



SIDE EVENT

Exploring strategies to boost new POPs prevention: The case of PFAs

28th July 16.00 – 17.00 UTC+2



**Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production**

*Organized by the Stockholm Convention Regional
Centre - Spain (Regional Activity Centre for
Sustainable Consumption and Production, SCP/RAC)*

*Held during the online segment of the
meetings of the conferences of the Parties to
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions*





SIDE EVENT

**Exploring strategies to boost new
POPs prevention:
The case of PFAs**

COSTS OF REMEDIATING PFAS CONTAMINATION

Gretta Goldenman
Green Science Policy Institute
Global PFAS Science Panel

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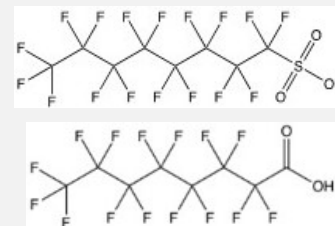


Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production



THE “FOREVER CHEMICALS”

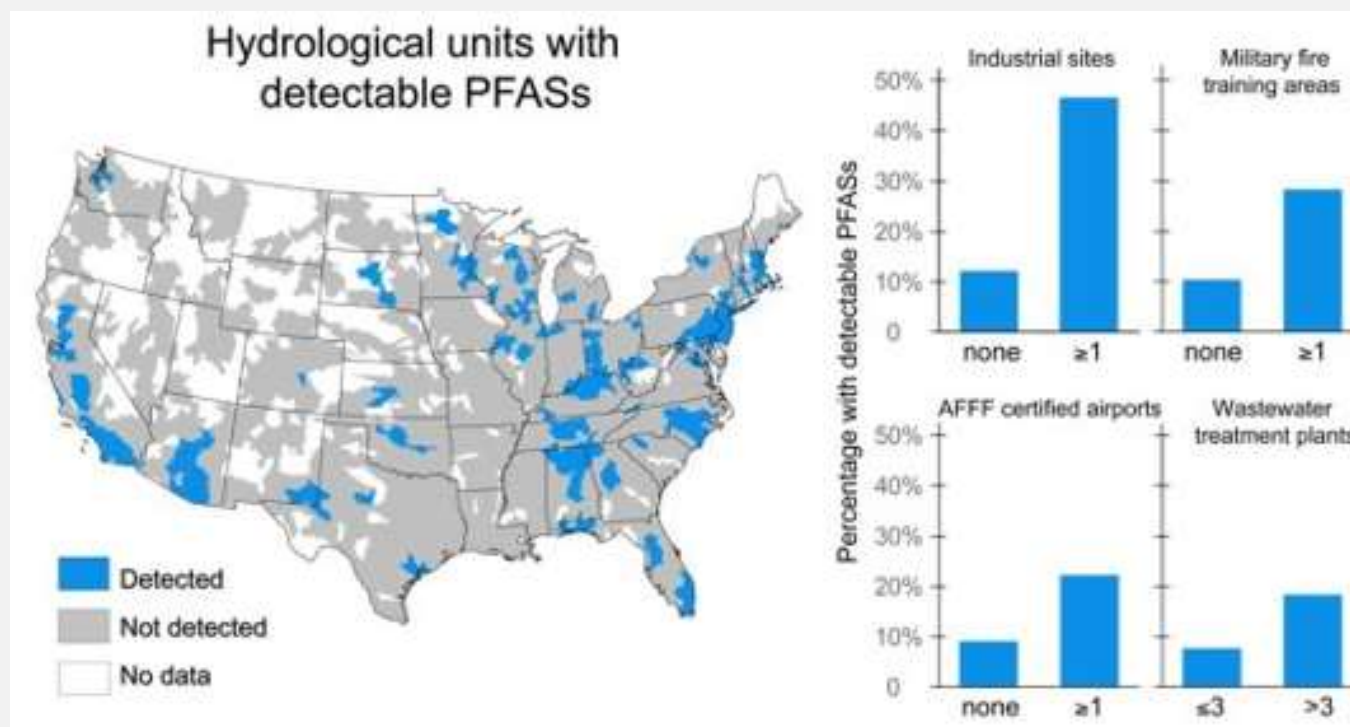
- PFAS = Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
- Strong carbon-fluorine bond – will last for geologic time!
- At least 9000 have been identified & 100's are in commercial use
- Only two are regulated under the Stockholm Convention so far
 - PFOS = Annex B (Restriction)
 - PFOA = Annex A (Elimination)
 - PFHxS = proposed for listing



PFAS CONTAMINATION IS GLOBAL

- Extensive contamination at production & manufacturing sites
 - USA (West Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Minnesota, etc.)
 - Europe (Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, France, Germany)
 - Asia (China)
 - Latin America (Brazil)
- Very mobile: also found in far-flung places
 - Mount Everest
 - Inuit populations in the Arctic

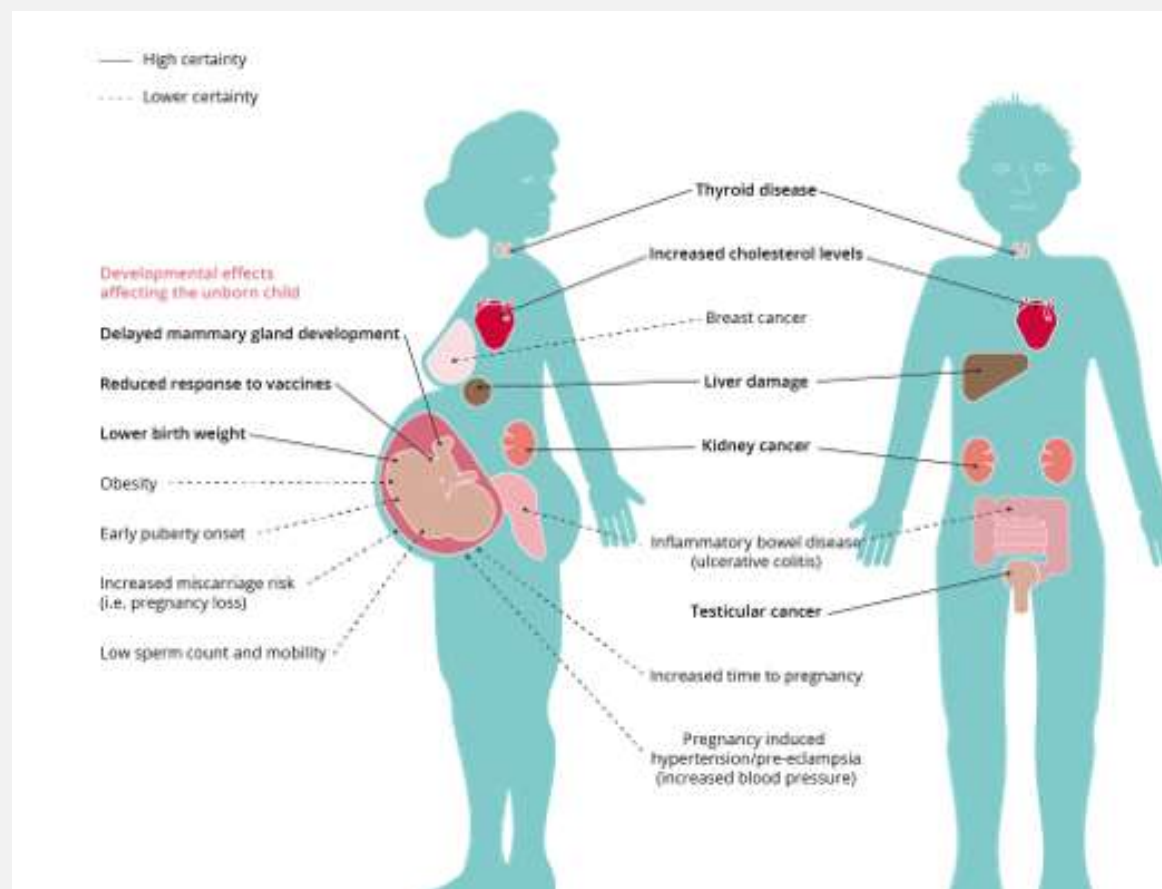
PFAS IN USA DRINKING WATER

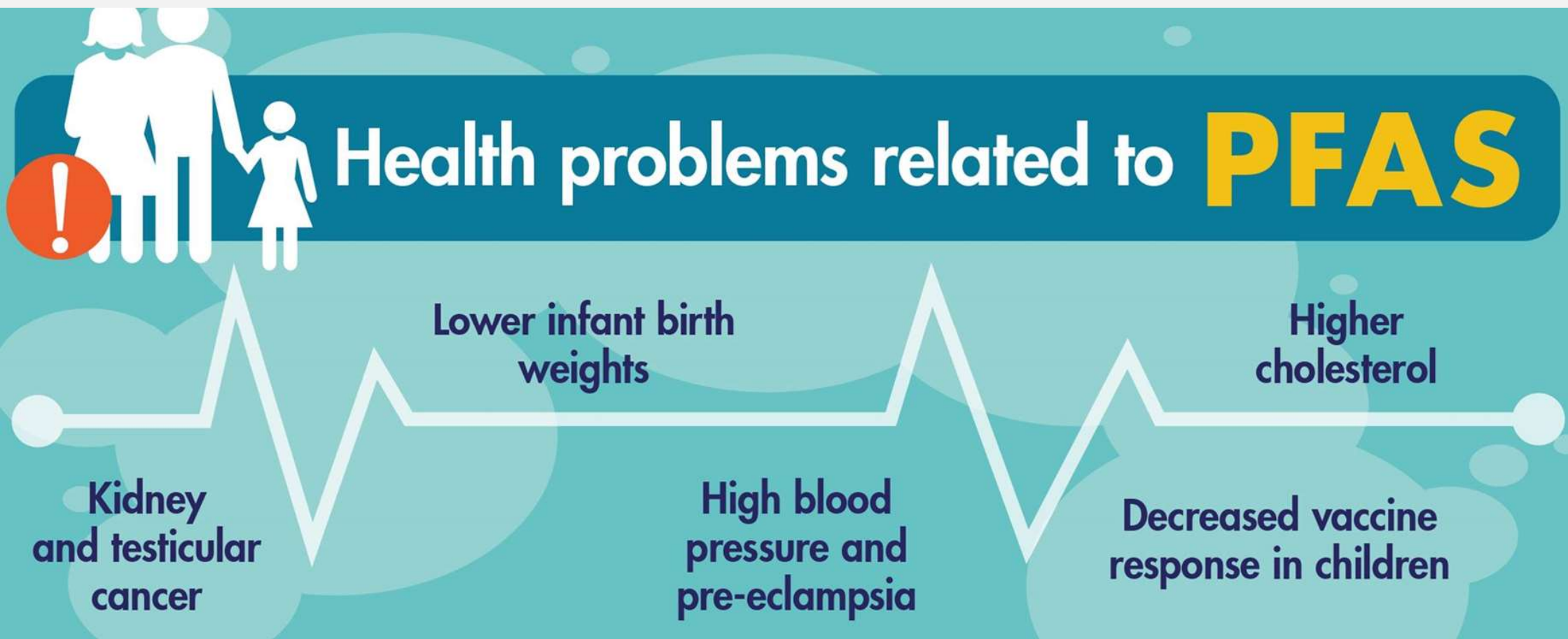


WE ALL HAVE PFAS IN OUR BODIES



PFAS IN OUR BODIES IS A HEALTH CONCERN





THE COST OF INACTION

A socioeconomic analysis of
environmental and health
impacts linked to exposure
to PFAS

THE COST OF INACTION: A socioeconomic analysis of environmental and health impacts linked to exposure to PFAS

2019 study for the Nordic Council of Ministers

Annual health-related costs:

EUR 52 to EUR 84 billion for the European
Economic Area (550 million people) = USD 59.5
– USD 97 billion

Non-health (environmental clean-up) costs:

EUR 821 million to EUR 170 billion over 20 years
= USD 19 - USD 195 billion)

ANNUAL HEALTH-RELATED COSTS FOR EUROPE

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE (HIGH)

- Workers at chemical production plants or manufacturing sites
 - 84 – 273,000 workers
 - Elevated risk of death due to **kidney cancer**
 - **EUR 13 – 41 million**

ELEVATED EXPOSURE (MEDIUM)

- Communities near chemical plants, etc. with PFAS in drinking water at high levels
 - 12.5 million exposed
 - Elevated risk of **all-cause mortality**
 - **EUR 42 – 49 billion**

BACKGROUND EXPOSURE (LOW)

- Adults in general population (exposed via consumer products, etc.)
 - 207.8 million
 - Elevated risk of death due to **hypertension**
 - **EUR 10.7 – 35 billion**

Total: **EUR 52 to EUR 84 billion (USD 59.5 – USD 97 billion)**
for the European Economic Area (550 million people)

DIRECT ENVIRONMENT-RELATED COSTS

- Testing and monitoring
- Drinking water remediation
- Wastewater & sewage sludge treatment
- AFFF disposal & replacement
- Groundwater & soil remediation

NON-HEALTH COSTS FOR NORDIC COUNTRIES (QUANTIFIED)

CATEGORY	LOW ESTIMATE	HIGH ESTIMATE
Screening & monitoring for contamination	€ 980,000	€ 98,200,000
Health assessments	€ 1,320,000	€ 125,600,000
Upgrade of drinking water treatment plants & maintenance	€ 34,800,000	€ 1,262,600,000
Soil & groundwater remediation	€ 8,200,000	€ 9,384,000,000
20 YEAR TOTALS FOR NORDIC COUNTRIES	€ 46,000,000	€ 10,905,000,000
20 YEAR TOTALS FOR ALL 31 EEA COUNTRIES	€ 821,000,000	€ 170,000,000,000

UNQUANTIFIED COSTS OF PFAS

- Other health conditions
- Impacts on family & friends
- Food contamination
- Litigation
- Loss of property value
- Loss of scarce natural resources
- Product replacement, e.g., AFFFs
- Costs to governments, etc.



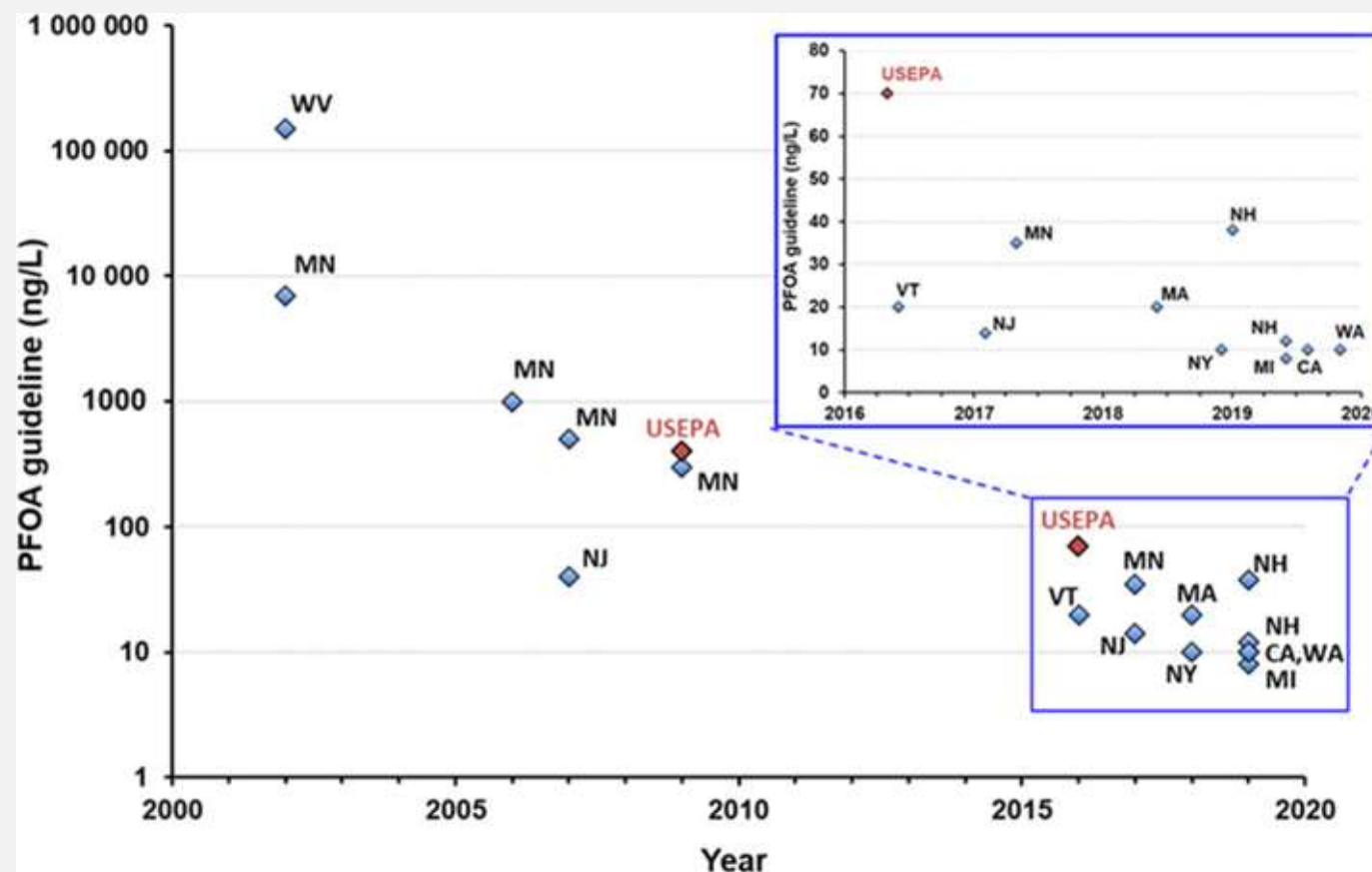
Are 'forever chemicals' in our milk?
Nobody really knows.



Potentially Hazardous Chemicals Are Found in Fast-Food Packaging, a New Report Finds

'Forever chemicals' are linked to harmful health effects

WHAT IS CONSIDERED SAFE IN DRINKING WATER KEEPS DROPPING



WHO SHOULD PAY?

- The contamination left behind by PFAS producers will be sources of exposure for generations to come
- The health impacts are borne by all of us, but especially by workers and surrounding communities

The True Cost of PFAS and the Benefits of Acting Now

Alissa Cordner,* Greta Goldenman, Linda S. Birnbaum, Phil Brown, Mark F. Miller, Rosie Mueller, Sharyle Patton, Derrick H. Salvatore, and Leonardo Trasande

Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c03565>

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Article Recommendations

SCIENTIFIC
OPINION
NON-PEER
REVIEWED



KEYWORDS: PFAS, social costs, chemicals policy, remediation, prevention

INTRODUCTION

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 9000 persistent hazardous chemicals used in industrial processes and consumer goods. They are ubiquitous in the environment and in people, who are exposed to PFAS via contaminated food and water, consumer products, and workplaces.¹ Exposure to several PFAS has been linked to a plethora of health effects in both animal and human studies, even at background levels. They are so environmentally persistent that they have been termed “forever chemicals.”

While in many ways PFAS contamination problems reflect broader issues with the chemicals regulatory system in the United States, a key feature of this industry is that only a handful of companies have produced the basic chemical building blocks for PFAS chemicals. These companies have known about the potential toxicity, human exposure, and extreme persistence of PFAS since the 1970s, yet have continued and expanded production.²

In the 2000s, in response to mounting pressure from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about risks to

human and environmental health, PFAS manufacturers agreed to phase out U.S. production of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS), and some related PFAS. Replacement PFAS, including new chemicals developed by industry, are widely used in more than 200 use categories,³ despite growing concerns about exposures, persistence, and toxicity.⁴

The PFAS industry claims that the chemicals’ use in consumer goods and industrial applications brings wide benefits, valuing the U.S. fluoropolymer segment at \$2 billion a year.⁵ However, it fails to mention the costs of exposure, which are long-term, wide-ranging, routinely externalized onto

Received: June 1, 2021

WHO SHOULD PAY?

- The costs of cleaning up drinking water is falling to public utilities
 - Orange County, California = USD 1 billion over 20 years for reverse osmosis treatment plant
 - Cape Fear watershed, North Carolina = USD 167 million for reverse osmosis plant, plus USD 46 million on activated carbon filtration, with recurring annual costs of USD 2.9 million
- Lawsuits in the USA are starting to make the polluter pay
 - Dupont/Chemours paid USD 670 million for exposing 70,000 residents downstream from West Virginia production plant
 - 3M paid State of Minnesota USD 800 million for contamination of groundwater

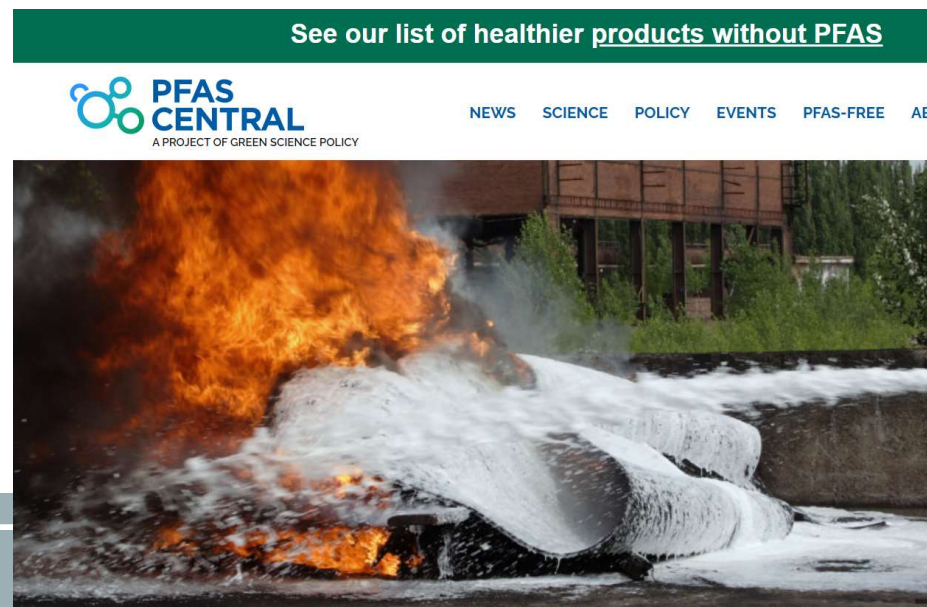


WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Cover all PFAS under the Stockholm Convention or other international mechanisms
- Cap current exposure levels by reducing production & use of PFAS globally
- Proposal to limit PFAS to only those uses considered essential
 - Montreal Protocol as an example
 - Europe is planning a restriction of all non-essential uses
- Make the polluter pay for all externalized costs

RESOURCES ON PFAS

- <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/>
- <https://pfascentral.org>
- <https://pfas-exchange.org>
- <https://pfassciencepanel.org>



The background of the slide features a silhouette of a person wearing a full-body protective suit, including a helmet and a respirator mask. The person is positioned on the left side, facing right. The background is a warm, hazy, brownish-orange color, suggesting a smoke-filled or industrial environment. The overall tone is serious and professional.

SIDE EVENT

**Exploring strategies to boost new
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**PERSPECTIVES FROM THE
CARIBBEAN REGION**
**Environmentally Sound Management of
POPs to support PFAS prevention**

Jewel Batchasingh
Director of BCRC Caribbean

Maurissa Charles
Project Execution Officer BCRC Caribbean

Organized by



Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production



Contents

- About the BCRC-Caribbean
- Legislative Challenges in the Caribbean
 - Development of the Integrated Chemicals Management (ICM) Model Act
- Technical Assistance for the mitigation of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) fire fighting foams
- Assessment of Potentially Contaminated sites related to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Caribbean

About the BCRC-Caribbean



- ❑ Hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago through a framework agreement with the BRS Secretariat
- ❑ Serves 14 Contracting member Parties in the Caribbean region
- ❑ Assist Parties in the execution of projects related all four chemicals and waste conventions


About the BCRC-Caribbean

Snapshot of our projects

GEF 5558 - Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean

POPs
PERSISTENT
ORGANIC
POLLUTANTS

STOP THE POPs!
Identify, Learn & Act!



www.stopthepops.com

Logos: GEF, Stockholm Convention, UNIDO, BCRC Caribbean

Logos: MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY, BCRC CARIBBEAN, GEF, UN environment programme

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM) IN GUYANA

mercury
in everyday products

Although basic mercury is used in a range of manufactured products, these products are typically not harmful to health unless they are broken or disposed of in an environmentally unsound manner. When they are broken, mercury emissions and residues can be released into the air, land and water.

Routes of Exposure

- Direct skin contact
- Inhalation
- Ingestion

By 2020, it is expected that the global international trade and use of certain mercury-added products will be phased out through the Minamata Convention on Mercury. However, there is need for safe disposal of mercury-containing wastes beyond 2020. Mercury-free alternatives are already commercialized and available on the global market. For more guidance on this, visit the Global Mercury Partnership website: www.mercurypartnership.org

Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in the Caribbean:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago



ISLANDS Caribbean



GEF ISLANDS 10279

APPROVED

Logos: GEF, UN environment programme, FAO, BCRC Caribbean

Legislative Challenges in the Caribbean and the ICM Act



Main challenges in the Region

- Lack of domestication of the MEAs
- Lack of parent legislation to enable coordinated regulation and enforcement

GEF 5558 Project Objectives & Development of the Model Integrated Chemicals Management (ICM) Act

- *Assessment of National Legal, Infrastructural and Institutional Capacity to manage initial and new POPs*
- *Model Regional ICM Act - A comprehensive legislative framework for the Caribbean*
- *Standard Operating Procedures for Inspectors at Enforcement Authorities on Industrial Chemicals*
- *Roadmaps for country specific legislative action*



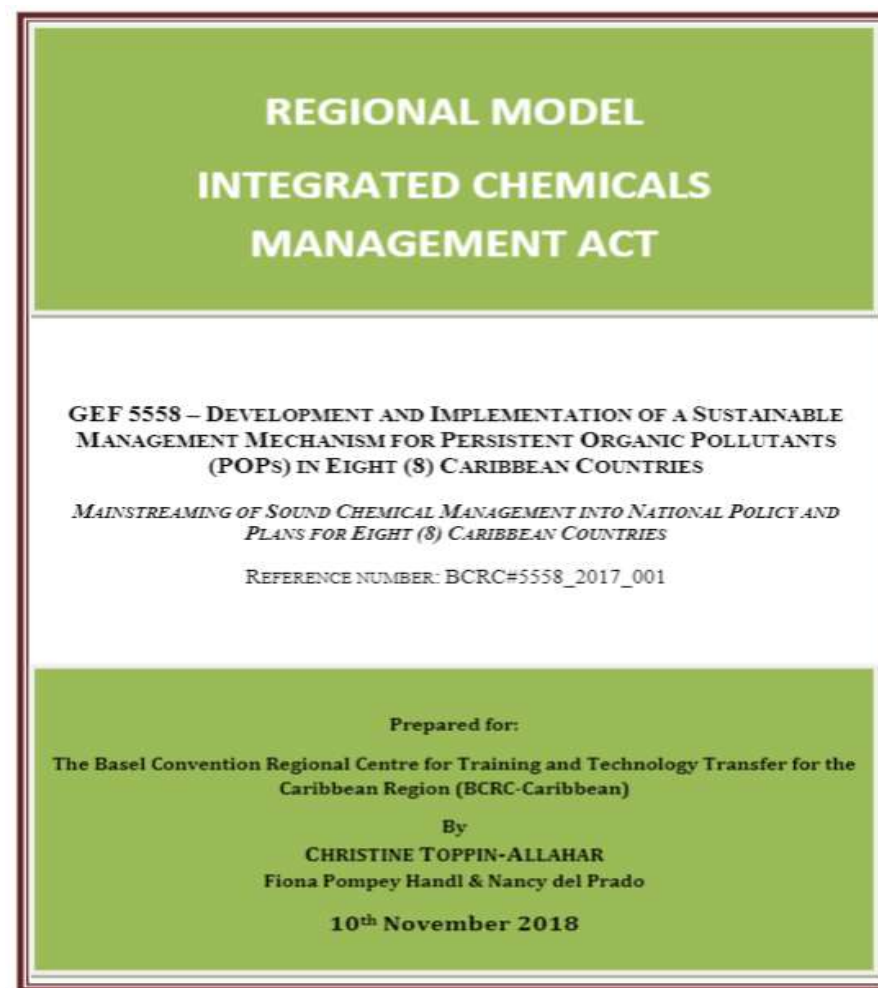
Legislative Challenges in the Caribbean and the ICM Act



The Model Integrated Chemicals Management (ICM) Act

An ACT to provide for the allocation of administrative responsibilities for the management of chemicals; the prohibition, restriction and regulation of the import and export, production, transportation, storage, distribution, sale, use and disposal of chemicals and related activities; the incorporation of international treaty obligations with respect to the management of chemicals into national law and related matters.

PART 1 to PART VIII, NINE SCHEDULES and Two (2) associated SOPs (Inspectors & Sampling)



Legislative Challenges in the Caribbean and the ICM Act

Status of actions on national level

- Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis & Trinidad and Tobago exploring the approach to advancing this via an update to the existing PTCCA/PTCCB
- Saint Lucia - Ongoing consultancy to synergise with recent pesticides management recommendations in order to further inform the national approach to a Policy
- Belize has put forward for cabinet endorsement in consolidation with their Industrial Chemicals Management Regulation
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has drafted a Cabinet note
- Suriname – Environmental Act approved by Cabinet (March 26, 2020)



Mitigation of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in the Caribbean

Management of PFOS/PFAS Firefighting Foams and transition to PFAS-free Firefighting Foams

- In several National Implementation Plans – countries have identified gaps in the management and awareness of the impacts of PFOS/PFAS Firefighting foams.
- In most countries, AFFF foams are used for industrial fires and for firefighting training (some instances)
- On-going in three (3) countries – technical assistance is being provided to implement mitigation

1. Trinidad and Tobago

1. Rapid Assessment of PFOS/PFAS firefighting foams
2. Training and awareness-raising activities on the impacts of PFOS/PFAS firefighting foams for fire fighters
3. Identification of mechanisms for the ESM of PFOS/PFAS firefighting foams and recommendations for alternatives



PFOS / PFAS Mitigation in the Caribbean

Transition to PFAS-free Firefighting Foams in SLU & SVG

2. Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- a) Conduct a situation and needs assessment to include:
 - ❑ Identification of existing foam stocks (Inventory) and analysis for PFAS content
 - ❑ Identification of legal requirements and standards for procurement of firefighting foams
 - ❑ Assessment of foam storage techniques and facilities for cleaning foam tanks.
- a) Phase-out plan for existing foams and introduction of alternative foams
- b) Implementation and training for phase-out of PFOS/PFAS foams

TAKING SAMPLES OF FIRE-FIGHTING FOAM

EIKE PELTZER
WORKING GROUP ON FIRE-FIGHTING FOAM



Assessment of POPs Contaminated sites in the Caribbean

Issue:

The current lack of proper storage capacity and capability for POPs and chemicals, there is the real possibility that contamination of soil and groundwater exists in the areas where these chemicals are stored, were previously stored or used.

Types of potentially contaminated sites include:

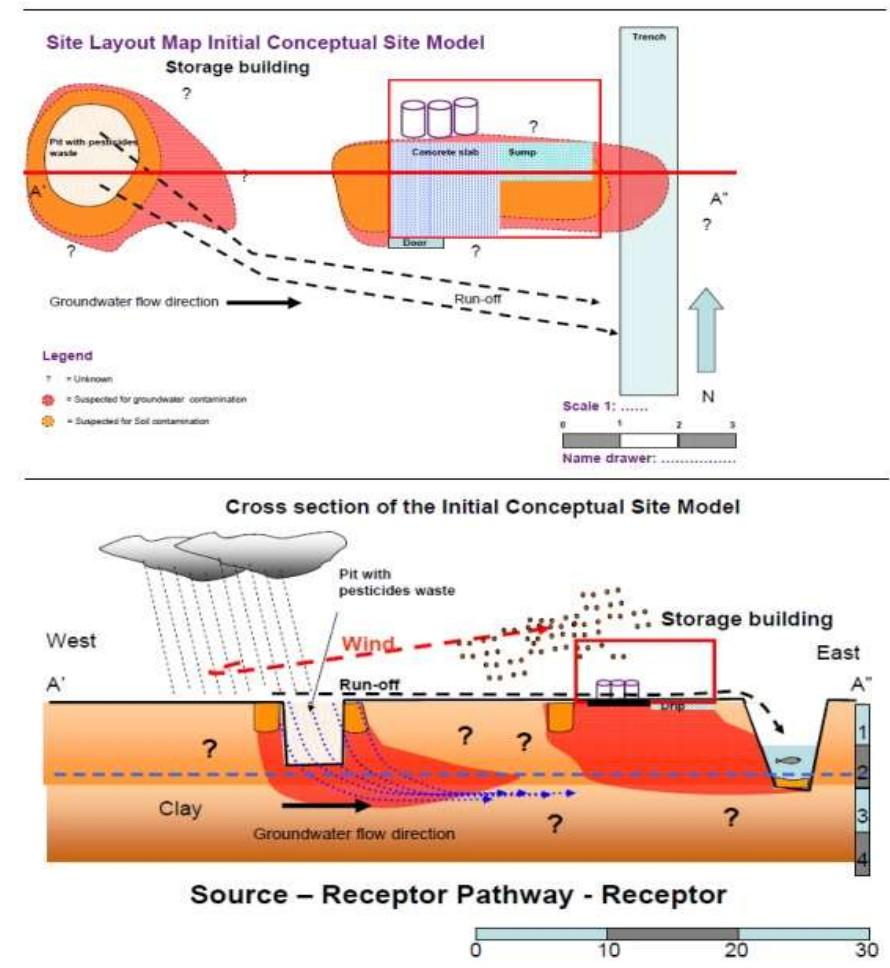
- Landfills – Engineered, un-engineered and informal
- Pesticide stockpiles
- Power generation facilities
- Scrap dealers (E-waste, ELV's)
- Fire stations/ Airports (Fire fighting foams)



Assessment of POPs Contaminated sites in the Caribbean

Objective

- Develop an inventory of potential contaminated sites in each project country
- Select 1-5 priority sites for preliminary site and risk assessments, using a standardized methodology
- Conduct preliminary site assessments for each of the 1-5 priority sites and determine the total preliminary risk assessment score for each
- Develop Initial Conceptual Site Models
- Perform Preliminary Risk Assessments – rank and prioritise sites for future interventions

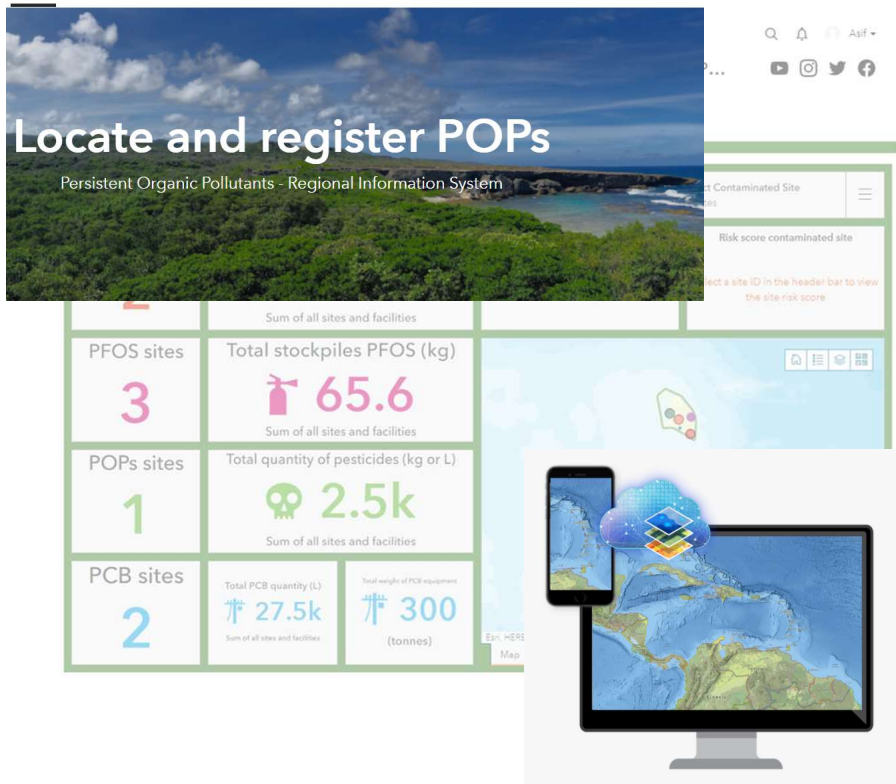


Management of POPs related information in the Caribbean

Persistent Organic Pollutants - Regional Information System (P...



Home BCRC Caribbean Antigua and Barbuda



Regional Information System available for all countries –

- Currently a POPs-Regional Information System (POPs-RIS) is being developed under the GEF 5558 project
- The POPs-RIS is intended to be:
 - ❑ A database for national and regional information on the management and uses of POPs, other related hazardous chemicals and related contaminated sites
 - ❑ Used by various national agencies to improve decision making
 - ❑ Designed to provide for an integrated or parallel geo-spatial representation of data
 - ❑ Used as a depository for POPs related studies, reports and published studies
 - ❑ Secure – ability to manage access to both publicly available and restricted data

Thank you!



#8 Alexandra St., St. Clair, Port of Spain
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Email: info@bcrc-caribbean.org

Website: www.bcrc-caribbean.org



@Basel Convention Regional Centre - Caribbean



@bcrc.caribbean



SIDE EVENT

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**ChemSec & Business:
Tools & approaches for a
Toxics-free future**

Daryl Ditz
Senior Business Advisor at ChemSec

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and Production



ChemSec

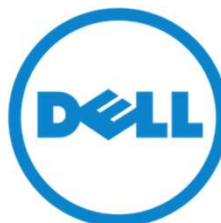
- Drives political discussions on hazardous chemicals
- Challenges companies to improve chemicals management
- Develops online tools to help companies adopt safer chemicals
- Informs investors about chemical industry risks and opportunities



ChemSec's Business Group



SONY®



adidas®
GROUP



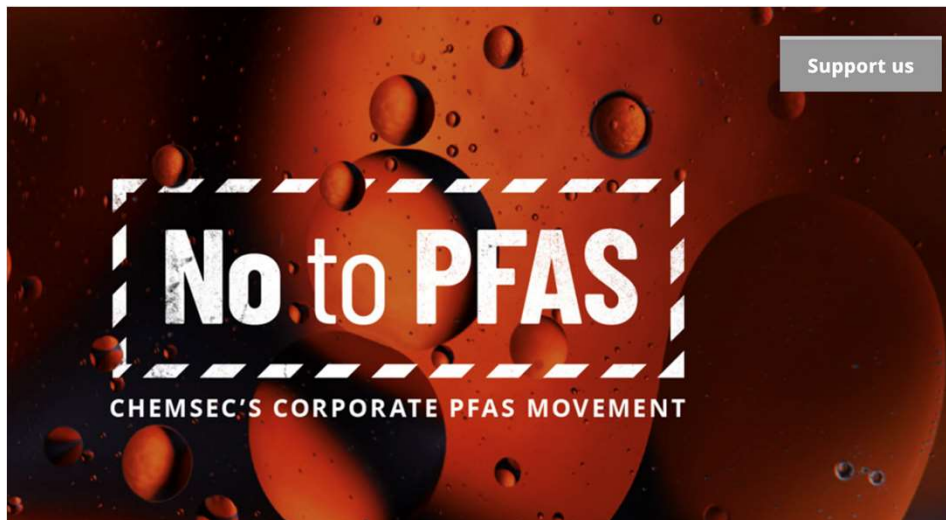
SKANSKA



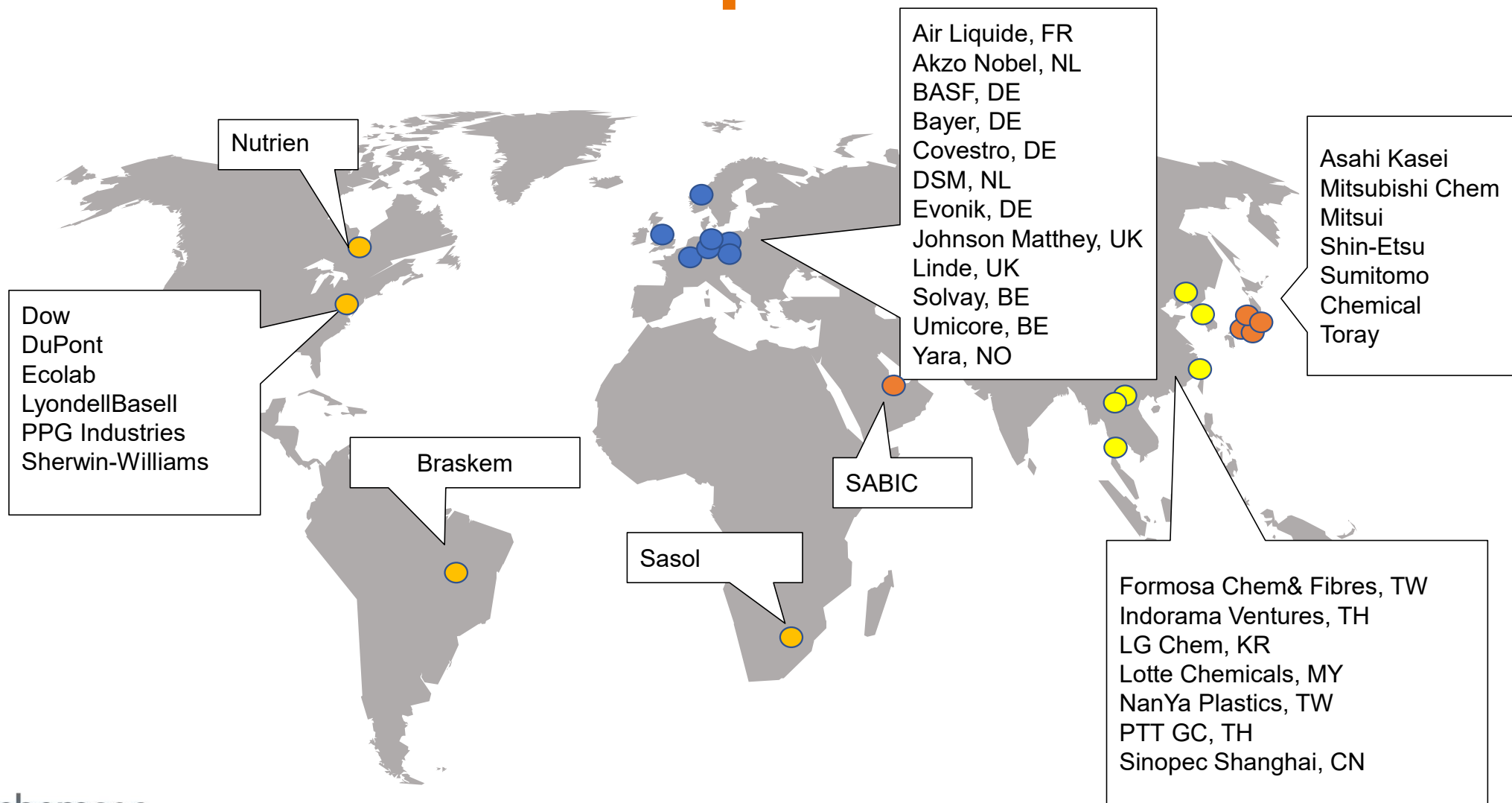
“SUBSTITUTE IT NOW!”

- A database of 900+ chemicals
- 15,000+ users worldwide
- PBTs: Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic
- CMRs: Carcinogens, Mutagens, Reproductive toxins
- Equivalent Concern: Endocrine Disruptors, etc.

We work with Chemicals Users

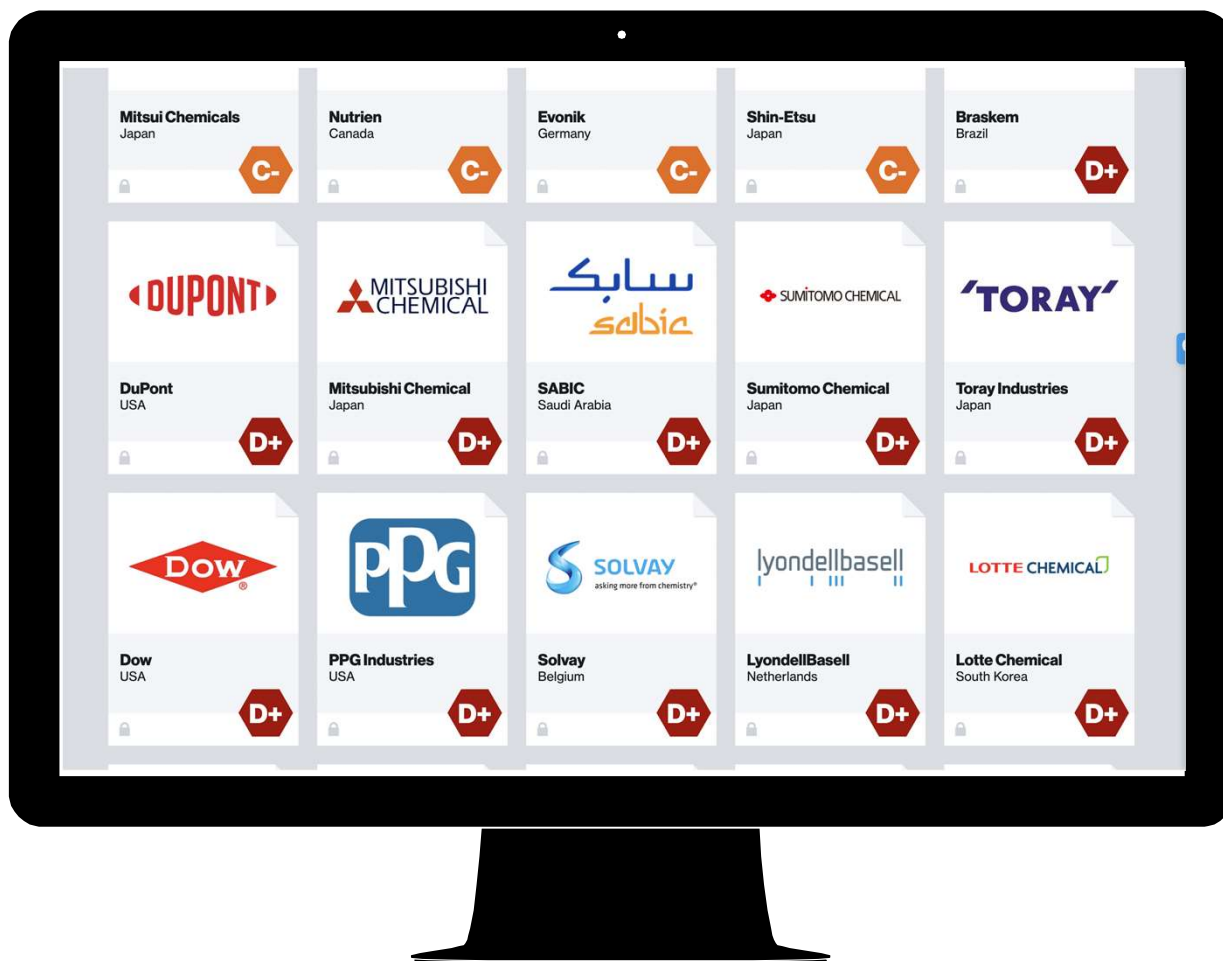


CHEMSCORE Companies



CHEMSCORE GRADES 35 OF THE LARGEST CHEMICAL MAKERS

- We analyze publicly-traded chemical manufacturers
- No company scored an A, only two companies score higher than C+
- We share this information with investors and others



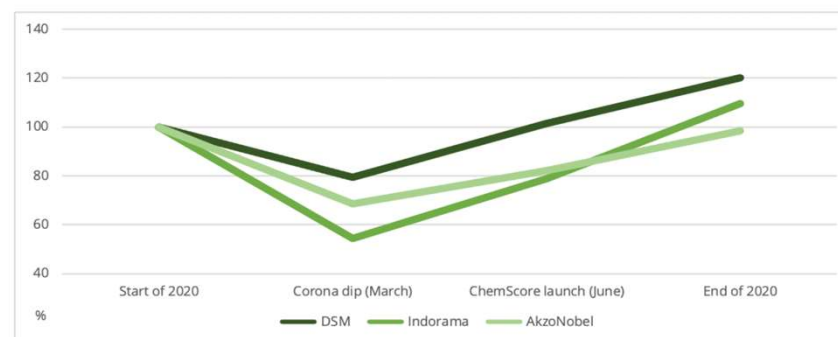
METHODOLOGY

- Proportion of SIN List Chemicals?
- Safer Alternatives?
- Management and Transparency?
- Controversies?

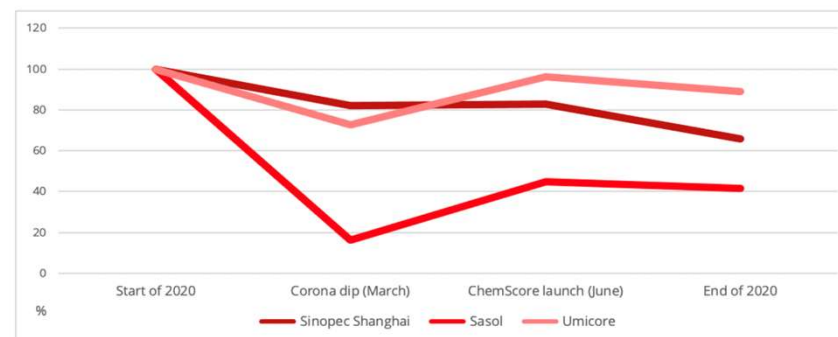


Comparing Financial Performance of ChemScore Companies in 2020

This analysis indicates that companies that scored high on ChemScore outperformed lower ChemScore performers in 2020.



On the other end of the scale, the 3 bottom ranked producers – **Sinopec Shanghai**, **Sasol** and **Umicore** – suffered a scorching loss of 34.6% on average:





SIDE EVENT

**Exploring strategies to boost new
POPs prevention:
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**A POPs accounting tool to
support the development of the
MedProgramme (GEF)**

Ian Keyte
Senior Consultant at Wood Plc

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GEF/UNEP MedProgramme
Child Project 1.3 – ENVITECC

A Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
accounting tool to support the development
of a programme on safe disposal of POPs
under ENVITECC

BRS COP 2021 (Online) Side Event

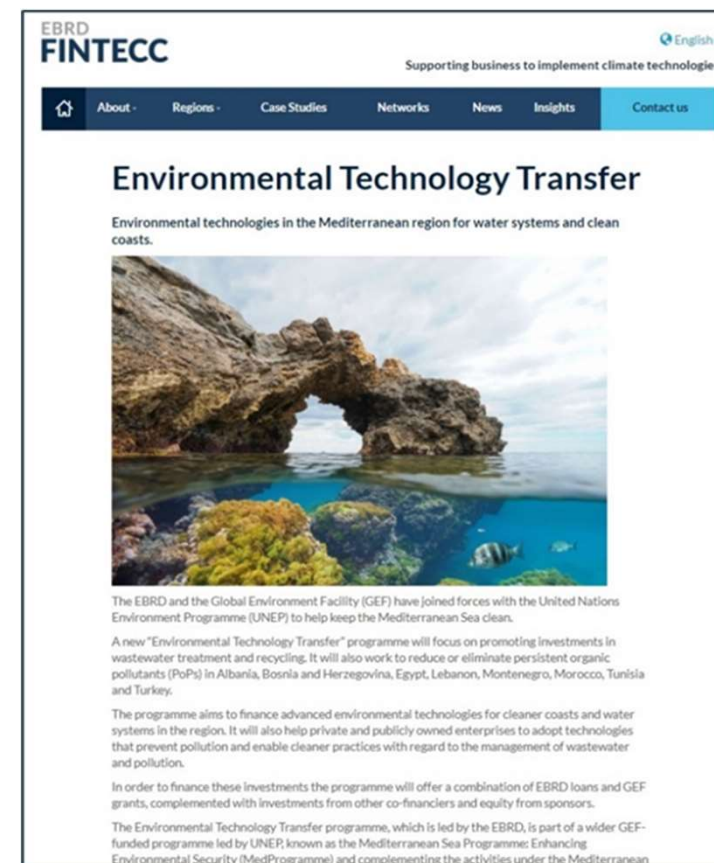
Ian Keyte, Liz Nicol and Rob Whiting, Wood Plc

Wednesday 28th July 2021



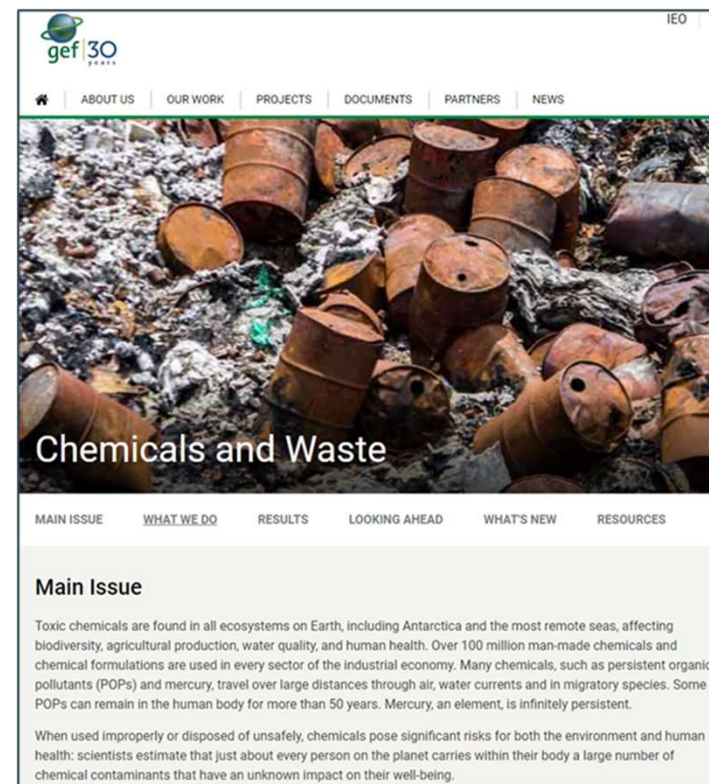
Background

- MedProgramme Child Project 1.3 - **Financing Advanced Environmental Technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Region for Water Systems and Clean Coasts (ENVITECC)** funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the EBRD.
 - Objective: the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and the removal of POPs in the region (e.g. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon).
 - Support the application of technologies, techniques and approaches for eliminating:
 - Stockpiles of POPs,
 - POPs in products or industrial processes,
 - POPs containing waste, including e-waste
 - Requires methodologies and tools to quantify POPs eliminated or reduced.
-
- Tools exist for “old” POPs (such as PCBs), but activities for the elimination of “new” POPs still lack the support from a robust accounting methodology.



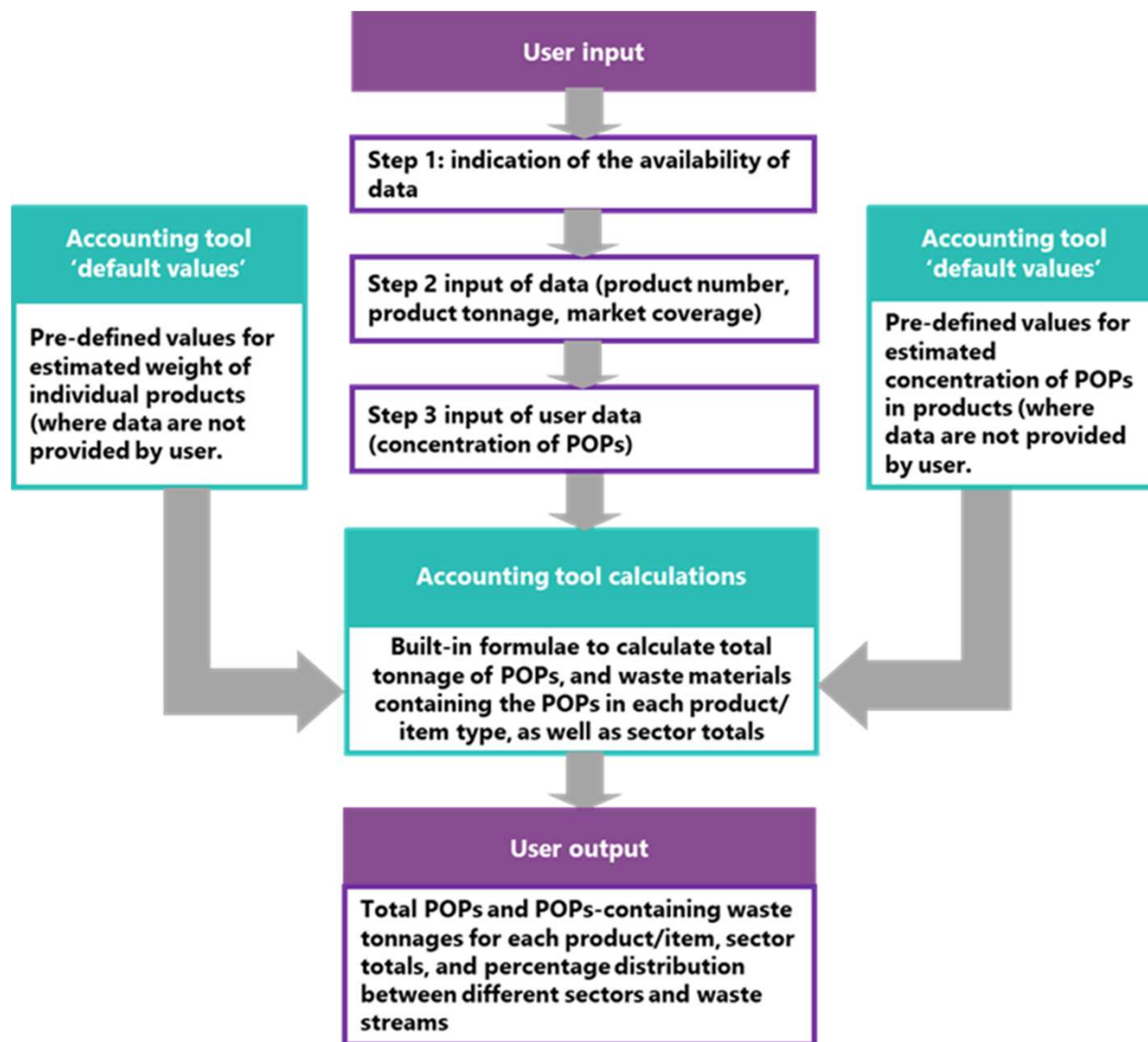
Aims and scope

- **Objective:** develop a POPs accounting methodology and a corresponding tool to measure and report progress in achieving the POPs reduction and prevention targets set in GEF Chemicals and Waste projects.
- **Scope:**
 - Development of an MS Excel-based tool to account for POPs and track progress achieved in GEF financed projects/programme + user guide.
 - Focus on two key groups of POPs:
 - Brominated flame retardants (PBDEs and HBCDD)
 - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – PFOS and PFOA

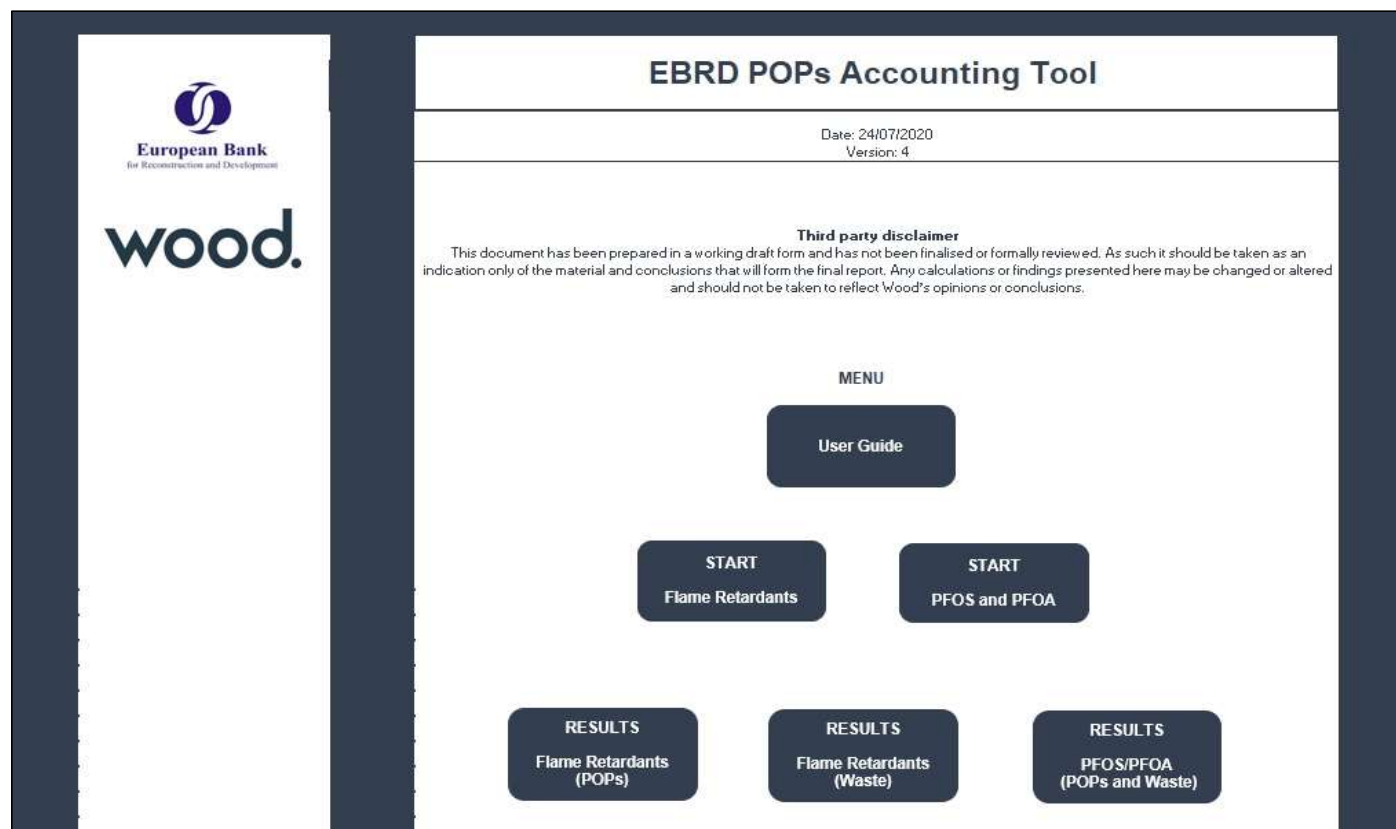


Approach

- 1) **Adapt** the approach of the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of UPOPs.
- 2) **Extend** the approach used in the current GEF accounting tools.
- 3) **Use** the recommended values for POPs concentrations in products, provided in the UNEP inventory guidance (and other available literature) to allow the estimation of POPs levels where user data is lacking.



Outputs



A brief demonstration...

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Step 1: Indication of data availability												
2													
3	Fire Fighting Foam			Data available on the tonnage of products?		Data available on the concentration of POPs?							
4	All foams	Simple		Yes		PFOS	No	PFOA	No				
5	1% foams												
6	3% foams												
7	6% foams												
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Next Step

User Manual

REFERENCE
VALUES

PFOS/PFOA

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Step 2: Data input : Product data												
2						Market % containing POPs							
3	Fire Fighting Foam		KG of products			PFOS	PFOA						
4	All foams		100000	kg		80%	20%						
5	1% foams			kg		100%	100%						
6	3% foams			kg		100%	100%						
7	6% foams			kg		100%	100%						
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Previous Step

User Manual

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Step 3: Data input: POPs concentration											
2	POPs concentration (mg/kg)											
3	<div>PFOS</div> <div>PFOA</div>											
4	Fire Fighting Foam											
5	All foams			<div>MENU</div> <div>Back to Main Page</div> <div>Results</div> <div>Previous Step</div> <div>User Manual</div> <div>REFERENCE VALUES</div> <div>PFOS/PFOA</div>								
6	1% foams											
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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	Reference values -PFOS/PFOA																	
2		PFOS (%wt)	PFOA (%wt)	% polymer in product	Ref	Conc in Product (%wt)	Ref	Mass per item	Unit	Ref	% market coverage PFOS	% market coverage PFOA	Notes					
3	FIRE FIGHTING FOAMS																	
4	All foams	1.5%	1.5%	100%	[1],[3]	1.5%	-		kg	-	100%	100%						
5	1% foams	1%	1%	100%	[2]	1%	-		kg	-	100%	100%						
6	3% foams	3%	3%	100%	[2]	3%	-		kg	-	100%	100%						
7	6% foams	6%	6%	100%	[2]	6%	-		kg	-	100%	100%						
8	References																	
9		1 UNEP, 2017. Guidance on preparing inventories of PFOS (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/26 (revised 2017)).																
10		2 Industry data																
11		3 ECHA (2014) PFOA Annex XV dossier (https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/d0bbb62e-2c61-63cf-16f5-16f1e06b7511)																
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Flame Retardants

PFOS and PFOA

REFERENCE
VALUES

pentaBDE

octaBDE

decaBDE

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

1

Results: PFOS and PFOA

2

3

4

5

6

kg POPS

PFOS

PFOA

FIRE FIGHTING FOAMS (POPs)

All foams

1% foams

3% foams

6% foams

1200

0

0

0

300

0

0

0

13

14

15

kg Waste

PFOS

PFOA

FIRE FIGHTING FOAMS (Waste)

All foams

1% foams

3% foams

6% foams

80000

0

0

0

20000

0

0

0

22

23

24

25

26

27

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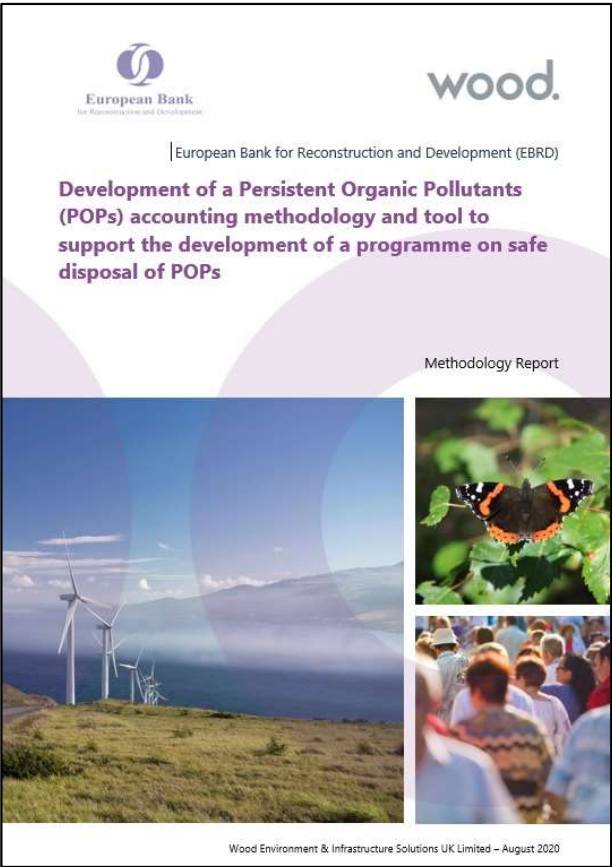
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Outputs



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wood.

Step 1: Indication of data availability

In the example provided in the screenshot above, the user has selected a 'detailed' approach for televisions, entering information separately for CRT and Flatscreen TVs, and a 'simple' approach for all other items. The user has indicated that there are data available for the number of CRT and Flatscreen TVs and that the tonnage of products are known for computers and white goods. It is also indicated that the concentrations of decaBDE are known for computers and white goods, but not for any other products or POPs.

2.4 Step 2: Input of data: numbers or tonnage of products

In the second stage, the user is required to enter their available data on each of the product types covered under the accounting tool. The required information from the user is detailed in the table below.

#	Data	Details	Units
1	Number of products/items	The estimated or known total number of each product/item currently in use should be entered.	Total items (unless stated)
2	Tonnage of items	The estimated or known total combined weight of each product/item type currently in use should be entered.	kg (unless stated)
3	Market coverage of POPs	The estimated proportion of all items in use that contain the POP chemical in question. Note, a default value is provided in the tool, unless the user overwrites this value with their own value.	%

Thank you for your attention

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SIDE EVENT

**Exploring strategies to boost new
POPs prevention:
The case of PFAs**

**Please address any questions
you have by email to
kdemiguel@scprac.org**

Organized by



Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production

