



International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) / Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa

ACTION PLAN FOR A BETTER PARTICIPATION ON FRANCOPHONE NGOS IN THE PROMOTION OF CHEMICAL SAFETY

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International POPs Elimination Network



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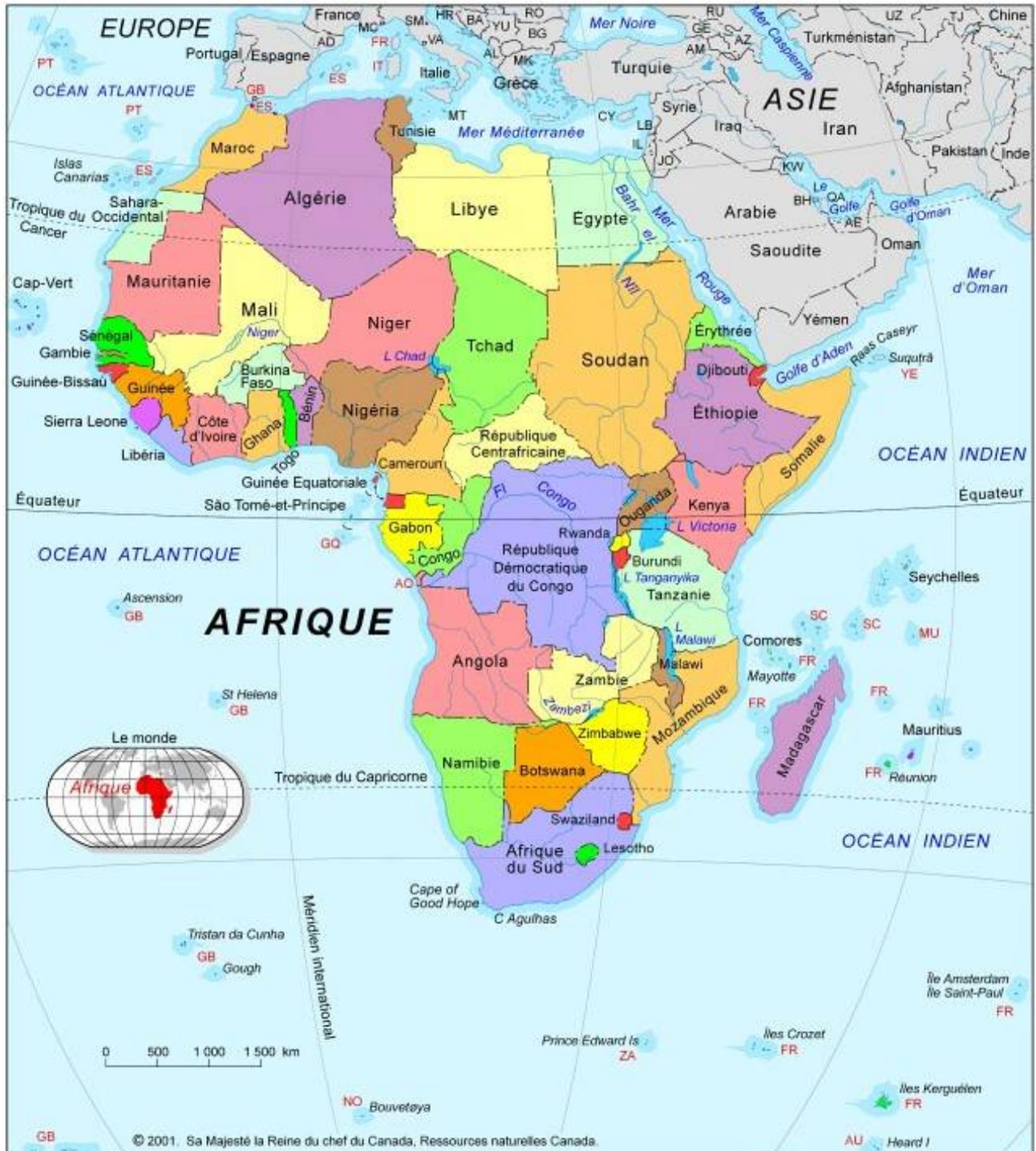
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Action plan for a better participation of francophone Africa NGOs in the promotion of chemical safety



1. Introduction

1.1 Background and objective

The production, trade and use of chemicals are on a marked increase globally. This growth has been accompanied by a broad range of negative impacts on health and the environment. The poor, women, children, workers and indigenous people are often the most vulnerable to toxic chemicals and suffer significant impacts on health, such as disruption of the reproductive system and development (including birth defects and neurological problems), cancers, genetic mutations, dysfunction of the immune and endocrine systems. This growth imposes on countries with economies in transition and the developing ones, particularly the least advanced countries, increasing requirements in terms of chemicals management. This is a real problem for African countries which lack infrastructures and resources needed to meet these requirements. IPEN member organizations are determined, through their involvement in the implementation of SAICM, to contribute to the sound management of chemicals during all their life cycle so that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that serious adverse effects on human health and the environment are minimized.

In order to better coordinate and strengthen NGOs activities in this direction, IPEN has initiated a global process of a strategic information collection from NGOs working in the field of chemical safety. This initiative implemented in the various regions of the Globe aims at:

- presenting activities conducted by NGOs in the region in the field of chemicals management;
- identifying the priority chemical safety issues for NGOs in the region;
- promoting the communication and exchange of experience among NGOs and
- developing a regional action plan for NGOs: the action plan should serve as a strategic framework and coordination of NGOs activities in Francophone Africa in the field of chemical safety.

A total of 208 NGOs in 82 countries were surveyed. In Francophone Africa, 21 NGOs from 12 countries were surveyed. PAN Africa which is responsible for the coordination of NGOs activities in Francophone Africa members of IPEN coordinated the information collection process in the region.

1.2 Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa

PAN Africa is a coalition of African civil society organizations, research institutes, universities and citizens working together to prevent and eliminate problems related to the use of pesticides on health and environment in Africa. To entirely achieve its goals, PAN Africa members have set themselves the following objectives: i) to monitor and control the use of pesticides; ii) sensitize and inform people about the risks inherent in the use of pesticides, iii) promote alternatives to pesticides and unsustainable agricultural practices and iv) promote the

effective implementation of international Conventions and the strengthening and enforcement of national laws and regulations on chemicals in their respective countries and sub-regions.

To help its members honor their commitments as part of the Chemical Safety, PAN Africa works in the spirit of building their capacities and coordinates their activities at national and regional level. In this context, PAN Africa works in order to: i) assist NGOs in the region to participate in activities relating to the implementation of international conventions in their respective countries ii) disseminate information and facilitate the communication and sharing of experiences among NGOs in the region iii) to help NGOs in the region to obtain a financial support so as to enable them to carry out their activities as part of the chemical safety by providing information on financing opportunities and demonstrating their abilities to develop projects and work out proposals; iv) monitor the implementation of conventions and laws and regulations on chemicals.

1.3 The International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

Since 1998, the International Network for the Elimination of POPs (IPEN) - a global network of over 600 public interest environmental organizations and health - work to eliminate toxic chemical substances known as the "12 bastards." The international community pledged to reduce and ultimately eliminate the production and use of these substances through the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The Stockholm Convention is the first legally binding treaty on a global scale that controls the production and releases of toxic chemical substances. It seeks the reduction and elimination of hazardous chemical pollutants and began with an initial list of 12 POPs¹. POPs travel over long distances and persist in the environment. They accumulate along the food chain, including our bodies. POPs can cause damage to the reproductive, neurological and immune system and bring about developmental problems and cancer.

In 2006, with the adoption of the "Declaration for a future free toxic substance",² *IPEN confirmed its commitment "to work for the achievement at the latest in 2020 for a future without toxic substances, in which all chemical substances are produced and used in a way that eliminates the significant adverse effects on health and the environment and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the other toxic products will no longer pollute our immediate and global environment and will no longer contaminate our communities, food, bodies and those of our children and the future generations."*

Within the framework of this mission, IPEN got down to involve NGOs in developing countries and those with economies in transition in national and international political debates and promote capacity building of organizations at the grassroots and awareness raising activities.

¹ The 12 POPs are : Aldrin, endrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, dioxins and furans, heptachlore, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, PCBs, and toxaphene

² <http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/generalpublic/tfree.html>

1.4 IPEP: national, regional and global efforts

The numerous chemical safety problems facing Africa and the other regions today have convinced the international community to deal with the issue of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through the Stockholm Convention on POPs which was adopted in 2003. The Stockholm Convention recommends the involvement of all parties in the preparation and implementation of National Implementation Plans (NIP). In this context, IPEN has successfully implemented over 290 projects in 65 countries to strengthen the participation of civil society in the preparation for the Stockholm Convention national implementation plans through the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP).

IPEP had 3 goals:

- undertake concrete efforts meant to help developing countries prepare for the Stockholm Convention implementation on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- strengthen the skills and knowledge of small and medium-sized organizations so as to build their capacities and help them effectively participate in the convention implementation in developing countries and ;
- establish national and regional co-ordinations for environmental NGOs and those in the health sector interested in the management of POPs and other toxic substances.

IPEP has also helped set up eight regional centers to coordinate activities of IPEN³ member NGOs.

In total, more than 290 activities were conducted by over 175 small and medium-sized NGOs in 65 developing countries or with economies in transition. PAN Africa, as IPEN regional coordination center for Francophone Africa coordinated the implementation of the IPEP in the region. In the region, 23 projects were implemented by 16 NGOs from 12 countries in the region.

1.5 The regional survey on the capacities and needs of Francophone Africa NGOs in terms of chemicals management

Following IPEP project activities, IPEN Secretariat, in collaboration with the 8 regional coordination centers (or regional hub) initiated an information collection process from NGOs working in the fields of chemical safety. The survey aimed at identifying priorities, needs, capacities and opportunities of NGOs in terms of chemical safety. For the purposes of the survey, a questionnaire was jointly developed by all the regional hubs and the secretariat of IPEN. The initial questionnaire in English, was translated into Arabic, Spanish, French and Russian and sent to the organizations through the regional networks. The information collected through the questionnaire was supplemented by telephone interviews and direct interviews

³ The eight regional centers are: English speaking Africa (working in English and Kiswahili); Francophone Africa (working in French); Latin America and the Caribbean countries (working in Spanish and English), South Asia (working in English); Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific (working in English), Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (working in Russian), Central Europe (working in English), the Middle East (working in Arabic).

with some agents. During the information collection process, each regional hub set up an electronic mailing list working in the language of the region and a database on contacts of NGOs in its region.

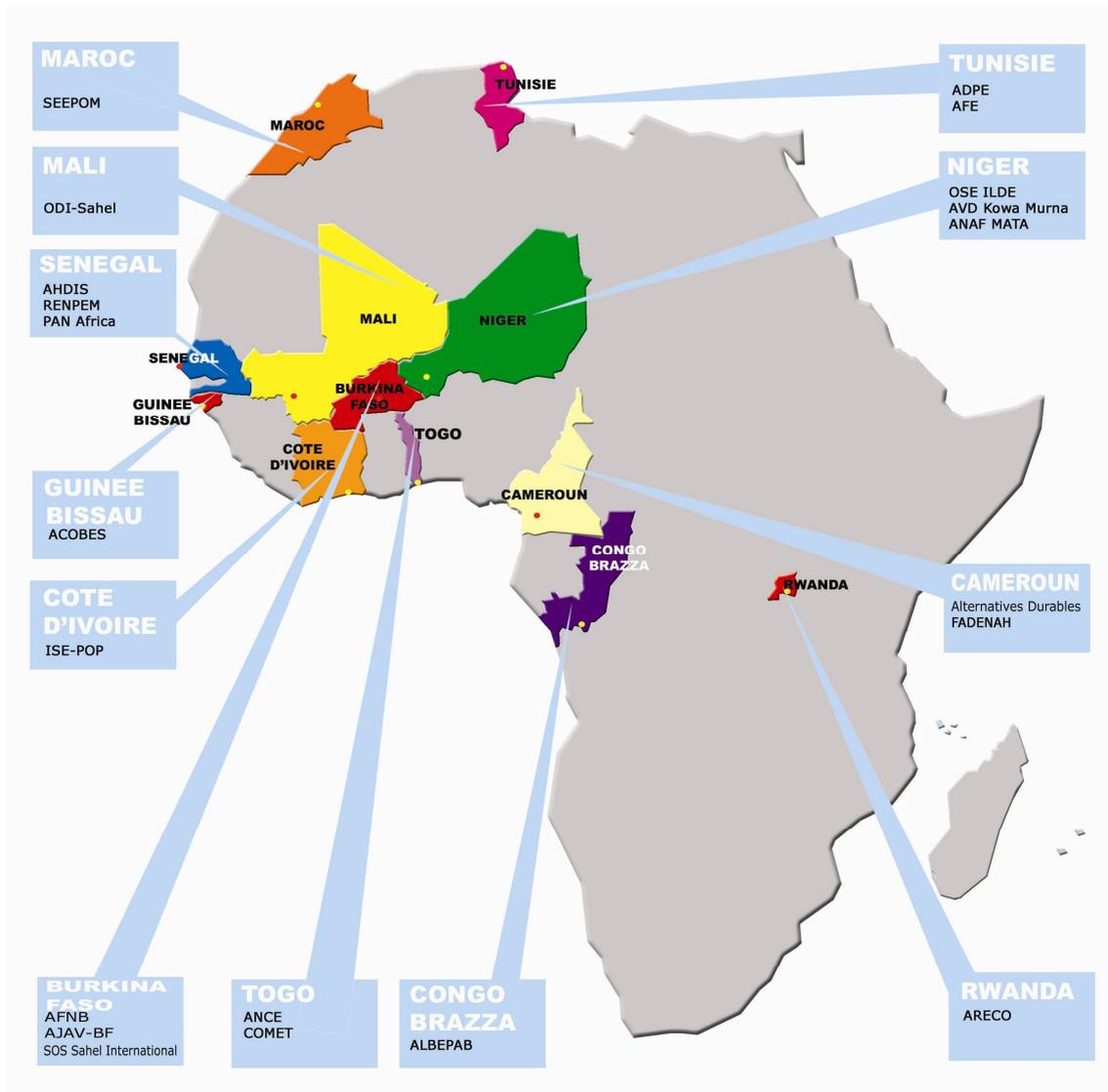


Figure: Map of Africa with countries of NGOs which participated in surveys

In total 208 NGOs in 82 countries were surveyed. In Francophone Africa, they are 21 NGOs from 12 countries that were surveyed. The information collection was coordinated by PAN Africa. Surveyed NGOs were selected due to their involvement in IPEN, PAN Africa, IPEP project networks and other projects implemented on the African continent. Annex I provides the list of surveyed NGOs.

2. Results of surveys

The survey results were divided into two parts: the priority concerns of NGOs in the region on chemical safety and tools, strategies and approaches that they used to cope with these concerns.

2.1 Priority concerns of NGOs in terms of chemical safety

2.1.1 Pesticides

In particular, Francophone Africa NGOs which were surveyed say they are concerned about problems related to pesticides and other chemicals and their impacts on people's health such as disruption of reproductive, endocrine and neurological systems, disturbances of the physical and intellectual development. NGOs say they are also concerned about the impacts of pesticide use on the environment such as pollution of surface water and groundwater and soil, effects on beneficial insects as pollinators and decomposers.

This is understandable when we know that African economies, particularly those in the West Africa region (mainly French) are based on agriculture and the industrial tissue in our countries is a little developed. Indeed, agriculture remains a central element of the West African economy, providing 30 to 50% of GDP in most countries and representing the largest source of income and livelihood for 70 to 80% of the population (IFPRI 2003). It is also a major source of export earnings for many countries in the sub-region. For example, cotton exports accounted for in 2006, 30% of total export earnings in Benin, Mali and Chad, and 56% in Burkina Faso (CSAO/ OCDE, 2006). Despite its importance to African economies, this agriculture is primarily dominated by small family farms and uses rather modern technologies. It is highly dependent on pesticide use. And pesticides use is, most often done without protective equipment, so that cases of pesticide poisoning are frequently reported in Africa. In Benin, nearly 37 people were killed by endosulfan in the province of Borgou during the season 1999 / 2000 (Ton & Al, 2000). In Senegal, 22 people were killed and dozens of people injured following a mass poisoning with formulations and Spinox and Granox (Thyrame, Benomyl, Carbofuran). Moreover, the database on PAN Africa poisoning cases related to pesticides in Senegal contains more than 500 poisoning cases. Surveys conducted among 100 producers in the cotton area of Gourma (Burkina Faso) revealed that those responsible for the phytosanitary treatment suffered from multiple impacts, and a few days immediately after applying pesticides (Glin & al, 2006). A survey conducted by PAN Africa in Mali in 2001 in 21 villages of the regions of Kita, Fana and Koutiala, found 73 cases of pesticide poisoning (Glin & al, 2006). In Togo, studies carried out by ANCE-Togo in 2003 indicated that more than 500 cases of poisoning related to the use of endosulfan were recorded each year by the Division of Toxicology of the Public Hospital Lome Tokoin (Kodjo 2007).



Picture 1: pesticide use without protective materials (PAN Africa)

NGOs have also identified contaminated sites as priority issues for the region. This concern is related to the presence on the continent of big quantities of obsolete pesticides stocks. In fact there are vast quantities of obsolete pesticides stored in deplorable conditions in African countries. These pesticides are leaking from their damaged packaging and flow in nature to contaminate soils and water resources in areas where pesticides are stored. Three of these NGOs are involved in the Africa Stockpiles Program (ASP).⁴

⁴The program to eliminate stockpiles of obsolete pesticides in Africa, said ASP or ASP program in English, is a partnership between governments, international institutions, the private sector and civil society, given the gravity of the situation, launched an action across the continent to eliminate these harmful chemicals, prevent the replenishment of stocks, promote handling techniques without risks by working directly with farmers, and strengthen the institutional capacity of Africa to address this issue

2.1.2 Waste management

NGOs in the Francophone Africa region have also identified the municipal waste management in our countries as a major concern for them. We know that in Africa in general, municipal waste management is one of the greatest concerns authorities.



Pictures 2 and 3: Mbeubeuss dump (Dakar) with its spontaneous ignition and the village of scrap dealers covered with the smoke emanating from the combustion of waste (Credits photos: PAN Africa)

Indeed, African countries are characterized by a rapid and uncontrolled urbanization and the concentration of most of the people in capitals with a rapid and anarchical development of economic activities (in formal and informal sectors). This results in overproduction of municipal and industrial waste in African capitals. And, our countries do not have capacities enabling them to manage waste in an environmentally sound way. Thus, if these wastes are not simply burned, are stored in landfills and given their calorific power, burn by self combustion. Apart from municipal wastes, hospital wastes is also represent a problem for our countries that have not yet developed strategies for their environmentally sound management. So, these wastes are also either burnt in incinerators which are not in conformity with international norms and standards developed for this purpose or just put in public landfill. When we know the composition of landfills, we measure at its just value the magnitude of the situation. Indeed, these landfills, besides household rubbish, are composed of oil flows, tires and aerosols and a large quantity of used bags and plastic packaging (jerrycan, bottle), automobile hulks, unrecoverable electronic waste (printed circuit boards, computer casings...) and capacitors. Yet, among the components whose combustion releases toxic or hazardous substances, plastics, cathode ray tubes, electrical and electronic waste occupy a special place. Thus, the probability of formation of chlorinated and brominated dioxins by the waste management systems in African cities is high. So, this also helps understand why, surveyed surveys NGOs also identified dioxin releases and their impacts on health as a priority issue in the sub-region.

2.1.3 Dioxins and furans

NGOs also identified dioxins and furans as a priority chemical safety issue. As we stated earlier, one of the first sources of dioxins and furans releases in the region is the management of household, industrial and biomedical waste. In addition, many informal sector activities in the region release dioxins and furans. Among these activities, we can cite craft smelters that produce almost all the kitchen utensils and agricultural tools used in the region, copper and bronze craft articles, etc ... Dioxins releases can occur during the melting of scrap metal contaminated by oils, plastics, paints and other organic pollutants and chlorinated waste (Diouf and al, 2006). Dioxins and furans releases could also come from fuels used as energy source for the melting. In fact, these smelters use charcoal and woody items scraps (residues of doors, windows and other wooden articles) that are often contaminated by organic pollutants

We can also cite recovery activities of car batteries lead, smoking skins, recovery of iron in the tires and all the other numerous activities in the informal sector using fuel wood for energy.



Picture 4: Melting of aluminium



Picture 5: Smoking skins



Picture 6: Heavy aluminium ready for melting

2.1.4 Links between poverty and pollution

All chemical safety problems encountered in the sub-region have close relationships with poverty. For example, small farmers do not use protective equipment because they can not afford them. Even though in some cases, these equipments are subsidized, farmers' incomes are so low to enable them to provide adequate food to their families. So, they can not save anything for the acquisition of protective equipment. Reuse of empty pesticide containers for domestic purposes is dictated by the lack of means of rural families to buy utensils that these packaging replace.



Pictures 7 and 8: reuse of empty pesticide containers and canteens made out of drums sheet of profenofos at Thiaroye market (credits: DEEC of Senegal)

Also, in the sub-region countries, the vast majority of pesticides which are sold consist of generic pesticides that are less expensive and more accessible to small producers but are also more hazardous. To even attract these small producers who do not have enough resources, many pesticides traders do not hesitate to repackage pesticides in micro doses in packages that do not allow proper labelling. For example in Togo due to the high cost of pesticides for vegetable farming, some gardeners use pesticides for cotton which are more toxic or mixtures of several pesticides for their treatments (PAN Togo, 2006).



Picture 9 and 10: pesticide drum used as a sump pit in the Niayes zone in Senegal and retail sale of pesticide PC and rat poisons at Keur Serigne Bi market in Dakar (Credit : DEEC of Senegal)

Similarly, the management strategies of municipal waste in our cities are linked to the development level of our municipalities which do not have the means needed for an environmentally sound management of municipal waste. The generation of dioxins and furans in certain activities in the informal sector is also related to the technologies and ineffective craft

equipment that are used there. If some chemical safety problems are due to poverty conditions in which rural populations are, it still remains that the impacts of these problems are most acute among poor people who do not generally have means to deal with the manifestations of these impacts.

It is for this reason that surveyed NGOs also identified the relationships between poverty and pollution as priority issues. Thus chemical safety is an integral part of the fight against poverty, and development. And for this reason, it is essential for our governments to devote more resources to the promotion of chemical safety and to include it in programs of fight against poverty and official development assistance and promotion programs.

Seven (7) NGOs, among the 20 that participated in this assessment, identified contaminated sites and links between poverty and pollution as a priority issue, six (6), communities/ natural polluted areas, five (5), PCBs and industries / factories sources of pollution.

2.2 approaches, tools and strategies used by NGOs to deal with the priority issues of the region

To contribute to the management of priority issues mentioned above, surveyed NGOs in Francophone Africa region conduct several activities. Among these activities, we can include the information and awareness raising of people and policy makers on the problems and risks associated with chemicals; promotion of alternatives to pesticides and sustainable agriculture (Integrated pest management and organic farming); promotion of the legal and regulatory framework, capacity building of NGOs and community monitoring of pesticides impacts on human health and the environment.

2.2.1 Sensitizing and informing the populations and policy makers about the dangers of chemicals

Awareness raising is the most important stage as part of the management of identified priority issues by NGOs. Which NGOs in the region have quite understood, and that is why they carry out many awareness raising and information activities. Actually, chemicals-related issues encountered in the sub-region are, among others, related to the lack of information and awareness on the hazard of pesticides, the existing regulation, available alternatives on the part of chemicals users as well as policy makers. In all countries, in spite of the efforts made in terms of awareness raising, there is still some practices which testify to a lack of awareness raising regarding the possible impacts of chemicals on human health. For example, empty containers are reused to store food, beverages, cereals, lubricants, creating a real risk of human, animal and environmental contamination. In Cameroon, 5 farmers, including 3 women died in the city of Boutouri (South-East Cameroon) in 1998 after eating a cassava-based dish contaminated by a rat poison (Andjock, 1998) Also, in most countries of the sub-region, studies (PAN Togo, 2005; Bassole & al, 2007) revealed the use of pesticides for cotton in vegetable production. These uses are most often done without respecting the waiting periods which poses a real health safety problem of vegetables consumed in our countries.

Surveyed NGOs state that they have educated and informed the populations and key agents, by 76%, through the dissemination of information materials such as reports, brochures, posters, by 66% by organizing workshops for information, awareness and training and by 57% through the organization of events through the press. It should also be noted that the press is invited to the various activities organized by NGOs and after these meetings articles and reports on these events are published in local newspapers. This is the most effective means of conveying messages of NGOs to the public and to better raise awareness among people and authorities.

2.2.2 Promoting the reinforcement of the legal and regulatory framework

The management of chemical safety priority issues in Francophone Africa also requires reinforcing the legal and regulatory framework on chemicals. And one of the overriding roles of NGOs in the sub-region in this field was to conduct advocacy campaigns with the authorities for ratification of international conventions and their translation into the national legal arsenal, but also the development of national legal and regulatory texts legislating all stages of the life cycle of chemicals (from production to disposal) and the enforcement of these texts. If concerning the advocacy for the ratification of conventions, NGOs in the region have been successful (21 out of 24 countries have ratified Stockholm, 19 countries have ratified Rotterdam, and 22 have ratified Bale), as for the improvement of the legal framework, much remains to be done.

2.2.3 Capacity building of NGOs and training network

At least sixteen (16) among the 21 NGOs belong to one of the networks PAN, IPEN, GAIA, HCWH with a clear predominance of PAN then IPEN. Apart from PAN Africa, NGOs most often do not belong to any other regional network. The only NGOs belonging to a regional network like REPAOC have become it through the national networks to which they belong and are members of REPOAC. The REPAOC is NGOs Network Platforms in West and Central Africa. It consists of 8 national platforms (federations or associations) of NGOs comprising a total of more than 500 local, national and international NGOs. So, PAN Africa and IPEN are the most present networks in the sub-region in the field of chemical safety. The participation of NGOs in IPEN works enable them to build their capacities on the Stockholm Convention and the issues revolving around POPs. This capacity building has enabled them to be more involved in national processes of decision making and development of policies on chemical safety. For example, the NGO ANCE Togo says: "by supporting our participation in meetings, IPEN has enabled us to build our technical capacities and our contributions to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Togo have become more effective. We have become very listened to and asked for meetings, amendments to consultant documents, advice for work organization... in our country". This has been confirmed by authorities and technicians of the Department of Environment in Togo who let us know that ANCE Togo in recent years has become a partner in decision-making and policy process as far the chemicals management is concerned. Their technical contribution is always of proven relevance. The NGO ACOBS also stated: "Our participation in IPEN activities (and IPEP project) has enabled us to benefit from the experience of the other members and to have the opportunity to participate in 3 major meetings where chemicals issues are discussed in general

such as SAICM for the Africa Region, COP8 of the Basel Convention and COP3 for the Stockholm Convention. This has much contributed to enhancing our capacities in the field of chemical safety”.

Likewise, the IPEP projects they have carried it out testify to their abilities in the field of POPs which they emphasize in their funding requests for similar activities. This enabled some of them to have access to new financial opportunities. As an illustration, the NGO ALPEPAB (Democratic Republic of Congo) said: "the IPEP project has enabled us to be famous and thanks to these activities, we have received funding from USAID CARPE to make a study on the contamination of eggs in the Conkouati-Douli Park." In this context, the NGO ANCE Togo also added: "the IPEP projects enabled ANCE to impose itself at the local level as a key agent with NGOs on chemical safety issues. Similarly, the particulars of these projects are often made to support new projects developed by ANCE for additional small grants from some partners."

PAN Africa regional program support project of capacity building and coordination of Francophone Africa NGOs activities funded by the Marisla Foundation.

PAN Africa has been carrying out for two years a capacity building program of NGOs in Francophone Africa. This program is meant to build capacities of the network members and coordinate their activities to help them contribute to the prevention and elimination of problems caused by pesticides on human health and the environment. NGOs' specific objectives are:

- assess the strengths and weaknesses of NGOs in the region;
- help NGOs in the region participate in activities relating to the implementation of international conventions on chemicals in their respective countries;
- develop activity ideas and / or activities projects for NGOs members of the network;
- assist Francophone Africa NGOs to access funding sources;
- disseminate information and facilitate communication and exchange of experiences among NGOs in the region;
- provide translation services of some key documents for NGOs in the network.

This program has helped organize several capacity building workshops of NGOs in various areas of chemicals management (monitoring of pesticides impacts, international instruments on chemicals, waters pollution by pesticides ...). It has also helped get in touch and initiate collaboration with some initiatives such as the UNDP / GEF SGP program and to help some NGOs have access to funding granted by these programs. NGOs have also been networked through this program, which helped enhance communication and exchange of information and knowledge among them.

2.2.4 Promoting alternatives to pesticides and sustainable agriculture

The promotion of alternatives is a crucial step in the promotion of chemical safety. In fact, small farmers in the region are dependent on pesticides. Many endogenous technologies for pest control that do not have resort to pesticides exist in our country, but nothing has been done to promote their efficient use. Also sustainable agricultural strategies such as integrated management of production and pest (IPM) have proven themselves in other regions, but they delay in being adopted in the sub-region countries. In spite of the importance of alternatives to pesticides and strategies for sustainable agriculture, few NGOs in the region conduct activities in this direction. Only 4 NGOs out of the 21 ones surveyed, reported having conducted promotion activities of alternatives to chemicals. The activities carried out by these NGOs are training producers on IPM, organic farming, promotion of products from organic farming.



Pictures 11, 12 and 13: a cotton producer supervised by PAN Africa for the implementation of IPM, a natural pesticide preparation based on cailedra barks and the cailedra from where we took a sample of the barks (credits PAN Africa)

2.2.5 NGOs participation in national policy on chemicals

The contribution of NGOs to the management of chemical safety issues in the sub-region is also done through their participation in national management policies, projects and programs of chemicals. Indeed, in the francophone Africa region, governments involve NGOs in the management process of chemicals.

This involvement process of NGOs started in some countries of the region for several years is reinforced with the advent of the Stockholm Convention, which recommends the involvement of all stakeholders in the development and implementation process of the National Implementation Plan. Nearly 60% of NGOs which participated in the evaluation are involved in the development and implementation of the Stockholm Convention implementation plans. So, the POPs committees in countries were reinforcement frameworks of NGOs-Government cooperation in the field of chemicals management. Regarding SAICM, only six NGOs participate in national processes. This can be explained by the fact that in many countries in the region,

there is still no national discussion framework of SAICM. We must also add that three NGOs participate in ASP national implementation processes. They are: ADPE and AFE / UNFT from Tunisia and SEEPOM from Morocco.

Moreover, in some countries of the sub-region as the CILSS countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, the Gambia which is in the English speaking region), there are also multiparty frameworks for concerted actions in which NGOs are heavily involved. Indeed, the regulation common to the Member States of CILSS on the registration of pesticides has recommended the establishment of national committees for the management of pesticides that are transformed in some countries like Senegal into national committee of chemicals management. These committees in which NGOs participate are responsible for the development and implementation of regulations and programs and policies on chemicals.

The NGO-governments collaboration also materializes through the training and capacity building of governments' members. For example, PAN Africa organized several capacities building or training workshops in which members of governments in the region participated.⁵

2.2.6 Monitoring pesticides impacts on human health and the environment

The evaluation shows that the most significant chemical safety issues for NGOs in the Francophone Africa sub-region remains issues related to pesticides and their impacts on communities' health and the environment. Unfortunately, few NGOs in the sub-region among those surveyed have conducted monitoring activities of pesticide impacts on health and the environment. This is due to the fact that these activities require huge technical and financial resources that cannot always be afforded by NGOs. And, monitoring the impacts of pesticides can help have information on localized impacts of these pesticides. Such information is important for advocacy and awareness raising for a better management of pesticides.

PAN Africa and IPEN have conducted in recent years, monitoring activities on chemicals impacts on human health and the environment. IPEN has carried out a study on the contamination of free-range chicken eggs in 20 locations in 17 countries including Senegal. These studies revealed that eggs had very high⁶ levels of contamination by unintentionally produced POPs such as dioxins. PAN has also organized community monitoring trainings of pesticide impacts on human health and the environment and conducted community monitoring projects of pesticides impacts in Togo and Mali. These activities have enabled NGOs in the region to build their capacities in this area.

⁵ In 2006 and 2007, PAN Africa organized training on community monitoring of pesticides impacts and monitoring of ecotoxicological impacts of pesticides in which more than 50% of participants came from state agencies of the countries in the sub-region. In 2004, PAN Africa also organized an international workshop on the implementation of international conventions on chemicals where representatives of 15 governments of French-speaking Africa participated along with NGOs.

⁶ <http://www.ipen.org/ipepweb1/egg/Sampling%20Report%201.html>

3 – Regional action plan: opportunities and needs

3.1 Regional strategic framework

The first stage of the action plan for a better participation of NGOs in Francophone Africa in the management of chemicals will be the setting up of a regional strategic framework. This framework will aim at facilitating the coordination of NGOs activities and strengthening the collaboration, communication and sharing of knowledge and experience among NGOs in the sub-region. It will also help lay the groundwork for the conformity between international instruments and policies on chemicals management and local actions of NGOs.

3.1.1 Strengthening the communication, collaboration and information exchange among NGOs in French-speaking Africa

The communication, collaboration and information exchange among NGOs are essential for a better participation of the latter in the regional efforts to promote chemical safety. To improve the effectiveness of their actions, NGOs need to build their capacities, have access to the relevant information and existing funding sources. The first capacity building level of NGOs is to exchange information, experiences and expertise among them. As part of the PAN Africa/IPEN program of “capacity building and coordination of NGOs activities in francophone Africa, we set up a database on NGOs in the region interested in chemicals management and a list server for information exchange among them. Although this mechanism currently helps facilitate the communication among NGOs in the sub-region, it is necessary to improve it. Improved communication mechanism among Francophone Africa NGOs will be achieved by:

- continuing the identification process and contact making with NGOs in the region interested or that can be interested in the chemicals management in order to expand the NGOs’ database;
- improving the information exchange on chemicals: for that, it is necessary to keep on providing and improving translation services that are currently available to NGOs in the region. Indeed, much relevant information on chemicals currently exists, but they are mostly in English. NGOs in the sub-region often require the translation of this information to facilitate their operations.

3.1.2 Identifying local actions that could contribute to the implementation on the field of international agreements and political discussions on chemicals

a) The Stockholm Convention

Almost all francophone Africa countries have finalized their national implementation plans (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention. In these NIP, a certain number of activities have been specially dedicated to NGOs. Unfortunately, in most cases, these activities are just about awareness raising and information. Yet, NGOs have a role and capabilities that go beyond mere awareness

raising activities. Among these activities, there are: monitoring the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment, promoting alternatives to toxic chemicals, promoting the best available technologies and best environmental practices (BAT / BEP). Thus, it is important to support NGOs in Francophone Africa in the identification of activities in line with the objectives of the Stockholm Convention and projects and programs related to it. For example, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated as part of the assessment of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention, an international biomonitoring program of POPs in breast milk. Senegal, Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea and probably the Republic of Congo (its participation is subject to the availability of additional funds) are the French-speaking African countries participating in this project. NGOs in these countries are invited to participate in this project and resources will be put at their disposal.

To assist NGOs in the region to identify projects of local activities that could contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its political developments, the hub of French-speaking Africa will have to:

- Develop for NGOs in the sub-region a regional strategic framework of activities that will put forth project ideas enabling to translate the Stockholm Convention into local actions. This strategic framework will be based on the NIP of the different countries and all the other projects of the Stockholm Convention implementation.
- Accompany individually NGOs interested in the materialization of these project ideas by helping develop concrete project activities and identify potential donors to finance these projects.

b) The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

SAICM is a new approach to international chemicals management aiming at achieving sound chemicals management throughout their life cycle so that by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in a way that their adverse effects on human health and the environment are significantly reduced. SAICM addresses the issue of agricultural and industrial chemicals during all their life cycle stages, i.e. from their production to their disposal through their use, and include chemical substances present in products and waste. It is a framework for concerted implementation of all the international initiatives on Chemicals Management (Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel, ILO Conventions, Montreal Protocol, SGHS, FAO Code,). SAICM consists of three main texts: the Dubai Declaration which expresses the commitment of Ministers, heads of delegations, representatives of civil society and the private sector, the Global Strategy Policy which highlights the objectives, scope and needs of SAICM, and a Global Action Plan which shows areas of activities and programs for an effective implementation of SAICM. The global action plan is a concrete source of activities for NGOs wishing to conduct local actions for the promotion of chemical safety. To enhance the contribution of NGOs in the implementation of SAICM, IPEN has initiated an international awareness raising campaign and capacity building of NGOs on SAICM. The implementation of this campaign in Francophone Africa will be done through:

- The organization of national capacity building workshops of NGOs on SAICM: These workshops are meant to present the SAICM GPA (Global Plan of Action), identify the most relevant elements for the region, inform participants on potential funding sources and train them on the development of funding requests for the implementation of these activities;
- The production of training materials for NGOs on the various components and the stakes of SAICM;
- The production of awareness raising materials of NGOs;
- The proposal of ideas for activities and support for NGOs (which will not have the opportunity to participate in the above-mentioned workshop) for the research of resources needed for the implementation of these activities.

3.2 Field activities and NGOs needs

3.2.1 Capacity building and training on the political aspects of chemicals management

All international initiatives on chemicals management recommended the participation of civil society organizations in developing and implementing policies, programs, national implementation plans and regulations on chemicals management. In Francophone Africa, this resulted for most countries, in the inclusion of civil society representatives in national committees in charge of formulating, implementing and monitoring policies and programs of the chemicals management.

But to well play their role in this field, NGOs in the sub-region need to build their capacities on the political aspects and regulations concerning the management of chemicals. Most of the NGOs which participated in surveys expressed the need for capacity building on legal and regulatory aspects, international instruments on chemicals, national and international policies of chemicals, community monitoring of chemicals impacts on health and the environment, toxicology, dioxins releases, the best available technologies and the best environmental practices ...

So, the various components of the capacity building will be:

- The organization of a sub-regional capacity building workshop and upgrade of the various international instruments on chemicals: the workshop will provide an opportunity to present the various provisions of these instruments, the expected role of NGOs in the implementation of these instruments, the funding sources and technical support, the latest developments and stakes of these instruments.
- The organization of national training workshops on different international instruments on chemicals and conditions of access to different funding sources. The workshops will require the participation of embassies, national GSP and other donors at national level to explain to participants the conditions of access to resources they make available to NGOs.
- The development of information and training brochures on international instruments on chemicals for members of NGOs. Training brochures will enable NGOs to strengthen the

training they will have received during national and regional capacity building workshops mentioned above.

- The establishment of electronic resources for capacity building: it will consist in setting up a capacity building website on the political and legal aspects of chemicals management. Information on chemicals management, existing tools, reports of international meetings, texts of various instruments will be posted on this site... This site will be coupled with the mailing list mentioned above and which will serve as an information exchange mechanism among NGOs of the region and establish contact with experts from the network IPEN on various technical and political aspects of the chemical management. This mechanism should serve to facilitate the provision, to NGOs that wish it, advice on the development of national capacities for a sound management of chemicals
- Participation in international meetings: it is necessary that resources be made available to NGOs for their participation in international and regional meetings on chemicals. Although IPEN has been able so far to help a limited number of NGOs (never more than 4) of Francophone Africa that take part in some meetings, it is essential to increase the number of NGOs in the region participating in these meetings. This will enable them to build their capacities in the field of international instruments and policies on chemicals and to be aware of the latest developments in these instruments.

3.2.2 Promoting organizational development of NGOs in Francophone Africa

All the surveyed NGOs deplored the low availability and difficult accessibility to funds for African NGOs working in the field of chemicals management. They pointed out the financial difficulties they face. The duration of resources allocated to them generally ranges from 3 to 6 months. And at the closure of projects, they often encounter difficulties to meet their expenses. These financial difficulties are an impediment to the achievement of their objectives. Moreover, this instability creates organizational and development problems for NGOs because it is not conducive to the maintenance of human resources. So, within the region, one of the recurrent requests of NGOs is the institutional capacity building by putting at their disposal more sustainable funding programs and managerial capacities. So, activities that can be carried out in this direction are:

- The organization of a sub-regional training workshop on development techniques of projects and research for resources. This workshop will help train NGOs in the development of action plans, projects (logical frameworks, definition of objectives, outcomes and outputs, indicators,). The workshop will benefit from the participation of various potential donors in the region so as to explain to participants the conditions of access to resources they offer in the field of chemical safety. In addition, information on potential sources will be available to NGOs in the sub-region through the mailing list and the website mentioned above.
- The strengthening of managerial capacities of organizations: regional training workshop on management, the individual accompanying program of organizations for a diagnosis and targeted support at an organizational and institutional level.

3.2.3 Awareness raising campaign of the populations and policy makers on the dangers of chemicals and the need to promote chemical management

The objective of this program is to create in francophone Africa countries a public opinion favorable to chemicals management and to sensitize policy makers on the problems posed by chemicals and the link between sustainable development and chemical safety. Actually, policy makers do not consider chemical safety as a priority development and does not include it in development programs and projects. This is due to the fact that they are not often aware of and / or informed about the problems posed by chemicals and their implications on poverty and development.

This awareness raising program will be based on the results of monitoring activities of the chemicals impacts. It consists of the following elements:

- Production and dissemination of awareness raising materials on the dangers of chemicals, DDT (posters on the hazards of the most concerning chemicals in the national languages of different countries in the sub-region and in French); Radio broadcasting and televised communication programs on chemicals hazards and their alternatives.
- Organization of national communication activities in the different countries in which the monitoring activities will be carried out. They will focus on the dangers of chemicals, the monitoring activities results and any other relevant information on chemicals. They will consist of: the preparation of press kits; the production and distribution of brochures.
- The organization of international communication activities on the monitoring results, organization of “side events” during COP4 of the Stockholm Convention and the ICCM2; the production and dissemination of brochures, setting up of a web page on the monitoring results. The main objective of these international communication activities will be to get support from the international community in the management of chemicals that pose the biggest problem in Francophone Africa.
- The conduct of case studies in 6 countries of the region on the links between chemical safety and sustainable development. It will consist in assessing, in a concrete way, in these countries, the short and long term socio-economic impacts of chemicals that pose the biggest problem. The case studies results will serve to sensitize authorities on the need to allocate more resources to chemicals management and to include chemical safety in bilateral and multilateral development aid programs.

3.2.4 Promotion of environmentally sound strategies in malaria control

There are at least 300 million acute cases of malaria worldwide each year, and over one million deaths. About 90% of these deaths occur in Africa, mostly among young children. Malaria is the leading cause of mortality among children under five year of age in Africa (20%) and it accounts for 10% of the total morbidity burden on the continent. It is responsible for 40% of public health expenditure, 30-50% of hospital admissions and not less than 50% of consultations in high-transmission areas.

Faced with this scourge, some African countries have reintroduced DDT in the fight against malaria vectors. Indeed, these countries believe that intra-house spraying of DDT remains the most effective and less costly strategy to eradicate malaria in Africa. Yet, DDT is a Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) whose impacts on health and the environment are no longer to be proved. Several studies have shown toxicity of DDT and the unsustainability of malaria control strategies based on this product. That is why the international community committed itself, through the Stockholm Convention on POPs, to reduce the use of DDT and eventually eliminate its production and use. There several alternative strategies which proved to be effective. Mexico and Vietnam have effectively eliminated the use of DDT in the malaria malaria by favoring an integrated approach including the use of biological control, the distribution of impregnated mosquito nets, control and rapid treatment of cases and promoting participation of communities in the destruction of breeding sites, sanitation in neighbourhoods and management of health facilities.

The objective of this program is to help prevent the reintroduction of DDT in Francophone Africa by promoting sustainable malaria control strategies but also to participate in the international lobbying campaign for support from the international community to reduce the dependence of African countries on DDT. Activities to carry out in this framework will be:

- Documenting the use of DDT and its impacts on health and the environment: it will consist in conducting case studies in 3 countries on the conditions of use and the impacts of DDT. The purpose of this study will be to collect information on the actual effects of DDT and make the results of these studies available to agents interested in the reduction of pesticide use.
- Documenting the results of malaria control strategies in 6 Francophone Africa countries: 2 in Sahelian Africa (Senegal and Chad), 2 in French Equatorial Africa (Central African Republic and Congo) and 2 in the Maghreb (Morocco, Tunisia). These case studies will be used to assess the results of strategies used, to measure their strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for improving their effectiveness. The results of these studies will also be disseminated as part of an international communication campaign to show the international community that it is possible to implement sustainable strategies in malaria control in Africa.
- Implementing an advocacy campaign for the fulfilment of promises of the international community to help African countries reduce their dependence vis-à-vis DDT. The campaign will be done through:

- The organization of local communication activities: the production and dissemination of awareness raising materials on the dangers of DDT and the alternatives to DDT (3 posters on the dangers of DDT in national languages of different countries in the sub-region and in French); radio broadcasting programs on the dangers of DDT and alternative strategies in malaria control.
- The organization of national communication activities in the different countries where case studies will be conducted. They will be about the dangers of DDT, the case studies results and other success stories in sustainable management of malaria. They will consist of: the preparation of press kits; production and distribution of brochures. These awareness raising activities are meant to create a public opinion favorable to sustainable strategies in the fight against malaria and to encourage communities to ask policy makers to give priority to such strategies and national malaria control programs.

The organization of international communication activities on the results of these studies: organization of “side event” during COP4 of the Stockholm Convention and the ICCM2; production and dissemination of brochures on the results of case studies ; Setting up a web page on the results of case studies and other cases of successful sustainable management of malaria.

Get the collaboration and participation of the medical sector in reducing the dependency of countries on DDT in malaria control. This will be done by:

- The organization of an international workshop on the dangers of DDT and sustainable strategies in malaria control;
- The dissemination of case studies results and other examples of sustainable malaria control management with the medical sector agents: distribution of brochures described above.
- The training of communities (urban and rural) on the prevention and destruction of breeding sites, public hygiene, management of health facilities and on local and indigenous strategies to fight against mosquitoes. These trainings are meant to promote and improve the effectiveness of community participation in malaria control. This will be done by:
- The organization of a sub-regional workshop and national training workshop of trainers (TOT). These workshops will be followed by training workshops of communities. The training will be done successively in that the regional training workshop of trainers will train trainers who will train at the national level other trainers who will be used for the training of communities.
- The production of teaching materials (training modules) for the TOT and training of communities.

3.2.5 Monitoring chemicals impacts on human health and the environment

To become more involved in the promotion of chemical safety, people and the authorities need to be sensitized on the actual impacts of chemicals on human health and ecosystems of the sub-region and the links between chemical safety and poverty. NGOs can play a significant role in the collection of information on the impacts of chemicals through the community monitoring of chemicals impacts on human health and the environment. Few NGOs in the region have conducted this type of activity, even though many of them have identified the monitoring of the impacts of chemicals on the health of communities as a priority for the region. And this is a fundamental flaw in their purpose of awareness raising and advocacy towards authorities for a better management of priority issues relating to chemical safety.

So, it is necessary to promote the monitoring of chemicals impacts on human health and the environment within the Francophone Africa NGOs. This monitoring should be done with a full participation of communities. The various components of the regional monitoring program of chemicals impacts on human health and the environment are:

- Organization of a training session of trainers for the Francophone Africa NGOs on the monitoring of chemicals impacts on health
- Organization of a training session of trainers on the monitoring of environmental impacts of chemicals;
- Organization of national training workshops on the monitoring of pesticides impacts on human health and the environment. These workshops will be led by regional workshops participants;
- Implementation of regional monitoring programs of pesticide impacts on human health and the environment with the participation of communities. These programs will target special chemicals (endosulfan, DDT, lindane, highly hazardous pesticides, heavy metals such as mercury and lead) and special areas due to chemicals-related issues found there;
- Local, national and international communications on the monitoring activities results (side-events, web page, brochures, press points...).

3.2.6 Management and prevention of obsolete pesticide stockpiles

An estimated 50, 000 tons of obsolete pesticides and other heavily contaminated materials have accumulated throughout the continent. The program for the elimination of obsolete pesticides stockpiles in Africa, called ASP program is a partnership between governments, international institutions, the private sector and civil society, given the gravity of the situation, has launched an action on across the continent for the disposal of these harmful chemicals, prevention of the replenishment of stocks, promotion of handling techniques without risks by working directly with farmers, and building the institutional capacities of Africa in order to address this issue. The countries participating in the first phase of the ASP are: South Africa, Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania and Tunisia. Many other countries expressed interest to join the second phase of the ASP. NGOs in the region have a very important role to play in the implementation of this program especially in the awareness raising activities on the dangers of pesticides and obsolete stockpiles and the prevention of the accumulation of stocks. NGOs also have a role to play in the

monitoring and evaluation of the inventory and disposal activities of obsolete stockpiles and other activities in the program, capacity building of farmers, lobbying and advocacy for strengthening and implementing the regulations on pesticides.

3.2.7 Waste management

Waste management is also one of the major concerns of NGOs in the region as explained above. Waste management is one of the largest sources of dioxins and furans releases. NGOs have a significant role to play in the promotion of the best waste management practices. Activities to carry out in this context are:

- Capacity building of NGOs in the region on the environmentally sound management of waste. This will be done through a training of trainers on the issue of waste, the waste generation reduction strategies, and recovery of waste, disposal methods of waste which do not use incineration. The beneficiaries of this training will serve as facilitators in the following activities.
- The promotion of good practices for waste generation reduction: several strategies to minimize waste generation at the maximum are successfully carried out by communities in many countries. For households, waste reduction goes through changes in purchasing and consumption patterns, the reuse of waste. For the industrial sector, it goes through the maximization of the inputs productivity (reduction of recurrent inputs and thus of waste products), the use of renewable materials, and the imitation of natural cycles where all waste is a resource for other bodies. This will involve conducting awareness raising and information campaigns to bring households and industries to respect the good practices that can contribute to reducing waste generation.
- The training and sensitization of young people in communities for the reuse, recovery and reclamation of waste. It will consist in training unemployed young people without qualifications and help them develop recovery and reclamation business activities of waste.

3.2.8 Promotion of agro-ecological strategies

Pesticides pose many problems in Africa because small farmers remain dependent on pesticides. Many endogenous pest control technologies that do not use pesticides exist in our country, but nothing has been done to promote their efficient use. Also sustainable agricultural strategies such as integrated management of production and pests (IPM) have proven themselves in other regions, but they delay in being adopted in the sub-region countries. For that it is necessary to promote within the region sustainable alternatives to pesticides and strategies for sustainable agriculture. Activities that will be carried out in this field are the following:

- The creation within NGOs in the sub-region of an expertise in the field of alternatives to pesticides and agro-ecological strategies: this is done through a sub-regional training workshop on sustainable agricultural strategies;
- The identification of traditional and local strategies to reduce agricultural dependence of small producers on pesticides. The objective of this activity is to identify promising

endogenous agricultural methods that could be developed through research or pilot projects;

- The establishment of a pilot program for the development of sustainable agricultural methods identified in the exercise of identifying endogenous sustainable strategies: it will consist in conducting pilot experiences to use the most relevant endogenous farming methods to improve, identify constraints to their extension and find solutions to these constraints;
- The establishment of pilot project implementing the integrated management of production and pests (IPM). In recent years, training programs on IPM have been organized in the region for a few years. But in most cases, these programs have not been followed and trained producers were not accompanied in order to effectively use the knowledge acquired. The objective of this activity is to accompany producers trained in a few countries in the region to use the IPM in their own fields. These pilots experiences will also help identify the constraints to the extension of IPM in our country and find their solutions;
- The implementation of local, national and international activities on pilot experience results so as to sensitize and inform small farmers on these sustainable strategies but also to convince policy makers on the relevancy of these strategies and the need for more means for the development of sustainable agriculture;
- The production and distribution to small producers of educational materials on IPM, organic farming and other methods of sustainable agriculture.

3.2.9 Promotion of the best available technologies and best environmental practices (BAT / BEP) in informal sector activities

As we stated earlier, many informal sector activities in the region discharge dioxins and furans. Among these activities, we can cite the craft smelters that produce almost all kitchen utensils and agricultural tools used in the region, art articles in copper and bronze, etc ... These activities release dioxins and furans due to craft technologies that are used. All these types of activities have in common to use the burning in their production process. In addition, it is an open burning and materials are burned metals and other items contaminated by oils, paints and other pollutants, and / or contain plastics or are from wood products.

To help reduce dioxins and furans sources in the region as recommended by Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, it is necessary to promote the BAT and BEP in the informal sector. We must:

- Organize for Francophone Africa NGOs a regional training workshop for trainers on the BAT and BEP in the informal sector;
- Organize in countries of the region national training activities for craftsmen on the BAT and BEP for improving energy efficiency in craft activities. These activities will be organized by NGOs that participated in the regional training workshop for trainers;
- Conduct pilot experiences implementing the BAT and BEP in craft activities generating dioxins and furans;

- Identify, in collaboration with micro credit institutions, mechanisms for financing investments needed for the use of the BAT and BEP in the informal sector.

3.3 Opportunities for the Action Plan

Almost all francophone African countries have finalized their National Implementation Plans (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention. In these NIP, a number of activities have been specially dedicated to NGOs. Unfortunately, in most cases, these activities are only about awareness raising and information. Yet, NGOs have a role and capabilities that go beyond mere awareness raising activities. We mentioned above the monitoring of the chemicals impacts on human health and the environment as a prerequisite for the promotion of chemical safety. NGOs have a great role to play in this field. Many NGOs in francophone Africa have developed skills in this field. Indeed, as part of its activities, PAN Africa held in August 2006, a training of trainers on community monitoring of pesticides impacts on health and another on ecotoxicological monitoring of pesticides impacts in January 2007. Several NGOs from Francophone Africa participated in these trainings and some of them are initiating community monitoring programs of the impacts of pesticides in their countries. There are also advocacy activities for a reinforced regulatory framework, training, etc.

Apart from the NIP, there is the program of small grants from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (UNDP / SGP) which is an opportunity for NGOs in the region. UNDP/SGP is present in the 11 following countries in the region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote Ivoire, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia. Besides UNDP/SGP, there is the small grant from the Global Green Grants Fund (GGF) and IPEP which will start its second phase very soon. The latter two programs are coordinated regionally by PAN Africa. The African Program for the disposal of obsolete pesticides (ASP) also provides resources to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the implementation of the program. All these programs are opportunities for NGOs wishing to engage in activities beyond those that are delegated under the NIP.

Conclusion

Several NGOs are now in the management of chemicals. Indeed, there is an increased number of NGOs that carry out activities helping to promote chemical safety. But activities which are the most carried out by NGOs are awareness raising, training and information on chemicals and all the related problems. This is explained by the fact that many NGOs in the region lack the technical and financial capacities to conduct activities other than awareness raising and information. Hence the need for building their capacities in all issues revolving around chemical safety to enable them to more contribute to chemicals management in the region.

Such capacity building should concern the legal and political aspects of chemicals management, international conventions, monitoring of pesticides impacts on health and the environment, alternatives to chemicals and sustainable technologies and strategies Agricultural and industrial production and waste disposal. This will enable them to undertake activities that go beyond awareness raising such as promoting the strengthening of legal, regulatory and institutional framework of chemicals, monitoring the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment, promoting the best available techniques and environmental practices in the agriculture and environmental sector. In a more specific way, NGOs in the region will have to participate in discussions concerning the most important stakes of chemical safety for the region. These include DDT, endosulfan, used in cotton production in our country, lindane, management of municipal and biomedical waste, and mercury,

The action plan is an opportunity and a valid argument that will enable them to better engage in resolving these problems. NGOs in the region will draw their inspiration from it to initiate field activities and contribute more effectively and concretely to promoting in their respective countries and in Africa as a whole the SAICM goal for 2020 which is a future without toxic substances where toxic chemicals are used and produced in ways that significant adverse effects on human health and the environment are minimized and eliminated.

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APPENDIX 1: List of NGOs that responded to the survey questionnaire

Countries	Names of NGOs	IPEP Project carried out (see Question 5.1 of survey form)	Activities mainly carried out at local, national and regional level, See answers in 2.2
Burkina Faso	AFNB	No	
Burkina Faso	AJAV-BF	No	➤ Management project of plastic waste and used cells in the sector 30 in the commune of Bogodogo in Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso	SOS Sahel International Burkina Faso	No	➤ Council support in the use of pesticides, promotion of ecological vegetable production and improvement of the vegetation cover
Cameroon	Sustainable alternatives	No	➤ Awareness raising and information seminar of leading farmers on the sound use of pesticides and crop protection in Cameroon ➤ Awareness raising project of communities on the injuries pesticide use
Cameroon	FADENAH	Yes	➤ Awareness raising campaign of the public and private press actors /the Stockholm Convention on POPs
Guinea Bissau	ACOBES	Yes	➤ Information and awareness raising workshop of NGOs, other organizations of the civil society, chemicals users and press actors on the Stockholm convention on POPs
Congo	ALBEPAB	Yes	➤ Study of the contamination of Konkouati park area by dioxins, PCB and hexachlorobenzene ➤ Inventories of pesticides in circulation in the Republic of Congon Comparative study of the impacts on health, environmental and

			socio-economic impacts of the contamination by POPs and the use of POPs in two contaminated areas: Ouesse and Nkayi
Côte d'Ivoire	ISE-POP	No	None
Mali	ODI Sahel	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training/Awareness raising of farmers on pesticides impacts on health ➤ Information and awareness raising on hazards related to fish preservation with chemicals.
Morocco	SEEPOM	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness raising of farmers and agricultural workers on unintentional impacts of pesticides ➤ Study of pesticide impacts (used in locust control) on the avifauna in the region of Bouarfa-Figuig (East) and Tan Tan (South). ➤ Awareness raising on the elimination of obsolete pesticides on the prevention of new stocks in Morocco.
Niger	OSE ILED	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plastic waste collection
Niger	AVD Kowa Murna	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduction project of pesticides use (POPs) and risks related to their handling on the irrigation area of Djiratawa ➤ Capacity building of farm operator on the handling of chemicals ➤ Management project of hazardous waste released from health centers in Maradi city
Niger	ANAF MATA	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Antipollution control of the river and preservation of the health of women dyers against harmful impacts of POPs in the

			urban commune of Niamey Protection of women dyers against harmful impacts of POPs in the commune 5 of Niamey
Rwanda	ARECO	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect the environment and the health of school children by education and awareness raising to a good school waste management ➤ Protect the health of communities and the environment by training and sensitizing farmers on the use of organic fertilizers
Tunisia	ADPE	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness raising campaign on plastic waste control ➤ Making a 3-minute film for sensitization on climatic warming
Tunisia	AFE	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women and deforestation control ➤ Pilot project/irrigation water pumping
Togo	ANCE	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of biological production techniques in the Prefecture of Tchamba ➤ Promotion of a sustainable management of PCB equipment in Togo ➤ Community monitoring project of pesticides impacts on health and the environment
Togo	COMET	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness raising on pesticides harmful impacts ➤ Awareness raising project on toxic effects of dioxins and furans and other unintentional POPs
Senegal	AHDIS	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness raising project and promotion of biological alternatives in Bambeye and Sagata djoloff
Senegal	RENPEM	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preservation Project of « lac de Guiers » against pollutant pesticides : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Awareness raising, capacity building on pesticides hazards ❖ Awareness raising on the dangers and drawbacks of pesticides illicit trade ❖ Promotion of biopesticides

Senegal	PAN Africa	Yes	<p>➤ Project Pesticide & poverty : implementation of international conventions on pesticides for a sound and fair development :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Support governments in the implementation of the initiatives for local actions on the environment and the living conditions which strengthen national and regional regulations; ❖ Strengthen the national and regional regulatory frameworks and create new collaboration opportunities between NGO and governments in the management of pesticides negative impacts ; ❖ Promote the coordination and synergies between the different national initiatives related to the pesticides management; ❖ Sensitize NGOs and civil society organizations on the necessity and relevance of the implementation at local level of international initiatives related to pesticides; ❖ Promote sustainable alternatives to pesticides to reduce agricultural producers' dependence on hazardous pesticides.
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