

UNEP/MED WG.557/5

Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Child Project 1.1

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14-15 March 2023

-
Report of the Meeting



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



11

Reducing Pollution
from Harmful Chemicals
and Wastes in Mediterranean
Hot Spots and Measuring
Progress to Impacts

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Report of the Meeting

March 14, Project Steering Committee Meeting for Child Project 1.1.

Introduction

1. The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) held its Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) of Child Project 1.1 (GEF ID 9684) “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” on 14 March 2023 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Child Project falls under the overall umbrella of the GEF UNEP programme (GEF ID 9607), entitled “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”.
2. The primary objective of this Third PSCM was to review progress in the project delivery and discuss and approve the project’s annual workplan and budget forecast for 2023.
3. The presentations for all agenda items are provided in Annex IV to the present report.

Participation

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from seven of the ten participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as GEF Implementation Agency, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), as executing agency, MED POL and MedWaves, as executing partner, were also represented.
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 10:00 AM (EET) on 14 March 2023 by the MedProgramme Management Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan, Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Ms. Olfat Hamdan. Ms. Hamdan thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for their kind support to organize the meeting in Sarajevo and expressed its appreciation to UNDP for hosting the meeting. She recalled also that Child Project 1.1 is a very important project of the MedProgramme, she emphasized on the collaboration with the Partners and the importance of having concrete results as this project has multiple values and we are very confident that we will deliver the Project effectively. She encouraged all to give their full cooperation..
7. UNDP Resident Representative, Mrs. Steliana Nedera, welcomed the participants in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She highlighted the vast UN programming in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which also interlinks with the MedProgramme, especially on PCBs and Mercury. She wished the PSC a successful meeting and a good week ahead in Sarajevo.
8. Mr. Senad Oprasic, GEF Operational Focal Point of Bosnia and Herzegovina, also welcomed the participants to Sarajevo and thanked UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina for the support in arranging the CP 1.1 PSCM. He also highlighted the progress made with the assessment of mercury at HAK 1, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina and he emphasized that progress is being made in the ratification of the Minamata Convention.

9. Ms. Eloise Touni, UNEP GEF Chemicals & Waste Task Manager, expressed her enthusiasm to participate in the PSCM for CP 1.1. She mentioned that the MedProgramme is one of the first programmes approved by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), thus, being an early example for the GEF-8 strategy focusing on large cross-cutting GEF focal areas. She highlighted that the upcoming Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS)- COP in May 2023 is an opportunity to share lessons and results from the MedProgramme,
10. Ms. Hamdan thanked the colleagues for their words and explained the objectives of this meeting, which are to approve the 2023 work plan and budget for the implementation of this Project. She introduced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

11. The meeting elected the following officers: Mr. Senad Oprašić, Bosnia and Herzegovina (President) and Mr. Bassam Sabbagh, Lebanon (Vice President), and the Provisional Agenda was adopted (please find as Annex II to the present report). Participants introduced themselves and their functions regarding this Project.

Agenda item 3: Framework of MedProgramme's component 1 and Child Project 1.1.

12. Ms. Hamdan gave an overview on the MedProgramme and the objectives of Child Project 1.1. She presented MedProgramme's components and focused in her presentation component 1 related to the "Reduction of Land-Based Pollution in Priority Coastal Hotspots", which covers Child Project 1.1., 1.2 and 1.3. She outlined the components, outcomes and outputs of Child Project 1.1 as well as the related project costs and co-financing requirements, which are a GEF reporting requirements. The midterm targets for CP 1.1 were highlighted.
13. Ms. Touni reminded the participants about the role of the PSCM, which is to oversee the project, to approve the annual workplan, budget and to oversee the implementation of corrective actions. She also mentioned the role of the implementing agency supervision on reporting, coordination and the Midterm Review (MTR), as well as financial and project management reporting requirements of the Programme. She also mentioned challenges and prospects for the Chemicals and Waste, including the continued under-expenditures in 2022 compared to forecast (although higher than in 2021), the delay in project activities, and the initiation of the Midterm review to be finalized in September 2023. She also spoke about the midpoint targets of the Chemical and Waste sector and recommended for the International Water component to emphasize on synergies between the International Water and Chemicals & Waste sectors, on innovation, on integrating circular solutions to transboundary pollution, and to develop bankable investment projects based on MedPOL NAPs.
14. Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the PSC members that the progress is being made towards the ratification of the Minamata Convention, which would enable the country to use GEF funds allocated for mercury disposal under Child Project 1.1.
15. Several participants enquired clarification on the co-financing requirements and its quantification and reporting mechanism and formats. The MedPCU informed the participants that it will share with them the co-finance reporting template and will organize an online meeting to clarify the country's requirements related to co-financing.
16. Montenegro mentioned that they have ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the country has recently completed a GEF PCB Project, which included an inventory of equipment containing

PCB's and the disposal of this equipment and PCB contaminated soil. Montenegro inquired about the possibility to dispose of the remaining 32 tons of the equipment under the framework of MedProgramme/CP 1.1.

17. Tunisia asked about the potential elimination of the mercury waste stored at Kasserine upon ratification of the Minamata Convention. It was clarified that the MedProgramme can provide support for the final disposal of selected mercury waste (including thermometers containing mercury) upon ratification of the Minamata Convention, and that in 2023 an environmentally sound management plan (ESM) will be prepared for the purpose of assessing the disposal options and costs. Tunisia also informed about the availability of a PCB database, which could be used as a basis for the update of the PCB inventory under CP 1.1. The PCB database is to be shared with the MedPCU.
18. Morocco informed the PSC members that the country has an operational national PCB management platform, which is currently being used for an on-going GEF PCB Project. The ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is still on-going and it is expected to be finalized soon to be able to benefit from GEF mercury disposal funds under CP 1.1.

Agenda Item 4: Execution of Chemicals & Waste-related activities

19. Ms. Mellendorf presented the progress made related to the Chemicals and Waste disposal activities of persistent organic pollutants (POPs/PCBs) and mercury (Hg). She mentioned that the main GEF allocations for the disposal activities are under procurement, which can only be utilized upon finalization of the POPs/PCBs inventories, development of environmental management plans, and especially the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Most of the recommendations from the PSCM in 2022 were delivered including the agreement on the assessment of Tuzla site contaminated with Mercury, signature of legal agreements with the countries and the work on PCB inventories, whereas for the remaining activities for Tunisia a legal agreement is under preparation with UNDP Tunisia. Ms. Mellendorf presented the progress made with the evaluation of the procurement contract for the first phase of PCB disposal in Algeria and Lebanon, and presented the way forward for the POPs/PCBs' inventories, prioritization meetings and the criteria for the selection of countries for phase 2 disposal, using the examples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The status and way forward for the POPs/PCBs and mercury assessment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Tunisia, including the change in priority site from Kasserine to the mining sites of Oued Maaden, Jebel El Arja-Sidi Khalifa, and Oued Bélif-Boukhchiba-Ganara-Tamera-Sidi Driss mining complex in Tunisia were explained. Ms. Mellendorf also emphasized that the final decision about the priority of the Montenegro POPs assessment under CP 1.1, and the confirmation of mercury stocks in Algeria and Morocco are essential for the planning of the mercury-related activities.
20. The following proposed action points were summarized:
 - Additional PCB stocks of up to 20% of the phase 1 PCB disposal contract price are to be included, as per procurement rules. Algeria and Lebanon to provide the information by March 31, 2023;
 - UN-to-UN agreement with UNDP Tunisia is under preparation (proposed change from SSFA for PCB inventory and socio-economic assessment) and potential addition of the Hg assessment (procurement to Grant to IP);
 - Expenditure of national PCB inventories for planning of PCB disposal phases, as per agreements;

- Inclusion of PFOS into national inventories for prioritization and potential disposal;
 - Confirmation of the priority for the POPs study in Montenegro by April 15, 2023;
 - Execution arrangements for environmentally sound management plans for mercury disposal to be agreed by March 31, 2023;
 - SSFA for MapX to be included in the PCA with UNEP Grid Geneva under Child Project 4.1;
 - Amendment of the SSFA for Algeria to include mercury activities because the country has ratified the Minamata Convention;
 - Lebanon mentioned that the disposal contract shall start as soon as possible, preferably in batches to accommodate the country situation. There is also a need for a new national consultant to support the international contractor in their activities.
21. MedWaves presented the prevention activities of POPs and mercury-related activities under Component 1 of Child Project 1.1. With regard to output 1.3 which deals with the long-term POPs reduction through pilot activities on new POPs alternatives, MedWaves mentioned the progress made with preliminary activities, information collected from customs, and the estimated number of total foams stored with PFOS content in Tunisia, and Morocco, as well as for the imported PFOS according to the Moroccan customs database. For Lebanon the suggested sampling sites for 3 fire incidents sites, 2 fire extinguishing stocks, 2 distributors/manufactures each for HBCD and SCCP containing products were presented. For output 1.4 related to mercury reduction through pilot activities on new mercury alternatives results of the inventory for potentially mercury-containing medical equipment's were shown. Bosnia and Herzegovina inquired more information to potentially replicate new POPs activities at the national level.
22. Ms. Mirvic from UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an overview on the national UNDP POPs project funded by Sweden. The project includes a component on capacity-building, legislation, prevention of unintentionally produced POPs, the introduction of green chemistry principles, remediation plans and POPs waste export, monitoring and learning, and database support.
23. Mr. Karadzin from the University of Tuzla presented an overview of the activity under CP 1.1 to assess the soil and groundwater contamination of the HAK1 site (Chemical industrial complex of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina) with Mercury. He highlighted the objective of the SSFA, its outputs and the progress/results achieved so far, including the detection of high levels of mercury in both soil and water samples against limit values. It was highlighted that a detailed presentation about HAK 1 will be provided during the field visit to Tuzla on March 15, 2023.

Agenda item 5: Execution of International Waters-related activities

24. Mr. Kayyal, MED POL Programme Management Officer presented the overall structure and the progress made related to the development of the Updated Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment Report(TDA). Mr. Kayyal illustrated the overall objective of the TDA, e.g., identifying interlinkages between pollution and the marine environment monitoring parameters based on scientific evidence, on the background of the GEF-supported TDA/SAP methodology and drew the connections with the other monitoring and reporting exercises currently ongoing in the Mediterranean region: the MedQSR and SDGs. Mr. Kayyal also illustrated the multi-stakeholder and multi-level process being implemented to prepare the TDA along with the different steps undertaken, especially the six thematic assessments, and

the established coordination arrangements. He focused on the application of the cause chain analysis to identify the transboundary changes and challenges and highlighted the key priority transboundary issues identified: eutrophication, chemical pollution, oil & hazardous and noxious substances pollution, marine litter and microplastics, overfishing, species by-catch, bottom trawling, habitats loss and degradation, atmospheric emissions, marine heat waves, coastal flooding, drought and coastal water-systems. Eventually he indicated the milestones which remain in order to finalise the validation (expected in Q3 2023) and the publication (expected in Q1 2024) of the document.

25. Mr. Candeloro, MedProgramme International Waters Specialist, illustrated the structure, the progress and the preliminary achievements in the preparation of the MedProgramme Offshore Monitoring Strategy. Mr. Candeloro indicated that the document is expected to support the extension of IMAP monitoring beyond the coastal or territorial waters, to complement the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan prepared in the framework of the “Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil” and to reflect the IMAP Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for sampling, preservation, preparation and analysis for sediments, biota, sea water, sea food endorsed at the MED POL Focal Points Meeting of 2021. He mentioned that a first draft of the document has been prepared by a contracted consultant and the draft is under review by MAP Secretariat and MedPCU. The strategy includes a preliminary list of 20 offshore monitoring stations for the MedProgramme participating countries built upon the national IMAP monitoring programs and a list of 5 stations of sub-regional relevance for possible pilots to assist countries in the implementation of selected IMAP indicators at the new offshore monitoring stations. Mr. Candeloro also illustrated the list of existing offshore monitoring capacities identified by the consultant in the MedProgramme participating countries.
26. Ms. Vyzaki, Gender Expert of the MedProgramme, summarized the gender activities undertaken for CP 1.1, which for International Waters mainly relates to the TDA Gender Thematic Assessment. For Chemicals and Waste, a Gender Community of Practice meeting focusing on gender issues in chemicals and waste has been organized, as well as the inclusion of gender sessions included in two technical face-to-face trainings in Algeria and Lebanon on PCBs. Formal/informal partnerships with gender-focused organizations/actors active have been established to promote gender equality across programme activities (SAICM Community of Practice, BRS Secretariat, WECF, IPEN).

Agenda Item 6: CP 1.1 Workplan 2023

27. MedPCU, MedWaves and MED POL presented the workplan for component 1, 2 and 3 of Child Project 1.1. The PSCM meeting approved the work plan, which appears in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 7: CP 1.1 Budget Forecast for Workplan 2023

28. Ms. Minaei presented the budget forecast for 2023. Some questions of clarification were posed regarding the differences between commitments and actuals for 2022 and the forecast for 2023. Ms. Hamdan commented on the roles of the Steering Committee saying that they would need to approve the budget at this meeting if there were no objections.
29. The Steering Committee approved the budget forecast for 2023 as presented, which appears in Annex IV of this report.

Agenda Item 7: Any other Business

30. The PSC meeting recommended that Lebanon would host the next PSCM for CP 1.1 in 2024.

Agenda Item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

31. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in Annex V of this Meeting report.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

32. Mr. Oprašić and Ms. Hamdan provided closing remarks at the end of the Third Steering Meeting Committee.
33. The Chair closed the Meeting at 17:00 on Tuesday 14 March 2023.

March 15, Field visit to Tuzla - Project Steering Committee Meeting for Child Project 1.1.

34. On March 15 2023, the participants of PSCM went on a field visit to former chemical industry site HAK 1 in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on which the University of Tuzla is currently conducting an assessment of mercury (Hg) in soil, construction materials and groundwater followed by the development of remediation options and associated costs. The main expected output of the study is to identify possible mitigation measures and viable technical and feasible remediations/treatment plans. In order to contain the spread of Mercury in the surface and ground water. This Hg assessment also provides a preparatory step towards the national ratification of the Minamata Convention.
35. The participants departed at 9:30 from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and arrived at around 12:00 in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A presentation about the HAK 1 site and the mercury assessment conducted under Child Project 1.1. was organized by the University of Tuzla followed by a site visit to HAK 1.
36. Additional clarification was given at the site by the University of Tuzla, showing spots of Hg in several areas inside HAK 1 complex.
37. The participants departure at around 17:00 from Tuzla and arrived about 19:30 in Sarajevo.

Annex I

List of participants

Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 1.1 of the MedProgramme 14 March 2023

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**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - SECRETARIAT TO THE
BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - SECRETARIAT
DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR
LA MEDITERRANEE**

**Convention for the Protection of
the Marine Environment and the
Coastal Region of the
Mediterranean (Barcelona
Convention) and its protocols**

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Annex II

Provisional Agenda

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3:** Framework of MedProgramme's component 1 and Child Project 1.1
- Agenda item 4:** Execution of Chemicals & Waste-related activities
(a) Progress on Chemicals & Waste prevention and disposal
(b) Experience with POPs, especially PCBs
(c) Case study on Mercury assessment
- Agenda item 5:** Execution of International Waters-related activities
a) Progress on International Waters
 i. TDA
 ii. Offshore Monitoring Strategy
- Agenda item 6:** CP 1.1. Proposed Workplan (Q2 2023- Q1 2024)
a) Chemicals & Waste
b) International Waters
- Agenda item 7:** CP 1.1. Proposed Budget (Q2 2023- Q1 2024)
a) Chemicals & Waste
b) International Waters
- Agenda item 8:** Any other Business
- Agenda item 9:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 10:** Closure of the Meeting

Day 2: Field Visit to HAK 1 Industrial Complex

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Departure from Sarajevo | 9:30 a.m. |
| • Arrival at Tuzla University | 12:00 p.m. |
| • Presentation on Hg assessment for HAK 1 site: | 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. |
| • Field Visit: | 12:45 p.m. - 14:00 p.m. |
| • Lunch Break | 14:00 p.m. -15:00 p.m. |
| • Departure from Tuzla | 15:00 p.m. |
| • Arrival at Sarajevo | 17:00 p.m. |

TIMETABLE¹

Day 1: Tuesday, 14 March 2023: Third Steering Committee Meeting		
10:00 - 10:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:15 - 10:30	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.557/1
10:30 - 11:00	Agenda item 3: Framework of MedProgramme's component 1 and Child Project 1.1	
11:00 - 12:15	Agenda item 4: Execution of Chemicals & Waste - related activities: (a) Progress on Chemicals & Waste prevention and disposal (b) Experience with POPs, especially with PCBs disposal (c) Case study on Mercury assessment	UNEP/MED WG.557/2
12:15 - 13:00	Agenda item 5: Execution of International Waters-related activities: (a) Progress on International Waters i. TDA ii. Offshore Monitoring Strategy	UNEP/MED WG.557/3
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 - 15:00	Agenda item 6: CP 1.1. Proposed Workplan (Q2 2023- Q1 2024) a) Chemicals & Waste b) International Waters	
15:00 - 15:30	Agenda item 7: CP 1.1. Proposed Budget (Q2 2023 - Q1 2024) a) Chemicals & Waste b) International Waters	UNEP/MED WG.557/4
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 - 16:15	Agenda item 8: Any Other Business	
16:15 - 16:45	Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations	
16:45 - 17:00	Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting	
Day 2: Wednesday, 15 March 2023: Field Visit to HAK 1 Industrial Complex		
9:30 – 12:00	Departure from Sarajevo- Arrival at Tuzla University	
12:00 – 12:30	Presentation on Hg assessment for HAK 1 site	

¹ UTC+3 (i.e. Athens time)

12:45 – 14:00	Field Visit	
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch Break	
15:00 – 17:00	Arrival to Sarajevo	

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

Third Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) for the Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” (GEF ID 9684) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9717)

14 March 2023, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. The Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” (GEF ID 9684) was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina on 14 March 2023.
2. The Meeting was organized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU in collaboration with MED POL/MedWaves.
3. The SCM thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for their kind support to organize the meeting in Sarajevo and expressed its appreciation to UNDP for hosting the meeting.
4. MedPCU presented an overview on the MedProgramme’s Component 1 of Child Project 1.1. The MedPCU emphasized the provision of co-financing, noting that co-financing templates will be provided to support the provision of co-financing by June 2023. The SCM agreed to organize a separate meeting in Q2 2023 to further discuss co-financing requirements and related reporting.
5. The GEF Chemicals & Waste Task Manager highlighted several issues related to the execution of Child Project 1.1. of the MedProgramme, including the under-expenditure of the project and the delay in the execution of the Chemicals&Waste activities. She encouraged implementation of corrective measures to speed-up the execution of activities so that the countries can benefit from the GEF funds allocated to POPs and Mercury disposal (upon ratification of the Minamata Convention) and the provision of co-financing letters.
6. The GEF Chemicals & Waste Task Manager presented on behalf of the GEF International Waters Task Manager the framework of the TDA preparation and highlighted some key recommendations related to nature-based solutions, synergies among C&W and IW, circular solutions to transboundary issues and emphasis on innovation, as well as development of bankable investment projects.
7. Med PCU provided an overview on the progress achieved during the execution of Chemicals & Waste – related activities. Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions and recommendations:
 - For Phase 1 - PCB disposal, the SCM requested Algeria and Lebanon to report existing PCB stocks counting not more than 20% of the original contract amount to be included in the phase 1 PCB disposal by 15 April 2023.
 - For the second PCB disposal phase, the Med PCU highlighted that the project is considering existing PCB inventories and is awaiting the finalization of the ongoing inventories in four countries. The selection of PCB stocks for disposal will go through prioritization exercises

starting in June and September 2023. The first round of procurement exercise will start after the first prioritization exercise considering the prioritization criteria, and GEF available budget. The SCM requested the participating countries involved to provide their PCB inventories for the prioritization exercises by June 1 and September 1, 2023, respectively.

- As per the project document, POPs to be considered for disposal only included PCBs and pesticides. The SCM agreed to also include PFOS-containing extinguisher stocks in the prioritization exercise.
 - The SCM approved different execution arrangements to be executed by the project for the following items:
 - UN-to-UN agreement with UNDP Tunisia for PCB inventory (totaling US\$ 30,000) and socio-economic assessment (totaling US\$ 10,000); and potential addition of the Hg assessment and development of an Environmental Management Plan into the UN-to-UN agreement (upon final agreement of UNDP Tunisia \$380,000).
 - Re-allocation of US\$ 240,000 for the mercury wastes removal EMPs and upon confirmation of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia by March 31, 2023, either through a SSFA signature under IP for Tunisia or through a national consultant (upon confirmation by Algeria and Morocco).
 - Re-allocation of US\$ 87,500 from the regional consultants on mercury disposal capacity-building to Grant to IP for the same activity.
8. MedWaves presented their progress on the execution of Chemicals & Waste activities-related to prevention. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro expressed its interest to benefit from activities related to the prevention and reduction of new POPs conducted by MedWaves. The possibility to include support to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in the 2nd phase of the Chemicals & Waste prevention project will be explored. Tunisia and Morocco expressed the need to validate the sampling plan and the inventory reports for output 1.3 on the prevention of new POPs by their respective POPs committee before starting with the collection.
9. Tuzla University, which oversees the execution of the SSFA related to the mercury assessment in Tuzla, HAK 1, presented their activities and updated the SCM on the way forward.
10. Lebanon highlighted the need to increase the amount for national consultants to follow-up on the execution of phase 1 PCB disposal. Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the need to include national activities in POP disposal and prevention. The SCM took note of these proposals and indicated that these proposals will be considered during the mid-term review of the project in Q2 2023.
11. MED POL presented the progress on the preparation of the TDA Update report. In addition, the MedPCU outlined the progress on the preparation of the offshore monitoring strategy; identification of the 20 offshore monitoring sites; and the 5 pilot stations. The SCM welcomed the progress achieved with regard to the preparation of the TDA report and offshore monitoring strategy.
12. Med PCU presented progress made on the implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Gender Action Plan for CP 1.1. and called on national counterparts to collect and share sex-disaggregated data to the extent possible. Med PCU also called for the identification of case studies demonstrating MedProgramme impact along gender lines.
13. MEDPCU, and MED POL/MedWaves presented their workplans for Q2, 2023 to Q1, 2024. The SCM approved the CP 1.1 Workplan for Q2/2023 to Q1/2024. The SCM stressed the importance

of incorporating the national assessment reports into the TDA update report. The SCM agreed to convene another TDA-SC meeting in Q4/2023 for the initial endorsement of the report prior to submission to the next CP 1.1. PSC meeting planned for Q1/2024 for approval.

14. MedPCU presented the budget forecast for CP 1.1 (Q2 2023 – Q1 2024) which was approved by the SCM.
15. The PSC recommended the next PSC meeting to take place in Lebanon in Q1 2024.