



## **The International POPs Elimination Project**

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

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# **Global Day of Action on POPs in Uganda**

**ENGOLOG, Uganda Environment Education  
Foundation (UEEF), and Uganda Coalition for  
Sustainable Development (UCSD)**

**Uganda  
June 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>

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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: English

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## Background

Uganda being an agricultural country imported and continues to import a lot of agro-chemicals. Chemicals use cut across all sectors of development and have been used in almost all aspects of our lives, ranging from agriculture both for food and cash crops production and processing, industrial processes, household activities, etc.

The liberalization of the Chemical Trade in Uganda has meant that the number of private businesses in the chemical trade to bring chemical services nearer to the people, have also increased. This has brought with it the phenomenon of chemical adulteration, giving chance to unscrupulous chemical dealers an opportunity to repackaging and selling of expired chemicals, restricted or banned chemicals among others.

As part of the Global Day of Action (GDA), the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) and the Environmental NGO-Lobby Group (ENGOLOG) in conjunction with the Social Sector Planning and Management, Masters Programme, in the Faculty of Social Sciences of Makerere University organized a public lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2005 under the theme: *POPs Management in Uganda a challenge to Sustainable Development.*

## NGO/CSOs participated and contact persons

1. National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) – Mr. Kamese Geoffrey
2. Environmental NGO Lobby Group (ENGOLOG) – Mr. Joseph Mulindwa
3. Social Sector Planning and Management - Masters Programme in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University – Mr. Namara Christopher  
Country: Uganda  
Region: Anglophone Africa

## GDA activities

As part of the awareness campaign, education materials on POPs were developed and presented /disseminated.

1. Public Lecture
2. Information materials (Brochure)
3. Banner printing
4. Paper presentation

## Objectives of the lecture

The main objective of the public lecture was to create awareness to the public about POPs and their effects to human health and the environment. This was important because, inadequate knowledge on the need for sound chemical management and lack of awareness on the impacts of POPs on public health by policy makers and the

majority of the chemical users has exacerbated the level of chemical misuse and pollution.

### **Status of the Stockholm Convention**

Uganda did not sign the Convention. However, the government acceded to it on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

### ***Status of National Implementation Plan (NIP)***

Although activities of the NIP are almost behind schedule, the Government of Uganda through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has already identified some of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that will participate in the NIP process. NAPE is one of those organizations that have been identified to participate in the consultative process and later on in the implementation of the NIP.

*NGOs participating in the NIP (full list of participants not yet known)*

1. Climate and Development Initiatives (CDI),
2. National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE).

### **Media coverage**

The occasion was widely covered by a number of local FM radio stations and was given a lot of airtime on Central Broadcasting Station (CBS). Although a number of invitations were sent out to the print media, a number of them did not show up save for one, which also; unfortunately, did not produce an article on the lecture.

### **The outcomes of the public lecture**

The participants came out with a way forward that would help reduce use of POPs in Uganda. The suggested way forward includes:

- Create more awareness on POPs through various media
- Translate the POPs information into the different languages used in the country
- Simplify information on POPs to levels understandable to different stakeholders
- Use of DDT in Uganda to fight against malaria should not go ahead until an Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) is carried out by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
- Advocate for policies, laws and a regulatory framework that would address the concerns on POPs and other toxic chemicals.
- Organise bigger meeting(s) that involve policy makers and other government institutions to share and learn on POPs.
- Lobby organisations should collaborate and be supportive to each other with their activities fully coordinated.

### **Event evaluation**

The public lecture was a successful undertaking and it achieved its main objective. It contributed towards awareness-raising of the participants. Also it gathered useful information from the participants on the way forward. The public lecture enlisted the support of an honourable Member of Parliament, Hon. John Ken Lukyamuzi who has

been instrumental in the struggle against POPs and the unsustainable use of chemicals in the country. Participation of the Member of Parliament created room for a partnership and opportunity for the POPs message from CSOs to reach the Parliament. As a result of the media coverage, the public lecture was able to reach out to other members of the public who could not participate in the workshop.

## ANNEXES

### List of participants in the GDA and their contacts

S/N	Name	Contact address
1.	Betty Obbo	National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
2.	Rosemary Namirembe	Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)
3.	Florence Nabukeera	CBS FM
4.	Oweyegha-Afunaduula	Zoology Department, Makerere University
5.	Tabaro Denis	NAPE
6.	Amejja Jennifer	
7.	Peter Fuuna	Women and Gender Studies
8.	Hillary R. Munyaneza	P.O. Box 4165 Kampala – Uganda
9.	Sentongo Chris	
10.	Kamuhangi C.	
11.	Wamara M.	
12.	Nankabirwa Mary Jesca	
13.	Malla Godfrey	
14.	Grace Akullo	
15.	Sserunjogi Charles Musoke	Kampala Central Division Council 7010 Kampala 077436333
16.	Acan Betty	077522996
17.	Nyakana Joseph	
18.	Casiano Kansiime	Plan Uganda
19.	Kamese Geoffrey	NAPE
20.	Doreen Kukugiza	
21.	Oundo Francis	
22.	Kateeba Philip	Aga-Khan Education Service
23.	Ongina Florence	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
24.	Nandudu Betty Mubiita	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
25.	Ahumbukire John	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
26.	Namara Christopher	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
27.	Kiconco Millian	Makerere University, Kampala

		(MA SSPM),
28.	Nyakahuma Edward	Climate and Development Initiatives (CDI)
29.	Kakembo Dias	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
30.	Mafundo Andrew	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
40.	Magala Paul Rogers	
41.	Barigye Justus	
42.	Wamanga Doreen	
43.	Kyamanywa Martin	Makerere University, Kampala (MA SSPM),
45.	Bamujungiew John	
46.	Godwin Twesigye	
47.	Ken Lukyamuzi	
48.	Mulidwa Joseph	ENGOLOG
49.	Muramuzi Frank	National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
50.	Turyatamba David	Capital Radio
51.	Stella Teta	Impact F.M. Radio

## Photos



Photo 1a)



Photo 1b)

Photo 1 a) and b): Show a cross-section of the participants at the Public Lecture on POPs



Hon. John Ken Lukyamuzi (centre) MP Lubaga South discussing the presentation on POPs at the GDA public lecture

## Brochure

### What can you do to eliminate POPs

- Identify POPs sources around you, notify your community, write to Government to stop the release of POPs chemicals
- Stop using chemical Pesticides, especially POPs. Shift to sustainable agricultural practices
- Stop industrial sources of POPs— Ask for change in process, raw materials and change of products. Adopt Clean Production
- Reduce use of plastics, substitute with sustainable organic alternatives
- Stop the use of chlorinated products like paper bleach with chlorinated compounds

### The Stockholm Convention Recommendations on POPs

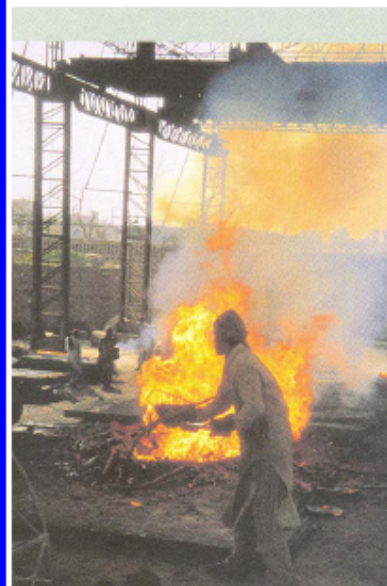
**Objective** of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from POPs.

#### Positive Elements of the Convention

- Embracing precautionary principle in the face of uncertainty about the nature and extent of toxic chemicals threat.
- Call to parties to prevent production and use of new POPs chemicals
- Requirement that developed country parties commit to providing new and additional financial resources for the treaty implementation.

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### ACT NOW AND ELIMINATE POPs



Burning waste  
results into  
formation of new  
POPs



# W hat are POPs?

POPs is short form of “*Persistent Organic Pollutants*”. POPs are a category of life-threatening human-made chemicals which do not degrade in the environment and are linked to a variety of debilitating health conditions. POPs are often characterized by low water solubility and high fats solubility, leading together with their persistence, to bioaccumulation in fatty tissues.

The Stockholm Treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants targets twelve POPs (The Dirty Dozen) which include: Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), Eldrin, Heptachlor, Mirex, Taxaphene, Poly-chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (Dioxins) and Polychlorinated dibenofurans (Furans).

## Characteristics of POPs

**Toxic:** POPs cause harm to people and other living creatures by interfering in their bodies’ biological progress. For some, such as dioxins, there is no safe level of exposure

**‘Fat-Loving’:** As POPs move through the environment, they concentrate in fats and oils, such as those in people’s bodies

**Persistent:** POPs are very stable. They do not break down readily as they move through the environment or when they are captured in the fatty tissues of living creatures.

## Health Effects of POPs

*POPs cause the following health effects:*

- Possible human cancers
- Reproductive failure in wildlife
- Liver damage
- Central nervous system disorders
- Immune system suppression
- Birth defects: abnormal bone formation in animals (Eldrin)
- Disrupts hormone function
- Damages stomach, kidneys, eyes, thyroid, nervous and reproductive system
- Chloracne and other skin disorders
- Neurodevelopmental effects: reduced cognitive function, short term memory and special effects
- Birth defects: hypospadias
- Endometriosis.

## How do people get in contact with POPs?

*POPs can enter your body through:*



## Major Sources of POPs

- Industrial chemicals used as insulators and lubricants, especially in electrical transformers.
- By products of industrial manufacturing processes



*(Emissions from thermal processes involving organic matter and chlorine as result of incomplete combustion or chemical reactions)*



Waste Incineration and burning



Transport



Disposal Landfill



Hotspots / Reservoirs