

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION
PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	07/2012 to 03/2013
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DESCRIPTION

ENRTP Priority	Basel Convention	EC Directorate General	ENV
Programme of Work	Component 1	Activities on e-waste minimisation and recycling under the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)	20
	Component 2	Legal and governance support for the implementation of the Basel Convention	4, 6, 8, 11
	Component 3	Environmentally sound management of waste during ship recycling	31
	Component 4	Implementation of the New Strategic Framework and the Country-Led Initiative	18, 19
	Component 5	Support for participation of developing countries at COP 11	1
Project's Title	Implementation of activities approved by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention		
Location	Global		
Total duration	04/12 – 12/13		

Responsible Entity	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Matthias Kern (TAB, component 1), Juliette Kohler (COB, component 2), Susan Wingfield (COB, components 3 and 4), Susanne Bengtsson (ASB, component 5)
EC Project Manager	Peter Wessman

Date of EC Approval:	12/07/2012 (signature of project document)		
EC Allocation (EUR):	EUR 1,328,775		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	12/07/2012		
Amount Received in 2012 (USD)	392,367	Exchange Rate:	0.7499
Total Expenditures (USD)	43,105	Total Expenditures (EUR)	32,329

SECTION 1: GENERAL VISIBILITY STRATEGY

Project plans: for each project component specific communication and visibility plans are being developed, if appropriate. These plans seek to reflect the primary specific objectives of MEA secretariats as a target group laid out in the communication strategy, to:

- build understanding of the need to integrate communication and visibility elements into project planning and implementation;
- increase appreciation of the scale of support from the EU and the importance of this partnership to UNEP and UNEP-administered MEAs.

Communication components: the project plans' communication components can include the following elements:

- Press releases on project milestones;
- Events on project topics (e.g. COPs side events, webinars etc.);
- EC & UNEP/MEA publications;
- Outreach through social media (Twitter, Facebook etc) on project milestones.

Each of the above media items should be branded, if possible, with information about the Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA).

Capacity4Dev (C4D): for communicating these project plans, the projects aim at using the Capacity4Dev (C4D) tool (<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/>), where information about the projects achievements, impacts and media products, in particular, multimedia, especially photos, video & infographics, should be logged. The C4D public group would be promoted on the clearinghouse conventions websites.

Content from project managers would be sent to the UNEP Brussels office. These reports would provide an update on the implementation of funded activities and showcase good examples of communication to stimulate ideas by project managers, highlighting outstanding achievements.

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component 1: Activities on e-waste minimisation and recycling under the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Status of implementation: this component supports the ongoing activities of the PACE. The Partnership was launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. Since January 2009, the PACE Working Group (PACEWG), established under the auspices of the Open-ended Working Group, implemented a number of activities, as set out in its work programme as reflected in the decision IX/9, annex I. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia in October 2011, the mandate of the PACE was extended until end of 2013.

During the reporting period the guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment; and the guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment were field tested and finalized taking into account practical experiences of 16 private companies that agreed to evaluate these two guidelines and to provide recommendations for revisions. The overall PACE guidance document was discussed at the OEWG 8 in September 2012, and revised following an additional round of comments and submitted to COP 11 for final adoption.

As part of awareness raising and training activities, awareness raising and training workshops on PACE guidelines were organized by several Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs), i.e. by BCRC-Argentina in September 2011, BCRC-China in December 2011 and BCRC-Slovakia in March 2012.

The PACE Working Group and its six Project Groups meet by teleconferencing, face-to-face meetings and exchange comments electronically. PACE face-to-face meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 May 2009, in Bonn, Germany, 1-3 February 2010, in Beijing, China, 13-15 December 2010, in Washington DC, United States of America, 6-8 June 2011, and in San Salvador, El Salvador, 9-11 May, 2012. An additional face-to-face meeting was planned to be held in November 2012, but the Working Group decided in its teleconference on 8 August 2012 to postpone the face-to-face meeting to 2013.

The Secretariat is supported in its efforts to facilitate the operation of the Partnership by consultants. During the reporting period, a consultant was hired on 23 October 2012 to support PACE until COP 11. The Terms of Reference for the consultant are attached in Annex 1.

Progress towards achieving the project's objectives: the membership of the PACE Working Group has been expanding since it was established in January 2009 and the working group has been instrumental in mobilising interest of other potential stakeholders, including Original Equipment Manufacturers. Furthermore, a number of Parties from developing countries, BCRCs and Intergovernmental Organizations have joined the Partnership. As of January 2013 the PACE has the following membership: 25 Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention; 11 BCRCs; 10 UN bodies and research and academic institutions; and 12 NGOs, industry, and industry associations.

PACE is a recognized partnership with a mandate and support from the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Progress is regularly reported to the OEWG and the COPs.

Performance remarks and highlights: a new Project Group on strategies and incentives was established following COP 10. The PACE Working Group succeeded in finalizing the Guidance Document and the guidelines on refurbishment/repair and material recovery/recycling in time for submission to COP 11. A PACE awareness raising workshop was held in Bratislava with external funding. Sufficient co-funding for the PACE operation was raised to finance all PACE activities in 2012.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

The unexpected death of the former consultant to PACE in July 2012 slowed down the operation of the Partnership considerably. However, after consultation and in agreement with the PACE co-chairs a new consultant was hired in October. Despite this draw-back, the key objective of finalizing the Guidance Document and two guidelines was achieved in a timely manner.

Decisions in the PACE Working Group are reached in a participatory and transparent process involving representatives from governments, industry, academia and public-interest NGOs. The Secretariat has to serve the Partnership following the guidance from the PACE members and cannot decide alone on the work plan and implementation of project activities. For example, original plans to hold a face-to-face meeting in 2012 as planned in the project document, were cancelled and postponed until 2013 by the PACE members, see above. The Secretariat informs the PACE Working Group continuously on the funding status and implementation needs according to the project document. Because there is sufficient co-funding available for other donors and Working Group members, it is expected that the project can be implemented in time (see above).

OUTCOME SUMMARY

- 30 participants increased their understanding and expertise on environmentally sound management of end-of-life computing equipment: One workshop was held in 2012, two workshops planned in 2013 (achieved)
- Timely and efficient organization of one meeting per year in 2012 and 2013: No face-to-face meeting held in 2012, at least one meeting planned in 2013 (not achieved in reporting period, delayed achievement expected)
- Revision of draft PACE guidelines and overall guidance document completed before COP 11: Guidance document and guidelines submitted to COP 11 for final adoption (achieved)
- Continued or increased participation of the PACE members in the PACE activities: Number of PACE members in 2012 listed above, increase to be compared in 2013 (expected).

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

See: Summary Project Status, Status of Implementation above

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

After approval of the full-fledged project documents by the European Commission in March 2012 and July 2012 respectively for the supports to the three conventions and to synergy activities, funds were transferred from UNEP SCA Trust Fund to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions only in July 2012 for conventions activities and in October 2012 for synergies. To some extent, this had an impact on the start of implementation of funded activities and partially explains the low disbursement rates as shown from the financial annex. Program of work activity number 20, on PACE, received co-funding from Japan, Norway, Switzerland, and various private enterprises.

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WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

In 2012, plans were made to achieve the goals of the Partnership including the objectives of the project in 2013:

- At least one face-to-face meeting will be held in 2013;
- Two PACE workshops will be organized in 2013 one by BCRC-El Salvador from 19-21 March 2013 in cooperation with ITU, and one by BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago in July 2013.
- A consultant will support the operation of PACE during 2013.

VISIBILITY:

See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

Awareness raising workshops organized in cooperation with external partners. PACE side events held at OEWG 8, side event planned at COP 11. At least three PACE webinars planned for 2013.

FINAL REMARKS:

Not applicable.

ANNEXES:

Terms of Reference for PACE consultant

Purpose

Support for the organization of activities of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) Working Group, Project Groups and Sub-Groups in 2012 and 2013.

Legislative authority reference

Basel Convention decision BC-10/20

Title and identification number of programme / project

Basel Convention work programme 2012-2013, activity number 20

Qualifications / special skills or knowledge

Knowledge and experience in the Basel Convention mandate, implementation activities, particularly in the priority waste stream of e-waste, and development of BC related documents; Experience in coordinating multi-disciplinary teams of experts, tasked with developing documents and partnership activities; Working experience and communication skills in developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition is an advantage; At least 3 years of work experience, excellent drafting and writing skills in English.

Duration of consultancy

23 October 2012 – 31 May 2013

Objectives, output expectations and performance indicators

- Prepare draft agenda and meeting documents, attend meetings (teleconferences and up to one face-to-face meeting) and write reports of PACE Working Group, six Project Groups and Sub-Group meetings (about six groups with average one meeting/teleconference every three months, i.e. at least twelve scheduled meetings/teleconferences and additional ones as requested by the PACE Working Group, Project Groups or Sub-Groups). Number and time/venue of teleconferences and meetings are decided by the PACE Working Group and respective Project Groups and Sub-groups.
- Prepare report on PACE progress for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (COP11) (November, 2012).
- Participate in one face-to-face meeting: 6th PACE Working Group meeting (Geneva, 2013, exact date to be confirmed), and Basel Convention COP11 (Geneva, 28 April – 10 May 2013).
- Prepare information notes, fact sheets and other documents for Basel Convention COP 11, including a PACE side event, and other meetings as relevant and as required by the Secretariat, PACE Working Group Co-chairs, and Project Group Co-chairs (April 2013).
- Prepare and submit to the co-chairs of the PACE Working Group and the Secretariat draft meeting report of the face-to-face meeting no later than 2 weeks after the meetings (dates see (c) above).
- Prepare a draft resource mobilization and financial sustainability strategy for implementation of pilot projects on collection of e-waste from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, based on discussion in PACE Project Group 3.1. (February 2013).

Specific tasks and responsibilities

Under the guidance of the responsible Officer of the Technical Assistance Branch:

- Assist UNEP/SBC in supporting PACE, including through preparation of awareness-raising materials, documentation and assistance in the organization of telephone conferences and up to one face-to-face meeting of the PACE Working Group, established PACE Project Groups and PACE sub-groups. This would include preparation of reports following each telephone conference and meeting of the Working Group, all Project Groups and sub-groups.
- Assist UNEP/SBC and Co-chairs of the Project Group 3.1 in finalizing resource mobilization and financial sustainability strategy for implementing of pilot projects on collection of e-waste from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- Assist the PACE Project Group 5.1 working on identifying actions and incentives that can be taken to promote environmentally sound reuse, refurbishment, repair, recycling and material recovery of used and end-of life computing equipment through the implementation of the Partnership guidelines and existing certification schemes.
- Prepare information notes, fact sheets, status reports and other documents for Basel Convention COP 11, including the PACE side event, as required by the Secretariat, PACE Working Group Co-chairs, and Project Group Co-chairs.
- Attend COP11 and the side event on PACE and following these meetings prepare a summary report on the side event, and COP11 outcome on PACE.
- Perform such other tasks as may be requested by the responsible Officer of the Secretariat.

Component 2: Legal governance support for the implementation of the Basel Convention

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Work is in progress on this issue. Notifications for translation have been identified, with an initial set of nine notifications of import and export restrictions and seven notifications of national definitions identified for translation into English and posting on the Basel Convention website. Work shall be undertaken to translate and finalise translated text of notifications from the following Parties:

Spanish language into English language: - Argentina; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; El Salvador; Honduras; Mexico; Venezuela;

Russian language into English language: - Belarus

Other language into English language: - Azerbaijan (Azeri)

For three of the Parties identified, translations are required of notifications of both import and export restrictions and national definitions. The notifications identified from Argentina, Azerbaijan; Belarus and Costa Rica also consist of national lists of prohibited wastes. These notifications are currently available on the Basel Convention website in the languages in which they were transmitted.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Challenges: It is anticipated that translations could be completed quickly and an initial translated text of each notification will be made available on the Basel Convention website pending confirmation from the Party concerned of the formal translation. In order to finalise a translated text of the notification, the Secretariat confirms with the Party concerned that the translation reflects the meaning and intention of the original text. As such, there may be some challenges in receiving confirmations from Parties as to the final translated text, dependent on the speed of the response provided by the Party that transmitted the notification and possibly as a result of linguistic capacity available to the Party.

Risk mitigation: The Secretariat regularly communicates with both the Focal Points and Permanent Missions, which will assist in the follow up, the explanation of the steps to be undertaken and processes followed in relation to the publication of translated text and in the support needed by and offered to Parties to confirm the translation.

Challenges: One of the translations required is dependent on engaging a translator for the Azeri language, which may be more difficult to locate and less freely available than translators for the official United Nations languages.

Risk mitigation: The Secretariat understands that engaging an Azeri translator could cause delays however would not prevent the achievement of translation outputs.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

The Secretariat has also compiled the notifications to be translated and requests for translation have been initiated. Translations have also been initiated from the Russian language into the English language. Work on locating and engaging a translator for the Azeri language is ongoing. Due to the challenges identified above, no funding was spent in 2012 although it is proposed that all resources be mobilised in the upcoming reporting period.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

See: Summary Project Status and Outcome Summary

The main output in the reporting period 2012 is the engagement of translators for languages other than Azeri and initiation of the work on the Russian language translation. The remaining activities shall be completed in the reporting period 2013.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Due to the negotiation process between the European Commission, UNEP, and the BRS Secretariat on conventions-specific requirements relating to the financial governance structure of the Strategic Cooperation Agreements (SCA), which took place in the first two quarters in 2013, funds were transferred from UNEP to the voluntary trust funds of the

conventions only in July 2012 for conventions activities and in October 2012 for synergies. This resulted in delays in the start of implementation of funded activities.

The budget allocated for these activities remains intact, with delays experienced as outlined in previous sections. Once the translation work is completed, the outputs are expected to be fulfilled according to the original budget.

Program of work activity number 11, on assisting Parties to enforce the Convention and to combat illegal traffic, received co-funding from Norway and Spain.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

The following activities and outputs are anticipated:

Activity	Action by	Anticipated completion date	Remarks
Contracting translators for Azeri language	Secretariat	Ongoing	Other translators have been contracted
Completion of translations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National definitions - Import / export prohibitions 	Secretariat and translators contracted	Mid April 2013	
Transmission of translated texts to Parties for confirmation of translation	Secretariat	Mid April 2013	
Posting of interim translation on the Basel Convention website	Secretariat	End April 2013	
Confirmation of translated text by Party that transmitted notification(s)	Parties	TBC	
Posting of final translated text on Basel Convention website	Secretariat	TBC (Dependent on response from Party)	

VISIBILITY:

See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

FINAL REMARKS:

The confirmation of the translations by the Parties having transmitted the notifications and avoiding any delays requires close collaboration between the Secretariat and the Parties. It is anticipated that effective and regular communications will be maintained in order to make final translated text of notifications available for posting by the middle of 2013 for most of the notifications listed above.

ANNEXES:

Not applicable.

Component 3: Environmentally sound management of waste during ship dismantling

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

The implementation of this project component is currently behind schedule. Under this component, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is to work with the governments of two pilot countries (Bangladesh and Pakistan) and international and national consultants to develop inventories of hazardous waste and on this basis to develop business plans for the development of hazardous waste management infrastructure in the two pilot countries. In Bangladesh, the Secretariat has had extensive consultations with the Ministry of Industries in Bangladesh (the lead Ministry with respect to ship dismantling) in collaboration with a wider project being implemented by the International Maritime Organization (on behalf of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)). The inventory project is one component of the wider NORAD-funded project, which will deal with all aspects of environmentally sound ship dismantling in Bangladesh (n.b. other components include a socio-economic study and training programme for occupational safety, health and the environment). Due to a change in the responsible actors in the Ministry of Industries, commencement of the NORAD project was delayed by 12 months. The Secretariat has been advised that the NORAD project (which establishes the project management infrastructure for the entire project including a national project coordinator and project management teams) will commence by mid-2013. Once the NORAD project commences, the Secretariat can retain the international consultants (which will perform the required project tasks for both pilot countries to ensure consistency) and work on the development of the inventories can commence. The delay in Bangladesh has thus created a similar delay in the implementation of the project in Pakistan. Despite this, the Secretariat has had ongoing consultations with the Ministry of Climate Change of the Government of Pakistan (the lead Ministry with respect to ship dismantling). Once the delays in Bangladesh are resolved, the implementation of the project in both pilot countries can proceed in parallel as foreseen in the project document.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

The implementation of this project component is behind schedule due to the delay in commencement of the NORAD project on ship dismantling in Bangladesh (please see the above section for further information). This unavoidable delay has occurred due to a change in the responsible actors in the Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh. Following a meeting between the Industries Minister and Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh in February 2013, the Government of Bangladesh has committed the necessary resources and support to allow commencement of the NORAD project. As previously mentioned, the inventory project, which is funded by ENRTP is a key component of the wider NORAD project and will proceed as a matter of priority once final approval is received from the Ministry of Industries (expected by June 2013). The Secretariat shall then retain the international consultants who will oversee the inventory and business case development in both pilot countries. Due to this unavoidable delay, implementation of the project may be delayed by 6 to 9 months (until June or September 2014).

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Component 3: Environmentally sound management of waste during ship dismantling	
M 3.1 Establishment of project teams, retention of national and international experts and modalities established for a national coordination committee	08/12 In progress: expected completion 06/13
M 3.2 Background report delivered outlining hazardous waste legislation, regulations and institutional arrangements	10/12 08/13
M 3.3 Methodology and workplan for undertaking inventories developed and submitted, staff trained as required	11/12 09/13
M 3.4 Stakeholder sensitisation sessions held, report delivered	12/12 10/13

The above table outlines the project milestones and expected delivery dates (as provided in the project document). The project milestones table has been abridged to focus on the current reporting period (2012). Progress has been made in the implementation of M 3.1: establishment of project teams and retention of consultants. However, due to the factors previously explained, implementation of the project has not yet proceeded past this milestone. This unavoidable delay will most likely cause a delay in the implementation of this project component of 6 to 9 months.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Component 3: Environmentally sound management of waste during ship dismantling			31
H) Project preparation including establishing project teams in pilot countries, retaining international and national consultants, agreeing modalities for an inter-agency national coordination committee, compilation of report on relevant in-country hazardous waste legislation/regulations and institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Project Coordinator appointed and international and national experts retained - Inter-agency committee established - Reliable information on in-country waste management legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements - Detailed workplan setting roles and responsibilities for key stakeholders - Inventory template and database established - Staff trained on methods of data extraction - Stakeholder sensitisation sessions improve awareness and buy-in to project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team and experts in place - Report on legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements - Project workplan and methodology - Inventory template and database - Stakeholder session reports 	10/13

The above table outlines the project outputs for component 3 on environmentally sound management of waste during ship dismantling (as provided in the project document). The project output table has been abridged to focus on the current reporting period (2012). The main output for this reporting period was project preparation which is currently ongoing. This project output is expected to be achieved by October 2013 (the reasons for the delay in achieving the project outputs is provided in previous sections).

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Due to the negotiation process between the European Commission, UNEP, and the BRS Secretariat on conventions-specific requirements relating to the financial governance structure of the Strategic Cooperation Agreements (SCA), which took place in the first two quarters in 2013, funds were transferred from UNEP to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions only in July 2012 for conventions activities and in October 2012 for synergies. This resulted in delays in the start of implementation of funded activities.

A minimal sum of the total funding balance for this component has been spent on travel to enable the Secretariat representative to consult on the project. The remainder of the project budget remains intact, with delays experienced as outlined in previous sections. Once the project commences, the project outputs are expected to be fulfilled according to the original budget.

Program of work number 31, on cost-effective alternative methods to the beaching method of ship dismantling, received co-funding from Norway and the BD Reserve.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Component 3: Environmentally sound management of waste during ship dismantling	
M 3.1 Establishment of project teams, retention of national and international experts and modalities established for a national coordination committee	08/12 In progress: expected completion 06/13
M 3.2 Background report delivered outlining hazardous waste legislation, regulations and institutional arrangements	10/12 08/13
M 3.3 Methodology and workplan for undertaking inventories developed and submitted, staff trained as required	11/12 09/13
M 3.4 Stakeholder sensitisation sessions held, report delivered	12/12 10/13

M 3.5 Data collection and verification	05/13 11/13
M 3.6 Hazardous Waste Assessment Report delivered	07/13 03/14
M 3.7 Stakeholder consultations held, report delivered	08/13 05/14
M 3.8 Cost benefit analysis of different hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal options produced	08/13 05/14
M 3.9 Specifications delivered for priority infrastructure	09/13 07/14
M 3.10 Business cases delivered and consulted upon with government and industry	12/13 09/14

The above table outlines the project milestones and expected delivery dates (as provided in the project document). The expected delivery dates have been amended to take into account the delays experienced in project implementation thus far. It is expected that completion of this project component will now be possible by June or September 2014 (depending on the speed with which the consultants can complete their tasks - i.e. the work plan shown above may be compressed by several months).

VISIBILITY:

See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

FINAL REMARKS:

The delay in the commencement of the NORAD project in Bangladesh as outlined above was unforeseen at the time of the development of the project. The collaboration of the Secretariat with the International Maritime Organization to develop and implement programmes for sustainable ship recycling was requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (most recently, at its tenth meeting), however, with such collaboration has come unforeseen and unavoidable delays in project implementation. Once final approval is granted by the Government of Bangladesh for the wider NORAD project (expected imminently), the Secretariat can commence implementation of this project component.

ANNEXES:

Not applicable.

Component 4: Implementation of the New Strategic Framework and the Country-Led Initiative

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

With regard to the Strategic Framework, in September 2012, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions appointed a consultant to develop a format for the collection of information for the creation of an analysis and report on the baseline as requested by COP decision BC-10/2. The questionnaire was distributed by the Secretariat to the Basel Convention focal points on 8 November, 2012. As of mid-February 2013, 21 responses were received and analyzed.

With regard to the Country-led initiative, none of the ENRTP funding was used in 2012 to support participant travel to meetings of the Technical Expert Group to develop a framework for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. Three meetings of the Technical Expert Group were held: in April 2012, September 2012 and January 2013. The April meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, and was funded by the Government of Japan as host country. The September 2012 meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, back-to-back with the eighth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and funding for participants' travel to this meeting was available from the Basel Convention Trust Fund. The January 2013 meeting was held in Glion, Switzerland, and funding for this meeting was received from the host country (Switzerland) and Japan. Depending on decisions taken by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (to be held in April/May 2013) a further meeting of the Technical Expert Group may take place in 2013. As the ENRTP funding has not yet been utilized for this project sub-component, no further information is provided in the remainder of this project progress report.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

With regard to the Strategic Framework, from the 179 Parties to the Basel Convention, as of February 2013, only 12% of the Parties had responded to the request for information. This is quite low and as such a further invitation for responses may be made after the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (depending on decisions taken at this meeting).

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Please see the following section.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

With regard to the Strategic Framework, in September 2012, the Secretariat appointed a consultant to develop a format for the collection of information for the creation of an analysis and report on baseline information as requested by COP decision BC-10/2. The questionnaire was distributed by the Secretariat to the Basel Convention focal points on 8 November, 2012 and copied to the relevant Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva. A number of follow-ups were made in response to out-of-date email addresses. The deadline of 31 December 2012 was the deadline for submission of information from Parties in keeping with decision BC-10/2.

As the deadline approached, a reminder notice was sent on 11 December 2012 to the focal points encouraging a response by the due date. In January 2013, the number of responses was reviewed and because of the small number received a decision was taken to extend the deadline until 31 January 2013. A reminder message and notification of the extension was sent out on 4 January 2013. This notice included a clear message that responding to the questionnaire was important and that the provision of information to assist in the evaluation of the Strategic Framework was agreed by Parties at COP 10. As of mid-February 2013, 21 responses were received and analysed. The consultant's analysis and report was received by the Secretariat in February 2013 and has been made available for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Due to the negotiation process between the European Commission, UNEP, and the BRS Secretariat on conventions-specific requirements relating to the financial governance structure of the Strategic Cooperation Agreements (SCA), which took place in the first two quarters in 2013, funds were transferred from UNEP to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions only in July 2012 for conventions activities and in October 2012 for synergies. This resulted in delays in the start of implementation of funded activities.

The foreseen ENRTP budget for this component was utilized for retention of the consultant to develop the format for reporting. Further consultancy services will be required to complete the reporting requirements associated with the Strategic Framework and in preparation for the mid-term and final evaluations of the Framework.

Program of work number 19, on EMS and further legal clarity, received co-funding from Japan, Norway, and Switzerland.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Following the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (to be held in April/May 2013) it is expected that Parties will request the Secretariat to issue a further invitation for responses to the reporting questionnaire. When received, these responses will be analysed and a final baseline report will be created for the year 2011 as requested in decision BC-10/2.

VISIBILITY:

See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

FINAL REMARKS:

Please see the previous sections.

ANNEXES:

Not applicable.

Component 5: Support for participation of developing countries at COP 11 of the Basel Convention

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

The financial contribution towards travel of participants under the Basel Convention aims to secure an active participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the discussions at the coming meetings in Geneva, 28 April to 10 May 2013.

In December 2012, the Secretariat sent out invitations for the ordinary and extraordinary meeting of the conferences of the parties to ministries of foreign affairs and official contact points to the three conventions. The letter included information on registrations, in particular for participants for which financial assistance is sought, who needed to submit their request with an official nomination letter to the Secretariat by 28 January 2013.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

No challenges experienced.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

When reviewing the request for funding, the Secretariat will take into account the procedure for the allocation of funding from the voluntary Special Trust Fund for facilitating the participation of eligible Parties set out in the annexes to the decision BC-10/28 which was established with a view to ensure adequate geographical representation of eligible regions and priority was given to least developed countries and small island developing States.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Activities planned to be carried out in 2013:

Travel funding, including air tickets and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be provided to the eligible participants and the following practical arrangements will be made by the Secretariat related to the travel:

- Prepare and send invitation letters for nominations;
- Nominations to invitation letters received;
- Review of funded participant's requests;
- Resource mobilization for participants travel;
- Preparation of a list of eligible countries taking into account the above decisions;
- Make travel arrangements for all funded participants;
- Tickets issued for all the funded nominated participants;
- Payment of DSA via bank arrangements to funded participants;
- Notification of eligible countries not being sponsored;
- Consultations with UNEP on waiving programme support costs;
- Reporting to donors.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

There was a considerable delay in transfer of funds (July 2012 instead of January 2012). Since COP-11 takes place only in 2013, this has not caused delays in initiating implementation of the activities.

Program of work number 1, on the organization and support of COP-11 of the Basel Convention, received co-funding from Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

In the next reporting period, funding of participants to the 2013 COPs and ExCOPs will be finalized using the same approach as outlined above.

VISIBILITY:

See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

FINAL REMARKS:

To be concluded after the 2013 COPs-ExCOPs.

ANNEXES:

Not applicable.

MEA Project Managers: Matthias Kern (TAB, component 1), Juliette Kohler (COB, component 2), Susan Wingfield (COB, components 3 and 4), Susanne Bengtsson (ASB, component 5)

Signature (Executive Secretary): _____

Signature (Resource Mobilization Focal Point): _____

Date of Submission: 14/03/2013

Date of Re-submission: 05/04/2013