



**LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS
FOR THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

Global Report

A CONTRIBUTION OF THE GEF FULL-SIZE PROJECT :

'DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS'

April 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

This report gathers lessons learned and best practices identified for the development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. It is the output of a series of seven regional workshops attended by participants from a total of 98 countries during the period January to March 2006.

This exercise formed part of the ‘umbrella’ component of the project ‘Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants’ funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNEP. This project was originally conceived as a pilot in which an initial group of 12 countries, drawn from all regions of the World, would lead NIP development and pave the way for the systematic execution of enabling activities in all GEF-eligible countries. In the event, a large number of countries gained approval for enabling activities proposals much earlier than had been anticipated so that the pilot role of the 12-country group was diminished. Nevertheless, the generic guidance developed under the project has been of benefit to all countries.

Furthermore, although this ‘lessons learned’ exercise could no longer serve to transfer experiences from the pilot group of 12 countries to all others, it remains a valid exercise on a number of grounds:

- it represented an opportunity for a large number of country participants, at various stages of NIP development, to gather and share experiences and exchange views of NIP development;

- it provides a useful summary of lessons learned for countries which have not yet started the process of NIP development but intend to do so;
- it represented an opportunity for country participants to identify regionally-successful strategies and expertise that might be useful to them;
- it provides lessons for the GEF and its agencies that support and supervise the existing enabling activities programme and that will be involved in any support for the updating and revision of NIPs – particularly to take in new chemicals added to the Convention;
- it identifies issues and possible solutions that may contribute to discussions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the needs of developing- and transition economy Parties to the Convention.

Regional meetings were held in Fiji for the Pacific Region; Malaysia for the Asia Region; Kenya for Anglophone Africa; Cameroon for Francophone Africa; Bulgaria for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia; Peru for Latin America; and Barbados for the Anglophone Caribbean. Local NIP teams in each of these host countries provided us with considerable assistance in setting up and running the meetings and we acknowledge their help with our thanks.

The pilot project provided funding for one participant from each country undertaking GEF-funded POPs enabling activities. In our letters of invitation we specified that the participant should be the

project coordinator or a close colleague with a good knowledge of NIP development in the country. In the event, some countries, including a number just beginning the NIP development work, decided to fund additional participants from their NIP project budgets.

The Meetings in Cameroon and Peru were conducted in French and Spanish respectively while the Bulgaria meeting benefited from simultaneous translation between Russian and English. Other meetings were conducted in English. We believe these arrangements allowed participants to express themselves as much as possible in a language with which they were comfortable so that their opinions could be captured accurately. In Annex 2 we have translated the

meeting reports from Cameroon and Lima to English only for consistency.

We are keenly aware that the success of the Convention at national level often relies on the dedication and vision of a relatively small number of committed individuals that lead or participate in the enabling activities work. Our intention in this work has been to provide a vehicle by which their 'voices' could be heard more widely. We trust that these readers, particularly those that participated in the meetings and fact-finding missions, will find their opinions reflected in the tables and annexes set out here.

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2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in gathering the results presented here was a simple one. A common agenda was used for all the workshops. This agenda, presented in Annex 1, identified six principal areas for discussion:

- the preparation of POPs inventories and assessment of national capacities;
- defining national POPs priorities and linking them to national development priorities and Action Plans;
- the impacts of POPs and the costs and benefits of action;
- project management and process organization; coordination mechanisms,
- stakeholder participation, commitment and ownership;
- legislation and regulation, monitoring and enforcement.

The first three of these represent the technical components of NIP development and broadly correspond to steps 2, 3 and 4 of the 5-step scheme set out in the initial guidelines for POPs enabling activities published by the GEF in May 2001. These initial guidelines form the foundation of all POPs enabling activities proposals, irrespective of the agency supporting the work.

The last three represent cross-cutting issues considered to be of critical importance to the successful development of a NIP and to its subsequent implementation.

Each of these six areas was discussed by a working group of each meeting. The agenda included, for each working group, a number of possible topics to stimulate discussion. It was made clear to the working groups that these were not obligatory topics, nor were they questions that needed to be answered. Some groups used these topics as a framework for their discussions and reports, other groups chose to ignore them and work independently. The agenda provided for the working groups on the first three subject to work in parallel for a half-day session. The working groups then reported to the following plenary session so that additional comments from participants could be incorporated in the report. This pattern was then repeated for the three remaining cross-cutting issues. The six working group reports for each meeting constitute the output for that region.

These regional reports are included in Annex 2. Readers will see that the outputs of individual working groups and of regional meetings vary considerably. Some groups and meetings decided to present their findings as PowerPoint presentation, others as text reports. Some preferred to work towards an agreed set of recommendations, others to express the diversity of approaches represented in their groups. In preparing this global report we have neither changed the meeting reports from their original formats nor edited their content. In this way, we believe that the reports truly represent the views of the participants in the regions from which they derive.

To support the regional workshops, the project also recruited 4 regional experts. These participated in the workshops but also undertook a series of fact-finding missions to individual countries to provide more in-depth information relating to particular experiences.

A total of 22 countries were selected for fact-finding missions. The countries were selected only if they had completed or were well advanced in NIP development. An attempt was made to attain globally balanced representation and to ensure that in each region countries supported by different agencies were visited. Countries visited are indicated in Table 1.

This global report represents a distillation of the regional reports and the fact-finding mission reports. It has been prepared by the four regional experts, assisted by UNEP. In drawing together the global

report the team has not added any priority or ranking to the issues identified and their listing in each section of the tables in Chapter 2 has been arranged only to bring similar ideas together. Similarly, we have tried throughout to restrict entries to comments arising directly from the regional meetings or from the fact-finding missions. In this way, the report provides a view of NIP development from the country teams and not from the international agencies and their expert advisors.

Table 1: Countries Participating in Regional Meetings and Fact-Finding Missions

1.	Albania	27.	Equatorial Guinea	54.	Mexico	80.	Slovakia
2.	Antigua and Barbuda	28.	Ethiopia	55.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	81.	Slovenia
3.	Argentina	29.	<i>Fiji (host)</i>			82.	<i>Sri Lanka</i>
4.	Armenia	30.	Gabon	56.	<i>Moldova</i>	83.	St-Lucia
5.	Bangladesh	31.	Gambia (The)	57.	Mongolia	84.	Syria
6.	Barbados (host)	32.	Georgia	58.	<i>Morocco</i>	85.	<i>Tajikistan</i>
7.	Belarus	33.	Guatemala	59.	Mozambique	86.	<i>Tanzania</i>
8.	Belize	34.	Guinea	60.	Nauru	87.	Thailand
9.	Bénin	35.	Guinea Bissau	61.	Nepal	88.	Togo
10.	<i>Bolivia</i>	36.	Haiti	62.	<i>Nicaragua</i>	89.	Tonga
11.	Botswana	37.	Hungary	63.	Niger	90.	Tunisia
12.	Brasil	38.	India	64.	Nigeria	91.	Tuvalu
13.	Bulgaria (host)	39.	Indonesia	65.	Pakistan	92.	Uganda
14.	Burkina Faso	40.	<i>Jamaica</i>	66.	Palau	93.	Ukraine
15.	Cambodia	41.	Kazakhstan	67.	Panama	94.	Uruguay
16.	<i>Cameroun</i> (host)	42.	<i>Kenya (host)</i>	68.	Papua New Guinea	95.	Vanuatu
17.	Central African Republic	43.	Kiribati	69.	Paraguay	96.	<i>Vietnam</i>
18.	Chile	44.	Kyrgystan	70.	<i>Peru</i> (host)	97.	Zambia
19.	<i>China</i>	45.	Latvia	71.	Philippines	98.	Zimbabwe
20.	Comores	46.	Lithuania	72.	<i>Poland</i>		
21.	Costa Rica	47.	Macedonia	73.	Republic of Congo		
22.	Côte D'ivoire	48.	Malawi	74.	Republica Dominicana		
23.	Cuba	49.	Malaysia (host)	75.	Russian Federation		
24.	Democratic Republic of Congo	50.	Mali	76.	Samoa		
		51.	Marshall Islands	77.	Sao Tomé Et Principe		
25.	Dominica	52.	Mauritania	78.	Sénégal		
26.	Ecuador	53.	Mauritius	79.	Serbia and Montenegro		

Countries in **bold** are participants in the 12-country pilot project: **Lebanon** is also a participant in the pilot project but could not attend a regional meeting. Countries in *italics* were selected for fact-finding missions. *Jordan* was also visited but could not attend a regional meeting.

3. **GLOBAL LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES**

3.1 Project Management and Process Organization

3.2 Guidance Available

3.3 Coordination mechanisms; stakeholder participation; commitment and ownership

3.4 Legislation and regulation, monitoring and enforcement

3.5 POPs inventories and assessment of national capacities

3.6 Defining national POPs priorities and linking them to national development priorities and action plans

3.7 Impacts of POPs and the costs and benefits of action

3.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PROCESS ORGANIZATION

Lessons learned	Good practices adopted by countries
<p>Project activities and planned timelines</p> <p>The majority of country teams were unable to meet given timelines¹: The following common reasons were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in government, • political instability, • change of project teams and project coordinator, • delay in funds transfer and release • bureaucracy delays the process (e.g. communication through hierarchy) <p>Timeline for the NIP development was not properly designed.</p> <p>Lack of early training in project management and lack of knowledge of the Convention</p>	<p>Establish and evaluate a realistic timeline (e.g. taking into consideration local conditions and mode of operation).</p> <p>Achieve good planning of the project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creating task teams having sub-committees organizing introductory workshops/meetings outlining the objectives, scope and expected outputs/outcomes of the project <p>Appoint experienced team and NPC</p> <p>NPC credibility and recognition by the relevant ministry</p>
<p>Role and value of local and international consultants</p> <p>Local expertise exists but is insufficient in many countries².</p> <p>Unclear or too ambitious ToRs limit applications and cause delays in the selection process</p> <p>Hire high skilled local and international consultants for performing the tasks</p> <p>Involvement of governmental officials essential for building national capacity, ownership and sustainability</p> <p>International consultant brought a broader knowledge of implementation and helped identifying tasks and NIP process</p>	<p>Involvement of relevant government bodies into the process of NIP development to secure implementation follow-up</p> <p>Open and flexible selection of consultants</p> <p>Develop locally appropriate Terms of Reference</p> <p>Terms of Reference developed with implementing agency support</p>

Organizational arrangement

Isolated implementation management team has not ensured sustainability

Good interaction between national coordinator and main stakeholders is essential to facilitate the process

Creation of task teams lead by the main representative stakeholders (eg: PCB by electrical company representative)

Footnotes

1. Experience both within the 12-country pilot project and more widely across the c.125 countries undertaking GEF-supported enabling activities indicates that few NIP teams are able to complete their work within the 2-year project period

2. In order to meet project deadlines, local expertise has to be recruited at particular times. This may be difficult in countries where the consultant 'pool' is small and consultants are busy. In some countries, while local expertise could be identified, the ToRs developed by project teams were not fully met. One country solved this problem by modifying the ToR in negotiation with the best offer - a mutually satisfactory result was obtained

3.2 GUIDANCE AVAILABLE

Lessons learned

Guidance documents provide a useful starting point but always require adaptation to local conditions and experience: Available regional guidance documents are of benefit for the countries

Country teams found it difficult to obtain guidance materials and related tools, including that prepared regionally, because a common source is lacking

Guidance documents for the POPs pesticides inventories are available but not easily accessible

Guidance documents for PCBs inventories are available but need to be improved to incorporate information on brands and products not listed in the original document but found in many countries

Toolkit guidance was found useful for the preliminary assessment of dioxins and furans but needs to be up-dated and needs to incorporate guidance for the assessment of HCB and PCBs produced unintentionally

Appropriate guidance documents for socio-economic analysis and risk communication are lacking

Countries require guidance on resource mobilization and understanding financial mechanisms available to support POPs actions

3.3 COORDINATING MECHANISMS ; STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION; COMMITMENT AND OWNERSHIP

Lessons learned / Experiences	Good Practices
<p>Developing government ownership, ministries support, stakeholder commitment and support; National Coordinating Committees, formation and obtain continuous support throughout NIP development process</p> <p>Involvement of governments/institutions did not always reach the level needed to secure follow up actions</p> <p>Defined and agreed roles of ministries and other stakeholders involved on NCC at the first step helped the process of collaboration</p> <p>Some stakeholders commitment and support was limited because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they did not fully understand their roles the representatives did not have the status needed changes in representatives different expectations 	<p>Ministries working together in NCC and defining their roles in the Implementation phase; Frequent meetings of NCC to keep agencies updated to maintain commitment</p> <p>Use of existing committees on chemical related issues</p> <p>Institutionalization of the POPs management in the national legislation</p> <p>Awareness raising at high political and parliamentary level</p> <p>Establishment of MoUs between host ministry and other stakeholders</p> <p>Involve stakeholders at all stages of the NIP development process (ministries, private sector and NGOs)</p> <p>Delegation of activities to different stakeholders</p>
<p>Sharing information and knowledge with stakeholders</p> <p>Stakeholders involvement was enhanced through workshops where relevant issues were brought up</p> <p>Project team had specific planning for information exchange through different means (web page, mail lists and so on) according to specific regional realities</p> <p>POPs focal points in some countries have not been involved</p> <p>Media important in reaching general public included all nationally available techniques – workshops and theatre, booklets and news articles, radio and</p>	<p>Task teams visiting each relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Development of a diverse and varied communication strategy bearing in mind national realities and needs</p>

television, and internet.

- Development of POPs websites was initiated in a number of countries and recognized useful for information sharing within the country, among the region and internationally, but many are not updated; not user friendly; and not functional

Creation of functional POPs website, resourced to allow frequent updates

Exchange of information at the regional / international level

Information made available to other countries (bilateral, trilateral meetings, regional workshops, etc) helped to share experiences; understand the process more clearly; initiate and strengthen cooperation; and identify expertise available in the region

NIP issues brought to regional institutions

Information exchanged and expertise sharing between project national coordinators and task team members amongst countries of the region

Inclusion of Non-governmental organizations

The important role of NGOs was recognized, but in some countries their lack of knowledge and capacity limited their participation in the different tasks

In some regions, incentives were needed for stakeholders participation in meetings, in some countries including NCC

Industry was invited to join the NIP development process but sometimes refused to participate

Academia was usually involved in inventories and developing action plans

Genuine stakeholder involvement throughout the process:

Build the capacity of NGOs to participate in NIP development, where necessary allocating funds for:

Participation in meetings and workshops

Training activities

Contract NGOs for specific tasks: In particular, involve Public Interest NGOs in awareness campaigns

Identify common issues of concern and finding commonly acceptable solutions¹

Engage Private sector in tasks such as reporting, inventories and action planning including costing.

Involve Academia in achieving specific tasks such as compiling/providing existing data and developing and implementing training activities.

Developing actions beyond the “host” ministry

Early political awareness was important to gain engagement of the different ministries.

Shared responsibilities for the specific tasks between different ministries during the process of planning and NIP development

Devolving tasks to responsible ministries was effective in gaining their expertise and active involvement in the project and beyond.

Defining specific roles and responsibilities of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and its members

Gaining approval and acceptance of NIP and action plans by stakeholders

Consultation process to share views and plans with other stakeholders was found very effective

Early involvement of stakeholders in NIP process allowed smooth approval process and built capacity for the implementation

Importance of having a resource mobilization strategy to accompany action plans was recognized²

Awareness raising activities at the high level

Footnotes:

1. The Stockholm Convention requires Parties to minimize dioxin and furans releases which are, among others, related to burning practices. While the Ministry of Environment is typically responsible for regulating incineration it is less likely to have primary responsibility for burning operations. Attempts to regulate or ban open burning will require consensus between the ministries with relevant mandates

2. One small company decided, after participating in aware raising activities, to introduce environmentally sound management to its own practices. They identified more than two hundred disused transformers of unknown PCB content. The company could not afford comprehensive testing so agreed a ‘contract’ with the informal metal recyclers, ‘scavengers’, that purchased old transformers. Under this ‘contract’ the company agrees to sell PCB-free transformers at a set price but will keep the PCB-containing transformers. In return, the scavengers accept the task of analyzing the transformer oil using test kits. The cost of testing is offset by the lower purchase price agreed with the company. The income received by the company on the sale of PCB-free transformers is contributing to the costs of improved storage for the remaining PCB-containing equipment.

3.4 LEGISLATION & REGULATION, MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Lessons learned	Good practices
<p>Legislation & regulation meeting Convention obligations</p> <p>In some countries, review of legislation was insufficient. Reasons for this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">lack of understanding of necessary interventionslack of legal expertise in international environmental issues and agreements <p>Gap Analysis proved to be essential for the appropriate understanding of the regulatory framework for POPs</p> <p>Pesticides are generally regulated but regulation does not necessarily cover the full life cycle. In contrast, industrial chemicals often lack proper instruments</p> <p>Application of soft measures, including guidance, instructions and incentives for the use of alternatives, helped to improve the enforcement of legal instruments</p> <p>Developing specific POPs legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ensured complete coverage of obligationsproved to be more effective than amending a range of existing legislationprovided legislation where other chemicals legislation was lacking <p>Improving sectoral legislation to meet Convention obligations was difficult to initiate but had advantages in terms of coverage and sustainability</p>	<p>Developing or updating a national chemical management profile early in the process helps to understand the regulatory framework and identify unclear responsibilities, gaps and overlaps</p> <p>Use of a legal consultant to work with the technical experts to review legal framework</p> <p>Cost analysis gives a good foundation for good legislation</p> <p>Specific POPs law, reflecting the requirements of the Stockholm Convention, usefully complements other sectoral legislation</p> <p>Amending the existing regulatory framework in order to cover the whole chemical life cycle is useful in meeting all the Convention obligations</p>

Control and prohibition of POPs and eliminating illegal trade in POPs chemicals and products

Including customs departments in action planning and raising the awareness of customs officers are important for controlling trade in POPs

Training of custom officers on product identification (example PCB test kits) was effective but still requires the development of toolkits and guidance

Where existing POPs legislation was lacking, the control the trade and use of chemicals by issuing permits proved effective

Raise public awareness and promote alternatives and environmentally sound approaches to reduce demand for proscribed chemicals and products

Cooperate regionally to introduce specific customs codings for POPs chemicals, products and wastes

Monitoring & Enforcement

The monitoring and enforcement of legislation was impaired in some countries by a lack of political will

National and international policies to reduce public services militates against the provision of additional human resources for monitoring and enforcement

Monitoring infrastructure, such as laboratory capacities, is lacking or insufficient

Capacity and institutional frameworks for enforcement are lacking in many countries

Decentralized structures to enforce legislation are effective in some countries

In some regions, cross-border coordination and regional cooperation has proved possible and beneficial

In some countries, clear responsibilities and close cooperation amongst different control bodies leads to more efficient monitoring and enforcement

Local government engagement with respect to monitoring and enforcement

Building on existing cross border initiatives and cooperation has significant advantages

3.5 POPs INVENTORIES AND ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL CAPACITIES

Lessons learned	Good practices
<p>Acquiring POPs inventory information with assistance of stakeholders</p> <p>In some countries it was important to engage specific institutions with a pre-existing mandate to collect and maintain inventories pertinent to POPs</p> <p>The direct involvement of industry was necessary to obtain information</p> <p>Many stakeholders were unwilling initially to cooperate because of perceived undesirable consequences</p> <p>The use of previous registers, inventories and data sets and skilled professionals proved an effective starting point</p> <p>The UNEP toolkit proved to be a valuable starting point for inventories of dioxins and furans but:</p> <p>emission factors in the document were not appropriate</p> <p>information from industry was lacking or could not be easily classified to the sources categories</p> <p>Getting the raw data from industries was difficult</p> <p>In some regions, the POPs inventories provided an opportunity to assess wider environmental issues</p> <p>Inventories do not reflect the contribution from the informal sector, and the value of the inventories is reduced where the informal sector represents a significant proportion of economic activity.</p> <p>It is important to maintain and update records for information exchange and reporting; institutional arrangements need to be established to secure this</p> <p>In many countries, comprehensive national inventories could not be achieved within the time and budgets available in the enabling activities projects</p>	<p>Undertake early awareness raising to explain purpose of inventories and objectives of Stockholm Convention to engage stakeholders and avoid information retention</p> <p>Involve provincial inspectorates in data collection</p> <p>Undertake outreach activities (questionnaires, phone calls, face to face interviews) to get information for initial inventories</p> <p>Adopt an integrated approach to the development of inventories¹;</p> <p>Define the scope and status of inventories as a starting point for establishing the inventory methodologies</p> <p>See the inventories as living documents</p> <p>Link PCBs inventories with labelling schemes as an integrated part of a PCB register to secure sustainability</p>

Presenting and validating inventories information

In some countries, where responsibility for a particular topic is split between different ministries, it was difficult to reconcile results arising from different methodologies and mandates².

Cooperation between stakeholders allowed information cross checking

Use workshops as a means of presenting results, validating inventories and developing consensus

Establish a common database or data management system for the storage, handling, sharing and presentation of information

Defining further work needed to prepare more comprehensive and detailed inventories

Countries recognize that inventories are not complete and are “living documents” to be further developed.

Improved models, technical supporting tools and additional resources are needed to improve inventories

Mandates for continuing work should be clear and incorporated into the regulatory framework³

The creation of a specific POPs unit is a valuable approach to sustaining efforts

Footnotes

1: For example including non-POPs obsolete pesticides where these would need to be managed in any work on obsolete POPs pesticides,

2. Pesticides control is typically divided between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, and their agencies, using different legislative instruments and methodologies. At least one country reported conflicts arising within the project and between ministries as a result of the different, and irreconcilable, approaches used in the pesticide inventory work. This was only resolved by further joint inventory taking where differences in results could be resolved in the field.

3. Inventories translated into specific regulations for PCBs equipment identification, labeling, registration, storage and disposal, including consequences in wastes management. Clear responsibilities of inspectorates (environmental, energy) defined with procedures for control and reporting.

3.6 DEFINING NATIONAL POPs PRIORITIES AND LINKING THEM TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLANS

Lessons learned	Good practices
<p>Linking technical POPs objectives to national policies and strategies</p> <p>In some countries, frequent changes in policies and strategies driven by political change militated against strong linkages with POPs priorities</p> <p>Countries used different approaches to secure linkages between the POPs strategies and other policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising amongst the political cadre Incorporation of POPs priorities into strategies of waste management, chemical management and air protection Recognition of POPs as non tariff trade barrier (e.g pesticides residues in food exports) Link these tasks to other bilateral and MEAs <p>Many countries found it difficult to link POPs issues to national development priorities because they could not identify or demonstrate direct impacts of POPs at national level</p>	<p>Facilitate Interministerial cooperation and coordinating bodies for POPs/ chemicals to strengthen linkages between POPs actions and other policies</p> <p>A practical first step is to link strategies at a technical level rather than at higher levels^{1,2}</p>
<p>Most effective procedures for preparing Action Plans and choosing the most suitable</p> <p>Priorities were best defined in consultation with stakeholders</p> <p>Identifying a range of potentially feasible management options with stakeholders and ICs</p> <p>Repeated consultation was necessary during action plan development</p> <p>Public participation and early awareness raising were necessary to gain public acceptance of action plans</p> <p>A valuable role of international consultants was to bring wider experience of feasible alternative approaches for action planning</p>	<p>Develop action plans compatible with the national regulatory framework and reflecting local capacities and conditions</p> <p>Engage stakeholders actively in the selection of the most suitable options and in the development of action plans</p>

Footnotes

1. The Stockholm Convention requires Parties to minimize dioxin and furan releases. The incineration of hospital wastes is recognized as a potential source of release. Efforts to reduce releases from waste incineration has been successfully linked to wider efforts within the health systems of a number of countries to improve waste management through schemes to reuse, recycle and minimize wastes.
2. One country identified poorly controlled waste incineration and releases from the transport sector as significant contributors to total releases of unintentionally produced POPs. The NIP team used project activities and funding to support efforts to revise the national waste management strategy and the national transport strategy with co-benefits to all.

3.7 IMPACTS OF POPs AND THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ACTION

Lessons learned

Identifying people at risk from POPs

Many countries had pre-existing specific studies, typically related to international programmes, on POPs burdens in their populations and in some environmental compartments but most countries found it difficult or impossible to identify causal links and to assess the impact of POPs

In some countries, exposure risk assessment is based on release from sources identified in the inventories

Some countries recognized that human health impact assessment needs to be addressed at regional and global levels rather than piecemeal at national level

Some countries have planned source-based actions and consider the global action to control POPs as sufficient risk assessment

Assessing the cost effectiveness of action plans

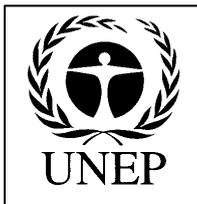
Most countries could not undertake cost-benefit analysis of their action plans because:

they lacked expertise and methodological guidance
of the preliminary nature of inventories

Specific information on the relative costs of the various management options for POPs is lacking. For example:

Comparative costs of different treatment and disposal techniques
Costs related to environmentally sound storage and transportation, insurance and packaging

ANNEX 1: AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL MEETINGS



**UNEP/DGEF:
THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (NIPs)
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)**



**Regional Workshop on Lessons Learned and Good Practice
in the Preparation of the National Implementation Plans (NIPs)**

Final Agenda

DAY 1: Morning Session

1	OPENING OF THE MEETING
	The Chairperson will formally open the meeting.
2	WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION
2.1	Workshop organization and Adoption of Agenda
	The workshop organizers will inform the participants of the proposed organizational arrangements for the workshop
	This provisional agenda will be discussed and a final version adopted by the participants. Proposals for any additional topics of discussion should be presented on paper to facilitate their discussion under agenda items 4, 5 and 6 of the agenda as appropriate.
2.2	Introduction of participants
	Meeting participants will be invited to introduce themselves to the meeting
3	INTRODUCTION TO THE PILOT PROJECT AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES
3.1	NIP development and the Pilot project
	The Context of NIP development under the Stockholm Convention
	Pilot Project structure: national and umbrella activities
	Current status of NIP development in the region
3.2	Summary of outcome of fact finding missions (if available)
	A UNEP consultant will carry out missions to a limited number of countries in the region. The missions will reflect on lessons learned during the NIP preparation process and gathered topics of concern. A summary of outcomes of any missions conducted before the regional workshop will be presented to the participants to stimulate the workshop discussion.

DAY 1: Afternoon Session

4	DISCUSSION OF LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES DEVELOPED DURING NIP PREPARATION	
	Participants are invited to form working groups and to discuss lessons learned gained from their own experience and identify good practice developed during the process of the NIP preparation.	
	Each working group will elect a chair and rapporteur responsible for presenting a report of the findings of the group to plenary	
	The discussion will comprise the following topics:	
4.1	Technical Issues in NIP development	
	3 working groups will be formed as follows:	
	<i>Working Group theme</i>	<i>Possible topics to stimulate discussion</i>
WG1	Preparation of POPs inventories and assessment of national capacities	Best practice for: acquiring POPs inventory information with the assistance of stakeholders;
		presenting & validating inventory information;
		characterizing the national capacity for POPs management;
		evaluating additional capacity needed for the fulfilment of priority actions
		Procedures for defining the further work needed to prepare more comprehensive and detailed inventories
		Availability and suitability of guidance and training
WG2	Defining national POPs priorities and linking them to national development priorities and Action Plans	Procedures for identifying links between 'technical' POPs objectives and national policies and strategies
		Identifying alternative approaches and determining the most suitable
		Effective procedures for the preparation of National Action Plans
		using capacities developed under the enabling activities to catalyse wider improvements in chemical management

WG3	Impacts of POPs and the Costs and Benefits of action	Best practice for: Identifying people and environments at risk from POPs;
		Determining the impacts of POPs chemicals;
		Assessing the costs and benefits of POPs use, non-POPs alternatives;
		Incorporating cost-effectiveness into action planning;
		Availability and suitability of guidance materials, training and support

DAY 2: Morning Session

4.1 (cont)	Working Groups 1, 2 and 3 will report their findings to Plenary for discussion
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DAY 2: Afternoon Session

4.2	Management and Cross-Cutting Issues	
	3 working groups will be formed as follows:	
	<i>Working Group theme</i>	<i>Possible topics to stimulate discussion</i>
WG4	Project management and process organisation	Project design and suitability
		Effective planning, administration, organisation and coordination of NIP preparation
		Meeting project targets, adapting to changing circumstances management and operational flexibility
		Availability and suitability of support, guidance and training for project managers and teams
		The role and value of international and regional consultants
		The role of non-government consultants, NGOs and other stakeholders in project activities
		Best practices in public awareness and education, particularly reaching the most vulnerable

WG5	Coordinating mechanisms, Stakeholder participation, commitment & ownership	Developing and retaining government ownership, stakeholder commitment and support
		Gaining and sustaining interministry support and cooperation, sharing information and knowledge
		Best practices for National Coordination Committees – their continuing role and engagement in NIP development
		Identifying and working with NGOs and other non-Government stakeholders
		Mechanisms for sharing information and consulting with stakeholders
		Developing actions beyond the ‘host’ ministry
		Effective procedures for gaining stakeholder and government endorsement of the NIP and its action plans
WG6	Legislation & regulation, monitoring & enforcement	Best practice and approaches for: Reviewing legislation and regulation for Convention compliance
		Identifying options for the control and prohibition of POPs
		Eliminating illegal or unintentional trade in POPs chemicals and products
		National and provincial coordination on POPs management and control
		Regional and international coordination and cooperation
		Cost-effective synergies in management of chemicals and wastes MEAs, particularly in small departments
		Sustaining actions beyond the ‘enabling activities’
		The value of voluntary schemes for chemical management and control – changing industry and user behaviour
Encouraging corporate and community responsibility for POPs impacts on human health and the environment		

DAY 3: Morning Session

4.2 (cont)	Working Groups 4, 5 and 6 will report their findings to Plenary for discussion
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DAY 3: Afternoon Session

5	ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF NIP PREPARATION
	Participants are invited to identify and discuss issues of concern to the region in the context of NIP preparation as required under the Stockholm Convention
6	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Proposed additional relevant topics will be discussed
7	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING
	The working group reports will be compiled to form the draft report of the workshop. This will be circulated for comments/approval of the participants. A detailed report will be provided to participants within 4 weeks of the adjournment of the workshop.
	The detailed report will be part of a global report drawing together results from all regional workshops and fact-finding missions held under the <i>Pilot Project</i>
	This global report will be compiled for submission as an information document to the 2 nd Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention to be held on 1-5 May 2006 in Geneva
8	Closure of the meeting

ANNEX 2: REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS (TO BE FOUND ON CD)

- Annex 2.1. Report of the regional workshop for Anglophone Africa
- Annex 2.2. Report of the regional workshop for Francophone Africa [in French]
- Annex 2.3. Report of the regional workshop for Francophone Africa [in English]
- Annex 2.4. Report of the regional workshop for Asia
- Annex 2.5. Report of the regional workshop for the Caribbean
- Annex 2.6. Report of the regional workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Annex 2.7. Report of the regional workshop for Latin America [in Spanish]
- Annex 2.8. Report of the regional workshop for Latin America [in English]
- Annex 2.9. Report of the regional workshop for the Pacific