

United Nations Body Burden Forum

A special media event

24 February 2010, 2.15 - 3 pm

The simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences
of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
Bali International Convention Centre Auditorium

Background

Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes

Background note

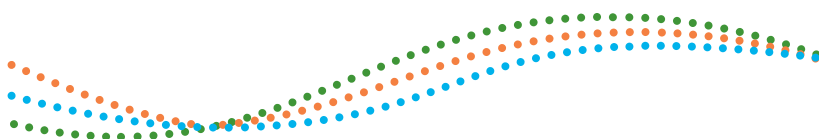
The challenge of eliminating harmful substances and hazardous wastes from the planet is enormous. There are over 80,000 chemicals used in industry and commerce and there are several thousand high production volume chemicals. This means many chemicals have the potential to enter people's bodies.

Together the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions cover key elements of "cradle-to-grave" management of hazardous chemicals and wastes, most comprehensively in the case of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which are covered by all three treaties.

Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes has invited high-profile individuals and international experts to engage in a dialogue on how human bio-monitoring information can support the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development 2020 target to achieve sound management of chemicals and wastes.

In the course of the Safe Planet Campaign, selected public figures are volunteering to have their bodies tested and pledge to make their personal chemical "body burdens" public, to raise global awareness of the need for action on the threats posed by hazardous chemicals and wastes.

The Campaign will also highlight the concrete measures and solutions to this growing problem that are available through initiatives undertaken by the three leading global chemicals and waste management instruments – the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.



Background

Safe Planet Global Campaign

The simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will be held from 22 to 24 February 2010, in conjunction with 11th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in Bali, Indonesia, on 24-26 February 2010.

On the occasion of the simultaneous extraordinary meetings, UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are launching *Safe Planet: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes*. This unique and ambitious campaign for ensuring the safety of the environment and human health from hazardous chemicals and wastes will be launched at a special media event – **The United Nations Body Burden Forum** – in Bali, Indonesia on 24 February 2010, at 2:15 p.m.

The Forum will introduce a test case bio-monitoring project for awareness-raising which is being conducted by the Safe Planet Campaign. Human bio-monitoring is a method of assessing the toxic chemical burden increasingly borne by the life of our planet.

Safe Planet Partnerships and Support

Advisor, artistic

Mark Cervenka M.F.A., Director, O’Kane Gallery/Associate Professor of Art at University of Houston-Downtown (Houston, Texas, USA)

Advisor, communication

Ed Begley Jr., actor and activist (Los Angeles, California, USA)
Henri Monceau (Brussels, Belgium)

Advisor, legal affairs

Amelie Malika Taoufiq, Attorney-at-law and Legal affairs officer (Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP, Geneva)

Advisors, media relations and production

Howard Baral (R.C. Baral & Company, Encino, California USA)
Derik Murray (Network Entertainment Inc., Vancouver BC, Canada)

Advisors, scientific and technical

Miroslav Bobek, Mgr, Director (The Prague Zoological Garden, Prague)
Heideldore Fiedler, Dr. Dr. h.c., Senior scientific officer (UNEP/DTIE/Chemicals Branch, Geneva, Switzerland)
Katarina Magulova (Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP, Geneva)
Fatoumata Ouane, PhD (Stockholm Convention Secretariat, UNEP, Geneva)
Ibrahim Shafii, MSEH (Basel Convention Secretariat, UNEP, Geneva)

Advisors, social media

TERRE Policy Centre (Pune, India)
Vinitaa Apte, producer
Vikrant Argade, technical support
Bhushan Jashi, technical support

Public information and outreach

Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (UNEP, Geneva, Switzerland)
Jana Hajduchova, NGO liaison (Collonges, France)

Contact

For further information concerning the Safe Planet Campaign, please contact

Mr. Michael Stanley-Jones
Public Information Officer
Joint Services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
International Environment House
11-13 chemin des Anémones, Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 22 917 8668
E-mail: excops@pic.int and SafePlanet@unep.org