

Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Organization Group (ROG) under the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs Monitoring in the XXXX Region

Background

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention requires the Conference of the Parties (COP) to periodically review the effectiveness of the Convention, with the first evaluation (Phase 1) commencing four years after its entry into force. The effectiveness evaluation shall be conducted on the basis of information, including comparable monitoring data on the presence of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B, and C of the Convention, and on their regional and global transport.

The minimum requirements for the first effectiveness evaluation have been defined by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-2/13 as follows:

1. The first monitoring report will provide baselines for further evaluations.
2. Air monitoring and human exposure through breast milk or blood serum would be used as core data.
3. Such comparable and representative core data should be obtained from all five UN regions.
4. Guidance should be provided on standardization.
5. Establish strategic arrangements and build partnerships, including with the health sector.

The GMP for POPs will be comprised of regional organizational elements. Regional information gathering and preparation of the regional monitoring report will be planned, organized, and implemented on a regional basis following an agreed framework.

Regional monitoring reports, again following an agreed format, would provide the basis for one of the elements of the Secretariat's compilation for the effectiveness evaluation; the other two being the national reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15, and the non-compliance information provided pursuant to the procedures established under Article 17.

The GMP regions

The GMP regions are set up as geographical entities in order to provide an adequate basis for generating, collecting, reporting and presenting the data. This will also facilitate evaluation of regional and global environmental transport of POPs. The following regional distribution was adopted: North and Central America including the Caribbean; Western, Central and Eastern Europe (including the whole UN-CEE region); West, South and South-eastern Asia; South America; Africa; and the region of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Information from the Arctic will be incorporated in the appropriate regions (North and Central America including the Caribbean as well as Western and Central Europe and Eurasia. The South America region and the region of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands will approach the relevant Antarctic institutions for information from the Antarctic. In setting up this structure the Secretariat will work in consultation with the members of the TWG to ensure coordination and avoidance of overlaps between regions.

The Regional Organization Groups

Within each region, all activities will be under the direction of a Regional Organization Group (ROG). The nominated members of the provisional ad hoc technical working group (TWG) for the particular region will constitute the core of the ROG. Details about the specific activities and tasks of the ROG

are given below. Sub regional arrangements that take into account linguistic, political and geophysical considerations could be introduced to further support the organization of the work. Twinning and partnerships between regions is to be encouraged whenever possible.

Available guidance documents

Following guidance documents have been prepared to support activities of the regional organization groups:

- Outline of the Global Monitoring Plan (XXX)
- Implementation plan for the first evaluation (XX)
- Guidance Document for the Global Monitoring Plan (XXX)

All activities, tasks and outputs have to be implemented according to and in compliance with this guidance.

Objectives, duties, activities and tasks

Objectives

The main objectives of the ROG are to define and implement the regional strategy for information gathering and to elaborate the regional monitoring report for the first effectiveness evaluation.

Duties

The duties of the ROGs would include *inter alia*:

- Establishing their membership;
- Structuring of the regional monitoring network;
- Identifying where existing suitable monitoring data are and are not available;
- Organizing sampling and analytical arrangements;
- Ensuring compliance with protocols for QA/QC, sample collection, analytical methodologies; data archiving and accessibility; and for trend analysis methodologies;
- Maintenance of interaction with other ROGs as appropriate; and,
- Developing elements to encourage capacity building.

Activities and tasks

No	Activities and Tasks	Timeframe
1.	Setting up of the regional organization group	
1.1	Initiating of the ROG set up	01 2007
1.2	Establishing of the ROG membership	02 2007
1.3	Elaborating detailed ROG strategy, workplan and timetable	05 2007
1.4	<i>Organizing a ROG inception workshop to discuss and endorse the regional monitoring plan elements and to obtain commitments for implementation¹</i>	ASAP
1.5	Selecting national and/or international programmes/activities that can deliver the required data and or information without capacity enhancement, and those that could contribute following a specified degree of capacity enhancement (Group 1 and Group 2)	06 2007

¹ Timing of the inception workshop to be held in a particular region should be adjusted to the specific conditions in that region and consider also the sequence in which the Secretariat can organize the regional ROG inception workshops

2.	Selecting existing data sets for the regional monitoring report	
2.1	Evaluating readily available data sets according to the data quality criteria and selecting data which could be used for the first evaluation	07 2007
2.2	Establishing arrangements to receive readily available data	08 2007
3.	Identifying data gaps and strategy to fill them	
3.1	Reviewing available information in terms of the degree of regional coverage and decide upon strategy to achieve better regional coverage for the first monitoring report	07 2007
3.2	Establishing strategic partnerships for capacity enhancement	08 2007
3.3	Establishing strategic partnerships to produce supplementary POPs monitoring data to achieve better regional coverage	08 2007
3.4	Strengthening of the capacity of Group-2 programmes	
4.	Performing supplementary monitoring activities if necessary	09-11 2007
5.	Preparing the regional monitoring report	
5.1	Establishing a team of 3-4 persons to draft the regional monitoring report	10 2007
5.2	Collecting all data and information to be used for drafting of the regional monitoring report	11 2007
5.3	Drafting team to process available information considering the recommended structure of the regional monitoring report	11-12 2007
5.4	Taking part in the drafting workshop organized by the Secretariat to prepare first draft of the regional monitoring report	01 2007
5.5	Finalizing the first draft of the regional monitoring report	01-02 2007
5.6	Circulating the draft regional monitoring report for comments	03 2007
5.7	Redrafting the report as necessary and produce the regional monitoring report	04 2007
5.8	Adopting of the regional monitoring report and its submitting to the Secretariat	05 2007

Milestones and outputs

Milestones

The following milestones should lead to the requested outputs:

1	ROG inception workshop endorses the regional monitoring plan elements	ASAP
2	Arrangements to receive readily available data are established	08 2007
3	Strategic partnerships to provide capacity strengthening are established	08 2007
4	Strategic partnerships to produce supplementary data are established	08 2007
5	Necessary enabling capacity building to Group 2 programmes is provided	09 2007
6	Supplementary monitoring activities are performed and monitoring data obtained	11 2007
7	Team to draft the regional monitoring report is established	10 2007
8	All data and information to be compiled by the drafting team are available	11 2007
9	Drafting meeting takes place	01 2008
10	First draft regional monitoring report is available	02 2008
11	Final regionally endorsed regional monitoring report is available	05 2008

Outputs

Following outputs are expected:

- An operational regional POPs monitoring programme (e.g. strategic arrangements and partnerships to produce comparable POPs monitoring data for the first and subsequent effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention);
- Regional capacity to produce comparable POPs monitoring data for the first evaluation is strengthened;
- Regional elements of a step-by-step capacity enhancement for the future evaluations are identified;
- Regional monitoring report is available and endorsed by the region;
- Baselines for future assessments are set for the core matrices.

WORKPLAN for GMP Regional Organisation Groups

ACTIVITIES / MILESTONES		2007												2008											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Setting up of the regional organization groups																								
1.1.	Initiating of the ROG set up	■																							
1.2.	Establishing of the ROG membership		■																						
1.3.	Elaborating detailed ROG strategy, workplan and timetable			■	■	■																			
1.4.	Organizing a ROG inception workshop																								
1.5.	Selecting national and/or international Group 1 and 2 activities						■																		
M 1	<i>ROG inception workshop endorses regional monitoring plan</i>																								
2.	Selecting existing data sets for the regional monitoring report																								
2.1.	Evaluating selecting data which could be used for the first evaluation			■	■	■	■	■																	
2.2.	Establishing arrangements to receive readily available data							■	■																
M 2	<i>Arrangements to receive readily available data are established</i>								M																
3.	Identifying data gaps and strategy to fill them																								
3.1.	Reviewing available regional coverage for the first monitoring report							■																	
3.2.	Establishing strategic partnerships for capacity enhancement								■																
3.3.	Establishing strategic partnerships to produce supplementary data									■															
3.4.	Strengthening the capacity of Group 2 programmes									■	■														
M 3	<i>Partnership to provide capacity strengthening is established</i>									M															
M 4	<i>Partnerships to produce supplementary data are established</i>									M															
M 5	<i>Enabling capacity building to Group 2 programmes is provided</i>										M														
4.	Performing supplementary monitoring activities if necessary																								
4.1.	Performing supplementary monitoring activities										■	■													
M 6	<i>Supplementary monitoring data are obtained</i>											M													
5.	Preparing the regional monitoring report																								
5.1.	Establishing a drafting team of 3-4 persons											■													
M 7	<i>Team to draft the regional monitoring report is established</i>											M													
5.2.	Collecting all data and information to be used for drafting												■												
M 8	<i>All necessary data and information is available</i>													M											
5.3.	Processing available information considering the report structure												■	■											
5.4.	Taking part in the drafting workshop														■										
M 9	<i>Drafting meeting takes place</i>															M									
5.5.	Finalizing the first draft of the regional monitoring report																■	■							
M 10	<i>First draft of the regional monitoring report is available</i>																	M							
5.6.	Circulating the draft regional monitoring report for comments																	■							
5.7.	Redrafting the report as necessary																		■						
M 11	<i>Endorsed regional monitoring report is available</i>																								
5.8.	Adopting of the report and its submitting to the Secretariat																						■		

