



BELARUS POPS LEGACY AND SUSTAINABLE CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT



**UNDP PIMS ID 5532
GEF project ID 8017**

Dalibor Kysela
International Consultant

Sergei Gotin
National Consultant

December 2021

Abbreviations

AOX	Adsorbed Organic Halogen
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CO	Country Office
CUE	Communal Unitary Enterprise
CW	Chemicals and Waste
GEF	Global Environment Facility
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GoB	Government of Belarus
HTI	High-Temperature Incineration
IRH	Istanbul Regional Hub
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MNREP	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
MTR	Mid-Term Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NEMS	National Environmental Monitoring System
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OPs	Obsolete Pesticides
PB	Project Board
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PD	Project Document
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RUE	Republican Unitary Enterprise
SC	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Acknowledgement

The authors of the Mid-Term Review Report wish to express their appreciation to all project stakeholders whom they have interviewed during the data collection phase for their open views on progress in the project implementation and candid opinions on achievement of the planned targets.

Special thanks are extended to the members of the Project Management Unit at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as well as staff of the UNDP Country Office in Belarus. Their effective assistance with organisation of the stakeholder interviews and timely provision of all project-related documentation contributed to the smooth conduct and successful completion of the Mid-Term Review.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	i
Introduction.....	1
MTR Purpose and Objective.....	1
MTR Scope and Methodology	1
MTR Approach and Data Collection Methods	2
Structure of the MTR Report	4
Constraints and Limitations	4
Project Description and Background Context.....	5
Development Context	5
Problems that the project will address.....	5
Project description and strategy	6
Expected project results	7
Project implementation arrangements	8
Project timing and milestones	8
Main project stakeholders	9
Findings	10
Project Strategy	10
Project Design	10
Results Framework/Logframe	12
Progress Towards Results	13
Progress towards outcomes analysis.....	13
Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective	31
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management Arrangements	34
Management arrangements	34
Work planning.....	36
Monitoring and evaluation	36
Identification and management of risks.....	37
Finance and co-finance	38
Stakeholder engagement	41
Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)	41
Reporting.....	42
Mainstreaming.....	43
Sustainability	44
Financial risks to sustainability	44
Socio-economic risks to sustainability.....	45
Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability	45

Environmental risks to sustainability.....	46
Conclusions and Recommendations.....	48
Lessons learned.....	50
Annex 1: UNDP-GEF Midterm Review Terms of Reference	A-1
Annex 2: Evaluation Matrix.....	A-12
Annex 3: List of Persons Interviewed	A-17
Annex 4: Interview Guide.....	A-18
Annex 5: Results of the on-line survey	A-20
Annex 6: List of Documents Consulted	A-29
Annex 7: Project Stakeholder Map	A-30
Annex 8: MTR Rating Scales	A-31
Annex 9: Project Results Matrix	A-32
Annex 10: Progress to results tables (full format).....	A-37
Annex 11: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Forms	A-44
Annex 12: MTR Report Clearance Form	A-46
Annex 13: Audit Trail (submitted as separate annex)	
Annex 14: GEF Co-financing template (submitted as separate annex)	
Annex 15: Core Indicators (submitted as separate annex)	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Information Table

Project Title	GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management Project		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	5532	PIF Approval Date:	19 April 2016
GEF Project ID (PMIS #):	8017	CEO Endorsement Date:	31 January 2018
Country(ies):	Belarus	ProDoc Signature Date:	5 October 2018
Region:	Europe & Central Asia	Date project manager hired:	3 January 2020
Focal Area:	Chemicals and Waste	Inception Workshop date:	19 November 2020
GEF Focal Area Strategic Objective:	CW-1 Program 2: Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring CW-2 Program 3: Reduction and elimination of POPs	Midterm Review Date:	August – October 2021
Trust Fund:	GEF TF	Planned closing date:	5 October 2022
Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP)		
Other execution partners:			
Project Financing	at CEO endorsement (US\$)	at Midterm Review (US\$)	
[1] GEF financing:	8,400,000	519,130	
[2] UNDP contribution:	704,880	0	
[3] Government:	32,423,010	20,139,383	
[4] Other partners:	17,680,000	0	
[5] Total co-financing [2 + 3+ 4]:	50,807,890	20,139,383	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1 + 5]	59,207,890	20,658,513	

Project Description

The general objective of the project is the protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in Belarus.

The task presented by this project is to provide key support and resource inputs to a strongly committed country with a demonstrated track record and significant existing capacity in pursuing the overall objective of addressing its POPs and related chemicals waste legacies.

The overall strategy for addressing this task and accomplishing the Project Objective is based on the achievements in the past, in particular the achievements of the GEF/World Bank POPs elimination project, noting that in fact UNDP effectively inherited this project concept and the

country's endorsement when the World Bank withdrew from this business in the region. The project results framework contains two large investment components (Outcomes 1 and 2) that undertake major elimination of PCBs and OPs, respectively, along with supporting technical assistance. The third component (Outcome 3) addresses key institutional, convention compliance, general human resource and technical capacity, public consultation gaps looking forward to ensuring sustainability of national capacity. The fourth component (Outcome 4) addresses knowledge management as well as monitoring and evaluation.

The project was originally designed for implementation under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with UNDP support. Upon request of the Government of Belarus (GoB), the implementation modality was changed to full NIM with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) as the designated National Implementing Partner.

The project was officially signed by the GoB in October 2018 but was subject to a prolonged procedure of official registration.

Project Progress Summary

Outcome 1: The project supported development of guidelines on decommissioning and consolidation of PCB-containing equipment that were distributed to the participating owners of PCB equipment in order to ensure safe temporary storage and facilitate preparation for packaging, and transportation for ultimate disposal. Distribution of the guidelines was complemented by organization of 2 on-line seminars for raising awareness on management of PCB equipment waste with participation of more than 300 representatives of interested organizations.

A report on assessment of potential cross-contamination of electrical equipment without PCB content was prepared.

Belarus has an established system through which the holders of PCB waste regularly report the quantities of PCB waste in terms of gross weight of PCB-contaminated equipment and weight of the PCB-contaminated contents liquid. However, apart from the self-reporting by the PCB holders, no special centralized PCB inventory has been conducted to date that would fully ensure completeness and verify accuracy of the reported figures.

The data recorded in the Unified Database on POPs shows numbers and locations of equipment units potentially containing PCBs (capacitors and transformers), their gross weight as well as the net weight of the contaminated filling (determined on the basis of technical data of the equipment units). The Unified Database contains no information on concentration of PCBs in the equipment units.

The planned support to the establishment of the hazardous waste treatment facility at Chechersk was limited because of delays in the establishment of the HW facility under the UNIDO regional project.

The project procured services for shipment and ultimate disposal of the first batch of stockpiled PCBs for environmentally sound disposal, that is about 40% of the MTR target (431 tonnes instead of 1,100 tonnes). The procurement was completed shortly before the MTR, and it will

take considerable time (several months) to complete the process of export abroad to the high-temperature incineration (HTI) facility.

Furthermore, about 280 owners of PCB equipment were identified for the next phase of the project. However, it seems highly unlikely that ultimate disposal of planned PCB equipment quantities will be achieved by the end of the project.

Outcome 2: The project supported assessment of the existing rural storage houses of obsolete pesticides (OPs) and corrected data on the OP quantities from the pre-project period. Furthermore, the project contracted an international company for provision of services on packaging, shipment and disposal of OPs at a certified HW destruction facility in the EU. Obsolete pesticides from 20 warehouses located in 17 districts of the Vitebsk region and in one warehouse in the Novogrudok district in the Grodno region were included in the contract. Despite the notable progress, the MTR target was not achieved as 900 tonnes of OPs were addressed instead of the planned 1,900 tonnes. Further progress towards ultimate disposal of the planned quantities of OPs will depend on commissioning of the HW treatment facility at Chechersk.

Furthermore, the project supported basic assessment of 3 burial sites of obsolete pesticides (Petrikov, Gorodok and Postavy) and elaboration of containment and clean-up plans for 2 burial sites. There is a good prospect of achievement of the end-of-project target for preparation of additional clean-up plans for the pesticide burial sites.

Outcome 3: Under the support from the project, first editions of 6 new national standards on determination of POPs in various environmental media were developed. At the time of the MTR, mandatory review processes for the three standards were already completed and final versions (agreed by all relevant parties) were already available.

The project supported procurement of AOX (adsorbed organic halides) analyser, auxiliary equipment and consumables for the Republican Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection. Also, the project supported participation of the national laboratory of Republican Centre in international laboratory proficiency testing for analysis of PCBs in soil. Further support for interlaboratory testing for analysis of PCBs in water is planned for early 2022.

Furthermore, the project assisted with preparation of a report on preparation of the updated National Implementation Plan (NIP) for obligations of Belarus under the Stockholm Convention that also summarized results of recent inventories of the chemical waste controlled by the Convention. The draft NIP was submitted to the Interdepartmental Working Group and subsequently approved by the Government¹. At the time of the MTR, its translation into English for submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat was in progress.

Number of capacity building events were organized such as 2 webinars on specifics of organizing and conducting monitoring of POPs in environmental media for total 127 participants (94 women and 33 men), a webinar on health hazards of POPs and preventive measures for 89 participants (71 women and 18 men), as well as a webinar for raising awareness

¹ Government Decree № 99 19.02.2021

of the owners of PCB-containing equipment on methods and procedures for handling PCB waste for 87 participants (54 women and 33 men).

The project design does not include any specific activities on gender. As part of the gender mainstreaming, two webinars were organized, namely a webinar for doctors of antenatal clinics on POPs issues and ways of delivering relevant information to patients, as well as a webinar on the specifics of organizing and conducting monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in environmental media. Both webinars attracted considerable share of female participants (80% and 74%, respectively). Overall, the relatively high participation of women in the project training and awareness-raising events shows that the project has been successful in building capacities and increasing knowledge of POPs management amongst women.

Although the implementation of the capacity building and awareness events was negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and related restrictions on physical meetings, the project team successfully transferred the planned activities and events into virtual space and thus ensured achievement of almost all MTR targets. The evaluators believe there is a good prospect of achievement of the end-of-project targets before the project completion.

Outcome 4: A number of knowledge products (posters, leaflets, brochures) was produced with the project support and made available through the project webpage. The “News” section of the website provides timely and detailed information about the project activities and where appropriate also links to some project related documentation, such as the list of PCB waste and OP holders, and information about planned activities. In addition, the project occasionally uses other communication channels such as articles in national and regional printed media, and occasional spots on TV.

Communication with the group of core stakeholders (agencies of the GoB and POPs holders) has been extensive through their involvement in the project activities. For communication with general public, several information materials were produced on the general theme of POPs and on the objectives of the GEF project that can be downloaded from the project web page. Such communication is necessary for ensuring level of public awareness and understanding of the PCB management-related issues as well as of health and environmental impacts of POPs.

Overall, implementation of the project is harmonized with the state programme titled “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for 2021 – 2025”, namely with Sub-programme 3 “Management of POPs” and Subprogramme 5 “National System of Environmental Monitoring”.

MTR Ratings & Summary of Conclusions

Measure	MTR Rating²	Achievement Description³
Progress Towards Results	Project Objective Moderate Satisfactory	Limited progress towards the MTR targets on ultimate disposal of PCBs and OPs
	Outcome 1 Moderate Satisfactory	Consolidation of 431 tonnes of PCB equipment for ultimate disposal
	Outcome 2 Moderate Satisfactory	Contract for repackaging, transport and ultimate disposal of 900 tonnes of OPs
	Outcome 3 Satisfactory	Assistance for determination of POPs in environmental media
	Outcome 4 Satisfactory	Number of knowledge management products developed and distributed
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Moderate Satisfactory (MS)	Work Planning, M&E, Reporting and Communication (S) Management Arrangements, Stakeholder Engagement and Risk Management (MS)
Sustainability	Moderate Likely (ML)	Institutional, Socio-economic and Environmental Sustainability -Likely (L) Financial Sustainability - Moderately Likely (ML)

² MTR rating scores are explained in Annex 6

³ Details on the achievement are given in the respective sections Progress towards results, Project implementation and Adaptive management and Sustainability

Recommendation Summary Table

No.	Recommendation
1.	UNDP CO should request extension of the project by 12 months. Together with the automatic COVID-19 extension of 6 months the total extension period will be 18 months
2.	UNDP and MNREP should conduct revision of the original PCB and OP waste disposal targets under Outcomes 1 and 2 and the Project Objective, and adjust them towards amounts of PCB and OP waste that can be realistically disposed of directly within the timeframe of the project (even assuming that the project extension is granted)
3.	The PMU/MNREP should ensure that the project continues to focus on disposal of the remaining PCB capacitors in the country
4.	The PMU/MNREP should consider recruitment of international expert for determination of feasible options of in-country pre-treatment of PCB-contaminated transformers in line with the national legislation.
5.	The PMU/MNREP should ensure that the screening method for evaluation of possible PCB cross-contamination in non-PCB equipment is recommended as a standard practice by major operators of such equipment for determination of PCB concentration during equipment maintenance
6.	MNREP should consider support for development of technical and normative base for determination of PCB concentration in transformer oil, in particular for approval of a relevant national standard and for accreditation of a national laboratory
7.	The PMU should accelerate implementation of the component on technical support for commissioning, demonstration testing and certification of the Chechersk HTI facility for ultimate disposal of Ops
8.	MNREP should consider extension of the project assistance towards assessment of feasibility of liquid PCB wastes destruction at the HTI in Chechersk
9.	MNREP should use of the next round of repackaging, transportation, and storehouse clean-up for practical training in order to develop capability of local service providers for such work and use in management of OP legacy stockpiles beyond the duration of the GEF project
10.	MNREP should consider appointment of a qualified international expert to bring relevant international expertise on management, transport and ultimate disposal of hazardous waste
11.	The PMU should follow the GEF guidelines on co-financing and systematically collect at least on a bi-annual basis information on the actual co-financing contributions to the project that support the achievement of its objectives, and report this information at least on a bi-annual basis.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the Mid-Term Review of the UNDP/GEF project “Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management”.

MTR Purpose and Objective

As outlined in the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, Mid-Term Evaluations (also known as Mid-Term Reviews, MTRs) are a mandatory requirement for all GEF-financed full-sized projects and constitute an important part of the GEF projects’ monitoring and evaluation plan. MTRs are primarily a monitoring tool to identify challenges and outline corrective actions to ensure that a project is on track to achieve maximum results by its completion. In order to fulfil the above purpose, MTRs are conducted in order to assess the projects’ progress towards results, implementation and adaptive management for improvement of outcomes, facilitate early identification of risks to sustainability and provide supportive recommendations.

The objective of MTR is to provide the project partners i.e. GEF, UNDP, key stakeholders/ private institutions and the Government of Belarus, with an independent assessment of progress towards achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document. MTR also provides independent assessment of early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. Last but not least, MTR also reviews the project’s strategy and its risks to sustainability.

As a standard requirement for all projects financed by GEF, this MTR has been initiated by the project Implementing Agency, in this case UNDP CO in Belarus. This MTR has been conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects⁴.

MTR Scope and Methodology

This MTR covers all activities undertaken in the framework of the project. The time scope of MTR is the implementation period of the PCB project from September 2019 (when the national registration of the project was completed) up to November 2021. The geographic scope of the MTR is Belarus.

The MTR has been carried out using a participatory approach that seeks to inform and consult with key stakeholders associated with the project using the primary criteria for UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects that are listed in the Terms of Reference for the evaluation, i.e. Project Strategy, Progress towards Results, Project Implementation & Adaptive Management, and Sustainability.

Below is presented a summary of the elements covered under the primary evaluation, based on the Terms of Reference (TOR) that is provided as Annex 1.

⁴ Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects UNDP-GEF, 2014
The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, GEF Independent Evaluation Office, 2019
UNDP Evaluation Guidelines, UNDP, 2019

Project Strategy

- Project design
- Results framework/logframe
- Progress Towards Results
- Progress towards outcomes analysis
- Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective

Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

- Management arrangements
- Work planning
- Finance and co-finance
- Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems
- Stakeholder engagement
- Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)
- Reporting
- Communication & knowledge management

Sustainability

- Financial risks to sustainability
- Socio-economic risks to sustainability
- Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability
- Environmental risks to sustainability

MTR Approach and Data Collection Methods

The MTR used the following evaluation instruments:

Evaluation matrix: An evaluation matrix was constructed based on the evaluation scope presented in the TOR. The matrix is structured along the four GEF evaluation criteria for MTRs and includes principal evaluation questions. The matrix provided overall direction for the evaluation and was used as a basis for interviewing stakeholders and reviewing project documents. The evaluation matrix is provided as Annex 2. As the project has the gender marker 1, gender-responsive tools and/or approaches were not applied for this MTR

Preliminary documentation review: The evaluators conducted a review of documents that were made available by the UNDP CO as well as other documents found from various other sources. The documents served as the main source of information and for preparation for the data collection phase of the MTR.

Due to the continued travel restrictions, the International Consultant was not able to undertake evaluation field mission to Belarus. In order to perform consultations with selected project stakeholders, a series of virtual and remote meetings with selected project stakeholders were conducted using on-line meeting platforms (Zoom, Skype, etc.) The preparation of the virtual meetings was done in close coordination with the UNDP CO and the project implementation team.

Interviews: The evaluators conducted a number of virtual consultations with a representative selection of project stakeholders using semi-structured interview questions. Through the interviews, the consultants obtained information about the key informants' impressions and experiences from implementation of the project. Triangulation of results, i.e. comparing information from different sources, such as documentation and interviews, or interviews on the same subject with different stakeholders, was used to corroborate or check the reliability of evidence. The list of people interviewed is provided as Annex 3.

On-line survey: After conducting the desk review and the first set of interviews, the evaluators decided to conduct online survey for participants of various project events and target audience of key project deliverables, in particular:

- Target audience of print and electronic publications (including web site)
- Participants of the online trainings, presentations and seminars
- Participants of events within the framework of Ecology Expo – 2021

The objectives of the survey were as follows:

- To access direct beneficiaries' satisfaction with the project events/activities;
- To assess possible effects of the project events/activities, to evaluate changes of beneficiaries' behaviour and decisions;
- To assess general satisfaction with the project and get data on strengths and weaknesses of the project; and
- To triangulate data obtained through the desk review.

The survey questionnaire was developed in three stages: 1) first draft based on a desk review, 2) corrected version based on the results of the first set of interviews, and 3) final version after consultation with the PMU about available databases of participants. The final text of the questionnaire as well as supportive letters was agreed with the project team. In order to increase the response rate and ensure higher motivation for the participants, the cover letter for the survey (invitation for the participants) was signed by the Deputy Minister/National Project Coordinator.

The survey was distributed in Russian language to 399 e-mail addresses in the period 4-15 October 2021. It used the Google Forms for survey data collection and MailChimp for distribution of invitations and reminders and for tracking the participants' responses. Total 85 answers were collected (84 qualified answers) making the response rate 21,3%.

A separate document with data analysis from the survey is presented in Annex 4.

MTR Report: In parallel with the interviews and the questionnaire, the evaluators conducted systematic and extensive review of available project-related documents. Data analysis involved organizing and classifying the information collected, summarizing it, and comparing the project achievements with other appropriate information in order to address the evaluation questions and fulfil thus the purpose of the MTR. In this process the evaluators took care of checking factual evidence, ensuring its accuracy, and translating the data into usable formats or units of analysis related to the evaluation questions. The list of documents consulted is provided as Annex 5.

Structure of the MTR Report

This report closely follows the structure of the MTR report outlined in the Terms of Reference that was prepared by UNDP Country Office in Belarus as the commissioning unit for this MTR.

The first part of the report describes the project background and summarizes factual information that was assembled during the initial data collection phase. The second part contains information that was collected through consultations with the key stakeholders before, during and after the interviews with the keys project stakeholders. The third part provides evidence-based conclusions connected to the findings from the second part and recommendations in the form of corrective actions for the design, implementation, management arrangements as well as for monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Constraints and Limitations

Since visit of the International Consultant was not possible due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, interviews with selected project stakeholders were conducted remotely through digital platforms. This to some extent limited the ability of the evaluation team to use direct observation at the stakeholder and beneficiary institutions for gathering additional information, triangulating previously obtained information, and getting a broader picture of the stakeholders' activities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Development Context

It is well known that the exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Stockholm Convention on POPs has been established based on the consideration that, given the long-range transportation of POPs, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.

Belarus acceded to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Convention) in February 2004 in accordance with Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of 23 December 2006 No. 594. Since that time, the country has directed its efforts to undertaking the appropriate measures for prevention of the negative impact of POPs on human health and the environment. These activities resulted in the development of the “National Plan of the Republic of Belarus for the Implementation of its Obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the period of 2007–2010 and until 2028”. This document also forms the basis for the country’s National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (NIP) required under Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention.

Belarus has also been a Party to the Basel Convention since 1999. This is an important Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) as regards the transboundary transportation (import and export) of waste, its disposal and relevant international rules, standards and guidelines on sounds POPs.

In addition to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, Belarus has been a party to the Geneva Convention on Long Range Trans-Boundary Air Pollution. However, the country did not accede to the Protocol to the Geneva Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Problems that the project will address

POPs stockpiles inherited by Belarus from the Soviet Union era include obsolete pesticides (OP), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) containing equipment as well as PCB contaminated soils and liquids. Historical OP storage and disposal arrangements included rural storehouses and several controlled burial sites. The project preparatory phase found that 88 rural OP storehouses owned by agricultural enterprises and 5 subsurface storage sites established in the Soviet times remain. The country has developed a facility for hazardous waste storage in the Chechersk Rayon (Gomel Oblast). The facility’s design and construction provide for a possibility of setting up an installation for destruction of POPs wastes on its territory. Furthermore, the preparatory phase revealed existence of approximately 700 entities owning PCB containing equipment across the country. The national legislation requires the owners to ensure environmentally secure storage of equipment removed from service and prohibits any commercial transactions with PCB containing equipment.

Before the inception of the current project, the country had successfully eliminated a significant amount of the historical stockpiles of OPs as well secured remaining stockpiles of PCBs and

maintains a comprehensive inventory of these along with the remaining in-service PCB-containing equipment. During the period 2009-2013, a GEF/World Bank project eliminated 1,800 t of POPs pesticide waste and 823 t of PCB-based equipment from priority higher risk holders' stockpiles. Additional 14.7 t of PCB equipment from small holders was eliminated by an NGO "Green Economy" administered programme under the GEF Small Grants Programme in the 2015-2016 period and 330 tons of OPs were eliminated in 2016 under an EU/FAO project.

At the project inception, limited national financial capacity was the main barrier. Financial capacity limitations are the primary barrier that the Project can address by effectively incentivizing the rapid elimination of readily available PCB/OP stockpiles and accelerating phase-out of in-service PCB equipment that otherwise would not be addressed in the near future.

As the country does not have facilities for environmentally sound treatment of POPs and associated chemical wastes, the only feasible option of POPs elimination is export for final destruction, in line with the Basel Convention. At the same time, Belarus is taking steps and allocates national funding, as well as striving to attract investors for creation of capacities for POPs treatment at the Chechersk Facility.

A continuing barrier to sustaining progress and moving into the broader scope of sound chemicals management activities into the future is limited national technical capacity. There remains the need to upgrade skills and tools to deal with challenges associated with remaining legacies and broader sound chemicals management requirements.

Project description and strategy

The general objective of the project is the protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in Belarus.

The task presented by this project is to provide key support and resource inputs to a strongly committed country with a demonstrated track record and significant existing capacity in pursuing the overall objective of addressing its POPs and related chemicals waste legacies. The overall strategy for addressing this task and accomplishing the Project Objective is based on the achievements in the past, in particular the achievements of the GEF/World Bank POPs elimination project, noting that in fact UNDP effectively inherited this project concept and the country's endorsement when the World Bank withdrew from this business in the region. The project results framework contains two large investment components (Outcomes 1 and 2) that undertake major elimination of PCBs and OPs, respectively, along with supporting technical assistance. The third component (Outcome 3) addresses key institutional, convention compliance, general human resource and technical capacity, public consultation gaps looking forward to ensuring sustainability of national capacity. The following details the strategy for achieving these Outcomes in the context of the approach to overcoming these barriers as applicable and in effecting as required change required. As required by the UNDP and GEF practice, the fourth component (Outcome 4), covering knowledge management as well as monitoring and evaluation, is also included.

The operational results framework of the project is composed of 4 outcomes and 10 outputs organized as follows:

Outcome 1: Sustainable PCB Management;

Outcome 2: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies;

Outcome 3: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management;

Outcome 4: Knowledge Management and M&E.

Expected project results

Global Environmental Benefits: The primary global environmental benefits attributed to this project are associated with the elimination and/or secure containment of POPs and OPs that would otherwise be subject to release into the broader environment summarized as follows:

- Direct environmentally sound elimination of an estimated 2,370 t of PCB-containing equipment containing approximately 1,025 t of PCBs themselves;
- Provision for removal from service (phase out) and secured consolidated storage to prevent near and medium-term release of PCBs chemicals of an additional 730 t of PCB-containing equipment during the project;
- Provision for future systematic accelerated phase out of remaining in-service PCB-containing equipment (estimated 665 t) consistent with SC obligations;
- Direct environmentally sound destruction of 1,900 t of OPs and development of national capability for future elimination of 3,913.9 t of OPs and associated contaminated soil;
- Provision for secure containment and monitoring of an estimated 3,827.2 t of OPs and contaminated soils in burial sites including detailed site assessment and design of future site remediation work.

The project was designed for use of consolidated approaches for the disposal of PCBs. High concentration PCB waste (transformers and capacitors will be pre-treated as necessary, packaged and shipped for destruction through high temperature incineration (HTI) or co-incineration in BAT/BEP compliant plants in compliance with the Basel Convention rules.

Socio-Economic Benefits: The direct and immediate benefits are those related to the implementation of the project itself, including employment and capacity building of project staff and operators as well as establishment of a public-private partnership for the management of the PCB-contaminated equipment and OP waste. Indirect benefits include prevention of environmental contamination by these substances that will translate into reduced mortality and morbidity of the population in the medium to long term.

Knowledge Management: The project is expected to enhance the existing national knowledge and technical capacity on management of PCB waste by the project partners and contribute towards creation of skills and capacities on the management of hazardous waste in general and PCB and OP waste in particular.

Project implementation arrangements

The project was designed for implementation according to the UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM), in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Belarus, and the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD)⁵.

The implementation arrangement described in the Project Document is based on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP) acting as the designated national Implementing Partner. UNDP CO in Belarus is expected to assume responsibility for timely reporting on project progress in accordance with the administrative procedures of UNDP and GEF, supporting the Implementing Partner through provision of support services defined in the Project Document⁶, as well as organizing obligatory project reviews and evaluations.

The Project Document also outlines the essential project management arrangements in the form of a Project Board (PB), also called Project Steering Committee, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) under the auspices of the MNREP. Under the chairmanship of the National Project Coordinator (NPC), the PB is predestined to assume responsibility for provision of strategic guidance and oversight to the project, while the day-to-day management should be carried out by the PMU/MNREP, that assumes overall responsibility for the successful implementation of all project activities and the achievement of planned project outputs. The PM, hired by the MNREP, works under supervision of the National Project Coordinator and in coordination with the UNDP CO.

The Project Assurance role supports the project by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance is rested with the UNDP Belarus Programme Specialist and the UNDP's Regional Technical Advisor in Istanbul's UNDP Regional Hub.

Project timing and milestones

The project was approved for implementation as a full-size GEF project on 31 January 2018 for the duration of 48 months. However, implementation started only after completion of the project registration in line with the national registration procedures for UN projects. The approved GEF project grant amounts to US\$ 8,400,000 with further US\$ 50,807,890 as the co-financing commitment is composed of contributions from the Government of Belarus, from private sector and bilateral donors. This makes the total resources committed at the project inception US\$ 59,207,890.

The specific timeline of the project is summarized in Table 1 below.

⁵ UNDP Country Programme Document for the Republic of Belarus (2016-2020)

⁶ Annex I. Description of UNDP Country Office Support Services in execution of the project "GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management Project"

Table 1: Key project dates

Milestone	Date
PIF Approval Date	19 April 2016
CEO Endorsement Date	31 January 2018
Project Document Signature Date (project start date) ⁷	05 October 2019
Actual Date of First Disbursement in Atlas	2 March 2020
Project Inception Workshop	19 November 2020
Date of the Mid-term Review	August – October 2021
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	5 July 2022
Expected Date of Operational Closure	5 October 2022
Expected Date of Financial Closure	19 January 2023

Main project stakeholders

The Project Document identifies an array of the project stakeholders including analysis of their and involvement plan that provides an overview of main stakeholder types involved in and affected by activities of the project and their respective roles and responsibilities in the project.

The identified institutional, industry, academic, and international stakeholders were consulted during the project preparatory phase. It also included engagement with the national network of NGOs that have been involved in the development and implementation of previous POPs projects including preparation of the original National Implementation Plan (NIP)⁸, and who would be involved in the NIP update. These organizations will be directly engaged in the facilitation of a national sound chemical management initiative (Output 3.1), mainstreaming gender equity and empowerment within the project (Output 3.2), NIP update development (Output 3.4) and the implementation of public awareness and consultation activities (Output 3.5) as well as direct local consultation as applicable related to elimination of rural OP storehouses, and PCB equipment in publicly sensitive locations.

The map of the main project stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities relevant for the project are summarized in Annex 6.

⁷ Date of project registration completion according to the national registration procedures for UN projects

⁸ The National Plan of the Republic of Belarus for the Implementation of its Obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the period of 2007–2010 and until 2028, MNREP (2006)

FINDINGS

This section brings a summary of empirical facts based on the data collected during the extended document review and interviews with selected key project stakeholders. The MTR team paid particular attention to cross-verification of the evaluative evidence using multiple sources of information and, to the extent possible, avoid overreliance on opinions obtained during the interviews.

Project Strategy

The MTR team conducted an analysis of the design of the project as outlined in the Project Document and assessed whether the project strategy is proving to be effective in reaching the desired results. In doing so, the evaluators judged the extent to which the project addresses country priorities and is country driven. Furthermore, the evaluators assessed the extent to which the project objectives are consistent with the priorities and objectives of the donor and implementing agencies (GEF and UNDP).

Project Design

The project is aligned with the National Strategy on Sustainable Socio- Economic Development until 2030 (NSDS) that represents a strategic framework for the transposition of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their indicators to the national context.

Furthermore, the project is in line with the 2007 Law on Waste Management, amended in 2016, that introduces modern principles of waste management, including minimization of waste generation, the importance of recycling and reduction of the negative impact of waste on human health and the environment.

The project also links to the National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Republic of Belarus under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and its following objectives:

- Environmentally sound storage and destruction of POP wastes presently stocked in the country;
- Detection, survey and cleaning of POP contaminated areas, rehabilitation of the environment;
- Development of the national system of environmental and human health monitoring in relation to the impact of POPs;
- Development and improvement of the legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the field of POPs management;
- Improvement of the POPs accounting framework;
- Information exchange on solution of the POPs problem with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and Parties;
- Public awareness raising on POPs issues;

According to the national legislation, the NIP is periodically revised at the beginning of a 5-year planning period. Currently, the NIP is part the national programme “Protection of Environment and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for the years of 2021-2025”, namely

its of Sub-Programme 3 that covers management of POPs. The NIP was last revised in 2016 and another revision of NIP was conducted under this project (Output 3.4).

The project has built on achievements of the Belarus Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project that was implemented by the World Bank in 2010-2017. Component 3 of the ISWM project (funded by GEF with sizeable co-financing from the Government) was designed to align national environmentally sound management of POPs with Belarus' obligations under the Stockholm Convention and to implement priority actions under the NIP, namely capturing and securing storage of POPs stockpiles and waste; removal of priority POPs from a major burial site; environmentally sound management of disposal of priority POPs; and support to development of institutional, technical, and infrastructure capacity for POPs management.

Furthermore, the project aligns with the GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste (CW) focal area where GEF continues to play a catalytic role in leveraging budgetary resources from national governments and incentivizing the private sector to contribute more to the achievement of elimination and reduction of harmful chemicals and waste.

At the project preparatory stage, no direct gender considerations were identified beyond the general issues related to the higher risks for women associated with POPs distribution in the broader environment. The Project Document states that the project has a potential to contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 Gender Equality, specifically its Target 5.5 'Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life'.

According to the Gender Impact Assessment Report (provided as Annex J of the Project Document), environment sector is an area influenced by a set of gender inequalities, which are mainly expressed in as exposure to pollutants and related health hazards, management safety hazards, under-representation of women in the environment decision-making institutions, and a pay gap between men and women. Nevertheless, the project design does not explicitly address any gender issues.

Specifically, the project links to Programme 1 of the CW focal area that asks the countries to "*Develop the enabling conditions, tools and environment for the sound management of harmful chemicals and wastes*", and Programme 3 of the same that calls for "*Reduction and elimination of POPs*".

The project is also in line with the UNDP Country Programme for 2016-2020, namely with the following CP Outcome:

By 2020, policies have been improved and measures have been effectively implemented to increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy, protect landscape and biological diversity and reduce the anthropogenic burden of the environment.

The MTR team concludes that the current project is highly relevant for the needs and priorities of Belarus and consistent with the strategic and programmatic priorities of the donor and implementing agencies.

Results Framework/Logframe

The project design followed a participatory process with involvement of key national stakeholders to ensure that it aligns to national priorities as described in the previous section. The evaluators performed critical analysis of the project results framework in order to establish whether it has the necessary elements and whether it enables measurement of success and progress to success. However, detailed assessment of the project design revealed some weaknesses that are summarized below.

The formulation of the current project started with preparation and approval of the Project Identification Form (PIF) in April 2016 that served as a basis for formulation of the Project Document (ProDoc), approved in October 2018. The PIF results framework is composed of 4 components, 11 outcomes and 28 outputs. The logframe in the ProDoc was adjusted in line with the guidelines for preparation of GEF-6 projects to comprise 4 outcomes listed in the results framework table and 11 outputs listed in the text of the Project Document (Section IV).

Furthermore, the ProDoc logframe table contains total 12 indicators for measurement of achievements of the project, including 3 indicators for at the level of the Project Objective and further 9 indicators at the level of the project outcomes. These indicators are a mixture of quantitative and qualitative indicators complemented by two respective sets of indicator targets for the mid-term and end of the project stages.

Broader development effects (such as income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance, etc.) were not factored into the project design and therefore not monitored during the project implementation.

While the quantitative indicators and their target values are formulated correctly, the qualitative indicators are formulated as project outputs and few of their target values are in fact measures of activities. Table 2 summarizes proposed changes of some outcome indicators and their respective targets.

Table 2: Assessment of the qualitative outcome indicators and targets in the Project Document

Original Indicator	Suggested modified indicator	Suggested revision of E-O-P targets
<u>Indicator 3:</u> Amounts of legacy of PCBs and obsolete pesticides	Amounts of stockpiled PCB waste and OPs disposed in an environmentally sound manner	Environmentally sound disposal of cumulativetonnes of PCB equipment/waste Environmentally sound disposal of cumulative tonnes of OPs from rural storages
<u>Indicator 4.</u> Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination and as applicable to screening for cross contamination during maintenance developed and applied	Existence of new technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB holders	Best practice guidance manuals developed and distributed to all major PCB holders 3 workshop training events completed Compliance with mandated PCB phase out targets for current mandated program Technical procedure documentation on cross contamination and screening developed and disseminated Procedures for expanded reporting at the holder level developed PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. Public data access maintained
<u>Indicator 5.</u> Development of qualified capability to treat and dispose of HW at the Chechersk facility in Gomel Oblast and for national capability for environmentally sound management of PCB equipment	Capability to treat and dispose of HW at the Chechersk facility	Treatment/disposal technology selected /procured GEF supported technical assistance for this process delivered (subject to the facility commissioning) into operation) Need and option assessment related to PCB equipment draining and dismantling requirements completed
<u>Indicator 9.</u> Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements completed	Legal, institutional, and regulatory review of national chemicals management system	Same targets as in the Project Document except the ratification of the Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions
<u>Indicator 10.</u> Current POPs inventories (old and new POPs) updated and updated NIP prepared and submitted per country obligations	Updated national POPs inventories and related reports	PCB and OP inventories completed NIP prepared, endorsed, and submitted
<u>Indicator 12.</u> Knowledge management applied to project in response to needs and opportunities including mid-term and final evaluation findings with lessons learned extracted.	Knowledge management and project evaluation products	Knowledge management reports Terminal Evaluation report available before the project operational closure

The evaluators found the other indicators and targets to be in line with the SMART criteria, i.e. specific (S), measurable (M), attainable (A), realistic (R) and time-bound (T).

Progress Towards Results

Progress towards outcomes analysis

The information presented in this section has been sourced from the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR) for 2020 and 2021, supplemented with information compiled from the stakeholder interviews.

The progress towards the four project outcomes is presented for each outcome in separate Tables 3-6 and the overall progress towards the project objective is summarized in Table 7. The MTR team completed the column “Midterm Level & Assessment” and concluded whether the end-of-project targets have already been achieved (colour of the “Midterm Level & Assessment” item green), is partially achieved or on target to be achieved by the end of the

project (colour yellow); or is at high risk of not being achieved by the end of the project and needs attention (colour red). Each outcome is rated according to the 6-point rating scale⁹.

The progress is discussed in text after the tables *vis-a-vis* the project outputs listed in the Project Document and cross-referenced to the indicators and their targets from the project logframe. Hence, the indicator relevant for measurement of each output is provided in brackets after the output title.

Table 3: Achievements at MTR for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Sustainable PCB Management				
Outcome Indicators	Mid-term Targets	End-of-Project Targets	Mid-term Level & Assessment	Rating
Indicator 4. Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination and as applicable to screening for cross contamination during maintenance developed and applied	Best practice guidance manuals developed and distributed to all major PCB holders. 3 workshop training events completed Compliance with mandated PCB phase out targets for current mandated program Technical procedure documentation End-of-Project on cross contamination and screening developed and disseminated Expanded reporting at the holder level developed PCB inventory and its reporting maintained Public data access maintained	Best practice technical procedures adopted by all major holders and imbedded in relevant nation technical standards. 60 technical staff operationally applying best practices. Planning for next mandated PCB phase out scheduling beyond 2020 in place Cross contamination screening embedded in operations of at least 4 major holder transformer maintenance practice. 60 Technical staff trained and equipped with screening capability National PCB inventory and tracking fully integrated into national POPs inventory system. PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. Public data access maintained	Guidance on decommissioning and consolidation of PCB equipment 2 on-line training workshops for PCB holders Support to annual PCB inventories Report and guideline on cross-contamination of electrical equipment TOR for upgrade of the Unified Database of POPs TOR for the development of screening methods for PCB cross-contamination	
Indicator 5. Development of qualified capability to treat and dispose of HW at the Chechersk facility in Gomel Oblast and for national capability for environmentally sound management of PCB equipment.	Selection of treatment/disposal technology completed/procured GEF supported technical assistance for this process delivered Completion of a need and option assessment related to PCB equipment management capability requirements	Treatment/Disposal capability commissioned at Chechersk. GEF funded qualification/ demonstration testing completed and documented. Development and business planning completed to have resulted in the selection and implementation of required PCB equipment management options.	Input into technical documentation on procurement of equipment for the hazardous waste destruction facility in Chechersk	
Indicator 6. Amount of currently stockpiled PCB equipment/waste and newly phased out PCB equipment shipped and eliminated.	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste.	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,270 t of PCB equipment phased out over the project for total PCB elimination over project of 2,340 t	Contract for shipment and final disposal of 431 tonnes of PCB waste	

Output 1.1: PCB phase out plan implementation support for sustainable and accelerated PCB phase out (Indicator 4)

The project supported development of guidelines on decommissioning and consolidation of PCB-containing equipment that were distributed to the participating owners of PCB equipment in order to ensure safe temporary storage and facilitate preparation for packaging, and transportation for ultimate disposal. Distribution of the guidelines was complemented by organization of 2 on-line seminars for raising awareness on management of PCB equipment waste with participation of more than 300 representatives of interested organizations.

⁹ The tables here are presented in a simplified format for quick reference to the information important for the MTR. The tables in full format are presented as Annex 10.

A report “Development of methodology and assessment of potential cross-contamination of electrical equipment without PCB content” was prepared by a national consultant with the following content:

- list of types and technical characteristics of electrical equipment subject to possible cross-contamination with PCBs;
- possible causes and identification of practices causing cross-contamination of transformers;
- set of requirements for conducting the cross-contamination screening;
- methodology for rapid screening tests for the detection of chlorine in transformer oils in concentration more than 50 mg/kg;

The report also provides insight into techniques for draining of PCB transformers, separation of PCB waste components requiring ultimate destruction, as well as dismantling and decontamination of recyclable parts. To this end, the report preparation of a guideline on screening of cross-contamination of electrical equipment that is based on a rapid screening

The methodology for rapid screening of PCB equipment using standard Clor-n-Oil test kits for analysis of PCB contents in dielectric fluids is annexed to the report. As part of the methodology pilot testing, analysis was conducted of 500 samples of decommissioned transformers from 6 Oblasts and Minsk (minimum 50 transformers per Oblast) with 100% negative results. Up to the MTR stage, there has been no activity on procurement of the rapid screening tests and capacity building for their wider practical use.

The project initiated upgrade of the Unified Database of POPs that is maintained by the Republican Scientific Research Unitary Enterprise “Bel SIC Ecology”. Currently owners of PCB equipment submit annually reports on quantities of decommissioned PCB-containing equipment. It is expected that the upgrade will ensure connection of the national statistical reports of the MNREP with the Unified Database and ensure provide wider access to data in the near future.

Output 1.2: Sustainable PCB/chemicals waste management infrastructure developed and operational in Belarus (Indicator 5)

The first part of this output is intended to support establishment of a hazardous waste (HW) treatment facility that is subject of the parallel UNIDO/GEF “Regional Demonstration Project for Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal in Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia”.

The Belarus project team participated in the process of development of technical documentation and specification for procurement of an integrated high-temperature incineration system for destruction of hazardous waste (POPs and ODS) for the Communal Unitary Enterprise (CUE): Complex for Processing and Disposal of Toxic Wastes of the Gomel Region, located in Gomel Oblast, Chechersk Rayon. The international tender notice was published at the UNIDO procurement portal in June 2019.

A company from the Russian Federation was awarded a turnkey contract for supply and installation of equipment for the POPS/ODS rotary kiln-type chemical waste disposal plant

including provision of supplies and related services. For various reasons, the originally contracted date of commissioning (June 2020) had to be postponed. At the time of the MTR, the contractor was reportedly conducting installation of the incinerator system with commissioning expected before the end of 2021. The facility is expected run in the 24/7 mode with the projected nominal capacity about 200 kg of waste per hour (about 1,600 tonnes per year). The GEF project is expected to recruit international expertise for conducting combustion efficiency tests, assessment of readiness to treat POPs pesticides in low and high concentrations, and support for compliance with national certification requirements for the facility.

However, the Project Document also envisaged development of national capacity for PCB equipment pre-treatment, based on draining and dismantling of PCB equipment, decontamination of recyclable component parts and separation of PCB waste components requiring destruction (Activity 1.2.2 in the Project Document). No progress was reported in this regard.

It appears that planning of Activity 1.2.2 did not take into consideration the baseline legislation, namely the rules for handling equipment and waste containing PCBs, that do not allow dilution of liquids containing PCBs with the aim to reduce the PCB concentration¹⁰. It is therefore surprising that this activity was included in the Project Document.

Output 1.3: Environmentally sound elimination of present equipment PCB stockpiles and accelerated phased out equipment during the project (Indicator 6)

In 2020, the project announced an international tender for shipment and ultimate disposal of 360 tonnes of PCB-containing equipment, but the tender did not receive satisfactory bids. Two additional rounds of the same tender did not produce results to comply with relevant national requirements on the minimum number of bidders with a complete submission package. A decision was therefore taken for simplification of the procedure for preparation of the bidding documents package and adjustment of the payment terms in order to solicit more participation of qualified bidders. Also, the quantity of the PCB waste was increased in the next round of the tender.

In July 2021, the project announced the tender for contracting service for the provision of services for the shipment abroad and environmentally sound disposal of total 430.939 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment from 38 holders (8,215 capacitors and 4 transformers). In order to assist the interested bidders, the project organized on-line seminar in August 2021 with the aim to explain the requirements for preparation of technical and financial bids and explain payment terms. Following technical and economic evaluation of the bids, MNREP awarded a contract for export and environmentally sound disposal of the above amount of PCB waste to a local company affiliated to the renowned French company Tredi SA.

Based on the data from the PCB inventories, the project compiled a list of owners of PCB waste for participation in the second phase of destruction of PCB equipment. The list contains 280 owners of more than 600 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment. Based on the recommendations for consolidation of PCB equipment (Output 1.3), CUE has been designated

¹⁰Decree of the MNREP No. 62 of 24 June 2008

as the consolidation centre for the PCB waste before the decision is taken for ultimate disposal of the PCB waste. However, as discussed above under Output 1.2, it has to be noted that with the current status of the CUE facility, the latter could be used only for temporary storage of PCB-contaminated equipment before shipment for ultimate disposal abroad as there has been no progress towards development of capacity for in-country pre-treatment and classification of PCB waste.

Summary Assessment of Outcome 1: The project supported development of a set of guidelines on decommissioning and consolidated temporary storage of PCB-containing equipment (capacitors and transformers), as well as training of the first group of PCB waste holders. The country has an established system through which the holders of PCB waste regularly report the quantities of PCB waste in terms of gross weight of PCB-contaminated equipment and weight of the PCB-contaminated contents liquid. However, apart from the self-reporting by the PCB holders, no special centralized PCB inventory has been conducted to date that would fully ensure completeness and verify accuracy of the reported figures. Experience from other countries suggests that such a self-reporting methodology may not be an effective tool for collection of reliable data, especially where the PCB holders have insufficient awareness and little prior experience with the standard reporting procedures. There are considerable differences between the reported PCB waste data in various reports that raise questions about accuracy of the collected data from regular self-inventories of holders of PCB-contaminated equipment.

The data obtained from the owner of the Unified Database shows numbers and locations of equipment units potentially containing PCBs (capacitors and transformers), their gross weight as well as the net weight of the contaminated filling (determined on the basis of technical data of the equipment units). The Unified Database contains no information on concentration of PCBs in the equipment units. Such information has no relevance for capacitors that contain insulating materials (e.g. paper and aluminium foil) that cannot be decontaminated or removed without destroying the functionality. Therefore, all PCB capacitors are predestined for ultimate disposal. However, information on PCB concentration in transformer dielectric fluids is of paramount importance for cost-effective management of PCB transformers.

Almost all MTR targets for Indicator 4 have been achieved with the exception of public access to the Unified Database on POPs. One of the targets of Indicator 5 (support to the establishment of the HW treatment facility at Chechersk has been achieved while the other target (assistance with certification of the facility) has not started because of the delay in the establishment of the HW destruction facility under the UNIDO regional project.

The procured services for shipment and ultimate disposal of the first batch of stockpiled PCB waste address less than 40% of the MTR target amount (431 tonnes instead of 1,100 tonnes) for environmentally sound disposal. The procurement was completed shortly before the MTR, and it will take considerable time (several months) to complete the process of export abroad to the high-temperature incineration (HTI) facility. Therefore, the target for Indicator 6 has been achieved neither in terms of quantity of the disposed amount of PCB waste nor in terms of progress towards the ultimate disposal.

Despite the above summarized achievements, the evaluators identified few drawbacks of the capacity strengthening for sound chemicals management. There is no evidence to what extent the recommendations contained in the report on possible PCB cross-contamination in non-PCB equipment have been taken by major operators of such equipment as a standard practice during equipment maintenance, including testing of transformer oil after maintenance. Furthermore, there has been very little contribution towards strengthening of the existing PCB inventory and tracking system. The annual reporting procedures by PCB holders, established under the previous World Bank project about 10 years ago, provides only estimates of volumes of dielectric fluids in the PCB equipment. Also, due to lack of national standards for analysis of PCBs in dielectric fluids, the existing national capacity for screening and confirmatory determination of content of PCBs in the electrical equipment is not sufficient.

Last but not least, no progress was reported on development of national capacity for pre-treatment and decontamination of PCB transformers. Such capacity would enable optimization of volumes of the PCB waste that require ultimate disposal by incineration abroad. Experience from GEF projects in countries of the Western Balkans (North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro) suggests that decontamination of PCB transformers with low PCB concentration could be the least cost and thus preferred option as it could provide for recovery of some decontaminated articles either for re-use or scrap metal (transformers, hydraulic equipment, heat exchanger equipment) and for combustion of transformer oil together with other waste (e.g. ODS or pesticides). Export of PCB-contaminated equipment for incineration abroad is the only available option for transformers containing pure PCB liquids or dielectric fluids with a high level of PCB contamination. Therefore, insufficient national capacity for pre-treatment and decontamination of PCB transformers could impair cost-effectiveness of future plans for PCB waste disposal.

Based on the above, the progress towards achievement of the end-of-project targets under Outcome 1 is rated **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Table 4: Achievements at MTR for Outcome 2

Outcome 2: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies				
Outcome Indicators	Mid-term Targets	End-of-Project Targets	Mid-term Level & Assessment	Rating
<u>Indicator 7.</u> Amount of OP removed from rural OP storage sites and number of rural storehouses where OPs are eliminated and sites restored	1,900 t of OP packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with international standards. 50% of sites assessed and required clean up completed in accordance with national standards	100% of rural storehouse sites assessed and cleaned up in accordance with national standards	Contract for sound disposal of 900 tonnes of OPs waste from 21 organizations Plan for site assessments after OPs removal OPs from sites moved for temporary storage at Chechersk	
<u>Indicator 8.</u> Number of site assessment reports and containment/clean-up action plans with financial commitments identified for containment and clean up	3 basic site assessments completed 2 preliminary containment/clean-up action plans completed	5 basic site assessments completed 5 preliminary containment/cleanup action plans completed Core long term financial resources for containment and clean up mobilized	Assessments at burial sites Petrikov, Gorodok and Postavy Action plans for Petrikov and Postavy sites	

Output 2.1: Environmentally sound elimination of remaining OP storage site stockpiles (Indicator 7)

This output is linked with the results of previous foreign aid assistance that supported MNREP to organize collection and long-term storage of obsolete pesticides at a number of rural storages and the CUE. The focus of this output is re-packaging and export of the already stored OPs for ultimate disposal at a certified HTI facility in the EU, as well as removal of any residual contamination associated with the rural storage sites and related infrastructure after removal of the repackaged OPs.

In December 2020, an international consulting company was contracted for provision of services on assessment and ultimate disposal of obsolete pesticides located in 20 warehouses located in 17 districts of the Vitebsk region and in one warehouse in the Novogrudok district in the Grodno region. This work included establishment of quantities of OPs stored at the rural warehouses, repackaging and transport of the OPs to a certified HTI facility in the EU, assessment of condition of the warehouses and related infrastructure (access roads, etc.), as well as cleaning of the warehouses. In addition, MNREP concluded individual agreements with each OP holder for provision of assistance to the international company on repackaging of OPs, labelling in line with international standards, as well as preparation for transport to the long-term storage facility.

The original contract with the international company included repackaging and transport of more than 700 tonnes from the 21 owners of OPs based on the self-reporting of OP quantities by the OP holders. The progress was affected by the COVID-19 travel restrictions that caused delays in implementation of the above contract. Once the contracted company was cleared to enter the country and implement the contracted activities on the ground, additional quantities of OPs were found during the repackaging works at several sites. Consequently, the total amount of OPs found and repackaged was thus 900 tonnes instead of the originally contracted 700 tonnes in the tender documents. After negotiations with the contractor, the additional quantity was included into the contract for export and environmentally sound destruction in the EU. At the time of the MTR, documents related to permits for cross-border movement of the OPs were under review by the competent authorities of Poland and Germany and first trucks were loaded for transport of the OP waste to the HTI facilities selected by the contracted company.

Apart from delays from complicated procedures for obtaining all documentation and permits for the cross-border transport of the OP waste, progress under this output was also affected by the accident in the Chempark industrial area in Leverkusen, Germany, in July 2021, in which the HTI plant of one company located in the Chempark was destroyed. Although the latter plant was not directly involved in treatment of the OP waste from this project, the accident caused redistribution of waste disposal contracts from the affected plant to other HTI facilities in Germany. Delays in scheduling of waste disposal operations require operational monitoring by the project team and the international contractor to ensure that the OP waste from this project is scheduled for disposal as soon as possible.

In parallel with the above work, additional 506 tonnes of OPs stored in 14 warehouses located in 11 districts of the Minsk region were identified for processing under the project in the forthcoming months.

During the OPs repackaging and preparation for transport abroad, it was found that some of the OP waste contain high amounts of mercury. HTI of mercury-containing waste requires required additional controls of the process and therefore incurs increased cost of the incineration. Also, about 540 kg of chemical reagents not considered as OPs were found during the repackaging works at one OP warehouse.

Output 2.2: Obsolete pesticide burial site containment (Indicator 8)

This output was designed for site assessment of 5 OPs burial sites (Verkhnedvinsk, Gorodok, Postavy, Petrikov, and Dribin) with a total OP waste of about 4,200 t, in order to determine the location of concentrated OP deposits through application of advanced techniques of near-surface exploration for spatial distribution of OP pollutants.

The project staff participated at a webinar organized on 17 February 2021 on the topic of FAO recommendations for assessment and remediation of sites contaminated with pesticides.

Until the MTR stage, frontal surveys were completed at 3 burial sites (Petrikov, Gorodok and Postavy) and soil samples taken for analysis from the Petrikovo and Gorodok sites. Spatial distribution of superficial pollutants was determined with the help of aerial photography and magnetic mapping techniques. During the assessments it was revealed that POPs releases from the Petrikovo site started leaching into groundwater and could have negative health effects on population using groundwater in the vicinity of the site.

Summary Assessment of Outcome 2:

After the slow start, the project gained momentum on assessment of the existing rural storage houses of OPs and correction of data on their numbers from the pre-project period. Although the mid-term target of Indicator 7 (packaging, shipment and disposal of 1,900 t of OPs) was not achieved, there is a notable progress. Identification and planning of disposal of OPs from the Minsk region will bring the total quantities of OPs sent for disposal close to planned figures for the project mid-term. Also, if commissioning of the waste treatment facility at CUE Chechersk goes according to the plan, the total quantities of OPs disposed during the lifetime of the project could well exceed the EOP target of disposal of another 1,990 tonnes of OPs.

During the conduct of the MTR, the Government of Poland declared a state of emergency in the border region with Belarus due to escalation of tension between the two countries due to migration crisis. This decision has a potential to severely influence the export of already contracted OP quantities as the waste export licence include the Bruzgi checkpoint that is located on the Belarusian side of the affected region. If this situation is not resolved quickly, it could seriously affect the progress towards achievement of the end-of-project target for Indicator 7.

The basic site assessments at 3 sites constitute the end-of-project target of assessment and clean-up of all rural storehouses appears to a good foundation for development of containment and/or clean-up plans. No progress on elaboration of such plans was reported to the MTR. Nevertheless, the evaluators believe that due to the commitment of all project stakeholders there is a good prospect of achievement of a majority of the end-of-project targets for Indicator 8.

Based on the above findings, the progress towards achievement of the end-of-project targets under Outcome 2 is rated **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Table 5: Achievements at MTR for Outcome 3

Outcome 3: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management				
Outcome Indicators	Mid-term Targets	End-of-Project Targets	Mid-term Level & Assessment	Rating
Indicator 9. Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements completed	Active interagency facilitation on sound chemicals management established. At least 2 interagency workshops/training events Legislative/ regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management completed. At least 1 public consultation event Assessment of environmental monitoring program completed One training program for staff completed. Identification and procurement of sampling and analytical equipment initiated EU program finalized and under implementation	5 interagency workshops/training events At least 2 public consultation events. National policy on and framework for sound chemicals management adopted and initiation initiated on a coordinated interagency basis. Ratification of Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions Upgraded national environmental monitoring program implemented 2 training programs completed GEF financed sampling and analytical equipment operational	2 webinars on monitoring of POPs Webinar on health hazards by POPs 9 national standards for determination of PCBs in environmental media Guidance on prevention of cross-contamination Methodology for screening of PCBs by fast field test method (pilot tested) Sampling and analytical equipment for analysis of organic halides in water	S
Indicator 10. Current POPs inventories (old and new POPs) updated and updated NIP prepared and submitted per country obligations	All inventories completed NIP prepared, endorsed and submitted	SC reporting on POPs current	WG established for NIP preparation Report on preparation of the NIP Draft National Implementation Plan (NIP)	S
Indicator 11. Number of public awareness events, information products (including web accessible) produced on POPs and sound chemicals management, as implemented through active NGO/Civil society partnerships.	16 public awareness events undertaken 50 public information products released for dissemination Upgraded web based platform operational 2 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	16 public awareness events undertaken 20 public information products released for dissemination Web based platform operational and sustained 3 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	2 webinars on monitoring of POPs Webinar on health hazards by POPs Webinar for owners of PCB-containing equipment 3 NGOs involved in PSC Website www.soz.minpriroda.gov.by upgraded Gender balance report prepared	S

Output 3:1: Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU and Eurasian Economic Union legislation (Indicator 9)

Implementation of this output started with appointment of a national consulting company for development of technical specifications for the preparation of national standards, research and translation of relevant international standards, as well as analysis of the rules for the development and promulgation of national standards on laboratory analysis for determination of POPs in various environmental media.

The contractor elaborated first editions of the national standards summarized in Box 1 below.

Box 1: List of national standards developed

Standard No.	Standard Title
STB EN 16693: 2015	Water quality. Determination of organochlorine pesticides in water samples by a solid phase extraction (SPE) with SPE discs combined with gas chromatography / mass spectrometry (GC/MS)
STB ISO 13914: 2013	Soil quality. Determination of dioxins, furans and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls by the method gas chromatography with mass selective detection with high resolution (GC/HRMS)
STB EN 16694: 2015	Water quality. Determination of some polybrominated diphenyl ethers in water samples. Method solid-phase extraction with SPE discs in combination with gas chromatography / mass spectrometry
STB EN 16693: 2015	Water quality. Determination of organochlorine pesticides in water samples. Method of solid phase extraction with SPE discs combined with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
STB EN 16377: 2013	Waste characteristics. Determination of brominated flame retardants (BFR) in solid waste
STB ISO 22032: 2009	Water quality. Determination of the content of selected polybrominated diphenyl ethers in sediments and sewage sludge using extraction and gas chromatography / mass spectrometry
MVI. MN 5144-2014.	Methods for measuring the concentrations of 2,2', 4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether in the atmospheric air of settlements and places of mass recreation of the population by gas chromatography using a mass spectrometric detector
MVI.MN 5191-2015	Methods for measuring the concentrations of 2,2', 4,4', 5-pentabromodiphenyl ether in the atmospheric air of settlements and places of mass recreation of the population by gas chromatography using a mass spectrometric detector
MVI.MN 5513-2016	Methods for measuring concentrations of 2,2', 3,3', 4,4', 5,5', 6,6'-decabromodiphenyl ether in the atmospheric air of settlements and places of public recreation by gas chromatography using a mass spectrometric detector

At the time of the MTR, mandatory review processes for the first three standards listed above were already completed and final versions (agreed by all relevant parties) were already available.

Furthermore, the project funds were used for procurement of laboratory analytical equipment that was delivered to the Republican Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection. The equipment consisted of an AOX (adsorbed organic halides) analyser, auxiliary equipment and consumables. The procured equipment meets the requirements of STB ISO 9562-2012 “Water quality: Determination of the content of adsorbed organically bound halogens (AOX)”. At the time of the MTR, the AOX analyser with the auxiliary equipment was already registered with MNREP and transferred to the Gomel regional branch of the Republican Centre.

During 2021, the project supported participation of the certified laboratory of Republican Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection in international laboratory proficiency testing for analysis of PCBs in soil with the results expected in November 2021. Further support for interlaboratory testing for analysis of PCBs in water is planned for early 2022.

Output 3.2: Implementation of gender mainstreaming practices for project activities and sound chemical management initiatives generally (cross-cutting)

This output was designed further to the respective UNDP and GEF policies and the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan that had been developed during the PPG. It involves supporting activities related to two areas, namely i) increased awareness of PCBs and OPs among local communities affected by the POPs pollution, and ii) promoting gender equality in project implementation at a supervisory and technical direction level.

Implementation of the first part was negatively affected by the COVID-19 restrictions on organization of physical meetings and had to be transferred in the virtual space. Two webinars were organized in this regard, namely a webinar for doctors of antenatal clinics on POPs issues and ways of delivering relevant information to patients, as well as a webinar on the specifics of organizing and conducting monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in environmental media. Both webinars attracted considerable share of female participants (80% and 74%, respectively). More details are below under Output 3.5.

Moreover, the project supported preparation and distribution of a number of information materials that aimed at raising women's awareness of the health effects of POPs. These materials were distributed among health care institutions, enterprises, agricultural organizations, schools, and the population at large.

For the second part of this output, the project conducted a basic assessment of gender participation at the level of the Project Management Unit, the Project Steering Committee and the National Implementing Partner (MNREP), as well as at the level of consulting companies engaged in the project activities.

Output 3.3: Expanded national program for monitoring chemicals in the environment developed and implemented (Indicator 10)

Implementation of this output is harmonized with the state programme titled “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for 2021 – 2025”¹¹, namely with Subprogramme 3 “Management of POPs” and Subprogramme 5 “National System of Environmental Monitoring”.

Inventory of the POPs from the original list of the Stockholm Convention (including PCBs and OPs in Annexes A and B of the Convention) is conducted regularly as part of the updating and maintenance of the Unified Database on POPs.

In order to eliminate errors in the accounting of PCB-contaminated equipment, the project initiated a special inventory of such equipment in possession of the participants of the first stage of wastes’ removal. Based on the results of this inventory, the volume of PCB equipment subject to environmentally sound destruction was updated.

Furthermore, the project supported recruitment of a national consultant for compilation of a report on preparation of the updated NIP for obligations of Belarus under the SC (Output 3.4 below). The latter report also summarized results of recent inventories of the chemical waste controlled by the SC. At the beginning of 2020, the inventories registered 34,770 units of capacitors containing PCBs in the total volume of 525.95 tonnes, and 14,600 units of small-sized capacitors of the LS series with the content of 0.89 tonnes of PCBs. Of the total number of registered PCB-containing capacitors, 5,950 units containing about 0.4 tonnes of PCBs had been decommissioned. About 30% of PCB-containing capacitors in operation and decommissioned were in possession of 15 enterprises in Belarus. Considerable share of PCB-containing capacitors (over 2,300 units) were reportedly in possession of one company in

¹¹ Promulgated under Resolution No.99 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus (19 February 2021).

Gomel. Enterprises of the Ministry of Industry accounted for about 46% of the total number of PCB-containing capacitors.

According to the information of the Unified Database on POPs, about 51% of PCBs are contained in transformers while the remaining 49% in capacitors.

Output 3.4: NIP Update prepared, endorsed and submitted in accordance with SC obligations (Indicator 10)

The project recruited a national consultant for preparation of a draft National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the obligations assumed under the provisions of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for 2021 – 2025. In June 2020, the GoB established an Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) consisting of 18 government organizations and bodies (6 ministries, 6 regional executive committees, 2 government committees, 2 companies, the Belarusian Railway, the Academy of Sciences of Belarus), and three NGOs.

The draft NIP developed by the consultant was sent to the members of the IWG for review. Based on the feedback from the IWG, the draft NIP was finalized and submitted for approval of the IWG. At the time of the MTR, preparation of documents required for the official approval of the NIP and its translation into English for submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat was on-going.

Output 3.5: Supporting public and stakeholder awareness and information exchange for measures on POPs and sound chemicals management (Indicator 11)

Implementation of this output was delayed due to the fact that the PMU was established at the end of 2019 and due to COVID-19 restrictions that postponed organization of meetings and workshops towards the end of 2020.

Two webinars on specifics of organizing and conducting monitoring of POPs in environmental media were organized on 3 and 10 September 2020, respectively, for total 127 participants (94 women and 33 men).

On 10 November 2020, the project organized a webinar on health hazards of POPs and preventive measures that was attended by total 89 participants (71 women and 18 men). The participants were from health care facilities (46.1%), educational institutions (19.1%), organizations of MNREP (20.2%) and other organizations (14.6%).

On 22 December 2020, the project organized a webinar for raising awareness of the owners of PCB-containing equipment on methods and procedures for handling PCB waste. The webinar was attended by 87 participants (54 women and 33 men).

Summary assessment of Outcome 3: The above summary of findings indicates achievement of the MTR targets for Indicator 9. Therefore, almost all end-of-project targets for Indicator 9 appear to be realistic and achievable. The only exception is the EOP target of ratification of the Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions that does not have any relation to the current project activities and is entirely beyond control of the project team. Therefore, the evaluators suggest that this target should be dropped from the project results framework.

The MTR targets under Indicator 10 have been achieved only partially. Although the regular inventories have been completed and the update of the NIP drafted, the latter has not been yet endorsed by the Government and submitted to the SC secretariat.

Although the implementation of capacity building and awareness events was negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and related restrictions of physical meetings, the project team successfully transferred the planned activities and events into virtual space and thus ensured achievement of almost all MTR targets. The evaluators believe there is a good prospect of achievement of the end-of-project targets for Indicator 11 before the project completion.

Based on the above findings, the progress towards achievement of the end-of-project targets for Outcome 3 is rated **Satisfactory (S)**.

Table 6: Achievements at MTR for Outcome 4

Outcome Indicators	Mid-term Targets	End-of-Project Targets	Mid-term Level & Assessment	Rating
Indicator 12. Knowledge management applied to project in response to needs and opportunities including mid-term and final evaluation findings with lessons learned extracted.	Knowledge development integrated into project activities M&E plan adopted and implemented Mid-term-evaluation of project outputs and outcomes conducted with lessons learnt at 30 months of implementation.	Knowledge management results reported Final evaluation report ready in the end of project	11 knowledge products (posters, leaflets, brochures) produced and made available through the project webpage MTR conducted as planned	S

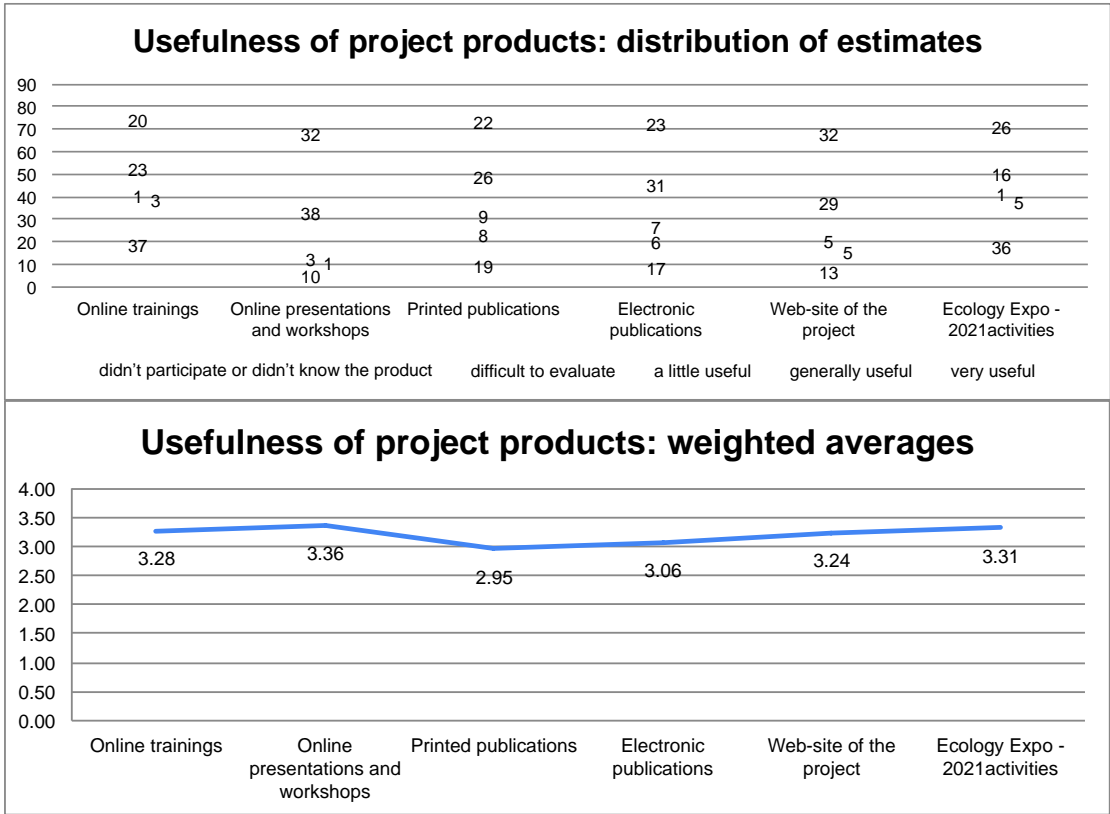
Details on implementation and rating of this output are provided below under the respective paragraphs Monitoring and Evaluation, Work Planning as well as Reporting and Communication.

Summary of the on-line survey results

The survey was distributed to 399 project participants and 84 responses were received.

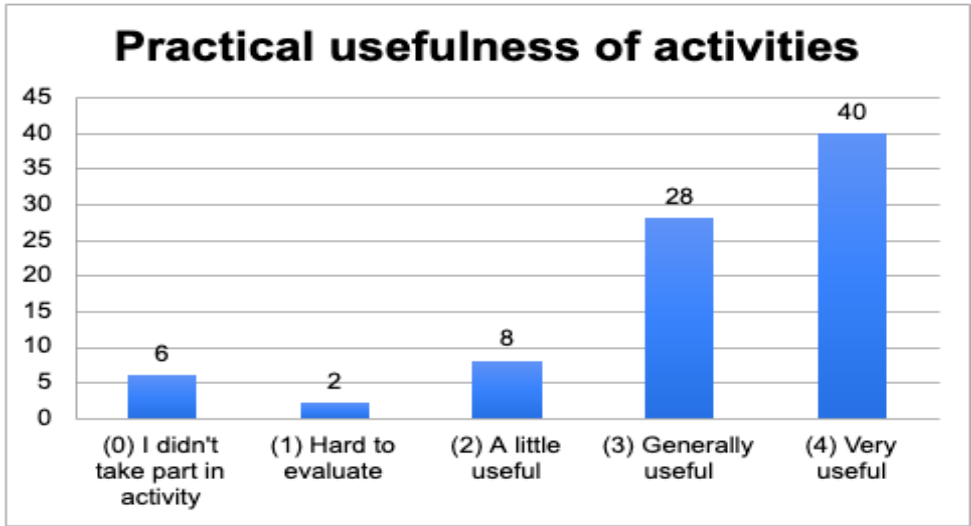
For determination of usefulness of the project products, the respondents evaluated the products on six aspects, which can be seen on Display 1 below. The first diagram shows the distribution of the given marks, the second diagram shows the weighted average marks. It can be seen that the respondents gave high marks to the project products: the rating ranges from 2.95 to 3.36 on a 4-point scale. The lowest score was given for print and electronic publications, the highest for online presentations and seminars, as well as for events within the framework of Ecology Expo - 2021.

Display 1: Survey responses on the usefulness of the project products



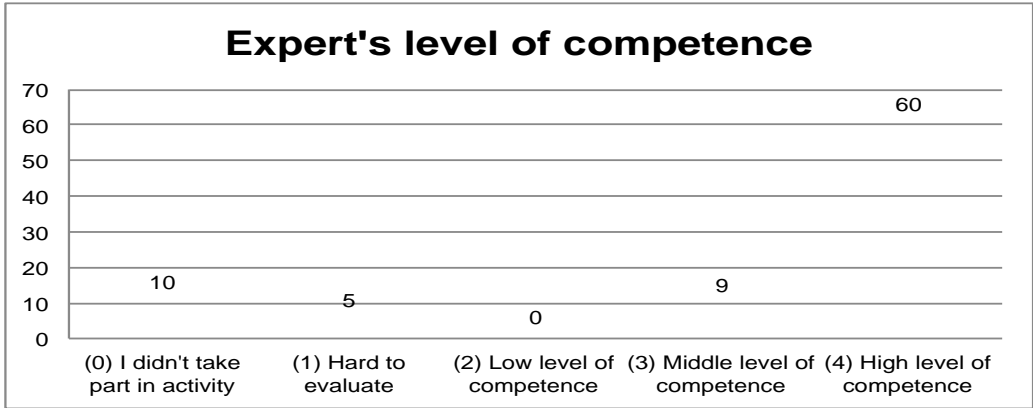
Display 2 shows summary of responses on the practical usefulness of the project activities.

Display 2: Survey responses on practical usefulness of the project activities

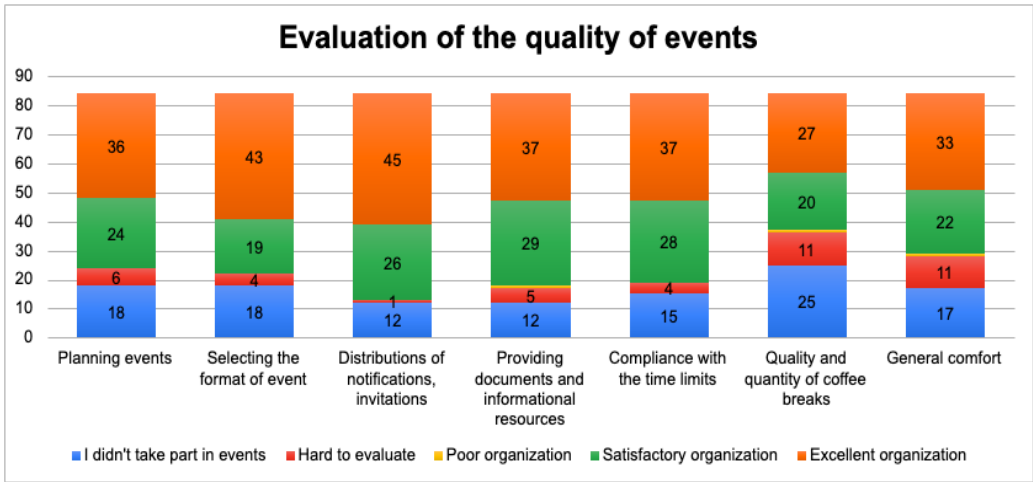


Displays 3 and 4 below show the distribution of the marks that the respondents gave to the level of competence of the project experts and on the quality of project events, respectively

Display 3: Summary of responses on project experts’ competence



Display 4: Summary of responses on quality of the project events



When asked how the participation in the project activities influenced the project participants, about 51% of the respondents mentioned increase in their personal potential and 49% satisfaction with the new knowledge / experience. About 25% of the respondents expanded their networks and professional contacts, and about 13% received a leverage that helped them to influence important decisions in their respective organizations.

Full results of the survey are in Annex 4.

Based on the above, the progress towards achievement of the end-of-project targets for Outcome 4 is rated **Satisfactory (S)**.

Table 7: Achievements related for assessment towards the Project Objective

Objective: Protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in the Republic of Belarus				
Objective Indicators	Mid-term Targets	End-of-Project Targets	Mid-term Level & Assessment	Rating
<u>Mandatory Indicator 1.</u> Indicator 1.3.1 of IRFF the 2014-2017 Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level, disaggregated by partnership type	Institutional partnership - Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level 150 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted 77 finance partnership agreements on OPs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level At least 300 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted and implemented 77 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	9 agreements with owners of PCB storehouses for storage of PCB waste from 38 original owners 38 agreements with owners of PCB waste for transport and disposal to Tredi SA, France 21 agreements with owners of rural OP storages	MS
<u>Mandatory Indicator 2.</u> # of direct project beneficiaries.	150 PCB based equipment owners participated in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners participate in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders engaged to the project decision making 5 CSOs involved in the project activities	At least 300 PCB based. equipment owners taken part in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners taken part in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders taken part into the project decision making 5 CSOs increased capacity in POPs	38 owners of PCB contaminated equipment participated in the 1 st phase 21 rural storage owners participated in the 1 st phase 17 institutional stakeholders involved 3 NGOs involved in WG on NIP preparation	MS
<u>Indicator 3.</u> Amounts of legacy of PCB and obsolete pesticides	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste. 1,900 t of OPs packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner	Environmentally sound destruction of 63% of total country legacy of PCB (2,370 t) Environmentally sound cleaning of all 88 rural storages and destruction of 1,990 t of OPs stored there	Contract for shipment and destruction of 430 t of stockpiled PCB waste awarded Contract for shipment and destruction of 900 t OPs awarded and transport of packaged OP waste initiated	MU

Summary assessment of progress towards the Project Objective:

Indicator 1 is adopted from the UNDP global Integrated Results and Resources Framework that was annexed to the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017. Indicator 2 is mandatory for GEF-6 projects. As the two indicators are interlinked, they have the same targets that are based on the numbers of PCB and OP holders identified in the surveys conducted during the project formulation.

The first phase of the project implementation focuses on a smaller number (28) of PCB-contaminated equipment holders that are ready and able to provide co-financing for local works related to consolidation of their PCB waste in a smaller number of centralized locations, and eventually replace PCB-contaminated equipment (capacitors and 4 transformers).

Inventory of OPs completed in June 2020 found only 32 owners of rural OP storages, in comparison with the 77 owners reported during the project preparation. With 22 storage owners in Vitebsk and Grodno, the project concluded contracts for local works required in support to the services of an international consulting company on repackaging and transport of OPs to central location, and subsequent cleaning of the storage sites.

The project has compiled a list of 280 holders of PCB waste and another list of owners of OPs storages in the Minsk region for participation in the second phase of the project. Total 17 institutional stakeholders (11 governmental agencies and, 6 regional executive committees) were engaged in the project decision making processes. Also, three NGOs have been involved in the working group for preparation of the NIP update.

It can be concluded from the above summary, that the targets for Indicators 1 and 2 have been achieved only partially at the MTR stage. Nevertheless, with the continued effort of the project team that the originally planned numbers of partnerships/beneficiaries can be achieved before the project completion.

On the side of ultimate disposal of PCB waste and OPs (Indicator 3), the project has successfully completed consolidation and preparation for shipment of 431 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment (8,215 capacitors and 4 transformers), as well as repackaging and preparation for shipment of 900 tonnes of OPs for ultimate disposal at recognized HTI facilities in the EU. However, these amounts constitute only about 39% of the mid-term target for disposal of PCB waste and about 47% of the mid-term target for disposal of OPs, respectively.

The project budget (section X of the Project Document) allocates funds for contracts on services for environmentally sound disposal of PCB and OP wastes. This allocation is based on estimated prices at the time of the project preparation, namely US\$ 1,500/t for disposal of PCB-contaminated equipment and US\$ 1,430/t for disposal of OPs. Based on these estimations, the total allocation amounts to US\$ 6,272,000 for contracts related to the environmentally sound disposal of PCBs and OPs under the project.

However, the results of tenders for PCB and OP shipment and disposal proved that the costs of the shipment and disposal services had been underestimated at the project inception. For disposal of PCB-contaminated equipment, the received financial offers varied from 2,000 to 5,831 Euro/t, and the financial offers for disposal of OPs were in the range from 2,270 to 3,253 Euro/t. Even with the minimum financial bids, the total amount required for the disposal of the originally planned quantities of PCBs and OPs would be 9,053,000 Euro, equivalent to almost US\$ 11,000,000¹².

The expected commissioning of the waste treatment plant at CUE Chechersk could substantially decrease the financial requirements from the GEF project budget in case the OPs are treated at CUE instead of the costly transport for disposal abroad. For PCB waste, however, the disposal at a HTI facility abroad remains currently the only realistic option.

In case the OP treatment at CUE is provided as co-financing to the GEF project, the remaining balance of the original project allocation for direct cost of waste disposal could be used for shipment and disposal of PCB-contaminated equipment, in particular for capacitors. With this budget reshuffle, the remaining funds could be sufficient to get nearer to the originally planned EOP disposal target of 2,340 tonnes of PCB waste.

Through support for elaboration and adoption of a set of technical guidelines on management of the PCB waste, the project contributed to enhancing capacities for environmentally sound

¹² Using 0.83 Euro/US\$ as average UN exchange rate for January-September 2021

management of PCBs of a number of professionals from relevant governmental agencies, state enterprises as well as from the private sector industry. These guidelines incorporate requirements from the Stockholm and Basel conventions, EU regulations on POPs/PCBs management, as well as international guidance on Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP).

The support for development and adoption of national standards and assistance for participation in international laboratory proficiency testing increased the capacity of the only certified national laboratory for analysis of PCBs in various environmental matrices and thus contributed to strengthening of the national monitoring programme for POPs in the environment. Also, the project contributed towards national capacities for assessment of sites contaminated with OP legacy stockpiles as a necessary foundation for future clean-up and recultivation of the sites. By this token, the project can claim substantive contribution to building national capacities for minimization of negative health and environmental effects of PCBs.

Contribution of the project to establishment of national capacities for POPs management has been less evident. The project has been instrumental for consolidation and temporary storage of POPs wastes, but the preparation for of the waste for transform abroad is being conducted by international contractor companies with only passive participation of the POPs waste owners.

Based on the above, the progress towards achievement of the Project Objective is rated **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective

Financial barriers: It was expected that the project would to effectively incentivize a rapid elimination of the already available PCB/OP stockpiles and accelerate phase-out of in-service PCB equipment that otherwise would not be addressed in the near future. Due to the delayed start of the implementation, the project has experienced sizeable increase of prices of services related to export of the PCP/OP waste for incineration abroad. Therefore, although the country has leveraged the financing from the GEF and sizeable co-financing for environmentally sound disposal of POPs stockpiles, the limited national financial capacity remains the main barrier to successful achievement of the Project Objective.

Policy and regulatory barriers: While the country has a basic legislative and regulatory framework for management of the original POPs listed in the SC, it could face some challenges related to newer POPs included for control under the SC through its amendments. However serious these challenges could be, they do not have direct impact on achievement of the Project Objective as the latter is defined in relation to PCBs and OPs that belong to the “original” POPs listed in Amendment A of the SC. What is more important in relation to the objective of this project is the need to focus the policy and regulatory measures to broader environmental legacy issues. The updating of the NIP will require adopting supporting enabling legislative and regulatory amendments to broader chemicals legacy issues related to management of contaminated sites and further development of relevant hazardous waste management infrastructure.

Information and awareness barriers: Similarly, the project made important contribution to increased awareness on POPs management of public service and industrial stakeholders as well as policy makers. There is a need for continued awareness-raising of various segments of general public in order to ensure correct understanding of the risks and associated impacts of the baseline scenario and solicit support of the general public for future interventions.

The NIP update currently prepared under this project contains revised information on PCB-contaminated equipment, as well as on OP storage sites throughout the country. However, it does not mention the level of PCB contamination at the level of individual pieces of equipment and assessment whether the PCB content exceeds the Stockholm Convention limits.

Technical capacity barriers: There is no doubt that the project interventions so far have increased the national technical capacities in the field of environmental monitoring. Further upgrade of technical capacities will be needed particularly in two areas, namely use of rapid screening of PCB in transformer oil and risk assessment of sites contaminated with PCBs and OPs.

According to Annex A part II of the Stockholm Convention, Parties to the Convention are obliged to eliminate equipment and oils containing PCBs from use by 2025 and bring these under environmentally sound waste management by 2028. As discussed above, the national PCB inventory in Belarus is founded on simple counting of the numbers of devices suspected to contain PCBs and recording of gross and net weight of this PCB-containing waste. The inventory is therefore constructed only upon the basic information from transformer owners without systematic analysis of samples from the transformers suspected to be contaminated.

According to the current inventory records, there are several thousands of in-service oil transformers in the country. It is difficult to assume that it will be economically feasible to eliminate all contaminated transformers and oils from use by 2025 as required by the Stockholm Convention obligations. In order to assume decision on the most economically viable treatment options for transformers, it is of critical importance to collect reliable information about the extent of the PCB contamination. Therefore, a more detailed inventory is needed with collection of containing data on quantities, types, locations and PCB concentrations in the transformers.

Existence of reliable information on amounts of PCB and OP wastes is a critical condition for development of effective management of POPs wastes. While quantitative information on the stockpiles of OP wastes is available through their consolidation either at the rural storage sites or at the CUE in Chechersk, the information on PCB wastes is mostly qualitative, based on the self-reporting inventory procedures conducted by the waste owners. For improvement of the quantitative data reliability, it is necessary to establish independent inventory of PCB wastes supported by robust national capacities for determination of existing PCB quantities.

In this regard the evaluators concluded that the national capacity for determination of PCB concentration in transformer oil is weak. Although the methodology for rapid screening of PCBs in dielectric fluids is available, it was only pilot tested under the project so far and has not been systematically used in PCB waste inventories and maintenance of electrical equipment. Moreover, national capacity for confirmatory laboratory determination of PCBs in transformer is practically non-existent as there is currently no valid national standard for

determination of PCB concentration in transformer oil and the national laboratory is not certified for such analysis.

In case of capacitors, the shipment to HTI facilities abroad is the only option for all capacitors irrespective of the PCB contents. However, for PCB transformers there are several options that depend on the level of PCB contamination. In particular, it is desirable to distinguish between transformers with high level of PCB contamination (above 500 ppm or 0.05%) for which ultimate disposal is the only available option and transformers with medium to low concentrations that can be considered for other less costly options such as on-site or off-site treatment with the aim to reduce the PCB content under the threshold limit of 50 ppm (or 0.005%).

In case inventory data on quantities of equipment with high, middle and low level of PCB contamination is available, it is possible to conduct techno-economic assessment of available options for decontamination of dielectric fluids with lower levels of PCB contamination. There is some experience with assessment of alternative options for final disposal of low contaminated PCB transformer oil in the transition economies of Western Balkans. The techno-economic assessment was conducted under UNDP/GEF projects on PCB management in Northern Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Also, cement plants in Serbia have permission to use transformer mineral oil with PCB content up to 50 ppm as fuel.

Export of equipment containing PCB-contaminated transformer oil is deemed to be the most expensive of all options. Draining of the PCB transformer oil for other disposal options would significantly reduce the total cost of ultimate disposal of all PCB waste in the country. The techno-economic appraisal of different scenarios for final disposal of low-concentrated PCB waste is a complex exercise that has to take into account multiple parameters, namely the country needs, nature and quantity of the PCB waste streams, prevailing economic and market conditions, as well as availability of the national capacity for PCB ultimate disposal options. Therefore, completion of this task probably could not be completed by the end of the current GEF projects. However, it is highly desirable to at least ensure collection of relevant information that will be necessary for the techno-economic assessment in the future.

In addition to the data on PCB-containing electrical equipment, the report on cross-contamination of electrical equipment also contains information about a number of reservoirs and storage tanks of used transformer oils in volumes ranging from 1-200 m³. The reservoirs thus contain sizeable quantities of PCB-containing oils (1 m³ of transformer oil is roughly equivalent to 0.8 tonne of weight) for which there is currently no information about the PCB concentration in the oil.

The methodology for fast screening of PCB concentration in transformer equipment using the standard Clor-n-Oil technique was adopted to the national context under the GEF project support but it was only used on a pilot scale for screening of small number of transformer units (500 units, i.e. about 7% of the total number of oil transformers recorder in the national inventory). Even if there is a new standard developed for precise analysis by gas chromatography (GC), it will not be possible to analyse large numbers of samples due to high cost of the GC method.

The Clor-n-Oil method is therefore an economically feasible technique for large-scale screening of the degree of PCB contamination of transformers in Belarus. As the CUE Chechersk waste incineration facility could in the future be able to ensure incineration of liquid PCB waste with low to medium PCB content, the large-scale screening could substantially improve cost-effectiveness of the PCB management programmes in the country. Moreover, this technique could also be of use for operational screening during maintenance of in-service power transformers.

Project Implementation and Adaptive Management Arrangements

This section of the MTR report provides assessment of the seven components of the project implementation and adaptive management, namely management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation, management of risks, stakeholder engagement, as well as reporting and communications.

Management arrangements

The project was originally designed for implementation under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with UNDP support. However, upon request of the GoB the implementation modality was changed to full NIM with the the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as the national project executing agency. During the project registration, the Republican Unitary Enterprise “Belarusian Research Centre “Ecology”” (RUE Bel RC) was chosen as the executing agency. Due to slow progress in the initial stages after the project inception, the RUE Bel RC was replaced by the MNREP as the National Implementing Partner with the principal responsibility for the project execution under the full NIM. This change has ensured effective implementation of the project with clear reporting lines and responsibilities. The decisions related to project implementation are discussed in the Project Board meetings in a timely manner and are thus transparent to all project stakeholders.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established and located with the MNREP. The PMU has responsibilities for the day-to-day running of the project, including overall coordination, planning, management, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and reporting of all project activities. The PMU consists of the full time Project Manager, the Administrative and Financial Assistant, as well as two national experts on PCBs and OPs, respectively.

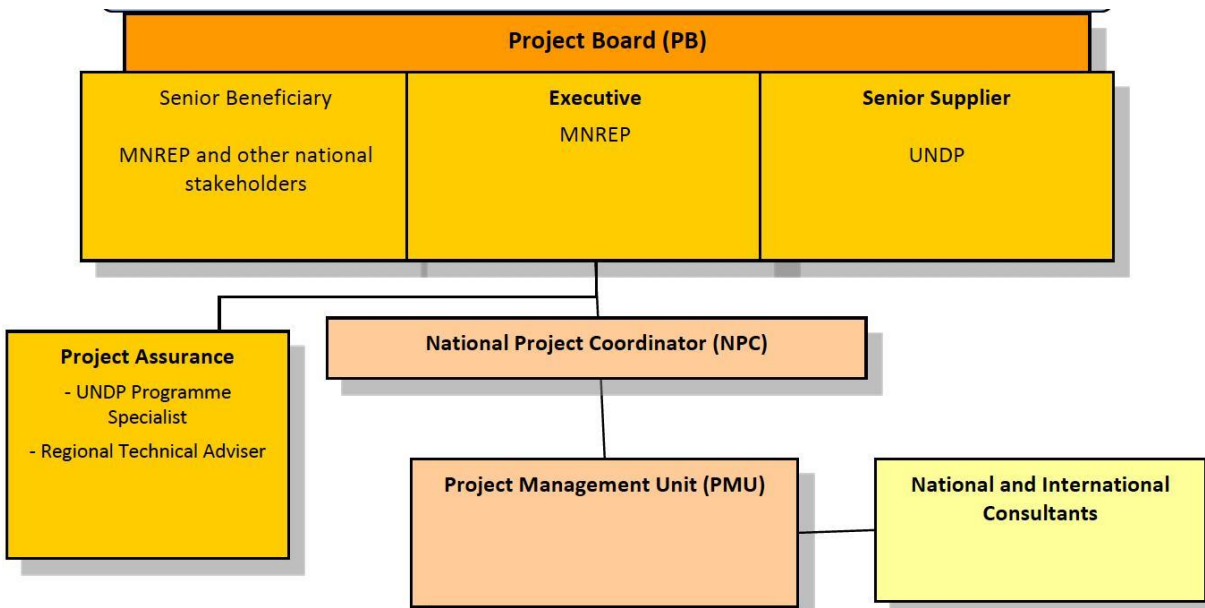
The Project Board (PB) has been established with membership of the key stakeholders of the GoB and representatives of PCB and OP holders. The role of the PB is to oversee the project implementation, provide overall strategic policy and management directions, review and make recommendations on the project progress, and approve annual project work and budget plans.

UNDP provides the project assurance function through the Programme Specialist in the UNDP CO in Belarus and the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor located in the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH). In addition, UNDP keeps a project oversight and monitoring function through organizing mandatory reviews and evaluations, as well as a direct support function to the MNREP in the procurement of the required goods and services through UNDP Procurement Specialist.

The quality of the project execution by the MNREP and the quality of support provided by the UNDP are satisfactory showing sufficient capacity of both implementing partners for delivery of results. Both IPs also gave sufficient capacity to involve women and made assessment of gender balance in the project implementation as is further explained under Mainstreaming.

The original project management arrangements are shown on Display 1 below.

Display 5: Project organizational structure (adopted from the Project Document)



The project was officially signed by the GoB in October 2018 but was subject to a prolonged procedure of official registration. Recent assessment of UNDP’s work in Belarus¹³ found that relatively long intervals between approval and registration of UNDP-implemented projects in Belarus are quite common and concluded that UNDP’s work has been negatively affected by the length of the official project registration process.

The main reason for the prolonged registration of international technical assistance projects is the requirement to enlist a new project’s document and budget at the Ministry of Economy. This requirement stands for all projects with international financial support. However, the change of the modality of implementation of this project to full NIM made the registration process even more complicated and prolonged. The normal registration at the Ministry of Economy had to be complemented by an additional procedure of registration of the project budget within the national Implementing Partner designated to implement the project. Due to this two-tier registration, the normally time-consuming process of registration was extended, and the entire process was completed 12 months after the official signature date in September 2019 that is the actual starting date of the project implementation.

The PMU was established as of 1 January 2020. In line with the standard requirements for GEF projects, the Project Document stipulated that the Inception Workshop (IW) for the project would be organized within two months after the signature of the Project Document. In this

¹³ Independent Country Programme Evaluation: Belarus, Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, 2020

particular case the IW had to be postponed due to meeting restrictions introduced by the GoB in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The IW was finally conducted in on-line mode on 19 November 2020, i.e. 14 months after the ProDoc signature by the GoB.

The IW is normally considered the 1st meeting of the PSC and expected to address a number of specific tasks, including planning the PB meetings. However, in case of this project there were 4 meetings of the PB before the date of the actual IW, namely in February, May, July and November 2020 with the latter PB meeting just one day before the IW. One additional PB meeting was held in December 2020. Minutes of all PB meetings were available to the MTR team.

The PB meeting with physical presence of the participants on 5 February 2020 fulfilled several tasks normally assigned to the IW, such as introduction of the Project Team, establishment of the Project Board, and approval of the Annual Work Plan for the first year of the project. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the PB meetings held in May, July and November 2020 were held as on-line meetings. According to the available meeting minutes, the latter 3 meetings were convened *ad-hoc* for a relatively narrow purpose of approval of particular contracts and activities in the project. The PB meeting held on 28 December 2020 (also in on-line mode) discussed a range of project implementation issues and approved the Annual Progress Report (APR) for the year 2020 as well as the AWP for the year 2021.

The MTR team considers that the established managerial arrangements and frequency of the PB meetings are adequate for the size and level of complexity of the project. However, the original designation of the National Implementing Partner required corrective action and also timing of the IW was not in line with the common practice of UNDP/GEF projects. Therefore, the management arrangement component is rated **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Work planning

In line with the standard UNDP AWP format, the PMU prepares results-based AWPs with the planned activities, related indicative timeframe under each project output, as well as allocated financial inputs. The AWPs are presented to PB meetings for discussion and approval.

The evaluators reviewed AWPs for the years 2020 and 2021 and found them realistic with sufficiently detailed narrative description of planned interventions. Systematic inclusion of allocated financial inputs in line with the standard UNDP AWP format gives the PB members better insight into the project implementation and increase thus the transparency of the annual work planning.

The MTR team rates the project work planning **Satisfactory (S)**.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Project Document states that the project performance monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be conducted in line with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and the UNDP Evaluation Policy. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements (as outlined below) are being undertaken in accordance with the GEF M&E policy.

The monitoring is provided in the first instance by PMU and in the second instance by the bi-annual PSC meetings. The Project Manager, the UNDP CO and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor compile annual GEF Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) that cover the reporting period from July (previous year) to June (current year) for each year of project implementation. Two PIRs have been provided so far, covering the periods July 2019-June 2020 and July 2020-June 2021, respectively. The evaluators found both PIRs in line with the standard GEF PIR format containing adequate level of details in narrative descriptions of achievements during the reporting period as well as justified ratings of progress in project implementation and of overall progress towards the project development objective. The evaluators did not find any gender issues that would require special monitoring. The UNDP CO provided the GEF Tracking Tools from the CEO Endorsement but the Core Indicators at midterm was not available at the MTR initial stage for comparison.

The M&E plan outlined in the Project Document calls for initiating the independent MTR after submission of the 2nd PIR to GEF Secretariat. Due to the implementation delays, the MTR was initiated few months earlier with the intention to complete the MTR report well in advance of the required submission to GEF (i.e. in the same calendar year as the 3rd PIR). The Terms of Reference, the MTR process and the required outline of the MTR report follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). The MTR team is composed of one International Consultant and one National Consultant. Both consultants appointed by the commissioning unit to undertake the MTR assignment are independent from the organizations that had been involved in the designing, executing or advising on the project.

Based on the above, the monitoring and evaluation of the project is rated **Satisfactory (S)**.

Identification and management of risks

As a standard requirement of UNDP projects, the Project Document contains a risk matrix composed of the risk description and type, assessment of risk impacts and probability, related mitigation measures, as well as owners of each identified risk, as summarized in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Project risks (adopted from the Project Document)

Risk Description	Type	Impact/ Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner
Government policy and financial commitment not sustained for the project life	Political	I=2 P=1	Building on the positive experience of the previous GEF/WB project, and links to the National Programme on POPs management	PMU
Poor coordination among institutional stakeholders at national/international level	Organizational	I = 2 P=1	Reliance on interagency oversight by the Coordination Council on Implementation of the SC, and operational day to day involvement of the project's focal point in the Waste Management Department experienced in working with a resident PMU structure and international organizations	PMU
Cost risks associated with POPs legacy elimination	Financial	I = 3 P = 1	Use of current market pricing in cost estimating and contracting in hard currencies	PMU
Insufficient commitment of the industrial sector in terms of technical support and co-financing.	Operational	I = 2 P = 2	Proactive action including having a mandated national PCB phase out plan in place along with the required forward and financial planning	MNREP
Level of capacity (technical, institutional) is underestimated	Organizational	I = 2 P = 1	Building on the solid technical capacity developed over the last decade along with capacity strengthening measures	UNDP CO
Climate risks associated with extreme events impacting project activities associated with burial sites or storehouses	Environmental	I = 2 P = 1	Activities undertaken at the sites, including planning for potential excavation activities take the possibility into consideration in determining the containment/remediation design approach.	MNREP

The evaluators consider the initial identification of risks and mitigation measures reasonable and sufficiently detailed as the matrix contains several risk types such as political, organizational, financial, environmental. However, some risks were underrated. As per the standard practice for UNDP/GEF projects, risks identified at project inception are reported as critical when both the impact and probability are rated high (i.e. when impact is rated as 5, and when impact is rated as 4 and probability is rated at 3 or higher). Critical risk management is a standard part of the UNDP/GEF project management and periodic re-assessment of the identified risks is mandatory for the reports in the UNDP Atlas that are prepared by PMU and included in the PIRs.

It follows from Table 8 that none of the identified risks was rated critical at the project inception. The implementation experience shows that some risks, namely increased costs of POPs disposal and insufficient commitment of the industrial sector, have a significantly negative effect and therefore should have been rated higher in terms of impact.

The 2020 PIR promulgated a new critical risk in terms of potential health implications of exposure to the PCBs and OPs by female workers, pregnant women, and children living in the vicinity of the industrial areas and rural OP storage sites. The 2021 PIR introduces the risk of implementation delays due to COVID-19 restrictions and reintroduces as critical the originally identified risk of increased cost of POPs waste shipment and disposal services. Yet there is no recognition of criticality of the risk of lower co-financing by the project partners, in particular the POPs waste holders.

Based on the above, the MTR team rates the identification and management of risks as **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Finance and co-finance

The tables below provide a summary of resources allocation for the project and of level of disbursement of the GEF grant funds as well as the estimated actual amount of co-finance up to MTR.

Table 9 below displays breakdown of the GEF project grant disbursements into the project components.

Table 9: Disbursement of GEF funds (as of 22 November 2021)

Project Component	Actual Expenditures (US\$)			
	2019	2020	2021	2019-2021
Outcome 1	-	52,703.18	34,156.21	86,859.39
Outcome 2	-	34,352.67	85,021.34	119,374.01
Outcome 3	-	99,755.03	58,117.81	157,872.84
Outcome 4	-	12,717.56	28,250.51	40,968.07
Project Management	-	56,351.38	33,330.80	89,682.18
Unrealized/Gain/Loss		25,718.29	(1,344.55)	24,373.74
Total	-	281,598.11	237,532.12	519,130.23

The financial data in Table 9 show that as of 22 November 2021 the total disbursement of GEF grant including commitments at the MTR stage stands at US\$ 519,130.23 that gives the rate of

implementation of the GEF grant 6.18%. However, this figure is based on the UNDP Combined Delivery Reports that creates a distorted picture about financial situation of the project¹⁴. In this particular case, two major contracts were awarded for shipment and disposal of PCB and OP wastes that have a total value more than US\$ 2.6 million but are not recorded. Including the contract value in the expenses would bring the total amount of funds used (expenses and commitments) at US\$ 2,7 million or 34.5 % of the total GEF grant.

The project has already entered the second half of its implementation period and the outstanding unobligated balance of around US\$ 5.5 million represents a substantial budget available for the remaining 12 months of the project implementation period.

Implementation for the individual project components is summarized in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Implementation of GEF funds by project components (as of 30 June 2021)

Project Component	Budget (US\$)	Expenditures (US\$)	%
Outcome 1	4,123,560	86,859.39	2.11
Outcome 2	3,051,820	119,374.01	3.91
Outcome 3	674,820	157,872.84	23.39
Outcome 4	150,000	40,968.07	27.31
Project Management	399,800	89,682.18	22.43
Total	8,400,000	519,130.23	6.18

Similar to Table 9, the low implementation rates for Outcomes 1 and 2 are caused by the IPSAS accounting as the two respective contracts for shipment and disposal of PCB and OP wastes are not recorded at full value but only at the actually paid amounts. However, relatively low implementation rates are recorded also for Outcomes 3 and 4.

The budget allocation on Project Management is about 6.18 of the total GEF grant that is considered reasonable for the project of this size. The actual implementation of this budget component is less than 20%.

The project Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs) and budget revision reports indicate sound control over the budget by the project management and that the budget revisions are being made to best suit the project needs while aligning with the GEF budgeting guidelines.

The co-financing commitment that the Government and PCB holders made at the project inception (confirmed by means of official co-financing letters provided to PMU) is considered an important indicator to assess the country's ownership of the project. Table 11 below summarizes data on co-finance by source.

¹⁴ UNDP Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs), compiled under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), present expenses that reflect costs related to goods delivered and services rendered while commitments (purchase orders) are not included in the CDRs.

Table 11: Co-financing monitoring table (in US\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing amount confirmed at CEO Endorsement (US\$)	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US\$)	Actual % of Expected Amount
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	384,880	0	0
GEF Agency	UNDP	In kind	320,000	0	0
Recipient Government	MNREP	Cash	5,074,010	18 265 516,2	359,98
Recipient Government	MNREP	In-Kind	150,000	0	0%
Recipient Government	Ministry of Energy ¹⁵	Cash	19,772,000	1 837 226,26	9,29
Recipient Government	Gomel Oblast Administration	Cash	5,960,000	36 640,88	0,61
Private Sector	PCB Holders	Cash	990,000	0	0
Private Sector	DVCH Management company	Cash	200,000	0	0
Donors	EU funded programs (administered by MNREP)	Cash	16,480,000	0	0
Civil Society	Green Economy NGO	Cash	10,000	0	0
		TOTAL	50,807,890	20,139,383	39,64%

The actual co-financing contributions are not systematically tracked and reported by the PMU in the annual PIRs hence this information was not readily available for the MTR report and was provided during the revision of the MTR report.

The actual co-financing provided by the GoB was estimated in the framework of the state programme “Protection of Environment and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for the years 2016-2020”. The amount shown in Table 11 is the support provided from the state budget for Sub-programme 3 of the above state programme that focuses on treatment of POPs. Breakdown of the GoB support by individual components of the Sub-programme 3 during the first 3 years of the project (2018-2020) is given in Table 12 below.

Table 12: GoB support to Subprogramme-3 (in US\$)

Task	2018	2019	2020	2018-2020
1	10,000	-	-	10,000
2	16,300	20,500	18,500	55,300
3	265,139	39,690	1,749,360	2,054,189
4	-	86,440	1,520,299	1,606,739
5	28,871	31,734	39,496	100,101
6	-	-	-	-
7	35,257,800	35,625	800,000	36,093,425
8	-	2,982	-	2,982
9	-	49,998	269,493	319,491
Total BYN	35,578,110	266,969	4,397,148	40,242,227
Total US\$	17,220,770	125,514	1,885,570	19,231,853

¹⁵ The type and ways of the co-financing are described in the letter of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus #06-2-26/2932 dated of 07.06.2017

Based on the above, rating for finance and co-finance component is **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Stakeholder engagement

The Project Document presents a list of institutional, industry, academic, international and civil society stakeholders with whom initial consultations have occurred to date, including the stakeholders' respective roles in relation to POPs management. However, this list is rather generic and does not comprehend the differing positions of the stakeholders, namely the distinction between core (involved) and supporting or peripheral stakeholders.

There is no doubt about the support of the project objectives by the direct stakeholders (MNREP and ministries in charge of energy, industry and agriculture, centre on hygiene and epidemiology). Their extensive engagement in the preparation of the project has been continued during the implementation, mainly throughout the PB meetings through which they exercise an active involvement in the project-related decision-making. The minutes of the 5 PB meetings prove very active participation of the direct stakeholders and thorough discussion on key topics related to the POPs management.

Numerous holders of PCB-contaminated equipment throughout the country and 21 owners of OP storages in the Vitebsk and Grodno regions also showed interest in the project through active participation in regular surveys and in organization of transportation of PCB-waste and OPs to the long-term storage facility.

Engagement of tangential stakeholders (such as academia, NGOs, and the public at large) was realized mainly through participation in the capacity building events. Also, three NGOs have actively been engaged as members of a working group for preparation of the NIP National Plan for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention for 2021-2025 (NIP). However, due to the political situation in the country, the NGO sector has been facing challenges to their operation.

The evaluators concluded that involvement of the direct stakeholders in the project implementation has been strong as indicated by the knowledge and awareness by the interviewed representatives of the project goals and objectives. However, the attitude of the direct project beneficiaries has been limited to implementation of agreements on POPs disposal concluded with the MNREP and participation in project capacity building activities. Also, weaker connections to tangential (supporting and peripheral stakeholders) that are indirectly affected by the project activities could limit the general support for the intervention, especially in cases advocacy or policy change are needed.

Based on the above, the evaluators rate the stakeholder engagement in the project formulation and implementation as **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

During the PPG stage, a preliminary environmental assessment study was undertaken on the principle of PCB and OP removal and disposal activities proposed for the project including the required risk assessment under the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). Risks of environmental release were found low and already mitigated through

comprehensive specification of practices, international standards and defining environmental performance requirements for service providers. The evaluators noted the RTA recommendation to ensure close attention to the work of sub-contractors and careful selection of partners with due diligence. Therefore, the progress in implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP is considered adequate.

Reporting

Reporting during project implementation helps to identify potential issues that may endanger the project's capacity to achieve its development objectives. Reporting also helps to make informed decisions, provides valuable information for project evaluation, and provides lessons to be learnt for future projects. Effective and timely communication between the PMU and the core stakeholders is a key element in that respect.

Several reporting channels have been established to ensure information of the project partners about progress in implementation of the project, including monthly reports prepared by experts and contractors working on specific activities of the project, quarterly reports prepared by the PMU for the MNREP, as well as annual reports for the Ministry of Economy.

Therefore, the rating for the reporting is **Satisfactory (S)**.

Communication & Knowledge Management

The primary communication channel of the project is through its web page at <https://soz.minpriroda.gov.by/en/>. The website is useful for dissemination of information about the project objectives and progress towards the planned project results. The "News" section of the website provides timely and detailed information about the project activities and where appropriate also links to some project related documentation, such as the list of PCB waste and OP holders, and information about planned activities. In addition, the project occasionally uses other communication channels such as articles in national and regional printed media, and occasional spots on TV.

It appears that communication with the group of core stakeholders (agencies of the GoB and POPs holders) has been extensive through their involvement in the project activities. For communication with general public, several information materials were produced on the general theme of POPs and on the objectives of the GEF project that can be downloaded from the project web page. Such communication is necessary for ensuring level of public awareness and understanding of the PCB management-related issues as well as of health and environmental impacts of PCBs.

Also, regular monthly meetings are organized with UNDP RTA and the UNDP CO for discussions with the project team with the aim to identify and discuss emerging risks/challenges in the implementation and elaborate corresponding mitigation measures.

The project has moved towards implementation of measures defined in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030, namely ultimate disposal of POPs stockpiles and reduction of POPs emissions into the environment in accordance with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention. These measures are also linked to the Socioeconomic Development Programme of the Republic of Belarus for 2016 - 2020 that emphasizes protection of the

environment and human health from the impacts of POPs and with the Programme of the Electric Power Development for 2016-2020 that calls for modernization of electrical infrastructure and accelerated phase out of PCB-containing equipment.

Therefore, the rating for the communication component is **Satisfactory (S)**.

The overall rating for the project implementation and adaptive management is based on aggregation of the above ratings for individual components above. The overall aggregated rating of the project implementation and adaptive management is **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**.

Mainstreaming

The project has been assigned a gender marker 1 which means that the project contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment in a limited way¹⁶.

During the implementation so far, the project team made a concerted effort for ensuring and recording women's involvement in the project at two levels, namely participation in the project capacity building activities, as well as in the project-related decision-making and the project implementation.

The core PMU comprises 2 women and 2 men with support of a male procurement specialist and a female communication specialist. Out of the 17 members of the Project Board, 64.7% are women. The Waste Management Department of MENREP that is the primary focal point for the project in the GoB consists of 5 women and 1 man with the Department Head being a woman.

There are 5 women in the group of 8 national experts engaged in developing a methodology of screening for possible cross-contamination of electrical equipment. The international consulting company contracted for assessment, packaging, transportation, and disposal of OPs from agricultural warehouses formed a team of 5 specialists with a female leader. A group of 3 female experts was engaged in development of 3 standards establishing the requirements for the determination of POPs in water and soil.

As for the capacity building activities, the sex aggregated data are as follows:

- Seminar on awareness raising holders of PCB equipment was attended by 62.1% of women, 50% of speakers were female;
- Seminar for doctors of antenatal clinics on POPs issues was attended by 79.8% of women and the speakers were exclusively women;
- Seminar on monitoring of POPs in environmental media was attended by 74% of women with 100% of female speakers;

Furthermore, the project has produced information materials aimed at raising women's awareness of the health effects of POPs. These materials are distributed among health care institutions, enterprises, agricultural organizations, schools, and the population at large. The

¹⁶ Coding Definitions for Gender Equality Markers: Guidance Note, UN CEB, 2018

updated project website includes a forum for women of reproductive age where they are able to discuss the possible dangerous impacts of POPs.

The national legislation explicitly prohibits involvement of women in certain jobs that have significant health risks, including handling of hazardous waste substances.

The evaluators conclude that this project does not belong to the class of projects where gender equality would be one of the main concerns. There were no gender inequalities as both male and female were involved to the extent possible in the project activities, particularly in the capacity building webinars organized under. The evaluators also maintain the opinion that gender issues in Belarus do not require a focused attention of international development assistance.

Sustainability

The sustainability is defined as continuation of benefits from an intervention after the development assistance has been completed. The important aspect here is the sustainability of results, not necessarily sustainability of the activities that had produced the results. The assessment of sustainability requires evaluation of risks that may affect the continuation of the project results.

In general, the activities supported by the project have the potential to ensure long-term sustainability but with serious challenges described in the text below.

Financial risks to sustainability

The financial sustainability has to be examined in relation to the PCB-phase out and ultimate disposal. In the National Programme on Environment 2021-2025¹⁷, the resources provided for the Subprogramme 3 – Management of POPs are planned at the level of 33 million Belarusian rubles (about US\$ 13.5 million).

Following the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, all equipment found to contain more than 50 ppm PCB must be identified, labelled and removed from use by 2025. There is a concern related to the costs of inventories determining the level of PCB contamination, including costs of sampling, rapid analysis by screening tests at field sites and eventually confirmation instrumental analysis at the certified national laboratory. The phase-out schedule of PCB equipment that is currently in-service will put considerable pressure on budgets of the equipment owners as decommissioning will require replacement by non-PCB equipment and costs of the final disposal.

As the majority of POPs holders are companies belonging to various ministries, it can be assumed that the state budget will provide sufficient funding for decommissioning and consolidation of all PCB equipment in time for compliance with the Stockholm Convention deadlines.

¹⁷ Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, February 19, 2021 No. 99: About the State Program "Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources for 2021-2025"

The increase in market prices for services for preparation and transport of POPs waste for ultimate disposal abroad show considerable risk to the financial sustainability. As discussed under assessment of the progress to the Project Objective, the project funds allocated for the POPs ultimate disposal will not suffice to address disposal of the planned quantities of POPs waste, in particular the PCB waste. As the project is considered by several beneficiaries “a free of charge POPs waste disposal service”, involvement of the POPs holders in the project activities was so far mostly reactive and limited to waiting for instructions from the project rather than following a pro-active approach towards optimising the waste disposal work from economical, logistical and ecological perspectives.

Financial sustainability of the project is rated **Moderately Likely (ML)**.

Socio-economic risks to sustainability

Commitment to ultimate disposal of PCBs and OPs and prevention of negative environmental pollution and adverse health impacts are the main issues for the socio-economic sustainability. The institutional stakeholders are well aware of the main issues and committed to address them. Due to the previous project of the World Bank as well as implementation of the awareness raising component of the current project, there is general awareness of the PCBs and their health and environmental impacts in all sectors of the society, including academia and the informal sector.

The Stockholm Convention 2025 and 2028 deadlines for PCB phase-out and disposal are considered adequate for PCB holders to make assessment of requirements for equipment replacement and PCB waste disposal. The project should continue a proactive approach towards communication with the wider circle of stakeholders. Lack of understanding of environmental and health effects of POPs by the public at large can cause challenges for acceptance the POPs destruction facility that is under construction at Chechersk.

Socio-economic sustainability of the project is rated **Likely (L)**.

Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

The principal actions related to POPs management are contained in the update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on POPs 2021-2025 that was elaborated under this project. The updated NIP stipulates commitments of the GoB to further improvement of national legislation in the field of POPs management, updating and modernization of the Unified database on POPs, a range of actions for decommissioning of PCB-containing equipment and liquidation of storages of OPs in line with the Stockholm Convention timeline, as well as to maintenance and further strengthening of the instrumental and analytical base for the determination of POPs in environmental media and continuation of POPs monitoring programmes. The project activities have contributed to establishment of accountability and transparency in POPs registration as well as to building and transfer of technical knowledge and awareness of POPs issues in the key government agencies and their affiliated companies.

Institutional and governance sustainability of the project is rated **Likely (L)**.

Environmental risks to sustainability

There are no serious environmental risks to sustainability of the project results. It is critical for environmental sustainability that in the remaining period of implementation the project makes a concentrated effort on disposal and decontamination of as much as possible of PCB waste and OPs. The first batches of PCB waste and OPs prepared for ultimate disposal abroad is a massive step towards environmental sustainability since the 431 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment, and 900 tones of OPs have been consolidated in a long-term storage facility and restricted from entering the environment. Further steps towards environmental sustainability include securing temporary storage facilities to safeguard additional PCB stockpiles before disposal, as well as adoption and enforcement of all regulatory measures developed for ESM of PCBs.

The updated NIP contains schedules for gradual phase-out of PCB equipment and liquidation of OPs storages as well as actions for subsequent clean-up of storage sites and disposal of the contaminated soil that are expected to minimise negative environmental effects in case of leakages and/or more severe accidents related to operation and maintenance of electrical equipment.

The work on assessment of burial sites contaminated with OPs demonstrated the existing national capacities for HW site technical assessment. Complemented by the advanced ability of the certified national laboratory for analysis of POPs in water and soil, they constitute a solid base for expectation that assessment and remediation of sites contaminated with POPs will be conducted to a high standard with minimisation of negative environmental and health hazards.

Environmental sustainability of the project is rated **Likely (L)**.

MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary

Measure	MTR Rating¹⁸	Achievement Description¹⁹
Progress Towards Results	Project Objective Moderately Satisfactory	Limited progress towards the MTR targets on ultimate disposal of PCBs and OPs
	Outcome 1 Moderately Satisfactory	Consolidation of 431 tonnes of PCB equipment for ultimate disposal
	Outcome 2 Moderately Satisfactory	Contract for repackaging, transport and ultimate disposal of 900 tonnes of OPs
	Outcome 3 Satisfactory	Assistance for determination of POPs in environmental media
	Outcome 4 Satisfactory	Number of knowledge management products developed and distributed
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Work Planning, M&E, Reporting and Communication (S) Management Arrangements, Stakeholder Engagement and Risk Management (MS)
Sustainability	Moderately Likely (ML)	Institutional, Socio-economic and Environmental Sustainability -Likely (L) Financial Sustainability - Moderately Likely (ML)

¹⁸ MTR rating scores are explained in Annex 6

¹⁹ Details on the achievement are given in the respective sections Progress towards results, Project implementation and Adaptive management and Sustainability

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the previous section of the fact findings, this section synthesizes and interprets the findings into conclusions that make judgments supported by one or more specific findings. Recommendations are then specific actions the MTR team proposes to be taken by various project stakeholders that are based on the findings and conclusions.

Conclusion 1: The project was approved and signed by the Government in October 2018 for duration of 4 years. The implementation actually started in January 2020, about 20 months after the official project signature, due to the lengthy process of the project registration according to national legislation. This delay was further aggravated by the COVID-19 restrictions throughout the entire year 2020 and in early 2021 that negatively affected progress of work under all project components. Unless the initial time loss is not compensated, there is a high risk that several planned results and targets will not be achieved by the end of the original project period in October 2022.

Recommendation 1: UNDP CO should request extension of the project by 12 months. Together with the automatic COVID-19 extension of 6 months the total extension period will be 18 months.

Conclusion 2: Allocation of the project funds for transport and ultimate disposal of PCBs and OPs was based on estimation of prices valid at the time of the project preparation. The first round of procurement conducted under the project revealed that market prices of services for transport and disposal of both types of waste abroad are higher than the original estimates. Therefore, even if the project duration is extended as recommended above, the project will be unable to reach the waste disposal targets under Outcomes 1 and 2 of environmentally safe destruction of 2,370 tonnes of PCB equipment and 1,900 tonnes of obsolete pesticides.

Recommendation 2: UNDP and MNREP should conduct revision of the original PCB and OP waste disposal targets under Outcomes 1 and 2 and the Project Objective, and adjust them towards amounts of PCB and OP waste that can be realistically disposed of directly within the timeframe of the project (even assuming that the project extension is granted).

Conclusion 3: Since the start of the project implementation, the project assisted with consolidation and preparation for ultimate disposal of more than 8,000 PCB capacitors. Such prioritization of capacitors is justifiable as destruction by high temperature incineration is the only available option for ultimate disposal of capacitors.

Recommendation 3: The PMU/MNREP should ensure that the project continues to focus on disposal of the remaining PCB capacitors in the country.

Conclusion 4: The main challenge to long-term impact of the project is the collection, consolidation, temporary storage and ultimate disposal of the stockpiles of PCB-contaminated transformers. Implementation of the PCB component of the project focused exclusively on preparation of PCB waste for ultimate disposal abroad. Experience from other countries shows that this is the most expensive of all alternatives for PCB equipment disposal. Although the Project Document envisaged activity on assessment and development of in-country capability

for PCB equipment pre-treatment, there was no progress in this regard. Such capability is essential for reduction of cost of the disposal through optimization of volumes of PCB waste that require ultimate disposal out of the country and constitutes thus an important tool for cost-effective management of PCB equipment.

Recommendation 4: The PMU/MNREP should consider recruitment of international expert for determination of feasible options of in-country pre-treatment of PCB-contaminated transformers in line with the national legislation.

Conclusion 5: The national inventory of PCB-contaminated equipment is based on an established self-reporting procedure by PCB equipment holders and annual update of the data recorded in the Unified Database of POPs. However, the database records contain only information about physical properties of the PCB transformers (location, year of manufacturing, gross and net weight, etc.) but no information about the level of PCB contamination. Although methodology for fast screening of PCB concentration in transformers was pilot tested on assessment of cross-contamination of PCB equipment, there are no plans for extension of this method to PCB equipment holders and operators.

Recommendation 5: The PMU/MNREP should ensure that the screening method for evaluation of possible PCB cross-contamination in electrical equipment is recommended as a standard practice for major operators of such equipment for determination of PCB concentration during equipment maintenance.

Conclusion 6: The project support has been instrumental for development of new national standards for determination of PCB concentrations in environmental media (water and soil) and for strengthening the leading national institution responsible for monitoring of POPs in the environment. However, the existing national capacity is not sufficient for confirmatory analysis of PCB concentration in transformer oil.

Recommendation 6: The PMU/MNREP should consider support for development of technical and normative base for confirmatory determination of PCB concentration in transformer oil.

Conclusion 7: The planned assistance from the project to establishment of the national HTI facility at Chechersk was limited due to delays in implementation of the parallel UNIDO/GEF project. Technical qualification of the Chechersk facility will be critical for effective and timely disposal of OP stockpiles. Complex services will have to be procured so it is important to start preparation for this component in parallel with the installation of the equipment at the Chechersk HTI facility.

Recommendation 7: The PMU/MNREP should accelerate preparation of the component on technical support to commissioning, demonstration testing and certification of the Chechersk HTI facility for ultimate disposal of obsolete pesticides.

Conclusion 8: The reports conducted under the project identified a number of reservoirs with sizeable volumes of used transformer oil. Further amounts of liquid PCB waste could be generated by the pre-treatment and clean-up of PCB transformers. It is desirable to determine feasibility of environmentally sound disposal of these stockpiles of liquid PCB waste at the HTI facility in Chechersk.

Recommendation 8: MNREP should consider extension of the project assistance towards assessment of feasibility of liquid PCB wastes destruction at the HTI in Chechersk.

Conclusion 9: The project has achieved a notable progress in re-packaging and transportation of 900 tonnes of OPs for ultimate disposal and clean-up of residual contamination of the OP store houses. This assignment was conducted by an international contractor with only limited participation of the OP holders and did not contribute to establishment of a sustainable national capacity for this type of work.

Recommendation 9: MNREP should use the next round of repackaging, transportation, and storehouse clean-up for practical on-the-job training in order to develop capability of local service providers for such work and further use in management of obsolete pesticide stockpiles beyond the duration of the GEF project.

Conclusion 10: For elaboration of guidelines and recommendations for POPs management, the project has so far mostly counted upon the existing national expertise. International expertise was only used within narrowly specified procurement of services for transport and ultimate disposal of PCB and OP waste. Involvement of international expertise on management of POPs would provide another opportunity for further improvement of the existing national expertise.

Recommendation 10: The MNREP should consider appointment of a qualified international expert to bring relevant international expertise on management, transport and ultimate disposal of hazardous waste.

Conclusion 11: At the project preparatory stage, key project stakeholders (entities of the central and Oblast Governments, POPs holders, etc.) made pledges for sizeable co-financing contribution to the project. The expected financial contributions to POPs management are summarized in the budget allocations for implementation of Subprogramme 3 of the State Plan on Protection of Environment and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. However, information about actual co-financing contributions is not systematically collected and reported.

Recommendation 11: The PMU/MNREP should follow the GEF guidelines on co-financing and systematically collect information on the actual co-financing contributions to the project that support the achievement of its objectives and report this information at least on a bi-annual basis.

Lessons learned

COVID-19 restrictions in the initial period of the project constituted serious obstacles to organization of the capacity building and awareness raising events. Consequently, the project team moved these activities to the virtual space and successfully organized several on-line trainings and workshops. The feedback obtained from participants and beneficiaries of these events prove that organization of on-line trainings had a positive effect on accessibility to the events as this modality enabled inclusion of participants from remote areas or people with disabilities.

Effective and efficient implementation modality of the project implementation including the designated national Implementing Partner has to be agreed in advance of the start of the Project

between the implementing partners. Changes in the originally proposed implementation modality caused unnecessary delays in the project.

Although the full National Implementation Modality (NIM) was requested in line with the general recommendation of the GEF Secretariat to prefer this modality, experience from this project shows that it has some negative effects on project implementation, particularly related to major procurement events, such as the big contracts for services on export of HW for ultimate disposal. UNDP experience in conducting such major procurement events is essential for timely and cost-effective conduct of such procurement events.

During the formulation of a project particular attention should be paid to realistic estimation of quantitative targets for outcome indicators. Unrealistic targets indicate that the logical framework of the project was planned in a way too optimistic.

The project implementation from the very outset was relying upon national expertise and established practices. On one hand this shows the confidence in the level of national institutional capacities, on the other hand it is a missed opportunity for learning of international experience and practices in certain areas such as inventory of PCBs. The project would benefit from a technical support by an international expert.

ANNEX 1: UNDP-GEF MIDTERM REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

Description of the assignment: International Consultant on GEF Project Midterm Review

Project/Office: UNDP-GEF project 00096097 “GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management” - Short title “POPs”

Period of services (if applicable): from 6 August 2021 to 30 September 2021 (approximately 20 working days, home-based).

Itinerary: Travel is not required. In the event of unforeseeable travel, payments to cover travel expenses may be reimbursed to the individual contractor upon submission of a travel claim (F-10 form) and all necessary supporting documents. Travel and covered travel expenses shall be approved by the Direct Supervisor prior to travel. **Location:** Home-based

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the full -sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed project titled “GEF -6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management Project” (PIMS#5532) implemented through the UNDP (Implementing Agency) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus (Executing Agency) via full NIM modality, which is to be undertaken in 2021. The project started on the 5 October 2018 and is in its third year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR. The MTR process must follow the guidance outlined in the document *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-*

Financed Projects (http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/mid-term/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_EN_2014.pdf).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The project was designed to: eliminate retained POPs legacies and develop sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in the Republic of Belarus. This objective will be achieved through 3 components: i) Sustainable PCB Management; ii) Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies; iii) Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management. The Project will be implemented over a 4 -year period and involve the environmentally sound elimination of existing PCB equipment stockpiles (estimated 1,100 t), progressive environmentally sound elimination of PCB equipment as generated in accordance with the nationally mandated PCB phase out plan during the project period (estimated 1,270 t) and repackaging, transport and environmentally sound elimination of 1,900 t from of the remaining 88 rural stored OP obsolete pesticide stores stockpiles in the country. Additionally, the project provides support and capacity strengthening for various aspects of POPs and hazardous waste management infrastructure, environmental monitoring, sound chemicals management, gender mainstreaming, updating of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP) and enhanced public consolidation and awareness in the subject area. With 8.4 m US\$ from the GEF, the Project will have a total volume of 59 207 890 US\$. Co-financing is 50 807 890 US\$ provided by the UNDP, Byelorussian institutions and enterprises. 11 institutional stakeholders, 5 principal industrial stakeholders and 4 civil society organizations will be directly engaged to the project decision making as well as in the facilitation of the a national sound chemical management initiative, mainstreaming gender equity and empowerment within the project, NIP update development and the implementation of public awareness and consultation activities related to elimination of rural OP storehouses, and PCB equipment in publically sensitive locations.

3. MTR PURPOSE

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will also review the project’s strategy and its risks to sustainability.

4. MTR APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The MTR report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The MTR team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review. The MTR team will review the baseline GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach¹ ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), the Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries, and other key stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful MTR. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection; Belarusian Scientific Research Center “Ecologia”, of the State Educational Institution “Republican Centre for State Environmental Expertise and Advanced Training of Executives and Specialists”, Republican Center for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection, Communal Unitary Enterprise “Complex for Processing and Disposal of Toxic Wastes of the Gomel Region”, executing agencies, senior officials and task team/ component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, other project stakeholders.

The specific design and methodology for the MTR should emerge from consultations between the MTR team and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the MTR purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The MTR team must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the MTR report.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the MTR must be clearly outlined in the Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the MTR team.

The final MTR report must describe the full MTR approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the review.

As of 11 March 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Travel to the country has been restricted and travel in the country is also restricted. If it is not possible to travel to or within the country for the

¹ For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see [UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results](#), 05 Nov 2013.

MTR, then the MTR team should develop a methodology and approach that takes this into account. This may require the use of remote interview methods, extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires. These approaches and methodologies should be detailed in the Inception Report and agreed with the Commissioning Unit.

If a data collection/field mission is not possible then remote interviews may be undertaken through telephone or online (skype, zoom etc.). If all or part of the MTR is to be carried out virtually then consideration should be taken for stakeholder availability, ability and willingness to be interviewed remotely and the constraints this may place on MTR. These limitations must be reflected in the final MTR report.

International Consultants can be engaged to work remotely with National evaluator support in the field if it is safe for them to operate and travel. No stakeholders, consultants or UNDP staff should be put in harm’s way and safety is the key priority.

Travel is not planned under this assignment. A short validation mission may be considered if it is confirmed to be safe for staff, consultants, stakeholders and communities, and if such a mission is possible

within the MTR schedule. Equally, qualified and independent National Consultants can be hired to undertake the MTR and interviews in country as long as it is safe to do so.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for extended descriptions.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
 - Were relevant gender issues (e.g. the impact of the project on gender equality in the programme country, involvement of women's groups, engaging women in project activities) raised in the Project Document?
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.
 - Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
 - Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
 - Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.

ii. Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis:

- Review the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*; colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of outcomes against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicator ²	Baseline Level ³	Level in 1 st PIR (self-	Midterm Target ⁴	End-of-project	Midterm Level &	Achievement Rating ⁶	Justification for Rating
------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------

			reported)		Target	Assessments		
Objective:	Indicator (if applicable):							
Outcome 1:	Indicator 1:							
	Indicator 2:							
Outcome 2:	Indicator 3:							
	Indicator 4:							
	Etc.							
Etc.								

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved
-----------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:

- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

iii. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.

² — Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

³ Populate with data from the Project Document

⁴ If available

⁵ Colour code this column only

⁶ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Do the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and/or UNDP and other partners have the capacity to deliver benefits to or involve women? If yes, how?
- What is the gender balance of project staff? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in project staff?
- What is the gender balance of the Project Board? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in the Project Board?

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Finance and co-finance:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out by the Commissioning Unit and project team, provide commentary on co-financing: is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Is the Project Team meeting with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing priorities and annual work plans?

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing amount confirmed at CEO	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of	Actual % of Expected Amount
			Endorsement	Midterm Review	
			(US\$)	(US\$)	
		TOTAL			

- Include the separate GEF Co-Financing template (filled out by the Commissioning Unit and project team) which categorizes each co-financing amount as 'investment mobilized' or 'recurrent expenditures'. (This template will be annexed as a separate file.)

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?

- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were incorporated in monitoring systems. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- How does the project engage women and girls? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys? Identify, if possible, legal, cultural, or religious constraints on women's participation in the project. What can the project do to enhance its gender benefits?

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since CEO Endorsement/Approval (if any) to:
 - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.
 - The identified types of risks⁷ (in the SESP).
 - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP).
 - Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.

Communications & Knowledge Management:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when

⁷ Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?

- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.
- List knowledge activities/products developed (based on knowledge management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

iv. Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Register are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

Conclusions & Recommendations

The MTR team will include a section in the MTR report for evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings.

Additionally, the MTR consultant/team is expected to make recommendations to the Project Team. Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for guidance on a recommendation table.

The MTR team should make no more than 15 recommendations total.

Ratings

The MTR team will include its ratings of the project's results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in a *MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the MTR report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the MTR will be approximately 20 working days over a time period 12 of weeks, and shall not exceed five months from when the consultant(s) are hired. The tentative MTR timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVITY	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS	COMPLETION DATE
Preparation period for MTR team (handover of documentation)	2 days	August 11 th , 2021
Document review and preparing MTR Inception Report	5 days	August 18 th 2021
Finalization and Validation of MTR Inception Report	3 days	August 27 th , 2021
MTR mission: Stakeholder meetings/ interviews, presentation of initial findings	8 days	September 10 th , 2021
Preparing draft report	5 days	September 20 th , 2021
Finalization of MTR report/ Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report (due within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on the draft)	3-4 days	September 30 th 2021

7. MIDTERM REVIEW DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing	Responsibilities
1	MTR Inception Report	MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	Deliverable is to be completed tentatively by August 18, 2021	MTR team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	Deliverable is to be completed tentatively by August 27, 2021	MTR Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	Draft MTR Report	Full draft report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Deliverable is to be completed tentatively by September 20, 2021	Sent to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, GEF OFP
4	Final Report*	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week after receiving UNDP comments on draft. Deliverable is to be Completed tentatively by September 30, 2021	Sent to the Commissioning Unit

*The final MTR report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

8. MTR ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this MTR resides with the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's MTR is UNDP Country Office in Belarus.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the consultants and will provide an updated stakeholder list with contact details (phone and email). The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the MTR team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews.

9. TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of two independent consultants will conduct the MTR - one team leader (with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally) and one team expert, usually from the country of the project. The team leader will be responsible for the overall design and writing of the TE report. The team expert will assess the extent, to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements (A useful tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROtI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office: (<https://www.gefeco.org/sites/default/files/ieo/ieo-documents/ops4-m02-roti.pdf>))

The consultants cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the overall “team” qualities in the following areas:

Education

- A Master’s degree in electrical/agriculture/environment/chemicals/engineering or economy, or other closely related field

Experience

- Relevant experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies;
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to Chemicals and Waste focal area;
- Experience in evaluating of at least 2 projects;
- Minimum 10 years of proven professional experience in the area of Chemicals and Waste management;
- Previous working experience of projects evaluation in Belarus;
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and Chemical and waste GEF Focal Area;
- Experience in gender sensitive evaluation and/or analysis.
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills confirmed by at least 2 examples of reports;
- Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered as an asset.
- Experience with implementing evaluations remotely will be considered as an asset.

Language

- Fluency in spoken English is a must.
- Fluency in written English confirmed by at least 2 examples of reports.
- Working level Russian will be an advantage.

10. ETHICS

The MTR team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This MTR will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG ‘Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation’. The MTR team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The MTR team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the MTR and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information, knowledge and data gathered in the MTR process must also be solely used for the MTR and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 20% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the Deliverable 1 and 2: final MTR Inception Report is approved by the Commissioning Unit and Direct Supervisor (Programme Officer, UNDP Belarus);
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the Deliverable 3: draft MTR report is submitted to the Commissioning Unit and Direct Supervisor (Programme Officer, UNDP Belarus);

- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final Deliverable 4: final MTR report is approved by the Commissioning Unit, Direct Supervisor and RTA (via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form) and TE Audit Trail is completed.

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%⁸:

- The final MTR report includes all requirements outlined in the MTR TOR and is in accordance with the MTR guidance.
- The final MTR report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other MTR reports).
- The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment

listed. Provision for the impact of COVID-19 pandemic:

In line with the UNDP's financial regulations, should it be determined by the UNDP and/or the consultant that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID -19 and limitations to the evaluation, that deliverable or service will not be paid or will be partially paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time towards the deliverable but was unable to complete to circumstances beyond his/her control.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS⁹

Recommended Presentation of Proposal:

- Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability including Financial Proposal** using the [template](#)¹⁰ provided by UNDP;
- CV or a Personal History Form** ([P11 form](#)¹¹);
- Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page);
- Copy of relevant University Diploma(s);
- 2 examples of reports.**

⁸ The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the MTR team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the MTR team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

⁹ Engagement of the consultants should be done in line with guidelines for hiring consultants in the POPP:

<https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPRoot.aspx>

<https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/psd/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx>

¹¹ http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

ANNEX 2: EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods
Project Strategy	<p>Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?</p> <p>Does the progress so far indicate that the project could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects that could be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis?</p> <p>Are broader development and gender aspects of the project being monitored effectively?</p> <p>Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits</p> <p>How relevant is the project strategy to address the country priorities? Is the project in line with the national sector development priorities and plans?</p> <p>To what extent were perspectives of those affected by project decisions and of those who could affect the outcomes, taken into account during project design processes?</p> <p>Does the project strategy provide an effective route towards expected/intended results?</p> <p>To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects incorporated into the project design?</p> <p>Are the underlying assumptions for the problem addressed by the project still valid?</p>	<p>Project activities in line with the country development and sectoral priorities and plans</p> <p>Activities produce outputs according to the project logframe</p> <p>Lessons learned from previous projects taken into account for implementation</p> <p>Assumptions and risks identified are effectively managed</p>	<p>UNDP programme/project documents</p> <p>UNDP programme/project Annual Work Plans</p> <p>Programmes/projects/ thematic areas evaluation reports</p> <p>Government's national planning documents</p> <p>Human Development Reports</p> <p>MDG progress reports Government partners progress reports</p> <p>Interviews with beneficiaries</p> <p>UNDP staff</p> <p>Development partners (UN agencies, bilateral development agencies)</p> <p>Government partners involved in specific results/thematic areas</p> <p>Concerned civil society partners</p> <p>Concerned associations and federations</p>	<p>Desk reviews of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with government partners</p> <p>Interviews with NGOs partners/service providers</p> <p>Interviews with funding agencies and other UNCT</p> <p>Interviews with UNDP staff, development partners and government partners, civil society partners, associations, and federations</p>
Progress Towards Results	<p>Which are the aspects of the project that have already been successful and how the project can further expand these benefits?</p> <p>How does the GEF Tracking Tool at the Baseline compare with the GEF TT completed before the Midterm Review?</p> <p>How far has the regional context been taken into consideration while selecting the project/ programme?</p> <p>Was there any partnership strategy in place for implementation of the project and if so how effective was it?</p>	<p>GEF TT used as project management instrument</p> <p>The project has partnership strategy and actions taken to promote cooperation between partners</p>	<p>Project/programme/thematic areas evaluation reports</p> <p>Progress reports on projects UNDP staff Development partners Government partners</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p> <p>Progress reports on projects</p> <p>Programme documents</p> <p>Annual Work Plans/Progress Reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>MDG/Human Development Reports</p>	<p>Desk reviews of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with government partners, development partners, UNDP staff, civil society partners, associations, and federations</p>
	Has the project or programme been implemented within the original timeframe and budget?	Project implementation within the original timeframe and budget	Programme documents	Desk reviews of secondary data

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	<p>To what extent the work-planning processes are results-based?</p> <p>To what extent has the project's results framework/logframe been used as a management tool and were there any changes to it since the project start?</p> <p>Have UNDP and the PMU taken prompt actions to solve implementation issues?</p> <p>Have there been any delays in project start-up and implementation and if so what were the causes and how they have been solved?</p> <p>What mechanisms does UNDP have in place to monitor implementation? Are these effective?</p> <p>Have there been any outside factors (e.g. political instability) affecting on implementation effectiveness?</p>	<p>Annual workplans elaborated according to the logframe</p> <p>Implementation issues solved by PMU/UNDP</p> <p>Implementation monitoring tools in place and effectively used</p>	<p>Annual Work Plans</p> <p>Annual Progress Reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>Government partners Development partners</p> <p>UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)</p>	<p>Interviews with government partners and development partners</p>
	<p>To what extent financial controls have been established that allow the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget at any time and allow for the timely flow of funds?</p> <p>Has there been over-expenditure or under-expenditure on the project?</p> <p>Were the resources focused on the set of activities that were expected to produce significant results?</p> <p>Were the project resources concentrated on the most important initiatives or were they scattered/spread thinly across initiatives?</p>	<p>Financial controls established and used to provide feedback on implementation</p> <p>Activities prioritized for achievement of significant results</p>	<p>Programme documents</p> <p>Annual Work Plans</p> <p>Annual Progress Reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>Government partners Development partners</p> <p>UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)</p>	<p>Desk reviews of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with government partners and development partners</p>
	<p>Have changes been made and are they effective?</p> <p>Are the existing responsibilities and reporting lines clear?</p> <p>To what extent is decision-making in the project transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?</p>	<p>Decision-making on implementation transparent and timely</p> <p>Implementation of components with multiple responsible partners clear and timely</p>	<p>Programme documents</p> <p>Annual Work Plans</p> <p>Annual Progress Reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>Government partners Development partners</p> <p>UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)</p>	<p>Desk reviews of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with government partners and development partners</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management (continued)	Has the project developed and leveraged partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders? Do the stakeholders have roles in project decision-making that support efficient and effective project implementation? To which extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives and are there any limitations to stakeholder awareness of project outcomes/ participation in project activities?	Mechanisms for involvement of other stakeholders in place Other stakeholders aware of the project and involved in implementation	Programme documents Annual Work Plans Annual Progress Reports	Desk reviews of secondary data
	How the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfill the GEF reporting requirements? To what extent have lessons derived from the adaptive management process been documented, shared with and internalized by key partners and incorporated into project implementation? Have the PIRs been shared with the Project Board and other key stakeholders?	Quality reporting according to GEF reporting requirements Lessons for adaptive management documented and taken into account for implementation	Evaluation reports Progress reports UNDP programme staff	Desk reviews of secondary data Interview UNDP programme staff
	How regular and effective has been the internal project communication with project stakeholders? Are there any ways of external communication established to inform about the project progress the public? Are there any aspects of the project that might yield excellent communications material as additional project output?	Quality and effectiveness of internal communication Possibilities for additional communication material identified	Evaluation reports Progress reports UNDP programme staff	Desk reviews of secondary data Interview UNDP programme staff

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods
Sustainability	What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends? To what extent financial and economic instruments and mechanisms have been established or will be established to ensure the ongoing flow of benefits once the GEF assistance ends? What additional factors are needed to create an enabling environment for continued financing?	Existence of counterpart/stakeholder funding for the project outcomes Additional factors for continued financing identified	Programme documents Annual Work Plans Annual Progress Reports Evaluation reports Government partners Development partners UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)	Desk reviews of secondary data Interviews with government partners and development partners
	Has the project put in place frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes that will create mechanisms for institutional and technical knowledge transfer after the project's closure? To what extent has the project been developing institutional capacity (systems, structures, staff, expertise, etc.) that will be self-sufficient after the project closure date? Has the project achieved stakeholders' consensus regarding courses of action after the project's closure?	Institutional frameworks for continuation of activities established Level of self-sufficiency of the established institutional frameworks	Programme documents Annual Work Plans Annual Progress Reports Evaluation reports Government partners Development partners UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)	Desk reviews of secondary data Interviews with government partners and development partners
	Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? Are there any environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes, including factors that have been identified by project stakeholders? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Is there sufficient public/ stakeholder awareness in support of the objectives of the project?	Social, political and environmental risks identified and taken into account Level of stakeholder awareness and ownership of the project results	Programme documents Annual Work Plans Annual Progress Reports Evaluation reports Government partners Development partners UNDP staff (Programme Implementation Support Unit)	Desk reviews of secondary data Interviews with government partners and development partners

SAMPLE QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF UN VALUES FROM A HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE				
Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods
Supporting policy dialogue on human development issues	<p>To what extent does the initiative support the government in monitoring achievement of MDGs?</p> <p>What assistance has the initiative provided supported the government in promoting human development approach and monitoring MDGs? Comment on how effective this support has been.</p>	Level of contribution of the project to the achievement of MDGs	<p>Project documents</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>HDR reports</p> <p>MDG reports</p> <p>National Planning Commission</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>Desk review of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with government partners</p>
Contribution to gender equality	<p>To what extent was the UNDP initiative designed to appropriately incorporate in each outcome area contributions to attainment of gender equality?</p> <p>To what extent did UNDP support positive changes in terms of gender equality and were there any unintended effects?</p> <p>Provide example(s) of how the initiative contributes to gender equality.</p> <p>Can results of the programme be disaggregated by sex?</p>	Level of monitoring of gender related issues	<p>Project documents</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>UNDP staff</p> <p>Government partners</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Desk review of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with UNDP staff and government partners</p> <p>Observations from field visits</p>
Addressing equity issues (social inclusion)	<p>To what extent does the project take into account the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged to promote social equity, for example, women, youth, disabled persons?</p> <p>Provide example(s) of how the initiative takes into account the needs of vulnerable and dis- advantaged groups, for example, women, youth, disabled persons.</p> <p>How has UNDP programmed social inclusion into the initiative?</p>	Level of monitoring of social inclusion related issues	<p>Project documents</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p> <p>UNDP staff</p> <p>Government partners</p> <p>Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Desk review of secondary data</p> <p>Interviews with UNDP staff and government partners</p> <p>Observations from field visits</p>

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Name	Organization	Position/Role
Alexander Korbut	MNREP	Deputy Minister, National Coordinator of the project
Olga Sazonova	MNREP	Head of the General Directorate for Regulation of Waste Management, Biological and Landscape Diversity
Larissa Lukina	MNREP	Deputy Head of the General Directorate for Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science GEF Operational Focal Point
Natalia Malceva	Ministry of Energy	Consultant of the Department on Energy Efficiency Management, Ecology and Science
Anatoly Stankevich	Gomel Plant of Casting and Normal)	Deputy Chief Engineer for Production Safety
Yuliya Dubrovina	Belarusian Railway	Leading Specialist of the Technical Policy and Investment Service
Andrey Shavluga	Housing and communal services in Polotsk	Head of the Department for the Supply of Chemicals
Ekaterina Botyan	Republican Research Unitary Enterprise "Bel Research Center" Ecology ")	Head of Waste Management Department
Olga Lukashevich	State agency "Republican center of analytical control in the field of environmental protection"	Senior Laboratory Specialist
Sergey Borovoy	Complex for processing and disposal of toxic industrial waste in Gomel region	Director
Yakov Tkachev	GrodnoObtselkhoztekhnika	Head of the Department for the Supply of Chemicals
Eugeniyi Lobanov	Centre for Environmental Solutions (CES)	Director
Denis Kovalenko	PMU	National Project Manager
Yuri Kulik	PMU	National Expert on OPs
Olga Volkova	PMU	National Expert on PCBs
Igor Tchoulba	UNDP CO	Head of Energy and Environment Unit
Maksim Surkov	UNDP IRH	Regional Technical Advisor

ANNEX 4: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Relevance: the project and its strategy

- How are you connected with the project?
- How important is your project for Belarus?
- What do you think about the design of the project? Are there enough resources? Missing important events? What would you advise to adjust?
- What other similar projects is your agency involved in?

Project results

- What have been the main important achievements so far and why do you think so?
- What were the main challenges for achieving the planned results?
- As far as you know, the project will most likely achieve all planned results on time? If not, what would be your recommendations?
- In what areas can the project be expanded if positive results have already been achieved?
- How can the project remove barriers to achieving results?
- Has the project led to increased capacity of local specialists? What could have been done differently?

Management arrangements

- How would you rate the role of UNDP? What could have been done better?
- Was due consideration given to the results?
- What external factors influenced the project's completion on time?
- Is the composition of the Project Board and the staffing of the project adequate, as well as the level of involvement of experts?

Planning, monitoring and reporting

- How do you rate project management? Is the PM responding well enough to emerging challenges? What could have been done better?
- How would you rate the work planning for the project? What should be improved?
- Is your agency engaged in monitoring? Is there anything that needs to be done differently?
- Have you seen the project reports? Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Finance and co-finance

- Does your agency oblige co-financing to the project? If so, will it be implemented? If not, why not?

Stakeholder Engagement

- What do you think about the project's interaction with national organizations and experts? What could have been done differently?
- How has the current level of stakeholder engagement influenced the results and national ownership?

Communication

- Is the communication regular and effective? What could have been done differently?
- Do you think the project is noticeable enough? What could have been done differently?

Sustainability

- Will the project achievements be sustained? Why do you think so?

- What is the likelihood that financial and economic resources will be available after the end of GEF assistance to sustain project results? Why do you think so?
- Are there any social or political risks that could jeopardize the sustainability of the project results?
- What is the risk that stakeholder ownership will not be sufficient to sustain the results / benefits of the project?
- Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness to support the project objectives?
- Are the successful aspects of the project communicated to the appropriate parties?

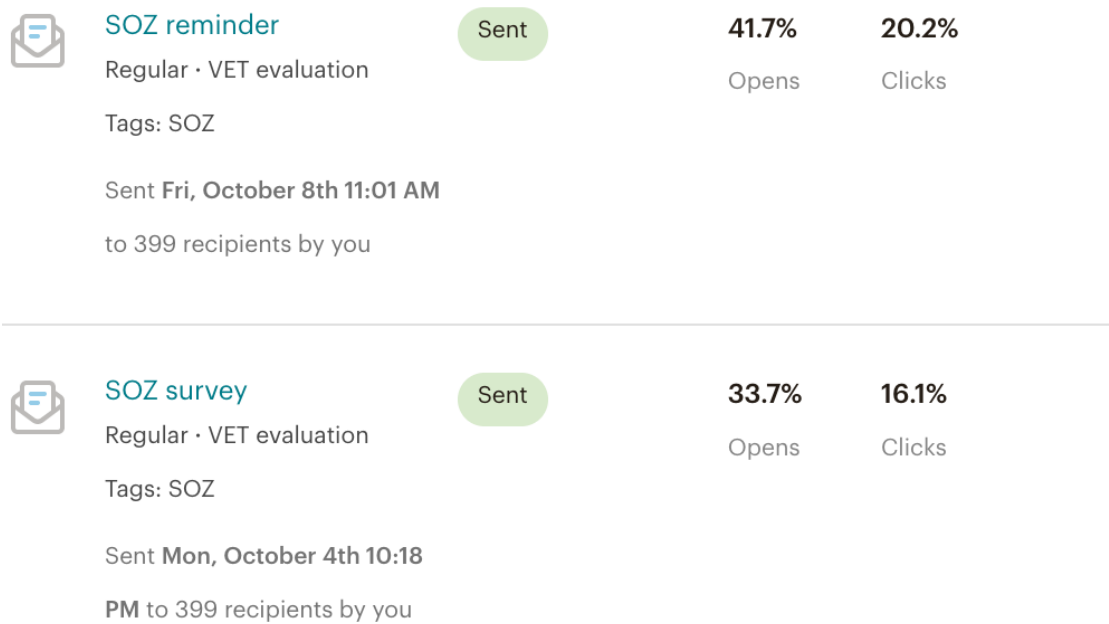
Other

- What should the project focus on in the remaining period?
- Do you have any other comments that were not covered in the interview?

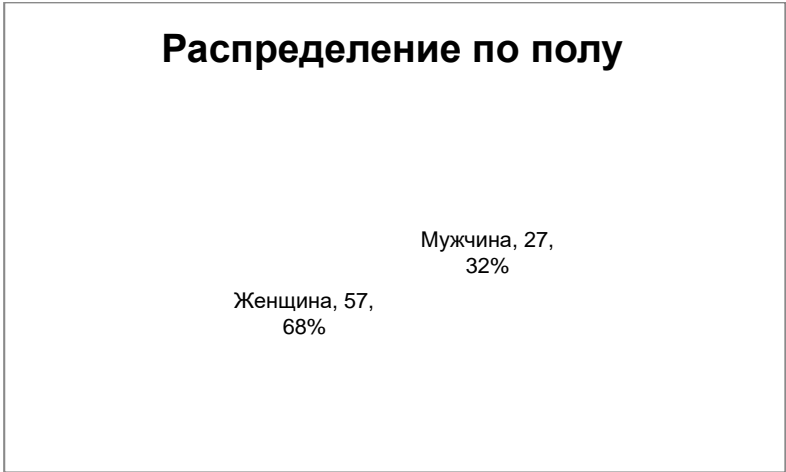
ANNEX 5: RESULTS OF THE ON-LINE SURVEY

Результаты интернет-опроса

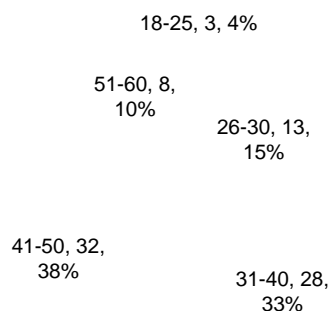
Опрос проводился с 4 по 15 октября.
Рассылка приглашений проводилась с использованием MailChimp по базе адресов участников мероприятий проекта, всего 399 получателей.
Рассылка приглашений проводилась дважды: 4 и 8 октября. Статистика по прочитанным и открытым приглашениям приведена на рисунке ниже:



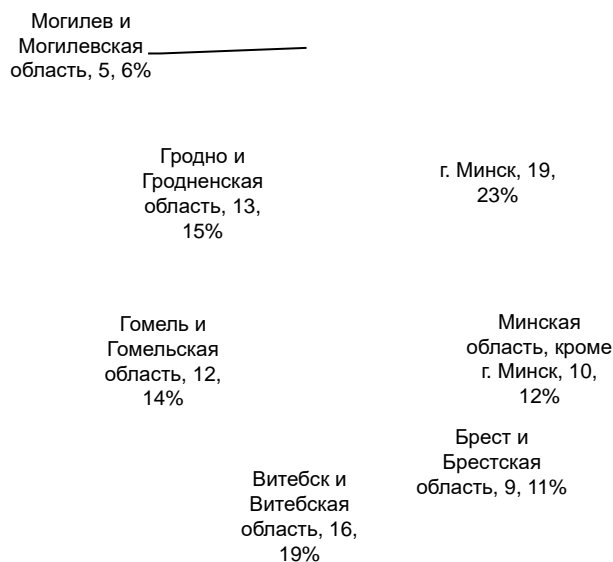
В результате в опросе приняло участие 85 респондентов.
Первый вопрос анкеты представлял собой форму согласия к участию в опросе. Согласились с участием 84 из 85 человек (99%). Один человек отказался от участия в опросе, мотивировав свой отказ тем, что не участвовал в мероприятиях.
Вопросы 2-4 были направлены на сбор социологической информации: распределение респондентов по полу (вопрос 2), возрасту (вопрос 3) и региону Беларуси (вопрос 4).
Результаты можно видеть на диаграммах ниже:



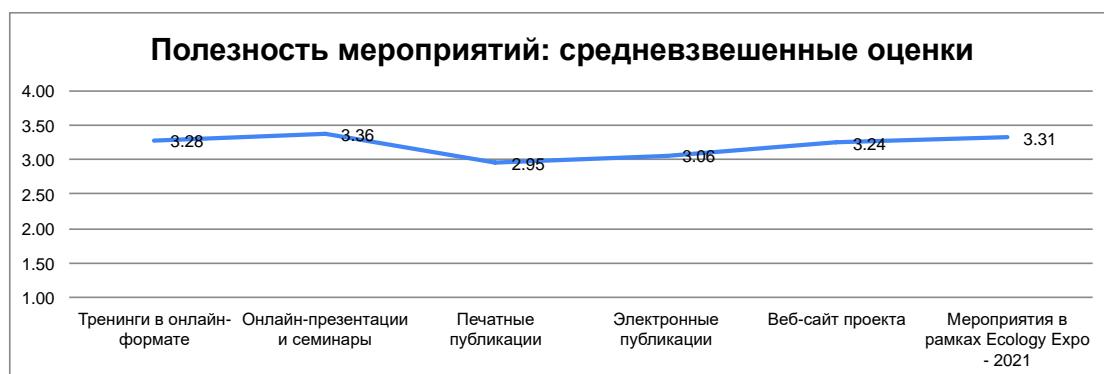
Распределение по возрасту



Территориальное распределение



Вопрос 5 был направлен на определение полезности продуктов проекта. Продукты оценивались по шести аспектам, которые можно видеть на диаграммах, приведенных ниже, и по шкале 0-4, где 0 – не знаком/а с продуктом, 1 – полезность трудно оценить, 2 – продукт проекта немного полезен, 3 – в целом полезен, 4 – очень полезен. На первой из них показано распределение выставленных оценок, на второй – средневзвешенные оценки. Можно видеть, что респонденты в целом достаточно высоко оценивают продукты проекта: оценка колеблется от 2,95 до 3,36 по 4-балльной шкале. Самая низкая оценка у печатных и электронных публикаций, самая высокая – у онлайн-презентаций и семинаров, а также у мероприятий в рамках Ecology Expo - 2021.



В вопросе 7 респондентам предлагалось указать, какой именно продукт проекта, с их точки зрения, является наиболее полезным. Наиболее популярный ответ – «все продукты проекта интересны» и/или полезны, или «затрудняюсь ответить». Ниже приведены содержательные ответы на вопрос 7:

- Затрудняюсь ответить - 6 ответов
- Все продукты проекта интересны / полезны - 8 ответов
- Никакие - 1 ответ
- В настоящее время нас интересует ПХБ - 2 ответа
- Семинары-встречи (с участниками и организаторами проекта, не онлайн)– 2 ответа
- экологически безопасное уничтожение СОЗ
- Брошюры по тематике СОЗ
- полиграфическая продукция
- путеводитель
- Налаживание деловых контактов
- Участие в совместных проектах
- интернет платформа с картой размещения и количеством хранящихся СОЗ на территории республики
- Порядок трансграничного перемещения отходов
- Только печатные или рассылка аналитических отчетов по выполнению проекта
- Выезд на промышленные предприятия

Вопрос 8 был направлен на определение практической полезности мероприятий проекта. Респондентам предлагалось оценить полезность по шкале 0-4, где 0 – я не принимал/а участия в мероприятиях, 1 – трудно оценить, 2 – немного полезны, 3 – в целом полезны, 4 – очень полезны. Эта же шкала использовалась для расчета

средневзвешенной оценки, которая составила 3,36 балла – участники высоко оценили полезность проведенных мероприятий.

На диаграмме ниже можно видеть распределение оценок для Вопроса 8.



В качестве ответа на вопрос 8.1 респондентам предлагалось прокомментировать свою оценку. Ниже приведены содержательные ответы респондентов с сохранением орфографии авторов. Самым популярным ответом было «Все мероприятия проекта полезны / одинаково полезны».

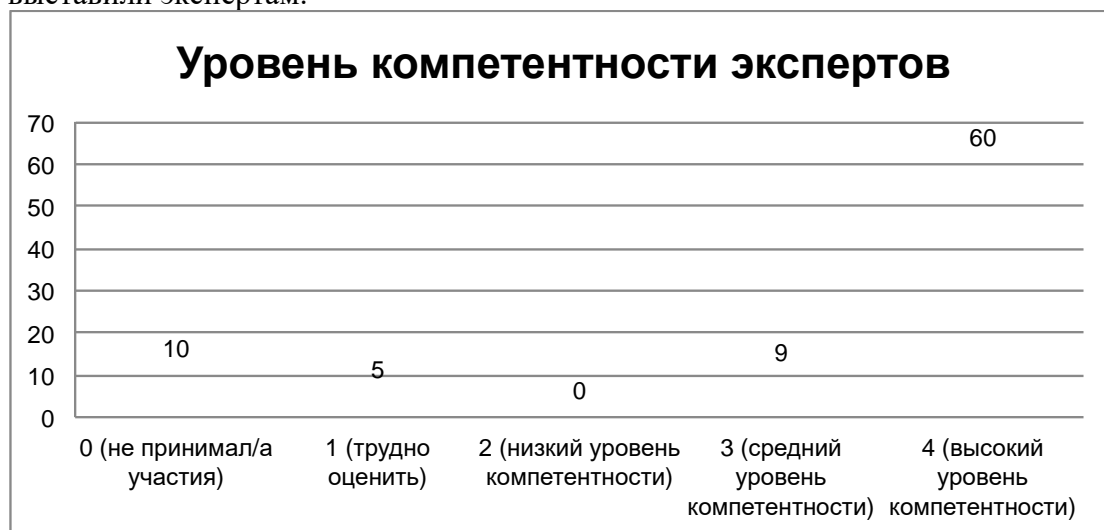
В целом ответы участников сложно систематизировать. В целом респонденты отмечают, что деятельность проекта является нужной и полезной, однако можно видеть, что участников проекта волнует практическая составляющая работы проекта: конкретные алгоритмы действий, конкретная помощь по вывозу / утилизации опасных отходов и пестицидов. Для респондентов важен конкретный практический результат, выражающийся в утилизации опасных веществ.

- Все мероприятия полезны - 13 ответов
- не смогли посетить / не участвовали в мероприятиях - 2 ответа
- Избавление организаций и территории страны от опасных веществ
- недостаточная практическая ценность / составляющая:
- Не хватает понятно составленного алгоритма действий для предприятия по передаче ПХБ, сколько денег планировать, как упаковывать, какие бумаги оформлять при передаче... Нужна брошюра !!!
- На данный момент нет ясности в сроках вывоза ПХБ отходов
- Не сталкивалась на практике применения мероприятий в рамках проекта
- Большое количество информации и времени на онлайн-семинарах отводится банальному пересказыванию нормативно-правовых актов в области обращения с отходами и СОЗ непосредственно. Как правило, на данном онлайн семинаре присутствуют именно специалисты-экологи, которые с законом "Об обращении с отходами" и Инструкцией о проведении инвентаризации ПХБ-содержащего оборудования знакомы хорошо. Пересказывание этих НПА специалистам в области ООС не интересно, поскольку убивает много времени. В тоже время, отлично что уделяется внимание другим законодательным областям (О транспортных перевозках опасных грузов и др)
- в результате нет четкого понимания о практической передаче имеющихся ПХБ на обезвреживание
- Принимала участие в одном интернет семинаре по ПХБ, не могу сказать насколько полная информация была пока проект не коснется непосредственно нас и как будет применяться проект на практике
- эта тема должна быть реализована и освещена
- С учетом масштабов угрозы здоровью человека и окружающей среде СОЗ

- На сегодняшний день эта была единственная возможность провести работы по уничтожению остатков непригодных пестицидов
- В связи с пандемией было немного участников и посетителей, с которыми хотелось бы наладить деловой контакт
- Полезен опыт совместных встреч
- обезвреживание пестицидов
- данные проблемы необходимо озвучивать и решать
- Доступ к информации в полном объеме
- Узнала о планах по установке печи для сжигания пестицидов
- Из-за отсутствия объектов обезвреживания отходов, содержащих ПХБ, в РБ и большим объемом ПХБ, находящихся на хранении
- Проект позволяет совместно решать проблему обезвреживания ПХБ-содержащих отходов.

Вопрос 9 был направлен на оценку уровня компетентности экспертов по шкале 0-4, где 0 – не принимал/а участия в мероприятии, 1 – трудно оценить, 2 – низкий уровень компетентности, 3 – средний уровень компетентности, и 4 – высокий уровень компетентности. Эта же шкала использовалась для расчета средневзвешенной оценки, которая составила 3,68 по шкале 1-4 – участники высоко оценили компетентность экспертов и консультантов проекта.

На диаграмме ниже можно посмотреть распределение оценок, которые респонденты выставили экспертам.



В качестве ответа на вопрос 9.1 респондентам предлагалось прокомментировать свою оценку. Ниже приведены содержательные ответы респондентов с сохранением орфографии авторов. Самым популярным ответом было «эксперты / специалисты компетентны» - 14 ответов. Однако помимо положительных отзывов были и критические, они собраны в конце списка. Соотношение положительных / критических отзывов составляет 22 положительных / 6 критических, то есть 76% респондентов удовлетворены работой экспертов. Критические отзывы, как и в вопросе 8.1, говорят о неудовлетворенности некоторых участников опроса практическими результатами проекта.

- Эксперты и специалисты компетентны - 14
- эксперты и специалисты помогают во всех возникающих вопросах - 2 ответа
- выбор экспертов благотворно влияет на реализацию проекта в текущих реалиях
- Работы выполнены в кратчайшие сроки, качество выполнения работ на высоком уровне
- Международный уровень
- Знание всех НПА и ТНПА определенно говорит о высоком уровне компетентности специалистов

- должным образом была организована работа по вывозу непригодных пестицидов
- Подробно и поэтапно описан порядок обращения с СОЗ
- Недостаточно помогли - 2
- Не все понятно объяснили, на вопросы по телефону не ответили.
- не дали ответов о практической передаче ПХБ отходов (кому?)
- Процент новых знаний и технологий в области экологии был невысоким
- Не знаю таких экспертов

Вопрос 10 был направлен на оценку качества проведения мероприятий. Мероприятия оценивались по 7 аспектам, которые можно видеть на диаграмме ниже. Респондентам предлагалось выставить оценки по шкале 0-4, где 0 – не принимал/а участия в мероприятии, 1 – трудно оценить, 2- плохая организация, 3 – удовлетворительная организация, 4 – отличная организация. Эта же шкала использовалась для расчета средневзвешенных значений для каждого аспекта.

Можно видеть, что участники наименее удовлетворены качеством кофе-пауз – оценка 3,07 (хотя далее в комментариях вопроса 10.1 несколько человек написало, что участвовали только в онлайн-семинарах), вторая минимальная оценка 3,15 выставлена общему ощущению комфорта. Самые высокие оценки выставлены рассылке уведомлений и приглашений (3,60) и выбору формата мероприятия (3,53). В целом респонденты оценили качество проведения мероприятий достаточно высоко, средневзвешенных оценок ниже уровня «удовлетворительно» нет.



В вопросе 10.1 респондентам предлагалось прокомментировать выставленные оценки. Ниже приведены содержательные ответы с сохранением орфографии авторов. Самым популярным ответом являются ответы вида «все хорошо», «замечаний нет» и т.п. – всего 17 ответов. Из конструктивных предложений – оживить форум проекта. Однако присутствует также и 4 критических ответа, основной смысл которых, как и в свободных ответах на предыдущие вопросы – заинтересованность в конкретных шагах по утилизации отходов и опасных веществ. Соотношение положительных / критических /нейтральных отзывов 18/4/1, то есть около 80% оставивших свои отзывы удовлетворены качеством проведения мероприятий.

- Все хорошо / нет замечаний - 17 ответов
- Я принимал участие только в 1 вебинаре, остался доволен организацией и полученной информацией. Остальные семинары не могу оценить т.к. не присутствовал на них.
- Мне кажется будет здорово попытаться оживить форум проекта.
- Если бы все было отлично, предприятие уже бы сдало на переработку свои конденсаторы и тема была бы закрыта. Все тянется много лет.
- не всегда понятно как это соотносится с местным законодательством
- пока сложно сказать
- Нет четкого понимания, когда организация примет участие в передаче отходов

Вопрос 11 был сформулирован как предложение назвать одну или несколько сильных сторон проекта. 10 респондентов указали, что «все хорошо» или «все стороны сильные», 4 затруднились дать ответ. 8 человек в качестве сильной стороны проекта указали непосредственную / общую цель проекта – сбор/утилизацию ПХБ или охрану окружающей среды. Ниже приведены содержательные ответы, которые не поддаются систематизации.

- все хорошо / все стороны сильные - 10
- не знаю / трудно сказать - 4
- организация сбора и утилизации ПХБ / практический вклад в охрану окружающей среды - 8
- возможность получить финансирование - 2
- Масштаб...,количество участников
- актуальность
- Стабильность
- ответственность и дисциплинированность
- социально значимая проблема, расширение и углубление знаний, квалифицированные организаторы
- Возможность поучаствовать удаленно
- Открытость обсуждения
- Задействованы известные, пользующиеся уважением у природопользователей специалисты
- Освещение информации о проблемах нашей страны с СОЗами
- Отличная организация, компетентность персонала, актуальность проблемы
- доступность информации
- подход к решению проблемы
- Устойчивое управление
- объединение всех заинтересованных

В вопросе 12 респондентам предлагалось назвать одну или несколько слабых сторон проекта. Здесь соотношение положительных / нейтральных / критических ответов выглядит как 16/7/15. Систематизированные ответы приведены ниже, формулировки авторов сохранены, опечатки исправлены. Опять же, как и в вопросах выше, респонденты высказывают неудовлетворенность затягиванием сроков реализации проекта и недостаточным прогрессом в практической утилизации отходов.

- все хорошо / нет слабых сторон - 16

- нет ответа / трудно сказать / не участвовали – 7
- Медлительность, продолжительные сроки реализации проекта, отсутствие ощутимого прогресса – 4 ответа
- Способы обеззараживания, вопросы обезвреживания ПХБ-содержащих отходов – 2 ответа
- Практическая реализация требует доработки
- куда сдавать ПХБ отходы?
- Передача на хранение СОЗ
- пожалуй, закупки по многу раз
- соотношение с местным законодательством
- увеличение финансовых затрат
- технические
- Нет обратной связи со мной, как с разработчиком
- Если внимательно посмотреть на фотографии онлайн-семинара, показывающие как хранятся и транспортируются СОЗ можно заметить ряд нарушений. Даже на пятой фотографии, размещенной на официальном сайте проекта (<https://soz.minpriroda.gov.by/>), СОЗы небезопасно хранятся в бочках на поддонах в сильно наклоненном состоянии. (P.S. Дурной тон заразителен)

В вопросе 13 участникам предлагалось внести свои предложения проект. Вопрос был сформулирован следующим образом: «Если бы вы могли поучаствовать в планировании аналогичного проекта, то что бы вы предложили изменить или сделать по-другому, опираясь на имеющийся опыт?»

Наиболее популярным ответом был «предложений нет» или «затрудняюсь ответить / не знаю» (в совокупности 59 ответов, или 70% от всех ответов). Остальные ответы в формулировках авторов приведены ниже.

- Предложений нет - 35
- затрудняюсь ответить / не знаю - 24
- Начал бы практические действия.
- Установление конкретных сроков реализации проекта
- Более активное уведомление о проведении мероприятий проекта в социальных сетях, в интернет-источниках, специфических экологических форумах
- пересмотр положения о закупках
- внести изменения в закон об отходах
- Больше конкретики
- больше информировать о мероприятиях
- Больше примеров из практики.
- Считаю, что нет необходимости разрешать презентации организаций, не имеющих отношение к проекту.
- сократить сроки реализации проекта
- улучшить организационные моменты
- Больше возможностей делиться опытом
- Совместные проекты, кооперации
- Задействовать в рамках повышения знаний по СОЗ не только специалистов в области охраны окружающей среды, но и специалистов по снабжению, а также доведения норм права по СОЗ не только крупным промышленным предприятиям, но и малым субъектам хозяйствования (микроорганизациям и ИП)
- Пытался бы выполнить все условия, как и всегда
- На официальном сайте изложил бы конкретный (пошаговый) план действий, который нужно пройти каждому природопользователю, в т.ч. соблюсти все бюрократические формальности, на пути реализации проекта.
- Предоставить организациям информацию по алгоритму действий в части утилизации пхб-содержащего оборудования
- Все отлично. Можно чаще организовывать семинары/вебинары
- осуществить информирование общественности
- для начала изучил бы опыт других по данному вопросу
- утилизация и обеззараживание ПХБ с использованием новых технологий
- увеличить количество участников

- обозначить четкие и понятные требования как к документам предоставляемым в организацию по общему сбору ПХБ-отходов (возможно даже с образцом заполнения), так и к упаковке (в том числе возможно с подсказкой где можно ее купить в разных областях Беларуси)
- Рассмотрела бы возможность проведения онлайн-семинаров на более привычных платформах
- можно выпустить подробные методические материалы по заполнению необходимой документации
- Возможность для собственников ПХБ-содержащих отходов передачи данного вида отходов производства на специально-созданные площадки экологически безопасного хранения с последующим обезвреживанием.
- Снизить нагрузку по оплате с предприятий собственников СОЗ
- ЭКЗАМЕН

Вопрос 14 касался того, как участие в мероприятиях проекта повлияло на респондентов. В лидерах эффектов находятся повышение личного потенциала (51% респондентов) и удовлетворение потребности в знаниях / опыте (49%). 25% респондентов расширили свои связи и профессиональные контакты, и только 13% получили рычаги, которые помогли им влиять на принятие важных решений в организации (см. диаграмму ниже).

Изменения в профессиональной деятельности		
Я повысил/а свой личный потенциал, получил новые знания и умения		43
У меня был запрос или потребность в знаниях и/или опыте, и проект помог мне ее удовлетворить		41
Мои личные связи и профессиональные контакты расширились	21	
Я получил/а возможность повлиять на принятие важных решений в организации / компании, в которой я работаю	11	
Другое: Никак не изменилась	8	
Моя самооценка и социальный статус повысились	6	
Другое: Качество моей профессиональной деятельности постоянно растет	1	

Вопрос 15 являлся заключительным, и в нем перед отправкой формы респонденты могли высказать дополнительные замечания и предложения по проекту. В целом респонденты не предоставили каких-либо новых идей, ответы участников опроса приведены ниже в формулировке авторов.

- Замечаний нет - 11
- Единственное, что огорчило, это то, что не получили сертификаты участника.
- Так когда Вы заберете ПХБ!!!
- Важность подобных проектов сложно переоценить. Спасибо!
- проект должен быть продолжен на новом этапе
- Будем признательны и благодарны, если в дальнейшем сможем участвовать в природоохранных проектах и мероприятиях
- Побольше бесплатных вебинаров. Спасибо.

ANNEX 6: LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

1. GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management, Request for Project Endorsement/Approval, UNDP, 2017
2. GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management, Project Document, UNDP, 2017
3. GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management, Inception Report, M
4. GEF-6 Belarus POPs Legacy and Sustainable Chemicals Management, Project Implementation Review, UNDP, 2020 and 2021
5. Combined Delivery Reports, UNDP (2019, 2020, 2021)
6. Status of ratification of the Stockholm, Basel Conventions, <http://chm.pops.int>
7. The National Plan of the Republic of Belarus for the Implementation of its Obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the period of 2007–2010 and until 2028 MNREP (2006)
8. National Plan of Implementation of the Obligations of the Republic of Belarus under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2011-2015, MNREP (2011)
9. Report on Preparation of National Plan of Implementation of the Obligations of the Republic of Belarus under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, MNREP (2020)
10. About the State Programme "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for 2021-2025, Decision of The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 99 (2021)
11. Environmental Performance Reviews: Belarus - Third Review, UNECE (2016)
12. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Inventory Guidance, PCB Elimination Network (2016)
13. A Roadmap for SDG Implementation in the Republic of Belarus, United Nations (2018)
14. Elaboration of Methodology and Assessment of Possible Cross-Contamination of Electrical Equipment Not Containing PCBs (Phase 1), Bel NIC Ecologia (2020)
15. Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects UNDP-GEF, 2014
16. The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, GEF Evaluation Office, 2010
17. UNDP Evaluation Guidelines, UNDP, 2019 and June 2021 update
18. Guideline on evaluations during COVID-19, UNDP, 2020
19. Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management, OECD, 2010
20. Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations, UNEG, 2014
21. Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations, UNEG, 2020
22. Guidance Note on Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Procedure, UNDP, 2019

ANNEX 7: PROJECT STAKEHOLDER MAP

Stakeholder Organization	Role
Institutional Stakeholders	
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	National Executing Agency, GEF, Basel Convention and SC focal Points, national policy and project implementation coordination
Ministry of Energy	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national electrical utilities including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Industry	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national industrial enterprises including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Transportation and Communication	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated national transportation companies and Belarusian Railways including allocation of state budget resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Coordination of regional and local agricultural organization on the management of OP stores.
Ministry of Emergency Situations	Acts as a government agency responsible for regulation of provisions for the transport of dangerous goods (ADR) and works with hazardous chemicals Service provider for hazardous waste cleanup particular for OPs burial sites
Ministry of Healthcare	Input and participation related to the development of a national sound chemical management program and associated regulation and monitoring activities
State Custom Committee	Coordination related to export/import issues of hazardous waste
Ministry of Finance	Confirmation of co-financing commitments during project registration
Other line ministries and regional governmental entities	Coordination of PCB Phase out activities of subordinated legal entities including allocation of own resources
Republican Center for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection	Operation of national POPs and chemicals Monitoring programs and implementation of project, National Program and EU financed initiatives.
Belarusian Scientific Research Center “Ecology” under the aegis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	Main information and analytical center of the National System for Monitoring the Environment of the Republic of Belarus Maintenance and update of the register of PCB owners and OP storage (electronic POPs database)
Institute of Nature Use of the National Academy of Science	Monitoring in the field of handling of POPs additionally included into SC
Principal Industrial Stakeholders	
SE “BelEnergo” and associated electrical transmission and distribution utilities	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Belarusian Railways	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Industrial and other PCB holders	Ownership, administration and custody of PCB stockpiles and in-service equipment
Agricultural enterprises and other OP storages owners	Ownership, administration and custody of OP stores and burial sites
Gomel City Executive Committee – Complex for Processing and Disposal of Toxic Waste of the Gomel Region	Service provider for storage and potentially future treatment/disposal of OPs and PCBs with the latter supported by a technical assistance partnership with the project
International Organizations	
World Bank	IA for the previous GEF-4 Project
FAO	IA for EU Regional OP project
UNIDO	IA for GEF-5 PCB project for Russian Railways and Regional POPs/ODS project
European Union	Bilateral donor in the area of environmental monitoring and prospectively in sound chemicals management initiatives
Nordic Environment Finance Corporation	Potential donor partner in chemicals management initiatives
NGOs	
Green Cross Belarus	NGO active in public consultation activities related to OPs
Ecological Initiative	NGO active in public awareness activities in the POPs area, Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Conventions
Green Economy	NGO active in area collaboration PCB owners
Green Cross Switzerland	Potential participation in Component 3 with mobilized donor support

ANNEX 8: MTR RATING SCALES

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.
Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project’s closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

ANNEX 9: PROJECT RESULTS MATRIX

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD: 3.1: Solutions developed at national and subnational levels for the sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste: 3.2: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions able to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: 3.1.1 Number of new jobs created through management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste, disaggregated by sex: 3.2.2: Number of policies/regulatory frameworks that incorporate requirements of international environmental conventions
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one): Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: GEF-6 Chemicals and Waste: Objective CW-1 Program 2: Support enabling activities and promote their integration into national budgets and planning processes, national and sector policies and actions and global monitoring, CW-2 Program 3: Reduction and elimination of POPs
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Outcome 2.3: All countries have completed their NIP updates under the Stockholm Convention and have established a sustainable mechanism to update them in the future Outcome 3.1: Quantifiable and verifiable tonnes of POPs eliminated or reduced.
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: Indicator 2.3.1: Number of NIP updates completed Indicator 2.3.2: Number of countries that have integrated the NIP updated process into their own budget. Indicator 3.1: Amount and type of POPs eliminated or reduced

Result	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets		Assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project	
Objective: Protection of health and environment through elimination of retained POPs legacies and development of sustainable POPs management capacity within a sound chemicals management framework in the Republic of Belarus	<u>Mandatory Indicator 1.</u> Indicator 1.3.1 of IRFF the 2014-2017 Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level , disaggregated by partnership type	Institutional partnership - Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions established in 2017 and operates. Engaged 26 representatives of governmental bodies, CSOs, scientific No finance partnerships on management of PCBs and OPs	Institutional partnership - Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level 150 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted 77 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level At least 300 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted and implemented 77 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	Sustained commitment to initiate coordinated interagency action on the subject. Official intentions declared on outstanding joining/sustaining international conventions
	<u>Mandatory Indicator 2.</u> # of direct project beneficiaries.	700 PCB based equipment owners 77 rural storages owners 59 institutional stakeholders (22 ministries \ governmental entities and 37 regional entities) 5 CSOs	150 PCB based equipment owners participated in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners participate in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders engaged to the project decision making 5 CSOs involved in the project activities	At least 300 PCB based. equipment owners taken part in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners taken part in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders taken part into the project decision making 5 CSOs increased capacity in POPs	Direct project beneficiaries motivated to take part in the project
	<u>Indicator 3.</u> Amounts of legacy of PCB and obsolete pesticides	3,752.8t of PCB based equipment 10,174 t of OPs remaining in Belarus	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste. 1,900 t of OPs packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner	Environmentally sound destruction of 63% of total country legacy of PCB (2,370 t) Environmentally sound cleaning of all 88 rural storages and destruction of 1,990 t of OPs stored there	Financing of elimination targeted supported by GEF financing and co-financing

Result	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets		Assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project	
Outcome 1 Sustainable PCB Management	<u>Indicator 4.</u> Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination and as applicable to screening for cross contamination during maintenance developed and applied	PCB holders identified and general initial technical assistance provided during previous GEF/WB project Generally good awareness of PCB issues exists with major PCB holders within formal sectors under government oversight (large majority of holders). Limited awareness among peripheral industrial holders. Within the national POPs inventory reporting system, annual reporting of PCBs by sector, regional and major holder in place. International reporting current and web accessible Survey of extent of cross contamination undertaken in GEF/WB project.	Best practice guidance manuals developed and distributed to all major PCB holders. 3 workshop training events completed Compliance with mandated PCB phase out targets for current mandated program Technical procedure documentation on cross contamination and screening developed and disseminated Expanded reporting at the holder level developed. PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. Public data access maintained	Best practice technical procedures adopted by all major holders and imbedded in relevant nation technical standards. 60 technical staff operationally applying best practices. Planning for next mandated PCB phase out scheduling beyond 2020 in place Cross contamination screening embedded in operations of at least 4 major holder transformer maintenance practice. 60 Technical staff trained and equipped with screening capability National PCB inventory and tracking fully integrated into national POPs inventory system. PCB inventory and its reporting maintained. Public data access maintained	No regulatory barriers exist to undertaking the work. Sufficient resources available Beneficiary commitment and interest established Basic system and resources in place at the outset. Supported by mandated phase out under legislated national program
	<u>Indicator 5.</u> Development of qualified capability to treat and dispose of HW at the at Chechersk facility in Gomel Oblast and for national capability for environmentally sound management of PCB equipment.	Chechersk facility provides basic infrastructure to host HW treatment/disposal capability Core capital financial funding dedicated by Gomel Oblast Feasibility studies on technology selection initiated With the exception of secure storage at holder sites and the Chechersk facility national PCB management does not exist.	Selection of treatment/disposal Technology completed/procured GEF supported technical assistance for this process delivered Completion of a need and option assessment related to PCB equipment management capability requirements	Treatment/Disposal capability commissioned at Chechersk. GEF funded qualification/ demonstration testing completed and documented. Development and business planning completed to have resulted in the selection and implementation of required PCB equipment management options.	Environmental approval process established under national regulations. Commitment to sustained Gomel Oblast core capital funding/external financing available Facility economic viability can be established. Need/market can be verified for nation PCB equipment management Waste import issues do not present barriers Competing facilities under development in region do not impact PCB facility development

Result	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets		Assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project	
	<u>Indicator 6.</u> Amount of currently stockpiled PCB equipment/waste and newly phased out PCB equipment shipped and eliminated.	1,100 t of currently stockpiled equipment immediately available for shipping and environmentally sound disposal. 2,602 t of PCB based equipment remaining in service Removal of 1,937 t of PCB based equipment and waste mandated under National Program from service	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste.	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,270 t of PCB equipment phased out over the project for total PCB elimination over project of 2,340 t	Timely export/transit country/import approvals for destruction received. Competitive current market pricing for required contracted services Implementation of phase out as mandated.
Outcome 2: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Legacies	<u>Indicator 7.</u> Amount of OP removed from rural OP storage sites and number of rural storehouses where OPs are eliminated and sites restored	1,900 t of OPs stored in 88 rural stockpile sites. Environmental conditions on the sites are largely unassessed	1,900 t of OP packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with international standards. 50% of sites assessed and required clean up completed in accordance with national standards.	100% of rural storehouse sites assessed and cleaned up in accordance with national standards.	Timely export/transit country/import approvals for destruction received. Competitive current market pricing for
	<u>Indicator 8.</u> Number of site assessment reports and containment/cleanup action plans with financial commitments identified for containment and clean up	5 remaining burial sites nominally monitored Periodic excavation of Petrikov site ongoing No new financial commitments to address remaining sites	3 basic site assessments completed 2 preliminary containment/cleanup action plans completed	5 basic site assessments completed 5 preliminary containment/cleanup action plans completed Core long term financial resources for containment and clean up mobilized	Public priority for action sustained Ability to identify and mobilize required financial resources.
Outcome 3: Capacity Strengthening and Planning for Sound Chemicals Management	<u>Indicator 9.</u> Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements completed	Fragmented and dated regulatory regime for chemicals management exists across multiple institutional agencies. No current direct policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives in place. Negative trade and economic implications in relation to regional trade developments. Outstanding ratification of chemicals related conventions Basic national environmental monitoring system in place and operation. Aging sampling and analytical capability limiting effectiveness	Active interagency facilitation on sound chemicals management established. At least 2 interagency workshops/training events Legislative/ regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management completed. At least 1 public consultation event Assessment of environmental monitoring program completed One training program for staff completed. Identification and procurement of sampling and analytical equipment initiated EU program finalized and under implementation	5 interagency workshops/training events At least 2 public consultation events. National policy on and framework for sound chemicals management adopted and initiation initiated on a coordinated interagency basis. Ratification of Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions Upgraded national environmental monitoring program implemented 2 training programs completed GEF financed sampling and analytical equipment operational	Sustained policy commitment to pursuing sound chemicals management agenda Interagency cooperation Sustained state budget support under current national program Timely implementation of parallel EU funded initiative High level of national technical staff capability maintained

Result	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets		Assumptions
			Mid-term	End of project	
		Scope limitations related to monitoring of new POPs and broader chemical releases Human resource capacity limitations			
	<u>Indicator 10.</u> Current POPs inventories (old and new POPs) updated and updated NIP prepared and submitted per country obligations	Parallel national program on POPs in place Inventories of “old” POPs current Inventories on “new” POPs initiated.	All inventories completed NIP prepared, endorsed and submitted	SC reporting on POPs current	Sustained country commitment to SC Availability of national resources to prepare NIP
	<u>Indicator 11.</u> Number of public awareness events, information products (including web accessible) produced on POPs and sound chemicals management, as implemented through active NGO/Civil society partnerships.	Regular but limited public information and awareness undertaken by MNREP Maintained Web site on POPs in place No directed public information/awareness on broader sound chemicals management issues. Active engagement of a robust NGO/civil society community in MNREP activities. Currently no gender specific policies in effect associated with POPs management and chemicals management	16 public awareness events undertaken 50 public information products released for dissemination Upgraded web based platform operational 2 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	16 public awareness events undertaken 20 public information products released for dissemination Web based platform operational and sustained 3 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	Sustained public policy support for engagement of public and civil society in environmental issues Acceptance of UNDP/GEF gender equity and empowerment policies by project counterparts sustained
Outcome 4: Knowledge Management and M&E	<u>Indicator 12.</u> Knowledge management applied to project in response to needs and opportunities including mid-term and final evaluation findings with lessons learned extracted.	Knowledge management not part of project baseline situation Limited M&E applied to project issues and baseline activities	Knowledge development integrated into project activities M&E plan adopted and implemented Mid-term-evaluation of project outputs and outcomes conducted with lessons learnt at 30 months of implementation.	Knowledge management results reported Final evaluation report ready in the end of project	Availability of reference material and progress reports Cooperation of stakeholder agencies and other organizations.

ANNEX 10: PROGRESS TO RESULTS TABLES (FULL FORMAT)

Project Objective

Indicator ¹	Baseline Level ²	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target ³	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment ⁴	Achievement Rating ⁵	Justification for Rating
<u>Mandatory Indicator 1.</u> Indicator 1.3.1 of IRFF the 2014-2017 Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or sub-national level , disaggregated by partnership type	Institutional partnership - Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions established in 2017 and operates. Engaged 26 representatives of governmental bodies, CSOs, scientific No finance partnerships on management of PCBs and OPs	38 PCB waste holders have consolidated their decommissioned PCB equipment at 9 locations 280 PCB waste holder organizations identified for the second stage for environmentally sound destruction of PCB equipment CUE Chechersk designated as the consolidation centre for PCB waste 22 contracts concluded for environmentally safe destruction of obsolete pesticides	Institutional partnership - Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level 150 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted 77 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	Inter-Agency Coordination Council on implementation of Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions act provide inter-conventions support for the project on the country level At least 300 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between PCB based equipment owners and the project conducted and implemented 77 finance partnership agreements on PCBs management between rural storages owners and the project conducted	9 agreements with owners of PCB storehouses for storage of PCB waste from 38 original owners 38 agreements with owners of PCB waste for transport and disposal to Tredi SA, France 21 agreements with owners of rural OP storages	MS	In the text of the report pages 28-30
<u>Mandatory Indicator 2_# of</u> direct project beneficiaries.	700 PCB based equipment owners 77 rural storages owners 59 institutional stakeholders (22 ministries \ governmental entities and 37 regional entities) 5 CSOs	38 PCB equipment/waste holders participated in the first stage and 280 PCB waste holders identified for the second phase 17 institutional stakeholders engaged (11 governmental entities, 6 regional executive committees) 3 CSOs involved in the project activities	150 PCB based equipment owners participated in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners participate in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders	At least 300 PCB based. equipment owners taken part in the project as partners 77 rural storages owners taken part in the project as partners 59 Institutional Stakeholders taken part into the project	38 owners of PCB contaminated equipment participated in the 1 st phase 21 rural storage owners participated in the 1 st phase	MS	In the text of the report Pages 28-30

¹ Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

² Populate with data from the Project Document

³ If available

⁴ Colour code this column only

⁵ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

			engaged to the project decision making 5 CSOs involved in the project activities	decision making 5 CSOs increased capacity in POPs	17 institutional stakeholders involved 3 NGOs involved in WG on NIP preparation		
Indicator 3. Amounts of legacy of PCB and obsolete pesticides	3,752.8t of PCB based equipment 10,174 t of OPs remaining in Belarus	Repeated tender for sound destruction of 431 tons of PCB equipment from 38 owners Contract for environmentally sound destruction of about 900 tons of OPs from Vitebsk and Grodno regions About 600 tonnes of OPs repackaged and prepared for environmentally sound destruction abroad	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste. 1,900 t of OPs packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner	Environmentally sound destruction of 63% of total country legacy of PCB (2,370 t) Environmentally sound cleaning of all 88 rural storages and destruction of 1,990 t of OPs stored there	Contract for shipment and destruction of 430 t of stockpiled PCB waste awarded Contract for shipment and destruction of 900 t OPs awarded and transport of packaged OP waste initiated	MU	In the text of the report Pages 28-30

Outcome 1

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
Indicator 4. Technical procedures and practice manuals for PCB equipment holders covering registration, labelling, reporting, handling and tracking of PCB equipment in-service and as stockpiled pending elimination and as applicable to screening for cross contamination during maintenance developed and applied	<p>PCB holders identified and general initial technical assistance provided during previous GEF/WB project</p> <p>Generally good awareness of PCB issues exists with major PCB holders within formal sectors under government oversight (large majority of holders).</p> <p>Limited awareness among peripheral industrial holders.</p> <p>Within the national POPs inventory reporting system, annual reporting of PCBs by sector, regional and major holder in place.</p> <p>International reporting current and web accessible</p> <p>Survey of extent of cross contamination undertaken in GEF/WB project.</p>	<p>Recommendations on decommissioning and consolidation of PCB equipment developed and distributed</p> <p>2 online seminars for more than 300 PCB holders on the management of PCBs</p> <p>Methodology for screening of cross-contamination of electrical equipment developed</p> <p>Owners of PCB equipment report the quantities of decommissioned equipment, ready for disposal</p> <p>Database of POPs maintained but not accessible</p> <p>Contract on database modernization awarded</p>	<p>Best practice guidance manuals developed and distributed to all major PCB holders.</p> <p>3 workshop training events completed</p> <p>Compliance with mandated PCB phase out targets for current mandated program</p> <p>Technical procedure documentation End-of-Project on cross contamination and screening developed and disseminated</p> <p>Expanded reporting at the holder level developed</p> <p>PCB inventory and its reporting maintained</p> <p>Public data access maintained</p>	<p>Best practice technical procedures adopted by all major holders and imbedded in relevant nation technical standards.</p> <p>60 technical staff operationally applying best practices.</p> <p>Planning for next mandated PCB phase out scheduling beyond 2020 in place</p> <p>Cross contamination screening embedded in operations of at least 4 major holder transformer maintenance practice.</p> <p>60 Technical staff trained and equipped with screening capability</p> <p>National PCB inventory and tracking fully integrated into national POPs inventory system.</p> <p>PCB inventory and its reporting maintained.</p> <p>Public data access maintained</p>	<p>Guidance on decommissioning and consolidation of PCB equipment</p> <p>2 on-line training workshops for PCB holders</p> <p>Support to annual PCB inventories</p> <p>Report and guideline on cross-contamination of electrical equipment</p> <p>TOR for upgrade of the Unified Database of POPs</p> <p>TOR for the development of screening methods for PCB cross-contamination</p>	S	In the text of the report pages 16-18

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<u>Indicator 5.</u> Development of qualified capability to treat and dispose of HW at the Chechersk facility in Gomel Oblast and for national capability for environmentally sound management of PCB equipment.	Chechersk facility provides basic infrastructure to host HW treatment/disposal capability Core capital financial funding dedicated by Gomel Oblast Feasibility studies on technology selection initiated With the exception of secure storage at holder sites and the Chechersk facility national PCB management does not exist.	Construction and installation of equipment for POPs destruction facility on the premises of the CUE Chechersk region in progress Project activities on the technical specifications for the provision of certification services will start after the finalization of a construction process of the facility Cooperation with the UNIDO regional project	Selection of treatment/disposal technology completed/procured GEF supported technical assistance for this process delivered Completion of a need and option assessment related to PCB equipment management capability requirements	Treatment/Disposal capability commissioned at Chechersk. GEF funded qualification/ demonstration testing completed and documented. Development and business planning completed to have resulted in the selection and implementation of required PCB equipment management options.	Input into technical documentation on procurement of equipment for the hazardous waste destruction facility in Chechersk	MS	In the text of the report pages 16-18
<u>Indicator 6.</u> Amount of currently stockpiled PCB equipment/waste and newly phased out PCB equipment shipped and eliminated.	1,100 t of currently stockpiled equipment immediately available for shipping and environmentally sound disposal. 2,602 t of PCB based equipment remaining in service Removal of 1,937 t of PCB based equipment and waste mandated under National Program from service	Repeated tender for sound destruction of 431 tons of PCB equipment from 38 owners Explanatory workshop organized to assist bidders in preparing tender documents during the procurement process.	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,100 t of currently stockpiled PCB equipment and waste.	Environmentally sound destruction of 1,270 t of PCB equipment phased out over the project for total PCB elimination over project of 2,340 t	Contract for shipment and final disposal of 431 tonnes of PCB waste	MU	In the text of the report pages 16-18

Outcome 2

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<u>Indicator 7.</u> Amount of OP removed from rural OP storage sites and number of rural storehouses where OPs are eliminated and sites restored	1,900 t of OPs stored in 88 rural stockpile sites. Environmental conditions on the sites are largely unassessed	Contract for environmentally sound destruction of about 900 tons of OPs from Vitebsk and Grodno regions About 600 tonnes of OPs repackaged and prepared for environmentally sound destruction abroad OPs from 56 storehouses taken to CUE for long-term storage Clean-up of storehouses included in the contracts for OP destruction	1,900 t of OP packaged, transported and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with international standards. 50% of sites assessed and required clean up completed in accordance with national standards	100% of rural storehouse sites assessed and cleaned up in accordance with national standards	Contract for sound disposal of 900 tonnes of OPs waste from 21 organizations Plan for site assessments after OPs removal OPs from sites moved for temporary storage at Chechersk	MS	In the text of the report Page 20
<u>Indicator 8.</u> Number of site assessment reports and containment/clean-up action plans with financial commitments identified for containment and clean up	5 remaining burial sites nominally monitored Periodic excavation of Petrikov site ongoing No new financial commitments to address remaining sites	Frontal surveys of the Petrikov, Gorodok and Postavy burials of OPs being carried out Reconnaissance studies Petrikov and Gorodok burial sites of obsolete pesticides: carried out	3 basic site assessments completed 2 preliminary containment/clean-up action plans completed	5 basic site assessments completed 5 preliminary containment/cleanup action plans completed Core long term financial resources for containment and clean up mobilized	Assessments at burial sites Petrikov, Gorodok and Postavy Action plans for Petrikov and Postavy sites	S	In the text of the report Page 20

Outcome 3

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<u>Indicator 9.</u> Legal, institutional and regulatory review of national chemicals management system with updates consistent with current sound chemicals management practice including EU legislation and regional trade agreements completed	<p>Fragmented and dated regulatory regime for chemicals management exists across multiple institutional agencies.</p> <p>No current direct policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives in place.</p> <p>Negative trade and economic implications in relation to regional trade developments.</p> <p>Outstanding ratification of chemicals related conventions</p> <p>Basic national environmental monitoring system in place and operation.</p> <p>Aging sampling and analytical capability limiting effectiveness</p> <p>Scope limitations related to monitoring of new POPs and broader chemical releases</p> <p>Human resource capacity limitations</p>	<p>Rotterdam and Minamata conventions not yet ratified</p> <p>2 online trainings for more than 120 specialists involved in organizing and conducting monitoring of Pops in environmental media</p> <p>Upgrades to 6 standards (EN and ISO) for the national environmental monitoring programme</p> <p>3 draft standards prepared and submitted for approval</p> <p>Advanced training on the environmental monitoring programme</p> <p>AOX analyser for adsorbed organic halides delivered with auxiliary equipment and materials</p> <p>Coordination with the EU SAQEM-1 project</p>	<p>Active interagency facilitation on sound chemicals management established.</p> <p>At least 2 interagency workshops/training events</p> <p>Legislative/ regulatory gap analysis respecting general sound chemicals management completed.</p> <p>At least 1 public consultation event</p> <p>Assessment of environmental monitoring program completed</p> <p>One training program for staff completed.</p> <p>Identification and procurement of sampling and analytical equipment initiated</p> <p>EU program finalized and under implementation</p>	<p>5 interagency workshops/training events</p> <p>At least 2 public consultation events.</p> <p>National policy on and framework for sound chemicals management adopted and initiation initiated on a coordinated interagency basis.</p> <p>Ratification of Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions</p> <p>Upgraded national environmental monitoring program implemented</p> <p>2 training programs completed</p> <p>GEF financed sampling and analytical equipment operational</p>	<p>2 webinars on monitoring of POPs</p> <p>Webinar on health hazards by POPs</p> <p>9 national standards for determination of PCBs in environmental media</p> <p>Guidance on prevention of cross-contamination</p> <p>Methodology for screening of PCBs by fast field test method (pilot tested)</p> <p>Sampling and analytical equipment for analysis of organic halides in water</p>	S	In the text of the report Pages 24-25
<u>Indicator 10.</u> Current POPs inventories (old and new POPs) updated and updated NIP prepared and submitted per country obligations	<p>Parallel national program on POPs in place</p> <p>Inventories of "old" POPs current</p> <p>Inventories on "new" POPs initiated.</p>	<p>Self-inventory of POPs conducted regularly</p> <p>Unscheduled inventory initiated by the participants of the first stage of POPs removal</p> <p>A draft NIP for the implementation of SC obligations prepared</p>	<p>All inventories completed</p> <p>NIP prepared, endorsed and submitted</p>	<p>SC reporting on POPs current</p>	<p>WG established for NIP preparation</p> <p>Report on preparation of the NIP</p> <p>Draft National Implementation Plan (NIP)</p>	S	In the text of the report Pages 24-25

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<u>Indicator 11.</u> Number of public awareness events, information products (including web accessible) produced on POPs and sound chemicals management, as implemented through active NGO/Civil society partnerships.	Regular but limited public information and awareness undertaken by MNREP Maintained Web site on POPs in place No directed public information/awareness on broader sound chemicals management issues. Active engagement of a robust NGO/civil society community in MNREP activities. Currently no gender specific policies in effect associated with POPs management and chemicals management	2 online workshops for specialists involved in organizing and conducting monitoring of POPs Online seminar for doctors of antenatal clinics on POPs Information materials (information pad, coloring book for children, posters for women and children, leaflets for employees of agricultural and industrial organizations, POPs directory, POPs information leaflet) A round table on improved waste management system for more than 80 participants Participation at the Ecology Expo – 2021 forum targeted more than 1,000 visitors Project website updated with 57 articles Gender balance report prepared	16 public awareness events undertaken 50 public information products released for dissemination Upgraded web based platform operational 2 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	16 public awareness events undertaken 20 public information products released for dissemination Web based platform operational and sustained 3 NGO/civil society organizations directly engaged in project activities 5 awareness events related to household exposure to PCBs targeting urban women 5 awareness events related OP exposure targeting rural women 2 awareness events on chemicals management targeting women 40% of supervisory and technical directions in project activities held by women	2 webinars on monitoring of POPs Webinar on health hazards by POPs Webinar for owners of PCB-containing equipment Website www.soz.minpriroda.gov.by upgraded 3 NGOs involved in PSC	S	In the text of the report Pages 24-25

Outcome 4

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<u>Indicator 12.</u> Knowledge management applied to project in response to needs and opportunities including mid-term and final evaluation findings with lessons learned extracted.	Knowledge management not part of project baseline situation Limited M&E applied to project issues and baseline activities	5 seminars, 3 press conferences, round table) Project website developed and updated Recommendations for owners of PCB equipment distributed Regular reporting channels to MENR and UNDP established PB meetings organized MTR planned	Knowledge development integrated into project activities M&E plan adopted and implemented Mid-term-evaluation of project outputs and outcomes conducted with lessons learnt at 30 months of implementation.	Knowledge management results reported Final evaluation report ready in the end of project	11 knowledge products (posters, leaflets, brochures) produced and made available through the project webpage MTR conducted as planned	S	In the text of the report Page 27

ANNEX 11: SIGNED UNEG CODE OF CONDUCT FORMS

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Name of Consultant: Dalibor Kysela

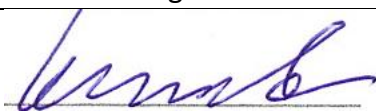
Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____ N.A. _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Vienna

Date: 5 August 2021

Signature: _____



Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System
--

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Name of Consultant: Sergei Gotin

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant):
 _____ N.A. _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at: Minsk, Belarus

Date: August 5, 2021

Signature: _____



ANNEX 12: MTR REPORT CLEARANCE FORM

Midterm Review Report Reviewed and Cleared By:

Commissioning Unit (UNDP Programme Officer)

Name: Igar Tchoulba

DocuSigned by:

Signature: Igar Tchoulba

F21FB0E037F1433...

Date: 23-Dec-2021

Regional Technical Advisor (Nature, Climate and Energy)

Maksim Surkov

Name: Maksim Surkov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: Maksim Surkov

CD04749A607D46E...

Date: 27-Dec-2021

ANNEX 13: AUDIT TRAIL (SUBMITTED AS SEPARATE ANNEX)

ANNEX 14: GEF CO-FINANCING TEMPLATE (SUBMITTED AS SEPARATE ANNEX)

ANNEX 15: CORE INDICATORS (SUBMITTED AS SEPARATE ANNEX)