



**Toxics-Free Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Project  
Low POPs Content Levels in Francophone Africa  
2018-2019**

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Related Sustainable Development Goals: 3, 6, 8 & 12

### **Introduction:**

The low limit of POPs in wastes is a topic of great relevance for Cameroon as Cameroon imports the majority of its products and articles; some of which being made from recycled plastics and other materials. Limited data on POPs in the food chain (eggs) and some daily life plastic articles - including children's toys - sampled in Cameroon revealed levels of POPs exceeding health guidelines. The sources of pollution of eggs are substandard medical waste incinerators or open burning of mixed waste at dumpsites. The POPs (brominated flame retardants) in daily life articles included in the study came from recycling contaminated plastic. With these findings, it is evident that decisions towards the sound disposal of products and articles at the end of their useful life need to be guided by a clear definition of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. **For waste consisted of, containing, or contaminated by POPs, it is essential to have common and stringent limits of the amount of allowable POPs to ensure their sound disposal within the jurisdiction where they are generated or traceability of the movements for sound disposal elsewhere.** Such stringent limits adopted at an international level will first protect Cameroon, through the Basel Convention, from being the dumping ground of POPs waste from developing countries; secondly, they will stop the recycling of POPs in waste into new products and articles whose destinations are chiefly developing countries with no capacity nor resources to deal with them. This project complemented the efforts under the ongoing projects on PCBs and obsolete POPs pesticides elimination in Cameroon with GEF funding.

### **Project Outcome:**

The project aimed to engage the new Focal Point of the Basel Convention in Cameroon and liaise with the Focal Point of the Stockholm Convention in current discussion on Low POPs Content Levels (LPCL) and seeks their support of a health and environment protective low POPs content level in POPs waste. To achieve this aim, CREPD carried out the following activities:

- Developed a factsheet with provisional limits as they are presented in the Basel Convention general technical guidelines; the limit values supported by IPEN for the four POPs of concern (Dioxins, PBDEs, HCB and SCCPs); and the reasons why those values are important;
- Prepared a note on the test results of PBDEs in some common consumer articles marketed in Cameroon to illustrate the effectiveness of the LPCLs challenge in Cameroon and the need of appropriate action at the international level (Basel-Rotterdam-Stockholm (BRS) COP), and used them as an argument to justify the adoption of the lowest POPs limit values at the international level;
- Organized and held three face-to-face meetings with the new National Focal Point of the Basel Convention and the Focal Point of the Stockholm Convention to orient them on the topic and sought their support;

- Shared French information on social media (Facebook) and website during and after this campaign.

- <http://www.crepdcm.com/publish/details/34jQvCp8kCTeW18vl4Fd44>
- <https://www.facebook.com/crepdcameroun/posts/1840375562734310>
- <https://www.facebook.com/crepdcameroun/posts/1917027751735757>
- <https://www.facebook.com/crepdcameroun/posts/1924286444343221>  
<https://www.facebook.com/crepdcameroun/posts/1840361942735672>

- Regularly shared all relevant documents with IPEN regional listserve and social media network;

- Organized a webinar session in the region on LPCLs; a dozen POs attended this webinar, including, among others, ANCE Togo, who was also involved in the project. CREPD also gave a webinar on this same issue in the Anglophone Africa region.

- Maintained active communication with these delegates through emails and phone calls to update them on any news about the issue before and during both the African regional preparatory BRS meeting in Nairobi and the BRS COPs in Geneva. They championed and aggregated support from other delegates to develop a regional position on LPCLs that successfully guided the negotiation position of the whole African region during the BRS COPs.

### **Outreach to Stakeholders:**

National Focal Points of chemicals-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements in general and those of Basel and Stockholm Convention specifically were the focus in this project. However, the factsheet developed on LPCLs was widely disseminated to stakeholders (other NGO colleagues and government delegates) in Cameroon and beyond (in other Francophone African and Anglophone African countries through emails).

### **Deliverables**

- Factsheet on LPCLs entitled “What is Hidden Behind the Low POPS Content Levels in Waste?”
- Factsheet called “Argumentaire en faveur de la réduction des concentrations de POPs dans les déchets”