

# **DEVELOPMENT OF NIP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON POPS IN GEORGIA**

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## **OVERVIEW**

Georgia has signed the Stockholm convention in 23.05 2001 and has not ratified it yet. The work on ratification is currently in the process.

The country is very committed with the solution of obsolete pesticides and PCB problems and is in full swing with the works for the National Implementation Plan now.

Government started to implement NIP with UNDP Country Office in 2003 and is still in the process of inventorying the contaminated sites and identifying the sources of POPs throughout Georgia.

In this paper I will try to share our gained experience during project implementation process.

## **Financing Agencies of the Preparation of the POPs NIP under the Stockholm Convention Project:**

- GEF;
- Government of Georgia - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.

## **Main Goals of the Project:**

- To create sustainable capacity in Georgia to meet obligations under the Stockholm Convention;
- To Prepare NIP on POPs in Georgia;

- To advise the Government of Georgia to ratify the Convention and assist in developing and producing the relevant information for the ratification process.

### **Fields the Project has been Studying:**

- Technical Topics- PCBs, Unintentional Products, Pesticides;
- Legal Basis;
- Public Awareness.

### **Project Structure:**

- National Project Director;
- Project Manager;
- Co-coordinator of Experts in PCB, Unintentional Products, Pesticides;
- Legal Expert;
- Public Awareness Expert;
- International Technical Advisor.

### **Inventory Structure:**

- Regional Representation in 14 regional Offices;
- Representatives from the directly involved agencies for the POPs issues:
  - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources;
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
  - Ministry of Health and Labor;
  - Ministry of Energy.

Most of these agencies were directly connected with POPs. They are regulating and coordinating bodies of the Government. It was purposely done to invite representatives from those agencies and to create inspecting/inventorying groups in regions. Since the detailed inventory was planned to be undertaken project decided to get the regional representatives from those agencies involved in the inventory process taking into account that persons living in the regions and working on the problem would deliver the comprehensive and valuable data about the storages, amount and places of the

Pesticides and Transformers there. Doing it we also left and increased the capacity to inspect, made the regional inspectors awareness about the POPs and related problems increased. It was a right decision which could be used as a good practice.

### **Project Professional Development:**

- Trainings for Regional Inspectors (4 in each Region);
- Full Safety equipments provided;
- Quick Testing;
- Individual Working Plans each Region had.

There were trainings held in total 9 days for 56 inspectors. Regional Inspectors got trained and fully equipped with protecting articles and quick testing devices to check the PCBs in oils. UNEP questioners and boxes with sampling articles were provided to the regional working groups. Special stickers were used for leaving the information after the inspecting the site recording the name and date the inspection was made. At the same time it was a warning poster for the citizens about the sites.

### **In Brief Regional Working Groups were responsible:**

- To study the state of the Region;
- To fill the forms in (FAO, UNEP);
- To take PCB & Pesticide Samples.

### **Laboratories Assessment:**

- One of the main goal was to build or strengthen the existing capacity of the Lab;
- To arrange the Lab meeting;
- To distribute Questionnaires;
- To assess the capacity.

Assessment of the Laboratories became time consuming process. Since we invited all Laboratories, gave the presentation about the goal of the project and handed out the specially developed questionnaires to be filled in. Submitted filled in questionnaires were

studied and screened. The second phase was to visit the short listed Labs in order to have better understandings on their capability to provide services for the project. There were several samples and samples testing made.

### **PCBs/Pesticides/Unintentional – Related Conditions:**

- Insufficient/dispersed statistical data;
- Inadequate legal basis;
- No analytical basis and monitoring system;
- No state POPs management strategy.

The data we were looking for either was dispersed or absent. Project decided to deal with this problem by gathering it - compiling and double checking with Producers and with Users. We believe that the data has been generated is reliable and the optimized.

The legal framework assessment was interesting and creative process. We assessed and overviewed the existing regulations and normative acts. We have developed precise recommendations in order to identify what kind of amendments to be made in Georgian legislation pertaining for regulation of POPs.

The main problem related to these issues stated above were the discrepancies in the existing legislative framework and therefore we recommended undertaking amendments safeguarding clear delegation of the responsibilities among relevant state agencies.

### **Inventory Scales:**

#### **PCBs:**

- Energy sector
- Metallurgy
- Chemical industry
- Oil processing
- Wood and cellulose/paper industry
- More than 11,000 transformers
- More than 5,000 capacitors
- Converters

**Pesticides:**

- Agriculture
- Health Protection
- More than 200 sites
- Hundreds of tons of unknown pesticides

**UNEP Guidelines (Discrepancies/Suggestions):**

- High voltage transformers – low concentrations of PCBs (because of refill by the contaminated oils)
- Low voltage (small) transformers – higher probability of high concentration
- Direct relations with transformer/capacitor industries
- Full catalogue of the labels for capacitors (in the beginning, KC type Chirchik capacitor was the only type suggested as containing contaminated oils)
- Regional energy-distribution departments – good sources of information
- Railroad station – pile up of old capacitors, suspected in containing contaminated oils.