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Swiss Agency for
the Environment,
Forests and
Landscape SAEFL

The International POPs Elimination Project

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

Global Day of Action on POPs in Russia

Union of Ecologists of the Republic of Bashkortostan

**Russian Federation
April 2005**

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>

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Global Day of Action on POPs in Russia

The project "The Fifteenth Anniversary of the Dioxin Dump in Ufa" had been implemented by the Union of Ecologists of the Republic of Bashkortostan. In the framework of the project, they conducted a meeting of the Public Environmental Council of the Republic of Bashkortostan (18 organisations). The meeting participants discussed and approved their statement on the problem of dioxin waste and reorganisation of "Khimprom" Company. Besides that, they conducted an enlarged meeting of chief officials of environmental and other supervisory bodies of the Republic of Bashkortostan (RB) in the Public Reception Chamber of the Chief Federal Inspector of RB on matters of environmental monitoring (including dioxins) and provision of public environmental information. The meeting participants raised a claim against the State Committee for Environment and its legal successors (RB Directorate of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and RB Directorate for Nature Protection) for the failure to eliminate the dioxin dump in Ufa. The roundtable decision incorporated recommendations on development and implementation of additional measures in the course of reorganisation of "Khimprom" Company. The decision was submitted for review of the RB Government. The project generated a strong momentum to address the problem. The Union of Ecologists of the Republic of Bashkortostan will maintain public control over implementation of actions for elimination of sources of dioxin pollution in Ufa. For additional information, please contact: Aleksandr Veselov, the Union of Ecologists of the Republic of Bashkortostan, envlaw@bashnet.ru