

WORK PLAN

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| Name of the Regional Centre: | Basel Convention Coordinating Center (BCCC) – Stockholm Convention Regional Center (SCRC) for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer - for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| Work plan submitted by: | |
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| This work plan covers the period from 1 st January 2012 to 31 st December 2013 | |

1. Introduction and background

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) posed a great challenge for developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to adapt themselves to the obligations derived from it. In this context, the strengthening of the national capacities so as to effectively improve the efficiency of the projected actions is not only a need but essential for the successful implementation of Convention.

The Stockholm Regional Centre in Uruguay is supported by the experience of the Basel Convention Coordination Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean and from the human, technological and infrastructural capacities of the Uruguayan Technological Laboratory (LATU).

The Centre is conceived as a strategic actor in the facilitation of the processes leading to the creation and strengthening of capacities both at national and regional level, by means of training of the key actors for the environmental management of chemicals and hazardous wastes. Furthermore, the Centre will play an active role in the generation and diffusion of technical information for environmental and health risk reduction regarding POPs. The implementation of projects in coordination with other Regional, Sub-regional Centers or specialized organizations, is envisioned as fundamental strategy for the successful technology and experience transfer.

The Stockholm Regional Center in Uruguay shares the existing operative platform of the Basel Convention Centre at LATU. This has been achieved by means of an appropriate agreement between LATU and MVOTMA, setting both responsibilities and working modes for Stockholm Convention Centre.

The Centre has important a long experience in the organization of regional and international meetings related to the Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention, as well as in the execution of projects with international cooperation partners. The Centre has not only successfully

developed training activities both in classroom and distance learning modes but also developed technical guidelines for waste management.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the BCCC was selected in 2005 by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat to carry out one of the four case studies worldwide with the purpose of contributing to the “Feasibility Study on Technical Assistance” to implement capacity building and technology transfer in developing countries as per INC – 6/9.

The integral approach to chemicals and waste management through their whole life’s cycle, has always been a key aspect included in the formulation and execution of all the Center’s plans, projects and activities, so as to materialize synergies between the Conventions of the Chemicals Cluster.

LATU was created in 1965 as a result of the joint work of the public and private sectors. It is a non-state run organization subject to public right, committed to giving services in the field of technology and management, generation and diffusion of knowledge as well as de development of technological solutions. It takes part in research and monitoring projects in cooperation with other institutes, research centers and the industry. LATU’s participation should be, at least, at the level of the following departments:

- ✓ Quality Management
- ✓ POPs Laboratory
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Ecotoxicity
- ✓ Biotechnology
- ✓ Enterprise development and management, and Environmental Management System Consultancies
- ✓ Package Management Department

At last, is important to remark, on February 22nd, 2010, the representatives of the Regional Centres of the Stockholm Convention from Brazil, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay and its member States signed an agreement in which Centers would work together to assist countries in the region to implement the Convention. As a result of this agreement, the Network’s Centres of Latin America and the Caribbean was created, and the Basel Convention Regional Centres from LAC are parts of this net too, taking into account the aim of promoting and strengthening synergy and cooperation mechanisms with both Conventions.

2. Goals and objectives

The Stockholm Regional Centre has defined its vision, goals and objectives:

Vision

Consolidate itself as a reference institution in order to assist Latin American and the Caribbean

countries in the implementation of Stockholm Convention, through a process of regional cooperation and coordination which allows capacity building, strengthening and specialization.

Goals

Strengthening regional capacities for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention by means of the consolidation of a training, information and technology transfer network.

Objectives

1. To promote regional capacities for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.
2. To build a strategic association of specialized organizations relevant for the development of the regional capacities for POPs management in the region.
3. To disseminate knowledge and awareness activities on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and POPs management.
4. To collaborate on establishing synergies with others Conventions.
5. To strength the Network of Stockholm and Basel Convention Regional Centres for LAC so coordinated and joint action could be developed between countries and centres. In this way, LAC countries will be able to address particular NIP priorities and to fulfill Conventions objectives.

Activities

1. Maintenance of our web site and to create a forum between the centers, teleconferences, etc.
2. To develop and implement a geographic info site for the region to provide a systematic and documented mechanism for consultation.
3. To design and develop training program covering at least: update of NIPs, POPs inventories, POP treatment and disposal alternatives, sampling and analysis of POPs, development and adaptation of national legal instruments so as to improve the efficiency of the implementation. This component will include the assessment of the national capacities in the referred areas so as to design training programs adapted to the needs identified.
4. Updating and revision guides of Legal and Institutional Infrastructures and Economic Instruments in Sound Management of Chemicals to promote their application in the LAC countries.

3. Constrains and resources

Constrains

Most countries within the region have prepared their National Implementation Plans. All of them have identified priorities, but only a few have designed an implementation strategy accompanying its plan. Furthermore some countries are encountering difficulties to mobilize resources or present projects to donors.

New POPs were added under the convention during COP4 and GRULAC countries have stated that they will have difficulties at the time of making decisions, they are not fully aware of the implications of listing, inventories have not yet been done and will be required in order to update NIPs.

In order to comply with article 16, monitoring plans are required and practically all countries within GRULAC region need to strengthen their analytical capacities to report or give the required information.

In the past years, the region has participated in several workshops, training courses and has designed and developed projects that allowed them to enhance their capacities to deal with chemicals and wastes. Nevertheless these activities were not always follow by appropriate legal assessments or policy infrastructure and legal aspects show political endorsements and are necessary to ensure the sound management of chemicals at all Technical aspects related to BAT/BEP and dioxins and furans are not yet solved. In some cases adaptation of guidelines to national/regional realities is needed, in some others developments of new guides and toolkits that take into consideration native practices and turn them into environmental ones.

Contaminated sites are another topic that GRULAC countries have not yet solved. Some have already identified potential contaminated sites, some have not. Remediation or rehabilitation techniques or methodologies are far away from being addressed.

Another important aspect to be considered is the need of cooperation and coordination of regional activities/programs and projects related to Stockholm Convention but also to the Chemicals cluster convention. This cooperation will assure the best use of existing resources.

Furthermore the most important constrain that countries and the center will encounter is the financial limitation.

Resources

The Centre is located in LATU's facilities, based in the actual BCCC's offices. It will have a dedicated technical direction composed by a Director and Co-director. The Director will belong to MVOTMA and will be the same as the BCCC-Director, while the Co-director will be a technical charge designed and financed by LATU.

To support the Centre's technical assistance role, a team of experts from MVOTMA and LATU at its disposal. These will support the Center's activities as needed according to the projects and activities developed. Furthermore the Government of Uruguay has incorporated in its annual budget, funds for the Center's operation.

Other experts and assistance required for the project's implementation will be contracted and charged to the corresponding project.

LATU incorporated the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in its organizational structure, providing administrative support and separate bank accounts. Consequently the Centre is supported by the Government of Uruguay by means of MVOTMA and LATU, which will warrant its permanent work without prejudice that funds are needed for the implementation of projects to assist countries in the region.

The centre's offices are housed in the Ingenio green area in a separate building, furnished with the required services and features (e.g. computers, scanner, coping machine, beamer, communication services) that enable its independent operation. LATU's facilities comprise about 11 hectares with a complex of buildings covering 23.500 m². These include the main building connected with 11 blocks for laboratories and pilot plants, an exposition park, "Espacio Ciencia" an interactive science and technology museum, among others.

The complex offers a wide variety of possibilities. Through its Training Unit, LATU provides support for the elaboration of audiovisuals, classroom and distance learning courses in Uruguay and abroad. A group of experts develops and tailors them jointly with experts from other relevant institutions so as to satisfy the requirements of the different publics.

The complex offers main auditorium, which has capacity for 300 persons and facilities for interpretation, an entrance hall for 500 persons, and classrooms equipped with all the required services for the optimum development of the training activities. Its communications services also enable the development of teleconference events having enough room for the development of two or more events simultaneously.

Additionally LATU possesses an exposition park with four pavilions and a multipurpose hall. "Espacio Ciencia" conceived as recreational and educational center works as an interactive science and technology museum.

A modern Technical Information Centre seeks information transference and use, searching for internal and external clients oriented to quality in the information services. Finally, LATU has a long experience in the administration, articulation and control of international cooperation funds from conventions and other sources like IABD, UNEP.

4. Strategy and activities/projects

The Center visualizes itself as a connecting institution where linkages among COP, GRULAC, other regional groups, and National Governments interact. The following paragraph shows how the center is proposing to work and the services it will provide.

The Center gives regional services, as well as, coordination network activities, contact with associated specialist centers and regional experts; information provision and exchange by means of the web side and expert's database, publications and media awareness, training and institutional development/strengthening.

Also, the Center gives e-forums that support to standing committees and to provide GRULAC with scientific and technical option.

The Center develops regional project ideas and administrative support for execution of them.

The following chart shows the centre's work-plan, starting from January 2012 and up to December 2013. This chart included the already endorsed projects that the centre will be carrying out, as well as others as suggestions of possible regional projects.

| Activity/ Projects | Place / time | Beneficiaries | Source of funding |
|---|--------------|---|-------------------|
| GMP phase I | 2012 | Antigua y Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay | GEF |
| First subregional meeting under GMP phase II Regional project | 2012 | LAC Countries (aprox. 12) | GEF |
| Supporting the Stockholm and Basel Secretariats in translation and revision of translations | 2012-2013 | The Parties | SBC-SSC |

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| Translation and design of NIPs updating guides | 2012 | The Parties | SSC |
| NIPs updating and revision | 2012-2013 | Those countries that require collaboration | To be determined after request / GEF |
| Training courses at LATU Classroom / distance education course Improvement Laboratory Assay Management – ISO/IEC 17025:2005 uncertainty in laboratory measurements | 2012-2013 | Those countries that require collaboration or are interested in the courses developed | To be determined / LATU / Centers |
| Electronic Forum | 2012-2013 | Among centers, and countries on specific topics | Stockholm Regional Center - Uruguay |
| Strategic partners/resources mobilization strategies | 2012-2013 | Center and target countries | --- |
| Legal and Institutional Infrastructures and Economic Instruments in Sound Management of Chemicals in Uruguay | 2012 | Uruguay | UNEP |
| SIDE EVENTS -Hg INC4 | 2012 | INC 4 Participants | DINAMA – BCCC-SCRC |
| Minimization and ESM of mercury containing wastes in LAC | 2010-2012 | Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay | EPA |
| Storage mercury | 2011-2012 | Argentina and Uruguay | UNEP |
| Storage mercury replicate | 2012-2013 | LAC | UNEP |
| Mercury Inventories and action plans | 2012-2013 | 5 countries of the LAC region | GEF |
| Training and Capacity Building for the | 2012 | Uruguay | UNITAR |

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| Development of the Nano-safety Pilot Project | | | |
| BAT/BEP – GRULAC Centers Project | 2012-2013 | The Parties | Stockholm Regional Center - Uruguay |
| Clearing house mechanism - Stockholm Regional Center /Uruguay chapter | 2012-2013 | The Parties | Stockholm Regional Center - Uruguay |

| Budget- Projects | Budget |
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| GMP on capacity building for POPs Phase I (Starts: November 2009) <i>Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay</i> | 979.000 |
| Minimization and ESM of mercury containing wastes in LAC (Starts: Abril 2009) <i>Costa Rica, Argentina y Uruguay</i> | 323.676 |
| Storage mercury (2011-2012) <i>Argentina and Uruguay</i> | 62.400 |
| Development of technical guidelines for new POPs <i>Project to be developed</i> | 20.000 |
| Legal and Institutional Infrastructures and Economic Instruments in Sound Management of Chemicals in Uruguay (Starts: 2012) | 50.000 |
| GMP on capacity building for POPs Phase II (2012-2013) <i>12 countries of the region, Project to be developed</i> | 3.500.000 |
| NIPs updating and revision <i>Project to be developed</i> | 250.000 |
| BAT/BEP – GRULAC Centers Project <i>To be developed</i> | 1.000.000 |
| Training and Capacity Building for the Development of the Nano-safety Pilot Project <i>2011-2012 Uruguay</i> | 35.000 |
| Translation and Design of NIPs updating guides (2012) | 33.000 |
| Mercury Inventories and action plans (2012-2013) <i>5 countries of the region, Project to be developed</i> | 1.000.000 |
| Total | 7.253.076 |