

**Regional Centres Annual Joint Meeting
November 2023**



CRBAS
Centro Regional Basilea
para América del Sur

Activities 2022 - 2023 BCRC Argentina

Alberto Santos Capra Director
BCRC – Argentina (CRBAS)



- The **Basel Regional Center for South America for Training and Technology Transfer (CRBAS)** in the field of hazardous waste and others, has been located in the National Institute of Industrial Technology since 1999.
- It is a technological reference for the South American region, whose objective is the training and strengthening of control and production structures in the South American region (**Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay**)

Finished Projects

Support in the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Compounds (POPs) in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

Amount: USD99,164.00 financed by GEF

Cooperation agreement with BCCC – SCRC – LATU Uruguay
(regional coordinator)

The project's goals include strengthening national monitoring, generating data for the global monitoring plan, establishing regional analytical capacities, and enabling Latin American and Caribbean countries to contribute to the global report at the Stockholm Convention's Conference of the Parties.

"Last meeting of the UNEP/GEF GMP Project for COPs projects in the GRULAC region." June 7, 8, and 9, 2023. Mexico City. Hotel Casa Blanca, Covadonga Hall.

**Persistent
Organic
Pollutants
(POPs)**



Ongoing Projects

Strengthening of national capacities for the Comprehensive Management of Chemicals in Peru

Amount: USD 249.900

Contributing Agency: Special Programme UNEP

Implementation Agency: BCRC Argentina

The objective of this project is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, within the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of sound management of chemicals and waste. This considers the strategies, plans, and national development priorities of each country, aiming to enhance sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycle.

Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)



Future Projects

**Strengthening capacities to implement the GHS in the Latin-American region (Dominican Republic, Honduras and Panama)
Preparing application**

Amount: USD500.000

Contributing Agency: Special Programme

UNEP Implementation Agency: BCRC

Argentina

This project seeks to improve GHS legislation in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Panama. It aims to bridge gaps in regulations, boost regulatory capabilities, and conduct training for technical expertise and stakeholder commitment. This effort aligns with regional plans for chemicals and waste management in the Latin American Caribbean area. The collaboration, guided by UNITAR, involves these three countries in Central America and the Caribbean, all prioritizing GHS implementation at the national level.

Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)



Future Projects

Legal implementation and strengthening of capacities for the GHS in the Latin-American region (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guatemala, Paraguay)
Preparing application

Amount: USD500.000

Contributing Agency: Special Programme

UNEP Implementation Agency: BCRC

Argentina

This project aims to develop and strengthen GHS implementation in Bolivia, Guatemala, and Paraguay, aligning with regional cooperation plans for chemical management. The project's main objectives are to review current GHS-related legislation, enhance policy makers' capacity for effective GHS-based frameworks, and provide training and capacity building for stakeholders. These three countries are collaborating based on their commitment to GHS implementation, previous UNITAR engagement, and national priorities. The project involves updating Bolivia's implementation strategy and is a joint effort among the countries, BCRC Argentina, and UNITAR.

Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)



Finished Projects

Capacity Building Program for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention (SIP)

Amount: USD 250,000.00 Financed by SIP Minamata Convention
Implementation Agency BCRC Argentina

The objective of the project is to strengthen the country's capacity to implement Article 4 of the Minamata Convention and develop information generation mechanisms to comply with the Convention.

MERCURY



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

Future Projects

Support the development of a plastic inventory of Plastic Waste Flows in Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, Ecuador and Suriname)

Agreement in preparation for signing

Amount: USD 178.644

Contributing Agency: BRS/UNEP Implementation Agency: BCRC Argentina

The SGP on Plastic Waste aims to enhance plastic waste management in partner countries through improved knowledge, capacity, and stakeholder engagement. It focuses on controlling transboundary movement and environmentally sound management of plastic waste, aligned with the Basel Convention and its Plastic Waste Amendments. Building on the BRS-Norad-1 project's outcomes, this current initiative is part of the Small Grant Programme (SGP) on Plastic Waste, under Component 2 of the agreement C-2021-03_BC-DA-GER with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

PLASTICS



BASEL CONVENTION



**LA ENTRADA EN VIGOR DE LA
ENMIENDA DE PROHIBICIÓN
DEL CONVENIO DE BASILEA**

IMPLICACIONES Y PRÓXIMOS ALCANCES

PLASTICS

Finished Projects

Improve the EMS of plastic waste and prevent and minimize the generation of plastic waste through the certification of plastic recycling industries in Argentina

Amount: USD 85,200 funded by NORAD Implementing Agency: BRS/UNEP
Executing Agency: BCRC Argentina

This project is aligned with a broader circular economy strategy that focuses on the proper treatment and recycling of plastic materials. By promoting the use of products with certified recycled plastic, it supports a comprehensive circular approach and addresses a significant source of plastic pollution in the oceans. The project aligns with the National Strategy for environmentally sound management of plastics, based on a certification protocol developed by CAIRPLAS and INTI-Argentina. Successful compliance leads to the INTI-CAIRPLAS seal, with two seals already awarded and another in progress.

Training for Auditors - Certification of Recycling Industries for the INTI CAIRPLAS Seal for Plastic Materials.



Ongoing Projects

Strengthening National Initiatives and Improving Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries.

Amount: 602,325.00 for Argentina financed by GEF Implementation Agency

UNIDO

Ejecution Agency BCRC Argentina

The project aims to environmentally manage electronic waste (WEEE), focusing on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), by strengthening national efforts and improving regional cooperation. It seeks to enhance WEEE policies, upgrade recycling facilities, and promote recycling and material utilization policies. The project provides guidance, knowledge, and training to various stakeholders and sectors. Regionally, it harmonizes electronic waste policies, strengthens cooperation, and improves information exchange and knowledge management.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)



Finished Projects

Development of a case study in Argentina to implement Recommendations ITU-TL-1031 and ITU-TL 1032 as a contribution to the strengthening of the Waste Management Systems of Electrical and Electronic Equipment with a focus on Circular Economy.

Amount: USD 50.000 for Argentina Contributing Agency GEF/UNIDO;
Recipient Agency ITU

Implementation Agency: BCRC Argentina

The project aims to enhance national efforts and regional collaboration in Latin America for eco-friendly handling of electronic waste (WEEE) by following ITU-T Recommendations. It involves two case studies on ITU-T Recommendations' implementation for electronic waste and circular economy in Argentina.

2nd Annual Virtual Event LARCF – June 14-15

Presentation of the report: “Case Study: Argentina – Implementation of ITU International Standards on the way to a circular economy in Argentina through sustainable E-Waste management

WEE



ITUWebinars

Shaping a sustainable and digital future
Pathway towards the Green Standards Week

15 June 2023
14:00 - 17:00 ART
19:00 - 22:00 CEST

www.itu.int/go/Sustainable_Digital_Future



ITUPublicaciones

Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones

Implementación de los estándares internacionales del UIT-T:
En ruta hacia una economía circular en Argentina mediante la gestión sostenible de RAEE



En colaboración con:



Finished Projects

Technical support for the development of the Strategic Paper for the Roadmap of the Chemical Industry and Climate Change in Argentina

Amount: USD 55.000

Contributing Agency: GIZ Implementation Agency: BCRC Argentina

The study aims to achieve two main goals: firstly, describing the current sustainability status of Argentina's chemical industry value chain, with a focus on climate change; and secondly, devising up to ten specific and relevant measures for sectoral and business-level action.

The resulting strategic paper will serve as a valuable tool for the Argentine chemical industry sector, particularly through its representative body, the Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry, and associated entities. It will guide the formulation of a Climate Change Roadmap for 2030 and 2050 and inform the creation of a corresponding Position Paper.

June 23, 2023 - Workshop - "Exploring Paths Towards Sustainable and Climate-Respectful Chemical Production". Lessons Learned in the Climate Action Program for the Chemical Industry – CAPCI.

CLIMATE CHANGE



United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change



Finished Projects

Technical support for the development of the Strategic Paper for the Roadmap of the Chemical Industry and Climate Change in Argentina



CLIMATE CHANGE



United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change



Ongoing Projects

Technical Schemes: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines for Lead-Acid Batteries in the Latin America and Caribbean Region - Environmentally Sound Management of Lead-Acid Batteries and Electrical and Electronic Waste (e-waste) in the Latin America Region.

Amount: USD 55,000 Contributing Agency: SBC/UNEP; Implementing Agency: BCRC

Argentina
The project aims to evaluate the current regulations for Used Lead-Acid Batteries (BAPU) in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its objective is to analyze experiences with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), identifying lessons learned and challenges. The goal is to create guiding recommendations for the region, enabling countries to enhance waste management, share experiences throughout the lifecycle stages, and promote circular economy and regional cooperation.

G7 Workshop "Lead as a Major Threat to Human Health and the Environment – An Integrated Approach to Strengthening Cooperation Toward Solutions."
Berlin and online, 9-10 November, 2022

Used Lead Acid Batteries



G7 GERMANY

Current Negotiations

- Update of the Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries Adopted at the COP6 of the Basel Convention (BC) UNEP/CHW.6/22 December 2002.
- By Decision BC-15/11, on technical guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes, a Small Technical Working Group (SIWG) on used lead-acid batteries was established, designating Uruguay to act as the Lead Country.

Key Aspects:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Systems and Return Schemes
- Technologies and Infrastructure for Proper Recovery and Treatment
- Import and Export Policies of Used Lead Acid Batteries (BAPU), as well as experiences in communication strategies
- Economic Instruments and Information-Based Tools (Electronic QR Passport)
- Appropriate Legal Framework, Regulations, and Performance Standards
- Collection, Labeling, Packaging, Storage, and Transportation Methods

Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB)



Highlighted Aspects of Used Lead-Acid Battery (BAPU) Management in the South American Region

- Countries initiate intersessional work through the SIWG to review the CB guidelines on BAPU to strengthen the Circular Economy, analyze the 'End-of-Life/Waste' state (Glossary of Terms Decision BC-13/2 2017), ensure safe recycling, and reduce Illicit Traffic.
- Some countries possess adequate technology and extra-national capacity for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM), while others do not. Constitutional and legal prohibitions on Cross-Border Movements emerge as the main limitation.
- While exporting BAPU for recycling to G7/G20 countries is possible, exporting from Annex VII Countries of the BC (EU, OECD, and Liechtenstein per the Ban Amendment) to non-Annex VII countries is not feasible. There is no intra-South American system to promote the acceleration of procedures for Cross-Border Movements, such as the EU's 'Green List,' which allows for a simpler trading system among countries, particularly for resource recovery and efficiency.



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CONVENTIONS



Highlighted Aspects of Used Lead-Acid Battery (BAPU) Management in the South American Region

- There's a 'chicken and egg' problem: there's no additional investment in environmentally sound recycling capacity because there's no trade potential that provides the raw material for the investment (for instance, in Argentina, there's a constitutional prohibition on the import of hazardous waste).
- Increased investment is needed for Environmentally Sound Management for higher volumes of Used Lead-Acid Batteries (BAPU) in the next 5 to 10 years due to the acceleration of the energy transition and decarbonization; an investment that requires advanced planning.
- There is a significant need for digitization of systems and processes.
- Changes in the Basel Convention guidelines must be reflected in national legislation to enable trade under appropriate conditions and in compliance with WTO rules.



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Launch Workshop for the Project 'Environmentally Sound Management of Lead Acid Battery Waste and Electronic Waste in the Latin America Region'

July 4, 2023. Online

General Objectives of the Workshop:

1. Presentation of objectives and activities of the project 'Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of lead acid battery waste and electronic waste in the Latin America region.'
2. Dissemination of the initial survey for assessing the management capacity of Used Lead-Acid Batteries (BAPUs) in Latin America.
3. Development of an authorization model for operators involved in recycling, or final disposal of electronic waste, used lead-acid batteries; a model that can be used as a reference at the regional level.



Joint Visit: National Institute of Industrial Technology and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to ELPRA Batteries S.A. 'ELPRA' (Battery and Electric Vehicle Company)

September 8, 2023

Industrial Park of Bragado, Province of Buenos Aires.

- Visit related to activities number 4 'Development of a strategy to support the implementation of Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries (BAPUs) throughout the Latin American region, including a model legislation to establish Extended Producer Responsibility policy schemes' and number 5 'Development of model legislation for ESM of BAPUs, including Extended Producer Responsibility policy schemes for BAPUs.'
- It is crucial to have examples of certified and authorized companies in the region that are engaged in the management, recycling, or final disposal of hazardous waste.
- It is important to have information on companies dedicated to sustainable mobility and aiming to employ lithium revalorization.

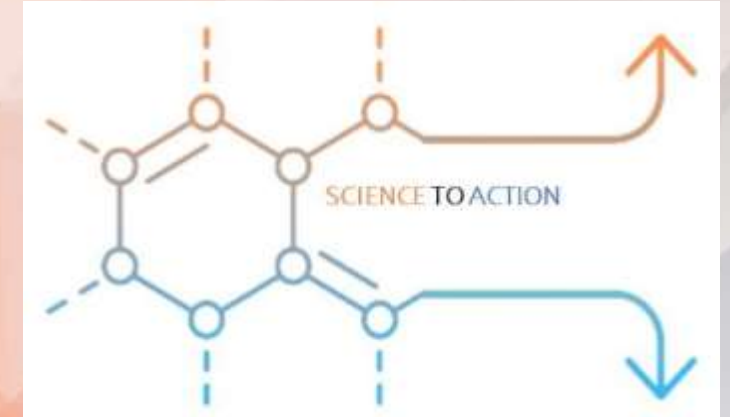


Activities 2023

Regional Workshop on “From science to action, for the implementation of the BRS conventions and guidance on the environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals”.

April, 12 to 14, Buenos Aires

Workshop organized by the Conventions' Secretariat and CRBAS with EU support to enhance scientific information accessibility, promote science-based decision-making, and identify sectors using industrial POPs.

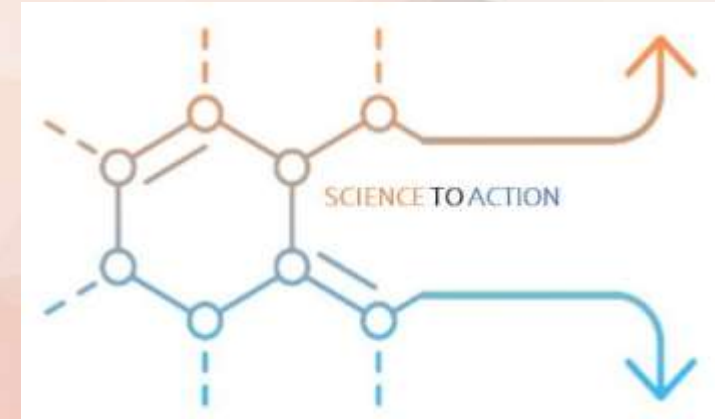


Conclusions

“From science to action, for the implementation of the BRS conventions and guidance on the environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals”.

April, 12 to 14, Buenos Aires

- The workshop aimed to disseminate programs and initiatives related to POPs in the GRULAC region.
- It emphasized the importance of sharing advances from developed countries for regional implementation.
- Scientific contributions were highlighted for strengthening efforts and forming evidence-based policies.
- Challenges in data acquisition, analysis, and the need for collaboration between sectors were acknowledged.
- Identifying key actors from various sectors and maintaining intersectoral dialogue was emphasized.
- Suggested dissemination methods included congresses, workshops, inter-ministerial tables, and courses.
- An organized advisory commission structure with scientific professionals was proposed to support policy decisions.
- Adequate financing for these efforts was recognized as crucial.
- **Addressing acceptable POP limits in waste and recycling and difficulties in measuring low POP concentrations in products were discussed.**
- **Sharing lessons on environmentally sound chemical waste management was deemed important.**
- Establishing regional priorities for a scientific panel was recommended to represent GRULAC's interests.
- Strengthening exchange networks related to the Rotterdam, Basel, and Stockholm Conventions was suggested.
- The workshop participants expressed gratitude for creating spaces to exchange experiences and information on chemical substance management.



Activities 2023

Training for the Prevention and Prosecution of Illicit Traffic in Chemicals and Hazardous Waste in Latin America and the Caribbean

July 6, 11, 18, and 20, 2023 – Virtual Format

August 1, 2, and 3, 2023 – Hybrid Format, Panama City, Panama



This training program for the GRULAC region was developed jointly by CRBAS, the Regional Centre for the Basel Convention for Central America and Mexico (CAM), and the Regional Centre for the Stockholm Convention, both in Panama. It was developed in close coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Latin America and the Caribbean Office (ORPALC).

<https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/capacitacion-para-la-prevencion-y-persecucion-del-trafico-ilicito-de-quimicos-y-desechos-peligrosos-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>



Other Activities

- **7th Meeting – ENFORCE. January 26-27, 2023, Paris, France**
- **Workshops: "Challenges in the Implementation of Legislative Decree Number 1570 in Peru on Comprehensive Chemicals Management and Its Progress in Latin America; and Introduction to EMS within the framework of the mentioned legal regulation." July, 6-7, Lima, Perú.**
- **"Training for WEEE managers, within the framework of the PREAL – UNIDO project. July 12th to 14th, 2023. Medellin, Colombia.**
- **"Mercury Management Along the Oil and Gas Value Chains: Exchange of Experiences and Best Practices," organized by the Global Mercury Partnership (UNEP Mercury Partnership). July 18, 2023. Online.**
- **Training: Technology and Environmental Law. Tuesday, August 29, 2023. Location: INTI Central Headquarters - Miguelete Technological Park (San Martin, Buenos Aires).**
- **“Pre-operational Workshop of Operation Demeter IX in South America and the Caribbean. 28-30 September 2023. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**
- **IV SIREE International Seminar on Electronic Equipment Waste - SIREE 2023. "Towards a Circular Economy: Challenges in the LAC Region for Sustainable Management of WEEE," Dr. Leila Devia (CRBAS). October 9, 2023.**
- **III International Forum and Fair on Environment and Sustainability "FIMAS 23“ From October 12 to October 15, 2023, Espacio Riesco, Chile.**

GOALS



CRBAS
Centro Regional Basilea
para América del Sur

1. **Combat illegal waste trafficking, especially for lead-acid batteries, mercury, household waste, E-waste, and plastics, through regulation enforcement.**
2. **Promote Technical Guidelines to aid countries in waste management plans, considering environmental crises, resource efficiency, and traceability.**
3. **Improve the implementation of Environmentally Sound Management in international conventions and programs.**
4. **Strengthen the network of chemical and waste laboratories in South America.**
5. **Share best practices and technologies for various waste categories, in line with SDGs and conventions' objectives.**
6. **Foster experience sharing and technology transfer.**
7. **Address the triple environmental crisis, encompassing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as a central consideration.**
8. **Facilitate the development of policies, strategies, plans, projects, and programs for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of chemicals and waste in South American countries over a ten-year period. This includes a focus on resource efficiency, energy transition, and traceability through electronic passports, aiming to strengthen capacity building in ESM.**

NEW KEY TOPICS ADDRESSED



CRBAS
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- **International, Regional and National Environmental Agendas Focus on the chemicals and waste agenda in the context of the quadruple environmental crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification and land degradation).**
- **Inclusive Approach:**
 - **Attention to the status of indigenous people and its lands, territories, and local communities.**
 - **Addressing these issues from a gender perspective.**
 - **Emphasis on involving and engaging youth.**
- **Quality of Natural Resources:**
 - **Assistance to countries and reference laboratories in sample collection, monitoring, detection, and reporting.**
 - **Particular focus on chemicals and waste, especially in soil, air, and water.**

NEW KEY TOPICS ADDRESSED



CRBAS
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- **Air Pollution and Antibiotic Resistance:**
 - Special attention to air pollution as a key factor in the spread of antibiotic resistance.
 - Study of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) in collaboration with the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP).
- **Involvement in the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Kunming-Montreal Vision and Goals 2050, Targets and indicators 2020-2030**
- **Participation in the process of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO7):**
 - Active involvement in the Working Groups of GEO7.
 - Participating in the Task Force related to the Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) – Indigenous People and Local Communities

Memberships



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UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

CRBAS is part of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, contributing to efforts in mercury management and reduction.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The BCRC- Argentina has expressed its interest to host a Regional or Sub-regional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Center to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. For this, a Form has been submitted that has been received by the Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Small Intersessional Working group (SIWG) on ULAB

Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)

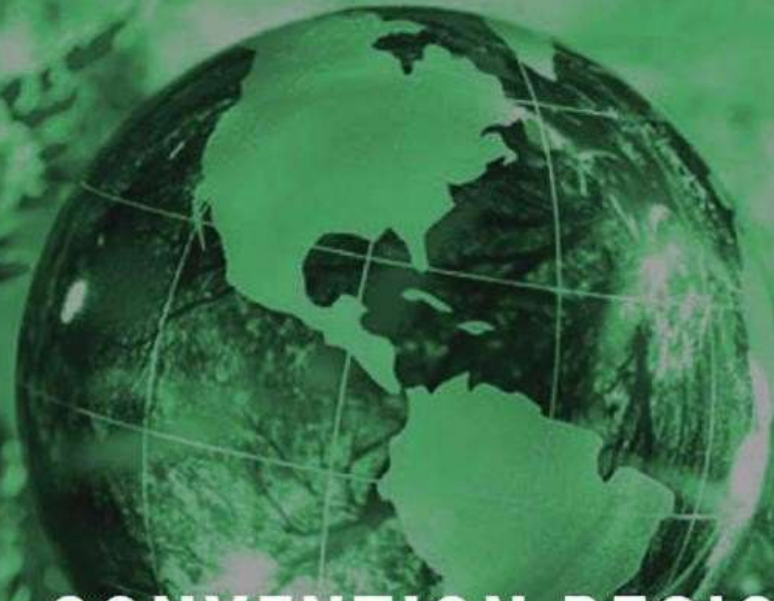
Household Waste Partnership

Basel Convention Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (PACE II)

<https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/>



CRBAS | CONVENIOS | PROYECTOS | WORKSHOPS | LEGISLACIÓN | PUBLICACIONES | NOVEDADES



**BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE SOUTH
AMERICAN REGION IN ARGENTINA**

Contacto



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para América del Sur



INTI

Instituto
Nacional
de Tecnología
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¡Muchas Gracias!

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