



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 the Republic of Congo

Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (ALPEPAB)

Siège social : 88 bis rue Mbakas poto-poto Brazzaville

Tél : 242 521 46 95/242 82 56 32 fax :242 82 56 57 Email : alpepab@yahoo.fr

B.P. 14.230 BRAZZAVILLE CONGO

**Republic of Congo
May 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

I – INTRODUCTION

In view of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) has set up during the month of May of each year a global action day against Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Persistent Organic Pollutants are organic compounds (that is, carbon compounds) of natural or anthropogenic origin. They each have the four following characteristics which make them particularly dangerous:

- Toxicity; they disrupt biological systems bringing about various toxic effects;
- Persistence; they are stable compounds which resist natural degradation processes, persist in the environment and thus build up long term pollution;
- Bio-accumulation, they accumulate and are concentrated in fatty substances such as cooking oils, milk, butter, meat, fat and human tissues;
- Global mobility, they move from one continent to another by a jumping effect.

On the 25th May 2005 in Brazzaville, the Environmental Protection and Agricultural Promotion Association in collaboration with the NGO FLORAS and the National Coordination of Development NGOs (CONADEC) organised with the financial support of IPEN, in the conference room of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and the Environment, the global day of action against POPs. This activity involved the participation of several agents of the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture, Commerce and Justice; civil society organisations; agents of the National Electricity Society transformer maintenance laboratory; and the local press.

The official ceremonies of this day were under the patronage of Mr. Albert Yoka, Chair of the ALPEPAB.

I – OBJECTIVE OF THE GLOBAL AWARENESS-RAISING DAY

The day had the following aims:

- to popularise the Stockholm Convention on POPs;
- to popularise the Stockholm Declaration;
- to show the target populations the POP propagation process; and
- to indicate endemics caused by contact with or ingestion of PCBs.

II – EXPECTED RESULTS

The anticipated results were:

- that industrialists and market gardeners take note of the list of persistent organic pollutants and that the convention is popularised;
- that transformers and cables with impregnated paper are identified as containing PCBs;
- that the incineration of wood waste treated with organochlorines and biomass from the cultivation of cane sugar is identified as a source of POPs;

- that riverside populations on contaminated sites and technicians of the National Electricity Society in charge of the maintenance of transformers are informed of the exposure to PCBs.

III – METHODOLOGY

Initially foreseen as two days, the workshop only lasted one day. It involved the participation of market gardeners, agents of the National Electricity Society transformer maintenance laboratory, civil society organisations, representatives of the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice and Human Rights, and resource people.

Presentations were carried out using slides on PowerPoint, projected onto a screen by video-projector.

After each exhibit, a lively discussion followed between participants and contributors. The opening ceremony was covered by journalists from local radio and the written press. The allocated budget did not allow us to invite journalists from national television for the simple reason that to cover the event they asked for, not including the other press bodies, a sum of 50,000 Franc CFA.

IV – THE WORKSHOP PROCEDURE

- Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of this workshop was chaired by Mr. Albert Yoka, Chair of the ALPEPAB. Beside him were Mr. Hyppolite LOUMOUAMOU NAKOUZOLO and Rufin Jean Pierre MAKITA respectively, Chair of the NGO FLORAS and Coordinator of environmental NGOs.

Only one address was made during this ceremony:

- a note about the situation of Mr. Albert Yoka, Chair of ALPEPAB, for the account of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN);

In his note about the situation, Mr. Albert Yoka, member of IPEN, expressed his satisfaction in organising the global action day on POPs, he praised the effort made by the network in terms of the elimination of POPs from the planet.

He reminded us of the danger of POPs which has pushed the International Community to equip itself with a judicial system on an international level to reach out to these products, to identify them, and to track them in order to better eliminate them.

He finished his speech by expressing his full recognition of all those who, despite their multiple occupations, accepted to take part in the global action day against POPs.

- **The setting up of the workshops proceedings**

The works of the global action day against Persistent Organic Pollutants began by presentations of the participants.

This session was followed by the setting up of two workshop activities coordination authorities, that is to say, the presidium and the secretariat.

The authorities were made up of the following:

- a) Presidium
 - Chair: **MAKITA Jean Pierre Rufin**, coordination of Development NGOs ;
 - Vice president : **Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA**, vice president of ALPEPAB ;
 - Moderator: **Hyppolite LOUMOUAMOU NAKOUZOLOLO**, Chair of the NGO FLORAS.

- b) Secretariat
 - **MAYINGUIDI Stéphanie Jeanne**, Association of Female Lawyers in Congo,
 - **Samba Lambert Apollinaire**, Secretary of communication ALPEPAB ;
 - **EYABE Roch**, member of ALPEPAB.

After the setting up of the workshop authorities, the participants proceeded by adopting the agenda, and the activities of the global action day against POPs continued with talks on the following themes:

- International legal framework of Persistent Organic Pollutants (Dr Albert YOKA);
- The NIP (National Implementation Plan) of the POPs Convention (Marie Agathe MAKELOLA, POPs Focal Point);
- The dangers of POPs and the alternatives (Dr Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA);
- Good methods of waste management (Dr Albert KIMBENGA) ;
- International conventions on chemical management (Dr Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA) ;
- PCBs in Congo (Albert YOKA);
- The results of studies at the sites Ouéssou and Nkayi.

- **The Closing Ceremony**

The closing ceremony was chaired by Mr. Albert Loka, President of ALPEPAB. Only one speech was made during the day's closing ceremony: that of Mr. Albert Yoka, Chair of ALPEPAB.

In his speech, the Chair of ALPEPAB insisted in congratulating the participants and then the contributors who did their best to make the issues accessible to all participants, while reassuring them that IPEN would make every effort to agree on the outcome of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

Moreover he praised the excellent results which the workshop achieved and wished that such a day would become permanent in the implementation of the convention.

Finally, before declaring the closure of the activities, he wished the participants a good journey home.