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The volume of obsolete PCs generated in developing regions will exceed that of developed regions by 2016-2018 © BRS Secretariat

Topic
1

Activities

Outcomes of the Final Workshop on the Industrial Chemicals Management Pilot Project in Mauritania

Focusing on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations in Latin America

National Implementation Plan: A Roadmap to Implement the Stockholm Convention

Topic
2

News

Information Society Alerts about E-waste

10th RECETOX International Summer School

46th GEF Council & 5th GEF Assembly

Panel Discussion on Chemicals and Waste at UNEA

Topic
3

Engaging

Webinars in July and August

How to report information on unintentionally produced POPs
How to report information on PFOS, PFOSF and other newly listed POPs
Reporting information on PCB
OEWG9 preparatory briefing

Workshops in July and Sept. SHPF under the Rotterdam Convention
Developing a national action plan under the Rotterdam Convention
National reporting under the BC and SC
Updating National Implementation Plans
Sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos

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Activities

1

Outcomes of the Final Workshop on Industrial Chemicals Management Pilot Project in Mauritania

In collaboration with the *Ministère Délégué auprès du Premier Ministre Chargé de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Département des Pollutions et des Urgences Environnementales* of Mauritania, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention held a final workshop on the industrial chemicals pilot project agreement from 3 to 5 June 2014.

The aim of the workshop was to assist stakeholders in deliberating the national situation by undertaking a legal review, establishing priorities and developing a plan for the management of industrial chemicals that would enable Mauritania to meet its obligations under the Rotterdam Convention. The following outcomes were produced:

- Legal Review;
- Development of a plan on industrial chemicals and obligations under the Rotterdam Convention, with clear responsibilities as to who will do what, when and how, among the stakeholders;
- Establishment of a process for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) in a country with little resources for industrial chemicals management;
- Documentation of lessons learned and processes followed for the benefit of other countries.

2

Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations in Latin America

The implementation of the Project MTF GLO 145 UEP was successfully completed through the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention in Nicaragua, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. In addition, Colombia will be completing the project this month. The Project MTF GLO 145 UEP began in 2012 to monitor severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPFs) with care.

The project aims to empower national institutions on collecting, monitoring, and reporting of incidents associated with SHPFs, as well as, encouraging

proposals for listing of new substances in Annex III. In order to ensure safer transition, the project also searches for pesticide alternatives to chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.

Important results were achieved, thanks to the organization of Farmer Field Schools (FFS). The FFS facilitated capacity building activities, distributed educational materials, investigated cases of acute pesticide poisoning, and assisted with the revision of pesticide registration systems. The project generated positive impacts and helped disseminating more responsible and safer pesticide handling practices.

3

National Implementation Plan: A Roadmap to Implement the Stockholm Convention

Reviewing the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) can be challenging in particular when addressing the new industrial chemicals added to the convention annexes. Some of these chemicals have been or are being used for industrial purposes and are contained in products, articles and wastes. NIPs should provide a clear and implementable roadmap to effectively manage these chemicals.

The Secretariat in cooperation with the Regional Centre based in Uruguay is organizing the fourth workshop on revising and updating NIPs. This workshop will foster participants' understanding of the scope of the obligations to update and revise NIPs, increasing their capacity to develop and implement national plans, and strengthening their capacity to find the most effective strategies and develop appropriate actions plans for the sustained implementation of the convention. The training sessions will target national offices of Latin America. Regional Centres, GEF Implementing Agencies and the civil society are welcome to participate. The workshop will be conducted in Spanish, and will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 22 to 24 July 2014.

* * *

Deadline extended: 30 June 2014!

Submission of the questionnaires on technical assistance needs for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions has been extended.

For further information, please access the [Basel Convention](#), [Rotterdam Convention](#), or [Stockholm Convention](#) websites.

1

Information Society Alerts about E-waste

About 50 million metric tons of e-waste are generated worldwide every year. This is no longer a problem of industrialized countries only; the volume of obsolete personal computers generated in developing regions will exceed that of developed regions by 2016 and 2018.

The Secretariat joined forces with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations University (UNU) in order to highlight the urgent need for the sustainable life-cycle management of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment in a workshop at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) High Level Event held in Geneva from 9-13 June 2014. In a discussion moderated by the Secretariat, panelists from ITU, UNU and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) exchanged information on the social and economic context of e-waste management including indicators, statistics and also the patent landscape for e-waste recycling technologies as a basis for well informed decision making. Setting up well functioning e-waste collection systems and sustainable recycling industries in developing countries is one of the key elements for a comprehensive ICT equipment life-cycle approach.

2

10th RECETOX International Summer School

The Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX, home of the SCRC in the Czech Republic) hosted the 10th annual International Summer School of Toxic Compounds at its premises from 23 to 28 June 2014. The Summer School was organized in collaboration with the BRS Secretariat, the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the center.

This year, the Summer School looked into methods for analysis of toxic substances in the environment using isotopes. In addition, a parallel class on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its Global Monitoring Plan took place. Participants received intensive hands-on training in using the electronic data warehouse of the Global Monitoring Plan for the Stockholm Convention, learning how to work with available data, and adding new data and interpreting results from the database. This year, 56 participants from 22 countries participated in the training.

3

46th GEF Council & 5th GEF Assembly

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions participated in the 5th GEF Assembly and the 46th GEF Council meeting held in Cancun, Mexico. The outcomes of the meetings included a record breaking 6th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund with funding of more than 4.43 billion USD and the replacement of the focal areas on Ozone Depleting Substances and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) with a single "chemicals and waste" focal area.

The increase in funding allocated to the chemicals and waste focal area from GEF-5 to GEF-6 of almost 130 million USD is a strong signal for the implementation of the BRS conventions.


Moreover, the work of the BRS Secretariat on the provision of financial and technical assistance to Parties has been prominently featured in an exhibition during the GEF Council and Assembly meetings.

4

Panel discussion at UNEA

The Panel Discussion on Detoxifying Development: How strengthened sound management of chemicals and wastes contributes to sustainable development was held on 24 June 2014 during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya. The high-level discussion was jointly organized by the Government of Uruguay, the UNEP Chemicals Branch, including the Interim Secretariat for the Minamata Convention on Mercury and SAICM Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions.

The interactive panel discussion demonstrated how the sound management of chemicals and waste is directly linked to a broad spectrum of sustainable development issues, such as health, consumption and production, agriculture, water, and employment and how the global policy on chemicals and wastes management provides opportunities for the realization of benefits for sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. It also highlighted that the effective implementation of the existing international, regional and national legal and policy regimes help realize the future sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The [outcome of the side-event](#) served as a contribution to the Ministerial Plenary on sustainable development goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production, held at UNEA. 

Engage with Technical Assistance

1 Webinars * (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+2)

1 July
3 How to report information on unintentionally produced POPs

This webinar will take place on 1 July, at 10 am and 3 July at 4 pm (Geneva time). These sessions will be conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

15 July
17 Reporting information on PCB

This webinar will take place on 15 July, at 10 am and 17 July at 4 pm (Geneva time). These sessions will be conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

8 July
10 How to report information on PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and other newly listed POPs

This webinar will take place on 8 July, at 10 am and 10 July at 4 pm (Geneva time). These sessions will be conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

26 August
28 OEWG9 preparatory briefing

This webinar will take place on 26 August, at 10 am and 28 August at 4 pm (Geneva time). These sessions will be conducted in English.

For registration, please [click here](#).

2 Workshops

1-4 July

National workshop on SHPF under the Rotterdam Convention

Bogotá, Colombia

1-4 July

National workshop to develop a national action plan under the Rotterdam Convention

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

6-8 July

Sub-regional workshop on national reporting under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions

Dakar, Senegal

23-25 July

Regional workshop on updating national implementation plans (phase I) and reporting under the Stockholm Convention

Montevideo, Uruguay

14-16 September

Global workshop on updating national implementation plans, including updating and revising PCDD/PDCF Inventories (phase II)

Nigeria (Tentative)

29 Sept.-1 Oct.

Inter-agency workshop on the sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos, for the Asia-pacific Region

Jakarta, Indonesia