

**ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS**  
**ANNUAL STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT (SPOR)**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE**  
**PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
**PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT**

<b>Reporting Period</b>	08/2012 – 02/2013
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**DESCRIPTION**

ENRTP Priority	Stockholm Convention	EC Directorate General	ENV
Programme of Work	Component 1	Technical Assistance Programme	12S
	Component 2	Global Monitoring Plan for Effectiveness Evaluation under Article 16	24, 25
	Component 3	Programme on unintentionally produced POPs	30
	Component 4	Programme on Endosulfan	34
	Component 5	New POPs and candidate POPs programme	35
	Component 6	Support for participation of developing countries at COP-6	1
Project's Title	Implementation of activities approved by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention		
Location	Global		
Total duration	01/12 – 12/13		

Responsible Entity	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Jacqueline Alvarez (TAB, component 1), Katarina Magulova (SSB, component 2), Ana Priceputu (SSB, component 3), Gamini Manuweera (SSB, component 4), Mellissa Lim (SSB, component 5), Susanne Bengtsson (ASB, component 6)
EC Project Manager	Henrik Laursen

Date of EC Approval:	12/07/2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	EUR 1,598,863		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	12/07/2012		
Amount Received in 2012 (USD)	1,230,044	Exchange Rate:	0.75
Total Expenditures (USD)	250,765	Total Expenditures (EUR)	199,091

## 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: Technical Assistance Programme

#### SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

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The funds provided for this project component were aimed at enhancing knowledge and decision making-capacities in developing country parties and parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention through capacity building and training. As part of this component, guidance and technical guidelines on NIP updating for new POPs and the toolkit for unintentionally produced POPs is to be used extensively.

- *Organization of face to face activities* on various subjects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention

Global, regional, and sub regional workshops were planned to take place second semester of 2012, but due to the late reception of funds and the process to sign agreements with the Partners, there has been a delay on the implementation of these activities. Though the methodology, agenda, training materials and presentations for delivery have already been developed and tested through co-financing coming from other donors. The methodology includes preparatory training through online meetings, interactive learning approaches based on case studies and exercises and the realization of a face to face activity. This method includes knowledge transfer to the Stockholm and Basel Regional Centres and UNEP and FAO Regional Offices, leading to increased capacity for sustained delivery, at the regional level, of technical assistance for NIP review and updating and NIP implementation.

- *Organization of global web-based seminars* on various priority subjects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention

Preparation of global web-based seminars requires in certain cases, preparation of specialized materials, translations to different UN languages depending on the target region, and access to certain software and languages to facilitate participation. Experts on specific areas will be asked to prepare presentations on their areas of expertise, e.g. using data obtained in the PFOS and PBDEs inventories to prepare national implementation plans, preparing case studies to facilitate preparation of action plans, fostering understanding on the approach to revise and update unintentional POPs inventories.

#### CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

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The effective involvement of parties and partners as well as their full participation is critical in the implementation of this component. Training and capacity building activities are not stand alone activities, but rather they imply participation, commitment and interest of those that will be applying the knowledge acquired. The lack of national capacities and financial resources might slow the process and jeopardize the sustainability after the project.

#### OUTCOME SUMMARY

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The indicators of this component will be assessed after the face to face and the global seminars on priority subjects had happened.

#### OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

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The outputs and results of the main activities will be presented after implementation.

#### RESOURCES AND BUDGET

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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.

#### WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

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Global, regional and sub regional workshops will start mid 2013, after the Conference of the Parties and they will address, among others, issues on national implementation plans to fostering participants' understanding of the scope of the obligations to update and review their NIPs under article 7 of the Convention in light of the newly added POPs, using of the revised toolkit for identification and quantification of unintentionally produced POPs, setting the ground to implement NIPs, using the available electronic tools including the electronic system for reporting effectively.

The activities scheduled, key milestones, main outputs and the forecast of expected expenditures remain as in the project document. The expected delivery dates for the face to face activities will be from June 2013 to November 2013, while the web seminars at the global level will start after the COPs, in May 2013 and they are planned to go up to the end of 2013.

#### **VISIBILITY:**

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See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

#### **FINAL REMARKS:**

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Parties to the Stockholm Convention that participated in the first phase of training/pilots (covered by co-funds), on different subjects under this project have indicated that the materials were useful, well designed and that they served the purposes of better understanding their obligations and approach towards the implementation of the different articles of the Stockholm Convention.

#### **ANNEXES:**

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Not applicable.

## Component 2: Global Monitoring Plan for Effectiveness Evaluation under Article 16

### SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

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- The guidance document on the global monitoring plan for POPs was updated to address the sampling and analysis of the POPs listed in 2009 and 2011, and provides a useful basis for monitoring of these chemicals in the second phase of the global monitoring plan, and for harmonized data collection, storage and handling. The document will be presented at COP-6.
- The process for developing the second regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report has been initiated and a detailed workplan and timetable elaborated and agreed with the global coordination group, including the five regional workplans/strategies. These workplans as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group will be presented at COP-6.
- Implementation of the second phase of the human milk survey is delayed by one year due to the fact that implementation of the first phase was delayed by two years.

### CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

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- Main implementation challenges of this project are related to the fact that it is a global survey involving many stakeholders with very limited possibility for the Secretariat to reach out to most of them. This challenge is addressed by very efficient project management, including timely and clear communication with all stakeholders on the particular activities/milestones and deliverables.
- Implementation of the second GMP phase stretches throughout the period 2011-2015 and requires substantial funding. Timely availability of these resources is essential to initiate the particular activities in timely manner so that the necessary outputs will be ready in time to support development of the second regional and global monitoring reports.

### OUTCOME SUMMARY

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- The guidance document on the global monitoring plan for POPs was updated to address the sampling and analysis of the POPs listed in 2009 and 2011, and provides a useful basis for monitoring of these chemicals in the second phase of the global monitoring plan, and for harmonized data collection, storage and handling. The document will be presented at COP-6 as document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/35.
- The process for developing the second regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report has been initiated and a detailed workplan and timetable elaborated and agreed with the global coordination group, including the five regional workplans/strategies. These workplans as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group will be presented at COP-6 as document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/32.

### OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

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Guidance and capacity building to include the 10 new POPs in the GMP. The guidance document on the global monitoring plan for POPs was updated to address the sampling and analysis of the POPs listed in 2009 and 2011 and other important elements as requested by decision SC-5/18. Results of the related GEF MSP project, implemented by UNEP Chemicals, have been considered by the global coordination group as well. In particular, the following has been revised/updated or added: additional guidance on substances to be monitored including analytical and sampling techniques, a technical note on data collection and processing including statistical analysis, updating of the air monitoring chapter and inclusion of a water monitoring chapter, results of a correlation study for monitoring of PFOS in human blood and in human milk, inclusion of a new chapter on specimen banking and revision of the chapter on strategy, structure, and process for the regional monitoring reports in order to serve for the second GMP phase. The guidance document has been reviewed and finalized by the global/regional coordination groups during a meeting held in October 2012 and is presented to COP-6 as UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/35 for endorsement.

- Training and capacity building activities in sampling and analyzing the newly listed POPs with focus on sampling and analysing PFOS in water have been implemented in cooperation with the SC regional center RECETOX. Further training and capacity building activities in support of strengthening POPs monitoring capacity of developing countries are planned for 2013.
- Process for developing the second regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report has been initiated. A series of webinars for the global as well as the five regional organization groups have been organized to initiate activities under the second GMP phase. An expert group was convened to provide guidance and feedback to RECETOX which has been tasked to perform an analysis of the data from the first GMP phase, to propose a data storage, handling and presentation tool as well as to develop a prototype including the GMP-1 data. The prototype has been revised and agreed by the global coordination group and is available at now, [www.pops-gmp.org](http://www.pops-gmp.org).

- The process/workplan to develop the regional monitoring reports is outlined in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/32.
- Air monitoring activities continued to be implemented in Africa and in the GRULAC region. The resulting air monitoring data will be also included in the data warehouse. These monitoring activities are providing baseline data for the newly listed POPs in Africa as well as baseline data on PCDD/PCDF in the GRULAC region.
- Outcomes of all already implemented rounds of the WHO/UNEP human milk survey have been summarized and the human health implications of breastfeeding depending on the POPs concentration evaluated. The publication is presented for consideration at the COP-6. The publication contains baseline data for all POPs, including those which have been listed in 2009 and 2011 and is contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/33.
- A strategy for the second phase of the WHO/UNEP human milk survey has been elaborated by the Secretariat in consultation with WHO and the global coordination group for the GMP, ensuring balanced regional data coverage and possibility of establishing trends over time. Implementation of the second phase will be launched at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

## RESOURCES AND BUDGET

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- 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.
- Resources that have been spent in during the current reporting period include: Development of the guidance document, including meeting of the expert group on data handling and the global monitoring group; establishing baseline data for new POPs in core matrices; development of the prototype of a GMP data storage, handling and presentation tool; to support ongoing monitoring activities in the developing country regions; and for initiating the process for developing the second monitoring reports.
- Implementation of the second phase of the UNEP/WHO human milk survey is delayed by approximately one year due to the difficulties in implementing the first phase which resulted in a two years delay. Optimal distance between the sampling periods of two consecutive phases should be 5 years. Hence implementation of the second phase of the survey should be in the period 2013-2014 with sampling campaigns taking place in 2014.
- Program of work activity number 24, on the updating of the POPs GMP guidance document, received co-funding from Sweden. Program of work activity number 25, on support for air monitoring activities in Africa and LAC, second milk survey, regional cooperation and global coordination, received co-funding from Norway.

## WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

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### The following activities are planned for the upcoming reporting period:

- For GMP-2 a complete data warehouse will be developed, including modules for import/export of monitoring data, statistical analysis, as well as special and temporal analysis. The tool will have regional nodes enabling the regional organization groups process the regional data independently. After the data will be endorsed by the regions they will be used for developing the global monitoring report. Training to the ROGs will be provided to use the tool as well as a hot-line support during the data collection and processing phase.
- With regards to the second phase of the human milk survey the following activities will be implemented in 2013:
  - Establishing contacts with the regional WHO offices and national coordinators in participating countries and receive letters of commitment signed by representatives of both health sector as well as the Stockholm Convention OCPs. The National Protocols will be developed and the endorsement of the National Ethic Committees sought;-
- Activities planned for 2014:
  - Implementation of the milk survey in participating countries in compliance with the WHO protocol;
  - Analysing of the pooled human milk samples;
  - Processing and assessment of the monitoring results and preparing input to the second monitoring reports and to effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention (deadline for finalizing the second monitoring reports is December 2014).

## VISIBILITY:

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See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

Results of this project (the GMP monitoring data and relevant reports/database) are fully communicated to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and broadly shared with the scientific/expert community, IGOs, NGOs, and other interested parties. They will be freely accessible through the Internet.

#### **FINAL REMARKS:**

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- The updated guidance document on the global monitoring plan for POPs properly addresses the sampling and analysis of the newly listed POPs, and provides a useful basis for monitoring of these chemicals in the second phase of the global monitoring plan, and for harmonized data collection, storage and handling. The coordination group under the GMP encourages the use of the updated guidance document by the regions and communication of feedback on using the guidance via the regional organization groups.
- The second phase of the global monitoring plan has to enable harmonized data handling and ensure that support is given to the collection, processing, storing and presentation of monitoring data in regions with limited capacity. A global monitoring plan data warehouse, supporting data collection and assisting the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in producing the regional and global monitoring reports, effectiveness evaluation, and providing public access to POPs monitoring data endorsed by the regional organization groups, will enable such GMP data handling support in regions with limited capacity. In regions where well-established data repositories and reporting schemes are in place, these will be used for the purpose of the GMP.
- The global monitoring plan data warehouse will constitute a publicly available repository of valuable information and can serve as a useful resource for policy makers and researchers worldwide, including providing/transferring readily additional information and data to other well established programmes to enable modelling of long range transport of POPs and avoid duplication of efforts for such modelling exercises. The GMP data warehouse should be made available on the Convention's website as the clearinghouse for monitoring information on POPs.
- The implementation of the second phase UNEP/WHO human milk survey is an important pillar of the global monitoring plan. While countries in developing regions have largely participated in the first phase of the GMP, the participation of industrialized countries should be further encouraged to enable harmonized global and regional assessment of human exposure to POPs.

#### **ANNEXES:**

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Not applicable.

## Component 3: Programme on unintentionally produced POPs

### SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

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- The revision of the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans, and Other Unintentional POPs has been finalized in the period January – December 2012. New information was integrated in the revised Toolkit, including revised or new dioxin emission factors for sources and technologies typical for developing regions, and emission factors for other unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants for sources where data were available to support their development. Additional guidance was developed on substantial issues such as the collection of activity data, updating and revision of inventories, quality assurance and quality control, etc. To increase its usefulness and user-friendliness, the revised Toolkit is issued in an electronic form, with information structured according to its relevance to the inventory process. The guidance relevant to the development of inventories is contained in Part I and II of the Toolkit, while complementary technical information and example inventories in Part III. The revised electronic Toolkit is available at <http://toolkit.pops.int>.
- Further activities planned for 2013 include the translation and publication of the revised Toolkit in the six UN languages and training activities to support Parties in using the revised Toolkit guidance.

### CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

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A major challenge in implementing the programme on unintentionally produced POPs may be the limited awareness on the need to update, and if necessary revise inventories of unintentionally produced POPs. Targeted guidance has been developed addressing these aspects and is included in the revised Toolkit. Training activities are planned to cover the need for information sharing and awareness-raising on these aspects.

### OUTCOME SUMMARY

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The outcome of the project is to provide Parties to the Stockholm Convention with the capacities and capabilities to meet their obligations under the Convention. The use of the revised Toolkit methodology when developing inventories of unintentionally produced POPs and implementation of BAT/BEP guidelines provides Parties with the necessary assistance to comply with the requirements pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention. The finalization of the revision of the Toolkit guidance, provided in a user-friendly electronic online format, accompanied by training on the use of the guidance for inventory development, update and revision will enable Parties to meet their obligations pursuant to Article 5.

### OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

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- The Toolkit experts have worked intersessionally in the period from January to November 2012 to address all aspects of the Toolkit revision. A Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert meeting was held in Geneva from 26 to 28 November 2012 to finalize and agree upon the revised Toolkit and develop a workplan for the update of the BAT and BEP guidelines. Further to the Toolkit expert meeting, the Excel sheets allowing Parties to calculate their releases using the Toolkit default emission factors have equally been revised during December 2012 and made available in the six UN languages. An electronic web-based tool has been developed to allow user-friendly access to the revised Toolkit online via the internet or via any media storage device. The revised Toolkit is available at <http://toolkit.pops.int>
- Training and awareness-raising on the revised Toolkit and on updating and revising inventories of unintentionally produced POPs is planned in 2013, along with development of relevant training material (inventory examples and hands-on exercises).
- Translation of the Toolkit guidance (part of the guidance strictly needed for inventory development, update and/or revision, currently available in Part I and II of the Toolkit) is also planned in 2013.

### RESOURCES AND BUDGET

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- 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.
- Resources that have been spent in 2012 include: development of revised Toolkit and publishing of the electronic Toolkit (excluding translation/printing), organization of a Toolkit expert meeting in November 2012.
- The work to develop training material will be initiated and completed in 2013 as it is solely based on the Toolkit guidance as finalized in December 2012.

- Resources to be mobilized in 2013 include: development of training material on the revised Toolkit, translation and publication of the guidance material in the six UN languages, organization of a Toolkit and BAT and BEP meeting in November 2013.

#### **WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:**

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The main output in the upcoming reporting period are the training activities (workshops and webinars) through which Parties will be provided assistance in using the revised Toolkit and, more generally, meeting their obligations pursuant to Article 5. The Toolkit guidance will be available to Parties in all six UN languages.

#### **VISIBILITY:**

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See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

The revised Toolkit is promoted via the Convention's website and through targeted communication with Parties. Outreach activities planned in 2013 will include training to be provided to Parties on the revised Toolkit.

#### **FINAL REMARKS:**

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- The Toolkit revision and update has entirely relied on support from Parties and other donors, which took a variety of forms such as the work of nominated national experts, funding of international programs and national projects, in-kind contribution of expert institutions, as well as direct donor contributions through the Stockholm Convention Voluntary Trust Fund. All experts nominated by parties and others, included in the Toolkit Expert Roster, were involved in the Toolkit review and updating process at least by electronic means.
- The process for review and updating of the Toolkit, including the annual face-to-face meetings and the intersessional work carried out by expert panels and task teams provided an excellent platform for generating and exchanging new information and an opportunity to enhance expertise on the identification and quantification of unintentional POPs. Valuable national capacity and knowledge has been channelled to the process through expert panel leads and members and has been instrumental in the achievement of results.

#### **ANNEXES:**

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Not applicable.

## Component 4: Programme on Endosulfan

### SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

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- A consultant was engaged to analyze the information on nonchemical alternatives to endosulfan as part of the assessment undertaken by the POPs Review Committee (POPRC) on alternatives to endosulfan during 7th and 8th meetings.
- Based on the assessment by the POPRC the consultant assisted finalizing the report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth meeting.
- Possible co-funding activities from other similar projects were analyzed to enhance synergy on technical assistance components of the project that includes Parties consideration of POPRC outcomes and gather information on the use of endosulfan and its alternatives to institute appropriate actions. Co-funding was identified with a project on Alternatives to newly listed POPs & new Annex III chemicals of the Joint Activities of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions implemented with German funds. It focuses on technical assistance for parties on aspects related to endosulfan in both Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- A task team was established between the Secretariat of Rotterdam Convention in Rome and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to implement the co-funding components of the activities and distribution of responsibilities of the tasks were completed.
- Mozambique and Uganda were identified as the recipient countries relevant technical assistance activities through a selection process undertaken by the Project Task Force. The countries were formally informed of the selection and initiated the establishment of proper linkages to facilitate efficient implementation of the activities.
- Selection process for an international consultant to develop required guidance material is concluded and the award of the contract is being processed.

### CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

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With allocated funds, providing adequate assistance to countries was limited. Therefore co-funding opportunities were identified and integrated the related activities to achieve the objectives of both programmes.

### OUTCOME SUMMARY

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Alternatives for all crop-pest complexes listed as specific exemptions for the use of endosulfan were assessed by the POPRC and reported its outcomes to the COP for its consideration.

### OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

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- Guidance material for identifying information related to endosulfan and screening chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan
  - Selection process for an international consultant to develop required guidance material for countries is concluded and the award of the contract is being processed;
  - The initial planning of the implementing strategy and terms of references for key activities were completed for the use guidance material to assist Parties in identifying information related to endosulfan and screening chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan. Activities were finalized with co-funding from the project on alternatives to newly listed POPs & new Annex III chemicals implemented with German funds.
  - Mozambique and Uganda were identified as the pilot countries through a rigorous selection process undertaken by the Project Task Force. The countries were formally informed of the selection and initiated the establishment of proper linkages to facilitate efficient implementation of the activities.
- Compilation of information related to high volume uses of endosulfan and on the use of chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan:
  - Initial collection and compilation of information for the assessment by POPRC was completed;
  - Following information on chemical and nonchemical alternatives to endosulfan were compiled and made available publically through the Convention website.
    - Report on the assessment of chemical alternatives to endosulfan (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/28);
    - Fact sheets on chemical alternatives to endosulfan (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/29);
    - Evaluation of non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/14/Rev.1);
    - Summary of information on chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan submitted by parties and observers (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/15)
  - Collection of information in technical assistance recipient countries was included in the activities undertaken for the two training workshops planned under the Output A above. Initial planning of the implementing strategy and terms of references for key activities were completed.

- Assessment of chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan:
  - An evaluation of nonchemical alternatives for the crop/pest complexes of endosulfan available under the Convention was conducted and technical paper was prepared to facilitate the assessment of alternatives to endosulfan by the POPRC (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/14/Rev.1). The report contained evaluation of over 350 nonchemical options reported by Parties and observers as alternatives to endosulfan. POPRC undertook its assessment on alternatives to endosulfan based on related reports including that on nonchemical alternatives and prepared a report on chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/11).

## RESOURCES AND BUDGET

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- 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.
- In order to ensure synergies among the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the technical assistance related activities were integrated with the relevant components of the project on endosulfan covering Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions implemented with German funds.
- Synchronizing the technical assistance activities with cropping seasons under different agro-ecological seasons is necessary especially in field demonstrations identified in related co-funding activities requiring possible minor adjustments in output delivery timing.
- Expenditures included consultant travel to POPRC 8, which was spent during the current reporting period for the evaluation of nonchemical alternatives to endosulfan and preparation of the report by the POPRC to COP 6.

## WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

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- Engage a consultant to prepare guidance documents for parties to compile information related to endosulfan and screening chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan considering the POPRC outcomes including formats for compilation of information used by SRC and SSC to determine their usefulness and applicability.
- Organize and convene two national/sub regional workshops to elaborate alternative strategies and disseminate information.
- Engage national consultants to facilitate collecting information related to uses of endosulfan and on the use of chemical and non-chemical alternatives through the planned national workshops and update the information available publicly through the Convention website.
- The activities will be undertaken in coordination and collaboration with respective components of a co-funding project on alternatives to newly listed POPs & new Annex III chemicals of the Joint Activities of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- The task team established will have the overall responsibility for the implementation with the lead by the technical assistance branch of the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

## VISIBILITY:

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See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

All reports, prepared so far, are published in the Convention website. During the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> meetings of the POPRC the information was extensively discussed by of experts, parties and observers present. The documents containing related information will be presented at the next Conference of the Parties scheduled in April 2013 for consideration. Outreach activities at country level are to be undertaken during the next reporting period.

## FINAL REMARKS:

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The Parties and observers provided an excellent support in submitting information on nonchemical alternatives to endosulfan. FAO provided the required scientific expertise and inputs in the evaluation of information. Collaboration with endosulfan related joint activities project provided co-funding components including useful additional activities on training and field demonstration for enhanced outcome.

## ANNEXES:

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Not applicable.

## Component 5: New POPs and candidate POPs programme

### SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

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An first phase of information collection on the elimination from the waste stream of brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs) and on risk reduction for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonic fluoride (PFOSF), in accordance with the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, has been completed. Guidance and information material to support parties in implementing the recommendations and reporting on their activities in that regard have been developed and disseminated through the website of the Convention. Several webinars and workshops have been organized to raise awareness among parties about available guidance material and activities under the Convention aimed at facilitating the elimination of BDEs and PFOS. Information collection, elaboration of additional guidance material and the development of tools for reporting by parties on progress made in eliminating BDEs and PFOS and for sharing such information are ongoing.

### CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

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Challenges faced in implementing activities include the lack of readiness to implement strategies for the management of these chemicals partly due to a persistent lack of awareness about BDEs and PFOS and the complexity of implementing such strategies, especially among parties and stakeholders from developing countries and economies in transition. This poses the risk that limited useful information is available in a timely manner on schemes and approaches for the management of BDEs and PFOS in such countries. To mitigate such risk, training and awareness raising activities are planned about addressing newly listed POPs, including BDEs and PFOS.

### OUTCOME SUMMARY

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- A technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open application has been commissioned. The information provided in the technical paper is useful for parties to phase-out the use and production of PFOS for the various specific exemptions and acceptable purposes, in accordance with part III of Annex B to the Convention and the recommendations on risk reduction for PFOS set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2. This technical paper also provided the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) with a basis to develop recommendations on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications as requested by decision SC-5/5 on the work programme on BDEs and PFOS.
- Questionnaires were developed to collect information on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications and on recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2. Guidance factsheets were also developed on the identification of BDEs and PFOS to support the collection of information. They were made available on the Convention website to assist parties and observers in filling out the questionnaires and also proved useful material for enhancing participants' awareness and participation in group exercises held during several workshops organized in 2012 to assist parties in addressing newly listed POPs. Information received from parties and observers on their experience in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 has been made available on the website of the Convention and compiled for presentation to COP6 as requested by decision SC-5/5 on the work programme on BDEs and PFOS.

### OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

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- A technical paper on the identification and assessment of alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications was commissioned and made available on the website of the Convention to support parties in phasing out PFOS. The information contained in the technical paper complements that contained in guidance documents developed by UNIDO and UNITAR on the identification and management of new POPs and provides parties with guidance when developing action plans to address PFOS. The technical paper was also used by POPRC as a basis to develop recommendations on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications that will be presented for consideration by COP6 in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/10.
- Information has been collected from parties and observers on their experience in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, on the elimination from the waste stream of BDEs and on risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. Collection of information is ongoing and all information collected, including on legal and institutional frameworks for the management and risk reduction of BDEs and PFOS, is disseminated through the website of the Convention. Information received by January 2013 has been compiled and will be presented to COP6 in document UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/7.
- Building on the activities above, formats were developed for collecting information to support the review and evaluation of the continued need for specific exemptions and/or acceptable purposes for BDEs and PFOS and the format for reporting by parties under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention was updated to allow reporting on progress made in eliminating BDEs and PFOS. A consultant has been hired to update the format and make it available electronically.

- Seven webinars and online training sessions, in English and Spanish, were organized by the Secretariat to increase parties' awareness about guidance material and activities related to BDEs and PFOS and enhance their capacity to report on progress made in eliminating these chemicals.

## RESOURCES AND BUDGET

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- 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.
- Resources have been mobilized for the following: development of guidance materials on the identification of BDEs and PFOS and on alternatives to PFOS in open applications; development and updating of electronic formats for information collection on progress made in eliminating BDEs and PFOS; delivery of webinars and online training sessions to increase parties' awareness about guidance material and activities related to BDEs and PFOS.

## WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

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Activities planned for the next reporting period include:

- Development of tools for collection and information sharing, including in the form of online databases and other electronic means, to facilitate the management of BDEs and PFOS; development of additional guidance materials on the management of new POPs;
- A feasibility study on implementing control schemes to address BDEs and PFOS;
- Dissemination of collected information and guidance material through training activities including webinars and workshops for updating of national implementation plans planned for 2013.

## VISIBILITY:

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The guidance materials developed and information collected under the project are disseminated to parties and stakeholders through publication on the Convention website. They are shared with interested scientific and technical experts through the work of POPRC. They are also widely publicised during workshops on technical assistance and through webinars.

## FINAL REMARKS:

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- The provision of guidance and information material to support the implementation of strategies for elimination BDEs and PFOS have been warmly received by participants of workshops. Recurrent requests for such guidance by parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition attests to a continued need for awareness raising and capacity building towards the sound management and elimination of BDEs and PFOS.
- The development of the technical paper on alternatives to the use of PFOS in open applications has highlighted information gaps that can impede the transition to safer alternatives and the phase-out of PFOS. Recommendations by POPRC developed on the basis of the technical paper addresses the need to fill these information gaps and make information on alternative to PFOS publicly available.
- Information collected from parties and observers on their experience in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 are relevant to the environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes for BDEs and PFOS. To enhance synergies between the Stockholm and Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, information collected and guidance material developed under this project are transmitted to the intersessional working group mandated with the development of technical guidelines on the ESM of POPs by the Open-ended Working Group under the Basel Convention.

## ANNEXES:

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Not applicable.

## **Component 6: Support for participation of developing countries at COP-6**

### **SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS**

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The financial contribution towards travel of participants under the Stockholm 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:**

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No challenges were experienced.

### **OUTCOME SUMMARY**

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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 SC-5/2 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**

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#### **Activities planned to be carried out in 2013:**

Travel funding, including air tickets and daily subsistent allowance (DSA) will be provide 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**

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There was a considerable delay in transfer of funds (July 2012 instead of January 2012). Since COP-6 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-6 of the Stockholm Convention, received co-funding from Sweden and Switzerland.

### **WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:**

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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:**

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See: General Visibility Strategy contained in Section 1 above.

### **FINAL REMARKS:**

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To be concluded after the 2013 COPs-ExCOPs.

### **ANNEXES:**

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Not applicable.

**MEA Project Managers:** Jacqueline Alvarez (TAB, component 1), Katarina Magulova (SSB, component 2), Ana Priceputu (SSB, component 3), Gamini Manuweera (SSB, component 4), Mellissa Lim (SSB, component 5), Susanne Bengtsson (ASB, component 6)

**Signature (Executive Secretary):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (Resource Mobilization Focal Point):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Submission: 14/03/2013**

**Date of Re-submission: 05/04/2013**