

## **Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina**

### Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**  
**10094**

**Project Type**  
FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**  
GET

**Project Title**  
Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina

**Countries**  
Argentina,

**Agency(ies)**  
UNDP,

**Other Executing Partner(s):**

Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Chemicals and Waste

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Chemicals and Waste, Non Ferrous Metals Production, Sound Management of chemicals and waste, Pesticides, DDT - Other, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, New Persistent Organic Pollutants, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Industrial Waste, Open Burning, Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices, Waste Management, Plastics, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Information Dissemination, Communications, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Awareness Raising, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Learning, Climate Finance (Rio Markers), Climate Change Adaptation 0, Climate Change Mitigation 1, Hazardous Waste Management, Industrial Emissions, Disposal, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Strategic Communications, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, Field Visit, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Innovation, Mercury

**Duration**

72

In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

848,373

**Submission Date**

10/4/2018

## A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-1_P1	GET	7,930,250	30,500,000
CW-1_P2	GET	1,000,000	4,000,000
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>		<b>8,930,250</b>	<b>34,500,000</b>

## B. Indicative Project description summary

### Project Objective

To minimize the risk posed by POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals to human health and the environment and to promote compliance to the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in Argentina

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Institutional strengthening of government and other stakeholders, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination	Technical Assistance	A) Capacity of government institutions and other stakeholders strengthened, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination	A1) Legal and institutional framework for hazardous chemicals management, strengthened at national level.  A2) Coordination mechanisms with private sector for hazardous chemicals management established.  A3) Capacity for the monitoring and analysis of hazardous chemicals strengthened.	GET	1,020,000	2,700,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
			A4) Enforcement capacity of regulations related to the integrated management of POPs and hazardous substances strengthened.			
2. Improved management and disposal of POPs (excl. PCB), highly toxic chemicals and mercury	Technical Assistance	B) Updated inventories, planning and strategies for the improved management of POPs, Hg and contaminated sites in place  C) 370 MT of mercury containing waste, and 100 MT of pesticides (POPs & HHPs) disposed of.	B1) Hazardous chemical substances management strategy and PRTR mechanism designed.  B2) POPs/UPOPs and mercury inventories updated.  B3) Technical and economic feasibility study for potential substitutes of newly listed POPs and Industrial UPOPs developed.  B4) Action Plan on Mercury developed.  B5) Strategy for the identification of contaminated sites (POPs, Hg and other hazardous substances) developed.  C1) Two (2) Pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of the disposal of waste that contains or	GET	2,800,000	6,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
			<p>is contaminated with mercury implemented (20 MT of waste disposed).</p> <p>C2) Pilot project on the management and disposal of 350 MT of mercury from the large scale gold mining sector implemented.</p> <p>C3) Pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticide containers (POPs and non-POPs) implemented.</p> <p>C4) Pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticides (POPs and Highly Hazardous Pesticides - HPPs) implemented (100 MT of POPs pesticides and HPPs disposed of).</p>			
3. Environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs	Technical Assistance	D) Environmentally sound management of PCBs improved and disposal of 5,000 MT of PCBs achieved	<p>D1) National PCB inventory updated.</p> <p>D2) PCB disposal capabilities in Argentina assessed.</p> <p>D3) Feasibility study and financial</p>	GET	4,285,000	25,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
			<p>scheme for elimination of total national PCBs inventory developed.</p> <p>D4) National management and disposal strategy for PCBs (in light of 2025/2028 Stockholm Convention provisions) updated and improved.</p> <p>D5) 100 transformer maintenance workshops trained in good practices including monitoring of material mass balance.</p> <p>D6) Five thousand (5,000) MT of PCB containing materials coming from sensitive sites and from industry eliminated.</p>			
4. Raise awareness, ensure project monitoring and disseminate project results and experiences.	Technical Assistance	<p>F) Awareness raised on the Sound Management of Chemicals</p> <p>G) Project results monitored and</p>	<p>F1) Knowledge management system and communication platform established.</p> <p>F2) Lessons-learned, best practices and experiences collected and disseminated at national, regional and global level to support</p>	GET	400,000	370,000

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Project Outcomes</b>	<b>Project Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
		results sustained	replication.  G1) M&E and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) findings.			
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>8,505,000</b>	<b>34,070,000</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>				<b>GET</b>	<b>425,250</b>	<b>430,000</b>
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>					<b>8,930,250</b>	<b>34,500,000</b>

**For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B and indicate the list of PMC among the different trust funds here:**

### C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Private Sector	PCB possessors to eliminate 5,000 MT PCBs.	Grant	Investment mobilized	25,000,000
Private Sector	Mining Company (Hg Waste to eliminate 350 MT)	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,500,000
Others	Public Hospitals	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
Private Sector	Industrial and Agricultural Sector	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,400,000
Government	Government of Argentina	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,500,000
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>34,500,000</b>

#### Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Activities involve the PCBs, Hg and other Hazardous chemicals' that are aimed to be eliminated during the Project's implementation Period. Among the activities that have been identified there are namely: Export of Mining Waste (Mercury), Elimination of PCB contaminating materials, and Transformer dechlorination (PCB) among others.



## D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	7,084,150	672,994
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	1,846,100	175,379
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>					<b>8,930,250</b>	<b>848,373</b>

## E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	140,000	13,300
UNDP	GET	Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	60,000	5,700
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>200,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>

## Core Indicators at Project Identification Form (PIF)

**Indicator 9 Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)**

Expected at PIF (Metric Tons)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Metric Tons)	Achieved at MTR (Metric Tons)	Achieved at TE (Metric Tons)
5,470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed (metric tons/POPs type)**

POPs type	Expected at PIF (Metric Tons)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Metric Tons)	Achieved at MTR (Metric Tons)	Achieved at TE (Metric Tons)
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	5,000.00			
Aldrin	100.00			

**Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)**

Expected at PIF (Metric Tons)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Metric Tons)	Achieved at MTR (Metric Tons)	Achieved at TE (Metric Tons)
370.00			

**Indicator 9.3 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)**

Expected at PIF (Metric Tons)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Metric Tons)	Achieved at MTR (Metric Tons)	Achieved at TE (Metric Tons)

**Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste**

Expected at PIF (Number)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Number)	Achieved at MTR (Number)	Achieved at TE (Number)
1			

**Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities**

Expected at PIF (Number)	Expected at CEO Endorsement (Number)	Achieved at MTR (Number)	Achieved at TE (Number)

**Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment** ⓘ

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	4,400			
<b>Male</b>	3,600			
<b>Total</b>	8000	0	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### Briefly Describe

- a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;**
- b. The baseline scenario or any associated baseline Programs;**
- c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the Program;**
- d. alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies**
- e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing;**
- f. global environmental benefits (GEF TF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and**
- g. Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

a) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

1. Argentina adopted the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants through the National Law 26.011 in 2004 and ratified the Convention on January 25th, 2005, becoming a Party to the Convention on April 25th of that same year. Argentina has ratified amendments including the 2011 amendment and is currently working on the ratification of the 2013, 2015 and 2017 amendments. Argentina developed its National Implementation Plan (NIP) in 2007 and published its NIP update in 2018. The improved management and disposal of PCBs was among the main priorities listed in the 2007 NIP. This triggered the development and implementation of a GEF financed project (UNDP 3744) to improve the management and elimination of PCBs in the country. The project started its implementation in 2010 and was completed in 2017 with successful results such as the elimination over 8,000 MT of PCB containing equipment and set the legal provincial basis for sound PCB management.

2. The 2007 NIP also identified other POPs priorities that have not yet been addressed. The 2007 NIP (and reiterated by the 2018 NIP update) states that a substantial stock of pesticides (POPs and non-POPs) in the order of few a hundred metric tonnes (MT) are still present in Argentina. The initial analysis in 2007 was undertaken through a written survey (only 3% of entities to whom a questionnaire was sent out responded which is common for this type of data gathering). Since the survey only a small quantity of

pesticides has been reported as destroyed. As such the 2018 NIP update reported almost the same obsolete pesticide figures as the 2007 NIP. The pesticides thought to be still present in the country are dieldrin and other obsolete pesticides, organochlorated and organophosphated, DDT, Thiophosphate de 0,0-dimetil-0 and 0-4-nitro-m-tolilo. There is a need to further improved the POPs pesticide inventory in Argentina.

3. The 2007 NIP also identified other specific actions and recommendations, including the gradual reduction of PCDD/F emissions, a continuous destruction of PCBs, capacity building of analytical laboratories (including equipment and implementation of the PRTR, focussing on POPs). Most of these priorities have not yet been addressed and provides the reasoning for this proposal. The main advances so far with respect of the Stockholm Convention obligations have been achieved on PCB management and destruction.

4. The 2018 NIP update indicated that the country does not dispose of a systematic mechanism to assess and regulate the emissions (including UPOPs) for industrial processes. The NIP action plan also highlights the need to implement activities that ensure the collection of information and the phase out of equipment with PBDEs in the transport sector. The NIP update also listed as priorities the gradual reduction in UPOPs emissions (PBDD/Fs); capacity building of laboratories (particularly for PCDD/F analysis); and a reduction in UPOPs release from recycling activities.

#### -Institutional and legal framework-

5. The Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS), was created in 2015. Its Chemicals Directorate was created in March 2018 with the objective to promote the sound management of chemicals in accordance with the national Laws and Argentina's international commitments under chemicals-related MEAs. This has helped to put the chemical agenda in Argentina in a more prominent position. Argentina is a federal state; its natural resources and protection fall under the jurisdiction of the provinces according to the Constitution. SAyDS sets the minimum standards for environmental protection and each local (provincial) authority has the responsibility to regulate and implement these requirements in their own territory. The Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA) is the mechanism that coordinates the environmental policy between the Federal and Provincial governments.

6. Minimum standards (Laws) for environmental protection are issued by the federal government. In turn provincial and local authorities issue their own rules and laws (based on these minimum requirements/standards) and subsequently enforce their compliance.

7. These minimum standards (Laws) for environmental protection include the General Law on the Environment N° 25.675 (2002), the Law on Integral Management of Household Waste N° 25.916 (2004) as well as a new Phytosanitary Law for pesticides (Law 27.279 and Decree 134-2018) which introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for used pesticide containers N° 27.279 (2016), "Management of Empty Containers of Phytosanitary Products (Management plans have to presented by registered producers that need

to be approved by provincial and national authorities; used containers have to be returned after "triple washing" or "pressure washing" and containers are either recycled or disposed. A key component is a Unified Traceability System, which will allow continuous monitoring of containers in all their life cycle stages).

8. Furthermore, these minimum standards (Laws) for environmental protection include the Law on the Management and Elimination of PCBs N° 25.670 (2002). "Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection for the Management and Elimination of PCBs in the national territory", of which the purpose is: a) Audit operations associated with PCB management and disposal; b) Decontamination or elimination of PCBs containing equipment; c) Disposal of used PCBs; d) Ban on the import and export of PCBs; e) Ban on the production and trade of PCBs. In addition, there are laws on Hazardous Waste, the Law on Health Issues and the Law on Atmospheric Pollution.

9. Argentina has put in place regulations to prohibit the production, import, trade and use of the initial twelve POPs (PCBs, aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex and toxaphene). The ratification of the 2013, 2015 and 2017 Stockholm Convention amendments is still pending only after which Argentina can take start developing regulations to address new POPs.

10. The Waste Law and the Law on Hazardous Waste (24,051 (1991) and its reglementary decree N° 831 (1993)) in place are in the process of being replaced by a new standard "Minimum Standard for Hazardous Waste Management". The process is currently ongoing, and it is expected to be adopted soon. As a minimal requirement all provinces in Argentina will have to comply through their respective legal ordinances with this Minimum standard for Hazardous Waste Management, which is expected to be presented to Congress in late 2018. A presidential decree (2017) designates the SAyDS Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) as the Enforcement Entity for Hazardous Waste Management for the entire country. The entity's responsibility includes the oversight of all hazardous substances (not only waste) as well as the responsibility of monitoring waste operators/treatment facilities to ensure these have an environmental risk insurance, as well as waste generators that export hazardous waste for final destruction (in accordance with the Basel Convention). Those companies that act as export operators, and that handle the export of the waste must be registered as well. The list of companies registered under this Law and which currently hold an Environmental Certificate is public and available, and information about their location, operations and type of waste being treated can be accessed publicly as well. Companies include those that treat obsolete agrochemicals (particularly organophosphate compounds - Y37). At the moment, there does not yet exist a public registry for waste possessors, but some possessors have been registered for the disposal of obsolete agrochemicals and POPs. The total amount of waste processors in the country is therefore unclear as well as the total amount of waste being processed/treated.

11. The establishment of a regulatory framework for dioxins and furans is still lacking, but it is a priority of the government to advance on this as it is considered important for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention Provisions in the country.

12. A draft law is currently under consultation that would appoint SAYDS as the Designated Authority for four Multinational Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata, which will allow SAYDS to cover all POPs issues and will also allow for better law enforcement.

13. It has been observed that the enforcement capacities of SAYDS are very limited. For example, the number of inspectors is very low, and in some provinces almost completely absent. Furthermore, inspectors require training in the sound management of chemicals, to be able to assess technologies used for the disposal/elimination of POPs. Improved enforcement capacity would potentially allow the country to make better use of the existing operating disposal facilities in the country and minimize the need for hazardous waste export. This could reduce the long storage time for hazardous waste that is currently being observed. In the case of PCBs there exists an enforcement questionnaire / checklist for inspectors, however such a checklist is not available for other types of hazardous chemicals and wastes. In addition to that, there is currently no systematic assessment of chemicals in Argentina.

b) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

-PCBs-

14. The first development challenge to be addressed by this project is to phase-out, by 2025, all PCB-containing equipment and to dispose of PCBs in an environmentally sound manner by 2028, as per the Stockholm Convention. The conclusions and recommendations from the Terminal Evaluation of the GEF UNDP PCB project (3744) that was concluded in early 2018 were to i) Implement a strategy to eliminate PCBs nationwide; ii) Standardize regulations and enforcement in the 23 provinces and coordinate them through COFEMA; and iii) Reinforce surveillance and enforcement through a more effective strategy.

15. Based on the PCBs project's inventory, it is estimated that over 15,000 metric tons (MT) of pure PCB oils and PCBs-containing equipment still exist in the country, which means that an average rate of at least 1,500 MT of PCBs will need to be disposed of annually from now until 2028. Therefore, it is important to further strengthen and continue with the activities that were started under UNDP-GEF PCB Project, which would allow Argentina to comply with its obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

16. There are currently 10 companies in the country which are registered for PCB management. Four (4) of them use an alkaline metal dechlorination process, two (2) use chemical processes and one (1) incineration. Two (2) companies provide auxiliary operations and 1 company focuses on export. The average rate of destruction has been 626 Ton/year since 2003. Only two (2) of the companies have the capacity to offer retrofilling services.

17. For the management of other POPs (non-PCB), 61 enterprises are registered for waste management with the Chamber of Environmental Enterprises (Cámara Empresaria de Medio Ambiente), which may develop or increase additional capacities for hazardous waste processing. For e-waste treatment SAyDS has only a list of enterprises with authorization to process such waste, and the activities range from repair, recycling, valorisation and disassembly up to removal of hazardous components. However, there is no description of their capacities or processes.

- Other Chemicals: Industrial POPs, Agrochemical POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) -

18. According to the Stockholm Convention NIP update, industrial POPs amounted to 217 tons c-oOctaBDE, 24 tons hexaBDE and 94 tons of heptaBDE mainly contained in e-waste. In addition, 16.5 tons of c-pentaBDE is estimated to be contained in light cars and 2.4 tons in heavy vehicles.

19. There are at least 11 enterprises with a valid Annual Environmental Certificate (CAA) or in process of being approved for such a certificate within the framework of law 24,051. The companies have different types of authorizations ranging from pick-up, repair, recycling, recovery, dismantling to the separation of components (hazardous and non-hazardous waste).

20. Agriculture in Argentina ranges from extensive and technologically developed crops (like soybean, wheat and corn) to vegetable and fruit production in greenhouses and orchards which in general depend on low technology and manpower. Both are characterized by the intensive use of pesticides, mainly herbicides in the first case and fungicides and insecticides in the latter one (Barni et al., 2016). The aim of the government is to increase Argentina's agricultural output by 60% by 2020. Argentina has the potential to increase productivity, not only by converting up to four million more hectares of viable land into crop fields, but also by increasing the biotechnology area. This growth will likely come with a significant increase (60%) of pesticides. Currently, the Argentinian pesticide market is dominated by the demand of large agricultural producers. Herbicides (as glyphosate, 2,4-D, atrazine) accounted for 86.8% of total sales, while insecticides (as cypermethrin, chlorpyrifos or lambda-cyhalothrin) represented 6.2%, and fungicides (as epoxiconazole, tebuconazole or metoconazole) represented only 2.7% (PWC Argentina, 2014). Accordingly, SENASA/MINAGRO (association of pesticides producers) estimates that the annual generation of used pesticide containers is around 17 million, which would correspond to approximately 13,000 tons of used pesticide containers.

- Mercury -

21. Argentina has no management systems in place to handle and dispose of mercury containing waste and spent products in an environmentally sound manner. The country's storage and treatment capacity for mercury containing wastes is very limited. According to the National Inventory of Mercury Releases (see also next paragraph), in 2014 the country as a whole used 1,475,797 mercury containing medical thermometers, 59,736,353 mercury containing light sources and 4,865 metric tons of mercury containing



batteries. Spent mercury containing products like thermometers, light sources and batteries are discarded directly into solid urban waste streams in most of the provinces in the country. A compounding environmental issue is that approximately 32% of all urban solid wastes is disposed of on dump sites that lack any control. These dump sites are the main source of atmospheric emissions of mercury: 10,3 metric tons in 2014. These dump sites also account for 58% of the country total mercury emissions as a result of open waste burning.

22. The UNEP project “Mercury Storage and Disposal in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010)” indicated that 20 out of 23 provinces already prohibit the import of hazardous waste into their territory. An initial mercury source inventory for the chloralkali, energy, and health sectors was carried out and determined that only one out of the seven functioning chloralkali plants uses the mercury cell process.

-Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)-

23. The GEF funded Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project allowed Argentina to develop its Mercury Country Profile, which includes the "National Inventory of Mercury Releases in Argentina". During the development of the MIA, the institutional capacity of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Substances and Chemical Products to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was partially strengthened. The MIA identified the country's priorities and action plans to be implemented in the coming years. Improving of handling, collection, treatment and final disposal of mercury containing waste or mercury compounds is one of the main challenges and priorities that were identified in the MIA.

-Challenges related to the sound management of Chemicals-

24. The challenges that need to be addressed to minimize the risk of the unsound management of hazardous substances, can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of a systematic assessment of hazardous chemicals;
- Need for new legislation on industrial UPOPs and updating of the current general regulations regarding hazardous waste and mainly on chemical substances;
- Low enforcement capacity to control and monitor of the management of hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- Lack of in-depth knowledge on POPs inventories (old and new) and sound environmental processes to eliminate them;
- Lack of know-how and technology among existing SMEs that treat/manage industrial POPs on environmentally sound approaches to avoid the release of POPs and other harmful substances;
- Lack of innovative schemes of collaboration along the value chain actors, including owners (generators) of POPs, service providers for POPs treatment/management and Federal and Provincial governments.

25. The following concurrent initiatives are in progress, or were recently implemented, and are related to this proposal:

- The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (CRBAS) has been based in Argentina since 2005. It has provided technical support to projects for the environmental sound management of chemicals and waste mainly through training, information dissemination, awareness raising and technology transfer efforts.
- Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for the Environmental Management of Chemical Substances, (250,000 US\$) which is being implemented by UNDP and executed by the SAyDS. The program provides funding for institutional strengthening for the implementation of the Chemicals agenda in the country.
- The GEF funded Minamata Initial Assessment (200,000 US\$) implemented by UNDP and executed by SAyDS, is in the process of being concluded. The MIA focused on determining the state of the country regarding mercury uses and wastes and helped identify priority actions for the country to address.
- GEF funded regional programme for Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries (9,500,000 US\$). The allocation for Argentina in the project's budget is US \$13,206, with an estimated duration of 60 months.
- UNDP-GEF Environmentally Sound Management and disposal of PCBs in Argentina (3,400,000 US\$) that was approved in 2011 and successfully completed its implementation in 2018. The project was successfully put Argentina on track with its obligations on PCBs, and the activities listed in this PIF were identified during the Terminal Evaluation of the PCB project.
- UNDP-GEF Global Healthcare Waste Project (2008-2013). This project assisted Argentina with the development of sustainable healthcare waste management practices to protect public health and the global environment from the impacts of dioxin and mercury releases.
- UNEP-led project on Mercury Storage and Disposal in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010). Work was initiated to revise the country's legal framework for hazardous waste. The project also developed an initial mercury source inventory for the chlor-alkali, energy, and health sectors.
- UNEP-GEF NIP update for Argentina (2013-18). Update of the National Implementation Plan in Argentina to take into account the new POPs that have been included under the Stockholm Convention.

c) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

26. Meeting Argentina's obligations under chemicals-related MEAs will not only support the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances covered under these conventions but will also enhance the overall management of chemicals and work towards the use of safer alternatives.

27. The project will engage with the private sector, promoting innovation and mainstreaming gender are crosscutting issues that will be considered in all components. The Chemicals Directorate is also working on building strong cooperative relationships with countries with more mature experience in chemicals management.

### Components, Outcomes and Outputs:

The project consists of 4 components, 6 outcomes and 22 outputs, described as follows.

Component 1. 1. Institutional strengthening of government and other stakeholders, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination

Outcome A. Capacity of government institutions and other stakeholders strengthened, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and their elimination

28. Output A1) Legal and institutional framework for hazardous chemicals management, strengthened at national level.

The project will provide support to the activities of the Chemicals Directorate's (DQ), focusing on the further development of institutional capacity to enable the reduction of POPs release risks, in particular through the further strengthening of the regulatory framework for chemicals management which SAyDS is currently supporting (as described in Paragraph 6 of this section). Activities will include the preparation of norms and regulations to ensure compliance with international agreements as well as compliance with national objectives related to POPs management and their elimination. The aim is to have a legal and institutional framework that is in line with Stockholm Convention provisions and that will promote the sound management of chemicals in Argentina.

29. Output A2) Coordination mechanisms with private sector for hazardous chemicals management established.

Through this output the project aims to establish closer interaction and collaboration between stakeholders (government and private sector) who are involved in the management of hazardous wastes, with a particular focus on POPs. The establishment of a coordination mechanism will increase private sector investments in the hazardous waste management sector by establishing incentives for the private sector and by enhancing dialogue and collaboration between producers, importers and users of hazardous chemicals and waste and those who treat those types of wastes. The ultimate objective of the coordination mechanism will be to balance benefits for each of the stakeholders to ensure its sustainability. One of the main advantages expected from the establishment of the coordination mechanism is that it might bring economies of scale for POPs disposal costs, as compared to individually led treatment/disposal initiatives taken by waste.

30. Output A3) Capacity for the monitoring and analysis of hazardous chemicals strengthened.

The project aims to support the development of procedures and/or guidelines for the monitoring of chemicals and assess the monitoring capacities of existing laboratories for hazardous substances (POPs, Hg and other hazardous chemicals) in different matrices. Existing laboratory facilities (in government or public academic/research institutions) will be supported up to certification for selected POPs (potentially PCDD/F) analytical techniques. In addition, inter-laboratory tests will be facilitated to increase the

capacity of laboratories to monitor POPs in different matrixes. Monitoring capacities within governmental institutions at national or subnational levels will be supported with training and Technical Assistance. The National Environmental Laboratory Network (REDNALAB) established by SAyDS will also be strengthened through a training and certification process. An awareness-raising and training plan will be developed and implemented so that national authorities and civil servants working on chemicals and waste manage have the necessary knowledge to properly perform their tasks.

31. Output A4) Enforcement capacity of regulations related to the integrated management of POPs and hazardous substances strengthened.

Training to further improve inspection capacity will be provided, in order to build the necessary capacity to inspect chemical processes for the treatment/disposal and/or elimination of POPs and hazardous wastes. A Quality Management System will be developed and established within the enforcement unit, to minimize the impact of staff turnover. The project will support a Stockholm and Minamata compliance enforcement campaign within SAyDS, based on an inspection model which consists of five main actions: Promotion; Inspection; Law Application; Verification; and Communication) in three ways. Firstly, presentations by SAyDS will be publicized on obligations related to POPs ('Promotion'). This will be complemented by presentations that will be made at all possible relevant events on the existence of the new Laws and their implications. Secondly, the project will train a "task force" of young professionals who can support the second action: 'Inspection', under SAyDS' supervision and authority. The aim is to enhance PCB inspection activities throughout the country. Thirdly a permanent and well-designed communication strategy to support 'Communication', will allow an adequate follow-up with enterprises at which POPs were detected and publish their success stories.

Component 2. Improved management and disposal of POPs (excl. PCB), highly toxic chemicals and mercury

Outcome B. Updated inventories, planning and strategies for the improved management of POPs, Hg and contaminated sites in place

32. B1) Hazardous chemical substances management strategy and PRTR mechanism designed. A national hazardous chemicals substances management strategy will be designed based upon the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – SAICM. Initially, the strategy will include environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemicals safety of agricultural and industrial chemicals (including those in products) throughout all stages of their life-cycle, with a view to promote sustainable development. The strategy would include aspects related to: Measures to support risk reduction; Strengthening knowledge and information; Strengthening of institutions, law and policy; and Addressing illegal international traffic and improved general practices. The development of a national chemicals inventory and registry (PRTR) will also be supported as part of this project output, which will include the development of legislation necessary for the set-up of the inventory and registry as well as the information system to support all stakeholders involved in the lifecycle management of chemicals. Initially a national database will be set up as a basis for the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), which will include data on the releases or transfer of

chemicals between various media. The system will be designed in such a way to ensure that all legal, institutional, technical and administrative requirements and specifications for the national PRTR system are adequately addressed. A prototype for the PRTR will be developed and tested, after which it will be transferred to SAyDS for its verification and ultimate implementation. Throughout the entire process, the necessary training will be provided by the project to those officers involved in the development and implementation of the system.

33. Output B2) POPs/UPOPs and mercury inventories updated.

A detailed inventory of remaining POPs will be developed, applying statistical methods. For PCBs, a comprehensive inventory system already exists and is operational. For POPs pesticides, further investigations will have to be made in areas where large amounts of pesticides are being applied. Details on the inventory's approach will be elaborated upon during the preparatory phase development (PPG). Additionally, a Mass-Flow-Balance will be undertaken based on analytical data, to determine where each of the POPs streams is directed to. An initial mercury inventory was developed during the MIA project. However, a more detailed inventory will be developed during the FSP.

34. Output B3) Technical and economic feasibility study for potential substitutes of newly listed POPs and Industrial UPOPs developed.

Newly listed POPs are being imported and are being used in several industries in the country. Technical assistance provided through the project to undertake feasibility studies for substitution and phase out of these chemicals will be designed and implemented in close coordination with authorities, technical institutions and enterprises.

In Argentina (2018 NIP) UPOPs are mostly released during metal processing operations, particularly when melting scrap metal. UPOPs releases result from the combustion of the plastics, paints, oils and grease that scrap metal regularly contains. To help reduce UPOPs releases, the project will undertake a feasibility study in partnership with interested enterprises, the ministry of industry and industry chamber of commerce to determine which processes/operations can be developed/adjusted to decrease UPOPs releases. The outcomes of the feasibility study will be able to inform stakeholders of the various options and their related costs.

35. Output B4) Action Plan on Mercury developed. The project aims to provide technical support for the Mercury Action Plan and for the implementation of some short-term relevant activities listed in the Argentina MIA, which include Evaluation, design and promotion of feasible alternatives for replacement of mercury-added products (such as thermometers, batteries and lamps). The controlling and reducing emissions of mercury in point sources (such as cement factories, coal power plants and coal industrial boilers, smelting and calcination processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals) will be assessed during the project implementation. The Implementation of measures to decrease the use of dental amalgams and improve its storage, use, collection, treatment and disposal will also be assessed during the project implementation. Finally, the impact on transition measures (such as

design of policies and programs to promote knowledge, development of best environmental practices and viable alternative technologies with focus on private sector and other stakeholder's involvement) and the design and assessment of economic instruments to encourage compliance of international commitments assumed will be evaluated.

36. Output B5) Strategy for the identification of contaminated sites (POPs, Hg and other hazardous substances) developed. Existing guidelines and procedures for the identification of contaminated sites will be further strengthened and improved, by providing specific guidelines for the identification of sites contaminated with POPs or mercury, and procedures for priority setting. This project output will also encompass the identification and sampling of potentially POPs contaminated sites by focusing on historical and current locations where POPs pesticides may have been manufactured, formulated, packaged, stored or distributed.

The project output will also focus on the identification of PCB contaminated sites through sampling and analysis. In total the project expects to identify at least 10 contaminated sites and prepare a treatment plan for each of these sites. At least one full risk assessment will be undertaken for 1 site.

Outcome C) 370 MT of mercury containing waste, and 100 MT of pesticides (POPs & HHPs) disposed of.

37. Output C1 C1) Two (2) Pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of the disposal of waste that contains or is contaminated with mercury implemented (20 MT of waste disposed). The Pilot Projects will focus on the waste from the last still operating chlor-alkali plant in the country. Since investments of this type and size of plant are in the order of tens of millions of US\$, the pilot project will focus on developing a detailed assessment of the plant and a feasibility study for its conversion to mercury-free cells. Other industrial/use sectors may be considered for one of the Pilot Projects.

38. Output C2) Pilot project on the management and disposal of 350 MT of mercury containing waste from the mining sector implemented. The pilot project will support an assessment and qualify the commercial cost options for the environmentally sound elimination/disposal of mercury. The pilot project aims to dispose of a total of 350 MT of mercury containing waste from the Mining Sector. Pilot project activities will include the development/adoption of technical guidelines that are consistent with international standards, and which can be replicated for other mercury and/or other hazardous chemicals disposal activities in Argentina.

39. Output C3) Pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticide containers (POPs and non-POPs) implemented. This pilot project will focus on improving the sound management of pesticide containers (storage, elimination and/or recycling), in particular on the potential recovery of materials through recycling. Results of pilot project will be used to identify the best technologies/practices that applied at national level in the future.

40. Output C4) Pilot project on the sound management and disposal of pesticides (POPs and Highly Hazardous Pesticides - HPPs) implemented (100 MT of POPs pesticides and HPPs disposed of). A pesticides pilot project will be developed based on the identification of obsolete quantities of POPs pesticides and Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) as part of Output (B1) activities. The pilot project will assess the most cost-effective and environmentally sound approaches to manage (store, transport) POPs and non-POPs pesticides within the existing national infrastructure. The pilot project aims to eliminate at least 100 tons of POPs/Non-POPs pesticides.

### Component 3. Environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs

Outcome D) Environmentally sound management of PCBs improved and disposal of 5,000 MT of PCBs achieved.

41. Output D1) National PCB inventory updated.

The national PCB inventory was developed during the UNDP-GEF PCB project in Argentina. Its main focus was on the three pilot provinces that were targeted in the project. The updated inventory will reach the national scale in a more structured way and will build on the previous experience by using the system established through the previous UNDP-GEF project.

42. Output D2) PCB disposal capabilities in Argentina assessed.

The project will assess the existing PCB disposal capabilities and facilities to assure that they comply with the national and international standards (e.g emission control). The assessment results will be taken into account by the project to support the upgrade/improvement of emission control systems and exhaust gases post-combustion conditions.

43. Output D3) Feasibility study and financial scheme for elimination of total national PCBs inventory developed.

Based on the assessment and qualification of the various options for PCB elimination undertaken as part of project output D2, a feasibility study for the elimination of all PCB stocks and PCB contaminated materials will be developed. The main result will be a short list of viable and likely competitive commercial options (incl. their associated costs), supported by technical specifications defining the required environmental performance and due diligence/safeguards requirements to be applied as well as the possible financial mechanisms to undertake the destruction/elimination of all PCBs in Argentina.

44. Output D4) National management and disposal strategy for PCBs (in light of 2025/2028 Stockholm Convention provisions) updated and improved. The existing strategy for PCB elimination will be updated and refined and an analysis will be made to determine the strategy the country will need to follow to comply with its 2025/2028 obligations for PCBs considering the current disposal capacity in the country. The implementation of the updated/improved strategy will be implemented with a common vision for the whole country. It is important to note the challenges and barriers that exist in different provinces of the country.

45. Output D5) 100 transformer maintenance workshops trained in good practices including monitoring of material mass balance. From among the existing workshops that provide PCB related electrical maintenance services in Argentina, the larger in size and better organized will be selected and the first to be trained and certified. The certified workshops will be the first group to support the coordinated implementation of the National updated/improved National Strategy. In parallel, a guideline for best practices in hazardous waste management in electrical workshops will be finalized and published. With the use of the guideline, the remaining electrical maintenance workshops will be certified.

46. Output D6) Five thousand (5,000) MT of PCB containing materials coming from sensitive sites and from industry eliminated. This Output is a direct follow up to the successful PCB project that concluded early 2018 where 8,000 MT of PCB contaminated/containing equipment was destroyed. This project output aims to eliminate an additional 5,000 metric tons of PCB contaminated materials from sensitive sites and/or industry at the lowest possible cost (see Output D4). This activity will include the assessment and qualification of cost effective commercial options for the environmentally sound destruction of PCBs consistent with international standards in coordination with project Output D3. The elimination of 5,000 MT of PCBs can only be achieved in close collaboration with private sector companies that will destroy a very large quantity of PCBs in accordance with national legislation. However, it requires strong encouragement and enforcement from the government and enforcement authorities. PCB holders will need to reach agreements and coordinate among themselves to consolidate PCB stocks to achieve economies of scale (see output D3). The larger share of the costs will be financed by the private sector (PCB possessors). There are at least 5 provinces where PCBs elimination has not yet been reported, these are: San Juan, Santiago del Estero, Tierra del Fuego, Jujuy and Misiones and no information is available about the status of these provinces. Therefore, the project needs to pay special attention to these provinces and promote the environmentally sound management and disposal of PCBs.

Component 4. Raise awareness, ensure project monitoring and disseminate project results and experiences.

Outcome F). Awareness raised on the Sound Management of Chemicals

47. Output F1) Knowledge management and communication system established.

A permanent dissemination and knowledge and information exchange (KIE) platform for project and pilot knowledge products will be established. It will make use of social media to disseminate materials and presentation among selected audiences including decision makers. The platform will produce a yearly compendium.

48. Output F2) Lessons-learned, best practices and experiences collected and disseminated at national, regional and global level to support replication. Best practices, project experiences and lessons learned obtained through adaptive management processes and



evaluations will be incorporated in knowledge management tools for its easy dissemination at national, regional and global level. Activities, results and lessons-learned will also be published in individual case study reports, which will help ensure access to this information by the wider stakeholder community to the experiences, failures and successes of the activities undertaken by the project.

Outcome G) Project results monitored and results sustained

49. G1) M&E and adaptive management applied in response to needs and Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) findings.

The project results as outlined in the project results framework will be monitored and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. The results of the evaluations will be reported in a public intermediate and final evaluation report. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy.

d) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

50. The proposed Project is aligned with the Following Focal Area objectives:

CW-1-1 Strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their waste through better control, and reduction and/or elimination (Components 1, 2 and 3)

CW-1-2 Strengthen the sound management of agricultural chemicals and their wastes, through better control, and reduction and/or elimination. (Component 1 and 2)

e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

51. It is important to not only consider environmental, but also technical, economic and political aspects in Argentina because of the particular economic and social conditions in the country. In order to address the sound management of POPs and mercury and their elimination, the country requires GEF support to advance with the sound management of chemicals in an integrated manner. The initiatives outlined in this PIF demonstrate that opportunities for the development and implementation of a cost-effective integrated strategy focusing on POPs and mercury elimination exist, which in addition to addressing POPs and mercury issues will also strengthen legal aspects and enforcement capacity for other toxic chemicals. The project will enhance baseline knowledge on the management of hazardous substances and their disposal and complement other internationally supported projects, as described in Section 6.

52. SAyDS and its Chemicals Directorate will support the enforcement of the new regulations that are in the process of being issued and/or already released/adopted. This support will be critical in addressing the sound management of the hazardous substances described in this proposal, as SAyDS is the entity assignment for waste enforcement. Additionally, the good results obtained in the first UNDP-GEF PCB project that eliminated a large quantity of PCBs (approximately 8,000 MT). The legal and policy framework for PCB management has already been established and the main focus on this proposal will focus on the assessment of PCB disposal capacity and the final disposal of 5,000 MT of PCBs. It will also put in place a plan for Argentina to comply with its 2025/2028 Stockholm convention obligations on PCBs.

53. The project's approach will require interest and collaboration (technically and financially) from the private sector, to achieve the projected results, outcomes and project targets. In particular, support from the holders of PCB contaminated equipment and materials, pesticides users and producers as well as mining companies and the chlor-alkali industry will be critical. The project will provide Technical Assistance to the sectors mentioned in the proposal. The project will subsidize the pilot projects identified in the proposal, but it is important to note that the main share of the cost will be borne by the private sector. The GEF proposal will add value in many ways, but two important things are important to note. The project will help assuring that disposal activities are done in accordance with international standards, and secondly, the project will play a coordination role among possessors of PCBs, other POPs, Mercury, etc. which will lead to lower disposal costs for the country through an improved coordination among all the stakeholders.

f) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

54. Global Environmental Benefits of the proposed project have been estimated at this stage and will be further defined during the PPG phase. The positive impacts of the project will include the following reductions:

- PCBs: Elimination of 5,000 tons of PCB-contaminated materials;
- Pesticides: 100 tons of POPs/ HHP pesticides will be eliminated;
- Mercury: 370 tons of mercury containing and/or contaminated waste materials will be eliminated.

55. Other economic and social benefits of the project:

- Improved economics in the country, through job creation in the waste treatment industry;
- A general increase in awareness about the environmental impacts of POPs and mercury.

g) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

56. The innovation of this project is based on the integrated approach for different waste materials containing POPs, mercury and other hazardous chemicals in various economic sectors. This will be the first time a coordinate effort will be conducted at this scale in

Argentina on hazardous waste management and disposal. It is expected to generate increased awareness among stakeholders about their obligations on POPs/UPOPs/Mercury management and will identify cost effective options for them.

57. Sustainability of the project beyond its completion will be mainly ensured by the strengthening of the capacity of already existing institutions, supported by policies and regulations that will be further improved and expanded upon with the project's support.

Sustainability will also be ensured by supporting key elements such as improved enforcement capacity and the establishment of a monitoring mechanism that will facilitate the information gathering on management and disposal activities in the country.

58. The potential for scale up is intrinsic to this project, since results obtained can be replicated in other countries in the region, while large potential also exists for replication in other regions in the world.

## **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

Argentina (38.4161° S, 63.6167° W)

## 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

Country:	Stakeholder	Engagement
Argentina		
Private Sector	Chamber of Environmental Enterprises ( <i>Cámara Empresaria Medio Ambiente</i> )	Interest in investments in hazardous waste treatment
Private Sector	Energy generation and distribution	Interest in investments in PCB Management.
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taller Ecologista (NGO)</li> <li>• RAPAL (NGO)</li> <li>• FARN (NGO)</li> <li>• Salud sin daño (NGO)</li> <li>• AAMMA (NGO)</li> <li>• Los Verdes (NGO)</li> <li>• Ecohouse (NGO)</li> <li>• National Ombudsman's office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemicals management</li> <li>• Agrochemicals management</li> <li>• Environmental Issues</li> <li>• Health issues</li> <li>• Health issues</li> <li>• Environmental Issues</li> <li>• Environmental education</li> <li>• Government</li> </ul>

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).**

A detailed Gender analysis that will include potential gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps and promote gender equality and women empowerment will be conducted during the PPG phase, as is standard in UNDP-GEF projects.

59. The project will work towards the effective and efficient governance of chemicals management involving all sectors of society, while striving for the equal participation of women in the management of chemicals. A gender assessment will be conducted during the PPG phase and will be implemented with the Project to increase the effectiveness of its outcomes. The gender assessment will include the collection of sex-disaggregated data and provide gender training for involved staff and project participants, authorities and other stakeholders in collaboration with organizations and institutions that have expertise on gender issues. This will be further developed during the PPG phase where attention will be paid to issues like female workers exposed to chemicals, children, pregnant and fertile populations and vulnerable groups and to develop strategies to address this matter in order to prevent the adverse effects of chemicals on their health.

60. Mainstreaming gender into the various project interventions will tackle the main problems regarding gender which includes the lack of data and the different types of occupational exposures and will ultimately lead to improved conditions for women and men and empower them to play an active role in the management of chemicals and wastes.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes**

**closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

**improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

**generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

**Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

## 4. Private sector engagement

**Will there be private sector engagement in the project?**

Yes

**Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.**

61. Involvement of the Private sector in the project will be two-fold. Firstly, most regulatory, enforcement and awareness raising activities supported by the project will be targeting the private sector in various economic sectors (energy generation and distribution, agriculture, mining, manufacturing (e.g. scrap metal smelting) waste management and treatment, etc.) as they either are the holders of chemicals and waste, own companies that produce/manufacture hazardous chemicals, use hazardous chemicals or are involved in their treatment.

62. Secondly, private sector service suppliers for the elimination and treatment of POPs and mercury, including export entities, will be much interested in the collaboration in the project. This is why Output (A2) is specifically dedicated to the establishment of such partnerships.

## 5. Risks

**Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Management of risk</b>
1. National priorities/authorities may change threatening the sustainability of the project's outcomes.	a) Establishment of formal cooperation and collaboration platforms such as the inter-ministerial roundtable.

	b) Design of policies and regulations that can increase the sustainability of project results.
2. Information not accessible, confidential, sensitive or non-existing.	a) Design of a new database that will suit all relevant stakeholders' needs.
3. Different authorities with different needs and obligations may not agree on the way forward.	a) If agreement cannot be reached on provincial level, decisions will be made at the federal level to define a feasible Action Plan for the entire country.
4. The authorities, civil servants and other stakeholders may lack the knowledge and skills necessary for the sound environmental management of chemicals.	a) An awareness-raising and training plan will be developed and implemented so that national authorities and civil servants working on chemicals and waste manage have the necessary knowledge to properly perform their tasks.
5. Regulations and legislation take a long time to get approved.	a) Develop policies and programmes that can help advance project intervention without the need for regulations to be in place.
6. PCB and POPs pesticides owners may not have the economic resources to pay for POPs elimination/disposal.	a) PCB and POPs pesticide owners will be made aware about their management disposal obligations according to national law. The project will coordinate among the possessor to obtain the lowest possible disposal cost through economies of scale. The project will co-finance disposal activities at sensible sites.
7. The private sector may not be interested in investing in new processes for POPs elimination.	a) The project will estimate POPs inventories to determine future market for disposal activities in Argentina, and the improved enforcement should lead to more demand for disposal capacity. This should encourage potential private sector to invest in upgrade of existing or installation of new disposal capacity.

## 6. Coordination

**Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

63. This Project will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) in accordance with UNDP's rules and regulation. The SAyDS will be the National Executing Agency and will be responsible for the implementation of the project in Argentina. UNDP will play the standard role as a GEF Implementation Agency and will provide clear implementation support to the Government of Argentina. The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordination will follow standard UNDP-GEF policies as standard practice in all UNDP projects that are being financed by the GEF. The National Project Director is a staff member of the SAyDS and s/he will have overall responsibility of the project implementation. The Project Coordinator will be hired with Project Funds and will oversee the day to day management of the project. He/She will report directly to the National Project Director. The National Project Director will at least annually report to the Project Steering Committee which is composed of the Government of Argentina and UNDP.

64. Paragraph 25 lists current and already completed projects that are complementary to this project. The most relevant initiatives will be the completed UNDP-GEF PCB project, UNDP-GEF MIA project and the UNEP-GEF NIP Update. There will also be close coordination with the regional UNIDO-GEF E-waste project (Argentina Component).

65. The Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for the Environmental Management of Chemical Substances (currently being implemented by UNDP and executed by SAyDS), will be used as a foundation for the proposed project. The Special Program has put in place new institutional arrangements at the Directorate for Chemicals and Waste Management related to human, technical and infrastructure resources that meet legal and technical commitments arising from existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The new Directorate will ensure the sustainability of newly established capacity, the new inter-sectoral coordination mechanism as well as actions supporting the implementation of the Chemicals Conventions.

66. The proposed project will establish inter sectorial mechanisms (Technical Advisory Committee) to promote cooperation and coordination between the main project stakeholders including the private sector, NGOs and regulatory authorities.

67. It should be noted that the GEF financed, SAyDS executed, UNDP implemented Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) enabling activity is almost at its final stages of its implementation. Its outcomes and lines of action will be considered during the Preparation Phase of this proposal.



68. The proposed project will also coordinate with the GEF financed, UNIDO implemented, regional programme for Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries, to inform WEEE related activities that will be supported by the proposed project.

69. The Directorate of Chemicals is also initiating an articulation system with Chemicals stakeholders who will provide the opportunity to periodically report and receive relevant input. The system includes the creation of the following working groups:

- Inter-ministerial Chemicals Working Group
- Technical Committee (with Academia)
- Civil Consultancy Committee (with NGOs)
- Private Sector Consultancy Committee (with industrial associations)

## **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

**Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions**

Yes

**If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc**

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs

70. This project has been developed based on the baseline information taken up in the recently update (2017) Stockholm National Implementation Plan and the 2018 Minamata Initial Assessment as aims to address priorities listed in the NIP and MIA. SAICM priorities have also been considered, as well as the ongoing process of revising SAICM objectives after 2020.

71. Other national, regional and global strategies such as the recently developed Agreement of the Principle 10 of the Rio declaration, the SDGs national implementation strategy and the OECD recommendations on chemicals and waste management, have also been considered.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

72. The project will have the opportunity to learn from ongoing initiatives including: the update of the National Implementation Plan, (revised in 2018); Stockholm Agreement Report, (to be finalized in 2018); Minamata Initial Assessment (expected to be published in 2018) and the Special Programme (which will come to an end in 2019).

73. The Project Component 4 “Raise awareness, ensure project monitoring and disseminate project results and experiences” is directly related to Knowledge Management. More specifically, outcome F) “Awareness raised on the Sound Management of Chemicals” will be achieved through the following two outputs: F1) Knowledge management system and communication platform established. F2) Lessons-learned, best practices and experiences collected and disseminated at national, regional and global level to support replication. The specific Knowledge Management Strategy will be developed during the PPG phase. In addition to that, it should be noted that UNDP annually organizes meetings for Government Officers and Project Coordinators of all the UNDP-GEF funded Chemicals and Waste Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. In these meetings, lessons learned, and best practices are shared among the countries and has created a coordination mechanism among all the projects in the region.

74. Several specific activities and outputs (especially outputs (A2), (A3), (B2) and (B4), as well as Output (D1)) will also contribute to the overall Knowledge Management strategy.

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Date</b>
Nazareno Castillo Marin	GEF OFP Argentina	Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable	9/27/2018

## **ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

## **ANNEX B: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet**

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table F to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

PCBs: Elimination of 5,000 Tons of PCBs contaminated materials;

Pesticides: Elimination of 100 Tons of POPs/ HHP pesticides

Mercury: Elimination of 370 Tons of mercury contaminated waste

UPOPs: Potential reduction of POPs to air emission from sound management of pesticides containers.

Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment will be determined during the PPG phase. This is a complex project covering several sectors and an in-depth analysis must be conducted to determine the precise # of beneficiaries

## **ANNEX C: Project Taxonomy Worksheet**

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part1 by ticking the most relevant keywords/topics//themes that best describes the project