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Forests and  
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## The International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP)

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

**Information and awareness-raising workshop on the Stockholm Convention on POPs meant for NGOs, other Civil Society Organisations, chemical users and the press**



**ACOBES (Association des Consommateurs de Biens et Services)**

**Guinée Bissau  
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>

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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 French and final report in Portuguese

# **Information and awareness-raising workshop on the Stockholm Convention on POPs meant for NGOs, other Civil Society Organisations, chemical users and the press**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An information and awareness- raising workshop on the Stockholm Convention on POPs meant for NGO, other Civil Society Organisations, chemical users and the press was organised in Guinea Bissau from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006. It was held in the UNTG (National Union of Workers of Guinea Bissau) conference room.

The workshop was organised by ACOBES (Association of Consumers of Goods and Services) in partnership with the Directorate of the Environment (POPs Project Coordinator) and in collaboration with PAN (Pesticide Action Network) Africa, IPEN regional hub located in Dakar, Senegal.

The workshop aimed to inform and raise awareness of POPs' impacts on health and the environment among the above-mentioned targets to contribute to the reduction and elimination of these chemicals.

### **Organisation of the workshop**

The workshop started around 9:45 am after the Representative of the Minister of Natural Resources arrived.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Dr. Aly Hijazi, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the presence of M Fode Karamba Sanha, ACOBES chairman Dr Lorentino Rufino Cunha, representative of the General Director of the Environment office, Henry Rene Diouf, PAN Africa representative and Ernesto Pereira, National Coordinator of the Stockholm Convention project on POPs.

“It is crucial to inform and raise awareness of POPs hazards among populations so that they minimize the use of these noxious products they are exposed to. We must have a closer watch on POPs in order to minimize diseases caused by these Persistent Organic Pollutants” the ACOBES Chairman said in his speech.

The Representative of the General Director of the Environment Office said in his speech that environmental and behavioural issues will be solved only through collaboration and skillsharing between stakeholders of the Civil Society.

Henry Diouf said in his speech that International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has started in May 2004 IPEP project (International POPs Elimination Project) meant for NGOs in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). This project is financed by GEF.

He added that the IPEP project sets itself three main objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGO present in 40 developing countries or countries with economies in transition to be involved in activities that promote the Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan.
- Build NGO capacity and strengthen their knowledge so that they effectively participate in the Stockholm Convention Implementation process.
- Facilitate the putting in place of coordination mechanisms and help build capacity among NGO from around the world for sustainable initiatives in order to reach chemical safety.

Thus, NGOs and the Civil Society Organisations are indispensable to the Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan.

Finally, he assured that the IPEP project supports the writing of reports on the situation of countries and contaminated sites. This project equally promotes the development of strategies and policies, the Stockholm Convention implementation, the organisation of public training, information and awareness-raising workshops...etc.

The opening ceremony ended up with the speech of the General Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources saying that Persistent Organic Pollutants are highly hazardous to human health and to the environment. POPs represent a real threat to populations and this will exacerbate if we do not put an end to their use. That is within this framework that UNEP through its decision 18/32 has initiated an international process for a scientific assessment of 12 chemicals considered as Persistent Organic Pollutants. This has been endorsed by the Stockholm Convention.

In the aftermath of the opening ceremony, Ernesto Pereira, the POPs project national coordinator has made a presentation on the Stockholm Convention on POPs. This presentation included the history of the Convention, procedures necessary for a country to be party of the Convention, date of signing and ratification of this Convention by Guinea Bissau. He also cited the 12 chemicals (dirty dozen) targeted by the Stockholm Convention and the goal of the Convention which is to protect human health and the environment against POPs.

The presentation was followed by the plenary session.

During the presentations, Mr. Isuf Sidibe mentioned the names of the 12 chemicals targeted by the Stockholm Convention and their impacts on human health and on the environment:

POPs are hazardous to human health. They are hormone disruptors and cause cancer, dysfunction of the immunologic system, skin, vesicle and reproductive troubles, endometriosis, dysfunction of the metabolism and diabetes.

To end up this chapter, Mr Diouf presented the UNITAR decision tree on the Stockholm Convention implementation. It is a very useful since it provides guidance to project coordinators, ministries and other parties for a better understanding of obligations and commitments of parties within the Stockholm Convention and help take decisions on a rational management of POPs. The UNITAR decision tree supports parties to identify

action priorities for POPs management and elimination and to make more complete inventories.

Presentations have been followed by debates and discussions that ended around 2:30 p.m to allow participants to have lunch.

The workshop resumed around 3:30 p.m after lunchtime with discussions and debates on presentations made earlier.

Mr Diouf carried on his presentation on “Alternatives to POPs”. He talked about alternatives to POPs in agriculture, in the fight against termites, alternatives to DDT, POPs by-products and strategies to prevent dioxin/ furan use and releases.

At the end of this presentation, debates were held on different aspects mentioned earlier until the closing session around 5p.m.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006, works continued with the presentation on the theme: “**NGO and Media Role in the Stockholm Convention Implementation**” by Henry Diouf.

This chapter includes the role of the Civil Society Organisation, the monitoring of impacts of POPs and other chemicals in the country, public awareness-raising, training and information, information and awareness-raising activities among authorities, the Stockholm Convention Implementation plan in Guinea Bissau, the follow-up of the Stockholm Convention implementation, NGO obstacles and insufficiencies in implementing the Stockholm Convention and opportunities for NGO and media in participating in the Stockholm Convention.

This theme has been debated during the plenary before coffee break. In the aftermath of the break, participants divided up in two working groups that worked on the two following:

- STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND SKILLSHARING BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND THE MEDIA
- STRATEGIES TO SCALE UP THE CONTRIBUTION OF NGO AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF POPS AND OTHER CHEMICALS IN GUINEA BISSAU

Results of the working group discussions were presented by the respective secretaries of the working groups. (See Annex 1)

At the end of the seminar, conclusions were drawn and the following recommendations were made:

- that workshops and seminars be organised on POPs and chemical products by the target group
- that radio programs on POPs be produced and broadcast in local languages across community, public and private radio stations

- that information and awareness-raising campaigns on POPs be organised
- that journalists, local coordinators, local authorities and teachers be trained on POPs and other chemical products
- that there be a legal tool which regulates POPs management
- that at the sub-regional level there are exchanges of experiences in the management of POPs and other chemicals
- that the media be involved in the elaboration and circulation of the strategic plan of implementation of the Stockholm Convention
- that there be a framework of cooperation and coordination between the General Environment Manager, NGOs and the media on POPs management

They thank the organisers of this important workshop, the IPEN/PAN-Africa representative and all the participants for the way in which the activities were carried out.

The closing ceremony was presided over by Mr. Ernesto Augusto Pereira on behalf of the General Director of the Environment office. Prior to this, certificates of participation were issued to people taking part in this workshop.

Bissau, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006

## List of participants

| N° | Name                    | Institution                    |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 | Nelson Justino Gomes    | DGA                            |
| 02 | Bernardo Vaz            | DGA                            |
| 03 | Mussa Jandi             | DGA                            |
| 04 | Tomas Gomes Barbosa     | ACOBES                         |
| 05 | Ernesto Augusto Pereira | DGA(Coordinateur projet POP's) |
| 06 | Vladimir Indjai         | Radio Pindjiguiti              |
| 07 | Fodé C. Sanhá           | ACOBES                         |
| 08 | Fonseca M. Sambú        | TGB (Television national)      |
| 09 | Ernesto Simão da Costa  | DGA                            |
| 10 | Zeca Cá                 | Radio Jovem                    |
| 11 | Rita G.C. Funny         | UAC(Université)                |
| 12 | Lamine Queita           | Radio Voz de Quelele           |

|    |                          |  |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 13 | Nicolau Mendes           | ONG Palemirinha                        |
| 14 | Indjai Mané              | ONG ANAG                               |
| 15 | Gaspar Cardoso Silva     | ACOBES                                 |
| 16 | Braima Sané              | UNTG (Central sindical)                |
| 17 | Amadeu José Gomes        | RENAJ (Réseau National de la Jeunesse) |
| 18 | Maria Lopes              | PLACON-GB(Réseau des ONGs)             |
| 19 | Antonio Valentim         | ACAB (Association Consommat. d'eau)    |
| 20 | Zeca Tinam               | ACOBES                                 |
| 21 | Elsa Maria Fortes        | ACOBES                                 |
| 22 | Aladja Lamine Indjai     | DIECS (MS)                             |
| 23 | Carla M. J. Evora        | ONG BRINFOR                            |
| 24 | Fatumata Cassama         | M.C.I.A.(Commerce)                     |
| 25 | Adulai Baldé             | M.C.I.A. (Commerce)                    |
| 26 | Mario Biagué             | D.G.A.(Environnement)                  |
| 27 | Diogenes Vaz Horta Santy | ACOBES                                 |
| 28 | Fernando Embaná          | DGA (Environnement)                    |
| 29 | Sene Nhabali             | Association BUBACALHAU                 |
| 30 | Maurício Paulo Albino    | ONG A.T.E.F.                           |
| 31 | Armando João da Silva    | ONG A.D.P.P.                           |
| 32 | Manuel Luntam Jau        | C.C.I.A. (Chambre de Commerce)         |
| 33 | Domingos Carvalho        | ROPPA (Réseau Agriculteurs)            |
| 34 | Aladje Alanso Faty       | ROPPA                                  |
| 35 | Braima Baldé             | A.R.M.G.B.                             |
| 36 | Miguel Barbosa           | ASTRA (Transporteurs)                  |
| 37 | Carlos Bubacar Djamanca  | SICÓ                                   |
| 38 | Bacar Bassi Djassi       | Radio Papagaio/Buba                    |
| 39 | Armando Gomes            | Radio Babock/Canchungo                 |
| 40 | Suleimane N'Djai         | DPV/SAB(Protection végétales)          |
| 41 | Pedro Fernandes          | Jornal No-Pintcha                      |
| 42 | Inaida Aurélia Gomes     | CGSI-GB (Central Sindical)             |
| 43 | Angelo Baldé             | ACOBES                                 |
| 44 | Bambo Sanhá              | ACOBES                                 |
| 45 | Antolívio Correia        | ACOBES                                 |

|    |                        |                                    |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 46 | Rui Gomes de Sá        | Radio Difusion National            |
| 47 | Luis Edicardo da Silva | CNJ-GB (Conseil National Jeunesse) |
| 48 | Malam Djafuno          | Bombolom FM                        |
| 49 | Malam Cassama          | ONG TINIGUENA                      |
| 50 | Seco Baldé Vieira      | No-Pintcha                         |
| 51 | Marcelina dos Santos   | ACOBES                             |