

# Stockholm Convention Regional Capacity Building Workshop on New POPs and the Process of Reviewing and Updating NIPs

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COUNTRY PRESENTATION

BY

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NASSAU, BAHAMAS



*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 20th, 2002
- It was then ratified on October 3rd, 2005.



# *RESPONSIBILITY FOR POPS MATTERS IN THE BAHAMAS*

- The Bahamas Environmental Science Technology Commission (BEST)
- The Environmental Monitoring & Risk Assessment Division (EMRAD) at the Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is now assisting



# *NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (NIP)*

- The NIP is presently being development by EMRAD and the BEST Commission and is expected to be completed this year (2010)



# *STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR TO ADDRESS POPS/PCBS WASTES*

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









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

2. Establishment of a POPs inventory and organizing national public awareness through

- ❖ Radio infomercials, newspapers
- ❖ Schools presentations
- ❖ Public exhibitions
- POPs inventory was Organized by The Bahamas Environmental Science and Technology (BEST) Commission
- The inventory was carried out by the College of the Bahamas



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

## 3. NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

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

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

## 4. MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

The Bahamas has participated in:

- ❖ 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, 2009
  - ❖ Inception Workshop of the regional UNEP/GEF Project, "Supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs in GRULAC" 4 -6 November 2009 Montevideo, Uruguay
  - ❖ COMP meetings etc.
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- A set of NCC meetings were held on February 14, 2006 and April 4, 2006
    - ❖ Participants expressed their willingness to assist in combating POPs
    - ❖ 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
    - ❖ Survey forms were developed and issued to all stakeholders



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

## 5. 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...***

## 6. STEPS TO ADDRESS TRANSFORMERS

- ❖ The Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) use the Clor-N-Oil test to check old transformers taken out of service on a regular basis. (Clor-N-Oil is a fast, accurate method to test electrical insulating fluids for the presence of PCB)
- ❖ Suspected transformers are further analyzed by an international laboratory
- ❖ Results are reported to EMRAD
- ❖ 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...*

## 7. DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl Trichloroethane)

- ❖ Since The creation of the Vector Unit of The Department of Health Services, under The Ministry of The Environment, in the early 50's, DDT was an insecticide used for the control of mosquitoes and even other household pests.
- ❖ The use of DDT in the Bahamas has 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...*

## 8. 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



*IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE BAHAMAS  
NEITHER MANUFACTURES NOR TRADES  
ANY OF THE 12 POPS LISTED -  
VIRTUALLY EVERY THING IS IMPORTED*



## *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!*

