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Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
First meeting**

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Item 6 (g) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: technical assistance**

**Feasibility study on regional and subregional centres for
capacity-building and technology transfer****

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention states:

“The Parties shall 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 subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Further guidance in this regard shall be provided by the Conference of the Parties.”

2. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants at its sixth session requested in its decision INC-6/9 that the Secretariat, in consultation with secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, prepare a feasibility study on regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer. At its seventh

* UNEP/POPS/COP.1/1.

** Report of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/CONF/4), appendix I, resolution 4; Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its sixth session (UNEP/POPS/INC.6/22), annex I, decision INC-6/9; report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the work of its seventh session (UNEP/POPS/INC.7/28), annex I, decision INC-7/8.

session, in its decision INC-7/8, the Committee noted the terms of reference for the study, which were set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/INC.7/14 as follows:

“(a) Take into account the views and information on priorities and arrangements for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that is provided by Governments in response to decision INC-6/8;

(b) Identify the needs of countries in the area of capacity-building and transfer of technology that might be facilitated by regional and subregional centres;

(c) Assess the capacity of all relevant regional and subregional centres, in particular, but not limited to Basel Convention regional centres, to facilitate capacity-building and transfer of technology. Such an assessment shall include, but not be limited to, a review of mandates, functions, performance, institutional arrangements, human resource and financial requirements and the needs identified in paragraph (a) above;

(d) Assess the gaps and limitations of existing arrangements, including the availability of technology to be transferred, and the means to address these constraints;

(e) Review the experiences gained by other international agreements in capacity-building and transfer of technology;

(f) Identify and analyse the potential synergies between the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and other multilateral environmental agreements regarding the provision of capacity-building and transfer of technology;

(g) Take into account the case studies on regional and subregional centres, called for in decision INC-6/10; and

(h) Identify arrangements for developing possible modalities for a capacity-assistance network as agreed upon in resolution 3, paragraph 2, of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and taking into consideration the work done in document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19.”

3. Following the above terms of reference, the feasibility study was commenced in January of 2004 and completed in December of that year. To obtain information for analysis in the study, the following measures were employed:

(a) A survey to establish priorities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in capacity-building and transfer of technology;

(b) Collection and collation of information through a comprehensive questionnaire on candidate institutions identified by national focal points;

(c) Interviews with representatives of secretariats of other multilateral environment agreements and of their regional centres, United Nations organizations, regional organizations and international financial institutions;

(d) A search and review of information available on web sites of international organizations.

4. A report on the results of the feasibility study is contained in the annex to the present note.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

5. The Conference may wish to:

(a) Take note of the report on the results of the feasibility study contained in the annex to the present note;

(b) Provide guidance to the Secretariat on possible future work on this topic, including on such issues as:

- (i) The scope and nature of the mandate and responsibilities of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer;
 - (ii) Whether all such centres should have the same mandate or whether different types of centres should be established to address different topics or different aspects of the Parties' needs for capacity-building and technical assistance;
 - (iii) Whether such centres should be established as new, stand-alone centres or should be built upon existing centres or institutions;
 - (iv) If centres are built upon existing centres or institutions, what legal, financial, administrative and other issues would this raise and how would they compare with issues that would arise in the case of new, stand-alone centres;
 - (v) How many centres would be needed and how many Parties could be served by each centre;
 - (vi) How to address the language needs of countries served by each centre;
- (c) Request the Secretariat to develop terms of reference based on the guidance provided under subparagraph (b) above for consideration by the Conference at its second meeting.

Annex

Report on the feasibility study on regional and subregional Centres

I. Identification of technical assistance needs

1. Some common elements of technical assistance needs and priorities were noted in paragraph 1 of decision INC-7/8 and contained in the annex to the decision. While these common elements need to be considered, priorities may also be identified at a regional level. This would assist regional centres in targeting services at those priorities identified within their areas.

2. To get a general indication for priorities within countries, the Secretariat sent a letter on 10 May 2004 to Stockholm Convention focal points and coordinators of national implementation plans (NIPs) asking them to indicate their three highest priorities among the following: execution of national implementation plans; training for decision-makers, managers and technical personnel on related issues; inventory and destruction of persistent organic pollutants; development and establishment of sampling and laboratory capacity; development, implementation and enforcement of regulatory and incentive controls; identification and promotion of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP); promotion of awareness-raising and information-dissemination programmes. Twenty-four countries replied. Their responses are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1: Listing of top three priority needs provided by countries for each region to satisfy obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

Regions (no. of countries responding)	Number of countries from each region selecting each need as a priority						
	NIPs	Awareness raising	Training	Inventory & destruction	Lab. capacity	Regulation & enforcement	BAT & BEP
Africa (7)	5	4	4	3	3	0	5
Asia (8)	1	1	3	7	6	0	3
Eastern Europe (2)	1	0	1	2	1	1	0
Latin America & Caribbean (7)	3	1	4	5	2	2	3
TOTAL (24)	10	6	12	17	12	3	11

II. Existing regional and subregional centres

3. There are many institutions that already undertake the function of a regional or subregional centre for other international organizations of relevance to the Stockholm Convention. The following relevant international organizations and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats were considered in this review: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and World Health Organization (WHO). A table showing the global distribution of relevant regional and subregional centres and offices is contained in the appendix to this report.

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal mandate

4. Paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the Basel Convention states that:

“according to the specific needs of different regions and subregions, regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation should be established. The Parties shall decide on the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature.”

5. As a follow up to the above mandate, the Basel Convention has established regional centres for delivering technical assistance in Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Samoa and Uruguay.

6. The core functions of Basel Convention regional centres (BCRCs) are training, technology transfer, information, consulting, and awareness-raising. The BCRCs are carrying out these core functions by:

(a) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous wastes, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes, with specific emphasis on training of trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention and its instruments;

(b) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region, including promotion of public awareness;

(c) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of ESM of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region;

(d) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to ESM and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region;

(e) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;

(f) Organizing meetings, symposiums, missions in the field and carrying out joint projects in cooperating with UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, UNITAR, WHO and other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, industry and non-governmental organizations;

(g) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties and non-parties of the region on preparation for negotiations;

(h) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for ESM and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes through pilot projects;

(i) Carrying out fund raising within the resource mobilization strategy.

7. The coordinating centres of the Basel Convention, in addition to the previous mentioned core functions of the regional centres, are also expected to ensure regional coordination and information exchange and to conduct activities on a regional (as distinct from subregional) basis.

8. Initially, the centres operated without any independent legal capacity and, normally, were housed in either governmental ministries or academic institutions. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixth session, requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) to regularize the legal status of the centres, and to formally establish their independence, by concluding framework agreements for the operation of the centres with the host Governments. The Secretariat is currently in the process of negotiating these agreements. Accordingly, some centres continue to operate on the less formal basis, pending conclusion of agreements, while others are in the process of modifying their operations to suit their newly independent legal status.

9. The agreements to establish the centres made between SBC, in the name of the Conference of the Parties, and the representatives of the Government of the country hosting or willing to host the BCRCs are important to their operation. SBC has two types of agreements currently used for contractual purposes with institutions that are acting as BCRCs: one for a BCRC established as a national institution with regional roles, and one for a BCRC established as an intergovernmental institution.

10. Under the national institution type of agreement, much emphasis is placed on the host Government providing the necessary resources for the operation of the BCRC. The director, administrative staff and premises are all provided by the host Government. Even though a steering committee comprised of representatives of participating countries and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention oversees the overall work of the BCRC, financing of the administration, including personnel, are the responsibility of the host Government. Provision is also made, however, for expert

consultants to be funded from other sources, and the centre is free to seek sources of funding additional to that provided by the host Government. Such BCRCs are vested with legal identity and function fully under the laws and regulations of the host Government. Under the terms of the framework agreements, they are vested with privileges and immunities consistent with those provided under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946.

11. Five BCRCs have signed formal agreements with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to host regional centres and operate under this type of agreement with host Governments. A further seven such agreements are in the process of negotiation. At the present time, in many centres the director is also asked to cover the responsibilities of a senior position within the hosting institution. This may result in the director giving only partial attention to the work of the centre. Accordingly, SBC, during negotiations, clarifies that the directorship is a full-time position and the incumbent must be independent from the host Government. While secondment from the host institution on terms consistent with the United Nations rules on secondment is possible, to underline the regional role of the centre, it is clarified that the director must visibly be able to operate independently from the Government. Furthermore, upon signature of the framework agreement, the director is only formally appointed by the host Government following consultations with SBC.

12. The intergovernmental institution type of agreement provides oversight for a BCRC through a general assembly composed of Parties to the Convention in the region and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The general assembly elects an executive board consisting of representatives from the Parties in the region, the host Government and SBC. The executive board nominates the director of the BCRC from personnel assigned by the host Government, from assignments presented by Parties or from internationally recruited personnel. Here, the host Government is asked to cover the wages of two permanent staff members and the assumption is that this includes the director.

13. The host Government provides or ensures access to facilities, public services, exemptions, inviolability of premises, immunity of personnel and property, etc. The host country also makes some financial contribution towards operating costs. In addition, countries that are members of the intergovernmental institution pay assessed contributions. While this type of framework agreement is available, only the BCRC in South Africa is in the process of entering into such an agreement with SBC.

14. In the South Africa case, the legal process for setting up the intergovernmental type of centre began in 2003, and may be outlined as follows:

(a) First, an intergovernmental institute was created with the intention that all Parties within the region would become members;

(b) Second, a separate agreement was created between the intergovernmental institute and the host Government for it to be located in that country as a legally autonomous instrument within a specified hosting institution;

(c) Third, an agreement is to be entered into between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the newly created intergovernmental institute for that institute to host the BCRC for the region.

15. Such negotiations and the passage of legal decisions in the various countries are tedious and lengthy. In the case of South Africa, to date, only eleven of the twenty-one participating Parties have signed on to the intergovernmental institute and none have ratified that position as yet.

16. BCRCs are constrained by not having a centralized financial mechanism. In effect, each BCRC has to source its own funds as there is only limited financial support from the host country and the Parties to the Basel Convention. Performance of the various BCRCs is in part based on their ability to attract funding for specific projects and to achieve success through these projects in providing technical assistance to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their region. One of the major challenges faced by BCRCs is the difficulty in securing financial assistance to undertake projects while maintaining support for the structure of the centre to administer them. There is no direct mechanism under the Basel Convention to fund the operations of these regional centres. There are, however, successful cases of fundraising by the BCRCs.

17. The varied performance exhibited by BCRCs may indicate problems caused by the type of agreement developed for the operation of these centres and the centres' dependence on the initiative and resourcefulness of their directors in attracting the funding needed to carry out activities. However, the legal independence with which the framework agreements will vest the BCRCs will permit them to attract additional financial resources. In addition, the greater stability that legal independence will provide should ensure that all directors and their support staff are dedicated in their efforts on a full-time basis to the BCRCs.

18. The role of the BCRCs as potential regional coordinators and implementers of activities in cooperation or collaboration with other conventions such as the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade has been enhanced. The following centres have carried out activities pertaining to persistent organic pollutants, with co-funding from the Basel Convention: El Salvador (PCBs); Senegal (PCBs and dioxins and furans); Slovakia (obsolete pesticides and PCBs); SPREP (persistent organic pollutants case study for the Stockholm Convention Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee); Trinidad and Tobago (obsolete pesticides); and Uruguay (persistent organic pollutants case study for the Stockholm Convention Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee). The regional centres in Argentina, Egypt, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay were contracted by the secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Geneva Environment Network to organize meetings and training workshops.

Montreal Protocol Compliance Assistance Programme

19. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer provides the framework for Parties to phase out the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS) according to a strict time table. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol helps developing countries comply with their obligations under this multilateral environmental agreement by providing financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans. This assistance is delivered primarily through four implementing agencies (UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank) and bilateral agencies.

20. The UNEP mandate under the Multilateral Fund is to provide capacity-building assistance to countries to enable their compliance with the Montreal Protocol. UNEP delivers this assistance through a programme called the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) that operates from the UNEP regional offices. This programme delivers direct compliance assistance by CAP expert staff and strengthens the capacity of developing countries through regional networking of national ozone units (NOUs), a unique mechanism that has now become an integral part of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and through information clearing-house services that reinforce the direct assistance and help countries make informed decisions about implementing ozone-friendly policies and alternative technologies.

21. Under the Multilateral Fund, each developing country is financially supported to establish and maintain an NOU within a selected Government ministry. The NOU is responsible for monitoring, managing and implementing the national strategy to comply with the Protocol. One of the mechanisms used to provide support to NOUs is regional networking. Regional networking provides a regular, interactive forum for officers from NOUs to exchange experiences, develop skills, and share knowledge with counterparts from both developing and developed countries. Through meetings, e-mail forums and ongoing dialogues, networking helps ensure that NOUs have the information, skills and contacts required for managing national ODS phase-out activities successfully. UNEP facilitates the operation of 10 regional and subregional networks involving 147 developing countries, as well as 14 developed countries and the European Commission.

22. The networks are managed by regional network coordinators (RNCs) based in the UNEP regional offices. The RNCs foster the exchange of information between NOUs, organize regional meetings for participation by NOUs and generally enhance national effort to meet Protocol obligations. There are one or two RNCs in each regional office, depending on the number of countries in the region. A Network and Policy Manager and an Information Manager, located in Paris, ensure the exchange of intra-network experiences and consistency of advice across the countries. The core staff in Paris help as a hub between the funding bodies (Multilateral Fund and the Global Environment Facility) and the regions. It also disseminates the important decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties and the funding bodies.

23. The CAP team includes 25 full-time equivalent professional staff worldwide who provide countries with advisory and support services related to policy, refrigerant management, customs training, combating illegal trade, methyl bromide phase out, halons, and information exchange. These

staff also have significant knowledge and experience regarding their regions. This team is a common resource under the Multilateral Fund and contributes much to national, regional and sectoral phase-out plans and programmes. It also works with other implementing agencies and bilateral agencies to support and facilitate their work in the regions.

24. To fulfil its obligations under the Montreal Protocol, each Party initially prepared and adopted a national strategy, known as the country programme. Through the regional networks, countries obtain the benefit of lessons learned and best practices, and have at their disposal model legislation which can be adjusted for national circumstances. In effect, with the RNC, national legislation can be drafted and approved faster and with better regional coordination, resulting in uniform approaches and harmonized policies and laws.

25. Efficiency is gained by having the RNCs based in the UNEP regional offices, which serve as the centre of operations and give administrative and institutional support to the RNCs and the respective regional networks. Being based in the UNEP regional offices allows the RNCs easily to cross the bridge toward collaboration and cooperation with other environmental agreements and relevant international Conventions. Advice from regional directors also helps in understanding and delivery of country-specific requests and addressing their needs in a cost effective manner.

26. Developed countries have played a prominent role in the implementation of the regional networks. The Government of Sweden has supported the development and activities of the first regional network in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and other developed country Governments have contributed through direct participation in other networks.

27. The experience of the Montreal Protocol shows the value of establishing ownership by Governments and developing policies and the institutional framework necessary to support the implementation of technical activities required to meet the obligations of the Convention.

28. The UNEP regional offices promote intergovernmental policy dialogue and regional cooperation, increase national capacity for environmental management and response to emergencies, raise awareness and enhance information exchange, and translate global policies into regional action. These regional offices offer insight, key linkages and a good understanding of the best procedures to follow for delivery of technical assistance within a given region.

29. The Montreal Protocol example could be considered a possible model for the establishment of Stockholm Convention regional centres in UNEP regional offices that coordinate the efforts of subregional centres and national focal points under the Convention. Such subregional centres would provide the more technical component for delivery of assistance to a smaller set of countries within each region. The regional centres would maintain a coordinating role for information exchange, links to donors and the financial mechanism and for completion of work plans for the region based on submission and acceptance by countries on the priority issues to be addressed for capacity-building and technology transfer.

UNIDO-UNEP cleaner production centres

30. The UNIDO-UNEP National Cleaner Production Centre Programme aims at building national cleaner production capacities, fostering dialogue between industry and Government and enhancing investments for transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies. Since the programme's launch in 1994, 24 national cleaner production centres and programmes have been established. Of these, 11 are fully established and receive no further programmatic funding from UNIDO or UNEP (Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe), while 13 are in the process of being established (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Viet Nam).

31. Local host organizations provide infrastructure and a support mechanism for the centres' operations. For successful capacity-building, it is crucial to form partnerships with local organizations that are willing to invest resources for promoting cleaner production. The host institution has to fulfil the following selection criteria:

- (a) Proven good cooperation with industry, especially with small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (b) Expertise in the field of environment-related matters, preferably cleaner production;
- (c) Good relations with the Government and the main national players in cleaner production;

- (d) Adequate organizational structure and capacity to host a national cleaner production centre;
- (e) Existing information system on industry and access to industrial establishments;
- (f) Demonstrated ability to motivate staff to promote the cleaner production concept;
- (g) Contribution of the host institution, which will be made available to the national cleaner production centre.

32. A modality of operation agreement has been signed by each host institution, with UNIDO to specify the inputs to be provided by each and the activities to be undertaken by the national cleaner production centre.

33. Host organizations and other local stakeholders make both financial and in-kind contributions to the centres, such as secondment of personnel and provision of office facilities and equipment. These arrangements have been effective in building ownership of the activities in each country, and have also minimized operating costs. The programme has a relatively lean organizational structure. Each national cleaner production centre is directed by an experienced country national, in nearly all cases hosted within a local organization, and receives guidance from a national advisory board or a combination of an executive board and an advisory committee. This allows autonomy for the centres in their daily operations. These bodies solicit representation from the most important cleaner production stakeholders in the country, such as representatives from industrial organizations; ministries of industry, environment and economy; and education and research institutions. The national cleaner production centre director and local UNIDO/UNEP representatives are included. Individual companies are also represented occasionally.

34. The average total annual budget provided to each national cleaner production centre is approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000. Each director has an annual discretionary budget of approximately \$40,000, which is allocated for national consultants and other expenses. UNIDO administers the remainder of the budget in consultation with the centres to recruit counterpart institution staff as well as other international experts. The National Cleaner Production Centre Programme organizes annual meetings to evaluate the progress of the programme, to exchange experiences, and to discuss future activities to be undertaken by the centres.

35. Given the mandate of the national cleaner production centres to provide technical assistance to countries for preventing industrial pollution and for ensuring safe manufacture of chemicals, there is scope for collaboration between a Stockholm Convention regional centre and national cleaner production centres at the national level.

FAO regional offices

36. There are five FAO regional offices (Africa: Accra, Ghana; Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand; Europe: Rome, Italy; Latin America and the Caribbean: Santiago, Chile; Near East: Cairo, Egypt) and four Subregional Offices (North Africa: Tunis, Tunisia; South and East Africa: Harare, Zimbabwe; Caribbean: Bridgetown, Barbadoes; Eastern Europe: Budapest, Hungary).

37. FAO Regional Offices are fully operational, having established infrastructure and technical staff to monitor and assist with the implementation of agricultural and food related projects. Their principal function is the overall identification, planning and implementation of FAO priority activities in the region. They ensure a multidisciplinary approach to programmes; identify priority areas of action for the organization in the region and, in collaboration with departments and divisions at headquarters, advise on the incorporation of such priorities into the organization's programme of work and budget; implement approved programmes in the region; and monitor the level of programme implementation and draw attention to any deficiencies. The FAO subregional offices work closely with the respective regional offices and are primarily responsible for the overall planning of FAO activities in the subregion.

38. The specific activities of the regional offices are to:

- (a) Ensure a multidisciplinary approach to projects and programmes implemented in the region with FAO technical assistance;
- (b) Report on the major developments and trends in countries of the region, based on regional and subregional objectives for food and agriculture;
- (c) Organize the FAO regional conference for the region, every two years;

- (d) Maintain policy and technical dialogue with and among FAO member countries, involving national and international institutions;
- (e) Follow up on the World Food Summit and issues related to food security in the region;
- (f) Promote technical cooperation among the countries of the region.

39. Both the regional and subregional offices play a technical role in assisting countries under their portfolio. Regional and subregional Plant Protection Officer posts exist in Africa (Ghana and Tunisia), Asia and the Pacific (Thailand and Samoa), Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile and Barbados) and the Near East (Egypt). The work programme of these Plant Protection Officers is technically supervised by the FAO Plant Protection Service at FAO headquarters, which (jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme) also hosts the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention. Currently, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is working with the Regional Plant Protection Officers in order that they might facilitate and coordinate technical assistance activities relevant to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in countries in their respective regions.

WHO regional offices and WHO collaborating centres

40. Member States of WHO are grouped into six regions relating to Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific and Europe. Each region has a regional office which works closely with country offices helping to define country-specific priorities. In addition, there exists a network of WHO collaborating centres in each region. A global database is available, identifying these collaborating centres and their designations (<http://whqlily.who.int>).

41. A WHO collaborating centre is a national institution designated by the WHO Director-General to form part of an international collaborative network carrying out activities in support of the mandate of WHO for international health work and its programme priorities. A WHO collaborating centre can be an entire institution, or a department or laboratory within an institution or a group of facilities for reference, research or training belonging to different institutions. Some WHO collaborating centres are already carrying out work which is relevant for implementation of the Stockholm Convention, e.g., in relation to the quality of pesticides for public health use and the analysis of POPs in biological samples.

42. The initiative for proposing institutions as WHO collaborating centres may come from institutions, Governments or WHO regional offices and headquarters.

43. WHO collaborating centres are designated for a limited period of time (up to four years). Designation is based on technical considerations which include geographical and subject relevance. It can be renewed on the basis of review of performance and assessment of the continued relevance of collaboration, taking into consideration the evolving needs and policy of WHO.

44. The WHO collaborating centre model for technical delivery offers information on the possible methods of assessment for an institution to become a regional centre. The use of a probation period during which institutions undertake test projects provides a means of ascertaining if any given organization has the tools to carry out technical assistance in a particular region. While four years may appear short, the concept of a limited period of operation provides an opportunity to discontinue working with an institution that is serving as a centre if it does not perform adequately or if the priority needs of the region change to require a type of support different from that available at the current centre.

Other relevant institutions identified

45. As part of the feasibility study, Stockholm Convention national focal points were invited to identify institutions located within their boundaries that could perform the function of regional or subregional centres.

46. These institutions were invited to answer a questionnaire that provided basic information on their administration, function, expertise and relevant capacity. The full results of the questionnaire are available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/27. From the 33 responses received, the results are summarized in table 2 below.

Table 2. Summary of results of a survey of institutions identified by Stockholm Convention focal points for the feasibility study of regional and subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention

Percentage of responses to various questions from survey of candidate institutions			
Subject and responses	Percentage %	Subject and responses	Percentage %
Institution type		Main function	
Regional centre	94	Research	24
Subregional centre		Laboratory analysis	3
National centre	55	Training	24
Other	12	Regulation	6
No. of employees		Other	39
From 1 to 5	27	Funded by	
From 6 to 15	18	Funding agency	15
From 16 to 25	6	Bilateral donor	9
More than 25	48	Fee for service	12
Language competence		Government	48
English	96	Other	42
International funding		Do research	
Yes	100	Yes	67
Prefer to act as		Experts in	
Regional centre	78	Monitoring	61
Subregional centre	18	Alternative technology	61
Carry out work on		Laboratory analysis	45
Legislation	58	Inventory	48
Chemicals	82	No experts	15
Waste	85	Capacity for	
Awareness	82	Legislation	82
Training	97	Monitoring	64
Cleaner technology	67	Develop alternative tech.	76
Research	58	Train in pesticides	55
Competence in		Waste disposal	73
Pesticides	64	Technology transfer	76
Industrial chemicals	82	Meeting rooms	
By-products	70	Up to 10	3
None of the above	9	Up to 20	27
Best to undertake		Up to 40	9
Chemical analysis	6	More than 40	55
Training workshops	33		
Regional coordination	45		
Inventory	6		
Legal/policy initiatives	9		

III. Case studies

47. As described in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.1/30 and UNEP/POPS/COP.1/INF/26, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention organized four case studies within the scope of administering technical assistance under the Convention through identified institutions across varying regions of the globe. The centres used for the case studies are:

- (a) International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) – Kenya;
- (b) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) – Malaysia;
- (c) Basel Convention Coordinating Centre (BCCC) – Uruguay;
- (d) South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) – Samoa (which serves as a BCRC).

48. The selected institutions were requested to undertake a case study. Pursuant to the applicable terms of reference, the study was to:

- (a) Identify an issue of major concern in the region to be targeted by the study;
- (b) Include a field visit that demonstrated a desired piece of technology pertaining to the implementation of the Convention that could be transferred to other countries;
- (c) Include discussion on the relevance and possible implementation of the technology demonstrated and “an analysis of its performance”;
- (d) Invite participants from multiple countries in the region;
- (e) Contract and include at least one regional expert to act as a resource person;
- (f) Survey the participants on their opinions of the success of the study;
- (g) Provide a written report on the implementation of the study, including information on success, problems with organization, finances, technology viewed and any other information deemed pertinent to the assessment of the study.

49. In order to evaluate the success of the institutions in carrying out the studies, a series of simple “yes or no” questions on procedure and implementation was used. The results are included in table 3 below (note: Y = yes; N = no; ? = information not provided).

Table 3. Evaluation of capability of institutions to undertake a case study in delivery of technical assistance

Areas of interest	Institutions							
	ICIPE		BCCC		USM		SPREP	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Administrative areas								
Is the institution a regional entity?	0		0			X	0	
Were the initial activities accepted for implementation?	0		0		0			X
Was the case study completed successfully?	0		0		0		0	
Was the case study completed within the deadline?	0		0		0		0	
Was the case study report delivered within deadline?	0			X		X		X
Were more than 6 countries represented?	0		0		0		0	
Was the case study completed within budget?	0		0		0		0	
Did the institution provide > 10% in-kind contribution?	0		0		0		0	
Was there smooth administration during implementation?	0			X	0			X
Was the initial financial report submitted acceptable?		X		X		X		X
Technology transfer areas								
Was a major issue of the region identified?	0		0		0		0	
Was a piece of improved technology demonstrated?	0		0		0		0	
Did discussion on the relevance of the technology occur?		X	0		0		0	
Was the transfer of the technology discussed?		X	0			X	0	
Did the field visit have relevance to the Convention?	0		0		0		0	
Were the participants surveyed on the study’s success?	0		0			X		X
Were the participants satisfied with the study?	0		0		?		?	
Were experts from the institution involved?	0		0		0		0	
Was at least one suitable external expert contracted?	0		0			X	0	
Was technology from another country included?		X	0		0		0	
Was there request for follow-up action in the report?		X	0		0			X

50. In general, the four institutions implemented the proposed study successfully. Satisfactory administrative and technical support was a key factor in their ability to do so. This success was heavily dependent on the leadership effectiveness and scientific skills of the institutions. Attention to management and recruitment of personnel could be critical to the success of the delivery of technical assistance for each region on a long-term basis.

IV. Capacity-assistance network

51. The possible modalities for a capacity-assistance network were previously considered in the document UNEP/POPS/INC.6/19. As described in that document, the functions of a decentralized capacity-assistance network can be built into the organizational framework to be established under the Convention and to consist of: the Secretariat of the Convention, in particular in its function of facilitating assistance to Parties in implementation of the Convention (paragraph 2 (b) of Article 20); regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer (paragraph 4 of Article 12); and national focal points (paragraph 3 of Article 9). These organizational elements will be used to link the needs of Parties with available sources of assistance both within and outside of the financial mechanism of the Convention. The functions that these elements would perform for capacity-building assistance within the network include:

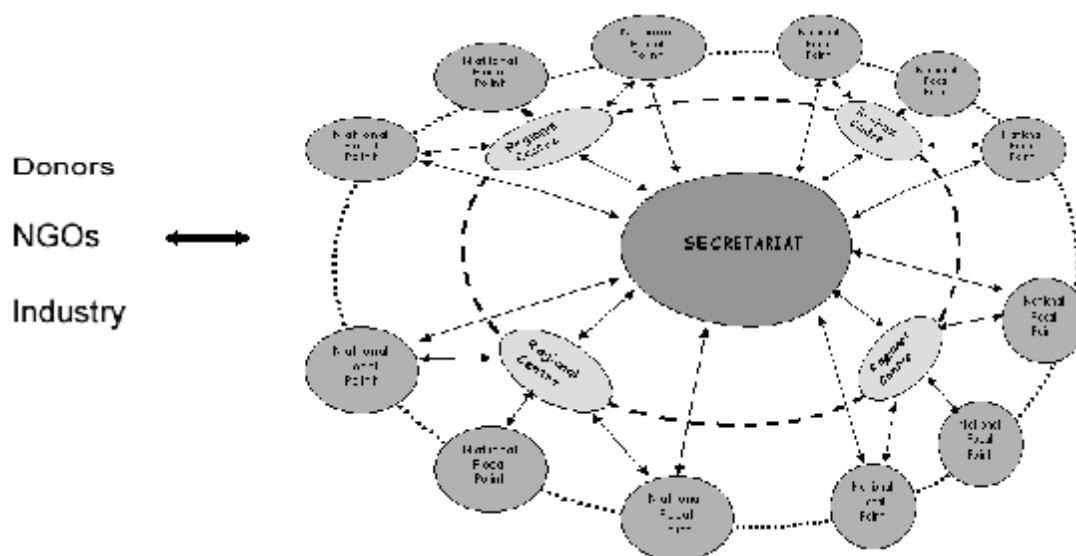
- (a) To compile and document the specific capacity-building needs of Parties and actively seek and encourage donors, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to fill those needs;
- (b) To identify and make an inventory of sources outside of the financial mechanism of the Convention that are available to provide assistance for capacity building;
- (c) To provide a service for Parties to access such sources and assist in linking appropriate sources to specific needs to avoid overlap, duplication and to promote sustainability.

52. Each of the organizational elements needs to include a capacity-assistance component in its work plan. The Secretariat is in the process of hiring a staff person to manage capacity-assistance activities. It will enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the regional and subregional centres to include capacity-assistance activities in their work plans. National focal points will need to ensure that they have the ability within their offices to communicate technical assistance needs and priorities and to facilitate receipt of technical assistance.

53. Information exchange on needs and sources of financial and technical assistance among the Secretariat, regional and subregional centres and national focal points as well as with potential donors and other organizations could be accomplished through the clearing-house mechanism established pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 9, which is described in document UNEP/POPS/COP.1/15. In effect, information exchange, capacity assistance, and delivery of technical assistance could be facilitated through a network of the organizational elements described in paragraph 50 above.

54. The building of a capacity-assistance network into the organizational elements under the Convention is illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Information exchange through a network comprised of the organizational elements established under the Stockholm Convention



V. Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres

55. Since national implementation plans encompass issues of capacity-building and inventory and destruction of POPs, one possible area of service for regional and subregional centres is to assist Parties in the implementation of their national implementation plans. The centres could play a coordinating role to reduce duplication of efforts and increase collaboration between countries to facilitate implementation, especially where actions to be taken are the same for the countries within a particular region or regions.

56. Most of the responses to the survey referenced in paragraph 2 above identified as a priority the need to improve the skills for establishing an inventory and to destroy or safely dispose of POPs. Many countries have unidentified quantities of unwanted chemicals, chemicals that are poorly stored, chemicals that require repackaging and chemicals that await final disposal and destruction. Regional and subregional centres may be in a good position to provide this sort of assistance in a manner that is best tailored to the problems and needs of their respective regions.

57. Capacity-building through training of decision makers, managers and technical personnel cuts across most areas of need. Regional centres can provide this training at the regional, subregional and national levels, targeted toward priorities identified with the region.

58. Another potential role of the regional and subregional centres is coordination of technical assistance activities related to Stockholm Convention implementation. There are several entities working to assist Parties to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention, including the Global Environment Facility, through its implementing and executive agencies, which provide funds for the development of national implementation plans and other projects, bilateral assistance from donor countries, non-governmental organizations, industry and the Secretariat. In order to streamline technical assistance delivery to Parties in a region, the regional and subregional centres could play a coordinating role to help ensure that funds are targeted at addressing priorities within the region. The centres could also be an active part of a clearing-house mechanism to collect and disseminate information between the various players at the regional and country levels.

Location

59. The United Nations regions are used widely for divisional purposes globally. The regions are Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and other States. Within each region, factors such as convenient and accessible air transportation, good communication capacity, low security risk, political stability and acceptable infrastructure and amenities should be considered in locating regional and subregional centres.

60. In order to establish regional and subregional centres, it is important that regions be demarcated so that services are designed to cater to particular needs, common languages, geographical alignment and linkages with other multilateral environmental agreements whose centres are being used.

61. In assessing the conditions for locating a subregional centre, the following factors could be considered:

- (a) Countries that are large in terms of area or heavily populated;
- (b) Sections of regions that may become isolated;
- (c) Regions with many least developed countries;
- (d) Sections of regions with a common language;
- (e) Subregions that contain large quantities of POPs;
- (f) The number of countries being serviced by any given regional centre.

Target market

62. The target for technical assistance includes those elements of technical assistance needs and priorities noted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in paragraph 1 of its decision INC-7/8 and contained in the annex to that decision. Within each region or subregion, needs and priorities for technical assistance will need to be identified.

63. Given the requirement to take full account of the specific needs and special situations of least developed countries and small island developing States with regard to technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention, appropriate regional or subregional centres should be well equipped and placed to deliver such assistance with a focus on training and capacity-building to achieve sustainable implementation of the obligations under the Convention.

64. To define their objectives in a manner that addresses regional priorities, regional and subregional centres could develop work plans based on the results of national implementation plans in their respective regions. Such work plans could be reviewed by the Parties in the regions, and should take into consideration available resources. There should be an information dissemination component of the plans to ensure that the work and successful completion of goals and objectives is communicated to all entities relevant to the implementation of the Convention. Finally, there should be linkages made with other relevant organizations and structures both inside and outside the region to foster collaboration, avoid duplication and to compare lessons learned.

65. The process for the selection of institutions to house centres is to be determined by the Conference of the Parties. There are many factors to consider, and if many offers to host a centre are received for a particular region, the Conference will require criteria for deciding which institutions to use to house centres. The following factors merit consideration during the decision process:

(a) Location - The centre should be appropriately located within a region to allow easy access;

(b) Infrastructure of the host country - Having the required facilities and utilities will enhance the success of a centre. The selected host country should have an international airport close to the centre, reliable electricity, telephone service, internet access, banking services, good hotel accommodation, and easy access to medical services;

(c) Political stability of the host country - The host country should have a history of political stability and be in good standing with the United Nations and the international community;

(d) Infrastructure of the institution – The ability to carry out training and technical transfer is a basic requirement of a centre. The institution should be able to host training sessions, have computer, telephone and other basic communication linkages, adequate meeting rooms and have security in place for international visitors.;

(e) Technical competence of the institution – Given the established priority needs of a region, the candidate institution should show capability in offering scientific support to technical assistance projects in at least one of the areas of priority needs;

(f) Regional or international experience in technical transfer – While this is not mandatory, an institution that has regional or international experience in providing technical assistance will be at a distinct advantage for housing a centre;

(g) Autonomy for the centre – The host country should be willing to grant the centre autonomy to operate as a separate legal entity with appropriate immunities.

Costs

66. The cost of operating a regional or subregional centre is not fixed. Expenditures depend on the level of operations and the number of projects to be undertaken in a prescribed period. Also, consideration must be given to the possibility that a centre may share administrative infrastructure and/or personnel with the hosting institution and with other co-located international centres.

67. The start-up cost for a regional or subregional centre should amount to approximately \$150,000 for the first year. The details of the costs are shown in table 4 below. The key assumption is that operations for the centre will be limited to the work of a director and an assistant hired locally at local rates. The possible budget presented below is only an approximation. It does not include any programme or project costs which would be funded by external donors. In the final analysis, only the negotiation between the host Government and the COP will determine the true start-up costs for the centre.

Table 4: Possible budget for start-up costs for a SCRC for one year

Item	Annual cost (US\$)
Personnel	
Director	70,000
Staff	10,000
Transport costs	20,000
Office space rental	[to be negotiated]
Additional furniture	10,000
Additional administrative equipment	10,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
Total start-up cost	150,000

68. The operational costs for a centre are tied to the value of work that will be carried out by that centre. An analysis of the various BCRCs shows that there are differences in the number of staff commensurate with the value of the projects undertaken for a particular period. On average, the annual cost of running a centre is approximately \$250,000. However, this figure is subject to variables, including:

- (a) Support from the hosting institution;
- (b) Support from the host Government;
- (c) The number and complexity of projects undertaken;
- (d) The synergy obtained from linkages with other relevant regional centres;
- (e) The role to be played by the centre for information exchange and coordination.

69. Possible sources of funding for regional and subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention include the financial mechanism of the Convention, the budget of the Secretariat of the Convention, host Governments and donor Governments. Regarding the latter, twinning arrangements between donor and host Governments for a particular centre could provide longer-term stability for the operation of the centre and allow a partnership to develop between a donor and the countries within a particular region or subregion.

Marketing

70. The successful development of national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention and their subsequent implementation will be a focus of technical assistance delivery for centres. Regional and subregional centres can play an important role in the coordination of technical assistance for the implementation of national implementation plans.

71. Centres must institute sound work plans with defined goals based on the national implementation plans of Parties within any given region. Such plans must be within the resources available to the centres and should include, as appropriate, a focus on least developed countries and developing island States. These work plans need to be communicated to Governments, donors and stakeholders in the region. Each centre could incorporate linkages to other relevant organizations both inside and outside the region to foster collaboration, exchange information, avoid duplication and to compare lessons learned.

Evaluation

72. Any evaluation of the success of a centre must be made by comparing the results of the centre and the objectives of the original work plan. Assessment of a centre may include review of its director and also the support of the institution and the host country. The primary decision on the performance of a centre should rest with the participating Parties.

73. A specific time frame for the operation of the centre will provide scope for monitoring and evaluation of the performance at the end of the period to determine whether the centre should be given another term.

74. The financial operation of the centre should be undertaken within the basic parameters of accounting procedures that are internationally acceptable.

VI. Possible models

75. In order to provide the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention with options for establishing regional and subregional centres making use of existing infrastructure, three models have been identified. These models do not reflect the only options and the Conference may wish to consider others. In all models, the expectation is that the regional centre will provide the focus for a capacity-assistance network for delivery of technical assistance to countries from all sources. The three models are presented below.

Model 1: Regional centre located in a UNEP regional office

Regional centres	Subregional centres
1. Funding a) By financial mechanism b) From Secretariat c) By donor co-financing d) By twinning donor countries with regions	1. Funding a) By financial mechanism b) By donor co-financing c) By twinning donor countries with individual centres
2. Personnel A single coordinator reporting to the Secretariat	2. Framework agreement a) "National" type agreement or b) "Intergovernmental" type agreement
3. Responsibilities a) Coordinate activities between subregional centres and between countries. b) In collaboration with the subregional centres and the countries, develop work plans for the region to meet obligations of the countries based on NIPs. c) Coordinate linkages with donors and other stakeholders.	3. Selection of centre a) Based on formation of subgroups of countries in a region b) Proposals from Parties on candidate institutions considered by the Conference (see model 3) c) Automatic linkage with Basel Convention regional centres

76. Model 1 is patterned after the system employed under the Montreal Protocol. The regional centre would play only a coordinating role within a region. The use of UNEP regional offices is cost-effective and has the advantage of associated the centres with a programme that has established linkages with the relevant ministries in each country. Another advantage is the opportunities provided for synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other programmes being promoted or implemented through UNEP regional offices. In a coordinating role, a regional centre requires little technical infrastructure and, being housed in the UNEP regional office, has the required administrative support to undertake its work successfully.

77. The subregional centres for the Stockholm Convention will add the technical dimension for delivery of assistance and allow countries to be grouped subregionally in optimum numbers for maximum efficiency for transfer of technology and capacity-building support.

78. Consideration could also be given to coordination of Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres with the existing UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme, which implements the Montreal Protocol work on compliance assistance through the UNEP regional offices.

79. The selection of an institution to host a subregional centre may be restricted to existing centres (model 2) or may be opened to all candidate institutions as dictated by model 3.

80. Model 1 has the added benefit of an established administrative structure and the coordination of the regional delivery of technical assistance within UNEP, the organization that performs the secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention for the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.

Model 2: Regional and subregional centres linked to existing centres

Regional and subregional centres
1. Funding a) By financial mechanism b) By financial mechanism + donor co-financing
2. Existing Centres a) Basel Convention regional centres b) UNIDO/UNEP national cleaner production centres
3. Degree of linkage a) Share facilities b) Joint work plans c) Agreement established for cooperation
4. Framework agreement a) Buy-in to national and intergovernmental framework agreements. b) Buy-in to intergovernmental framework agreements only.

81. In seeking synergy with other centres delivering technical assistance in related fields, model 2 provides an opportunity for establishing linkage with existing centres. This is particularly emphasized for linkages to the regional centres of the Basel Convention.

82. In order to have closer collaboration with existing centres that have complementary mandates to the Stockholm Convention, the regional and subregional centres for the Stockholm Convention could be housed in hosting institutions alongside Basel Convention regional centres or UNIDO/UNEP national cleaner production centres. In such case, separate agreements featuring separate terms and conditions would be established with the hosting institutions and the host Governments. This would allow the centres to interface easily, work together on common issues and mutually benefit from the interactions with the hosting institutions but remain legally and institutionally separate to satisfy the individual mandates of the respective Conventions.

Model 3: Open selection of regional and subregional centres

83. The third model is less restrictive and allows all Parties to propose candidate institutions to become regional or subregional centres. In this model, it is assumed that regional and subregional centres will have similar functions regarding the delivery of technical assistance to designated countries within a region. However, the regional centres will have the additional responsibility of coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders on delivery of capacity-building assistance and information exchange in the regions.

Regional centres	Subregional Centres
1. Funding a) By financial mechanism b) By financial mechanism + donor co-financing	1. Funding a) By financial mechanism. b) By financial mechanism + donor co-financing.
2. Selection process *Proposals from parties on candidate institutions considered by the Conference of the Parties	2. Selection process *Proposals from Parties on candidate institutions considered by the Conference of the Parties
3. Selection criteria a) Institution has expertise related to needs of the region b) Institution has experience in technical assistance regionally c) Institution successfully undertakes a case study d) Institution has relevant administrative support structure e) Institution endorsed by host	3. Selection criteria a) Based on support to individual large countries b) Based on a group of countries with the same language c) Based on support to isolated countries in a given region d) Based on a subgroup of least developed countries e) Based on regions with large quantities of POPs

Government. f) Host Government has adequate infrastructure and is politically stable g) Institution able to act independently of host Government	f) Based on regions with a large number of countries g) Based on a group of countries not exceeding 12
4. Framework agreement a) National framework agreement b) Intergovernmental framework agreement	4. Framework Agreement: a) National framework agreement b) Intergovernmental framework agreement
5. Responsibilities a) Coordination of subregional centres b) Delivery of technical assistance to specific group of countries within the region c) Foster collaboration with other stakeholders d) Provide a platform for information exchange between stakeholders	5. Responsibilities a) Delivery of technical assistance to specific group of countries within the region b) Foster collaboration with other stakeholders c) Provide a platform for information exchange between stakeholders
6. Location a) One in each United Nations region b) One in each World Bank region c) One in each region designated by the Conference of the Parties	6. Location a) Based on support to individual large countries b) Based on a group of countries with the same language c) Based on a subgroup of least developed countries d) Based on regions with large quantities of POPs e) Based on regions with a large number of countries f) Based on a group of countries not exceeding 12

Regional centre profile

84. Regional and subregional centres are to be located in various countries to deliver technical assistance to Parties in the regions where they are established.

85. The financial arrangements by which the centres will be funded are critical to the success of such centres. As much as a regional centre should be cost-effective, in the same light, generation of sufficient funds for its smooth operation will be pivotal for successful delivery of its products.

86. The centres are to be the creation of the Stockholm Convention. The management of the centres will depend on the type of linkages that are made with each relevant institution hosting a centre, the relationship developed with the host country and the synergies created with ongoing centres from other relevant organizations and multilateral environment agreements.

87. The centres must have sufficient infrastructure and personnel, be in a suitable location, have the support of participating countries and generally provide the resources necessary to deliver technical assistance to Parties within their regions effectively.

88. There is the potential to establish linkages between FAO regional and subregional offices with Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres on persistent organic pollutant pesticide issues, particularly where they may relate to agricultural production.

Appendix: Global distribution of relevant regional and subregional centres and offices

Region	Basel Convention regional centres ⁱ	UNIDO/UNEP national cleaner production centres	WHO regional offices ⁱⁱ	FAO regional offices	UNEP regional offices ⁱⁱⁱ	Other relevant regional centres ^{iv}
AFRICA	Cairo (Egypt)	Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Cairo (Egypt)	Regional Office for the Near East Cairo (Egypt)	Regional Office for Africa Nairobi (Kenya)	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Kenya)
	Nigeria	Nairobi (Kenya)	Regional Office for Africa Brazzaville (Congo)	Regional Office for Africa Accra (Ghana)	Regional Coordinating Unit of the Eastern African Region (Seychelles)	Centre for Environmental Management, Potchefstroom University Potchefstroom (South Africa)
	Dakar (Senegal)	Casa Blanca (Morocco)		Subregional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa Harare (Zimbabwe)		Centre for development and Environment for the Arab Region and Europe Cairo (Egypt) ^v
	Pretoria (South Africa)	Nigeria		Subregional Office for Northern Africa (Tunisia)		Tunis International Centre of Environmental Technologies (Tunisia)
		Maputo (Mozambique)				AGRHYMET Regional Centre Niger (Nigeria)
		South Africa				University of Mauritius (Mauritius)
		Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania)				
		Tunis (Tunisia)				
		Kampala (Uganda) (Zimbabwe)				
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	Beijing (China)	Beijing (China)	Regional Office for South East Asia New Delhi (India)	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok (Thailand)	Regional Office for Asia and Pacific Bangkok (Thailand)	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Apia (Samoa)
	Jakarta (Indonesia)	New Delhi (India)	Regional Office for the Western Pacific Manila (Philippines)	Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands Apia (Samoa)	Regional Office for West Asia ♣ Manama (Bahrain)	Asia and Pacific Center for the Transfer of Technology of the Economic and social Commission for Asia New Delhi (India)
	New Delhi (India) ^{vi}	ChonAnSi (Republic of Korea)			Regional Coordinating Unit for the Eastern Asian Seas, Bangkok (Thailand)	Asian Institute for Technology Bangkok (Thailand)
	Iran (Islamic Republic of) ^{vii}	Colombo (Sri Lanka)			Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment Safat (Kuwait)	Center for International Sound Technology Transfer Beijing (China)
	Bahrain	Hanoi (Viet Nam)			Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme (PERGSGA) Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	University of Sains Malaysia (Malaysia)
		Antelias (Lebanon)			South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme Colombo (Sri Lanka)	Industrial Technology Institute (Philippines)
LAT IN AM ERI	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	Porto Alegre (Brazil)	Regional Office for the Americas Washington, D.C.(USA)	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Santiago (Chile)	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean ♣ Mexico City (Mexico)	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (Saint Lucia)

Region	Basel Convention regional centres ⁱ	UNIDO/UNEP national cleaner production centres	WHO regional offices ⁱⁱ	FAO regional offices	UNEP regional offices ⁱⁱⁱ	Other relevant regional centres ^{iv}
	San Salvador (El Salvador)	San José (Costa Rica)		Subregional Office for the Caribbean Bridgetown (Barbados)	Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme Kingston (Jamaica)	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (Trinidad and Tobago)
	Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago)	Cuba				Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental (Brazil)
	Montevideo (Uruguay)	San Salvador (El Salvador)				Chile Environmental Sciences Centre, Universidad de Concepcion (Chile)
		Guatemala City (Guatemala)				Universidad Autónoma de México (Mexico)
		Mexico City (Mexico)				Tecnológico Monterrey (ITESM) Campus Chihuahua (Mexico)
		Managua (Nicaragua)				
EASTERN EUROPE	Moscow (Russia)	Prague (Czech Republic)	Regional Office for Europe Copenhagen (Denmark)	Regional Office for Europe Rome (Italy)	Regional Office for Europe Geneva (Switzerland)	Regional Environmental Centre for Eastern and Central Europe Szentendre (Hungary)
	Bratislava (Slovakia)	Budapest (Hungary)			Coordinating Unit for the Black Sea Environmental Programme Istanbul (Turkey)	Centre for International Projects Moscow (Russia)
		Bratislava (Slovak Republic)			Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan Athens (Greece)	Estonian Environmental Research Centre (Estonia)

ⁱⁱ Basel Convention regional centres for training and technical transfer

ⁱⁱⁱ WHO collaborating centres are not included because of space limits. Information about the centres is available at <http://whqlilly.who.int>

ⁱⁱⁱⁱ Includes the location of the Regional Network Coordination for Ozone Depleting Substances.

^{iv} Includes academic and other national research institutions identified by Governments as a follow up to the questionnaire distributed by the Secretariat

^v Academic institution – partner organization DTIE/IETC

⁺ Regional Network Coordination for Ozone Depleting Substances

^{vi} In the process of being established

^{vii} Requested a Basel Convention centre