



BASEL CONVENTION

Draft Report on the
operation of the Basel
Convention regional and
coordinating centres

December 14, 2007

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
APEC	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BADEPAL	Environmental Impact Management Agency
BAT	Best available technologies
BCCC	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centre
BCRC-SEA	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia
BCTF	Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention Trust Fund)
BDTF	Trust Fund to Assist Developing and other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund)
BEP	Best environmental practices
BIR	Bureau of International Recycling
CARICOM	Caribbean Community (and Common Market)
CCAD	Central American Commission of Environment and Development
CEITL	Countries with Economies in Transition
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
EC	European Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMS	Environmental Management Secretariat for Latin American and the Caribbean
ESM	Environmental Sound Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
G8/3R	Group of Eight – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Initiative
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IEA	Interstate ecological advice
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INTI	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (National Institute of Industrial Technology)
ISWA	International Solid Waste Association
LATI	Laboratorio Técnico del Uruguay (Technical Laboratory of Uruguay)
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market)

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Nongovernmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
PIC	Prior informed consent
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SBC	Secretariat of the Basel Convention
SEA	Slovak Environment Agency
SPREP	Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TAIEX	Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument
STAC	Waigani Convention Scientific Technical Advisory committee
ULABs	Used-lead acid batteries
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan
UNEP/ROWA	United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for West Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

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Draft Report on the Operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres For the Consideration of the Parties, Signatories and the regional and coordinating Centres

Background to the report

1. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in its decision VIII/4, requested the Open-ended Working Group to initiate at its sixth session a review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, including their relationship with Convention bodies, including the Secretariat, and other stakeholders, in order to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a report for the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on the review of the Basel Convention centres and, in the light of the discussions at that meeting, to prepare a report on the same topic to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.
3. During the the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group to the Basel Convention, decision OEWG VI/2 requested the Secretariat to prepare a report in accordance with the requirements contained in that decision.
4. Decision OEWG VI/2 also requests the Secretariat to publish the above mentioned report on the website of the Secretariat by 15 December 2007 for the consideration of Parties, Signatories and the regional and coordinating centre;
5. The Decision OEWG VI/2 also invites the Parties, Signatories and regional and coordinating centres to submit comments on the report by 31 January 2008.
6. In accordance with Decision VIII/4, the Secretariat has prepared the present Report consisting of the following sections and its annexes:

Section 1 – Assessment of the Centres – Based on a questionnaire sent to the centres, the Secretariat has compiled information with a description of each centre, its main achievements and obstacles.

Section 2 – Overview – This section provides a brief analysis of the answers to the questionnaire prepared by the centres.

Section 3 – Strategic elements – This section was prepared by a consultant hired by the Secretariat. The Report of the Consultant provides a comprehensive picture of the situation faced by the centres and offers a number of strategic elements that will help Parties in the review of the centres.

ASSESSMENT OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL AND COORDINATING CENTRES

AFRICA AND WEST ASIA

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States (BCRC–Egypt)

General Description

The BCRC-Egypt is located in Cairo, Egypt and it is directed by Mr. Mortada Mourad El Aref and employs 1 full-time and 10 part-time staff. The BCRC-Egypt is hosted by the Centre for Environmental Hazard Mitigation at Cairo University. The facilities of the Centre includes the office of the Director with a small meeting room, the Office of the International Facilitator with a medium meeting room, an office for the part time staff and one office for the Secretary. The offices are equipped with computers telephones and fax. A sophisticated laboratory from the University of Cairo is available at reduced costs.

The Centre started its operations in 1998. The Framework Agreement between the government of Egypt and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed in 24 October 2004. The BCRC-Egypt was established through the national legislation enacted at 22 June 2005. A Steering Committee of the Centre (SCC 1) was established in 2005 and the first meeting of the Steering Committee was organized in 2006. Two meetings of the Project Steering Committee of the Finland Funded Project (PSC 1&2) were organized in 2006 and 2007. The Third meeting of the Project Steering Committee is schedule at the beginning of 2008.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 115,927. The cost of operation for the year 2007 is of US\$ 60,000 and the cost of the activities of the Centre for 2007 is US\$ 497,025.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, the project document entitled “Developing Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Hazardous Wastes Illegal Traffic and Disposal in the Arab Region” was submitted to UNEP/MAP, UNEP/ROWA and the league of Arab States. Other project documents were also prepared and sent to donors. So far, the only contribution to the Centre was made by the Government of Finland, covering 3 years (2006-2008) of activities to the Centre. No other contributions were received in 2007.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-Egypt is the preparation of 13 workshops concerning various topics related to hazardous wastes. Some of the topics covered by these workshops were illegal traffic, coordinated implementation of the chemical conventions and POPs.

Three guidelines were developed and 1 guideline was translated with the view of facilitating the transfer of technology in the region. In addition, projects are being

developed and implemented in order to propagate technology in the field of the environment sound management of e-wastes.

The BCRC-Egypt serves as a Centre of information for the region with the preparation of 2 publications with a compilation of wastes inventories and a compilation of relevant legislation on hazardous wastes in the region. Furthermore, the BCRC-Egypt produces a newsletter since 2006 and maintains a website in both English and Arabic since 2005.

The Centre in Egypt promotes awareness activities through good relations and regular appearances with the specialized media in the region.

In relation to financial resources, the Centre has achieved a high profile due to the contribution of 1,000,000 euros by the Government of Finland. It should be noted that the 100,000 euros provided by the Government of Finland is allocated to activities aimed at building capacity for the region in the implementation of the Basel Convention and to adopt sound management of hazardous wastes. None of this contribution is allocated to reinforce the structure of the BCRC-Egypt.

The support of Finland allows the Centre to promote activities in five different fields divided in a 3 years work-plan. These funds were generated with the participation of all the countries in the region through annual regional governance meetings. Since 2006 the BCRC-Egypt assisted 8 member countries with pilot projects on the ESM of hazardous wastes and other countries are planned to be assisted in 2008. The success in managing the generous contribution of the Finish government has proved that the BCRCs are capable to implement large scale projects in a cost effective way.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre were lack of human resources, lack of financial resources, and lack of cooperation from member countries, need to assess regional needs and need of training for the staff of the Centre. In relation to technology transfer, the business environment and generators culture, the lack of financial resources, access to technologies, political will, human and technical resources were considered to be the major obstacles to conduct assessments of available technologies in the region.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified were lack of trained staff, centralization and limited resources.

Lack of trained staff, access to technology, access to the problems of hazardous wastes in industries and limited resources were pointed as the main challenges on the spread of new technologies in the management of hazardous wastes.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, it was observed that the lack of trained staff and centralization were considered to be the main barriers.

The Centre considers that the lack qualified personnel and limited financial resources as the main obstacles to the organization of meetings, symposiums and consultations in the region.

Trained personnel, financial resources and access to information are needed to ensure assistance and diffuse the knowledge on the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related issues. Meanwhile, training and specific communications materials are necessary to ensure a better public awareness by the Centre.

It is also believed that the lack of trained personnel and limited access to relevant information were a challenge to conduct case studies and pilot projects. Although cooperation with international and local entities is not considered to be a challenge to the Centre, more trained personnel, financial resources; access to relevant information and awareness from the private sector could contribute for its enhancement.

The BCRC-Egypt considers that the development of a financial strategy is in need of a common agreement. Also, the technical capacity in the preparation of project proposals and the credibility of the centres need to be strengthened in order to improve the resource mobilization of the Centre.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The positive impact of the BCRC-Egypt can be assessed quantitatively through countries that ratified the Convention, countries that ratified the Protocol on Liability and Compensation, active and level of participation of the countries in the region in COPs. Qualitative assessment can be reflected in hazardous management projects in countries of the region, the adoption of hazardous wastes legislation and the adoption of national policies regarding e-wastes.

In regard to the governance, the BCRC operation is overseen by the Steering Committee of the Centre and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Framework Agreement governs the role of the Steering Committee, the host country and the management of the Centre. One meeting of the Steering Committee was organized in 2006. The second meeting of the Steering Committee is expected to take place in 2008.

In relation to the financial model, the Centre does not use any financial model for the moment, although it recognizes the need to develop a financial model between all stakeholders in order to implement and to guarantee the financial and institutional sustainability of the Centre.

The support from the host country to the Centre is viewed as appropriate. No financial support from the countries served by the BCRC-Egypt was acknowledged. Support from other countries is considerable, with the financial contribution from Finland and the in-kind contributions from Bahrain, Jordan, Syria and Yemen. In addition, the Centre obtained contributions from UNEP/ROWA to assist the implementation of specific activities.

The staff of the BCRC-Egypt is in need of training in administration and accountancy. Currently the number of staff is very limited and the only full time staff is the director and the project coordinator. The continuity of employment is not ensured and is up to the availability of donor institutions. The BCRC-Egypt needs a permanent structure with a full time director and at least 2 technical officers and 1 administrator. Also, social benefits are needed for the staff of the Centre.

In relation to cooperation, the BCRC-Egypt mentions that the nature of the BCRC-Egypt limits the participation in activities of cooperation with other entities. However, the Centre organized some activities with the Stockholm Convention and welcomes the synergies with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In addition, BCRCs have developed a solid communications network within its region and this can be served to the implementation of other conventions.

Until now, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were not involved in the activities of the Centre, since its roles and functions are specified in the Framework Agreement between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of Egypt. The Business Plan of the BCRC-Egypt contains some activities that might be conducted in coordination among the Secretariats.

The BCRC-Egypt is open to potential activities to facilitate the implementation of other international chemical conventions and processes within their mandates (including the SAICM). Some obstacles and problems to be addressed about this issue are the need for training on resources mobilization and the need of a mechanism to track the activities that were developed within the region.

The possibilities for expanding the functions of the centres to promote the integration of ESM of hazardous wastes in relevant mechanisms of regional cooperation are considered to be a priority in view of the function of the centres. Challenges to this approach include regional collaboration and the development of partnerships. The possibilities for expanding the functions of the Centre in order to promote the integration of ESM of hazardous wastes in public-private partnerships is relatively low because of the lack of culture and information on public-private processes.

The financial and institutional support required for the Centre in the next years is established in the Business Plan for 2007-2008 of the BCRC-Egypt.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region (BCCC-Nigeria)

General Description

The Coordinating Centre for the African Region is located in Ibadan, Nigeria and it is directed by Mr. Oladele Osibanjo and employs 3 full-time staff. The office of the BCCC-Nigeria is hosted at the University of Ibadan.

The Centre started its operations in 1994. The Framework Agreement between the government of Nigeria and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed in 7th March 2007.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 5,000, the BCCC-Nigeria received a contribution from USD 40,000 from the host government in the year of 2007. In-kind contributions from the host country includes: Cost of construction of the building of the Centre, staff salaries per annum, services provided to the Centre (support, internet, etc) and maintenance (electricity, communications, cleaners, etc).

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCCC-Nigeria is the preparation of various workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics. The topics covered by these workshops were POPs, Used Oils and the GHS.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer. Two PhD thesis were conducted at the University of Ibadan on the topic of hazardous wastes, 1 case study, 1 Regional Plan for the ESM of Used Oils, and 1 inventory of e-waste. The Centre has been developing a partnership initiative for the management of used oils.

The BCCC-Nigeria serves as a Centre of information for the region with the preparation of 1 database, 1 compendium of case studies, the website of the Centre, a quarterly newsletter and 4 technical publications. In addition to that, the Director of the Centre is the author of many technical articles on the hazardous wastes published in international journals.

The Coordinating Centre is also responsible for a few international consultations in the field of national report, GHS, ULABs and Healthcare wastes. The consultations were provided to the Governments of Nigeria, the Republic of Tanzania, the Government of Salvador and the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), and the African Union Secretariat, Division of Environment, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Director of the Centre is also diffusing the ESM of hazardous wastes through the participation in different many workshops around Africa.

In regard to the mobilization of financial resources, the Coordinating Centre is accessing different sources of fund from the host country as well as funds from activities from the Basel Convention. Also, project proposals were sent to bilateral and multilateral funds.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre are political issues, financial limitations, absence of partners, the delay in the

signature of the Framework Agreement of the Centre, lack of equipment for the Centre's laboratory, lack of contact with foreign experts.

In relation to activities involving technology transfer, lack of training on the development of project proposals, insufficient training in new technologies, absence of commercialization of research findings, the need for a database on Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP), absence of project management skills, absence of strategy, issues concerning intellectual property rights and absence of a small and medium enterprise programme are considered to be the main obstacles.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified are the need to revitalize the African Toxic Waste Dump Watch, awareness raising in the region, development and upgrade of the Centre's website, strengthening of the focal points to the Basel Convention and promotion of inter-agency cooperation.

The lack of a regional database on African Experts on hazardous and chemicals wastes, the lack of compendium of successful technologies on hazardous wastes, the lack of pilot projects and the low level of cooperation among developing countries were appointed as the main challenges on the spread of new technologies in the management of hazardous wastes.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, it was observed that the lack of funds and the need to promote regular communication between BCRCs and BCCCs are considered to be the main barriers.

The BCCC-Nigeria considers that the lack of funds is the main issues regarding the organization of meetings, symposiums and meetings in the region. Weak institutional and regulatory framework, weak enforcement of the existing regulations and absence of a specific curriculum on hazardous wastes were also observed as obstacles for the promotion of public awareness.

It is also believed that the lack of regional strategies, the lack of promotion of existent pilot projects and the reduced cooperation among BCRCs, BCCCs and Cleaner Production Centres are a challenge to conduct case studies and pilot projects. There is the need for the BCCC to play a coordinating role in regional projects and programmes, be the integrating point for issues/programmes within the region, as well as on the identification and development of regional priorities.

Finally, there is need of assistance from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in order to obtain resources for the implementation of the activities listed on the Business Plan of the Centre.

Self Assessment of the Centre

Although the problem of illegal dumping of hazardous wastes is still a great concern for the region, the positive impact of the BCCC-Nigeria may be measured by the number of activities undertaken and the positive feedback from the countries.

In regard to the governance, the ideal governance structure is yet to be established after the signature of the Framework Agreement. Consultations are ongoing on possible composition of the Steering Committee. The interim structure is a governing body composed of a Deputy Vice Chancellor as the Chairman, the Deans of different faculties and the Director of the BCCC-Nigeria acting as a Secretary for the board. The Federal Ministry of Environment is the only external member of the actual board. The strength of this structure is that the board members are technical people knowledgeable in the issues of wastes. The weakness is that it has not offered opportunities for donor funding.

In relation to the financial model, the University of Ibadan, where the Centre is located, has opened an account for the BCCC-Nigeria in the grants section of the University. All requests for expenditure go through the University Bursar to the Vice-Chancellor who approves all requests before the Bursar can prepare and release cheques. The process of obtaining approvals for expenditure is long because of extant bureaucracy in the system. The advantage of this arrangement is that the Vice-Chancellor keeps abreast of all expenditure and exercises oversight function. The disadvantage is that it is slow. The signature of the Framework Agreement gave the BCCC-Nigeria enough autonomy to have an independent financial system.

The existing governance/financial model are not healthy for the regional involvement, financial and institutional sustainability of the Centre. Injection of external funding from bilateral and multilateral donors will infuse oxygen into the Centre and the tempo and diversity of activities and projects will expand and the Centre can then perform optimally.

The support from the host country in relation to the infrastructure, technology and personnel of the Centre is considered to be moderate and encouraging. The host country has supported the Centre reasonably well with the construction of the Centre's facilities and the donation of a vehicle and the hiring of a Senior Environmental Scientist to the Centre. Support from other countries has not been received by the Centre.

The staff of the BCCC-Nigeria lacks an administrative officer/accountant. The Director is the only staff officially employed by the Centre at the moment, while the other staff works ad hoc. Ideally, the Centre would benefit from other 3 members for the Staff. The Staff of the BCCC-Nigeria needs training in the formulation of project proposals, project management and ICT. The social benefits are restricted to the Staff of the Centre that serves as government employees.

In relation to cooperation, the Centre in Nigeria estimates that synergies between the MEAs is resource efficient and makes enforcement of regulations on the 3 MEAs easier to manage at the national level with positive directional impact. Also, the Centre strongly supports the expanded mandate of the BCRCs to cover wastes and chemicals MEAs and the SAICM.

Furthermore, the Centre views the possibility and opportunities to expand the functions of the Centre as a possibility to promote the integration of ESM of hazardous wastes with relevant mechanisms for international and regional cooperation with the possible involvement of NGOs. Also, the development of public private partnerships could be more supported.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa (BCRC–Senegal)

General Description

The Regional Centre in Senegal is directed by Mr. Michel Seck and employs 3 full-time and 4 part-time staff. The office of the BCRC-Senegal in Dakar is located in a building of two levels divided in several offices. The facilities of the Centre includes 15 computers, 2 copy machines, 2 conference rooms, library, telephone, faxes and internet.

The Centre started its operations on an interim basis in 1999 and it was formally establish in 2005.

According to the Business Plan, the estimated budget for the year 2007 is of US\$ 963,600. The host country contributes with a direct contribution of US\$ 60,000/year and also with the construction of the office, salaries and bills.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, the Business Plan was submitted to donors once it is developed and endorsed by member countries. In 2007, contributions were received from the French Cooperation Agency and from the GEF through the funding of a regional project for the ESM of PCBs, for which the Centre is the executing agency.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-Senegal is the preparation of 4 workshops concerning hazardous wastes topics. Also, the Centre has been involved in POPs waste related project activities like the Pilot PCB Inventory Project in the Cote d'Ivoire, and the Inventory of Dioxins and Furans in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to that, the Centre has been involved in projects in other areas such as asbestos and used oils.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer. The NEPAD Environment Action Plan included the project Demonstration of a Regional Approach to Environmentally Sound Management of PCB Liquid Wastes, Transformers and Capacitors containing PCBs among its priorities. This is a very important project for the ESM of PCBs in the sub-region.

The BCRC-Senegal serves as a Centre of information for the region with the maintenance of the website of the Centre and the diffusion of information about the activities of the Centre (leaflets). A communication strategy for the Centre is under development.

In respect to awareness raising activities, the Centre prepared a regional information workshop for the Basel Convention focal points, media players and partners in 2002. The Centre has also been involved in the preparation of other awareness raising workshops coordinated by UNEP-Chemicals.

The Centre can provide assistance to countries in the region like within the framework of the project of the ESM of PCBs and contaminated equipment, assistance to the government of Guinea Bissau on the Inventory of Hazardous Wastes and the development of its National Plan of Implementation.

In relation to resource mobilization, the BCRC-Senegal prepared meetings with representatives of developed countries in order to introduce the Centre and its activities. So far the Centre has received financial support from the French Cooperation and from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre are lack of funds, availability of expertise, capacities in general, financial resources, lack of visibility, inadequate legislation, little awareness of the local population, lack of communication means, lack of laboratories, lack of facilities for the treatment of wastes, the informal sector, lack of involvement of the private sector and absence of a special management procedures for hazardous wastes.

According to BCRC-Senegal, for an improvement of the activities of the Centre in relation to technology transfer, it would be required training, standards, qualified staff, technical assistance, financial assistance, enforcement, improved analysis capability, promotion of life cycle of the products, training in project development, development of synergies, development of partnerships and project aiming the informal sector.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The existence of the BCRC-Senegal is viewed as beneficial to the countries and the region. However, the Centre should be enhanced in order to reinforce its role and impact in the region.

The governance and financial models of the Centre are viewed as adequate. Currently, the Centre is a national institution with regional mandate. In relation to the financial model, the activities developed between 2004 and 2006 have been financed as implementation to the strategic action plan of the Basel Convention and funds specially affected to the Basel Convention Trust Fund. The Centre has a separate bank account. Financial monitoring follows the UNEP and the GEF procedures.

The Centre acknowledges the efforts of the Government of Senegal for its support. The support from other countries is considered to be insufficient. Also, in relation to staff, there is a need for training on administration and accountancy. The number of staff and continuity of employment could be improved.

BCRC-Senegal is appreciative of the efforts made to coordinate the environmental conventions on chemicals and wastes and emphasizes the attention given to the BCRCs in the Second African Regional Consultation on the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in 2005.

The Centre also mentioned the decisions taken in the context of the Bamako Convention and the importance of the informal sector as special considerations in the African region.

In the context of the promotion of the integration of ESM of hazardous wastes, the strengthening of a network between SBC, countries and the private sector should be a priority. Other ideas are a ministerial level meeting of the Basel Convention host countries and a coordinated strategy on fund raising.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking African countries (BCRC–South Africa)

General Description

The BCRC-South Africa was hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) located in Pretoria, South Africa. The facilities of the Centre included 2 office rooms equipped with computers. There are no laboratories or meeting rooms on the Centre.

The Centre started its operations in 2000. The Centre is governed by a Task Force established in October 2000. There are regular exchanges between the Centre and the countries regarding the activities, the Business Plan and the baseline studies of the Centre. The Task Force met several times since the beginning of the Centre.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 148,000, being US\$ 101,000 of operating costs and US\$ 47,000 projects costs to the Centre. Fixed costs to the Centre in 2007 were estimated in US\$ 120,000.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, 4 projects were submitted to donors in 2006/2007. A contribution was received from the government of Sweden in 2006. Contributions from other countries in the Region were expected for 2007.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-South Africa is the preparation of 44 training activities concerning different topics related to hazardous wastes. The preparation of 5 training and awareness materials and 5 assessments and baseline studies were conducted. In addition, the development of a Task Force to the Centre, audited reports and a newsletter are also important achievements of the Centre.

In relation to technology transfer activities, the Centre concentrated on the awareness of the Basel Convention. The Technical Guidelines of the Basel Convention were made available upon request but the Centre didn't have any means to pursue their implementation.

The BCRC-South Africa serves as a Centre of information for the region through a comprehensive website that is constantly updated. The website of the Centre contains project reports, country legislation and a database of experts, projects, publications and institutions dealing with hazardous wastes. The website of the Centre is also a tool for communication between the Centre and stakeholders regarding the Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous wastes and the Basel Convention.

The BCRC-South Africa acted in several consultations with Countries and with private entities. An important work of awareness-raising is undertaken by the Centre with a newsletter, website queries and the participation of the Centre in seminars and events for the promotion of the Basel Convention in the region.

In relation to resource mobilization, a structured plan was developed with the intention to (1) ensure partners about the credibility of the Centre through auditing reports; (2)

obtain co-funding for the training activities organized by the Centre and (3) prepare project proposals to international funds.

Obstacles

In relation to the dissemination of information, the BCRC-South Africa indicates that some countries in the region do not have adequate telecommunications infrastructure and experience difficulties in accessing electronic or web-based information.

In respect to the collection of information regarding the ESM of hazardous wastes, due to the current level of funds, the Centre in South Africa can only source web-based information and disseminate. The ideal situation would be that funds could ensure the participation of the staff of the Centre in relevant meetings and workshops.

Also, in regard to information concerning the provisions of the Basel Convention and networking at the national and regional levels, the BCRC-South Africa views the turnover of the staff and the lack of communications infrastructure of the region as the main problems.

The BCRC-South Africa views the limitations of funds and the size of the region as obstacles to the organizations of meetings, symposiums and missions in the region. Lack of funds is also a reason preventing the enhancement of the promotion of public awareness especially in medias such as radio and TV.

Lacks of funds to be used as seed money for activities were observed as a challenge for the enhancement of cooperation with the United Nations and its bodies. In regard to the development of a financial strategy, the main obstacles pointed by the Centre are the difficulties in charging and overhead and difficulties in obtaining co-funding for activities.

Self Assessment of the Centre

(not submitted)

ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

Assessment of the Basel Convention Centre for the Asia-Pacific Region (BCRC-China)

General Description

The Centre in China is directed by Mr. Yuansheng Fan (Director General) with the assistant of Jiming Hao (Deputy Director General) and Mr. Jinhui Li (Executive Secretary). The Centre employs 6 full-time, 4 part-time and 1 administrative staff. It is located in 2 offices at the Tsinghua University and it is equipped with 11 computers, 2 laptops, meeting rooms, laboratories, 3 overhead projectors, cable internet, 1 fax machine and one telephone for each member of the staff. The Centre draws upon the technical expertise of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering of the Tsinghua University .

The Centre started its operations in 1995 and the implementing legislation of the Centre was enacted in 1997. The Framework Agreement is still in negotiation between the Government of China and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. In addition, a Steering Committee of the Centre was established in 1997 and had one meeting so far.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 200,000 and that for the year 2007 is of US\$ 350,000.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, 10 projects were submitted to donors in 2006/2007. The Centre received 7 contributions for its activities in 2007.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-China is the organization of 15 workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics. In addition to that 5 workshops were co-organized in coordination with other entities. The topics covered by these workshops were mainly e-wastes, illegal traffic, hazardous wastes management, partnerships and the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer, 4 projects and 1 research were conducted by the BCRC-China. The projects were on e-wastes, municipal wastes and partnerships on municipal wastes. The topic of the research was on recovery of waste household appliances.

The BCRC-China shares information for the region through its website www.bcrc.cn, which has been updated regularly since 2003.

Although the Centre has been conducting important projects in e-wastes, the BCRC had been involved in activities related to all the Basel Convention focus areas. 16 consultancies were conducted involving different topics such as environmentally sound management technologies, law, e-wastes and ULABs. Also, the Centre has been working in awareness rising by the participation in conferences and workshops mostly held in China.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre were the lack of a financial mechanism for the BCRCs, the inconsistency of the needs of the Parties in the region and the different needs by the governments and enterprises.

Specific obstacles of the Centre as a tool for technology transfer is the lack of technology support from developed countries, insufficient legal provisions concerning technology transfer under the Basel Convention.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, it was mentioned lack of funds, language differences, and high cost of obtaining information.

Regarding the spread of new technologies in the management of hazardous wastes, the lack of funding and the lack of information source on the expertise of developed countries were considered as the main obstacles.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, it was observed that a network of the Basel Convention Regional Centres was not yet implemented. Also, the lack of funds was considered to be a major obstacle to this goal.

The Centre considers that the lack of funds to attend the meetings for the Parties and organizations and the lack of knowledge about the Centre are the main issues regarding the organization of meetings, symposiums and meetings in the region. The lack of funds is also viewed as limiting the assistance to the Parties in regard to matters relevant to the ESM, minimization of hazardous wastes and the implementation of the Basel Convention. The lack of funds is also viewed, together with the lack of interest from the media, as a challenge to the promotion of public awareness by the Centre.

It is also believed that the lack of fund for case studies and pilot projects have been limiting the use of best approaches, practices and methodologies for the ESM of hazardous wastes. In relation to the cooperation with United Nations and its bodies, the lack of mechanism on cooperation and information share and the lack of source of information about other organizations are considered as the main challenges.

Regarding the development of a financial strategy, it is observed that no general financial strategy was developed for the BCRCs and that further support from the Basel Convention is needed to develop an appropriate financial strategy for the Centres.

Self Assessment of the Centre

It is estimated that the positive impact of the BCRC-China is due to the high number of projects it has implemented. Also, the role of the Centre as an interface between the SBC, the 11 countries serviced by the Centre and the 3 BCRCs in the Region is viewed as generating a positive impact in the region.

The Governance of the Centre is made through several institutions. The BCRC China is supported by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and by State Environmental Protection Administration of China and operated by Tsinghua University. The relevant

institution with regard to BCRC China within Tsinghua University is the Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering, which is responsible for the administration of the Centre. Cleaner production, chemicals, waste and POPs are the focus area of this institute. The Steering Committee of BCRC China was established on November 11, 1997 and has held one meeting of Steering Committee. The BCRC China has a leading group composed of a Director General, a Deputy Director General and an Administrative Director.

Concerning the financial model, the BCRC China operates under the strict financial model of national institutions in China. At the same time, it also has to comply with the financial procedures of the Tsinghua University. The Basel Convention Trust Fund, the Chinese Government, bilateral aid and the private sectors are the main sources of funding to the Centre. Thanks to the support of the Chinese government, the Centre is able to operate. However, the financial resources operated by the BCRC China are not stable nor continuous.

The support to the BCRC-China in relation to infrastructure, technology and personnel to the Centre is provided mainly by the host country. Countries served by the Centre contributes with information and developed countries have made financial (Canada, Japan and Switzerland) or in-kind contributions through resource persons (Australia, Netherlands and the EU).

In relation to the staff, it is considered as sufficient to implement all the activities of the BCRC. Nevertheless, additional resources are required to provide adequate staff training.

The Centre has been involved in several activities in cooperation with other MEAs Secretariats. These activities include the participation in regional workshops coordinated by other conventions and the organization of a regional workshop in cooperation with other Secretariats.

In regard to the role of the Centre on the implementation of international chemical conventions, the Centre estimates that it has enough capacity and will to facilitate the implementation of other conventions in all areas such as project implementation, communications, information sharing and activities.

In relation to public-private partnerships strategies, it is estimated that the relevant mechanisms for international and regional cooperation needs to be further improved, as well as public-private partnerships strategies. However, it is considered that there might be obstacles for the technology transfer related to partnerships.

Regarding the financial support, it is estimated by the BCRC-China that in the short term a minimal contribution from the Basel Convention will be needed. In the medium term there will be need for support through public-private partnerships and support from developed countries. In the long term a comprehensive financial support will be needed mainly through public-private partnerships and synergies with other conventions.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)

General Description

The Regional Centre for Southeast Asia is located in Indonesia, Jakarta is directed by Mr. Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno and employs 2 full-time, 1 part-time staff. The office of the BCRC-SEA is hosted by the Ministry of Environment in Indonesia. The facilities of the Centre includes computer for each employee, telephone, fax machine and printers. There are laboratories are owned by the Ministry and can be used by the Centre.

The Centre started its operations in 1997. The Framework Agreement between the government of Indonesia and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed in 29 October 2004. The BCRC-SEA was established in 12 October 2005 through the Presidential Regulation N. 60/2005. A Steering Committee of the Centre was established in 2006 and 2 meeting of the Steering Committee were organized in 2006 and 2007.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 145,744 and the cost of operation for the year 2007 is of US\$ 20,000.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, five projects were submitted to donors in 2007. 3 contributions were received from the government of Japan in 2007. These contributions were made for the development and maintenance of the website of the Centre until 2010, the organization of a workshop and a project on e-wastes.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-SEA is the preparation of 6 workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics. The topics covered by these workshops were national reporting, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, inventories of hazardous wastes, ratification of the protocol of liability, asbestos containing materials and e-wastes.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer. 2 case studies were prepared by the BCRC along with 4 technical guidelines and a the development of a software for the preparation of national inventories. In addition to that, the Centre organized activities aiming to provide assistance to the countries in the region such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

The BCRC-SEA serves as a Centre of information for the region with the preparation of 2 technical guidelines, the dissemination of brochures produced by the Centre and the development of the website of the Centre. The BCRC-SEA participated in number of workshops organized within the Region.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre were lack of funds and insufficient resources. In relation to technology transfer, the lack of information on specific technologies as well as information on 'demand and supply' from the Parties in the region were considered to be the main obstacles, alongside the lack of funds to conduct assessments of available technologies in the region.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified were lack of funds, insufficient staff and the lack of active cooperation in the field of hazardous wastes.

Lack of funds to conduct field assessments, insufficient resources and lack of information sharing were identified as the main challenges on the spread of new technologies in the management of hazardous wastes.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, it was observed that the lack of funds, insufficient resources and the lack of information sharing were also considered to be the main barriers.

The Centre considers that the lack of funds and the insufficient staff are the main issues regarding the organization of meetings, symposiums and meetings in the region. The same issues were also observed as obstacles for the promotion of public awareness.

Lack of funds, insufficient resources and limited staff training are needed to ensure assistance and diffuse the knowledge on the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related issues.

It is also believed that the lack of funds, insufficient resources and insufficient commitment from the Parties involved were a challenge to conduct case studies and pilot projects. Meanwhile, lack of funds, insufficient resources and insufficient information sharing were observed as a challenge to the enhancement of cooperation with the United Nations and its bodies.

The BCRC-SEA considered that the development of a financial strategy is not a problem, as the Centre had developed a strategy for the financial sustainability which was endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Centre in 2006. However, a more detailed strategy is needed in order to improve the achievement of the strategic goals of the Convention within the region.

The Centre haven't been involved in any request of Parties related to accidents or incidents in the region. However, it was noted that lack of funds, insufficient resources, inadequate staff training and lack of experts could be an issue in this case.

Finally, lack of funds, insufficient resources and insufficient staff training were viewed as challenges for the performance of additional functions by the BCRC-SEA.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The impact of the BCRC-SEA was never formally assessed. However, it is estimated that the support of the countries to the Centre indicates that the activities coordinated by the BCRC-SEA are having a positive impact in the region.

In regard to the governance, the signature of the Framework Agreement and the endorsement of the Business Plan for 2006-2010 are considered as achievements. Nevertheless, an unclear organigram to the Centre and the lack of terms of reference to the Steering Committee are considered as weaknesses. Possible opportunities in relation

to governance are increasing contacts with regional organizations and possible amendments to the Framework Agreement in order to favor the development of the Centre.

In relation to the financial model, consistent funding from host countries, program support cost related incomes and in-kind contribution from Parties are observed as points of strength. The weak points are the partial independence in financial management, inadequate funding for the implementation of the Business Plan and low contribution from Parties. Some opportunities are bigger freedom for fundraise, contact with funding institutions, optimization of contribution by the Parties.

So far, the institutional model of the Centre contributed to the regional involvement in the form of participation in the Centre's activities by the countries in the region. The institutional model is also regulated in the Framework Agreement, which has been endorsed by the Presidential Regulation N. 60/2005 on 12 October 2005, to ensure the sustainability of the Centre.

The support from the host country is made in form of office building and facilities, overhead expenses, staff salary and yearly budget for daily operation of the Centre. The level of support by the country is viewed as good and hopefully it could be maintained or even improved for the development of the Centre. Support from the countries served by the BCRC-SEA is mainly in form of in-kind contribution in the implementation of activities, guidance through the Steering Committee, cooperation in the development of project proposals, participation in project implementation and response to the information requests. A bigger level of support to countries in the region would be desired. Support from countries outside the region is mainly from key countries such as Japan and Switzerland for specific activities and an increasing support from countries outside the region would also be desired.

The staff of the BCRC-SEA has not been trained in administration and accountancy yet, but has managed to conduct several projects. In order to improve the effectiveness of the Centre, at least 2 additional supporting staff would be needed. So far there is no official training for the staff; The staff has had skills and competency based on their relevant background and also learns through the guidance from SBC. Training from SBC in legal, technical and financial matters is still needed for the staff of the Centre. The staff of the Centre is outsourced in a contract basis with monthly salaries and yearly bonus. There are no medical or other insurance and pension facilities. So far the BCRC-SEA haven't had any interns.

In relation to cooperation, the BCRC-SEA supports coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Until now, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were not involved in the activities of the Centre, since its roles and functions are determined in the Framework Agreement between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of Indonesia. The Business Plan of the Centre contains some activities that might be conducted in coordination among the Secretariats.

The BCRC-SEA is open to potential activities to facilitate the implementation of other international chemical conventions and processes within their mandates (including the SAICM). Some obstacles and problems to be addressed about this issue are the need for

training on resources mobilization and the need of a mechanism to track the activities that were developed within the region.

Furthermore, the Centre is looking forward for the possibility and opportunity to expand the functions of the Centre, particularly in relation to the relevant mechanisms for international and regional cooperation and in the development of strategies that involves public-private partnerships.

In the short term, the Centre expects more financial support or in-kind contributions from donors and training to the staff. In the medium and long term, BCRC-SEA needs more financial support and in-kind contributions from donors, additional staff, facilities, equipment and training. More involvement of the Parties in the region is also needed to increase the regional involvement of the Centre.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran (BCRC–Iran)

General Description

The last centre to begin its operations, the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, was legally established on 27 July 2005 and is hosted by the Department of Environment. The Regional Centre aims to contribute to the promotion of a lifecycle approach to the management of hazardous materials through the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. It is intended to establish a regular line of communication with other Basel Convention Regional Centres, using their expertise to conduct its activities.

Achievements

So far, the main achievements of the BCRC-Iran are directed related to its legal establishment. Therefore, the Centre prepared 2 meetings on needs assessment for the Centre, 2 national workshops on the implementation of the Basel Convention in the Islamic Republic of Iran and 1 preparatory meeting for the Steering Committee of the Centre. Currently, the BCRC-Iran is developing a training workshop on PCB management directed to Parties and non-Parties in the region.

A cooperation with the Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare a guideline for the ESM of medical and health care wastes, a guideline for ESM of ULAB and a cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Industry and Mines of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the management of PCBs in power plants and large industries were recently developed with a view of facilitating the transfer of technology in the region.

The BCRC-Iran aims to serve as an information centre for the region with the preparation of 3 national inventories that should be replicated in the region, a database for different types of hazardous wastes and their generation and a manual on the introduction to the Basel Convention in Farsi. In addition, a website of the Centre is under construction.

The Centre promotes awareness activities through the participation in seminars and exhibitions and the publications of scientific articles in Farsi.

In relation to financial resources, the Centre is newly established and no budget has been devoted to the Centre until recently. So far, all the expenses were supported by the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the framework agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, US\$ 100,000 will be provided annually by the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the support of the Centre in the next 5 years. No further support was received for the Centre until the moment.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre were the long legal process for the establishment of the Centre, the lack of fund and the dependency to the host government to manage the funds of the Centre, the difficulties in recruiting professional staff, difficulties in obtaining support to the Centre and the lack of participation of the BCRCs in workshops and events.

In relation to the obstacles for the transfer of technology in the field of the ESM of hazardous wastes and their minimization, the following issues were identified by the BCRC: The difficulties in assessing the waste generators within the region, the difficulties in accessing and obtaining new technologies, the lack of infrastructure for the ESM in the region, the lack of diffusion of the experiences from other BCRCs, the limited number of technical guidelines.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified were difficulties in obtaining reliable information about wastes, lack of database software, underdeveloped national regulations, the lack of national and regional standards/criteria/guidelines, need for assessments and lack of training.

Regarding the collection of information on new or proven environmentally sound technology and know-how relating to ESM, it is expected that the SBC to provide the Centers with this kind of updated information, also it was noted that the preparation of the guidelines by the SBC should be accelerated and the required infrastructure for the implementation of such guidelines should be taken into account.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, it was observed that the access to focal points and/or competent authorities should improve.

The Centre considers that the high costs of the air tickets within the region and the need for a financial support of representatives from member states that all of them are among the developing countries are the main obstacles to the organization of meetings, symposiums and meetings in the region.

Lack of trained experts and financial support for the translation of the documents are necessary to ensure a better public awareness by the Centre.

It is also believed that lack of fund and lack of international experts are challenges to conduct case studies and pilot projects. Meanwhile, lack of synergies between the chemical related conventions and difficulties in the identification of relevant agencies are a challenge to the cooperation with the United Nations.

The BCRC-Iran considers that the development of a financial strategy requires better financial support from private and government sectors. In relation to the performance of other functions assigned to the Centres, the need of further technical and financial support is viewed as an obstacle in addition to an improved support from SBC.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The positive impact of the BCRC-Iran cannot be assessed at the moment. The BCRC-Iran was involved in the approval of the Centre by the host government in a long legal process. The establishment of the centre itself is a great achievement in face of the many issues occurring in the countries of the region.

In regard to the governance, the BCRC-Iran has established a Steering Committee.

There is currently no support from other countries to the BCRC-Iran. However, there are good opportunities for scientific and technical exchange within the countries in the region. In addition to that, the BCRC-Iran would enjoy benefit from the experience accumulated by the other BCRCs.

The staff of the BCRC-Iran is not trained and qualified in the field of ESM of hazardous wastes. Technical training of the staff is a priority. Currently there are 2 persons working in the Centre. There is need for 3 full time staff and some part-time consultants. The recruitment of new staff is currently in progress, they would be employed for 1 year and their contract should be renewed annually upon agreement of the Centre. At present, social and health insurance are provided through the Department of Environment.

In relation to synergies between the chemicals and waste conventions, the BCRC-Iran is a candidate to host the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre.

In regard to the financial and institutional support required by the Centre, it is considered that the Basel Convention Trust Fund might be an effective mechanism to provide support for the Centre. Currently, the Centre has prepared a Business Plan that will define the needs of the Centre for the next biennium.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (BCRC-SPREP)

General Description

The BCRC-SPREP is directed by Mr. Asterio Takesy and employs 6 part-time technical staff and 2 support staff. The BCRC-SPREP is integrated within the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and as such has access to all the facilities of SPREP which includes computers, copy machines, projectors, printers, laminators, meeting rooms, etc. It also has access to the SPREP Information Resource Centre (library) as well as the IT unit including an IT training laboratory. The Centre does not have laboratory facilities.

The Centre started its operations in 2003, with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between SPREP and SBC on 18 December 2003. Currently, the BCRC-SPREP is in the process of establishing its Steering Committee. In the absence of a Steering Committee, the Waigani Convention Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) has been used to develop the Work Plan and the SPREP Governing Council has been used to endorse the Business Plan of the Centre.

The total cost of the activities outlined in the Business Plan of the BCRC-SPREP is US\$ 384,200 excluding the salaries of the personnel of the Centre. List of in-kind contributions from the host institution is rent of the facilities, communication costs, electricity, security as well as the salary of the staff.

As part of the overall waste management work at SPREP, the Centre has received programmatic funds from a number of donors including the Governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand. In regard to hazardous wastes, funds have been received through SBC from the European Commission, UNEP and the Government of Japan.

Achievements

(Not submitted)

Obstacles

(Not submitted)

Self Assessment of the Centre

(Not submitted)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Eastern Europe (Including Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States) (BCRC–Russian Federation)

General Description

The Regional Centre in Russia is based in Moscow and directed by Mr. Sergey Eduardovich Tikhonov and employs 3 full-time staff including one head of department, one project coordinator and one senior expert. The facilities of the Centre include computers, printers, copy machines, telecommunication and audio visual equipment. There is also a meeting room with the capacity for 50 people in the Centre.

The Regional Centre located in the Russian Federation has not yet signed the Framework Agreement with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. Currently, the BCRC-Russia does not dispose of a Steering Committee or a Governing Body. However, the Business Plan to the Centre were made in close collaboration with the focal points of the countries in the region.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 186,750. It is estimated that the necessary budget to complete the activities for 2007 is of US\$ 315,000. The Centre receives in-kind contributions from the host country of about US\$ 100,000 which includes facilities, salaries, services and bills.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-Indonesia is the preparation of many sub regional seminars in the topic of hazardous wastes and the participation in various national meetings and workshops.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer through a number of federal, regional, district and international projects and programmes. The strengthening of national chemicals management in CIS countries, the development of inventories of obsolete pesticides and the destruction of PCB-containing condensers in Plasma Arc are some of the topics covered in this purpose.

The BCRC-Russian Federation also serves as a centre of information for the region with the preparation of 2 technical publications, the participation on related projects and the location of regional databases on the topic of hazardous wastes.

In regard to consultations for the countries in the region, the BCRC-Russian Federation carries out consultations with National Coordinators of the Basel Convention by the correspondence exchange, fulfils meetings and other actions in the countries of the region, and also meetings, organized by Interstate ecological advice (IEA) of the CIS countries, among others. In relation to the awareness-raising, the Centre is involved in different activities such as education in the application of updated methods for the collection, treatment, management and distribution of data and information on the Basel Convention; development of programmes for the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes generation and assistance in the establishment and fostering of partnerships.

At the present time the BCRC-Russian Federation is a self financed organization that implements projects from SBC and other international organizations. From 2004 to 2007 the BCRC Russian Federation did not receive support from SBC or from outside donors. Currently, the Centre suffers from the lack of sustainability from the inconstancy of external funds. The Centre views the cooperation with the Stockholm Convention as an opportunity to grow.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre are financial limitations, political issues related to the re-organizations of the countries in the region and absence of resource mobilization support from SBC. In relation to technology transfer, the decrease of skilled labor in the region, the insufficient development of a legal framework and the absence of financial assets are considered as the main obstacles.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the main obstacle is the financial limitations. Lack of staff due to financial issues was mentioned as the main challenge to the spread of new technologies in the management of hazardous wastes and to the exchange of information about the Basel Convention.

In relation to the organization of meetings, the main difficulties include financial limitations. Meanwhile, financial issues are also considered to be the main challenge related to the public awareness alongside the lack of website for the Centre.

The decrease of skilled labor in the region, the insufficient development of a legal framework and the absence of financial assets are considered to be the main obstacle for the use of best approaches, practices and methodologies for the ESM of hazardous wastes.

In addition, lack of financial assistance from SBC and the absence of a Framework Agreement were observed as a challenge to the enhancement of cooperation with the United Nations and its bodies.

Problems related to the illegal movement of wastes, the lack of coordination between the customs authorities and state offices are a deep concern for the region. However, the Centre does not indicate any action related to accidents or incidents in the region.

It was noted that due to the migration of highly qualified specialists in the countries of the region, the development of companies decreased. Also, the political reorganization in the region was viewed as an obstacle. The countries noted the need to update the environmental legislation and to harmonize it with the international standards. In addition, the absence of special landfills for industrial wastes, industrial facilities and introduction of new technologies for the ESM of hazardous wastes was mentioned. Finally, the lack of inventories of hazardous wastes, especially in relation to industrial wastes, pesticides, pharmaceutical wastes and e-wastes, is considered to be a challenge.

Self Assessment of the Centre

It is expected that the activities undertaken by the BCRC-Russia will help the CIS countries in the implementation of the Basel Convention. It is also expected that the activities of the Centre would assist in the training of a staff specialized in the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in the region. It is also expected that activities would help enable cooperation between countries in the region on the topic of hazardous wastes.

The Centre maintains contact with key decision makers and the public at large. The organization benefits from a good public reputation. The Centre cooperates with local and international NGOs. In relation to financial model, the Centre is a self financed organization that implements external financed projects. Although the Centre benefits from several sources of fund, none of them is permanent.

The countries served by the BCRC provides support through a long term cooperation. The Centre is ready to provide services to other countries of the region in case of interest. The Centre maintains a permanent informal dialogue with all countries of the region.

The BCRC-Russian Federation benefits from the experience of a high qualified staff. Young experts also participate in the BCRCs activities. Due to the lack of financing, a limited number of staff covers a wide range of topics and specialists are invited to perform technical functions. Concerning staff development, general guidance over the staff is carried out, the personnel is involved in the definition of the goals and objectives related to the performance of the Centre.

Future activities on the cooperation between Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions may include training of experts, prevention and minimization programmes, demonstration projects, information exchange, development of regional cooperation and the enhancement of local partnerships.

BCRC-Russian Federation estimates that the Centres can become a key practical mechanism for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention that calls to further strengthening of the Regional Centres as effective regional mechanisms of assistance to coordinated implementation of the 3 conventions. Cooperation among the 3 conventions may help in the mobilization of financial resources for their implementation.

In the eyes of BCRC-Russian Federation, the expansion of the BCRCs functions is possible with regional and international cooperation and a financial mechanism.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe (BCRC–Slovakia)

General Description

The BCRC-Slovakia is located in Bratislava, Slovakia and it is directed by Ms. Dana Lapesova and employs 1 full-time staff. Administrative and part-time staff is available through short term contracts. The office of the BCRC-Slovakia is located in two offices at the third floor of the building of the Slovak Environmental Agency. Each employee of the Centre has his own telephone, computer with printer and internet connection. Also, the BCRC-Slovakia has a copy machine and a fax. In addition the Centre has access to two equipped meeting rooms for 20 and 50 people. The BCRC-Slovakia has also access to accredited laboratories.

The Centre in Slovakia was the first BCRC to become operational in 1997. The Framework Agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has not yet been signed. The Centre has not yet established a Steering Committee because the Framework Agreement has not been signed. In spite of that the Centre has a good co-operation with the served countries. The Centre consults with all national focal points through e-mail in relation to the Business Plan and other activities of the BCRC-Slovakia. The BCRC-Slovakia disseminates important information for the region and assists CEE countries on requests related to the Basel Convention and other related topics.

The total operating costs for 2006, which were covered by the host country, were approximately US\$ 70,000. External donors such as the European Community - TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument) provided financial support to experts and to participants. The necessary running costs for the year 2007 are US\$ 70,000 and the budget necessary for activities of the Centre, according to the Business Plan, is of US\$ 386,000.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, 5 projects were submitted to donors in 2007. 5 contributions were received from different donors such as the government of Poland, the TAIEX, the UNEP/MAP and the government of Italy through the Basel Convention Trust Fund. Other donors, such as the government of Switzerland, Czech Republic and Denmark, provided financial support for projects in the past.

Achievements

From the beginning of its activities in 1997, the Centre has completed 18 workshops. The first workshops were focused on implementation of the Basel Convention into national legislations of the served countries. Later, the workshops addressed other topics like information management system on wastes, identification of the hazardous wastes, public awareness, illegal traffic, etc. In addition, the BCRC-Slovakia had coordinated some workshops related to the legal and technical aspects to topics such as the Protocol on Liability, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and POPs wastes. Also, the BCRC concluded 8 long term projects. Among the topics covered by these projects are legal assistance, used oils, POPs wastes, Protocol of Liability and Illegal Traffic. Two projects are currently in progress: The project on Biomedical Wastes in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the development of institutional framework,

implementation schedule and guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste oils in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Centre published a newsletter for every workshop held until 2004 and a special edition of the newsletter was published for COP8. In this context, 15 newsletters were published and distributed among Parties. The Centre also publishes, through its staff, articles related to the Basel Convention in respected national and international scientific publications. Also, two books were published as outputs for the projects. In addition, the Centre created its own website thanks to the in-kind contribution from the host institution.

The BCRC Slovakia have been providing consultancy to the Parties in relation to technical information related to the Basel Convention, assistance in the preparation of project proposals and in resource mobilization for projects. In addition, the BCRC provided specific support to governments during projects such as the governments of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In relation to awareness-raising, the Centre has been promoting workshops on different hazardous waste topics. Parallel to that, most of the projects carried out by the Centre include an awareness-raising component.

The Centre does not have a financial strategy. Financial resources, which are granted for short term activities, mainly come from two sources: Financial contribution from the host government and financial contributions provided by donor's institutions.

Obstacles

In relation to the obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre, it is indicated that the topics of the project depends on countries priorities and the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention. Usually the funds for the activities cover only the participation of one person per country and this is an obstacle to the participation of a second person. The second obstacle is the bureaucracy related to visa requirements for some of the participants. Another obstacle observed is the different priorities between donors and the Parties serviced by the Centre.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified were the lack of update of the website and the lack of a database of experts in the region.

In addition, the BCRC-Slovakia also mentioned the lack of travel funds for the Staff of the BCRC, which would be necessary to prepare and to monitor projects and activities within the region.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The positive impact of the BCRC-Slovakia can be viewed by the number of activities and the increasing participation of countries in the region. Also, the Centre had contributed to increase the number of Parties to the Basel Convention and to decrease the differences in the level of hazardous wastes management in the region.

In relation to the governance and the financial model, in the beginning of 2005 the BCRC-Slovakia became an independent Centre within the Slovak Environmental Agency. The BCRC-Slovakia maintains its own bank account. The Centre operates independently when working on any task from SBC. The BCRC Slovakia has a regional role defined in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) supports BCRC Slovakia not only through the payment of the costs but also with technical background. The SEA also provides assistance for the preparation of workshops and activities. The Waste Management Centre is also available for activities carried out by the BCRC-Slovakia.

The support of the host country to the BCRC Slovakia is considered to be good. More support for traveling within the region would be appreciated. The countries serviced by the Centre provided support for the preparation of 2 activities organized in their own countries, the case of Poland and the Czech Republic.

In relation to the staff, the centre has 2 full time positions including the Director. The Centre benefits from the relation with the Slovak Environmental Agency for professional and technical support.

The Centre has a relevant history in the organization of activities related to synergies. The BCRC not only participates in activities organized by other conventions but also assist in their organization. The Government of Slovakia and the BCRC are supportive to the nomination of the BCRC Slovakia as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the Centre has actively participated in SAICM-EUJUSCANZ meetings and SAICM meetings for the CEE countries. Due to capacity reasons, the Centre is not capable of participating in SAICM; however the Centre is following closely the process and provides information on SAICM projects to eligible countries in the region.

The Centre is interested in developing public-partnerships cooperation. So far, the Centre has no cooperation with NGOs.

There are 2 sources of financial support, unfortunately they are not sufficient. The support of the host government is insufficient due to national budget restrictions and the support from donors is not sufficient for the activities of the Business Plan. More support would be required for activities, traveling within the region and for the newsletter of the Centre.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region (BCRC–Argentina)

General Description

The Regional Centre in Argentina is coordinated by Ms. Leila Devia and employs three part-time and one administrative staff. It is hosted by the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which provides facilities, staff salaries, equipment (computers, telephone, fax, printers) and laboratories.

The Centre started its operations in 2000. The Framework Agreement between the government of Argentina and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed in 8 July 2005. Also, a Steering Committee of the Centre was established and has held two meetings (April 2006 and April 2007).

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 150,000 and the cost of operation for the year 2007 is of US\$ 30,000.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, four projects were submitted to donors in 2007. The Centre has not received contributions for its activities in 2007, except for a training programme on e-waste.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-Argentina is the preparation of 7 workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics. The topics covered by these workshops were persistent organic pollutants (POPs), Illegal Traffic, Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation, POPs wastes destruction, Mercury, BAT/BEP Guidelines in the framework of the Stockholm Convention and e-wastes.

The Centre also acts as a facilitator for technology transfer. Two projects were implemented by the BCRC-Argentina. The first one addresses the issue of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in the region. The second is an ongoing project on e-wastes, which is expected to be finalized by April 2008. Assistance to the countries of the region in the form of consultations was given to Bolivia, Ecuador and Argentina.

The BCRC-Argentina serves as a Centre of information for the region with the preparation of two technical publications about Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes and POPs wastes. Also a newsletter on the ESM of e-wastes was prepared, and a website on the ESM of PCBs was developed.

As the Regional Centre intends to be a key actor on the ESM of e-wastes in South America, it has actively participated in workshops in Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Argentina. Also, the Centre participated in several meetings organized by UNEP, other UN agencies and MEAs on chemicals and wastes issues. Representatives from the Center lectured in several countries of the region. In addition, the BCRC-Argentina provided assistance in legal issues and technical assistance to laboratories in the region.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre are: financial limitations, absence of partners, insufficient human resources and capacity of the BCRC staff .

Specific needs of the Centre are financial resources and training for the development of large-scale project proposals.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, even though the inadequacy of funds does not allow for regular meetings between the relevant actors (BCRCs, BCCCs, focal points and the SBC), the Centre disseminates information related to the Basel Convention that may occur in the region.

The Centre considers that the inadequacy of funds affect the regular organization of the Steering Committee meetings, symposiums and meetings in the South American region, as well as the promotion of wider public awareness.

Self Assessment of the Centre

It is estimated that the positive impact of the Centre is due to its capacity to communicate with the countries in the region in the same language. The Centre is in permanent contact with the countries in the region and has achieved a good level of cooperation with all served countries.

The main difficulty in establishing a governance system for the Centre is the inadequacy of funds for the organization of the Steering Committee meetings.

The National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) of Argentina, contributes to the infrastructure, technology and staff of the BCRC-Argentina. However, to deliver better assistance to the countries served by the Centre, it was identified that additional financial resources are required.

The Centre has been involved in several activities in cooperation with other MEAs Secretariats. These activities include illegal traffic, management of PCBs, regulations and responsibility and financial mechanisms.

Regarding the role of the Centre in the implementation of international chemical conventions and other processes, the Centre estimates that it is very important to implement in the region the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and could contribute to its implementation. Additionally, the Centre has actively participated in SAICM and GHS meetings in the host country.

The Centre considers that the cooperation with NGOs and the establishment of public private partnerships could have the potential of expanding the functions of the Centre in relation to the ESM of hazardous wastes. In this regard, additional funds could contribute to outreach activities.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (BCRC–El Salvador)

General Description

The BCRC-El Salvador has been operational since 1999 and it is directed by Mr. Italo Cordova

and employs 3 part-time staff, two in the hazardous materials and one senior expert in clean production and environmental monitoring. Also, it has the support of two part-time experts for the pesticides area and polluted places, with emphasis in persistent organic pollutants. It is hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, in El Salvador. So far, the Centre had received financial assistance from the host government, from the Government of Finland, from UNEP/Chemicals and from the Basel Convention Trust Fund.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCRC-El Salvador is the preparation of 5 sub-regional workshops concerning hazardous wastes and the implementation of the Basel Convention and the implementation of 3 projects covering the lead-acid batteries, used oils and PCBs waste streams in the region.

The BCRC-El Salvador diffuses information through the website of the Ministry of Environment from El Salvador (www.marn.gob.sv).

The BCRC-El Salvador serves as a Centre of information, maintaining relevant legislation on hazardous wastes in the region and promoting awareness activities through good relations with industries and universities.

Obstacles

Insufficient staff to full time and financial limitations was listed as the main obstacles for BCRC-El Salvador.

In relation to technology transfer, the lack of financial resources and technical resources were considered to be the major obstacles to conduct assessments of available technologies in the region.

Concerning the obstacles for the dissemination of information on the field of hazardous wastes, the obstacles identified were lack of trained staff and limited resources.

The Centre considers that the lack of qualified personnel (in hazardous waste, prevention pollutants and technology transfer) and limited financial resources are the main obstacles to the organization of meetings, symposiums and meetings in the region.

Also, trained personnel, financial resources and access to information are needed to ensure assistance and diffuse the knowledge on the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related issues. Meanwhile, training and specific communications materials are necessary to ensure a better public awareness by the Centre.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The positive impact of the BCRC-El Salvador can be assessed quantitatively through countries that ratified the Convention, the promotion of the ratification in the countries the Protocol on Liability and Compensation and the continuous training in environmentally sound management in the region. Qualitative assessment can be reflected in the preparation of a regional politics for the management of chemical substances and the support to the prevention of the illicit traffic of hazardous waste and dangerous materials.

In regard to the governance, the BCRC operation is overseen by the Steering Committee of the Centre and receives guidance from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The Regional Centre is being strengthened and next year (January, 2008) it will be working in the facilities of Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD). No financial support from the countries served by the BCRC-El Salvador was acknowledged.

The Centre organized some activities with the Stockholm Convention and welcomes the synergies with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Center has carried out consultations with the region countries to have the headquarters of the Regional Center of the Stockholm Convention.

The BCRC-El Salvador is open to potential activities to facilitate the implementation of other international chemical conventions and processes within their mandates (including the SAICM).

The possibilities for expanding the functions of the centres to promote the integration of ESM of hazardous wastes in relevant mechanisms of regional cooperation are considered to be a priority in view of the function of the centres.

Assessment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region (BCRC–Trinidad and Tobago)

General Description

The BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago is directed by Mr. Ronnie Sookhoo and employs 2 support staff. The BCRC-Trinidad and Tobago is located in the CARIRI compound located in the Macoya Industria Estate. The facilities of the Centre include 3 offices equipped with 2 computers, 1 printer and 1 fax-machine.

The Centre started its operations in 1998. The Framework Agreement between the government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed in 29 October 2004. A Steering Committee for the Centre has not been created yet. However, an Advisory Council comprised of all the 13 Parties served by the Centre was established. Consultations within the region are taken in conjunction with regional workshops or meetings.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 210,000. This is divided in US\$ 70,000 for operational costs and US\$ 140,000 for activities costs. According to the Business Plan of the Centre, the budget for the operation of the Centre in 2007 is estimated in US\$ 350,000.

Achievements

(Not submitted)

Obstacles

(Not submitted)

Self Assessment of the Centre

(Not submitted)

Assessment of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (BCCC–Uruguay)

General Description

The Coordinating Centre in Uruguay is directed by Ms. Marisol Mallo and employs 2 full-time staff. In addition, the BCCC-Uruguay counts with the support of a group of qualified specialists that contributes in the Centres activities. The Coordinating Centre is hosted by the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU), a Uruguayan institution. It has an important infrastructure that includes laboratories, conference rooms and exhibition areas. The Centre is located in two offices in LATU equipped with 5 computers, 1 LCD projector, 1 copy machine, and 1 fax.

Since 1998 the Centre operates through an agreement of mutual cooperation between SBC and the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of Uruguay. The Framework Agreement was signed on 30 January 2004, after that the Centre began to operate in the facilities of LATU.

The creation of a governing body is being envisaged, but not implemented yet. It would be composed of the Director of the Regional Centres in Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad & Tobago, one representative of each country in the region, the Director of the BCCC-Uruguay and a representative of the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay. At the moment the Coordinating Centre has established contact with different countries in the region through telephone or mail for the preparation of the Business Plan of the Centre.

The total budget for the Centre for the year 2006 was of US\$ 35,000 and the cost of operation for the year 2007 is of US\$ 20,000. The host country contributes with staff, communications, offices, services, maintenance and supplies.

Concerning resource mobilization for the activities of the Centre, in 2007 the BCCC prepared a comprehensive project concept entitled “Development of the Network of Municipalities for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes in Latin America (2nd Phase)”, which addresses the main priority areas in the region.

Achievements

Among the main achievements of the BCCC-Uruguay is the preparation of 2 workshops, 2 technical publications and one training activity addressing different hazardous wastes topics. In relation to technology transfer, the BCCC-Uruguay developed 3 projects related to the Stockholm Convention, obsolete pesticides and minimization of hazardous wastes.

The Coordinating Centre in Uruguay serves as a centre of information for the region with the maintenance of the website and the newsletter of the Centre. Consultations and activities related to training also serve the information role of the Centre.

In all the activities of the Centre, topics related to the ESM hazardous wastes were presented and addressed. The technical publications like ‘Practical Guidelines on the Environmental Sound Management of Obsolete Pesticides in the Latin America and the Caribbean Countries’ and ‘Guidelines for Integrated Hazardous Waste Management’ are example of that.

For the execution of the activities listed in the Business Plan 2007-2008, a number of cooperating agencies have been identified and efforts on resource mobilization are being undertaken in order to fund these activities. The financial resources necessary for the medium and long term activities are around US\$ 1,500,000 per year.

Obstacles

The obstacles for the implementation of projects and activities that were identified by the Centre are the unavailability of the economic resources, the lack of partners for the development of activities and the difficulties in mobilizing sufficient funds.

No obstacles have been found by the Centre in relation to the identification and development of proposals for the strengthening of capacity building and technology transfer. There are still gaps in the national diagnostics and on the development of national indicators that should be addressed. It is necessary to work closely with municipalities and technicians in charge of the development and implementation of national policies regarding waste management.

Similarly, the BCCC-Uruguay considers that there are no obstacles for the dissemination of information among the Parties. However, there is a need to improve the communication and diffusion of channels to broaden the scope, the quantity and the quality of the information. It is necessary to develop an information system that supports the management of information key for the different target groups. Such a system should improve the communication and dissemination channels so as to have a strong and direct link to the local actors in charge of waste management.

In relation to ESM technologies, the guides elaborated under the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention grant a preliminary information on the ESM, however there is a need to develop new dissemination strategies so as to broaden and increase the public of the guidelines. New information technologies may be inaccessible due to the costs related to investment, maintenance and control. The same problem restrains the improvement of communication channels towards decision makers in the region.

In relation to specific information about the provisions of the Basel Convention at national and regional levels, the Centre keeps permanent contact with Parties of the region, mainly by informal channels. There is a clear need for periodic meetings between the BCRCs and the countries, but no funds are available to this purpose.

Even though no public awareness activities were developed by the BCCC-Uruguay, the Centre considers that the lack of funds is a major constraint for the development of these activities.

Courses and workshops related to ESM were held with a great success. The main obstacles were lengthy procedures for the signature of agreements that enable the execution of the projects, the national frameworks on waste management and the poor coordination of the initiatives aiming to minimize hazardous wastes.

The BCCC-Uruguay considers that the development of a financial strategy would imply the provision of services that would be able to partially support the Centres.

Overall, the main obstacle is the lack of human resources to implement periodical consultations for the follow up of the Business Plan and other activities developed by the Centre. Also, the Centre is very dependent on the resources coming from projects, which is an obstacle for the financial planning of the Centre.

Self Assessment of the Centre

The positive impact of the BCCC-Uruguay are visible due to the promotion of the ratification of the Convention among countries in the region, the integration of the countries in the discussions related to chemicals and waste management, human resources training for integrated hazardous waste management, integration of key stakeholders in the waste management strategies and publication of the technical materials prepared by the Centre by national entities.

In regard to the governance, the creation of a governing body is being envisaged, but not implemented yet. It would be composed of the Director of the Regional Centres in Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad & Tobago, one representative of each country in the region, the Director of the BCCC-Uruguay and a representative of the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay. At the moment the Coordinating Centre has established contact with different countries in the region through telephone or mail for the preparation of the Business Plan of the Centre.

In relation to a financial model, the strengthening of the Coordinating Centre and its relationship with the regional centres is a strategic step through the positioning of the Centre as a leader in the ESM of hazardous wastes in the region. The Coordinating Centre has the possibility of signing agreements through the LATU and has access to its administrative services, therefore the Centre has power to sign contracts. An independent financial controlling ensures the transparency of the management of the Centre.

In relation to the level of support received by the Centre, the Uruguayan government through the Ministry of Environment and the LATU has been contributed US\$ 94,000. Which is considered to be a good support. Other than that, the Centre receives contributions from multilateral partners like the International Development Research Center (CIID/IDRC) through the Environmental Management Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean (EMS), the UNEP Chemicals, the FAO and the GTZ.

The staff of the BCCC has experience in the formulation and execution of international cooperation supported projects. LATU gives administrative and accounting support for the financial administration of projects. At the moment, the number of permanent staff to the Centre is operating at the minimum level. However, the Ministry of Environment ensures that specialist in various areas contributes to specific activities.

Since its very beginning the Centre has kept and promoted a strategy of strengthening the regional capacity in relation to chemical conventions. The activities and project proposed in the Business Plan are coherent with the idea of projects, programmes and activities of an integrated life cycle approach of the chemicals conventions. The Centre believes that it is essential to sum the efforts being made in the international arena in the field of chemical conventions including the SAICM process. At the moment the Centre is a candidate for the process of selection of Stockholm Convention Regional Centres.

Finally, it is believed that the possibilities for the expansion of the functions of the Centre are very good. International and regional cooperation should be enhanced with a view to explore cost-effective approaches to promote the goals and objectives of each Centre within the regions.

Overview of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

1. Based on the decision VIII/4, the Secretariat produced the document “Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres” (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/3) that was presented at the sixth session of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG 6) in September 2007. The above mentioned document summarizes information contained in previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
2. Some succinct points of relevance common to all the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres includes the following:
 - a) The Centres are overseen by a governing body and/or the Ministry of Environment of the host country. In the last two years, many Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres have established and organized steering committees meetings. There has been very limited financial resources to such meetings, however, which may restrict the participation of the countries served by the Centres;
 - b) The Centres prepared Business Plans for the biennium 2007-2008. The Business Plans identifies priority issues and propose specific activities based on the core functions of the centres and the priority wastes streams identified in the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010;
 - c) The Centres operates under Framework Agreements that were signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host governments in order to confer independent legal personality to the centres, and the capacity to have a bank account, to enter in contracts and to acquire privileges, immunities and exemptions necessary for the accomplish of their regional mandate;
 - d) The Centres operates on an annual budget (including operating and project costs) of less than US\$ 100,000.
3. The following impressions were obtained through the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat according to Decision OEWG VI/2 of the Open-Ended Working Group and submitted to each of the Centres:
 - i. Overall, the majority of the Centres are functioning under very small operational structures attached to governmental, regional or educational institutions. The majority of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres have been operational for more than 10 years. During these years, the Centres have organized several small scale activities and few large scale projects.
 - ii. The main concern expressed by the Centres is related to the limited financial and human resources available for the performance of their functions. Currently, the majority of the Centres are essentially supported by the contributions from their host governments and some donors.
 - iii. So far, the cooperation between the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and other international organizations has been limited. Nevertheless, the Centres have obtained political and regional

support. At the actual stage, the Centres are deprived of the necessary structure to enhance international cooperation.

- iv. The Basel Convention Trust Fund has been proved to be a reasonable mechanism and some important projects were implemented through this mechanism. However, improvements need to be made in order to bring consistency and regularity to the operation of the Centres in a more effective and meaningful way.
- v. The Centres need improvements and clarifications regarding their mandate on items like governance, staff training, implementation of international chemicals conventions and the SAICM, involvement in partnerships and the active involvement of the countries served by the Centres.

SECTION III

**REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE
BASEL CONVENTION**

ELEMENTS FOR A REVIEW OF OPERATION

Report submitted to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Prepared by Pierre Portas

11/12/07

Preamble

The present report is meant to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of its own report as an input into Parties' review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres as called for in decisions VIII/4 and OEWG/VI/2.

It builds on the Secretariat's note on the Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres submitted to the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group in September 2007 and contained in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/3.

Executive summary

Enhancement and strengthening of the combined effectiveness and capacity of centres and the Secretariat is a task shared by Parties, centres and the Secretariat. The sustainability of centres requires cohesion of efforts that are mutually supportive. It is a process that could be conducted in a stepwise manner.

To improve effectiveness and build capacity of both centres and the Secretariat would necessitate sound policy direction, close cooperation of centres with Parties and the Secretariat and an increase of resources generated through optimising the use of existing funding and improving fund-raising.

The present report has been prepared having in mind the decision of Parties to shift emphasis towards more concrete implementation as illustrated in the 1999 ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and made operational through the Strategic Plan (until 2010)

The perspective of achieving sustainability of centres is dependant on three interrelated and mutually supportive factors considered critical for the successful operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres. These are:

- *Centres should be structured, organised and staffed in such a way as to be able to develop fundable projects and follow up their implementation*
- *The Secretariat should be in a position to guide and assist centres, and to have the capacity for developing and running large-scale projects integrating centres' work*
- *There is an increase of contributions to the Basel Convention technical cooperation Trust Fund for supporting project activities¹*

Engaging into a process that should lead to the sustainability of centres would necessitate strong and coherent programmatic exercise:

- *First – Centres should pursue alignment of their activities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan focus areas as part of the Convention regional delivery mechanism*
- *Second – Centres should operate as a network having in common a vision and organisational values*
- *Third – Centres should build an intrinsic technical capability to service Parties and others*
- *Fourth – Centres should be integrated in a coherent and systematic way into*

1 It is understood that an increase in contributions to the BDTF should not overburden the Secretariat who would need to manage a growing number of small-sized projects. Such increase should preferably lead to funding of larger projects for which the Secretariat could claim administrative and support costs.

programme design and implementation

- *Fifth – Determination of the specific role centres can play in providing services to Parties to the Stockholm Convention*

- *Sixth - Review of the coordinating role of some centres in terms of the growing importance for cooperation and coordination between regions*

To be effective in delivering expected output, each and individual centre needs to take or reinforce a series of internal measures:

- *Select the adequate legal personality*
- *Streamline managerial functions*
- *Develop capacity for project formulation, development and implementation*
- *Develop fund-raising capacity*
- *Develop communication capability*
- *Ensure appropriate and high-quality staffing*
- *Develop partnerships*

To ensure accountability centres need to:

- *Put in place adequate project monitoring and reporting requirements (common to all centres) using existing formats and procedures*
- *Ensure sound financial reporting (common to all centres)*
- *Establish transparent and effective governance*

Background

After more than 12 years of efforts to establish regional centres, Parties, centres and the Secretariat are convinced that a thorough evaluation of centres' role and effectiveness is necessary. Centres' operation has not met expectations. A combination of reasons explains such a modest performance over the years. Centres have never been properly funded. Insufficient guidance was provided to centres in terms of governance, institutional structure, management and programming. The selection process for the establishment of centres has sometimes deviated from its original conception which required the undertaking of thorough regional feasibility studies. The pressing need to respond to difficulties encountered by centres did not allow the development of strategic thinking regarding where centres should be in the short-, mid- and long-term. Personnel recruited in the centres have not always been able to take initiatives, be entrepreneurial and raise money. The combination of external and internal factors has had the result of hampering the proper development of individual centre and of the Basel Convention regional network of independent institutions.

In order to consolidate the operation of centres, measures should be considered both at the level of individual centre and of the regional network. Activities of individual centres should be better integrated into the overall Basel Convention programme. Operational guidelines supported by sound managerial systems, rules, and procedures should be implemented by individual centre. At the same time, improving the functioning of the regional network is important to provide individual centre with the needed coherence of action, a comprehensive programme design and a framework for its own development.

Centres should assist Parties and their partners to deliver the milestone laid out in the Strategic Plan. As it currently stands, a majority of centres are not in position to provide such services effectively and over time. It is therefore timely and urgent to consider how to improve the operation of centres. Today, donor agencies and funding institutions have high expectations of accountability and requirements for demonstrable evidence that centres can deliver. Organisational sustainability is critical for centres to become responsible, reliable and credible partners with governments, the donor community and industry in promoting environmentally sound management principles. A priority, therefore, is to strengthen individual centre's organisational set up. It includes aiming at efficient management, technically sound and reliable programme design and implementation, and solid realistic financial base.

The implementation of environmentally sound management (ESM) principles is central to achieving the aims of the Basel Convention. Centres are in a unique position to promote ESM at the regional level. Through the promotion of ESM principles, centres have the potential to contribute to the protection of human health and the environment, to improving quality of life and to contributing to poverty reduction. Cooperation with the Stockholm Convention would be key in strengthening the work of centres and in promoting wastes and chemicals links.

Fundamental changes will be required for centres to play their unique role. This will take time, resources and forward looking decisions. As centres acquire more autonomy, there is a need to pause and assess how best to optimise centres' capacity to deliver by themselves and as a network of Basel Convention regional institutions.

Catalogue of action

The propositions that follow highlight were action would be required to improve and optimise the operation of centres in the short-, medium- and long term. They are not listed in a priority order nor are they inclusive. They represent those action considered useful and workable to drive the centres towards sustainability. The propositions, if acceptable, would, in turn, require their consideration within a strategic framework as it would neither be feasible nor advisable to try to implement them altogether. Some action would be required now whereby other actions would need to wait until a number of preliminary measures have been taken. There is a cost to implementing these propositions. It is therefore important to undertake an evaluation of the resources required.

A. At the level of individual centre

Several combined measures could be considered, especially those measures pruned to improve organisational effectiveness and efficiency.

Organisational effectiveness

Centres would need to review in which of the following areas there is a need for improvement to be able to deliver effectively and efficiently:

- Governance
- Management practices
- Human resources (recruitment of skilled, motivated and talented staff)
- Financial resources (needed to pay staff, purchase goods, to conduct all organisational affairs)
- Service delivery (cost effective programmes of high quality)
- Networking (optimising interactions)
- Resource mobilisation
- Financial reporting, accounting and monitoring
- Communication
- Partnerships

Organisational development continuum

Once the organisational structure is in place and is functioning, centres would need to undertake a step-by-step process to pursue their individual development and reach a mature organisational structure:

- Establish a financial base for functioning
- Consolidate the structure for governance, management practices, human and financial resources and service delivery
- Build on track records to expand in strategic areas to be recognised as leader in these areas
- Diversify the resource base to aim at sustainability

- Prepare a regional improvement strategy to rationalise activities

Strategic approach

Centres could, once they have reached a sufficient level of organisational structure, develop a strategic approach for their future work. Such approach could include the following elements:

- Constitute a technical capability in selected domains to provide technical assistance on waste topics, with particular emphasis on waste/chemical-related issues
- Conduct regular self-assessment of centre's organisational capacity to deliver and rectify any deficiency
- Bring multiple partners together around well-defined issues with a view to optimising solutions
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the organisational structure to meet expected outcome, to be able to address emerging issues and respond to requirements by funding partners
- Develop efficiency agenda
- Promote front-line activities

B. At the level of the regional network

- Organise the regional network and the interlinkages between centres, between regions and between centres and the Secretariat
- Build a common vision and organisational values to be shared by the institutions part of the network, including code of conduct
- Design of participatory approach planning to the regional network by individual centre

C. At the level of strategic development

Indicators

Development of indicators, based on criteria to be agreed by Parties that could measure:

- the development stages of the regional network
- the capacity of the network to bring added-value in promoting ESM (impact on policy; awareness of decision-makers; etc.); regional benefits
- the delivery capacity of individual centre to assist in the implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention (ie. institutional and organisational set up and functioning; governance; programme design and implementation; resource mobilisation)
- the capacity of centres to provide services to the Stockholm Convention and chemical-related instruments, programmes or initiatives

Financial strategy

- Design and development of a financial model using, as appropriate, elements described in section IV of the report -considering such financial strategy or

model as being supplementary to existing mechanisms- to present to the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties

Institutional and organisational models

- Review individual centre institutional and organisational model in light of the tasks to be performed by centre
- Undertake a consultation with centres about the usefulness and need for intra-regional coordination (within a region) and the appropriateness for responding to new demand for inter-regional cooperation (between regions)

- Review how each centre can develop its consulting work through in-built capacity or through outsourcing or both
- Integrate the work of centres in the Convention Partnership Programme
- Initiate a process to ensure appropriate integration of centres' involvement in activities carried out to promote international cooperation
- Clarify the role and functions of the Secretariat vis-à-vis the centres to optimise working relations and precise responsibilities

Strategic input

- Develop a training plan to be used as framework by centres
- Establish data bases on environmentally sound technologies or processes for waste management, recycling and minimisation at the regional level
- Develop a single common information system for all centres
- Promote the corporate image of the network
- Develop inter-regional cooperative links
- Develop a baseline regional strategy to service the Stockholm Convention

I. Introduction

1. What the Basel Convention says about regional centres is found in its article 14. In accordance with this article, Parties agree to establish regional centres taking into account the specific needs of regions or sub-regions. The centres to be established are for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimisation of their generation. Through successive decisions of the Conference of Parties, Parties have imposed on themselves to identify those specific needs, ways and means required for the establishment and functioning of the centres and the appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature for the establishment of the centres.

II. Purpose and objectives of the centres

2. The purpose and objectives of the centres has been subject of wide consultations among Parties and between Parties, the Secretariat and the centres, and between the centres themselves.

Purpose

3. The intention of Parties to establish centres is motivated by their wish and agreement to rely on bodies capable of promoting and supporting the environmentally sound management and minimisation of wastes at the regional or sub-regional level.

Objectives

4. The specific intention that underlines Parties' determination to establish regional centres is driven by the need to direct more efforts and greater resolution in the concrete implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention at the regional and sub-regional level by achieving the following objectives:

- Construction of a regional network of independent institutions having in common a specified set of objectives decided upon by the Conference of Parties for promoting and supporting the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes
- Operational regional delivery mechanisms capable of assisting Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of and compliance with the Convention

III. Legislative process

5. The legislative process initiated in 1994 is still ongoing. It is a process characterised by « learning by doing ». It is at the root of many of the progress so far but also of difficulties encountered by centres today.

6. At its second meeting in 1994, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Open-ended Working Group to conclude the selection of sites for the establishment of centres. The selection of sites in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean was concluded at the third meeting of the COP in 1995. At its fifth meeting in 1999, the COP requested the Secretariat (operative paragraph 17 of decision V/5) to develop, in consultation with centres, a draft framework agreement to enhance the status of centres.

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7. The sixth meeting of the COP in 2002 endorsed the mechanism to formally establish centres by signing the Framework Agreement. At the time of finalising the present report, four centres have not signed the Framework Agreement.

8. Centres are not subsidiary bodies of the COP. They operate outside the legal framework of the Basel Convention but are guided by the legislative process undertaken through the Open-ended Working Group and the COP. Framework Agreements are concluded by the governments hosting the centres with the Secretariat who acts on behalf of the COP.

9. A number of deficiencies in the legislative process could be highlighted:

- Centres have developed individual programmes in the absence of definitive legal structure and loose institutional links with the COP. This has led to a weak governance of the centres
- The influence of the centres on the content and direction of the COP's decisions is marginal, relying principally on the influence of the host countries. However, the centres are recipient of encouragements, invitations or requests from the COP. The input by the countries served by the centres is fluctuating and ad-hoc. There is inadequacy between the legislative process and the operation of centres.
- Centres are marginal actors in the development and implementation of the Convention's programme. They are not sufficiently well integrated into the legislative and programmatic process. Expectation from potential clients is constantly moving and changing forcing centres to adapt their work or add new tasks without Parties having assessed the usefulness and results of existing tasks and the capacity of centres to deliver. It is a demand-driven process without corresponding offer.

10. There are institutional, operational and programmatic inadequacies in regard to both the establishment and operation of the centres. The optimal conditions for the operation of the centres would require major efforts by Parties, centres and the Secretariat to invent, design and apply a new functioning model that fully integrate the operation of centres into the Convention legislative and programmatic process.

11. Centres deficiencies could be seen in the wider context of Parties unsuccessful attempt to build a coherent, effective and permanent institutional system, outside the legal framework of the Convention that would have been capable of transposing at the

regional level measures required for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

12. Centres' operations are handicapped because of uncertainties in the way Parties want to deal with them. This is partly due to the fact that a number of Parties are cautious not to create a situation where they would be obliged to fund new institutions over an indefinite period of time, while not reaching agreement in providing seed money to enable the centres to build and consolidate their operations in the short- and medium-term; a critical period for centres to gain credibility and recognition.

13. Centres find themselves in the uncomfortable position of being asked to develop programmes based on regional needs, to facilitate the implementation of Strategic Plan focus areas as directed by the COP and undertaking other ad-hoc activities where money exists without a solid and reliable financial, planning or operational base.

IV. Financial strategy

General consideration

14. While addressing the issue of financial strategy, there is merit in putting such discussion into perspective. Currently, there is an unclear demarcation line in the use of the two Trust Funds established under the Convention for the purpose of supporting the operation of centres. As asked by the Conference of Parties, the Secretariat is spending a fair amount of staff resources to assist centres, although a number of Parties are of the opinion that such support should not be within the scope of the Basel Convention Trust Fund (BCTF). They claim that such support fits properly under the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (BDTF) in the spirit of article 14. However, as of today, no mechanism has been designed for moving such support to the BDTF.

15. It would be difficult to enhance and strengthen the capacity of centres without a significant and continuous input by the Secretariat. Normally, the Secretariat, in line with the provisions of article 16 of the Convention, would provide overall guidance to centres and keep an overview of their operation. Concrete activities would then be carried out by centres.

16. There would be an advantage in clarifying a situation that is perceived by many as unsatisfactory. The intention of the Parties to enhance and strengthen the combined effectiveness and capacity of centres and the Secretariat could be reflected in the respective Trust Funds.

17. As part of its normal functions the Secretariat would provide overall guidance and overview; such an input would be reflected in the BCTF. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that Parties expect centres to assist them in implementing the Convention and in complying with its obligations. To do this centres need the proper guidance from and direction by the Secretariat who acts on behalf of the Conference of Parties. Similarly, there could be opportunities to use the BDTF to consolidate the support to be provided by the Secretariat to centres.

18. A clarification of the relationship between the Secretariat and centres could be enhanced through the proper use of both Trust Funds; it would assist in making a

distinction between the regular or core functions of the Secretariat from those tasks geared to implementation and operation. In such a scenario the BDTF could be a mechanism to strengthen the effectiveness and capacity of both the Secretariat and centres.

The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (BDTF)

19. The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of the Basel Convention (BDTF) is a mechanism used by Parties (and occasionally by others) to fund, among other things, project activities carried out by the centres. Some characteristics of the Fund are:

- Contributions are of ad-hoc (voluntary) nature based on a prospective biennium programme-budget « noted » by the COP
- Funds are allocated to support project activities; they are not used to support the functioning of centres
- There is no equal distribution of funds among centres
- No assessed contributions

20. Parties have agreed to identify and consider the setting up of funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature for the establishment of centres. The BDTF is one of those mechanisms. Parties are more hesitant to consider the Basel Convention Trust Fund or BCTF as falling in the category of mechanisms identified in article 14 of the Convention as mentioned above.

21. However, the BDTF mechanism by itself is not featured to respond to centres needs. A strategy could be conceived to complement the BDTF or make it more workable for the purpose of assisting centres in their development and operation, and contributing to enhancing and strengthening the effectiveness and capacity of both centres and the Secretariat.

Financial strategy

22. The strategy that is presented below takes into account the shift of emphasis agreed by Parties to focus on implementation and is based on the assumption that there would be an increase of resources to support project activities undertaken or managed by the Secretariat and centres:

◆ *Support for the development of centres and their operation*

The issue of programme support costs (PSC) is currently being addressed by UNEP. The following text on the possible use of PSC does not prejudge any conclusions that would be arrived at by UNEP. It is meant to provide an orientation.

a. Parties provide UNEP with 13% of the money spent under the BDTF. Parties would not be able to plan on how to use these funds (should an agreement be reached with UNEP on the use of the 13% for project activities) until the money allocated for projects has been spent or committed (provisioned in the budget).

b. Parties could consider providing an annual contribution for supporting the development of centres corresponding to the 13% calculated on the basis of the

amount allocated in the BDTF. This would provide for a more predictable and sustainable budget to help the development of centres. The amount budgeted would always correspond to a fix proportion of the budget Parties would agree to note under the BDTF. In reciprocity, UNEP would return the 13% collected on money spent on projects or alternative arrangements could be conceived. The money returned from UNEP or provided through alternative arrangements would then be deducted from the 13% contribution of Parties to BDTF to support the development of centres. Such arrangement could be put in place for a limited period of time to test its effectiveness.

c. Any Party could, in addition, develop its own strategy to support one or more centres. Money contributed by Parties in addition to the 13% level would be used to support concrete activities undertaken by centres. The primary purpose of the 13% contribution would be to support the development of centres.

d. The use of PSC for activities could be optimised through the resource mobilisation strategy. Efforts could be dedicated to raise seed money for the functioning of centres. This in order to provide a higher level of certainty that once a centre has run out of project money it would be able to continue work having a healthier financial base. Indeed, the minimum financial basis upon which centres could develop their operations should be an incentive for centres to raise funds to consolidate their own financial situation.

e. Because of the difficulties inherent to the Convention budgetary process, it would seem unlikely that the Secretariat would be in a position to continue spending a significant portion of its resources (BCTF) to support the development of centres.

f. It may be useful to consider whether the funds that could be set aside under the 13% scenario could be used to fund a senior position in the Secretariat from the BDTF whose main tasks would be to:

- Organise the work of centres (more coherence, streamlining)
- Provide guidance on governance, management and programming
- Assist centres in fund-raising and contacts with donors
- Ensure interactions and integration of centres' activities in the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, resource mobilisation strategy and other programmes
- Provide frameworks and road maps for centres to assist the Stockholm Convention Parties and other related chemical instruments, programmes or initiatives
- Put in place reporting and monitoring systems in accordance with existing rules
- Develop and put in place indicators for measuring effective and efficient operation of centres and the network, as well as of support provided to both
- Develop working linkages with key funding and implementing agencies to enlarge support to centres

g. The establishment of a project-funded (BDTF) position in the Secretariat may also clarify the relationship between the Secretariat and the centres. The project-

based position would assist the Secretariat in strengthening its capacity to service centres while enabling it to focus on its core functions. The Secretariat would be in a position to provide the technical and substantive direction centres require to operate effectively on an individual basis and as a network, brand their action and exercise their role in a coherent manner within the overall programme adopted by Parties.

h. An alternative would be for having someone dedicated to providing services to centres and operating within the Basel Convention Secretariat or, in light of the ongoing discussion on cooperation among wastes and chemicals conventions, to have this person (or persons) providing these services jointly to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions' Secretariats.

◆ ***Constitution of a contingency fund***

i. Another solidarity strategy could be set up by taking a small percentage of money raised for projects and managed by the Secretariat to constitute a fund dedicated to assist centres. It would function like a contingency funding mechanism with its own rules and procedures similar to the functioning of the « Enlargement of the scope of the technical cooperation Trust Fund (decision V/32) ». The amount to be set aside for this purpose could be negotiated at the time of the design or development of projects.

j. Such financial mechanism would be dedicated to assist centres having difficulties in meeting their programme or financial obligations. In order for this mechanism to work effectively, there would be a need for the Secretariat and individual centre to come up with a system by which both the Secretariat and individual centre are in a position to detect potential problems before they happen (having access to financial information in real time for instance). A first measure would then consist in the Secretariat and individual centre to take action to prevent the problem from occurring. The contingency fund could, in this case, be used to pay for external audit or other kind of expertise required to assess the problem and to engineer the solutions. Should this not be sufficient, the contingency fund could also be used, in consultation with Parties, to redress a problematic situation experienced by centres.

◆ ***Constitution of individual centre financial basis***

k. Each centre could evaluate the possibility to dedicate a percentage of project money they raise and manage to constitute a financial basis for their own functioning (administrative and management costs). Centres need to develop a plan on how they could achieve such a goal. They need to review the plan regularly, preferably on a monthly basis to assess the situation and take corrective measures as necessary. It implies that each centre needs to develop a fund-raising plan that is realistic, set targets and the measurement of achievements. The constitution of such fund would require sound governance structure, the application of financial rules and auditing. Through such process clarity could be enhanced in regard to the ability of each centre to raise funds for projects.

23. The success of the financial strategy described above is dependant on the level of funds raised, allocated and spent on projects. The rational is that centres are essentially project-based and service delivery regional institutions. The efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to develop less but larger projects represent a first step in streamlining project development and ensuring a coordinated approach to donors. It also provides the possibility to scream off administrative and management costs that could be used for building both the Secretariat and centres financial capacity.

24. Consequently, a successful financial strategy for the establishment of centres would require an improvement of centres' fund-raising ability, the development of larger scale projects and a stronger involvement of Parties in supporting project activities, in particular through an increase of contributions to the technical cooperation Trust Fund as expressed already in a statement made at COP 7 in October 2004 (ref. para.136 of Report, doc. UNEP/CHW.7/33).

25. The financial approach described above is in line with Parties decision to shift emphasis towards more concrete activities to promote and support the environmentally sound management of wastes and implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention. It also fits into the decision adopted by the Parties at COP8 to reinforce the Secretariat capacity for programme and project development.

V. Obstacles

26. Centres are not isolated institutions. They are part of a global network promoting ESM. The overall impact of individual centre and of the regional network they constitute remains modest. This is due to a combination of factors:

- Limited financial resources to enable centres to develop their own intrinsic managerial, programmatic and functional capacity.
- Slow process in the centres' legal establishment penalising them in terms of image, recognition and operations, and resulting in delay in adopting a suitable institutional structure.
- Slow development in designing and presenting fundable programmes or projects.
- Insufficient funding to support capacity building activities at the regional level.
- Weak institutional links with the Secretariat.
- Weak technical capability of centres

27. Centres' impacts at the regional level have not been measured. In spite of some solid achievements by a number of centres, the position of centres remains vulnerable.

28. Although the preparation of business plans has helped in defining priorities, centres' programmes remain at the margin of interest of funding agencies and donor countries. This is in part due to reluctance by these organisations or countries to provide funds to

institutions that have not demonstrated their excellence and experience. Also, aid agencies do not like to fund pilot activities, which represent a significant part of the centres' work, nor are they inclined to pay national government officials recruited as staff of centres.

29. It is therefore important to carefully identify funding possibilities vis-à-vis the specific nature of centres and not embark in grandiose fund-raising plans that bear little chance of success. Furthermore, the structure of centres will determine their financial management, project design and development capability.

30. In the absence of a functioning regional network, centres are operating on their own. This leads to a multitude of different project presentations, competition for funds, duplication of activities, and different monitoring and reporting systems. This is not conducive to building a centre's brand that would attract donors.

31. The way centres and the Secretariat relate to each other is not satisfactory. The institutional link is weak. The Secretariat is requested to assist and guide centres but does not have a mandate for managing the network nor does it have a clearly identified budget item to work with centres. The Secretariat cannot maintain a sufficient overview of centres' operation. Often, the Secretariat responds to problems after they have occurred; it has little possibility to anticipate because of a lack of correspondence between centres and the Secretariat. An operating regional network requires a formal and effective cooperation and coordination between the centres and the Secretariat while reducing any kind of supervision that would be counterproductive to efficient delivery.

32. Each centre has its own budget process. There is no consolidated budget of all centres. A consolidated annual programme and budget could be assembled to provide the full picture in terms of financial needs and would help in fine-tuning resource mobilisation efforts. It would have the advantage of presenting the requirements of the regional network of independent institutions in a comprehensive way and integrate each centre in a coherent manner in such programme and budget framework.

33. There are disparities between centres in terms of their size, funding capabilities and the number of staff. In a majority of centres, directors or coordinators are employed on a part time basis. Level of support for operation varies greatly from one centre to the other.

VI. Institutional building

34. Not only is it imperative for each centre to consolidate its own institutional base but, equally important, is for centres to build inter-(between regions) and intra- (within a region) regional capacity to fulfil functions as the only existing network of regional institutions promoting ESM in the world. Achieving inter- and intra-regional networking would position centres as representing a critical mass of institutions with an important potential for delivery.

35. In view of the challenge to promote environmentally sound management (ESM) principles globally, the centres have a critical role to play altogether in building regional platforms for ESM.

36. In this regard, it is important for the centres to share a common vision and build common organisational values. They need to develop individual strategies that would enhance each other and put into life through action plans detailing the core activities to be undertaken by each centre to achieve their objectives. Centres would share a common conceptual base but implementation would be carried out in different ways.

37. The centres should become member-driven enterprises open to cooperation and partnerships with stakeholders operating within and outside a particular region. Information exchange between centres would enable each centre to be kept up to-date on what is happening in other regions.

38. Centres could position themselves as providers of knowledge and know-how on ESM. Each centre could develop a special area of expertise. The conceptual base would remain common for all centres and could include elements such as:

- Short-term technical assistance through playing both a catalytic and facilitator role. Centres could develop a regional roster of experts and a catalogue of companies, non-governmental organisations, universities, etc., who could provide tailor-made expertise to address well defined issues on short notice
- Centres should continue and enhance the provision of services in the form of seminars, workshops, study visits, training, and knowledge management
- Short-term exchange of experts or staff between centres could be systemised as well as secondment of experts
- Twinning projects. To reach a critical mass on certain issues, two or more centres could twin their activities, whether administrative or technical. This could help to build more sustainable relationship between centres and exposed centres to a wider context by looking at other regions
- Bridging short-term provision of services with long-term objectives. Concentration of activities supporting ESM could be done on the basis of trans-regional strategy. This would address the complexities brought by the globalisation of trade at the regional level. It could assist centres in planning where resources would be concentrated in the longer term in a more optimal way, with the objective to enlarge the services provided by centres to address life-cycle management of chemicals and integrated waste management issues (from an ESM perspective)

VII. Plan to revitalise the operation of centres

39. The centres have the merit to exist. They have a potential for becoming an important delivery mechanism promoting ESM at the regional level. They constitute a Basel Convention network of regional operational independent institutions. Their sustainability cannot, however, be guaranteed under the present circumstances.

40. Both the legislative and programming process have showed their limitations in pursuing the goal of establishing centres that would function effectively and efficiently over time. Unless a number of fundamentals are being considered and acted upon, little progress could be expected

41. Those fundamentals are:

- ◆ Legal establishment
- ◆ Reasonable financing over time
- ◆ Governance
- ◆ Programming
- ◆ Resource mobilisation
- ◆ Partnerships and cooperation

A. Indicators

42. Indicators could be developed to enable centres, Parties and other stakeholders to measure progress in achieving agreed overarching objectives. Such overarching objectives could be summarised as follows:

- Construction of a regional network of independent institutions promoting and supporting ESM at the regional level (to protect human health and the environment and promote sound development).
- Putting into effect operational delivery mechanisms at the regional level capable of providing support to Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention.

43. The following preliminary conceptual framework for developing a set of indicators could be considered.

44. ESM is part of sustainable development objectives. It impacts on environment, health and socio-economic development. ESM principles are an integral part of policy-making in the implementation of the Basel Convention and of waste management in general. The basic parameter to consider is sustainability. Because different public and private actors have their own definition of sustainability, consultations on the development of workable indicators with a wide range of stakeholders should be organised. Through a consultation process, each actor can bring its vision and perspective.

45. It is important to link indicators to the policy and legislative process undertaken in the context of the Basel Convention while being able to measure each centre's performance. Indicators could therefore link directly to centres' sustainability in the context of the implementation of the Basel Convention and promotion of ESM. Indicators could be linked to Parties' priority policy issues (ie. waste minimisation; life-cycle management; integrated waste management) and programmatic focus (Strategic Plan focus areas). Indicators should be forward looking in the spirit of ESM that calls for constant improvement. The operation of centres could be seen as a contribution to responding to priorities for aiming at sustainable development (Millennium Development Goal) and to identifying emerging issues that would impact on the implementation of the Basel Convention.

46. A possible set of indicators could be used for measuring the performance of the organisational structure (institutional set up; governance), programme planning and implementation of individual centre.

47. Another set of indicators could be used to measure the impact of the regional network on government policies promoting the implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention, on generating level-playing field for the management of waste or used or end-of-life equipment and on being instrument for the advancement of ESM at the regional level.

B. Institutional and organisational model

Institutional models

48. The current approach and model of having national institutions with regional responsibilities has not met expectations. National institutions are not well equipped for resource mobilisation nor do they possess a sufficient capacity to anticipate. Their sustainability is almost entirely dependant on the support provided by the host country. And therefore, centres sustainability is linked to the political perspective and situation in host countries.

49. The other model that consists in setting up an intergovernmental organisation has not been operational yet. However, such model is sustainable if the member's governments pay their contributions in full and in time, assuming that the full package of contributions is sufficient to make the centre operational. Intergovernmental organisation have intrinsic slowing factors in taking decisions, in changing course of action or in bringing new items on board. It is an organisational model that may be handicapped in optimising innovation and entrepreneurship.

50. Overall, none of the current organisational model may appear satisfactory. Options are either to invest efforts in improving the current organisational structure, invent new ones or a mix of both. Having said this, it is important to recognize that the current situation is improving. A major step forward concerns the signing of the Framework Agreement by individual centres. Although it would be appropriate to review the institutional set up of centres, it would make sense to allow centres having signed the Framework Agreement to be given time to test and verify the adequacy of their own institutional model.

51. There are already a number of success stories in regard to centres' ability to attract substantial funding based on the development of sound and attractive programme activities. For instance, the regional centre in Dakar is performing the functions of an executing agency for a regional project on the environmentally sound management of PCBs (Polychlorobiphenyls) funded by the Global Environment Facility.

52. Potentially, the intergovernmental model may be an option that would enlarge possibilities for engaging in sustainable cooperation among wastes and chemicals conventions and with UNEP and FAO regional offices in this domain.

53. A proper legal foundation helps raising funds and creates confidence and credibility. Efforts should be geared towards designing the best institutional set up capable of delivering effectively and efficiently. Such improvement should be based on experience and assessment of how the chosen model meets expectations, having in mind the need to optimise the adequacy of programmes implementation with the legal status.

54. The proper legal status is essential but not sufficient. Indeed, sound governance is necessary for the sustainability of centres. The difficulties experienced by the regional centre in South Africa illustrate what can go wrong in the absence of sound governance. Despite a record of achievement and a successful portfolio of projects, the interim centre (set up as a nongovernmental organisation) had to cease activities and could not complete its tasks to prepare for the establishment of the intergovernmental organisation. This resulted in delaying the formal establishment of the regional centre. The difficulties that hit the interim centre were to a large part due to a deficiency in governance and monitoring.

The particular case of coordinating centres

55. Coordinating centres should be able to value and enhance the work of other centres in addition to their own specific activities. Their individual work should be fed by the centres operating in their region. In order to optimise resource mobilisation, coordinating centres should not duplicate work carried out by other centres but rather promote and advertise this work or cooperate with them. The organisational structure for coordinating centres should, ideally, be based on the regional institutional need to value, promote, enrich and enhance the work of other centres.

56. Currently, existing regional coordinating centres are operating like other centres with additional coordinating functions. Consideration may be given to the possibility of directing some of the work of coordinating centres in a new area of developing inter-regional (between regions) programmes and partnerships.

57. Such shift of emphasis could have the advantage of minimising costs of coordination, reducing possibilities of overlap between centres operating in one region, optimising resources and promoting inter-regional cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation. This could become a very promising area of work taking into account the increase in the globalisation of trade and the complexities it brings into regional trade. The fast growing trade in used or end-of-life equipment illustrates this evolution.

58. Once again, any consideration of an optimal regional architecture should be seen in the context of regional specificities and needs. It implies that a regional coordinating centre may represent the best option in one region while it may not be seen as critical in another region.

Status of centres

59. In considering the status of centres, it is important to decide if centres should remain not-for-profit organisations or whether they could acquire a status to enter into business to business partnerships. At the same time, centres should carry tasks that entail a « neutral » position; for instance when supporting Parties to comply with the provisions

of the Convention. Which is the model that best suit the centres' needs is still an open question.

60. On one hand, centres should serve their members. They are membership organisation. On the other hand, centres could operate like an enterprise with shareholders in line with UN rules regarding the involvement of private sector. Until and unless the legal status of centres has been determined, it would remain difficult to decide on the institutional model and organisational structure best suited to optimise their operation. Ideally, the legal structure should be designed in such a way as to enable centres to achieve their objectives effectively and efficiently.

61. Centres are not implementing agencies although they can execute programmes. Their main task is to complement and enhance the work of Parties at the regional level and root this work into regional realities. Regional centres are at the interface between domestic application of the Basel Convention and the creation of level-playing field at the regional level.

62. Centres are networking institutions capable of bringing together public and private stakeholders in joint ventures. Their contribution to the Basel Convention Partnership Programme could be significant. As such centres should acquire the necessary flexibility to partner with multiple stakeholders. It means that centres' institutional structure should accommodate for such flexibility while caring for delivering on the other tasks entrusted to them.

C. Organisational requirements

63. Centres are serviced-based institutions operating at the regional level. They have mixed responsibilities. On one hand, centres are established to assist Parties to implement the Basel Convention and comply with its obligations. On the other hand, centres are seen as regional delivery mechanism or instrument promoting ESM that can assist other conventions, protocols programmes or initiatives related to the fulfilment of ESM objectives.

64. Such dual function requires two prerequisites, namely:

- ◆ Adequate integration of centres in the Convention programmes on international cooperation and on partnerships
- ◆ An organisational internal flexibility to balance the work exclusively focused on servicing Parties and the work undertaken to serve other international bodies

65. The Secretariat and centres should work in a harmonized way. It implies that the role and responsibilities of the Secretariat may need to be reviewed. The current arrangements would not be suitable to improve cooperation between the Secretariat and centres. More organic interactions would be necessary as well as a proper recognition of the resources required by the Secretariat.

66. From a strategic perspective, it would be useful to design a plan on how centres could best deliver in regard to their core functions, namely:

- Training

- Technology transfer
- Information
- Consulting
- Awareness raising

67. Each of the core function may require its own sub-set of strategic thinking to be viable. Below are examples of the sort of things to consider:

Training

The Secretariat could develop a training plan for the next biennium, using the Strategic Plan as a guide, in cooperation with centres. The training plan would be the foot print for action. Each centre would evaluate what it could contribute. This would have the advantage of focusing resource mobilisation on a single comprehensive training plan that would be tailored to regional needs and carried out by individual centres.

Technology transfer

Centres could provide advice on how to identify inappropriate transfer of waste technologies based on the technical guidelines adopted by Parties and decision-making tools prepared by the Secretariat as well as those tools developed by other bodies such as the Stockholm Convention, UNEP, FAO or UNIDO. The experience gained in one region could unfold into another region. This may lead to the establishment of a data base shared by all centres on avoidance of inappropriate transfer of technologies. In parallel, each centre could identify sound technology transfer needs among members served by centre and share this within a region and between regions with a view to linking demand with offer. Centres would thus become regional hubs for information on technology transfer for the minimisation and management of hazardous and other wastes.

Information

In addition to putting in place information system and technology at each centre, it may be useful to consider designing and developing a single common information system for all centres on transversal issues of importance within and between regions. This would raise the profile of centres and enhance their work by offering a single source of regional information useful to economic operators, public authorities and other stakeholders.

Consulting

Centres may not always be fully equipped to act as consultancy bodies. They do provide such services but on a limited scale. It may be of interest to evaluate the possibility for centres to delegate such functions to a firm (or several) or equivalent with which they conclude an agreement. Regarding some of the services that can be provided by centres (information, meetings, workshops, missions), centres can charge a fee.

Awareness raising

A programme on awareness could be conceived to provide centres with guidance on the sort of messages Parties would wish to communicate to people at large. It would help in having all centres promoting a corporate image likely to have more impact than individualities. Centres would focus on key messages in line with priorities defined at meetings of the Conference of Parties. Globally, Basel Convention Parties, the Secretariat and centres would deliver coherent messages all over the world.

68. Today, centres may not possess an organisational structure that enables them to concentrate their work on all core functions. At this point in time, it may be reasonable for centres to focus their attention and resources on those core functions most likely to fit within their capability; and then progress from there on.

D. Geographical and regional coverage

69. The regional network of Basel Convention centres covers all UN regions of the world. The process of regional coverage has been strongly influenced by interest of Parties wanting to host centres. The decision on coverage varies from one region to the other. For Africa, for instance, the coverage of centres is based on language. The regional coverage for Asia is still not finalised. Generally speaking, geographical and regional coverage suffers from insufficient planning and strategic perspective.

70. From a strategic point of view, one may consider inter-regional cooperation as important as intra-regional cooperation for the implementation of the Basel Convention. Therefore, the current geographical and regional coverage may not adequately reflect new challenges. While reviewing the adequacy of geographical and regional coverage of centres, it may be important to consider how the existing network can respond to the emerging needs for trans-regional or intra-regional cooperation. Already, the regional coordinating centres in China and Nigeria are developing cooperative links.

71. At this juncture, it may be advantageous to reconsider regional strategies and how best centres can support such strategies. By their nature centres are pilot institutions. In this regard, the guidelines recommended by the Open-ended Ad-hoc Committee at its first session in 1993 provide the basis for deciding on the suitability of establishing centres and could still be used today to review the adequacy of the functions and role of centres with the expected benefits to be gained through their establishment.

72. Regular and close relation between centres operating in one region is important to optimise support to regional activities. For instance, a comprehensive training programme could be designed for one region and each centre in that region would cooperate to implement or support such programme to avoid duplication of efforts, inefficient use of resources and to maximise regional coverage.

E. Baseline regional strategy

73. In its introduction, the Strategic Plan (until 2010), which is the blue print for the implementation of the Convention, recognises that operational centres will be one of the key delivery mechanisms to put the Strategic Plan into effect at the regional level. Originally conceived to meet specific regional or sub-regional needs regarding training

and technology transfer, centres have gradually been directed by Parties to enlarge their scope of activities to address a wider range of issues linked to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

74. The centres occupy a central place in the operational set up put in place by Parties to assist in the implementation of the Convention, especially in regard to the operation of the 1999 Basel Declaration on ESM, at the regional level. Deriving from this, one would expect centres to play an active role in international cooperation and as instruments of the Partnership Programme.

A strategic approach

75. Among a number of opportunities, six strategic *axis* could be explored, namely:

- Interface with the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs at the regional level
- Interface with other chemical-related conventions (eg; Rotterdam Convention on PIC), international programmes or initiatives concerning or related to organic and inorganic chemicals management (eg. SAICM)
- Interface with the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building
- Interface with UNIDO/UNEP programme on cleaner production
- Interface with activities or programmes having impacts on waste management and technology transfer such as the climate change clean development mechanism, Green Lead Initiative, Africa Stockpiles Project, World Bank solid wastes programme, G8/3R initiative, UNDP/UNEP capacity-building programme, UNEP/UNCTAD capacity-building programme, FAO/Rotterdam Convention regional capacity building activities, etc.
- Interface with work carried out at the regional level by political or economic institutions (eg. MERCOSUR; ASEAN; APEC; NEPAD; AU;NAFTA; CARICOM; EU) having an impact on waste management, minimisation and transfer of technology

76. Cooperation should be built on experience. It could lead to partnerships (institutional, public or private) that would enhance monitoring of ESM for specific waste streams, especially lead-containing wastes and equipment, mercury wastes and persistent organic pollutant wastes. This would assist in improving implementation of and compliance with the relevant global and regional conventions or protocols. Each of the waste domains referred to above could be subject to capacity-building and technical assistance programmes, in which centres would be actively engaged, to reduce emissions, prevent pollution, minimise generation and promote transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Such programmes would be designed, developed and carried out jointly between concerned entities.

77. Providing services to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention at the regional level is of great significance in terms of illustrating complementarities between wastes and chemicals conventions. To achieve this goal there may be a need to design, in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention, a baseline coherent regional strategy that could be implemented by centres individually and collectively.

Baseline regional strategy to service the Stockholm Convention

78. A lot of work has been done already in the framework of the Basel Convention regarding cooperation with the Stockholm Convention. The COP adopted technical guidelines on POPs wastes. The Secretariat has developed (in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention and UNEP/GEF Secretariats) decision-making instruments and tool-kits (training manuals) to assist Parties to implement these guidelines and training curriculum for the coordinated implementation of Basel Convention POPs guidelines and Stockholm Convention BAT/BEP guidelines.

79. The Secretariat is in the process of transmitting its body of experience on POPs wastes to centres. This would help centres to take a more active role in supporting activities of relevance to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

80. The following activities are illustration of the sort of work centres could undertake or are doing already to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. It is important that activities are effective and bring value to participating countries. Regularly, there would be questions about the comparative benefits of country approach versus regional approach. Hence, the necessity to design programmes that bring benefits to both individual country and to a region (ie. level-playing field), and enhance capacity of stakeholders to implement the Basel and Stockholm Conventions:

- Training courses on the implementation of the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes using the work of the Secretariat in the development of tools and methodology for implementing the guidelines and the Stockholm Convention guidelines and tool kits.

Because of the complex nature of the technical materials, centres can organise joint training sessions to enhance each other capacity to deliver.

- Provide consultancy services in domains concerning or related to the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes (establish roster of experts)
- Offer regional platforms for public and private stakeholders to get together and build partnerships to promote or enhance implementation of both POPs and POPs wastes management
- Undertake a thorough analysis of technology transfer for the sound management of POPs wastes and develop internet systems to bring demands and offer together using models like PROSOL or those models developed by Governments (eg. United Kingdom).

- Provide mapping of regional needs in terms of sound management of POPs wastes and identify national, regional or international sources of assistance that could complement or consolidate existing financial mechanisms like GEF with focus on POPs waste management
- Develop new tools to assist in the development of a level-playing field in the management of POPs wastes through, for instance, regional ESM certification schemes for facilities involved in waste management or POPs destruction
- Design of model pilot projects to be collected into a basket of projects. The basket would be kept up-to date through a common web site or page managed by centres. Centres would then be able to launch activities to promote or initiate pilot projects in the fields of POPs waste management, management of equipment containing POPs, assessment and remediation of POPs contaminated sites, collection, transport and storage of POPs wastes, risk assessment, etc. The work on pilot projects could be done in the form of joint ventures between centres to look for complementarities and synergies at the inter- or intra-regional level.
- Contribute to preparing the ground for the establishment of regional or sub-regional centres under the Stockholm Convention. Such input could consist in detailing institutional regional needs for addressing life-cycle management of chemicals and identifying the part devoted to the Basel Convention. This would have the advantage of ensuring adequate consideration of the work of the Basel Convention centres and in preparing the potential cooperative links between centres of both Conventions. This would also facilitate the development of a coherent approach to the establishment of new centres in the domains of chemical management that support ESM, and to the functioning of existing centres.

81. Should the centres become hubs or central delivery mechanism for other chemical-related conventions or protocols at the regional level, especially for the Stockholm Convention, the issue of the centres' mandate may surface. Organisational and administrative functions of centres as well as their legal status may then need to be revisited. Currently, in the context of prevailing uncertainties, it may be advisable to initiate pilot activities at the programme level. Based on experience gained through pilot activities, the further determination of the role of the centres in support of the Stockholm Convention and other related instruments could be reviewed.

82. The programmatic base upon which to develop cooperation could be worked out jointly between Basel and Stockholm Conventions Parties or bodies; such a dialogue is being pursued between the two Convention Secretariats already. In this regard, it is worth making a distinction between the case where a Basel Convention centre contributes to a joint programme with the Stockholm Convention and the case where the Basel Convention centre would act like a centre for the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. In the latter case, the centre is ambivalent bearing the identity of both instruments requiring the establishment of formal links and legal procedures.

83. It is foreseen that joint Basel and Stockholm Conventions' activities at the regional level would lead to economies of scale, enhance capacity for resource mobilisation and stronger technical capabilities for addressing life-cycle management of chemical, including issues like enforcement and compliance. It would provide a single entry for donors to fund enabling activities of relevance to both the implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. It may increase political attention and support to global and regional waste issues.

Scenarios for possible future regional landscapes

84. The use or establishment of regional and sub-regional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology is part of the arrangements agreed by Parties to the Stockholm Convention to provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under this Convention. Parties to the Stockholm Convention have envisaged the designation of existing institutions, including Basel Convention centres, to serve as Stockholm Convention centres. A number of Basel Convention regional centres have submitted proposals to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to be considered as Stockholm Convention centres.

85. Discussions are underway between Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on improving cooperation. The coordinated use of regional centres providing support to the three Conventions is being considered in these discussions. The present report acknowledges this ongoing intergovernmental process. The following remarks should be viewed as an attempt to design possible scenarios regarding cooperation at the regional level.

86. Regional needs and assets should be the driving factors to develop the required institutional architecture for wastes and chemicals to serve Parties and assist towards fulfilling obligations under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. While building such regional architecture, consideration could be given to the importance of avoiding a fragmentation and proliferation of institutions working on their own outside a coherent framework or programme foundation.

87. A number of scenarios could be envisaged. For instance, a Stockholm Convention regional centre could carry out tasks to support Basel Convention Parties. Or, a regional office of FAO would undertake joint activities with the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions in the domain of enforcement. In fact, it would make sense to be open to a variety of scenarios to serve best governments in the areas of wastes and chemicals. One could expect that regional needs for the sound management of wastes in general and for POP wastes specifically may require a densification of the network of regional and sub-regional centres to serve Parties to both Conventions adequately and effectively

88. An example of a scenario for a regional arrangement is described in the annex to the present document.

89. The functions of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions' Secretariats would be to overlook and to manage the activities flow of the centres with a view to guiding their work towards more coherence and in accordance with priorities defined by Parties to

each Convention. The Secretariats would play a central coordinating role as broker or clearing house for project design and development, as well as in regard to resource mobilisation and partnerships. The Stockholm Convention Secretariat would remain the entry point for GEF funding.

F. Prerequisite for success

90. Each centre should be autonomous with its own legal and governance structure, business plan and deliverables best suited to the needs of its own region. Each centre should prepare a regional improvement strategy to rationalise its own activities. Centres should align their programmes with the programme adopted by Parties on a biennium basis. Centres should build a corpus of knowledge and experience to provide assistance and replicable activities and best practices that can be rolled out both inter- and intra-regionally.

91. Centres should work more efficiently to deliver better services to Parties and stakeholders involved on waste issues. To achieve this, centres could develop their own efficiency agenda. This forward looking plan could help centres in attracting funding for front-line activities that will bring resources to centres to further improve delivery. Centres could work together to develop a common method to identify ways and means to gain efficiency in the project they carry out. They could brand such method that could bring added-value to centres own expertise and operation.

92. Centres may need to assess where the value of a given project lies - especially in view of the scarcity of money or competition for the same source of funding- and what the major costs and risks are. Accountability of operation is critical as well as operating in a coherent and transparent manner. Centres should ensure greater communication with all stakeholders, between centres and between regions. This would enable centres to compare and share the way they operate. Finally, centres should assess the regional benefits expected from project activities. This implies that centres should carefully look at the regional impact of the project they carry.

93. Centres want to make a difference to the management of wastes in their respective region. To achieve this goal, centres would need to revitalise the interest of governments in the sound management and minimisation of wastes by providing authorities with an examination of long-term trends in waste management, challenges ahead and implications on development, poverty reduction or social improvement in their respective region. Additionally, centres could provide national authorities with a plan or elements on the needs to respond to challenges, creating therefore opportunities for preventive and pro-active measures, and innovative policy orientation. Centres may need to develop their own strategic capacity to move in that direction.

94. The Centres cannot work by themselves. They need to build partnerships within and outside their own region with both public and private entities. Such partnerships could be built around a theme or as part of reaching a critical mass in addressing specific issues. Today, governments are increasingly turning to nongovernmental organisations as partners in meeting their countries' needs. Partnerships with industry could help in providing leverage to bring different actors to a level-playing field in waste minimisation, management or recycling.

VIII. Perspective and strategic view

95. The decision taken by Parties to review the operation of centres is a recognition of centres role in contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and an indication of Parties' interest and willingness to enhance and strengthen the combined effectiveness and capacity of centres and the Secretariat.

96. The review represents time-consuming and resource-demanding efforts by Parties, centres and the Secretariat. Such significant investment should be guided by an understanding of where centres would or should be in a decade or so. There are evidences that, in their present form and set up, centres may not be in a position to deliver, as expected, on the tasks entrusted to them in a sustainable manner. In particular, the question of the future profile of centres is critical. Indeed, should centres remain generic institutions or should they undertake a transformation to become specialised or topical institutions.

97. A strategy may be needed in the way Parties and their partners would allocate resources to support the consolidation of the operation of centres. It may be useful, already at this early stage, to undertake an analysis of what would be the best institutional and organisational set up for centres to remain relevant, credible and reliable over time. Such an analysis would guide, direct and optimise efforts and resources use.

98. Ideally, the consolidation of the operation of centres should be accompanied by a strengthening of the Secretariat' capacity to guide, assist and ensure an overview of centres' work. The Basel Convention regional network is composed of all centres together with the Secretariat. Properly resourced and organised, this regional network represents a forward looking architecture to challenge the drastic changes that occur in the waste domains globally. The network could become a major tool and driving force to boost international cooperation for ESM.

99. The following paragraph analyses briefly some of the possible ways centres may develop in the future.

100. The image of the centres is blurred. It is not easy to get a clear picture of what the centres stand for. It is difficult to relate to the work of centres from the outside. The absence of a well-defined image is a handicap for centres to establish themselves as reliable and dynamic institutions. In terms of the construction of both the institutional set up and image, it may be worthwhile to consider a number of development factors:

- Regional centre is a generic term that does not provide a qualification for the type of work undertaken by each centre. It could be advantageous for each centre to be called something that provide a clearer, more concrete or precise image or representation of its central work; for instance one regional centre could be designed as the « Basel Convention Waste Minimisation Centre », another one could be called the « Basel Convention Waste Technology Centre ». Such denomination would be based on the core expertise of each and individual centre. Centres would constitute a network of qualified and professional

institutions in a variety of waste domains supporting the implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention. Through such development a centre could acquire a specific talent that would complement other centres' talents. It could be envisaged, for instance, that, at one point of time, one centre would have become leader in a waste domain and the other centres would call on its expertise when dealing with this specific waste domain.

The network would then be able to build its intrinsic technical capacity and to represent a critical (knowledge-based) mass for promoting ESM worldwide and engaging in partnerships with major regional and global actors.

- The demand factor may drive centres to become specialised or topic-based institutions. Should this happen, regional and geographical coverage would no more constitute the main criteria for the operation of centres. Services of centres would be based on their own expertise. The refocus of centres' operation may be unavoidable should financial support remains at minimal level. Centres would have to operate like individual not-for-profit enterprises to be competitive and take a share of the waste market; they would benefit from the comparative advantage of being institutions operating within an international network accountable to the Basel Convention Parties. Such evolution would of course require changes in the way centres operate.
- A central point is to assess whether the centres in their current generic set up could survive or should they gradually evolve into specialised or topical institutions to aim at sustainability. The development strategy for centres will depend on such an assessment. It would also be an important exercise to direct investments. Indeed, Parties should be confident that money raised and allocated to support the operation of centres would bring the expected results. As a consequence, the review of the current institutional set up could be enlarged to address what would be the best options for guaranteeing a future to the centres.
- A strategy for consolidating the operation of centres could integrate a vision about centres' future ability to implement a development programme. Through donations and other means to collect money, centres could engage themselves as a network in developing a **programme** for the advancement of ESM focused on training and education (similar to a type II programme of the 2002 WSSD). This would entail the development of training manuals on different wastes topics tailored to regional needs in cooperation with WHO (health-related topics), UNEP (consumption and production patterns), ILO (labour and occupational health), FAO (agricultural pesticides), UNIDO (cleaner production), UNESCO (digital divide), with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) and so on. This would form the corpus of the network training programme. Also, development of a curriculum could be envisaged to introduce ESM at schools and technical institutions at an early stage of education. A programme for the advancement of ESM, developed and managed by the network of regional centres, would also contribute to the transfer of know-how within and between regions. It could be designed in such a way as to allow regular meetings of stakeholders to allow them to be kept up to date on development and stimulate new interests in the programme implementation. In order to re-assure potential donors, the centres constituting

the network could agree on a code of conduct that could be endorsed by the Basel Convention COP.

ANNEX

SCENARIO FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE BASEL CONVENTION, ROTTERDAM CONVENTION AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Introduction

Because of the nature and content of the three legally-binding international instruments, concrete implementation could be successfully realised through a coordinated approach and coherent policy framework at the national level and by achieving level-playing field at the regional level.

Once internal coherence is reached, Parties are faced with the necessity to operate within a global context in which level playing-fields for the sound management of wastes and chemicals are driven by the standard-setting functions of the three Conventions. Because countries are not at the same level of economic development, such level-playing fields are difficult to achieve.

Countries are confronted with a dual challenge, namely, to develop their domestic capacity while adjusting to the changes and complexities brought by an increase in the globalisation of trade in goods and services.

The three Conventions represent the core legal framework (foot-print) and standard-setting (blue -print) for protecting human health and the environment from toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes at the global level.

However, at present, there are no recognised mechanisms to generate level-playing fields at the regional level as a contribution to reaching level-playing fields at the global level; with the understanding that the fast growing pace of globalisation of trade has the effect of making the regional context more complex. For instance, the traditional North-South divide is being offset by a growing East-West trade and South-South cooperation.

Generating a level-playing field at the regional level is an important contribution to enhancing cooperation between the three Conventions and in promoting positive development of environmental norms internationally.

A common ground for cooperation

Improved cooperation among the three instruments implies that individual countries Parties to these instruments have developed adequate legislative, technical and managerial capacity to be able to implement the provisions of the respective treaties. In reality, this is not the case. As a consequence, improved cooperation signifies that there

is a need to bring countries to a common minimal level of organisation and capability to implement the three Conventions.

There are three strategic objectives that are common to the three Conventions:

- ◆ **elimination of unsound practices and usages**
- ◆ **introduction of environmentally sound technologies and processes**
- ◆ **material, resource and energy conservation and recovery**

Achieving the above objectives would represent a major contribution to achieving the three Conventions' goals. Opportunities exist to cumulate the experience and know-how of each Convention and develop cooperative links among them. One of these opportunities consists in making use of the regional institutional embryo put in place in the context of the Basel Convention.

Shape of a regional landscape

Working at the regional level has the advantage of exploring and addressing the effects and impacts of globalisation on the implementation of the three instruments in a more coherent and systematic way. It is also a way of organising international cooperation according to needs expressed by countries sharing common geographical, social or economic specificities or interests. Through inter-regional cooperation experience gained in one region could unfold to another region.

The Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres are delivery mechanisms for the promotion of environmentally sound management of waste and for assisting in the implementation of and compliance with the Convention. They are dedicated to training and technology transfer.

In the case of the three Conventions, the main regional institutional base upon which to build a coherent and effective delivery mechanism would consist of:

- ◆ Basel Convention regional and co-ordinating centres
- ◆ UNEP Regional Offices
- ◆ FAO Regional Offices

It is likely that regional needs may lead to the establishment of a number of Stockholm Convention centres; whether such centres would use existing centres or be created on their own.

Any of the existing centres could potentially serve the three Conventions. However, in terms of approaching cooperation from the point of view of the life-cycle management of chemicals, the Basel Convention network seems more appropriate.

As a start, it could be useful to design a regional architecture composed of a limited number of regional centres using the Basel Convention network as a base but foreseeing the creation of Stockholm Convention centres. Among these centres, a number would provide services to the three Conventions. Additionally, and according to needs, FAO or UNEP Regional Offices could also perform specific technical functions for the three

Conventions (eg. regarding pesticides, enforcement, consumer and production patterns, and technology)

In order to meet regional needs for the three Conventions, the establishment of sub-regional centres that would be dedicated to specific or well-defined wastes and chemical issues may be required – remembering that the scope of the work under the Basel Convention is encompassing a wide variety of issues beyond chemicals. These sub-regional centres could be attached to the regional centres servicing the three Conventions. This could help in focusing activities on well-defined topics as part of the cooperation among the three Conventions. In particular, two highly technical domains would fit into such an approach. It concerns the environmentally sound management of PCB waste and PCB-containing equipment as well as of obsolete stocks of pesticides containing POPs chemicals. In both these areas, the technology dimension is very important and key to phasing out chemicals and ensuring sound management and disposal of POPs wastes.

Working together on strategic objectives

A functioning regional network, operating on the basis of a comprehensive and cooperative programme, represents a unique asset for the three Conventions to build on each particular characteristic while valuing their commonalities. Basically, the regional network should support the implementation of individual Convention while enhancing what is common to the three instruments (to avoid duplication, gaps, institutional confrontation and legislative hurdles). In other words, there would be centres dedicated to servicing one Convention working in harmony with other centres servicing the three Conventions.

The part of the regional network dedicated to servicing the three Conventions could organise itself around the three strategic objectives referred to above that are core to the implementation of the three Conventions. Such arrangement may constitute a critical mass to cover the technology dimension relevant to the three instruments. Indeed, the phasing out of a polluting process would be beneficial in reducing the growing of wastes. The use of environmentally sound technologies for the disposal of POPs wastes would help directing POPs materials to be phased out to an adequate facility. The Prior Informed Consent procedure for chemicals would act like a preventive mechanism reducing the burden to manage a POP chemicals covered by the procedure in the importing country.

Additionally, the technological dimension would attract interest by donors, industry and other stakeholders. It could prove to be a powerful tool to stimulate a growing attention to the three Conventions as constituting a comprehensive mechanism for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It would also allow for a quick start as it would not entail, at this stage, the need to re-define the mandate of existing Basel Convention centres.

Any of the scenarios described above could be applicable to a particular region while not representing an optimal solution in another region. It is important to look at each region, their geographical and socio-economic specificities, with a view to coming up with a regional and, possibly, inter-regional approach acceptable to the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

ANNEX I-A

DECISION VIII/4 OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION: Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 14 of the Convention, by which Parties agreed that, according to the specific needs of different regions and subregions, regional or subregional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation should be established and, further, that the Parties shall decide on the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature,

Also recalling its decision VI/3 on the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention regional centres on training and technology transfer,

Recognizing the importance and usefulness of coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of the work of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres among themselves and with the Secretariat in assisting Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention, including developing and executing projects in the context of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010, particularly with respect to regional facilitation and capacity-building programmes,

Concerned by the difficulties experienced by Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres owing to a lack of sustainable funding,

Committed to improving cooperation and coordination between the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and other relevant instruments and programmes through the work of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres and recognizing the need for coordination between the Secretariat and the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in that regard,

1. *Invites* Parties, especially donor countries, to support and utilize the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including for projects in support of training and technology transfer on the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, taking into account a life-cycle approach to such wastes;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, as appropriate, to guide and assist the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in the development of projects to assist Parties in the implementation of the Strategic Plan focus areas, building on the existing work on resource mobilization under the Basel Convention;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat and Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions and in consultation with relevant international organisations such as the Global Environment Facility, to conduct training

activities in the regional centres and with countries within the regions to enhance their capacity to gain access to the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms;

4. *Encourages* Parties and others to provide support, financial or in-kind, including through the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention, to enable the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
5. *Encourages* Parties and other entities in a position to do so to consider collaborating with the host Governments with a view to increasing contributions to the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres;
6. *Requests* the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres to use the guidance materials prepared by the Secretariat for improving the administration, governance and operational effectiveness of the centres and to report thereon, through the Secretariat, to the Open-ended Working Group at its next session;
7. *Requests* the Open Ended Working Group to initiate at its sixth session a review of the operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, including their relationship with Convention bodies, including the Secretariat, and other stakeholders, in order to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat;
8. *Invites* Parties to submit views on the objectives and scope of the review for consideration and action at the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report for the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on the review and, in the light of the discussion at that meeting, to prepare a similar report for the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
10. *Urges* Parties, relevant global and regional agreements and programmes to make full use of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres to enhance international and regional cooperation and coordination on relevant issues and to explore mutually cost-effective approaches to promoting their respective goals and objectives.

ANNEX I-B

DECISION OEWG-VI/2 OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE BASEL CONVENTION: Review of the operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordination Centres

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recognizing the role of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in the implementation of the Basel Convention and its Strategic Plan,

Acknowledging with gratitude the work done by the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres to date in implementing the Basel Convention, its Strategic Plan and the related chemicals conventions,

Noting that the review decided upon by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting will be conducted with the objective of enhancing and strengthening the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex I to the present decision, which must include:
 - (a) An assessment of the achievements made and obstacles faced by Regional and Coordinating Centres in fulfilling their functions, as contained in appendices I and II of decision VI/3, which are reproduced in annex II to the present decision;
 - (b) Recommendations with a focus on the long-term sustainability of the centres, in particular in relation to governance, institutional arrangements, operating budgets, regional involvement and project resource mobilization;
 - (c) Recommendations on the development of a financial strategy to be approved by the Parties to move the centres toward financial sustainability;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to publish the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above on its website by 15 December 2007 for the consideration of the Parties, Signatories and the Regional and Coordinating Centres;
3. *Invites* the Parties, Signatories and Regional and Coordinating Centres to submit comments on the report by 31 January 2008;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit the report, including the comments submitted by the Parties, Signatories and Regional and Coordinating Centres, and a draft decision on the issue to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting for its consideration.

Annex I to decision OEWG-VI/2

Terms of reference for the report on the operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

1. The report should cover all Regional and Coordinating Centres and incorporate self-assessments by the centres on the basis of a format to be provided by the Secretariat.
2. The report should:
 - (a) Assess the achievements made and obstacles faced by Regional and Coordinating Centres in fulfilling their functions, as set out in appendices I and II of decision VI/3;
 - (b) Assess the extent to which the activities and achievements of the centres are having a positive impact on implementation of the Convention at national and regional levels;
 - (c) Make recommendations with a view to developing a set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to functions and impacts;
 - (d) Assess the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the different governance, institutional and financial models used in various centres and, in particular, the extent to which these models have contributed to regional involvement and financial and institutional sustainability;
 - (e) Assess the level of support of host countries, countries served by the centres and other countries, including the provision of infrastructure, technology and personnel;
 - (f) Report on personnel matters, such as staff training in administration and accountancy, the number of full-time and part-time positions and consultants, the continuity of employment, and the Basel Convention secretariat staff resources dedicated to the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres;
 - (g) Assess activities relevant to cooperation and coordination, taking into account the work of the ad hoc joint working group on cooperation and coordination among the Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Basel Conventions;
 - (h) Assess and comment on the current and potential activities and roles of centres in facilitating implementation of other international chemicals conventions and processes within their mandates (including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management);
 - (i) Assess possibilities for and obstacles to expanding the functions of the centres to promote the integration of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in relevant mechanisms for international and regional cooperation, as well as the development of strategies that involve public-private partnerships;
 - (j) Assess the financial and institutional support that would be required in the short, medium and long term for centres to function optimally.

Annex II to decision OEWG-VI/2

Appendices I and II to decision VI/3 on the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention regional centres for training and technology transfer

Appendix I: Core functions of the Basel Convention regional centres

The role of the Centres is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within their own region, through capacity-building for environmentally sound management, to achieve the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

The description of the core functions of the Centres is as follows:

1. Training;
2. Technology transfer;
3. Information;
4. Consulting;
5. Awareness-raising.

The explanations of the core functions of the Centres are as follows:

- (a) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes, with specific emphasis on training of trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention and its instruments;
- (b) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region;
- (c) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the secretariat;
- (d) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region at their request;
- (e) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;
- (f) Organizing meetings, symposiums and missions in the field, useful for carrying out these objectives in the region;
- (g) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties and non-parties of the region at their request, on matters relevant to the environmentally sound management or minimization of hazardous wastes, the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related matters;
- (h) Promoting public awareness;
- (i) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of

- hazardous wastes and other wastes, for example, through case studies and pilot projects;
- (j) Cooperating with the United Nations and its bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the specialized agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organisations, industry and non-governmental organisations, and, where appropriate, with any other institution, in order to coordinate activities and develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Basel Convention and develop synergies where appropriate with other multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (k) Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Centres' own strategy for financial sustainability;
 - (l) Cooperating in mobilization of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party(ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party(ies) concerned;
 - (m) Performing any other functions assigned to it by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention or by Parties of the region consistent with such decisions.

Appendix II: Roles and functions of the coordinating centres of the Basel Convention in addition to the core functions

1. Ensuring interaction, including exchange of information, between the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Regional Centres, among the subregional centres, Parties and other related institutions;
2. Conveying regional consultation to identify priorities and formulate strategies;
3. Supporting and coordinating common tasks of the subregional centres in the field of policies, information, communication, technical and financial assessment;
4. Defining and executing programmes of regional scope in coordination with the subregional centres;
5. Identifying, promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation among the subregional centres and other stakeholders in environmentally sound management and the minimization of generation of hazardous waste and technology transfer in and outside the region;
6. Keeping a compilation system for information and making such information accessible to stakeholders.

ANNEX II-A

LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED IN THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES, RELATED TO THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL AND COORDINATING CENTRES

DECISION	TITLE
I/13 ¹	Establishment of the Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer
II/19 ²	Establishment of the Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer
III/19 ³	Establishment of Regional or Sub-regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation
IV/4 ⁴	Establishment of Regional or Sub-regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation
V/5 ⁵	Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer
VI/3 ⁶	Establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer
VI/4 ⁷	Business Plans for the Basel Convention Regional Centres
VI/6 ⁸	Establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Senegal
VI/7 ⁹	Proposal to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre in the Islamic Republic of Iran
VI/8 ¹⁰	Establishment of a Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel Convention and the Waigani Conventions
VI/9 ¹¹	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States
VII/1 ¹²	Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention
VII/9 ¹³	Basel Convention Regional Centres: Report on progress
VII/10 ¹⁴	Establishment of a Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran
VIII/4 ¹⁵	Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

¹ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop1-4/cop1dece.pdf#Decision13>

² Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop1-4/cop2dece.pdf#Decision19>

³ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop1-4/cop3dece.pdf#Decision19>

⁴ Source: http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop1-4/cop4repe.pdf#IV_04

⁵ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop5/cop5reportfinal.pdf#v05>

⁶ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop6/english/Report40e.pdf#VI03>

⁷ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop6/english/Report40e.pdf#VI04>

⁸ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop6/english/Report40e.pdf>

⁹ Ibidem

¹⁰ Ibidem

¹¹ Ibidem

¹² Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop7/docs/33eRep.pdf>

¹³ Ibidem

¹⁴ Ibidem

¹⁵ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/16eREISSUED.pdf>

ANNEX II-B

LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED IN THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS, RELATED TO THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL AND COORDINATING CENTRES

DECISION	TITLE
I/1 ¹⁶	Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention (to 2010)
II/1 ¹⁷	Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention
V/1 ¹⁸	Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention: role and activities of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres
VI/2 ¹⁹	Review of the operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

¹⁶ Source : <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg1/16eReport.pdf>

¹⁷ Source : <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg2/Rep12e.pdf>

¹⁸ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg5/docs/05e-repfin.pdf>

¹⁹ Source: <http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg6/docs/29reportADVANCE.pdf>

ANNEX III

LOCATION OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL AND COORDINATING CENTRES²⁰



Africa and West Asia

1. Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States (Cairo, Egypt)
2. Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region (Ibadan, Nigeria)
3. Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa (Dakar, Senegal)
4. Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking countries in Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Asia and the Pacific Region

5. Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (Beijing, China)
6. Basel Convention Regional Centre for Southeast Asia (Jakarta, Indonesia)
7. Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran (Tehran, Iran)
8. Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (Apia, Samoa)

²⁰ Extracted from the BCRC Brochure at <http://www.basel.int/pub/BCRC-brochure.pdf>

Central and Eastern Europe

9. Basel Convention Regional Centre for Countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow, Russia)
10. Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe (Bratislava, Slovakia)

Latin American and the Caribbean

11. Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
12. Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (San Salvador, El Salvador)
13. Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago)
14. Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and Caribbean Region (Montevideo, Uruguay)

ANNEX IV-A

Projects under the Strategic Plan²¹

BCRC	FOCUS AREA	YEAR	PROJECT
AFRICA AND WEST ASIA			
Egypt	Landfills	2004 - 2006	Preparation of a Set of Tools for the Selection, Design and Operation of Hazardous Waste Landfills in Hyper-dry Areas
Jordan (Party)	Cleaner production	2003 - 2007	Hazardous Waste Management in Industry with the Context of Integrated Life Cycle of Materials
Nigeria	Used oils	2004 - 2005	Assessment and Recycling of Used Oil in Africa
	Recycling, reuse and recovery	2004	Regional Workshop on Successful Case Studies of Recycling, Reuse and Resource Recovery Methods Towards the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes and Implementation of the Basel Convention in Africa
Senegal	Inventories	2003 - 2006	Inventory of Hazardous Wastes in French Speaking Countries Covered by BCRC-Dakar
South Africa	Database	2003 - 2004	Database and Website Integration
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION			
Cambodia (Party)	ULAB	2003 - 2005	Inventory of Lead-Acid Battery Waste In Cambodia
China	E-wastes	2003 - 2006	Survey of the Import and the Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic Wastes in the Asia-Pacific Region
	Household wastes mixed with hazardous wastes	2003 - 2006	New Partnerships with Local Authorities for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes in Urban Areas
Indonesia	Inventories	2003 - 2005	Pilot Project on Inventory of Hazardous Waste Generation in Selected Member Countries

²¹ List available at http://www.basel.int/Centres/proj_activ/stp_projects.html

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE			
Germany (Party)	Prevention and minimization	2003 - 2005	Scoping Paper on Transfer of National Experiences with Waste Prevention and Minimization to a Trans-Regional or an International Level
Russian Federation	Legislation	2004 - 2005	Review on Existing National and International Legislation on Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Environmentally Sound Management
Slovak Republic	Cleaner production	2004	International Training on Implementation of Waste Minimization – Cleaner Production Project
	Cooperation among the chemicals and hazardous wastes conventions	2004	Strengthening of Cooperation Between the Chemical and Hazardous Wastes Conventions
	POPs	2004	Regional Workshop for the Preparation of a Regional Approach for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs as Wastes in Selected CEE Countries
LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Argentina	Illegal traffic	2004	Implementation of the Qualification and Prevention in the Illegal Traffic
El Salvador & Trinidad and Tobago	ULAB	2003 - 2006	Preparation of a Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries in Central America and the Caribbean
Trinidad & Tobago	Used oils	2004 - 2006	Assessment of the Environmentally Sound Management of Used oil in the Caribbean
Uruguay	Household wastes mixed with hazardous wastes	2003 - 2006	Training Program for Municipal Officers in Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes
	Prevention and minimization	2003 - 2007	Pilot Program for the Minimization of Impacts Generated by Hazardous Wastes

ANNEX IV-B

Projects under the under the Technical Cooperation Trust Funds²²

BCRC	FOCUS AREA	YEAR	PROJECT
AFRICA AND WEST ASIA			
Egypt	POPs	2005	Regional Workshop for Arab States on the Environmentally Sound Destruction of POP and Decontamination of POP Containing Wastes in the Context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention
	Capacity-building (governance, inventories, e-wastes, legal, used oils, public awareness)	2006 - 2008	The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States in Cairo - Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Basel Convention
Senegal	Used oils	2005 - 2006	Management of Used Oils in Sub-Saharan Africa
	POPs	2005	Identification des Déchets de Bâle Précurseurs de Dioxines en fonction des Pratiques de Gestion Endogènes
South Africa	SAICM, chemicals and hazardous waste conventions	2006 - 2008	Towards a non-toxic environment in Africa
	POPs	2006	Development of a Proposal for a Sustainable Regional Capacity Building Programme to Promote the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION²³			
	Inventories	2006	Training Workshop on National Reporting and Inventories of Hazardous Wastes
	E-wastes	2006	Development of Technical Guidelines for Electrical and Electronic Waste Inventory

²² List available at http://www.basel.int/Centres/proj_activ/tctf_projects.html

²³ List of projects carried out in coordination with the BCRC-SEA available at <http://www.bcrc-sea.org/?content=publication&cat=2>

South Pacific	E-wastes	2006	Development of Technical Guidelines for 3 R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) of End-of-Life Electrical and Electronic Products
	E-wastes	2006 - 2007	Pilot Study on Transboundary Movement of End-of-Life Mobile Phones in East Asian Countries (DOWA Project)
	Website	2006 -2010	Website Upgrading, Re-development & Maintenance
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE			
Slovak Republic	Used oils	2005 - 2006	Background Analysis for Development and Establishment of a Lubricating Oil Management System
	Biomedical	2006-2008	Strategy on the Management of the Biomedical (Healthcare) Waste
	Illegal traffic	October 2006	Workshop on the Safe and Effective Detection, Investigation, Prosecution of Illegal Traffic of Hazardous and Others Wastes
	Legislation	2003 - 2005	Legal Assistance for the Elaboration and Adaptation of National Legislation for the Effective Implementation of the Basel Convention in Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro
LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Argentina	E-wastes	2005 - 2008	Inventory of Electronic Wastes in the South American Region
Ecuador (Party) and BCRC Uruguay	Used oils	2005 - 2007	New Partnership with Local Authorities for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and other Wastes in the Context of the Basel Convention in South America
El Salvador	POPs	2004 - 2007	Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in Central America
Uruguay	POPs	2004 - 2005	Survey of the Capacity for the Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides and Remediation of Contaminated Sites in Latin America and the Caribbean
	POPs	2004	Environmentally Sound Management of Obsolete Pesticides in Latin America and Caribbean Countries

ANNEX V

Cooperation and synergies between Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention in relevant activities with the Basel Convention Regional Centres

Region	Subject	Location, Date	Name of countries attended (ISO code ²⁴)	Number of Parties attended ²⁵	Number of countries' participants ²⁶	Stakeholders involved	
Africa and West Asia	BCRC-Egypt	Sub-Regional Workshop on the Coordinated Implementation of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes Conventions	Oman, Dec 2005	n.a.	8	55	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / UNEP-ROWA / GEN / Switzerland
		Regional Workshop for Arab States on the Environmentally Sound Destruction of POPs and Decontamination of POPs-containing Waste in the Context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention	Jordan, Aug 2005	BHR, DJI, EGY, IRN, IRQ, JOR, KWT, LBN, LBY, MAR, MRT, OMN, PSE, QAT, SDN, SYR, TUN, YEM + (DNK, NOR, NZL)	18 (+ 3)	66 (+ 3)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / FAO / WHO / Switzerland
		Regional Workshop for the West Asian Countries on the draft BAT/BEP Guidelines under the Stockholm Convention	Bahrain, Mar 2005	BHR, JOR, KWT, LBN, OMN, PSE, QAT, SAU, SYR, ARE, YEM	11	25	League of Arab States / UNEP Chemicals / UNIDO / UNEP-ROWA

²⁴ See Annex 1: "ISO-codes for countries"

²⁵ in brackets: number of developed countries or countries with economies in transition or non-Parties attended

²⁶ in brackets: number of developed countries' participants or countries with economies in transition's participants or non-Parties' participants attended

		Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention and Synergies with Others Chemical Related Agreements	Egypt, Feb 2005	DZA, BHR, DJI, EGY, IRN, JOR, LBN, LBY, MAR, MRT, OMN, QAT, SAU, SDN, SYR, ARE, YEM	17	45	Stockholm Convention / UNEP / SBC / Switzerland / Egypt
		Regional Workshop Promoting the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the Middle East and Northern Africa	Syria, Jul 2004	DZA, BHR, EGY, IRN, IRQ, JOR, KWT, LBN, MAR, MRT, OMN, PSE, QAT, SAU, SDN, SYR, ARE, YEM	18	64	Stockholm Convention / Rotterdam Convention / UNEP-Geneva Environment Network / Switzerland / Syria
		Regional Training Seminar for Port Enforcement Officers for Arab-speaking Countries	Egypt, May 2003	DZA, EGY, JOR, KWT, LBN, LBY, MAR, MRT, OMN, QAT, SAU, SYR, TUN, ARE, YEM	15	19	SBC / Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (attended)
	BCRC-Senegal	Regional Workshop on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements	Cameroon, May 2005	BEN, BFA, BDI, CMR, CAF, CPV, TCD, COM, COG, CIV, COD, DJI, GAB, GIN, GNB, MDG, MLI, MAR, MRT, NER, STP, SEN, TGO	23	46 (based on 2 participants per country)	UNEP-Division for Environmental Conventions

		Regional Workshop on the Awareness on Mercury	Senegal, Nov 2004	BEN, BFA, BDI, CMR, CAF, TCD, COM, COD, CIV, DJI, GAB, GIN, GNB, MDG, MLI, MRT, NER, RWA, STP, SEN	20	40	UNEP Chemicals / IOMC
		Sub-regional Seminar on the Coordinated Implementation of Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes Multilateral Environmental Agreements in West Africa	Benin, Nov 2002	BEN, BFA, CMR, CIV, GMB, GHA, GNB, LBR, MLI, MRT, NGA, NER, SEN, TGO	14	41	Benin / UNEP- Geneva Environment Network / Switzerland
BCRC-South Africa		Workshop on the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	South Africa, Jun 2006	LSO, MWI, MOZ, NAM, ZAF, SWZ, ZMB, ZWE	8	20	Rotterdam Convention activity in the BCRC-South Africa
		Project: Demonstration of a Regional Approach to Environmentally Sound Management of PCB Liquid Wastes and Transformers and Capacitors Containing PCB	South Africa, Apr 2006	BEN, BFA, TCD, CIV, COD, DJI, GNB, MLI, MRT, MAR, NER, STP, SEN, TGO	14	28 (based on 2 participants per country)	UNEP Chemicals

		Project: Development of a Proposal for a Sustainable Regional Capacity Building Programme to Promote the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management	South Africa, Jan 2003 - Mar 2006	BWA, ERI, ETH, GMB, KEN, LSO, LBR, MWI, MUS, MOZ, NAM, NGA, SYC, ZAF, TZA, UGA, SLE, ZMB, ZWE	21	21	UNEP Chemicals
		3 rd Sub-Regional Workshop, Conclusion of the PCBs Inventory Project for SADC Countries and Training on Action Plans for PCBs	Tanzania, Oct 2005	BWA, COD, LSO, MWI, MUS, NAM, SWZ, TZA, ZMB, ZWE + (CHE)	10 (+ 1)	31 (+ 1)	UNEP Chemicals
		Regional Workshop for the Africa Region "Assessment of Existing Capacity and Capacity Building Needs to Analyse POPs in Developing Countries"	South Africa, Oct 2005	BWA, EGY, KEN, MLI, MUS, NER, ZAF, SDN, TZA, TUN, UGA, ZMB	12	27	Stockholm Convention / GEF
		2 nd Sub-Regional Workshop, Conclusion of the PCBs Inventory Project for SADC Countries and Training on Action Plans for PCBs and Dioxins/Furans	Mozambique, Nov 2004	AGO, BWA, COD, LSO, MDG, MWI, MUS, MOZ, NAM, SYC, SWZ, TZA, ZMB, ZWE	14	36	UNEP Chemicals / Industries

	Regional Awareness-raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution - a global problem that needs to be addressed	South Africa, Jun 2004	BWA, ERI, ETH, GMB, GHA, KEN, LSO, LBR, MWI, MUS, MOZ, NAM, NGA, SYC, SLE, ZAF, SDN, SWZ, TZA, ZMB, ZWE	21	44	UNEP Chemicals / IOMC
	Sub-regional Workshop on the Coordinated Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Chemicals and Wastes in English-speaking Countries	South Africa, Sep 2003	BWA, ETH, KEN, LSO, MWI, MUS, MOZ, NAM, NGA, SEN, SYC, ZAF, SWZ, TZA, UGA, ZMB, ZWE	17	48	UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network
	Project: Regional Project for the Preparation of National Inventories, Action Plans and Strategies for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Sub-region	South Africa, Sep 2003	n.a.	15	30 (based on 2 participants per country)	Stockholm Convention / SBC
	1 st Training workshop, Launch of the PCBs Inventory Project for SADC Countries	Zambia, Apr 2003	AGO, BWA, COD, LSO, MWI, MUS, MOZ, SYC, SWZ, TZA, ZMB, ZWE	12	38	UNEP Chemicals / UNITAR / UNIDO / UNDP

		UNEP/WHO-AFRO Sub-regional Workshop on the Reduction/Elimination and Management of Pesticides in the Context of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and Related Activities of WHO's Regional Office for Africa	South Africa, Nov 2002	BWA, BDI, COM, COD, ETH, ERY, KEN, LSO, MDG, MWI, MUS, MOZ, NAM, RWA, SYC, ZAF, SWZ, TZA, UGA, ZMB, ZWE	21	62	UNEP Chemicals / WHO / USA / Canada
Sous-total Africa and West Asia:		20 activities			309 (+ 4)	786 (+ 4)	
Asia and Pacific Region	BCRC-China	Regional Workshop for the Asian and Central and Eastern Europe Countries "Assessment of Existing Capacity and Capacity Building Needs to Analyse POPs in Developing Countries"	China, Dec 2005	BLR, BGR, CZE, EST, FJI, GEO, HUN, JPN, JOR, KAZ, LTA, LTU, MDA, PAK, PSE, PHL, POL, RUS, Serbia and Montenegro, SGP, SVK, SVN, LKA, TJK, THA, UKR, VNM + (USA, CHN)	27 (+ 2)	52 (+ 36)	Stockholm Convention / GEF

BCRC-Indonesia	Regional Awareness-raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution - a global problem that needs to be addressed	Thailand, Apr 2004	BTN, KHM, CHN, IDN, IND, JPN, PRK, LAO, MYS, MDV, MNG, MMR, NPL, PAK, PHL, SGP, LKA, THA, VNM	19	37	BCRC-China / UNEP Chemicals / UNIDO / World Bank
SPREP-PRC	Regional Workshop for the Asia Pacific Countries on the draft BAT/BEP Guidelines under the Stockholm Convention	New-Zeland, Mar 2005	COK, FSM, FJI, KIR, MHL, NIU, PNG, WSM, TON, TUV, VAN	11	14	UNEP Chemicals
	Pacific Regional Workshop on the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention held in parallel with the Basel and Waigani Conventions Workshop for Competent Authorities on the Use of the Control System and the Awareness-raising Workshop on POPs for Non-governmental Organisations	Fiji, May 2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	UNEP Chemicals / SBC
	Sub-regional Awareness-raising Workshop on the PIC/POPs/Basel and Waigani Conventions	Australia, Apr 2001	COK, FSM, FJI, KIR, MHL, NRU, NIU, PNG, WSM, SLB, TON, TUV, VUT	13	24	UNEP Chemicals / Rotterdam Convention / Australia /

Sous-total Asia and Pacific Region:		5 activities			> 70 (+ 2)	> 127 (+ 36)	
Central and Eastern Europe	BCRC- Slovakia	Regional Workshop for the Preparation of a Regional Approach for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs as Wastes in Selected Central and Eastern European Countries	Slovakia, May 2004	ARM, BIH, BGR, CZE, LVA, LTU, MKD, ROM, Serbia and Montenegro, SVK, UKR	11	21	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / FAO / World Bank / UNIDO / UNDP / Industries
		Regional Workshop on the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Central and Eastern Europe	Latvia, Apr 2004	ALB, ARM, AZE, BLR, BIH, BGR, HRV, CZE, EST, GEO, HUN, LVA, LTU, POL, MDA, ROM, RUS, Serbia and Montenegro, MKD, SVK, SVN, UKR	22	60	UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network / Latvia / Switzerland
		Workshop on the Strengthening of Cooperation based on Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes Conventions	Czech Republic, Mar 2004	CZE, HUN, POL, SVK, SVN + (AUT, DEU)	5 (+ 2)	10 (+ 4) (based on 2 participants per country)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / Rotterdam Convention / UNEP- DTIE

Sous-total Central and Eastern Europe:		3 activities			38 (+ 2)	91 (+ 4)	
Latin America and the Caribbean		Sub-regional Workshop on the Implementation of Chemical Conventions for English-speaking Caribbean Countries	Jamaica, Jul 2005	ATG, BRB, BLZ, DMA, GRD, GUY, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, TTO,	12	46	Stockholm Convention / Rotterdam Convention
		UNEP/FAO Regional Workshop on the Reduction/Elimination and Management of Pesticides in the Context of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions	Chile, Oct 2002	ARG, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, ECU, PRY, PER, URY, VEN	10	29	UNEP Chemicals / FAO / WHO / Brazil / Chile
	BCRC- Argentina	Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries on the draft BAT/BEP Guidelines under the Stockholm Convention	Argentina, Feb 2005	ARG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, CRI, CUB, ECU, SLV, GRD, MEX, NIC, PAN, PRY, PER, DOM, LCA, SUR, TTO, URY, VEN	24	53	UNEP Chemicals
		Regional Workshop on POPs Destruction Technologies on the Environmentally Sound Destruction of POPs and Decontamination of POPs-Containing Waste in the Context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention	Brazil, Dec 2004	ARG, BRA, CHL, COL, ECU, PRY, PER, URY, VEN	9	16	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / Brazil

		Regional Awareness-raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution - a global problem that needs to be addressed	Argentina, Sep 2004	ARG, BRA, CHL, COL, CRI, CUB, ECU, GTM, HND, MEX, NIC, PAN, PRY, PER, URY, VEN + (USA)	16 (+ 1)	52 (+ 1)	UNEP Chemicals / UNIDO / UNEP-ROLAC
		Regional Workshop on BAT/BEP in the Context of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions	Argentina, Oct 2002	ARG, BRA, CHL, COL, ECU, PRY, PER, URY, VEN	9	36	UNEP Chemicals / SBC / IOMC / Canada / Argentina
	BCRC-El Salvador	4 th Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in Central America	El Salvador, Jul 2006	BLZ, CRI, GTM, HND, NIC, PAN	6	11	SBC / UNEP Chemicals
		3 rd Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in Central America	El Salvador, Nov 2005	BLZ, CRI, SLV, GTM, HND, NIC, PAN, CUB, PRI	7	36	SBC / UNEP Chemicals

		2 nd Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in Central America (and PCDD/PCDF Inventory Workshop in cooperation UNEP Chemicals with SBC/BCRC-EI Salvador)	El Salvador, Apr 2005	BLZ, CRI, SLV, GTM, HND, NIC, PAN, CUB, PRI + (FIN)	7 (+ 1)	36 (+ 1)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals
		1 st Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB-containing Equipment in Central America	El Salvador, Jul 2004	BLZ, CRI, SLV, GTM, HND, NIC, PAN	7	16	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / UNDP / USA / Finland / University
		Sub-regional Workshop on Action Plans for PCBs and PCDD/F in the Context of National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention	Chile, Jul 2004	ARG, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, CUB, ECU, NIC, PRY, PER, DOM, URY, VEN	13	46	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / Chile / GTZ GmbH
		Regional Workshop on the Reduction/Elimination and Management of Pesticides in the Context of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention	Chile, Oct 2002	ARG, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, ECU, PRY, PER, URY, VEN	10	29	UNEP Chemicals / FAO / IOMC

BCRC- Trinidad and Tobago	Consultative Meeting on Obsolete Pesticides Management in the Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago, Mar 2006	ATG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, CUB, DMA, DOM, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, TTO, SUR, MTQ + (HTI)	14 (+ 1)	14 (+1)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals
	Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution	Trinidad and Tobago, Jan 2005	ATG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, DMA, GRD, GUY, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, TTO + (HTI)	13 (+ 1)	40 (+1)	UNEP Chemicals / IOMC
	Project: Preparation of a Regional Project Proposal for the Final Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides in the Caribbean Region	2002-2004	ATG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, CUB, DMA, DOM, GUY, GRD, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, TTO, SUR + (HTI)	15 (+ 1)	30 (+2) (based on 2 participants per country)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals
	Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	Antigua and Barbuda, 2003	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Stockholm Convention
	Sub-regional Workshop on National Inventory of Dioxin and Furan Releases in the Context of the Stockholm Convention	Trinidad and Tobago, May 2003	ATG, BRB, BLZ, DOM, GRD, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, BHS, TTO	12	31	UNEP Chemicals

		Sub-regional Workshop on Support for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Trinidad and Tobago, Jun 2002	ATG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, GRD, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, TTO + (HTI)	11 (+ 1)	22 (+ 2)	UNEP Chemicals / FAO / UNDP / World Bank / GEF
		UNEP Regional Workshop on the Reduction/Elimination and Management of Pesticides in the Context of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Trinidad and Tobago, Apr 2002	ATG, BRB, CUB, DMA, DOM, GRD, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, BHS, TTO, VEN + (HTI)	14 (+ 1)	41 (+ 1)	SBC / UNEP Chemicals / IOMC / Canada / USA
	BCCC-Uruguay	Workshop for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Uruguay, Nov 2005	COL, PER, URY	3	21	Rotterdam Convention activity in a BCRC
		Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean “Assessment of Existing Capacity and Capacity Building Needs to Analyze POPs in Developing Countries”	Uruguay, Sep 2005	ATG, ARG, BHS, BRB, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, CRI, CUB, ECU, GTM, HND, JAM, MEX, PAN, PER, LCA, TTO, VEN, URY	21	54	Stockholm Convention / GEF

		Workshop on the Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of Obsolete Pesticides Stockpiles, as a Contribution to the Stockholm and the Basel Compliance through the Exchange of Experiences within the Latin America Region	Venezuela, Sep 2004	na	na	na	Stockholm Convention / Technological Laboratory of Uruguay / Uruguay
		Regional Workshop on the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay, Jan 2004	ARG, BHS, BRB, BLZ, BOL, CHL, COL, CRI, CUB, ECU, SLV, GTM, GUY, HND, JAM, MEX, NIC, PAN, PRY, PER, DOM, LCA, SUR, TTO, VEN, URY + (HTI) + (CHE)	26 (+ 2)	77 (+ 2)	UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network / SBC / Uruguay / Switzerland / Industries / NGOs
		Project. Survey of the Capacity for the Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides and Remediation of Contaminated Sites in Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay, Dec 2004 - Mar 2005	ARG, BRA, CHL, COL, CRI, ECU, MTQ, NIC, PAN, PRY, PER, PRI, TTO, VEN	14	28 (based on 2 participants per country)	FAO / SBC
		UNEP Chemicals Workshop on the Management of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and Dioxins/Furans	Uruguay, Sep 2000	ARG, BOL, BRA, CHL, COL, ECU, PRY, PER, SUR, VEN, URY	11	45	UNEP Chemicals

Sous-total Latin America and the Caribbean:		25 activities			> 284 (+ 9)	> 809 (+ 13)	
Others	All regions	International Seminar on the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Italy, Apr 2005	ARM, BEN, BOL, BDI, COD, CIV, ECU, GHA, GIN, JAM, KOR, MDG, MRT, SEN, ZAF, SUR, SYR, TZA, THA, TGO, UGA	21	38	Rotterdam Convention / FAO / BCRC-China / - Russian Federation / - South Africa / - Trinidad and Tobago / BCCC Nigeria / - Uruguay
	Whole Africa	Project: Africa Stockpile Project			To rise all 53 African countries over 10 years (not taken into account for the total)	n.a.	WWF / FAO / World bank / CropLife / African Union / UNEP Chemicals / SBC / BCRC-South Africa

	other	1 st Meeting of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environment Practices	Geneva, Dec 2005	BEN, BWA, DJI, GHA, KEN, NGA, RWA, TUN, CHN, JPN, MNG, OMN, PNG, PHL, THA, ARM, CZE, LVA, MDA, ARG, BRA, CHL, MEX, URY, VEN, BOL + (AUS, AUT, CAN, FIN, FRA, DEU, ISL, NZL, NOR, PRT, ESP, SWE, CHE, GBR)	26 (+ 14)	26 (+ 14)	Stockholm Convention / SBC (attended) / UNEP Chemicals / UNDP / UNIDO / UNITAR / World Bank
Sous-total Others:		3 activities			47 (+ 14)	> 64 (+ 14)	
GRAND TOTAL		56 activities			748 (+ 31)	> 1877 (+ 71)	