

BUSINESS PLAN / WORK PLAN (2020 - 2023)

Name of Regional Centre: Basel Convention Regional Center for South America Region
in Argentina (BCRC Argentina)

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This business/work plan covers the period from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2025

Executive Summary

Most important part of your Business Plan. Clear, concise and compelling condensation of your future work.

The proposed Business Plan of BCRC Argentina is targeted on strengthening the capacity building role of the BCRC in the region -with a view mainly to improving Basel Convention implementation -and is aimed at facilitating synergies with the Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), among others international initiatives and programs related to the life cycle of chemicals and wastes.

The BCRC Argentina through the years has specialized in the following agendas:

- Illegal traffic
- Environmentally sound management (ESM) of PCBs (focused on the electrical and mining sector)
- E-waste
- Plastics and microplastics
- Regulation enforcement particularly criminal legislation on chemical and waste management
- Environmental sound management of mercury,
- Lead-acid batteries
- Circular economy and household wastes
- Environmental insurance and financial guarantees
- Laboratories capacity

among other main subjects in which the Centre has a wide international, regional and national experience, being a reference institution in the South America, Latin America and Caribbean region.

All projects and initiatives promoted by CRBAS include a gender approach in line with SDG 5 on gender equality. This includes, but is not limited to: promoting gender equality and gender diversity; encourage the active participation of women in decision-making and ensure gender balance in each project, activity or initiative carried out.

1. Introduction and Background

(What problem(s)/challenges relating to the implementation of the Convention(s) will be addressed under this plan? *Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template.*)

Considering the problems, challenges and needs identified by countries that the BCRC serves to the implementation of the Basel Convention and others international agreements and programs, webinars, workshops, programs, projects and capacity building in the management and sustainable life cycle of chemicals and wastes will be delivered, based on the technical guidelines of Basel, Minamata, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, with emphasis in Transboundary Movements (TBM) and ESM of PCBs, mercury, plastics, lead- acid batteries, circular economy and household wastes, E-wastes, national reports, waste contained with Permanent Organic Pollutants (POPs), bonds, insurance and guarantees and regulation enforcement; all framed mostly in the 12 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” and 17 “Partnerships for the Goals”.

Having as strategy the Cradle-to-cradle (Circular Economy) principle, the Hierarchy of Management of Wastes and the ESM Basel Convention guidelines, technical assistance will be supplied to the countries in the South American region to help them formulate environmental chemical and wastes regulations, plans, programs and projects to prevent,

minimize, reuse, recovery, recycle, treatment and final disposal of PCBs, E-waste, mercury, plastics, household and lead-acid batteries wastes, among other categories of wastes.

Relevant initiatives will be undertaken and implemented in the countries that the BCRC Argentina serves, in the context of their PCBs, POPs, E-wastes, the new international agenda on plastics, lead-acid batteries and household wastes inventories and national management or implementations plans.

In addition, new challenges are set:

- Align the strategies of BCRC Argentina to climate change national action plans under the Paris Agreement commitments
- Leverage the activities of the Regional Centers in synergy with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Promote implementation of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters (Escazú Agreement)

2. Goals and Objectives:

Goal/s

(What solutions you are offering to address the problems/challenges described above?

Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template.)

- Contribute to the prevention, regulation enforcement and penalty of illegal traffic of wastes in general but particularly of E-wastes and plastics.
- Promote circular economy, with focus in industrial processes.
- Improve the acknowledgment, implementation and use of the Technical Guidelines of the Basel, Minamata, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions to help countries to develop their inventories and national management or implementations plans.
- Improve the implementation of Manuals and Fact Sheets of ESM in the context of the Expert Working Group (EWG) of the Basel Convention.
- Strengthen the Network of chemical and wastes laboratories of the South American Region for inter-laboratory collaboration and improving their capacity building.
- Disseminate Best Practices and available technologies for the ESM of PCBs, wastes of mercury, E-waste, lead-acid batteries wastes, plastics wastes, household wastes among other relevant categories of wastes, considering the 12 SDG.
- Contribute with the enforcement environmental general regulation of wastes in the region.

Objectives

(What specific components constitute the solution? Such components should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound. *Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template.)*

- To strengthen the capacity building in the ESM of wastes facilitating synergies with Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, SDG 12 and 17, along with other regional and international programs and initiatives in South America Countries in (5) five years.
- Be a referent of ESM of certain wastes categories like PCBs, E-waste, mercury, plastics, lead-acid batteries, circular economy and household waste in South America countries in in (5) five years.
- To promote Best Practices, guidelines and documents of illegal traffic in South America countries in (5) five years.
- To develop and implement Webinars jointly with the Basel Convention Secretariat in different topics of the international agenda of the chemicals and wastes management, and in alliance with other Regional Centres and the Intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste for Latin America and the Caribbean
- To help countries to develop policies, strategies, projects and programs for the ESM of chemicals and wastes in South America countries in (10) ten year.

3: Constraints and Resources:

(What constraints or restrictions or hindrances have been foreseen that must be overcome with what resources in order to reach the objectives?)

Constraints:

(Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template)

- BCRC is capable of assisting countries in technical, legal and laboratory areas of the ESM and life cycle of chemical and wastes, and will start to develop capacity building activities related to Cradle-to-cradle (Circular Economy) principle.
- BCRC operations are sometimes impaired by a lack of available and accessible funding in the region. For the Centres activities to be effective, a sustainable financial mechanism needs to be implemented, so that assistance is delivered to BCRC-aided countries as planned. Technology transfer is encumbers in the sphere of training on project formulation and is hindered by complex legal situation.
- It's become evident that managerial skills need to be strengthened and encouraged in the region, and that, following the trend of recent years, the results of BCRC efforts must continue to be disseminated.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the National Basel Convention Competent Authority of Argentina and the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), where the Center is hosted, are financing the Center with cash transfer since 2008 for activities related to mercury, E-wastes and tires to be done in the country and the region. Through INTI, the BCRC Argentina gives technical, legal and laboratory capacity building assistance in metrology and ESM wastes categories.

Resources:

(Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template)

- The BCRC Argentina technical capabilities are sufficient for training national and regional laboratories on POPs, tires and mercury analysis.
- The decision to set up the BCRC Argentina at INTI underscores its independence and autonomy guaranteed by its internal regulations. The BCRC's legal and financial status is in accordance to provisions set forth by the Basel Convention.
- Through INTI, the National Government ensures that the BCRC Argentina has sufficient autonomy and independence, particularly regarding its thematic and financial components; as well, it is a way of ensuring the Centre continuity and sustainability regardless of changes in national administrations.
- Hosting the Center by (INTI), an expert institution recognized nationally and regionally in the Research Center Systems, has advantages due to its relationship with industries and the private sector in general, NGOs and the excellent quality of its infrastructure, equipment and human resources.

4: Activities and Strategies

(List the individual project activities including beneficiaries, budget, funding sources, partners and time frame. *Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template*)

Activities:

Name of the Project/activity	Convention			Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC				
Strengthening national legislation for crimes against the environment in Argentina Linking with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights Program Justice 2020	X and MC ¹	X	X	Argentina	15.000	INTI, Competent Authority of Argentina and BCRC Argentina	2020-2023
Regional training for Prosecutors and Customs Authorities on Illicit Traffic of Waste and Chemical Products Linking with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights Program Justice 2020	X and MC	X	X	South American countries (10 ²)	15.000	INTI, Competent Authority of Argentina and BCRC Argentina	2020-2023
Identification of feasible strategies for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of lighting products used in Chile	X			Chile first and the all BC countries	39.996	BC Secretariat (BCS)	2019-2020
Supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for POPs in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region	X	X		Latin American and Caribbean countries (LAC)	99.164	UNEP SC Secretariat	2016-2020
Capacity Building Program for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina and others countries in the Region	X and MC			Argentina	250.000	UNEP MC Secretariat	2016-2025
Strengthening of national initiatives and improvement of regional cooperation for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste electrical and electronic equipment (E-wastes) in Latin American countries	X	X		Argentina and Ecuador	1.100.000	UNIDO	2019-2023

¹ MC: Minamata Convention

² Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Venezuela and Uruguay; countries that BCRC Argentina serves.

Name of the Project/activity	Convention			Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC				
Convene webinars on GHS and to share implementation and experiences in the region, including experiences on enforcement mechanisms	X and MC	X	X	South American countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina Exploring possible activities with UNITAR	2017-2025
Plastic and micro-plastic industrial reconversion and prevention and minimization measures jointly with single use regulations and strengthening of recycling industries	X	X		South American countries	20.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2019-2025
Host webinars to disseminate existing initiatives on integrated chemicals management policies, regulations, financing and cost recovery, and coordination mechanisms among the Network focal points	X and MC	X	X	LAC	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2019-2025
Until the Program “Technician of Re-functional Managers Program” is implemented, promote courses on the proper management of E-wastes, given them a Certification including competences and skills of the positions related to the treatment of E-wastes (Certification of “Re-functional Manager”)	X	X		Mainly Argentina	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2020-2025
To hold Webinars to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste, reduce main gaps in the region to prevent it, experiences from other regions	X and MC	X	X	Argentina mainly and LAC countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2020-2025
Undertake regional education and awareness raising, including presentation at high level events, on the benefits of developing integrated legal frameworks and strengthening the institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as the mainstreaming into the development agenda and budgeting processes	X and MC	X	X	Argentina	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina and others national stakeholders	2020-2025
Develop a training activity with the authorities responsible for the control of mercury trade (including customs), to enhance capacity and international cooperation, based on the national and regional assessments on legal and illegal trade of mercury (2 meetings)	X and MC			South American countries	50.000 (to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina and others international stakeholders	One meeting in 2020 and another in 2022

Name of the Project/activity	Convention			Beneficiary Party (ies)	Estimated budget (US\$)	Funding source(s)	Time frame (Year)
	BC	SC	RC				
To hold webinars on main considerations to prevent illegal traffic of chemicals and waste, reduce main gaps in the region to prevent it, experiences from other regions	X and MC	X	X	Argentina mainly and LAC countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2022-2025
To compile and facilitate the information exchange about experiences on the sound management of lead-acid batteries	X			South American countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2022-2025
To promote public-private regional partnerships to promote and implement extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes or systems on wastes, particularly in plastic wastes, E-wastes and lead-acid batteries. Lead by countries with experience	X	X	X	South American countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2021-2025
Develop and implement a public education and awareness campaign on the health and environmental impacts of lead and mercury	X and MC			South American countries	10.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina and others national and regional stakeholders	2020-2025
To hold a webinar/workshop/conference about progress made in the region to develop regulations for the elimination of lead in paints	X			LAC countries	10.000 to 30.000	INTI, BCRC Argentina	2021-2025
Strengthening national industrial initiatives to improve regional competitiveness through the development of economically sustainable business models in Latin American countries (Cradle-to-cradle / Circular Economy approaches) including a catalog of circular economy initiatives in the region for the prevention, reuse or recycling of hazardous waste	X and MC	X	X	Argentina mainly and South American countries	600.000(to be reviewed)	INTI, BCRC Argentina and other regional and international stakeholders	Starting 2022 to be defined
Implement a “Technician of Re-functional Managers Program”, officially recognized, to promote the training of workers in the proper management of E-wastes (all employees linked to electrical and electronic wastes, E-wastes and Urban Solid Wastes-USW)	X and MC			South American countries	20.000 (to be reviewed)	Argentina mainly	2022-2023

Strategies:

Strategies	What will be done	By when (timeline)
Endorsement/involve ment/need identification of the beneficiaries (list applicable activities/projects or entire plan)	<p>Following the guidance of Steering Committee and the results of its meetings (the first was conducted in the framework of BC COP13 in May 2015; second and third were performed in the frame of the GRULAC meetings at BC COP13 2017 and BC COP14 2019)</p> <p>Webinars and teleconferences</p> <p>Take advantage of regional meetings or back to back meetings</p> <p>Actively participate in the development of the new Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention that should be negotiated in COP14 and would be started in 2022</p>	<p>Early 2020</p> <p>Regional (2020 and 2022) and COP meetings (2021 and 2023)</p> <p>2020-2021</p>
Identification of potential donors/funds/agencies	<p>What will be done to identify the potential funding sources?</p> <p>Meetings with the embassies in Argentina explore horizontal cooperation through Memorandums of Understanding (MofU) of collaboration with the countries of the region and others regional centres like Brazil, Panama and Uruguay, and others regions</p> <p>Development, signing and execution of programs and projects with multilateral implementation agencies (UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNDP, among others)</p>	<p>This activity started in 2019 and will continue</p>
	<p>Develop activities with national authorities and local environmental competent authorities.</p> <p>The first was an MofU signed with the environmental authority of the main jurisdiction with industrial and service activities in Argentina, the Provincial Agency for Sustainable Development-OPDS, BCRC</p> <p>Argentina will be the institution that will implement the Framework Agreement for Collaboration and Technical Assistance between OPDS and INTI</p>	<p>This activity started in 2019 and will continue</p>
	<p>Strengthen the alliance with the Secretariat of the BSR Conventions to develop and execute programs, projects, strategic documents and guidelines in the frame of waste categories and agendas that the BCRC Argentina is leading like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Finalized the Guidance on the ESM of Household waste that is being developed in the frame of the Household Waste Partnership (Book/Writers' Sprint) -Continue with the assistance and collaboration for the dissemination of the ESM EWG guidelines and technical documents -Continue with the assistance and collaboration for the development of guidelines and technical documents, particularly ESM topics, and their dissemination, within the framework of PACE -Expand training and exchange of experiences, along with ENFORCE, in the prevention and punishment of 	<p>2020-2025</p>

	<p>illicit traffic of chemicals and wastes by assisting countries and their competent authorities in the development of legislation on the subject</p> <p>-Actively participate in the Plastic Waste Partnership working group</p>	
	<p>With the experience of the BCRC Argentina and the activities already carried out at the national level, explore possible alliances to develop joint activities with other Regional Centers of the LAC countries, Secretariats of the Basel Convention and other multilateral organizations, UNEP, UNITAR and UNIDO especially, for the development and implementation of programs, projects, webinars, courses, workshops, webinars related to prevention, use, reuse, recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal of lead-acid batteries and plastics</p>	
	<p>Considering the 12 and 17 SDG, strengthening national industrial initiatives to improve regional competitiveness through the development of economically sustainable business models in LAC countries (Cradle-to-cradle / Circular Economy approaches) including a catalog of circular economy initiatives in the region for the prevention, reuse or recycling of hazardous waste</p>	2021-2022
	<p>Continue with the assistance and collaboration for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in countries of the South American region, specially Argentina, through the development of the Specific International Program (SIP) and implementation of workshops, webinars, programs and projects</p>	Started 2019 and will continue until 2025
	<p>Strengthening of national initiatives and improvement of regional cooperation for the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in E-wastes in Latin American countries, particularly with Argentina and Ecuador; UNIDO and BCRC Project</p>	Started 2019 and will continue until 2025
	<p>Continue assisting the countries of the LAC region in the development, approval and execution of the guide for the application of article 6, paragraph 11, of the BC on financial guarantees together with the BC Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC)</p>	Started 2019 and will continue until 2025
Preparation of grant proposals	<p>(List the area in which project proposals will be prepared and submitted)</p> <p>Developing and signed MoFU with UNIDO, UNEP, Regional Centres of BC and SC: Bratislava, Brazil, Panama and Uruguay for the implementing of ENFORCE, PACE, Partnerships of Household Wastes and Plastics, E-wastes, Lead-acid batteries and mercury agendas, along with ESM projects and experiences</p>	<p>Since 2020 to 2021 Results will be presented to BCS in due time</p>
Any other activities...	<p>-Develop and hold a webinar/workshop/conference for South American countries about progress made in the region to develop regulations for the elimination of lead in paints; compile and facilitate the information</p>	Starting 2022

	exchange about experiences on ESM of lead-acid batteries	
	Develop and implement a public education and awareness campaign in Argentina on the health and environmental impacts of lead and mercury	Started 2021 and will continue until 2025
	To promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in LAC countries to implement EPR schemes or systems on wastes, particularly in plastic wastes, E-wastes and lead-acid batteries. Lead by countries with experience	Started 2021 and will continue until 2025
	Implement in Argentina a “Technician of Re-functional Managers Program”, officially recognized, to promote the training of workers in the proper management of E-wastes (all employees linked to EEE, E-wastes and Urban Solid Wastes-USW)	Started 2022 and will continue until 2025

5. Evaluation Plan

Describe in brief your evaluation plan, how frequently you intend to evaluate and update it. *(Examples are given in the explanatory note located at the end of this template)*

The Center proposes a GRID Evaluation (a Table of Contents for Evaluation Plan) every 6 months starting with this Business Plan in July 2020 to evaluate period January-June 2020, including the following contents:

- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Grants proposal signed
- Documents, guidelines or agendas where BCRC participate, execute or implement
- Activities implemented



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