

Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia



Government of Georgia



Ministry of Environment
Protection of Georgia

Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia

**Decree of
Government of Georgia
No 907, April 21, 2011, Tbilisi**

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on

Approval of Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan

In accordance with Article 7 of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants ratified by Decision No 2840-Is (dd. April 11, 2006) of Parliament of Georgia; and in accordance with subparagraph "S" of Article 5 and Paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Law of Georgia on Structure, Competencies and Rules of Operation of the Government of Georgia; and with the purpose of avoiding the negative impact of persistent organic pollutants on human health and the environment; as well as with the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Stockholm Convention requirements and establishing efficient chemical safety system:

1. The following Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia shall be approved
2. The Ministry of Environment of Georgia shall cooperate with the international organizations and donor countries with the purposes of obtaining technical and financial assistance aimed towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia and development/implementation of the efficient environmental policies.
3. The agencies and organizations set out in the Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia shall implement the activities described in the National Implementation Plan and submit annual reports to the Ministry of Environment of Georgia.
4. The Ministry of Environment of Georgia shall coordinate the implementation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia.

Prime Minister

Nika Gilauri

Approved by the
Ordinance No 907 of
Government of Georgia
April 21, 2011

Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan of Georgia

Goals of the National Implementation Plan

1. The National Implementation Plan (NIP) is a strategic document set for the period of 2011-2015. It aims towards developing maximally efficient strategies of persistent organic pollutant (POP) management in Georgia, as well as ensuring protection of human health and the environment through implementing sustainable policies.
2. The national goals with regard to POPs are as follows:
 - a) developing and enforcing the integrated legal framework and institutional system, reducing and avoiding the impact of POPs in human health and in the environment;
 - b) ensuring detailed inventory, reduction and destruction of POP pollution in accordance with the requirements of the Convention;
 - c) developing and implementing national and global measures that will avoid the creation of new POPs sources.

Priorities of the National Implementation Plan

POPs related priority issues were set in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders by joint efforts of UNITAR and UNDP/GEF POPs projects, and took into consideration the best interests of the country. The following main areas were identified:

1. Pesticides (obsolete pesticide stocks).
2. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).
3. Furans and dioxins (by-products).

Priority No 1 – Based on the aforementioned efforts, the top priority among the POPs was given to make POP-containing pesticides obsolete. As a whole, the primary inventory revealed about 3,057 tons of chemicals, 2,700 tons of which are probably located at Ialghuja pesticide burial, while the remaining amount is distributed among various chemical storages throughout the country. Extrapolation of the chemical tests performed for the samples taken from these storages showed that about 60-65% of the obsolete pesticides (357 tons in total) contain POPs. There is the possibility that additional pollution sources will be revealed, a number of which will be identified in the course of secondary inventory.

It should be mentioned that in 2007-2009, with the state and international funding, the measures for collecting and temporarily safely storing the pesticides were taken. As a result, 214 tons of obsolete pesticides, most of which contain POPs, were collected and disposed of

at the Ialghuja burial. Besides this, there is most likely an additional 250-300 tons of POP-containing pesticides disposed of at the Ialghuja shelter since 1970-ies.

Priority No 2 – The second priority was given to equipment and wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In the course of primary inventory, the relevant institutions were inspected; more than 5,000 capacitors and 15,000 transformers were discovered. An inspection of part of the capacitors and transformers showed content of PCB-contaminated oils. It should be mentioned that it will be necessary to carry out additional inventory of capacitors and transformers at a country-wide scale, in order to precisely identify the amount (volume) of PCB-contaminated oils.

Priority No 3 – The third priority was given to the POP-containing by-products, in particular to emissions of furans and dioxins. According to 2004 data, 80% of dioxin/furan emissions resulted from uncontrolled combustion processes (uncontrolled/spontaneous combustion of wastes and wildfires), a majority of which are taking place at the landfills.

In consideration of these general problems, the actions were defined as follows:

- a) development of the respective POPs related legislation;
- b) capacity building in the fields of risk assessment and management;
- c) development of the monitoring system;
- d) development of efficient public awareness raising program.

Persistent Organic Pollutants Management Plan

The POPs management plan has been developed based on the identified priority areas, in consultation with the stakeholders. The plan contains the short- and medium-term activities. It sets goals, objectives, activities, expected results, responsible parties, timeframes, approximate costs and potential funding sources.

The short-term activities shall be implemented in 2011-2013. They mainly include development of legal framework and waste management plan, destruction of POP-containing pesticides, elimination of uncontrolled combustion of waste at landfills and other relevant measures.

The medium-term activities shall be implemented in 2013-2015; these include: POPs management, research, development, monitoring and other relevant activities.

1. Improvement of Legal Framework and Planning

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Coordination of POPs NIP implementation	Establishment of inter-ministerial coordination group	Efficient implementation of NIP	Ministry of Environment together with other relevant ministries			2011-2015
Development of legal framework in accordance with the requirements of Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions and EU legislation	Developing new or improving the existing legislation on basis of the analysis of the current situation, and in consideration of the POPs issues. Identification of the enforcement needs	The amendments to be introduced into the legislation are identified The legislation is improved and it reflects the respective requirements of EU directives	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Ministry of Finance of Georgia	EUR 1.25 million	EU assistance Twinning	2011-2012
Development-updating the database of chemicals regulated by the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions	Developing the unified database of chemicals regulated by the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions in accordance with the international standards and in consideration of the analysis of the current situation	The data base complies with the international standards (IUPAC and CAS), harmonised code system (HS), and based on this, management of chemicals regulated by the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions is improved	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Finance of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia			
Development of waste management framework in consideration of the POPs	Developing the waste management framework in consideration of technical, organisational, environmental, economic and financial feasibility	The waste management framework is developed	Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders			

2. Institutional Capacity Building

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Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Institutional capacity building in the field of waste and chemical management	Identifying the institutional framework and capacity building in the field of waste chemical management	The institutional frameworks are identified and capacities improved	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia	350,000	GEF Bilateral donors	2011-2013
Training of the employees of all relevant ministries and agencies in waste and chemical management issues	Organising trainings and workshops for capacity building	The capacities of the employees are improved	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Finance of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Other relevant agencies			

3. Management of POPs Containing Pesticides and Waste Destruction

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Inventory of POPs containing pesticides (second phase)	Carrying out the inventory of POPs containing pesticides in accordance with FAO and UNEP methodologies	The second phase of inventory is accomplished. The report contains the updated information on the amounts of POPs containing pesticides	Ministry of Environment in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture	150,000	GEF	2011-2012

Removal and packaging of POPs containing pesticides stored at Ialghuja burial	Carrying out the works for removing, packaging and temporarily storing the pesticides from Ialghuja burial	The pesticides are removed from Ialghuja burial (min 200 tons) and packaged	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia	1 million	GEF EU assistance	2011-2013
Destroy POPs containing pesticides collected throughout country and disposed at the Ialghuja burial	Destroying at least 200 tons of pesticides (in Georgia in cement plant, through export to the other countries and incineration in the special furnaces, or by the other methods)	Minimum 200 tons of pesticides are destroyed	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia		Bilateral donors	
Improvement of Ialghuja burial status	Studying/evaluating status of the burial Fencing Building drainage system Covering the open surfaces with the ground	Ecological status of Ialghuja burial is improved	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia	400,000	GEF Bilateral donors EU assistance	2013-2015

4. Polychlorinated Biphenyls

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Inventory of PCBs (second phase)	Carrying out inventory of the PCB containing equipment at the national scale	PCB containing oils and PCB contaminated devices inventory is accomplished and the database is developed	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia	USD 200,000	GEF Donors	2012-2013
Identifying/studying the costs connected with the collection and destruction of PCB containing equipment	Developing the measures for the collection and destruction of PCB containing equipment in consideration of financial instruments	The costs connected with the collection and destruction of PCB containing equipment are studied and identified	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia Private sector	USD 50,000	UNDP/GEF	2013-2015
Implementation of pilot project on destruction of the PCB containing oils	Arranging the temporary warehouse Creating the special teams for PCB destruction and training their members on the spots Collecting, disposing and destroying 100 tons of PCB containing oils	The conditions necessary for destruction of PCB oils are created and 100 tons of PCBs are destroyed The experience is gained and spread throughout the country	Ministry of Environment Private sector	500 000	GEF EU assistance	2014-2015

5. Reduction of Dioxin/Furan Emissions

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Development / implementation of the demonstration project with the purpose of eliminating the open combustion processes at the old landfills, and promotion of introduction of the modern waste management practices	<p>Taking the respective measures at two remaining landfills with the purpose of elimination of the open combustion processes</p> <p>Introducing the waste separation practices</p> <p>Improving the municipal waste collection system in order to avoid the open combustion processes at the landfills</p> <p>Conducting training on the municipal waste management for the respective personnel</p>	<p>Open combustion processes at the landfills are eliminated</p> <p>Waste separation practices are introduced</p> <p>The waste collection system is strengthened in the pilot region</p> <p>The respective personnel is trained</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia</p> <p>Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia</p> <p>Local Self-governments</p>	1,300,000	<p>EU assistance</p> <p>Bilateral assistance</p>	2011-2015
Build demonstration sanitary landfill and closing the landfill existing in the adjacent zone	Build demonstration sanitary landfill and closing the landfill existing in the adjacent zone	Waste disposal problem is resolved in one of the regions	<p>Ministry of Environment of Georgia</p> <p>Local Self-governments</p>	8,400,000	<p>EBRD</p> <p>SIDA</p>	2011-2014

6. Dissemination of Information, Informing Public and Awareness Raising

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Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Ensure availability of the information and participation of the social groups	Exchanging information with the Convention Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders Creating informational portal	Information on POPs is regularly updated and provided to the stakeholders	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Local Self-governments NGOs	100,000	GEF EU assistance	2011-2015
Raise public awareness on the adverse impact of POPs in human health and environment	Informing and awareness raising of various social groups Preparing and disseminating print materials, organising workshops, disseminating information through media, etc.	Awareness of the population on POPs is higher	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia NGOs	150,000		

7. Creation of Monitoring System

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Create possibilities for POPs monitoring	Renewing lab for the POPs monitoring Training the respective personnel	POPs monitoring possibilities are created. The respective personnel and equipment is in place	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia	400,000	GEF EU assistance	2012-2014

8. Research

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results	Leading and Partner Organisations	Expected Costs	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe
Promote POPs related research	Arranging international / regional conferences on the POPs related research topics Promoting development of the Clean Technologies	The POPs related researches are underway The Clean Technologies are developed and being introduced	Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Local Self-governments Academic sector	150,000	Bilateral cooperation	2012-2015
Evaluate, demonstrate, introduce alternatives of DDT to use against malaria vector	Development and introduction of alternative to use of DDT measures for fighting against the vectors	The human health and environment friendly alternatives of DDT are identified and introduced	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Security of Georgia Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia	500,000	GEF EU assistance	2011-2014