

# AFRICA

## STOCKPILES PROGRAMME

### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

**The urgent cleanup of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and the prevention of further accumulation in African countries requires a coordinated, multistakeholder approach.**

**The challenge.** Virtually every African country has stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and associated wastes that have accumulated over periods as long as 40 years. At least 50,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, as well as tens of thousands of tonnes of contaminated soil, have accumulated in African countries. These pesticides pose serious threats to the health of both rural and urban populations, especially the poorest of the poor, and contribute to land and water degradation. The stockpiles consist of toxic pesticides and associated contaminated materials. Many of the waste mixtures contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs)—a growing concern and priority for the international community and the GEF, culminating in the recent adoption of the Stockholm Convention.

**Reasons for stockpile accumulation.** Chemical pesticides have contributed to the protection of crop, human, and animal health for over a half century. Because of the toxicity of many pesticides, their production, trade, and use are regulated in most industrialized nations. In developing countries, however, management of pesticides is often inadequate due to a lack of available resources. Many countries suffer from weak import controls, lack of training on appropriate pesticide use, inappropriate donations and aggressive sales practices, poor storage and stock management, pressure to stockpile for unforeseen emergencies, and a lack of safe destruction technologies.

**Past and current cleanup.** In nearly a decade of cleanup activity, less than 5 percent of the estimated stockpiles have been disposed of. Despite the committed efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and others to address this problem, obsolete pesticides continue to accumulate. Efforts on the part of FAO, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, bilateral donors, and NGOs have succeeded in raising awareness and in providing preliminary information on the extent of the problem. In some countries disposal operations have taken place and programmes to improve pesticide controls and promote sustainable alternatives have been implemented. The regional or global impact of these individual activities is small and it is probable that stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and other pesticide-related problems are growing more quickly than they are being alleviated.

**What needs to be done?** A special initiative to deal with this problem is urgently needed. Removal of old chemicals is rarely perceived as a priority development issue. Both recipient countries and donor agencies are often reluctant to divert funds allocated to poverty reduction, food security, or other elements of sustainable development to the issue of waste disposal. The linkage between wastes, health impacts, and poverty issues is not fully recognized. Yet new funds dedicated to pesticides management and disposal would reduce the public health impacts that disproportionately affect the poor, and thereby address a barrier to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Such dedicated funds would also facilitate the capacity building that would prevent recurrence of the current stockpiles situation.

**The Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP)** aims to clear all obsolete pesticide stocks from Africa and put in place measures to help prevent their recurrence. The concept of a continent-wide stockpiles project grew out of informal discussions between NGOs and several inter-governmental organizations. Since December 2000, the Africa Stockpiles Programme has evolved substantially as a multistakeholder partnership. ASP's objective is to

- clean up stockpiled pesticides and pesticide-contaminated waste (e.g., containers and equipment) in Africa in an environmentally sound manner;
- catalyze development of prevention measures; and
- provide capacity building and institutional strengthening on important chemicals-related issues.

**Several guiding principles** have been agreed upon:

- ASP will be available to all countries that meet a number of basic criteria as part of their overall sustainable development strategies;
- activities will be country-driven;
- ASP will work in conjunction with existing activities related to prevention and disposal of obsolete pesticides so as to prevent duplication;
- prevention of future accumulation is as important as disposal of existing stockpiles;
- management and destruction of POPs pesticides will be in compliance with relevant international and regional regimes.

ASP activities will also create opportunities to address broader hazardous waste management issues and evaluate new, cleaner disposal technologies.

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**A phased long-term approach** is needed, implemented in at least three phases spread over 12 to 15 years. The first phase of 3 to 4 years will be implemented through a “strategic partnership” involving multiple stakeholders.

The ASP framework will help ensure full coordination of effort across the continent and help catalyze a wider group of stakeholders and interested parties. The key elements of this approach will be

- up-front approval of funds and commitments by donors to establish a predictable envelope of grant financing to which beneficiary countries have access;
- bundling together of critical investment needs to promote higher political visibility and interest; and
- taking advantage of existing expertise and on-the-ground learning to replicate and transfer investment experiences throughout the African continent.

Countries targeted for Phase I activities include: Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Tunisia, and Tanzania.

**The Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, given its role as the interim financial mechanism for the Stockholm POPs Convention, was urged to provide ASP with dedicated funds for development and implementation. The commitment to POPs was reinforced when the GEF Assembly adopted a new focal area on POPs. In addition to direct health and environment benefits, ASP provides global benefits in two other GEF focal areas—biodiversity and international waters—and also benefits efforts to fight land degradation. Following a PDF-B grant for project preparation, the GEF Council in October 2002 approved the GEF contribution of US\$25 million for Phase 1 of ASP.

### Co-Funding

The GEF commitment was made with the understanding that \$45 million in co-financing will be contributed by government aid agencies, the private sector, and other donors, and that participating countries will ratify the Stockholm POPs Convention. The World Bank (as Implementing Agency) has the lead role in raising the necessary co-financing. ASP will also benefit from the assistance and fundraising capabilities of its other participants. To date, over three-fourths of the co-financing for Phase I has been committed by bilateral aid agencies, the European Union, and CropLife International. ASP hopes to secure the remaining co-financing by early 2004.

**Cleanup, Disposal, and Prevention Costs.** Past experience has shown that the cost of removal, clean up, and disposal in an appropriate hazardous waste destruction facility is approximately US\$3,500 per tonne of waste. Based on these figures, the total cost for clearing the entire continent of its stockpiles of obsolete pesticides is estimated to be US\$175-200 million. Because prevention is as important as disposal,

ASP will help develop suitable measures to prevent the recurrence of obsolete pesticide accumulation. The range of prevention measures will include pesticide use reduction and improved management of pesticides, and will vary with the needs of individual countries. The total budget for prevention measures is estimated at US\$50-75 million. Thus, the total ASP fund is expected to be in the range of US\$250 million.

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The Africa Stockpiles Programme brings together the skills, expertise, and resources of a diverse group of stakeholders, enabling national leadership to carry out country-led activities. This exciting, innovative project offers real on-the-ground solutions to a difficult problem. By reducing and removing long-standing toxic threats throughout Africa, ASP promotes improved public health, poverty reduction, and environmental safety—critical elements of sustainable development.

**The ASP partnership** includes international and African NGOs, regional and global intergovernmental organizations, multilateral agencies, and private sector and industry representatives. Donor governments and Phase I countries, not listed here, are also members of the ASP Partnership.

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For more information visit [www.africastockpiles.org](http://www.africastockpiles.org)

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## OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKS: AN ISSUE OF POVERTY

Across the African continent, as much as 50,000 tonnes of obsolete stockpiles of pesticides are leaking into the environment, contaminating soil, water, air, and food sources. These hazardous chemicals are a threat to the entire continent, but those living in poverty often suffer a disproportionate burden. In poor communities these dangers are compounded by a range of factors such as unsafe water supplies and working conditions, illiteracy, and lack of political empowerment.

Today the majority of poor people live and work in rural areas. In sub-Saharan Africa the average poverty rate is well over 50 percent. Even more than most, poor people tend to be crucially dependent on the environment for their livelihoods. Cleaning up the environment can markedly improve the asset base and quality of life of even the poorest rural communities.

Access to a healthy and safe environment, however, is difficult for poor people when they live, work, or play in close proximity to toxic substances. In rural areas this exposure often stems from stocks of obsolete pesticides. Almost all sub-Saharan African countries are serving as unwilling hosts to dangerous accumulations of chemicals.

### Contaminating poor neighborhoods

Obsolete pesticide stocks in Africa are often located near people and their livelihoods. The poor have little say regarding the location of the stockpiles and are not informed of the dangers. Illiteracy – which reaches almost 50 percent in sub-Saharan Africa (greater in rural areas) – hinders people's ability to learn about the hazards of these pesticides and other chemicals to which they are exposed. Children often face heightened exposures — from putting dirt and other objects in their mouths, eating more food than adults in relation to their body weight, and playing in contaminated areas. This most vulnerable sector often suffers the most from contaminated water, food, and air.

A characteristic of poverty is the lack of empowerment to participate in political processes and to influence public action. In some rural African communities pesticide waste dumps are left to fester and pollute for years or even

decades beyond what would be tolerated in an industrialized community. The health and environmental effects – external costs of pesticide use – are often considered of low priority in these poorer areas.

Poverty also lowers the ability of communities to take action. This does not mean that the poor do not recognize and value a clean environment. When possible, many communities work to reduce their exposure to pollutants. However, when families are struggling to earn enough money to feed themselves, there is little time to pressure governments for increased protection or to organize community-level action.

The World Health Organization estimates that pesticides may cause 20,000 unintentional deaths a year and that nearly three-quarters of a million people may suffer specific and non-specific chronic effects, mostly in developing countries. These figures are compiled from agricultural usage and do not include those living near pesticide dumps. Developing countries account for less than 30 per cent of pesticide use, but due to high rural populations and hazardous conditions, more people are exposed more severely.

New research has shown that many of these chemicals, particularly persistent organic pollutants (POPs), affect people and wildlife at very low doses. The chronic illnesses, reproductive problems, and birth defects that may result from such exposure create high long-term risks for communities, individuals, and wildlife. Other pesticides are acutely toxic and pose an immediate threat of injury or illness. Adverse environmental impacts include erosion of biodiversity, reduced populations of pollinators and other beneficial insects, and contaminated fish, birds, and wildlife. Many environmental goods, such as bees, bush-meat, or fish, have critical economic or food security value for poor communities.

### Identifying obsolete pesticides

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization defines obsolete pesticides as all pesticide products not in current use because they have been banned, have deteriorated or are damaged, have passed their

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expiration date, cannot be used for any other reason, or are not wanted by the current owner. Some pesticides that are in use despite their legal or physical status are still considered obsolete. The stockpiles are generally unmanaged, stored in the open air, or held in broken or disintegrated containers lacking proper labeling. Spills, leaks, and dust contaminate surface waters, groundwater, and the atmosphere. Some pesticide stocks are located in open village pits where, within a few meters, children play, livestock graze, women prepare food, and people work. Water may be drawn from areas where these pesticides have leached. Because many of the stockpiled pesticides are POPs, the hazards are long-lasting and far-reaching. The inventories are not static or complete; new stocks are already being created.

### **Problematic policies**

Regulators are sometimes unaware of the extent of pesticide use in rural Africa. In the absence of information on pesticide distribution and application, many focus their attention on large, commercial farms. However research indicates that smallholder usage is increasing.

Many policy makers believe that pesticides are crucial for agricultural development and should be part of a package of 'modernizing' agriculture. Extension officers pass this message on to farmers who think that they must use pesticides, but lack essential information, training, and safeguards. Poverty and lack of proper delivery systems often lead farmers to buy cheap pesticides through informal supply channels, which source their products illicitly and sometimes include expired and obsolete pesticides. These pressures also contribute to illegal trade in stolen stocks, drums, and canisters. Even contaminated soil has been sold for use as a pesticide.

In addition, the intense public health needs in rural Africa lead people to look for any means of potential control, not only for insect pests and rodents, but also for head and body lice, cuts, and abrasions. Easy access to contaminated soils and obsolete pesticides and the widespread use of the term 'medicine' for pesticides encourages these uses.

The poor are affected directly by exposure to obsolete pesticides, but also indirectly when policies fail to recognize and promote environmental goods and services. An unpolluted environment and clean production have important implications for both subsistence and commercial production, with potential for creating export opportunities and improving the value and marketability of agricultural crops. These factors in turn lead to better health, greater revenues, and increased employment opportunities.

### **Prioritizing poor communities**

Many of the stockpiles contain POPs which are contaminating the regional as well as the global environment. Multilateral environmental agreements on POPs, pesticides, and biodiversity aim to protect the global commons, but their implementation will need to demonstrate justice and equity and prioritize the interests and needs of the poor. Illiteracy is an impediment to information dissemination, but there are a variety of ways of informing people. The Africa Stockpiles Programme, in conjunction with the on-going work of local and international NGOs and aid agencies, can promote country-specific, community-based action. These strategies can encourage a wider consciousness of pesticide hazards, particularly if information can be disseminated through the 'rural telegraph': radio, NGO activities, health centers, agricultural extension, schools, and meeting places in towns. It is especially important to reach female audiences which are often more alert to hazards. Not only are women often highly exposed, themselves, but in most instances they bear responsibility for protecting the children.

### **Prevention**

Poor pesticide management and hazardous practices are common due to a lack of capacity at the national level, poverty, and untrained and uninformed farmers and farm workers. This lack of information and capacity means that prevention is as important as disposal. The Africa Stockpiles Programme will include efforts to help stop the accumulation of future stocks e.g., banning particularly harmful pesticides and improving the regulatory and enforcement infrastructure.

Strategies that increase farmers' capacity to farm sustainably and productively—sound integrated pest management or organic practices, for example, and priority use of local renewable resources—can greatly enhance both public health and profits. These approaches will contribute to more sustainable livelihoods and food security. Improved environmental management could reduce the vulnerability of the poor, promote a better quality of life, and enable many rural families to climb out of poverty.

More information on issues involving poverty and toxic chemical is available from the World Bank: "Toxics and Poverty: The Impact of Toxic Substances on the Poor in Developing Countries," August 2002. Copies available from Sandra Siles at the World Bank POPs Unit, [ssiles@worldbank.org](mailto:ssiles@worldbank.org); phone +1.202.458.0564.

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## COUNTRY PARTICIPATION

Contamination from obsolete pesticide stockpiles is threatening the health of communities throughout the African continent. People and wildlife are being exposed to these dangerous chemicals through food, air, and water. Governments in Africa are looking to the international community to help address this urgent problem. This request has been expressed collectively through various forums including the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, FAO regional workshops on obsolete pesticides, and the Rabat Continental Conference on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes and Their Prevention.

To address these well-founded concerns, the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) is being developed to help find sustainable solutions to the problem of obsolete pesticide stockpiles. A central aspect of ASP is that project activities will be country driven. By providing funds for on-the-ground projects, ASP aims to remove and safely dispose of obsolete pesticides in all African countries and to prevent similar problems in the future.

Due to the enormity of the problem, it will not be possible to clear all obsolete pesticides and implement prevention measures in all African countries simultaneously. A progressive programme based on tranches of activity will be implemented. Each tranche will involve a number of countries. To participate in the programme, each country will be expected to take certain steps to demonstrate commitment to ASP objectives and to prepare the necessary infrastructure and personnel. The success of the programme will rely on extensive public consultation and stakeholder involvement.

Following is a basic description of the criteria that countries are likely to be expected to fulfill when seeking ASP support for disposal and prevention projects.

### Ownership

Countries will need to demonstrate ownership of, and commitment to, the objectives of the programme and will be able to draw on available guidelines, logistical support, and technical advice.

Ownership will involve acknowledgement of the existence of a problem and of responsibility to address the problem (in collaboration with other national stakeholders and with the assistance of the international community).

Awareness of the problem of obsolete pesticides affecting health, environment, and development will be encouraged through workshops and other activities. Countries will need to demonstrate a willingness to cooperate in the disposal and prevention of stockpiles by applying for ASP help and committing local financial and/or in-kind resources, such as personnel and institutions.

An appropriate authority must take leadership on the issue or identify a lead organization that will coordinate activities related to disposal and prevention. This lead authority should work to generate institutional support at the highest possible level.

### Collaboration

Dealing with obsolete pesticides is technically and logistically complex and may need to involve several government authorities, international agencies, NGOs, private sector organizations, and others. Stakeholder participation and buy-in should be encouraged and supported at the earliest possible stage.

Stakeholders at the national level will need to be identified and included in a framework for stakeholder participation such as a national coordinating committee for prevention and disposal of obsolete pesticides.

### Preparation

An assessment or inventory of the scale and scope of the problem of obsolete pesticides in each country will be a first step. Local staff will be trained to carry out such an inventory safely and accurately, with guidance or training provided under the programme. The local staff's inventory of stockpiles and their storage sites should be done following international (FAO) guidelines. The factors that lead to the accumulation of obsolete pesticides must also be identified in order that appropriate prevention measures can be developed and implemented.



## Prevention

After documenting the main causes of obsolete pesticides, countries should identify existing national processes that can support obsolete pesticide prevention and disposal such as regulation, agricultural extension advice, national policies, and import controls. Similarly, regional processes that can assist prevention and disposal should be identified and developed as appropriate.

Several international agencies offer advice and information useful in preventing obsolete pesticide accumulation. These include FAO on agricultural pesticides, WHO on public health pesticides, UNIDO Clean Production Centres on pesticide production and hazardous waste management, and UNEP and the Basel Convention Secretariat on chemical and waste management.

## Participation in international initiatives

Countries seeking support from ASP will be encouraged to sign and become parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions; apply the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code to any waste shipped out of the country; and apply the requirements of relevant regional agreements such as the Bamako Convention.

## Project development

Obsolete pesticide removal and prevention projects are potentially hazardous and technically complex. The necessary expertise in hazardous waste management is often not available in developing countries. Advice and support for the formulation of such projects will be sought from appropriate sources.

A project proposal will typically address the following components, except those already adequately addressed in the country concerned:

- Institutional and public awareness raising
- Training programmes implemented in
  - hazardous waste cleanup
  - chemical disposal and destruction
  - hazardous waste transportation
  - policy issues & available alternatives
  - handling of pesticides
- Inventory
- Analyses & testing
- Work plans
- Contracts for cleanup & removal
- Expertise and labor availability
- Stockpile removal
  - repackaging of chemicals for transport
  - centralizing of stocks

- transportation
- Hazardous waste destruction, disposal, or recycling
- Site cleanup
- Legislation
  - import controls
  - pesticide regulations
  - disposal of pesticides
  - POPs regulations
- Regulatory enforcement
- Policies
  - pesticides
  - agriculture & public health pest management
  - hazardous waste management
- Effective institutions

Once a project proposal has been developed, funding will be sought through ASP or other available sources.

Due to the dangerous and complex nature of such projects, countries will need to ensure that appropriately experienced personnel are appointed to manage the project. Contractors carrying out site work and pesticide disposal must also be experienced and adhere to appropriate international standards.

These projects will offer valuable capacity building opportunities. Local counterparts will work alongside project managers and contractors, and training will be fully integrated to ensure that local staff are not put at risk and that skills are developed for future use.

## Project implementation

A key ASP objective is to bring about the removal and safe disposal of all obsolete pesticide stocks in African countries. ASP will support appropriately designed projects that meet programme criteria.

A parallel and equally important ASP objective is to ensure that there is no new accumulation of obsolete pesticides. ASP-supported projects will design strategies to address the causes of stockpile accumulation. Examples may include revision or stronger enforcement of pesticide regulations, formulation of agricultural production policies designed to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides, and creation of pesticide container collection and recycling systems.

Implementation of prevention measures should, like disposal activities, build upon the initiatives and expertise of relevant agencies such as FAO, the Global IPM Facility, development agencies, and NGOs.

### PROMOTING GLOBAL TREATIES

**Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) is an international initiative to address the problem of obsolete pesticides in African countries. The programme is designed to deliver practical and environmentally sound solutions to dangerous and technically complex problems and prevent recurrence of similar problems in the future.**

ASP will complement several international legal instruments that address chemical and hazardous material management. While developing its own criteria and objectives, ASP will also help to advance the objectives of these global conventions. Country eligibility for disposal or prevention projects, for example, will take into account whether countries have ratified or acceded to agreements such as the Stockholm, Basel, Bamako, and Rotterdam Conventions.

#### **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

Adopted in May 2001, in Stockholm, Sweden, the POPs Convention calls for outright banning and destruction of some of the world's most dangerous chemicals. Requiring 50 ratifications, the treaty is anticipated to enter into force in 2004. The Stockholm Convention seeks the elimination or restriction of production and use of all intentionally produced POPs.

- The chemicals initially slated for elimination include the pesticides aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mirex and toxaphene. Continued use of DDT is allowed for disease vector control (e.g., malaria).
- Stockpiles of wastes containing POPs must be managed in a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound manner, taking into account international rules, standards, and guidelines.
- The convention imposes certain trade restrictions.
- The convention also aims for the removal from use of equipment containing the industrial chemical PCBs, and for the continuing minimization, and where feasible elimination, of releases of unintentionally produced POPs such as dioxins and furans.

Parties are required to submit National Implementation Plans (NIPs) within two years after joining the convention. Twenty-nine African countries had signed the Stockholm Convention and had thus become eligible for GEF

assistance with NIPs. These plans are to include strategies for identifying stockpiled and waste POPs, action plans on the control and substitution of DDT, and action plans to reduce or eliminate POPs releases from unintentional production.

Almost all countries will need to develop environmentally sound projects to clean up their POPs pesticide stockpiles. In many regions, particularly in the developing countries, society still lacks appropriate and adequate destruction facilities, and the costs associated with providing them may be greater than the region can afford without technical and financial assistance. Where POPs pesticides are involved, the disposal and prevention activities envisaged by ASP have the potential to provide considerable practical support for tasks identified in the convention-mandated NIPs.

#### **The Basel Convention**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was concluded in Basel, Switzerland, in March 1989, and entered into force in May 1992. Now ratified by 158 countries including 36 of the 53 African countries, the focus of this convention is to control the movement of hazardous wastes, ensure their environmentally sound management and disposal, and prevent illegal waste trafficking. The parties to this convention recognize the serious problems posed by stockpiles of unused and unwanted chemical products which, as a result of their obsolescence, are now considered wastes. At a ministerial-level meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, in January 2001, African countries declared their intent to work with other interested parties from all sectors of civil society to rid all 53 countries of Africa of these stockpiled wastes over the next 10 years.

The Rabat Programme of Action, agreed at the close of the ministerial meeting, aims to enhance the capacity of the region to

- prevent the future accumulation of unwanted stocks of pesticides (including DDT), PCBs, and used oils;
- dispose of existing stocks of unwanted pesticides, PCBs, and used oils in a manner that is environmentally sound and socially and economically acceptable;
- develop a partnership with all stakeholders to

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address the environmentally sound management of unwanted stocks of pesticides, PCBs, and used oils; and

- strengthen existing logistical and financial approaches and pursue alternative and innovative approaches at the national, subregional, regional, and global levels to prevent and dispose of unwanted stocks of pesticides, PCBs, and used oils.

### **Rotterdam Convention**

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) emerged in response to concerns about the dramatic growth in chemical production and trade during the last three decades and the associated risks posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Countries lacking adequate infrastructure to monitor import and use of such substances were particularly vulnerable. Adopted in Rotterdam in September 1998, the treaty enables parties to review basic health and environmental data on specified chemicals and to permit or refuse any incoming shipments of those chemicals. The objective of this convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and to contribute to their environmentally sound use through information exchange. The Rotterdam Convention is expected to enter into force in 2004.

Activities aimed at institutional strengthening, development of regulatory frameworks, and capacity building in the area of chemical safety in African countries have the potential to serve the objectives of both the Rotterdam Convention and ASP. For example, improved capacity to manage the import of chemicals on the basis of the convention's prior informed consent process should also contribute to the ASP objective of preventing future buildups of obsolete pesticides.

### **Montreal Protocol**

The Montreal Protocol, aimed at the control and elimination of ozone depleting substances, has demonstrated useful lessons with regard to the design and implementation of country or sector level strategies which combine capacity building, regulatory and legislative development, and disposal activities. The protocol came into force in January 1989, and has been ratified by 184 countries.

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity**

Adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and ratified by 187 countries, the Convention on Biological Diversity has three main goals:

- the conservation of biodiversity;
- sustainable use of the components of biodiversity; and
- sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is highly relevant to the Africa Stockpiles Programme due to the threats to biodiversity posed by obsolete pesticides. These chemicals, particularly POPS pesticides, can severely affect plant life, wildlife, marine systems, domestic animals, and humans.

### **Bamako Convention**

The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa was adopted on January 30, 1991, in Bamako, Mali. Participation is limited to members of the Organization of African Unity. The convention's objectives are to

- protect human health and the environment from dangers posed by hazardous wastes by reducing their generation to a minimum;
- adopt precautionary measures and ensure proper disposal of hazardous wastes; and
- prevent the dumping of hazardous wastes in Africa.

#### **For more information on these international agreements:**

**Stockholm Convention on POPs:** <http://www.chem.unep.ch/sc/>

**Basel Convention:** <http://www.basel.int/>

**Rotterdam Convention:** <http://irptc.unep.ch/pic/>

**Montreal Protocol:** <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/montreal.shtml>

**Convention on Biological Diversity:** <http://www.biodiv.org/>

**Bamako Convention:** Organization of African Unity (OAU), Environment Division, Education, Science, Culture, and Social Affairs Department (ESCAS), O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: +251-1-517700; Fax: +251-1-517844.

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## OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKPILES IN AFRICA: THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION

Obsolete pesticide stockpiles have been identified in every African country. The stockpiles include some extremely toxic pesticides which may be up to 40 years old. Many of these chemicals and their containers are in poor condition and threaten local and regional environments through the contamination of soil, water, and air. The dangers worsen with each passing day.

Of the 12 persistent organic pollutant (POPs) chemicals currently targeted by the Stockholm Convention, 9 are pesticides. These pesticides form a significant proportion, an estimated 30 percent, of known obsolete pesticide stockpiles. Moreover, POPs pesticides are frequently inextricably mixed with other non-POPs pesticides and in contaminated soil or other media. If any organo-chlorine pesticides, including but not limited to POPs, are incinerated under less than ideal conditions, significant additional POPs (dioxins, furans, and HCBs) are likely to be produced. POPs threaten the global environment due to their toxicity, persistence, mobility, and tendency to bioaccumulate in higher organisms.

**Reasons for Stockpile Accumulation.** Chemical pesticides have contributed to the protection of crop, human, and animal health for over half a century. Because of the potential toxicity of pesticides, their production, trade, and use are tightly regulated and managed in many industrialized nations. In developing countries, however, regulation and management of pesticides is often inadequate due to a lack of resources. Many of these countries suffer from weak import controls, poor storage and stock management, and a lack of training and education on appropriate pesticide use.

The key factors that contribute to the accumulation of obsolete pesticides in developing countries include

- **Inappropriate procurement.** Central purchasing by parastatal agencies of products that farmers are unable or decline to use, due to timing of purchase, pack size, poor labeling, or lack of suitable application equipment, leads to unwanted stocks.
- **Untimely distribution.** Excessive delays in moving products from ports to warehouses to farmers result in missed applications and unused quantities at the end of the season.
- **Inadequate storage and stock management.** Pesticides have a limited shelf life, which can be shortened if they are not stored properly. Many African countries lack

appropriate storage facilities. Poor stock control results in unused pesticides being kept beyond their useable life.

- **Donation in excess of need.** In some situations, the quantities of pesticides supplied exceed annual usage due to changed crop economics, nonappearance of the pest (e.g., locusts), or drought. Products that remain unused for years become obsolete through damage or deterioration.
- **Lack of coordination between donor agencies.** Duplicate, unsolicited, or excessive donations have contributed to stockpiles in many African countries.
- **Product bans.** Pesticides banned for environmental or health reasons remain unused and deteriorate over time.
- **Other factors.** Many factors related to the regulation of trade in pesticides have been linked with obsolescence. These factors include poor information flow, lack of management expertise, lack of customs and regulatory controls (including analytical facilities), overassessment of needs, fake and substandard product supply, and corruption.

**Inventory and Control Efforts.** The FAO programme on prevention and disposal of obsolete pesticides has inventoried obsolete pesticide stocks in almost every African country. The inventory provides a baseline for a strategic cleanup programme, as it documents that over 50,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides as well as tens of thousands of tonnes of contaminated soil are in African countries. However, progress in taking effective remedial action has been painfully slow, mainly due to lack of funds. In nearly a decade of activity, less than 3,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides have been destroyed.

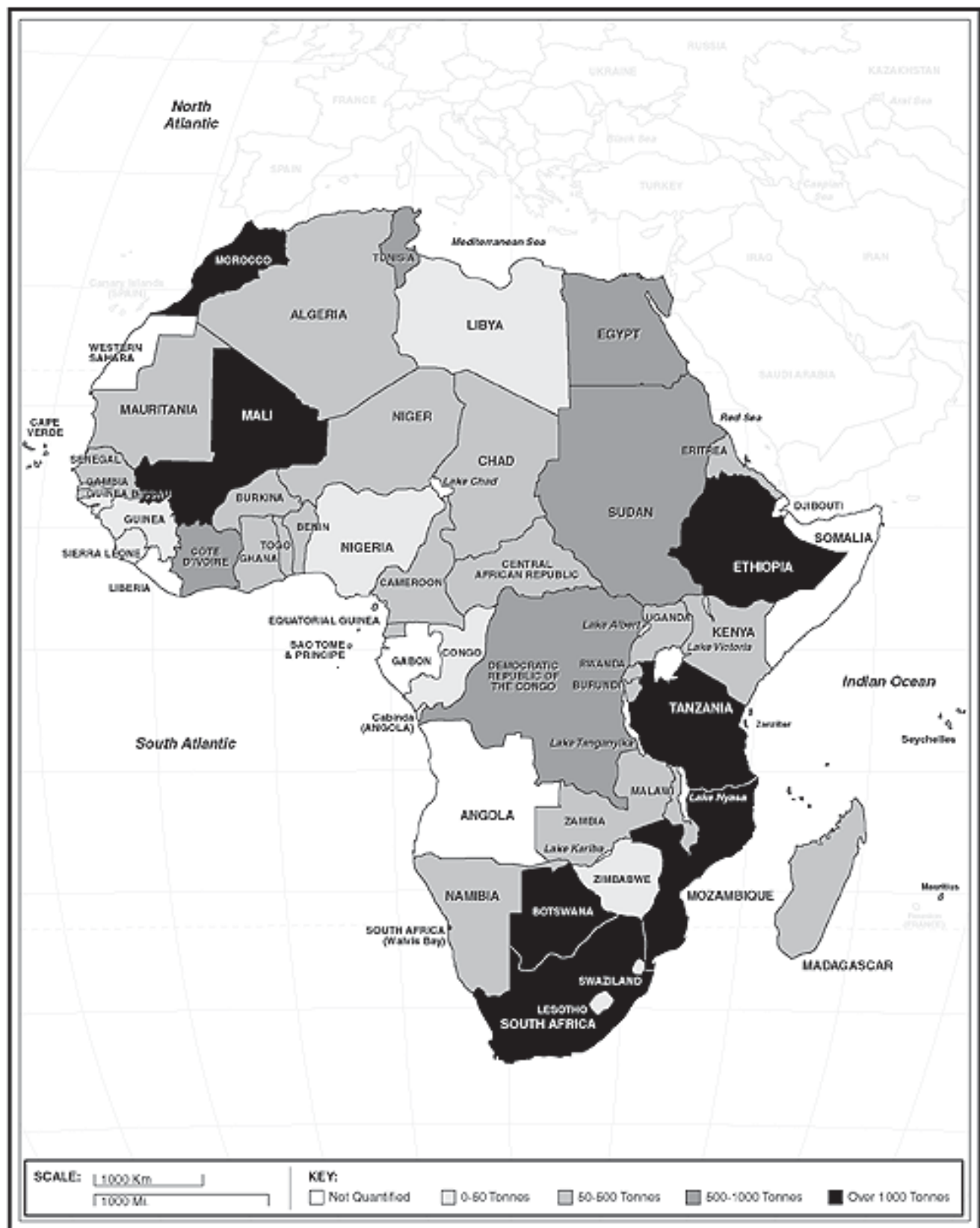
The safe containment and environmentally sound disposal of large quantities of obsolete pesticides is beyond the financial and technical means of most developing countries. These countries also require support to prevent future stockpile accumulation. A concerted international effort is needed to eliminate all the POPs and other obsolete pesticides stockpiled in Africa and to prevent any future accumulations.

Contamination from hazardous obsolete pesticides threatens the health of communities throughout Africa and the world. Urgent action is needed to protect the environment and human health by safely removing and disposing of identified stockpiles and ensuring that this dangerous situation is not repeated.

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# OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKPILES AFRICA INVENTORIES



## INITIATING PARTNERS

The following partners are currently involved in the development of the Africa Stockpiles Programme, or are expected to participate. Additional partners may be recruited and their respective roles will be worked out early in programme development.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The **African Union (AU)** (formerly the Organization of African Unity/OAU) is a regional center for discussing overarching and strategic aspects of the programme. It is the vehicle through which country “buy in” on a broad scale will be achieved.

The **Basel Convention Secretariat (SBC)** is responsible for servicing the needs of parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. Certain obsolete pesticides are covered by the convention. The secretariat and the bodies of the convention are also key partners in implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The SBC operates several regional centers (Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa) that will likely facilitate project delivery.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations has been a lead organization in dealing with obsolete pesticides in developing countries since 1994. FAO-led activities on obsolete pesticides include organizing and running workshops, consultation meetings, and public outreach; publishing guidelines on prevention and management; initiating and coordinating national inventories; and coordinating and monitoring disposal projects. FAO programmes also promote and support important prevention strategies such as integrated pest management (IPM) and strong pesticide controls.

**New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)** is a vision and strategic framework for Africa’s renewal and was designed to address the current challenges facing the African continent. NEPAD provides a continental framework for sustainable development. The NEPAD Secretariat is well positioned to play an advocacy role, as well as facilitate the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements by member countries of the AU, particularly through the African Ministers of Environment Conference (AMCEN).

### **The UN Economic Commission for Africa**

**(UNECA)** is a regional organization committed to the sustainable development of Africa, and is interested in the ASP because stockpiles impede Africa’s development. UNECA will help raise awareness among African countries and building capacity for prevention through training and workshops.

**UNEP Chemicals** has been designated as the interim Secretariat for the Stockholm POPs Convention and also serves as joint Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention with FAO. It has held many awareness-raising workshops on POPs, a number of them in Africa, and has designated Africa as a region meriting special emphasis. It is supporting the development of GEF-funded Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans in a number of African countries. The POPs negotiations, under UNEP leadership, engaged African and other developing countries in discussions closely related to the obsolete pesticides issue.

### **The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

provides assistance to developing countries on cleaner production and waste management. Specifically, the agency has an interest in promoting safe and cleaner production of pesticides in developing countries; formulating environmentally friendly products and nonchemical pesticides, such as bio-botanical pesticides; and piloting non-incineration hazardous waste disposal. UNIDO has also established a network of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) in Africa that can support capacity building among agro-chemical industries and chemical users and producers through technology transfer.

### **The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

is an autonomous body within the UN established to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization through appropriate training and research. UNITAR’s Training and Capacity Building Programmes in Chemicals and Waste Management assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen chemicals management capacity. For ASP, UNITAR can provide technical assistance, subject to available resources, with development of National Chemicals Management Profiles, Action Plan development, guidance and training for risk management decision making, and other priority issues.

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The **World Bank** is one of the world's largest sources of development assistance. As a GEF Implementing Agency, the Bank develops and manages large environmental projects and programs, which integrate the Bank's new environment strategy. The Bank also manages Trust Funds that have resources dedicated to the POPs program area, and it contributes technical expertise in areas such as Integrated Pest Management. The World Bank is the legal entity for implementation of the ASP, and on behalf of donors it manages the ASP Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The World Bank is hosting the program's Coordination Unit that acts as secretariat for the ASP Steering Committee.

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** is the UN's specialized agency for health. WHO's objective is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. WHO will assist in raising awareness among African countries in health effects of obsolete pesticides and building capacity for the public health response to incidents with pesticides including obsolete pesticides.

## **GOVERNMENTS**

**National governments.** The governments of the countries where the problems exist, as well as national and local stakeholders, are key partners in the success of ASP. ASP projects will be country driven and their success will depend on individual country engagement with the programme. A prime focus of early ASP activities will be to gain country support through regional and subregional organizations. The six countries targeted for Phase I clean up activities are Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Republic of South Africa, Tanzania, and Tunisia, while Nigeria and eight other countries will begin prevention and preparation activities

**Donor governments** will also play an important role in the development and implementation of the programme. Their leveraged co-finance contributions will help ensure that clean-up and prevention initiatives can be carried out expeditiously, with effective accountability and safeguards. At the same time, ASP contributes to donors' interest in poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

## **NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**CropLife International (CLI)**, represents the plant science industry, including the major manufacturers of crop protection products. CLI offers financial support for the destruction of obsolete government-owned pesticides originally supplied by CLI's leading companies. CLI has additionally offered management expertise for ASP inventory and disposal operations and emergency safeguarding

assistance for countries holding highly hazardous obsolete stocks in a pledge of up to US\$30 million. CLI has also offered to extend its existing training programs in Africa to the ASP.

**Pesticide Action Network/PAN-UK** is an NGO that is primarily concerned with the health and environmental impact of pesticides and the promotion of safe and sustainable alternatives. It initiated the Africa Stockpiles Programme in partnership with WWF and has extensive expertise built up over more than ten years of working on obsolete pesticides in developing countries. PAN-UK and PAN-Africa will play a key role in addressing NGO awareness.

**Pesticide Action Network/PAN-Africa** is a network of African nongovernmental organizations with extensive experience in addressing pesticide issues and promoting sustainable alternatives. PAN-Africa is participating actively in launching the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

**World Wildlife Fund/World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, an international conservation organization, initiated discussions on developing ASP. Through four subregional offices, its Africa Regional Program is well positioned to help advance ASP objectives. WWF has played a key role in raising awareness of these issues and in establishing and chairing the informal steering group. WWF will host the Cross-cutting activities unit that will address issues that cross borders or involve multiple countries.

*October 2003*

# AFRICA

## STOCKPILES PROGRAMME

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### INTERNAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Final World Bank approvals and GEF CEO endorsement – April/May 2004
- ASP Phase I Operational Start-Up – mid 2004

#### EXTERNAL MEETINGS

[Note: Some of the following information has been copied from various editions of the EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN and is reproduced with thanks. Contact: enb@iisd.org; tel: +1-212-644-0204; fax: +1-212-644-0206]

#### NOVEMBER 2003

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY:** 1-7 November 2003, Bangkok, Thailand. FORUM V will take place in Hungary in late 2005 or 2006. For more information contact: Judy Stober, IFCS Executive Secretary; tel: +41-22-791-3650; fax: +41-22-791-4875; e-mail: [ifcs@who.ch](mailto:ifcs@who.ch); Internet: <http://www.ifcs.ch>

**WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION:** 2 November 2003, Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop and dinner, which will be held during the fourth session of the IFCS, will discuss implementation of the GHS, an approach to identifying chemical hazards and providing information about chemicals to users and exposed individuals. It is open to all Forum IV participants. For more information contact: Kim Headrick, Health Canada; fax: +1-613 946-1100; e-mail: [kim\\_headrick@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:kim_headrick@hc-sc.gc.ca); Internet: <http://www.ghsworkshop.com>

**FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (SAICM PREPCOM1):** 9-13 November 2003, Bangkok, Thailand. This preparatory meeting is held in response to a UNEP Governing Council decision on a "Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management" (SAICM), which highlighted a need to further develop a strategic approach

to promote the incorporation of chemical safety issues into the development agenda. The initiative was subsequently endorsed by the WSSD in Johannesburg in September 2002, and in February 2003 a progress report was considered by UNEP Governing Council, which also adopted a decision endorsing the concept of an international conference to be held around the end of 2005. For more information contact: UNEP Chemicals Unit; e-mail: [chemicals@unep.ch](mailto:chemicals@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>

**GEF COUNCIL MEETING AND NGO CONSULTATION:** 18-21 November 2003, Washington, DC, United States. For more information contact: the GEF Secretariat; tel: +1-202-473-0508; fax: +1-202-522-3240; e-mail: [secretariat@TheGEF.org](mailto:secretariat@TheGEF.org); Internet: [http://gefweb.org/participants/Council/Meeting\\_Schedule/meeting\\_schedule.html](http://gefweb.org/participants/Council/Meeting_Schedule/meeting_schedule.html)

**PIC INC-10:** 17-21 November 2003, Geneva, Switzerland. The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an international legally binding instrument for the application of the PIC procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade will be held in Geneva in November 2003. For more information contact: Interim Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention, UNEP Chemicals Unit; tel: +41-22-917-8183; fax: +41-22-797-3460; e-mail: [pic@unep.ch](mailto:pic@unep.ch); Internet: [http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id\\_Cat=89&mTitre=WHAT%60S+NEW](http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id_Cat=89&mTitre=WHAT%60S+NEW)

#### FEBRUARY 2004

**AFRICAN UNION'S EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER AND ENERGY:** (tentatively planned for: February 2004, Libya.)

**AFRICAN UNION'S ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:** (tentatively planned for: February 2004, Libya.)



## MARCH 2004

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 4-6 March 2004, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. This Forum is organized by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA). It will seek to enhance the contribution of partnerships towards the implementation of sustainable development goals and objectives. The Forum's outcome will be presented to CSD-12. For more information contact: Gloria Visconti, Ministry for the Environment and Territory, Department for Global Environment, Inte; tel: +39-06-5722-8121; fax: +39-06-5722-8180; e-mail: [Visconti.Gloria@minambiente.it](mailto:Visconti.Gloria@minambiente.it); Internet: [http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori\\_azione/pia/att/PIA\\_accordi\\_internazionali\\_menu](http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori_azione/pia/att/PIA_accordi_internazionali_menu)

## APRIL 2004

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 19-30 April 2004, New York, United States. CSD-12 will tentatively meet during these dates. As agreed at CSD-11, the 12th session will be a "Review Year" to evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints on the thematic clusters of water, sanitation and human settlements. For more information contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA; tel: +1-212-963-8811; fax: +1-212-963-1267; e-mail: [aydin@un.org](mailto:aydin@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>

**THIRD SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 26-30 April 2004. Geneva, Switzerland. For more information contact: Basel Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8218; fax: +41-22-797-3454; e-mail: [sbc@unep.ch](mailto:sbc@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.basel.int>

## MAY 2004

**GEF NGO CONSULTATION AND COUNCIL MEETING:** 18-21 May 2004. Washington, DC, United States. For more information contact: the GEF Secretariat; tel: +1-202-473-0508; fax: +1-202-522-3240; e-mail: [secretariat@TheGEF.org](mailto:secretariat@TheGEF.org); Internet:

## JULY 2004

**AFRICAN UNION'S ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:** (tentatively planned for: Addis Ababa, July 2004.)

**AFRICAN UNION'S THIRD SESSION OF THE SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE:** (tentative date July 2004.)

## SEPTEMBER 2004

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL ECOAGRICULTURE CONFERENCE AND PRACTITIONERS' FAIR:** 27 September - 1 October 2004. Nairobi, Kenya. This event will be hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and co-sponsored by the Equator Initiative, UNDP and IUCN. For more information contact: Sara J. Scherr, Director, Ecoagriculture Partners; tel: +1-202-223-1313; fax: +1-202-223-3545; e-mail: [SScherr@futureharvest.org](mailto:SScherr@futureharvest.org);

## OCTOBER 2004

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP7) TO THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 25-29 October 2004. Geneva, Switzerland. Basel COP-7 is tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva from 25-29 October 2004. For more information contact: Basel Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8218; fax: +41-22-797-3454; e-mail: [sbc@unep.ch](mailto:sbc@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.basel.int>

## NOVEMBER 2004

**GEF NGO CONSULTATION AND COUNCIL MEETING:** 16 -19 November 2004. Washington, DC, United States. For more information contact: the GEF Secretariat; tel: +1-202-473-0508; fax: +1-202-522-3240; e-mail: [secretariat@TheGEF.org](mailto:secretariat@TheGEF.org); Internet: [http://gefweb.org/participants/Council/Meeting\\_Schedule/meeting\\_schedule.html](http://gefweb.org/participants/Council/Meeting_Schedule/meeting_schedule.html)

# AFRICA

## STOCKPILES PROGRAMME

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>ASP</b>	Africa Stockpiles Programme
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CAS</b>	Country Assistance Strategy
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biodiversity
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>CLI</b>	CropLife International (formerly GCPF – Global Crop Protection Federation)
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties
<b>DANIDA</b>	Danish Aid Agency
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development (UK)
<b>EA</b>	Executing Agency
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GEF</b>	The Global Environment Facility
<b>GTZ</b>	Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Assistance)
<b>HCB</b>	Hexachlorobenzene
<b>IA</b>	Implementing Agency
<b>IFCS</b>	Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety
<b>IGOs</b>	Intergovernmental Organizations
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INC</b>	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
<b>IOMC</b>	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
<b>IPM</b>	Integrated Pest Management
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NCPCs</b>	National Cleaner Production Centers (UNIDO)
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>NIPs</b>	National Implementation Plans
<b>NGOs</b>	Nongovernmental Organizations
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PAN-Africa</b>	Pesticide Action Network-Africa (NGO)
<b>PAN-UK</b>	Pesticide Action Network-UK (NGO)
<b>PCBs</b>	Polychlorinated biphenyls
<b>PDF-B</b>	Project Development Funds block B (Grants program for project preparation at the GEF)
<b>PIC</b>	Prior Informed Consent
<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>SBC</b>	Secretariat for the Basel Convention
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNEP GC</b>	United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNITAR</b>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit on Sustainable Development
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund / World Wide Fund for Nature (NGO)