

Strengthening Capacity to Better Produce and Use POPs Monitoring Data

Date: 29 October 2026 (time 1400–1530 Geneva Time)

Channel: Online

Background:

Reliable and comparable monitoring data are essential for understanding the occurrence, distribution, and trends of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), assessing their potential risks to human health and the environment, and informing national actions for their management. Under the Stockholm Convention, monitoring information also contributes to the evaluation of the Convention's effectiveness under Article 16, while national data and evidence are important for developing, reviewing, and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs).

However, countries differ considerably in their capacities to generate, manage, interpret, and use POPs monitoring data. Limitations may arise from analytical and laboratory capacity, availability of trained personnel, sampling and analytical infrastructure, quality assurance and control, sustainable monitoring programmes, data management and accessibility, and mechanisms for translating monitoring evidence into national planning and decision-making.

Within the GEF-funded Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) project, efforts are being undertaken to better understand these capacities and identify areas where further technical and institutional support may be required. This complements the broader NIP process, for which Parties have access to technical guidance covering inventories, monitoring data handling and interpretation, alternatives and other aspects of NIP development and updating.

As part of this work, the questionnaire “strengthening capacity to better produce and use POPs monitoring data” was conducted among project participating countries to obtain an overview of existing national capacities, institutional and analytical arrangements, availability and use of POPs monitoring data, and priority needs for further capacity strengthening under the upcoming NIP project.

The webinar will provide an opportunity to share and discuss the findings of this assessment, while moving beyond identification of gaps towards practical solutions. Experiences from two participating countries will be presented to demonstrate good practices in strengthening capacity to produce reliable monitoring data and to translate information into evidence for NIP development, implementation, and broader chemicals management.

Objective:

The overall objective of the webinar is to provide guidance on strengthening understanding and exchange on practical experience on how countries can improve their capacity to produce, manage, and effectively use POPs monitoring data to support NIP development and implementation and consequently the broader implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Schedule, keynotes, and speakers:

Time	Period	Session	Focus	Speaker
1400 – 1405	5 minutes	Welcome and introduction	Opening remarks; objectives of the webinar and its relevance to the Global NIP Update project.	GGKP
1405 – 1430	25 minutes	Results of the questionnaire: Strengthening capacity to better produce and use POPs monitoring data	Background on Role of monitoring data in establishing baselines, identifying trends and priority issues, supporting NIP development/update, evaluating implementation, and fulfilling Stockholm Convention obligations. Overview of participating countries; existing national analytical and monitoring capacities; institutional and laboratory infrastructure; availability and management of monitoring data; key technical and institutional gaps; priority capacity-building needs.	Brij Mohan Sharma, UNEP
1430 – 1450	20 minutes	Regional Case Study: Strengthening regional capacity to produce reliable POPs monitoring data in the Central and Eastern Europe	Good practice in developing/strengthening laboratory and monitoring capacity; QA/QC; sampling and analytical capabilities; institutional arrangements; challenges and lessons learned.	Katerina Sebkova, RECETOX
1450 – 1510	20 minutes	Country Case Study: From monitoring data to evidence-based policy and NIP implementation in Uruguay	Good practice in managing, interpreting and applying monitoring data; linking monitoring results with POPs inventories, national priority setting, NIP development/update, and policy decisions.	Gabriela Medina, BCCC-SCRC Uruguay
1510 – 1525	15 minutes	Open discussion. From data generation to data use: addressing the identified capacity gaps	Discussion on opportunities to strengthen monitoring programmes, analytical capacity, data quality and comparability, data management and accessibility, and translation of monitoring evidence into decision-making. Reflections on common challenges; additional capacity needs; opportunities for regional cooperation, laboratory networks, data sharing and knowledge exchange.	Discussion led by UNEP and GGKP
1525 – 1530	5 minutes	Conclusions and next steps	Key messages from the questionnaire and case studies; implications for subsequent activities under the Global NIP Update project.	Mihaela Paun, UNEP