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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session**

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Items 5 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Performance of the programme of work and budget,
including implementation of the resolutions of the
Environment Assembly**

International environmental policy and governance issues

**Information on the work undertaken within the framework of
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as it relates to the
third session of the Environment Assembly**

Summary

The annex to the present note sets out information on the mandates and activities undertaken in the framework of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as they relate to items on the provisional agenda of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The information has been submitted by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The annex to the present note has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/EA.3/1.

Annex

Information on the work undertaken within the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as it relates to the third session of the Environment Assembly

I. Introduction

1. The present document summarizes the mandates and activities undertaken within the framework of Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as they relate to the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The information provided below is organized according to pre-session working documents, for ease of reference. All the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties during their 2017 meetings and referred to below are set out in the reports of the respective meetings, which are publicly available on the websites of the conventions:

(a) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal on the work of its thirteenth meeting (document UNEP/CHW.13/28), available at: <http://basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP13/tabid/5310/Default.aspx>

(b) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on the work of its eighth meeting (document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), available at: <http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/1728/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

(c) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its eighth meeting (document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), available at: <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/208/Default.aspx>

II. Overall mandates for programmatic cooperation with UN Environment

2. At their meetings in May 2017, in decisions on international cooperation and coordination,¹ the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions welcomed the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session and invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions. They also requested the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions.

III. Report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of resolution 2/5 on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. The paragraphs below contain updates on the decisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on issues related to the implementation of resolution 2/5 as well as relevant draft resolutions being considered by the third session of the Assembly on this subject matter.

¹ BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20.

4. On joint issues to the three conventions, the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings, among other things:

(a) Requested the Secretariat to make available to UN Environment information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the UN Environment, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10, SC-8/20).

IV. Report of the Executive Director on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/EA.3/10)

5. The paragraphs below contain updates on the decisions and activities of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on issues related to the implementation of resolution 2/7 as well as to relevant draft resolutions being considered by the third session of the Assembly on relevant subject matters.

6. At its 2017 meeting, on matters related to the environmentally sound management of waste, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention:

(a) Invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the Basel Convention on the environmentally sound management and prevention of waste generation in ensuring the full integration of the environmentally sound management of waste in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision BC-13/3);

(b) Adopted six technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) wastes (general, pesticides, unintentionally produced, hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), pentachlorophenol (PCP)) (decision BC-13/4);

(c) Adopted the “Practical manuals for the promotion of environmentally sound management of wastes”; welcomed the fact sheets on specific waste streams; and welcomed the draft “Practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management” (decision BC-13/2);

(d) Adopted the “Guidance on developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal” (decision BC-13/3);

(e) Requested the expert working group on environmentally sound management to, among other things, develop guidance on developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of wastes; and on how to address environmentally sound management in the informal sector (decision BC-13/2);

(f) Adopted the “Glossary of terms” on the distinction between wastes and non-wastes (decision BC-13/2);

(g) Adopted the “Guidance on the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions dealing with illegal traffic” (decision BC-13/9);

(h) Took note of the “Practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils”; requested the Secretariat to undertake pilot projects to test the “Practical guidance” (decision BC-13/8);

(i) Adopted the “Guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface” (decision BC-13/7);

(j) Adopted, on an interim basis, section 3 of the “Guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment” (decision BC-13/5);

(k) Established a new partnership on household wastes (decision BC-13/14);

(l) Included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018-2019, a mandate to consider relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics and waste containing nanomaterials (decision BC-13/17).

7. With respect to used lead-acid batteries, the main following actions have been undertaken within the framework of the Basel Convention:

(a) Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Dec 2002);² These technical guidelines provide a comprehensive approach to the management of wastes lead-acid batteries including when implementing recycling programmes;

(b) The draft Practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste lead-acid batteries (2017),³ also referred to in paragraph 6(h) above, is currently being pilot tested. Those projects aim to assist countries in assessing the generation of waste lead/acid batteries as a first step in the planning of strategies for recycling and in collecting information for the purpose of national reporting under the Convention.

(c) A Fact sheet on waste lead-acid batteries (2017)⁴ has been developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management. This fact sheet provides information on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries. It is primarily intended for use by collectors of waste lead-acid batteries, transporters and operators of facilities that store, recycle or otherwise dispose waste lead-acid batteries.

8. A more comprehensive briefing note on the work carried out under the Basel Convention on used lead-acid batteries is set out in the appendix of the present note.

9. At its 2017 meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, among other things:

(a) Listed decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) in Annex A to the Convention (elimination) with specific exemptions; and listed hexachlorobutadiene in Annex C (unintentional production) (decisions SC-8/10-12);

(b) Welcomed the “Report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention”; took note of the 12 priority areas for action to address implementation challenges identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee (SC-8/18);

(c) Welcomed the “Second global monitoring report on POPs” (SC-8/19);

(d) Took note of the “Guidance on preparing inventories” for HBCD, PCN and PCP (decision SC-8/17); requested the development of “Guidance documents on alternatives for decaBDE and SCCPs (decision SC-8/8);

(e) Welcomed the “Guidance on BAT/BEP” for PFOS, BDEs and HBCD (decision SC-8/6);

(f) Requested the Secretariat to continue to assist the POPs Review Committee in collecting information on POPs in products and to provide Parties with guidance on labelling for the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B and to collaborate, as appropriate, with relevant international efforts such as the Chemicals in Products project of the UN Environment (decision SC-8/9).

10. At its 2017 meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention listed four new chemicals in Annex III to the Convention, namely carbofuran (pesticide), trichlorfon (pesticide), short-chain chlorinated paraffins (industrial) and tributyltin compounds (industrial) (decisions RC-8/2 to RC-8/5). It also established a working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention to work intersessionally on preparing a set of prioritized recommendations (decision RC-8/8).

11. On joint issues to the three conventions, the conferences of the Parties, among other things:

(a) Welcomed the three reports on the reviews of the synergies arrangements, of the matrix-based management approach and organization and of the proposals set out in the note on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements; and requested the Secretariat to continue to seek opportunities for

² Available at:

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/LatestTechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5875/Default.aspx>

³ Document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22, available at:

<http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP13/tabid/5310/Default.aspx>.

⁴

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Factsheets/tabid/5843/Default.aspx>

enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure policy coherence and enhance efficiency with a view to reducing the administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;

(b) Welcomed the “Technical Assistance plan” for 2018-2021; emphasizing the role of the regional centres, UN Environment and FAO regional offices and other IOMC organizations in delivering technical assistance (decisions BC-13/11, RC-8/9, SC-8/15);

(c) Requested the Secretariat to make available to UN Environment information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and continue to cooperate with the UN Environment, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10, SC-8/20);

(d) Requested the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10, SC-8/20);

(e) Requested the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in areas of mutual relevance to the conventions (decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10, SC-8/20);

(f) Welcomed the analysis on possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention;⁵ emphasized the need to ensure complementary and consistency and to avoid duplication of the work on illegal traffic and trade under the conventions with similar work by UN Environment and other relevant organizations (decisions BC-13/21, RC-8/14, SC-8/24);

(g) Emphasized the importance of, and the need to enhance, the interaction between scientists, policymakers and other actors in the policy process to promote exchange, development and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of achieving more informed decision-making for reaching the objectives of the conventions; requested the Secretariat to cooperate and coordinate with UN Environment and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders to strengthen the science-policy interface (decisions BC-13/22, RC-8/15, SC-8/25);

(h) Welcomed the Secretariat’s “Gender Action Plan”; requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts in respect of gender mainstreaming in its activities, projects and programmes (decisions BC-13/20, RC-8/13, SC-8/23).

12. With respect to the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Secretariat participated as an observer in the two meetings of executive board organized to-date.

13. Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings were transmitted to the Executive Director of UN Environment in a letter dated 8 August 2017.

14. A briefing note on the work under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions has been submitted to the third session of the Environment Assembly under the draft resolution on managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development. For ease of reference, the briefing note is set out in the appendix of the present note.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/34-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/51.

V. Report of the Executive Director on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution 2/11 on marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/EA.3/13)

15. The paragraphs below contain updates on the decisions and activities of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on issues related to the implementation of resolution 2/11 as well as relevant draft resolutions being considered by the third session of the Assembly on this subject matter.

16. At its 2017 meeting, on matters related to the environmentally sound management of waste, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention:

(a) Included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018-2019, a mandate to consider relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics (decision BC-13/17);

(b) Established a new partnership on household wastes (decision BC-13/14);

(c) Adopted the “Guidance on developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal” (decision BC-13/3);

(d) Adopted the “Guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface” (decision BC-13/7);

(e) Encouraged the regional and coordinating centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to work on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastic, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management (decisions BC-13/11 and SC-8/15).

17. A briefing note on the work carried out under the Basel and Stockholm has been submitted to the third session of the Environment Assembly under the draft resolution on marine litter and microplastics. For ease of reference, the briefing note is set out in the appendix of the present note.

VI. Report of the Executive Director on progress made pursuant to the Assembly Resolution 2/18 on the relationship between the UN Environment and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat (UNEP/EA.3/18)

18. The paragraphs below contain updates on the decisions and activities of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on issues related to Section A of resolution 2/18 on Institutional framework and accountability.

19. At their 2017 meetings, the conferences of the Parties adopted, with respect to the United Nations Environment Programme, substantially identical decisions on draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and each of the Conferences of the Parties (decisions BC-13/23, RC-8/16⁶, SC-8/26) in which they, among other things:

(a) Reiterated their request, made during the 2015 meetings of the conference of the Parties, for the preparation of draft memorandums of understanding concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Convention for consideration and possible adoption by the conferences of the Parties during their next meeting in 2019;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to “engage actively in the work of the Executive Director to develop a flexible draft template of options, taking into account the UN Environment delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director”;

⁶ The decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention has specific language to take into account the fact that the Secretariat is jointly administered by FAO. Accordingly, the decision provides for a possible tripartite memorandum of understanding or, should this not be possible, two bilateral memorandum of understanding. In addition, the Conference of the Parties acknowledges in its decision the continued application of the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of FAO.

(c) Decided that if the work of UN Environment mentioned above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the conferences of the Parties in 2019, this should not delay consideration of the draft memorandums of understanding.

20. The above mentioned decisions were transmitted to the Executive Director of UN Environment in a letter dated 8 August 2017. The draft memorandums of understanding set out in documents UNEP/CHW.12/25, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9 as well as the memorandum between the between FAO and UN Environment concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005, set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/37, were also shared with UN Environment. The Secretariat subsequently provided comments on an initial draft of a template for options of secretariat services provided by UN Environment. The Secretariat continues to actively engage in the work of the UN Environment towards the development of the flexible draft template of options.

Appendix

Briefing notes submitted by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to the third session of the Environment Assembly

Briefing note on the work under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that impacts the management of soil pollution⁷

Releases of hazardous chemicals resulting from their production and use and the unsound disposal of wastes constitute one of the main sources of soil pollution. The commitment of member states that are Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to protecting human health and the environment from the harm posed by hazardous chemicals and wastes can therefore contribute significantly to managing soil pollution.

The Basel Convention calls for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes which is essential to prevent and reduce the contamination of soil from a broad range of activities across all economic sectors. Ongoing key activities under the Basel Convention that will assist Parties in implementing measures to prevent soil pollution include:

- Partnership on household wastes to provide innovative solutions for the management of this waste stream, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- Development of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of various wastes, such as mercury and persistent organic pollutants, and on disposal operations such as landfilling

The Rotterdam Convention contribute to the environmentally sound use of a number of hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics and by providing a mechanism for informed decision making regarding their import and export.

The Stockholm Convention provides for global measures to reduce or eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Soil contamination from the release of this class of chemicals is of highest concern because of their toxicity, their propensity to bioaccumulate and to remain intact in the environment over decades. Activities to reduce or eliminate POPs include the development of guidance for their inventory and phase-out and on best available techniques and environmental practices to minimize their releases from production and use stages and contaminated sites. Technical assistance is also provided to assist Parties in developing national action plans for eliminating POPs.

⁷ Uploaded on the online resolution tracker under the draft resolution on managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development submitted by the African group.

Briefing note on the work under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions as it relates to marine litter and microplastics⁸

Basel Convention

Relevance to the objective of the Convention:

The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes and “other wastes”, namely household waste and incinerator ash. Some plastics are listed as “hazardous wastes” under the Convention, and many household wastes may include plastics. The provisions of the Basel Convention pertaining to the minimization of the generation of wastes, their environmentally sound management as well as the control of their transboundary movement may therefore apply to plastics wastes.

Relevance to the UNEA resolution:

In its resolution 2/7, UNEA emphasized the importance of the elaboration under and application of existing instruments to further the environmentally sound management of waste, including waste prevention, minimization and recovery, to address the underlying causes of marine litter. UNEA also recognized, in the preamble of its resolution 2/11, the importance of cooperation between UNEP and conventions and international instruments related to preventing and minimizing marine pollution from waste, including marine plastic litter, microplastics and associated chemicals and their adverse effects on human health and the environment, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the **Basel Convention** and the SAICM.

Decisions/guidance adopted by the Basel COP:

- Basel COP-6 (Dec 2002)
 - Adopted the **Technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic wastes and for their disposal**, mainly focusing on the technical aspects of the management of plastic wastes, with particular emphasis on their recycling
- Basel COP-11 (May 2013)
 - Adopted the **Framework for the ESM of hazardous wastes and other wastes** (decision BC-11/1). A key strategic objective of strengthening the ESM of hazardous and other wastes is to pursue the prevention and minimization of hazardous waste and other waste generation at source, especially through supporting and promoting activities designed to reduce the hazard potential of hazardous and other **wastes** at the national level. The expert working group established by that decision has developed a number of guidance as well as a collection of practical tools to assist Parties and other stakeholders in ensuring ESM of hazardous and other wastes, known as “ESM Toolkit”
- Basel COP-13 (May 2017)
 - Included in the work programme of the **Basel OEWG** for the biennium 2018-2019 the mandate to **consider** relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and micro-plastics (decision BC-13/17).
 - **Established the Partnership on Household Waste** (decision BC-13/14), through which the environmentally sound management of household wastes including plastics will be further explored.
 - **Adopted Guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal** (decision BC-13/3), in which plastic waste was highlighted as a key waste stream; and welcomed Draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management (decision BC-13/2).
 - Adopted **Guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface** (decision BC-13/15) to **ensure** that wastes falling within the scope of MARPOL, once offloaded from a ship, are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

⁸ Uploaded on the online resolution tracker under the draft resolution on marine litter and microplastics submitted by Norway.

- Encouraged the **regional and coordinating centres** of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to work on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management (decisions BC-13/11 and SC-8/15). The regional centres have established a small topic group on marine litter, led by the Stockholm Regional **Centre** in Barcelona. The topic group developed proposals for the Basel and Stockholm conventions to address issues related to marine plastic litter and microplastics. Further discussion will take place at the meeting of the directors of the regional centres in Barcelona, November 2017.

Stockholm Convention

Relevance to the objective of the Convention:

The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Plastics may contain flame retardants including those listed under the Stockholm Convention, e.g. brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs), hexabromocyclododecane, hexabromobiphenyl; or as other additives e.g. PFOS, SCCPs. Plastics litter and microplastics in the marine environment have been found to adsorb POPs, e.g. PCB, DDT, due to its lipophilic nature of the surface. POPs are well-known toxic chemicals to humans and to organisms in marine ecosystems. POPs are persistent, easily dispersed, and are derived from human activities such as the use of pesticides, additives, and combustion. POPs have the ability to bioaccumulate throughout the food chain with the potential to reach humans raising public health concerns. Plastics litter and microplastics contaminated with POPs may act as carriers of chemicals to wildlife interfering with ecosystem food chains.

Activities under the Stockholm Convention:

- Currently there are no mandates for activities specific to address marine litter and microplastics.
- The Stockholm Convention lists brominated diphenyl ethers (commercial pentaBDE and commercial octaBDE) in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions that allow the **recycling of articles** that contain or may contain those chemicals. The specific exemptions are being reviewed every four years, and shall expire at the latest in 2030. Plastics may contain BDEs as flame retardants. At its eighth meeting in 2017, the COP noted that from the report prepared by the Secretariat for this evaluation, BDEs had been detected in a range of articles in use, including plastic toys that are not subject to flammability requirements, which suggested that their presence was unintentional and possibly a consequence of the recycling of plastics containing BDEs. The COP urged Parties and others to implement where appropriate and taking into account national circumstances, the recommendations by the POPs Review Committee on the elimination of BDEs from the waste stream.
- The **Global Monitoring Plan** under the Stockholm Convention provides the mechanism to monitor the POPs levels in the environment over the years and feed this information into the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. The monitoring activities are focused on generating measurement data from core media: ambient air, human milk and human blood, and surface water for water-soluble POPs (PFOS, its salts and PFOSF). For example, see below the concentrations of PFOS in WEOG rivers reported in the Regional Monitoring Report for WEOG.

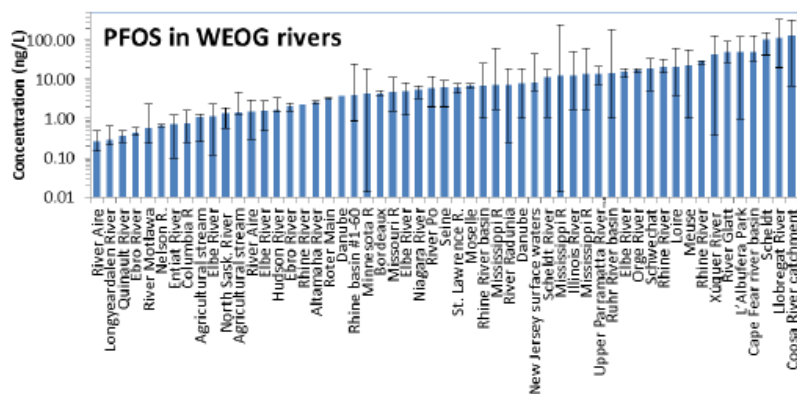
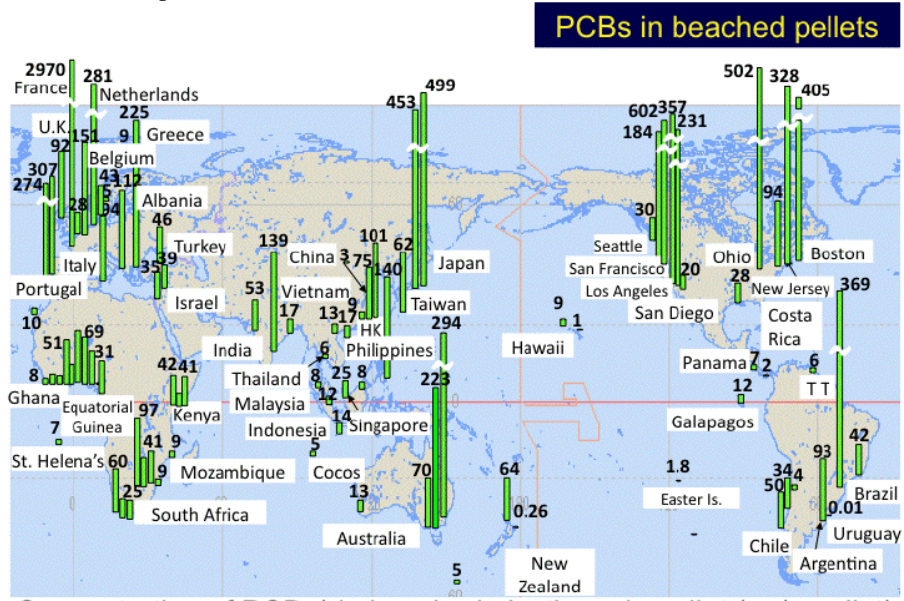


Figure 5.2.3a PFOS in river waters (ng/L). Vertical lines represent the range of reported concentrations.

There are studies using plastic pellets as media for monitoring POPs level in the environment. See below an example of such data.



Concentration of PCBs* in beached plastic resin pellet (ng/g-pellet)

*sum of concentrations of CB#66, 101, 110, 149, 118, 105, 153, 138, 128, 187, 180, 170, 206

Source: <http://www.pelletwatch.org/>

Briefing note on the work under the Basel Convention at it relates to wastes lead-acid batteries

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.

Wastes lead-acid batteries are listed as “hazardous wastes” under the Basel Convention (classification A1160 in Annex VIII) and therefore Parties to the Convention are to manage this waste stream in accordance with the provisions set out in the Convention, including by:

- Reducing to a minimum their generation;
- Restricting the transboundary movements of such wastes, except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management. If such movement is permissible, the Convention sets out a detailed control system among Parties, based on a “Prior Informed Consent” procedure according to which a movement can only take place when the importing Party and any Party that is a State of transit has consented to it in writing;
- Taking appropriate measures to ensure their environmentally sound management. For instance, each Party must ensure that persons under its national jurisdiction that transport or dispose of hazardous wastes or other wastes are authorized or allowed to perform such types of operations; in addition, each Party is to ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, that shall be located, to the extent possible, within it, whatever the place of their disposal.

Each Party has the obligation to transmit to the Secretariat a national report on an annual basis that contains information, among other things, on: the amount of wastes generated; the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country, and disposal method as stated on the response to notification; and the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods. National reports are made publicly available on the website of the Convention⁹.

Ongoing key activities under the Basel Convention that assist Parties in implementing measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes lead-acid batteries include:

(a) The Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Dec 2002);¹⁰ These technical guidelines provide a comprehensive approach to the management of wastes lead-acid batteries including when implementing recycling programmes;

(b) The draft Practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries (2017),¹¹ also referred to in paragraph 6(h) above, is currently being pilot tested. Those projects aim to assist countries in assessing the generation of waste lead-acid batteries as a first step in the planning of strategies for recycling and in collecting information for the purpose of the national reporting obligation under the Convention;

(c) A Fact sheet on waste lead-acid batteries¹² (2017) has been developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management. This fact sheet provides information on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries. It is primarily intended for use by collectors of waste lead-acid batteries, transporters and operators of facilities that store, recycle or otherwise dispose waste lead-acid batteries.

⁹ <http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/NationalReports/tabid/4250/Default.aspx>

¹⁰ Available at:

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/LatestTechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5875/Default.aspx>

¹¹ Document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22, available at:

<http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP13/tabid/5310/Default.aspx>.

¹²

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Factsheets/tabid/5843/Default.aspx>