

Technical Assistance Programme

2013 - 2015



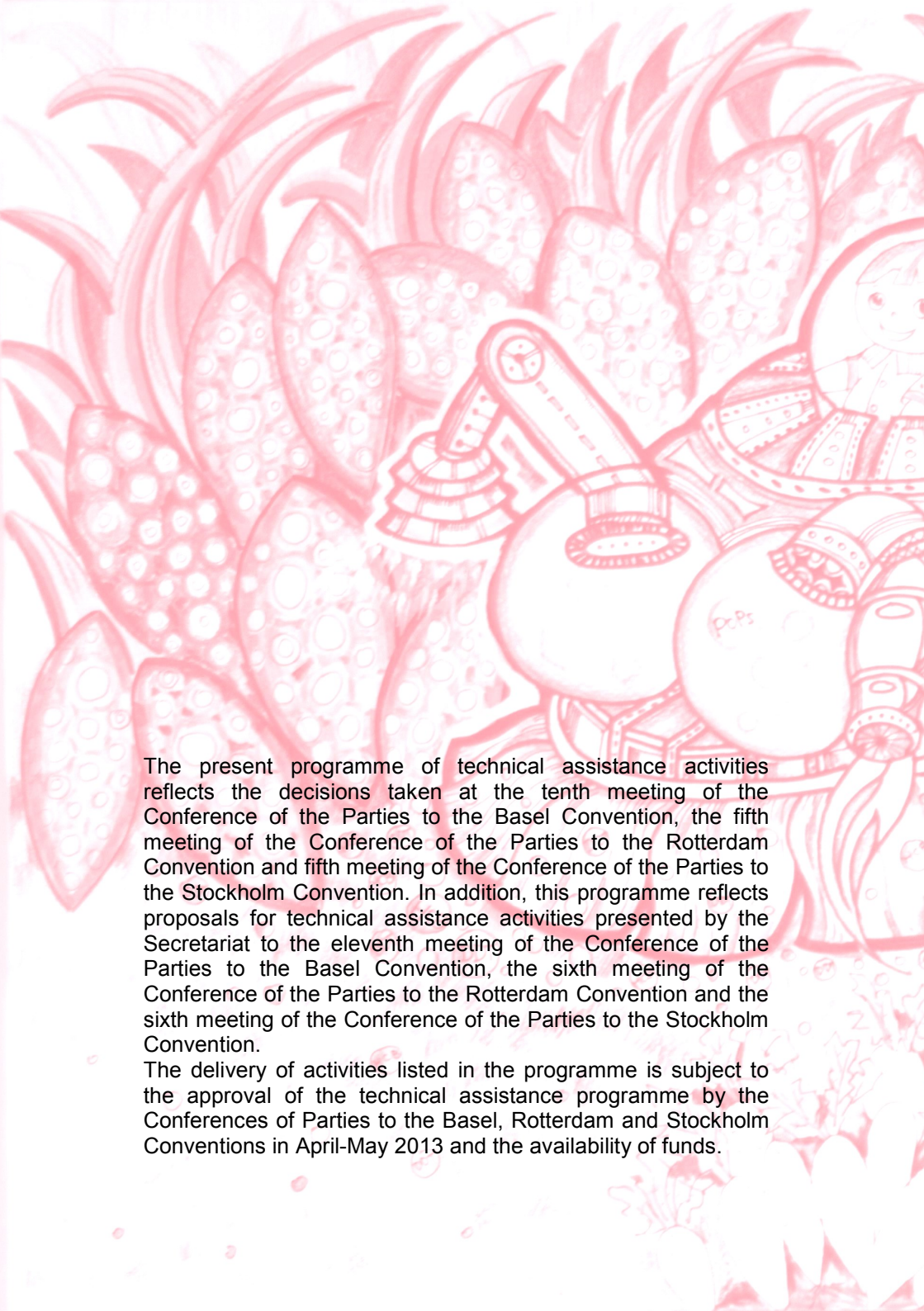
BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

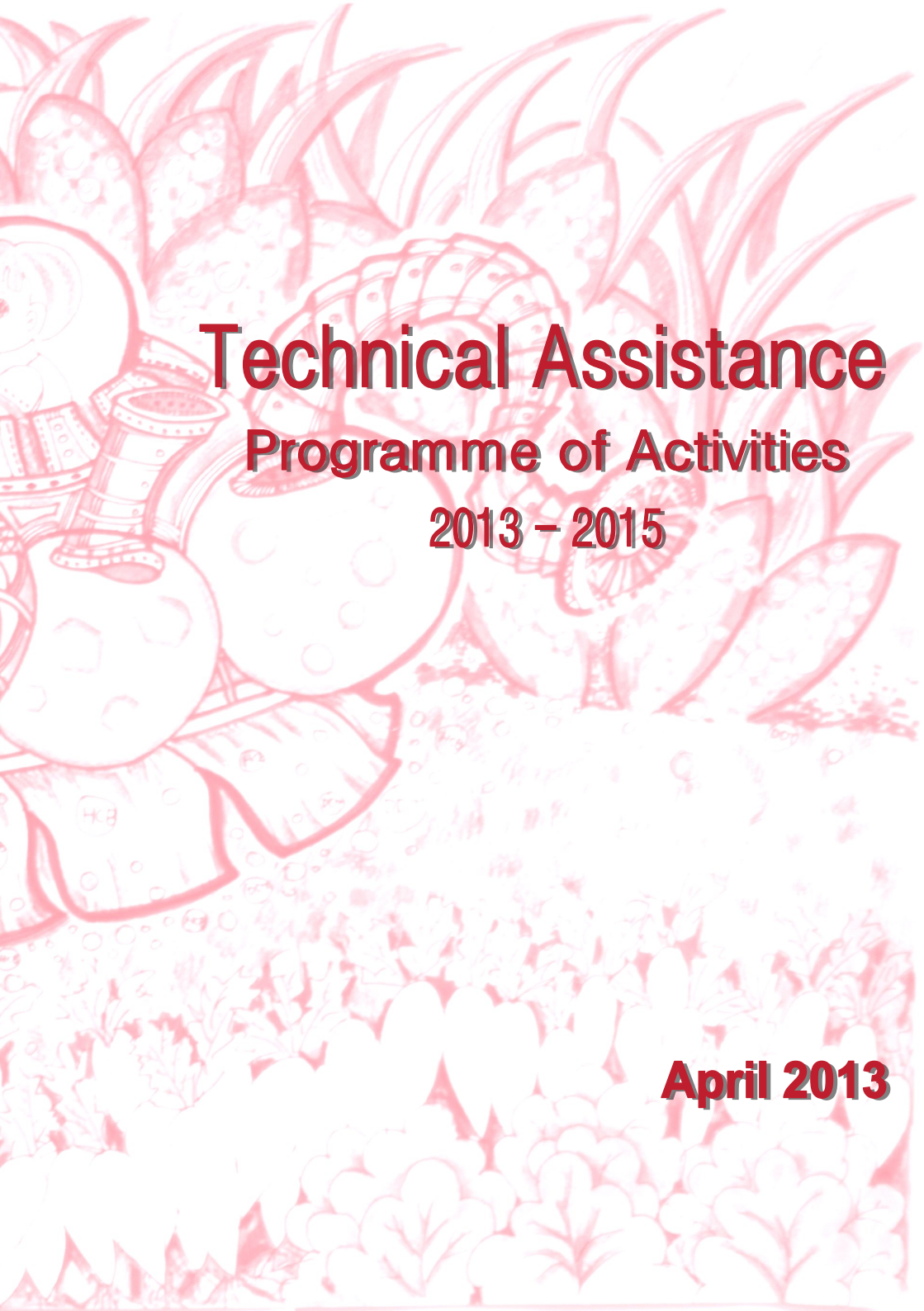


STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

A red-toned illustration of a child in traditional attire, possibly a girl, standing amidst stylized plants and objects. The child is wearing a patterned dress and a headpiece. The background features large, stylized leaves and plants with circular patterns. In the foreground, there are several objects, including what appears to be a traditional hat or headpiece and a small container or box. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional Indian art or folk art.

The present programme of technical assistance activities reflects the decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. In addition, this programme reflects proposals for technical assistance activities presented by the Secretariat to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

The delivery of activities listed in the programme is subject to the approval of the technical assistance programme by the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in April-May 2013 and the availability of funds.

The background is a red-toned illustration. On the left, there is a technical device with a cylindrical component and a circular base. The rest of the image is filled with large, stylized flowers and foliage, rendered in a line-art style with red outlines and some internal shading. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Technical Assistance Programme of Activities 2013 – 2015

April 2013

The Basel Convention

The Basel Convention is an international treaty with the aim to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. The Basel Convention covers a wide range of wastes defined as hazardous wastes and other wastes. The Convention entered into force in 1992 and has 180 Parties.

The Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention is an international treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals. The Convention works by promoting shared responsibilities and cooperative efforts associated with the international trade of these chemicals and by facilitating the exchange of information about chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted in certain countries. The Convention entered into force in 2004 and has 152 Parties.

The Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention is an international treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). It entered into force in 2004 and covers 22 chemicals. Currently, there are 179 Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

What is Technical Assistance under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions?

The provision of timely and appropriate technical assistance in response to requests from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition is essential to the successful implementation of the conventions. Technical assistance shall be provided taking into account the particular needs and special situation of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

The Secretariat's Technical Assistance Programme

For the first time in the history of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, a harmonized programme for the delivery of technical assistance was developed for the three conventions. A common approach to the delivery of technical assistance was requested by the Parties in the synergy decisions taken by the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their eleventh, and fifth meetings, respectively.

The overall objective of the programme is to promote the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as programmatic cooperation in the field, to deliver assistance on cross-cutting issues, promote the effective implementation of the decisions of the three Conferences of the Parties on technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, and to ensure consistent and non duplicative assistance to Parties.

Approach to the Delivery of Technical Assistance

The programme builds upon the strengths and best practices of the individual programmes for the delivery of technical assistance under each of the conventions that existed prior to the restructuring of the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat at the beginning of 2012 and consists of the following four main components:

- a. Needs assessment and development of supporting tools and methodologies
- b. Capacity-building and training
- c. Partnerships; and
- d. Regional centres and regional delivery

When delivering capacity-building and training activities, the Secretariat will take into account the following types of capacity-building approaches:

- Direct assistance to Parties upon specific request
- Interactive workshops and training activities
- Virtual training through electronic platforms such as webinars and e-learning courses
- Train-the-trainers activities
- Partnering with higher education institutions, such as universities and centres of excellence (such as the Summer School under the Stockholm Convention) to deliver training on specific technical issues
- Facilitating the development and implementation of projects and activities in priority areas on request from Parties and, where appropriate, in cooperation with regional centres
- Fostering regional cooperation and exchange
- Continuing to identify possible regional commonalities and approaches, such as involving experts from different countries and regions

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National Plans and Strategies: Development, Review and Update

Indonesian-Swiss Country-led Initiative to Improve the Effectiveness of the Basel Convention

Background

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, consisting of seven sections, namely addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment, developing guidelines for environmentally sound management, providing further legal clarity, further strengthening the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, combating illegal traffic more effectively, assisting developing countries that are facing specific challenges with regard to prohibiting the import of hazardous wastes and building capacity.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities focus on specific sections of the initiative aiming to:

- Provide relevant information about the Ban Amendment and facilitate information exchange between Parties to the Convention
- Support the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer (BCRCs)
- Strengthen legal systems, enforcement and competent authorities at the national and regional levels
- Enhance capacities of Parties to combat illegal traffic more effectively
- Upon request from Parties, address national implementation of the country-led initiative

Target audience

Basel Convention competent authorities, Basel focal points, Basel regional centres, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.

Calendar of events

- Third global workshop on the facilitation of the entry into force of the Ban Amendment: December 2013
- Workshops and webinars on CLI pillars: November 2013, 2014, 2015
- E-learning courses for police and enforcement officers

Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

Background

The development of a NAP consists of a systematic review of the status of implementation by a range of national stakeholders involved in the general management of chemicals. Stakeholders involved include those from ministries of agriculture, health, environment, industry, commerce, customs authorities, the private sector and NGOs.

In decision RC-3/6 an activity was also included aimed at fostering cooperation among designated national authorities (DNAs). This activity provides a forum to foster cooperation and facilitate dialogue among the DNAs in a region, review progress and discuss challenges faced in the implementation of the convention, share experiences and promote cooperation in addressing challenges.

Objectives

- Understanding the key elements of the Convention
- Elaborating strategies, including action plans, for the implementation of the Convention
- Fostering cooperation and enhancing communication among the DNAs and other stakeholders
- Sharing experiences on challenges faced in chemicals management and finding possible solutions

Target audience

Relevant authorities involved in the management of chemicals, including the designated national authorities (DNAs) of the Rotterdam Convention, Basel and Stockholm conventions focal points, SAICM focal points, ministries of agriculture, health, environment, industry and commerce, customs authorities, private sector, NGOs.

Calendar of events

- National workshops: 2013, 2014, 2015
- Sub-regional workshops for developing countries and countries with economies in transition: 2014, 2015
- Sub-regional workshop for Gulf countries in Bahrain, Manama, 2013

Updating NIPs Following the Inclusion of New POPs into the Stockholm Convention

Background

Following the adoption of amendments listing ten additional POPs in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention in 2009 and 2011, Parties have the obligation to update their NIP and to transmit it to the COP within two years of the date on which the amendments entered into force for them.

In light of decision SC-5/20 on technical assistance, the Secretariat has been undertaking and planning a series of capacity-building and training activities to assist countries in reviewing and updating their NIPs.

Objectives

The objective of these capacity-building set of activities is to allow participants to acquire necessary skills to review and update their NIPs. The online trainings and face-to-face activities aim at fostering participants' understanding of the scope of the obligations to implement the Stockholm Convention, in particular to update and review their NIPs according to Article 7, in light of the POPs listed in 2009 and 2011. These activities are implemented in phases:

- *Phase 1: Process organization*

Webinars and online meetings prior and following face-to-face workshops aim at increasing Parties' capacity to plan, manage and supervise the review of the NIPs, through the reactivation of a national coordinating mechanism involving all relevant stakeholders.

- *Phase 2: Establishing inventories*

Inventories of those POPs listed in 2009 and 2011 and also the revision and update of inventories of the original POPs allow Parties to learn about their national situation and revisit their strategies and plans.

- *Phase 3: Priority setting and plan development*

The objective of these activities is to enhance Parties' understanding of the concepts, principles and standards for the environmentally sound management of POPs.

Target audience

National officials from country Parties that are reviewing and updating their NIPs.

Calendar of events

- Regional Workshops in cooperation with regional centres and UNEP regional offices: September and December 2013, 2014, 2015
- Online preparatory training and follow-up webinars: 2013, 2014, 2015

Environmentally Sound Management of Priority Hazardous and Other Wastes

Emergency Mechanism of the Basel Convention

Background

In cases of emergency resulting from incidents arising from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal, developing countries or countries with economies in transition can apply for assistance from the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of the Basel Convention. Parties can receive assistance in case of an incident occurring during a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes covered by the Basel Convention in order to:

- a. Estimate the magnitude of damage occurred or damage that may occur and the measures needed to prevent damage
- b. Take appropriate emergency measures to prevent or mitigate the damage
- c. Help find those Parties and other entities in a position to give the assistance needed

In addition, a Party which is a developing country or a country with economy in transition can receive assistance in developing its capacity-building and transfer of technology and in putting in place measures to prevent accidents and damage to the environment caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on the Emergency Mechanism aim at assisting Parties in developing their capacity and in putting in place measures to prevent accidents and damage to the environment caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal.

Target audience

Basel Convention focal points and competent authorities and officially designated national focal points and staff of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit.

Calendar of events

- Regional Workshops in cooperation with the Joint UNEP/OCHA Unit: 2013-2015
- Webinars: starting in June 2013

E-waste

Background

The Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, adopted at COP6 and decision IX/6 adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties gave a mandate to the Secretariat to implement a workplan for the environmentally sound management of e-waste. The workplan includes technical assistance programmes of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in Africa, in Asia Pacific and in South America.

In addition, a public-private Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was established with the objective of involving private sector stakeholders, Basel focal points and competent authorities, UN partner agencies and programmes as well as NGOs to enhance ESM of computing equipment.

Objectives

Capacity-building activities on e-waste aim at promoting the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, to protect the environment and human health in particular vulnerable groups as well as to provide economic opportunities. This set of capacity-building activities also aim at assisting Parties to develop national inventories, national e-waste management plans and formulate e-waste policies, regulatory frameworks and strategies for implementation, as well as develop pilot projects on collection and recycling of e-waste involving public-private partnerships. Information networks among enforcement authorities would be developed through the POPs social platform and face-to-face meetings.

Target audience

Basel Convention national focal points, Basel competent authorities, Stockholm Convention official contact points, Basel and Stockholm regional centres, producing, handling and recycling industry as well as other stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in the life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment.

Calendar of events

- Workshops of the EU-Africa enforcement network: 2014, 2015
- Webinars: July-September 2013, 2014, 2015
- Regional and national project activities in cooperation with Basel and Stockholm regional centres: ongoing in 2013

Used Batteries

Background

Used lead acid batteries (ULAB) are an important and valuable source of secondary lead. If managed improperly, the constituents of the batteries, such as the lead, lead oxides and sulfuric acid, may pose a threat to human health and the environment.

To provide guidance on the environmentally sound management of ULAB, the Basel Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Lead Acid Battery Wastes and the Basel Training Manual on National Management Plans for Used Lead Acid Batteries were developed and are available for use.

Mercury Wastes

Background

The Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury provides guidance for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury containing wastes. It was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in October 2011. Improper handling, collection, transportation or disposal of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury can lead to releases of mercury, as can some disposal technologies. Ensuring an environmentally sound management (ESM), particularly of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing mercury, is critical for most countries.

Dismantling of Ships

Background

End-of-life ships comprise an array of hazardous materials – such as asbestos, PCBs and waste oils – which can have serious implications for the environment and human health if not managed properly. Parties have recognized that ship recycling States and the facilities within their jurisdiction may require assistance in implementing the requirements of the Basel Convention as it relates to ships. To this end, decision BC-10/17 on Environmentally sound dismantling of ships requests the Secretariat to continue its work and to develop further the programmes for sustainable ship recycling in conjunction with other bodies.

Used Oils

Background

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention developed and adopted technical guidelines on used oil re-refining or other re-uses of previously used oils. The guidelines are to support the development of national plans and the establishment of public-private partnerships for the environmentally sound management of used oils, to be implemented in the context of the regional strategies.

Used and Waste Pneumatic Tyres

Background

Even if their content is not hazardous per se, tyres are prone to heat retention and owing to their own open structure, piled tyres increase the risk of fires, which, once ignited, are difficult to control and put out. Unless properly managed, waste pneumatic tyres represent ideal homes for rodents and breeding sites for mosquitoes that transmit dengue and yellow fever. This is especially relevant in tropical and subtropical regions. The Parties to the Basel Convention, considering the difficulties involved in identifying and managing used and waste pneumatic tyres, decided to revise the technical guidelines on the identification and management of used tyres that were initially published in 2000. The revised and updated technical guidelines were adopted by COP10 in decision BC-10/6.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities with regard to the ESM of these waste streams aim at:

- Enhancing capacities to store, transport, minimize, recycle and dispose of these hazardous wastes while minimizing adverse environmental and health impacts
- Increasing technical knowledge by providing training on the relevant Basel Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of the respective waste streams

Target audience

Basel competent authorities, Basel focal points, national experts and stakeholders with an interest in the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: June - December 2013, 2014, 2015

Environmentally Sound Co-processing of Hazardous Wastes in Cement Kilns

Co-processing of wastes in properly controlled cement kilns provides energy and materials recovery while cement is being produced, offering an environmentally sound recovery option for many waste materials. As countries strive for greater self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management, particularly in developing countries that may have little or no waste management infrastructure, properly controlled co-processing can provide a practical, cost-effective and environmentally preferred option to landfill and incineration. In general, co-processing of waste in resource-intensive processes can be an important element in a more sustainable system of managing raw materials and energy. To this end, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted, in decision BC-10/8, the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns aim at:

- Disseminating the newly adopted technical guidelines
- Supporting pilot projects and sharing of experience on waste minimization and co-processing of PCBs, Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) and Obsolete Pesticides
- Increasing knowledge on policy tools for the Environmentally Sound Co-processing of Hazardous Wastes in Cement Kilns

Target audience

Basel Convention focal points, Basel competent authorities, Stockholm Convention official contact points, national focal points, national experts and stakeholders with an interest in the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns.

Calendar of events

- Workshops: 2014 and 2015
- Webinars: December 2013, 2014, 2015

POPs Wastes

Background

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention collaborates closely with the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention when it comes to the development of technical guidelines on POPs wastes. Environmentally sound management of POPs waste and Basel Convention provisions are to be considered as an integral part during the planning and implementation of projects related to POPs, and funded by bilateral or multilateral donors like the Global Environment Facility (GEF). With decision SC-5/9 the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention requested the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to include the updating of the general technical guidelines for the ESM of POPs wastes and the preparation or the updating of specific technical guidelines in its agenda.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities include the promotion of environmentally sound management of POPs wastes through the coordinated implementation of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, with a particular focus on protecting the health of vulnerable groups. The capacity-building activities also aim at providing training on the use of the technical guidelines for the ESM of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs.

Target audience

Stockholm Convention national focal points and official contact points, Basel competent authorities, Basel and Stockholm regional centres, national experts, stakeholders, bilateral donors and international organizations, like the GEF and GEF implementing agencies, with an interest in developing and implementing projects on the environmentally sound management of POPs.

Calendar of events

- Pilot-projects in five countries to pilot test the guidelines for the ESM of POPs wastes: 2013, 2014, 2015
- Webinars: 2013, 2014, 2015
- Training workshops on the updated technical guidelines for the ESM of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs including new POPs: 2014, 2015

Stockholm Convention Annex A and B Chemicals

POPs in Articles

Background

Some of the POPs listed in 2009 are industrial chemicals that have been integrated into articles and products throughout their production chain. Information on the chemicals used and on the composition of products and articles is often not easily available. Many countries have expressed their need to access information in this regard and to access technical assistance support to identify the new POPs in articles as part of their implementation plans.

In order to address this topic, three main activities are being undertaken:

- A pilot project to undertake a study on the presence of new POPs in articles
- An electronic publication
- A global expert meeting on POPs-phase out and sound management

Objectives

The objective of this activity is to reduce exposure to and risks emanating from new POPs through the identification and phasing-out of new POPs in products and articles.

The focus will be on identifying problems faced by a developing country and its different stakeholders (such as industry) in detecting POPs in articles, their sound management and opportunities for the phase-out by substitution or use of alternatives. The identification of technical cross-cutting issues leading to the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes generation would also be sought.

Target audience

Parties and observer Governments, industry associations and civil society organizations, Rotterdam Convention Chemicals Review Committee members, Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee members and relevant experts, UNEP Chemicals, participants in the chemicals in products programme.

Calendar of events

- Pilot project on the sound management of POPs in articles and phasing-out opportunities in emerging countries being undertaken by the Regional Centre hosted by China (China CRCAP): 2013, 2014, 2015
- Global expert meeting: August 2013
- Webinars: 2013, 2014, 2015

Stockholm Convention Annex C Chemicals: Unintentional POPs

Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs

Background

The Toolkit for the identification and quantification of releases of Dioxins, Furans and other unintentional POPs (Toolkit) provides a harmonized framework for the elaboration of release inventories under the Stockholm Convention. The Toolkit was first published in 2003 by UNEP Chemicals and subsequently revised in 2005. In 2006, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention welcomed the second Toolkit edition and recognized its usefulness. At the same time, Parties acknowledged the need for its ongoing revision and updating, placing emphasis on key sources for which limited data were available and on providing support to developing countries in their efforts to verify their emission factors. Parties also requested overall improvement of the usefulness and user friendliness of the Toolkit. The third revised version of the Toolkit is available on the website of the Stockholm Convention to assist Parties in the revision of their NIPs.

Objectives

The objective of these capacity-building activities is to train Parties on how to update their inventories of POPs, including new POPs, by applying new release categories and factors included in the third version of the Toolkit. A set of training modules on the use of the Toolkit will be included in face-to-face training and online training sessions on NIP reviewing and updating.

Target audience

National officials from Parties to the Stockholm Convention that are reviewing and updating their NIPs.

Calendar of events

- Regional workshops in cooperation with Stockholm regional centres and UNEP regional offices: September, December 2013, 2014, 2015
- Online preparatory training and follow-up sessions through online meetings and webinars: September, October 2013, 2014, 2015

Pesticides

Information Sharing on Alternatives to Annex III Chemicals that are POPs Pesticides

Background

The Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have nine pesticides in common, including endosulfan. Support to the development and deployment of alternatives to endosulfan is provided to Parties, upon request, including the assessment of chemical and non-chemical alternatives to endosulfan. Pilot activities are carried out by the Secretariat as well as through cooperation with partners (PAN-UK). Where appropriate, the work on alternatives to newly listed pesticides links to the work on monitoring and reporting of severely hazardous pesticide formulations. Partners assist in identifying technical information on the crop/ pest complex, lessons learnt, and development of training and communication tools.

Objectives

The objective of this capacity-building activity is to assist Parties, upon request, in assessing the present situation regarding the uses and the quantities of newly listed pesticides, including endosulfan; identifying and promoting alternative strategies; and supporting the substitution of these pesticides in agriculture by alternative pest control methods. As a follow-up to the results obtained, the POPRC and the Secretariat will further develop their policy approaches and technical assistance strategy regarding these chemicals. This activity will assist Parties in the:

- Development of an overall approach and guidance tools to assist Parties to evaluate the continued need of such substances and the introduction of sustainable alternative solutions
- Development and dissemination of training and awareness-raising material and development of skills on alternatives to newly listed pesticides

Target audience

Farmers and agricultural workers applying pesticides subject to the conventions to major crops in the country. Designated national authorities of the Rotterdam Convention and focal points under the Stockholm Convention.

Calendar of events

- National pilot programmes including workshops and farmer field schools on alternatives and non-chemical options: in 2013

Strengthen Capacity to Monitor and Report Pesticide Poisoning Incidents Related to Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPFs)

Background

Article 6 of the Rotterdam Convention states that a developing country that is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation (SHPF) under conditions of use in its territory may propose the listing of that formulation in Annex III. Many people in developing countries suffer acute or chronic illnesses due to accidental exposures to pesticides. Work on monitoring and reporting pesticide poisonings incidents was initiated in 2007 in nine pilot projects in Africa, the Near East and South America. The experiences gained were used to prepare an electronic toolkit on SHPF that assists countries to develop a pilot programme on SHPF monitoring and reporting. One of the expected outcomes of this project is that the capacity of countries to propose notifications for severely hazardous pesticide formulations will be strengthened.

Objectives

The objective of this training activity is to strengthen the capacity of Parties to monitor, collect information and report on incidents related to SHPFs and propose the listing of SHPFs in Annex III of the Rotterdam convention.

Target audience

Designated national authorities, ministries of agriculture, environment and health and NGOs.

Calendar of events

- National capacity-building pilot programmes: 2013, 2014, 2015
- Subregional workshop on SHPF monitoring in collaboration with farmer field schools: 2013, 2014, 2015

Industrial Chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention

Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals

Background

The Rotterdam Convention establishes an international mechanism for regulating trade in pesticides and industrial chemicals that are listed in its Annex III. It also permits Parties to control the entry of Annex III chemicals into their territories, by submitting an “import response”. The core competencies required by a Party to properly implement the Convention are the abilities to assess risks associated with the proposed import of Annex III chemicals and make risk management decisions (paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention). While pesticides are controlled by international schemes, the regulation of industrial chemicals has lagged behind and developing countries often face limited capacity and knowledge when it comes to assessing and managing the risks that they pose.

Objectives

The programme focuses on strengthening the capacity of Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to assess and manage risks, prepare and communicate import responses and take decisions on final regulatory actions for industrial chemicals in Annex III of the Convention.

Target audience

Rotterdam Convention focal points, to lead the process in conjunction with other relevant national stakeholders such as ministries of environment, health, agriculture, customs, the private sector and NGOs.

Calendar of events

- National pilot projects: 2013, 2014, 2015

CROSS CUTTING

Clearing House Mechanism

Background

A joint clearing-house mechanism, consisting of integrated information packages, IT tools and systems, as well as information exchange networks is continuously developed and updated. The Secretariat will maintain and further enhance the conventions' websites, online collaboration platforms, national reporting systems, surveys and questionnaires, calendar of meetings, and other information systems serving Parties and external users.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on the joint clearing-house mechanism aim at: training Parties, as well as regional centres, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and Secretariat staff on the use of the Joint clearing-house mechanism that will provide for one entry point to a wide range of sources of available information relevant to chemicals and wastes management.

Ready access will be provided to available scientific and technical information related to substances regulated under the three conventions, to enhance understanding of the potential impacts of these substances on human health and the environment and facilitate an integrated life-cycle approach to their sound management.

Target audience

Basel Convention focal points and competent authorities, Rotterdam Convention designated national authorities and Stockholm Convention national focal points and official contact points. Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

Calendar of events

- Webinars: starting in November 2013, 2014, 2015

Reporting and other Notification of Information Obligations

Background

All Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have obligations related to the transmission of information, be it under “national reporting” or other specific notifications. Each Party to the Basel Convention (Article 13) and the Stockholm Convention (Article 15) has to report to the Secretariat on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the convention and on the effectiveness of such measures. Parties to the Rotterdam Convention must communicate notifications of final regulatory actions (Article 5) and import responses (Article 10) to the Secretariat, while export notifications must be sent from the exporting Party to the importing Party (Article 12). Also, decision RC-5/2 requested the Secretariat to propose ways and means of improving levels of notifications of final regulatory actions under Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities related to Parties’ ability to report and send notifications aim at:

- Enhancing the understanding of the reporting requirements under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and of the use of the online reporting system
- Facilitating information exchange on the status of implementation of Articles 11 and 12 of the Rotterdam Convention, which are all related to trade
- Enhancing Rotterdam Parties’ capacity to fulfil their obligations related to the control of the trade of Annex III chemicals (Article 11), export notification (Article 12) and information to accompany exports

Target audience

Competent authorities and focal points under the Basel Convention, official contact points and national focal points under the Stockholm Convention, designated national authorities and focal points under the Rotterdam Convention, chemicals and pesticides national regulatory authorities, customs authorities and Parties that are trade partners, industry and NGOs.

Calendar of events

- Regional and national training workshops and webinars: September 2013 and November 2013
- Regional workshops and webinars on using the electronic systems for reporting under the Basel and Stockholm conventions: 2014, 2015

Support to Technical and Scientific Bodies

Background

The Basel Convention Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) are the main technical and scientific subsidiary bodies in the Conventions. These bodies provide scientific and technical advice to the Conference of the Parties and they deal with cross-cutting issues, reviewing chemicals at different stages of their life-cycle. They often consult the same experts and in particular CRC and POPRC have similar processes and in some cases share members. Thus, the bodies could benefit from increased cooperation and information sharing. Discussions and open dialogue could provide the opportunity to further explore topics of common interest for the scientific bodies.

Objectives

The objective of this activity is to enable the bodies to tackle scientific issues more effectively and in a coordinated manner, providing opportunities for sharing information, gaining access to each other's knowledge and experts and making the best use of available scientific expertise.

Target audience

Members of the CRC, POPRC and OEWG, Parties, experts, civil society and industry.

Calendar of events

- A regional workshop in cooperation with regional centres, FAO and UNEP regional offices: November 2013
- Webinars: from June 2013, 2014, 2015

Training for Customs Officers

Background

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions put into place trade related mechanisms aiming to control the transboundary movement of chemicals and hazardous wastes. Through decisions BC-10/13 and RC-5/10, Parties requested the Secretariat to elaborate guidance and training for customs officers in relation to the trade related provisions of each of the three conventions. In the implementation of this mandate, the Secretariat developed a common approach aiming to provide coherent information for customs officers in relation to the chemicals and wastes covered by the three conventions.

In the past few years, the Secretariat has cooperated with initiatives, such as the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), as well as the Secretariats of different trade-related multilateral environmental agreements. This collaboration allows for the delivery of coordinated and cost-effective training for customs officers and the development of tools that respond to the needs of this specific audience.

Objectives

Customs authorities play a key role in the implementation of the Conventions and in protecting their countries from unwanted trade of hazardous chemicals and wastes. Parties will be able to enforce national decisions and international rules on the import and export of hazardous chemicals and wastes if an efficient coordination between customs and relevant authorities takes place.

Target audience

The primary target audience for this training is customs officials from developing countries. Other national stakeholders, such as port authorities, focal points of the Conventions and enforcement agents are also relevant for this activity.

Calendar of events

- Regional and national Green Customs Initiative workshops: www.greencustoms.org
- Customs e-learning platform, in partnership with WCO: available at the end of 2013

Resource Mobilization

Background

The Basel Convention does not have a convention-specific financial mechanism. To join forces and to support synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Secretariat established a joint resource mobilization focal point and developed a joint strategy for the mobilization of financial resources, for the voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds of the Basel Convention as well as those of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with the objective of maximizing access to public and private sector funding.

Objectives

Capacity-building activities related to resource mobilization aim at the development of joint resource mobilization and fund-raising strategies including the preparation of donor and partner profiles, training on monitoring and reporting in compliance with donor requirements, and preparations for meeting with donors. Activities have a special focus on building the capacity of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to mobilize resources in their regions.

Target audience

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, national focal points and points of contact, project partners and stakeholders.

Calendar of events

- Training during the BCRCs and BCCCs directors' meetings: 2014, 2015
- Webinars: 2014, 2015

National Coordination to Enhance Cooperation for the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Background

Coordination between the national ministries and agencies responsible for implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is a very important step for the implementation of the conventions. The major national coordinating mechanisms include the establishment of inter-institutional bodies or formal coordination mechanisms that bring together various government agencies and other stakeholders to develop policy recommendations, strategies and plans on hazardous chemicals and wastes management.

Objectives

The capacity-building activities on national coordination aim at sharing lessons learned, exchanging experiences, in particular on examples of good coordination practices, like the development of national strategies and plans, policies and standards; developing agreements establishing procedures for cooperation, communication and information exchange; and fostering active collaboration and cooperation between the focal points of the conventions and other stakeholders.

Target audience

National decision makers dealing with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Basel Convention focal points and competent authorities, Rotterdam Convention designated national authorities and national focal points, Stockholm Convention focal points and official points of contact.

Calendar of events

- Workshops: September 2013, December 2013
- Webinars: starting in September 2013
- Online meetings: starting in February 2014

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