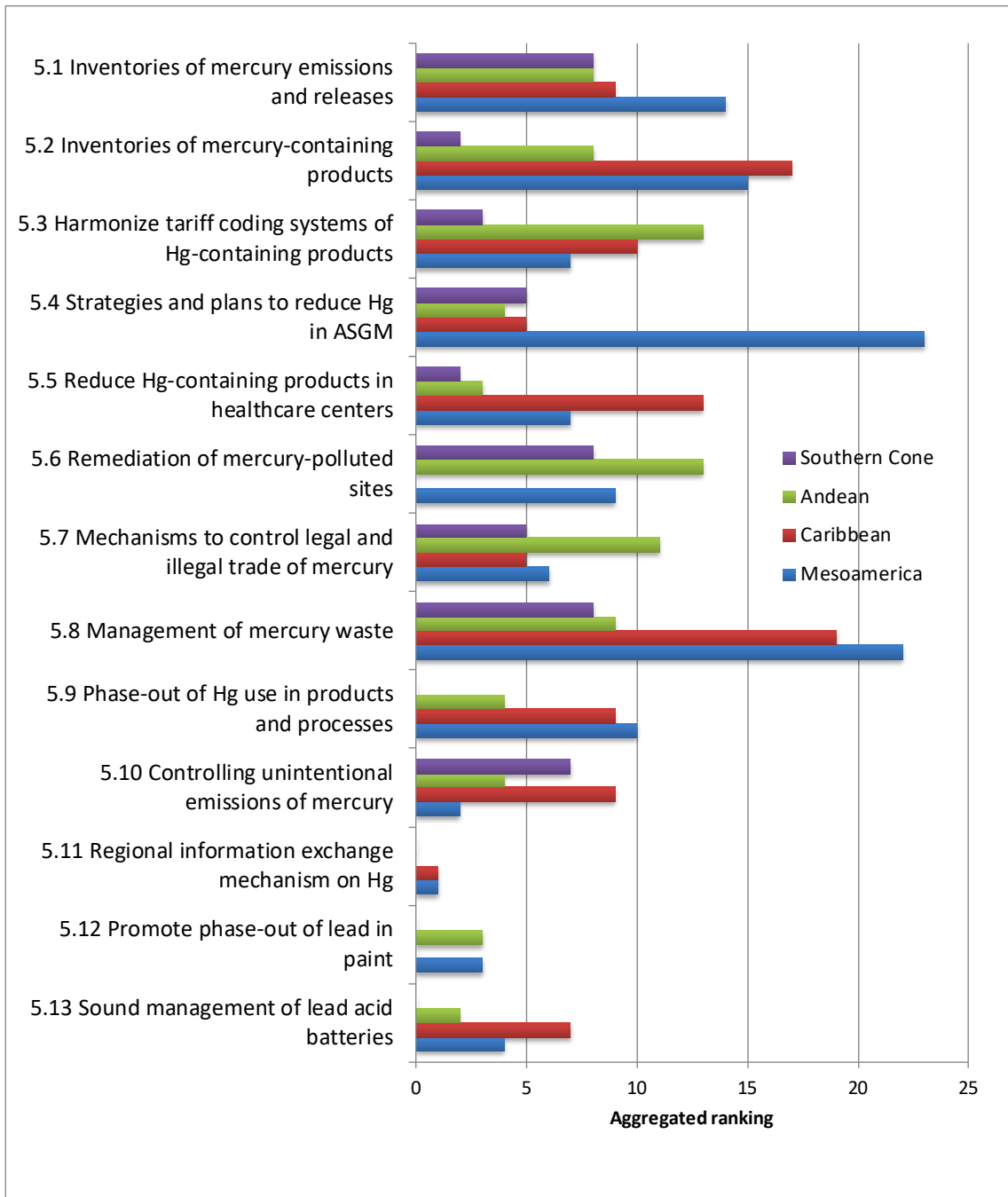


Figure 15. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 5 – Mercury and Lead.

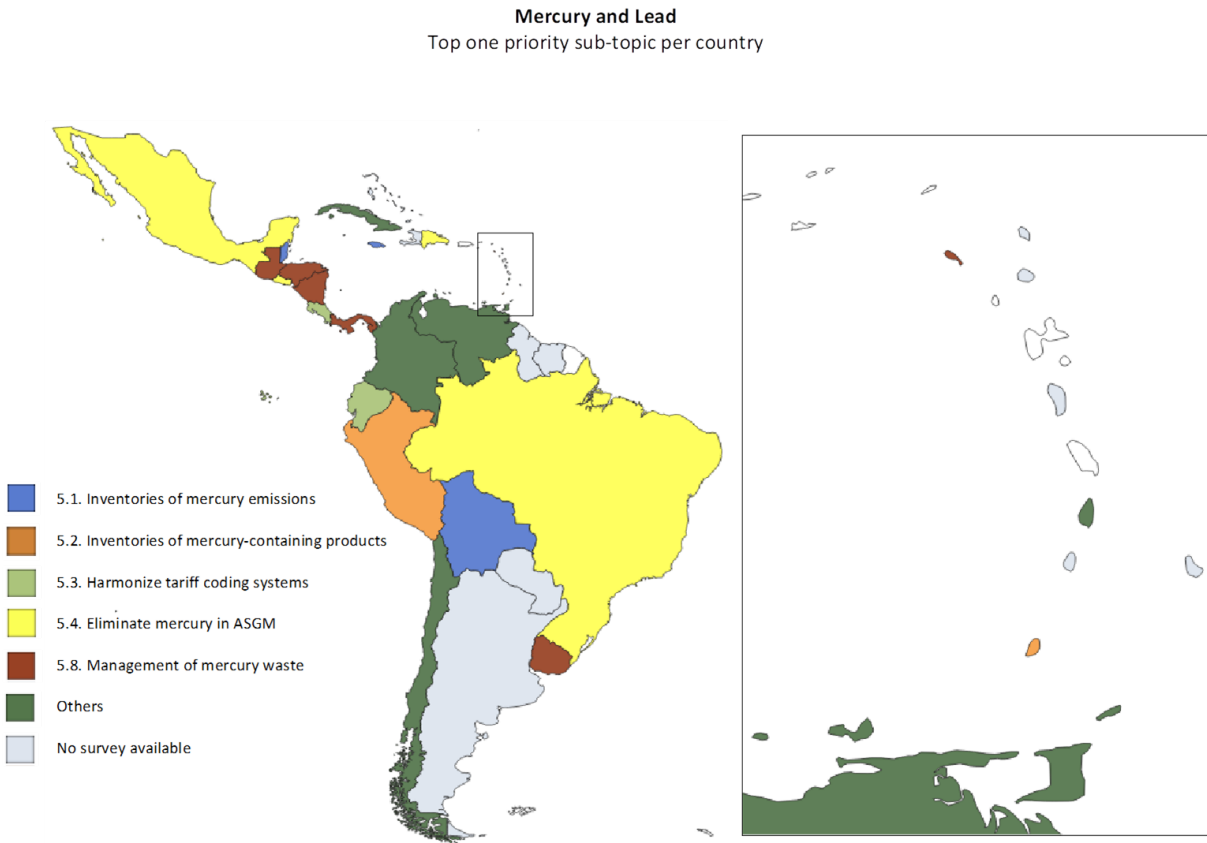


Figure 16 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 5 – Mercury and Lead



## 6. Waste management

The top priority sub-topics at regional level, according to aggregated ranking are:

- i. Develop systems to **measure and characterize waste generation**, including hazardous waste, and keep up to date **national waste inventories** (6.2)
- ii. Good practices and best technologies to implement **integrated management of hazardous waste** (e.g. e-waste, mercury surplus and waste, used oils, used lead acid batteries, biomedical waste, and obsolete highly hazardous pesticides) (6.6)

These were followed by other sub-topics such as:

- iii. National and municipal integrated **waste management strategies and plans** (6.1)
- iv. Promotion of extended **producer responsibility schemes (EPR)** (6.4)

Other topics such as *Control and prevent open burning of waste* and *regional approaches to waste management (e.g. regional waste treatment facilities, recycling markets, etc.)* obtained the lowest ranking.

Figure 17 compares the aggregated ranking versus the frequency for each sub-topic under this category, where majorly a tendency of correlation is seen.

However, there is a slightly weaker correlation for sub-topic 6.6 on *good practices and best technologies for integrated management of hazardous waste*, having it selected frequently by respondents, but usually given a low ranking in comparison to other selected priorities.

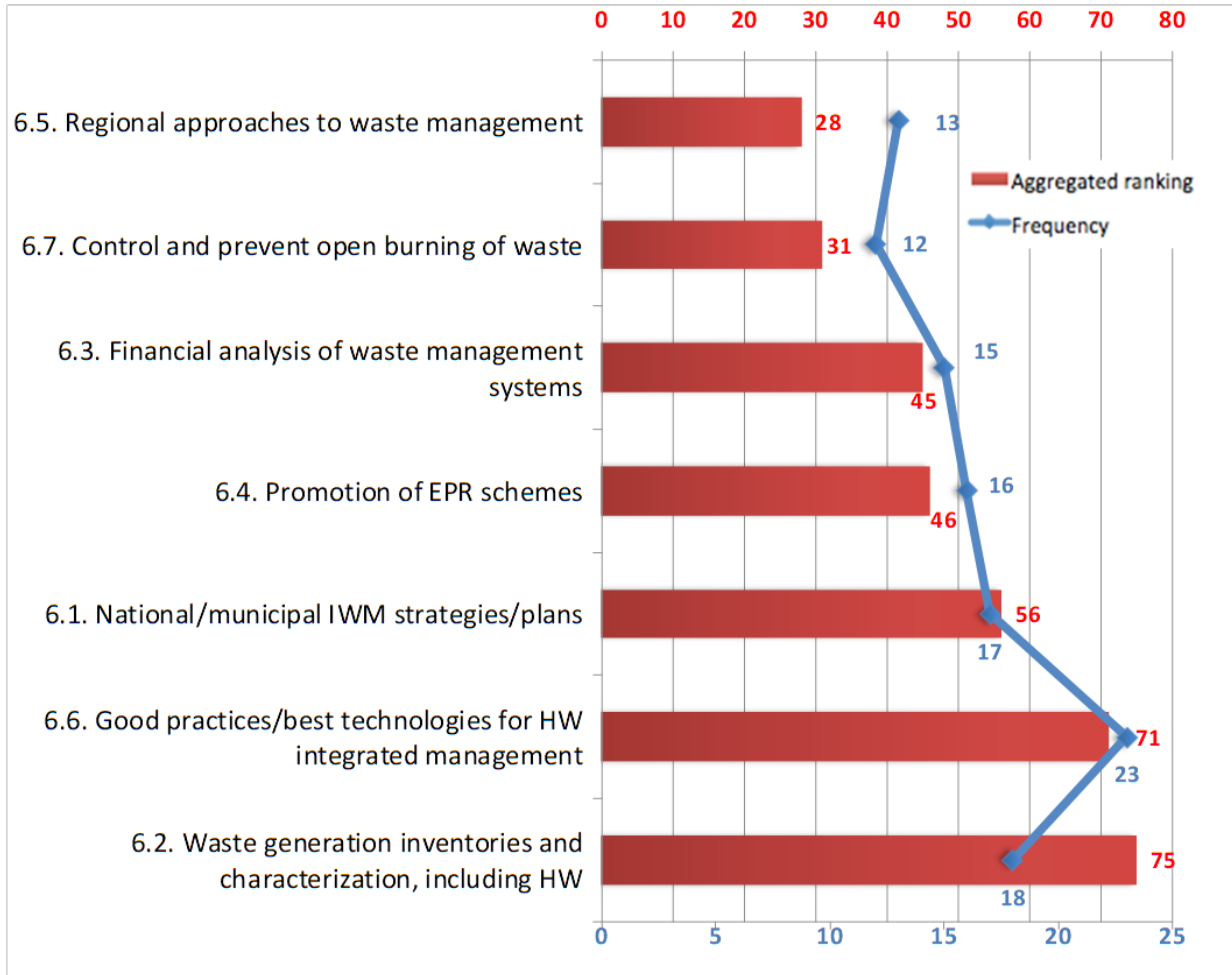


Figure 17. Frequency and aggregated ranking for each sub-topic of category 6 – Waste management.

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**,<sup>12</sup> in most sub-regions, **developing waste inventories and the good practices and best technologies to implement integrated management of hazardous waste** are considered as top priorities. The average regional topics pointed out seem homogeneous. However, some differences can be observed in the Southern Cone, where a high priority has been allocated to *methodologies for financial analysis of waste management systems*, and *national and municipal integrated waste management strategies and plans*; which are comparatively less considered in the other geographic areas. *Promotion of EPR schemes* is mostly ranked in Mesoamerica; this may indicate that other sub-regions have already developed related schemes into their national regulations.

**Figure 18** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings. Taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

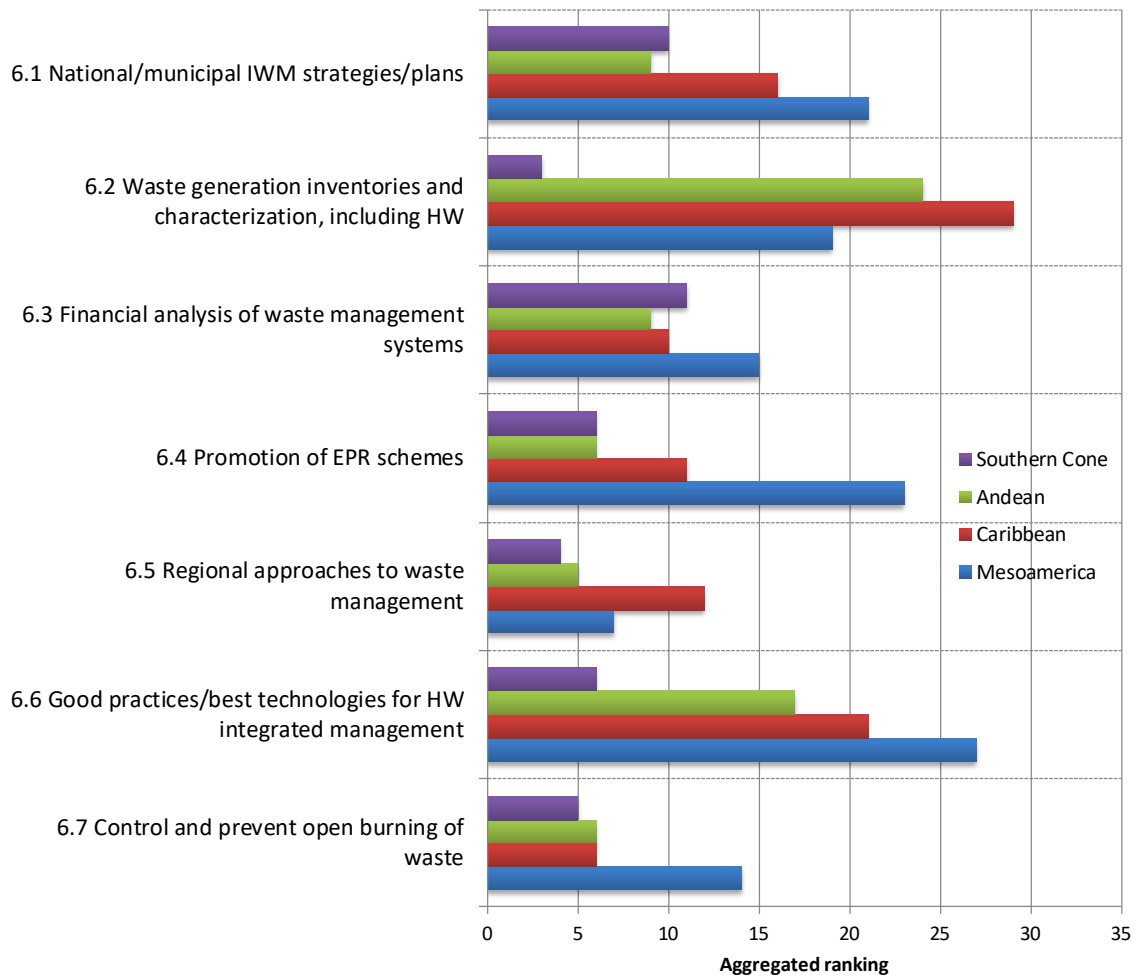


Figure 18. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for category 6 – Waste management.

<sup>12</sup> See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1.



**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Category 6 for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 19** provides a more detailed visualization of the top priority sub-topics for each country under category 6 – Waste Management.

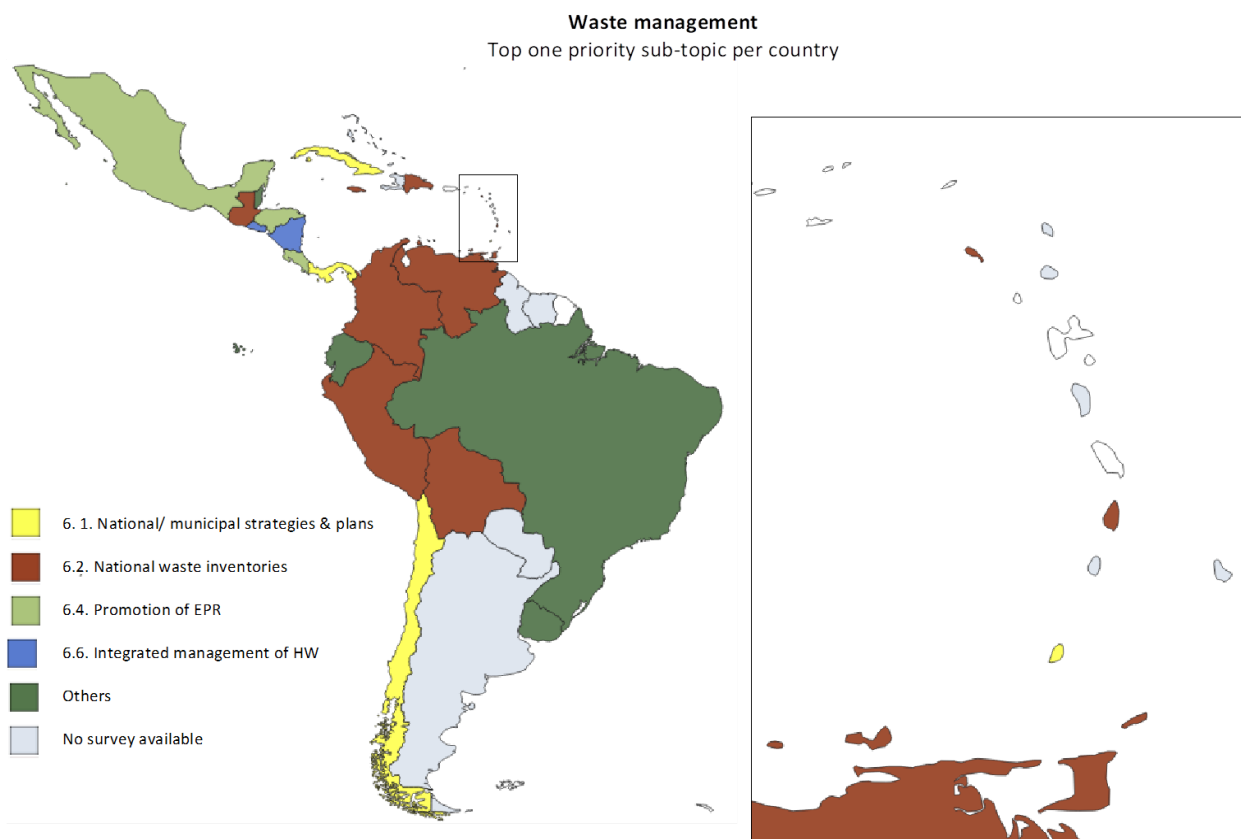


Figure 19 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under category 6 – Waste management

## Section 2: Results on potential regional cooperation areas

Results from this section of the survey provide an insight of what are the cooperation areas that national focal points see as more effective and convenient to address chemicals and waste management in the region.

The cooperation area that has been allocated the highest priority is:

- i. **Resource mobilization** and facilitate access to financial resources (7.11)

This is followed by other sub-topics such as:

- ii. Face-to-face **trainings/workshops** (7.1)
- iii. Support of **project proposal development** (7.9)
- iv. **South-South exchange programme**, i.e. physical exchange of human resources, exchange of lessons learnt, study tours, etc. (7.12)

Other topics such as *regional database and/or clearinghouse* and *dialogue and planning meetings*, obtained the lowest rankings.

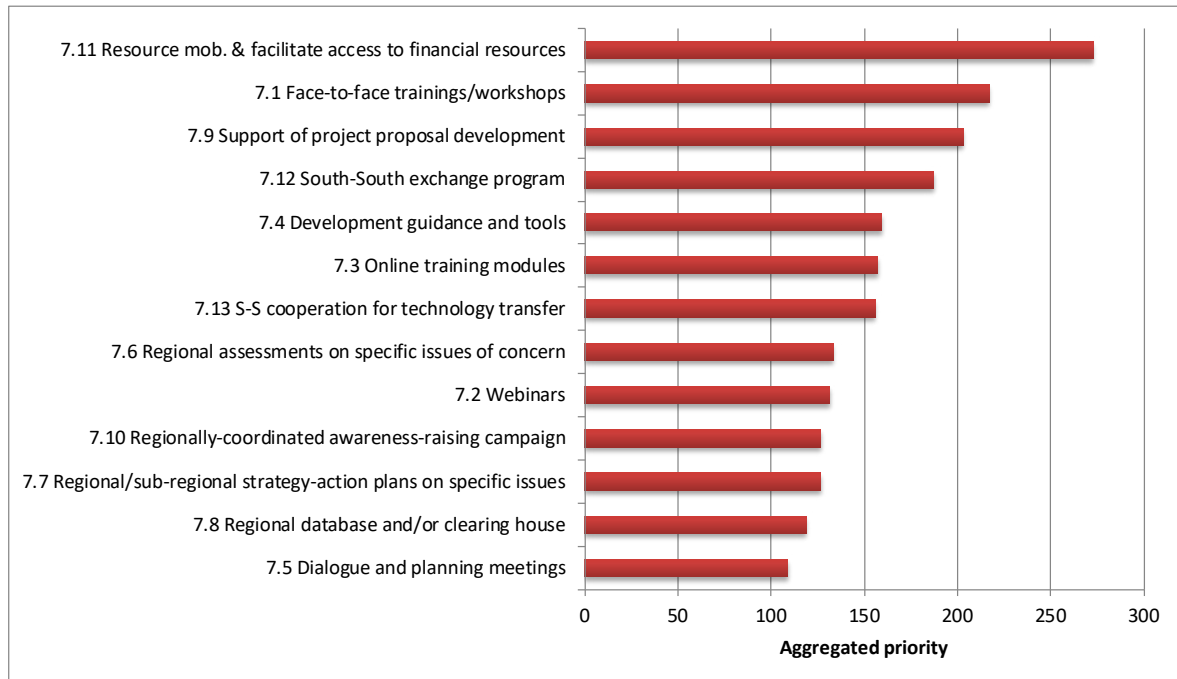


Figure 20. Summary of aggregated ranking for regional cooperation areas.

When ranking is compared along **sub-regions**<sup>13</sup>, *resource mobilization and facilitate access to financial resources* is by far the top prioritized issue by all sub-regions. *Support of project proposal development* (which is related with resource mobilization), *South-South exchange programmes* and *face-to-face trainings/ workshops* are the following priorities for sub-regions.

**Figure 21** intends to show similarities and differences among sub-regions regarding aggregated rankings, taking into account that each sub-region is comprised of a different number of countries, the chart is only a simple visualization.

**Annex 1** includes separate charts for results under Potential regional areas of cooperation for each sub-region, in order to provide the real scale of results according to the number of countries representing each sub-region.

**Figure 22** provides a more detailed visualization of the top rank of potential regional cooperation activities for each country.

<sup>13</sup> See charts per sub-regions attached in Annex 1

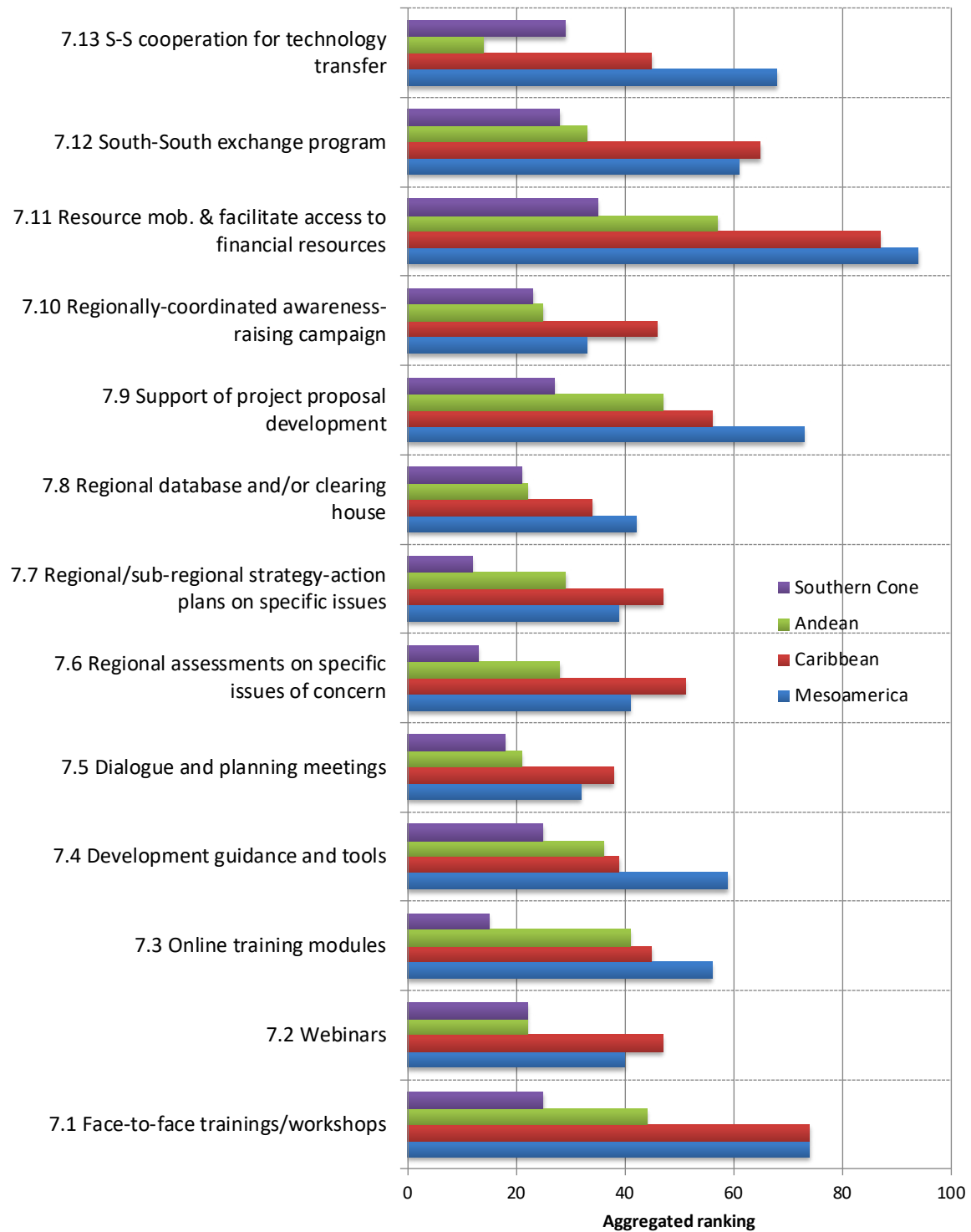


Figure 21. Comparative summary of aggregated rankings per sub-region for potential regional cooperation areas

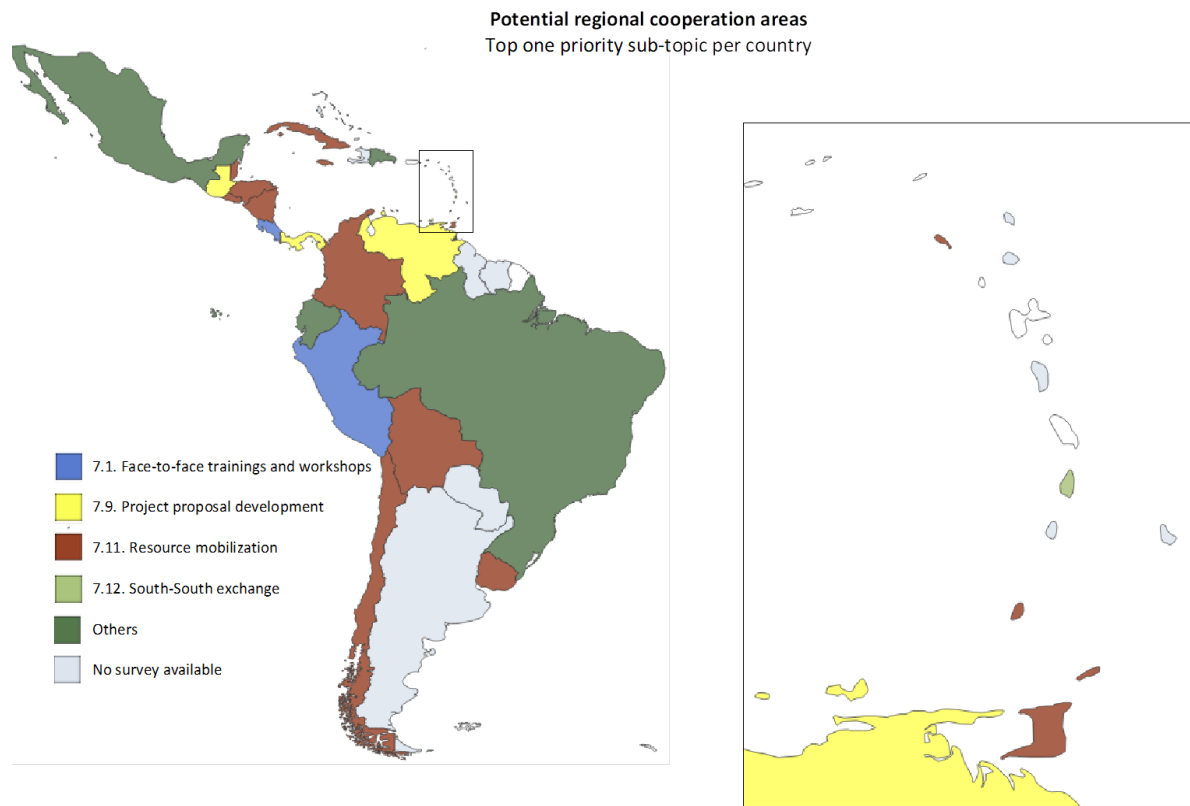


Figure 22 – Top priority sub-topics for each country under regional cooperation areas

## Section 3: Review of ongoing regional cooperation initiatives

The survey included a section to receive feedback from national focal points on existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives that are already in place in the region. This will be useful in order for the action plan to build upon the existing initiatives and avoid duplication. **Fourteen national focal points** responded this section of the survey.<sup>14</sup>

Responses from national focal points give a glimpse of an already **active cooperation agenda in the region**. Although the majority of cooperation activities in the region are implemented through agreements between countries from the region and donor countries or cooperation agencies, there are also various South-South cooperation initiatives. The survey also shows that the **regional coordination centres for the international conventions on chemicals** (i.e. the Stockholm or Basel regional coordination centres) are important promoters of cooperation initiatives in the region.

Many of the cooperation initiatives are focused on the sound management of **mercury**, which is understandable due to the recent entry into force of the Minamata Convention. Nevertheless, the Stockholm Convention on **POPs** is also strongly present in the ongoing cooperation activities. Another topic that stands out is waste management, with diverse activities ranging from general integrated **waste** management strategies to specific topics such as sound management of electric and electronic waste.

It is worth mentioning important **South-South exchange** initiatives such as activities on sound management of contaminated sites between Chile and Peru, or the strengthening of health surveillance of mercury exposed populations between Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia; among others.

The survey also shows that **health** is becoming an important element included in cooperation initiatives on chemicals and waste management, such as initiatives to improve chemicals management in the health sector or the already mentioned initiative on health surveillance of mercury exposed populations.

<sup>14</sup> Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican, Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay

The following is a complete list of initiatives mentioned by respondents of the survey:

## Waste Management

- Cooperation Technical Agreement between Brazilian Government and German Federal Republic involving capacity building on greenhouse gas emissions from the wastes management (in progress);
- Cooperation Technical Agreement between Brazilian Environment Ministry and Republic of Korea on the establishment of a master plan for solid waste management improvement of CISBRA public municipalities consortium, in São Paulo State, Brazil (in progress);
- Cooperation Technical Agreement between Brazilian Government and Sweden Government to improve the solid waste management and information systems regarding wastes in Brazil (in progress);
- Cooperation Technical Agreement celebrated between Brazil and Bolivia Governments to provide institutional support aiming the improvement of provided services of water supply and distribution, sewage systems and solid wastes management in Bolivia (in progress);
- Cooperation Technical Agreement between Japanese International Cooperation Agency and Brazilian Government to establish a pilot project to study and improve the reverse logistics of electric and electronic wastes in São Paulo Municipality, Brazil (finished);
- Webinar by Chile on sound management of waste and recycling (disseminated through the Network);
- Bi-lateral project between Costa Rica and El Salvador on strengthening institutional capacities in the ministries of environment for the sound management of solid waste;
- Bi-lateral project between Bolivia and Costa Rica to strengthen capacities to promote recycling and waste treatment; and
- International cooperation project between Guatemala and the Mexican International Cooperation Agency on a sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste in the transboundary area between Guatemala and Mexico

## Mercury

- Cooperation Technical Agreement between Brazilian Government and Sweden Government to promote sound chemicals management, including the Minamata Convention (in progress);
- Technical Cooperation between Brazil, Bolivia and Colombia to strengthen the health surveillance of populations exposed to mercury (finished);
- Environment cooperation agreement (under the free trade agreement) between Chile and the United States, which includes in its action plan information exchange on MEA implementation, such as the Minamata Convention;
- Environment cooperation agreement (under the free trade agreement) between Chile and Colombia, which includes in its action plan information exchange on the institutional framework to implement the Minamata Convention;

- Environment cooperation agreement between Chile and Canada, which includes in its action plan the development of strategies and national plans for the sound management of chemicals, specially for mercury;
- Regional project between 8 countries on control of mercury trade and implementation of the Minamata Convention (project proposal under development); and
- Sub-regional projects on Minamata Initial Assessments and mercury storage and disposal, coordinated by the Basel and Stockholm Convention Coordination Centres for Latin America and the Caribbean – specifically those centres in Jamaica and Uruguay

## Stockholm Convention

- Project between 13 countries in the region to strengthen capacities and regional cooperations for the sound management of POPs in electric and electronic waste, with cooperation of UNIDO
- Project between 11 countries in the region on global surveillance of POPs (Phase II), with cooperation of the Basel and Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre in Uruguay
- The Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) - a regional organization consisting of the pesticides boards or agencies responsible for regulating pesticides in the Caribbean region

## Health sector

- Cooperation agreement between Brazil and Canada to improve chemicals management under the health sector (to be established in 2017)

## Industrial chemicals

- Webinar by Chile on the legal framework for industrial chemicals (disseminated through the Network)
- Implementation of the GHS framework for pesticides by the Andean Community

## Other

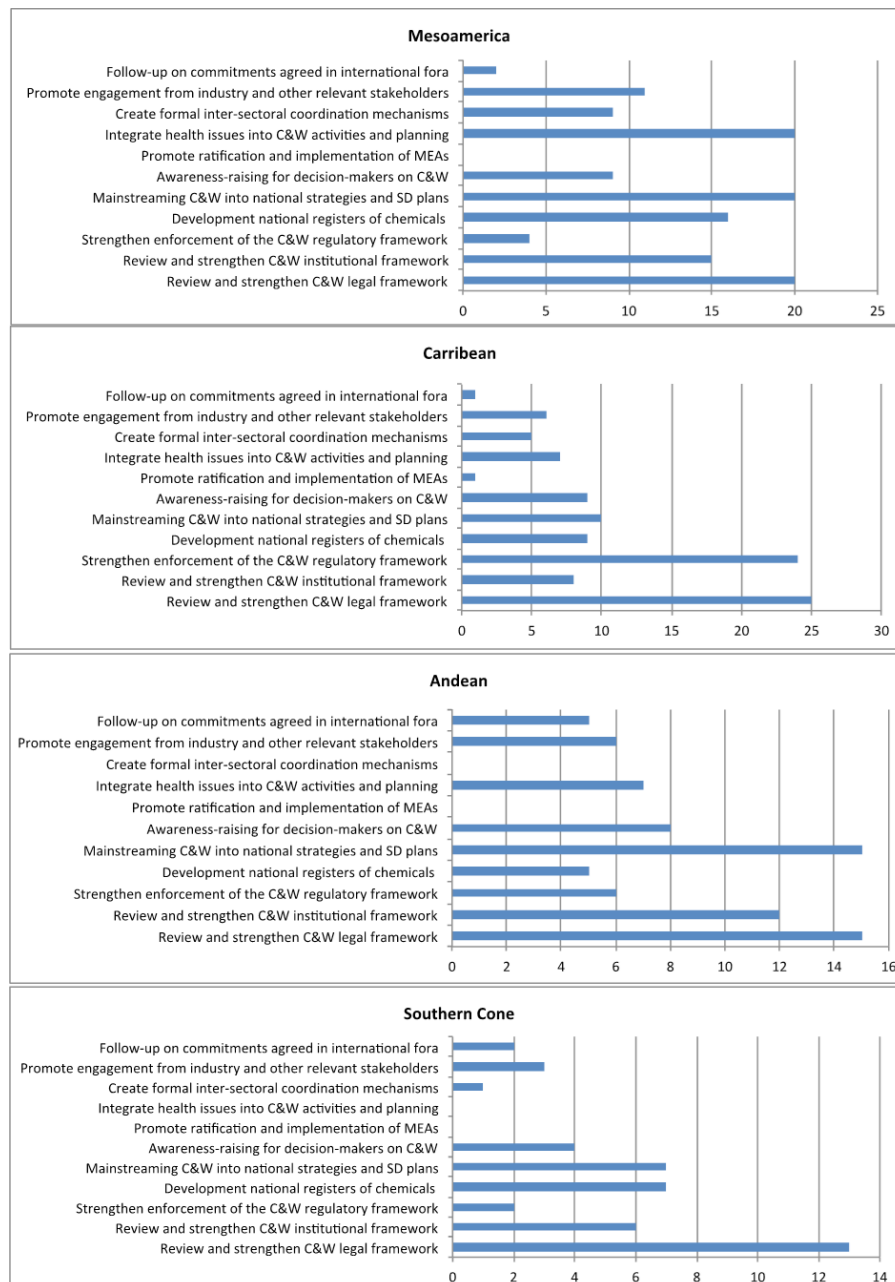
- Cooperation and exchange activities between Chile and Peru in preparation for the entry of Peru to the OECD, including sound management of chemicals, with cooperation of the German Cooperation Agency
- Initiatives on situation analysis about the Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (global initiative), coordinated by the Basel and Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre in Uruguay
- Initiatives on situation analysis about Marine Litter (global initiative), coordinated by the Basel and Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre in Uruguay



## Annex 1: Charts of priority issues per sub-regions

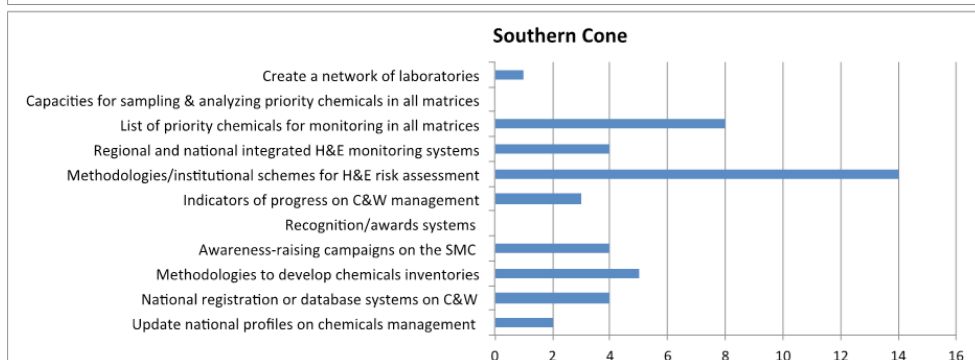
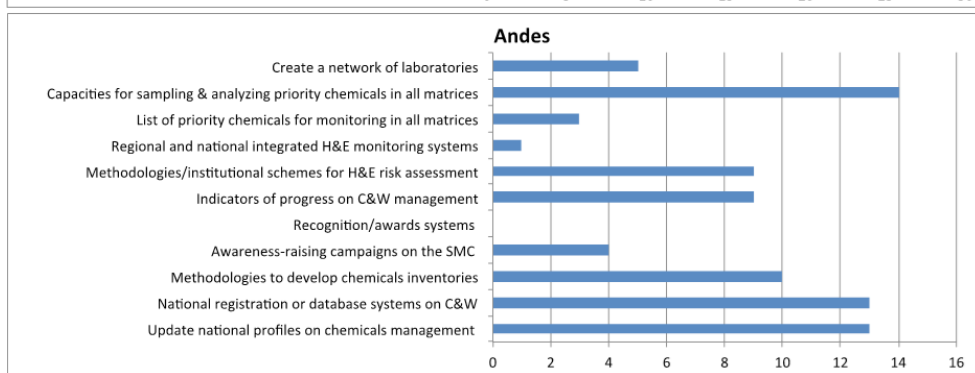
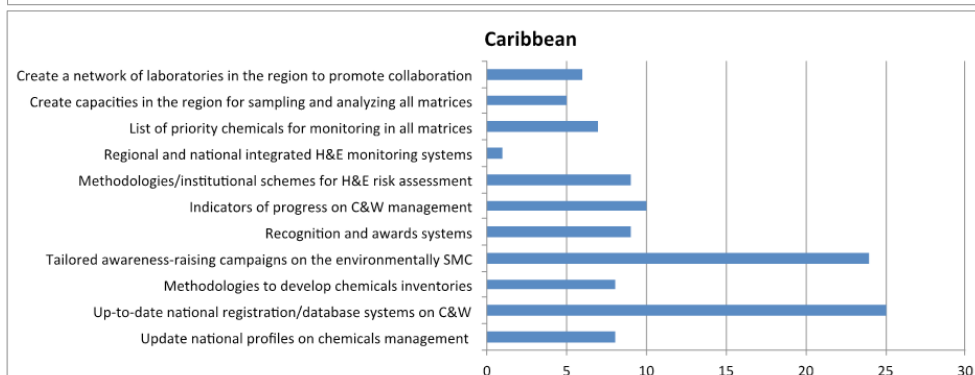
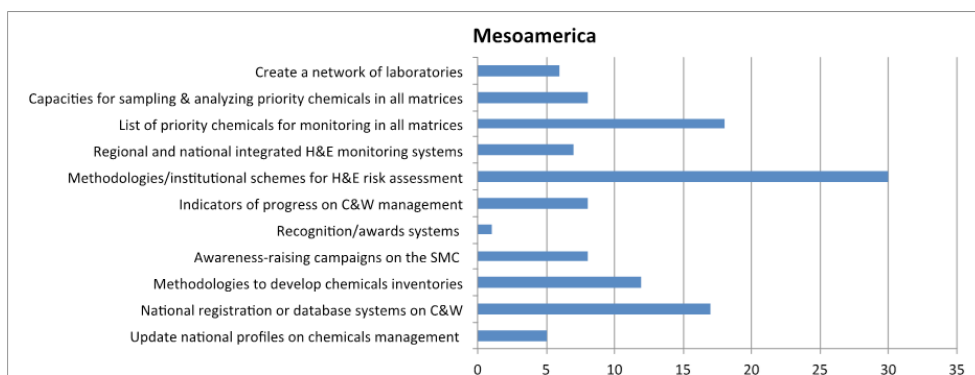


### 1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence



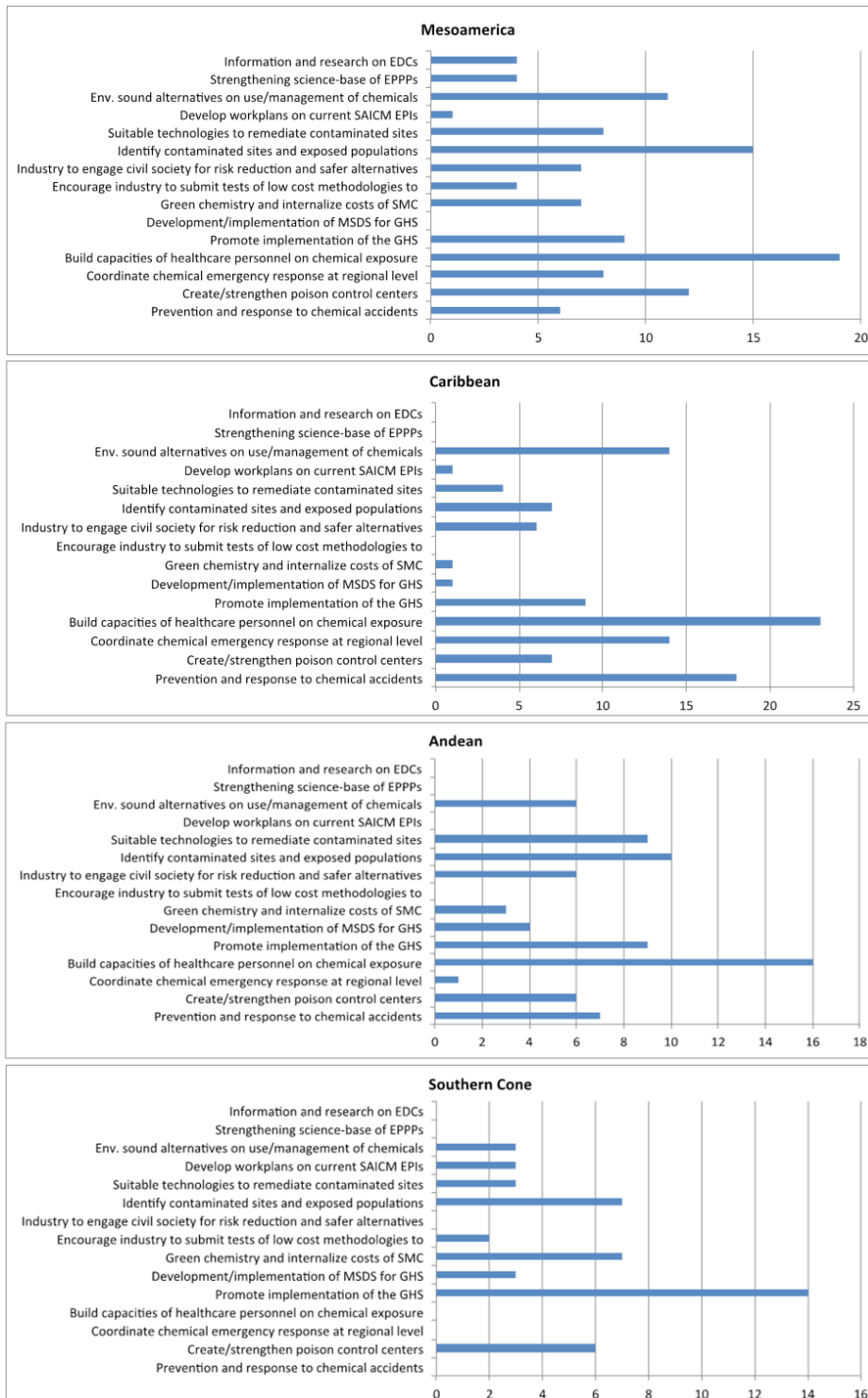


## 2. Knowledge, information and monitoring



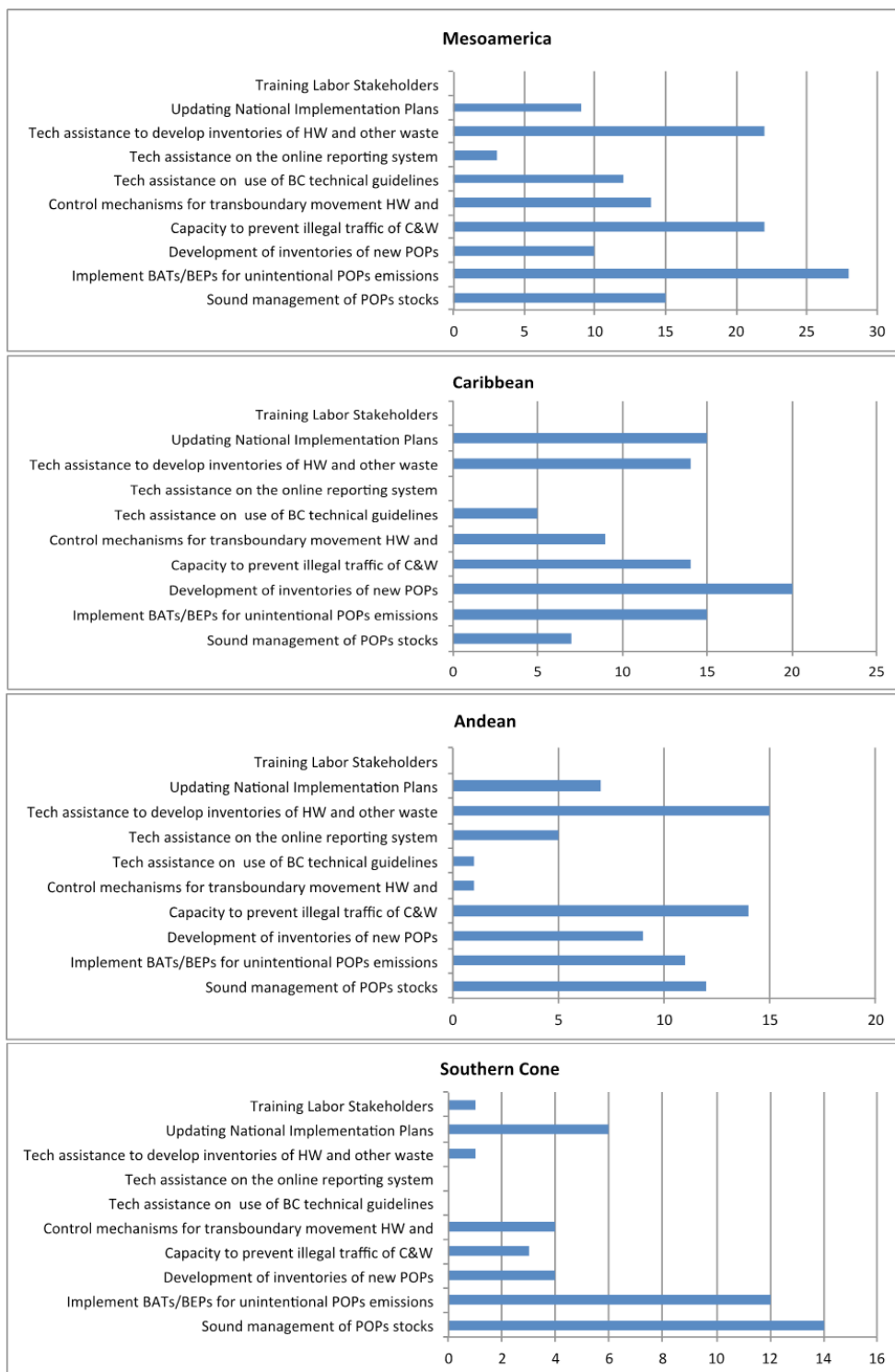


## 3. Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)



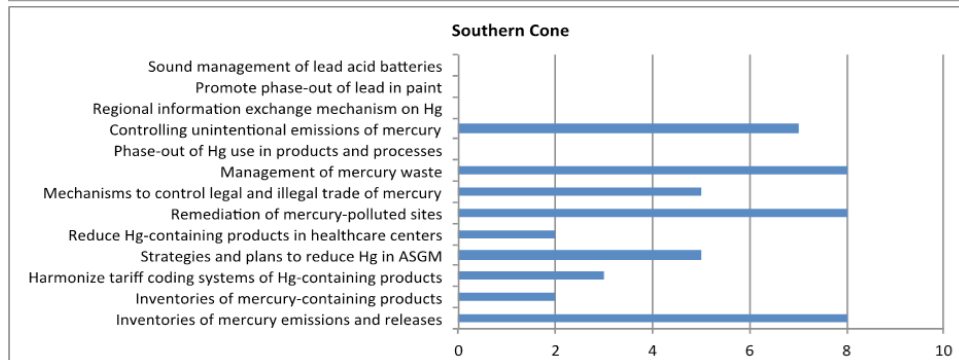
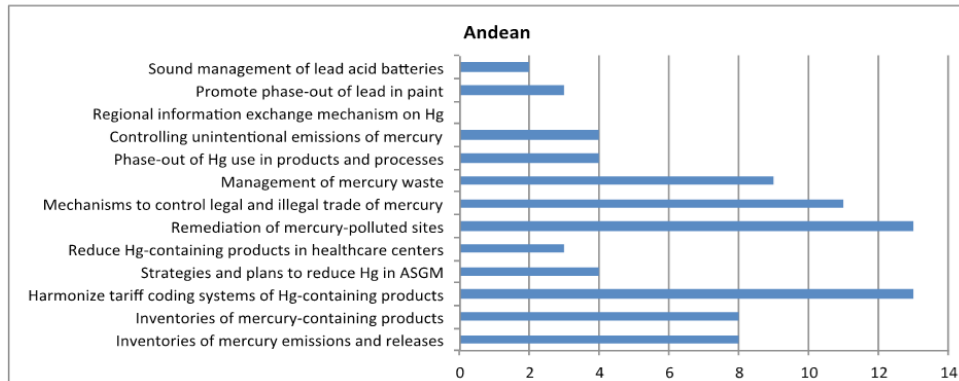
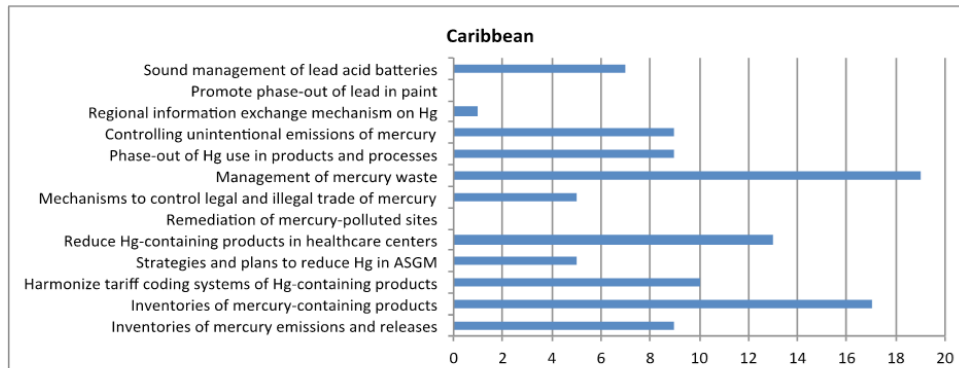
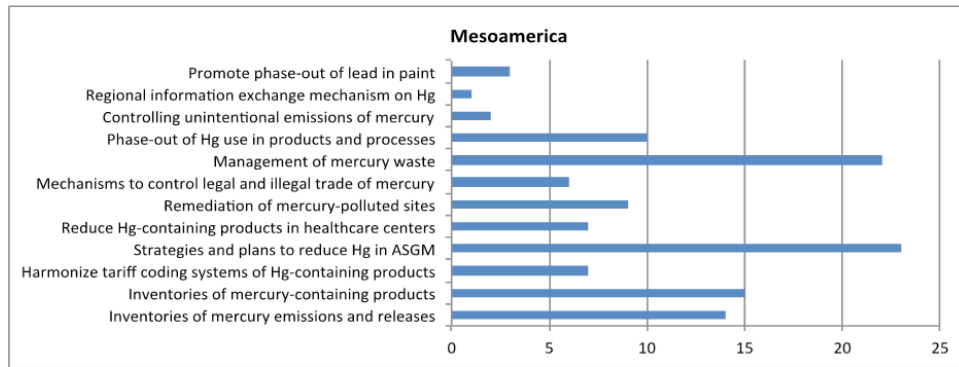


## 4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)



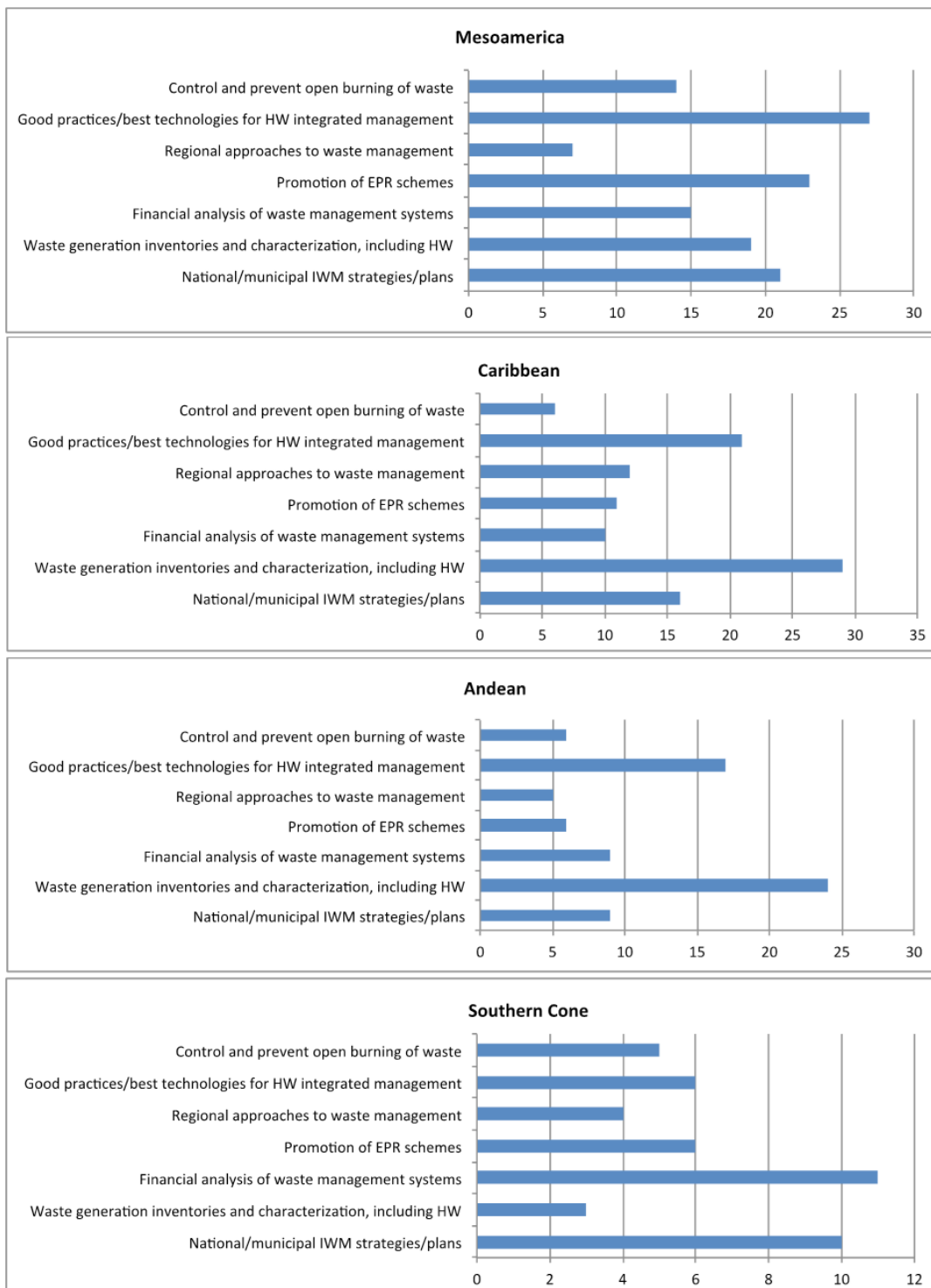


## 5. Mercury and Lead

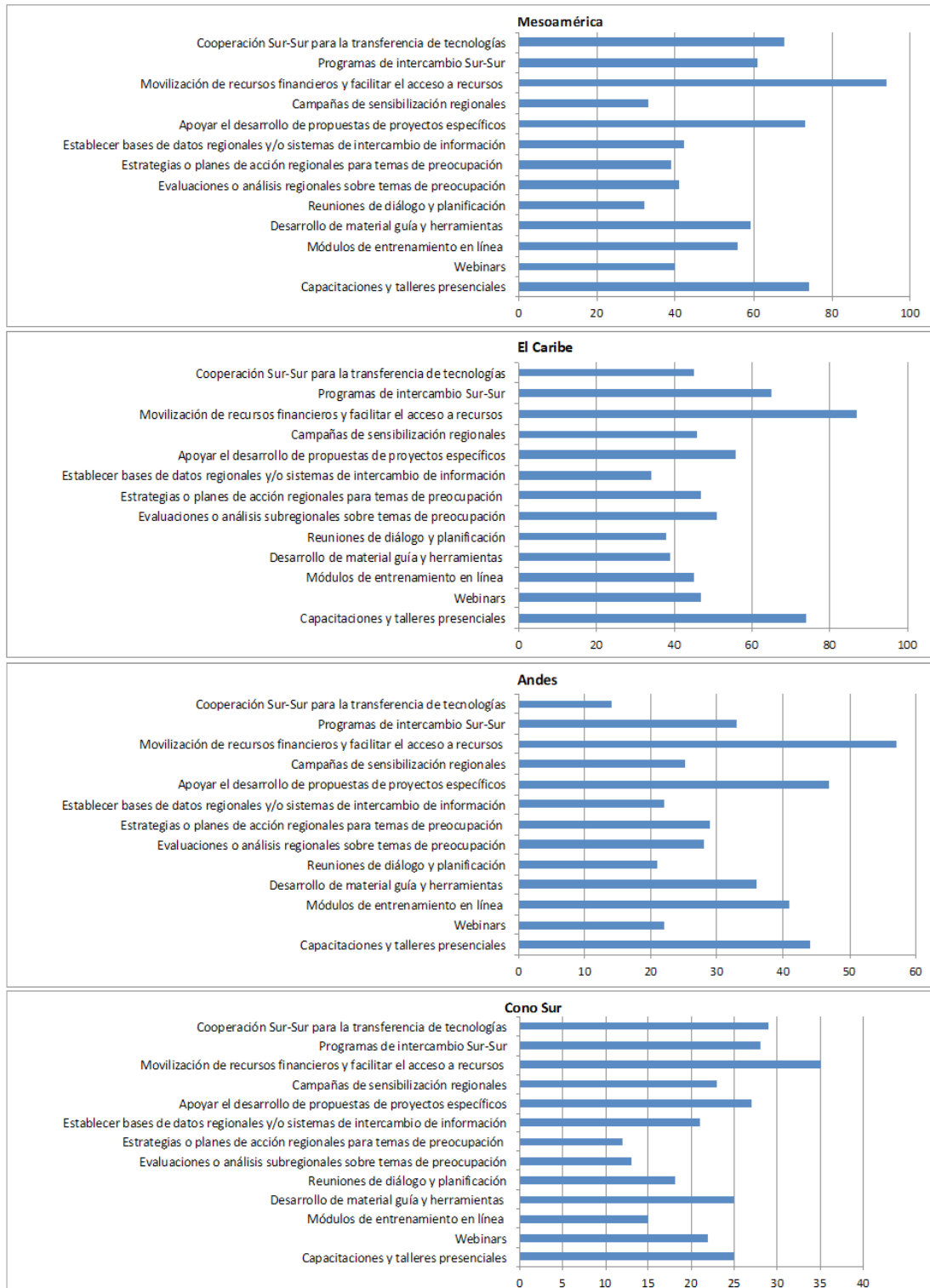




## 6. Waste management



## Potential regional cooperation areas



## Annex 2 - List of sources of information considered by the working group for the identification of the most recent and key priority topics on chemicals and management for the LAC region

- Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), as adopted in Decision 1 by the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, Cartagena, Colombia, 28-31 March 2016  
<http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/20-colombia/documentos.htm>
- Decision 8 on Chemicals and Waste of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cartagena, Colombia, 28-21 March 2016  
<http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/20-colombia/documentos.htm>
- Resolution 2/7 on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), Second Session, Nairobi, 23-27 May 2016  
[http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11183/K1607167\\_UNEPEA2\\_RES7E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11183/K1607167_UNEPEA2_RES7E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
- Political Declaration of Belén, Costa Rica, III Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CELAC, 28-29 January 2015  
<http://www.sela.org/media/2087654/political-declaration-belen.pdf>
- Terms of References of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, as adopted by the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, Cartagena, Colombia, 28-31 March 2016  
[http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/20-colombia/documentos/Decision\\_8\\_on\\_Chemicals\\_and\\_Waste\\_adopted.docx](http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/20-colombia/documentos/Decision_8_on_Chemicals_and_Waste_adopted.docx)
- Preliminary list of priorities identified by the Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for LAC in its first face-to-face meeting, Panama City, 15-17 November 2016
- SAICM LAC Regional Coordinating Committee Priority Actions document, Mexico City, August 2013
- SAICM Regional Implementation Plan for LAC, 4th LAC regional meeting on SAICM, Mexico City, August 2013
- SAICM Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (OOG, June 2015)  
<http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/OOG%20document%20English.pdf>
- Draft report on the technical assistance needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Basel Convention, for the upcoming Basel Convention COP, Geneva, 24 April-5 May 2017 (14 respondents from the LAC region)



- Draft report on the technical assistance needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, for the upcoming Rotterdam Convention COP, Geneva, 24 April-5 May 2017 (12 respondents from the LAC region)
- Draft report on the technical assistance needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, for the upcoming Stockholm Convention COP, Geneva, 24 April-5 May 2017 (17 respondents from the LAC region)
- 2016-2019 business plan and workplan of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Coordination Centre for Latin America and Caribbean Region, Montevideo, Uruguay  
<http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx>
- 2016-2019 business plan of the Basel Convention Coordination Centre for the South American region, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
<http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx>
- 2016-2019 business plan of the Basel Convention Coordination Centre for the Central American region, La Libertad, El Salvador  
<http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx>
- 2016-2019 workplan of the Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre for the Central American region, Panama City, Panama  
<http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>
- 2016-2019 workplan of the Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre for the Mesoamerican region, Mexico City, Mexico  
<http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>
- 2016-2019 workplan of the Stockholm Convention Coordination Centre for the South American region, Sao Paolo, Brazil  
<http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>
- Draft sub-regional workplan for chemicals and waste synergies in the Central American Region and the Dominican Republic, Panama City, 13-14 March 2017
- Report on the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the LAC region (April 2014)  
[http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/publications/report\\_Minamata\\_LAC\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/publications/report_Minamata_LAC_EN_FINAL.pdf)
- LAC Regional Environment outlook  
<http://web.unep.org/geo/assessments/regional-assessments/regional-assessment-lat-in-america-and-caribbean>
- LAC Regional Waste Management Outlook

## Annex 3: Survey submitted to National Focal Points

**NAME OF COUNTRY:**

### **PART A. Priority topics on chemicals and waste management<sup>15</sup>**

For this section of the survey, please select **only** 5 priority sub-topics under each main title (check the first column). Those sub-topics should be those that are considered the most important or pressing in your country to be addressed in the period 2018-2019. Once you have checked your national 5 priority sub-topics, use the second column to rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority. The text box at the end of each topic area can be used, if desired, to include any comment, remark or specification about the priorities the country selects.

#### **1. Governance, coordination mechanisms and international presence**

	Check if a priority	Ranking (only your 5 priorities)
1.1 Review and strengthen chemicals and waste legal framework	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Review and strengthen chemicals and waste institutional framework	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Strengthen enforcement of the chemicals and waste regulatory framework	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.4 Development of national registers of chemicals (e.g. industrial chemicals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.5 Mainstreaming chemicals and waste into national strategies and plans for sustainable development, as well as in national budgeting processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.6 Awareness-raising for decision-makers on chemicals and waste key aspects	<input type="checkbox"/>	

- 1.7 Promote ratification and implementation of MEAs (including legal instruments for implementation)
- 1.8 Integrate health issues into chemicals and waste activities and planning
- 1.9 Create formal inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for chemicals and waste management issues and coordinated implementation of MEAs
- 1.10 Promote participation and engagement from industry (primary producers, downstream manufacturing sector, and distributors), civil society, the occupational safety sector, the agriculture sector, and other relevant stakeholders in coordination mechanisms for chemicals and waste management
- 1.11 Follow-up on commitments agreed in international fora (e.g. SAICM intersessional meetings)
- 1.12 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*
- 1.13 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

<sup>15</sup> Topics proposed in these lists have been pre-selected by the working group according to the sources of information mentioned above

## 2. Knowledge, information and monitoring

	Check if a priority	Ranking (only your 5 priorities)
2.1 Update national profiles on chemicals management and ensure systematic update	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Keep up-to-date national registration or database systems on chemicals and waste, such as Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and others	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Identify and implement appropriate methodologies to develop chemicals inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.4 Undertake awareness-raising campaigns on the environmentally sound management of chemicals tailored to specific audiences or stakeholders <i>(you can specify for which stakeholder groups in the open box at the bottom of this topic area)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.5 Establishment of a system of recognition and awards for different categories of good practices and initiatives by industry on sound management of chemicals and waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.6 Establish specific indicators of progress on chemicals and waste management issues (in support of SDGs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.7 Establish methodologies and institutional schemes for health and environment risk assessment of chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.8 Promote regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring and surveillance systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2.9 Establish a list of priority chemicals to monitor and monitoring parameters for all environmental, biological and human matrices

2.10 Create capacities in the region for sampling and analyzing all POPs, mercury, and other priority chemicals, in all environmental, biological, and human matrices

2.11 Create a network of laboratories in the region to promote collaboration and knowledge exchange among laboratories in the region

2.12 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

2.13 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

### 3. Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Check if a priority    Ranking (only your 5 priorities)

3.1 Develop mechanisms of action and build capacities to prevent and respond to chemical accidents (APELL, IHR, poison centers)

3.2 Create and strengthen poison control centers

3.3 Coordinate chemical emergency response at the regional level

3.4 Building capacities of healthcare personnel on poisoning and diseases related to chemical exposure

- 3.5 Promote implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)
- 3.6 Development and implementation of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to implement the GHS
- 3.7 Encourage industry to implement green chemistry and to internalize costs for sound management of chemicals
- 3.8 Encourage industry to submit during Registration/Authorization processes (and the regulators to preferably request), tests of low cost methodologies to determine intoxication/contamination in mammals and in the environment
- 3.9 Encourage industry to work with users and civil society to reduce chemical risks and find safer alternatives
- 3.10 Identify contaminated sites and exposed populations to implement sound management of these sites
- 3.11 Identify and share suitable technologies at the regional level to remediate, recover or rehabilitate contaminated sites
- 3.12 Develop workplans on current SAICM emerging policy issues
- 3.13 Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives on use and management of chemicals
- 3.14 Strengthening science-base of persistent pharmaceutical products

3.15 Strengthen information and research on endocrine disruptors (including creation of a database of disruptors present in the region)

3.16 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

3.17 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

## 4. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)

	Check if a priority	Ranking (only your 5 priorities)
4.1 Sound management of POPs stocks	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.2 Implement Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) for activities with unintentional POPs emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Development of inventories of new POPs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.4 Build capacities in the region to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste (e.g. customs officers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.5 Strengthen control mechanisms for the transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes and to apply the PIC procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Technical assistance on the use of technical guidelines of the Basel Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.7 Technical assistance on the online reporting system to submit national reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	

- 4.8 Technical assistance to develop inventories of hazardous waste and other waste
- 4.9 Updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs)
- 4.10 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*
- 4.11 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

## 5. Mercury and Lead

	<b>Check if a priority</b>	<b>Ranking (only your 5 priorities)</b>
5.1 Develop inventories of mercury emissions and releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.2 Develop inventories of mercury-containing products	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.3 Identify and standardize/harmonize tariff coding systems of mercury-containing products (including regulation of labeling)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.4 Develop strategies and plans to reduce and, when feasible, eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Reduce mercury-containing products in healthcare centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.6 Remediation of mercury-polluted sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	



- 5.7 Establish/strengthen mechanisms to control legal and illegal trade of mercury
- 5.8 Management of mercury waste (collection, storage, treatment, disposal)
- 5.9 Phase-out strategies of mercury use in products and processes (e.g. dental amalgam, chlor-alkali, etc.)
- 5.10 Controlling unintentional emissions of mercury (e.g. in non-ferrous metal or cement production) and apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)
- 5.11 Regional information exchange mechanism on mercury priority issues
- 5.12 Promote the phase-out of lead in paint
- 5.13 Sound management of lead acid batteries
- 5.14 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*
- 5.15 Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

## 6. Waste management

	Check if a priority	Ranking (only your 5 priorities)
6.1 National and municipal integrated waste management strategies and plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.2 Develop systems to measure and characterize waste generation, including hazardous waste, and keep up to date national waste inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3 Methodologies for financial analysis of waste management systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.4 Promotion of extended producer responsibility schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.5 Regional approaches to waste management (e.g. regional waste treatment facilities, recycling markets, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.6 Good practices and best technologies to implement integrated management of hazardous waste (e.g. e-waste, mercury surplus and waste, used oils, used lead acid batteries, biomedical waste, and obsolete highly hazardous pesticides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.7 Control and prevent open burning of waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.8 Other <i>Add here any other topic of your interest</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.9 Other <i>Add here any other topic of your interest</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the priority sub-topics you selected above:**

## PART B. Potential regional cooperation areas

Taking into account that the intergovernmental network is a regional initiative which main goal is to support regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management, the following list identifies key cooperation activities that it could undertake to address the priority topics you identified in Part A of the survey. **For this section B of the survey, please rank the cooperation activities, with 1 being the cooperation activity that you consider the most useful.**

### Ranking

Face-to-face trainings/workshops

Webinars

Online training modules

Development of guidance and tools (Toolbox, Lira, and others)

Dialogue and planning meetings

Undertake regional assessments on specific issues of concern

Develop regional or sub-regional strategy and action plans on specific issues of concern

Establish regional database and/or clearinghouse

Support of project proposal development

Regionally-coordinated awareness-raising campaign

Resource mobilization and facilitate access to financial resources

South-South exchange programme, i.e. physical exchange of human resources, exchange of lessons learnt, study tours, etc.

South-South cooperation for technology transfer

Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

Other *Add here any other topic of your interest*

**You can add here any additional comment or remark about the cooperation areas you selected above:**

## **PART C. Existing regional cooperation initiatives**

As part of the exercise to prepare a regional action plan for cooperation activities on chemicals and waste management, it is important to know about existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives that are already in place in the region. This will be useful in order for the action plan to build upon the existing initiatives and avoid duplication.

**Are there any existing bi-lateral or multi-lateral cooperation initiatives that your country holds with other countries of the region?**