

**BASEL - COORDINATING CENTRE
STOCKHOLM - REGIONAL CENTRE
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**



**BUSINESS PLAN / WORK PLAN
2024-2027
Basel Convention Coordinating Centre,
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre,
Latin America and the Caribbean Region
Uruguay**

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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 **01/01/2024 to 31/12/2027**

Executive Summary

This plan has been formulated considering the needs of the countries of the GRULAC region and based on the vast experience of the BCCC-SCRC in the successful implementation of projects, programs and activities with a comprehensive approach to adequate environmental management of chemicals and waste, and its execution is expected to contribute to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions (chemical cluster), materializing the synergies between them and other forums/programs/initiatives that also seek to protect human health and the environment.

The main strategy of this business plan is to **continue working in a coordinated and executive manner** (key actions that save time and financial resources) to support government and social processes within a framework of sustainable development, applying the concept of circular economy and with **focus in current problems such as plastic pollution, through transparent, accessible and reliable management.**

All activities will contribute to the search for solutions adapted to the participating countries, strengthening national/regional capacities, using tools provided by the Chemicals Conventions cluster and other forums, facilitating the dissemination of knowledge and the implementation of success stories and lessons learned.

The BCCC-SCRC in the next 3 years will maintain its active role in the activities/meetings associated with the Chemical Conventions, other forums/programs/initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Network of Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, where it is highlighted the work done related to the progressive closure of landfills, Marine Litter and Microplastics; and also in the Plastic Waste Partnership as it has done since its first steps in May 2019. **The Center, given its "impartial or pro-common good" character, will continue to facilitate the formation of networks, the multi-sector approach and technical communication between the different actors.**

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.

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1. 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 Ministry of Environment and the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU, Spanish acronym) by an agreement with the ex-Ministry of Housing, Land and Environment (MVOTMA, Spanish acronym), today Ministry of Environment.

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 the GRULAC region.

This dual character of the Centre has contributed to realize synergies between the Chemicals Clusters Conventions and other Forums, 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, and the way of these Conventions are moving forward. Under a synergy process the Centre is supporting countries in the knowledge/implementation of Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions as well as other initiatives like SAICM (or its framework under beyond 2020 process), 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and lately the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. 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 cluster.

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 the Ministry of Environment (ME) 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, in order to materialize synergies between the Conventions of the Chemicals Cluster.

1.2. Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** The Coordinating Center, together with the Regional Centers, are reference institutions, leading the countries of the GRULAC region in a process of regional cooperation and coordination that allows the creation and strengthening of capacities and specialization for the implementation of the Basel Conventions and Stockholm.
- **Mission:** Strengthening of national and regional capacities of the GRULAC countries for the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam Conventions and other forums, through the training of key actors in the comprehensive and environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste, in the development and dissemination of specialized information and in the execution of projects in coordination with the Regional Centers or complementary to them, within a framework of sustainable development.

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

It is important to remark that due to the Covid19 pandemic situation all countries were affected, in GRULAC specifically, many countries declared closure of activities, lockdown, poverty increased, waste increased, for example plastics, since everything became single-use, and waste was discarded without proper treatment. The economy of the region has impoverished in such a way that what had been achieved in the environmental agenda or in the proper management of waste, during last years, not only stopped, but also regressed.

1.3.1. Basel and Rotterdam Conventions

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.

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 still 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, and the idea is to continue working on that until the final adoption of the guideline by the Basel Convention Conference of Parties.

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.

In the same line, Decision 1 on Pollution of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of GRULAC, held in Barbados, February 1st - 2nd, 2021, in the third section of this decision, relating to "Marine litter and Microplastics", the Forum of Ministers decided: "Invite the Secretariat (UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean - ROLAC), in coordination with other relevant entities and stakeholders, including the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste, and within available resources, to facilitate the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to promote regional cooperation and coordination, as a working group or a regional node, including information sharing on best practices, capacity building, awareness raising and multi-stakeholder engagement", the Centre is member of this mechanism since its creation, and actually is Co-chairing by Uruguay.

During the BRS COPs, April – May 2019, was adopted a decision for establishing a new Partnership on Plastics, the Centre is member of this Partnership and has been working on it since its first steps.

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.

1.3.2. 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 Conferences of Parties 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 or the challenges of u-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 framework is negotiating a new GMP for GRULAC region in order to continue strengthening countries' analytical capabilities for measuring the most complex POPs; on the other hand, this new GMP will be key to evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, both at a regional and global level.

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, Ecuador, 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.



1.3.3. 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. Another issue expressed by countries is contaminated sites identification and remediation processes.

1.3.4. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

The Center has been involved with this new mechanism since the INC-1 held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, 2022, and is member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution.

1.3.5. Summary table with some challenges and solutions addressed under this plan

Problems and Challenges relating to the implementation of the Conventions are addressed under this plan. (5 "categories" of Problems and Challenges are established but all are interrelated and are addressed with comprehensive solutions)	
	
<p>1) INSUFFICIENT NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT: 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). Lack of internal procedures to meet the demands. Lack of synergy between key actors to articulate efforts and generate pertinent information.</p> <p>All countries within GRULAC region need to strengthen their analytical capacities to report or give the information required.</p>	<p>It is especially addressed with the “Goal 1: To support countries to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Conventions by training, information exchange and technology transfer, including from science to action.”</p> <p>Also with goals 2, 3 and 4, because a mandate is required, a policy that prioritizes and ensures the maintenance of the infrastructure.</p> <p>The Centre has developed videos and training materials that allow participating institutions to improve their capabilities to deal with hazardous chemicals and waste. Additionally, a standard operating procedure for sampling and analysis of POPs has been developed. All of these materials are available for continuous training and capacity building to GRULAC countries.</p> <p>Provide training, extend and deepen knowledge about BAT/BEP concepts, unintentional emissions (dioxins and furans, PCBs, etc.) among others, given that the information for "correct management" exists but needs to be applied.</p>
<p>2) INSUFFICIENT NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO REPORT</p> <p>There is a low rate of submission of national reports in both Conventions, Basel and Stockholm, which has had an impact on the</p>	<p>It is especially addressed in the Goal 1; Countries will continue be trained in the use of the tools generated to be able to report more effectively on the platforms created by the BRS secretary.</p>

<p>process of evaluating the effectiveness of the Conventions</p> <p>Lack of national reporting mechanisms, limited technical and financial capacities and the non-existence of formats to collect information. Heterogeneity in the level of detail of the reports presented.</p>	
<p>3) RESOURCES MOVILIZATION</p> <p>Most countries in the region have prepared their National Implementation Plans (Stockholm Convention). All of them have identified priorities, but only a few have designed an implementation strategy that accompanies their plans, given the difficulty in mobilizing resources from potential donors to develop specific projects or activities.</p>	<p>It is especially addressed at the 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.</p> <p>Also in the goals 1, 3 and 4, because trained people are required to make adequate decisions who know the causes of the problems and seek comprehensive solutions, minimizing the repetition of ineffective actions.</p>
<p>4) LACK OF INFORMATION (decision makers, stakeholders and society).</p> <p>There is a need for training in waste management (hazardous chemicals life cycle, and risk assessment, for decision makers, ministries, municipalities, customs and general public.</p>	<p>It is especially addressed in the Goal 3: Knowledge dissemination and awareness raising activities on the implementation of the Conventions.</p> <p>The presence of the BCCC-SCRC transcends time, giving a broad view of the problem. The center works with a wide audience (technicians, society and decision makers) seeking to reduce the gap and linking science with politics by providing adequate data information. A concrete example, through the Center participation in the Chemical and Waste Network, infographics/webinars will continuously be generated to show comparable and reliable data, easy to understand, and associating costs of inaction to continue the awareness process (regardless of the people who occupy the role).</p>
<p>5) POLICIES</p> <p>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 still waste open burning is a common practice with the non-intentional POPs emission.</p>	<p>It is especially addressed with the Goal 4: Being a linkage between the BRS Secretariat, Minamata Secretariat, INC on Plastic Pollution Secretariat and GRULAC Region.</p> <p>There are already tools designed by expert committees; it is necessary to make them known and accompany their implementation. Provide training, extend and deepen knowledge about BAT/BEP concepts, unintentional emissions (dioxins and furans, PCBs, etc.) among others, given that the information for "correct management" exists but needs to be applied.</p> <p>The BCCC-SCRC has a Coach role for many countries, because it listens to their problems, and from understanding them, seeks solutions</p>

	based on experience and knowledge of tools (guides designed by experts on the subject) reducing the time of implementation.
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2. Goals and Objectives:

2.1 Goals:

Goal 1: To support countries to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Conventions by training, information exchange and technology transfer, including 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, INC on Plastic Pollution Secretariat and GRULAC Region.

2.2 Objectives:

GOAL N°	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Time-bound
1	1.1 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of e-waste.	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist 5 countries	SSFA signed	2024
	1.2 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of household waste.	Currently co-chairing the Household Waste Partnership. Countries benefited: Global Level			2024-2027
	1.3 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of plastic waste.	Currently member of the Plastic Waste Partnership. Countries benefited: Global Level			2024-2027
	1.4 Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist 3 countries (Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay)	SSFA signed	2024 - 2025
	1.5 Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist 6 countries	SSFA signed	2024-2027

	understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America		(Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru)		
	1.6 From science to action, POPs monitoring at the Antarctic Region	POPs in air	Uruguay (Environment Ministry – University) compromise	Uruguay (Environment Ministry – University) compromise	2024-2025
	1.7 Plastic project on: Strengthening the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in Ecuador within the framework of the implementation of the Basel Convention amendments -	<p>The objective of the project is to improve the life cycle management of plastics used in human consumption.</p> <p>1. Creating tools that promote the implementation of the circular economy of plastic used in human consumption products.</p> <p>2. Improving the control and promoting the traceability of plastic waste in transboundary movements.</p>	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
	1.8 Plastic project on: Towards responsible plastic use and waste in schools around Coastal Lagoons in Uruguay	Design a strategy to enable conditions for a transition towards a sustainable use of plastic in schools around coastal lagoons	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
	1.9 Plastic project on: National project to promote the minimization of plastic waste in Peru and ensure its environmentally sound management in compliance with the Basel Convention in Peru	<p>1. Formulation of a technical/regulatory tool and strengthening of institutional capacities to comply with the Basel Convention and to attain an environmentally sound management of plastic waste.</p> <p>2. Development of a national plan for the sustainable management of plastics and marine litter and manuals on best practices to</p>	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025

		support decision making.			
	1.10 POPs and Mercury free solutions for environmentally sound waste management in Paraguay	Final Report	UNIDO Implementing Agency	UNIDO – BCCC-SCRC Agreement Signed	2024-2027
	1.11 Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist a least 3 countries from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024 - 2027
	1.12 Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) project which monitors the presence of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the environment and humans.	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist a least 5 countries from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024 - 2027
	1.13 Test inventory guidance from Basel Convention and reporting	Final National Report	Resources mobilization to assist a least 1 country from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024
	1.14 Reporting under Stockholm Convention and data collection and verification.	Final National Report	Resources mobilization to assist a least 1 country from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024
	1.15 Improving the national management framework to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Cuba focusing on mercury stocks measurements, as well as contaminated sites assessment	1: The inter-agency technical unit for analytical coordination to support national authorities to follow-up the obligations of the Minamata Convention in relation to the measure of mercury stocks, as well as contaminated sites assessment is established; 2: Capabilities to measure mercury stocks in the import areas and the production centres, as well as in research institution (CEAC) to support of mercury	MC/UNEP – BCCC-SCRC Agreement Signed	PCA Signed	2024-2025

		<p>monitoring/assessment in the environment components are enhanced;</p> <p>3: Information and communication are improved and awareness is raised among the population and decision-makers about mercury threats, project results and the Minamata Convention, as well as share experiences with other Latin American and Caribbean countries;</p> <p>4: Monitoring and reporting, terminal evaluation and financial audit are conducted.</p>			
2	2.1 To strengthen the capacities of countries in the management of e-waste.	Project Work Plan	Resources mobilization to assist 5 countries	SSFA signed	2024
	2.2 Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist 3 countries (Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay)	SSFA signed	2024 - 2025
	2.3 Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist 6 countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru)	SSFA signed	2024-2027
	2.4 Plastic project on: Strengthening the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in Ecuador within the framework of the implementation of the Basel Convention amendments -	<p>The objective of the project is to improve the life cycle management of plastics used in human consumption.</p> <p>1. Creating tools that promote the implementation of the circular economy of</p>	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025

		plastic used in human consumption products. 2. Improving the control and promoting the traceability of plastic waste in transboundary movements.			
	2.5 Plastic project on: Towards responsible plastic use and waste in schools around Coastal Lagoons in Uruguay	Design a strategy to enable conditions for a transition towards a sustainable use of plastic in schools around coastal lagoons	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
	2.6 Plastic project on: National project to promote the minimization of plastic waste in Peru and ensure its environmentally sound management in compliance with the Basel Convention in Peru	1. Formulation of a technical/regulatory tool and strengthening of institutional capacities to comply with the Basel Convention and to attain an environmentally sound management of plastic waste. 2. Development of a national plan for the sustainable management of plastics and marine litter and manuals on best practices to support decision making.	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	Selected project proposals under the Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
	2.7 POPs and Mercury free solutions for environmentally sound waste management in Paraguay	Final Report	UNIDO Implementing Agency	UNIDO – BCCC-SCRC Agreement Signed	2024-2027
	2.8 Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist a least 3 countries from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024 - 2027
	2.9 Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) project which monitors the presence of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the	Final National Reports	Resources mobilization to assist a least 5 countries from GRULAC	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024 - 2027

	environment and humans.		Region		
	2.10 Test inventory guidance from Basel Convention and reporting	Final National Report	Resources mobilization to assist a least 1 country from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024
	2.11 Reporting under Stockholm Convention and data collection and verification.	Final National Report	Resources mobilization to assist a least 1 country from GRULAC Region	UNEP and BCCC-SCRC negotiating process	2024
	2.12 Improving the national management framework to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Cuba focusing on mercury stocks measurements, as well as contaminated sites assessment	<p>1: The inter-agency technical unit for analytical coordination to support national authorities to follow-up the obligations of the Minamata Convention in relation to the measure of mercury stocks, as well as contaminated sites assessment is established;</p> <p>2: Capabilities to measure mercury stocks in the import areas and the production centres, as well as in research institution (CEAC) to support of mercury monitoring/assessment in the environment components are enhanced;</p> <p>3: Information and communication are improved and awareness is raised among the population and decision-makers about mercury threats, project results and the Minamata Convention, as well as share experiences with other Latin American and Caribbean countries;</p> <p>4: Monitoring and reporting, terminal evaluation and</p>	MC/UNEP – BCCC-SCRC Agreement Signed	PCA Signed	2024-2025

		financial audit are conducted.			
3	3.1 HWP technical guidelines, PWP, Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Wastes for LAC, Coalition of Governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites in LAC, Marine litter and Microplastics mechanism for LAC.		Regional and Global level	Currently member of all these initiatives	2024-2027
	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.				2024-2027
4	4.1 Being a linkage between the BRS Secretariat, Minamata Secretariat and GRULAC Region.				

3. Constraints and Resources:

3.1 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.
- Insufficient national infrastructure for chemicals management including technical staff, technical facilities and laboratory instrumentation.
- Due to the Covid19 pandemic, many activities were affected and the economy of the region has been affected in such a way that what had been achieved in the environmental agenda or in the proper management of waste not only stopped, but also regressed.

3.2 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

4.1 Activities:

Name of the Project/activity	Convention				Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC	Other				
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.	✓	✓			Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela	2.500.000	GEF	2019-2024
Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)		✓			Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay	926.400	GEF	2024-2025
Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America	✓			MC	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru	3.000.000	GEF	2024-2027
POPs monitoring at the Antarctic Region		✓			Uruguay	30.000	Uruguay	2024-2025
Plastic project on: Strengthening the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in Ecuador within the framework of the implementation of the Basel Convention amendments	✓				Ecuador	179.600	Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
Plastic project on: Towards responsible plastic use and waste in schools around Coastal Lagoons in Uruguay	✓				Uruguay	132.480	Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025

Name of the Project/activity	Convention				Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC	Other				
							mme	
Plastic project on: National project to promote the minimization of plastic waste in Peru and ensure its environmentally sound management in compliance with the Basel Convention in Peru	✓				Peru	155.320	Plastic Waste Partnership pilot project programme	2024-2025
POPs and Mercury free solutions for environmentally sound waste management in Paraguay		✓		MC	Paraguay	2.469.664	GEF	2024-2027
Improving the national management framework to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Cuba focusing on mercury stocks measurements, as well as contaminated sites assessment				MC	Cuba	239,210	SIP	2024-2025
Intergovernmental Network of Chemicals and Waste (GRULAC).	✓	✓	✓		All GRULAC countries	TBD	Uruguay and TBD	2024 - 2027
Test inventory guidance from Basel Convention and reporting	✓				1 GRULAC Country	TBD	TBD	2024
Reporting under Stockholm Convention and data collection and verification.		✓			1 GRULAC Country	TBD	TBD	2024
Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)		✓			At least 3 GRULAC Countries	TBD	GEF	2024-2027
Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) project which monitors the presence of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the environment and humans.		✓			At least 5 GRULAC Countries	TBD	GEF	2024-2027
Household Waste Partnership	✓	✓			Global level.	TBD	TBD	TBD
Plastic Waste Partnership	✓	✓			Global level.	TBD	TBD	TBD

4.2 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> <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</p>	Continuous

	<p>COPs, workshops, webinars)</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 events like COPs.</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. Plastic Waste Partnership</p>	Continuous
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>	Continuous

5. 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.