

OVERVIEW OF IPEN PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IN ARGENTINA, INDIA, KAZAKHSTAN, MACEDONIA, NEPAL, SENEGAL, TANZANIA, AND TUNISIA.

Throughout 2018, eight IPEN Participating Organizations (POs) undertook projects to investigate their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and assess whether their country was making progress in addressing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) issues as required under the Stockholm Convention. The task required IPEN POs to engage with their Stockholm Convention National Focal Points, government agencies implementing POPs activities, and industries with POPs management responsibilities to determine if priority POPs problems, such as stockpiles destruction, use phase-out, contaminated sites and inventory development, were being addressed. The countries where this assessment was undertaken included Argentina, India, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Nepal, Senegal, Tanzania, and Tunisia. In most cases the activities included:

- Assessment of the National Implementation Plan, including updates for new POPs;
- Community awareness-raising through media, publication of the reports, brochures, etc;
- Assessment of national legal frameworks for POPs;
- Identification of barriers to implementation of the Convention requirements;
- Assessment of POPs emissions, releases, stockpiles and hotspots;

- Destruction capacity for POPs; and
- Analytical capacity for POPs monitoring.

One of the important outcomes of the projects was the ability of IPEN POs to engage directly with national government agency personnel tasked with managing National Implementation Plans through formal committees, meetings and awareness-raising workshops. This interaction strengthened working connections and understanding between POs and government agencies and allowed for valuable input from IPEN POs into the mechanisms determining national priorities for action on POPs.

KEY GAPS IN NIPS: LACK OF AWARENESS, RESOURCES AND SOUND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

A number of common issues were identified in all countries where the projects took place. The first was that public awareness and education about POPs and POPs waste was very poor. As a result, the management of materials and articles containing POPs was also poor and led to unnecessary, elevated exposure of the population. In Tanzania, this was manifested by open burning of e-waste and automotive scrap likely to contain brominated POPs, as well as illegal sales of lindane, DDT, and endosulfan. In Senegal similar problems were found. As in Tanzania, there was a lack of environmentally sound destruction technology for POPs waste, including electronic scrap and

Tanzanian IPENers in TV and print media.





Open burning of e-waste in Senegal contaminates the food chain with POPs.

vehicle upholstery which were subject to open burning. This practice results in elevated dioxin emissions and food chain contamination. Sampling for dioxin in free-range eggs near a waste burning site in Senegal revealed levels of dioxin 11 times the EU limit and 1.7 times the EU PCB limit, while monitoring of breast milk in other locations revealed high levels of POPs pesticides, PCDDs, PCDFs and dioxin-like PCBs in milk samples collected in Senegal.

UPDATING OF NIPs A PRIORITY

Most of the countries where projects took place were struggling to update the inventories required to submit updated NIPs. Most of the NGOs engaged in the project were able to obtain access to authorities and obtain information on NIPs; however, it was common that this information was not made publicly available and had to be sought out. In some countries changes of political administration, conflict and administrative norms that did not readily include engagement with NGOs acted as barriers to discussions with authorities. In addition, common barriers found in most countries included:

- Weak institutional memory
- Irregular updating of information
- Lack of adequately trained human resources
- Inadequate legislation and weak implementation
- Inadequate ESM (environmentally sound management) infrastructure and capacity
- Lack of adequate funding allocations for the NIP activities
- Geographic challenges of the country

- Time, funds & infrastructure constraints
- Lack of harnessing capacity of international funding
- No public release of information or attempts at engagement.

PROGRESS IN SOME NIPS ELEMENTS, BUT NOT ENOUGH

Some POs reported that while the overall implementation of NIPs was problematic, some areas had been addressed well – especially with regard to the original ‘dirty dozen’ POPs. In Nepal, IPEN PO CEPHED reported environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides has been fully executed, whereas decontamination of PCB-contaminated oil has only been carried out partially at about 50 percent and PCB-contaminated waste and equipment is yet to be managed. In most other countries the inventories on PCBs had been well developed, but destruction of PCB and other POPs stockpiles are being hampered by restrictive co-financing arrangements with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), lack of ESM infrastructure, continuing trade in banned POPs due to weak enforcement, and no funding to clean up contaminated sites.

Macedonia performed better than most countries on NIPs implementation due to the presence of a dedicated government agency on POPs. IPEN PO Ekosvest reported that their NIP was up to date, 95% of PCBs had been destroyed, a major stockpile of 2500 tonnes of DDT exported for destruction, and PBDE stockpiles to be addressed in a National Waste Management Plan (PBDE use in cars and electrical equipment ended in 2004).

In Argentina IPEN PO, Taller Ecologista, reported that very little had been done in their country since



Stakeholder engagement workshop on NIPs organized by Nepalese IPENers

Macedonian IPENers Ekosvest in TV coverage of the project discussing POPs contaminated sites and infographics they developed for use with the media and public.



ratification in 2005 except for a limited project on PCB disposal with UNDP. They noted that there had been no ratifications yet for c-decaBDE, HBCD, HCBD, PCP, PCN and SCCP. Surveys conducted by the PO showed minimal knowledge of POPs by citizens and no attempt to raise awareness by the government. In the past, funding, legislation, policies and government staffing of POPs-related agencies had been minimal to non-existent. However, they did note that since the project began there had been a renewed effort by the environment agency to build relationships with POs to work together to more effectively implement Convention requirements and share information.

In Kazakhstan IPEN PO Greenwomen noted that there were excellent inventories on PCBs (250 000 tonnes) and preliminary inventories on PBDEs and PFOS. Funding from GEF was allowing for a detailed update of the NIP and consideration of the non-combustion technology to destroy POPs. Citizen action in Pavlodar, a city impacted by POPs and mercury pollution, successfully prevented the establishment of an incinerator, which citizens contended would add more UPOPs to the atmosphere in a region where existing UPOPs from smokestack industries were not being addressed. However, the PO noted that more public awareness and NGO involvement in POPs activities by the government was necessary to obtain ESM of POPs in Kazakhstan.

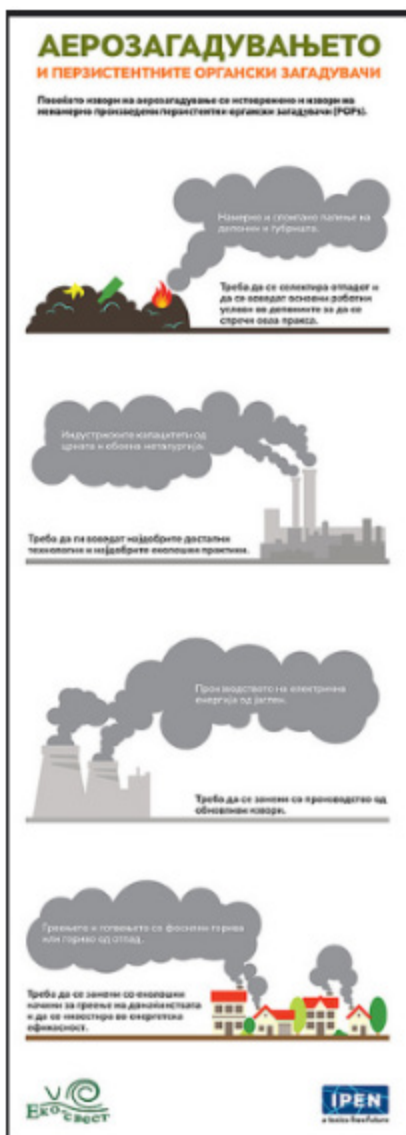
In India, IPEN PO Toxics Link conducted surveys among farmers and agricultural salespeople in markets and found India reportedly has significant issues with enforcement of POPs bans. Aldrin use and imports were banned since 2001 but sales in markets continue. Chlordecone is still being imported to India contrary to a ban on use and production. Despite a Supreme Court ruling to ban production of endosulfan, recent exports bring the enforcement of the ban into question. Endosulfan is still openly being sold in markets and used by farmers. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change directed a producer of HCB, which in 2016 exported 15000 kg to

China, to immediately cease production of HCBs, yet the production continues as the issue goes to court.

Tunisia has made some progress on POPs issues according to IPEN PO AEEFG, with an updated NIP submitted to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat in 2018 and around half of its PCB stockpile of 2480 tons exported for destruction and 68000 kg of obsolete pesticides destroyed. However, some elements are still lacking, with no inventory of SCCP, PCN or PCP and significant data gaps in trade statistics for all POPs-related imports and exports. The PO was critical that the NIP description of social and economic aspects of POPs problems aren't based on data and factual information, making them superficial analyses that will translate to superficial attempts to manage the problems. Major remaining issues include pesticides stockpiles of HCH, DDT and lindane that require urgent elimination; a more comprehensive inventory development system is required; and a legal framework is urgently needed to address POPs (Tunisia is a newly developing democracy that requires across-the-board legal system reviews). Public awareness of POPs issues in Tunisia is low but improving as the new government is committed to civil society involvement and AEEFG is now a member of the national advisory body managing POPs issues.



Tunisian IPENers learning POPs analysis techniques.



IPEN POPS COUNTRY STATUS PROJECTS PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND IMPLEMENTATION OF POPS OBJECTIVES

All of the IPEN POs that took part in the project used small funding grants to research and assess their country's National Implementation Plan and held stakeholder engagement processes with government and industry to share information about POPs management while engaging with social and traditional media to promote awareness of POPs-related issues. The reports that each PO generated are detailed technical and policy records of the state of POPs management in their country in 2018, and will serve as a

record of progress made and opportunities lost. Most importantly, the projects marked IPEN POs as leaders in civil society efforts to reduce harmful exposure to POPs and other dangerous chemicals. Media outlets engage with IPEN POs when they want to know more than the official position on POPs management and are trusted by the communities they engage with to convey grassroots concerns to national agencies responsible for implementing action on POPs.

Government agencies now work regularly with IPEN POs on issues related to the Stockholm Convention and encourage them to take part in policy-making bodies that track the Stockholm Convention.

To find out more about the IPEN POPS Country Status projects, see

<https://ipen.org/projects/pops-country-situation-reports-2017-2018>