Meeting Report

Kick-off Meeting: Introduction to the Global NIP Update II Project (GEF ID 11945 and 12123)

3 September 2026
Latin America and the Caribbean

global environment facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GGKP

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Introduction

The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the kick-off meetings for the GEF 11945 and GEF 12123 project *Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)* – hereafter the Global NIP Update II project. The sessions introduced country representatives to the project's core objectives, operational components and executing agencies.

Participants were introduced to key knowledge products and tools delivered under the first phase of the Global NIP Update project (GEF 10785), including the project knowledge-sharing platform and the NIP Update Community of Practice. Through interactive live surveys, participating countries shared their initial challenges and priorities to help guide future project planning and targeted technical assistance, while best practices and lessons learned from the previous phase were shared to support incoming countries.

TIME (CEST)	Description	Speaker
16:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Moderator: Hannes Mac Nulty (GGKP, UNEP) Opening remarks: Carla Valle-Klann (BRS Secretariat)
16:10	Overview of NIP Global projects (including links with GEF 10785 project)	Jitendra Sharma (UNEP) and Thandeka Mbatha (UNEP)
16:25	Introduction of regional centres and lessons learned from GEF 10785 project (Component 2: NIP development, review and update (Art. 7) in coordination with national reporting (Art. 15))	Natalia Maciel (BCCC-SCRC Uruguay
16:35	Lessons learned from GEF 10785 project	Amara Prevatt (BCRC-SCRC Caribbean)
16:45	Introduction to Component 3: Knowledge management and information sharing, Survey on country challenges and interests	Fabienne Pierre (GGKP, UNEP) and Soomin Bae (GGKP, UNEP)
17:25	Introduction to Component 1: Policy, institutional, technical support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation	Mihaela Paun (UNEP)
17:45	Questions and answers	All
17:55	Closing remarks	

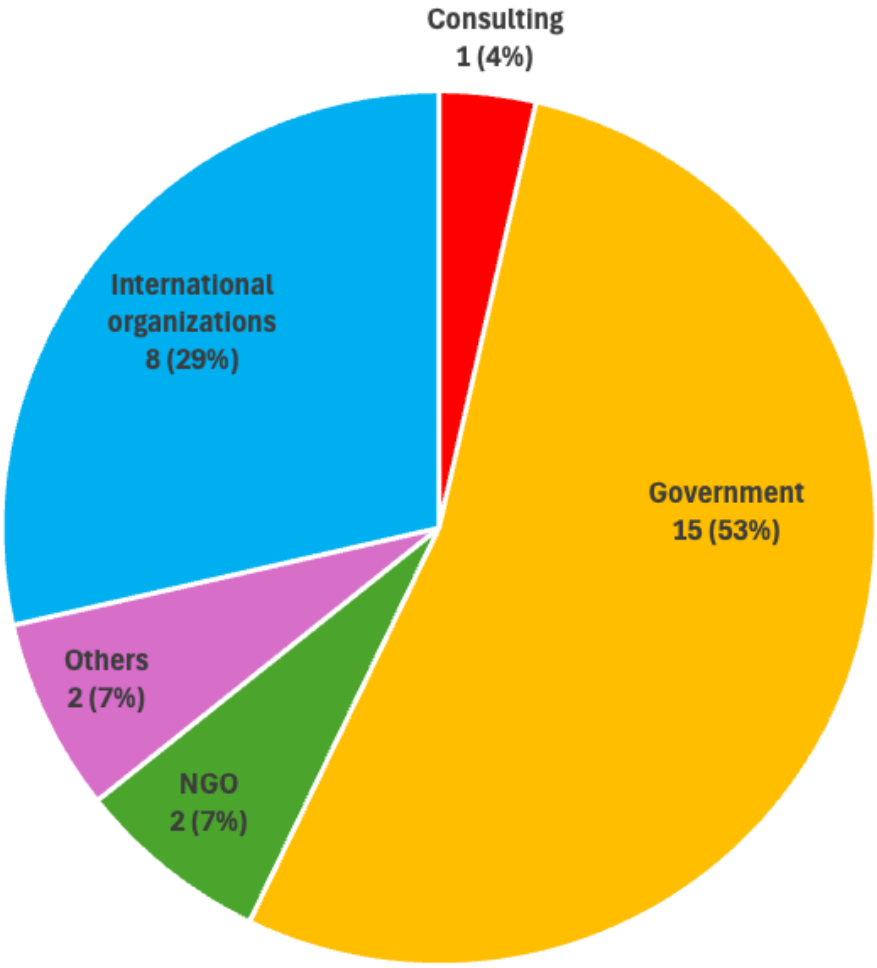
Registration and attendance

Number of registrants: 33 / Total attendance: 28
(Approx. 68% female and 32% male)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Paraguay	6	El Salvador	2
France	3	Panama	2
Switzerland	3	Czech Republic	1
Uruguay	3	Kenya	1
Honduras	3	Dominican Republic	1
Chile	2	Trinidad and Tobago	1

Participants by sector



Key highlights

The kick-off meeting introduced participating countries to the Global NIP Update II project, its objectives, components, executing agencies and implementation arrangements. The meeting presented the policy, institutional, technical and knowledge management support available to countries, drawing on lessons learned from the first Global NIP Update project (GEF 10785), particularly in relation to POPs inventories, data collection, stakeholder engagement, national coordination and resource mobilization.

The session opened with remarks from **Carla Valle-Klann**, Programme Management Officer at the BRS Secretariat. She highlighted that the main motivation behind the NIP development and update is to eliminate POPs, reduce pollution and look for alternatives. The NIP serves as a comprehensive instrument containing information about all obligations under the Stockholm Convention, with inventories to show the situation of POPs in each country. She urged participant countries to do this work for themselves first to better understand where they are, identify weak areas and bring opportunities for future projects. Ultimately, this national effort feeds into a global motivation, as the data from the NIPs and national reporting will be critical to assess whether the international community is moving in the right direction.

Overview of NIP Global projects (including links with GEF 10785 project)

Jitendra Sharma, Task Manager, GEF Chemicals and Green Chemistry Unit at UNEP, emphasized how countries can use their NIP and its data for future work and align their priorities for more resource mobilization. Highlighting that many chemicals are used in products, not as chemicals themselves, he noted the necessity of a sectoral approach such as textiles, electronics and vehicles rather than solely a chemical-by-chemical approach. He stressed that the NIP is the most important document for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), serving as the first official document they review in identifying the relevance of the project within the country. Because future projects must ensure that priorities are aligned with the NIPs, he urged countries to design their NIPs to ensure that the inventory information is as accurate as possible. By doing so, countries can design action plans that prioritize goals which will ultimately determine future resource mobilization through GEF and other donors.

Thandeka Mbatha, Task Manager, GEF Chemicals and Green Chemistry Unit at UNEP, explained that the development and updating of NIPs are mandatory obligations under the Stockholm Convention and provide the basis for Global NIP Update projects. As part of Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention, the NIP update requires Parties to develop a NIP describing how they will meet the Convention obligations, transmit it to the Conference of the Parties (COP), and review and update it periodically. To prioritize newly listed chemicals and update inventories, the Global NIP Update II project combines GEF 11945 and 12123 projects across three components, building on the current GEF 10785 project to utilize existing capacity. Executing agencies of each component are responsible for the day-to-day activities, working alongside the national government and a National Coordination Mechanism that steers the project.

Key highlights

Introduction of regional centres and lessons learned from GEF 10785 project (Component 2: NIP development, review and update (Art. 7) in coordination with national reporting (Art. 15))

Natalia Maciel, Project Manager at the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean Region in Uruguay (BCCC-SCRC Uruguay), presented the Centre's experience with the Global NIP Update I project. Key achievements included strengthening existing national coordination mechanisms, achieving the participation of key stakeholders, and connecting the NIP update process with other projects and initiatives. These synergies made it possible to optimize resources, organize joint meetings, share data and information and allow countries that were further ahead to share their challenges and experiences with countries that were beginning the process. The main challenges included incomplete or nonexistent databases, restricted access to information, dispersed information, mistrust and low response from the private sector, delays caused by dependence on information from other institutions, difficulty identifying products containing newly listed POPs, lack of customs tariff codes, difficulty obtaining private-sector data and changes in government personnel and technical teams.

Reflecting on the experience, Natalia Maciel emphasized that data do not appear by themselves and that it is necessary to plan from the beginning how, where and from whom information will be obtained. Key stakeholders must be involved from the first stages, synergies and information generated by other projects must be used, and the methodology must be adapted to the context of each country. She recommended defining deadlines for receiving forms, conducting surveys and interviews with key stakeholders, carrying out field visits, promoting spaces for discussion and communication, beginning POPs inventories as early as possible, requesting support from industrial chambers, defining responsibilities and focal points, using existing inventories and databases, and documenting and transferring knowledge. As an example, Bolivia included an information systems specialist to develop a specific Stockholm Convention module and database where the information from the NIP and inventories could be stored, maintained and updated for future updates.

Lessons learned from GEF 10785 project

Amara Prevatt, Project Coordinator at the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-SCRC Caribbean), outlined the Centre's role as the executing agency for Component 3 of the GEF 10785 project, focusing on updating the NIPs and submitting the national reporting for The Bahamas and Dominica. Working closely with local stakeholders, specialized consultants and legal experts, the Centre oversaw the day-to-day project execution, leading to the development of POPs inventory reports, action plans and legislative analyses. Despite challenges such as data collection delays, which extended beyond a year due to missing information and stakeholder fatigue from multiple concurrent projects, significant progress was achieved, including The Bahamas successfully submitting their national reports and both countries finalizing their updated NIPs for endorsement.

Reflecting on these experiences, Amara Prevatt shared key lessons learned to optimize future NIP updates. To overcome data collection hurdles, she highlighted the effectiveness of consultants conducting in-person meetings with local organizations to clarify survey requirements and gather information directly. Additionally, BCRC-SCRC Caribbean successfully mitigated stakeholder fatigue by coordinating efforts across different concurrent projects, allowing consulting teams to conduct joint stakeholder visits and share relevant data. Based on these insights, she recommended prioritizing one-on-one or group consultations for data collection, actively utilizing available guidance documents throughout the NIP update process, and carefully tracking the specific POPs outlined in the project documentation.

Introduction to Component 3: Knowledge management and information sharing

Fabienne Pierre, GGKP Coordinator at UNEP, outlined Component 3 of the Global NIP Update II project, which focuses on a comprehensive knowledge ecosystem designed to support countries in developing and updating their NIPs. Building on the resources and experiences gathered from the Global NIP Update I project, GGKP has structured a knowledge cycle that captures, documents and shares technical guidance, case studies, and e-learning courses across various channels such as the GGKP website and the Green Forum. By ensuring knowledge circulates effectively and capturing country experiences to create a continuous feedback loop, the objective is to provide tailored guidance and facilitate peer learning on NIP updates and POPs management across regions. To assist in navigating these resources, GGKP has also developed an onboarding NIP Knowledge Kit that points stakeholders toward relevant tools for each stage of the NIP process.

GGKP plans to enhance knowledge access and discoverability through an AI-powered search engine on the NIP platform, enabling semantic and federated searches within the NIP library and partner resources. GGKP is also developing an AI-driven, interactive NIP Support System where countries can confidentially self-assess their progress, generating targeted knowledge recommendations based on identified gaps. The NIP Community of Practice on the Green Forum will continue to serve as a vital space for knowledge exchange, complemented by regional communities. Fabienne Pierre emphasized that country engagement is at the core of this ecosystem, urging participants to share their experiences and help shape future activities to best meet their needs.

Key highlights

Introduction to Component 1: Policy, institutional, technical support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation

Mihaela Paun, Programme Management Officer at UNEP, emphasized that preparing a NIP requires robust methodologies, institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement, highlighting the need to build upon the existing substantial body of knowledge from ongoing Global NIP Update projects. The work plan of Component 1 is structured into three connected streams: strengthening methodologies and technical tools (including transitioning existing BRS Secretariat guidance into more user-friendly formats), building sustainable national capacity to manage and use POPs data effectively, and ensuring quality and validation of NIPs through technical support and final reviews by UNEP.

The execution strategy focuses on adaptation and problem-oriented training to ensure countries can practically apply the guidance in their specific contexts. Success under this component aims for technically sound, easily applicable tools and stronger, sustainable national capacity, empowering countries to manage POPs information, undertake reporting and maintain institutional mechanisms independently. The long-term objective is to move from project-based support toward a sustainable national system where countries retain the capacity to continually review and update their NIPs without needing to rebuild expertise every time a new chemical is listed.

Survey: National priorities and challenges

During the kick-off meeting, GGKP conducted a live survey with participants to lay the foundation for providing countries with tailored assistance and knowledge-sharing activities. The survey included questions about the countries' initial challenges and priorities, and their experience of navigating, accessing, and applying knowledge related to NIPs and POPs in national contexts.

Question 1

11 of 15 responded

Where are you from?

Latin America and the Caribbean	**11**	100%
Africa	0	0%
Asia	0	0%
Europe	0	0%
Others	0	0%

Question 2

11 of 15 responded

Which POPs issues are the biggest concerns in your country now?

Select up to two

New POPs (PFAS, flame retardants, etc.)	**7**	64%
POPs in products and articles	**6**	55%
Limited POPs data	**5**	45%
Unintentional POPs (dioxins/furans, etc.)	**1**	9%
Contaminated sites and stockpiles	**1**	9%
Legacy POPs (PCBs, old pesticides, etc.)	0	0%
POPs in waste and its disposal	0	0%

Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 3

10 of 15 responded

As you start your NIP update, which areas would you most need support on first?

Select up to two

Data collection and management	9	90%
Building POPs inventories	5	50%
Understanding the new POPs	2	20%
Private-sector engagement	1	10%
National reporting (Article 15)	1	10%
National coordination and governance	0	0%
Outreach and public awareness	0	0%

Question 4

8 of 15 responded

How do you find the guidance documents and knowledge on POPs and NIPs?

1=strongly disagree · 5=strongly agree

The knowledge is available in accessible languages and formats.

4.0 avg

The knowledge I need is easy to navigate and find.

3.5 avg

The knowledge is easy to apply to my country's context.

3.5 avg

Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 4-1

10 of 15 responded

If the knowledge was hard to navigate, what made it hard?

Knowledgeis dispersed across different platforms	8	80%
Not sure how to search for what I need	3	30%
Other	3	30%
The repositories are not well organized	1	10%
Not hard – easy to navigate	0	0%

Question 4-2

10 of 15 responded

If the knowledge was hard to access, what made it hard?

The documents are too long and heavy	7	70%
Lack of translation	7	70%
The documents are outdated	1	10%
Other	1	10%
Not hard – easy to access	0	0%

Question 4-3

8 of 15 responded

If the knowledge was hard to apply, what were the main reasons?

Select up to two

Not contextualized to national/local circumstances	7	88%
Too technically complex	4	50%
Requires expertise or capacity we don't have	3	38%
Other	0	0%
Not hard – easy to apply	0	0%

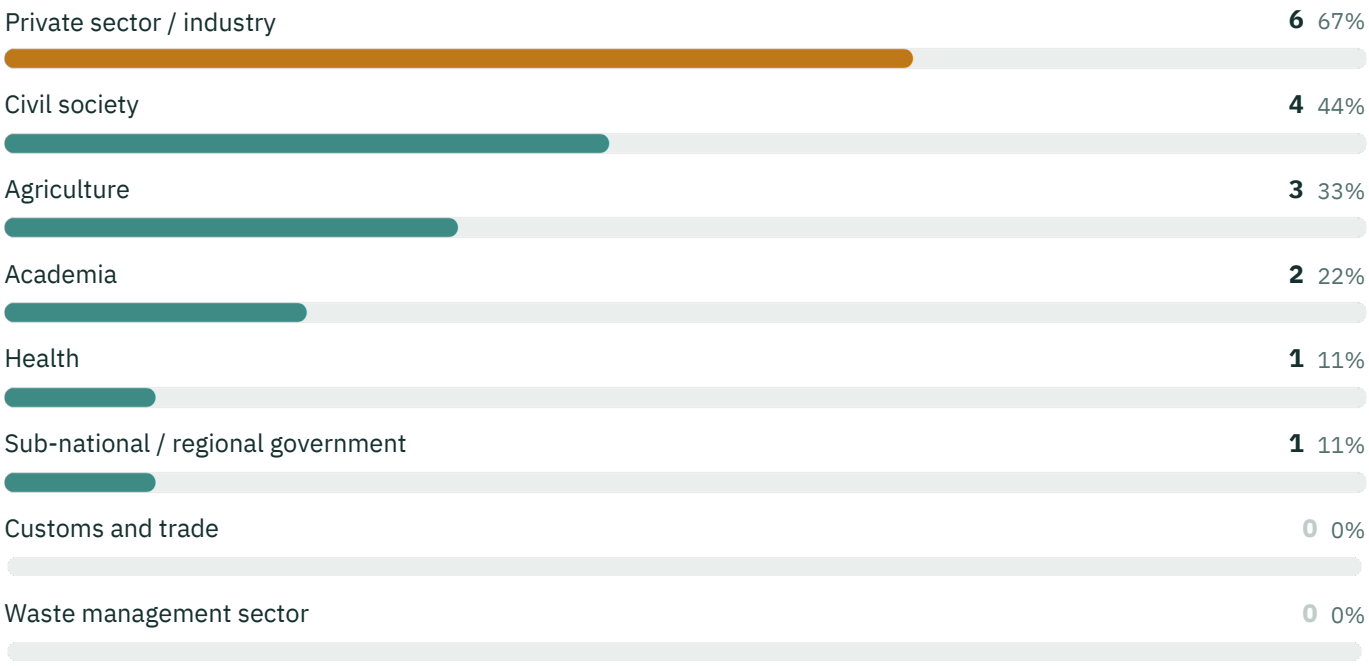
Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 5

9 of 15 responded

Which stakeholders are hardest to engage in the NIP process?

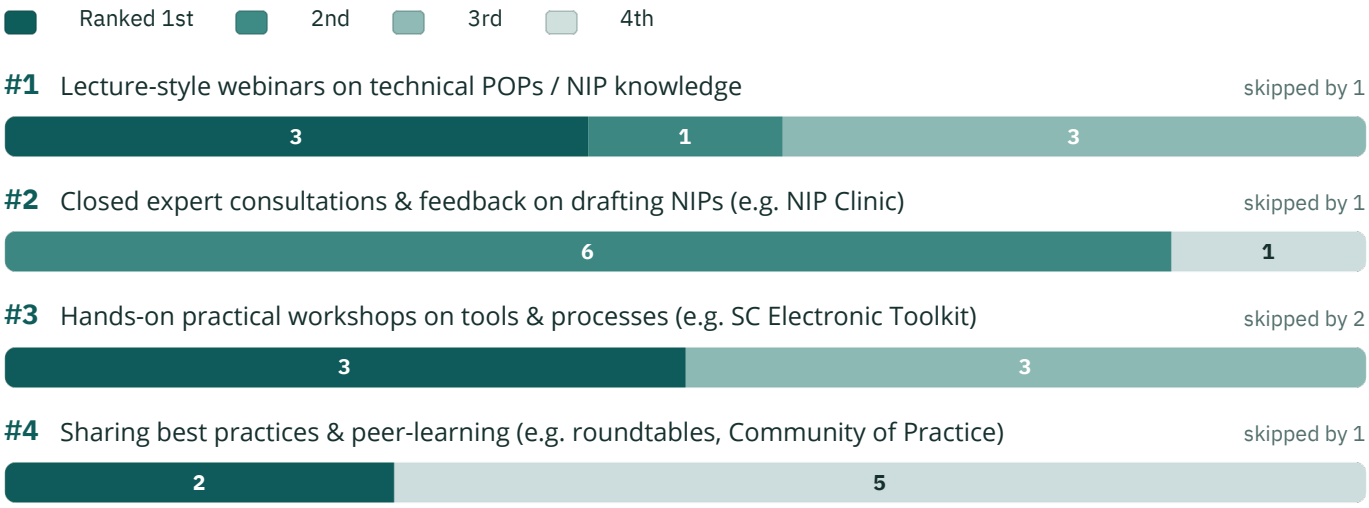
Select up to two



Question 6

8 of 15 responded

Which types of knowledge-sharing activities will be the most helpful in this project?



Bar length shows the share of that question's respondents who chose each option; multi-select questions can total more than 100%.

Resources

- **The video recordings in English and Spanish are available on the Global NIP Update platform:** https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/event/kick-meeting-latin-america-and-caribbean-introduction-global-nip-update-ii-project-gef-id

Spanish

- **Useful links**
  - Onboarding Knowledge Kit on National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention
  - Building NIPs on Existing Knowledge and Capacity: Lessons Learned from BCCC-SCRC Uruguay
  - Better Data, Better Coordination: Lessons from BCRC-SCRC Caribbean

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

Fabienne Pierre, fabienne.pierre@un.org
Soomin Bae, soomin.bae@un.org