

Report of the Global Inception Workshop of the UN Environment/GEF Project “Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15”

25 - 26 October 2018
Montevideo, Uruguay

I. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome and introduction of participants

1. The Global Inception Workshop of the UN Environment/GEF Project “Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15” was organized by UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch in collaboration with the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCRC-SCRC Uruguay). The meeting was held from 25 to 26 October 2018 within the Palladium Business Hotel in Montevideo, Uruguay.

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Fernando Fontán, President of the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU). In his opening remarks, Mr. Fontán welcomed the participants and highlighted part of the successful achievements of Uruguay in implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Further welcoming remarks were given by Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez, Chief, Conference and Information Services Branch within the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat and Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Head, Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment highlighting the project concept and expected outcomes.

3. The participants introduced themselves by stating their names, affiliation and area of expertise. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

4. The meeting agenda was adopted without changes (Annex II).

1.3 Objectives of the meeting

5. As introduced by Ms. Alvarez, the aim of the meeting was to:

- a) Enhance understanding on the project objective and scope;
- b) Consider project deliverable prepared (generic and individual gaps analysis, POPs data gathered);

- c) Review of project activities, outputs and intended outcomes;
- d) Discuss detailed project workplan for 2018-2020;
- e) Define scope of national activities and related budget.

II. Meeting proceedings

2.1 Project overview

6. Ms. Mihaela Claudia Paun, Consultant gave a brief overview of the project objective, expected outcomes and outputs, as well as of the project implementation workflow and replied to questions and requests for clarification from the participants. The project objective is to facilitate the development, transmission, access and use of data contained in National Implementation Plans (NIP, Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15) aiming at enhancing compliance with the Stockholm Convention in respect to the obligations under Articles 7 and 15. The project is expected to deliver four main outputs, as presented below:

Output 1.1 Gap analysis & consultations with the SC Parties, taking into account gender aspects;

Output 1.2 Integrated articles 7 and 15 electronic toolkit designed taking;

Output 1.3 Demonstration of the integrated electronic toolkit taking into account gender aspects;

Output 1.4 Development of Replication Strategy.

7. The project comprises of eight pilot countries: Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Moldova, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia and Ukraine. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre for English speaking countries in Africa, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay and Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and the Pacific Region in China support the project implementation. Estimated project duration is 36 months (end date: January 2021).

8. On the setup of the Project Steering Committee meeting it was mentioned that according to the project document two meetings are foreseen during the project implementation (online), and it was proposed that the project countries participation be on rotational basis, having regional representation or by electing country/countries to represent all project countries within the meetings proposed. This was proposed as to avoid the situation of not having all project countries represented during the meeting due to different time zones and other work burden. The representative of Republic of Moldova mentioned that all countries should be represented on the Project Steering Committee meetings. This position was followed by the other seven project countries.

2.2 NIP Lessons learned and POPs data gathering

9. Mr. Roland Weber and Ms. Sandra Castro Scarone, International Consultants briefly introduced the outputs of the other two GEF projects, GEF FSP (ID: 5307) „Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs“ and GEF MSP (ID: 5525) „Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs – add on to umbrella FSP project“, namely the document “From NIPs to Implementation: Lessons Learned Report (Draft)” and the POPs data gathered for the eight project countries. This information is to be considered and feed in into the implementation of the current project activities.

2.3 Generic gap analysis

10. Ms. Paun introduced the generic gap analysis developed under the project. The analysis is meant to identify and present the generic overlaps and gaps between data and information requested under the reporting pursuant Article 15 and other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention and the data and information generated during the NIP development and/or update process, as well as conclusions and recommendations on modalities to correlate the processes of reporting under Article 15 and other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention with the process of developing and updating the NIPs. The analysis represents the baseline for development of an electronic toolkit that will be used to enhance compliance with the Stockholm Convention through improved transmission, accessibility and use of data contained in NIPs (Article 7) and National Reports (Article 15).

11. The analysis revealed that information requested to be reported under Article 15 and other reporting obligations under the Convention overlaps to a large extent with the information generated under the NIP development and/or update process. However, the analysis has shown that even the guidance documents for NIP development and/or update are used in their entirety, a few limitations still exists in generating all information and data for complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The Parties limitations in generating all information and data for complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention may be due to several factors, internal e.g. lack of reporting mechanisms, financial and technical capacities, and external e.g. no streamlined formats for reporting under Article 15 and other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention with the NIP development and/or update format.

12. Therefore, additional efforts from Parties to generate the information and data for complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention are needed. Thus, to overcome the current limitations in complying with the reporting obligations the analysis revealed that there is a need for considering a more integrative approach on the matter.

13. This integrative approach relates in principle to the fact that once data and information is generated at the national level, in this case during the NIP development and/or update, it should serve for multiple purposes and in particular for reporting under the Convention. Such integrative approach not

only may lead to enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of Convention implementation and but it may reduce the administrative burden and human and financial resources allocated in this sense.

14. But to consider the compliance with the obligations under the Convention in a more integrative manner, there is a need for streamlining and harmonizing the followings:

- i) the format for Article 15 reporting requirements with the formats of the other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention;
- ii) the format of the NIP development and/or update with the Article 15 reporting format;
- iii) national mechanisms for NIP development and/or update with the NIP implementation and with the national mechanisms for reporting;
- iv) reporting submissions time schedules.

15. Ms. Carla Valle-Klann, Programme Officer, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions stressed that any recommendations on modalities to correlate the processes of reporting under Article 15 and other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention with the process of developing and updating the NIPs, should follow the debate and decision making process through the meeting of Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Therefore, through its outputs the project needs to prove the benefits of the streamlining and harmonizing the implementation of Articles 07 and 15 in order to enhance the compliance with the Stockholm Convention.

2.4 Challenges in complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention – Countries experiences

16. Each of the eight project countries presented the challenges faced in complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention, as summarizes in the following paragraphs. Prior to the meeting a predefined format for power point presentation was circulated, including the following aspects: institutional arrangements for Stockholm Convention reporting, information and data collection for Stockholm Convention reporting and use of Stockholm Convention Electronic Reporting System (ERS) and reporting formats.

17. Cambodia encountered the following challenges: lacking of experienced personnel, lacking of data collection mechanism, limited data and information, access to the ERS is sometimes difficult and format is complicated.

18. Honduras mentioned as challenges the following: limited communication with the different institutions that need to provide information, lack of quality assurance and quality control (QA&QC) systems and no specific information database. ERS is easy to use; however it is extensive and requires specific information not available at country level.

19. In case of Kenya, the challenges included: limited access by stakeholders to the draft report when made and no confirmation that the report for that year has been done or not. Also, interpreting implications of what report means as to the party Kenya and to its NIP was identified as a challenge. Lack of systematic data collection systems, limited data available and QA&QC are also seen as challenges.

20. For Madagascar the following challenges were mentioned: involving all stakeholders public, private, NGOs, civil society to have maximum information possible to fill the report, put in place a system to collect a data, ensure the QA&QC and collecting more information to fill the report.

21. Republic of Moldova pointed out the following challenges: lack of data regarding newly listed POPs; insufficient monitoring data on industrial chemicals including the unintentional production; limited capacity on reporting / software maintenance / staff training on environmental data reporting.

22. Papua New Guinea highlighted the lack of data collection and management system, retaining trained personnel, limited information sharing and national data on POPs as main challenges in fulfilling the reporting obligations.

23. In case of Saint Lucia, the following challenges were mentioned: low level of awareness on reporting requirements outside of National Focal Agency; low level of ownership of responsibility for POPs issues by agencies outside of NFP and limited resource (human and financial) allocation for process and absence of established mechanism for sustained collection.

24. For Ukraine, the challenges were represented by: lack of detached BRS Center; lack of trained personnel; low level inter-ministerial cooperation; gaps in legislation due to on-going process of transposition to EU framework (old regulations are not working any more); national reporting system is not fully in line with the requirements of Convention.

2.5 Country work

25. Each project country was required to briefly describe in writing and present the information in the plenary session on its current status on the following points:

- Possibilities of each country to directly receive funds?
- Any SC reporting mechanisms in place? Synergies with BC reporting or other reporting obligations? (Elaborate on compatibility aspects, e.g. type of information required)
- Available electronic data collection and management systems/databases/tools?
- On-going inventory development work/last inventory conducted?

- Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) systems in place?
- Need for specific capacity building/training on reporting or other?
- Potential links with any existent electronic data collection and management systems or related projects? (Short description)
- Synergies with existent projects (PRTRs, ChemObs)?
- Expectations from this project?

26. Their input to the above mentioned questions formed the basis for the identification of the national activities to be carried out during the project implementation, which will be part of the country agreements (SSFAs) to be signed between UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch and each country.

27. On the possibilities of each country to directly receive funds, all countries have the possibility to receive funds to manage the national activities within the project framework.

28. Regarding the SC reporting mechanisms in place and synergies with other reporting obligations, there are not yet in place for Cambodia and Papua New Guinea; lead agencies are in charge of collecting and providing information on different groups of POPs in case of Madagascar and Kenya; specific ministries departments and synergies with other reporting obligations (still in incipient phase) were identified for Honduras and Saint Lucia; are in place for Ukraine and Republic of Moldova.

29. As regards the available electronic data collection and management systems/databases/tools, PRTRs are available in Cambodia, Honduras, Republic of Moldova (+ Waste Management Information System - WMIS); data collection by State Statistic Agency in Ukraine; data collection and management systems under development in Saint Lucia, Kenya, Madagascar and no data collection and management systems for Papua New Guinea.

30. In case of on-going inventory development work/last inventory conducted, the information summarized is as follows:

- a) for Kenya the last inventory conducted was within the updated NIP submitted in 2014, addressing COP 4 amendments;
- b) for Madagascar the last inventory conducted was within the updated NIP submitted in 2017, addressing the COP 4 and COP 5 amendments (currently has a project that allows to improve the PCB inventory);
- c) for Cambodia the last inventory conducted was within the NIP 2013-2015 and during the PRTR project;
- d) for Papua New Guinea is currently starting the reviewing of its first NIP;
- e) for Honduras, the latest inventory was conducted during the 2015 NIP update;
- f) for Saint Lucia the inventory was developed during the NIP update;

g) for Ukraine, the inventory development is about to start under the NIP update, first data to be available in Spring of 2019;

h) for Republic of Moldova, the last inventory has not been updated for more than 10 years.

31. On the issue of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) systems in place, all countries mentioned that have no system in place, except for Republic of Moldova which started to implement such system.

32. Regarding the need for specific capacity building/training on reporting or other, all countries mentioned the following: training/capacity building on reporting obligations/electronic reporting system, new POPs inventories and creation/use of data collection and management systems.

33. On the links with any existent electronic data collection and management systems, Cambodia and Republic of Moldova mentioned the link with PRTR, in case of Republic of Moldova also WMIS; national registry in case of Ukraine and new electronic data collection and management systems to be developed for Honduras and Saint Lucia; no link was reported by Kenya, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea.

34. Regarding the synergies with existent related projects, Kenya and Madagascar mentioned the ChemObs GEF project; Cambodia pointed out the link with PRTR project; Saint Lucia and Honduras marked the link with the on-going data collection and management system development projects; in case of Ukraine synergy with the national registry was identified and for Republic of Moldova, link with the on-going project entitled “Improving sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management throughout their lifecycle in the Republic of Moldova” under the UN Environment Special Programme was mentioned; in case of Papua New Guinea the link with the project, Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements by Strengthening Planning and the State of Environmental Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific, referred to as the Inform project, was identified.

35. The following expectations from the current project were mentioned by project countries:

- a) Improve understanding of electronic reporting system;
- b) Improve information and data dissemination;
- c) Strengthen implementation of PRTR systems at national level;
- d) Increase capacity for data management;
- e) Improve the national capacities on performing reporting;
- f) Having a simple to use data collection and management system.

2.6 Activities in supporting Parties in reporting under Stockholm Convention

36. Ms. Valle Klann introduced aspects related to the importance of reporting, main reporting obligation and the activities carried out by the BRS Conventions Secretariat to support Parties in fulfilling the reporting requirements. Also, she gave a brief introduction of the fourth reporting cycle and the electronic reporting system under the Stockholm Convention and addressed specific questions from participants.

2.7 Individual countries gap analysis

37. Ms. Paun presented the individual gap analysis conclusions. Prior to the meeting the analysis performed for each country have been circulated in an Excel format. The main objectives of the analysis are to identify and compile:

- gaps within the data and information requested to be included within the Article 15 reporting and if lacking data and information has been generated during the NIP development and/or update but not reported;
- gaps within the data and information requested to be included within other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention (DDT, POP-PBDEs; PFOS, UPOPs) and if lacking data and information has been generated during the NIP development and/or update but not reported.

38. For this analysis there was a need to collect and assess the following source documents for each project country:

- (i) reports submitted under Article 15;
- (ii) DDT questionnaires replies;
- (iii) POP-PBDEs questionnaire replies;
- (iv) PFOS questionnaire replies;
- (v) initial NIPs;
- (vi) revised NIPs.

39. The analysis identified that the level of reporting according to the Stockholm Convention requirements among the 8 project countries varies among the reporting cycles and reporting obligations, as could be observed in Table 1 below:

Table1. Number of project countries reporting per reporting obligation

Reporting obligation	Number of project countries reporting (out of the 8 project countries)

First report under Article 15	3
Second report under Article 15	6
Third report under Article 15	5
POP-PBDEs report	4
DDT report	1
PFOS report	0

40. Also, on NIP development and/or update, while all 8 project countries have submitted the initial NIPs, only 4 of them have developed and submitted a revised NIP document addressing COP4 and COP5 amendments. No project country has submitted a revised NIP document addressing COP6, COP7 and COP8 amendments. An overview of project countries reporting and NIP submission status is presented in Table 4 below.

41. As presented in Table 2, it could be observed that while for POP-PBDEs 4 project countries out of 8 have submitted the report and just one (1) project country reported on DDT, no project country had reported on PFOS. No clear explanation exists on why the project countries with revised NIPs addressing COP4 and COP5 amendments have not reported on PFOS, although certain data and information was available. Same statement is valid for DDT reporting, in which case the 7 project countries had the information available on the initial NIP but not report it.

42. In case of Article 15 reporting, although the reporting percentage is slightly higher comparing with the other reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention, still some countries have not submitted the reports even though certain data and information requested was available on initial and/or revised NIPs documents.

43. Therefore, the main analysis conclusion is that even certain level of data and information was available on the NIP documents this has not been reported by project countries (see Table 2 below – yellow marked text). It is recommended that the activities to be carried out at the national level investigate the main barriers that prevented reporting the information available on NIP document and ways to improve this for the future reporting cycles.

Table 2. Reporting gaps per project country

Country	Article 15 reporting			POP-PBDEs rep.	DDT rep.	PFOS rep.
	1	2	3			
Republic of Moldova	Reported	Reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting	Reported	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting
Ukraine	No initial NIP available at the reporting deadline	Reported	Reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting
Kenya	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported
Madagascar	Reported	Reported	Reported	Reported	Reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported
Cambodia	Reported	Reported	Reported	Reported	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported
Papua New Guinea	No initial NIP available at the reporting deadline	No initial NIP available at the reporting deadline	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting
Honduras	No initial NIP available at the reporting deadline	Reported	Reported	Reported	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Information available in the revised NIP but not reported
Saint Lucia	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	Reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting	Information available in the initial NIP but not reported	No revised NIP available to enable reporting

2.8 Introduction of MapX. Presentation of POPs data MapX mock-ups

44. Ms. Marion Planque, Research Assistant within the Crisis Management Branch, UN Environment, introduced the MapX an online, fully customizable geo-spatial platform to help connect data and decision makers from a range of different sectors, backed by the neutrality of the UN. The MapX services are: global store of reliable data; tools to contextualize, analyze and visualize; alerts and dashboards for monitoring impacts; and story maps to support communications and outreach. The presentation was followed by a round of questions and answers on margins of the presentation.

2.9 Project concept and scope of national activities

45. Ms. Alvarez introduced in detail the project concept (Fig. 1) that needs to be proved as for the COP to take any decision on streamlining and harmonizing the implementation of Articles 7 and 15. Also, based on the challenges identified to be addressed by project countries during the country work exercise, the potential activities to be carried out at national level were introduced. It was highlighted that due to the limited project budget, not all the challenges faced by the countries on complying with Articles 7 and 15 could be addressed within this framework.

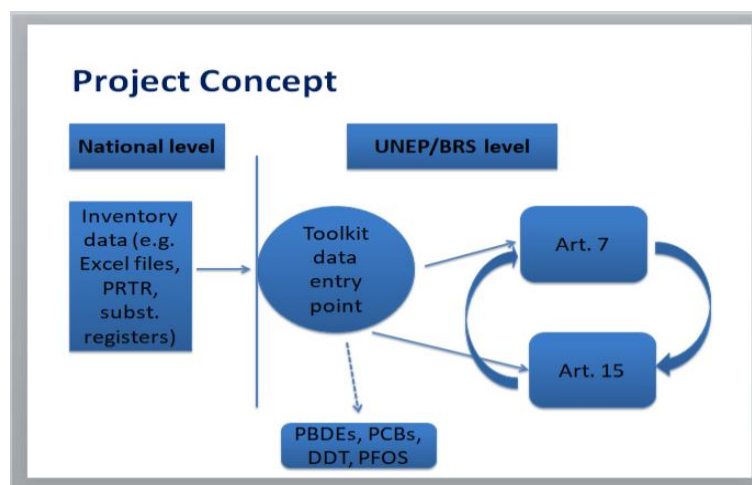


Fig. 1. Project Concept

46. The following have been proposed:

- a) Trainings/capacity building curriculum: targeted training on reporting obligations/reporting system understanding; QA&QC; data collection and management systems (build capacity as to be able to carry on after the project ends); and POPs inventories;
- b) National gap analysis: use as information sources: NIP and reporting data collected and individual gap analysis conducted by UN Environment and inventory data (e.g. from NIP, projects, other sources);
- c) National activities: undertaking targeted trainings/capacity building; finalizing the individual gap analysis; addressing challenges; create IT interface with existent with data collection and management systems.

47. Based on the country work exercise information, there was prepared an initial mapping out of the national activities needs to be addressed within the framework of the countries agreements to be signed (see Table 3 below).

Table 3. Mapping out national activities needs

Country	Trainings/capacity building curriculum	QA/QC	IT interface between toolkit and national systems	Synergies with other data collection and management projects	Other e.g. MapX, GIS



Republic of Moldova	New POPs inventories Reporting Data collection and management	Yes	PRTR, WMIS...	Special Programme	
Ukraine	New POPs inventories Reporting Data collection and management	Yes	National Registry... Ecological Inspection (service) Ministry of ecology and natural resources State service of Ukraine for food safety and consumer protection Ministry for Temporary Occupation Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine Ministry of Defense Ukraine Regional state administrations (ecological departments) Ministry of Health Security service of Ukraine and National Police	PCBs Project (GEF) REACH, CLP project (OSCE)	
Kenya	New POPs inventories Relevance of reporting Data collection and management	Yes	ChemObs...	ChemObs	
Madagascar	Reporting Data collection Data collection and management	Yes	ChemObs...	ChemObs SADC PCB project	
Saint Lucia	New POPs inventories Reporting Data collection and management	Yes	New system to be set...	On-going environment management system project	
Honduras	New POPs inventories Reporting Data collection and management	Yes	PRTR, PCBs database...	Project on system to manage pesticides related to public health	
Cambodia	Reporting Data management Data collection and management	Yes	PRTR....	PRTR	

Papua New Guinea	New POPs inventories Reporting Data collection and management	Yes	Data collection and management systems to be set under Inform project	Inform project https://www.sprep.org/inform	
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2.10 2018 - 2020 Draft Project Workplan

48. Ms. Paun introduced in detail the 2018-2020 draft project workplan, as presented in Fig. 2 below and replied to all the questions from participants.

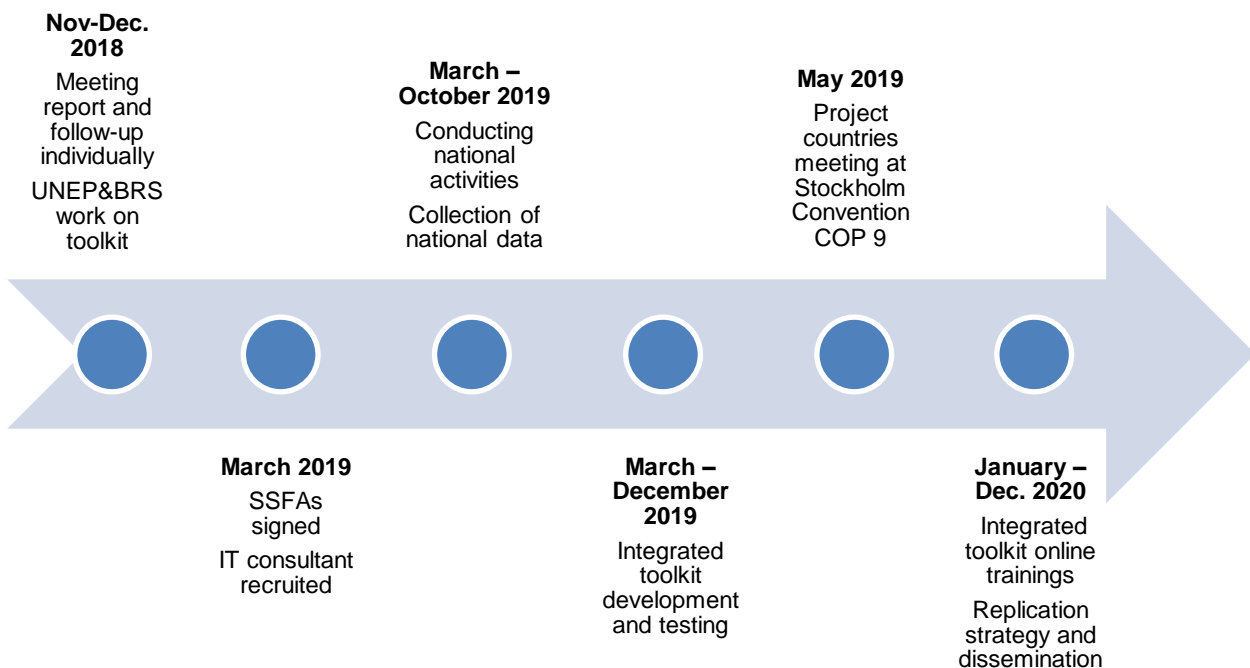


Fig. 2. 2018-2020 Draft project workplan



III. Conclusions and way forward

49. The project countries acknowledged the information provided by UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch on the followings:

- a) project overview;
- b) link with the other GEF projects;
- c) project deliverables under Output 1.1 (generic and individual gap analysis);
- d) MapX and its use potential;
- e) project concept and potential scope of national activities;
- f) 2018-2020 draft project workplan.

50. The countries decided to meet immediately after the meeting on the Project Steering Committee setting to discuss and adopt the followings:

- Composition of the PSC;
- Communication to and from PSC members;
- Budget;
- 2018-2020 Workplan;
- BCRC-SCRC roles and support.

51. As immediate next steps, UN Environment/Chemicals and Health Branch will follow-up individually with project countries as to convene on the activities to be carried out at the national level and finalize the countries agreements. In parallel will work on translating the initial work (generic and individual gap analysis) into a compatible format for IT and toolkit content, as well as on the development of Terms of Reference for recruiting an IT consultant to develop the integrated toolkit.



Annex I

List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda

Thursday, 25 October 2018		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome remarks Introduction of participants	UN Environment BRS Secretariat Host country All
09:30 – 10:00	Meeting objectives, Project overview	UN Environment
10:00 - 11:00	NIP Lessons learned and POPs data gathering Questions & Discussions	Sandra Castro Scarone Roland Weber Mihaela Claudia Paun
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:00	Generic gap analysis Questions & Discussions	Mihaela Claudia Paun All
12:00 – 13:00	Challenges in complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention – Countries experiences Questions & Answers session	4 Project countries (10 min. allocated for each country presentation)
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Challenges in complying with the reporting obligations under the Stockholm Convention – Countries experiences (cont.) Questions & Answers session	4 Project countries (10 min. allocated for each country presentation)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:30	Country work	All
17:30 – 18:00	Plenary session: Reporting on the conclusions of the country work Questions & Answers session	All
19:00	Dinner	



Friday, 26 October 2018		
10:00 – 10:30	Activities in supporting Parties in reporting under Stockholm Convention Questions & Answers session	BRS Secretariat
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 13:00	2018 - 2020 project workplan Questions & Discussions	UN Environment All
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:00	Individual countries gap analysis Questions & Discussions	Mihaela Claudia Paun
15:00 – 16:00	Project concept and Scope of national activities	UN Environment All
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:00	Introduction of MapX Presentation of POPs data MapX mock-ups Questions & Answers	UN Environment MapX representative All
17:00 – 17:45	Project immediate next steps	UN Environment All
17:45 – 18:00	Closing words	All
19:00	Dinner	