

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Status overview

Regional workshop on fostering the
implementation of the Stockholm Convention
Nadi, Fiji, 06-08 April 2009

Outline

- What are POPs
- Objective and status of the Stockholm Convention
- Review of main obligations

What are persistent organic pollutants (POPs)?



- ❑ carbon-based compounds
- ❑ remain in the environment for a long time
- ❑ long-range transport
- ❑ accumulate in fatty tissue of living organisms
- ❑ toxic to humans and wildlife

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Impact of POPs



- ❑ Present world wide including remote regions in water, soil, sediment, wildlife, human
- ❑ Concentration increases over time and decreases only slowly after termination of release
- ❑ Wildlife along the food chain and human are affected
- ❑ Effects on humans and animals: cancer, neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity, reproductive toxicity

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What does the Convention aim at?



Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants ...



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... starting with a list of initial 12 POPs



Chemical	Pesticides	Industrial chemicals	By-products
1. Aldrin	+		
2. Chlordane	+		
3. DDT	+		
4. Dieldrin	+		
5. Endrin	+		
6. Heptachlor	+		
7. Mirex	+		
8. Toxaphene	+		
9. Hexachlorobenzene		+	+
10. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)		+	+
11. Chlorinated Dioxins			+
12. Chlorinated Furans			+

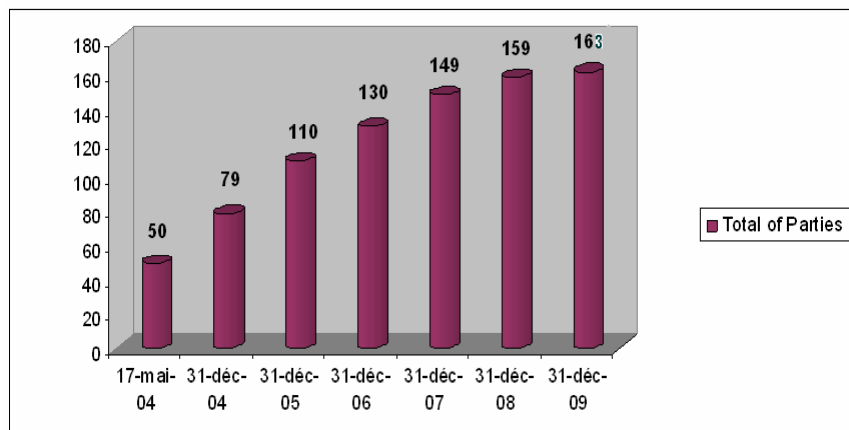
What is the status of the Convention?



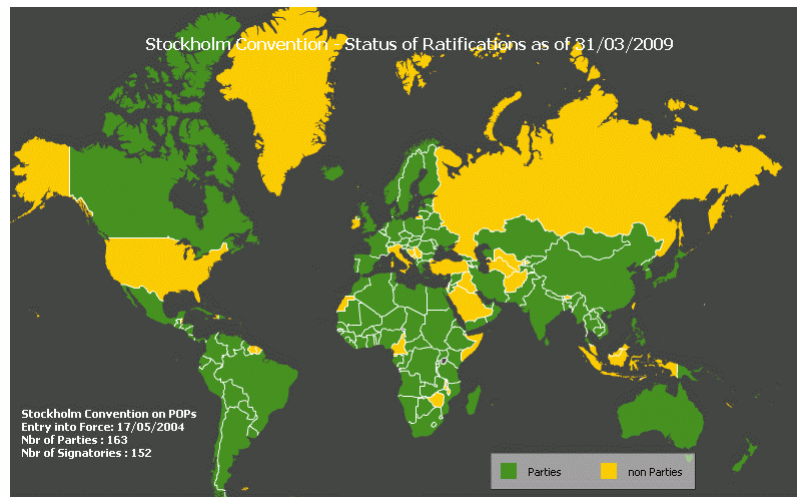
- adopted on 22 May 2001
- entered into force on 17 May 2004
- 163 Parties to date (30 March 2009)
- 3 COPs have already been convened
 - COP-1, Punta del Este, Uruguay, May 2005
 - COP-2, Geneva, Switzerland, May 2006
 - COP-3, Dakar, Senegal, May 2007
- COP-4 is scheduled to be convened in Geneva in 4-8 May 2009

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Increase in the number of Parties since its entry into force



Worldwide distribution of Parties



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How does it do it?



- ❑ Elimination (POPs listed in annex A)
- ❑ Restriction (POPs listed in annex B)
- ❑ Continued reduction (POPs listed in annex C)
- ❑ Management of stockpiles and wastes
- ❑ Preparation of NIP
- ❑ New chemicals
- ❑ Exchange of information
- ❑ Promotion and research
- ❑ Reporting
- ❑ Effectiveness evaluation
- ❑ Technical assistance and Financial mechanism

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Elimination: Annex A Part I



- Annex A: Elimination of production and use of chemicals
 - Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Mirex, PCBs and Toxaphene
- Specific exemptions: (*Art. 4: Register*)
 - Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Heptachlor, HCB, Mirex
- General exemptions:
 - For unintentional trace contaminants: quantities in articles before entry-into-force of the Convention and laboratory-scale research quantities
 - For HCB: closed-system limited intermediate

Elimination: Annex A Part II (PCBs)



1. Cease production of new PCBs *immediately*
2. Eliminate use of in-place PCBs equipment by 2025
3. Achieve environmentally sound disposal of PCB wastes as soon as possible and not later than 2028
4. Report every five years on progress of PCB elimination to the COP

How does it do it?

- Elimination (POPs listed in annex A)
- **Restriction (POPs listed in annex B)**
- Continued reduction (POPS listed in annex C)
- Management of stockpiles and wastes
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Restriction: Annex B

Each Party shall restrict its production and use of chemicals in Annex B in accordance with the provisions of that Annex

- **Currently listed: DDT**
- **Production and use of chemicals in Annex B is eliminated, except for “acceptable purposes”**

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For DDT:

Parties shall:

- ❑ Eliminate production and use unless they have notified the Secretariat of their intent to use it

If so, they must:

- ❑ Restrict such production/use to disease vector control in accordance with WHO recommendations
- ❑ Provide information on use to the Secretariat every three years

COP shall:

encourage Parties using DDT to develop and implement an action plan to ensure that DDT use is restricted to disease vector control, and implementation of suitable alternatives

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Continued reduction: Article 5 Annex C



Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

- **Develop and implement an action plan to evaluate and address releases**
- **Promote alternatives and BAT/BET for priority sources of releases**
 - **When applying BAT/BEP, Parties to consider guidelines adopted by COP**

How does it do it?



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Managing stockpiles & wastes (art. 6)

Parties are to:

- ❑ Develop strategies for identifying POPs stockpiles
- ❑ Manage POPs stockpiles & wastes in an environmentally sound manner
- ❑ Dispose of POPs wastes consistent with international rules
- ❑ Not dispose in a way that leads to reuse of POPs
- ❑ Not to transport POPs wastes unless comply w/int'l rules

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- ❑ **Preparation of NIP**
- ❑ New chemicals
- ❑ Exchange of information
- ❑ Promotion and research
- ❑ Reporting
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- ❑ Technical assistance and Financial mechanism

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Implementation plans (art. 7)



- ❑ All Parties to prepare a NIP
- ❑ Provide an indication on how the Party will implement its obligations under the Convention
- ❑ Identifies the priorities
- ❑ Identifies technical and financial needs for the Party in implementing its obligations
- ❑ Process for development and implementation promotes stakeholder engagement

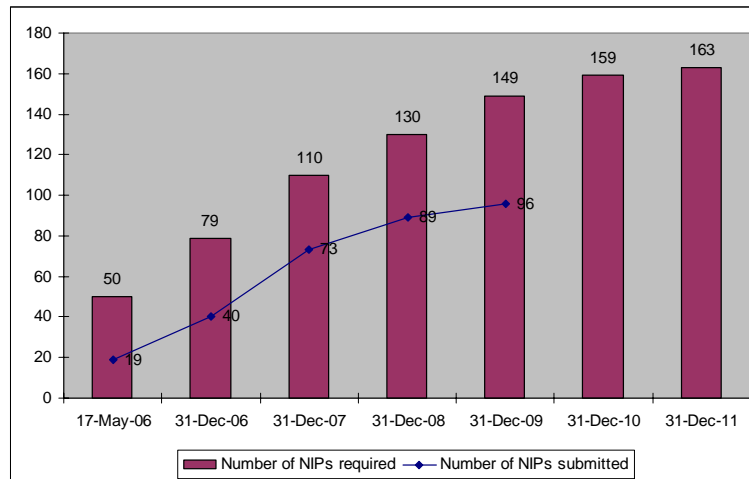
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Geographical distribution of NIPs transmitted



	Western Europe & others	Central & Eastern Europe	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Caribbean	Total
Parties	21	19	50	44	29	163
NIP required (end March 09)	21	14	41	38	20	134
NIP transmitted	19	12	30	23	12	96
%	90	85	73	60	60	71

NIPs due vs. NIPs transmitted



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Identifying new POPs (Art. 8)



- Identifies most harmful substances through agreed procedure and criteria
- Any Party may submit a proposal for listing chemicals
- POPs Review Committee to:
 - (1) review submissions,
 - (2) develop risk profiles
 - (3) risk management evaluations
 - (4) make recommendations to the COP
- COP makes decisions, and the Convention text is then amended accordingly

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Information exchange (Art. 9)



Parties shall:

- facilitate/undertake exchange of information on POPs
- establish national Stockholm Convention **focal point**

Secretariat to be a POPs information clearing-house

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Information exchange (Art. 9) & Clearing House Mechanism



Clearing house mechanism:

- Secretariat to promote exchange of information between Parties and stakeholders;
- Promotion of technical and scientific exchanges
- Direct linkage between Parties and Secretariat
- www.pops.int

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- **Promotion and research**
- Technical assistance and Financial mechanism
- Reporting
- Effectiveness evaluation

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Promotion and research

- **Public information, awareness and education (Art 10): Parties shall promote the provision of POPs information to the public and decision makers, including training programs, public participation in efforts to address POPs**
- **Research, development and monitoring (Art 11): Parties shall encourage/undertake such activities pertaining to POPs and their alternative, and identifying new POPs**

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- ❑ Preparation of NIP
- ❑ Exchange of information
- ❑ Promotion and research
- ❑ **Technical assistance and Financial mechanism**
- ❑ Reporting
- ❑ Effectiveness evaluation

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Technical Assistance and Financial resources

- ❑ Recognizes that rendering of timely and appropriate technical assistance is **essential** for the implementation of the Convention
- ❑ Establishes a financial mechanism

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- Promotion and research
- Technical assistance and Financial mechanism
- **Reporting**
- Effectiveness evaluation

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Reporting

- **Each Party reports on measures taken to implement the Convention**
- **Information considered:**
 - **quantities of POPs listed in Annexes A, B and C**
 - **import & export data**

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- Reporting
- **Effectiveness evaluation**

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Effectiveness evaluation (art. 16)

- **Assess the progress of implementation of the Convention through:**
 - **Review and analysis of National Reports**
 - **Non-compliance reports**
 - **Environmental monitoring (GMP)**
- **Contribution to overall environmental assessment (one of UNEP's Key mandate)**
- **Data collection ongoing, first review at COP4, will provide baseline levels for future evaluations**

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Global Monitoring Plan (GMP)



- Provides a framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data and information on the presence of the POPs listed in annexes A, B and C of the Convention
- Allows trends to be identified in levels over time as well as to provide information on their regional and global environmental transport
- GMP is being implemented in all 5 UN regions

Benefit of SC for global chemical management



- Legislative framework
- Access to funding
- Capacity building and Awareness raising
- Technological improvement: Research and development

For more information



Home Page of the Stockholm Convention - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.pops.int

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Home Page of the Stockholm Convention

Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

May 18, 2008

[www.pops.int](#)

CONVENTION PROGRAMMES COUNTRIES SECRETARIAT PARTNERS

WHAT'S NEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Thank you!