

Evaluation of the UNEP Sub-Programme on Chemicals and Pollution Action

2015-2023

Terms of Reference

Evaluation Office of UNEP

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I. Background

A. Chemicals and Pollution Action¹

1. Chemicals and waste are integral to our everyday life, but they also have major impacts on the environment and human health. As the world's population approaches 8 billion, the sound management of chemicals and waste intensifies, aligning closely with UNEP's mission to safeguard the environment and human well-being. By 2025, the world's cities will produce 2.2 billion tonnes of waste every year, more than three times the amount produced in 2009. As the fastest-growing waste stream in the world, estimated at 20-50 million tonnes per year, e-waste is becoming a major environmental challenge. Countries continue to address challenges linked to air, soil and water pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals under the auspices of multilateral environmental agreements.
2. Pollution touches all parts of the planet, and it is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death in the world today. It affects our health through the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. The WHO estimates that 23 per cent of all deaths worldwide – amounting to 12.6 million in 2012 – are due to environmental risks. Cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases, many of which are associated with air and water pollution, are on the rise. Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa alone account for 40 per cent of the global burden of disease.
3. Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers, and seas. Plastics are the largest, most harmful, and most persistent fraction of marine litter, accounting for at least 85 per cent of total marine waste. Plastic pollution can alter habitats and natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities and social well-being. UNEP's body of work demonstrates that the problem of plastic pollution does not exist in a vacuum. The environmental, social, economic and health risks of plastics need to be assessed alongside other environmental stressors, like climate change, ecosystem degradation and resource use.
4. With the end goal to eradicate all forms of pollution by 2030, at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3, 17), Ministers of the Environment expressed their commitment to working

¹ Various sources: UNEP website, UNEP MTS 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 Situation Analysis

towards a pollution-free planet for the health and well-being of our people and the environment (UNEA3 ministerial declaration). As a follow-up, UNEP developed an "Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" which was welcomed by the Environment Assembly at its fourth session (UNEA-4) in March 2019 through resolution 4/21. The Plan takes forward pollution related UNEA outcomes; proposes action areas with opportunities and solutions to address capacity gaps and challenges; and contributes to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNEP is undertaking efforts towards implementation of the Plan by coordinating and monitoring its delivery with inputs from Member States and other stakeholders, and by undertaking efforts within its own Programme of Work (PoW).

5. According to the findings of the Second Global Chemicals Outlook², the chemical production capacity of 2.3 billion tonnes in 2019, valued at US\$5 trillion annually, is projected to double by 2030. Driven by economic development, population dynamics and other global megatrends, the chemicals market across a range of industry sectors is growing. Despite commitments to maximize the benefits and minimize the impacts of this industry, hazardous chemicals continue to be released into the environment in large quantities. They are ubiquitous in air, water and soil, food, and humans. The report found that while international treaties and voluntary instruments have reduced the risks of some chemicals and wastes, progress has been uneven, and implementation gaps remain.
6. The World Health Organization estimated the burden of disease from selected chemicals at 1.6 million lives in 2016, which is an underestimate. For example, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are organic chemical substances recognized as a serious, global threat to human health and to ecosystems. Studies also indicate that releases of some antimicrobials, heavy metals, and disinfectants contribute to antimicrobial resistance.
7. In September 2023, the world agreed to the Global Framework on Chemicals – backed by a High-Level Declaration providing political impetus to implement the deal. This framework - a historic milestone in the world's efforts to avert the dangerous impact of chemical pollution- provides a vision for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy, and sustainable future. The framework is based around 28 targets that aim to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste. Governments have committed to creating, by 2030, the regulatory environment to reduce chemical pollution and implement policies to promote safer alternatives. The industry has committed to managing chemicals in a way that reduces chemical pollution and adverse impacts by 2030. The framework calls for, by 2035, a phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and safer alternatives are available. There is a target on strengthening links between the new instrument and the climate, biodiversity, human rights, and health agendas.
8. Chemicals and Pollution governance also made good progress over the 2015-2023 period to advance the chemical, waste, and overall pollution agenda. The UN Environment Assembly played a key role in this regard through several resolutions listed in Annex 4. Chemicals that need sustained attention are those addressed under the chemicals and waste-related Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the Minamata Convention on Mercury; and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, including persistent organic pollutants, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals that disrupt hormone systems.

² 2019 Global Chemicals Outlook II. From Legacies to Innovative Solutions, pages viii and ix.

B. The UNEP Chemical and Pollution Action Sub-Programme

I. *Strategic Overview*³

9. The UNEP situational analysis indicates that the world faces three major environmental crises: climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution. These are all largely driven by human activity and unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Tackling these challenges to achieve climate stability, living in harmony with nature, and moving towards a pollution-free planet will require a recalibration of our economies and societies towards more sustainable and equitable models. UNEP's Strategy outlines transformative shifts targeting the drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, assessing their impact. It maps out the actions needed to reshape our consumption and production patterns towards sustainability, framing UNEP's contribution in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond. It does so while respecting synergies with international agreements and leveraging the United Nations development system reform to engage the wider United Nations system in stronger, more coordinated, and mutually supportive environmental action.
10. Considering societies continue to experience the harmful consequences of unsound chemicals management, there is a need for comprehensive assessment and management aimed at minimizing significant short or long-term risks to society and nature. Since 2015 UNEP's strategy has focused on collaborating with partners and countries to manage chemicals, waste, and pollution in an integrated manner through assessments, monitoring, and guidance on best use, management, and disposal to catalyze transformative change.
11. The four-year Medium-Term Strategies (MTS), implemented through two-year Programmes of Work (PoW), provide the vision and direction for UNEP's programmes and projects. Since the MTS 2014-2017, UNEP's chemicals, waste, and pollution-related activities have been coordinated under the Chemicals and Waste sub-programme, which has been named the Chemicals and Pollution Action Sub-programme (SP-CPA) since 2022.

MTS 2014-2017

12. During the MTS 2014-2017 period, the SP-CPA was named the "**Chemicals and Waste**" Sub-programme. Its objective was to promote a transition among countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste, to minimize impacts on the environment and human health.
13. The strategy of the SP-CPA aimed at increasing countries' capacities to manage chemicals and waste, including e-waste, within a coherent life-cycle approach. Aimed at this goal, UNEP was to promote and catalyse system-wide efforts by the United Nations to lessen the environmental and human health impacts of chemicals and waste, doing so in close collaboration with the entities involved in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Minamata

³ UNEP MTS 2014-2017, 2018-2021 and 2022-2025. PoW 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

Convention on Mercury and the secretariats of the other chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements.

14. UNEP was to do so by: a) helping countries to improve and enforce their regulatory and institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including by servicing and strengthening the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management process, supporting the evolution and implementation of the Strategic Approach and the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste, such as the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and seeking to enhance cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster and b) keeping under review emerging issues and trends in chemicals production, use, and release, and promote and catalyse implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

15. During the MTS 2014-2017 period, UNEP's work on chemicals and waste focused on three areas:

- **Enabling environment:** Countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly including the implementation of related provisions of the multilateral environmental agreements.
Chemicals: Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, make increasing use of the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound chemicals management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.
- **Waste:** Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, make increasing use of the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.

MTS 2018-2021

16. The MTS 2018-2021 presented a shift towards aligning UNEP work to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, an explicit emphasis on UNEA resolutions as well as stronger integration of gender at the sub-program level.

17. The vision statement formulated for chemicals and pollution under a sub-programme new name: **"Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality"** aimed for "By 2030, the negative environmental and human health impacts from harmful chemicals, hazardous and other waste, and air pollution will be significantly reduced, contributing to a cleaner planet for all. This vision built on the United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions on chemicals and waste and on-air quality. By achieving the vision, the subprogramme was expected to contribute significantly to Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.9, 6.3, 7.a, 11.6, 12.4 and 12.5.45. To realize the 2030 vision, several conditions needed to be met. The sound management of chemicals and waste needed to be integrated into national and sector-based legislation, policies, plans, budgets, and strategies, and into fiscal and institutional frameworks. Knowledge of the hazards and risks of chemicals and waste needed to be increased, and alternatives promoted, including green, sustainable chemistry within the context of environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes, considering gender-differentiated data. Waste prevention had to be coupled with product design that minimizes the generation, use and disposal of hazardous substances throughout the product life cycle, especially given the bioaccumulation and negative impact of harmful chemicals. In addition, stakeholders needed to adopt environmentally sound technologies, especially best

available techniques, and best environmental practices for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which is also meant to enhance sustainable urban development.”⁴

18. To achieve its 2030 vision, UNEP would work to ensure that national and sector-based laws, standards, policies and plans on chemicals, waste management and air quality were fully grounded in the best-available science and technology. UNEP was to help countries to strengthen and mainstream their knowledge on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals such as mercury and lead, chemicals in products, air pollutants such as particulate matter, e-waste, municipal waste, and other waste streams. Also, to generate the necessary assessments, tools, methods, and guidance, and strengthen institutional capacity to help countries implement strategies to reduce the generation of harmful chemicals, waste and air pollutants and manage these substances and related processes. The role of UNEP in international frameworks was to be further capitalized upon to strengthen its work on air quality during the coming years and beyond. Working with stakeholders, UNEP was to develop a set of global and regional actions to address key sources of air pollution.

MTS 2022-2025

19. In the MTS 2022-2025, UNEP set out its intention to tackle three planetary crises through three thematic subprogrammes on climate action, nature action, and chemicals and pollution action. Because these areas are deeply interconnected, the UNEP PoW for 2022-2023 (UNEP/EA.5/3/Add.1) outlined the organization’s approach, which is aimed at ensuring the delivery of multiple benefits and mutual outcomes that contribute to UNEP’s vision for planetary sustainability and human health and well-being.
20. In the new MTS 2022-2025, the SP-CPA proposes a focus on three areas; namely (i) optimize human health and environmental outcomes through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste; (ii) improve waste management, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites; and (iii) reduce releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean.

Table 1. Overview of SP-CPA MTS and POW Objectives and Outcomes, 2016-2023

POW 2014-2015	POW 2016-2017	POW 2018-2019	POW 2020-2021	POW 2022-2023
SP name: “Chemicals and Waste”	SP name: “Chemicals and Waste”	SP name: “Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality”	Added SDGs SP name: “Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality”	Three strategic objectives SP name: “Chemicals and Pollution Action”
Objective: To promote the transition of countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste in order to minimize impact	Objective of the organization: To promote a transition among countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste to	Objective of the organization: Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all. a) Policies and legal,	Objective of the organization: Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all. a) Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal	Outcome 1: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

⁴ MTS 2018-2021: pages 38-39

on the environment and human health. a) Countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste in a sound manner, including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements; b) Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, increasingly use the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound chemicals management and related multilateral environmental agreements c) Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, increasingly use the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management and related multilateral environmental agreements	minimize impacts on the environment and human health. a) Countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly, including the implementation of related provisions in the multilateral environmental agreements; b) Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, increasingly use the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound chemicals management and the related multilateral environmental agreements c) Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, increasingly use the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.	institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). b) Policies and legal and institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements. c) National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality, and air quality assessments done by countries with UNEP support.	strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM. b) Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM. c) National emissions sources identified, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality, and air quality assessments.	Outcome 2: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites. Outcome 3: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.
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MTS 2014-2017	MTS 2018-2021	MTS 2022-2025
Objective: to promote a transition among countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste, with a view to minimizing impacts on the environment and human health. EAI Enabling Environment: Countries increasingly have the necessary institutional capacity and policy instruments to manage chemicals and waste soundly including the implementation of related provisions of the multilateral environmental agreements; EA2 Chemicals: Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, make increasing use of the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound chemicals management and the related multilateral environmental agreements. EA3 Waste: Countries, including major groups and stakeholders, make increasing use of the scientific and technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sound waste management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.	Objective: Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality enables a healthier environment and better health for all. EA1: Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the frameworks of relevant MEAs and SAICM. EA2: Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the frameworks of relevant MEAs and SAICM. EA 3: National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality, and air quality assessments done by countries with the support of UNEP.	The expected 2030 outcome of this UNEP subprogramme is that significant progress is made towards a pollution-free planet, particularly through the delivery of the Towards A Pollution-Free Planet Implementation Plan. Outcome 1: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste. Outcome 2: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites. Outcome 3: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

21. Programme Performance Reports (PPR) from 2015-2021 provide an overview of achievement of indicator targets for each expected accomplishment / outcome of the sub-programme and summarised in Table 2. The SP-CPA's performance is reported in its three focus areas.
22. Table 2 shows indicator target achievement over the period 2015 to 2021. Some indicators were delivered over and above the targets set; for example, in 2020-21, SP-CPA reached all its expected accomplishments indicator targets. The result in the table is based on a summary of all indicators in the focus area.
23. The 2022-2025 MTS brought changes to the indicators of the SP-CPA and to the way the PPR reported those in the 2022 PPR. The SP-CPA no longer has the three focus areas mentioned above. Table 3 shows the sub-programme indicator performance.

Table 2. Summary of the Chemicals and Pollution Action sub-programme expected accomplishment indicator target performance, 2015-2021

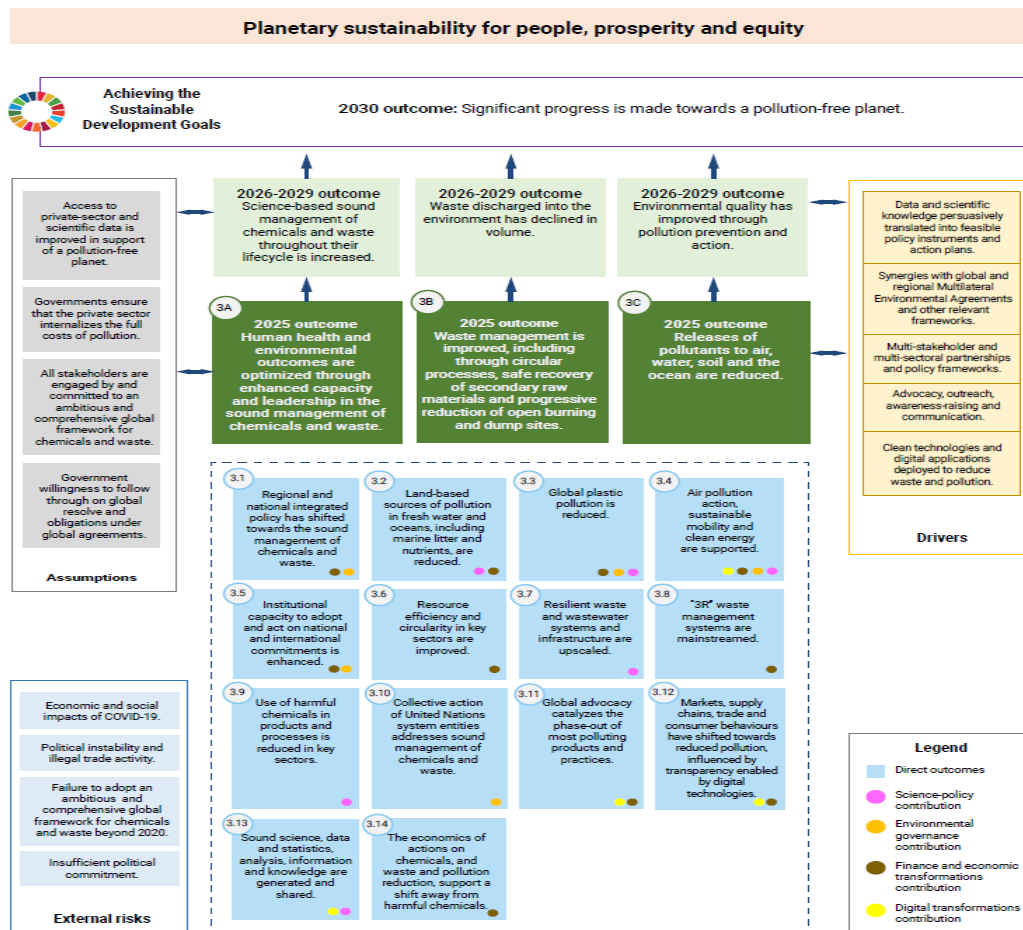
	2014-2015	2016-17	2018-19	2020-21
Enabling Environment <i>(this indicator of achievement is included in the 2016-2017 PoW)</i>	Partially Attained	Partially Attained	N/A	N/A
Chemicals	Partially Attained	Partially Attained	Attained	Attained
Waste	Partially Attained	Partially Attained	Attained	Attained
Air Quality <i>(this indicator of achievement is included in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 PoWs)</i>	N/A	N/A	Attained	Attained

Table 3. Chemicals and Pollution Action Sub-programme 2022 Indicator Performance

Indicator	Unit of Measure	December 2021 Baseline	December 2022 Target Cumulative	December 2022 Attained Cumulative	December 2022 % progress	December 2023 Target Cumulative
3- Chemicals and Pollutions Action Sub Programme						
(i) Number of Governments that, with UNEP support, are developing or implementing policies, strategies, legislation or action plans that promote sound chemicals and waste management and/or the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existing framework on chemicals and waste.	Number of Governments developing or implementing relevant policies, strategies, legislation or action plans with UNEP support.	169	224	206	67%	279
(ii) Number of Governments developing or implementing policies, strategies and mechanisms to prevent or reduce waste and ensure environmentally sound waste treatment or disposal, including in the context of disaster or conflict-related environmental emergencies, with UNEP support.	Number of Governments developing or implementing relevant policies, strategies and mechanisms, including in response to humanitarian and environmental emergencies, with UNEP support.	23	28	29	120%	35
(iii) Number of policy, regulatory, financial and technical measures developed with UNEP support to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean.	Number of air pollution, soil pollution and freshwater and marine pollution reduction measures developed with UNEP support, including gender and social measures.	64	78	77	93%	111
(iv) Reduction in releases of pollutants to the environment achieved with UNEP support.	Fewer tons of harmful pollutants and waste, including those covered under multilateral environmental agreements.	0	1200	1245	104%	2300

24. The theory of change for the sub-programme is presented in a figure based on the strategic objective of a Pollution-Free Planet in the POW 2022-2023.

Figure 1. Theory of Change for a Pollution-Free Planet



The theory of change identifies direct outcomes and the overall outcomes in 2025 and 2026-2029, and includes key assumptions and drivers.

2. Project Portfolio

25. The evaluation will assess the performance of UNEP interventions over the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2023. The project portfolio under consideration comprises all GEF and non-GEF projects that have been classified as belonging to the SP-CPA and have either been completed or are ongoing. At the time of writing these TORs (February 2024) there are 72 active projects in the UNEP's Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR). A list of these projects is presented in Annex 3. In the same period, 34 CPA projects have had their performance assessed through Terminal Evaluation (see Annex2).
26. In the current active project portfolio, 60 projects (83%) are funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF).

3. Sub-Programme Financing

27. Table 3 presents an overview of the PoWs' budget forecasts for the SP-CPA, and Table 4 presents an overview of actual spending for the SP-CPA as reported by the PoWs. Over the 2015-2023 period, the Sub-Programme budget increased from USD 77.3 million to 125 million.
28. For 2022-2023, the planned Environment Fund budget was USD 24 million, slightly increased from the previous POW of USD 23.4 million, but reflecting an overall downward trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions, peaking at USD 36 million received for the 2016-2017 POW.
29. Earmarked and Trust Funds with Global Funds surpassed by far the Environment Fund shortfall, the latter continuously increasing since 2016. For the 2020-21 PoW, the subprogramme received USD 61 million and 46 million. Global Funds include such sources as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Adaptation Fund.
30. Overall forecast for the 2022-2023 biennium was USD 125.1 million.

Table 3. Budget forecast/ ,000USD

POW	Environment Fund	Trust Fund and earmarked	Global Funds (GEF trust funds)	Project Support Costs	Regular Budget	Total
2014-2015	31,175	31,401	10,251	0	4,475	77,302
2016-2017	36,417	32,814	10,702	1,009	3,558	84,500
2018-2019	32,300	38,400	24,300	2,400	2,600	100,000
2020-2021	23,400	61,100	46,000	3,000	3,041	136,541
2022-2023	24,000	62,000	32,400	3,100	3,618	125,118

Source: POW 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

Table 4. Actual spent/ ,000USD

POW	Environment Fund	Trust Fund and earmarked	Global Funds	Project Support Costs	Regular Budget	Total
2014-2015	31,175	31,401	10,251	1,099	2,503	76,430
2016-2017	36,000	33,231	10,136	1,009	2,600	82,976
2018-2019	32,300	38,400	24,300	2,400	3,041	100,441
2020-2021	23,400	61,100	46,000	3,000	3,618	137,118

4. UNEP Institutional Arrangements

31. The Chemicals and Pollution Action work is carried out primarily by the Industry and Economy Division (IED) (formerly DTIE). IED is the Lead Division for the SP-CPA and, to a lesser extent, by other Divisions and Regional Offices for the delivery of Programme of Work Outputs for the three Expected Accomplishments in the POW 2020-2021 as shown in table 5⁵
32. According to the data provided by IPMR, most ongoing projects are managed by the Industry and Economy Division (70 projects (97%), and the Law Division (2 projects (3%). The projects are managed mainly by the Chemicals and Health Branch. The Branch supports a range of projects addressing issues on lead paint, chemicals in products, environmental persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, endocrine disrupting chemicals, highly hazardous pesticides. Furthermore, the Branch works on antimicrobial resistance, lead and cadmium, chemicals in plastics and supports innovative solutions through its work on green and sustainable chemistry.

Table 5. Institutional delivery arrangements by outputs planned for the expected accomplishment under the 2020-2021 PoW.

Programme of Work Output	Division Accountable	Contributing Division(s) and Regional Offices
Outputs planned for the biennium in pursuit of expected accomplishments (a): Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management are developed or implemented in countries within the frameworks of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM		
1. Data, information, assessment and knowledge management services to promote sound chemicals management.	Industry and Economy Division	Early Warning and Assessment Division, Ecosystems Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
2. Capacity-building and technical assistance on best available techniques, good practices, risk reduction and the establishment and enforcement of policies, laws and regulations for sound chemicals management.	Industry and Economy Division	Ecosystems Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
3. Advisory, policy and coordination support services to SAICM to promote sound chemicals management and the implementation of chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements.	Industry and Economy Division	Ecosystems Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
4. Support to global, regional and subregional strategic partnerships and integrated approaches to promote the sound management of chemicals.	Industry and Economy Division	Ecosystems Division, Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices

⁵ Similar institutional overview is not included in the POW 2022-2023

5. Outreach products and services provided to governments, citizens, private companies and civil society organizations to increase awareness of sound chemicals management.	Communications Division	Ecosystems Division, Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Industry and Economy Division, regional offices
Outputs planned for the biennium in pursuit of expected accomplishments (b): Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management are developed or implemented in countries within the frameworks of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM		
1. Knowledge development, capacity-building and technical assistance on good practices and on the establishment and enforcement of policies, laws and regulations to prevent marine litter and microplastics	Ecosystems Division	Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Industry and Economy Division, Communications Division, regional offices
2. Data, information, assessment and knowledge management services to promote waste prevention and sound waste management	Industry and Economy Division	Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
Outputs planned for the biennium in pursuit of expected accomplishment (c): National emissions sources are identified, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms to reduce air pollution are developed, institutional capacity to improve air quality is built and air quality assessments are done by countries with UNEP support and within the frameworks of relevant multilateral environmental agreements		
1. Assessments of air quality status and trends at national and regional scales.	Early Warning and Assessment Division	Industry and Economy Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
2. Technical guidance and support services for the establishment and enforcement of laws, regulations and fiscal policies to reduce air pollution.	Law Division	Ecosystems Division, Industry and Economy Division, regional offices
3. Advisory and support services and capacity-building to facilitate the standard and strategy development and information sharing necessary to reduce air pollution.	Industry and Economy Division	Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
4. Support to strengthen cooperation, coordination and partnerships across the globe, including within the United Nations system, and enhance linkages and synergies among major air quality programmes and stakeholders.	Industry and Economy Division	Ecosystems Division, Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Communications Division, regional offices
5. Outreach products and services provided to governments, citizens, private companies and civil society organizations to increase awareness on air quality importance and urgency.	Communications Division	Ecosystems Division, Early Warning and Assessment Division, Law Division, Industry and Economy Division, regional offices

Source: PoW 2020-21.

Note: Table updated with current Division names.

33. According to an overview of human resources documented in the PoWs over the 2015-2023 period (see table 6), the posts allocated to Chemicals and Pollution Action increased from 81 to 128. However, it is not clear how many of the positions are staff time dedicated to the delivery of SP-CPA outcomes and outputs, other sub-programmes, corporate functions and the extent to which staff allocation is on full-time or part-time basis.

Table 6. Human resource requirement by funding category: chemicals & pollution action

Funding Source	PoW 2014-2015	PoW 2016-2017	PoW 2018-2019	PoW 2020-2021	PoW 2022-2023
Environment Fund	50	49	52	44	Not provided
Earmarked Funds	16	16	16	60	Not provided
Global Funds	3	4	7	8	Not provided
Programme Support Costs	5	4	5	7	Not provided
Regular Budget	7	9	9	9	Not provided
Total	81	82	89	128	Not provided

Source: POW 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023.

New Delivery Model

34. The MTS 2022-25 and PoW 2022-23 brought about changes in the way that UNEP operates. These included⁶:
- A revised subprogramme structure with three thematic subprogrammes (Nature Action, Climate Action, and Chemical and Pollution Action), two foundational subprogrammes (Environmental Governance, Science-Policy) and two enabling subprogrammes (Digital Transformations, Finance and Economic Transformations) and accompanied by three thematic funds on Climate, Nature and Pollution;
 - A recognition that these seven subprogrammes are individually critical, inter-reliant, and inter-linked components that work together to deliver UNEP's three strategic objectives of 'Climate Stability', 'Living in Harmony with Nature' and 'Towards a Pollution-free Planet';
 - A new programmatic approach, whereby results are delivered through the vehicle of 13 programmes that cut across UNEP teams and subprogrammes. Three Pollution Action Programmes Coordination Projects (PCPs) have been created to deliver on the MTS strategic objective of Towards a pollution-free planet, namely (i) Circularity in Sectors, (ii) Pollution and Health, and (iii) Towards Zero Waste on the coordination;

⁶ New Delivery Model - One UNEP Delivery for better collaboration and country support, Final Draft Delivery Model 24 August 2022

- A focus on establishing a clear 'line of sight' between leadership and the delivery of results on the ground; and,
- A new 'Delivery Model' – modifying and clarifying the roles and responsibilities for Divisions and Regional Offices for POW implementation.

35. Operationalizing UNEP's 'Delivery Model' is said to require: i) a reorientation of roles and responsibilities guiding how Regional Offices and Divisions collaborate to deliver results; ii) a typology of interventions; and iii) revised workflows that guide project design and delivery. This prescribes institutional shifts, in particular to the role and responsibilities of Regional Offices, and introduction of Directly Responsible Persons (DRIs) for each sub- programme. The DRI is responsible for providing the Deputy Executive Director (DED) with accurate information and recommendations to enable the DED (with overall accountability for results) to ensure programmatic coordination and results-based management across subprogrammes.

5. Main UNEP Partners

36. In its work on chemicals, waste and air quality, the success of UNEP relies on effectively fostering and strengthening results-based partnership and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms; engaging Governments, the private sector, civil society, and other international organizations; and advancing results-based management and communication. Due to their cross-sectoral nature, a broad range of international organizations and mechanisms provide support to the management of chemicals and waste in areas ranging from legislation to information exchange through capacity for implementation and enforcement. Examples of strategic coordination platforms and partnerships include:

- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint;
- The Global Partnership on Waste Management;
- The Global Mercury Partnership and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants;
- Multilateral environmental agreements: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
- The Special Programme on Chemicals and Waste Management;
- The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
- United Nations entities – including WHO, the FAO, the United Nations Children's Fund and UNDP – and other organizations, including the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, scientific institutions, national agencies, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and the private sector to assist Member States in implementing pollution reduction efforts; and

- Global, regional, and subregional networks, forums and coalitions focused on pollution reduction, such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, antimicrobial resistance through the One Health Alliance, and regional ministerial forums on health and the environment.

6. Evaluation Evidence

37. The SP-CPA has been well reflected in evaluations of UNEP projects. This sub-programme is one of the main sub-programmes frequently associated with the projects evaluated. This is primarily due to the number of individual projects operating under it compared to those under other sub-programmes (e.g. Environmental Governance).
38. Over the period 2015-2023, the Evaluation Office of UNEP conducted a total of 34 chemicals and pollution action related evaluations. The list of evaluations is presented in Annex 2. This evaluation will, as far as possible, build on available evidence.

II. The Evaluation

A. Evaluation Audience

39. The Evaluation is expected to help UNEP identify key lessons on strategic positioning, portfolio planning, management arrangements, and programme implementation that will provide a useful basis for improved sub-programme design, coordination, and delivery. This will be done following the three lines of inquiry mentioned in paragraph 44.
40. The immediate and priority users of the Evaluation are UNEP senior management (including Division and Regional Directors), sub-programme coordinators, and all UNEP units and staff involved in the SP-CPA, the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives, and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).
41. Interest in the Evaluation is likely to be shown by other stakeholders and partners, including the UN Secretariat, UN or other international bodies working in the area of chemicals and pollution, commissions and committees, donors, NGOs, and civil society groups, research centres and academia, etc.

B. Objectives and Scope of the Evaluation

42. The Evaluation will review UNEP work related to Chemicals and Pollution Action from 1 January 2015 up to 31 December 2023 (PoW 2014/2015, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2020/2021 and 2022/2023) against standard evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact). The mandate for evaluation by the UNEP Evaluation Office covers all projects and programmes under the Programme of Work. It does not extend to the work undertaken by UNEP MEA Secretariats. SP-CPA work in support of MEAs, however, does fall within the evaluation scope⁷. The evaluation will fulfil

⁷ The evaluation will assess projects and programmes implemented by the SP-CPA, including on-going work such as support for COP-preparations, etc.

two main purposes:

- a) Supporting accountability by analysing, at a meta level, the performance of all the sub-programme projects evaluated during the evaluation period, and
- b) Contributing to institutional learning by providing formative reflections based on further analysis of the sub-programme's effectiveness as a coherent and coordinated unit within UNEP's results framework, and considering lessons that are relevant to its role in the MTS 2022-2025.

43. The Evaluation will consider the extent to which, in the period under review, UNEP was able to meet its objective as stated in MTS 2014-2017: *"to promote a transition among countries to the sound management of chemicals and waste, with a view to minimizing impacts on the environment and human health."*, and in MTS 2018- 2021: as *"Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality enables a healthier environment and better health for all"*, as well as progress made towards the objective in the MTS 2022- 2025 *"significant progress is made towards a pollution-free planet, particularly through the delivery of the Towards A Pollution-Free Planet Implementation Plan."*
44. While the evaluation of SP-CPA will assess performance over the period 2015-2023 towards UNEP's stated objective and achievement of results, the evaluation will also be forward-looking with emphasis on the latter part of the period to inform the implementation of the current MTS and next iteration of MTS.
45. Broadly, the evaluation will follow three lines of inquiry to provide a holistic review combining both 'bottom-up' (i.e., aggregating project-level findings) and 'top-down' perspectives (e.g., analyzing the evidence informing results reporting in the Programme Performance Report) (see also Section D. Evaluation Approach and Methods):
 - 1) **Project-level performance:** a desk-based, systematic review of the findings from completed project-level evaluation exercises undertaken between 1 January 2015 and December 2023. The analysis will provide aggregated findings against standard evaluation criteria and identify and discuss trends in the factors contributing to particularly high or low performance. It will include an assessment of the sample of project evaluations in terms of how well they represent the sub-programme as a whole.
 - 2) **Exploration of key Theories of Change:** Theories of Change will be reconstructed around the main results areas to explore how projects were expected to have a collective or aggregated effect at the level of Programme of Work results (Expected Accomplishments⁸). Projects that are recognized as important contributors to the main causal pathways will be identified and, where possible, used to provide case studies. The implementation and performance of SP-CPA work will be evaluated in the context of the TOCs, and the analysis will focus heavily on the effectiveness and sustainability of the sub-programme efforts.
 - 3) **Contribution to higher-level results and global change processes:** drawing on the reconstructed Theories of Change, but also considering high-profile/flagship projects and key areas of investment, an analysis will be undertaken to establish the extent and nature of UNEP's contribution to changes at sectoral and global levels, including the use of the various platforms and secretariats that are hosted by the sub-programme. The methods used to

⁸ Applicable for projects approved pre-2022.

aggregate project-level achievements and compile results presented in the Programme Performance Reports will be explored. This analysis also aims to identify areas of work that would be suited to deeper impact studies in the longer term.

46. The scope of the Evaluation is defined by the portfolio of active projects (GEF and non-GEF) that were classified in the Programme Information Management System (PIMS) and now migrated into the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR)⁹ system under the SP-CPA, which were either still on-going or were started after 1 January 2015. Activities conducted by the OzonAction Branch of the Industry and Economy Division will not be covered by this evaluation¹⁰.

C. Evaluation Areas of Focus

47. The areas of focus for the evaluation are set out below. In evaluating these areas, the following key strategic questions will be addressed:

- 1) To what extent were the recommendations from the 2010-2014 Chemicals and Waste sub-programme evaluation implemented?
- 2) To what extent have collaborations and partnerships with MEAs been productive in implementing the PoW and achieving SP-CPA objectives?
- 3) To what extent do partnerships with the GEF and the GCF influence UNEP's strategy, sub-programme, and delivery effectiveness in addressing chemicals and pollution?
- 4) How effectively were UNEA resolutions on chemicals, waste, and pollution embedded by the SP-CPA, and what were the primary challenges?
- 5) To what extent have the flagship projects impacted program performance, global presence, and operational delivery?
- 6) How are ownership arrangements and synergies between the SP-CPA and other thematic, foundational, and enabling UNEP Sub-Programmes made tangible and effective to deliver interconnected and mutually beneficial results?
- 7) What is the relationship between the three PCPs: (i) Circularity in Sectors, (ii) Pollution and Health, and (iii) Towards Zero Waste and the SP-CPA from a results-oriented perspective?
- 8) How has the SP-CPA contributed to influence the UN Development System and its programming processes? Specifically, how can it inform and influence 1) UN Common Country Analysis, 2) UN Sustainable Development Country Frameworks, and 3) support the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals related to the SP-CPA? How can its role be improved in the future to assist UNEP's environmental policy leadership role in the UN system at the global, regional, and country levels?
- 9) To what extent has the sub-programme involved the Regional Offices in its strategy, including selection of geographic coverage? Has it ensured that they are meaningfully engaged in the SP-CPA design and implementation?
- 10) To what extent did the staff of UNEP shift their culture towards the vision and delivery of the MTS 2025 outcome and 2030 goal during the implementation of SP-CPA?
- 11) Considering the evaluation will also be forward-looking to inform the implementation of the current MTS and new MTS, to what extent the changes in the design of the SP-CPA under the 2022-2025 MTS and the 2022-2023 PoW compared to the design under the MTS and PoW during

⁹ IPMR system was introduced by UNEP in 2022. PIMS was the previous project management system in UNEP.

¹⁰ Ozonaction projects are not formally part of UNEP's Programme of Work and fall outside the Evaluation Office mandate.

the 2015-2021 period brought more coherence and effectiveness in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the sub-programme?

I. Strategic Relevance of the Sub-Programme

48. The Evaluation will assess the relevance of the sub-programme objectives and strategy. The analysis will address the main question of whether the sub-programme objectives and strategy are relevant to and aligned with: a) the global challenges posed by chemicals and waste; b) global, regional, and country needs; c) the international response, and e) UNEP's mandate and areas of expertise in this area.
49. The evaluation will also consider the adequacy and appropriateness of the geographical scope of the sub-programme, including of LDC and SIDS, and the strategy behind country selection, and whether it included the involvement of UNEP regional offices. The analysis will consider the question of relevance and alignment from the perspectives of the three focus areas: (i) Chemicals: assisting countries and other stakeholders to implement sound chemicals management and the related MEAs. ii) Waste: assisting countries and other stakeholders to prevent waste and implement sound waste management and the related MEAs, and iii) Air quality: helping countries develop strategies and policies to reduce air pollution¹¹.

2. Sub-Programme Design and Structure

50. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the overall performance of the SP-CPA has been affected (in terms of effectiveness and efficiency) by the way it is designed, structured, and integrated with other sub-programmes and management structures. The Evaluation will consider the internal coherence and logic between Expected Accomplishments (Applicable for projects approved pre-2022), Programme of Work outputs and project outcomes¹². Particular attention will be paid to how well the sub-programme's results are formulated and logically organized, including the appropriateness of performance indicators to measure progress towards planned achievements. Concerning the Theory of Change for the sub-programme, the evaluation will assess the extent to which the intermediate states, drivers and assumptions underlying the sub-programme change process have been well thought through and articulated.
51. Overall, the evaluation will consider whether a dedicated sub-programme on chemicals and pollution action has helped to better define and coordinate UNEP's activities in addressing the challenges posed by chemicals and pollution.

3. Overall Sub-Programme Performance

52. The Evaluation will assess the effectiveness, likelihood of impact, sustainability of results, efficiency, and potential for large-scale effects of the Chemical and Pollution Action sub-programme during the evaluation period. Two perspectives will be explored:

¹¹ MTS 2022-2025 SP-CPA refers to focus along the outcomes: Outcome 1: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste. Outcome 2: Waste management is improved, including through circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites. Outcome 3: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil, and the ocean are reduced.

¹² For example, the evaluation will assess whether the results from GEF-funded projects are adequately captured in the SP-CPA results framework.

- a) Project-level: Based on the findings of the project-level evaluations (34) undertaken during the evaluation period, and information gathered from other sources, including Programme Performance Reports, conclusions will be drawn about the performance of the Chemicals and Pollution Action Sub-Programme project portfolio against each of UNEP's standard evaluation criteria: strategic relevance; achievement of outputs; effectiveness (achievement of project objectives and results); sustainability and replication; efficiency and factors affecting performance (preparation and readiness; project implementation and management; stakeholder participation; communications and public awareness; country ownership; financial management; UNEP supervision and technical guidance and monitoring and evaluation).
 - b) Sub-programme level: At the level of the sub-programme itself (i.e., as a vehicle for the delivery of UNEP higher level results), the evaluation will assess the effectiveness and sustainability of the sub-programme's efforts against Theories of Change reconstructed at the level of Expected Accomplishments for the 2014-2021 PoWs and direct outcomes for the 2022-2023 PoW, and with respect to the results reported in the Programme Performance Reports. To the extent possible, the evaluation will look at sub-programme performance from 2022 through the lens of the newly created PCPs: (i) Circularity in Sectors, (ii) Pollution and Health, and (iii) Towards Zero Waste.
53. Given the global nature of UNEP's mandate and the challenges it aims to address, particular attention will be given, at all levels, to the approach taken within this sub-programme to replication, scaling-up, and the achievement of catalytic effects. All of these relate to the maximization of effectiveness (i.e., instances of positive results being multiplied).
 54. The evaluation will assess the likelihood that results achieved by the sub-programme either have, or will in the future, contribute to long-term impact on environmental benefits and sustainable development.

4. Factors Affecting Sub-Programme Performance

a) Sub-Programme Organization and Management

55. The Evaluation will look at the efficiency and effectiveness of the sub-programme organization, coordination, and management arrangements. The evaluation will consider the interplay of roles between the different organisational units that are implementing Chemicals and Pollution Action work and consider the effectiveness of SP Coordination arrangements between divisions and regional offices in view of the new delivery model. The Evaluation will also consider whether internal lessons can be derived from the experiences of different functional units within the sub-programme.

b) Sub-programme Human and Financial Resources Administration and Efficiency

56. The Evaluation will consider the adequacy of human and financial resources available for the planning and implementation of sub-programme activities. The Evaluation will assess, among other things:
 - *Human Resources*: the adequacy in terms of number and competencies of staff managing SP activities; personnel turn-over rates and the balance between continuity and new staff and non- staff (e.g. consultants) under the SP; the ability of managers to plan, coordinate and delegate work, communicate effectively, motivate and reward staff; factors influencing the morale of staff and the degree of satisfaction in the management of their daily activities and working in teams with colleagues from other functional units, at

Headquarters and regionally in UNEP and with partners;

- *Financial Resources*: the distribution of funding according to funding source and the adequacy and stability of the funding base for the achievement of sub-programme objectives; the success of the different areas of intervention and functional units in securing funds for sub-programme activities; allocation of funds and expenditure rate by each type of intervention and by the different functional units in UNEP¹³;
- *Financial Management and Administration*: the quality, transparency and effectiveness of the systems and processes used for financial management of HQ, regional and any country level operations; the link between financial and programme management and the degree of financial responsibility that sub-programme staff have and any other administrative processes facilitating or inhibiting the fluid execution of sub-programme activities, including the use of extensions and the promotion of synergies among sub-programme components.

c) Cooperation and Partnerships

57. The Evaluation will assess the effectiveness of mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation with other UNEP sub-programmes, relevant UNEP-administered MEAs, external stakeholders and partners. The Evaluation will explore cooperation and collaboration at several levels, between a) different functional units involved in the sub-programme; different sub-programmes within UNEP; Headquarters and regional or out-posted offices; UNEP and other UN agencies as well as with inter- governmental organisations, regional bodies, the private sector, and technical/scientific institutions etc. Areas of consideration will include whether key stakeholders and partners are regularly involved at critical stages of the sub-programme's planning, decision-making, implementation and reporting processes. The evaluation will also assess whether mechanisms are in place and in use to ensure that complementarities are sought, synergies optimized, and duplications avoided at all levels of the sub-programme's planning and delivery. Positive examples of collaboration and the resulting benefits will be recorded where possible.

d) Monitoring and Reporting

58. The Evaluation will assess how well sub-programme activities and achievements have been monitored, reported, and evaluated. This will include a review of whether there is a clear definition of roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis, and information-sharing as well as adequate resources to support these functions.

- *Monitoring*: The evaluation will consider whether an effective monitoring system is in place that ensures that monitoring data are captured at appropriate levels and used to enhance sub- programme performance through established and widely known processes.
- *Reporting*: The arrangements for reporting in ways that support the accurate and reliable reporting of sub-programme results will be reviewed. Regarding projects within the sub- programme, the evaluation will consider how well results that contribute to

¹³ Three thematic funds on Climate, Nature and Pollution were launched in 2022 with the objective to help implementing the MTS and shift balance away from rigidly earmarked funding towards improved distribution and resource allocation for bigger impact.

sub-programme outputs are captured and aggregated. The quality, comprehensiveness, and regularity of reporting on sub-programme outputs, outcomes and impact will be assessed as well as whether quality assurance processes are in place to ensure the reliability and accuracy of reporting at the higher results levels.

- *Evaluation:* The extent to which sub-programme activities are structured in a way that facilitates evaluation and have been independently evaluated will be examined. The evaluation will also assess whether adequate resources are routinely allocated to this purpose and secured until the end of the evaluation process.

e) Human Rights, Gender, and Disability Inclusion

59. The evaluation will ascertain to what extent the sub-programme has applied the UN Common Understanding on the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Within this human rights context the evaluation will assess to what extent the sub-programme adheres to UNEP's Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment and UNEP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework. The report should present the extent to which the sub-programme, following an adequate gender analysis at the design stage, has implemented the identified actions and/or applied adaptive management to ensure that gender equality, human rights, and disability inclusion are adequately taken into account, and the extent to which gender-related issues were incorporated into the design and delivery of sub-programme outputs.

f) Communication

60. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of communication between the units responsible for the implementation of the sub-programme and the coordinator, senior management and relevant UNEP divisions and departments. It will also assess the extent to which clear communication was established with partners and donors, with a view to assessing the extent to which communication has been contributing to the effective implementation of the sub-programme, establishment of synergies, and limitation of duplication of efforts. For example, the evaluation may consider whether sub-programme activities related to communication and knowledge management are planned and whether adequate effort has been given to follow-up and dissemination of information, concepts, approaches, and tools generated by the sub-programme. The evaluation will also consider SP-CPA efforts to communicate with external audiences as part of an outreach strategy to exert influence and support advocacy efforts in the relevant sectors.

D. Evaluation Approach and Methods

61. The Evaluation will be conducted under the overall responsibility of the UNEP Evaluation Office (EOU). It will be an in-depth study using a participatory approach whereby the Sub-Programme Coordinator, Division Directors, Regional Directors, Project/Task Managers, Head of the Policy and Programme Division, and other relevant staff are kept informed and regularly consulted throughout the process.
62. The Evaluation will remain an independent exercise. The Evaluation Team will benefit from the leadership and contributions of two independent consultants, supported by Evaluation Office staff, who will liaise with the EOU on any logistic and/or methodological issue to properly conduct the assessment as independently as possible, given the circumstances and resources provided.
63. Evaluation findings and judgments will be based on sound evidence and analysis, clearly documented in the evaluation report. Information will be triangulated (i.e., verified from different

sources) to the greatest extent possible¹⁴. Analysis leading to evaluative judgments will be clearly spelled out.

64. The Evaluation will use different methods and tools to assess the sub-programme, including: desk- based review of UNEP strategic documents; meta-analysis of the ratings of previously evaluated projects; trend analysis of evaluation findings and interviews in the reconstruction and exploration of Theories of Change and in analysis the contributions of the sub-programme to higher level results. Survey(s) may be considered if appropriate. A list of evaluation methods to be used are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Evaluation Methods

Type of Activity	Description
Desk Based Review	Reading of thematic and strategic documents to situate the Sub-Programme evaluation within global and sectoral contexts and to articulate UNEP's position and efforts within the global regional and national contexts.
Interviews/Survey	Exploration and analysis of the factors affecting sub-programme performance.
Systematic Review of Findings Project Evaluations	Aggregation and analysis of the findings and ratings across Chemical and Pollution Action project evaluations. Analysis of trends in the evaluation findings against the standard evaluation criteria used by the Evaluation Office. • Strategic Relevance • Effectiveness (Availability of outputs and achievement of project outcomes and likelihood of impact) • Sustainability • Efficiency • Factors Affecting Performance In-depth exploration of key criteria including: • Project Designs¹⁵ (under Preparation and Readiness) • Gender, Human Rights, and safeguards (under Strategic Relevance) • Financial Management (under Factors Affecting Performance) • Monitoring and Evaluation (under Factors Affecting Performance) • Compliance with evaluation recommendations Analysis of this sample of project evaluations as a representation of the sub-programme itself (i.e. magnitude and nature of the evaluation coverage of the sub-programme)

¹⁴ Individuals will not be mentioned by name if anonymity needs to be preserved.

¹⁵ Using the EO template for the Assessment of the Quality of Project Design, which is prepared during all project evaluations.

Reconstructed Theories of Change	Reconstruction of Theories of Change ¹⁶ , one per sub-programme results area. Analysis of the coherence between the reconstructed Theories of Change and the TOCs of critical projects within the sub-programme.
Contributions to HigherLevel Results	Analysis of the 'contribution' made by the Sub-Programme to high-level sectoral or global change (using TOCs and stakeholder analysis). Exploration of the way in which sub-programme results are compiled and reported.
Regional Delivery of the Sub-Programme	Exploration of how the sub-programme is articulated and delivered at regional level.

65. The desk review will include:

- Relevant background documentation on the scientific and socio-economic dimensions of Chemicals and Pollution Action, and on current policies, strategies, multilateral agreements, approaches used in Chemicals and Pollution Action;
- Background documentation on UNEP's strategy and engagement in Chemicals and Pollution Action, including PoW documents (from 2015 onwards); Programme Framework documents; the UNEP MTS 2014-2017, 2018-2021, and 2022-2025 and project design documents;
- Background documentation on UNEP partnerships with key actors in the area of Chemicals and Pollution Action; and
- Sub-programme reports and monitoring data including Sub-programme performance reports, project progress and final reports, financial reports, entries into PIMS, etc.

66. The systematic review of previous evaluations of projects related to Chemicals and Pollution Action will draw on the evaluation ratings scoring, and analysis contained within existing project evaluation reports. Evaluations by the Evaluation Office but also any independent evaluation functions of UNEP partners (UN and non-UN) and donors will be considered.

67. Interviews are expected to be held with UNEP management and other staff involved in the planning and implementation of the sub-programme, including: the Executive Director, Division Directors, Regional Directors, the Sub-programme Coordinator, Project/Task Managers and divisional staff, staff from the Policy and Programme Division and staff of UNEP regional offices and the secretariats of UNEP-hosted MEAs and others as relevant. In addition, interviews and, if appropriate, surveys will be conducted with key partners and stakeholders, including selected representatives of UN and other external partners; other UN agencies active in promoting chemicals and pollution action and funding mechanisms (e.g., UNEP – EC Strategic Cooperation Agreements); Ministries of Environment; bilateral donors; civil society and major groups such as NGOs, local authorities, academia as well as the private sector.

E. Evaluation Deliverables

68. An **Inception Report** will be prepared by the Evaluation Team before it engages in external interviews, surveys, and regional office or project visits. The Inception Report will include: (i) most of the background desk review; (ii) draft theories of change at the level of the sub-programme's Expected Accomplishments; (iii) a detailed description of the methods and analytical tools that the

¹⁶ These TOCs may or may not reflect either the overall TOC for the sub-programme or TOC(s) from key projects.

Evaluation will use; (iv) an annotated table of contents for the evaluation report; and (v) distribution of roles and responsibilities related to data collection and analysis and reporting among the Evaluation Team members. The Inception Report will be shared first with the Evaluation Office for review. It will then be shared by the Evaluation Office with the Sub-programme Coordinator, senior management, and heads of functional units for comments.

69. Following field visits, if applicable and preparation of the draft report, **Preliminary Findings** will be prepared in PowerPoint and presented to the Evaluation Reference Group through Teams or Skype.
70. The **Main Evaluation Report** will present synthesized findings from the evaluation. Detailed material arising from any case or country studies will be annexed. It will be relatively brief (no longer than 50 pages – excluding the executive summary and annexes), to the point, and written in plain English. It must explain the purpose of the Evaluation, exactly what was evaluated, and the methods used (with their limitations). The report will present evidence-based and balanced findings covering all the evaluation criteria, consequent conclusions, lessons, and recommendations, which will be cross-referenced to each other. The report should be presented in a way that makes the information accessible and comprehensible.
71. The draft report shall be submitted to the Director of the Evaluation Office. The Evaluation Office will review the report for clarity and comprehensiveness. When found acceptable, the Director of Evaluation will share the report with the Sub-programme Coordinator and Lead Director, who will review the report and provide feedback on any factual errors. Once these have been addressed, the report will be circulated to Division and Regional Directors, the Policy and Programme Division, the Corporate Services Division, senior managers, and key external stakeholders for review and consultation. They may provide feedback on any errors of fact and highlight the significance of such errors in any conclusions. The Evaluation Office will then collate all review comments and provide them to the Evaluation Team for consideration in preparing the final version of the report. The Team will draft a response to any comments that contradict its own findings and could, therefore, not be accommodated in the final report. This response will be shared by the Evaluation Office with the interested stakeholders to ensure full transparency.
72. The final report shall be submitted by email to:
Michael Spilsbury, Director
UNEP Evaluation Office
Email: michael.spilsbury@un.org
73. The final evaluation report will be published on the Evaluation Office web-site <https://www.unep.org/evaluation-office>, and the Evaluation Office LinkedIn account. Consistent with standard Quality Assurance processes, the Evaluation Office will prepare quality assessments of the draft and final reports, which are tools for providing structured feedback to the evaluation consultants. The quality of the draft evaluation report will be assessed by the Evaluation Office and rated against UNEP criteria.
74. The Sub-programme Coordinator, assisted by the Evaluation Office, will facilitate the preparation of a **Recommendations Implementation Plan** in consultation with the relevant offices and functional units in UNEP. The plan should specify the level of priority of the recommendations and actions to be undertaken to implement them. It should also indicate who will be responsible for implementing the recommendations and the schedule for their implementation. The Sub-programme Coordinator will then be responsible for reporting through the Evaluation Office to the Executive Office on the status of implementations of evaluation recommendations on a six-monthly basis, until the latest deadline in the implementation schedule has been reached.

75. After the Recommendations Implementation Plan has been agreed upon, the final evaluation report will be widely shared with partners and stakeholders. Innovative ways of disseminating evaluation findings and recommendations (e.g., the organization of a workshop where the Team illustrates the content of its analysis to UNEP target audience) will be sought to reach as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. The management response will be published on the Evaluation Office website <https://www.unep.org/evaluation-office>.

F. Management Arrangements of the Evaluation

76. The Evaluation will be managed by the Evaluation Office of UNEP. The Evaluation Manager will provide guidance on the overall evaluation approach and quality assure the evaluation deliverables. (S)he will ensure coordination and liaison with all concerned units and other key agencies and stakeholders. The Evaluation Office will be ultimately responsible for the final evaluation report and for its formal presentation to the UNEP audience.

77. The core Evaluation Team will consist of two external Evaluation Consultants (Principal Evaluator and Evaluation Specialist, respectively) supported by two Evaluation Office staff members, (one of whom will be the Evaluation Manager). The Evaluation Team will be responsible for the development, research, drafting, and finalization of the Evaluation, in close consultation with the Evaluation Manager. Detailed roles and responsibilities related to data collection and analysis, and reporting will be agreed upon within the Team and specified in the Inception Report and will draw on the list of roles below.

Specific Responsibilities for the Principal Evaluator:

78. The Principal Evaluator will be responsible, in close consultation with the Evaluation Manager, for overall management of the evaluation and timely delivery of its outputs, described above in Section E. Evaluation Deliverables. Roles will include:

- Inception phase of the evaluation, including:
 - map out the projects in the SP-CPA portfolio and assess how they contribute to the PoW (2014/2015, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2020/2021 and 2022/2023) results and indicators. Identify the projects that have the greatest impact on each subprogramme's indicators;
 - get the list of project preliminary desk review and introductory interviews with project staff;
 - review the Theory of Change of the SP-Chemicals and Pollution Action against the project portfolio;
 - analyze the TOC of the 2022-2023 PoW (for forward-looking learning)
 - prepare the evaluation framework;
 - develop the desk review and interview protocols;
 - draft the survey protocols (if relevant);
 - develop and present criteria for selection of Chemicals and Pollution Action initiatives for in-depth study;
 - plan the evaluation schedule;
 - prepare the Inception Report, incorporating comments until approved by the Evaluation Manager.
- Data collection and analysis phase of the evaluation, including:
 - conduct further desk review and in-depth interviews with project implementing and executing agencies, project partners, and project

- stakeholders;
 - regularly report back to the Evaluation Manager on progress and inform of any possible problems or issues encountered and;
 - keep the Evaluation Manager informed of the evaluation progress and engage the Sub-Programme Coordinator of Chemicals and Pollution Action in discussions on emerging findings throughout the evaluation process.
- Reporting phase, including:
 - draft the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that the evaluation report is complete, coherent, and consistent with the Evaluation Manager guidelines both in substance and style;
 - liaise with the Evaluation Manager on comments received and finalize the Main Evaluation Report, ensuring that comments are taken into account until approved by the Evaluation Manager;
 - prepare a Response to Comments annex for the main report, listing those comments not accepted by the Evaluation Consultant(s) and indicating the reason for the rejection.
- Managing relations, including:
 - maintain a positive relationship with evaluation stakeholders, ensuring that the evaluation process is as participatory as possible but at the same time maintains its independence;
 - communicate in a timely manner with the Evaluation Manager on any issues requiring its attention and intervention.

Specific Responsibilities for the Evaluation Specialist:

79. The Evaluation Specialist will carry out the Systematic Review of existing project evaluations from the sub-programme. The Evaluation Specialist will contribute to the overall preparation of the evaluation report. A more detailed allocation of responsibilities between the Principal Evaluator and the Evaluation Specialist will be specified in the inception report.

Other Roles and Responsibilities:

80. An Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) will be established. The ERG members will provide strategic direction to the evaluation - based on their own experiences and contextual knowledge - and boost buy-in to, and the credibility and legitimacy of, the evaluation process across the range of evaluation stakeholders. The ERG membership selection will be based on the position and expertise they hold in UNEP relevant to the area of chemicals and pollution. The diversity and geographical representation of members will be considered to the extent possible. The ERG will be composed of: one senior manager from the Industry and Economy Division, a senior manager from the Ecosystems Division, the Sub-Programme Coordinator from the Policy and Programme Division, three Branch/Unit Heads from the Industry and Economy Division or other Divisions, two regional office representatives, and up to three representatives from relevant global or regional MEA and non-MEA UNEP Secretariats or coordination mechanisms (e.g. EMG).
81. The Evaluation Consultants will have an in-depth understanding of, and familiarity with, evaluation methods and techniques and documented experience in conducting high-level evaluations of large environment-related organizations and programmes. They will possess excellent writing

skills in English.

82. They will combine advanced knowledge and experience in the following fields:

- Chemicals, waste, and air quality;
- Chemicals and pollution related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, regional and national policy processes;
- Change management;
- UN policy work and country support;
- The UN system, in particular UNEP and partner agencies of the SP-CPA;
- Programme and project management;
- Partnerships development, including with the private sector, and knowledge management.

83. The Evaluation will be conducted during the period October 2024 – September/October 2025. The Evaluation Office will present a first draft evaluation report tentatively by early June 2025 to the Sub-Programme Coordinator. In September/October 2025 (tentative date) a presentation on the main evaluation findings will be held to discuss evaluation findings and recommendations with key stakeholders. Publication of the final evaluation report is expected by October 2025. The report will be discussed with UNEP's Senior Management Team. The tentative schedule for the Evaluation is presented below. Consultants will be hired within 12 months from the consultants' contract start date.

84. All consultant contracts will be individual Special Service Agreements (SSA) on a fee-only basis. Air tickets will be purchased by UNEP and 75% of the Daily Subsistence Allowance for each authorised travel mission will be paid up front. Local in-country travel will only be reimbursed where agreed in advance with the Evaluation Office and on the production of acceptable receipts. Terminal expenses and residual DSA entitlements (25%) will be paid after mission completion. By signing the service contract with UNEP/UNON, the consultant(s) certify that they have not been associated with the design and implementation of the project in any way which may jeopardize their independence and impartiality towards project achievements and project partner performance. In addition, they will not have any future interests (within six months after completion of the contract) with the project's executing or implementing units. All consultants are required to sign the Code of Conduct Agreement Form.

85. **Payment schedule:** The Evaluation Consultants will receive i) 30% of their agreed fee upon completion of the Inception Report; and ii) 40% upon delivery of a draft main report that is deemed complete and of acceptable quality to the EOU. iii) The remaining 30% will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the work.

86. In case the consultants are not able to provide the deliverables in accordance with these TORs, in line with the expected quality standards and feedback received by the UNEP Evaluation Office, payment may be withheld at the discretion of the Director of the Evaluation Office until the consultants have improved the deliverables to meet UNEP's quality standards. The Principal Evaluator will advise the Evaluation Office whether the Evaluation Specialist has provided satisfactory inputs in the evaluation.

87. If the consultants fail to submit satisfactory products in a timely manner, after considering the reasons for the extended time necessary for completion, and if the consultants cannot deliver the product in foreseeable extended time, after discussion with the consultants, the Evaluation Office

reserves the right to employ additional human resources to finalize their products on schedule, and to reduce the consultants' fees by an amount equal to the additional costs borne by the Evaluation Office to bring the report up to standard. The additional costs can only be for the completion of specific tasks within the range foreseen for each of the above-mentioned specific payment schedule i), ii) or iii) and therefore, reasonably in alignment with the corresponding payments.

88. Tentative schedule for the evaluation in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Tentative schedule

Phase	Milestone/deliverable	Timeframe
Inception	TORs	April 2024
	Evaluation team's contracts	15 October 2024
	Evaluation team submits final Inception Report	3 rd January 2025
Data collection & analysis (by evaluation team)	Further desk review	October 2024 – Mid-February 2025
	Telephone interviews	
	Surveys	
	Working papers/case studies	
Reporting Phase	Evaluation team's presentation on preliminary findings	Mid- February 2025
	Evaluation team submits Draft Report to EOU	30 April 2025
	EOU shares Draft Report with relevant UNEP staff for comments	Early June 2025
	EOU shares Draft Report with ERG for comments	Early July 2025
	EOU shares Draft Report with partners for comments	End of July 2025
	Evaluation team's presentation on the main evaluation findings and recommendations (Nairobi)	September/October 2025
	Evaluation team submits Final Report to EOU	September/October 2025
	EOU circulates Final Report	October 2025

Annex 1. Allocation of Roles (draft)

Consultant 1	Consultant 2	UNEP Evaluation Office
Overall task leadership and representation: Leadership and facilitation of a participatory evaluation process involving UNEP staff in the Chemicals and Pollution Action sub-programme. These staff members are largely based in Geneva and Nairobi. Integration of all contributions from team members into a coherent and concise document. A structure of the final document will be prepared during the Inception Phase.	Project level performance: A desk-based, systematic review of the findings from Chemicals and Pollution Action project-level evaluation exercises undertaken between January 2015 and December 2023. The analysis will provide aggregated scores against standard evaluation criteria and identify and discuss trends in the factors contributing to particularly high or low performance. It will include as assessment of the sample of project evaluations in terms of how they represent the sub- programme as a whole.	Contribution to higher-level results: The methods used to aggregate project-level achievements and compile results presented in the Programme Performance Report will be explored. This analysis aims to also identify areas of work that would be suited to deeper impact evaluation in the longer term.
Exploration of key Theories of Change: Theories of Change (TOC) will be analyzed		Regional delivery of the sub-programme: An analysis (1 or 2 case studies) of how the sub-programme is articulated and delivered at a regional and country level

around the main results areas¹⁷ to explore how projects are expected to have a collective or aggregated effect at the level Programme of Work results (Expected Accomplishments). A TOC for the sub-programme exists. A specific question is how the various streams of chemicals and pollution action work can be delivered in an integrated or complementary way under the new MTS 2022-2025. Projects that are recognised as key drivers to these causal pathways will be identified and used to provide case studies of the strength of the TOCs. <i>(If in-person visits become possible, this will be done using existing project evaluations and project TOCs where available, supplemented with Teams/Skype interviews with key respondents).</i>		
Contribution to global change processes: Influence analysis aiming to explore (and demonstrate) the claim of a credible association between UNEP's Chemicals and Pollution Action work in lasting high-level outcomes. This may include the roles played by various UNEP platforms and secretariats that are hosted by the sub-programme.		

¹⁷ The three theories of change will be reconstructed at the level of sub-programme results that has the greatest potential explanatory power (e.g. results statements in a selected Programme Performance Report; Expected Accomplishments in a selected Programme of Work etc.).

Annex 2: Chemicals and Pollution Action Sub-programme-related evaluations 2015-2023¹⁸

1. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project (53-P5)- Managing Harmful Substance and Hazardous Waste through the Global Programme of Action in Support of Regional Seas Agreements (2016)
2. Terminal Evaluation of UNEP Project "Global Mercury Partnership and Mercury Programme" (2016)
3. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "53-P2 Addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium" (2017)
4. Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-UNEP Project "Pilot Project on the Development of Mercury Inventory in China" (2017)
5. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Chemicals management needs and priorities: National dioxin/furan inventories and POPs global monitoring" (2017)
6. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Support to Implementation of the Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions)" (2017)
7. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM" (2018)
8. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Pilot project on the Development of Mercury Inventory in the Russian Federation" (2018)
9. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LCDs) of the COMESA, Sub-regions" (2018)
10. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LCDs) of the SADC Sub-regions" (2018)
11. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LCDs) of the ECOWAS Sub-regions" (2018)
12. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Secretariat Support to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Minamata Convention on Mercury" (2018)

¹⁸ Source: Evaluation Office records. No evaluation reports were issued in 2015.

13. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the control of vector-borne diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia" (2018)
14. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Demonstration of a Regional Approach to Environmentally Sound Management of PCB Liquid Wastes and Transformers and Capacitors Containing PCBs" (2018)
15. Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-UNEP Project "Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa" (2018)
16. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Reducing global and local environmental risks from primary mercury mining in Khaidarkan, the Kyrgyz Republic" (2018)
17. Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-UNEP Project "Establishing the Tools and Methods to Include the Nine New POPs into Global Monitoring Plan" (2018)
18. Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-UNEP Project "Development of Mercury Risk Management Approaches in Latin America" (2019)
19. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Global Project on the Updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs" Vol 1 (2019)"
20. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Development of a National Implementation Plan in Brazil as a first step to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)" (2019)"
21. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project on "Best Practices for PCB Management in the Mining Sector of South America" (2019)
22. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Demonstrating Cost-Effectiveness and Sustainability of Environmentally Sound and Locally Appropriate Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Africa" (2020)
23. Mid-Term Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Special Programme to Support Institutional Strengthening at the National Level for Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management" (2020)
24. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT and Strengthening of National Vector Control Capabilities in Middle East and North Africa (DDT MENA)" (2020)
25. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Establishment of Efficient and Effective Data Collection and Reporting Procedures for Evaluating the Continued Need of DDT for Disease Vector Control - Global " (2020)
26. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Secretariat Support to the Global Partnership on Waste Management" (2021)

27. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Global Waste Management Outlook" (2021)
28. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Delivering Integrated Waste Solutions at the National and Local Level" (2021)
29. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "POPs Monitoring, Reporting and Information Dissemination Using Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR I)" (2021)
30. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Global Project on the Implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTRs) as a tool for POPs Reporting, Dissemination and Awareness Raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru" (2021)
31. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentrations of Mercury" (2021)
32. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Pacific POPs Release Reduction Through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Wastes" (2021)
33. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-GEF Project "Defining and Demonstrating Best Practices for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in Textile Products" (2021)
34. Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF Project "Global Foundations for Reducing Nutrient Enrichment and Oxygen Depletion from Land-based Pollution in Support of Global Nutrient Cycle (2023)

Annex 3. Active Projects in the Chemicals and Pollution Sub-programme (by Project Title and Project ID), PIMS PDR March 2023¹⁹

	Project Title	Corresponding PCP	Corresponding Branch / Division
	Non-GEF projects		
1.	Operationalization of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
2.	222.2_Rapid Environmental Assessment for Crisis Affected Countries	Pollution and Health	Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch, Law Division
3.	516.1 Secretariat Services to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
4.	521.1 Promotion and Delivery of Environmentally Sound Waste Management Technologies and Methods and in-Country Technical and Advisory Support	Pollution and Health	International Environmental Technology Centre Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
5.	515.3 Environment, Health and Pollution	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
6.	522.3 Generating and sharing knowledge for influencing decision-making on sound management of chemicals and waste	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
7.	522.4 Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-based pollution through strengthened coordination of Global Action	Pollution and Health	Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch, Law Division
8.	533.1 Providing support to countries and cities in improving air quality	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP Regional Office Asia Pacific
9.	514.4 Accelerating the implementation of the chemicals and waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements and achieving the targets of related Sustainable Development Goals for improved human health and a clean environment	Pollution and Health	Industry and Economy Division
10.	2124H UNEP - Using Environmental Health Data and Tools to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the ASEAN Region	Pollution and Health	Regional Office Asia Pacific, Industry and Economy Division

¹⁹ Source: IPMR and data provided by the CPA Sub-Programme Coordinator's team

11.	ONE UNEP Plastic Project on Accelerating a Global Circular Plastic Economy to Reduce Plastic Pollution and its Impacts	Circularity in sectors	Industry and Economy Division
12.	UNEP-wide project on Improving Air Quality	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
	GEF Projects		
13.	Development and Promotion of Non-POPs alternatives to DDT	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
14.	Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Africa Region	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
15.	Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Asia Region	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
16.	Global project on the updating of National Implementation Plans for POPs	Pollution and Health	Industry and Economy Division
17.	PCB Reduction in Cameroon Through the Use of Local Expertise and The Development of National Capacities	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
18.	Disposal of PCB Oils Contained in Transformers and Disposal of Capacitors Containing PCB in Southern Africa	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
19.	Development of Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment in Brazil	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
20.	Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
21.	Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and legal and institutional strengthening for the Sound Management of chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
22.	Development of Minamata Convention Mercury Initial Assessment in Pacific	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
23.	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Papua New Guinea	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
24.	Demonstration of Non-thermal Treatment of DDT Wastes in Central Asia	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division

25.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Brazil	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Waste Branch, Industry and Economy Division
26.	Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF Chemicals & Waste Unit), Industry and Economy Division
27.	Mediterranean Sea Basin Environment and Climate Regional Support Project	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
28.	GEF GOLD Mongolia-Philippines: Contribution Toward the Elimination of Mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: From Miners to Refiners	Pollution and Health	Resources and Markets Branch (Consumption and Production unit), Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF unit), Industry and Economy Division
29.	Global Knowledge Management and Exchange of Child Project Results Through Networking and Outreach Activities for the GEF GOLD Program	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
30.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
31.	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
32.	Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	Pollution and Health	Industry & Economy Division
33.	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Myanmar	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
34.	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in the Federated States of Micronesia	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
35.	Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division

36.	Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (EDCs, EPPPs, and HHPs)	Pollution and Health	Industry & Economy Division
37.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for Guyana under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Pollution and Health	Industry & Economy Division
38.	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) - Knowledge Management and Coordination	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF Chemicals & Waste Unit), Industry and Economy Division
39.	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) - Pacific	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF Chemicals & Waste Unit), Industry and Economy Division
40.	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)- Caribbean	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF Chemicals & Waste Unit), Industry and Economy Division
41.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Republic of Moldova under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
42.	Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Mexico	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
43.	Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Costa Rica	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
44.	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)- Caribbean ii	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Waste Branch (GEF unit), Industry and Economy Division
45.	Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector	Circularity in Sectors	Industry and Economy Division
46.	Eliminate mercury use and adequately manage mercury and mercury wastes in the chlor alkali sector in Mexico	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
47.	Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach	Circularity in Sectors	Resources and Markets Branch, Industry and Economy Division
48.	GEF GOLD+: Global coordination, knowledge management and outreach	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division

49.	Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of ASGM (GOLD+) in Uganda	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
50.	Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of ASGM (GOLD+) in the Republic of the Congo	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
51.	Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Cuba	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
52.	Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
53.	Assessment of existing and future emissions reduction from the coal sector toward the implementation of the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
54.	Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
55.	Eliminating mercury skin lightening products	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
56.	Development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) for Sultanate of Oman	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
57.	Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM in Guinea	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
58.	Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM in Côte d'Ivoire	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
59.	ISLANDS - Atlantic Regional Project	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch (GEF Chemicals & Waste Unit), Industry and Economy Division
60.	Development of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Brazil	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
61.	Development of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) For the State of Qatar	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division

62.	Strengthening investment for adoption of alternatives and sustainable management of agrochemicals and agriplastics in Africa and Latin America through pilots in Kenya and Uruguay	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Waste Branch (GEF unit), Industry and Economy Division
63.	FARM: Global Coordination, Knowledge Management and Common Finance Tools	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Waste Branch (GEF unit), Industry and Economy Division
64.	Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in the Islamic Republic of Cambodia	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
65.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Albania, Armenia and Kazakhstan	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division
66.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Algeria, Togo and Tunisia	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division
67.	Accelerate implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen country capacities in the environmental sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
68.	Development of National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division
69.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Lao PDR and Maldives	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division
70.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division
71.	Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for India	Pollution and Health	Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry & Economy Division
72.	Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach	Circularity in Sectors	Industry and Economy Division

Annex 4. UN Environment Assembly Resolutions on Chemicals and Pollution²⁰

1. Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 – Chemicals and waste
2. Environment Assembly resolution 1/6 – Marine plastic debris and microplastics
3. Environment Assembly resolution 1/7 – Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality
4. Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 – Sound management of chemicals and waste
5. Environment Assembly resolution 2/11 – Marine plastic debris and microplastics
6. Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 – Sand and dust storms
7. Environment Assembly resolution 3/2 – Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors
8. Environment Assembly resolution 3/4 – Environment and health
9. Environment Assembly resolution 3/6 – Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development
10. Environment Assembly resolution 3/7 – Marine litter and microplastics
11. Environment Assembly resolution 3/8 – Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
12. Environment Assembly resolution 3/9 – Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries
13. Environment Assembly resolution 3/10 – Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
14. Environment Assembly resolution 4/6 – Marine plastic litter and microplastics
15. Environment Assembly resolution 4/7 – Environmentally sound management of waste
16. Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 – Sound management of chemicals and waste
17. Environment Assembly resolution 4/9 – Addressing single-use plastic products pollution
18. Environment Assembly resolution 4/14 – Sustainable nitrogen management
19. Environment Assembly resolution 4/21 – Implementation plan “Towards a pollution-free planet”
20. Environment Assembly resolution 5/2 – Sustainable nitrogen management
21. Environment Assembly resolution 5/7 – Sound management of chemicals and waste
22. Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 – Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and

²⁰ Source: (2014 UNEA-1, 2016 UNEA-2, 2017 UNEA-3, 2019 UNEA-4, 2021 and 2022 UNEA-5)

to prevent pollution

23. Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 – End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument