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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN  
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT  
FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON  
CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Seventh session

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Preparations for the Conference of the Parties**

**ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY IN SUPPORT OF THE EARLY  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION  
ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS\*\***

**Note by the secretariat**

The information reproduced in annex to the present note was provided by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and has not been formally edited.

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\* UNEP/POPS/INC.7/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, articles 7 and 14; Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention, resolution 2 (in document UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I).

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**Global Environment Facility**

June 11, 2003

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Activities of the Global Environment Facility in Support of the  
Early Implementation of the  
Stockholm Convention

Prepared for the Seventh Meeting of the Intergovernmental  
Negotiating Committee of the Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants

## Introduction

The following is submitted to the seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to inform the work of the INC. The paper describes the activities undertaken since INC-6 by the GEF, as the “principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism” of the Convention ad interim, to facilitate early implementation of the Convention. The paper describes in particular the steps taken to build capacity in eligible countries, and provides an overview of the portfolio of projects.

## Focal Area for Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Diplomatic Conference had requested “*the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a new focal area through amendment of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility in order to support the implementation of the Convention.*” In response, the GEF Assembly, meeting in October 2002 in Beijing, approved the creation of a new focal area for “Persistent Organic Pollutants” and the amendments to the instrument of the GEF to give effect thereto. The Assembly further approved the amendment of the Instrument to read: “the agreed incremental costs of activities to achieve global environmental benefits concerning chemicals management as they relate to the above focal areas [climate change; biological diversity; international waters; ozone layer depletion; land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation; persistent organic pollutants] shall be eligible for funding.” This will help to maximize, at the country level, the synergies that are to be found in the various chemicals related Conventions.

## Programming of Resources

The GEF Council meeting in May 2003 approved a strategic approach to business planning for the GEF<sup>1</sup> as part of its business plan for the next three fiscal years. Strategic priorities consistent with Convention priorities were elaborated by the GEF inter-agency POPs task force<sup>2</sup>. These priorities will facilitate the allocation of resources taking into account, *inter alia*, Convention priorities, responsiveness to national priorities, and lessons from the portfolio and portfolio gap. In the case of the POPs focal area, it is noted that the Stockholm Convention has not yet entered into force and that there is therefore limited experience in its implementation, and parties have not yet developed guidance to the financial mechanism. As a consequence, the strategic priorities may need to be revisited in the future on the basis of further experience gained in executing projects and on the basis of guidance from the Convention.

The priorities were identified<sup>3</sup> as: i) support to foundational capacity building activities, including support for the development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs); ii) targeted capacity building and policy/regulatory reforms and investments; and iii) demonstration and promotion of replication of innovative and cost-effective technologies and practices.

## Funding for the Preparation of National Implementation Plans

In May 2001, the GEF Council adopted the “Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.”<sup>4</sup> As of May 30, 2003, two years after the adoption of the Convention, 110 GEF eligible countries had submitted proposals for NIP funding to the GEF: 84 proposals had been approved under expedited procedures (46 new approvals since the last report to INC-6), 11

<sup>1</sup> GEF/C21/9, GEF business plan FY04-FY06:

[http://www.TheGEF.org/Documents/Council\\_Documents/GEF\\_C21/C.21.9\\_GEF\\_Business\\_Plan\\_FY04-06.pdf](http://www.TheGEF.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C.21.9_GEF_Business_Plan_FY04-06.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The GEF inter-agency POPs task force is comprised of the GEF Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, FAO, UNIDO and Convention secretariat.

<sup>3</sup> for a more detailed description see GEF C21/21, Strategic business planning: directions and targets:

[http://www.TheGEF.org/Documents/Council\\_Documents/GEF\\_C21/C21.Inf.11-Strategic\\_Business\\_Planning.pdf](http://www.TheGEF.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C21.Inf.11-Strategic_Business_Planning.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/POPs/INC.6/INF/2

additional proposals were under review, and 3 countries had opted to follow the normal project cycle. In addition, 12 countries were receiving GEF funding for their NIPs as part of the project *Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants* (UNEP) approved by the Council in May 2001. (See Annex 1 for a complete list of enabling activities).

### **Awareness-raising to Support the Implementation of the Convention**

Through the medium-sized project *Support for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, the GEF has collaborated with the Stockholm Convention Interim Secretariat to hold nine sub-regional workshops aimed at familiarizing government officials and other stakeholders with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and other related chemicals agreements, as well as with the GEF POPs guidelines and procedures. The program is now successfully ended with the last three workshops held in the past year since INC-6 for the Commonwealth of Independent States (Ukraine, 21-25 October 2002), anglophone Africa (Zambia, 25-27 November 2002), and Small Island Developing States (Antigua and Barbuda, 7-10 April 2003). These workshops, based on the satisfaction expressed through workshop evaluation questionnaires by those who attended them, can be judged to have been very successful.

### **Inter-agency collaboration**

The POPs focal area has been the framework for the development of partnerships and has seen strong elements of inter-agency collaboration, within and without the GEF agencies, with various specialized agencies of the UN system, and with non-governmental organisations. For example, the African Stockpile Program is a partnership of many organisations spearheaded by the WB, FAO and WWF; the alternative to non-combustion project in Slovakia relies on a partnership between UNDP, UNIDO, and the NGO Environmental Health Fund. The expertise of specialised UN agencies is harnessed, for example, through the collaboration of UNEP and WHO on DDT alternatives projects, and through the involvement of UNITAR and WHO in NIP work. The inter-agency POPs task force has met six-monthly to discuss progress and coordination of NIPs activities.

### **Activities of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF**

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF (STAP) has developed a 3-year work plan<sup>5</sup> which includes advising the GEF on non-combustion technologies, bio-indicators and biomarkers, bio-remediation techniques, and experiences and good practices for building sustainable capacity in developing countries for the monitoring of POPs.

### **Project Activities in Support of the Convention**

During the past year since INC-6 the GEF has approved three very different and very important projects, in addition to approving funding for the full project to support China in developing its National Implementation Plan. In October 2002, the Council approved the first phase (for US\$ 25 million of GEF grant, US\$ 35 million of co-financing) of the *African Stockpile Program* (ASP). The ASP is a major effort involving a wide partnership which aims to provide a “clean sweep” of obsolete stockpiles in Africa, and to build the capacity to prevent future accumulations. At its May 2003 Council meeting, The GEF approved a project on *Demonstration of Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Effective Implementation of Available, Non-combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants*. Finally, a medium-sized project was approved recently (May 2003) which will encourage and support the participation of civil society in the work underway in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare their national implementation plan. (See Annex 2 for a complete list of project activities).

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<sup>5</sup> For more details see GEF/C.21/Inf 16, Report of the second meeting of STAP III, March 5-7 2003, Washington DC: [http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council\\_Documents/GEF\\_C21/gef\\_c21.html](http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/gef_c21.html)

**Conclusion**

The GEF is engaged in a systematic effort of foundational capacity-building through the enabling activities funding of the development of National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention (NIPs). The NIPs will provide a framework for a country to develop and implement, in a systematic and participatory way, priority policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, and investment programs. To the extent possible, and whilst allowing for some flexibility, the NIPs will form the basis for future country-level GEF support on POPs. The GEF will provide funding, together with funds from other sources, for those priority policy and regulatory reform, capacity building and investment programs identified in a country's NIP.

## ANNEX I – ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF NIPS

**Table 1: Enabling activities for the development of National Implementation Plans, proposals approved under expedited procedures as at 30 May 2003**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Algeria	01-Nov-01	UNIDO	Madagascar	01-Mar-03	UNEP
Antigua & Barb.	01-Mar-03	UNEP	Malawi	01-Sep-02	UNIDO
Argentina	01-Feb-03	UNEP	Marshall Islands	01-Apr-03	UNEP
Armenia	01-Nov-01	UNIDO	Mauritania	01-Dec-01	UNEP
Bangladesh	01-Mar-02	UNDP	Mauritius	01-Sep-02	UNDP
Benin	01-Nov-02	UNEP	Moldova	01-Apr-02	WB
Bolivia	01-Feb-02	UNIDO	Mongolia	01-Jul-02	UNIDO
Burkina Faso	01-Apr-03	UNDP	Morocco	01-Apr-02	UNDP
Burundi	01-Nov-02	UNIDO	Mozambique	01-May-02	UNEP
Cambodia	01-Mar-03	UNEP	Nepal	01-May-02	UNIDO
Cameroon	01-Apr-03	UNEP	Niger	01-May-02	UNIDO
Central Afr. Rep.	01-May-02	UNIDO	Nigeria	01-Nov-01	UNIDO
Chad	01-Jun-02	UNIDO	Niue	01-Aug-02	UNDP
Colombia	01-Jun-02	WB	Pakistan	01-Aug-02	UNDP
Congo	01-Apr-02	UNIDO	Palau	01-May-03	UNEP
Cote d'Ivoire	01-Oct-01	UNEP	Philippines	01-Oct-01	UNDP
Croatia	01-Nov-01	UNIDO	Poland	01-Aug-01	UNIDO
Czech Republic	01-Jul-01	UNIDO	Romania	01-Oct-01	UNIDO
Djibouti	01-Nov-02	UNIDO	Rwanda	01-Jan-03	UNIDO
Egypt	01-Sep-02	UNIDO	Samoa	01-Sep-01	UNDP
Ethiopia	01-Jul-02	UNIDO	Sao Tome & Prin.	01-Nov-02	UNIDO
Fiji	01-Dec-01	UNEP	Senegal	01-Mar-03	UNEP
Gabon	01-Nov-02	UNIDO	Serbia & Mont.	01-Apr-03	UNEP
Gambia	01-May-02	UNEP	Seychelles	01-Nov-02	UNIDO
Georgia	01-Feb-03	UNDP	Slovak Republic	01-Oct-01	UNDP
Ghana	01-Oct-01	UNIDO	South Africa	01-Sep-02	UNEP
Guatemala	01-Apr-02	UNIDO	Sri Lanka	01-Jun-02	UNEP
Haiti	01-Sep-02	UNEP	Sudan	01-Jan-03	UNDP
Hungary	01-Aug-01	UNIDO	Syria	01-Sep-02	UNEP
Indonesia	01-Nov-01	UNIDO	Tanzania	01-Nov-01	UNIDO
Iran	01-Feb-02	UNDP	Thailand	01-May-03	UNEP
Jamaica	01-Nov-02	UNDP	Togo	01-Nov-01	UNIDO
Jordan	01-Jun-02	UNEP	Tonga	01-Nov-02	UNEP
Kazakhstan	01-Dec-01	UNDP	Tunisia	01-Nov-01	UNEP/UNIDO

Kenya	01-Oct-01	UNEP	Turkey	01-Dec-02	UNIDO
Kiribati	01-Nov-02	UNEP	Ukraine	01-May-03	UNEP
Lao PDR	01-Apr-02	UNIDO	Uruguay	01-Jun-02	UNEP
Latvia	01-Jul-02	UNDP	Vanuatu	01-Mar-03	UNEP
Lesotho	01-Apr-02	UNIDO	Venezuela	01-Nov-02	UNIDO
Liberia	01-Jan-03	UNIDO	Vietnam	01-Sep-01	UNDP
Lithuania	01-Mar-03	UNDP	Yemen	01-May-02	UNEP
Macedonia	01-Nov-01	UNIDO	Zimbabwe	01-Nov-02	UNEP

**Table 2: Enabling activities proposals under review, as at 30 May 2003**

Albania	Nauru
Botswana	Nicaragua
Cuba	Oman
Guinea-Bissau	Paraguay
Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
Nauru	

**Table 3: Enabling activities under full project cycle (non-expedited), 30 May 2003**

Country	Stage	Agency
Brazil	Project preparation request under review	UNEP
China	Full project proposal approved May 2003	UNIDO
India	Project preparation (PDF-B)	UNIDO

**Table 4: Pilot project "Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants," approved May 2001**

Country	Agency
Barbados	UNEP
Malaysia	
Bulgaria	
Mali	
Chile	
Micronesia	
Ecuador	
Papua New Guinea	
Guinea	
Slovenia	
Lebanon	
Zambia	

**Table 5: Countries that have submitted proposals for NIP funding that are not eligible under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF instrument<sup>6</sup>.**

Bahrain
Brunei Darussalam
United Arab Emirates

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## ANNEX 2 – PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

### A – Projects approved during fiscal year 03 since INC-6

#### **Disposal of Stockpiles of Obsolete Pesticides**

*African Stockpile Program (ASP): first phase*

full size project approved October 2002

Implementation: WB and FAO, in collaboration with WWF and in cooperation with a multi-stakeholder partnership of IGOs (UNIDO, UNEP), Basel and Stockholm Convention Secretariats, African IGOs (AU, UNECA, AfDB), NGOs (PAN-UK, PAN-Africa), and industry

GEF funding (this first phase): US\$ 25.3 million

Total project cost (this first phase): US\$ 60 million

Total program anticipated cost: US\$ 250 million (over 12-15 years)

The project is the first phase of a 15 year program to clean-up Africa from stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, including POPs, and introduce preventive measures that would ensure sustainability of the operation by preventing the creation of new stockpiles. It is based on very extensive preparatory work by FAO over the last decade. Four overlapping phases are envisaged. Subsequent phases would be subject to assessment of progress and program performance during the previous phase, as well as availability of co-financing. In this first phase, the project would target 15 countries, including 7 countries for full clean-up, and 8 countries for preparatory activities leading to clean-up. The output of the 1st phase will include: clean up and disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides in up to seven countries; preparation of an additional eight countries for undertaking clean up and disposal operations under the second phase of the project; strengthening, or establishment where necessary, of prevention programs in those 15 countries to help ensure that the problem does not recur; assessment of a number of technical issues in support of the program (e.g., disposal technology options, transportation of wastes, harmonization of pesticide policies); and continent-wide awareness raising.

#### **Demonstration Projects: Disposal Technologies**

*Slovakia - Global Programme to Demonstrate the Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Successful Implementation of Available, Non-Combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*

full size project approved May 2003; Implementation: UNDP

Execution: UNIDO in collaboration with Environmental Health Fund

GEF funding (this first phase in Slovakia): US\$ 10.6 million

Total project cost (this first phase in Slovakia): US\$ 20.7 million

The overall objective of the proposed Global Project is to develop a Programme and an initial Project, which will demonstrate the viability of available non-combustion technologies for use in the destruction of obsolete Persistent

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<sup>6</sup> The Convention refers to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition as the target for the provision of financial assistance. Under paragraph 9(a) of the instrument of the GEF, the GEF relies on eligibility criteria decided by the Conference of the Parties. In the interim and in the absence of COP guidance, the GEF relies on paragraph 9(b) of its instrument which states that countries are eligible for assistance if they are eligible to borrow from the World Bank or if they are eligible recipient of UNDP technical assistance through country specific programming of resources (as opposed to countries that can only receive UNDP assistance through regional or interregional programs).



Organic Pollutants (POPs) stockpiles. The Program will successfully use such technologies to destroy significant obsolete POPs stockpiles in countries with developing economies and economies in transition, and it will thereby help remove barriers to the further adoption and effective implementation of available non-combustion technologies. Activities include specific and documented actions to ensure replicability and sustainability; and the recruitment of donors to strengthen co-finance participation within the programme and associated projects.

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*; medium size project approved May 2003

Implementation: UNEP and UNIDO; Execution: Environmental Health Fund

GEF funding: US\$ 1 million; Total project cost: US\$ 2 million

The NGO-POPs Elimination Project aims to increase the capacity of NGOs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to play a constructive and effective role in Stockholm Convention implementation. The project will operate in a large number of countries and it will facilitate, promote and support engagement by public interest NGOs in activities associated with the preparation of their country's Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans and awareness raising activities through the preparation of country-specific reports and policy briefs. The Project will also create support mechanisms at the global, regional, and national levels for NGO efforts relating to POPs and other PTS which are expected to be sustainable beyond the duration of the project and will help expand POPs-related capacity and competence of NGOs and civil society in a large number of countries over time.

### **Enabling activities under non-expedited procedures**

*Building the Capacity of the People's Republic of China to Implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs and Develop a National Implementation Plan*

full size project approved May 2003

Implementation: World Bank and UNIDO; Execution: SEPA

GEF funding: US\$ 4.4 million; Total project cost: US\$ 11.1 million

The objective of the project is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. The project is designed to meet China's commitment as a prospective party to the Stockholm Convention to take the first steps towards implementation of the Convention through the development of a National Implementation Plan (NIP). The project represents an initial capacity building effort and builds on on-going activities in China. A range of activities are grouped into a number of work packages that have been planned following the text of the Convention, the GEF initial guidelines on enabling activities, and the WB/UNEP guidance document for the development of NIPs.

## **B – On-going projects**

### **Capacity Building Support to Enabling Activities**

*Support for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, medium size project, ended

Implementation: UNEP; Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit

GEF funding: US\$ 0.6 million; Total project cost: US\$ 1.4 million

### **Global Strategic Projects**

*Regionally-based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances*

full size project under implementation since September 2000

Implementation: UNEP; Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit; 12 institutions in the regions

GEF funding: US\$ 3 million; Total project cost: US\$ 5 million

*Barbados, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, Zambia: Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants*

full size project approved May 2001; Implementation: UNEP;

Execution: UNEP Chemicals Unit; national Environment Ministries

GEF funding: US\$ 6.2 million; Total project cost: US\$ 9.2 million

**Demonstration Projects: Control of Disease Vectors**

*Regional Program of Action and Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for Malaria Vector Control in Mexico and Central America*

full size project approved May 2002; Implementation: UNEP

Execution: PAHO (WHO Regional Office for the Americas); national Health Ministries

GEF funding: US\$ 6.6 million; Total project cost: US\$ 13.9 million

*Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland: Prevention of Human and Environmental Exposure to DDT and other Toxic Pesticides and Strengthening of Malaria Control Programmes in Africa, PDF-B*

Implementation: UNEP

Execution: WHO Regional Office for Africa; national roll-back malaria committees

GEF funding PDF-B: US\$ 384,000; Total PDF-B cost: US\$ 698,000

Total anticipated project cost: US\$ 6-8 million

**Demonstration Projects: Agricultural Pesticides**

*Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua: Reducing Pesticide Runoff to the Caribbean Sea*

full size project approved May 2002; Implementation: UNEP

Execution: Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention; national Ministries of Environment

GEF funding: US\$ 4.6 million; Total project cost: US\$ 10.3 million

*Reducing Reliance on Agricultural Pesticide Use and Establishing a Community Based Pollution Prevention System in the Senegal and Niger River Basins, PDF-B*

Implementation: UNEP; Execution: Global IPM Facility, FAO; CERES Locustox

GEF funding PDF-B: US\$ 372,500; Total PDF-B cost: US\$ 466,500

Total anticipated project cost: US\$ 6-8 million

**Assessment and Mitigation of Threats to Vulnerable Populations**

*Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North, medium size project under implementation since January 2001*

Implementation: UNEP; Execution: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North

GEF funding: US\$ 0.75 million; Total project cost: US\$ 2.8 million