

**ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STOCKHOLM  
CONVENTION REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON  
PCBS & POPS**

**COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

BY

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*IN NATURE THERE ARE NEITHER  
REWARDS NOR PUNISHMENTS -  
THERE ARE ONLY CONSEQUENCES.*

- Robert Ingersoll 1896



# ABOUT THE BAHAMAS...

- Columbus first sighted the Bahama Islands in 1492
- It is a wide-spread archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean located off the eastern coastlines of Florida and Cuba, includes over 700 islands and cays; 17 of which are inhabited
- Tourism is the major industry with Banking as its second
- Official Name: Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Population: 320,000
- Capital City: Nassau - located on New Providence Island
- Languages: English
- Official Currency: Bahamian Dollar (one to one with US)
- Religion: Baptist 32%, Anglican 20%, Catholic 19%, others
- Land Area: 13,939 sq km (5,382 sq miles)
- Main water source: ground and sea



# MAP OF THE BAHAMAS



# THE BAHAMAS & THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON POPS

- The Bahamas has signed on to The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002
- It was then ratified on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES

1. Development of a National Implementation Plan (NIP)
2. Formulation of a National Coordinating Committee (NCC)
3. Meeting & Workshops
4. Measures to address municipal and medical waste
5. Measures to address transformers
6. Discontinuation of the usage of DDT
7. Legislation



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 1. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (NIP):

- A NIP is still in developmental stages to address POPs & PCBs and it has a two year span (began in 2006)
- Currently The Bahamas is establishing a POPs inventory and organizing national public awareness raising activities through
  1. Radio infomercials, newspapers
  2. Schools presentations
  3. Public exhibitions



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 2. NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

- The NCC was developed and consists of
  1. The College of The Bahamas (Local tertiary institution)
  2. Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS)
  3. Department of Marine Resources (DMR)
  4. Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC)
  5. The Bahamas Customs Department
  6. The Department of Agriculture (DOA)
  7. The Grand Bahama Power Company (GBPC)
  
- NCC meetings
  - Once a Month





# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 3. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

- BAHAMAS attended:
  - POPS workshop held in Buenos Aires, Argentina during 14-16 March 2005
  - meeting held in St. Lucia on April 29th, 2005 by the coordinating group of pesticides control boards of the Caribbean (CGCP)
  - the regional capacity building workshop for Stockholm Convention focal points held February 12- 15, 2007
- A set of NCC meetings were held on February 14, 2006 and April 4, 2006
  1. Participants expressed their willingness to assist in combating POPs
  2. The committee agreed to meet each month instead of each quarter
- A stakeholder inception workshop was held on July 5, 2006 in order to gather pertinent information
  1. Survey forms were developed and issued to all stakeholders

# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 4. STEPS TO ADDRESS MUNICIPAL & MEDICAL WASTE

- Major source of dioxins & furans is burning of municipal & medical waste (A long time practice in the Bahamas)
- In the past, the typical mode of municipal & medical waste disposal has been:
  1. Dumping at the solid waste site;
  2. Burning of the solid waste to reduce volume; and
  3. Sporadic pushing aside of burn material to make room for more garbage
- On October 29, 1999 a contract was entered into between the government of the Bahamas and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to develop a modern solid waste facility
- Medical waste is now treated and burnt at an approved private facility (Bahamas Waste Management)



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 5. STEPS TO ADDRESS TRANSFORMERS

- PCB transformers were shipped and stored to the most northern part of the Bahamas (Grand Bahama Island) and later shipped over seas to be disposed off.



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 6. DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl Trichloroethane)

- Since The creation of the Vector Unit of The Department of Health Services, under The Ministry of Health, in the early 50's, DDT was an insecticide used for the control of mosquitoes and even other household pests.
- DDT in its malaria program has now been discontinued
- Remaining quantities of DDT were shipped to the UK for high temperature incineration in 1999



# STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES continued...

## 7. POPs LEGISLATION

- Presently there is no current legislation in The Bahamas that specifically addresses POPs
- The Bahamas neither manufactures nor trades any of the 12 POPs listed - virtually every thing is imported



# CHALLENGES

- Key challenges:

1. Funding

- ❖ Support Staff (skilled labor)
- ❖ Equipment
  - ❖ Laboratory

2. Technology

- ❖ The present legislation on import/export monitoring and enforcement has to be clarified and updated with particular attention to the continuing legal entry of all types of pesticides



# CONCLUSION

*On behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and myself, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the host country and the workshop coordinators!*

