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Item 5 (j) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference
of the Parties: effectiveness evaluation**

**Global Environment Facility-funded project, implemented by the United
Nations Environment Programme, on assessment of existing capacity and
capacity-building needs to analyse persistent organic pollutants in
developing countries****

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

The annex to the present note contains information on the Global Environment Facility-funded project, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme, on assessment of existing capacity and capacity-building needs to analyse persistent organic pollutants in developing countries. The information is submitted as provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

** Stockholm Convention, Article 16; Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the work of its seventh session (UNEP/POPS/INC.7/28), annex I, decision INC-7/12, Report of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/13.

Annex

GEF-funded project, implemented by UNEP Chemicals, on assessment of existing capacity and capacity-building needs to analyse POPs in developing countries

UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE, is executing the medium-sized GEF-funded Project “Assessment of Existing Capacity and Capacity Building Needs to Analyse POPs in Developing Countries” (for further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/laboratory/default.htm>). Besides the GEF, the governments of Canada, Germany, and Japan contribute financially to this project. This 2-year project addresses country needs for laboratory analysis of POPs, pursuant to the Stockholm Convention, and conditions necessary to conduct such analysis in a sustainable manner. The project focuses on the analysis of the 12 POPs listed in Annexes A, B, and C of the Stockholm Convention¹. The needs for POPs analysis under the Stockholm Convention mainly arise from three areas:

1. Effectiveness evaluation of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention (Article 16) as in the Global Monitoring on POPs guidance document (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/gmn/GuidanceGPM.pdf>);
2. Limit values for PCDD/PCDF (Article 5), for which the BAT/BEP Expert group suggested achievable levels in stack emissions (draft report UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/7 in the language version of interest at Meetings COP.1 on WebPage <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/> and document);
3. Provisional limit values for “low POP content” (Article 6) for POPs wastes (solid/liquid technical matrices and stack emissions) as established under the Basel Convention for the 12 POPs (for download, see <http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html> and follow language version).

The outcomes of this UNEP/GEF project include:

1. A databank of operational laboratories worldwide according to their capabilities to analyze classes of POPs in different matrices. The data will be stored in a searchable and accessible databank;
2. Recommended criteria for: (a) Sampling, identification, quantification of POPs (analytical data); (b) To operate POPs laboratories in a sustainable manner.

In 2004, UNEP Chemicals established a database of POPs laboratories as part of the Global Monitoring of POPs (GMP) and as an in-kind contribution to this GEF/UNEP project. This database is being amended and improved to serve this UNEP/GEF project's needs. A new questionnaire has been developed and is being sent to Stockholm Focal Points, NIP coordinators, and laboratories to be filled out and returned to UNEP Chemicals for inclusion into the databank. By 27 April 2006, 154 filled questionnaires from 64 countries have been received (see Table 1). Of these 89 laboratories are located in countries that are Party to the Stockholm Convention. From Table 1, it can also be seen that most laboratories analyze POPs pesticides whereas capacity to analyze PCDD/PCDF (dioxins and furans) is scarce especially in developing country regions.

Table 1: Summary of POPs laboratories, regional distribution, and expertise (Status: 27 April 2006)

Region	No of Countries	No of Parties	No of Labs	Pesticides	PCB	PCDD / PCDF	No of Party Labs	Pesticides	PCB	PCDD / PCDF
Africa	10	7	28	20	15	1	24	16	12	1
Asia	13	9	29	25	22	14	22	21	17	11
CEE	17	8	46	43	43	14	14	14	14	4
Europe	6	5	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	6
GRULAC	17	10	42	34	24	4	22	17	16	2
North America	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	64	39	154	130	113	41	89	75	66	24

¹ Paragraph 6(a) of document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/21

From Tables 2a and 2b it can be seen that presently, and based on this limited survey, GMP matrices are less frequently analyzed than other matrices such as water and soils/sediments.

Table 2a: Abundance of matrices analyzed (per laboratory; status: 27 April 2006)

Region	Stack Emission	Transformer Oil	Residues	Soil / Sediment	Effluents	Chemicals / Products	Vegetation	Feedstuff / Food	Water
Africa	0	10	12	19	14	11	16	15	19
Asia	16	10	12	26	19	14	18	21	25
CEE	16	26	25	41	23	15	18	25	44
Europe	5	3	4	5	5	4	7	8	7
GRULAC	6	14	16	28	21	9	17	16	29
North America	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Total	43	63	69	120	82	54	77	86	125

Table 2b: Abundance of GMP matrices analyzed (per laboratory; status: 27 April 2006)

Region	Ambient Air	Bivalves	Bird Eggs	Fish/Marine Mammals	Breast Milk	Blood
Africa	0	8	7	17	12	9
Asia	16	13	6	17	8	7
CEE	14	11	8	21	11	8
Europe	5	4	5	8	6	5
GRULAC	5	12	6	14	7	4
North America	1	1	1	1	0	0
Total	41	49	33	78	44	33

Additional activities undertaken during the first year of the project were as follows:

- Three regional workshops were held from September to December 2005; a total of 197 participants from 65 countries attended. All were organized by Basel Convention Regional Centers and the workshop reports can be consulted at the project's WebPage. Locations, dates, numbers of participants and participating countries are summarized as follows:
 - Montevideo, Uruguay, 5-9 September 2005, for Latin American countries, 70 participants from 23 countries;
 - Pretoria, South Africa, 4-6 October 2005, for African countries, 35 participants from 11 countries;
 - Beijing, People's Republic of China, 13-16 December 2005, for Asian and Central and Eastern European countries, 92 participants from 31 countries.
- Two background documents were prepared and published:
 - Past experiences with laboratory projects (quality and sustainability)
 - Role of international intercalibration studies as QA/QC tool.

During the second year (Jan-Dec 2006), the databank is being made publicly available and will be amended as new information is being received. A feasibility study will be performed with pilot laboratories to test the established criteria, to undertake training in POPs analysis, and to share samples for intercalibration studies and quality assurance/quality control. Pilot laboratories from China, Ecuador, Fiji, Kenya, Moldova, Tunisia, Uruguay, and Vietnam have been short-listed for the feasibility study. In cooperation with the respective governments, sustainability criteria are being evaluated as well.

Further information can be obtained from the project's WebPage
<http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/laboratory/default.htm>