

## **Report of the Workshop to develop a POPs monitoring plan in Morocco**

Rabat, Morocco 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Organized by Departement de l'Environment, AMAP and CPRAC

### Background and objectives of the workshop

Within the framework of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), especially the requirement for monitoring, the Department of Environment (DE) in collaboration with the Convention's Regional Activity Center in Barcelona (CPRAC) and with the financial and scientific support of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), organized a workshop for the preparation of a national monitoring program for POPs.

This national plan will be developed based on the global monitoring plan for POPs adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth session in April 2011, with input from all earnest national and international expertise in the area of the quality monitoring of the environment and health of the population.

The specific objectives of the workshop:

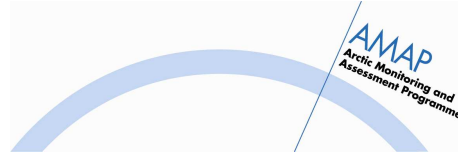
- ⤴ Meet the requirements of Article 16 of the Convention relating to the assessment of effectiveness,
- ⤴ Meet the requirements of Article 11 of the Convention relating to research on POPs
- ⤴ Disseminate widely the information on the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs at the national level,
- ⤴ Encourage universities and research institutions to engage in monitoring and research on POPs,
- ⤴ Develop in the short term, a national monitoring network for POPs that spans the entire country, and involving local skills,
- ⤴ Identify national needs for training and equipment to be able to fill and thus promote the activity of monitoring and research on POPs.

### Unfolding of the workshop

The proceedings were opened by the speech of Mr. Mehdi Chalabi, Director of the Department of Surveillance and Risk Prevention (DSPR), the focal point of the Stockholm Convention, which highlighted the efforts of Morocco to implement the Convention since its ratification in 2004 and presented the actions and activities and the objectives of the workshop.

In his address, Mr LO Reiersen, Executive Secretary of AMAP presented the results of the monitoring program for POPs in the Arctic including trends of these pollutants in different countries and the impact on the environment and biodiversity.

M R.Guardans outlined briefly the objectives and activities of the Centre of Barcelona CPRAC and the motivation to cooperate in the development of a monitoring plan for POPs in Morocco in the framework of the Stockholm Convention.



Thereafter, the workshop was organized in two days of plenary sessions and one day in the middle of group work. The plenary sessions of the 1st and 3rd days were co-chaired by Ms. Farah Bouqartacha (DE) and Mr LO Reiersen (AMAP). While work groups were conducted by foreign consultants and Moroccan.

M Heidelore Fiedler from UNEP Chemicals, Mr Esteban Abad from CSIC / IDAEA and M Lulwa Ali from The Stockholm Convention Center in Kuwait also participated

In the morning session of the first day a number of presentations introduced the basic framework of the Stockholm Convention, the Global Monitoring Plan, UNEP and the work under AMAP. The agenda of the meeting is attached to the report in French.

In the afternoon session the National Office for Food Security (ONSSA), the National Water Office (ONEP) the INRH and the Department of the Environment presented ongoing work on POPs in Morocco.

The second day was organized in two groups, one on human media and one on air and other media.

The group on Human Health was Chaired by J.O Odland (U Tromso /AMAP) and I. Mouncef (Centre Anti Poison) and N.Zoubair (DE) acted as rapporteur.

The group on Air and other media was Chaired by R Kallenborn (AMAP) and Y. Bnnouna consultant for the DE and H. Lakhlifi (DE) acted as Rapporteur.

The proceedings of the workshop are described in the Report in French, it contains the conclusions and recommendations advanced by both groups and in three annexes: 1 a more detailed draft plan for monitoring public health and exposure to POPs, 2 the agenda of the meeting and 3 the list of participants

The working groups developed draft plans and recommendations, based on the material that had been distributed beforehand including the GMP 2011 draft guidance document the WHO Milk Protocol and HTAP 2010 part C on POPs.

The working group on Human samples agreed that the group had two objectives, one to develop a monitoring plan in the framework of GMP and WHO/UNEP and two to draft a more ambitious tentative plan, based on epidemiological studies that could be developed in cooperation with AMAP.

The group agreed that important elements to be considered for POPs monitoring include:

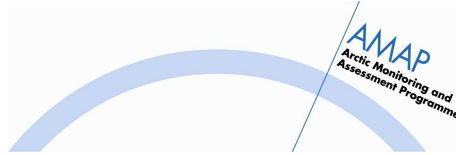
- ▲ identify exposure scenarios
- ▲ identify competent authorities
- ▲ identify qualified laboratories
- ▲ identify types of samples
- ▲ identify groups in the population

The working group on air and other matrices drafted a plan that includes

Establish a network large enough to be able to identify local and distant sources,

Extending the network to all parts of the country to have a global vision,

Take air as preferential matrix, like the global monitoring plan (GMP), in order to monitor trends, and because it is in the air that there are changes easily detectable concentrations of POPs,



Use the national surveillance network of the existing air quality (RNSQA) to identify 8 to 10 base stations as defined in the GMP,

Use mostly passive sensors that are cheaper than active sensors,

Set up 1-3 stations with active sensors;

Analyze a soil sample from the sampling site from the air to ensure no contamination of soil,

Use the other national networks (NHRI, ONEP, etc.) to select other suitable sites,

Invite LARATES to install sensors in southern Morocco and remote areas where there is no station for monitoring air quality,

Plan the development of this embryonic network of POPs with the required skills and resources;

### Recommendations

The final recommendations of the workshop to draft a National Monitoring Plan for POPs (PNS-POP) are

- ✦ Engage with the competent authorities and universities to cooperate in PNS-POP
- ✦ Identify the needs and potential funds to implement PNS-POP
- ✦ Establish partnerships to exchange experiences between Moroccan and foreign universities
- ✦ Integrate PNS-POP into the international POPs monitoring networks
- ✦ Create , in the frame of the National Commission PCB/POP , a Scientific Committee for the PNS POP that will be composed of two working groups: the Group on Humans and the Group on Air and other media

The Scientific committee will be composed by

Public Laboratories  
Universities (PC)  
Scientific Institutions  
Centre Anti Poison du Maroc  
INH  
INRH  
ONEP, ONSSA , others

The mandate for the Scientific Committee

- ✦ Assure the implementation of PNS-POP
- ✦ Establish training and capacity building plan
- ✦ Identify existing and required equipments
- ✦ Establish a QA/QC management system