

BUSINESS PLAN / WORK PLAN

Name of Regional Centre: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, for Latin America and the Caribbean Region in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay).

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This business/work plan covers the period from **01/01/2020 to 31/12/2023**

Executive Summary

This new plan is formulated contemplating the need to conceptualize projects, programmes and activities of an integrated hazardous waste and chemicals management scenario, paying attention to the life cycle of chemicals and products, and their execution is expected to contribute in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

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 Centre's plans, projects and activities, with the aim of materializing synergies between the Conventions of the Chemicals Cluster.

The main objective of this business plan is to continue working in a coordinated and executive manner (key actions that allow saving of both, time and fund resources) to support the governmental processes that develop and enforce agreements, strengthening synergies between Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and related programs / initiatives through transparent, accessible and reliable management.

All activities will contribute to the environmental sustainability of the participating countries, in the medium and long term, addressing the main problems in accordance with the SDGs, facilitating the dissemination of knowledge and the implementation of success stories and lessons learned.

Strategic plans for this period:

- To support countries to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Conventions by training, information exchange and technology transfer, included from science to action.
- To provide capacity and technical support to parties for the establishment of appropriate financial mechanisms for chemical and waste. Resources mobilization to assist countries.
- Knowledge dissemination and awareness raising activities on the implementation of the Conventions.

- Being a linkage between the BRS Secretariat, Minamata Secretariat and GRULAC Region.

1. Introduction and Background

The Centre

The Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (BCCC), in Uruguay, has been operational since 1998 and is hosted by the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU, Spanish acronym) by an agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Land and Environment (MVOTMA, Spanish acronym).

The BCCC was endorsed by the 4th COP of the Stockholm Convention as a Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer for GRULAC region.

This dual character of the Centre has contributed to realize synergies between the Chemicals Clusters Conventions and other Fora, present issue in the formulation and implementation of plans, projects and activities of the Centre.

The Basel Convention on transboundary movement of hazardous waste, and 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 them, as well as the obligations derived from Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions, SAICM (or its framework under beyond 2020 process). In this context, the strengthening of national capacities, to effectively improve the efficiency of the projected actions, it is not only a need, but it is essential for the successful implementation of the Chemicals and Waste Fora.

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 plays an active role in the generation and diffusion of technical information for environmental and health risk reduction regarding wastes and POPs. The implementation of projects in coordination with other Regional, Sub-regional Centres or specialized organizations, is envisioned as fundamental strategy for the successful technology and experience transfer.

The BCCC/SCRC Uruguay is supported by the experience of the human resources of MVOTMA and LATU as well as the infrastructural capacities of LATU.

The Centre is entitled to enter into agreements through LATU and has access to its administrative services, which enables the Centre to make any kind of acquisitions and contracts. It also has a special accounting Office for managing funds, allowing the required transparency in its management.

The integrated approach to chemicals and waste management, through their whole life cycle, has always been a key aspect, included in the formulation and execution of all

Centre's plans, projects and activities, so as to materialize synergies between the Conventions of the Chemicals Cluster.

1- Vision and Mission

- Vision: Consolidate itself, together with Regional Centres in a network of leader institutions in order to assist GRULAC countries through a process of regional cooperation and coordination, and which allows capacity building strengthening and specialization for the implementation of Basel and Stockholm Conventions.
- Mission: Strengthening national and regional capacities in GRULAC region countries for the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata and other Chemicals and Waste Fora, through training of key stakeholders in the integrate and environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and wastes, in the development and dissemination of specialized information, implementation of regional projects in coordination with the Regional Centres or complementary to these, within a framework of sustainable development.

Consolidate a Centres network for GRULAC region to optimizing the exchange of information, training and technology transfer.

Problems and Challenges relating to the implementation of the Conventions are addressed under this plan

1- Basel and Rotterdam Conventions

Through several activities or projects that the Centre has executed during the last years, it still can be concluded that the GRULAC region faces several difficulties specifically on the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes. Beyond some advances on this area, problems are still there.

The laws of many countries still do not include the Basel Convention compliance questionnaire on Identification of Parties' needs for assistance in implementing and complying with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention. Many countries have precarious control mechanisms or technologies to perform analytical tests on hazardous chemicals identification, life cycle, labelling, elimination processes and disposal facilities. In some countries waste open burning is a common practice with the non-intentional POPs emission.

There is a need for training in waste management (household and hazardous waste), hazardous chemicals life cycle, and risk assessment, for decision makers, ministries, municipalities, customs and general public. The concept of circular economy is absent in waste life cycle policies or it is present under pilot projects, minor activities (for examples small municipalities). In the case of Household waste the Centre is Co-chairing the Partnership together with Mauritius, the idea is to continue working on that, test the guidelines developed under pilots project format in GRULAC or other regions, develop an awareness strategy for spread the guidelines and see how to continue with the Partnership

after its presentation at the next Basel Convention OEWG (June 2020) and the next Conference of the Parties (2021).

During the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held on March 28-31, 2016 in Cartagena, Colombia, it was adopted the following Decision on Chemicals and Waste item: Establish an intergovernmental network on chemicals and wastes for Latin America and the Caribbean (Decision 8), with the main objective of strengthening the environmentally sound management of products and wastes, strengthen sub-regional and regional cooperation and facilitate exchange of experiences, ensuring cooperation and coordination with international and regional frameworks, as well as improving the participation and communication with other actors. The Centre is working on this activity and is part of the Coalition of Governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regarding plastics, during the last BRS COPs, April – May 2019, was approved a new Partnership on Plastics, the Centre is going to work on this issue and will be a member of the new Partnership.

On plastics as well, during the last BRS COPs, April – May 2019, was approved to include plastic waste in a legally-binding framework which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment. Countries need training on this new amendment. The Centre will work on that for GRULAC countries.

In the case of the Ban Amendment which is going to get into force December 2019, there is a lack of knowledge on its implications. This amendment prohibits the export of hazardous wastes from member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Liechtenstein to all other countries. The Centre will work on that for GRULAC countries.

It is important to note that in small countries that are part of the region, including island countries (SIDS) and Uruguay for example, as their scales are small, treatment mechanisms are very expensive and unprofitable, so regional solutions must be found. No waste critical mass is reached for an affordable ESM treatment.

2- Stockholm Convention

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 their plans. Furthermore some countries are encountering difficulties to mobilize resources from potential donors to develop projects or specific activities.

New POPs were added under the last Conference of Parties (May – April 2019) and GRULAC countries have stated that they will have difficulties at the time of making decisions.

On the other hand, GRULAC countries need enforcement capacity (legislation policies, decision maker awareness, institutional strengthening, etc.) for the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the new listed POPs.

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 information required.

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 hazardous wastes. Nevertheless these activities were not always following by appropriate legal instrument, institutional infrastructures or socioeconomic information for the appropriate sound management of chemicals. There is a lack of knowledge about BAT/BEP concepts, non intentional emissions (dioxins and furans, PCBs, etc.) are a big problem due to the waste final disposal conditions, making the fulfilment of the Stockholm Convention objectives very challenging.

There is a need for comparable and unified information, improve access platforms for information on POPs at national, regional and global level.

Another issue is to implement activities quickly and reliably, public entities (focal points of the agreements) are bureaucratic and require assistance. A great challenge involves the incorporation of new POPs in the Stockholm Convention (nip update, regulation), the need to meet countries deadlines with few resources (often just one person is in charge of all issues related to compliance with the Chemical and Waste Conventions and emerging issues), this need assistance from the Center.

The BCCC-SCRC under the Global Monitoring Plan is going to establish a new monitoring POPs station at the Antarctic Uruguayan base.

Under the GEF project: Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in Latin-American Countries, the Centre is the executing agency of the following countries: Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Contaminated sites are another environmental field where GRULAC countries need to focus on. 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 necessity of cooperation and coordination of regional activities/programs and projects related to Stockholm Convention but also to the Conventions of the Chemicals cluster. This cooperation will assure the best use of existing resources.

3- Minamata Convention

It has been addressed for many countries the lack of technical capacities to treat the wastes and sites for interim and long term storage.

2. Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: To support countries to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Conventions by training, information exchange and technology transfer, included from science to action.

Goal 2: To provide capacity and technical support to parties for the establishment of appropriate financial mechanisms for chemical and waste. Resources mobilization to assist countries.

Goal 3: Knowledge dissemination and awareness raising activities on the implementation of the Conventions.

Goal 4: Being a linkage between the BRS Secretariat, Minamata Secretariat and GRULAC Region.

Objectives

GOAL N°	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Time-bound
1	1.1 Technical training on Conventions requirements.	POP-PBDEs Module and others			2020-2023
	1.2 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of e-waste.	Project Work Plan	Resources mobilization to assist 4 countries	SSFA signed	2020-2023
	1.3 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of household waste.	Currently co-chairing the Household Waste Partnership with Mauritius Island. Countries benefited: Global Level			2020-2023
	1.4 Creation of regional capacity for analysis and data generation of POPs in air, water and breast milk.	Project Work Plan	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay	SSFA signed	2020-2022
	1.5 Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 1.		Honduras, Moldova, Ukraine and Saint Lucia	SSFA signed	2020-2022
	1.6 From science to action, POPs monitoring at the Antarctic Region		Uruguay (Environment Ministry – University)		2020-2021
	1.7 Plastic projects	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

2	2.1 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of e-waste.	Project Work Plan	Resources mobilization to assist 4 countries	SSFA signed	2020-2023
3	3.1 Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 1.		Honduras, Moldova, Ukraine and Saint Lucia	SSFA signed	2020-2022
	3.2 The Centre gives regional services, as well as coordination network activities, It has contact with associated specialist centres and regional experts; provision of information and exchange through the web site and expert's database, publications and media awareness.				2020-2022
4	4.1 Being a linkage between the BRS Secretariat, Minamata Secretariat and GRULAC Region.				

3: Constraints and Resources:

Constraints:

- The most important constrain that countries and the centre have encountered is financial limitation. Furthermore, some countries have difficulties to mobilize resources or to submit projects to potential donors.
- Besides the allocation of funds for comprehensive capacity building of duties addresses by the Conventions, many challenges remain: lack of prioritization of sound management of chemicals, limitations of countries legislation, and lack of information (stakeholders and society).
- Frequent changes of Conventions focal points at GRULAC region as well as authorities like ministers, these made difficult to execute some signed projects.
- Insufficient national infrastructure for chemicals management including technical staff, technical facilities and laboratory instrumentation.

Resources:

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. The implementation of projects in coordination with other Regional, Sub-regional Centres or specialized organizations, is envisioned as fundamental strategy for the successful technology and experience transfer.

The Centre has important a long experience in the execution of projects with international cooperation partners, as well as in the organization of regional and international meetings related to the Conventions. The Centre has not only successfully developed training activities both in classroom and distance learning modes but also developed technical guidelines for waste management.

The Centre is located in LATU and is able to use all the facilities. It also has a special accounting Office for managing funds, allowing the required transparency in its management.

4: Activities and Strategies

Activities:

Name of the Project/activity	Convention			Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC				
Project Management of Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNIDO as the Implementing Agency and the BCCC-SCRC is the Executing Agency for countries.	✓	✓		Perú, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela	2.000.000	GEF	2019-2023
Project Global Monitoring Plan Phase II (GMP).		✓		Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay	3.636.000	GEF	2019-2021
UN Environment/GEF Project “Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15”.	✓	✓		Global	TBD	TBD	TBD
UN Environment/GEF Project “Integrated SC toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15”.	✓	✓		Hondura, Santa Lucia, Moldova y Ucrania	TBD	TBD	2019-2020
Intergovernmental Network of Chemicals and Waste (GRULAC).	✓	✓	✓	All GRULAC countries	TBD	Uruguay and TBD	2016 - 2021
Development of Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) in Latin America and the Caribbean.	✓			Cuba	TBD	GEF	TBD
Household Waste Partnership	✓	✓		Global level.	TBD	TBD	TBD
Plastic Partnership	✓	✓		Global level.	TBD	TBD	TBD

Strategies:

Strategies	What will be done	By when (timeline)
Endorsement/involvement/need identification of the beneficiaries (list applicable activities/projects or entire plan)	<p>What will be done to involve/ get endorsement from the beneficiaries?</p> <p>Fluid communication with GRULAC countries. Mailing to all GRULAC countries Focal Points of the different Conventions served by our Centre.</p>	Continuous



	<p>Mailing to all GRULAC's stakeholders asking for needs and technical assistance.</p> <p>Present the Centre's duties on events (Side Events at COPs, workshops)</p> <p>Publication in our web all news, projects and activities. Media diffusion.</p>	
Identification of potential donors/funds/agencies	<p>What will be done to identify the potential funding sources?</p> <p>Meeting with UNITAR/UNEP/GEF/UNIDO.</p> <p>Meeting with possible donor countries as Norway and Sweden.</p>	Continuous
Preparation of grant proposals	<p>(List the area in which project proposals will be prepared and submitted)</p> <p>Special Programme Application. Other potential calls.</p>	TBD
Any other activities...	<p>The Centre gives regional services, as well as coordination network activities, contact with associated specialist centres and regional experts; provision of information and exchange through the web site and expert's database, publications and media awareness, training and institutional development/ strengthening.</p>	

1. Evaluation Plan

- The business plan is revised by the Centre staff each six month and the update of the work plan will be released on the basis of such evaluations.
- The Centre staff collect the feedback during implementation of the activities/projects and summary the progress of projects/activities regularly.
- The Parties are consulted regularly to evaluate if the business plan is according to their needs and if new information is achieved the business plan is updated.
- The audit recommendations are discussed and the plan updated when needed.