



UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP Chemicals

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Building National Capacities

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works to protect human health and the environment worldwide, and UNEP Chemicals is the main catalytic force in the UN system for concerted global action on the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals.

Located in Geneva, Switzerland, UNEP Chemicals promotes sustainable development by catalysing vital global actions and building national capacity for the sound management of chemicals.

Capacity building for sound management of chemicals is at the heart of UNEP Chemicals. We work directly with countries to build national capacity for the safe production, use and disposal of chemicals, and we promote and disseminate state-of-the-art information on chemical safety. We also facilitate global action, when needed, to reduce and/or eliminate risks from chemicals.

Our programme reflects the global priorities identified by governments and includes support for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, and reducing and/or eliminating environ-



UNEP/Sharina Hicks/Topham

African village

mental releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Country-based activities

UNEP Chemicals works directly with countries. Activities include awareness raising workshops, training, capacity building projects and hotline support for governments.

Workshops

Each year, UNEP Chemicals sponsors capacity building workshops on chemicals management at the regional, sub-regional, and national levels. In the year 2000, there are over 50 Workshops covering reduction of emissions of dioxins and furans, the management of PCBs,

sustainable alternatives to POPs pesticides, management of stocks of obsolete and unwanted pesticides, development of national information systems, and chemicals legislation. Workshops are also conducted to help countries implement the Rotterdam Convention.

Addressing Barriers to Information Exchange

UNEP Chemicals and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are working together to improve Internet access for chemical management officials in countries in Africa. The project provides computers and software

for accessing the Internet as well as training of staff. We expect to cover fifteen or more countries during 2000-2001 and more as further resources become available.



UNEP/Siu WoonYing/TOPHAM

Chemical spill

POPs Network

The UNEP Chemicals program is assisted by the global network of POPs focal points and PIC Designated National Authorities. These focal points are designated by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations and are involved in activities to reduce and /or eliminate the release of POPs into the environment.

Check the list at:

www.chem.unep.ch/pops and www.pic.int for your country's POPs focal point and for your PIC Designated National Authority.

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UNEP Chemicals is a unit of UNEP's
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UNEP promotes the environmentally sound management of chemicals and so helps protect public health and the environment. It advances sustainable development by catalysing vital global actions and building national capacity for the sound management of chemicals through information exchange, training, and capacity building.

For a complete list of publications, databases, and websites, please

Alternative Strategies to POPs Pesticides

Helping countries reduce and/or eliminate reliance on pesticides that are POPs used in agriculture and public health is the focus of capacity building activities undertaken by UNEP Chemicals in cooperation with FAO and the WHO. These include a database on chemical and non-chemical alternatives; a system for identifying relevant expertise; a collec-

tion of studies and action plans for replacing and reducing POPs; and strategy guidance for sustainable pest and vector control. The activities emphasise the importance of integrated pest and vector management (IPM and IVM) in finding sustainable alternatives to POPs pesticides.

PCBs/Dioxins and Furans

UNEP Chemicals assists countries in dealing with PCBs, dioxins and furans. Our regional workshops focus on identifying and quantifying these compounds, as well as on managing PCBs and reducing the releases of dioxins and furans. Toolkits developed by UNEP Chemicals for source identification are valuable aids for countries in managing these substances. In Thailand, UNEP Chemicals is working with the German Techni-

cal Cooperation Service (GTZ) and the Thai Government to develop a dioxin inventory for Thailand will provide a valuable case study in dioxin/furan management. We are initiating a project to assist eight additional countries in the region to develop dioxins and furans source inventories, with funding assistance from the United States Government.

Country Projects

UNEP Chemicals provides the necessary financing, on a limited basis, for countries to follow up on the workshops and implement specific projects on the

Sound Management of Chemicals themselves. These projects, primarily limited to POPs, are generally in the range of US\$ 4,000 – 75,000.

Information Access

Access to information and tools is essential if countries are to develop the capability to assess and manage chemical risks.

UNEP Chemicals produces a wide range of information products, often with partner organisations such as those of the IOMC. Information is provided through the UNEP Chemicals Homepage at www.chem.unep.ch, traditional publications, proceedings of workshops, and CD-ROM.

Various aspects of POPs management are covered - global destruction capability for PCBs, developing inventories and managing emissions of dioxins and furans, integrating IVM and IPM approaches in pest and vector con-

trol – along with Pollutant Release and Transfer registers (PRTRs) and the Rotterdam Convention.

Other publications cover lead in gasoline, chemical risk assessment, and the OECD screening information data sets for high production volume chemicals.

A full listing of publications may be obtained from UNEP Chemicals or from www.chem.unep.ch.



Survey of Currently Available Non-Incineration
PCB Destruction Technologies