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Landscape SAEFL

## **International POPs Elimination Project**

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in  
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

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# **Expert team and capacity building on POPs in Mexico**

**Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en  
México (RAPAM)**

**México  
May 2006**

## About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

IPEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Agency for the Environment Forests and Landscape, the Canada POPs Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Mitchell Kapur Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, New York Community Trust and others.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

This report is available in the following languages: English

# **Expert team and capacity building on POPs in Mexico**

**Fernando Bejarano**

**Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM) (Pesticide Action Network in México)**  
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This project conducted activities incorporating an expert team in order to increase knowledge and skills about POPs at the local level and build capacity for a more effective public participation in the National Implementation Plan (NIP). This campaign included the preparation of a national workshop to build capacity among NGOs and grassroots organizations around the country; the production of a CD of the proceedings, the elaboration and distribution of a fact sheet and a poster and recommendations regarding the creation of the National Coordination Committee to the Stockholm Convention.

The activities performed in the IPEP project were:

## **SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS AND ZERO WASTE: REFLECTIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY**

This activity was conducted in México City on November 18 and 19, 2005, with the participation of 50 people from 32 institutions, environmental groups, and grassroots organizations from 10 states from the interior of Mexico (Veracruz, Chihuahua, Sonora, Tlaxcala, Hidalgo, México, DF, Morelos, San Luis Potosí, and Guanajuato). At the seminar were experts participating in IPEN, The Global Alliance of Incineration Alternatives (GAIA) based in Argentina and the Energy Justice Network from USA. There were also presentations from local organizations about their experiences with alternatives, waste recycling, local POPs inventories, companies offering services of tire recycling as an alternative to cement kiln fuel and the problems caused by incineration and tire burning proposals in different states of the country. The program, the list of participants and a photo of part of the group is included at the end of the report.

Each participant received a folder with copies of the presentations and photocopies of other materials. After the presentations, working groups discussed two videos about the experience of zero waste in Argentina and the testimonies of communities affected by cement kiln waste burning in a video made by the American Lung Association.

As a result of the workshop a CD with the Power Point Presentations and a DVD with a selection of presentations and discussion was produced. The DVD was the result of the cooperation with the environmental group “Guerreros Verdes”.

In the discussion of alternatives to prevent the burning of waste dumps and municipal landfills the participants were very interested about the Zero Waste approach presented by Cecilia Allen from GAIA based in Argentina. The participants were especially impressed that the City of Buenos Aires passed a law supporting this approach. The examples of Extended Producer Responsibility also were discussed. An NGO with more experience on municipal waste recycling based in Morelos was especially interested to incorporate the approach.

Another issue of special interest was the testimony of a new company describing the technology for the recycling of tires instead of burning them in cement kilns. This company has a facility in the state of Mexico and is planning to expand operations in the state of Chihuahua. A visit to the plant was planned but was not possible due to the holiday. The import of used tires from the USA and the agreement between the Environmental Agency of the Federal Government and the cement industry to “clean” the tires dumpsites and by burning them in cement kilns has been a matter of concern to environmental groups. In that sense the presentation from an expert from the Energy Justice Network was well received as he explained the environmental risks posed by tire burning among other types of waste.

The working groups discussed the activities each participant could do to promote disseminating more information about the POPs Convention and the risks of dioxin sources and their alternatives.

A follow-up activity included designing a poster to avoid waste burning and incineration and a fact sheet that will be printed and distributed among the participants as well as with other organizations.

The workshop was co financed with GAIA Latin America.

### **Follow up activities**

One of the follow up activities was an invitation from the local NGO CASIFOP and Accion Ecologica from Morelos to the experts from GAIA and Energy Justice Network to meet with municipal authorities in Cuautla, Morelos and a visit to the community waste recycling experience in the municipality of Morelos. The group also visited the municipality of Tecamac which is currently confronted with a proposal for an incinerator.

Another follow up activity was the participation of RAPAM in the Foreign Relations Committee inside the National Council for Sustainable Development, an advisory body to the Environmental Secretariat (Semarnat) in their VIII Ordinary Meeting, 24 and 25 November 2005. Two recommendations proposed

by RAPAM were approved by the plenary and sent to the Semarnat demanding:  
a) the creation of the national coordination committee for the developing of the National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention with clear mechanisms of participation of civil society: b) the promotion of non combustion technologies for used tires recycling. Unfortunately these recommendations have not been implemented by the authorities until this date.

Following pages:

- Program
- List of Participants
- Photo of part of the participants

**SEMINAR-WORKSHOP****PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS AND ZERO WASTE  
REFLECTIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY****México City, November 18 and 19, 2005****CENAMI. Av Xochiquetzal 255 Col. Sta. Isabel Tola 55 77 47 18****FRIDAY NOV 18**

<b>8 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
<b>8.45 am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9.00 am	Opening Agenda overview and self-presentation from the participants
9.30 am	The Stockholm Convention and the POPs. Health and environmental effects. Government commitments. E Fernando Bejarano RAPAM – IPEN
10.15 am	Incineration of residues and the environmental and health effects. Cecilia Allen GAIA
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11.15 am	The dioxin inventories. Uncertainty and Prevention Fernando Bejarano RAPAM IPEN
11.45 am	POPs in Coatzacoalcos : The Toxic Life Cycle of PVC and the environmental and health impact Lorenzo Bozada
12.45 pm	The POPs inventory in the East of Morelos Mariana Barreda y Andres Barreda CACIFOP
<b>1.30 pm</b>	<b>MEAL</b>
3.00 PM	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register ( PRTR) the Stockholm Convention and the Right To Know Marisa Jacott, Greenpeace México Toxic Campaign
3.45 PM	The popular resistance vs. incineration and chlorobenzenes in Tlaxcala Yolanda Betancourt y Consejo Nacional Urbano y Campesino
4.15 PM	The grassroots struggle against a incinerator and dump proposal in Tecamac, Edo de México
4.45 PM	The burning of waste and tires in cement kilns in USA. Problems and Alternatives. Mike Ewall Energy Justice Network
<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
6.15 pm	The Cement Industry and the tire burning on the border Peti Guerrero, CONTEC, Jaime Lara, Ecocombustibles de Chihuahua
7.00 pm	Accidents in the mixture of fuels for cement kilns. A vision from local

	neighborhoods
<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>DINNER</b>
8.30 pm	VIDEOS. Danger Downwind, and the Nova Scotia Experience

## SATURDAY Nov 19

<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
9.00 am	The protest against a PCB incinerator proposal in El Higo, Veracruz Ing. Jorge García
9.20 am	Zero Waste the answer to the residues problem Cecilia Allen GAIA
10.20 am	The recycling of municipal waste in Mpio. de Jantetelco and Zacualpan, Morelos Ma Antonia Ambrosio G, y Humberto A. Torres Desarrollo Integral Autogestionario, A.C.
<b>10.50 am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11.00 am	The protest vs. a pesticide formulator company in Juchitepec, Edo. de Mexico. Dr Jorge Arturo de León and CEDAT
11.30 am	The New POPS: lindane and endosulfan. Fernando Bejarano RAPAM- IPEN
11.45 am	Alternatives to the use of lindane vs louse and scabies Ing Sergio Trueba NOCON
<b>12.15 am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
12.30 am	Working Groups
<b>1.30 pm</b>	<b>MEAL</b>
3.00 pm	Working Groups
5.00 pm	Plenary Report and Conclusions
<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>DINNER</b>

**IPEN-GAIA-RAPAM**  
**Participants Seminar – Workshop**  
**Persistent Organic Pollutants and Zero Waste**  
**Mexico City, November 18, 19 2005**

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Cecilia Allen	GAIA
Grisel Hernández	Ecologista
Arturo Buenrostro	BIO, A.C.
Ricardo Aldana García	CASIFOP
Alejandra Gabriela García López	CASIFOP / CERES
Irene Salvador Escobedo	CEDAT
Laura Alonso B.	CEDAT
Abad Cruz del Angel	CENAMI
Daniel Zapata	Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)
Antonio Castillo	Comisión de Bosques y Selvas, A.C.
Abel	Enlaza Mundos
Marilu	Enlaza Mundos
Marisa Jacott	Greenpeace
Antonio Arredondo	Guerreros Verdes Asociación Ambientalista
Elena Khan	Guerreros Verdes Asociación Ambientalista
Ruby Pérez	Guerreros Verdes Asociación Ambientalista
Rubén Treviño Friedericasen	Radio Ollin Caban, Alternativa Asoc. Mundial de Radios Comunitarias
Arturo Alba Zúñiga	
Francisco Sánchez Suárez	
María Eugenia Acosta	Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM)
Fernando Bejarano G	Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM)-IPEN
Andrés Barreda	CACIFOP
Mariana Barreda	Acción Ecológica de Morelos
Angelina Núñez	Educación y Defensa Ambiental A.C.
Mario Martínez Ramos	Pro San Luis Ecologico, A.C.
Rene Cordova	Red Fronteriza de Salud y Ambiente, A.C.
Yolanda Betancourt	Ecología y Desarrollo de Tlaxcala y Puebla
Mike Ewall	Energy Justice Network
Aurelio Arellano	APETAC
Gonzalo R. Cano	Asoc de Productores Ecologistas Tatexco A.C. (APETAC)
Isaul Rodríguez	Asoc de Productores Ecologistas Tatexco A.C. (APETAC)
Lorenzo Bozada Robles	Organización y Desarrollo Social
Horacio Tovalin	FES UNAM
Enedina Chávez García	ICMyL – UNAM
Claudia García R.	Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología UNAM Laboratorio de Contaminación Marina
Laura Fernández Bringas	Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología UNAM Laboratorio de Contaminación Marina
Minsu Longiaru	UNAM
Sergio Dominguez Santiago	Universidad Veracruzana
Jaime R. Lara	Eco Combustible
Sergio Trueba	NOCON, S.A. de C.V.
Joaquín de la Rosa	Servicios en Maquinaria



Juan Carlos Garcés Rojas	Comité de Pro-Defensa de los Derechos Ciudadanos del Municipio de Tecamac
Guadalupe Castillo	Comité Pro Defensa de los Derechos Ciudadanos de Tecamac
Reyes García Camacho	Comité Pro Defensa de los Derechos Ciudadanos de Tecamac
Humberto Torres	Unión de Vecinos de San Jerónimo Xonacatlán A.C.
Hiram De La Peña	DAME, A.C
Maura Alicia Vázquez Figueroa	DAME, A.C.
Humberto Angel Torres	Desarrollo Integral Autogestionario
María Antonia Ambrosio Gachuz	Desarrollo Integral Autogestionario A.C.
Alejo Medina Cervantes	Consejo Nacional Urbano y Campesino CNUC



**Partial participants in the Seminar – Workshop, Persistent Organic Pollutants and Zero Waste, Mexico City, November 18, 19 2005**