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International POPs Elimination Project

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

A Survey of the POPs-related Situation in Azerbaijan

"Ruzgyar" NGO
Islam Mustafaev, Ruzgyar
Sakit Guseinov, expert
Nigyar Gulieva, expert
e-mail: lmustafaev@iatp.az

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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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A Survey of the POPs-related Situation in Azerbaijan

Introduction

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs), controlled under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, are subdivided into 3 groups:

1. Banned and obsolete pesticides:

- 1) Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
- 2) Aldrin
- 3) Dieldrin
- 4) Endrin
- 5) Chlordane
- 6) Mirex
- 7) Toxaphen
- 8) Heptachlor

2. Industrial products that are still used.

- 9) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- 10) Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)

3. Dioxins and furans

- 11) Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins (PCDDs)
- 12) Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs)

These compounds are not produced and applied; they are generated by chemical reactions with involvement of chlorine compounds.

Now, the following candidate POPs are being reviewed for incorporation into the list of the Stockholm Convention by the POPs Review Committee:

- hexachlorocyclohexane (HCCH, or Lindane)
- pentabromodiphenyl ether (penta BDE)
- perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)
- chlordecone
- hexabromobiphenyl

Azerbaijan ratified the Stockholm Convention on December 9, 2003. In his Decree No. 329 of July 29, 2004, the President of Azerbaijan authorised the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to fulfil functions of the co-coordinating agency of the Convention.

In our assessments of the POPs-related situation in Azerbaijan we rely on independent public environmental inventories of pollution hot spots and analysis of information materials available in different organisations. In some cases we used results of interviewing of persons, who dealt with issues, pertaining to production and application of POPs. To ensure reliability of information, we conducted comparative analysis of data from different sources. Results of our studies are provided in this report.

1. Sources of POPs releases and pollution levels

1.1. POPs pesticides

Except DDT, all pesticides of the Stockholm Convention had been banned in Azerbaijan and their production was ceased. There are stockpiles of unused pesticides, associated storage facilities, contaminated soil and other environmental media. Many countries still use DDT to combat insects - vectors of malaria (India, some countries of Africa, Central and South America) or encephalitis (Russia).

Production of POPs-pesticides in Azerbaijan

In 1958 - 1980, at Sumgait Surfactants Production Plant, DDT was processed for its further application in agriculture, particularly at cotton plantations and vineyards. In the whole period of operations, the plant produced 480,549 tons of pesticide preparations. Approximately 24,000 tons of the raw agent (DDT) were supplied from the Russian Federation. Sumgait Surfactants Production Plant also produced lindane from 1986 - 1988. Approximately 181 tons of produced lindane were transported to Novomoskovsk (Russia). In the period from 1951 to 1978, hexachlorane was produced, which contained small amounts of the gamma isomer of HCCH (lindane). In the same period, hexachlorane was used in agriculture in Azerbaijan.

According to documents, provided by Sumgait Surfactants Production Plant, DDT was supplied to the plant as a raw agent and was blended there to produce 5% technical grade dust for agricultural applications. The plant was commissioned in 1945 and its mainstream operations included production of pesticides for agriculture.

In 1958, a DDT production line was commissioned with estimated annual capacity of 60 thousand tons (the line operated up to 1980). In 22 years, the plant produced 480,549 tons of technical grade dust with DDT contents of 4.5 - 5%. It is worth noting that DDT production in the former USSR had been banned since 1970.

DDT was supplied to Sumgait by railway, as 60 - 80% pure compound packed into 4-layer paper bags.

Technical specifications of the DDT product supplied (GOST 6287-66):

- Contents of the main component - not less than 71% ,
- Acidity - not more than 0.06% ,
- Humidity - not more than 0.04% ,
- Melting temperature - not less than 80°C

For the whole period of DDT production in Sumgait, about 25 thousand tons of pure agent were supplied. The production process incorporated two stages. Production operations were made in the first section (150 m²), while the second section was used for uploading and packaging operations. Talc powder for DDT blending was supplied from Georgia.

In the period from 1951 to 1978, about 30.5 thousand tons of technical grade hexachlorane were produced, while in the period from 1986 to 1988, only 181 tons of lindane were produced. It is worth noting that all lindane was transported to Novomoskovsk (Russia).

Application of POPs-pesticides in Azerbaijan

In the Soviet period, Azerbaijan was among the most developed agricultural republics. In 1970s - 1990s, annual production figures reached: cotton - 700 - 800 thousand tons, grain - 1.4 million tons, grapes - more than 1 million tons, vegetables - 1.2 million tons, fruits - 400 thousand tons. The climate in Azerbaijan is very favourable for dissemination of plant diseases by insects and other pests. Pesticides were broadly applied in cultivation of cotton, grapes, melons/watermelons, vegetables, etc. In 1950s - 1990s, cotton plantations covered 100 - 300 thousand hectares and pesticides were applied to protect them.

In years of intensive cultivation of cotton and grapes, huge amounts of pesticides were applied. Regardless of the ban for application of DDT in agriculture in 1970s, DDT was applied in Azerbaijan "as an exception" until late 1980s. In terms of pesticide loads per hectare, Azerbaijan was among leaders in the former USSR.

After the decay of the USSR, intensities of pesticide application decreased (up to 20 times), however, stockpiles of banned and obsolete pesticides still pose health and environmental risks.

Hot spots of banned and obsolete pesticides in Azerbaijan

1.1.1. Sumgait Surfactants Production Plant

At the territory of Sumgait Surfactants Production Plant, 1000 m² were used for 22 years for different production operations, associated with production of technical DDT dust. Results of inventory works suggest that about 1 ton of DDT is still scattered within the production zone. Therefore, we included the plant site into the list of pollution hot spots. Analytical measurements suggest that content of 4,4' DDT in the DDT fraction reaches up to 90 - 92%.

1.1.2. The storage site for banned and obsolete pesticides

We conducted POPs inventory works at the storage site for banned and obsolete pesticides. Construction works at the site were launched in 1963 and completed in 1989 - 1990. The site is located at a distance of 53 km from Baku, in Gobustanskiy district, nearby Dzangi village. According to official reports, in 1989 - 1991, about 8000 tons of banned and obsolete pesticides were delivered to the site, including mainly DDT, hexachlorane, calcium cyanamide, calcium arsenide, etc. Initially, six rows of bunkers (183 bunkers in total, with a storage capacity of 30 m³ each) were filled by pure DDT or by mixed pesticides. Until 1996, the storage site was subordinated to "Azselkhozkhimia", but after liquidation of the organisation the site was abandoned and left without specialised guard services. Local residents got access to the bunkers, some bunkers were opened and the majority of the pesticides were released to the environment. According to some assessments, now, five bunkers of the storage site contain more than 60 tons of 5% DDT, while the other 177 bunkers contain large amounts of mixtures of DDT and other pesticides. Overall, there are about 4000 tons of different pesticides at the storage site with the overall area of about 1.5 hectare. The site is located at an elevation, and as a result, under certain conditions, rainfall may wash out pesticides and spread them along the valley. Our 2-years observations at the site revealed that local residents take residual pesticides to use them in their private holdings or for sale. We consider the site as the most hazardous hot spot of banned pesticides in the country.

1.1.3. Inter-district chemical supply facilities

Until 1996, these facilities were subordinated to "Azselkhozkhimia", later, after liquidation of the organisation they operated in the framework of "Azerkendkimia" Co. In the course of privatisation of these facilities, all residual pesticides (inc. mainly DDT and hexachlorane) were booked off. However, these

pesticides still remain scattered at territories of many chemical supply facilities, posing health and environmental risks.

Inter-district chemical supply facilities are listed below:

- Evlakskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Myususlinskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Dalimamedlinskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Dyallyarskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Shekinskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Jalilabadskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Lenkoranskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Sabirabadskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Goradziskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Dashburunskaya inter-district chemical supply facility
- Salyanskaya district railway facility and Daikend storage facility.

Besides that, there are more than 50 distribution outlets of the former "Azselkhozkhimia".

1.2. PCBs

In the former USSR, PCBs were produced since 1934 under brand names "Sovol" and "Sovtol". They were produced by "Orgsteklo" Production Association in Dzerzhinsk and "Orgsintez" in Novomoskovsk. Overall, these organisations produced 110,000 tons of "Sovol" and "Sovtol", and 70,000 tons of TCB. Since 1930s, more than 1 million tons of PCBs were produced in the World.

Production of trichlorobiphenyls and "Sovtol" was cancelled in 1990, while production of "Sovtol" was cancelled in 1993.

PCBs were used as dielectric liquids in transformers, capacitors, automatic switches and as hydraulic liquids in presses.

In the former USSR, the following PCBs-containing equipment was produced:

1. Transformers:

- Chirchikskiy Transformers Plant (Sovtol) - TNZ, TNZP, TNZPU, TNZS
- "Uraityazhmash" Production Association (Sovtol) - TNP, TNPU, TNR, TNRU

2. Capacitors:

- Ust-Kamenogorsk Capacitors Plant (Sovol) - KS0, KS1, KS2, KSK1, KSK2, KSTS, BSK, KS, KSK, FST, FS, GST, RST, RSTO, KSE, KSEK, ES, ESV, ESVK, ESVP, KSP, KSSh, KSKSh, KSF, KSKF, IS, PS, PSK
- Serpukhov Capacitors Plant - SKZ KVAR
- "Armenelektrokondensator" (Leninakan, Armenia)

TNZ transformers contained an average quantity of 160 - 2980 kg of "Sovtol", and capacitors contained 17.2 kg of trichlorobenzene.

As PCBs were not produced in Azerbaijan, the primary inventory relied on reporting on export/import of these compounds and analytical materials in the sphere. Reports incorporated information materials of the following sources:

1. The State Committee for Statistics
2. The State Customs Committee
3. The Ministry of Economic Development
4. Available sources of information on PCBs-containing equipment.

In 2000, the project "Assessment of PCBs waste and dioxins/furans at the territory of Azerbaijan" was implemented. The project results suggest that there are 300 tons of PCBs in transformers and 360 tons of PCBs in capacitors at the territory of Azerbaijan. However, these figures do not reflect the real situation in the country and they are not supported by due inventory works.

Detailed inventory works with involvement of the following agencies allowed us to collect more adequate information on quantities and locations of PCBs stockpiles:

1. The Ministry of Industry and Energy
2. The Ministry of Transport
3. The State Committee for Statistics
4. The Ministry of National Security
5. The Ministry of Justice
6. The Ministry of Agriculture
7. The Ministry of Defence
8. The State Customs Committee
9. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

The following types of PCBs-containing **transformers** were found in the country:

ATDTsTN, ATDTsTG, TDTs, TDNS, TRDNG, TRDN, LTDN, TMP, VRTDNU, TMTF, TMRU, TMT, TM, ARON, TDG, TDTG, TD, TDTNG, PDOR, TRDNS, TSMA, OTsG, TMN, OLU, DOAR, TDNT, AODTsTN, ARP, AODTG, TRDTsNG, RDRRF, EOIM, THGVE, TETNG, TDTsT, TDTR, TNZ, KTP, TP, RB, VEZ, MTZ, TRP, TMBM, TAO, TTU, TOM, KV, TS, OSZ, TSZ, Siemens Shukkert, VEV (93% of these transformers are controlled by facilities of the Ministry of Industry and Energy)

Capacitors:

KM, KN, TB, AKE, FMT, KES, KS, KS1, KS2, KST, KSK (these capacitors are also used by power industry facilities)

The overall amount of PCBs in Azerbaijan reaches about 146 ton, including 76 tons of definitely registered PCBs and 70 tons that need further analysis. Almost all PCBs are sealed in transformers and capacitors, however, some cases of replacement of PCBs-containing dielectric oil were registered (nobody knows what happened with the discarded dielectric oil).

1.3. Dioxins and furans

These substances are highly toxic and severely affect human immune and endocrine systems. Tolerable daily doses by regulatory agencies (i.e. amounts that can be consumed daily without tangible adverse effects) reach a few picograms (10^{-12} g). In recent years, dioxins became widely dispersed in the environment and may be found in tissues of animals and people in all regions of the world. Studies, conducted in developed countries,

prove that dioxin body burdens of many women may adversely affect immune and nervous systems of their children.

These compounds are generated non-deliberately; as a result, their inventories are fairly difficult. Therefore, we used a local manual to estimate annual environmental releases of these compounds, relying on information on types and capacity of dioxin-generating production facilities, as well as on amounts of incinerated waste.

In Azerbaijan, key sources of emissions of dioxins and furans are associated with uncontrolled burning of waste, waste destruction, operations of ferrous/non-ferrous metallurgy plants and power plants. Inventory results suggest that, in 2003, about 103 grams of dioxins and furans were released (predominantly air emissions) - see Table 1. These results were calculated using the UNEP Dioxin Toolkit. Note that an analysis by IPEN experts on the Toolkit indicates that certain emission factors from the peer reviewed scientific literature differ significantly from those in the Toolkit and reduce the estimates of releases from uncontrolled burning. (Estimating dioxin releases and prioritizing sources in the context of the Stockholm Convention, Costner P and Bejarano F, International POPs Elimination Project, 2005)

Table 1. Generation of dioxins and furans in Azerbaijan (2003)

	Sources	Annual releases (2003)					Total
		Air	Water	Soil	Soot	Residues	
1	Waste incineration	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	Ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy	2.645	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.878	6.523
3	Heat and electric energy generation	2.061	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.061
4	Processing of mineral resources	0.662	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.764
5	Transport	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.332
6	Uncontrolled burning	37.998	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.998	38.996
7	Production and consumption of chemicals	0.045	0.001	0.000	1.915	0.094	2.055
8	Miscellaneous sources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9	Destruction/storage	0.001	9.224	0.000	0.000	43.700	52.925
	Total	43.744	9.225	0.000	1.915	48.772	103.656

2. Azerbaijan capacity in the sphere of POPs management

2.1. Systemic capacity

Laws and regulations of Azerbaijan on application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals:

1. "On Pesticides and Agrochemicals" (1997)
2. "On Plant Quarantine" (1996)
3. "On Plants Protection" (1997)

Decree No. 120 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan of October 20, 1997 approved the following regulations:

1. The Instructive Manual on State Testing of Pesticides and Agrochemicals.
2. Rules of Registration of Pesticides and Agrochemicals.
3. Rules of Certification of Pesticides and Agrochemicals.
4. Sanitary Rules of Storage, Transportation, Application and Sale of Toxic Chemical Preparations in Agriculture.
5. Rules of Neutralisation and Secondary Processing of Banned and Obsolete Pesticides and Agrochemicals.
6. Rules of Secondary Processing, Neutralisation and Elimination of Banned and Unusable Food and Agricultural Products.
7. The List of Particularly Ecotoxicologically Hazardous Pesticides and Agrochemicals.

There are many regulations, enacted in the Soviet period, that provide for sanitary standards of some POPs.

Table 2.

Sanitary standards for dioxins and PCBs in Azerbaijan

No.	Media	Dioxins	PCBs	Regulations
1	Ambient air	0.5 pg/m ³	1 µg/m ³	Law 2.16.014-94
2	Air emissions (high temperature burning)	0.1 ng/m ³	-	EU standard
3	Drinking water, surface water bodies	20 pg/l	1 µg/l	Order No. 142-9/105. of the Public Health Ministry of 05.05.1991
4	Soils	0.33 ng/kg	0.1 mg/kg	Order No. 697 of the Public Health Ministry of 08.09.68.
5	Bottom sediments	9 ng/l	-	Order No. 697 of the Public Health Ministry of 08.09.68
6	Milk and dairy products	5.2 ng TEQ/kg	1.5 mg TEQ/kg	Order No. 142-9/105. of the Public Health Ministry of 05.05.1991
7	Fish and fish products	11.0 ng/kg 88.0 ng TEQ/kg	- 5 mg TEQ/kg	Order No. 142-9/105. of the Public Health Ministry of 05.05.1991
8	Meat and meat products	0.9 ng/kg 3.3 ng TEQ/kg	-	Order No. 142-9/105. of the Public Health Ministry of 05.05.1991

In the last five years, different national and state programs were approved, that incorporate some objectives, associated with addressing of POPs problems:

National and state programs

- The State Program for Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (2002).
- The National Program of Environmentally Sustainable Socio-economic Development (2003)
- The National Program for Restoration and Extension of Forests in Azerbaijan (2003)

- Presidential Decree on Key Directions of Socio-economic Development (2003)
- The State Strategy of Azerbaijan for Management of Hazardous Waste (2004)
- The Program of Regional Development (2004)
- The Program for Development of the Agricultural Sector.

2.2. Institutional capacity

So far, Azerbaijan lacks a specialised governmental organisation in charge of POPs management. As a result, addressing of these problems is somehow difficult. However, there are some state bodies that deal with POPs-related problems.

Stakeholders:

- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- The Public Health Ministry
- The Ministry of Economic Development
- "Azerkhimia"
- The Ministry of Agriculture
- The Ministry of Industry and Energy
- The Ministry of Transport
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Milli Mejlis (Parliament)
- The Customs Committee
- The State Committee for Statistics
- Executive bodies and municipalities
- NGOs
- Mass media outlets

Key organisations, involved in pesticide production, import, trade and storage in Azerbaijan

1. "EMA" Company
2. "Agrokhimia" Company
3. "Tovuz-Baltia LTD" Company
4. "MKT" Production and Trade Company
5. "Nusraddin" Private Company
6. "TEM-DTD" Production and Trade Company
7. "Avropa+" Company
8. "Iman-N" Small Enterprise
9. "Savalan" Small Enterprise
10. "Mayak-98" Company
11. "Kulak" Company
12. "Flora" Small Enterprise

3. Activities for meeting requirements of the Stockholm Convention in Azerbaijan

Accounting for extreme relevance of the problem of persistent organic pollutants in Azerbaijan, after signature of the Stockholm Convention, the country initiated some activities in the sphere. By that time, facilities in charge of management of persistent organic pollutants in the republic had been already reorganised. As a result, it was difficult to get comprehensive and accurate information on these chemicals.

Nevertheless, relevant organisations made some efforts to study associated development in the country and managed to ensure ratification of the Convention by 2003. A brief summary of relevant activities in the country (by sectors) is provided below.

3.1. Governmental bodies

In 2002, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources developed a background document on relevant developments that was published in materials of the Kiev seminar on POPs. In 2005, implementation of UNIDO project "Development of the National Plan of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention" was launched.

In the period from August 2005 to February 2006, the following activities were implemented:

- Four working groups for the project implementation were established (inventory of pesticides, inventory of PCBs, inventory of dioxins/furans, environmental monitoring of POPs),
- The brochure "POPs, Health and Environment" was published,
- The kick-start seminar was conducted,
- Three trainings were conducted with participation of international experts,
- Inventories of pesticides, PCBs and dioxins/furans have been completed.

Now, analytical measurements of POPs are made in different media, food products and human tissues. The following stakeholders are involved into NIP development works: the Ministry of Agriculture, the Public Health Ministry, the Ministry of Economic Development, "Azerkhimia" Co., the Parliament, NGOs, mass media outlets, etc.

3.2. International organisations

Different UN agencies (UNIDO, UNDP, UNOPS) and GEF finance international projects in the country that are implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and non-governmental organisations.

3.3. Non-governmental organisations

Due to activities of IPEP and Eco-Accord Centre in the region, non-governmental organisations are now ahead of governmental bodies in the sphere of inventories of POPs-pesticides in the country and public information. In the framework of the IPEP program, "Ruzgyar" Environmental Society implemented the following projects:

1. Roundtable discussion "POPs, Health and Environment" (May 17, 2004, the Global Action Day Program);
2. "Public Environmental Inventory of Pesticides in the Republic of Azerbaijan and Organisation of the Public Movement for their Elimination", 2004;
3. "Environmental Field Study of the Pesticides Elimination Site and a Press-Conference", April 22, 2005, the Earth Day Celebration);
4. "Lindane and DDT in Environmental Media and Food Products in Azerbaijan", 2005.

With support of UNOPS, under the Caspian Environmental Program, "Ruzgyar" Environmental Society implemented the project "POPs Measurements in Water of the Kura and the Araks Rivers" (2005).

NGOs actively operate in the sphere of public awareness-raising of POPs-related problems ("Ecoskop", "Environmental Fund", "EcoTES", "Ecoil" and other NGOs).

"Ruzgyar" Environmental Society, "Ecoil" Science and Environmental Society and "Ecoskop" NGO participate in implementation of "NIP" project.

3.4. Mass media outlets

NGOs managed to attract attention of mass media outlets to persistent organic pollutants. The independent newspaper "Aina-Zerkalo", newspapers "Republic", "Khefte Ichi", information agencies "Azer-Press", "ARA" and Azerbaijan Radio publish analytical and information materials on the site for storage of obsolete pesticides, problems of POPs contamination of food and drinking water. It is worth noting that mass media outlets pay inadequate attention to problems of PCBs, dioxins/furans and HCB. Generally, in quantitative and qualitative terms, media coverage of POPs-related problems is clearly insufficient and inadequate.

4. Conclusions and NGOs proposals on elimination of POPs

Analysis of POPs-related developments in Azerbaijan suggests that problems are mainly associated with inadequate public awareness of these matters. In the period of command and control economy of the former USSR, information on hazardous properties of agricultural POPs was purposefully concealed. While after 1970s, some steps were made to prevent POPs pollution of environmental media and food products, no public movements against application of these chemicals were organised. The decay of the Soviet Union, emergence of new independent countries, reorganisation of infrastructures, economic problems of the transition period, inadequate systemic and institutional capacity - all these factors prevented efficient addressing of POPs-related problems. In that period of time, local residents got access to residual pesticides - they did not have sufficient information on their hazardous properties and still maintain huge stockpiles of banned pesticides. In some cases, DDT and hexachlorane were sold at marketplaces of the country. Sometimes, residential houses were built at sites of former storages of agricultural chemicals. Former pesticide distribution and storage facilities (they are still contaminated by residual amounts of DDT and other hazardous pesticides) were privatised and now they are used for different purposes.

NGOs of Azerbaijan developed the following recommendations for the Plan of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention:

- To establish a specialised Centre of POPs Management in the country under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources;
- To improve national laws and regulations in the sphere and classify POPs as a separate category of hazardous substances;
- To reorganise the storage site for obsolete pesticides and chemicals and improve it to the level of compliance with applicable sanitary and environmental standards;
- To allocate specialised bunkers at the storage site for separate classes of POPs (pesticides, PCBs, HCB);
- To transport all residual amounts of banned and unused POPs and place them into relevant bunkers;
- To implement a large-scale information campaign on POPs, including publication of brochures, posters, booklets, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, special meetings in hot spots. The information campaign materials should include information on POPs in environmental media and food, their adverse health effects, etc.;

- To develop and implement a program for collection of DDT, hexachlorane and other hazardous pesticides in possession of residents. Purchase of pesticides may be considered as an option.

The information campaign of the project

1. Field visits to Sabarabad, Saatly, Imishli, Bilasuvar, Salyany districts, meetings with local residents and representatives of interested bodies (January 18 - 23, 2006);
2. Radio programs (January 27, 2006, 12⁰⁰-13⁰⁰ and 17⁰⁰-18⁰⁰);
3. Article in "Khefte Ichi" newspaper, (March 24, 2006): "Proposals are developed for the National Plan of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention";
4. Presentation of the project report (March 23, 2006), a press-conference for journalists.

Publication of information materials continues.