

IN THIS ISSUE:

**TAKING STOCK OF 2010
AND PLANNING FOR 2011**

**ACTIVITIES OF THE
STOCKHOLM REGIONAL
CENTRE IN SPAIN**

**ADDRESSING THE
CHALLENGES POSED BY
THE NEW POPs**

**SAFE PLANET CAMPAIGN
AT THE CANCUN CLIMATE
SUMMIT**

**INFORMATION EXCHANGE
UNDER THE PEN IS RAISED
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

**THE 5TH TOOLKIT EXPERT
MEETING**

**CAPACITY-BUILDING
WORKSHOPS:**

**EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION
IN POPRC AND CRC
(COLOMBIO - SRI LANKA)**

**SYNERGIES
(SAN SALVADOR—EL SAL-
VADOR)**

**CONTACTING THE
SECRETARIAT**

**For further information or to
request assistance, please contact
us at:**

Technical Assistance Programme
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
United Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP)
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine GE, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 8729
Fax: +41 22 917 8098
Email: TA@pops.int

TAKING STOCK OF 2010 AND PLANNING FOR 2011

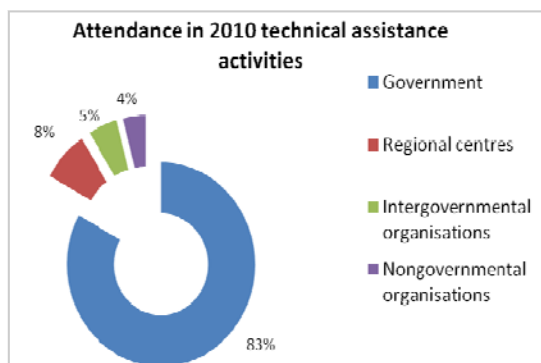
2010 saw the strengthening of the Secretariat's active and continuous support to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Convention. A total of nineteen capacity-building and training activities, including workshops, were organised by the Secretariat at the national level. These were attended by over 500 participants from governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations.

With the entry into force of the new amendments to the Convention, the provision of assistance was focused primarily on issues related to the new POPs. Nine sub-regional and regional workshops to raise awareness on the nine new POPs and on updating NIPs, as well as training on the use of the electronic reporting system were organised, raising awareness in more than 100 Party to the Convention.

Activities to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions included three regional workshops organised by the Secretariats to address issues highlighted in the synergies decisions. Training components included cross-cutting aspects, such as strengthening resource mobilisation and promoting the integration of legal frameworks for chemicals and waste management. Continuous support was also provided in the fields of effective implementation of BAT and BEP guidelines, environmentally sound management of POPs wastes and PCBs, and DDT.

During the training activities carried out in 2010, many recommendations from Parties were collected regarding the challenges faced at the national level. In 2011, the Secretariat's technical assistance programme aims at providing a sound answer to those challenges. As a result, the Secretariat will increase its direct assistance to Parties by implementing the brokering tool upon requests and by offering online training. The launching of POPs webinars will be effective in February, addressing themes such as a possible listing of Endosulfan at COP-5, the process for updating NIPs and reporting under Article 15, and using the register for exemptions .

Additionally, one of the top priorities of the Secretariat will remain to work towards implementing the new amendments. In this regard, the Secretariat will take part in a GEF project aimed at developing a series of guidelines for updating NIPs. Another activity will be the organisation of global face-to-face workshops on exemptions and inventories for new POPs, thus providing targeted assistance to Parties in need.



**ACTIVITIES OF THE STOCKHOLM REGIONAL CENTRE
IN SPAIN**

On 9 January 2011, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel organized a meeting in order to start the process of ratification of the Stockholm Convention and the preparation of the National Implementation Plan. Two of the Regional Centres under the Convention, the Stockholm Convention regional centre in Barcelona, Spain and the Stockholm Convention regional centre in Brno, the Czech Republic, participated in the meeting providing the government of Israel with assistance in its initial stage towards the implementation of the Convention. Around 30 participants from various organizations such as

Israeli NGOs, the private sector and the Ministry of Health, among others, were present in the meeting, which constituted the first step for future work. The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel presented its programme of work for the process of ratification of the Convention for the next months. The CP/RAC will continue its cooperation with Israel during the whole process of ratification of the Stockholm Convention.

This meeting was followed by a three days workshop on the environmental monitoring of POPs, lectured by Ivan Holoubek from RECETOX.



ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES POSED BY THE NEW POPS



Opening ceremony of the regional workshop on new POPs in Asia

The regional workshop on new POPs, the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reporting requirements under the Stockholm Convention for Asia was held on 23-26 November in Bangkok, Thailand. It was attended by representatives from 14 Parties, non-governmental organisations, as well as other relevant stakeholders. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The workshop which aimed at enhancing the awareness of Parties from the region on the new POPs listed in the Convention and on the obligations arising from them, provided guidance and tools to enable Parties to start assessing the production and use of these chemicals and to initiate the measures that are now required from Parties. The main outcomes of the workshop highlighted the specific need to access technical assistance in order to:

- identify the new POPs in products and articles when carrying out inventories when developing the NIPs;
- recycle and dispose products and articles containing the new POPs in an environmentally sound manner;
- identify and phase-in appropriate alternatives to the new POPs, including alternative technologies.

Building on the information shared at the workshop, a list of recommendations was prepared, providing concrete direction for strengthening countries' current risk management strategies on new POPs. The participants of the workshop called for an increased exchange of information and experiences between Governments, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, especially from industry, to ensure reduction of environmental and health risks posed by the new POPs. For more information, please find the recommendations of the workshop on: www.pops.int.

OUTCOMES OF THE SYNERGIES WORKSHOP IN EL SALVADOR

The regional awareness workshop on enhancing cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the Caribbean and Central America was organized in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Basel Convention Regional Centre in El Salvador and the Stockholm Regional Centres in Panama and in Mexico.

As part of a series of regional workshops to assist Parties in implementing the "[synergies decisions](#)", the three Secretariats convened a sub-regional workshop for Central America and the Caribbean on 6-9 December 2010 in San Salvador, El Salvador. The objective of the regional workshop was to enhance sharing of good practices and lessons learned when implementing the Conventions in a coordinated manner. The workshop focused on cross-cutting themes such as legal and institutional frameworks and resource mobilisation for chemicals and hazardous wastes.

During the workshop, participants presented updates on their institutional framework aimed at improving the national coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In addition, case studies were presented by some of the participant countries: improving coordination with customs' authorities in the Dominican Republic; conducting inventories of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Panama; and the final elimination of obsolete pesticides by co-processing in El Salvador.

Country representatives discussed opportunities to improve coordination in relation to the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the sub-region. As a conclusion, countries decided to work in close cooperation with the regional centres in order to identify areas for strategic action.

Two additional regional synergies workshops will be held in 2011. Dates and venue will be advertised soon.



Workshop participants in El Salvador

The Secretariat is launching a series of **webinars** early 2011. The following themes will be offered:

- Considering the listing of Endosulfan at COP-5
- Understanding the risks and management options of Endosulfan
- Reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs)
- Registering exemptions under the Convention
- Complying with the reporting requirements of the Convention
- Preparing for COP-5

For more information, please visit our website.

SAFE PLANET CAMPAIGN AT THE CANCUN CLIMATE SUMMIT



Since its launch in February 2010, the UN Safe Planet Campaign has used the influence of arts and culture to challenge our perceptions of hazardous chemicals and wastes and stimulate new thinking about how each of us must take responsibility for the safety of the environment and human health.

The first exhibition, Substantialis Corporis Mixti (Substantial Form of the Blended Body): The Synergies

Exhibition of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, took place in May 2010, at the Bohemian National Hall at the Czech Center in New York City. Produced on the occasion of the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the exhibition brought

together 10 artists from five countries, with works that sought to underline not only the tragedy of an unsustainable path, but the beauty of the natural world at risk from a failure to respond with intelligence and creativity.

The second exhibition, curated for the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP16, 29 November – 10 December 2010), presented the work of artists from the Czech Republic, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, UK and USA. New work considered the recent floods in Pakistan and their impact on communities facing chemical hazards through film, photography and sculptural installations.

The Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, through the Safe Planet Campaign, participated in the UNFCCC COP16 in response to the specific relationship between climate change and the work of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE UNDER THE PEN IS RAISED TO THE NEXT LEVEL



POPs Social Networking webpage

The end of the year 2010 was particularly exciting for members of the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN).

The English version of the PEN magazine was launched in December 2010 on the PEN website. Articles prepared by PEN members on the topic of PCB inventories include national experiences and lessons learned, regional

overviews, step-by-step approaches on inventories, project updates and a PEN members' contact list. The English electronic version of the magazine is available for downloading and hard copies are being distributed to members. The other United Nations official languages of the magazine will be available soon.

In December, the main platform for information exchange on environmentally sound management of PCBs – the PEN Social Network – was launched to a test group of PEN members. The process of activating all PEN members is about to start and will provide over 500 experts with new opportunities to share information and increase their knowledge on PCBs, making use of discussion fora, a members' database, a document library and much more.

The second meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PEN took place from 29 November to 1 December 2010. The meeting endorsed the work plan for the thematic groups and decided on further relevant activities of the Network. A Stockholm Convention PEN Awards function will be held in conjunction with the 5th Conference of the Parties in April 2011. More information is available on the PEN website at: <http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/PCBs/Overview/tabid/273/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

A call for Nominations for the 2011 Stockholm Convention's PEN Awards has been launched and nominations are reaching the Secretariat on a daily basis. Nominations can be sent until 1 March 2011. If you wish to participate in the information sharing on PCBs or make a nomination for the PEN Awards, please join the PEN at: www.pops.int/

THE 5TH TOOLKIT EXPERTS MEETING



Experts attending the meeting in Geneva

The fifth expert meeting to further develop the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 3 December 2010.

The general guidance was revised to include aspects related to the updating and revision of inventories and data quality codes. Dioxin emission factors have been revised and/or newly developed for the following source groups: 2- Metal industry, 3- Power generation and heating, 4- Mineral products, and 6- Open burning processes. Emission factors for unintentionally produced POPs other than dioxin and furans were equally derived for certain source categories.

The revised information will complement the 2005 edition of the Toolkit and provide up-to-date guidance to Parties in developing inventories of unintentionally produced POPs. The results of the work by the expert group will be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in April 2011.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA



View in Sri Lanka

The Secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain

Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade jointly organized a capacity-building workshop on 19-21 January 2011 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The workshop aimed at supporting Parties to the Conventions to effectively participate in the work of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the respective Conventions, which are the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) and the Chemical Review Committee (CRC).

The workshop's objectives were:

- to enhance the understanding on the operations of the subsidiary bodies and the process for listing chemicals;
- to increase awareness about the significance of Parties and stakeholders' involvement in the Committee's work and provide guidance on how to participate in the work, including submission of information relevant to the chemical review;
- to increase awareness and promote opportunities for information exchange and to result in an integrated approach in chemicals management at the national level.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2011

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	TARGET AUDIENCE
16, 18, 23 and 25 February	Webinars on Endosulfan (<i>Session duration: 1 hour</i>)	Please visit: www.pops.int	OCPs, NFPs and other stakeholders
15-18 February 2011	1st Meeting PEN Thematic Group on Maintenance of PCB-containing equipment and Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs wastes and PCBs	Panama City, Panama	OCPs and NFPs from Central America
2 and 4 March	Webinars on the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) (<i>Session duration: 1 hour</i>)	Please visit: www.pops.int	OCPs, NFPs and other stakeholders
23 March	Webinars on the preparation for the COP-5 (<i>Session duration: 1 hour</i>)	Please visit: www.pops.int	OCPs, NFPs and other stakeholders
March-April 2011	Regional Synergies Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Cairo, Egypt	OCPs, DNAs and NFPs from Arabic-speaking countries
March-April 2011	Regional Synergies Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Dakar, Senegal	OCPs, DNAs and NFPs from French-speaking countries in Africa
25-29 April 2011	Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	Geneva, Switzerland	Parties to the Stockholm Convention

OFFICIAL
REGISTRATION
FOR WORKSHOPS

Registrations to participate in the workshops organised by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention must be submitted through the **official contact points** designated by Parties for the performance of administrative functions and formal communication under the Convention or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For further information on the activities organized by the Secretariat, please visit us at www.pops.int. To request assistance, please send a message to: TA@pops.int.

