Stockholm Convention

What is the Stockholm Convention?
The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

Mission: To protect human health and the environment from POPs.

Key Milestones:
- **February 1997**- UNEP/GC Decision 19/13C establishes POPs intergovernmental negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a global treaty on POPs
- **23 May 2001** Conference of plenipotentiaries, 92 countries and EC signed the treaty
- **17 May 2004** the Convention enters into force
- **February 2009** the Convention has 162 Parties and 152 signatories

What are POPs?
POPs are a group of compounds that possess toxic properties, resist degradation, bioaccumulate and are transported through air, water and migratory species, across international boundaries and deposited far from their place of release, where they accumulate in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The first 12 compounds covered under the Convention are Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene, Mirex, Toxaphene, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, DDT, PCDD (Dioxin) and PCDF (Furans).

Areas of focus
1. **Consideration of future POPs candidates**
   Establishes a scientific committee consisting of government designated experts to review new chemicals proposed for addition under the Convention.

2. **Effectiveness Evaluation and Global Monitoring**
   Collects national reports and regional monitoring data to facilitate the evaluation of its implementation as an effective tool to protect human health and the environment from POPs.

3. **Technical Assistance and Financial Mechanism**
   Facilitates the provision of technical and financial assistance for eligible Parties to assist them in implementing the Convention. The Global Environmental Facility serves as the principle entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism.

4. **Wastes and PCBs**
   Supports Parties in establishing, implementing and strengthening their national capacities to address POPs contaminated wastes including PCBs. The Convention provides guidance and facilitates the exchange of information on environmentally sound management of wastes, equipments and oils containing PCBs.

5. **DDT**
   Evaluates the continued need to use DDT for malaria vector control. The Convention collaborates with other stakeholders to promote the development and deployment of alternatives to DDT.

6. **Unintentional POPs**
   Encourages the reduction of the total release of unintentional POPs derived from different anthropogenic activities such as incinerators and open burning through the gradual implementation of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for existing and new sources.

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**Budget of Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2008-2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Trust Fund</td>
<td>$10,833,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Trust Fund</td>
<td>4,303,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,136,062</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

General trust funds are earmarked contributions while special trust funds are based on voluntary contributions.

**Top Five Donors to the General Trust Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>$1,580,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>$866,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>$492,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>$381,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>$361,729</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,681,475</strong></td>
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**Top Five Donors to the Special Trust Fund**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>$929,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>$684,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>$647,709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>$459,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>$231,810</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,953,143</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Parties per Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central &amp; Eastern Europe</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe &amp; others</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU (Regional economic integration organization)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental and Health Effects of POPs

POPs have contributed to our general well-being like other chemicals. However, exposure to them can also cause serious health problems. Health and environmental concerns associated with POPs include:

- Persistence for long periods in the environment
- Travelling long distances and depositing far away from their sources of release
- Accumulating in the fatty tissues of living organisms
- Causing complications like cancer and birth defects
- Triggering adverse effect on the ecosystem and biodiversity
- May disrupt immune and reproductive systems and even diminish intelligence

Partners

Stockholm Convention collaborates with many partners to meet its objectives, including:

- United Nations Environment Programme
- World Health Organization
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
- Rotterdam Convention
- Basel Convention
- Global Environment Facility
- Non-Governmental organizations
- Research and academic institutions
- The private sector

Regional Centres (Nominated Stockholm Convention Centres)

There are 12 nominated centres to assist Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention.

Africa

- National Centre for Cleaner Technologies Production, Algeria
- BCRC for French African countries, Dakar, Senegal

Asia and Pacific

- BCRC for Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, China
- BCRC, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait

Central and Eastern Europe

- RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- ANO-Centre for International Projects, Moscow, Russia

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Centro CETESB, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- CENICA-Instituto Nacional de Ecologia, Mexico
- CIIMET, University de Panama, Panama
- BCRC for Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, Uruguay

Western Europe and Others

- CP-RAC./MAP, UNEP, Barcelona, Spain