This brochure is produced by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. Please contact the Secretariat for further information or for any reproduction queries.
This brochure provides an overview of the fourteen Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer (BCRCs) established under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The Basel Convention is unique in setting up a regional network of autonomous institutions operating under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

The brochure provides information on the operations of each Centre and describes their regional activities towards the implementation of the Basel Convention and in the wider context of the sound management of wastes and chemicals.

The Basel Convention was adopted 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.

The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes and obliges its Parties to ensure that such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. Thereby, Parties are expected to minimize the quantities that are moved across borders, to treat and dispose of wastes as close as possible to their place of generation and to prevent or minimize the generation of hazardous and other wastes at source. The Convention covers toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious wastes. It entered into force in 1992 and has 168 Parties as of March 2006.

The BCRCs were set up to deliver training, technology transfer, information, consulting and awareness raising activities on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in the countries they serve. They are located in Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovak Republic, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (Samoa), South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

The BCRCs are uniquely positioned to steer regional efforts by linking global hazard waste management obligations with national development plans, integrating the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste with regional cooperation and development strategies and by initiating public-private partnerships.

The issues linked to the transboundary movements and management of hazardous wastes evolve continuously and rapidly. New waste streams need our attention, such as used electrical and electronic products like cellular phones and computers, for example. Other issues such as the dismantling of obsolete ships are now high on the agenda of international environmental diplomacy.

As the Basel Convention adapts to a changing world, its Regional and Coordinating Centres are a particularly significant strategic asset to channel know-how to those who need it most, and to gather information on specific needs, locally and in the regions.
Conscious of the need to address regional specificities and the need to facilitate the implementation of global issues at the regional level, countries foresaw the establishment of Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs) at the time of the adoption of the Convention. In 1994, the Parties initiated the selection of the BCRCs. The first few years were dedicated to the institutional establishment of a growing number of Centres. Article 14 of the Convention addresses the issue of the establishment of the Centres to respond to the specific needs of the different regions in the world in terms of training and technology transfer for the minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

On several occasions, Parties reiterated the importance of the Centres in their assistance to implement the Basel Convention. In particular, reference is made to the 1999 “Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management”. The Declaration recognized the need to further develop the Regional Centres as an efficient means to achieve the goals of environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes enshrined in the Basel Convention.

At its sixth meeting in 2002, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the “Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention” would constitute the major instrument to give effect to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes until 2010. The Strategic Plan calls for the Basel Convention Regional Centres to be a major regional delivery mechanism to implement the policy priorities of the Basel Declaration.

At COP7 in 2004, a “Ministerial Statement on Partnerships for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge” was adopted in which the continuous strengthening of the BCRCs was emphasised.

### Basel Convention Operational Network - BCON

The fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group, of April 2006, was presented with the concept of the BCON. The Basel Convention Secretariat, and the 14 BCRCs, constitute the BCON. The objective is to increase the visibility of the regional operational capacity of the Basel Convention, to create a regional network supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to strengthen cooperation among the Centres, and to constitute an integrated and visible multi-regional entity capable of mobilizing resources and catalyzing stakeholders’ support, including promoting and undertaking activities to improve synergies at the regional level among the waste, chemicals, and other related conventions and programmes.

### Basel Declaration on Environmentally sound Management

- Prevention, minimization, recycling, recovery and disposal of hazardous and other wastes, taking into account social, technological and economic concerns;
- Active promotion and use of cleaner technologies and production methods with the aim of the prevention and minimization of hazardous and other wastes;
- Further reduction of movement of hazardous and other wastes;
- The prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic;
- Improvement of institutional and technical capabilities - through technology when appropriate - especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- Further development of regional centres for training and technology transfer;
- Enhancement of information exchange, education and awareness-raising in all sectors of society;
- Cooperation and partnership with the public authorities, international organizations, the industry sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions;
- Development of mechanisms for compliance with and for the monitoring and effective implementation of the Convention and its amendments.

### Africa and West Asia

- 1 Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States (Cairo)
- 2 Basel Convention Co-ordinating Centre for the African Region (Ibadan)
- 3 Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa (Dakar)
- 4 Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking African countries (Pretoria)

### Asia and Pacific Region

- 5 Basel Convention Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China
- 6 Basel Convention Regional Centre for Southeast Asia (Jakarta)
- 7 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran
- 8 Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (Apira)

### Central and Eastern Europe

- 9 Basel Convention Regional Centre for Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow)

### Latin America and the Caribbean

- 10 Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe (Bratislava)
- 11 Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region (Buenos Aires)
- 12 Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (San Salvador)
- 13 Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region (Port of Spain)
- 14 Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and Caribbean Region (Montevideo)
Core Functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres

• 1 Training
• 2 Technology Transfer
• 3 Information
• 4 Consulting
• 5 Awareness-raising

In particular:

(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, symposia 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 organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, 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.

To date, eight Framework Agreements have been signed:

• Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region - 18 December 2003
• BCRC for Latin America and Caribbean Region - 30 January 2004
• BCRC for the Arab States - 29 October 2004
• BCRC for Southeast Asia - 29 October 2004
• BCRC for the Caribbean Region - 29 October 2004
• BCRC for French-speaking Countries in Africa - 1 March 2005
• BCRC in Argentina - 8 July 2005
• BCRC in Tehran - 27 July 2005

The Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres have been operational for a number of years. However, it has been recognised by the Parties to the Basel Convention that their legal establishment is an essential step towards creating stable institutions with the capacity to assist in the implementation of the Basel Convention at the regional level.

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its sixth meeting, held in December 2002, adopted Decision VI/3 that outlines the core elements that all the Framework Agreements should include. The decision also describes the functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres and Coordinating Centres. In addition, it provides that signature of the Framework Agreements will establish the Centres as legally independent entities.

There are two model agreements establishing two different types of institutions:

• an inter-governmental institution (i.e. an inter-governmental institution concludes an agreement with the Secretariat to undertake the functions of the Centre), and
• a national institution with regional role (i.e. an institution established under the national law of the host Government concludes an agreement with the Secretariat to exercise the regional functions of the Centre).

Legal Establishment of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

The Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for the Arab States - 29 October 2004

In addition to the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centre.

* In addition to the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centre.
The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States is based in Cairo, Egypt, and has been operational since 1998. The Centre is hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Environment and the University of Cairo. The Centre receives financial assistance from the Basel Convention Trust Fund. An agreement for financial assistance (Euros 1,000,000) is in place with the Government of Finland.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**
- Training seminar for port enforcement officers (2003).
- Project for the preparation of tools for the selection, design and operation of hazardous waste landfills in hyper-arid areas (2005).
- Regional workshop on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and synergies with other chemical-related agreements (2005).

The Centre completed a large multidisciplinary project aimed at developing guidance for the Arab region in managing hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner through landfills. The project produced guidelines on landfill site selection, design, and operation in hyper-arid areas. These guidelines were discussed at three expert meetings with focal points in countries in the Arab region.

**Case Study – The Landfill Project**

The Centre completed a feasibility study to support the environmentally sound management of used oils in Africa. The study was carried out in Benin, Nigeria, and was implemented by the Centre in cooperation with local authorities and oil companies. The study included a desk study carried out through questionnaires, field visits, and surveys of the informal sector. The feasibility study covered legal, technical, economic, and environmental aspects. It is expected that these recommendations will be endorsed by the Nigerian Government with the view of elaborating an official management plan. As part of the project, a pilot study on used oils in Nigeria was completed. The results and lessons learnt from this project will be replicated in other countries in the region. Partnerships with major oil companies operating in Africa will be launched to promote the environmentally sound management of used oils. These partnerships concern all the Regional Centres in Africa (Dakar, Senegal, South Africa and Nigeria) and will be managed together with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The results will be publicised in a comprehensive report.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking countries in Africa is based in Dakar, Senegal, and has been operational since 1999. The Centre is hosted by the African Institute of Urban Management (IAJU). The Centre has received financial assistance from Senegal, the United States of America and the Basel Convention Trust Fund.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**
- Assistance in the compilation of national inventories through field projects, database training and trainer of trainers (Comoros, Guinea, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2004-2006).
- Project on dioxins and furans in Sub-Saharan Africa (2004-2006).
- Inventory of Hazardous Wastes in French-speaking countries covered by BCRC-Dakar.

**Case Study: Evaluation of Imports into West Africa of Used Vehicles**

The project was launched to address the issue of the import of used vehicles into Benin and other West African countries. The project aimed to promote the environmentally sound management of used vehicles. The project included an assessment of used vehicles containing asbestos material, a technical study, and two missions to Benin and Senegal. Governmental agencies and industry representatives were also involved. A technical report was issued.

This initiative falls within the terms established by Decision VI/10 of the COP of the Basel Convention on the implementation of the environmental initiative of the new partnership for Africa's development, as related to hazardous waste and other waste.
The Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking African countries is based in Pretoria, South Africa. The Centre is hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and headed by Dr. John Mboogoma. The Centre is currently in an interim re-structuring. From March 2000 to June 2004, the Centre received technical and financial assistance from Denmark and from 2004 to 2006 from South Africa.

### Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)

- Workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (South Africa, September 2003).
- Development of a database and sources of expertise for use by countries in the region.
- Commercial Courses:
  - Regional training for middle management officials in general hazardous waste management (2004).
- Regional Workshop on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) laboratories (2005).

### Case study - Commercial courses

The Centre developed training courses for Government officials and industry representatives on a wide-ranging scope of issues related to the management of hazardous wastes. Additionally to the technical information given, the courses also facilitate contacts between Government officials and Basel Convention Focal Points, thereby bringing stakeholders together. A fruitful outcome was the identification of further training material in answer to the specific needs of participants. The courses are funded by international organisations such as the UN's Environment Programme or the UN Industrial Development Organisation, bilateral funding and by the participants' fees.

## Case Study - Municipalities Project

The Centre has implemented a project designed to build the capacity of municipalities to deal with hazardous and domestic waste in an integrated manner. The project is based in Qingdao, China. It combines training workshops on the regulations and legislation pertinent to the collection and management of hazardous waste for municipal authorities, with a demonstration project on the management of an e-waste collection system in Qingdao. The project has set up a World Summit on Sustainable Development "type II" agreement between the municipal authorities, the private sector, the national Government and Tsinghua University, regarding the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the city. The lessons learnt were disseminated to municipalities in the Asia-Pacific region though a regional workshop organised in collaboration with the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) in Kuala Lumpur (December 2004).
The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Southeast Asia is based in Indonesia and has been operational since 1997. The Centre is hosted by the Environmental Impact Management Centre of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and is headed by Mr. Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno. The Centre has received funds from Japan and from the Basel Convention Trust Fund.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- National Workshop on a pilot project for the monitoring and control of transboundary movement of hazardous waste in Asia.
- Provision of resource persons for various activities related to the management of hazardous waste (such as workshops in the region).
- Pilot project on an inventory of hazardous waste generation in selected countries (2004).

**Case Study- Pilot Project on National Inventories**

Following a previous workshop on inventories of hazardous waste, the Centre implemented a pilot project in the Philippines. The country selection was carried out through questionnaires designed to obtain information on the status of hazardous waste generation and its import and export in the countries of the region. From the pilot project implemented in the Philippines, a manual on national inventories, tailored to the needs of ASEAN countries, will be developed.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the CIS countries is based in Moscow, Russian Federation, and has been operational since 1996. It is hosted by the Centre for International Projects in Moscow and is headed by Mr. Sergey Tikhonov. The Centre receives financial assistance from the Basel Convention Trust Fund and is partially self-funded.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- National meeting on needs assessment and establishment of a regional centre on hazardous waste management (2003).
- Regional meeting on needs assessment and establishment of a regional centre on hazardous waste management (2004).

The Pacific Regional Centre for the joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions has been operational since 2003. It is integrated in the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), located in Apia, Samoa. The Centre works towards ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- Training workshop on reporting and inventories of hazardous wastes.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Moscow carried out a project on the review of national legislation with regard to the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their environmentally sound management. The project covered the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The project identified gaps and inconsistencies in the national legislations and in plans to further address these issues. The project includes awareness raising among decision-makers in the participating countries. It also entails the enhancement of harmonisation of CIS national legislations in the relevant fields.

**Case Study- Review of Existing National and International Legislation on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes for CIS countries**

The project will review existing regional strategies for solid and hazardous waste management and identify opportunities for the development of regional integrated waste management strategies, taking into account priority hazardous waste streams such as used oils, hospital waste, used lead-acid batteries, among others. The project will promote a participatory approach for Pacific Island Countries in the formulation of preliminary recommendations both for a regional approach for integrated waste management and its adaptation at the national level.

**Case Study- Integrated Waste Management Strategy for the Pacific Island States**

The project will review existing regional strategies for solid and hazardous waste management and identify opportunities for the development of regional integrated waste management strategies, taking into account priority hazardous waste streams such as used oils, hospital waste, used lead-acid batteries, among others. The project will promote a participatory approach for Pacific Island Countries in the formulation of preliminary recommendations both for a regional approach for integrated waste management and its adaptation at the national level.

A regional workshop took place in July 2006 for the following countries; Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga and Tuvalu supported by the European Community.
Baseline Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe is based in Bratislava, Slovakia, and has been operational since 1997. The Centre is hosted by the Centre of Waste and Environmental Management in the Slovak Environmental Agency. The interim director is Ms. Dana Lapesova. The Centre receives funds from the Basel Convention Trust Fund, Parties served by the Centre, EC, Italy and local donors.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- Workshop for the development of a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as wastes in selected Central and Eastern European Countries (2004).
- Regional workshop on strengthening of cooperation between the chemicals and hazardous wastes Conventions (2004).
- International training on the implementation of waste minimisation – Cleaner production project (2003-2004).
- Strategy on the management of the biomedical (healthcare) waste.

**Case Study-Workshop on a Regional Approach for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs as Wastes in Selected Central and Eastern European Countries (CEE)**

The objective of this activity was to develop a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of POPs waste in selected CEE countries. It contributes to the coordinated implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

The project raised awareness among relevant stakeholders, such as officials from the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Industry and Trade, Health, Enforcement as well as non-governmental organisations, industry representatives, agricultural associations and municipalities. International Organisations, active in the field of waste management and national development also participated in the workshop. The workshop constituted the basis for the elaboration of projects such as surveys on available technologies for the environmentally sound management of POPs waste region, with a concentration on PCBs and obsolete stockpiles of pesticides.

**Case Study-Regional Workshop on the Prevention and Monitoring Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes**

The workshop was targeted at Basel Convention Focal Points and representatives of the customs authorities of each participating country. The purpose was to share information on the difficulties that countries in the region face in detecting, preventing and processing illegal traffic. Based on the information gathered, the participating countries identified future action needed to design and implement common practices for the control of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in the region. The discussions also underlined the necessity of inter-institutional cooperation between the stakeholders involved as well as the need for international cooperation to tackle the increasing problem of new waste streams, especially electrical and electronic wastes (e-waste).

The training manual on the “Enforcement of Laws Implementing the Basel Convention” was used for the workshop. In the context of this activity, the Centre translated the Manual into Spanish and will, subject to available funding, adapt the elements of the Manual to the needs of the South American region.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- Regional workshop on best available technologies and best environmental practices (2002).
- Regional workshop on the prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic of hazardous and other wastes (2003).
- Workshop on the promotion of the ratification of the Protocol on liability and compensation (2004).
- Workshop on the environmentally sound management of mercury (UNEP-Chemicals, 2004).
The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico is based in El Salvador and has been operational since 1999. It is hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, in El Salvador. The Centre receives financial assistance from the host Government, Finland, UNEP-Chemicals the Basel Convention Trust Fund. The Director of the Centre is Mr. Italo Cordova.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- Project on the strengthening of the Sub-regional Basel Convention Centre for Central America and Mexico.
- Preparation of national inventories and national plans for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America and Panama.
- Development of an electronic waste management tracking system (WMTS) in Mexico.
- Regional joint project for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries (phase II) in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States (2003-2006).

The project falls under the scope of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and it aims to catalyse efforts of these Conventions by enhancing national capacities on managing PCB containing materials, preparing regionally harmonized inventories, action plans and regulations as well as providing customs training for national authorities.

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The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region is based in Trinidad and Tobago and has been operational since 1998. The Centre’s Director is Dr. Ronnie Sookhoo. The Centre receives funds mainly from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Basel Convention Trust Fund and UNEP Chemicals.

**Case Study: Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-acid Batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and Caribbean**

This project is a follow up to a regional project for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries (ULAB) in the Caribbean and Central America (2001 – 2002), for which national assessments of the import, export, and the management of used lead-acid batteries were produced in the participating countries. The current project aims to prepare a regional strategy to for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries, to comply with the Basel Convention provisions as far as their transboundary movements are concerned. The project includes the harmonization of national regulations and involves private industry and research entities. This project was developed to be replicated in other regions.

**Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)**

- Regional joint project on the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries (phase II) in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States (2003-2006).
- Regional project for the environmentally sound management of used oils in the Caribbean (2003).
- Assessment of the Caribbean sea ecosystem (CARSEA, Port of Spain, 2003).
- Training on inventories of dioxins and furans (Port of Spain, 2003).
The Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean region has been operational since 1998 and is hosted by the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay-LATU), Montevideo, Uruguay. The Centre receives financial assistance from the host Government, the Basel Convention Trust Fund and UNEP-Chemicals. The Director of the Centre is Ms. Marisol Mallo.

### Key Activities since December 2002 (COP6)
- Development and maintenance of the web-page (English/Spanish) and dissemination of information to all Parties (1998-2002).
- Regional workshop on the support to the Stockholm Convention (2002).
- The BCCC-Uruguay was selected under the Stockholm Convention (2002).
- Survey of service providers for remediation and disposal of obsolete pesticides in Latin America and the Caribbean (2005).
- Training program for municipal officers in environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

### Case Study-Training of Municipal Technicians in the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes

The project was developed to assess current facilities in hazardous waste management in the region. It also allowed for the development of training material and courses in the environmentally sound management of wastes on a national basis. Two countries were selected to follow the courses. Internet courses were held to train officials from thirty municipalities. This project provided the municipalities with practical tools to undertake the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and solve related problems specific to the region.

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### Projects currently carried out by the BCRCs since COP6

#### BCRCs / Project / Report /

<p>| EGYPT | The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States in Cairo - Capacity Building for the implementation of the Basel Convention The Centre is implementing this project under the Sub-program “A Better Environment for Human Health and Well-Being”. This project is supervised by the SBC and funded by the Government of Finland (1,000,000 Euros). Ongoing Information available at: <a href="http://www.basel.int/centers/techcoop_tf/PDEgyptFinland.doc">http://www.basel.int/centers/techcoop_tf/PDEgyptFinland.doc</a> Available at <a href="http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/egypt/index.html">http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/egypt/index.html</a> |
| SENEGAL | Inventory of Hazardous Waste in French speaking countries covered by BCRC-Dakar Rapport des activités de formation sur les inventaires de déchets dangereux en Guinée et Niger Available at <a href="http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/senegal/index.html">http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/senegal/index.html</a> |
| SOUTH AFRICA | Development of a database for use by the countries in the region Report Available at <a href="http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/safrica/index.html">http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/safrica/index.html</a> |
| NIGERIA | Assessment and recycling of used oils in Nigeria A new partnership with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in urban areas. Pilot study of used oil in Nigeria - Feasibility Study for the environmentally sound management of used oil in Nigeria - Proceedings; 2 workshops Available at <a href="http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/nigeria/used-oils/index.html">http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/nigeria/used-oils/index.html</a> |</p>
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- The Initiative of the Environmentally Sound Management for E-waste in Qingdao  
- http://www.basel.int/centers/projects.html |
| **INDONESIA**      |          |
| Pilot project on inventory of hazardous waste generation in selected member countries | Executive Summary  
- Database Software  
- Result of the Regional Training Workshop on Inventory of Hazardous Waste; and Generation.  
- Desktop Study  
- http://www.basel.int/centers/projects.html |
| **SPREP**          |          |
| Training workshop on national reporting and inventories of hazardous wastes | Report of the “Training workshop on national reporting and inventories of hazardous wastes, Apia, Samoa, 3-7 July 2006 to develop the capacity building on EMS of hazardous wastes in the South Pacific states.”  
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| Implementation of Waste Minimization – Cleaner Production Project | Final Report  
http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/slovakia/slovakia%20prod/index.html |
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| Workshop on the strengthening of cooperation between the chemical and hazardous wastes conventions | Report of the workshop on the strengthening of co-operation based on chemicals and hazardous wastes conventions (Prague - Příbram, March 13 - 17, 2004)Other project documents  
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| 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 | Report  
http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/slovakia/slovakia%20pops/workshop-vsp-fin.doc |
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| 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 | A Report“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”  
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**|          |
| Strategy on the management of the biomedical (healthcare) waste | Ongoing  
| **ARGENTINA**      |          |
| Implementation of the control, detection and prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes | Resumen ejecutivo del taller realizado el 22 y 23 de marzo en Buenos Aires sobre tráfico ilícito de desechos peligrosos y otros desechos  
- Presentations from participating countries  
- Other project documents  
- http://www.basel.int/centers/projects.html |
| **EL SALVADOR**    |          |
| Regional Programme for the Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCB and PCB Containing Equipment in Central America | National Action Plan for each country  
- National Inventory for each country  
- Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCB and PCB Containing Equipment in Central America  
- Assessment of Existing Legislation  
- Report of Four Regional Workshops  
| **URUGUAY**        |          |
| Training program for municipal officers in environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes | Guía para la Gestión Integral de Residuos Peligrosos. Fundamentos (Tomo I)  
- Guía para la Gestión Integral de Residuos Peligrosos. Fichas Temáticas (Tomo II)  
- Evaluación del proyecto  
- Terminal report (in English)  
| **URUGUAY**        |          |
| “Survey of service providers for remediation and disposal of obsolete pesticides in Latin America and Caribbean” | - Report  
- Information available at:  
- http://www.basel.int/centers/techcoop_tf/projects_tcf.html |
Decisions Concerning the BCRCs

**Basel Convention**
- Decision I/13: “Establishment of Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer”
- Decision I/19: “Establishment of Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer” and Annex: “Committee Decision I/5”
- Decision II/19: “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”.

Selected the following sites: Uruguay as the Coordinating Centre for the Latin America and Caribbean region with three following Centres: Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago; Nigeria as the Coordinating Centre for the African Region with three Centres: Egypt, South Africa and a third for French-speaking Countries in Africa; Slovak Republic and Russian Federation for the Central and Eastern Europe and China and Indonesia for the Asia and Pacific region.

- Decision IV/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”
- Decision V/5: “Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer”
- Decision VI/3: “Establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) and Regional Coordinating Centres, to participate in the regional delivery system to make full use of synergies among those entities, organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.”
- Decision RC-2/4: “Regional and national delivery of technical assistance”

**Rotterdam Convention**
- The COP1 of the Rotterdam Convention by its decision RC-1/14 on Regional delivery of technical assistance invited the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) and Regional Coordinating Centres, to participate in the regional delivery system to make full use of synergies among those entities, organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.
- Decision RC-2/4: “Regional and national delivery of technical assistance”

**Stockholm Convention**
- Decision SC-1/16: “Technical assistance: regional and subregional centres” where the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention is requested to pursue cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional and Subregional Centres.
- Decision SC-1/18: “Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste clusters” and Annex “Excerpts from important relevant decisions on synergies between chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats” to decision SC-1/18, where the Executive Director of UNEP is requested to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional training Centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals.
- Decision SC-2/9: “Technical assistance” and Annex I on “Terms of reference for regional and subregional centres for capacity building and transfer of technology under the Stockholm Convention”

**The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**
- Action Plan for the Environment Initiative - Environmental Action Plan for the First Decade of the 21st Century: (C) “Cross-Cutting Issues”. The following project was proposed: (i) “Establishment and/or capacity building of the regional centres (e.g. the Basel Convention regional centres in Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) for the management of hazardous wastes in the context of building synergies with the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention”.
- Capacity - 5.1 “Identification of African centres of excellence and specialist networks” - 5.2 “Development and implementation of a strategic plan for the strengthening of network and centres”

**African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)**
- Decision adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its tenth session:
- Decision 5: “Development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and other chemical and hazardous waste management issues” requesting (e): To support the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the regional centres of excellence in Africa, including the Basel Convention regional centres in Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, to participate in the regional system to make full use of synergies among those entities, organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.
- Decision VII/9: “Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States”
- Decision VII/10: “Establishment of a Basel Convention Regional Centre in Teheran”

**Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**
- Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach:
- Table B: “List of possible work areas and their associated actors, target/timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects”
- Work areas addressing risk reduction (Objective 1)
  1. Facilitate the identification and disposal of obsolete stocks of pesticides and other chemicals (especially PCBs), particularly in developing countries and countries in transition.
  2. Establishment and implement national action plans with respect to waste minimization and waste disposal, taking into consideration relevant international agreements and by using the cradle-to-grade and cradle-to-grade approaches.
  3. Implement the Basel Convention and waste reduction measures at source and identify other waste issues that require full cradle-to-grade and cradle-to-grade consideration of the fate of chemicals in production and at the end of the useful life of products in which they are present.
- Work areas addressing capacity building and technical cooperation (Objective 4)
  Where the BCRCs could assist in the development and implementation of capacity building programmes on waste minimization and increased resource efficiency, including zero waste resource management, waste prevention, substitution and toxic use reduction, to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded materials in developing countries and economies in transition.
- Work areas addressing illegal traffic (Objective 5)
  Strengthen national strategies for prevention, detection and control of illegal transboundary movements of waste.
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