



International POPs Elimination Project

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

Guidelines for Stockholm Convention Implementation in Belarus

Foundation for the Realization of Ideas (FRI)

**Belarus
April 2006**

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>

IPEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Agency for the Environment Forests and Landscape, the Canada POPs Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Mitchell Kapor Foundation, Marisla Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, New York Community Trust and others.

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, Russian

Guidelines for Stockholm Convention Implementation in Belarus

English Summary

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. POPs - global problem
 - Persistent organic pollutants: general information
 - General characteristics of 3 groups of POPs
 - Sources of POPs
 - Impact of POPs on public health and the environment
3. POPs - problem for Belarus
 - Preliminary estimation of territories, polluted by POPs
 - DDT
 - PCBs
 - HCB
 - PCDD/Fs
4. Solution
 - Stockholm Convention
 - Priority actions on implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Belarus
 - National legislation on chemicals in Belarus
 - National scientific research on POPs problem and the role of scientific organizations
 - The role of NGOs in solution of POPs problem
5. Beyond POPs
 - New potential POPs
 - Lindane
 - PBDEs
6. Resources
 - Ministries and official institutions
 - Scientific organizations
 - NGOs
 - Resources on toxic substances
7. References

Introduction

Among the global environmental threats we face today one of the most dangerous is the increasing pollution by a group of chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants, or POPs. POPs are the product and by-product of human activities and are of relatively recent origin.

The twelve POPs designated by the Stockholm Convention as targets for early global action are all-chlorine-containing organic compounds. These guidelines are designed to give general information about POPs, their sources, situation with POPs in Belarus, obligations of Belarus as a member country of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, relevant resources in Belarus, and other information. We hope, that this information will be used by those non-governmental organizations and environmental activists, who plan to take part in preparation of the National

Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention in Belarus, and practical actions on implementation of the Convention on a regional level.

POPs - global problem

The chapter describes general aspects of POPs problem; characteristic of different groups of persistent organic pollutants, such as POPs pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unwanted by-products; different sources of POPs and history of their production; also the chapter covers different ways of POPs impact on public health and the environment.

POPs - problem for Belarus

The chapter addresses the POPs problem specifically for Belarusian situation. Special attention is paid to POPs, which cause main problems in Belarus: PCBs, DDT, HCB, and dioxins. Information about polluted territories, quantities, sources, and history of usage and production of specific POPs in Belarus is given. Also a brief evaluation of existed problems and a number of practical recommendations is presented in this chapter.

Solution

The fourth chapter presents and describes practical ways of how to address the POPs problem in Belarus. It describes the principles of the Stockholm Convention and obligations of Belarus as a member country. It presents the most important priority actions necessary for successful implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Belarus, including development of NIP, development of sustainable institutional system, which will regulate management of POPs, creation of a database on POPs, and others. The chapter also emphasises groups of different organizations – active participants of the Stockholm Convention implementation in Belarus: relevant authorities, users and owners of POPs, scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations. The chapter also presents relevant national legislation, related to POPs and chemicals, critical analysis of this legislation, and practical recommendations for improvement. Information about legislation is followed by the information about scientific research and scientific institutions working on POPs problem in Belarus. The list of all relevant scientific projects and their description, as well as results of those which have been already finished is also presented. The last part of the chapter describes the role and possible actions of non-governmental organizations, willing to participate in the implementation of the Stockholm convention. Also it describes different examples of successful project related to POPs, implemented by Belarusian NGOs.

Beyond POPs

This chapter covers the problem of new potential POPs, and also describes the situation in Belarus with Lindane and PBDEs – new POPs, which were or still are widely used in Belarus.

Resources

This chapter provides practical information on all relevant organizations, working on POPs problem in Belarus, including different official organizations, scientific institutions, and environmental NGOs. Also this chapter has a list of different web-sites related to POPs and chemical safety issues.

References

The list of references, used during preparation of the Report is listed here.