MINUTES OF THE 1ST PMC MEETING
1. Inception Workshop

The first meeting of the Project Management Committee (PMC) was held in Jeddah 21st and 22nd March 2009 at the headquarters of PERSGA. The agenda of the workshop is attached as annex I. The list of participants are included in annex II.

21st March 2009.

Welcome and Opening Address, PERSGA Secretary General
The workshop was inaugurated by the Secretary General of PERSGA Prof. Ziad Abu Ghararah. He welcomed the guests from UNIDO and from the region; and summarized PERSGA involvement in the project and its support to it. He also reassured the participants on PERSGA commitment in achieving the objectives of the project.

Opening Remarks, UNIDO
Dr. Mohamed Eisa from UNIDO also welcomed the participants on the workshop. He called for a partnership between PERSGA, UNIDO, the industrial and the banking sector to promote the implementation of the SC and the project. He briefly presented the objectives of the MSP project.
Technical presentations

The first presentation was given by Dr. Badran the project manager at PERSGA. He discussed the advances of PERSGA activities since 2005. He went through the main components of the portfolio of PERSGA.

PERSGA has a capacity building component which handles training and information dissemination. The technical components include involvement in main-streaming Regional Plans into National Policies. These policies address the conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Current projects include on-line monitoring of pollutants in the Gulf of Aqaba, another one addresses heavy metals and organic pollutants at the coast of Egypt. Establishing National Pollution Response Centres is in progress in Sudan, Djibouti and in Yemen. In Saudi Arabia PERSGA is helping in establishing a national monitoring program.

PERSGA is active in producing publications of their activities and on the results of their programmes and projects. The regional monitoring programme was significantly activated in 2007. Jordan and Egypt are the leading countries in reporting their monitoring data to PERSGA. In PERSGA these data are combined and regional reports are prepared. Djibouti and Saudi Arabia are about to start providing the same monitoring data. PERSGA has also developed a database for storing the monitoring data. They continuously upgrade their monitoring procedures.

PERSGA also has strong cooperation with international organisations such as UNEP and UNIDO. UNEP supports the project on marine litters and on capacity building and supporting economic evaluation of the PERSGA region. PERSGA has strong linkages with IMO and is an observer at the IMO council meetings.
PERSGA has recently produced regional protocols on Protected Areas and Biological Diversity; and Protection of the Marine Environment from Landbased Activities and. They are also in the process of preparing a project with the WB on Strategic Ecosystem Management addressing mainly the fishery habitats, fisheries and environmental monitoring of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The second presentation was held by Dr. Mohamed Eisa. The presentation handled the main objectives of the SC and their relevance on coastal zones. He reminded the participants of the chemicals covered by the Convention and the role of the GEF in financing POPs related activities.

The project management structure was also demonstrated and discussed. Then the main source categories of UP-POPs were discussed based on the grouping provided by the SC. The milestones of the MSP project was also demonstrated. UNIDO's POPs portfolio was further elaborated.

The third presentation was held by the UNIDO consultant on the project concept, objectives, components and management structure. Participants had many questions concerning the regional strategy and the site specific action plans.
Country presentations

The first one discussed the Sudanese NIP development and POPs inventory results. Mr. Ali Mohamed Ali Mahmoud went through the steps of the NIP development and discussed the inventory results in detail. They concluded that 2-3% of the electrical equipment is contaminated with PCBs.
The total weight of the transformer oil in the country is 18,500 tons. The estimated quantity of PCB-containing oil ranges from 370 – 555 tons.

The PCDD/Fs report concluded that the total releases is 539.9gTEQ annually. Uncontrolled combustion is 345.24gTEQ to air and 52.4 to wastes which is approximately 95% of the total releases. Main obstacles are insufficient regulations and lack of technical expertise.

The pollution area of the coastal zone stretches from Arous Village in the north to Sawakin port in the south the distance is approximately 100 km. The most serious problem in this area is the waste dumping.

The second country presentation addressed the NIP development in Egypt. Dr. Mohammed Ismail Ibrahim indicated the sources of the hazardous wastes and elaborated on the status of Egypt concerning the SC. The new POPs candidates were presented, then the POPs life cycle was discussed. The Japanese government (JICA) supports the PCB inventory development around and in Cairo. The used oils are collected and put in the oil recycling process. The assessment of the environmental consequences of this practice is under way. Total amount of obsolete POPs pesticides is 1182.6 tons. They are being collected to a central storage location. Egypt is preparing a project document to access the ASP to dispose these stocks. Steel and lead smelting are the leading sources of PCDD/Fs releases around Cairo. Open burning and cement kilns and hospital waste incineration are also important sources of dioxin and furan releases.
Twenty thousand tons of PCB containing oils are inventoried in Egypt. Technologies are sought for their disposal.

Key objectives in Annex C POPs management are:

- Prevention of burning of agricultural wastes,
- Implementing BAT and BEP, (medical waste incineration, power generation)
- Reducing the open burning of wastes and animal carcases.

He demonstrated the project MONET which aims to establish the baseline monitoring data of POPs in Africa. The highest dioxin and furan releases were measured in Cairo. It was 10 times higher than at any other sampling point.

Obstacles in managing Annex C POPs are:

- Infrastructure,
- Database,
- Laboratories, (There is one laboratory in Egypt which can analyse dioxins and furans)
- Training,
- Communication,
- Personal knowledge.

Key priorities in addressing UP-POPs are to control open air waste burning, power generation and agricultural waste burning.

The third presentation discussed the NIP development and POPs inventory results in Jordan. The presentation of Raid A. Damra discussed the status of Jordan concerning the SC. Then the main legislations addressing POPs were discussed. The total releases of PCDD/Fs are 81.6 gTEQ/a. The
main releases are due to open burning of wastes. Aqaba has a special status in Jordan and has its own regulations. The phosphate mining complex producing fertilizers is the largest industry there. The Aqaba power station is also an important facility. It is the largest in this kind in Jordan. It now uses natural gas as the row material. All industries in Aqaba are located in one industrial site, which justifies that this location should be included in the list of monitoring.

Open burning includes two main sources. One is that citizens burning their own waste. The other one is the uncontrolled burning of the dump sites. The city of Aqaba has two landfills. One is located 30km away from the city in a valley. The third one is under planning.

The power stations use natural gas, while there are factories which use heavy fuels and can be important sources of PCDD/Fs releases in the power generation category.

One of the most sophisticated laboratories in the region is Ben Hayyan laboratory (www.benhayyan.com) founded with the support of the EU. They monitor food and environment samples. Dioxins and furans can also be measured.

The fourth presentation centred around the Yemeni NIP development. Mr. Salem Abdullah Baqukhaizel held it in Arabic without translation.

Participants agreed that before next day they would read the project document. The consultant would propose the draft work plan for 2009 and 2010. It was also agreed that two laboratories (one in Jordan and one in Egypt) could be contracted to analyse the samples the project would generate.

22nd March 2009

Finalization of the work plan for 2009

The consultant presented the proposed project work plan for 2009. The objectives of the first year of the implementation would be

- establishment of the project management structure,
- training of two national specialists per participating country on dioxins and furans sampling,
- update of the Annex C POPs release inventories for the coastal zones in each country,
- identification and prioritization of demonstration sites for BAT/BEP implementation,
- selection of one common sector in all participating countries for BAT/BEP implementation,
- selection of one specific sector in each country for BAT/BEP implementation,
- development of site and sector specific assessments (including environmental samples) of the selected demonstration locations including assessment of the technologies, the environmental status, and the socio-economic circumstances.
- development of site specific action plans for BAT/BEP implementation for all selected locations.

Dr. Mohammed Ismail Ibrahim indicated that the dioxin laboratory in Egypt would be ready to train national specialists on dioxin analysis and more importantly on dioxin sampling. The same was indicated by Mr. Raed Damra about Jordan. Qualified laboratories in Egypt and Jordan will be asked for offers to provide the required training for specialists from the region.

According to the draft work plan for the year 2010 nine months will be allocated for the implementation of the site specific action plans. It includes the regulatory approvals and site or facility modifications. Participants expressed their concern that until the end of the project there could be no significant release reduction achieved in the environmental matrices. It was also highlighted that by using the dioxin and furan toolkit the release reductions could be calculated. The demonstration locations will be included in PERSGA regular monitoring portfolio since the project is intended to turn into a programme at PERSGA, thus time trend conclusions could later be drawn.

2. Decisions

Participants have unanimously approved the work plan for 2009 and consented the draft work plan for 2010. The work plan is attached in Annex III.

Participants have agreed that each country will nominate 2 candidates for the training on dioxin and furan sampling. The nominations shall be submitted to the PM. The cost of the training will be covered by PERSGA Project Budget.

Dr. Mohammed Ismail Ibrahim and Mr. Raed Damra will contact the respective laboratories in Egypt and Jordan to discuss the terms of the training programme. They will then contact the PM with the details. Based on that information the PM will organize the training.

The Annex C POPs release estimates of the NIPs need to be updated and specific inventories developed for the coastal zones. The baseline inventories should be completed and submitted to PERSGA not later than 31st August 2009.

Participants have agreed that there would be one common sector for all countries for BAT/BEP introduction. The best candidate for it is open burning of waste. Another country specific sector will also be identified for BAT/BEP implementation. The locations and the criteria for selecting them will be included in the country specific Annex C POPs inventory reports.

The participating countries will need to file reports to PERSGA before the 31st of August, namely on the Annex C POPs release inventory of the coastal zone. Laboratories that will do the training will also file reports on the laboratory training on dioxin and furan sampling.

The next meeting of the PMC will be on the first week of October, where the regional PCDD/Fs inventory report will be presented and the selected demonstration sites for BAT/BEP implementation approved.
It was also agreed that the PCU will provide the national project coordinators with:

- draft ToR for the national consultants who would develop the Annex C POPs release inventories of the coastal zones of the participating countries, including the content of the report,
- draft ToR for the national specialists to be nominated for the training on dioxin and furan sampling,
- draft minutes of the meeting.

3. Recommendations

The revision of the national Annex C POPs inventory shall be undertaken by a national expert wherever possible, preferably by the same person, who developed the PCDD/Fs inventory of the NIP.
Annex I: Agenda of the workshop

Promotion of Strategies to Reduce Unintentional Production of POPs in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) Coastal Zone

First Project Management Meeting
21-22 March 2009, Jeddah-Saudi Arabia

March 21st 2009:
10h00: Welcome and opening Address, PERSGA, Secretary General
      Address UNIDO, Dr. Mohammad Eissa
      Address IDB, Mr. Hatem Al Bakkli
      Group Photo
10h30: PERSGA Activities.
10h50: UNIDO activities on BAT/BEP.
11h10: Coffee break
11h30: Overview of the MSP activities and management structure.
12h00: Country reports
13h00: Lunch Break.
14h30: Project workplan for year 2009.
16h00: Discussions.
16h30: Close of the day.

March 22nd 2009:
9h30: Discussion of the report of the annual workplan.
10h30: Coffee Break
11h00: Final workplan.
12h00: Close of the PMC meeting
12h30: Lunch Break.
14h00: Meeting of the Resources Mobilization Group.
15h30: Close of the meeting.
### Annex II. List of Participants

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<td></td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>Dr. Mohammed Eissa</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>043-1 20026-4261</td>
<td>001-1 21346-4261</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.eisa@unido.org">m.eisa@unido.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>Szabolcs Fejes</td>
<td>International Consultant</td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>003670 - 1824433</td>
<td>00161 - 2467008</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfejes@mail.datanet.hu">sfejes@mail.datanet.hu</a></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>Dr. Mohammad Badran</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>00966 2 652 3224 ext. 204</td>
<td>00966 2 652 901</td>
<td>00966 5 654 02897</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mohammed.badran@persga.org">mohammed.badran@persga.org</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>Mr. Bashar Batayneh</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>00966 2 652 3224 ext. 239</td>
<td>00966 2 652 901</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bashar.batayneh@persga.org">bashar.batayneh@persga.org</a></td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Mr. Hatem Al Bakkli</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>009662 646-66 46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hatem_albakkli@pervag.org">hatem_albakkli@pervag.org</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Raid A. Damra</td>
<td>Environmental Specialist</td>
<td>PERSGA</td>
<td>00962 3209-1002 Ext. 2302</td>
<td>00962 3209 070</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:raeddamra@hotmail.com">raeddamra@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Mohammed Ismail Ibrahim El Schamy</td>
<td>Senior Environmental Auditing &amp; Inspection Officer</td>
<td>ASEA</td>
<td>022 25 25 64 Ext. 8225</td>
<td>022 25 25 97 / 90</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:m.sham_2002@hotmail.com">m.sham_2002@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Mr. Sulaiman M. Al Zaben</td>
<td>Environmental Specialist</td>
<td>ASEA</td>
<td>00962 6538222</td>
<td>00962 6538181</td>
<td>00185 5 1650106</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sulaiman_alzaben@aseza.jo">sulaiman_alzaben@aseza.jo</a></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Ali Mohamed Ali Mahmoud</td>
<td>Coordinator, POP's Project</td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>0249 183 771160</td>
<td>0249 183 827617</td>
<td>0249 9 122 97252</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ammahmoud@yemen.gov.ye">ammahmoud@yemen.gov.ye</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>Mr. Salem Abdullah Baqukhaziel</td>
<td>General Director of Monitoring and Env. Impact Assessment</td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>0096 1652751</td>
<td>0096 1 205673</td>
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<td><strong>Output 2: Institutional and human resources capacity established for various stakeholders</strong></td>
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<td>Activity 2.3: Assessments of the needs of the stakeholders</td>
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<td>Activity 4.1: Scientific evaluation of the inventory results</td>
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<td>Activity 4.2: Development of criteria for the prioritisation of identified sources</td>
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<td>Activity 4.3: Approval of UP-POPs sources for action plan development</td>
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## Output 5: UP-POPs source specific plans to promote BAT and BEP

- **Activity 5.1:** Identification of project managers, experts and agencies
- **Activity 5.2:** Part A: Report for BAT and BEP arrangements
  - **Activity 5.2.1:** Detailed technology assessment of the selected UP-POPs sources
  - **Activity 5.2.2:** Identification of the most feasible options including support for BAT and BEP alternatives
  - **Activity 5.2.3:** Development of detailed plan for introduction of BAT and BEP strategies
- **Activity 5.3:** Part B: Establishment of environmental and health related research and monitoring system
  - **Activity 5.3.1:** Identification of on-site sampling points
  - **Activity 5.3.2:** Identification of off-site sampling points
  - **Activity 5.3.3:** Assessment of occupational safety measures at the UP-POPs sources
  - **Activity 5.3.4:** Development of specialized research and monitoring system

## Output 5: Part C: Establishment of socio-economic and public participation initiative

- **Activity 5.4.1:** Identification of target groups
- **Activity 5.4.2:** Identification of preferred tools for awareness raising
- **Activity 5.4.3:** Identification of required information
- **Activity 5.4.4:** Development of specific public awareness programmes, public participation tools

## Output 6: Implementation of BAT and BEP

- **Activity 6.1:** Implementation of BAT and BEP action plans
- **Activity 6.2:** Site specific plans and additional financial resources mobilised

## Output 7: Regional BAT and BEP strategy developed

- **Activity 7.1:** Preparation of the regional strategy for BAT and BEP
- **Activity 7.2:** Development of a common legislative and regulatory framework
- **Activity 7.3:** Endorsement of the regional strategy

## Output 8: Adaptive monitoring and evaluation

- **Activity 8.1:** Monitoring and evaluation