



Preparation of National Implementation Plans

23. The Convention requires (Article 7) countries to prepare NIPs, within two years from its entry into force that set priorities for initiating future activities to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The NIP will provide a framework for a country to develop and implement, in a systematic and participatory way, priority policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, and investment programs. The GEF will provide up to \$500,000 per country, under GEF's expedited approval and disbursement procedures (see para. 4), for the preparation of NIPs¹⁷.

24. The Convention text specifically identifies the following actions that may be undertaken within the context of a NIP:

25. Undertake preliminary inventories of sources and emissions of POPs listed in Annexes A and B to the Convention.

- (a) prepare an Action Plan for the reduction of releases of unintentional by-products¹⁸;
- (b) where appropriate, prepare an Action Plan to control the use of DDT for disease vector control¹⁹;
- (c) build capacity to report every five years on progress in phasing out PCBs as described in Annex I part II of the Convention;
- (d) prepare a preliminary assessment of stockpiles of POPs and of waste products contaminated with POPs, and identify management options, including opportunities for disposal;
- (e) build capacity to report to the COP on total production, import and export, as per Article 15 of the Convention;

¹⁷ If the needs of a country for the preparation of its NIP exceed this amount, normal GEF processing rules for full projects will apply.

¹⁸ This Action Plan should be transmitted to the COP within two years of entry into force of the Convention for that Party. Article 5 of the Convention outlines some of the elements that should be included in these plans such as an inventory of current and projected releases, an assessment of enforcement capacity and adequacy of laws and policies to meet the obligations of by-products reduction of the Convention, and strategies to meet these obligations.

¹⁹ Annex II, part II, of the Convention requires Parties to report every three years on the amount used, and describes what such plan should cover, including plans for strengthening of regulatory controls and measures to strengthen health care.



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- (f) build capacity to assess the need of continuation of specific exemptions and preparation of their reporting/extension;
- (g) build capacity to identify sites contaminated by POPs; and
- (h) support communication, information exchange, and awareness raising through multi-stakeholder participatory processes, as described in Article 9 and 10.

26. In developing their NIPs, countries may wish to follow, and amend as appropriate to national circumstances, the step-wise process presented in Annex B, and summarized below. This process for NIP development has been prepared by an expert group and reviewed in four regional workshops²⁰. It covers the following four main groups of activities:

Step 1: Determination of coordinating mechanisms and organization of process

- (i) identification and strengthening of national institution/unit to serve as Focal Point;
- (ii) determination of multi-stakeholder national coordinating committee based on a stakeholder analysis; and
- (iii) identifying and assigning responsibilities among government departments and other stakeholders for the various aspects of POPs management.

Step 2: Establishment of POPs inventory and assessment of national infrastructure and capacity

- (i) preparation of a National Profile (or core sections thereof as they relate more specifically to POPs) followed by the establishment of a register (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, or equivalent), in order to create and maintain a reliable inventory;
- (ii) preliminary inventory of production, distribution, use, import and export;
- (iii) Preliminary inventory of stocks and contaminated sites and products; assessment of opportunities for disposal of obsolete stocks;
- (iv) preliminary inventory of releases to the environment;

²⁰ These workshops were held during the preparation of the GEF-supported project Development of National Implementation Plans for POPs- implemented by UNEP in collaboration with UNITAR/FAO/WHO/World Bank/WWF (GEF allocation: \$4.94M). This project, which is being submitted to the GEF Council for approval, will assist 12 selected countries representative of different geographic and socio-economic conditions to develop their NIPs. Experience gained from the project will be shared with other countries.



- (v) assessment of infrastructure capacity and institutions to manage POPs, including regulatory controls, and chemical analytical reference laboratories; needs and options for strengthening them;
- (vi) assessment of enforcement capacity to ensure compliance;
- (vii) assessment of social and economic implications of POPs use and reduction; including the need for the enhancement of local commercial infrastructure for distributing benign alternative technologies/products;
- (viii) assessment of monitoring and research and development, and chemical analytical capacity; and
- (ix) identification of POPs-related human health and environmental issues of concern; basic risk assessment as a basis for prioritization of further action taking into account, inter alia, potential releases to the environment and size of exposed population.

Step 3: Setting of priorities and determination of objectives

- (i) development of criteria for prioritisation, taking into account health, environmental, and socio-economic impact and the availability of alternative solutions; and
- (ii) determination of national objectives in relation to priority POPs or issues.

Step 4: Formulation of a National Implementation Plan, and specific Action Plans on POPs

- (iii) identification of management options, including phasing out and risk reduction options;
- (iv) determination of the need for the introduction of technologies, including technology transfer; possibilities of developing indigenous alternatives; and
- (v) assessment of the costs and benefits of management options;
- (vi) development of a national strategy for information exchange²¹, education, communication and awareness raising, taking into account risk perception of POPs by the public; and

²¹ Information exchange on alternatives and reduction/elimination options is crucial to the long-term success of the Convention. Article 9 makes provision for a clearinghouse mechanism entrusted to the Secretariat of the Convention, and to Parties' obligation to designate a Focal Point to facilitate this exchange. It is suggested that in the interim, and before the clearinghouse mechanism is fully operational, support should be given



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- (vii) preparation of a draft NIP which may include priorities and proposed sequencing of implementation, estimated total cost of proposed activities, including incremental costs where applicable.

Step 5: Endorsement of NIP by stakeholders

- (viii) submission of a draft NIP to stakeholders for comments through workshops, dissemination of information, etc., to obtain the commitment of stakeholders, including decision-makers, to implement the NIP; and
- (ix) finalization of the NIP.

to strengthen client countries' capacity in information exchange. This should be wide ranging, and should cover information between parties as well as information within a country. The focal point should have the capacity to assess information that it receives, and to dispatch it to the relevant actors in country. It should also be in a position to assess what information within a country that may need to be circulated.