

**Stockholm Convention Regional
Capacity Building Workshop on New
POPs and the Process of Reviewing and
Updating NIPs
in the Mediterranean (outside CEE) and
French-speaking African regions**



**Barcelona, Spain
2-4 December 2009**

Background

Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) mandates Parties to develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and to transmit it to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Convention enters into force for it. In addition, Parties are also mandated to review and update their implementation plans in accordance with the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first and second meetings¹.

The above-mentioned guidance lists as an external factor triggering the review and update process any changes in obligations arising from amendments to the Convention. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention in 4-8 May 2009, decided to amend the Convention by adding nine new chemicals to its Annexes A, B and C. In accordance with Article 22 of the Convention the amendments to Annexes A, B and C will enter into force on 26 August 2010, which is one year from the date of communication by the depositary of the adoption of the above-mentioned amendments.

In light of this, the workshop aims at raising awareness on the steps to be taken to review and update national implementation plans in order for Parties to be in a position to comply with their new obligations. During the workshop, participants will be introduced to the existing guidance documents to be used for reviewing national implementation plans and will have the opportunity to go through them in group exercises where national implementation plans will be updated.

Introduction

On 2, 3 and 4th December 2009, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production organized jointly the "Stockholm Convention Regional Capacity Building Workshop on New POPs and the Process of Reviewing and Updating NIPs in the Mediterranean (outside CEE) and French-speaking African regions".

The participants were representatives of some of the Mediterranean and French-speaking African countries, as Chad, Cameroon, Djibouti, Greece, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. Other stakeholders were also attending to the meeting as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank, UNEP DGEF, the NGO IPEN and the National Centre for Cleaner Technologies in Algeria.

The working languages of the workshop were English and French.

The training workshop was very interactive, participants were practicing how to approach the different aspects of the review and update process of national implementation plans through a series of working group sessions.

Participants from Parties, NGOs and private sector groups were sharing their experiences through the preparation of national case studies.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

1. Clear understanding of participants on the scope of the obligation to update and review national implementation plans under Article 7 of the Convention in light of the recent amendment of Annexes A, B and C of the Convention;
2. Increased knowledge of participants on the guidance and training tools available to them in order to assist them in complying with their new obligations and assessing their need to update their national implementation plans accordingly;

¹ See annex to decisions SC-1/12 and SC-2/7.

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3. Feedback is shared among the participants on the experience in using the various guidelines and training tools when developing their national implementation plans.

Development of the workshop

Session 1

The workshop was opened by Dr Virginia Alzina, Director of CP/RAC followed by Ana Garcia from the Ministry of Environment and Marine and Rural Affairs of Spain and Maria Cristina Cardenas from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

Maria Cristina made a brief presentation on the main objectives and the work programme of the three days workshop.

The CPRAC made an exercise with all participants called Everything Accounts which is described below:

All participants are stand and mixed together. The following questions are shown one by one in the projector and the room is divided in two sectors (the YES sector and the NO sector). Once they are divided, some of them will be asked to explain why they have chosen the relevant sector. They are mixed again and the next question is exposed.

The questions shown in the projector during the exercise were the following:

1. Is this your first time in Barcelona?
2. Is this the first time you are representing your country on issues related to the Stockholm Convention?
3. Did you take part in the elaboration of the NIP in your country?
4. Are you aware of any episode associated with any of the new POPs?
5. Is your country producing and/or using any of the new POPs?
6. Has your country done any inventories on New POPs?
7. Has your country started organizing itself for the revision and update of the NIP?
8. Does your country have a coordinating mechanism on issues pertaining to the Convention?
9. Are you aware of the work carried out by the POPROC?
10. Are you aware of the guidelines published by the Convention Secretariat?

Some of the answers of the participants were:

- Menekse Keski Domnez, appointed that Turkey have just ratified the convention, and that they wanted to be present in the workshop in order to be able to answer some questions after it.
- The Secretariat mentioned a particular case of skin irritation due to POPs.
- Hamani Anatole from Cameroon explained that there are two banned products in the country that are still in the markets with a false name.
- Balla Sissoko from Mali mentioned a similar case than Cameroon about banned products with a false name.



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- The Secretariat informed participants that they are collecting information in order to be able to make the inventories of new POPs.
- In general, participants agreed that they have not started yet with the process of reviewing their NIPs and that have a coordinating mechanism. Participants are generally aware of the work carried out by the POPROC. And also the guidelines published by the Convention Secretariat, but they want more details.
- Fazia Dahlab, from the Cleaner Production Centre of Algeria mentioned that is good that the Secretariat organizes workshops. Also, in her opinion inventories are difficult to make and that Algeria is doing their best.
- Ana Garcia from Spain said that guidance is good, just is necessary to adapt it as appropriate.

Followed by the practical exercise, Virginia Vidal from CPRAC gave a presentation on the Overview of the Stockholm Convention, focusing on the objective, the status and the main obligations of the Convention.

Maria Cristina introduced the process of Reviewing and Updating National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention. She mentioned the importance of nominating an Official Contact Point for Parties and then went through all the necessary steps for the process. The guidance developed by the Secretariat was briefly commented as well. After the presentation, there was a brief discussion on the need of countries regarding the development of inventories for the new POPs. The Secretariat emphasized the need of being realistic when updating the NIP regarding actions and times. Parties are not expected to develop exhaustive inventories but just asses their real situation. The Secretariat informed participants that booklets are in process of being updated and will be available in few months.

Kei Ohno, from the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention presented in depth the Step one of the process: Identification of the need to Review and Update NIPs. She differentiated between external and internal factors for update the NIP and highlighted the importance of reviewing the national legislation of Parties in order to assess if it is in accordance with the amendment of the Convention. She made an introduction on the nine new chemicals and on the amendments of the Annexes A, B and C and the specific exemptions. Some of the participants showed their concern about where to find the new POPs in their countries and also about the illegal trade.

Maria Cristina introduced the existing guidance materials to assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention. The material presented was also distributed to all participants.

- Guidance on Socio-Economic Assessment for National Implementation Plan Development and Implementation under the Stockholm Convention.
- Draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs, including incremental costs and action plans for specific persistent organic pollutants. (in CD-Rom)
- Guidance for developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention.

Belén Gállego gave a presentation about Technical Assistance and Financial resources under the Convention, and mentioned the role of the Regional Centres which were endorsed during the last Conference of the Parties. She also remarked the GEF as the financial mechanism under the Convention, among others.

Ibrahima Sow, representative from the Global Environment Facility, presented the mechanism for financing activities under the Stockholm Convention. He mentioned the 5th Replenishment of GEF which brings together POPs, ODS and Sound Chemical



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Management, and gave an overview of the process for approval of projects. Ibrahima also showed some examples of GEF financed projects in Mediterranean and French speaking African Regions.

Some countries presented their own experiences of the preparation of the National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention. The first country was Spain, followed by Cameroon.

Ana Garcia, from the Ministry of Environment and Marine and Rural Affairs, exposed that Spain was following the guidance on NIP development they first prepared the NIP. She also mentioned the National reference centre on POPs established and the monitoring programmes they are carrying out.

Hamani Anatole, chief of brigade for Environmental Inspections from Cameroon, made a speech about the situation in his country. He explained that Cameroon has been working for a long time in pesticides and that they asked GEF for assistance in the development of the NIP. He has also informed that Cameroon has strictly restricted the use of DDT and the use of lindane in agriculture is prohibited. He also said that Cameroon want to identify new POPs and also destroy the PCBs that are already identified.

After the countries' presentation, the Secretariat went through the last session of the day.

Kei Ohno, described in depth what the new chemicals are and explained in detail what their characteristics and uses are.

Mario Yarto, who is an external consultant of the Secretariat, made a presentation on the steps to address new POPs. He also mentioned the information sources and recommended to be in close collaboration with producers of POPs when developing the NIP.

Kei Ohno made the final presentation of the day. She introduced the alternatives to the new POPs and explained the acceptable purposes and exemptions of some of the new POPs.

After the presentations, the CPRAC made an exercise in order to allow participants to evaluate the outcomes of the day. Participants were asked to describe the best and the least preferred aspects of the day. In general, they highlighted as best issues the presentations made during the day and the themes pertaining to new POPs. The long duration of working sessions, the large quantity of information provided and the too few participatory exercises during the session were quoted as the aspects that could be improved in future workshops.

Also, during this first day, the handouts of the working exercises for the following days were distributed jointly with the mock NIP.

Session 2

The second session of the workshop started with a brief summary of the highlights from the previous day, presented by Núria Canamasas, from the CP/RAC.

After that, some countries presented their experiences with the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.



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Dr. Diallo Halimatou Tandéta, from the Ministry of environment and sustainable development of Guinea described some facts about the status of her country. Guinea has identified sources of dioxins and furans releases thanks to the development of inventories. They also have a considerable amount of PCBs waste stored in soil, lack of information on pesticides and some gaps in the inventories. She also informed that Guinea worked with NGOs in raising awareness and that there is a need to encourage the exchange of information.

Balla Sissoko, the National focal point for Mali, presented the situation in his country. Inventories have been carried out in Mali and they found obsolete pesticides, polluted material and contaminated sites and buildings. He informed that they have lot of regulations for the management of chemicals, and that DDT is officially prohibited for all the uses, but the reality is that DDT still continues circulating.

Jorge Ocaña, from UNEP/GEF, made a presentation on Lessons learned and good practice in POPs NIP development. He explained the details of the project and recommended to do an early engagement of the project and also awareness raising to avoid the retention of information in order to develop the inventories. It was commented the long time that took the project to finalize but in some cases the process of reaching agreement with the countries was very long.

After these series of presentations, the participants were divided in two groups in order to do the simulation exercise. The groups were divided as follows:

Working group 1: Algeria, Cameroon, Djibouti, Greece, Mauritania, Tunisia and Turkey

Working group 2: Chad, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, IPEN, GEF

The working groups were asked to identify different roles within the group in a way that they can represent different sectors: agriculture, industry, health, etc. Then they were following the instructions of the handout and the guidance material available. The steps which they went through were the steps one, two three of the elaborated process for reviewing and updating NIPs.

Once they finished the exercise, the results were presented by the reporter of each of the groups: Fazia Dahlab was reporting the results of group one and Abderaman Mahamat Abderaman was reporting results of group 2.

Both groups identified the need for updating and reviewing NIPs and then discussed about the coordination mechanism. The coordination mechanism already established during NIP development should be adapted to a new structure and involve all stakeholders. Also legislation should be reinforced.

After that, the workshop continued with other series of presentation.

Maria Cristina gave a presentation on Action Plan Development Overview, describing the process of elaboration of the action plan, the elements that it should contain, the stakeholders to be involved and went into detailed explained the different elements of the work plan.

Kei Ohno made a presentation on the "Guidance on socio economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention". She described in detail the contents of the guide and explained to participants how to use this material.

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Abderaman Mahamat Abderaman, the Focal Point of the Stockholm Convention in Chad, presented the situation in his country. He explained that it is very difficult to identify if a substance is POP or not, and that even if customs are registering everything, it is not specified what kind of products are coming. Chad has already established the coordination and technical committee and also made lots of efforts in providing information exchange.

Ablaye Diao, from the Direction of Environment of Senegal gave a presentation and explained one of their priorities is to fill in the gaps regarding the information of chemicals. And also involving all stakeholders in the stages of NIP development: evaluation of infrastructure capacities, the inventories undertaken and also in the action plan. He also mentioned some constraints as the lack of financial resources to manage the stocks of POPs and the need to do specific inventories for the new POPs.

The working groups were working together again in a continuation of the previous exercise.

Session 3

The third day of the workshop started with the presentation of the results from the exercise of the working groups from the previous day:

Both groups were evaluating the factors that imply the country to make the revision and update of the NIP.

A brief discussion followed these presentations.

Amal Lemsioui, from the ministry of environment of Morocco presented the experience of her country implementing the Stockholm Convention. She explained that alpha and beta HCH, chlordane and lindane has been prohibited and no data on the other new POPs has been found. She talked about a project implemented in Morocco on good management of PCBs, financed by GEF, the Moroccan government and the private sector.

Youssef Zidi, from the ministry of Environment and Sustainable development in Tunisia, presented the situation in his country. In Tunisia it was found contamination by pesticides, and there is a project regarding the promotion of BATs and BEPs in PCBs, but they don't know a lot about the other POPs.

Mme Semia Gharbi, from the NGO, presented some projects on POPs carried out in Tunisia. They have a Tunisian programme for the elimination of POPs pesticides and thanks to it, people are more aware now.

The working groups were formed again in order to discuss the last part of the exercise. The results were presented to all the participants:

The groups were evaluating the current situation, the country profile, the needs and the costing list. After that, both groups drafted the structure of the action plan and finally they agreed in the procedure for endorsing and transmitting it.

Catalina Marulanda, from the World Bank gave a presentation on the main areas of financial assistance from the World Bank regarding chemical management.

Virginia Alzina presented the work plan of the CPRAC for 2010/2011 and went through all the areas and activities in which the centre is working.

Some constraints that participants showed after the speech were the difficulties in the identification of the new POPs, the collaboration between CP/RAC and other centres and also about the capacity of the centre. Virginia Alzina explained that CP/RAC can collaborate



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with the centre in Dakar, and that countries can request CP/RAC's assistance. Also, the participant from Tunisia expressed his interest in participating in one of the projects described in the programme or work of the centre, about the residues of phosphogypsum.

Tunisia: He requested cooperation in a project for the production of phosphate.

After the presentations and the relevant questions made by participants, the floor was open in order to create a discussion.

Mostly, participants agreed in highlighting the following issues:

- It would be necessary to have more practical examples and more workshops. Also it would be to have some training to identify the new POPs and carry out the inventories.
- It was also commented by some of the participants that the workshop was useful and also the experiences from other countries as they could learn a lot.
- It is also a good idea to organise the same workshop but at a national level and with the assistance of international consultants.
- Generally participants asked for a longer workshop with five days of duration, as the time was very limited and the content very heavy. The quality of the workshop was well valued.
- Participants are very happy with the idea to have more workshops.
- It was commented that it is a problem for countries to identify de new POPs, and that a study developed at a local level on how to identify POPs and update the NIP would be very useful.
- The Secretariat commented that they are just doing the guidance on new POPs and they have asked country representatives to make their contributions.

The workshop was closed with a last exercise of evaluation of the whole training session. The CPRAC exposed four dartboards with the following titles:

Content Time Format of the workshop Objectives accomplished

Participants were asked to evaluate each of the items by drawing an X in each dartboard, taking into account that as much as they approach to the centre, the better is the evaluation.

Generally, participants were very happy with the content, their objectives were accomplished in overall but they evaluated negatively the time. The format of the workshop was evaluated positively for some of the participants but some of them valued it less.

Agenda

Wednesday December 2: Introduction to new POPs and the process for reviewing and updating NIPs		
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 - 09:35	Opening of the workshop: a. Welcome and introduction of participants b. Objectives of the workshop	Host representative Secretariat (1)
09:35 - 10:05	Brief overview of the current status of the Stockholm Convention including the new amendments	Center (2)
10:05 - 10:25	COFFEE BREAK	
10:25 - 10:55	Introduction to the process for reviewing and updating NIPs under the Stockholm Convention	Secretariat (3)
	Step 1: Identification to review and update NIPs	
10:55 - 11:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nine new POPs as external factor triggering the process of reviewing and updating a NIP • Assessment of the effect of other internal and external factors 	Secretariat (4)
	Steps 2 & 3: Initiation of the process of reviewing and updating NIPs and organization of process through coordinating mechanisms	
11:35 - 12:05	Introduction to the use of existing guidance to develop and implement NIPs	Secretariat (5)
12:05- 12:25	Technical assistance and financial resources under the Convention	Center (6)
12:25 - 12:35	Questions / Discussions	Plenary
12:35- 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00- 14:15	Lessons learned from the NIP development process regarding coordinating mechanisms and process organization	A country representative will be invited to make a 10 minute presentation
	Step 4: Assessment of the effects of the internal and external factors	
14:15 - 15:15	What are the new POPs? Identity, General knowledge and status in economic sectors	Secretariat (7)
15:15 - 15:35	COFFEE BREAK	
15:35 – 16:00	- Establishment of POPs inventories; (introduction to available guidance and <u>NIP guidance phase II</u>)	Secretariat (8)
16:00- 16:30	Assessment of national infrastructure and capacity;	Secretariat (9)
16:30-17:00	<u>General discussion on Step 4: Questions and answers</u>	Plenary

Thursday 3 December: The process for reviewing and updating NIPs

09:00 - 09:15	Summary of the discussions held on day 1	Representative from the Centre.
09:15 - 09:55	Lessons learned from the NIP development process regarding POPs inventories and assessment of national infrastructure and capacity	2 to 3 country 10 minute presentations Country representatives will be invited to make 10 minute presentations highlighting the lessons learned from the first NIP developed regarding: - POPs inventories, assessment/development of infrastructure, including legislation
09:55-10:30	General discussion on the actions required to undertake step 4 and introduction to the simulation exercise	Plenary
10:30 - 10:50	COFFEE BREAK	
10:50 - 12:30	Simulation exercise: Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4: Identifying the need to review, initiating and organizing processes, assessment of the effects of the internal and external factors: Establishment of POPs inventories and Reviewing and updating POPs inventories and national infrastructure and capacity	Working groups : Participants will be provided with a mock NIP and will be required to use the existing guidance to undertake seps 1- 4
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00- 14:30	Simulation exercise continued	
14:30 - 15:00	Presentation of outcomes of the group work and discussion	Plenary
15:00 - 15:20	COFFEE BREAK	
15:20 - 16:10	Priority assessment and objective setting - the action plan guidance - the guidance on socio-economic assessment ²	Secretariat (10)
16:10-16:35	Identification of possible activities on new POPs elimination and introducing alternatives to new POP	Secretariat (11)
16:35- 16:55	Lessons learned from the NIP development process regarding priority setting	Party representatives will be invited to make 10 minute presentations highlighting the lessons learned from the first NIP developed regarding: their action plans and priority setting
16:55- 18:00	Simulation exercise continued : based on the information provided in the afternoon Participants would be invited to review their previous work and adjust it as necessara	Group work to continue in same groups

² Including making reference to the BAT and BEP guidance as well as the existing guidance on waste management.

Friday 4 December: Formulating and transmitting a revised NIP		
09:00-9:45	Presentation of work group outcomes and general discussion	Plenary
	Step 5: Formulation of revised and updated NIP	
09:45 - 10:15	Introduction to the guidance on costing	Secretariat (12)
10:15 - 10:35	COFFEE BREAK	
10:35 - 11:00	Lessons learned from the NIP development process regarding the costing of activities to be implemented	A country will be invited to make a presentation on the lessons learned regarding the costing of activities in their NIP.
11:00 12:30	Simulation Exercise: Formulating the revised and updated NIP (this would include a review of the action plans)	Working groups
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00- 14: 45	Presentation of the outcome of the working groups	Plenary
	Step 6: Endorsement and transmission of revised NIP	
14:45 -15: 00	Overview of the process of endorsement and transmission	Secretariat (13)
15:00 - 15:20	COFFEE BREAK	
15:20- 16:00	Simulation exercise on finalising the NIP and preparing for its transmission	Group work
16:00- 16: 45	Working Groups will present their final NIP transmitting it to a panel	Plenary
16:45-17:15	Summary of all the steps reviewed during the workshop including the lessons learned through the group exercises	All participants
17:15- 18:00	Recommendations to be followed and workshop evaluation and conclusions	This item is to be facilitated by secretariat with the assistance of the regional centre
18:00	Closure of the workshop	

List of participants

GOVERNMENT

CAMEROON

Mr. Anatole Hamani
Chief of Brigade for Environmental Inspections
Direction des Normes et du Contrôle
Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
P.O. Box 12356
237 Yaoundé
Cameroon

CHAD

Mr. Abderaman Mahamat Abderaman
Point Focal Substances Chimiques
Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Eau et des
Ressources Halieutiques
B.P. 447
N'Djamena
Chad

DJIBOUTI

Mr. Ahmed Houssein Bouh
Chimiste et Coordinateur national du programme
intégré de gestion des produits chimiques et des
déchets dangereux
Ministère de l'Environnement

Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme, de
l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire
B.P. 11
Djibouti

GREECE

Mrs. Spyridoula Maltezos
Doctor / Environmental Engineer
General Directorate of Environment
Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
Patision 147
11251 Athens
Greece

GUINEA

Mme. Halimatou Tandéta Diallo
Directrice Nationale/Point Focal Convention
Stockholm
Direction Nationale de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable
B.P. 761
Coleyah Lansebounyi
Conakry
Guinea

MALI

Mr. Balla Sissoko
Point Focal et Point de Contact Officiel de la
Convention de Stockholm
Direction Nationale de l'Assainissement et du
Contrôle des Pollutions et des Nuisances
(DNACPN)
Ministère de l'Environnement et de
l'Assainissement
Dravéla Bolobana
Porte 191, Rue 415
BPE 3114
Bamako
Mali

MAURITANIA

Mr. Mohamed Lemine Vally Abdel Kader
Directeur Adjoint
Direction Pollution
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable,
Nouakchott
Mauritania

MOROCCO

Ms. Amal Lemsioui
Administrator
Department of Environment
Secrétariat d'Etat auprès du Ministère de l'Energie,
des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement chargé
de l'Eau et de l'Environnement
Rabat,
Morocco

SENEGAL

Mr. Ablaye Diao
Chef de Bureau Application des Normes
Division de la Prévention et du Contrôle des
Pollutions et Nuisances
Direction de l'Environnement et des Etablissements
Classés
106 Rue Carnot Dakar,
Bp 6557
Dakar
Senegal

SPAIN

Ms. Josefa Diamantopoulos Fernández
Technical Assistant
General Direction for Quality and Environmental
Assessment
Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs
Agustin de Betancourt 25, 1°
28071 Madrid
Spain

Mrs. Ana Garcia Gonzalez
Jefe de Servicio
D.G. Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y
Marino
Agustin de Betancourt 25, 1°
28017 Madrid
Spain

TUNISIA

Mr. Youssef Zidi
Chef de Service
Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la
Qualité de la Vie
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable, 1080 Tunis
Tunisia

TURKEY

Ms. Menekse Keski Donmez
Doctor / Chemist
Chemicals Management Department
Ministry of Environment and Forestry General
Directorate for Environmental Management
Sogotozu Cad. No. 14/E Bestepe
06560 Ankara
Turkey

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT (ADPE)

Ms. Semia Gharbi
Teacher-Consultant Pesticides
Education Ministry
Association of Development and Protection
Environment (ADPE)
2070 La Marsa
Tunisia

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CENTRE NATIONAL DES TECHNOLOGIES DE PRODUCTION PLUS PROPRE (CNTPP) - CENTRE REGIONAL DE STOCKHOLM

Ms. Fazia Dahlab
Chef de Departement (Point de Contact de
Stockholm Convention)
Chef de Departement de la Mise a Niveau
Centre National des Technologies de Production
Plus Propre (CNTPP) Centre Regional de
Stockholm
Environnementale des Enterprises
01, Rue Said HAMLAT-Hussein-Dey
16000 Alger
Algeria

WORLD BANK

Dr. Catalina Marulanda
Environmental Specialist
Montreal Protocol/POPs Unit
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
MSN MC3-712
Washington DC 20433
United States of America

DIVISION OF GEF COORDINATION

Mr. Jorge Ocaña Correa
Task Manager - POPs
Division of GEF Coordination
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Maison Internationale de l'Environnement I
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Chatelaine Geneva
Switzerland

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

Mr. Ibrahima Sow
Program Manager, POPs
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
G 6-602 - 1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
