

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) MANAGEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is a party to the Stockholm Convention, which means it can no longer produce or use polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are part of the identified carbon-based persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

According to the Stockholm Convention, these POPs are toxic to humans, wildlife and the environment and should be eliminated worldwide by 2025. It is also known that POPs

1. Remain intact for exceptionally long periods of time (many years);
2. Become widely distributed throughout the environment as a result of natural processes involving soil, water and, most notably, air; and
3. Accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms including humans, and are found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain;



UNDP's Approach

Through its PCB management project (2018-2022) UNDP focuses on helping Ethiopia to meet the Stockholm Convention deadline by helping the country to develop a sound regulatory framework with emphasis on enforcement.

UNDP's support for Ethiopia in this area is couched within the wider engagement in the country to strengthen the country's management of national resources in a sustainable manner.

Highlight of Project Activities

- Legal frameworks, administrative processes and technical preparedness will be strengthened to ensure sound management of PCBs in Ethiopia;
- National capacity for PCB management throughout the lifecycle will be strengthened to ensure strong management even after the end of the project support;
- Environmental Sound Management of PCBs liquids and equipment will be put in place for those in use or out of service;
- Monitoring and evaluation will of PCB management will be strengthened and best practices replicated

Progress by the end of the project period

- The capacity of national stakeholders to manage PCBs as well as to achieve PCBs elimination, as identified as a priority in Ethiopia's NIP will be strengthened as the first phase on the way to achieve environmental sound management of PCBs by 2025
- 150 tons of PCB oil transformer carcasses, capacitors, and contaminated soils will be properly disposed of in such a way that the PCB content in these equipment or waste will be irreversibly destroyed
- Public-private partnership will be established for the management of the PCB-contaminated equipment and waste; and financial incentive introduced for the PCB owners for the sampling, analysis, and treatment of their PCB-contaminated equipment
- The contamination of the environment by these substances will be prevented resulting in socio-economic benefits from reduced mortality and morbidity of the population in the long-term, with specific reference to the pathologies associated with exposure to PCBs
- Creation of skills and capabilities at national and sub-national level for the management of hazardous substances and waste in general. This will also lead to the creation of specialized jobs in the country
- Significant knowledge will be built in the country and communicated both nationally and to other countries and regions

Partnership

The project brings together UNDP and the GEF to partner with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) and engage with the relevant entities, including:

- Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP)
- Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU)
- Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC)

Funding partners

- GEF - USD 1,990,000
- UNDP - USD 150,000

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