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International POPs Elimination Project

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

Raising awareness of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and POPs impacts in the localities of Brazzaville, Nkayi and Ouesso

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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

Raising awareness of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and POPs impacts in the localities of Brazzaville, Nkayi and Ouessou

I-) Introduction

The Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et de la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (ALPEPAB) benefited of IPEP funds to implement a project titled "Raising awareness of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and POPs impacts in the localities of Brazzaville, Nkayi and Ouessou".

The project aimed to inform the Congolese public and government about problems related to POPs in the areas of Nkayi and Ouessou and about POPs hazards in general and the Stockholm Convention. A first project funded in the framework of the IPEP project found some problems related to POPs in the areas mentioned above. The current project aimed to share the results of this study and other relevant information related to POPs and the Stockholm Convention with populations and authorities.

The project specifically aimed to:

- Collect data related to problems due to POPs use and their impact on the health of autochthonous people from areas mentioned previously
- Provide NGOs and CSOs and other groups with information for their awareness-raising activities on POPs hazards and the need to implement the Stockholm Convention
- Provide the Congolese government data on the impacts of POPs use and make recommendations to the Congolese government in managing POPs-related problems
- Build operational capacities among ALPEPAB members namely in raising awareness among decision-makers belonging to public and professional interest groups, training the large public and the National Electricity Company staff, potential PCB users.

Thus, ALPEPAB has organized sensitization workshops on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Stockholm convention as well as the findings of studies carried out on sites contaminated by POPs at Ouesso and Nkayi, in the framework of a first project funded by the IPEP project. Respectively:

- On May 8, 2006 in the community of Ouesso, department of Sangha ;
- On May 15, 2006 in the department of Bouenza ;
- On May 29, 2006 in Brazzaville, in the Conference room of the Ministry of Forestry Economy and Environment.

These workshops are also part of the contribution of ALPEPAB in the preparatory process in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Congo.

Participants coming from public and private administrations, higher education schools, research centres, market gardeners and non governmental organisations involved in the management of chemicals have attended these workshops.

II-) Synthesis of the working sessions of the workshop

The activities of the workshops were divided into two (2) phases: presentations and discussions.

Presentations focused on the following topics:

At Nkayi:

The Stockholm convention on POPs, by Mister **Albert YOKA**

The classification of Pesticides, by Doctor **Jean Bienvenu MOMBOULI**, member of ALPEPAB, teacher of phytopathology at the Rural Development Institute of Marien NGOUABI University;

The outcomes of the studies carried out on the sites of Ouésso and Nkayi, by Doctor **Jean Pierre OWASSI**, Member of ALPEPAB, and Resident at Nkayi;

The sources of polychlorinated biphenyls in developing countries, By Doctor **Albert YOKA**, Agronomist, member of ALPEPAB, chief consultant of the project PCB inventory in Congo, Brazzaville 2002;

Pesticides, risk to health and the environment, by Doctor **Frédéric Aimé AWE**, Epidemiologist, member of ALPEPAB;

The Strategic Approach for the International Management of Chemicals, by Doctor **Albert YOKA** Chairman of ALPEPAB;

The IPEN International POPs Elimination Project by **Albert YOKA**, Chairman of ALPEPAB.

At Ouésso:

The Stockholm convention on POPs, by Mrs **Gille Albert ELLENDE**, Coordinator of the activities of ALPEPAB in Sangha;

The classification of Pesticides, By Doctor **Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA**, Vice-chairman of ALPEPAB;

The outcomes of the studies carried out on the sites of Ouésso and Nkayi, by Doctor **Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA**, Vice-chairman of ALPEPAB;

The sources of polychlorinated biphenyls in developing countries, By Doctor **Gilles Albert ELLENDE**, Rural Development Engineer;

Pesticides, risk to health and the environment, by Doctor **Frédéric Aimé AWE**, Epidemiologist, member of ALPEPAB;

The Strategic Approach for the International Management of Chemicals, by Doctor **BIKISSI**, Head of the Environment Department;

The International Project for the Elimination of POPs of IPEN, by **Albert YOKA**, Chairman of ALPEPAB.

In Brazzaville:

The Stockholm convention on POPs, by Mrs **Marie Agathe MAKELOLA**, POPs Focal Point;

The classification of Pesticides, By Doctor **Jean Bienvenu MOMBOULI**, member of ALPEPAB, teacher of phytopathology at the Rural Development Institute of Marien NGIUABI University;

The outcomes of the studies carried out on the sites of Ouésso and Nkayi, By Doctor **Jean Frédéric Vidalie ANDEA**, Vice-chairman of ALPEPAB;

The sources of polychlorinated biphenyls in developing countries, By Doctor **Albert YOKA**, Agronomist, member of ALPEPAB, chief consultant of the project PCB inventory in Congo, Brazzaville 2002 ;

Pesticides, risk to health and the environment, by Doctor **Frédéric Aimé AWE**, Epidemiologist, member of ALPEPAB;

The Strategic Approach for the International Management of Chemicals, By Doctor **Albert YOKA** Chairman of ALPEPAB;

The International POPs Elimination Project by **Albert YOKA**, Chairman of ALPEPAB.

We, participants to the sensitization workshops on the Stockholm Convention and POPs, held in Ouésso, Nkayi and Brazzaville, respectively on 8, 15 and 29 May 2006:

Recommendations

1. Objectives

- To create and put in place a national network for the flow of information on POPs ;
- To extend the dissemination of information and sensitization on POPs to customs agents and the staff of the national power supply company because according to the results of the inventories PCB pose a real hazard to these people ;
- To raise funds so as to conduct concrete research in Congo on the contamination of some products such as eggs in collaboration with the University and other research institutions like what has been done in Senegal and Kenya ;

- Act along with the authorities for a real implementation of the Convention on POPs in Congo ;

2. Activities and actions

- Sensitization and involvement of the media and other vectors of information on the issue of POPs;
- Design of an information booklet in national languages and in French for market gardeners related to POPs;
- Keep collaborating with IPEN to conduct sensitization activities targeting the staff working near POPs.