Activity Options for Action Plans on the Management and Elimination of PCBs and POP Pesticides
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STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Environmentally sound management of remaining PCBs in line with the Stockholm Convention goals - the financial mechanism and other tools -

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Stockholm Convention PCBs elimination goals

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- Parties to **ban the production, commerce and new uses** of PCBs;
- Parties to make determined efforts to **identify, label and remove from use equipment** (e.g. transformers, capacitors or other receptacles containing liquid stocks) containing PCB by **2025**;
- Parties to make determined efforts designed to lead to **environmentally sound waste management** of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB as soon as possible but no later than **2028**;
- Parties to identify other **articles containing PCB (open applications)** and manage them in an environmentally sound manner; and
- Parties to allow **export** or import PCB only for the **purpose of environmentally sound waste management**
- **Unintentional production** of PCBs

Review progress toward elimination of PCBs

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Annex A, part II, h)

The national reports described in subparagraph (g) shall, as appropriate, be considered by the Conference of the Parties in its reviews relating to polychlorinated biphenyls.

The Conference of the Parties shall review progress towards elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls at five-year intervals or other period, as appropriate, taking into account such reports.

Mandate to the PCB SIWG

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SC-11/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls

Also decides to re-establish a small intersessional working group, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through face-to-face meetings, to assist the Secretariat in preparing, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting:

(a) A report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls; UNDER DEVELOPMENT

(b) A revised strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the comments received in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present decision; COMPLETED – COP12-INF11

(c) Revised guidance for the development of inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls and analysis of polychlorinated biphenyls and revised versions of other guidance relevant to polychlorinated biphenyls available under the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the comments received in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present decision; COMPLETED: COP12-INF10

12th Conference of the Parties – outcomes on PCBs: *Decision SC-12/3*

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Welcomes the updated guidance for the development of inventories of PCBs and analysis of PCBs (UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/10), as well as the strategy to enable Parties to the Stockholm Convention to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals on PCBs elimination of the Convention UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/10.

Urges Parties:

- To implement measures to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention, in particular with respect to paragraphs (a) and (e) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, taking into account the strategy for PCBS towards meeting the 2025 and 2028 goals, and to develop, update and maintain national inventories of PCBs, following the updated guidance.
- To endeavour to identify articles containing more than 0.005 per cent (50ppm) PCBs in open applications, such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects, and to manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6
- To report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures taken to implement part II of Annex A to the Convention, including quantitative information on PCBs, in their national reports pursuant to Article 15 and encourages them to enhance synergies at the national level with focal points and competent authorities of the Basel Convention in the preparation of their national reports to ensure consistency in the information submitted, as appropriate, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls

Requests the Secretariat:

- To continue to provide technical assistance to strengthen developing countries national and regional capacities for the elimination and reporting of PCBs
- To collaborate with UNEP´s Chemicals and Health Branch

Recalls Decision 11-3 on the re-establishment of the Small intersessional working group established to assist the Secretariat on the preparation of: an updated report on the progress towards the elimination of PCBs.

Intersessional work

- **Capacity building workshops (2024)** on PCBs ESM (GRULAC, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia) – Pacific (pending)
- **Pilot projects:** Uganda, Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Cambodia, Tajikistan
- **Regional Assessments on Capacities for PCBs ESM**: Latin America (Argentina), Caribbean (T & T), Europe (Czechia), Africa (Senegal and South Africa, Asia-Pacific (Indonesia)
- **Market study:** GRULAC (T & T), Europe and Africa (Czechia)
- PCB Small Intersessional Working Group (20 countries + observers):**Global Report**
- **National Reports:** Reporting format

Reporting format

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14.2 PCB Inventories

PCB Inventory reported in previous reporting cycle 5. Only refrence (**read only**)

Reference year of the inventory: 2016

	PCB in equipment (transformers, capacitors, other receptacles)		
	Total mass of equipment (Casing + liquid) (kg) (a)	Liquid (Liquid not contained in casing) (kg) (b)	Total (kg) (a+b)
PCB in use or unspecified (c)	665284	229203	894487
PCB in storage or out of use (d)	231195	89513	320708
Total (active inventory) (c)+(d)	896479	318716	1215195

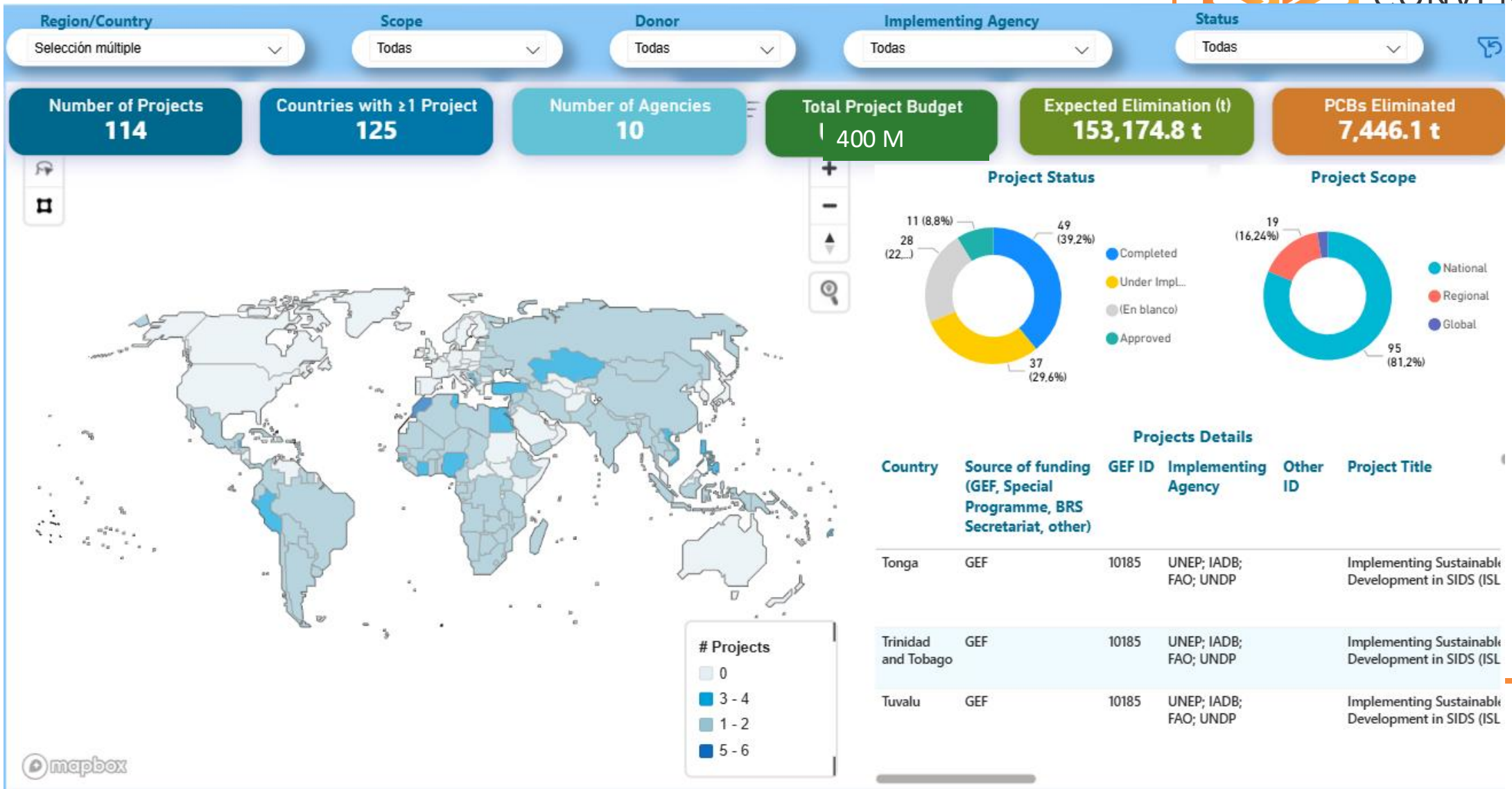
14.2.1 Please provide the most recent information about PCB inventories per year in the table(s) below.

Clarification notes

	Inventory year	PCB INVENTORY				
	[Select]	Amount of PCB electric equipment (units)	Total mass of PCB electric equipment (t)	Total mass of PCB liquids not contained in equipment (t)	Total mass of other PCB waste (t)	Total mass (t)
PCB in use or unspecified:						
PCB in storage, out of use and/or waste:						
TOTAL PCB INVENTORY:						

| Add new Inventory year

The Financial mechanism: the GEF



Global Elimination Program for PCBs (GEP-PCB)

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Funded by the GEF as the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention:

- 1st round: 6 countries (Gabon and Cameroon (UNEP), Uganda (AfDB) Madagascar, Nigeria, (World Bank) Eswatini (UNDP)..
- Working to develop a second round and expanding the program during GEF 9.
- Requirements:
  - Updated inventory
  - Elimination plan towards meeting the Stockholm goals
  - Links to energy programs

Financing gaps:

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PCB Category	Importance	Why	Challenge
In-Use Equipment	High	Still operational (e.g. transformers, capacitors); ongoing risk of leaks or accidents.	Often in densely populated or industrial areas, increasing exposure risk.
Stored Waste	Moderate–High	Removed from use but awaiting proper disposal; risk of leaks if storage is insecure.	Lack of adequate hazardous waste infrastructure in many developing countries.
Contaminated Sites	Very High	Difficult and expensive to remediate; PCBs in soil/sediment persist and can enter food chain.	Cleanup needs advanced tech and long-term monitoring, especially in sensitive ecosystems.
Unidentified or Orphan Stocks	Critical	Most dangerous due to being unknown or undocumented; often in abandoned or mislabeled sites.	Lack of inventories means risks may go unnoticed until incidents occur.

Innovative and sustainable financing

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1. Fees and Levies

There are no standardized global fees or levies imposed across countries. Instead, the financial mechanisms vary depending on national policies, donor support, and project-specific arrangements. Some countries may impose environmental levies on utilities or importers of electrical equipment to fund hazardous waste programs, though these are rarely PCB-specific. In many cases, owners of PCB-contaminated equipment (e.g. utilities, industries) are required to bear the cost of disposal, especially if the equipment is still in use.

2. Green Financial Products

UNEP and GEF have emphasized that replacing PCB-contaminated transformers with energy-efficient models can offset costs through reduced energy losses and CO_2 emissions. In theory, this could open the door for autonomous private investment in PCB elimination is a conducive policy environment is in place. The infrastructure and regulatory frameworks are in place in many countries to support such instruments.

Innovative and sustainable financing

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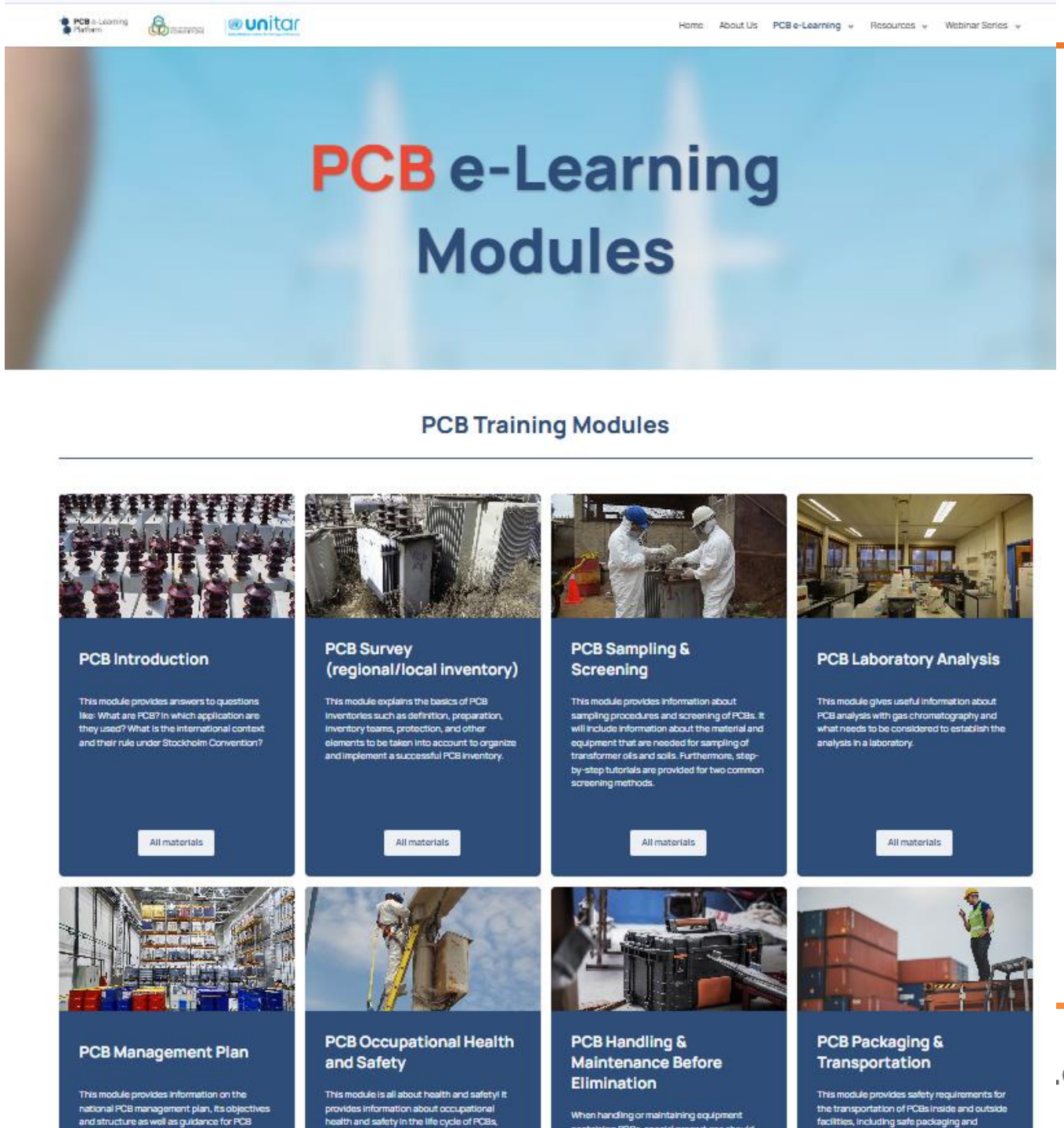
3. Blended Finance to catalyze private finance

Some countries are exploring blended finance—combining grants, concessional loans, and private capital—to reduce the financial burden on public agencies and/or derisk private investment. A wide range of blended finance structures are available depending on the risk-reward profile of individual investment.

4. Environmental markets

Some pilot programs explore using carbon markets or hazardous waste credits to incentivize proper disposal, though this is still in early stage. Market price for voluntary carbon offsets are 100 times too low to cover the full investment cost but, supplementing energy savings, can increase the financial attractiveness of PCB elimination projects.



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Training platform

https://pcb.unitar.org/elearning

.org

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For more information on the work on PCBs, visit the Stockholm Convention website:

https://www.pops.int/tabid/273/Default.aspx

Thank you!

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