



**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

Background:

To manage chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner, a Conference of Parties (COP) of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions is held every two years to monitor and evaluate the mechanisms of the treaties. It is within this framework that the Council of Ministers has authorized the participation of Côte d'Ivoire, which has ratified these three conventions, at the COPs to the three conventions.

The objective of this Conference of the Parties is for experts to review the innovations to be made to the management of the three conventions, particularly with regard to the inclusion in the Appendices of certain chemicals of great concern to human health and environment. Several decisions will be taken by stakeholders concerning joint sessions of cross-cutting themes and convention-specific sessions during which bans may be imposed. For the upcoming COPs, discussion will relate to certain major pollutants including dioxins and furans, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE), short chain chlorinated paraffin (SCCP), and limit values to define POP wastes.

In order to prepare representatives from Côte d'Ivoire, and even all the relevant stakeholders working on chemicals issues at the national level, African Center for Environmental Health, in partnership with IPEN, has implemented a project to raise awareness on the necessity to address and obtain low POPs content levels (LPCLs) in wastes for better protection of environment and health.

Therefore, this project aims at raising awareness by introducing to government officials in charge of POPs management all the arguments in favor of adopting low POP contents levels in wastes.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- Gain support for LPCLs for dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs, PBDEs, HBCD and SCCPs that will protect health and environment.
- Raise awareness about the Low POPs Content Levels definition within the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the potential threat of continuation of POPs waste and e-waste exports to African and other developing countries

- Reach broader support for LPCLs that are based on health and environmental protection instead of the economic interests of industrial companies from developed countries.

This report summarizes the activities that have been implemented to achieve the goals and will serve as a communication tool to share experience on awareness-raising activities as well as with governments' representatives attending the 2019 BRS COP and all the CSOs working on POPs.

Introduction:

In its objective to protect the environment and human health from chemicals hazards, Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Basel Convention on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in 1989; Rotterdam Convention on Prior Inform Consent Procedure in 1998; and Stockholm Convention on POPs in 2001. In addition to these Conventions, Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa in 1994. However, the measures taken to address chemical pollution were very weak, and additionally, in 2006, the country was faced with the devastating spill of toxic wastes coming from the Dutch ship "Probo Koala". Even if several additional measures were taken to address chemicals pollution, at this stage, we cannot guarantee that all chemicals entering the country are safely used and disposed of in an ecologically sound manner. In the same way, seeing all the new POPs and new hazardous chemicals existing and being generated, we cannot assume that all products entering the country have low levels of hazardous chemicals or even POPs.

Because the BRS COPs are a space available to discuss, at the global level, the issue of low POPs content levels in waste, we found it relevant to prepare all government representatives to make it easy to implement international decisions at the country level. Other national stakeholders involved in chemicals issues were also engaged.

Project Outcome:

Several activities were implemented during the project and they are summarized as follows:

- Development of educational material related to low POPs content levels to be used at the Africa regional meeting for delegates' awareness. These materials were developed on March 12, 2019.

- Meeting with national focal points of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to discuss the coming regional meeting taking place in Nairobi, Kenya at end of March 2019. This was an opportunity to share the material developed the previous day for review and finalization. The report of this meeting is attached to as Appendix 1.
- Development of an information factsheet on wastes and products containing PBDE, HBCD, SCCP, dioxins and furans. This factsheet was shared with all Francophone delegates attending the Africa preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya as well as all the NGO members of the Francophone region of IPEN. This factsheet is attached as Appendix 2.
- Workshop preparatory meetings with the focal point of the Stockholm Convention, which took place on March 16 and March 29, 2019. A last meeting to set the workshop organization took place on April 15, 2019.
- Organization of a workshop to raise awareness on POPs and the necessity to adopt low POPs contents levels in wastes at the 2019 BRS COP. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, which sent its Policy Adviser to chair the meeting. This workshop took place on April 16 at the conference room of the General Directorate of Environment and gathered 25 people from public administration, CSOs, private sector (industry) and journalists. A detailed report of this workshop is attached as Appendix 3.

Outreach to Stakeholders:

Stakeholders and sectors engaged in this project are as follows:

Activity	Participating stakeholders	Follow up activities
Meeting with national focal points of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Focal points of BRS Conventions - CASE representatives 	At the finish of the COP, develop regulations with CASE and submit them to the Ministry of Environment in order to implement the major decisions that would be adopted at the COP.
Development of an information factsheet on wastes and products containing PBDE,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African delegates attending regional consultations - Media 	Continue sharing information to build capacities and raise awareness within the population

HBCD, SCCP, dioxins and Furans	- CSOs that are part of IPEN	
Awareness-raising workshop on POPs and the necessity to adopt the low POPs content levels in wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National focal points of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions - Public administration (mines, health, trade, labour, research, education, industry, customs, finances) - Industry sector (house of trade and industry, refineries, power production) - NGOs - Academia 	Share the decisions of the 2019 BRS COP and develop guideline documents and regulations for their implementation.

Communication with National or Local Authorities:

The national authorities were involved in all our activities from planning to final reporting. The report of the final workshop was shared with Minister of Environment in person. A clear synthesis of this report was used to make an informative communication at the weekly government meetings.