

Workshop Report

Outreach and Engagement with Major Stakeholder Groups for Developing National Implementation Plans

13 August 2024 (Group 1,2)

16 August 2024 (Group 3)



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GGKP

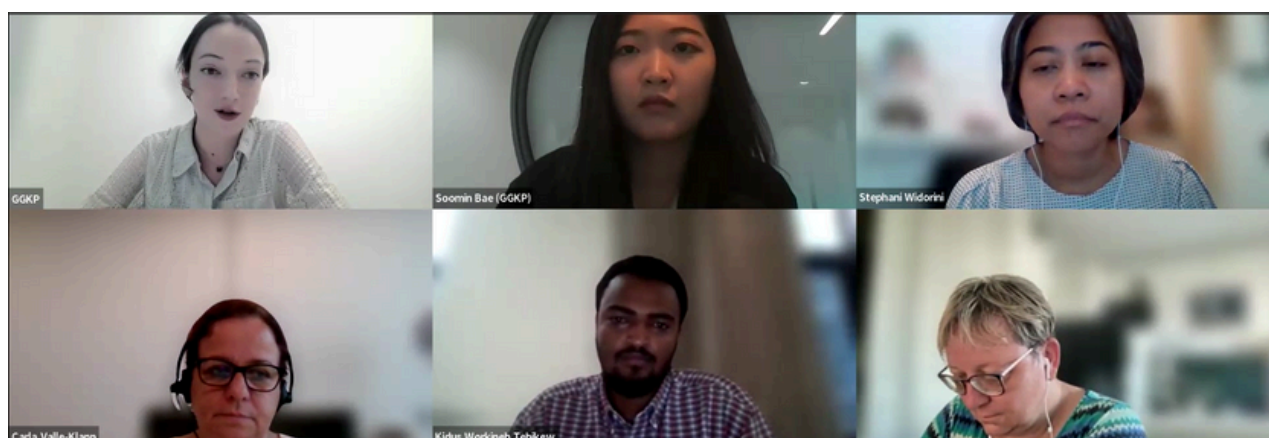
Introduction

This online consultation marked the first workshop in a series of capacity-building activities organized by the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) under Component 4 (Knowledge Management and Information Sharing) of the GEF project ID 10785, titled *Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*.

The structure of NIPs requires a detailed inventory of POPs, gathering comprehensive information on their production, use and presence within a country, including their lifecycle in products like buildings and consumer goods. This process demands effective outreach to and engagement with various stakeholders, particularly the private sector, to ensure comprehensive data collection and ongoing communication with government bodies.

The consultation facilitated dialogue with project countries, gathering country-specific insights on stakeholder mapping and engagement to support accurate data collection and NIP development. It also focused on baseline assessment, reviewing current outreach practices and identifying innovative approaches to enhance information dissemination while strengthening human capacities for better outreach and engagement. The event also served as a platform for experience exchange, enabling participants to share lessons learned, challenges faced, and good practices adopted by countries and regional agencies throughout the NIP update process.

Recognizing the need for practical tools and guidance, the consultation focused on equipping Parties with main directions for outreach and private sector engagement. It also highlighted the importance of knowledge-sharing mechanisms, tailored to regional and national contexts.



Agenda

This workshop was organized for all project countries and regional executing agencies in three groups at different times to accommodate participants across various regions.

Group 1: On 13 August 2024 (10:00-11:05 CEST), for Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Armenia, Georgia, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Uganda.

Group 2: On 13 August 2024 (16:00-17:05 CEST), for the Bahamas, Bolivia, Dominica, Peru and Uruguay.

Group 3: On 16 August 2024 (13:00-14:05 CEST), for Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The purpose, contents and agenda of all the above-listed interventions remain consistent for all three groups.

Welcome and opening remarks
Moderator: Anastasiya Buchok , Component 4, GGKP
Welcome remarks: Suman Sharma , Program Officer, BRS Secretariat Carla Valle-Klann , Programme Officer, BRS Secretariat
Introduction to the outreach and stakeholder engagement in NIPs update
Presenter: Stephani Widorini , Component 4, GGKP
1. Setting the background and context of conducting outreach and consultation with stakeholders
2. Understanding the engagement level of NIP development on national level. Challenges and lessons learned
3. Who are the stakeholders required in the process?
4. How will we achieve our core objectives in outreach and information dissemination?
5. Sharing good practices: Existing and previous experiences
Q&A session
Closing remarks

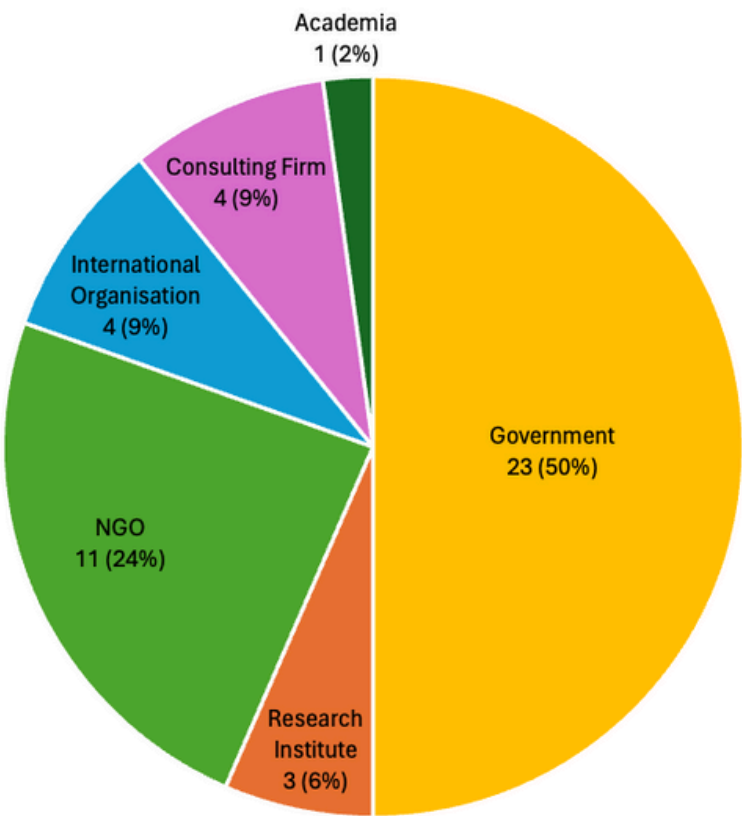
Registration and attendance (total for all the groups)

Number of registrants: 84 / Total attendance: 46
(Approx. 59% female and 41% male)

Participants by country

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Uruguay	7	Republic of Korea	2
Bahamas	7	South Africa	2
Georgia	4	Switzerland	2
Bolivia	4	Peru	2
Dominica	4	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Cambodia	2	Honduras	1
China	2	Kazakhstan	1
Czech Republic	2	Maldives	1
Ethiopia	2		

Participants by sector



Key Highlights

Group 1

The online consultation brought together representatives from various countries to share progress, challenges and strategies related to the update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention. Despite diverse national contexts, a common theme emerged: the importance of stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and cross-sectoral coordination to ensure effective NIP updates and further implementation.

In Ethiopia, the government has taken a structured approach by establishing a National Steering Committee and developing terms of reference (ToR) to define the roles and responsibilities of both the steering committee and technical teams. Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, Ethiopia is organizing technical training sessions and promoting experience sharing among stakeholders. While inventory activities are yet to begin, these preparatory steps are creating a solid foundation for effective project execution.

The Maldives is leveraging its National Coordination Mechanism to facilitate stakeholder engagement across ministries. Despite limited industrial activity and local expertise in POPs management, the Maldives is enhancing inter-ministerial coordination and seeking international partnerships to build technical capacity, ensuring that the country can effectively manage and monitor POPs.

As shared by the regional centre (RECETOX), in the Czech Republic, the focus has been on education and outreach. POPs-related topics have been integrated into the curricula of three major universities, while public awareness campaigns are being linked with community events to maximize their impact. However, the country faces challenges related to time constraints and the need to balance multiple projects simultaneously.

Kazakhstan is preparing to establish a Steering Committee for the NIP update, involving a broad range of stakeholders, including ministries, NGOs, scientific institutions and industry associations. The country's legal framework requires that project documents and normative acts undergo approval from relevant associations, ensuring broad-based buy-in and alignment with national priorities.

Cambodia has made significant progress by developing a National Steering Committee composed of representatives from industry, health, agriculture, NGOs and the private sector. The country has established regular communication channels, including online meetings and platforms like Telegram, to streamline the coordination of NIP update strategies.

Across all countries, the common challenges highlighted included limited resources and emphasized the need for capacity-building. At the same time, the collaborative approaches adopted — steering committees, multi-stakeholder engagement, educational initiatives and international partnerships — demonstrate a shared commitment to enhancing POPs management through such interventions.

Key Highlights

Group 2

The online consultation provided valuable insights from the Bahamas, Dominica, Peru and Uruguay, highlighting shared challenges and strategies for advancing National Implementation Plan (NIP) updates under the Stockholm Convention.

In the Bahamas, the heavy reliance on consultants has led to knowledge gaps within government agencies, raising concerns about the sustainability of NIP implementation. “Stakeholder fatigue” is also a significant challenge, as the same limited group of individuals is often engaged across multiple projects, resulting in burnout and decreased participation. The geographic complexity of the Bahamas as an archipelago, combined with the frequent turnover of government personnel, further complicates data collection and project continuity.

To address these challenges, the Bahamas emphasized the importance of using pre-made surveys and standardized tools to streamline data collection and reduce stakeholder burden. However, these tools are often project-specific and not shared across initiatives, leading to duplicated efforts. Greater collaboration and information-sharing among projects, including mapping ongoing initiatives, was recommended to optimize resources and avoid duplication. Strengthening government ownership was also identified as crucial to ensure that NIP updates are institutionalized rather than being solely consultant-driven. The integration of digital tools, such as ArcGIS-based data collection apps, was highlighted as an effective approach to improve efficiency and coordination across projects.

Dominica stressed the critical need for public education and awareness to support the NIP update process. A lack of understanding about POPs among stakeholders has led to limited and often ineffective participation, undermining the success of outreach efforts. To address this, public awareness campaigns were recommended before, during and after NIP activities to ensure informed contributions and greater stakeholder buy-in.

In addition to limited technical capacity, financial constraints, human resource shortages and frequent turnover of key government personnel continue to challenge the continuity and effectiveness of NIP implementation. To overcome these challenges, Dominica emphasized the need for sustained capacity-building, cross-sectoral coordination, and the development of robust institutional frameworks to support long-term POPs management and NIP implementation.

Peru highlighted the importance of multilingual information dissemination, emphasizing the need to allocate more resources for stakeholder engagement and improved communication strategies. Stakeholder fatigue and coordination challenges across sectors remain significant barriers, further complicated by insufficient involvement from key ministries, such as environment and health. Peru stressed that efficient information-sharing, technological solutions, and greater ministerial engagement are crucial for streamlining processes, enhancing participation, and ensuring successful NIP updates.

In Uruguay, communication gaps between sectors and the substance-focused approach to inventories have led to fragmented data collection and loss of critical information. To overcome these challenges, Uruguay emphasized the need for a more integrated, cross-sectoral approach that simplifies data exchange and stakeholder coordination. Targeted, in-depth analysis was also suggested to enhance stakeholder engagement and strengthen the overall NIP process.

Key Highlights

Group 3

The online consultation provided valuable insights from representatives from North Macedonia, Cameroon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and RECETOX (Czech Republic).

In North Macedonia, the focus was on public education and awareness, with an emphasis on early education in schools to build a foundation for stakeholder engagement. Clear, scientifically based communication was highlighted as crucial, ensuring the public is informed without creating panic. Traditional media and school-based communication were preferred over social media, as the latter tends to oversimplify complex messages. In addition, regular stakeholder communication throughout the NIP process was emphasized, alongside sector-specific approaches to address the unique needs of different stakeholders.

Cameroon shared its comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement, targeting a wide range of groups, including government bodies, civil society, industry and the general public. Awareness campaigns were conducted using T-shirts, brochures, caps, posters, banners and media, alongside school, university and women's group initiatives. However, short-lived messaging remains a challenge, prompting suggestions for more durable communication strategies. Resource constraints and limited stakeholder follow-up were also identified as barriers to effective implementation.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the emphasis was on comprehensive stakeholder mapping, which has evolved to include more relevant actors, such as the Chamber of Commerce, industry representatives, airports and the military. While large, technical questionnaires were found to be ineffective, concise and practical approaches proved more successful. Low stakeholder response rates were attributed to the lack of legal obligations and financial resources, hindering efforts to phase out PCB equipment still in use. Additionally, it was noted that the customs office plays a crucial role in data collection, with the nomination of dedicated contact persons seen as vital for efficient collaboration.

The Czech Republic reinforced the importance of continuously updating and utilizing stakeholder maps, as practiced in Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. These maps are essential tools for inventory processes and regular stakeholder communication.

The inclusion of overlooked stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Defense, statistical offices and customs, was also emphasized to ensure comprehensive POPs management. The engagement process should be tailored to each stage of the NIP process — inventory, prioritization, endorsement and implementation — with the implementation stage being the most challenging. The Czech Republic further highlighted the importance of acknowledging global developments, such as the new plastic treaty and the Global Framework for Chemicals, to strengthen national approaches to POPs management.

Across all countries, the key takeaways included the need for clear communication strategies, sector-specific stakeholder engagement, sustainable institutional frameworks and better resource allocation to ensure the successful implementation of NIP updates and effective POPs management.

Group 1

- A video recording of the webinar in English is available on the **Global NIP Update platform**: <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/outreach-and-engagement-major-stakeholder-groups-developing-national-implementation-plans>



Group 2

- A video recording of the webinar in English is available on the **Global NIP Update platform**: <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/outreach-and-engagement-major-stakeholder-groups-developing-national-implementation-plans-0>



Group 3

- A video recording of the webinar in English is available on the Global NIP Update platform: <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/webinar/outreach-and-engagement-major-stakeholder-groups-developing-national-implementation-plans-1>



- **Guidance on Socio-Economic Assessment for National Implementation Plan Development and Implementation under the Stockholm Convention**
<https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/guidance/guidance-socio-economic-assessment-national-implementation-plan-development-and>

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

Anastasiya Buchok, anastasiya.buchok@ggkp.org
Soomin Bae, soomin.bae@ggkp.org