

Management response

Name of the Evaluation: Terminal Evaluation for UNDP/GEF “Vietnam POP and Sound Harmful Chemical Management Project”

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Evaluation recommendation 1: Develop a well-written lesson learned report that will be useful for other projects and technical staff working on similar projects in Vietnam and other countries. The report should illustrate the whole story of the projects; risks, issues, obstacles, success stories, flaws in design and implementation, long-term impact, sustainability, etc. and make linkages to development work like poverty alleviation, community empowerment, enhancing climate resilience and gender mainstreaming (**UNDP CO with support from UNDP Regional Office**).

Management response: Agree with the recommendation 1 and started implementing

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
1.1 Develop a lesson learned report	31 March 2021	UNDP, VEA		initiated

Evaluation recommendation 2. The project holds a workshop of stakeholders to adopt a comprehensive exit strategy to ensure the Project’s results sustainability. The vision should provide a clear statement that reducing environmental and health risks through POPs and harmful chemicals should continue with the support of all stakeholders (**UNDP, MONRE, and MOIT**).

Management response: Agree with recommendation 2 and started implementing

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
2.1 Conduct the workshop of stakeholders	December 31, 2020	VEA/MONRE, UNDP	Combined with inception workshop under	Initiated

			new Mercury/POP project	
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Evaluation recommendation 3. The Project has managed to produce a set of valuable Project's documentation including guidelines, frameworks, awareness-raising materials, etc. It is recommended to develop a dissemination plan for those materials to ensure that future initiatives would build on the Project activities and results and will incorporate the project's products in its work (**UNDP, MONRE**).

Management response: Agree with recommendation 3 and started implementing

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
3.1 A set of valuable Project's documentation including guidelines, frameworks, awareness-raising materials, etc. has been shared to DONREs and related stakeholders	July 30th, 2020	MONRE		Completed
3.2 This set of documentation will be shared during inception workshop of next project on Mercury/POP	December 31, 2020	MONRE, UNDP		In progress
3.3 Results of the project such as will be built on in the new Mercury/POP project document.	September 30 2021	UNDP, MONRE		Initiated

Evaluation recommendation 4. To ensure the sustainability of the Project's outcomes it is necessary to institutionalize the Project's main results. The project should investigate embedding the PRTR system at the provinces level through existing planning mechanisms and links to national government programmes and plans. The PRTR system has been integrated with the environmental management software of the Binh Duong Province, but this is not enough. Work should also be expanded to other provinces. Provinces should commit to using the software (**MONRE and MOIT, and provinces government to implement, UNDP to assist**).

Management response:

- UNDP provided support to the revision of the 2020 Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) to include provisions relating to PRTR, which have been integrated into legal frameworks such as the revised Law and relevant regulations concerning to reporting responsibilities.
- The Article 119 of the LEP defines that the owners/proponents of investment projects and the production facilities are responsible for preparing and submitting the environmental protection reports to the Government's competent authorities annually. The report covers all environmental protection activities, including the assessment and reporting on waste

management. In addition, enterprises, business and production facilities are required to conduct the assessment and report on their waste management.

- Business and service activities does not require a separate regulation on PRTR.

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
Include PRTR or similar PRTR requirement in the Law on Environmental Protection 2020.	30 November 2020	VEA/MONRE	The Law was approved	Completed
Develop the guiding document to implement the LEP	30 December 2021	VEA/MONRE		In progress

Evaluation recommendation 5. Reducing environmental and health risks through POPs and harmful chemicals capacity has limitations to meet the actual needs at the Country level. Other initiatives supported by UNDP and other development partners should continue working on enhancing national and provinces level capacity to meet the needed demand created under the project. For example, the work done to enhance laboratory capacity under this project is very valuable, however, a lot of effort will still be needed to improve the reliability of laboratory analysis, in terms of accuracy and repeatability (**MONRE, MOIT, UNDP, development partners**).

Management response:

- Agree with the recommendation, and UNDP continue building capacity at national and provincial level through the following projects, especially the Mercury/POP under GEF7 cycle. Also UNDP ongoing project "Green chemistry" supports the revision of the Chemical Laws, aiming to integrate green chemistry and reduction of POP and hazardous substances in manufacturing process. On another initiative, UNDP is developing Environmental Performance Index (EPI) to present environmental quality, enhance transparency, monitoring, reporting capacity.

- Currently the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is developing projects to strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring nationwide and the National Environmental Monitoring Master Plan which includes content of capacity building for laboratories. experience at central and local levels (in terms of manpower and equipment). Specifically:

- + Develop master plan on national environmental monitoring for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050 according to Decision No. 259 / QD-TTg dated February 14, 2020 of the Prime Minister;
- + Project to strengthen environmental monitoring capacity;
- + Scheme on building a national database on natural resource and environment monitoring based on Decision No. 1618 / QD-TTg of the Prime Minister;
- + Project to build the Southeastern observation station;
- + Project of investment in automatic and continuous air environment monitoring stations.
- + Promote annual inspection of Labs to improve the reliability of laboratory analysis

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking
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		Responsible unit(s)	Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
5.1. Develop master plan on national environmental monitoring for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050 according to Decision No. 259 / QD-TTg dated February 14, 2020 of the Prime Minister	14 February 2022	VEA/MONRE		Initiated
5.2. Assessing the environmental laboratories on POP analyzing by lab-checking and evaluating their capability of providing experiment service in accordance with the Decree 127/2014/ND-CP	Annual activities, no completion date	VEA/MONRE		In progress
5.3. Scheme on building a national database on natural resource and environment monitoring based on Decision No. 1618 / QD-TTg of the Prime Minister;	Annual inspection, no completion date	VEA/MONRE		In progress
5.4 Integrate into UNDP on-going and future POPs projects/activities	No completion date			In progress
<p>Evaluation recommendation 6. Involve and empower youth and women organizations, to raise their awareness for positive change towards the sound management of contaminated sites and encourage NGOs to actively use the project's outcomes. For example, the use of the procedure for risk assessment in different locations, the use of the developed awareness materials on contaminated sites and POPs stockpiles management and mercury, and to use the material of training on contaminated sites management, etc. (MONRE).</p>				
<p>Management response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project outcomes will be used to incorporate into the legal documents guiding the implementation of the Law on Environmental Protection in 2020, which will involve and engage the participation from different stakeholders in the society. 				
Key action(s)	Completion date		Tracking	

		Responsible unit(s)	Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
Develop the guiding document to implement the LEP	30 December 2021	VEA/MONRE		Initiated
<p>Evaluation recommendation 7. Key documents should be finalized and nationally endorsed even after the project closure. For example, the circular on PRTR is under revisions as of July 2020, this should be finalized and endorsed at the national level (MONRE and UNDP).</p> <p>Management response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) was being revised during the formulation of the Circular on PRTR, UNDP and MONRE decided to integrated relevant provisions relating to PRTR in to the revised LEP, which was approved in December 2020. - The Article 119 of the LEP defines that the owners/proponents of investment projects and the production facilities are responsible for preparing and submitting the environmental protection reports to the Government's competent authorities annually. The report covers all environmental protection activities, including the assessment and reporting on waste management. In addition, enterprises, business and production facilities are required to conduct the assessment and report on their waste management. - Business and service activities does not require a separate regulation on PRTR. - UNDP will continue provide additional support to MONRE in formulation of the LEP Implementation Guideline, in which the PRTR provision will be incorporated. 				
Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
Develop guiding documents under the Law (Decree, Circular ...) which include the implementation of assessment and reporting on waste management according to Article 119, LEP 2020	30 December 2021	VEA/MONRE		Initiated
Strengthen Monitoring and management of compliance with assessment and reporting on waste management of enterprises	Annual activities, no completion date	VEA/MONRE		Initiated

Evaluation recommendation 8. Increase public awareness through intensive mass media promotion and publicity using different materials developed by the Project. The project has raised awareness for people in Lam Hoa, Quang Binh on management and prevention of environmental pollution due to pesticides residue. A Technical Guideline on environmental pollution management of pesticides residue contaminated sites and instruction for communities residing in the vicinity of contaminated sites has been developed, these materials can be used in other places as appropriate (**MONRE**).

Management response:

Agree with the Recommendation 8. The use of Project products to raise community awareness and capacity for stakeholders will be done through the propaganda and dissemination of the Law on Environmental Protection 2020 and providing trainings and raising awareness for businesses/MSMEs.

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
8.1 Propagating and disseminating the Law on Environmental Protection in 2020 (training, seminar ...).	31 December 2021	VEA/MONRE		Initiated
8.2 Training MSMEs on green chemistry	09 Dec 2020	MOIT/MARD		completed

* Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the ERC database.