



Swiss Agency for  
Development  
and Cooperation  
SDC



Swiss Agency for  
the Environment,  
Forests and  
Landscape SAEFL

## **International POPs Elimination Project**

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

---

# **Celebration of the IPEN Global Day of Action in Burundi**

**Propreté Environnement Santé (PES)**

**Burundi  
Mai 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>

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 Kapor 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: summary in English and full report in French

# Celebration of the IPEN Global Day of Action in Burundi

During the celebration of the Stockholm Convention world day of action on POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants), our NGO « **PES** » (Propreté, Environnement et Santé), like other members of IPEN, made it a duty to issue a statement commemorating that day for our TV viewers.

The commemorative celebration of this global day of action as of 22 April 2005 will help stakeholders be aware of this issue and submit alternative solutions to POPs. Prior to the delivery of the statement on IPEN activities and about POPs (see Appendix 1), our NGO launched during the previous week activities such as:

- Hosting radio programmes broadcast via public as well as private media channels, on TV to sensitize the population about the harmful effects of POPs
- Programmes on the BBC which broadcasts in the Great Lakes region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi)
- Translation into the local language the content of the Convention to make it more accessible to the mostly illiterate populations
- Get from the Environment Minister the authorization to broadcast the delivery of a statement through all the media in French, in Kirundi and in the newspapers.

## Appendix 1 Information about IPEN released during the Global Day of Action

Indeed, it was important to remind them that this Convention was approved and submitted to signature during the conference of plenipotentiaries held on 22-23 May 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden.

According to the Convention, the main purpose is to protect human health and the environment from the effects of POPs which pose an increasing and serious threat. The scope being global, this Convention covers a number of items of which the parties must act on to minimize or eliminate the POPs targeted by the Convention.

In fact, as part of the handling of the noxious effects on health and the environment, an international network was founded for the elimination of POPs in 1998 by a small number of NGOs gathered within IPEN and acting for the elimination of persistent organic pollutants, on a socially simple and equitable basis.

In this respect, IPEN supervises representatives of NGOs, scientific communities in the participation to the United Nations process. IPEN plays also a critical role through an active participation and tries to positively influence decisions made by the United Nations on POPs. So, it is through these negotiations held with the United Nations that this world treaty was born: the Stockholm Convention.

Presently, IPEN keeps on playing a key role in the pursuit of the United Nations negotiations on chemicals.

In a nutshell, the mission of the International POPs Elimination Network, IPEN, is to work for the global elimination of POPs. It is also willing to consolidate the awareness at a national and international level of these harmful effects on human health and the environment by organizing every year this global day of action, by carrying out and supervising sensitization and information activities on POPs and the Stockholm convention targeting NGOs, the civil society, industrials-users-governments, the public and more generally on the risks related to these POPs.