



STOCKHOLM
CONVENTION

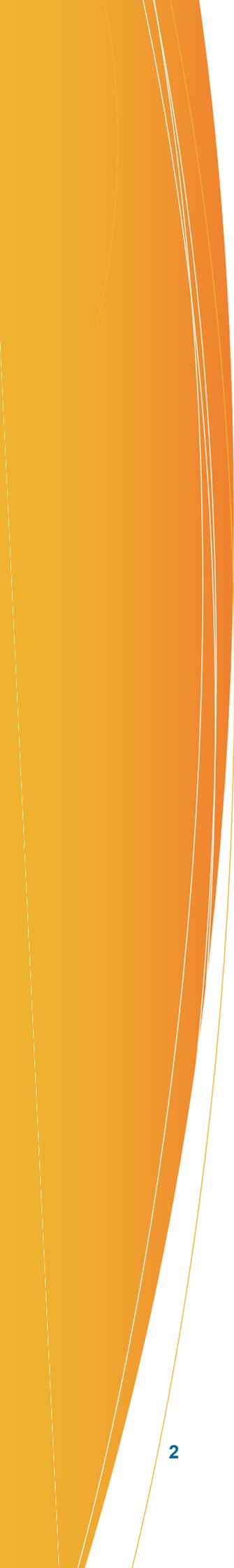
Technical Assistance



Programme of Activities

2011-2012

July 2011



The present programme of technical assistance activities reflects the decisions taken at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention (25-29 April 2011).

The delivery of activities listed in the programme is subject to availability of funds.

Background

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The **Stockholm Convention** is an international treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. It entered into force in 2004 and covers 22 chemicals. Currently, there are **173 Parties** to the Stockholm Convention.

What is technical assistance under the Convention?

The provision of timely and appropriate technical assistance in response to requests from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, as set forth in Article 12, is essential to the successful implementation of the Convention.

Technical assistance shall be provided taking into account the particular needs and special situation of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

The Secretariat's Technical Assistance Programme

The Secretariat implements a Programme of capacity building and training activities based on relevant decisions taken by the COP, including decision SC-4/22, on priorities identified in Parties' national implementation plans, and requests received by Parties.

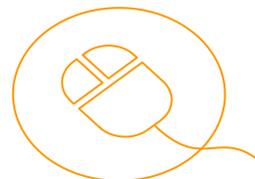
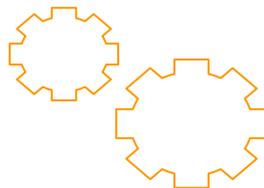
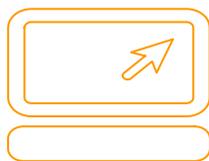
The objectives of the Programme are to:

- Enhance awareness and sustainable human and institutional capacity in developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition,
- Ensure coherent and coordinated message on Parties' needs to the financial mechanism of the Convention and donors.

Approach for Delivery

When delivering its technical assistance programme, the Secretariat will take into account the following types of capacity-building approaches:

- Face-to-face training workshops at the global, regional or national levels,
- Train-the-trainers workshops, through regional centres, UNEP/FAO regional offices, as appropriate,
- Online training (webinars, e-learning tools, etc),
- Partnering with academic institutions, such as universities and research centres,
- Document/guidance development,
- Effective use of the Stockholm Convention Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), including interactive tools such as the POPs Social Network,
- Brokering Tool,
- Roster of experts.



Themes of the Programme

New POPs

Exemptions and NIP Update



Annex A (Elimination)

Promoting ESM of PCBs



Annex B (Restriction)

Promoting alternatives to DDT



Annex C (Unintentional production)

Toolkit and BAT&BEP



Cross-cutting

Synergies among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Reporting

Effective participation in POPRC

POPs monitoring

Legal guidance

Customs

Resource mobilization



Updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs):

Inventories on New POPs

Background

In accordance with Article 7, and relevant subsequent decisions, Parties to the new amendments on the nine new POPs need to revise and update their NIP by 26 August 2012. In doing so, Parties will need to inventory possible remaining production, use, and disposal practices of the nine substances at the national level. As part of this exercise, Parties will also assess their national infrastructures and capacity for managing the new POPs. When updating and reviewing their NIPs for new POPs, Parties are also encouraged to take into account endosulfan, which has been listed by the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties as the 22nd POP under the Convention.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on new POPs inventories under the NIPs aim at:

- Increasing knowledge and capacity on the available guidance to identify the new POPs in relevant sectors and products,
- Enhancing knowledge on the infrastructures, technical expertise and resources required to apply risk reduction measures on the nine new POPs.

Target audience

National experts from Parties which are at the relevant step in the process of reviewing and updating their NIPs.

Calendar of events

- Global workshops: End 2011-2012
- National workshops: 2011
- Webinars: Beginning 2012



Updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs):

Prioritization and Action Plans

Background

In accordance with Article 7, and relevant subsequent decisions, Parties to the new amendments on the nine new POPs need to revise and update their NIP by 26 August 2012. Once having assessed the scope of the new POPs issues at the national level, Parties will need to prioritize them and agree on preferred options for the management of new POPs. When undertaking this task, Parties are encouraged to take into account endosulfan, which has been listed by the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties as the 22nd POP under the Convention.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on prioritizing and developing action plans on new POPs under the NIPs aim at:

- Increasing knowledge and capacity on the available guidance to assist in prioritizing action for the sound management of new POPs,
- Enhancing capacity in developing and/ or revising the relevant action plans addressing aspects of new POPs management for meeting obligations pertaining to new POPs.

Target audience

Official contact points and national experts in Parties which are at the relevant step in the process of reviewing and updating their NIPs.

Calendar of events

- Global workshops: mid-2012
- Webinars: 2012



POPs in Articles

Background

Some of the newly listed chemicals are industrial chemicals that have been integrated into articles and products throughout their production chain. Finding information on the chemicals composition of articles often turns to be difficult. Several Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition have expressed the need to access technical support to implement the requirements on new POPs, especially for new industrial POPs.

Objectives

In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, and the POPs-free programme, this activity on POPs in articles aims at:

- Increasing knowledge on the available guidance to identify the POPs in products and articles,
- Fostering information exchange on alternatives and substitutes to POPs,
- Enhancing knowledge on the tools to be used to identify and control chemicals in products, such as the Customs Harmonised System Code and the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for labeling of chemicals.

Target audience

Official contact points, national experts in country Parties, other stakeholders, such as customs officers.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: September and November 2011



Sharing Guidance and Information on the Sound Management of PCBs through the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN)

Background

In May 2009, the Stockholm Convention COP-4 endorsed the establishment of the PEN, a collaborative framework to promote and facilitate information exchange among stakeholders from different sectors to support the achievement of the obligations pertaining to PCBs. To promote the exchange of technical knowledge and create incentives, four thematic groups on inventories, maintenance, disposal and open applications have been established. The first meeting of the PEN thematic group on maintenance met in February 2011, in Panama.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities related to the PEN aim at:

- Enhancing capacity on the concepts, principles, and standards of the environmentally sound management of PCBs,
- Providing technical input to the work of the thematic groups, e.g. review the development of guidance documents, the identification of regional and national challenges related to the theme of the group.

Target audience

National experts and stakeholders with an interest in the environmentally sound management of PCBs.

Calendar of events

- PEN on POPs Social: <http://networking.pops.int>



Promoting Integrated Vector Management and the Deployment of Alternatives to DDT

Background

In May 2009, the Stockholm Convention COP-4 endorsed the establishment of the Global Alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control. Through the support of its thematic groups, the Global Alliance is now in a position to share preliminary results on the following specific areas: integrated vector management, vector resistance, non-chemical alternatives and chemical alternatives.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on integrated vector management and the deployment of alternatives to DDT aim at:

- Disseminating the work undertaken by the thematic groups on promoting alternatives to DDT,
- Presenting case studies for implementing sustainable integrated vector management.

Target audience

National vector control programme managers and other stakeholders in countries using DDT.

Calendar of events

- Regional workshops: fall 2011
- Webinars: December 2011



Updating and Reviewing PCDD/PDCF Inventories

Background

Subsequent to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, a process was set up to review and update the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases. The Stockholm Convention COP-5 endorsed the revised Toolkit, which includes new or revised emission factors, and encouraged Parties to use it when updating and reviewing their national inventories.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on updating and revising PCDD/PDCF inventories aim at:

- Enhancing understanding of the revisions brought to the Toolkit,
- Increase capacity in using the methodologies offered by the Toolkit to revise and update the initial inventory on PCDD/PDCF.

Target audience

Parties in the process of revising their PCDD/PDCF inventories, and other relevant stakeholders.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: November 2011
- Global training workshops: End 2011-2012



Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Background

The Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted a series of decisions that led in 2008-2009 to the adoption of a set of recommendations to promote cooperation and collaboration among the three conventions at the national, regional and international levels.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aim at:

- Enhancing awareness on the process to enhance coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,
- Sharing information and experiences on existing coordination mechanisms at the national level,
- Sharing strategic guidance on financial resources mobilization and legal frameworks for a coordinated implementation of the conventions.

Target audience

Official contact points under the conventions: Basel Convention Competent Authorities, Rotterdam Convention Designated National Authorities and Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points.

Calendar of events

- Regional workshops: French-speaking Africa (July 2011), Pacific region (July 2011), Arabic-speaking countries (end 2011)
- Webinars: June-July 2011, beginning 2012

The screenshot shows the login interface for the Stockholm Convention's Electronic Reporting System. At the top left is the Stockholm Convention logo, and at the top right is the text 'Electronic Reporting System Pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention'. Below this, a line of text reads 'Please login with the userID and password provided by the Secretariat.' There are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password', each with a small icon to its left. A 'Login' button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom, a small note states: 'If you would just like to test the system you can login with userID=Art15 and Password=test'.

Enhancing information collection for reporting under Article 15

Background

Pursuant to Article 15, each Party has to report on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the convention and on the effectiveness of such measures. During the second round of reporting, whose deadline was 31 October 2010, a number of Parties expressed some difficulties with gathering required information and data to complete the reporting.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on enhancing information collection for reporting under Article 15 aim at:

- Enhancing understanding of the reporting requirements under Article 15 of the Convention and of the use of the online reporting system,
- Improving capacity to gather information and data required under Article 15.

Target audience

Official contact points and national focal points under the Convention.

Calendar of events

- Global training workshops: 2012
- Webinars: Beginning 2012



Effective Participation in POPs Review Committee (POPRC)

Background

Subsequent to COP decisions, the Secretariat has the mandate to undertake work to support and strengthen the capacity of Parties which are developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate fully in the work of POPRC.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities related to the effective participation in the POPRC aim at:

- Enhancing the understanding of stakeholders on the processes of the POPRC,
- Increasing the participation of countries in the processes of the POPRC, e.g. to submit proposals for listing of new chemicals,
- Developing competencies that will continuously assist countries to implement risk management.

Target audience

Present and future members of the POPRC, Focal Points under the Convention, stakeholders, namely industry, key users, academia, government officials, and NGOs.

Calendar of events

- Webinars on:
 - Improving access to technical and scientific information in the framework of the POPRC: July 2011
 - How to submit proposals for listing new chemicals in Annexes A, B or C to the Stockholm Convention: September 2011
 - Preparing for the 7th meeting of the POPRC: September 2011
 - Briefing on the outcomes of the 7th meeting of the POPRC: October 2011



Enhancing Capacity to Monitor POPs in the Environment

Background

The need for relevant capacity strengthening for effective participation in the POPs global monitoring plan was pointed out by many Parties. The Secretariat is therefore developing efforts to identify and support training and capacity building opportunities for representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on monitor of POPs aim at:

- Enhancing capacities in regions for assessing POPs compounds in the environment for the purpose of the Global Monitoring Plan under the Convention,
- Assessing climate change impacts on the presence of POPs and their effects on human health.

Target audience

University students, national experts working in laboratories and research institutes, others.

Calendar of events

- Summer School of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, June-July 2011, Brno, Czech Republic



Developing Effective Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

Background

The Convention calls for the adoption of adequate legal frameworks to reduce or eliminate releases from production and use of chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention.

Recognizing the potential for synergistic work in this area, this activity builds on the current joint-activities among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on developing effective legal and regulatory frameworks aim at:

- Increasing knowledge and capacity on the available guidance and tools that can be used when integrating the Convention in national legislation,
- Sharing information and national ' experiences on their legal frameworks and regulatory measures developed to implement the Convention.

Target audience

Official contact points, judges, prosecutors, and other relevant enforcement personnel in Parties.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: November 2011
- See regional synergies workshops on p.12



Training on Trade-Related Issues

Background

Under article 3 of the Stockholm Convention, Parties are required to adopt legal and regulatory measures to control the import and export of substances controlled under the Convention. For those cases, when trading POPs is allowed, in accordance with the permitted uses or purposes (e.g. for environmentally sound disposal), Parties are to take into account relevant provisions in existing prior informed consent procedures, such as the Basel and Rotterdam PIC procedures.

Objectives

The activities on enforcing trade restrictions on POPs, which are jointly implemented with the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and the Green Customs Initiative, aim at:

- Increasing knowledge of the Stockholm Convention requirements on controlling the import/export of POPs,
- Enhancing the understanding of the PIC procedures under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and their use in the context of the Stockholm Convention,
- Enhancing the capacity of countries to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in substances covered by the Convention.

Target audience

Customs officers and other enforcement personnel.

Calendar of events

- Regional and national Green Customs Initiative workshops: www.greencustoms.org
- Customs e-learning platform, in partnership with WCO: end 2011



Mobilizing Resources

Background

The Convention stresses the importance of adequate financial assistance from developed Parties to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfill their obligations under the Convention.

In this regard, Articles 13 and 14 define a financial mechanism and designated the Global Environment Facility (GEF), on an interim basis, the principal entity entrusted with its operations.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on resource mobilization aim at:

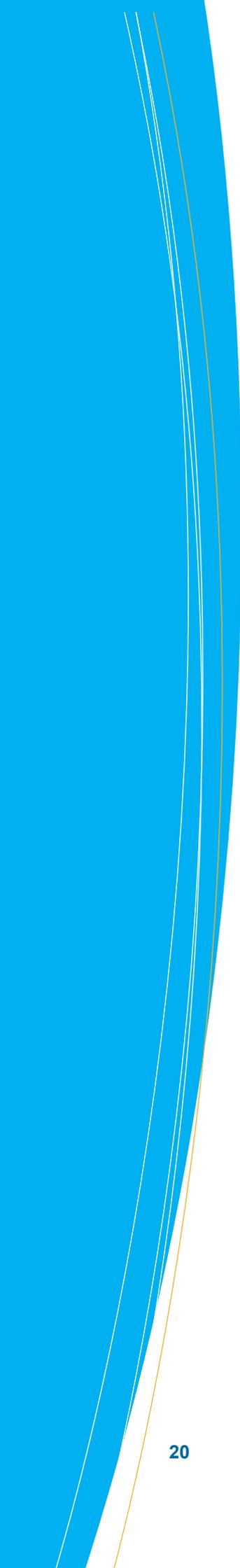
- Sharing information on funding needs and experiences on accessing financial resources to implement the Convention,
- Facilitating access to financial resources to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention,
- Enhancing knowledge of the available guidance for resource mobilization and project development.

Target audience

Official contact points and national focal points under the Convention, as well as other stakeholders.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: September-October 2011
- See regional synergies workshops on p.12



Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
United Nations Environment Programme
International Environment House
11–13, chemin des Anémones
CH–1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Email: TA@pops.int

www.pops.int