Meeting Report

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

3 September 2026
Africa, Asia and Europe



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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 referred to as the Global NIP Update II project.

The meeting sessions introduced country representatives to the project's objectives, key components and executing agencies, as well as knowledge products and tools developed under the first phase of the Global NIP Update project (GEF 10785), including its knowledge-sharing platform and Community of Practice.

Through interactive surveys, participating countries identified key challenges and priorities to inform project planning and targeted technical assistance. Best practices and lessons learned from the first phase were also shared to support newly participating countries.

TIME (CEST)	Description	Speaker
10:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Moderator: Hannes Mac Nulty (GGKP, UNEP)
10:05	Overview of NIP Global projects (including links with GEF 10785 project)	Jitendra Sharma (UNEP) and Thandeka Mbatha (UNEP)
10:20	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))	Kateřina Šebková (RECETOX) Vincentius Mughongora (Africa Institute) Qiaoyun Zhang (BCRC-SCRC China) Ablaye Diao (BCRC-SCRC Senegal)
10:50	Introduction to Component 3: Knowledge management and information sharing, Survey on country challenges and interests	Fabienne Pierre (GGKP, UNEP) and Soomin Bae (GGKP, UNEP)
11:10	Introduction to Component 1: Policy, institutional, technical support and stakeholder involvement for NIP development, endorsement and future implementation	Mihaela Paun (UNEP)
11:45	Questions and answers	All
11:55	Closing remarks	

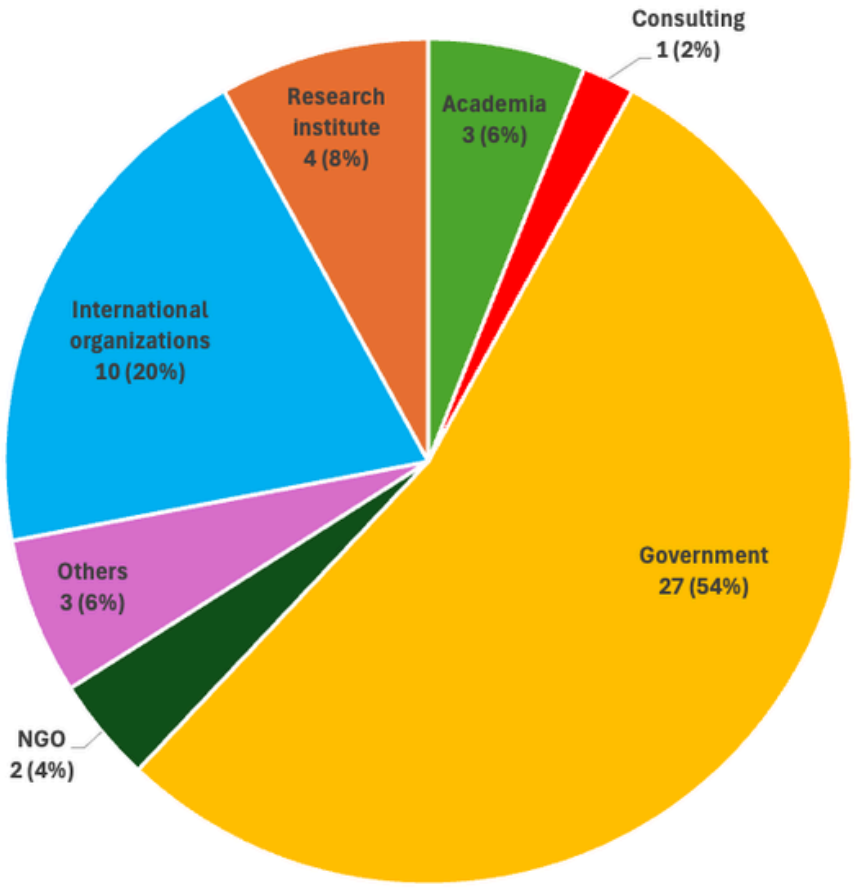
Registration and attendance

Number of registrants: 67 / Total attendance: 50
(Approx. 54% female, 44% male, 2% prefer not to)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
South Africa	5	Serbia	3	Namibia	2
Senegal	4	Ukraine	3	Ethiopia	1
China	4	France	2	Kenya	1
Benin	4	Ghana	2	Seychelles	1
Switzerland	3	Niger	2	Djibouti	1
Czech Republic	3	Mongolia	2	Montenegro	1
Morocco	3	Bangladesh	2	Pakistan	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.

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

Jitendra Sharma, Task Manager, GEF Chemicals and Green Chemistry Unit at UNEP, emphasized the importance of using NIPs and their underlying data to identify national priorities and mobilize future resources. Noting that many chemicals are often embedded in products, he advocated for a sectoral approach targeting industries such as textiles, electronics and vehicles, rather than depending solely on a chemical-by-chemical approach. He stressed that NIPs are the first official documents reviewed by the GEF when assessing a project's relevance to national priorities. He therefore urged countries to ensure accurate inventories and clearly defined priorities in their NIPs, providing a strong foundation for action plans and future funding from the 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 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.

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))

Kateřina Šebková, Director, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in the Czech Republic (SCRC Czechia) – hosted by the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX) at Masaryk University – outlined the Centre's work in research, education, science-to-policy support, chemicals monitoring, data management, analytical and laboratory capacity-building, risk assessment and technical assistance for NIP updates. Drawing on the Centre's role as executing agency for the first Global NIP Update project, she highlighted key challenges, including coordinating simultaneous NIP updates across seven countries, competing chemicals management priorities, time constraints and institutional changes.

Key highlights

Kateřina Šebková also stressed the benefits of a regional or subregional approach, regular online meetings with experts, practical templates, links with established national policies and prioritization exercises leading to a manageable number of action plans, while offering continued collaboration in POPs monitoring, data management, analytical and laboratory capacity, and risk assessment.

Danijela Šuković, Toxicologist, Department of Forensic Medicine, Clinical Center of Montenegro, shared experience from participating in the GEF 10785 project, highlighting how the training organized by RECETOX, inventory templates, guidance, GGKP webinars and exchanges with other countries had provided practical support to Montenegro, including its renewed participation in the Global Monitoring Plan and strengthened risk assessment capacity. She emphasized close cooperation with customs, the national statistical office and other relevant institutions holding the necessary data, noting that good-quality inventories depend on accessible and reliable quantitative data.

Vincentius Mughongora, Project Coordinator at the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in South Africa (BCRC-SCRC South Africa) hosted by Africa Institute, introduced the Centre's role as the executing agency, providing day-to-day project management and technical guidance throughout the NIP development and update process, from establishing national coordinating mechanisms and preparing POPs inventories to NIP validation, endorsement and submission.

He identified poor response rates and the variable quality of stakeholder questionnaires, staff turnover and changes in government institutions, limited country co-financing, and insufficient laboratory and analytical capacity for POPs as key challenges in executing the first Global NIP Update project. Experience from Zimbabwe also highlighted difficulties in addressing newly listed POPs, completing inventories and undertaking broader PCB sampling and testing.

Strong and active national coordinating mechanisms, dedicated NIP focal points, early stakeholder engagement and data collection, continuous communication, and regional technical support were emphasized to improve the momentum, consistency and quality of NIP updates. He recommended maintaining national coordinating mechanisms beyond individual projects, planning early for NIP implementation, strengthening training on POPs inventories and Stockholm Convention obligations and facilitating South-South exchange.

Qiaoyun Zhang, Project Officer at the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC-SCRC China), introduced the Centre and its work across the Asia-Pacific region. As an executing agency for Global NIP Update projects, it serves as a bridge between UNEP and project countries, providing training on toolkits and templates, managing project activities, monitoring country progress, reviewing POPs inventories and NIPs, resolving technical issues, coordinating experts, supervising finances and preparing regular reporting.

Key highlights

Drawing on the experience of executing the GEF 10785 project, Qiaoyun Zhang highlighted challenges in stakeholder engagement, cross-sectoral data collection, use of the Stockholm Convention Integrated Electronic Toolkit submission module, and knowledge dissemination. She cited Cambodia as a regional best practice, demonstrating strong government leadership and an active, dedicated focal point. To address challenges related to data management, dispersed island geographies and limited national expertise, she recommended strengthening national engagement, creating synergies with other projects and workshops, promoting peer-to-peer learning, and providing targeted training and fellowships.

Ablaye Diao, Director of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre for Francophone Africa in Senegal (BCRC-SCRC Senegal), emphasized that the regional platform allows countries to exchange and share their experiences in updating NIPs. Under the Global NIP Update projects, the Centre provides administrative and financial support and overall assistance throughout the NIP phases, from establishing national coordination mechanisms and preparing POPs inventories to defining priorities, formulating the NIP, obtaining endorsement and submitting NIPs to the Secretariat.

The main challenge that Global NIP Update I countries have experienced is the need for dynamic and effective involvement of national stakeholders. Project execution depends on national correspondents to carry out activities and provide regular reporting, while engagement and responsiveness at the national level directly influence progress. Monitoring and reporting are essential for reflecting advancements and enabling executing agencies to report properly on implementation. At the regional level, a platform for exchange is important to create momentum, facilitate support among countries, and allow them to learn from one another's experiences during project implementation.

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

Mihaela Paun, Programme Management Officer in 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 the 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.

Key highlights

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. Ultimately, the long-term objective is to move from project-based support towards 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.

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 towards 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.

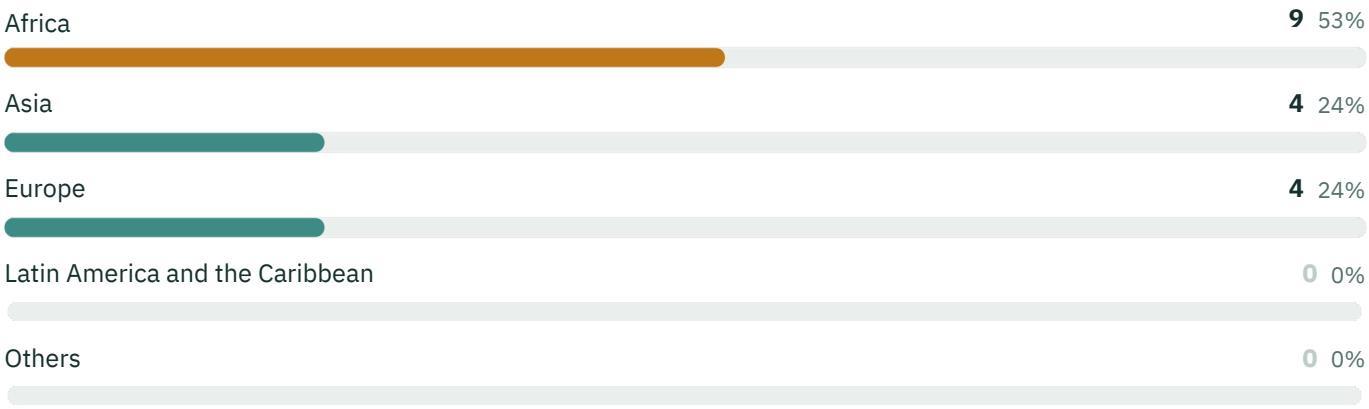
Survey: National priorities and challenges

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

17 of 21 responded

Where are you from?

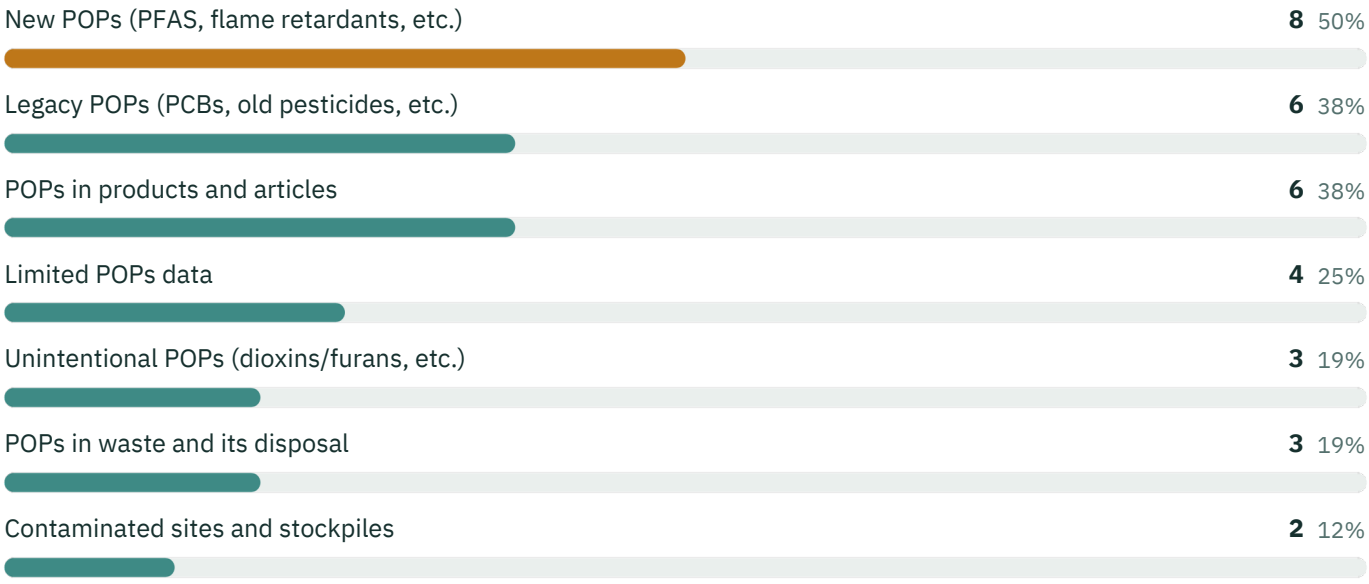


Question 2

16 of 21 responded

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

Select up to two



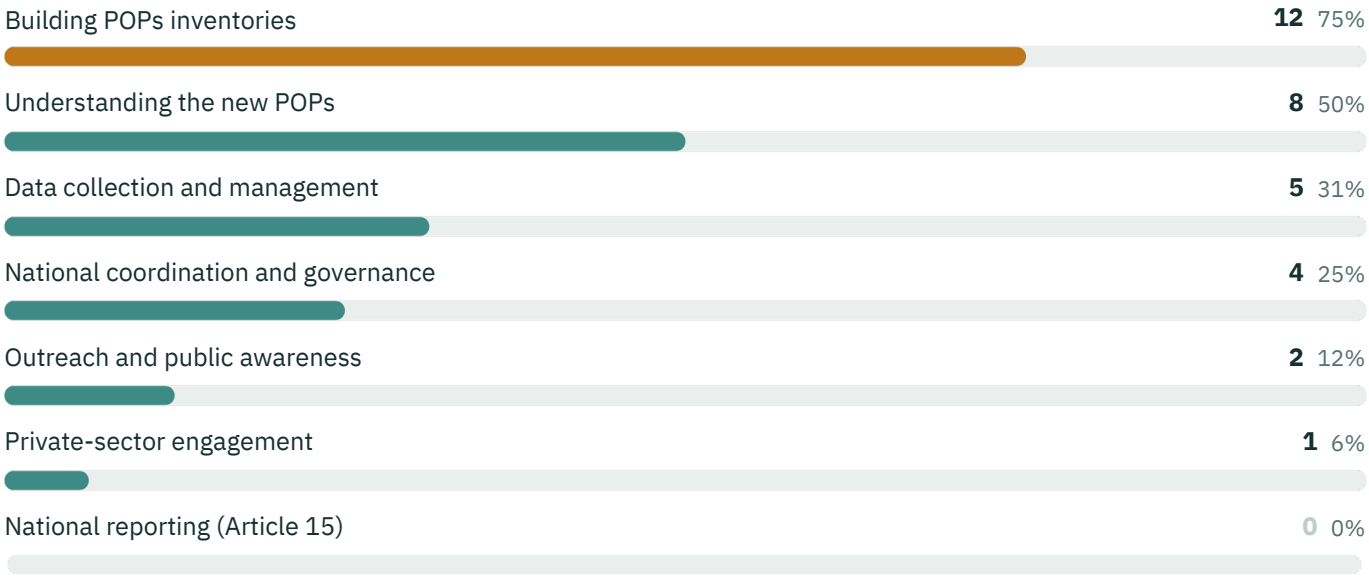
Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 3

16 of 21 responded

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

Select up to two



Question 4

17 of 21 responded

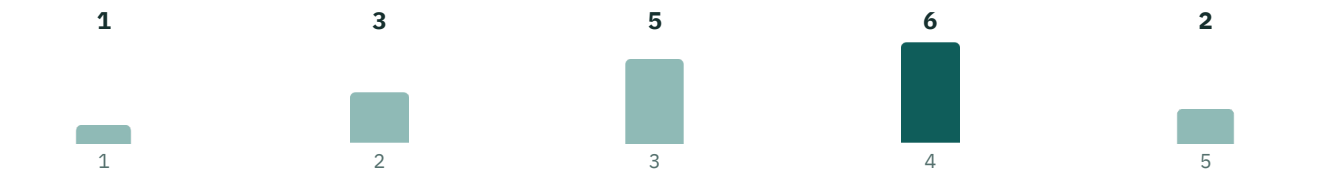
How do you find the guidance documents and knowledge on POPs and NIPs?

1=strongly disagree · 5=strongly agree

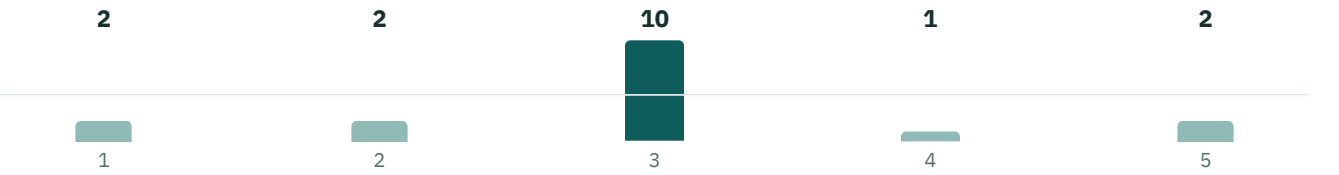
The knowledge is available in accessible languages and formats. **3.3** avg



The knowledge I need is easy to navigate and find. **3.3** avg



The knowledge is easy to apply to my country's context. **2.9** avg

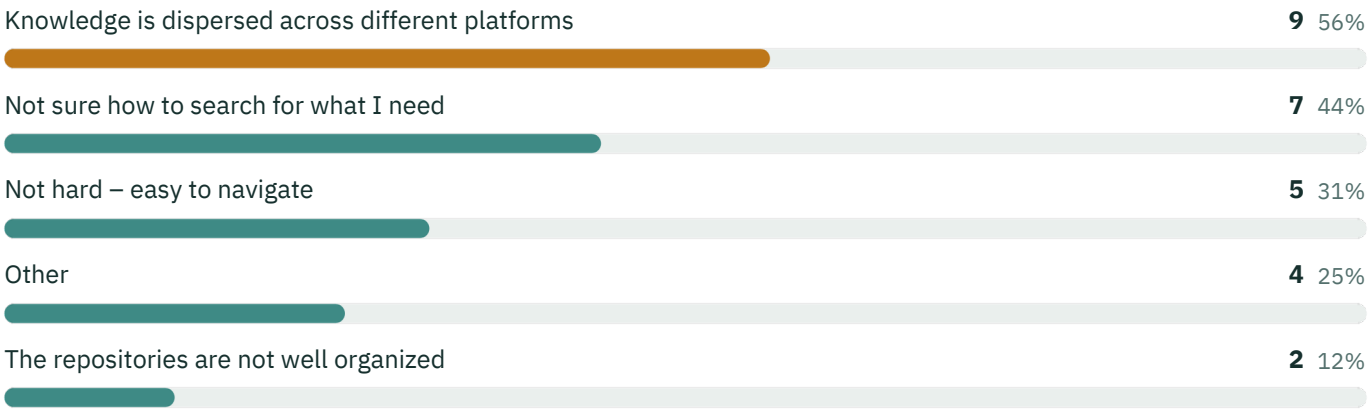


Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 4-1

16 of 21 responded

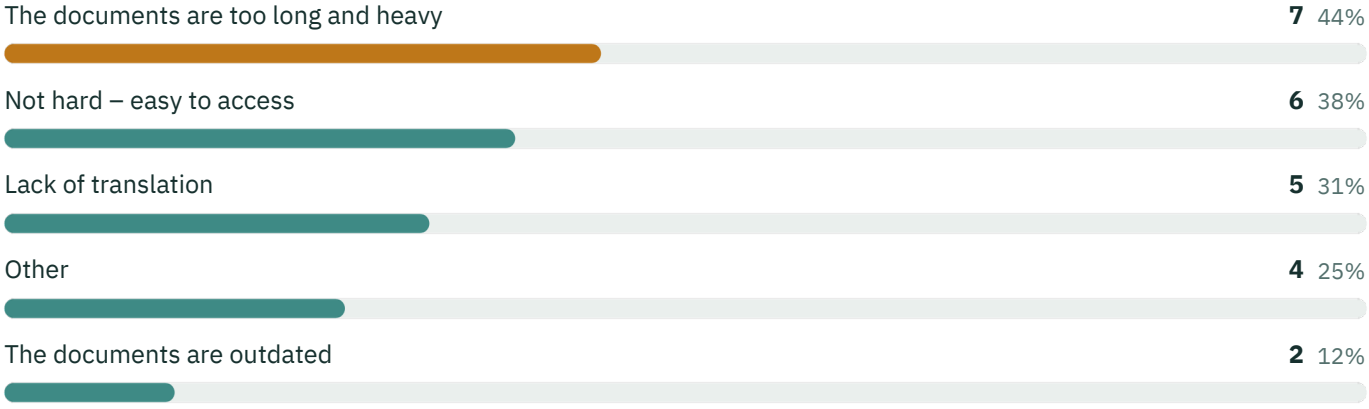
If the knowledge was hard to navigate, what made it hard?



Question 4-2

16 of 21 responded

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

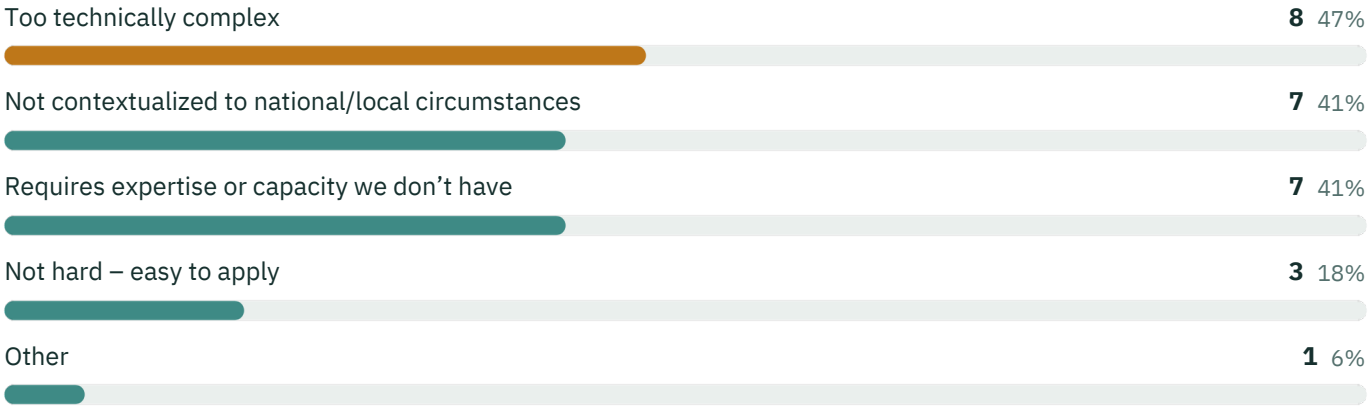


Question 4-3

17 of 21 responded

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

Select up to two

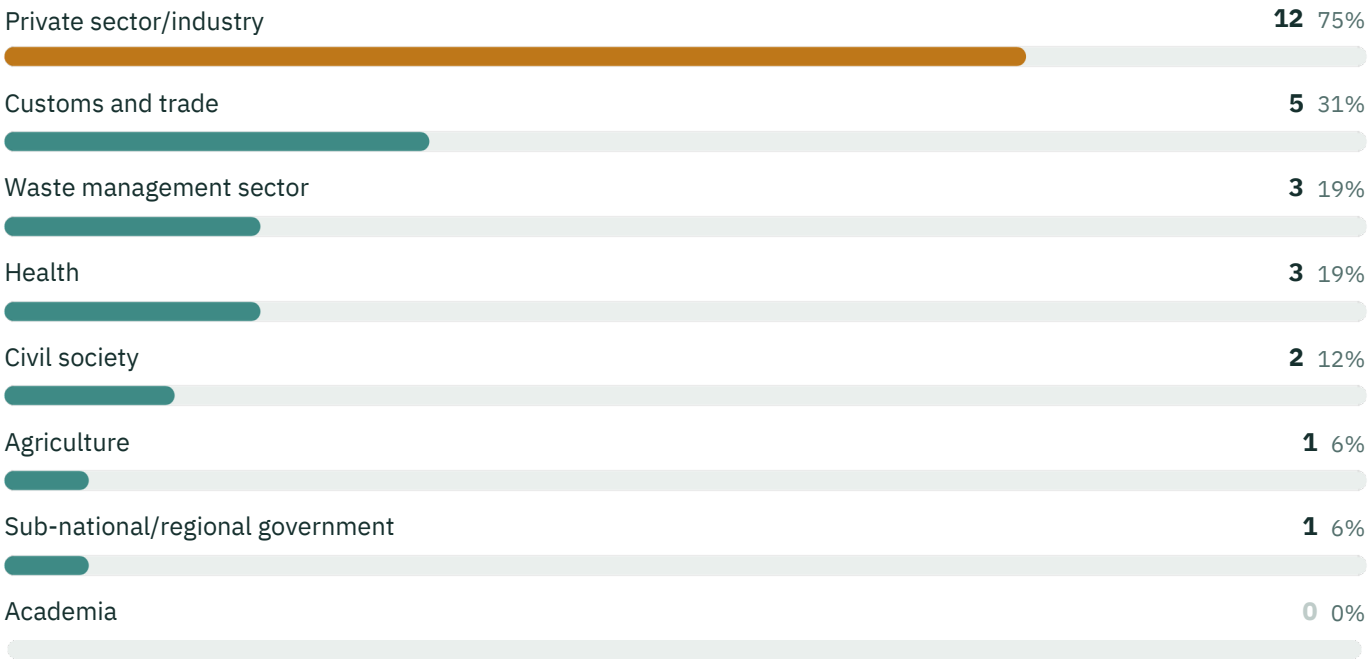


Survey: National priorities and challenges

Question 5 — 16 of 21 responded

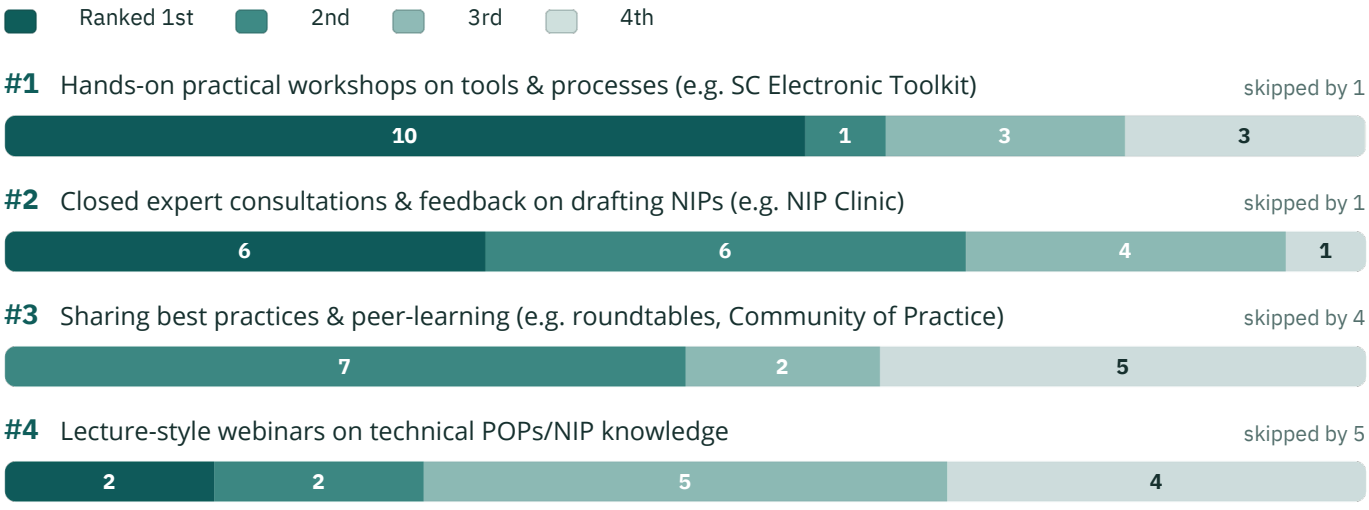
Which stakeholders are hardest to engage in the NIP process?

Select up to two



Question 6 — 18 of 21 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 French, and presentation materials are available on the Global NIP Update platform:** https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/event/kick-meeting-africa-asia-and-europe-introduction-global-nip-update-ii-project-gef-id-11945



French

- **Useful links**
  - Onboarding Knowledge Kit on National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention
  - Why National Ownership and Capacity Matter for Successful NIP Updates: Lessons Learned from BCRC-SCRC China
  - Coordination, Early Action and Regional Cooperation: Lessons Learned from the Africa Institute

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

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