

MASTER LIST OF ACTIONS

On the Reduction and/or Elimination of the Releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants

**UNEP Chemicals
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Introduction

Background

In response to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme decision 19/13C, which requests UNEP to develop a global, legally binding instrument for POPs, UNEP has initiated a number of activities dealing with persistent organic pollutants (POPs). There are also numerous activities undertaken by Governments and Organizations at the national, regional and international levels. It has become clear that there is a need to co-ordinate work being done to eliminate emissions and discharges of POPs in order to help ensure effective and efficient use of resources. To facilitate such co-ordination, UNEP has developed this master list of actions that address POPs and their releases.

Objective

This master list consists of actions aiming at reducing and/or eliminating of releases of POPs. The master list should facilitate co-ordination and co-operation between and among activities at the national, regional and international levels in countries and organizations and thereby helping to avoid duplication of efforts and ensuring the efficient use of resources. This document will become an evolving list of relevant POPs actions, including those already taken, being conducted, or planned. With the active participation of all countries and organizations, the master list can become a dynamic tool for ensuring co-ordinated and complementary actions on POPs.

Data collection and distribution

UNEP has already initiated the collection of information on POPs-related actions and action plans at the national, regional and international levels, through letters and questionnaires addressed to Governments and Organizations. Regular requests for further and more up-to-date information will be sent between the sessions of the POPs Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), in order to produce an up-to-date master list prior to each session of the Committee. Based on the information collected to date, a listing of titles of relevant actions from both international and regional organizations as well as from governments is categorised in the different following sections of this master list.

The master list is distributed in advance of the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and will also be available at the UNEP Chemicals homepage on the Internet, at the following site: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/>. For countries that have access to Internet it will be soon possible to update the master list of actions through interactive update forms on the following address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/masterlist.html>.

A copy of the letter requesting the information to the POPs Focal Points, the information update forms and a full list of countries responding to the request of information are attached as annexes to this document. Countries that did not supply information or have amendments to the information supplied can use these forms and send them to UNEP Chemicals.

With a view to ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between activities, it is important that all countries and organizations participate fully in the process, both with regard to contributing information and to making use of it for achieving effective and complementary actions.

Organization and Structure of the Tables of the Master List

The information collected from both international and regional organizations as well as from Governments is organized in table format in five sections.

- Section 1: Information on global actions aiming at the reduction and/or elimination of releases of POPs.
- Section 2: Information on regional and/or sub-regional actions aiming at the reduction and/or elimination of the releases of POPs.
- Section 3: Country contributions: Assessment and monitoring projects of POPs chemicals.
- Section 4: Country contributions: Information on POPs National Action Plans aiming at the reduction and/or elimination of the releases of POPs.
- Section 5: Country contributions: Information on the regulatory status of POPs; bans, restrictions, and/or other legal permitted uses.

The first two sections include contributions received from international organizations. Section 1 covers global actions and Section 2 covers regional and sub-regional actions aimed at the reduction and /or elimination of the releases of POPs chemicals. The tables include information on six categories:

- A. Title of the Project;
- B. Objective of the Project;
- C. Responsible Organization(s);
- D. Partner(s);
- E. Project Funder(s); and
- F. Timeframe for the project.

The only deviation from these categories is under projects of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), where item C becomes “Implementing Agency” and D becomes “Executing Agency,” to be consistent with the terminology used within the GEF.

Where information for a category was not provided, the category is not listed. For example, in some cases only the project title was provided so this title is all that is listed.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 are compiled from submissions of the POPs Focal Points. Sections 3 and 4 are organized by country in the same manner as Sections 1 and 2. Section 5 is also organized by country, and includes the following categories: no action; restricted use; and banned. However, where nothing is reported for a particular category, the category is not shown. Consequently, the tables for each country vary according to the information provided.