



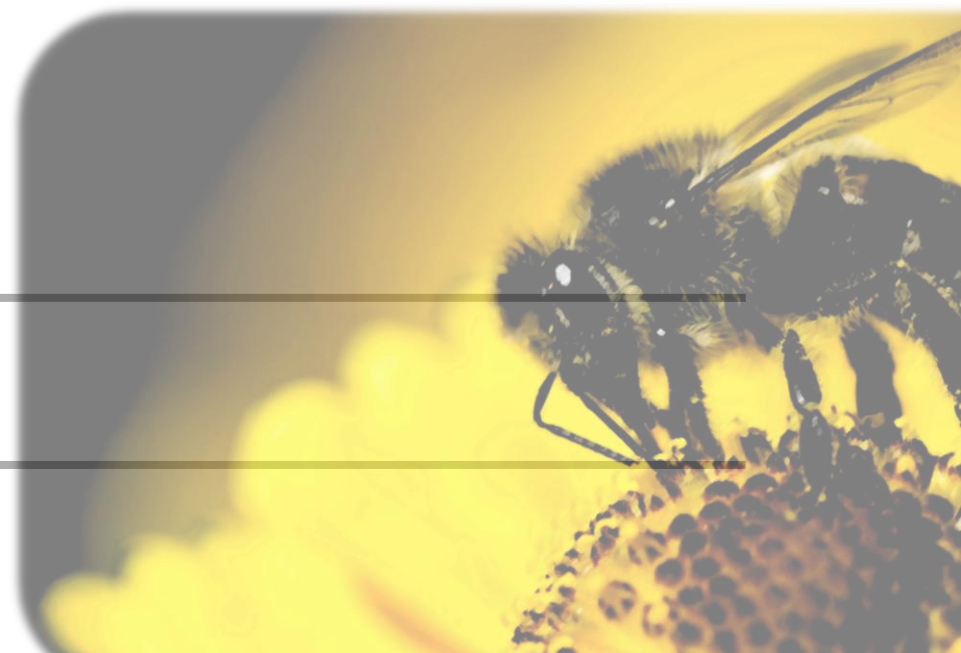


BASEL | ROTTERDAM | STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

Contributions of the BRS Conventions to the KM-GBF and international cooperation

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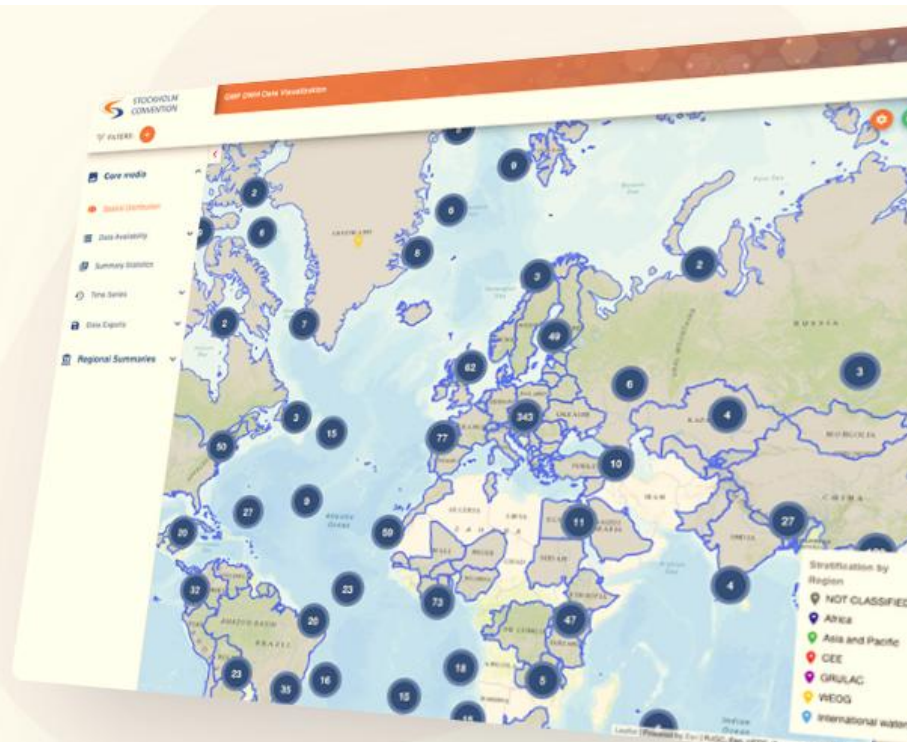
The Global Monitoring Plan on POPs

Stockholm Convention Global Monitoring Plan Data Warehouse

(or just: GMP DWH)

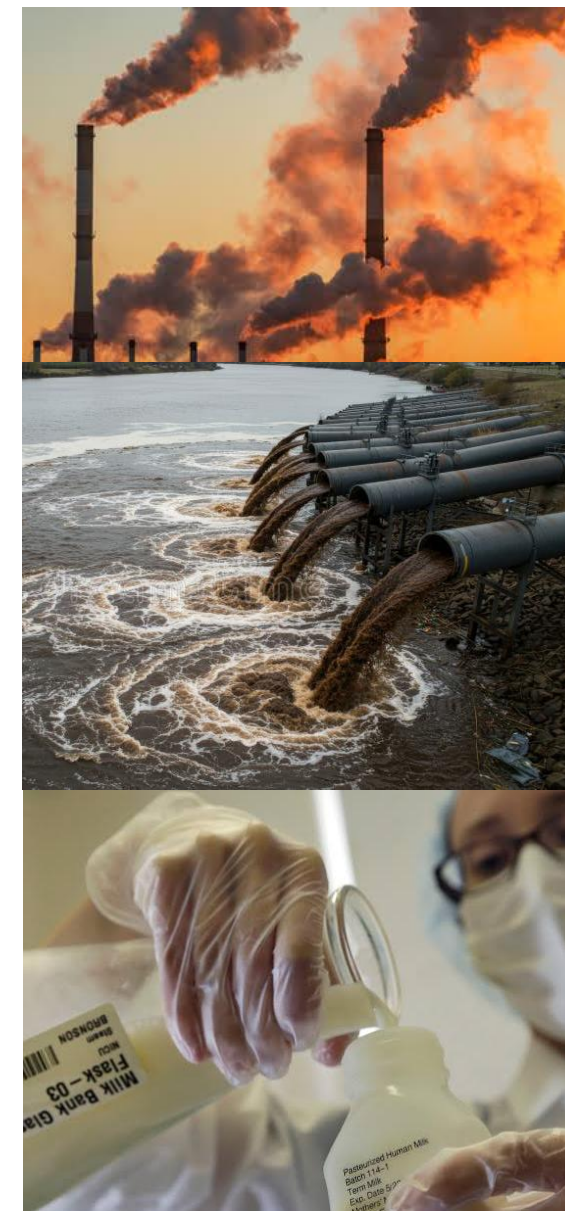
Data visualisations →

Learn more



<https://www.pops.int/tabid/83/Default.aspx>

<https://www.pops-gmp.org/>



[Life](#)
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This article is more than 2 years old

Levels of toxic PCB chemicals found at 30 times 'safe' limits in stranded whales

Studies of cetaceans stranded in UK waters show high levels of toxins 20 years since global ban of most PCBs, say scientists



A dead beached fin whale in Cornwall. Scientists called the findings a 'huge warning' to human health as well as that of marine mammals. Photograph: Alexander Turner

NEWS RELEASE 9-JUN-2026

Wild bird eggs reveal pollutants' environmental footprints

Peer-Reviewed Publication
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Wild Bird Eggs Reveal Pollutants' Environmental Footprints

Monitoring the eggs of wild birds like the bearded vulture and the imperial eagle over a decade reveals the accumulation and persistence of environmental pollutants in ecosystems.

NEWS RELEASE 6-JUL-2026

New study on Antarctic penguins reveals PFAS contamination has reached some of the most remote environments on Earth

Peer-Reviewed Publication
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World-first global assessment maps PFAS pollution in whales and dolphins

June 18, 2026

Toothed whales serve as early warning sign of how forever chemicals have infiltrated our oceans

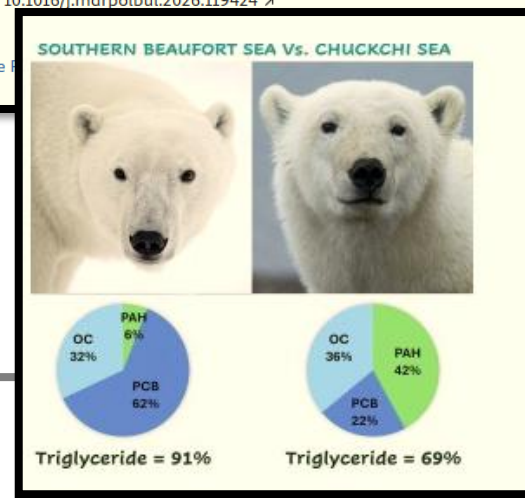
Forever chemical contamination is widespread in the marine environment, with world-first study discovering that PFAS levels are on the rise in marine mammals and at their highest in the Pacific Ocean.

Spatial contaminant assessment (PAHs, PCBs, OCs, PBDEs) and lipid composition in Beaufort Sea (2011–2020) and Chukchi Sea polar bear (2015–2016) subpopulations, Alaska, USA

Tracy A. Sherwood ^a, Christelle Miller ^a, Raphaella Stimmelmayer ^b, Billy Adams ^b, Ryan Schloesser ^a, Dana L. Wetzel ^a [Show more](#)

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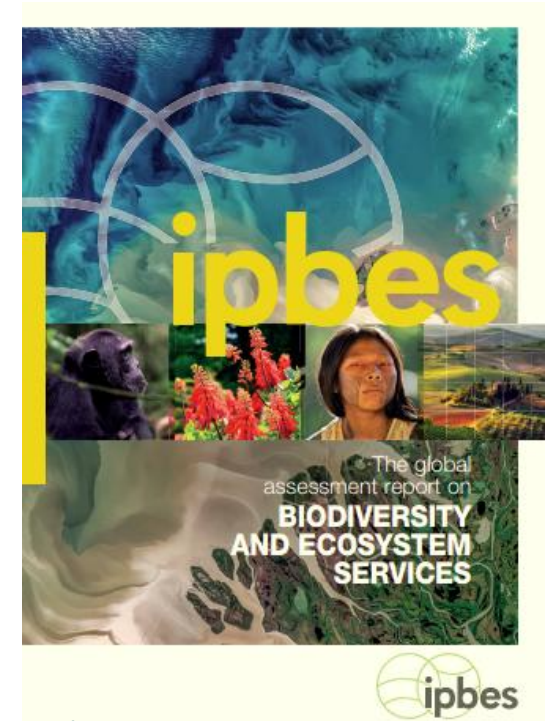
Addressing the life cycle of hazardous chemicals

Production and use (POPs) → International trade of hazardous chemicals → Environmentally sound management of wastes



Pollution as a main driver of biodiversity loss

Unsound management of chemicals throughout their entire lifecycle, including their waste, produces unwanted emissions and releases to the environment, causing pollution and exposure to hazardous substances affecting human health and the environment, including all species.



<https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment>



Interlinkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Biodiversity Framework



INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN THE CHEMICALS AND WASTE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND BIODIVERSITY: KEY INSIGHTS

- Persistent organic pollutants
- Mercury
- Pesticides
- Hazardous and other waste

<https://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/9887/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- Why is chemicals and waste management relevant for each target?
- Existing and ongoing efforts
- Potential opportunities

Guiding questions for policy makers

<https://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/10539/language/en-US/Default.aspx?p=main-report>



Target Group A

Mitigation of pollution impacts on ecosystems and species

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals help countries reduce pollution impacts on biodiversity by promoting BAT and BEP for managing hazardous chemicals and waste, encouraging reductions in Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and supporting safer alternatives. By providing guidance on managing chemicals across their lifecycle, along with practical capacity-building, these agreements support countries in actively reducing pollution and fostering resilient, biodiverse ecosystems.

Chemical pollutants disrupt ecosystem functions:

- Pollutants like pesticides, industrial chemicals, and heavy metals are introduced into ecosystems where they were not naturally present. This causes harm by affecting soil health, water quality, and air quality – key elements that ecosystems rely on to function effectively. For example, agricultural runoff containing pesticides and excess nutrients disrupts water ecosystems by causing algal blooms, which deplete oxygen in the water, leading to dead zones where aquatic life cannot survive (Target 7).

Chemical and waste mismanagement accelerates climate change impacts on biodiversity:

- When chemicals and waste are improperly managed, greenhouse gases are released, contributing to climate change; many of the drivers of air chemical pollution (i.e. combustion of fossil fuels) are also sources of greenhouse gas emissions and waste is the largest anthropogenic source of methane (Target 8).
- While some organisms may develop tolerance to certain pollutants, this adaptation often reduces genetic diversity, making species more vulnerable to other stresses like climate change. For instance, a fish population that adapts to a pollutant may lose its resilience to changing water temperatures, reducing its chances of survival in a warming climate (Target 8).

Pollution exacerbates biodiversity loss by disrupting habitats and critically weakening species:

- Environmental contaminants interfere with wildlife reproduction and have driven the decline of species such as the bald eagle, brown pelican, and peregrine falcon due to eggshell thinning caused by pesticide exposure (Target 4).
- Additionally, long-term exposure to chemicals can lead to DNA mutations that affect the health of future generations within a species (Target 4).

Chemical pollutants create vulnerable ecosystems that invasive species (IAS) exploit:

- Pollution from chemicals like heavy metals changes the soil and water composition, making habitats less suitable for native species but creating opportunities for IAS to thrive (Target 6).
- Waste migration, especially plastic waste in marine environments, serves as a carrier for IAS. Marine litter has been shown to transport invasive species across oceans, threatening native biodiversity when these species establish themselves in new ecosystems (Target 6).

Target 7	Reduce pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity.....	13
Target 8	Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience.....	15
Target 4	Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts.....	17
Target 6	Reduce the introduction of invasive alien species by 50% and minimize their impact.....	19

Target 15: businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity - related risks and negative impacts

Target 15 aims to take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: a) regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios; b) provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; c) report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

(i) Why is the sound management of chemicals and waste relevant for achieving target 15?

Chemical pollution, from direct sources, including industrial discharges, and indirect sources, such as diffuse pollution from consumer products, can have profound and long-lasting impacts on ecosystems. For example, over 40% of European freshwater sites are contaminated with organic pollutants at levels likely to cause long-term harm to sensitive species¹. In this sense, companies play a central role in mitigate harmful effects on ecosystems by regularly assessing and transparently disclosing the chemical and waste risks linked to biodiversity².

On the other hand, healthy ecosystems provide many services to businesses such as carbon storage, water regulation or pollinator services. Therefore, integrating biodiversity protection into corporate sustainability strategies not only addresses the environmental burden on biodiversity but also ensures long-term sustainability for industries that rely on ecosystem services for their own functioning³.

(ii) Existing and ongoing efforts

- **Transparency and innovation supported by the GFC:** Efforts under the Global Framework on Chemicals are critical to achieving Target 15, as they emphasize the need for businesses to innovate in chemical monitoring and disclose data transparently throughout the chemical life cycle. Stakeholders are called to generate comprehensive data on the production, use, emissions, and environmental releases of chemicals (Targets B1 and B3), ensuring that these data are publicly accessible. Companies are also encouraged to invest in sustainable chemistry (Target D1) and implement preventive measures ensuring that environmental risks are minimized (Targets D3, D6 and A3). These integrated efforts are essential for strengthening extended producer responsibility systems, tracing and mitigating cumulative impacts on ecosystems, supporting sustainable production and biodiversity protection;
- **Reviewing and updating BAT/BEP guidelines under the Stockholm Convention:** The ongoing review of Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices under the Stockholm Convention directly supports target 15 by providing up-to-date guidance for managing persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which have severe implications for biodiversity. These guidelines, focusing on chemicals such as UV-328, short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), help industries minimize pollutant emissions throughout their value chains. By aligning industrial practices with these updated guidelines,

companies can better assess, disclose, and mitigate their biodiversity-related risks;

- **Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Chemical Safety:** The GFC is working to ensure that by 2030, all governments have implemented the GHS. This system standardizes how chemical hazards are classified and communicated, ensuring consistent labelling and safety data sheets across sectors. The GFC provides guidance and technical assistance to countries, helping them adapt the GHS to their national contexts and consequently improving the clarity of chemical hazard information, safer chemical handling and storage, reducing the likelihood of harmful substances entering ecosystems.

(iii) Potential opportunities for enhancing cooperation

- **Integrated chemical management - biodiversity protection tools for specific sectors:** In order to achieve nature-positive action at the scale and speed required, it is crucial for businesses to understand their specific interactions with nature within their sectors (World Economic Forum, 2023). GFC and the BRS conventions could work together to create crosscutting approaches that integrate chemical management and biodiversity protection for specific sectors. For instance, sector-specific guidelines could encourage the use of non-toxic materials and reduce hazardous chemical waste across global supply chains. This integrated approach would support not only the reduction of chemical impacts but also the enhancement of biodiversity resilience, ensuring that companies meet both biodiversity and chemical safety goals.

Guiding questions for GBF national target setting:

- I. What type of businesses/industry sectors are a priority for your country when it comes to chemicals and waste impacts on biodiversity (i.e. textile, construction, electronic, mining, cosmetic sectors)?
- II. How are businesses currently assessing the risks and impacts of chemicals and waste on biodiversity within their operations, supply chains, and value chains?
- III. Are there any policies, regulations or voluntary standards to promote disclosure of information on chemicals and waste-related impacts on biodiversity by large and transnational companies? (Highlights the need for transparency in how businesses contribute to or mitigate chemical pollution and its effects on ecosystems).
- IV. Is the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for chemical classification being implemented to improve chemical safety and reduce pollution risks to biodiversity?
- V. Are there specific chemicals or types of waste that pose a high risk to biodiversity in the sectors where businesses operate? (Aims to help businesses identify the most critical pollutants in their sectors and develop targeted actions.)
- VI. How are companies being encouraged to adopt Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to reduce the release of hazardous chemicals that threaten biodiversity?
- VII. What mechanisms are in place for businesses to monitor and disclose the impacts on health and the environment of chemicals they depend on for their operations on?
- VIII. How are businesses addressing the chemical footprint and the cumulative impact of chemical pollutants in their value chains? (Encourages companies to consider the long-term effects of chemicals in their products and practices to shift towards more sustainable solutions.)

¹ https://chemtrust.org/biodiversity_strategy/

² <https://oeflc.org/media-connect/newsroom/biodiversity-considerations-should-be-integrated-into-chemical-industries-business->

International cooperation and coordination

- Among all relevant MEAs and international frameworks/organizations
 - At the regional levels – regional action plans and coordination mechanisms
 - At the national level – whole government approaches, policy coherence, national coordination
-
- ☐ Regional Centres for capacity building and technology transfer
 - ☐ Partnerships (E-waste, Plastic Waste, Illegal Traffic, ..)
 - ☐ “From Science to Action” Roadmap – scientific community
 - ☐ Scientific Panels: ISP-CWP and IPBEs





Thank you for your attention

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