

Webinar on PCB elimination experiences

28 August 2024



# Towards the 2025 and 2028 targets on PCB elimination under the Stockholm Convention

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Agustín Harte

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

# Stockholm Convention provisions



## ARTICLE 3

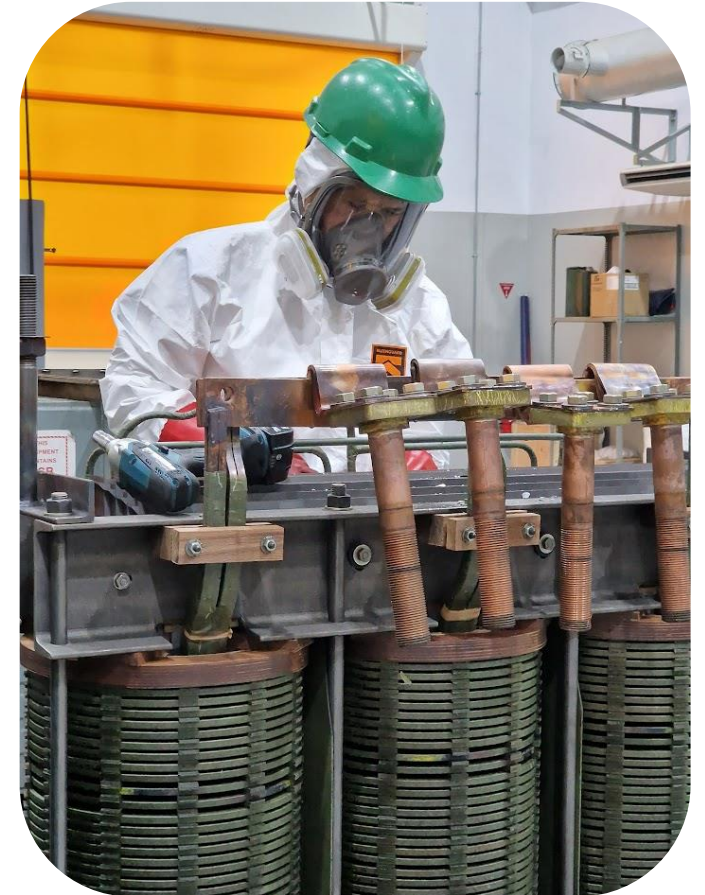
Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

## ARTICLE 5

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

## ARTICLE 6

Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes



# Stockholm Convention provisions



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## Annex A, Part II:

- By 2025: identify, label and remove from use PCB-containing equipment (transformers, capacitors, etc.)
- By 2028: environmentally sound management of PCB waste, including PCB-containing liquids and contaminated electric equipment.
- Identify and manage other articles containing more than 0,005% (50ppm) such as cable-sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects (open applications).



# Stockholm Convention provisions



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## Annex A, Part II:

- equipment containing greater than 10 per cent (100.000 ppm ) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- equipment containing greater than 0.05 per cent (500ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 5 litres;
- equipment containing greater than 0.005 percent (50ppm) PCB and volumes greater than 0.05 litres;

Promote the following measures to reduce exposures and risk to control the use of polychlorinated biphenyls:

- (i) Use only in **intact and non-leaking equipment** and only in areas where the risk from environmental release can be minimised and quickly remedied;
- (ii) Not use in equipment in areas associated with the **production or processing of food or feed**;
- (iii) When used in populated areas, including **schools and hospitals**, all reasonable measures to protect from electrical failure which could result in a fire, and regular inspection of equipment for leaks;



# Stockholm Convention provisions



**ARTICLE 12** - Technical assistance

**ARTICLE 13** - Financial resources and mechanisms

**ARTICLE 7** - Implementation plans

**ARTICLE 15** - Reporting

**ARTICLE 16** - Effectiveness evaluation

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# Mandate of the Conference of the Parties



## Decisión SC-11/3. Urges Parties to:

Implement measures to **meet their obligations** under the Stockholm Convention, in particular to PCB in equipment and on their environmentally sound waste management, respectively;

To endeavour to identify articles containing more than 0.005 per cent PCB in **open applications**, such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects, and manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6;

To develop, update and maintain **national PCB inventories** following the guidance for the development of PCB inventories and analysis of PCB;

To report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures they have taken to implement part II of Annex A to the Convention, including quantitative information on PCB, in their **national reports** pursuant to Article 15

## *Encourages Parties to:*

enhance synergies at the national level, with the focal points and competent authorities of the **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to ensure consistency in the information transmitted in national reports, as appropriate, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of PCB waste in line with the Basel Convention technical guidelines.

To continue promoting and facilitating the provision of **public information** and developing and implementing educational and public awareness programmes on persistent organic pollutants, including PCB.

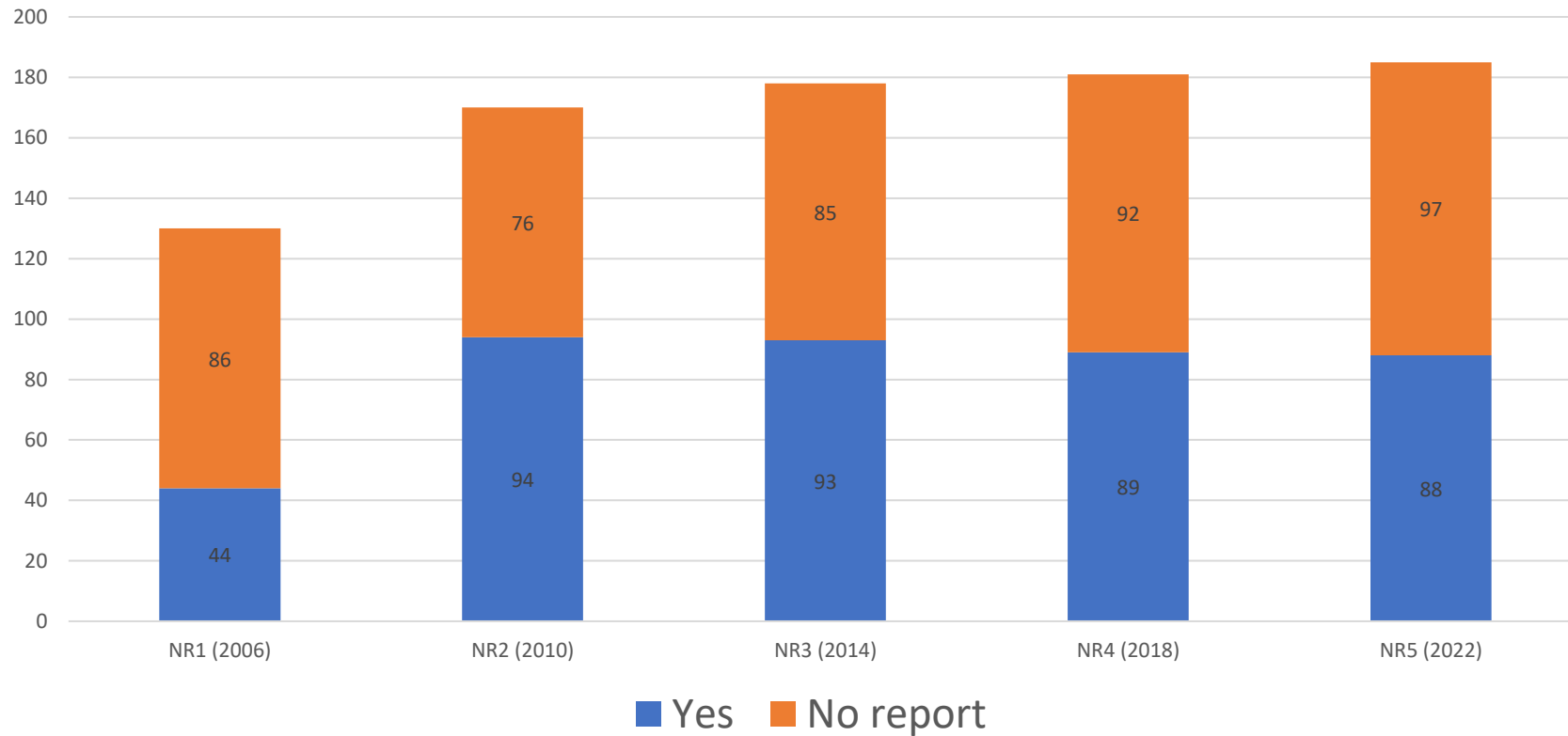
# National Reports

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11.Rev1



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## National reports by cycle

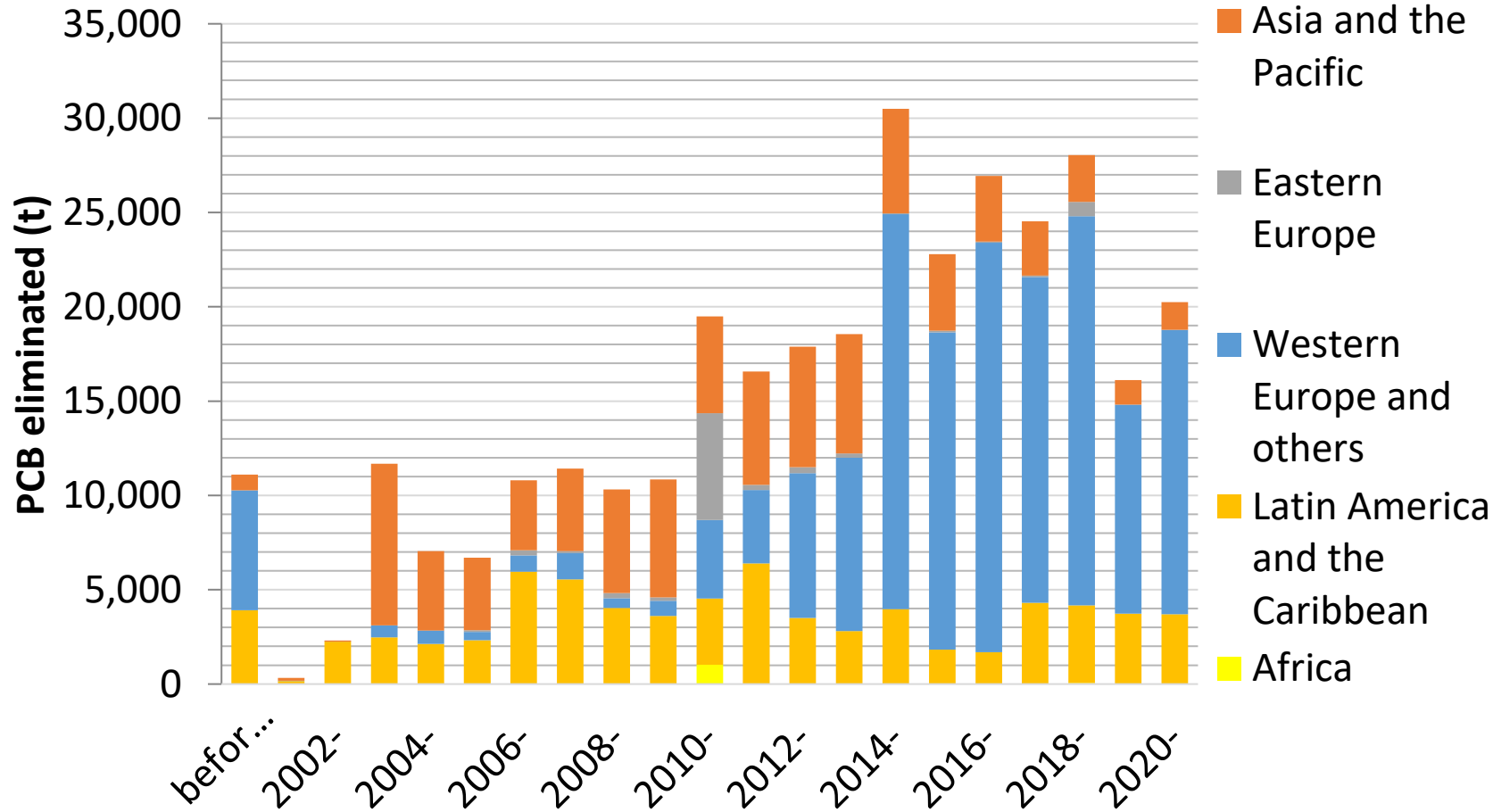


# Progress on PCB elimination: local elimination

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11



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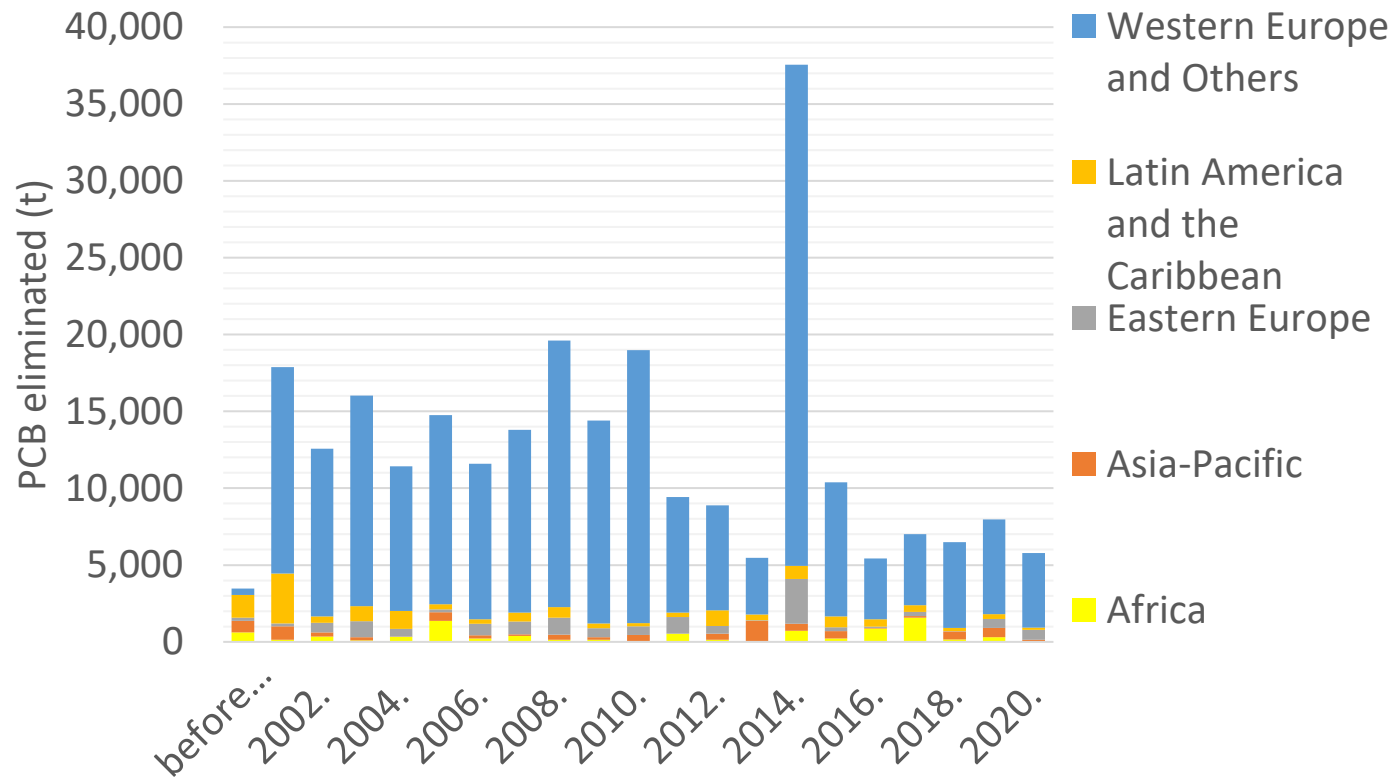
Region	NR3 (t)	NR4 (t)	NR5 (t)	Cumulative total (t)
Africa	1,033	1,080	1,033	1,088
Asia-Pacific	7,160	8,560	83,411	83,463
Eastern Europe	7,245	7,647	874	8,614
GRULAC	21,008	47,207	74,379	74,379
WEOG	11,946	78,511	149,394	165,760
Grand total	48,392	143,005	309,160	333,304

**Only 41 countries have reported local capacities for PCB disposal.**



# Progress on PCB elimination: PCB waste exported for disposal

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11



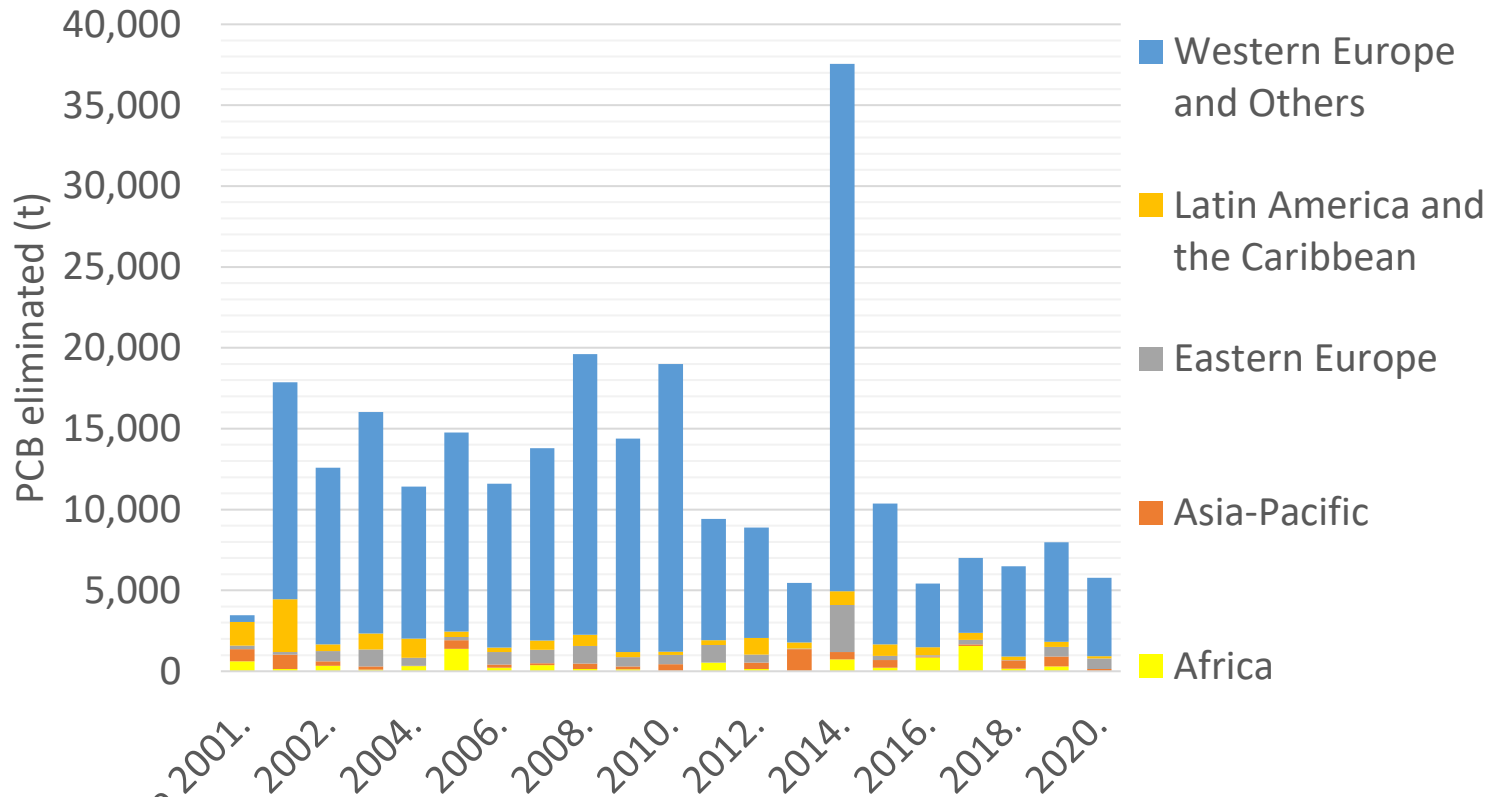
Region	SC and BC cumulative total (t)
Africa	8,305
Asia-Pacific	9,140
Eastern Europe	12,969
GRULAC	14,572
WEOG	214,950
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>259,902</b>

# Progress on PCB elimination: PCB waste exported for disposal

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11



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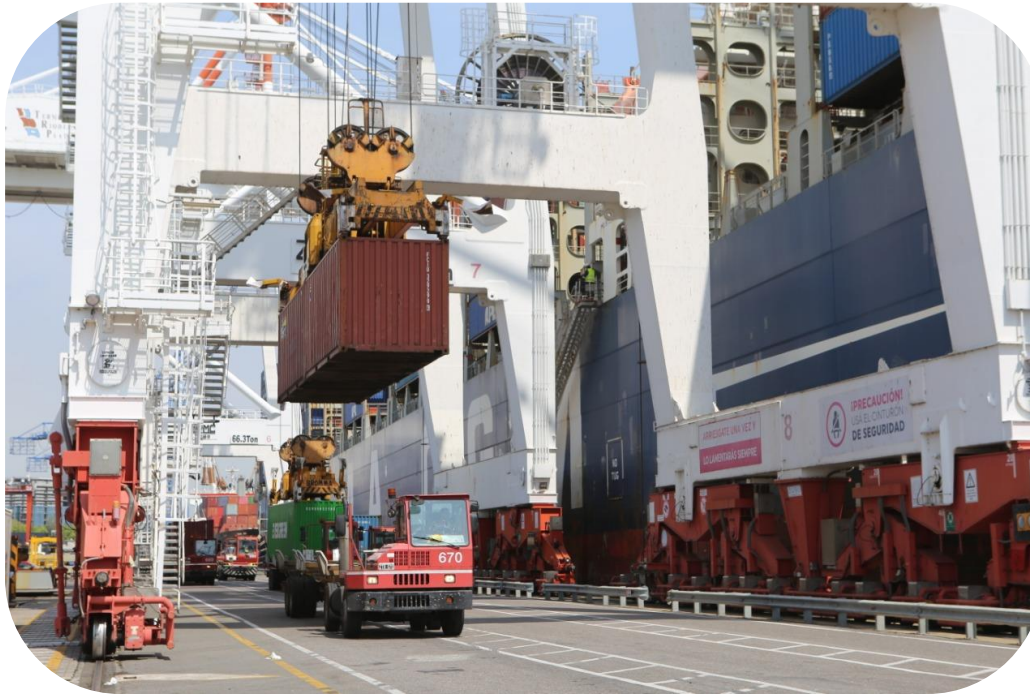


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Africa	8,305
Asia-Pacific	9,140
Eastern Europe	12,969
GRULAC	14,572
WEOG	214,950
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>259,902</b>

# Progress on PCB elimination

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11

- Exported PCB waste



Asia and the Pacific: 6,047

Africa: 7,321

Eastern Europe: 11,456

GRULAC: 12,327

WEOG: 206,257

Germany: 86,672  
France: 35,620  
Belgium: 36,591  
Finland: 22,511  
Netherlands: 20,632  
Spain: 14,226  
Austria: 8,694  
Norway: 5,493  
Sweden: 4,517  
Denmark: 4,447  
Italy: 979  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 938  
Switzerland: 877  
Romania: 598  
Poland: 326  
other\*: 287

# The financial Mechanism



111 Projects, 120+ Parties supported:

- Enabling activities
- NIP developments / NIP updates (PCB inventories and action plans)
- PCB projects (regulatory frameworks, inventories, capacity building, technologies, disposal)
- POPs and hazardous chemicals projects



# Global Monitoring Plan

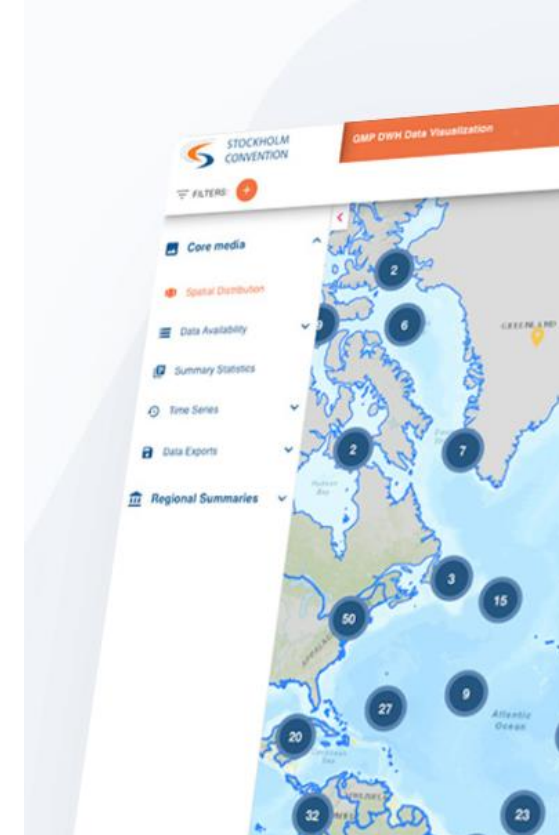
UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/38: Third Global Monitoring Report



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## Key messages from monitoring results:

- There are sufficient data to determine trends for many of the listed POPs but not all. In general, concentrations are declining and are starting to level off where regulatory action was taken decades ago.
- Certain chemicals showed mostly declining or no change in trends, while others showed increasing trends followed by decreasing trends, or consistent decreasing trends depending on the location. Analysis linking to localized actions could assist in understanding such variability. There are insufficient data to detect trends for many of the newly listed POPs.
- data and samples should be maintained in a coordinated and sustainable way, such as through environmental specimen banks, and that monitoring programmes operate efficiently and collaboratively to address challenges.



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# Global Monitoring Plan

UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/38: Third Global Monitoring Report



**Air:** Most of the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) data sets in core media showed decreasing trend, while increasing trend was observed in some areas.

**Human tissues:** The levels of PCB and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF) in human milk have fallen steadily from their earlier high levels. Some of the newly listed POPs showed an increase over time followed by a decrease, including for hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), PBDEs, PFOS and PFOA.

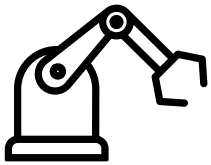
**Other media:** The changes over time, where available, indicate that for the POPs listed before 2009 (e.g., DDT, hexachlorobenzene, PCB, PCDD/PCDF), significant decreases have been observed over the past three decades. Levels of some of those initial POPs may still be at levels of concern in some species and regions (e.g., PCB in polar bears and whales).

# Ensuring PCB disposal

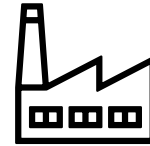


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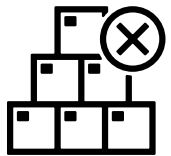
## Challenges on PCB ESM



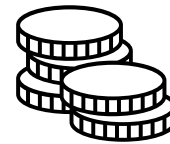
Need for enhanced capacities at all levels



Lack of access to cost-effective disposal solutions



Incomplete PCB inventories



Sustainable funding

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# Capacity building and technical assistance



**“Global clean-up in view of meeting the 2025 and 2028 goals regarding PCB under the Stockholm Convention”**

**EU Commission – 2M USD**

## **Project objective:**

The Project’s objective is to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by strengthening national capacities for environmentally sound management of PCB at the global scale in line with the 2025 and 2028 goals for the elimination of PCB under the Stockholm Convention.



# Capacity building and technical assistance



## Expected outcomes:

- Enhanced capacities of all regions for PCB ESM (regional workshops, national support)
- Updated guidance (inventories, elimination strategy)
- Global assessment on capacities (report to COP 2025) + PCB database
- Support to Parties (pilot projects)
- Enhanced sustainable funding (options for scaling up investment on PCB elimination)



# Small Intersessional Working Group on PCB



## Activities:

- Updated guidance on PCB inventories
- Updated strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 targets on PCB under the Stockholm Convention
- Revised other relevant guidance documents
- Support to the PCB project
- Recommendations to the SC COP in 2025 including adaptation to the reporting format.
- Report on progress on PCB elimination to be developed by 2027

Argentina  
Armenia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Colombia  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Iran  
Japan  
Republic of Moldova  
Sweden  
United Kingdom  
Zimbabwe

UNEP  
UNITAR  
BCRC-Argentina  
Center for Chemical safety (ECOMIR)  
Hazardous Waste Europe

**9<sup>th</sup> meeting from 15 to 17 October, Geneva**

# ¡Muchas gracias!



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**environment  
programme**

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