



# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

**Interim Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic Pollutants**  
International Environment House  
11-13, chemin des Anémones  
CH - 1219 Châtelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland)

Telephone: +41 22 917 86 35  
Facsimile: +41 22 797 34 60  
E-mail: [ssc@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:ssc@chemicals.unep.ch)  
Webpage : [www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)

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19 January 2004

To: Stockholm Convention Focal Points  
POPs INC 7 - Heads of Delegation

**Subject: Request for comments on Feasibility Study on regional and sub-regional centres**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat, as a follow up to decisions 6/9 and 7/8 adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Persistent Organic Pollutants, is currently undertaking a feasibility study on regional and sub-regional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

In article 12, paragraph 4, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requires that Parties “establish, as appropriate, arrangements for the purpose of providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of this Convention. These arrangements shall include regional and sub-regional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.”

Paragraph (b) of the Terms of Reference for the Feasibility Study, indicate that the study shall include, inter alia, “an assessment of the capacity of all relevant regional and subregional centres, in particular, but not limited to Basel Convention regional centres, to facilitates capacity-building and transfer of technology.”

In order to fulfil this mandate and to satisfy the requirements of Article 12 under the Stockholm Convention, I kindly request your assistance in identifying suitable international institutions within your country or region, that could be considered by the Feasibility Study.

The regional centre is intended to occupy a coordinating role for a region for both the sub-regional centres and for the countries within that region and may also carry out technical work. The sub-regional centre is expected to provide a function of technical transfer to a defined group of developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition within a region **for one or more capacities or chemicals within the scope of the convention.**

Please note that any recommendation of an institution does not automatically mean that the institution will become a regional or sub-regional centre. You may recommend more than one institution in your country or region. Pursuant to decision 7/8 adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the final report of the Feasibility Study will be submitted to the first Conference of the Parties.

If you consider any institution competent, willing and available to carry out one of these functions, please provide the full details of the institution including a contact person, his/her position, the full address, telephone number fax number and email address where contact can be made.

The requested information should **be sent not later than 28 February 2004**, to:

James B. Willis, Executive Secretary  
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
UNEP Chemicals  
11-13 chemin des Anémones  
CH- 1219, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
Fax: (+41 22) 797 34 60  
E-mail: [ssc-fs@chemicals.unep.ch](mailto:ssc-fs@chemicals.unep.ch)

**Submissions by e-mail are preferred**

I thank you for your ongoing support and assistance and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[signed]

James B. Willis  
Executive Secretary