



PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK (PAN) AFRICA

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024



February 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The years 2023-2024 marked a decisive turning point for Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa. Facing unprecedented global challenges and the triple crisis (climate, environmental, and health-related), our determination to protect communities has grown stronger. In line with the global vision of our network, we have intensified our efforts to contribute to the fight against hazardous pesticides and chemicals and to promote healthy and sustainable agroecological practices. PAN Africa's objectives remain the same, namely promoting sustainable production strategies and strengthening stakeholders' capacities to ensure the sustainable implementation of multilateral agreements, as well as laws and regulations relating to chemicals.

This report presents the activities carried out by the NGO Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa in 2024. It demonstrates that, despite the challenges, progress is possible and change is within our reach.

Despite all the obstacles encountered by PAN Africa staff, their commitment to a better and brighter future is reflected in everything they do. They are determined to deliver concrete results for communities and provide sustainable solutions for pesticide management in particular and chemicals management in general.

PAN Africa would like to thank its national partners, namely the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, etc. We would also like to thank our international partners, particularly PAN International, the Marisla Foundation, Global Green Fund (GGF), the Global Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, UNEP, the World Bank, IPEN, etc. Their support is essential. Together, we will continue to fight against pesticides and chemicals in order to preserve health and protect the environment, towards a more inclusive and sustainable world.

I. ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT

1. ENVIRONNEMENT HEALTH AND POLLUTION MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN AFRICA (PGSENPA)

The environment health and pollution management project in Africa (PGSENPA) signed a contract (Contract No. SN-WACCA-345809-CS-CQS) with the NGO Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa on 7 February 2024 for the implementation of the (PGSENPA) communication and social marketing plan. Within the framework of this memorandum, the following activities were carried out.

1.1 Production of Communication and Awareness-Raising Materials POSTERS

Two (2) posters were produced and printed in 1,000 copies. The messages focused on waste burning and waste mixing, as well as their impacts on health and the environment.



Images: Overview of the posters produced as part of the project.

T-shirts and Caps

One T-shirt and one cap were produced for use during awareness-raising activities in the two (2) municipalities. For each item, 300 copies were produced and distributed to the municipalities. Additional production is planned for future activities.



Images: Caps and T-shirts printed for project activities

Large-format signs

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Two (2) large-format signs were designed and installed in each municipality to inform local populations, policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public about the existence of PGSENSPA in the municipalities of Hann/Bel-Air and Dalifort-Foirail.



Images: Large-format signs installed at the entrances of the municipalities

Video Report

A video report was produced during the handover ceremony of the public space developed in Dalifort-Foirail, which took place on 15 June 2024. The video report provided an overview of the project, its objectives, and the activities that had been completed or were still ongoing. It also included messages on hazardous waste, POPs and NIPs, as well as the actions undertaken by the municipalities to promote behavioural change. This documentary is available on the PGSENSPA website.

Documentary Film on the PRNs Established in the Two Municipalities

A documentary film presenting the PGSENSPA project and its achievements in the municipalities of Dalifort-Foirail and Hann/Bel-Air was produced and is currently being finalized. The film gives the floor to project leaders as well as beneficiaries in order to assess the project's impacts in their respective municipalities. The film will be shared on the PGSENSPA website.

Radio Programmes

Three (3) radio programmes were organized on the following topics: POPs and their impacts on health and the environment; the role of women in POPs and waste management; and the issue of plastic waste.

Radio Sénégal International (RSI) and the radio station “Dundu ak Sunu Mbalit” were PAN Africa’s partners in organizing and hosting the radio programmes.



Images: Overview of some of the radio programmes

Development of Guides

Two (2) guides were produced and printed in fifty (50) copies. These included a guide on biomedical waste and a guide on Standardized Collection Points (PRNs).

Roll-Up Banner

A roll-up banner presenting the project's results was produced and printed in four (4) copies.



Image: Roll-up banner produced and printed

Information and Awareness-Raising Workshop on Good Environmentally Sound Management Practices for Plastic Waste

As part of the PGSENPA project activities, PAN Africa organized two (2) information and awareness-raising workshops on good environmentally sound management practices for plastic

waste with cultural stakeholders and members of RALSEN from the municipalities of Hann/Bel-Air and Dalifort-Foirail, respectively on 3 October and 10 October 2024.



Images: Overview of workshop participants

Organization of Training Workshops on Communication Techniques

Two (2) workshops were organized in the municipalities of Hann/Bel-Air and Dalifort-Foirail. The training sessions were attended by members of the Information, Education and Communication Committee of RALSEN, representatives of the municipalities, and cultural stakeholders.

The training modules covered:

- * Review of communication objectives
- * Introduction to communication concepts
- * Communication techniques
- * Advantages and disadvantages of communication
- * Communication materials
- * Vocabulary/messages



Images: Overview of participants in the two training sessions

2. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

2.1 Lead in Paints

This year's 2024 campaign, "A Better Future Starts Without Lead," aims to remind governments, civil society organizations, health partners, industry, and other stakeholders of the unacceptable risks associated with lead exposure and the need to take action to protect children's health.

It should be recalled that most global lead consumption is related to the manufacture of lead-acid batteries for motor vehicles. This metal is used in many products, including pigments, paints, solder, stained glass, crystal tableware, ammunition, ceramic glazes, jewellery, toys, as well as certain cosmetics and traditional remedies.

In Senegal, a press statement was issued to alert the authorities and the public about the health impacts of lead, and an awareness-raising day was organized for primary school students.



Image 1: Meeting with authorities. **Image 2:** Students participating in the awareness-raising activity

2.2 Dental Amalgams

2.2.1 Awareness-Raising among Students on Oral Hygiene to Prevent Dental Amalgams

An awareness-raising session was organized to educate students at ALAL Ya Djira School on oral hygiene and raise their awareness of the issue. The session took place on 20 December 2024 and was attended by more than fifty students.



Image: Overview of some photographs from the session

2.2.2 Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Statement on the End of the FAO–CropLife Partnership

After three years of the “Stop the Toxic FAO/CropLife Alliance” campaign, the PAN network received written confirmation on 15 May 2024 from FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol that the agreement between FAO and CropLife International, signed on 2 October 2020, had come to an end.

PAN was informed that FAO had concluded its letter of intent with CropLife on 3 October 2023, following a review of all letters of intent concluded prior to the development of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2021–2025) and its related new due diligence framework.

Indeed, more than 430 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations from nearly 70 countries, nearly 200,000 people from more than 107 countries, 250 scientists and academics, nearly 50 philanthropic groups, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food called on FAO to cancel its agreement with CropLife in order to end the #ToxicAlliance.



Image: Banner produced as part of the campaign

3. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

3.1 At the National Level

Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Amendments Relating to Plastic Waste under the Basel Convention

The National Focal Points/Competent Authorities of the Basel Convention in the African region, customs administration authorities from the countries concerned, and civil society, including the NGO PAN Africa, met at Hôtel Residence Le Ndiambour in Dakar, Senegal, from 9 to 11 July 2024.

This meeting was held as part of a regional workshop on the implementation of amendments relating to plastic waste under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, as well as the joint regional pre-operational workshop of the Basel Convention/World Customs Organization for Operation DEMETER X.

The main objective of this three-day workshop was to strengthen the capacities of focal points, competent authorities of the Basel Convention, and customs authorities to intensify national

efforts to effectively control the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes, including plastic waste, and to prevent and combat illicit trafficking.

Workshop on the Validation of Legal Instruments on POPs and Used Oils

PAN Africa participated in the workshop to validate draft legal instruments, including a draft decree on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and a draft interministerial order on used oils. The workshop took place from 2 to 3 May 2024 in the conference room of the former DEEC.

The NGO was also represented at the workshop to validate the guides on used oils and plastics, which took place from 30 to 31 May 2024 in the conference room of DIREC, formerly DEEC.



Image: Overview of workshop participants

Workshop to Validate the Business Plan for Solid Waste Recovery Sub-Projects

The workshop to validate the business plans for two solid waste recovery sub-projects and to propose their management arrangements was organized by PGSENP on Tuesday, 17 December 2024, in the DIREC meeting room.

The workshop was attended by decentralized government technical services, members of the Network of Local Stakeholders for Health and the Environment (RALSEN), health professionals, and civil society, including PAN Africa.



Image: Overview of workshop participants

Training Workshop on International Conventions

As part of the implementation of the activities of the Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project in Africa (PGSENP), a training workshop on international conventions

Minamata, Stockholm, Basel, and Rotterdam and the impacts of chemicals and hazardous waste on human health and the environment was organized from 6 to 7 August 2024 at DIREC, formerly DEEC.

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of the technical committee on the management of chemicals and hazardous waste. All four conventions and the impacts of hazardous chemicals were reviewed by experts. The workshop, which brought together more than 30 participants, provided a highly productive forum for exchanges between presenters and participants.



Image: Overview of workshop participants

Workshop to Validate the RALSEN Action Plan

As part of the activities of the Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project in Africa (PGSENPA), workshops to validate the action plans of the Network of Local Stakeholders for Environmental Health (RALSEN) in Dalifort-Foirail and Hann/Bel-Air were organized on 27 November and 4 December 2024, respectively.

Following a review of the plans, they were validated by the participants.



Image: Overview of workshop participants



Workshop to Present and Review the Project Document: Sustainable Solution to Plastic Pollution in Senegal

From 23 to 25 January, a workshop to present and review the project document: “Sustainable Solution to Plastics Pollution in Senegal” was held in Saly (Mbour) at Rhino Hotel. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Environment. It was attended by a UNDP representative, relevant ministries, government agencies (SONAGED, etc.), civil society organizations including PAN Africa, and environmental law experts. The objective of the workshop was to allow the various participants to make amendments and proposals regarding the submitted draft. Consequently, all amendments and proposals resulting from the working groups were incorporated into the final document, which will be prepared by the international and national consultants of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



Image: Overview of workshop participants

Workshop to Validate the National Assessment Report on Dental Amalgams

As part of the project “Accelerating the Implementation of Provisions on Dental Amalgams and Strengthening Countries’ Capacities for the Environmentally Sound Management of Associated Waste,” led by the Ministry of Health and Social Action, a workshop was organized from 3 to 4 October 2024 in Thiès at the Nice Time Residence.

The main objective of the workshop was to validate the national assessment report.

At the end of the workshop, the national assessment report on dental amalgams was validated, subject to the incorporation of all comments and suggestions made during the workshop. The report will therefore be shared with all participants for a final review before being submitted for final evaluation.



Image: Overview of workshop participants

3.2 At the Regional and International Levels

COP16 on Biodiversity

The sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16) took place in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024. Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa participated in this global biodiversity event.

During COP16, several environmental sub-themes were addressed, with the aim of safeguarding biodiversity. Among these topics were the management of marine and terrestrial resources, agroecology, reforestation, soil management, the protection of marine protected areas, security and resilience, investments in biodiversity, etc. All these issues were discussed during parallel events by organizations concerned with and committed to protecting biodiversity, without forgetting the negotiations on the texts in contact groups for the future of biodiversity and their adoption in plenary sessions for sustainable action on biodiversity. PAN attended several activities.



Image: View of participants at COP16 on Biodiversity

Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) on Plastic Pollution

From 19 to 13 April 2024, the Shaw Centre had the honor of hosting the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) on plastic pollution.

This crucial event, organized by the Government of Canada in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), brought together approximately 3,200 delegates from 180 countries. These delegates represented 20 agencies, 15 intergovernmental organizations, 170 journalists, and 700 organizations from around the world, including Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa. The objective of INC-4 was clear: to negotiate a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution by the end of 2024.

Significant progress was made towards finalizing a global treaty on plastic pollution. Delegates focused on reducing primary plastic production by 40% by 2040, based on a proposal from Rwanda and Peru.

The conference included high-level events, such as Partnership Day and Ministerial Day, which promoted collaboration among ministers, Indigenous peoples, youth, civil society, government representatives, and the private sector. Key discussions focused on eliminating single-use plastics, financial responsibilities for pollution cleanup, and adopting a life-cycle approach to plastic management.



Image: View of participants at INC-4

Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) was held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya.

PAN Africa, as an NGO accredited by UNEP, took part in this important meeting and contributed to the drafting of certain resolutions. PAN Africa attended the negotiations, provided technical comments, and shared information with the drafters in order to advocate for strong environmental principles.

Regional Meeting of PAN International in Africa

PAN Africa hosted the PAN International meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, at the Maanzoni Lodge Hotel from 25 to 27 March 2024. The objective of this meeting was to revitalize the PAN network in Africa and strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region, as well as their commitment to the strategy of eliminating pesticides and replacing them with healthy and sustainable agroecological practices.



Image: View of participants at the PAN strategic meeting in Africa

Global Strategic Meeting of Pesticide Action Network (PAN International)

From 21 to 23 May 2024, the global strategic meeting of PAN International was held at the Cititel Hotel in Penang, Malaysia. Around thirty participants from all PAN regional centers around the world took part in this meeting. The objectives were to:

- * Define PAN's vision for growth as a global network, including governance, accountability, and leadership;
- * Develop relationships to improve the cohesion of the network;
- * Define the strategy for the next 3 to 5 years on HHPs (export bans and double standards), as well as on climate and agroecology issues;
- * Strengthen the presence of PAN International in international forums;
- * Establish a fundraising team with the commitment of all regions.

After two (2) days of exchanges and discussions, external and internal objectives were identified to improve PAN's interventions at both national and international levels.



Images: View of participants at the PAN International strategic meeting

Information and Awareness-Raising Workshop for Policymakers on States' Commitments under the Regional Harmonization of Rules Governing the Registration and Management of Pesticides in the Sahel and West Africa

The information and awareness-raising workshop for policymakers on the commitments made by States under the regional harmonization of rules governing the registration and management of pesticides in the Sahel and West Africa was held in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 11 to 13 June 2024.

The workshop aimed to contribute to the effective establishment and proper functioning of the West African Pesticides Registration Committee (WAPRC) and the National Pesticides Management Committees (NPMCs), by informing and raising awareness among regional and national policymakers about the implications of implementing the regional regulatory framework for pesticide registration and management.

Participants came from ECOWAS, CILSS, and WAEMU member states, as well as COAHP partners, including civil society organizations such as Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa.



Regional Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs: Towards the 2025 and 2028 Targets

This workshop was attended by a representative of the Ministry of Environment, the President of the Regional Centre for the Basel and Stockholm Conventions himself, representatives of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, experts from various countries, observers, the World Bank, participants from more than 20 African countries, online participants, and the NGO PAN Africa.

The general objective of this workshop was to examine, in a synergistic manner, the environmentally sound management of PCBs towards the 2025 and 2028 targets. To achieve this objective, several issues were reviewed, and each country's representative presented, in the form of a presentation, the current status of PCB management in their country.



Image: View of participants at the workshop

4. Webinars

PAN Africa participated in a series of webinars during 2024. These included:

- * Developing a GFC Implementation Programme on Strengthening the Engagement and Action of the Economic and Industrial Sector along Value Chains, IOMC, 10 December 2024
- * Capacity Building for OPs, IPEN, 9 December 2024
- * Towards an International Regulatory Framework for Pesticides, online conference, the International Pesticide Standard Alliance, European Greens, 12 December 2024
- * Amendment for Children and Capacity Building through MEA Centers, Global Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, 17 December 2024
- * Dentist Committee for a Mercury-Free Africa, Global Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, 19 December 2024
- * Introduction to Geographic Information Systems to Strengthen Civil Society Work, 19 December 2024
- * Negotiations on the New Plastics Treaty, IPEN, 26 September 2024
- * Development of a GFC Implementation Programme: Gathering Stakeholder Feedback on IOMC Initiatives, Suggestions for National Systems, Industry Engagement and Links to Sustainable Development, IOMC, 30 September 2024
- * Issues of Concern Related to Chemicals and Waste: Priorities for Future International Action, UNEP, GEN, 9 October 2024
- * Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on Measurability and Indicators, 13 November 2024
- * Global Mercury Partnership (Waste Management Area), 14 November 2024

5. GGF: GRANTS FOR NGOs IN THE AFRICA REGION

PAN Africa, in its capacity as an advisor for GGF grants, is responsible for selecting proposals in Africa and submitting them for approval. Thus, in 2024, three (3) organizations were selected in Africa to benefit from GGF funds.

For the continuation of its activities in 2025, PAN Africa plans to work on the development of new projects with partners such as:

- * In collaboration with GEF/Small Grants, expand the project on establishing agroecological demonstration plots in communities in central-western and south-western Senegal;
- * Within the framework of the PGSENPA project, position itself for the additional activities and pilot projects planned by the World Bank in Senegal;
- * Strengthen collaboration with CILSS and the Sahelian Pesticides Committee to develop activities on HHPs at the regional level;
- * Work in collaboration with the Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention and seek to collect data on poisoning caused by highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) in Senegal;
- * Position itself within the Global Framework on Chemicals and Waste (GFC) and, through the operationalization of the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, develop projects aimed at eliminating hazardous pesticides and replacing them with healthy and sustainable agricultural practices, which is also one of the targets of the GFC.