Webinar Report

Making Data Work: Applying GMP and POPs Inventories for Evidence-Based Policy in NIPs

30 January 2026

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Introduction

Within the Stockholm Convention and global effort to phase out persistent organic pollutants (POPs), accurate data and robust inventories are essential for evidence-based policymaking. The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), under Component 4 (Knowledge Management and Information Sharing) of the GEF-funded, UNEP-led project (ID 10785) *Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*, organized a webinar to support how countries can better use data — particularly from the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) and national POPs inventories — to enhance NIP development and implementation and inform policy design.

As accurate, accessible and well-interpreted data underpin the development, review and updating of NIPs, the session highlighted how monitoring results and inventory findings can be used to inform policy design, implementation and long-term POPs management.

The webinar featured practical insights from experts at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, highlighting past and ongoing GMP efforts and opportunities to strengthen environmental governance through better data use. Country examples from Kenya and Uruguay further illustrated how POPs monitoring, data interpretation and inventories are applied in national contexts.

TIME (CET)	Description	Speaker
16:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Moderator: Janalezza Thuaud (GGKP, UNEP)
16:05	Leveraging POPs inventories data to enhance NIP development and implementation and inform policy design	Mihaela Paun (UNEP)
16:25	Data handling and interpretation for the monitoring of POPs under the Stockholm Convention	Haosong Jiao (UNEP)
16:45	Ongoing GMP efforts of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat	Kei Ohno Woodall (BRS Secretariat)
17:00	Country example: Kenya	Dr Vincent Madadi (University of Nairobi)
17:10	Country example: Uruguay	Silvana Martinez (Uruguay's Ministry of Environment)
17:20	Q&A session	All
17:30	Closing remarks	

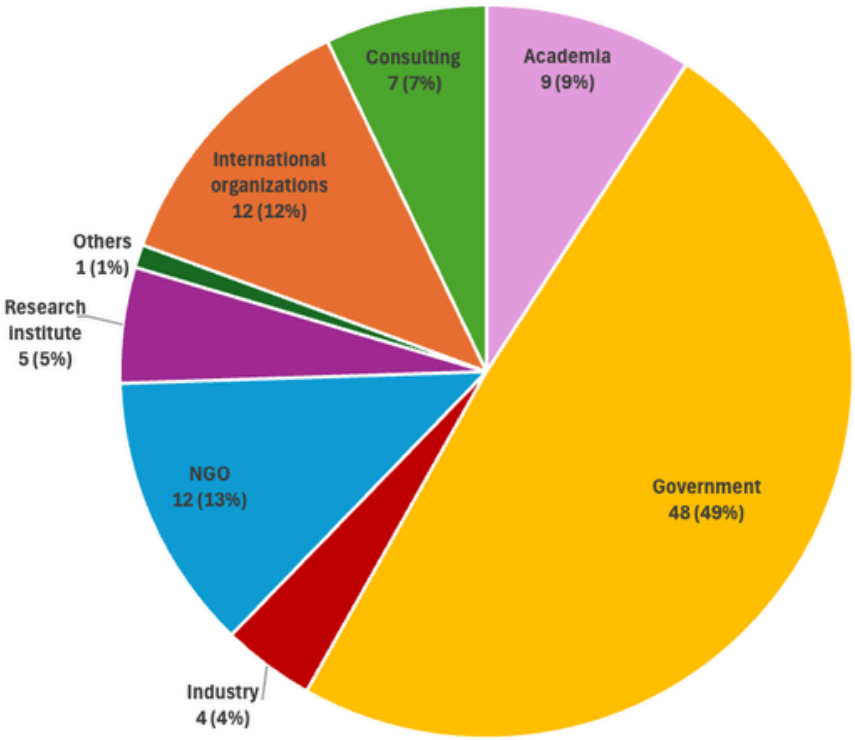
Registration and attendance

Number of registrants: 215 / total attendance: 98
(Approx. 56% female, 43% male, 1% prefer not to answer)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Mexico	11	Brazil	2	Chile	1
Nigeria	6	Morocco	2	Liberia	1
Uruguay	4	Cambodia	2	Mozambique	1
Dominican Republic	4	United States of America	2	Colombia	1
France	3	Armenia	1	Czech Republic	1
Peru	3	Botswana	1	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
Switzerland	3	Indonesia	1	Djibouti	1
Argentina	3	Japan	1	Dominica	1
Bahamas	3	Kenya	1	Jamaica	1
Cameroon	3	Madagascar	1	Republic of Korea	1
Bangladesh	3	Thailand	1	Kyrgyzstan	1
Ghana	2	Zambia	1	Mali	1
Portugal	2	Zimbabwe	1	Philippines	1
Senegal	2	North Macedonia	1	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
South Africa	2	Ethiopia	1	Slovenia	1
Uganda	2	China	1	Sudan	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1
		Germany	1	Tunisia	1

Participants by sector



Key highlights

The webinar convened experts to explore how POPs inventories and GMP data can inform national policies and actions. Supported by GEF/UNEP projects, GMP data are consolidated and made publicly accessible, helping bridge the gap between technical data and policy design. These data support countries in setting national priorities, evaluating the effectiveness of control measures and tracking progress under their NIPs.

Leveraging POPs inventories data to enhance NIP development and implementation and inform policy design

Mihaela Paun, Programme Management Officer, Agrifood and Health Unit, UNEP, emphasized that developing robust NIPs under the Stockholm Convention is anchored in reliable POPs inventory data covering production, use, emissions, stockpiles and contaminated sites. These inventories extend beyond mere chemical lists to structured national assessments of pesticides, industrial POPs, unintentional releases, waste streams and contaminated sites, providing policymakers with evidence-based baselines for prioritizing interventions and tracking elimination progress. She noted that their strategic role in fostering inter-sectoral coordination across environment, agriculture, industry, waste, health and customs authorities while ensuring NIPs remain actionable and aligned with newly listed chemicals.

Mihaela Paun underscored how POPs inventories drive practical NIP implementation by identifying priority sectors for Best Available Techniques/Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP), strengthening GEF funding proposals, and informing regulations that align with the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Conventions and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Despite challenges, such as fragmented data and limited laboratory capacity, she identified opportunities in data standardization, digital/geospatial tools, multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South cooperation to transform inventories into dynamic policy instruments, enabling sustainable and systemic solutions such as the circular economy and extended producer responsibility (EPR) under broader frameworks.

Data handling and interpretation for the monitoring of POPs under the Stockholm Convention

Haosong Jiao, Associate Programme Management Officer, Chemicals Science and Policy Unit, UNEP, highlighted that the GMP under the Stockholm Convention is designed to generate comparable global baseline data — mainly from background sites — to evaluate the effectiveness of measures. Because the GMP is built to provide global representative baseline information, translating these findings into country-specific policy decisions requires additional interpretation and support. Since 2004, UNEP has supported countries in making the data more meaningful and useful through successive GMP projects funded in part by the GEF, with guidance, protocols, interlaboratory assessments and surveys. Two major phases generated data from 42 countries on core matrices, informing the Convention Secretariat's evaluation reports. The most recent phase (2016–2024) covered air, human milk, water and matrices of national interest (such as food and sediment), while training 26 national laboratories.

Key highlights

The online GMP dashboard improved accessibility by allowing users to retrieve and visualize GMP data by country, region, year, matrix and POP type, enabling quick trend checks and comparisons. UNEP also developed guidance documents on data reporting and management and the self-paced e-course on data handling and interpretation to strengthen country capacity. She emphasized that interpretation requires context — looking beyond statistics to consider metadata, sampling conditions, seasonality and national activities — and that well-interpreted monitoring can support not only effectiveness evaluation, but also risk assessment and public awareness. She also introduced the new GEF-funded, UNEP-led Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme, which places stronger emphasis on data reporting, interpretation and use, supported by a comprehensive data platform, training and structured interpretation exercises to help countries translate monitoring results into policy action.

Ongoing GMP efforts of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat

Kei Ohno Woodall, Senior Programme Management Officer, BRS Secretariat/UNEP, explained how the Stockholm Convention Secretariat supports POPs monitoring through the GMP, which provides scientific evidence for evaluating Convention effectiveness and informing NIP updates. The Convention provides for a periodic effectiveness evaluation every six years drawing on three main inputs: national reports submitted under Article 15, GMP reports and compliance information. The GMP is implemented through Regional Organization Groups that produce regional reports and a Global Coordination Group that consolidates them into a global monitoring report. Currently, regional reports are being prepared for COP-13 in 2027, followed by a draft global report in 2028, feeding into the effectiveness evaluation at COP-14 in 2029. She also noted the UNEP-GEF Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (2026–2030), which supports POPs and mercury monitoring across five regions and strengthens laboratory and institutional capacity.

The GMP focuses on key media that allow trends and exposure to be tracked over time. Air monitoring is central for assessing global background levels and long-term trends. Human milk and serum help track exposure trends, while water monitoring is especially important for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) because of their hydrophilic nature. The GMP reports, the GMP Data Warehouse hosted by Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology (RECETOX) and the GMP dashboard make monitoring results publicly accessible. Kei Ohno Woodall underlined that integrated GMP data supports national priority setting, helping countries identify key POPs, trends and exposure pathways relevant to their context, with time-trend GMP data allowing countries to evaluate the effectiveness of control measures and assess progress under the NIP.

Key highlights

Country example: Kenya

Dr Vincent Madadi, Lecturer, University of Nairobi and GMP Coordination Group Co- Chair, explained how POPs monitoring can inform national policy, regulation and site remediation, drawing on Kenya's engagement in the GMP since 2008. Kenya has collected samples from core media — ambient air, mothers' milk and water — using GMP guidance and standard operating procedures, supported by sustained training and capacity-building and collaboration with expert groups such as RECETOX. Sampling at remote and urban background sites (Mount Kenya and Kabete near Nairobi) detected dioxins and furans, suggesting emissions within the country. It is likely linked to uncontrolled combustion, such as waste burning, and organochlorine pesticides that remain detectable despite bans, indicating the persistence of POPs and the need for long-term monitoring.

He also highlighted how Kenya has shared and applied GMP data through national workshops and reports to the Ministry of Environment and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Kenya's GMP findings have supported the development of national monitoring protocols and new regulations, hotspot identification, the rehabilitation of the Kitengela obsolete pesticide site using a strategy to reduce emissions and further research on phytoremediation and enhanced biodegradation.

Country example: Uruguay

Silvana Martínez, Director, Division of Circular Economy and Sustainability, Ministry of Environment, Uruguay, showed how GMP data and national POP inventory can contribute to stronger NIPs and long-term chemicals governance. In the context where agriculture dominates land use and pesticide policies matter, Uruguay began by reviewing available information from the GMP and national strategies on waste, circular economy and sustainable development, then compiled POPs inventory to identify priorities, gaps and where efforts needed to be reinforced. Those findings helped to prepare targeted action plans aligned with broader environmental policies.

She explained that GMP participation and inventories helped Uruguay assess the effectiveness of measures over time, while also building laboratory infrastructure, analytical skills and access to training and international networks. The process strengthened coordination across institutions and revealed the need for more consolidated information, leading to proposals such as a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and an environmental substances observatory. The results of the inventories have led to regulatory reforms, including extended producer responsibility for obsolete agrochemicals and electrical and electronic equipment, stronger controls and monitoring for dioxins and furans, updated water-quality regulations and new decrees for construction waste and contaminated materials. Uruguay's action plans look ahead to safer recycling of POP-containing plastics, cleaner technologies to reduce unintentional emissions, stronger monitoring networks, and better prevention of exposure from open burning and informal practices.

Resources

- **The concept note and video recording in English are available on the Global NIP Update platform:** https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/making-data-work-applying-gmp-and-pops-inventories-evidence-based-policy-nips

- **UNEP/GEF GMP projects**
  - Global Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs monitoring data dashboard): https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/chemicals-management/pollution-and-health/persistent-1
  - POPs GMP Reports: https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/pollution-and-health/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops/pops
  - Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP): https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11534

- **GMP Data Warehouse (GMP DWH):** https://www.pops-gmp.org

- **UNEP (2023). eCourse - Data Handling and Interpretation for the Monitoring of POPs under the Stockholm Convention:** https://www.unep.org/resources/e-learning/ecourse-data-handling-and-interpretation-monitoring-pops-under-stockholm

- **UNEP (2013). Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants:** https://toolkit.pops.int

Resources

- **Useful links**
  - From Data to Action: Strengthening NIPs
  - How the Stockholm Convention Secretariat Supports POPs Monitoring with the GMP
  - Kenya's Experience in Implementing the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs
  - Uruguay's Experience in GMP Contributing to Sustainable Environmental Policy
  - La experiencia de Uruguay con el GMP contribuye a la política ambiental sostenible

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the GGKP team.

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