Strengthening Global and National Capacities to Produce and Effectively use POPs Monitoring Data

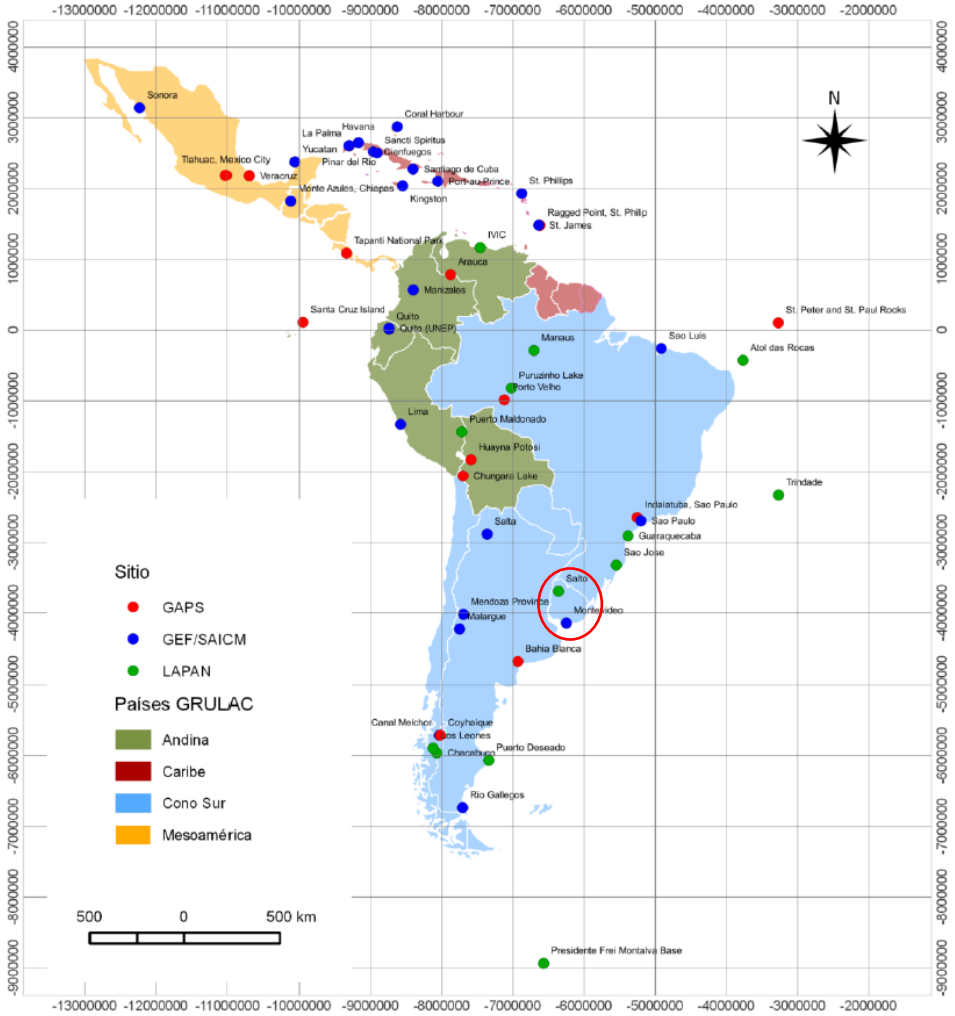
Uruguay

October 29th, 2026

Ministerio de Ambiente

Med Chem. Gabriela Medina
Director
Basel Convention Coordinating Centre – Stockholm Convention Regional Centre
National Director of Environmental Quality and Assessment
Ministry of Environment

Information from the Monitoring Program in Uruguay



- Uruguay: 3,499,451 inhabitants.
- Total area: 176,215 km².
- Agricultural and livestock production area: 161,000 km².
- Agricultural activity: 6-7% of GDP.
- Agro-industrial activity: 13-14% of GDP.
- Highest household final consumption per capita in GRULAC.



GEF/SAICM/GRULAC

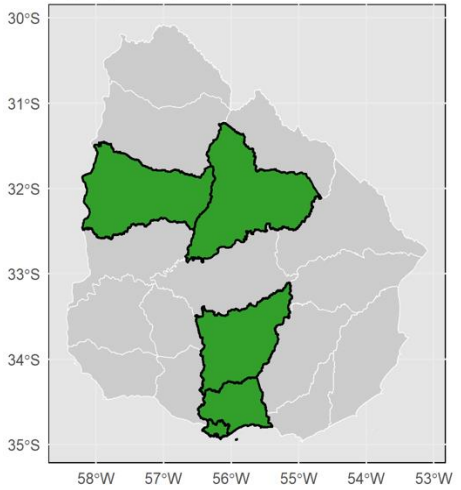
- Industrial
- Urban
- Rural

Samples of breast milk

- 50 women (25 Montevideo, 8 Canelones, 6 Paysandu, 6 Tacuarembo and 5 Florida)

Uruguay – Selected Departments

Uruguay – Departamentos seleccionados



Ministerio de Ambiente

General Methodology for the Development of Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention



- Related national policies and strategic plans.
- Previous and regional NIPs.
- **GMP.**
- Stockholm Convention (guidelines, toolkits, etc.).
- Projects on the topic.
- Scientific articles.
- Reports from other organizations.
- Import/Export.
- International agreements.
- Other.

Primary sources of information

Verification of information

- Interviews
- Meetings
- Regulatory instruments for authorizations, permits, and the control and monitoring of activities

- **Inventory**
- Identifying deficiencies and potential improvements

Results

Action Plans

Ministerio de Ambiente

National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention - Objectives

General Objectives:

- **To reduce health and environmental risks from chemical substances through their safe and sustainable management.**
- **To strengthen and develop national capacities and knowledge for the comprehensive management of chemical substances.**
- **To strengthen prevention and control measures and instruments throughout the entire life cycle of chemical substances within the framework of national and international environmental policy.**
- **To comply with the commitments of the Stockholm Convention.**

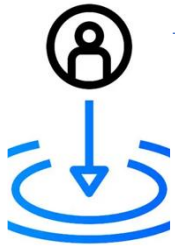
Specific objectives



Strengthen multi-sectoral and inter-institutional articulation and coordination and the regulatory framework for the environmentally sound management of chemical substances and products containing them.



Harmonize with other public policies related to chemicals and waste.



To prevent and minimize the environmental and health impacts resulting from the entire life cycle of chemical substances.



Improve and expand capabilities for the identification, quantification, management and monitoring of POPs and products that contain them.



Having adequate and up-to-date information channels according to the target audience, and with sensitized and aware populations.



Having established lines of research to support the handling of chemical substances.

Ministerio
de Ambiente

National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention – General Principles

Approach considering risk management

Analysis performed using the life cycle approach to chemical substances

Promoting sustainable production and consumption

Gradual implementation

Transparency in communication

Aligned with other environmental policies

National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention – Action Plans



P1-Sustainable management of prioritized chemicals and products.



P2-Management of highly hazardous pesticides.



P3 – Prevention and minimization of POPs emissions and transfers to the environment.



P4 – Microplastics, nanoplastics and chemicals of concern in plastics.



P5 - Awareness, sensitization and training and citizen participation.

Results of GMP and inventories towards institutional and capacity strengthening

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the actions implemented in relation to the SC's NIP, additionally contributing to obtaining baseline information.
- Strengthening monitoring and analysis capabilities through interlaboratory essays, infrastructure acquisition, training, and knowledge enhancement.
- To establish a network for the exchange of experiences and knowledge, coordinated with strategic partners.
- Support in the development of action plans for the purpose of designing and prioritizing the various strategic lines.
- Implement intersectoral and multidisciplinary coordination and participation frameworks at the national level.
- To contribute to the construction and implementation of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and the Environmental Observatory of chemicals.
- Strengthening the regulatory framework in environmental matrices (air, water) and waste and in harmonization with the commitments arising from the SC.

Strengthening the regulatory framework



Agrochemicals - Decree No. 152/013, of May 20, 2013, which regulates the environmentally sound management of obsolete agrochemical and pesticide containers.



Air quality - Decree No. 135/021, of May 4, 2021, sets maximum emission limits for both stationary and mobile sources – POPs (Dioxins and Furans).



Pollution prevention, conservation and improvement of water quality – Updated Decree No. 226/025, of November 5, 2025, which regulates water quality and sets permissible limits for substances - POPs: Pentachlorophenol, Drins, Chlordane, Heptachlor, HCH, Hexachlorobutadiene, DDT, Polychlorinated Naphthalene, Mirex, Endosulfan, Dioxins and Furans, PCB, **HBCD, PCCC, PBDE, PFAS, UV328, chlorpyrifos, Methoxychlor.**



EEE - Decree No. 292/024, of November 18, 2024, regulates the management of EEE, and includes provisions on PCBs.



Decree No. 227/025, of November 5, 2025, regulates the management of batteries for vehicle use and energy storage.

CDW - Decree No. 213/025, of October 20, 2025, regulates the management of waste from construction and demolition works.

Specific strategic lines of action

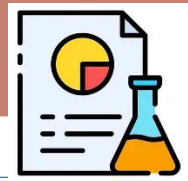
Management and control of substances

- Identify and systematize the information source for the development and periodic updating of substance inventories.
- Strengthen controls on the entry of regulated or prohibited products.
- Define a roadmap for stock control and disposal of liabilities (foams containing PFOS/PFOAS).
- Prioritize areas of work and substances of concern: hazardous additives in plastics (PBDEs, PCCCs, PCCMs, etc.), WEEE, CDWs, and vehicles.
- Build national capacity for the safe recycling of plastics containing POPs.
- Define promotional tools for the adoption of improved technologies or product substitutes.



Monitoring and information

- Ensure the sustainability of POP monitoring systems across various environmental and waste matrices (capacities and resources).
- Define sampling methodologies for POPs in plastics.
- Implement technological tools to improve information on open burning regarding unintentional emissions.
- Develop a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) for POPs and other substances, and an environmental observatory for these substances.



Health and transition

- Strengthen health surveillance in exposed populations and workers.
- Design public-private financing mechanisms to promote sustainable agricultural systems.



Thank you so much!

Med Chem. Gabriela Medina
Director
Basel Convention Coordinating Centre – Stockholm Convention Regional Centre
National Director of Environmental Quality and Assessment
Ministry of Environment
Contact: gmedina@ambiente.gub.uy

Ministerio
de Ambiente