



**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of Hazardous
Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent
Organic Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary
Movements of Hazardous Wastes
and Their Disposal
Sixteenth meeting**
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: clearing-house
mechanism for information exchange**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent
Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade
Eleventh meeting**
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda**

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**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: clearing-house
mechanism for information exchange**

Workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025

Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange (UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24), the annex to the present note sets out the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/CHW.16/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.11/1.

Annex

Workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025

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I. Information exchange needs of Parties

1. In line with the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy,¹ the Secretariat has collected, through various processes and documents as described below, information and comments from Parties and other stakeholders on the joint clearing-house mechanism. A number of Parties and other stakeholders expressed the usefulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the importance of a balance between benefits obtained and invested resources. Therefore, any activity undertaken by the Secretariat on the joint clearing-house-mechanism involves first the collection and consideration of the actual information needs and priorities of Parties and others.

2. Information exchange needs and priorities expressed by Parties and others have been collected through the following processes and documents:

(a) Decisions BC-15/26, RC-10/15, SC-10/22 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange in which Parties requested the Secretariat to continue the work to implement the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy and to implement the maintenance activities outlined in section II.A of the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023², and to implement, subject to the availability of resources, new activities outlined in section II.B of the same workplan. A number of activities of the workplan have been implemented by the Secretariat as funding became available;

(b) Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention³ held from 21 to 23 February 2023, in particular section III.A.2 on work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure;

(c) Compilation and synthesis of information received from Parties and observers on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views to improve the functioning of the procedure;⁴

(d) Report of the sixth meeting of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)⁵ held online from 11 to 13 April 2022;

(e) Report of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee on the work of its first meeting⁶ held in Geneva from 16 to 18 November 2022;

(f) Responses received from Parties to the questionnaire for the calendar year 2019 on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention and to the questionnaire for the calendar year 2020 on the implementation of Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention;⁷

(g) Report on the implementation of the information dissemination strategy for increasing the understanding and usefulness of tools and guidance to effectively address obligations and procedures relevant to the Rotterdam Convention;⁸

(h) Executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention;⁹

(i) Report of the subregional workshop to enhance science-policy-industry interaction and to support Parties in science-based decision-making for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions held in Barcelona from 17 to 20 October 2022;¹⁰

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/50.

³ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/11.

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/4, paragraphs 11 and 16.

⁵ UNEP/CHW/ENFORCE.6/3 (available from www.basel.int/tabid/9084).

⁶ UNEP/FAO/RC/CC.1/10 (available from www.pic.int/tabid/9272).

⁷ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.2.

⁸ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/13.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, part III, sections H, I and J.

¹⁰ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/9348.

(j) Report of the regional workshop on “From Science to Action” for the implementation of the BRS conventions and guidance on the environmentally sound management of industrial (GRULAC) held in Buenos Aires from the 12 to 14 April 2023.¹¹

3. Pursuant to decisions BC-15/26, RC-10/15, SC-10/22 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, Parties requested the Secretariat to continue the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism; to implement maintenance activities outlined in the clearing-house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2022–2023;¹² and, subject to availability of resources, to implement the new activities outlined in same workplan for the biennium 2022–2023. Thanks to the generous financial contributions provided by the European Union and the Government of Norway, as is mentioned in document UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24, a number of the related activities have been, or are being, implemented. Activities still ongoing, or for which funding was not available during the biennium 2022–2023, are outlined in sections II.B.1 and II.B.2 of the present document.

4. Pursuant to section III.A.2 of the report of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention¹³ related to the work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure, Parties and observers highlighted the challenges related to delays in obtaining responses as part of the prior informed consent procedure. Referring to the compilation and synthesis of information received from Parties and observers on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views to improve the functioning of the procedure,¹⁴ several Parties and observers highlighted the need for a system of regular checking and updating of email addresses to ensure that country contacts have up to date information.

5. Pursuant to the roadmap of activities outlined in the annex of the report of the sixth meeting of ENFORCE, members of the ENFORCE agreed to strengthen information exchange on legislation based on the information collected by Basel Convention regional centres.

6. Pursuant to decision CC-1/5 of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee, Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of options available to Parties for the purpose of information sharing and information from Parties about their experiences related to information exchange. Parties also agreed to include in the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee draft work programme for 2024–2025 further work to identify options to improve information sharing with Parties, including the clearing-house mechanism, as well as to analyse use thereof by Parties and other stakeholders.

7. In the notes by the Secretariat on responses received from Parties to the questionnaire for the calendar year 2019 on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention and on responses received from Parties to the questionnaire for the calendar year 2020 on the implementation of Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.2), Parties have identified publicly available, and missing, categories of information relevant to the Convention. The same notes contain lists of links to specific websites provided by Parties where information relevant for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention is publicly available.

8. In section II of report by the Secretariat on the implementation of the information dissemination strategy for increasing the understanding and usefulness of tools and guidance to effectively address obligations and procedures relevant to the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/13), a list of currently implemented dissemination tools and activities is outlined, some of which could complement the clearing-house mechanism information tools.¹⁵

9. In part III, sections G; H, I and P.5 of the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1), members of the effectiveness evaluation committee have recommended that the Conference of the Parties should remind Parties to nominate, or update, contact point information. Members of the effectiveness evaluation committee have also recommended that the Conference of the Parties should request the Secretariat under the clearing-house mechanism to explore ways to support national awareness raising

¹¹

<http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/CapacityDevelopment/Workshops/WorkshopBuenosAires,ArgentinaApr2023/tabid/9510/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

¹² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/50.

¹³ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/11.

¹⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/4, paragraphs 11 and 16.

¹⁵ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5378.

efforts through the sharing of resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other organisations and to develop new material to fill any gaps identified. Members of the effectiveness evaluation committee have also recommended that the Conference of the Parties should consider strengthening the clearing-house mechanism to increase collaboration with universities, scientific organisations, research institutions and others in order to encourage sharing of information relevant to the implementation of the Convention among various actors at the national and international levels.

10. Section 5.3 and 6 of the report of the subregional workshop to enhance science-policy-industry interaction and to support Parties in science-based decision-making specifies that Parties have indicated the need to further improve the access to and availability of scientific and technical information, including chemical profiles.

II. Description of proposed activities

11. Progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism pursuant to decisions BC-15/26, RC-10/15, SC-10/22 is outlined in document UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24. The present workplan covers activities that were not funded in the 2022–2023 biennium, and builds on activities initiated in previous bienniums, such as the portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastics and microplastics. The present workplan also covers activities related to maintenance and updates of existing records keeping systems and websites that serve as a foundation for any joint clearing-house mechanism activity, ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts and that maintenance efforts guarantees uninterrupted provision of services.

A. Activities related to maintenance and continuity of existing clearing-house mechanism services

12. Activities related to maintenance and continuity of existing clearing-house mechanism services include the maintenance and updating of effective tools for internal information management at the Secretariat level and are usually covered by the core budget to ensure smooth and efficient information management operations.

1. Activity 1 – Maintenance of Secretariat records keeping systems, including documents management, correspondence tracking, meeting record systems and status of ratifications

(a) Needs

13. The need is to enable the Secretariat to perform its functions in a smooth and efficient manner, the Secretariat should maintain and keep up-to-date its internal information management and records keeping systems. This serves as the foundation for various information packages that the Secretariat disseminates as part of the joint clearing-house mechanism.

14. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Description

15. The Secretariat will take the necessary steps to migrate its documents management system, which includes a large amount of official meetings documents, to a new cloud-based platform in order to benefit from enhanced functionalities and security at a reasonable cost.

16. The Secretariat, where appropriate, will perform the necessary tasks to adjust its information systems so they can be hosted in the cloud in order to benefit of improved performance and enhanced security.

17. The Secretariat should also take the necessary measures and undertake data management activities to keep its information up-to-date and properly catalogued, including information on official meetings, as deemed necessary.

(c) Desired outcomes

18. Information exchange systems are kept efficient, interoperable and operational and contribute to supporting Parties and others in the implementation of the conventions.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

19. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to program the necessary information technology tools and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

20. This is an ongoing or periodic activity.

21. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

2. Activity 2 – Maintenance of existing websites and related information dissemination systems and services**(a) Needs**

22. The need is to keep the conventions’ websites up-to-date in terms of content, tools and services, including to address the expressed need to improve access to legal, scientific and technical information across all documents referenced in section I above.

23. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Description

24. The Secretariat will continue to upgrade the conventions’ websites search function to provide more accurate results and direct access to online resources. To do so, the Secretariat will make use of auto-tagging tools to enhance, where necessary, indexing of web pages to provide more accurate search results.

25. The Secretariat will upgrade the websites content management system to their latest version in order to benefit from improvements and new available technologies, including an improved security against online threats.

26. The Secretariat will update its information feeds¹⁶ used to provide automatic information exchange with regional centres, InforMEA and other ongoing initiatives to benefit from its taxonomy and improved tagging and indexing. The Secretariat will continue to explore possible ways to automatically exchange information with the OECD eChemPortal.

27. The Secretariat will engage Parties and others to update the joint country profiles¹⁷ and joint roster of experts.¹⁸

28. The Secretariat will maintain the prior informed consent database (PIC database) and related online submission forms on the Rotterdam Convention website to respond to necessary fixes and adjustments.

29. The Secretariat will continue to enhance the functionalities of the chemicals profiles¹⁹ and the database of notifications of final regulatory actions²⁰ based on the needs identified by the Science to Action process referred to in section I above.

30. The Secretariat will continue to share most recent developments in scientific findings relevant to the conventions and to enhance its joint scientific and technical publications library²¹ by increasing collaboration with universities, scientific organisations, research institutions and others, based on the needs identified by the members of the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee of the Stockholm Convention referred to in section I above.

31. The Secretariat will continue to maintain and enhance the regional centres portal to include more information automatically provided by regional centres information systems.²²

¹⁶ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5801.

¹⁷ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4466.

¹⁸ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/3791.

¹⁹ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5341.

²⁰ www.pic.int/tabid/1368.

²¹ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/3790.

²² www.brsmeas.org/tabid/8330.

32. The Secretariat will also undertake the necessary recurrent tasks to keep the websites available and up-to-date, including data entry and data quality control.

33. The Secretariat will undertake relevant public awareness and training activities to promote the use of existing clearing-house mechanism information tools.

(c) Desired outcomes

34. The conventions' websites and related information exchange systems are kept up-to-date, efficient, interoperable and operational in order to support Parties and others to implement the conventions.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

35. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to program the necessary information technology tools and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

36. This is an ongoing or recurrent activity.

37. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

3. Activity 3 – Translation of the Rotterdam website into French and Spanish

(a) Needs

38. The need is to continue with the current practice, and to respond to the repeated recommendations from Parties and others to provide access to information in languages.

39. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Description

40. Translation of web pages, selected documents and information systems interfaces into French and Spanish. Enhancement of multilingual search facilities.

(c) Desired outcomes

41. Information on the Rotterdam Convention website is provided and kept up-to-date in English, French and Spanish thereby contributing to the reduction of language barriers when it comes to accessing information related to the Rotterdam Convention.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

42. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to perform the translations, complemented by staff time.

43. This is an ongoing or recurrent activity.

44. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

4. Activity 4 – Hardware and software upgrades

(a) Needs

45. The need is to upgrade storage and processing capacity to enable the Secretariat to manage the increasing volume of information exchanged through the joint clearing-house mechanism, as well as its capacity to re-package it for different target audiences, while ensuring proper security.

46. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Description

47. Procurement, testing and deployment of information technology equipment and services required to support the joint clearing-house mechanism.

48. The Secretariat will procure the necessary cloud services to test, plan and initiate the migration of its systems and servers to the cloud in order to benefit from improved performance and enhanced security.

(c) Desired outcomes

49. Information exchange systems are efficient, interoperable and operational in order to support Parties and others in implementing the conventions.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

50. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will purchase required information technology equipment and software licenses.

51. This is an ongoing or periodic activity.

52. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

B. Priority areas and new information exchange tools beyond the maintenance activities

1. Activity 5 – Portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics

(a) Needs

53. The need is to further gather and provide access to information about regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics (see decisions OEWG-11/8, BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 paragraphs 5 (a) (i) and 5 (a) (ii), and BC-15/15 paragraph 10).

54. By continuing the work initiated in 2021 to include a web portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics in the clearing-house mechanism, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Product description

55. The Secretariat will continue to work in collaboration with existing initiatives, including regional centres and the UNEP Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), to develop and keep up-to-date a searchable portal collecting information produced by the Secretariat, regional and national initiatives and others while reducing duplication of efforts. This portal will be accessible from the conventions’ websites. It will aggregate in one place information produced and collected by all identified stakeholders, including those related to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as plastic can be contaminated by persistent organic pollutants or chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention. The portal will use technologies and standards as outlined in the guidance document for Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism at the national and regional levels (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/19) to keep the content automatically synchronized, where feasible, reducing administrative burden and costs. This approach will also ensure compatibility with the InforMEA portal.

56. The portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics will leverage and make use of information collected by regional centres through the portal on information from regional centres developed during the biennium 2021-2022. This portal on regional centres will also benefit from information on marine litter and microplastics.

(c) Desired outcomes

57. Strengthened common regional and national documentation centres and websites, regional structures and regional centres, regional delivery of information relevant to the conventions in languages; information gaps related to marine plastic litter and microplastics identified and addressed.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

58. To continue to implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to identify information providers and establish data collection processes; and to program the necessary information systems and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

59. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is twelve months.

60. Thanks to the generous financial contribution provided by the Government of Norway, funds have been made available for this activity for the year 2021 as well as for the biennium 2022–2023 and the year 2024 and are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

2. Activity 6 – Online resource catalogue covering national websites containing scientific, technical and regulatory information relevant for the conventions

(a) Needs

61. The need is to further improve the access to, and availability of, scientific and technical information on chemicals as well as on regulatory measures relevant for the implementation of the conventions as outlined in the road map on from science to action²³ and to fill knowledge gaps as outlined in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.1 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.2.

62. By developing a catalogue of national websites with scientific, technical and regulatory information relevant for the conventions, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Product description

63. Several processes under the conventions, such as national reporting or the yearly questionnaires on the implementation of Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention, are collecting information on national websites relevant for the implementation of the conventions. The information collected is packaged through notes presented to the conferences of the Parties which are not ideal for dissemination to diverse target audiences. Bringing all this information in a user-friendly and searchable online catalogue, accessible from the Secretariat website shall help Parties and other audiences to access publicly available national resources relevant for the implementation of the conventions. Similar information is also often provided by Parties and others through other online questionnaires as well as national reporting. The information collected will also complement other information tools, including the joint country profile²⁴ and, the chemical profiles²⁵ where possible.

64. The Secretariat will complement the information with data provided by selected partners, such as regional centres to enhance information access and fill knowledge gaps.

(c) Desired outcomes

65. Enhanced information tools to support Parties’ decision making, strengthen information exchange and networking among Parties and others, and fill knowledge gaps.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

66. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to automatically extract and harmonize data collected from various processes and to ensure proper data cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

67. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is eight months.

68. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

3. Activity 7 – Automatic system to regularly validate and update country contact email addresses

(a) Needs

69. The need is to provide for an automatic system to regularly check and update email addresses to ensure that country contacts have up to date information and can respond in a timely manner to request for information (see report of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the

²³ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/49.

²⁴ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4466.

²⁵ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5341.

Basel Convention,²⁶ in particular section III.A.2 as well as the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention,²⁷ in particular part III, section H).

70. By facilitating the maintenance of an updated list of contact points for the three conventions, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Product description

71. The automatic system to regularly check and update email addresses will facilitate the maintenance of information on contact point that are made accessible from the conventions' websites. It will send regular emails to contacts points asking them to confirm reception and accuracy of information. In case of inaccurate information, this tool will facilitate the submission of updated official contact information to the Secretariat.

(c) Desired outcomes

72. Increased response time by Parties' contact points to requests related to matters relevant for the conventions.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

73. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to program the necessary information systems and ensure optimized data validation flows, complemented by staff time.

74. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is five months.

75. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

4. Activity 8 – Enhancement of the national legislation library

(a) Needs

76. The need is to strengthen information exchange on legislation based on the information collected by Basel Convention regional centres in the context of ENFORCE and to improve dissemination of information (see paragraph 24 of the report of the sixth meeting of the ENFORCE²⁸).

77. With this activity, ENFORCE members and the Secretariat are contributing to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Product description

78. The library of national legislation²⁹ will be further enhanced, re-faceted, and updated based on the information collected by regional centres and cross-linked with other tools, ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts.

79. The Secretariat will complement the information with data provided by selected partners, such as regional centres to enhance information access and fill knowledge gaps.

(c) Desired outcomes

80. Information on national legislation under the Basel Convention is complemented by the information collected and prepared by ENFORCE members; Parties and other stakeholders can access, disseminate and exchange information on national legislation to prevent and combat illegal traffic.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

81. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of a consultant to ensure updating, re-faceting and cross-linking information on the National Legislation library.

²⁶ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/11.

²⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW/ENFORCE.6/3.

²⁹ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5342.

82. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is nine months.

83. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

5. Activity 9 – Online catalogue of national awareness raising efforts relevant to the conventions

(a) Needs

84. The need is to support national awareness raising efforts (see part III, section I of the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention).³⁰

85. By facilitating collection, access to, and dissemination of, awareness raising materials relevant from the conventions from the national level, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

(b) Product description

86. The Secretariat will collect information from Parties and others on available national awareness raising resources, including social media channels, through an online questionnaire. The Secretariat will assess the possibility of automatically collecting information on awareness raising initiatives at the national level. The information collected will be made accessible and disseminated through an online catalogue of national awareness raising efforts relevant to the conventions available from the conventions websites. The catalogue will be completed by awareness raising materials published by the Secretariat.

87. The Secretariat will complement the information with data provided by selected partners, such as regional centres to enhance information access and fill knowledge gaps.

(c) Desired outcomes

88. Enhanced information tools to support Parties’ decision making, strengthen information exchange and networking among Parties and others, and fill knowledge gaps.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

89. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to compile, automatically extract where possible, harmonize data collected from various partners, ensure proper data cataloguing, and develop the online catalogue database, complemented by staff time.

90. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is ten months.

91. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled “Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).

6. Activity 10 – Enhancement of conventions’ websites content and information harmonization

(a) Needs

92. The need is to improve steadily the overall quality of joint clearing-house mechanism information, products and services and the ability of users to assess the quality of specific information (see paragraph 31 of the revised draft strategy for further development and operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions).³¹ Over the years, a significant amount of new information was collected through the joint clearing-house mechanism and made accessible through the conventions’ websites. Some of this information needs updating while some other needs to be further harmonized to enhance access with an overall aim to improve information quality.

93. By reviewing, harmonizing, and updating where relevant the information collected by the joint clearing-house mechanism and made accessible through the conventions’ websites, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

³⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1.

³¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

(b) Product description

94. The Secretariat will review and update existing information, develop templates to integrate new information sources while harmonizing content across, translate and index information using newly developed taxonomy, where relevant.

(c) Desired outcomes

95. Enhanced quality of information presented to Parties and other stakeholders from the conventions' websites to support Parties' decision making, strengthen information exchange and networking among Parties and others, and fill knowledge gaps.

(d) Approach, timescale and costs

96. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to review, update, harmonize, index, and translate information collected by the joint clearing-house mechanism and make it available on the conventions' websites, complemented by staff time.

97. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is twenty-four months.

98. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2024–2025: programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51).
