

UPDATES FOR COP#4
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION
& GLOBAL MONITORING PROGRAM

AT NOVOTEL HOTEL, NADI, FIJI
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ORGANIZED BY STOCKHOLM SECRETARIAT & SPREP

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MONITORING BACKGROUND

- Pacific Island Countries do not only product POPs unintentionally
- Most POPs are imported in products e.g. agricultural pesticides are as waste
- POPs show up in blood, breastmilk or fatty tissues of wildlife and humans
- Little data available for the Pacific, so hard to build up picture of hotspots

SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION RELEVANT TO PACIFIC ISLANDS

- The Global Monitoring Program allows for laboratory analysis of blood or breastmilk samples, or air quality monitoring through Passive Air Samplers
- The results, due for reporting at COP4, will serve as a baseline against which future tests will be compared, to determine whether measures to reduce POPs in the region are working i.e. are effective.
- Future results are expected to show less POPs content than the baseline.

MONITORING BACKGROUND

- In the Cook Islands, some resistance to breastmilk sampling by the Ministry of Health, so blood samples may be better as include men and women
- Men tend to use agricultural pesticides with little protective clothing because of the heat, so more likely to show presence of pesticides in blood samples

GLOBAL MONITORING PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- The GMP is undertaken with WHO.
- These samples need to be sent back to a laboratory in Freiburg, Germany in order to get consistent results
- Passive air samplers may be put in place for a period of 3 months, then sent to the laboratory to analyse for airborne POPs (mainly dioxins)

BACKGROUND FOR EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

- Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention requires the Conference of the Parties (COP) to periodically review the effectiveness of the Convention. First review 4 yrs after Convention comes into force i.e. before May 2009
- Paper INF15 from April 2006 (COP2)
- decision SC-1/13 COP decides to obtain monitoring data to measure effectiveness of the Convention
- (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/21) analyses three indicative options to assist the COP establish arrangements of global monitoring plan. The three options are indicative of a range of possibilities rather than illustrating prescriptive and discrete entities and outlined as:
 - (a) Option I: A global monitoring plan based upon a network of existing international programmes with some national programmes.
 - (b) Option II: A global monitoring plan based upon a network of existing international and national programmes but including initial elements to address priority gaps in regional coverage, together with features to enable future strategic enhancement of regional contributions.
 - (c) Option III: A comprehensive and inclusive global monitoring programme that would provide all Parties with an opportunity to participate at all levels of the activity, from sample collection through sample analysis to report production.

PACIFIC PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL MONITORING PROGRAM

- Fiji and Samoa both indicated that they took part in the breastmilk survey
- Professor Aalbersberg can comment on the more technical aspects, but indicators so far show that Pacific Islands results are at the lower end of scale

COP Decisions on Effectiveness Evaluation

- past COP decision on Effectiveness Evaluation (specifically COP3 important decisions)
- Initially, the global monitoring program is designed to test ways of obtaining information from existing programmes, and to replicate successful programs from under-represented regions and strengthen the 2008 baseline for future evaluations.
- Secondly, it provides an organizational model that could be used to coordinate all activities for reporting on information on environmental levels of POPs for the first effectiveness evaluation.
 - 10. The plan would:
 - (a) Be directed initially towards the first evaluation;
 - (b) Seek to provide at a minimum a “core-baseline” of information in all regions;
 - (c) Be based upon existing and emerging programmes, but would be supplemented where possible in regions where existing programmes and data are absent. Regions suggested as a priority in this context include Africa, Oceania, South America, East Asia and the Caribbean;
 - (d) Be implemented at regional levels and would adopt a flexible tiered approach, which could include different levels of complexity according to regional capacity and availability of resources.

Global Monitoring Program (GMP) Phase I

The first phase data would be comprised of two tiers:

- (a) “Core Tier 1” would include the media considered to be essential (e.g., human milk and /or human maternal blood, and air deposition). Available data relevant to these media will be compiled for all regions for analysis and assessment. Attempts will be made to provide “core tier 1” information in all regions, even those that are currently under-represented regions. This may be done either through collaborative arrangements between the Secretariat and executing agencies and/or by strengthening regional programmes that have a demonstrated potential to provide comparable monitoring information. Some obvious candidates for such extension (as identified in the Background Scoping Paper) include the “Trial Air Monitoring in Asia”; the Global Atmospheric Passive Sampling Study (GAPS); and the proposed WHO global human milk survey.
- (b) “Optional Tier 2” could include other media, where such data is already available or where capacity and resources are available to generate such data.

GLOBAL MONITORING PLAN Phase II

- 12. The second phase data would respond to any further COP decisions on arrangements. It may comprise an extension of the production of optional Tier 2 data for regions where such data are not level.

Organizational Issues

When international monitoring programmes function as executing programmes for elements of the monitoring arrangements, they will secure regional/national agreements as may be necessary

EXPECTED RESULTS

- The expected results/outputs of the proposed plan include:
 - (a) Mobilization (within the context of Article 16), of existing and emerging candidate programs to provide comparable monitoring baseline data for the first effectiveness evaluation.
 - (b) Establishment of supplemental information gathering in regions not served by existing programmes in order to establish a core baseline for the first and future evaluations;
 - (c) The testing of the above two elements as components of a monitoring strategy
 - (d) The establishment of an organizational mechanism which could form the basis of an organizational model for overseeing the monitoring arrangements agreed upon by the COP;
 - (e) The establishment of data and or information storage arrangements;
 - (f) A better understanding of POPs monitoring issues and enhancement of monitoring capability/capacity at national and regional levels;
 - (g) A synthesis report that summarizes the findings and lessons learned for future COPs

Effectiveness Evaluation

- In March 2006, a meeting about effectiveness evaluation was held in Bangkok, Thailand on approaches to the development of a global monitoring plan to provide information for effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Twenty countries and four organizations participated in the consultation.

Effectiveness Evaluation (art.16)

- It was noted that the full scope of effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Convention includes issues in addition to environmental monitoring
- The abilities of Parties to implement arrangements that might be agreed by the COP would depend on their ability to access financial and technical support.
- However, Decision SC-1/13 from COP-1 specifically requested the Secretariat to focus on the environmental monitoring aspects. For this reason, this meeting focused on environmental monitoring

Effectiveness Evaluation & Monitoring

- The meeting split into two groups, which considered that it would be possible to supplement existing information, even for the initial 2008 evaluation.
- They recognized that filling the data gaps would need to be done on a regional basis.
- Regions suggested as a priority in this context included Africa, Oceania, South America, and the Caribbean.

Global Monitoring Plan

- Both groups noted the practicality of a tiered and phased approach to implementation. This could focus initially on human tissue and air, and be based on indicative Option 1 with those elements of the other options that can be brought forward in the time frame.
- Both groups recognized also the importance of Party ownership of the process for collecting information at the national and regional level and ownership of the data produced. An important criterion is the scientific credibility of the information.
- There was concern expressed that although some of the existing programmes noted that although some programs suggested regional coverage, they were essentially scientific programmes of uncertain status relative to Parties.