



## Global Day of Action on POPs in Togo

### Pesticide Action Network Togo (PAN TOGO)

Togo  
April 2005



#### PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK TOGO

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## 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 full report in French

# Global Day of Action on POPs in Togo

The Global Day of Action against POPs has been organised by PAN Togo network on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005 in Togo in the form of a press conference on the theme below:

**Theme:** *“Urgent need to secure sites contaminated by obsolete pesticides in Togo”*

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005

**Location:** Maison du Journalisme

Pesticide Action Network Togo (PAN Togo) has organised a press conference at the Maison du Journalisme in Lome on the theme *“Urgent need to secure sites contaminated by obsolete pesticides in Togo”* on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005

The conference brought together about 50 participants from PAN Togo and from the public and private media

The State media were composed of TNT (Togolose National Television), Radio Lome (National radio) Togo Press and ATOP (the Togolese Press Agency)

Private media present were TV7, Miroir du Peuple, Nouvelle Republique, Présence Chrétienne, etc.

The conference has been jointly presided over by Dr. Ebeh A. Kodjo, PAN Togo coordinator and Pr. Baba Gnon, head of the department of chemistry at Lome University and in charge of Pesticide, Dioxin, PCB and Furan Program at PAN Togo.

After showing their strong will to promoting public health, environmental protection and above all chemical safety for all, including for children, small-scale farmers and women, participants affirmed their deep concern about the non-protection of sites contaminated by obsolete pesticides in Togo and the noxious impacts this situation might cause on health and on the environment and stated the following:

Let's

1. Require from the Togolese government to carry out urgent actions to secure all the sites identified as potentially contaminated by Persistent Organic Pollutants in Togo
2. Demand that more exhaustive inventories be carried out nationwide in order to identify other sites contaminated by obsolete pesticides in Togo
3. Urge the government to carry on approaches needed to benefit from financial support within the ASP project
4. Ask the government through its relevant technical services to mobilize funds necessary to carry out studies on impact of POPs and other pesticides used in the past on health and the environment
5. Ask the state to prepare through a consultation including the different parties involved in chemical management in Togo, an initial assessment of children exposure to chemicals in our country and the development of a national plan of action to solve this;

6. Claim the putting in place of mechanisms promoting a large participation of the Togolese Civil Society Organisation in the process of a strategic approach to chemical management in Togo
7. Demand a special budget to be allocated to the “Chemicals” Committee to allow this committee to take urgent actions

This statement has been endorsed by all members of the network present and by other structures interested in. These are the organisations who are signatories to the statement:

List of signatories:

- Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l’Environnement
- Association des Femmes pour le Développement Durable (A.F.D.D)
- Association de Solidarité avec les Déshérités (A.S.S.A.D)
- Association de Recherche Action Social pour le Développement (O.R.A.S.D)
- Initiatives Décentralisées pour le Développement
- L’Association des Agriculteurs Biologiques du Nord du Togo
- Nature et Progrès, Atakpamé
- Réseau des Naturalistes du Togo, Sokodé
- Initiatives Durables de Développement-Togo (I.D.D/TOGO-
- Sauvons l’Rnvironnement au Togo (S.E.T)
- Association Togolaise des Consommateurs (A.T.C)
- Association Togolaise de Défense des Consommateurs (A.S.T.O.D.E.C)

The overall participants have advised the PAN Togo Executive Committee to send copies of this statement to the Prime Minister, the Ministry of the Environment and to the Togo POPs Project National Coordinator