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FOCUS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)



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A large fraction of life on earth is disappearing at a frightening rate, threatening the very basis of human

LETTER FROM THE CEO



MONIQUE BARBUT

Dear Colleagues,

In March comes spring so it is fitting that we also celebrate World Water Day, a reminder that water is life. Most of the year we take water for granted, but when droughts and floods come it reinforces that this precious resource remains chronically mismanaged, an undervalued commodity in which drinking water and sewage treatment do not reach the customers that need it the most: the poor and the vulnerable. Meanwhile national water reforms remain too slow in coming and pollution discharges continue unabated. [More...](#)



SIMULTANEOUS EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

The three global chemicals conventions, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, address complementary aspects of the lifecycle of chemicals, or of a country's regime for sound management of chemicals. [More...](#)



GEF: RAPID RESPONSE TO THE WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE

The Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan in China was a major catastrophe that led to more than 87,000 deaths, destroyed homes of more than 5 million people, and produced direct economic losses of \$120 billion. About one month after the main shock of the earthquake occurred on May 20, 2008, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China submitted to the GEF a project on Rapid Assessment of Chemical. [More...](#)



WORLD EXPO 2010 IN SHANGHAI

As part of the GEF International Waters (IW) focal area experience sharing and learning program, the Fifth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference was held in Cairns, Australia October 24-29, 2009. Co-hosted by the Government of Australia and the GEF, the Fifth Biennial IW portfolio conference is the latest in a series of such South-to-South learning meetings of the GEF IW portfolio the last decade that have been held in Hungary, China, Brazil, South Africa, and now Australia. [More...](#)



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Canadian Institute of Child Health, 2000

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Monique Barbut
GEF CEO & Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

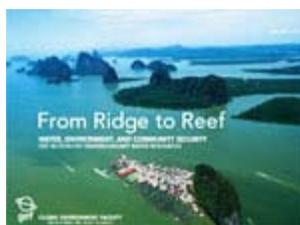
In March comes spring so it is fitting that we also celebrate World Water Day, a reminder that water is life.

Most of the year we take water for granted, but when droughts and floods come it reinforces that this precious resource remains chronically mismanaged, an undervalued commodity in which drinking water and sewage treatment do not reach the customers that need it the most: the poor and the vulnerable. Meanwhile national water reforms remain too slow in coming and pollution discharges continue unabated.

Poor communities depend on wetlands, rivers and deltas for drinking water, livelihoods and food security but their voice is too often not heard-- their needs still unmet. Continuing degradation of the water environment, wetlands, and downstream coastal areas reflects the lack of political will to improve water resource management. The worsening situation means that degradation and depletion is expanding beyond national borders to downstream countries and coastal areas that are starved of water and choked with pollution. Meanwhile the growing threat from climate change promises to make the global water crisis even worse.

With all these challenges in mind, the GEF mission on water is a special one. Our unique role as the largest multilateral environmental fund is to build trust and confidence among countries to collaborate on improved management of their large, shared water systems—specifically trans-boundary surface and groundwater basins and their linked coastal areas and oceans. The security and community sustainability of almost two-thirds of the people on our planet depend on trans-boundary surface and groundwater systems that cover 60% of our planet's land area.

GEF is serious about water: we have so far devoted over \$1 billion in grant funding along with \$5 billion in matching funds over the last 15 years to encourage countries to collaborate and share benefits through collective management of these cross-border waters. To date 149 different GEF recipient countries are working with their neighbors on these shared water systems to reverse the decline and to sustain future benefits.



Results from a selection of these projects are contained in a GEF publication on water, environment, and community security "From Ridge to Reef".



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These GEF-funded activities and successful local demonstration pilots have clearly illustrated that we must take a holistic approach that looks both upstream and downstream to serve these countries. For example, a land use decision is often a water use decision as well. More integrated approaches toward catchment management and consideration of downstream water uses must accompany our normal interests of water supply and sanitation if sustainable development is to become a reality.

The global water crisis represents a crisis of land, water, and natural resource governance as well as one of capacity, political will, and finance. GEF is scaling up our actions on integrated land and water resource management and we are incorporating considerations of climatic variability and change as well into country-driven requests for assistance. With the timetable for meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals seriously off track, the time for action is now. We should all start by looking upstream and downstream at the land, its biological diversity, and the water if we want to make progress.

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SIMULTANEOUS EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

By Laurent Granier, Sr. Environmental Specialist, GEF, lgranier@thegef.org

The three global chemicals conventions, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, address complementary aspects of the lifecycle of chemicals, or of a country's regime for sound management of chemicals. The Rotterdam convention on prior informed consent that addresses chemicals that are traded can be considered an "early warning" system. The Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants seeks to reduce and eliminate the use and releases of the most dangerous of synthetic chemicals, whilst the Basel convention on the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes provides a framework for dealing with these chemicals when they are being phased out and become waste that needs to be disposed of.

The GEF is the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention of course, and GEF strategies from the onset have recognized that a meaningful approach to implementation of the Stockholm Convention had to be mindful of the broader context of countries' frameworks for sound chemicals management. Most recently, this principle is encapsulated in the draft GEF-5 Programming Document which states that "Many of the challenges concerning the management and phase-out of POPs are similar to the steps that countries need to take to comply with the Basel, Bamako and Rotterdam conventions. [...] Therefore, the existing GEF policy that support to Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol implementation should build upon and contribute to strengthening a country's foundational capacities for sound chemical management more generally will be actively pursued [...]".

Because of the strong links between these three conventions, the parties have been working over recent years under the so-called "synergies" process to seek to enhance cooperation and coordination between them. The process led to the adoption by the three conferences of the parties of a quasi identical decision on synergies. The synergies process will be further advanced this 22-24 February 2010 when the three COPs meet simultaneously in Bali and discuss together a number of issues including joint secretariat services. The decision of the three conventions also "encourages representatives of Parties to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages from the conference of the Parties of each convention to the GEF [...]".

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GEF: RAPID RESPONSE TO THE WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE

By Jang Ru, Operation Officer, The World Bank, jru@worldbank.org



Destroyed town center of the Beichuan County

The Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan in China was a major catastrophe that led to more than 87,000 deaths, destroyed homes of more than 5 million people, and produced direct economic losses of \$120 billion. About one month after the main shock of the earthquake occurred on May 20, 2008, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China submitted to the GEF a project on Rapid Assessment of Chemical Contamination of the Wenchuan Earthquake with support of the World Bank as part of its initial efforts to identify and assess risks associated with releases and generation of persistent organic chemicals (POPs) and other hazardous chemical and wastes from improper waste management practices and industrial facilities that may have been weakened by the earthquake. Given the emergency nature of this operation, the GEF reviewed and approved this project with much simplified procedure in two weeks on July 2, 2008. With both the GEF and the World Bank's strong support, the GEF project was successfully concluded as planned on October 31, 2009.

The GEF Rapid Assessment Project was prepared and implemented as a part of a MEP Program on Post Wenchuan Earthquake Environmental Safety Assessment and Countermeasures initiated on June 3, 2008. The project supported China's emergency responses to the Wenchuan Earthquake by assessing potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the releases of hazardous chemicals and waste (with a focus on POPs) in five hard-hit counties in Sichuan Province. The project supported three phases of activities: identification of potential sources of POPs and other hazardous chemicals and wastes, rapid assessment of the highest priority sources, and recommendation on risk mitigation. Throughout the three phases, project related information was disclosed through internet and other platforms.

A project completion workshop financed by the Canadian International Development Agency through the World Bank, was held on December 3 and 4, 2009 in Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan. The workshop shared the lessons learned, particularly concerning POPs issues in disaster risk management. About 100 participants from MEP, affected provinces (Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Yunnan



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Province and Chongqing City), USEPA, consulting firms, and the World Bank task team attended the workshop. The workshop provided participants a lively exchange of forward looking ideas and the sharing of key global expertise on post-disaster risk, reconstruction, and clean-up. It aimed to ensure that the knowledge gained is incorporated into disaster risk plans produced in other earthquake zones in China, and is available to experts working in other countries.

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USEPA expert Fred Stroud presented US experience on post-disaster environmental risk assessment and post-disaster waste management.

At the workshop, the Bank's rapid preparation and the GEF's rapid review and approval of the project were highly appreciated by its government partner. "The GEF project was prepared and approved ... within only one month, which was record breaking and showed what is truly meant by rapid response," said Yu Lifeng, Deputy Director General of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of MEP, the domestic implementing agency of the project.

"The rapid processing of this GEF project reflects the Bank's commitment to support our clients when they need us most urgently," concurred by Ede Jorge Ijjasz-Vasquez, World Bank's Sector Manager for Sustainable Development for China and Mongolia.

"The GEF is proud to have been part of the Wenchuan Earthquake recovery effort in support of the people of China and of protection of the global environment," reflected by Robert K. Dixon, the Team Leader for Climate Change and Chemicals at the GEF Secretariat.

The workshop participants also visited the abandoned production facility of Sichuan Hongda Prosperous Chemical Industry Co. Ltd. at Chuanxindian, Shifang City to gain first hand understanding of the daunting task faced by the province on management of disaster waste, in particular those are hazardous. As one of many industrial sites destroyed by the earthquake, the plant was identified as a high risk pollution source.

Intensive site investigation and monitoring were undertaken with assistance of portable equipment procured under the project. The project has been seen as a rapid response model and effort characterized by partnership and trust. Mr. Li Heyi, chief engineer of Sichuan Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau noted that "the ... GEF project has played an important part in ensuring that there was no major secondary environmental accident in Sichuan after the Wenchuan Earthquake."

The project succeeded in screening 346 sites with potential chemical (including POPs) contamination risks. All sites were screened for potential PCB releases from in-use electrical equipment and investigated for potential releases of POP

pesticides and site specific hazardous chemical or wastes. Waste management facilities, in particular waste incinerators, were investigated for potential dioxin/furan releases. In addition, suspected owners of PCB equipment and POP pesticides were consulted on potential sites of POP storage and releases.

A total of 58 priority pollution sources were identified for follow-up mitigation actions. Among others, the project identified that improper management and disposal of disaster waste management may have become a key source of uncontrolled releases of dioxin/furan, two most potent POPs. As the province seeks ways to fully clean up these potential hazards, it is expected that mitigation activities proposed by the GEF project will be included in Sichuan's future post-disaster recovery and reconstruction actions, supported by the Bank's emergency recovery loan.

The GEF project is a small but integral part of China and the World Bank's overall quick response to the Wenchuan Earthquake. In addition, the GEF provided China \$1 million more grant to support China to take emergency biodiversity conservation measures to support the recovery and reconstruction of Wenchuan Earthquake hit regions in Sichuan Province. Approved on September 5, 2008, this project is under implementation with support of UNDP.

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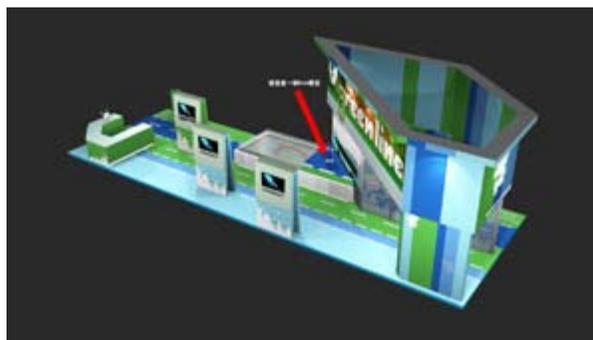
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WORLD EXPO 2010 IN SHANGHAI

By Osamu Mizuno, Sr. Environmental Specialist, omizuno@thegef.org

The Global Environment Facility will participate in the World Expo 2010 from May 1 to October 31 in Shanghai, China. The theme of Expo 2010 is "Better City, Better Life," representing a central concern of the international community for future policy making, urban strategies and sustainable development. Being the first World Exposition on the theme of city, Expo 2010 will attract governments and people from across the world. The GEF will be among the 50 international organizations and 192 countries which have confirmed participation, and more than 70 million people are expected to visit Expo 2010 (http://en.expo2010.cn/expo/expo_english/index.html).



The GEF-funded project, entitled Demonstration for Fuel-Cell Bus (FCB) Commercialization in China Project Phase II, in partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and UNDP, will be show-cased at the Expo, and six hydrogen-powered fuel-cell buses supported by the GEF project will be used as part of fleet of zero-emission buses that will serve the main shuttle bus route for the visitors. The GEF-funded project is intended to catalyze cost reduction of FCBs for public transit applications in Chinese cities and to stimulate technology transfer activities. FCBs hold the prospect for both zero tailpipe emissions and significantly higher fuel efficiency compared to conventional vehicles and are considered one of the most promising technologies for the development of emission-free public transport vehicles. In July 2010, the Expo will celebrate a "GEF Day" where the GEF and its role in global technology transfer activities will be recognized and honored.



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GEF-UNIDO PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS POPS-FREE INDUSTRIES

By Carmela Centeno, Mohamed Eisa and Heinz Leuenberger, Environmental Management Branch, UNIDO, C.Centeno@unido.org



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) plays a leading role in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Since the Convention opened for signature in 2001, UNIDO became one of the principal agencies assisting developing and transition economy countries to meet their obligations under the convention.

UNIDO was awarded the status of Executing Agency with Expanded Opportunities by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in May 2000 in recognition of its comparative advantage in the area of industry-related POPs issues.

With the support of GEF, UNIDO has embarked on actions to assist countries in the development of their National Implementation Plans (NIPs), formulate environmentally sound management methodologies and technology transfer approaches and has established forums in developing countries and transition economies, for the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention.

NIP Development

The implementation of the SC started with the development of the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) of parties through the GEF Enabling Activities funding mechanism. To date, over 50 countries have requested and received UNIDO's assistance to develop their NIPs. The priority actions reflected in the NIPs have enabled UNIDO to address industrialization issues related to the elimination and/or reduction of POPs emissions and releases to the environment. Particularly, the unintentionally-produced POPs releases have been addressed in several industrial sectors of Article 5 (Annex C Part II and III source categories) of the Stockholm Convention. UNIDO has a clear comparative advantage and mandate to undertake programmes related to these sectors and promote sustainable industrial development.

Promotion of Non-combustion Technology

In response to the Stockholm Convention's provision on the promotion of environmentally sound management of POPs, UNIDO has received GEF approval for a global programme on the "Demonstration of viability and removal of barriers that impede adoption and successful implementation of available, non-combustion technologies for destroying POPs". The programme was approved in May 2003 and currently involves Slovakia on the management of complex PCB wastes and PCB-contaminated equipment, the Philippines for elimination/disposal of PCB oil and China for the environmentally sound management of obsolete POPs pesticides and incineration fly ash. With such GEF support, UNIDO has continued to promote the introduction of non-combustion technologies in medical waste management cycle as well as other hazardous wastes and chemicals.



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BAT and BEP Programmes

In a move to expand its POPs programme and to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the BAT/BEP related provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, UNIDO has established regional forums on BAT/BEP for the East and South East Asia (ESEA) and Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (CEECA) sub-regions. The same programme will be launched in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the African sub-regions of COMESA, ECOWAS and SADEC.

The BAT and BEP Forums are a programmatic regional initiative of UNIDO on the introduction of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) on industry-related priority sectors using the Convention guidelines and guidance document as well as the UNEP toolkit for quantification of dioxins emissions. The main objective of the Forums is to create an enabling, non-legally binding framework for regional cooperation to facilitate the development, diffusion and deployment and transfer of BAT/BEP through the development of regionally-harmonized initiatives for priority industrial source categories. Information dissemination, awareness raising and implementation of measures are done in close cooperation with the joint UNIDO-UNEP Resource efficient and Cleaner production network.

Support to Africa LDCs

The GEF has strongly supported special programmes in Africa's LDCs to strengthen institutional capacities in implementing some of the priority action plans of the NIPs. Through this initiative, UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have joined hands in assisting African LDCs to integrate their activities related to SC implementation to the sub-regional (COMESA, ECOWAS, SADEC) environment and economic development programmes.

Cross-cutting Issues

The future GEF chemical management strategy is currently being anchored on the synergy amongst multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). UNIDO's policy in project formulation and development, strives to explore this synergy and expand on the opportunities linking the MEAs. In a practical example, the development of a BAT/BEP project focusing on unintentionally produced POPs in the fossil fuel-fired utilities and industrial boilers, the project explored the identification of possible options for the simultaneous reduction of dioxins and CO₂ in response to the Stockholm Convention and Climate Change requirements.

The international chemicals agenda is continuously evolving with new agreements being established and new substances coming into focus ranging from speciality chemicals to chemicals in consumer goods and services. The Stockholm Convention will continue to expand its list of chemicals and provide guidance and guidelines on the management of these chemicals. While there is a need to introduce alternatives to these chemicals, other cross-cutting measures such as overall chemicals management could very well feature in future GEF focal areas where countries could benefit from UNIDO support.

UNIDO shall continuously develop projects and embark on initiatives on industry-related chemicals management addressing the need for ultimate innovative treatment processes and safe disposal technologies. UNIDO is also committed in developing systems aiming at "closing the loop" of the lifecycle of these chemicals and to prevent pollution at source through engaging both manufacturers and users to take environmental actions in an integrated manner. This reflects the commitment of UNIDO, through the support of GEF, to derive high in its agenda, the implementation of the Convention and supporting green

industry for sustainable industrial development and opening new avenues for transfer of clean technologies. Cleaner production centers will play a crucial role in the information dissemination, capacity building and implementation.

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GEF PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN FUNDING CHEMICALS AND WASTES MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

By Ibrahima Sow, Sr. Environmental Specialist, GEF, isow@thegef.org

The POPs Team recently took part in several workshops: the Waste Management Partnership in Geneva, New POPs and the process of reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Mediterranean (outside UE) and French-speaking African countries in Barcelona and finally the Capacity Strengthening and technical assistance for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in African LDCs in Vienna, Austria.

The UNIDO expert briefing the meeting in Vienna translates to some extent the vision of the GEF to promote programmatic approaches and specifically responds to the increasing demands of eligible countries for NIP implementation.

While the POPs focal area in the GEF remains intrinsically linked to the Stockholm Convention, it offers real opportunities for environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes projects. Examples can be seen in two projects (one in Tunisia and another in Belarus) both addressing priority POPs issues within the context of an integrated wastes management approach. Another approved project in the Pacific SIDS (UNEP/FAO) takes an integrated approach to POPs management, in the broader framework of solid and hazardous waste management. This demonstrates that the GEF is positioned as a major donor to play a key role in the field of chemicals/wastes management.

The process of updating the NIPs, including new POPs will build upon lessons learned from NIP development, taking also into account funding procedures and criteria. The GEF will work with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and other partners with a view of determining, in an orderly and cost-effective manner, modalities and procedures for updating the NIPs

GEFSEC continues to assist the Least Developed Countries and SIDS in Africa in their efforts to start implementation of the priority activities identified under their NIPs. This is achieved through providing strategic guidance to the UNEP/UNIDO expert team, the Agencies and the countries during the process of project development of the "LDCs/SIDS" program in Africa. This program involves all LCDs in Africa, parties to the Stockholm Convention with a GEF contribution of \$18 million and co financing expected to reach \$ 20 million dollars.

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Recent DANIDA Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is a voluntary fund which was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its seventh session in Marrakech in 2001. The Fund, which is managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), addresses the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), which aim to identify "urgent and immediate needs" of each LDC according to specific guidelines provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).

Recently, the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) commissioned an evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for adaptation to climate change which resulted in a number of important insights and recommendations that The GEF is already implementing in order to improve the delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of LDCF programming. The report praised the NAPAs as essential and important policy instruments on adaptation, called for the simplification of the procedures for accessing funds, and flagged in-country institutional and individual capacity as barriers to NAPA implementation. Significantly, it found that the resources currently made available by the LDCF donors are insufficient both in terms of the scale needed to finance climate adaptation planning and implementation in LDCs and in terms of being reliable enough to allow for the programming of implementation needs across all LDCs, a conclusion consistent with the GEF's LDCF/SCCF programming strategy for adaptation. The report's findings regarding the funding constraints are also consistent with concerns voiced at COP 15 that took place in November 2009 in Copenhagen, whereby the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) recognized that at least US\$1.93B are needed for the full implementation of the NAPAs, and requested parties to consider this going forward.



Photo credit Lars Christiansen

Maldives: LDCF is funding a project called "Integration of Climate Change Risks into the Safer Island Development Programme"

New LDCF Projects

New activities under the LDCF include a project in Maldives on Integration of Climate Change Risks into the Maldives Safer Island Development Program. In this low-lying island nation, where more than 70% of critical infrastructure is within 100m of the shoreline, the LDCF is financing adaptation actions that include the development of climate resilient land use plans, updating drainage systems, and restoration of natural systems providing coastal protection. These activities are complemented with training of key specialists in sectors vulnerable to climate change. In Burkina Faso, the Strengthening Adaptation Capacities and Reducing the Vulnerability to Climate Change project will finance the establishment of an early warning system and pilot measures such as testing climate-resilient irrigation techniques, development livestock feed storage facilities, establishing new wells, drip irrigation, and training farmers in climate-resilient agricultural management techniques with the objective of increasing the food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development.



Photo credit Lars Christiansen
Burkina Faso: LDCF is funding "Strengthening Adaptation Capacities and Reducing the Vulnerability to Climate Change in Burkina Faso"

Update on LDCF/SCCF financing

The LDCF has so far supported the preparation of NAPAs in 48 LDCs and will also support implementation of priority actions identified in completed NAPAs. As of January 2010, 43 NAPAs have been completed, and 35 implementation projects have been approved for LDCF funding, 14 projects are currently under implementation and at least 16 projects are expected to be endorsed by the CEO by mid-2010. Existing resources, including new pledges stand at approximately US\$200. Currently, around US\$120 million has been committed to NAPA implementation on the ground, i.e. Council Approved for Work Program.

SCCF adaptation projects support the implementation of adaptation actions in non-annex I parties, its priority areas being water, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, integrated coastal zone management, disaster risk management and prevention. The total resources under the SCCF program for adaptation, including new pledges are US\$105 million. The demand greatly exceeds available funding, forcing a temporary freeze for new SCCF projects. As of January 2010, 21 projects have been approved for support under the SCCF. Future funding opportunities depend on donor contribution.

During COP 15 in November 2009 in Copenhagen, the SBI recognized that the funding needed for the full implementation of the NAPAs is at least US\$1.93B and requested parties to consider this going forward. The next meeting on financing the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), will be hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in Rome, Italy, on March 11, following the GEF Replenishment meeting.



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GEF EVALUATION OFFICE BOOK LAUNCH OF "EVALUATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT"

By Sandra Romboli, Evaluation Officer, GEFEEO, sromboli@thegef.org

The GEF Evaluation Office hosted a book launch event at the World Bank Infoshop in Washington DC on February 18th 2010. The book presented "Evaluating Climate Change and Development" is a compilation of papers presented at the International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development, which was organized by GEF Evaluation Office and partners, and hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in May 2008.

The Conference identified the large and untapped potential of regional evaluation networks for practitioners in climate change and development and brought together the strong interest in developing capacity and knowledge-management tools to share best practices, guidelines and frameworks for evaluation of climate change interventions, particularly for a growing community of practitioners in developing countries and emerging economies. The book - responding to the needs identified during the conference - incorporates several cross sectoral themes on climate change and development evaluation.

The book launch event was a success with a large number of attendees representing the growing community of practitioners interested in climate change and development evaluation – from NGOs, Academia, the GEF, the World Bank and other organizations.

The panelists presenting and discussing the book were four renowned members of the international development evaluation arena; Uma Lele, a former Senior Advisor of the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank; Rob D. van den Berg, Director of GEF Evaluation Office; Juha Uitto, Deputy Director of the Evaluation Office at the United Nations Development Programme; and Kenneth Chomitz, Senior Advisor of the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank.

The book launch event was video recorded and posted our website www.gefeo.org. For further information on the book and the other initiatives on evaluation, climate change and development at the GEF Evaluation Office - please contact Gonzalo Griebenow at ggriebenow@thegef.org.

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EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOR ADAPTATION (SPA)

The Evaluation Office is during the month of February starting up the thematic Evaluation of the Strategic Priority for Adaptation (SPA). The overall purpose of the evaluation is to provide the GEF Council with evaluative evidence to take further decisions on Adaptation in the GEF based on lessons learned from the SPA. The GEF Evaluation Office was requested to conduct an independent evaluation of the \$50 million SPA pilot by the GEF Council in November 2008. The conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation will be considered in discussions by the GEF Council for future activities on adaptation.

The objectives of the SPA are to reduce vulnerability and to increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in any of the GEF focal areas, or in a combination of focal areas: biological diversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, ozone layer depletion, and persistent organic pollutants. It supports pilot and demonstration projects that address local adaptation needs and generate global environmental benefits. As requested by the Council, all projects under the SPA are funded based on the incremental cost principle. These projects reflect GEF's multidisciplinary and multi-focal area approach to support adaptation activities.

Given the early stages of the implementation of the SPA projects the evaluation will focus on an assessment of the strategy itself and the design/implementation of the projects, including adaptation measures, rather than on actual achievement of expected outcomes. The evaluation team is currently being finalized and the approach paper has been drafted for circulation. The evaluation work will take place between February and October 2010 and the evaluation report will be finalized and presented to the GEF Council in November 2010.

For more information, please visit the GEF Evaluation Office website: www.gefeo.org under "Thematic Evaluations", or contact Sandra Romboli at sromboli@thegef.org / Claudio Volonte at cvolonte@thegef.org

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SGP'S COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

By Small Grants Programme

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is GEF's window for small-scale activities at the community level to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. It has contributed to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention through piloting innovative demonstration models through community-based interventions, developing communities' capacities, and strengthening partnerships to generate greater impact in the persistent organic pollutants (POP) focal area. SGP has funded 236 POPs projects (see Figure 1 for the regional distribution of the POPs portfolio). Despite the relatively short duration of SGP's intervention in POPs focal area, it has provided innovative models and approaches, enhanced technical and management capacities in POPs focal area at the community level through online training, and established partnership with international NGO network for awareness-raising and collaboration.

Innovation and Demonstration

SGP has piloted innovative demonstration models and approaches to prevent, reduce and eliminate POPs at the community level. SGP's POPs portfolio mainly contains the following types of projects in POPs focal area: prevention of open burning of plastics and other solid waste, integrated pesticide management, organic farming, and awareness raising and capacity building activities. SGP pilot activities have not only provided innovative models for replication and upscaling but also increased awareness of POPs through UNDP's practice network and the media.

A dump for domestic solid waste was severely affecting the community of Isleta Sur in Cuba. Approximately 150 tons of solid waste was being burnt at the site on daily basis, emitting large quantity of dioxin and furan, noxious vectors, smoke, and other emissions. Through a SGP project, the community eradicated the source of the pollution and transformed the site into a garden. Three hectares of the dump have now been planted with fruit a tree, compost is being produced, and a plant nursery and recycling facility for rubber, plastics, and metals. The recycling centre is also providing employment for 40 local residents, including 19 women. The transformation of the dump has been led by a community member, who was also awarded the National Environmental Award 2006, the top annual prize given by the Ministry for the Environment. The project leader has won the CNN Hero Award in 2007 and the final nominee for the UNDP Administrator's Innovative Award.

Capacity Development

POPs focal area is relatively new to SGP. NGOs and communities have relatively low awareness and technical capacity in POPs focal area. Similarly, many national steering committee (NSC) members and national coordinators (NCs) of the SGP lack adequate knowledge regarding this new focal area. An interactive online POPs Training Module (www.sgp-pops.org) was developed and launched to build technical and management capacities of NGOs and communities in developing and implementing small scale community projects to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. This is the first and the only online training course available for focal area development at the community



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level. There are four language versions available online (English, French, Spanish and Russian), and the Arabic version is to be put online soon. As of February 2010, 512 national coordinators, SGP grantees and partners have taken the online training and given highly positive feedbacks to the training module.

Partnership

SGP has established a collaborative partnership with the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) to promote the POPs focal area and to facilitate communication, coordination and effectiveness in assisting NGOs and CBOs in their efforts to implement the Stockholm Convention and to reduce and eliminate POPs. A joint communiqué was signed between SGP and IPEN, laying out the foundation for the cooperation between SGP and IPEN. SGP works closely with IPEN to build capacity among eligible NGOs, CBOs and SGP country offices by providing information about POPs; reaching out to NGOs and communities; sharing the knowledge and experience throughout SGP and IPEN networks, supporting the development and implementation of POPs projects with information and available SGP funds, and leveraging co-financing for SGP POPs projects.

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A TOXICS-FREE FUTURE: APPLYING GLOBAL CHEMICAL POLICY TO LOCAL PRACTICE

By Björn Beeler, International Coordinator IPEN, bbeeler@ciel.org



The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) is a global network of more than 700 public interest non-governmental organizations working together for the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other persistent toxic substances on an expedited yet socially equitable basis. IPEN mission

includes achieving a world in which chemicals are no longer produced or used in ways that harm human health and the environment, and where POPs and chemicals of equivalent concern no longer pollute our local and global environments, and no longer contaminate our communities, our food, our bodies, or the bodies of our children and future generations. IPEN promotes NGO participation in international chemical policy processes and NGO capacity building to both contribute to the development of such policies as well as apply these policies on the ground in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.



POPs & the Stockholm Convention Negotiations

IPEN was founded in 1998 in Montreal, Canada during the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a global, legally-binding instrument on POPs. Initially, IPEN's main objective was to secure the adoption of a strong and effective global POPs treaty. When the Stockholm Convention was

adopted in 2001, IPEN revised its platform and scope of work, and agreed that IPEN's new mission would be: . . . to facilitate effective involvement by its Participating Organizations in local, national, and international activities to promote the elimination of POPs and other persistent toxic substances.



GEF MSP: The International POPs Elimination Project

Once the Stockholm Convention was adopted, IPEN moved to put the policy into practice. With help from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors, IPEN began to establish its regional infrastructure, and soon was able to support over 290 NGO activities contributing to national preparations for

Stockholm Convention implementation in 65 developing countries and countries



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with economies in transition. This IPEN project was known as the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP).



Sustainability & Continuity Beyond IPEP

The eight IPEN Regional Hubs established in 2004 are sustainable operations today. In 2007, after IPEP was completed, the Regional Hubs continued to maintain regional networks, and began

conducting a 2-year Regional Assessment with over 200 NGOs in 80 countries. In 2009, 3-year Regional Action Plan frameworks were finalized, which highlight priority chemical concerns, needs, capacities and opportunities for future activities. Today the eight IPEN Regional Hubs maintain regional NGO networks functioning in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

In 2003, IPEN further extended its scope of work by agreeing to engage, as a network, in the preparatory process to develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM). IPEN coordinated participation and interventions by public health and environmental NGOs in all SAICM preparatory meetings and in the 2006 Dubai Intergovernmental Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), where SAICM was agreed. In the margins of the ICCM, IPEN adopted a new common platform: the IPEN Declaration for a Toxics-Free Future, which states, that IPEN has an: ". . . expanded commitment to work for and achieve by the year 2020 a Toxics-Free Future, in which all chemicals are produced and used in ways that eliminate significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, and where POPs and chemicals of equivalent concern no longer pollute our local and global environments, and no longer contaminate our communities, our food, our bodies, or the bodies of our children and future generations."

Global SAICM Outreach: Making SAICM Real to Civil Society



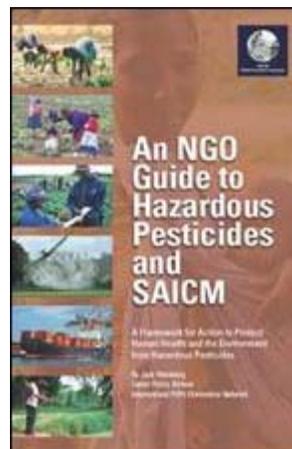
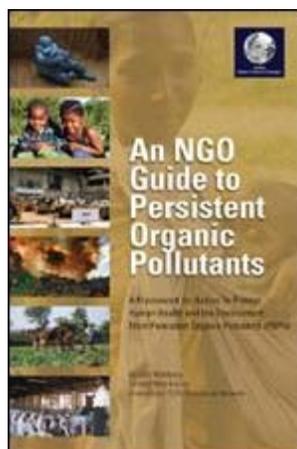
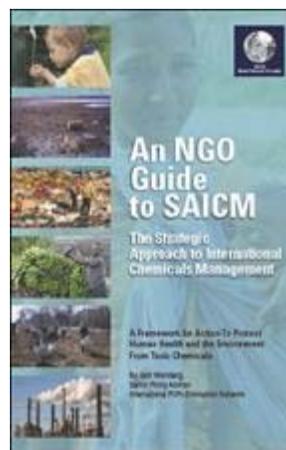
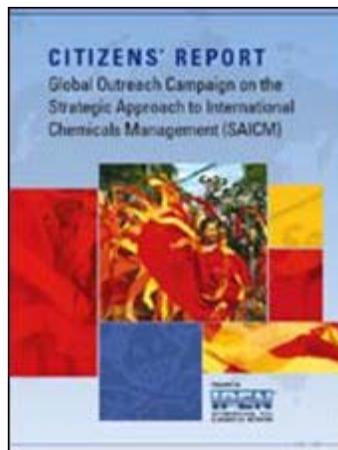
Since 2006, IPEN has broadened civil society participation from developing and transition countries in SAICM through creation and implementation of the SAICM Global Outreach Campaign. Beyond the hundreds of IPEN Participating Organizations, this Campaign has brought in several other key international health, labor, and agriculture NGO networks to form a global NGO coalition to raise

awareness about SAICM.

This Campaign has served to expand civil society awareness in all regions where toxic chemical exposure represents a real and growing threat to public health and the environment. IPEN has been a principle player in securing commitments from NGOs and other civil society organizations stating their intention to participate in

national and local efforts that contribute to the SAICM implementation, with the goal of advancing toward the achievement of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and SAICM 2020 goal. Today, more than 1,000 NGOs in over 110 countries have joined the Campaign.

The SAICM Global Outreach Campaign produced NGO guides to POPs, SAICM and Hazardous Pesticides, plus and Citizens' Report for the 2nd International Conference on Chemicals Management. The educational booklets (below) are available in many different languages (see <http://www.ipen.org/campaign/>).



Heavy Metals: Lead & Mercury

By 2008 IPEN had begun to expand its efforts into heavy metals, due to NGO priorities noted in 2007/2008 Regional Assessments and the evolving landscape of chemical policy issues, specifically on lead and mercury.



Initially focusing on a push for the global elimination of lead in paint, IPEN, working with NGOs across the globe, and launched the Children's Health First and Eliminate Lead Paint campaign. Unfortunately, lead in paint is an old toxic threat still affecting young children today. In 2002, the WSSD took two vital decisions to protect children's health from exposure to lead. The first called for the phase out of lead in gasoline, and the second, the phase out of lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure. This paved the way for an IPEN Participating Organization from India, Toxics Link, to form a partnership to promote

the global phase-out of lead in paints. This partnership proposed a global phase-out at the ICCM2 in May 2009, where it was endorsed. From there, the SAICM

Global Partnership to Eliminate Lead in Paint was created.

In addition, IPEN's constituency pushed for IPEN to engage in preliminary discussions for global action on mercury. Therefore, following an IPEN international sampling activity on products containing mercury and their alternatives and the UNEP Governing Councils decision to negotiate a global mercury treaty in 2009, IPEN established an IPEN Heavy Metals Working Group. Since then, IPEN has adopted an IPEN "Views on a Global Mercury Treaty", with the aim to promote a strong mercury treaty to reduce and eliminate mercury threats to children, communities and the environment.

Learn more about IPEN's Toxics-Free Future mission and work at www.ipen.org and see the online animation at www.ipen.org/info.

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FRESH WATER PRAWN FARMING FOR WOMEN LIVELIHOOD IN THE KRIBI AREA, SOUTH CAMEROON

By Jonas KEMAJOU SYAPZE, Director OPED – Organization for Environment and Sustainable Development, oped_cam@yahoo.fr / jksyapze@yahoo.com

Coastal communities in the area of Kribi-Campo depend heavily on freshwater ecosystems for their livelihoods. Here, the freshwater prawn is one of the fisheries resources of significant socio-economic value. Traditional capturing techniques are most often unsustainable and may reduce the population of the species in aquatic ecosystems.

This project, funded by GEF / SGP was to develop and promote a technology for freshwater prawn farming accessible to local communities.

The main actions included 1) the design of a training tool kit on freshwater prawn farming, 2) awareness activities and training of fishing women on prawn species with high reproductive potential, 3) support in building, technical and ecological management of prawn aquaculture facilities and 4) the organization of the marketing chain.



The project helped reduce post-harvest losses by 100%.

It has been effective at improving women's income by reducing the number of hours of work dedicated to prawn farming that have been used to carry on other



economies, cultures and livelihoods. Over the last 50 years, human activities have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than at any comparable period of time in history.



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activities; It has been calculated an increase of household revenues by 30%. The project also has strengthened the entrepreneurial capabilities of women. Monitoring activities will support the establishment of sustainable small and medium-size community enterprises.

This experience shows that real opportunities exist in the development of freshwater prawn aquaculture. To promote the extension of this activity to other fishing communities, OPED has received a grant from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) which will finance the construction of 300 prawn aquaculture facilities in the project area. Besides promoting freshwater prawn farming, this new project will also promote the adoption and development of improved smoking technology for fish drying, and the monitoring of mangroves. This integrated project will be conducted in partnership with the World Fish Center, the University of Sterling and Village Communities and will generate substantial alternative incomes for the conservation of mangrove ecosystems that are at the center of current issues related to climate change.

Project main results:

- Active participation of 178 fishermen including 44 men, 104 women and 30 during information and awareness activities in project activities
- Participatory elaboration of a practical guide on aquaculture for the use of farmers. 100 copies were distributed during participatory exercises involving experts in the field
- The organization of 30 environmental education sessions with the participation of 197 youth, 192 women and 159 men
- 85 Fishers of which 58 women have participated in training workshops in aquaculture techniques and basic principles of marketing, accounting and financial management
- The distribution of fishing equipment to women groups and support of beneficiaries (logistics, financial and technical) in the implementation of their prawn aquaculture initiatives (nursing, food processing, feeding, and maintenance of prawns in cages)
- The technology for freshwater prawn mastered and 10 cages established with about 180 freshwater prawns per cage;
- Formulation and processing of 20 kg of food suited to the nutrition of prawns,
- Creation and registration of two common initiative groups of active women;
- Development of partnerships between buyers – producers

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STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF TRAINING CENTERS FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS OF NORTHERN EURASIA

By Elena Nikolaeva, Environmental Education Centre "Zapovedniks",
nikol.elena@gmail.com

This article presents the results of GEF/UNEP project "Strengthening the Network of Training Centers for Protected Area Managers of Northern Eurasia" that was implemented by Environmental Education Centre "Zapovedniks" and its partners in 2005-2008.



The project was aimed at improving biodiversity conservation and livelihoods through a better management of Protected Areas (PA) in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The total project budget was 2.4 million USD, including 1 million USD from GEF. Among the main participating parties there were federal protected areas of the 4 countries as well as key PA Agencies (the Ministries of Natural Resources of Russia and Belarus, the State Committee for Forestry and Hunting in Kazakhstan, State PA Service of Ukraine Ministry of Environmental Protection).

The main objectives of the project were identified as follows: 1) to improve the skills of PA managers and staff in four project countries in critical aspects of PA management; 2) to secure stronger political and other stakeholder's support for PA in the region.

Within those objectives numerous activities have taken place, especially different training courses and public awareness campaigns for PA managers. Actually about 200 Protected Areas were somehow involved in the project, and about 2500 people were trained. As a consequence, PA staff has started to apply new skills and use innovative approaches in PA planning and management. But trainings were focused not only at PA specialists: politicians, businesses and local communities also participated in the programs and were involved in pilot



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projects. All that resulted in increased political support for PA in the project region. However, it was one of the most challenging tasks here as the majority of people in Northern Eurasia have very little understanding about the values of protected areas.

The project was initiated by Environmental Education Centre "Zapovedniks" – an NGO that has been working for 14 years to raise public awareness and support for PA in Russia. It is the only Russian organization that provides trainings for representatives of protected areas. Since 2007 Centre "Zapovedniks" is a member of the Network of European Environmental Training Centers of Excellence - association of acknowledged professional organizations that train PA staff.

Indeed the most practical result of GEF/UNEP project is the creation of 4 sustainable training institutions in each project country which continue to operate on a regular basis, have professional teams of trainers, possess methodical and resource materials available for the trainees and, what is very important, developed a unique technique to engage participants in the training process. All educational seminars, round tables and study visits organized by the Training Centers include interactive methods such as professional games and role plays to create effective educational environment and motivate trainees to intensive work. People not only gain knowledge and skills, but also change their perceptions and attitudes somehow.

For example, Elena Elistratova from Shorsky national park in Russian Siberia told her colleagues after the training that she "completely changed her attitudes towards environmental education and understood that it is a science which is necessary to conceive during the whole life". Galina Zamyatina, the Deputy Director of Ranger Service in Astrakhansky Zapovednik in the South of Russia wrote the following: "As one of my participants said, if he had taken part in such training courses before, he would have perceived his destiny to be a ranger in another way; he assumes that he completely overlooked his point of view considering his work".

Special attention at all seminars is given to the process of exchanging experience between the participants. Usually people that take part in training come from various regions of Russia and CIS, and it is always useful and interesting to learn how their colleagues manage their areas. Each participant gets a chance to organize his own lesson — «Creative workshop». Every time a seminar ends up with the development of an individual pilot project by participants for its further implementation at their PA.

The Training Centers in 4 project countries function as a joint network: exchange their experience, disseminate publications, monitor and evaluate their results. The last meeting of Training Centers coordinators took place in Kanevsky biosphere reserve in Ukraine in December 2009. Now, after eighteen months from the end of the project, it is possible to say that all four Centers have become sustainable: despite of the fact that direct funding from GEF is no longer available, the Centers have gained recognition and get requests to conduct trainings from federal and regional PA, State PA Agencies and different conservations projects (like UNDP, WWF, etc). For instance, Russian Training Center organized 8 seminars and 5 study tours since the end of GEF project and is now involved in 3 other conservation projects. Among the future plans is creation of regional Training Centers in various regions of the country.

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IN BRIEF

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have launched the first global project on public health adaptation to climate change. The project involves a series of pilot projects that will seek to increase the adaptive capacity of national health system institutions, including field practitioners, to respond to health risks associated with climate variability and change.

The projects will be executed by Ministries of Health and other relevant national partners in Barbados, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Kenya, Jordan and Uzbekistan. They will all aim to: enhance systems of early warning and early action; build capacity of national actors; pilot specific health risk reduction interventions; and document and share lessons learned in addressing the health risks associated with climate change in their area.

The project will receive US\$4.5 million for activities from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) as well as leverage significant co-financing and in-kind support from 2010–2014.

[\[WHO Press Release\]](#) [\[Public Health Case Studies\]](#) [\[Climate-L.org Story on the Funding of the Project\]](#)

Dr. Robert K. Dixon, Leader, GEF Climate and Chemicals Team participated in UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Expert Group meeting to draft and review a Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation, 1-2 February 2010, Washington, DC.

The IPCC Special Report contains 11 chapters including: renewable energy and climate change, bioenergy, solar energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, wind energy, integration of renewable energy in future energy systems, renewable energy and sustainable development, mitigation potential and costs, and policy, finance and implementation. Approximately 40 experts from around the world participated in the meeting. The final report should be completed in 2010.

The UNDP GEF Project on Healthcare Waste Management is excited to share its first [Project Update report](#). The goal of the project is to demonstrate best environmental practices and best available techniques for healthcare waste to avoid dioxin and mercury releases in eight countries: Argentina, India, Latvia, Lebanon, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, and Vietnam. The project facilitates the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Since its beginning in August 2008, the project has accomplished multiple national and global activities. The attached report highlights the project's progress and achievements. For more information about the project, please visit our website at www.gefmedwaste.org.



Environment Strategy 2010 CONSULTATIONS

The World Bank Group is undertaking global, multistakeholder consultations on its new Strategy to help its

clients achieve environmental sustainability. The new Strategy is expected to be completed and approved by December 2010. Launched in October 2009, the consultations include an open dialogue on the strategy concept note (available in six languages at www.worldbank.org/environmentconsultations), the preparation of several [background papers](#) on key strategic areas and a series of global consultations on the draft strategy. Comments on the concept note can be provided [via web](#), by [email](#), or by participating to the ongoing [consultation events](#). Some stakeholders are telling us that the Bank should "close the gap between what it says on environment and what it actually does," others that it should communicate more about the links between development and the environment. Do you agree? What do you think the role of the Bank Group should be? Read [what others are saying](#).

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the greenline

FOCUS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)



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Many chemicals are dangerous to human and ecosystem health. Among the worst is a range of synthetic organic compounds that persist in the environment for long

periods of time. GEF's involvement in tackling the threats posed by these Persistent Organic Pollutants dates back to 1995. In the ensuing years, the GEF has committed US\$ 360 million to projects in the POPs focal area and leveraged some US\$ 440 million in co-financing to bring the total value of the GEF POPs portfolio to US\$ 800 million.

A large fraction of life on earth is disappearing at a frightening rate, threatening the very basis of human

NEW FOCAL POINTS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name	Country	Category	Date of Nomination
Mr. Viktor Martirosjan	Armenia	Alternate Member	3/23/2010
Mr. Vitaly Kulik	Belarus	Political Focal Point/Operational Focal Point/Donor Participants (SCCF)	3/18/2010
Mr. Delphin Aidji	Benin	Operational Focal Point	11/27/2009
Mr. Juan Pablo Ramos Morales	Bolivia	Operational Focal Point	1/19/2010
Mr. Stevie Chilume Monna	Botswana	Political Focal Point	2/2/2010
Mrs. Ingrid M. Otukile	Botswana	Operational Focal Point	2/2/2010
Ms. Ivelina Vasileva	Bulgaria	Political Focal Point	11/9/2009
His Excellency Francois Naoueyama	Central African Republic	Political Focal Point	1/5/2010
Ms. Huang Wenhong	China	Operational Focal Point	1/11/2010
Mrs. Alicia Lozano	Colombia	Operational Focal Point	2/24/2010
His Excellency Henri Djombo	Congo	Political Focal Point	11/6/2009
Mr. Solo Mara	Fiji	Political Focal Point	2/15/2010
Mr. Jope Rinabobo Davetanivalu	Fiji	Operational Focal Point	1/10/2010
Mr. Remy Rioux	France	Council Member/Donor Participants (Replenishment)/Donor Participants (SCCF)	1/27/2010
Mr. Louis Leandre Ebobola Tsibah	Gabon	Operational Focal Point	3/6/2010
Mr. George Khachidze	Georgia	Political Focal Point	3/12/2010



economies, cultures and livelihoods. Over the last 50 years, human activities have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than at any comparable period of time in history.



Our Story, Our Results. GEF investments promote synergies that generate multiple global benefits

did you know?

"Today's children are born with a body burden of synthetic, persistent organic pollutants—the consequences of which will not be known for another 50 years or so."
Canadian Institute of Child Health, 2000

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Mr. Joao Raimundo Lopes	Guinea-Bissau	Alternate Member/Operational Focal Point	3/2/2010
Mr. Rigoberto Cuellar Cruz	Honduras	Political Focal Point	3/2/2010
Mr. Arief Yuwono	Indonesia	Operational Focal Point	12/14/2009
Mr. Mahmoud Barimani	Iran	Council Member/Political Focal Point/Operational Focal Point	2/11/2010
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Mrs. Dr. Viengsavanh Doungsavanh	Lao PDR	Political Focal Point	2/15/2010
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Amb. Sylvester Grigsby	Liberia	Political Focal Point	12/16/2009
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Ambassador Barry Faure	Seychelles	Political Focal Point	3/25/2010
Dr. Denis Sandy	Sierra Leone	Political Focal Point	11/19/2009
Mr. Gunnar Caperius	Sweden	Operational Focal Point	1/14/2010
Mr. Medha Promthep	Thailand	Political Focal Point	12/24/2009
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Dr. Jumamurad Saparmuradov	Turkmenistan	Operational Focal Point	3/9/2010
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FOCUS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

NEW STAFF

Ulrich Apel, a German National, who has joined the Natural Resources Team as a Senior Environmental Specialist with a focus on combating land degradation and sustainable forest management.

Prior to joining the GEF, he has worked for 15 years as a consultant for forestry and natural resource management in various bi- and multilateral development projects and programs. Ulrich was chief technical advisor of several large-scale reforestation and sustainable forest management projects in Vietnam and China. He also engaged in field research in community forestry and in analytical and advisory work related to land use planning, agriculture policy, land tenure, community livelihoods and legal framework analysis.

Ulrich holds a Masters in Forestry Sciences and a PhD in Tropical and Subtropical Forest Management from the University of Goettingen, Germany.

 Caroline Sadacca, a French National who joined the Operations and Business Strategy Team as a Senior Financial Officer today, February 16, 2010.

Prior to joining the GEF, Caroline worked in the Concessional Finance and Partnerships (CFP) division of the World Bank, specializing on IDA finances. In CFP, Caroline was responsible for the management of IDA's business processes and daily transactions as well as maintaining donor relationships in the context of IDA's replenishment process. Her responsibilities also included identifying business needs for new systems projects and designing and implementing them.

Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Caroline worked as a Credit Analyst in a Washington DC commercial bank.

Caroline holds an MBA in International Finance from American University.

 Glynis Barber, a Sierra Leonean and British national who joined the GEF Secretariat as a Program Assistant to the Adaptation cluster under the Climate Change and Chemicals team on January 11, 2010 .

Prior to joining the GEF, Glynis worked as Secretary to the Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Commission to the US in Washington, DC.

Before moving to the US, she lived in London and worked at the Sainsburys Head Office, in several positions including Secretary to the Division Manager of Business Accounting Services and as a Forecast Analyst - monitoring sales and growth of trade portfolios, as well as managing their budgets to meet year-end financial targets.

She also worked as Sales Admin Manager and as a Bi-lingual Executive Assistant at Doux Poultry Ltd , a division of the french international exporting company - Doux S.A. based in London.

Glynis holds a B.A. in Languages and a Masters in International Business.

 Andrew Velthaus, a national of the United States, who joined the GEF Secretariat as a Senior Policy Officer, on January 11, 2010.

Until recently, Andrew had served as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's GEF

Desk Officer between 2006 and 2009, where he was responsible for coordinating all aspects of U.S. Government policy towards the GEF. He also served as the U.S. Treasury's desk officer for the International Fund for Agricultural Development, including formulation of U.S. Government positions on IFAD's Eighth Replenishment in 2008. During a prior seven year assignment at the U.S. Treasury (1995-2002), Andrew served as a macroeconomist covering Asian economies, as a financial services trade negotiator, and finally worked on environmental and safeguard policy issues concerning the multilateral development banks.

Between 2002 and 2006, Andrew worked first for Conservation International (CI) and later for the African Wildlife Foundation, both in Washington, DC. While at CI, he assisted in managing and coordinating relations with several multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility and its agencies.

Andrew holds a Master of Pacific International Affairs from the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) from the University of California, San Diego. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and East Asian Studies from McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

 Saliha Dobardzic who joined the Climate and Chemicals team on January 11, 2010 as a Climate Change Specialist. She will be working in the adaptation cluster team, assisting the coordinator in managing the Least Developed Countries Fund, among other tasks.

Saliha's involvement with environmental issues began with founding the first student environmental awareness group at Kuwait University, where she obtained her Bachelors of Science in Zoology. She has since worked for the World Bank in post-conflict Bosnia, her country of birth, and later on environmental and urban issues with the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program. She has also worked extensively for the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa climate change group devising and implementing the regional climate change strategy and, most recently, served as Project Coordinator of the regional climate change and migration study.

She has experience with the UN-Habitat in Nairobi, The Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center, and a number of prominent NGOs, as well as in the private sector in the United States as a climate change expert, and internationally.

Saliha has a Masters of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park where she went on to doctoral studies on human-environment dynamics applying spatial science tools. She is a co-author of several published studies and reports on climate change.

 Ivana Horvathova, a Slovak national, who joined the GEF Secretariat on February 8, 2010.

Prior to joining the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat as a Program Assistant, Ivana worked as a report writer during the Adaptation Fund Board meetings in Bonn, Germany. That experience has allowed her to get to know the AFB and its procedures well and from its very beginning.

Before that, Ivana was a consultant in the Adaptation team of the Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany, where she was working on a database of adaptation projects in developing countries. She had also done several internships and traineeships in various institutions, namely the Council of the EU's Liaison Office to the UN and the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland; the Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn, Germany; the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU in Brussels, Belgium; the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Ivana holds a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of the Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. Currently, she also is a doctorate candidate in International Politics at the University of Cologne, Germany.



FOCUS ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue
April 7, 2010	GEF 5 Replenishment Meeting	Paris , France
April 7, 2010	Climate Change and Enhancing Private Sector Investments in Clean Energy - a perspective from the Global Leadership for Climate Action	Washington DC
April 13, 2010	US Launch of the IYB	Washington DC
April 21, 2010	GEF Earth Day Event	Washington DC
May 1, 2010	EXPO 2010	Shanghai, China
May 22, 2010	Intl' Day of Biodiversity	
May 24, 2010	4th GEF Assembly	Punta del Este, Uruguay
June 5, 2010	World Environment Day	
June 17, 2010	World Day to Combat Desertification	
June 28, 2010	37th GEF Council Meeting	Washington DC