

Harvesting synergies between the GEF focal areas Examples from the chemicals and waste cluster

SIDE EVENT JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE SECRETARIATS OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS AND THE MINAMATA CONVENTION SECRETARIATS

7TH GEF ASSEMBLY – Vancouver, Tuesday 22 August 17:00-18:30, Room 204

Opening remarks

17:00 – 17:05

Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention

Panel 1: Joint programming in the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area

17:05 – 17:35

This panel will discuss experiences gained in projects focusing on synergies and joint programming within the Chemicals and Waste cluster. It will seek to identify good practices and lessons learned from past and ongoing projects in the GEF Chemical and Waste focal area.

Moderator: **Ms. Miriam Diamond**, Panel Member on Chemicals and Waste, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)

Panelists

- **Ms. Suzanne Robertson**, Principal Operations Coordination Specialist, Climate Change, Resilience and Environment (CCRE), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Mr. Etienne Gonin**, Technical Specialist, Chemicals and Waste Hub, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Ms. Carmela Centeno**, Industrial Development Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Guiding questions

- What are examples of successful crosscutting programmes?
- What are the co-benefits of these synergetic activities and how did you identify them?
- Do you think that the experiences gained in the chemicals and waste cluster be applied to broader synergy activities with other GEF focal areas?

Q&A

17:35 – 17:40

The second panel will be forward looking, focusing on synergies between chemicals and waste, biodiversity and climate change focal areas, and unlocking larger investments for the implementation of cross-cutting projects.

Moderator: **Ms. Miriam Diamond**

Setting the scene

- **Mr. Juha I. Uitto**, Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Panelists

- **Ms. Rose Mwebaza**, Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Ms. Gillian Guthrie**, Chief Technical Director (Acting), Policy Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica
- **Mr. Reginald Hernaus**, Lead Negotiator Chemicals and Wastes, International Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands
- **Ms. Lauren Céline Naville Gisnås**, Senior Advisor, Section for Nature and Climate, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Reactions (optional):

- **Ms. Monika Stankiewicz**, Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention
- **Mr. Rolph Payet**, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

Guiding questions

- In your experience, what is the added value for programming across GEF Focal Areas?
- Which specific thematic areas could particularly qualify for synergized action across multiple focal areas?
- Can you think about any specific capacities that countries would need to strengthen to successfully implement a synergy project across multiple focal areas?
- To what extent can integrated approaches support countries in meeting their obligations under the conventions, thus minimizing the costs of inaction?
- How can synergistic approaches help us solve the triple planetary crisis?