

# ENHANCING SYNERGIES AMONG THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS



Basel Convention

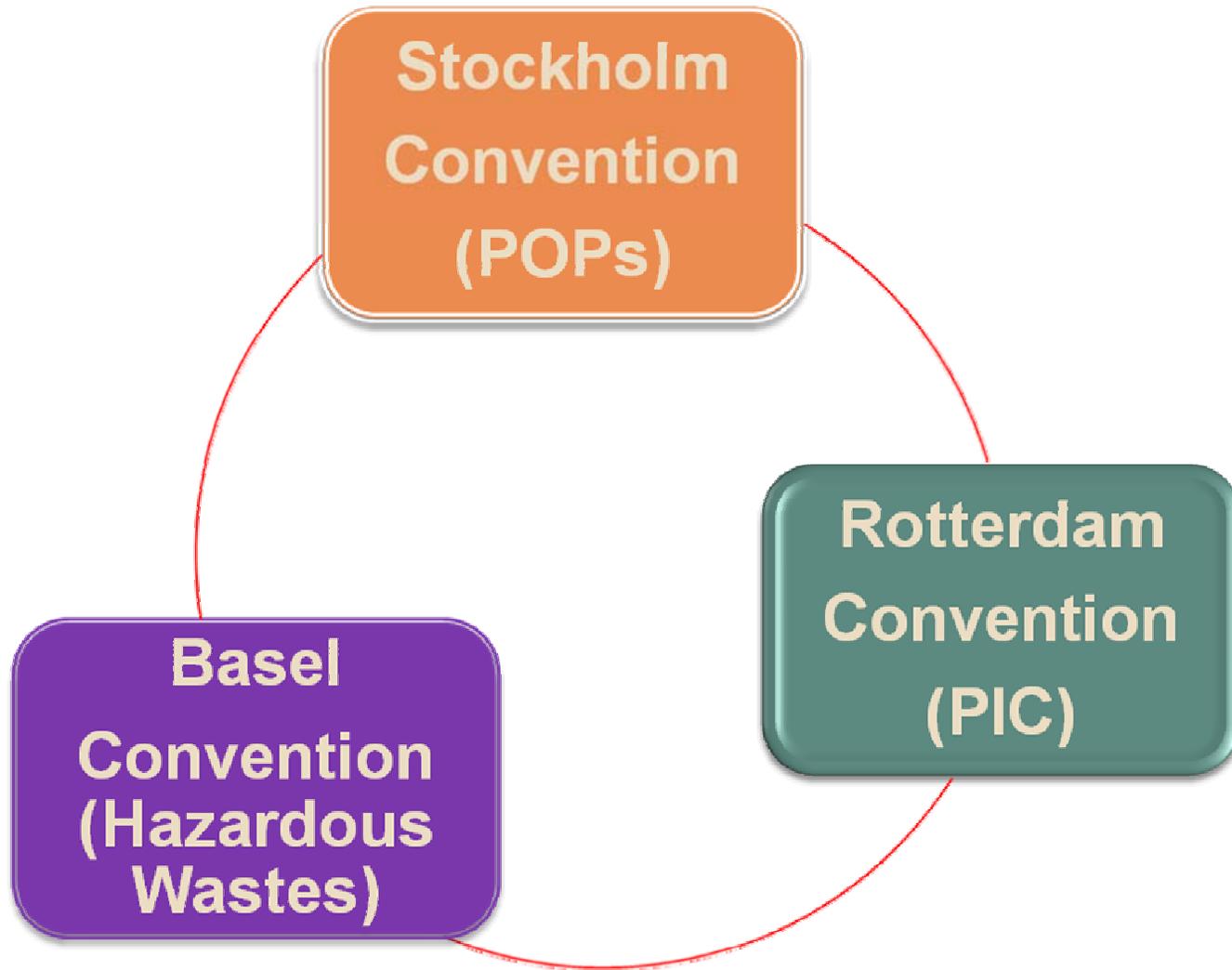


Rotterdam Convention



Stockholm Convention

# Global chemicals & waste conventions: A lifecycle approach



# The beginning of current process

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- The Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (AHJWG) was established in 2006 by decisions taken by the COPs of each.
- AHJWG
  - ▣ was composed of 15 representatives of Parties to each of the three conventions
  - ▣ had three co-chairs (from Chile, China and Finland)
  - ▣ met three times (Helsinki, March 2007; Vienna, December 2007; Rome, March 2008).

# AHJWG outcomes

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- The AHJWG agreed on a set of recommendations to promote synergies at the national, regional and global levels.
- Based on the recommendations, the AHJWG prepared almost identical draft decisions for the COPs of each of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to consider.

# COPs agree to Synergies decisions

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- The Conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention (decision IX/10, June 2008), Rotterdam Convention (decision RC-4/11, October 2008) and Stockholm Convention (decision SC-4/34, May 2009) adopted the draft decisions prepared by the AHJWG without any substantive amendments.
- These decisions, among other things, set in motion the establishment of joint services among the Conventions and the process for the first meetings of the extraordinary COPs of the 3 Conventions to be held simultaneously and in coordination with the UNEP GC/SS and GMEF in February 2010.

# Management of the interim arrangements

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- On 15 June 2009 a Synergies Oversight Team (SOT) was established by the UNEP Executive Director and FAO Director General to support them in the implementation of the synergies decisions and in preparing for the ExCOPs. The SOT is composed of the Executive Secretaries of the Conventions and a representative of the UNEP ED and of the FAO DG .
- To support the day-to-day preparations for the ExCOPs a coordinators group was set up that is composed of coordinators from the three secretariats and a UNEP representative.

# Preparations for the ExCOPs

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- The ExCOPs will take place in Bali, Indonesia, from 22-24 February 2010.
- Advisory committee was established to provide advise to the UNEP ED and FAO DG on the preparations for the ExCOPs. It is composed of 5 bureau members from each of the COPs of the three conventions.
- The committee first met on 20 July 2009 in Geneva and 24 October in Bangkok (these reports are available).
- The invitation and agenda for the ExCOPs were distributed in early November.
- Pre-session documents will be available by early January 2010.

# Organization of the ExCOPs

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- Initial simultaneous sessions of the ExCOPs to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Monday morning)
- Open ended joint working group among the three ExCOPs (OEJWG) to prepare draft decisions on the substantive issues (Monday and Tuesday)
- Final simultaneous sessions of the three ExCOPs to adopt decisions forwarded to them by the OEJWG (Wednesday – time to be determined)
- Simultaneous closing of the 3 ExCOPs

# Agenda for the ExCOPs

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- Final decisions on joint services (secretariat report)
- Decisions on joint activities (secretariat report)
- Decisions on joint management (independent study)
- Decisions on synchronizing budget cycles and joint audits (secretariat reports)
- Decisions on review mechanisms and follow up (secretariat report)
- Reports on information received ED of UNEP and the secretariats on activities or proposals for joint institutions.

# Joint services

- On 15 June 2009 joint services for the three secretariats were established on an interim basis for administration, conference services, public information, legal services and information technology. Implementation plans have been developed or are being finalized for each service.
- A joint service for resource mobilization was subsequently established on an interim basis . The Executive Director of UNEP has provided 50% of a resource mobilization officer to assist service for the next year and the UNEP Resource Mobilization Office has agreed to increase its assistance provided to the Secretariats.
- The ExCOPs will need to decide on the long-term establishment of the joint services.

# Joint activities

- Cooperation between the three conventions has taken place over the years but the synergies process led to more deliberate efforts to “think synergies first” before starting any new project or program.
- Past and ongoing cooperation includes participation in the green customs program, chemicals and waste management enforcement in South East Asia and representation at WTO meeting.
- Several new activities are underway or planned which involve all three conventions including workshops on implementation of synergies at the national and regional levels, development of a joint clearing house mechanism, ...

# Joint activities (continued)

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- ... joint planning of technical assistance activities, training for technical subsidiary bodies members, support to the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Programme, joint activities with the Basel and Stockholm regional centres (cooperation with FAO and UNEP regional offices is also planned).
- In the future, a joint global public awareness campaign is to be launched on the lifecycle management of chemicals and waste on how the conventions help countries to ensure that chemicals are used safely. Cooperation is also planned on lifecycle management of industrial chemicals, national reporting and training on developing legislation.

# Joint retreat

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- A joint retreat of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was held 8-9 September 2009.
- The purpose was to:
  - ▣ Promote teambuilding across the three secretariats
  - ▣ Discuss implementation issues of the joint services
  - ▣ Identify opportunities for joint activities.
- There was a strong commitment to the synergies process expressed by all at the retreat and the broad realization that a good foundation was being built for enhancing cooperation in the future.

# Joint management

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- Coordination between the Executive Secretaries is done through regular meetings.
- The UNEP Executive Director and FAO Director General have commissioned a study to assess various options for the joint management of the secretariats of the three conventions.
- The ExCOPs will need to decide on the arrangements for joint management.

# Joint audits/budget synchronization

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- Budget decisions taken at the previous meetings of the COPs of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions provide for the synchronization of the budgets of Basel and Rotterdam Conventions with the budget cycles of UNEP and FAO. The Stockholm Convention was already on the same cycle as those.
- Joint audits of the secretariats of the three conventions will be undertaken on a regular basis in accordance with the procedures of UNEP and FAO.
- Internal and external audits will be part of the procedure.
- The ExCOPs may take note of the reports on the budget cycles and audit procedures and provide any further guidance on these issues.

# Review mechanism/follow up

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- According to the synergies decisions, the ExCOPs are to establish a mechanism and timetable for reviewing the arrangements for joint services, joint activities, joint management, etc., that it adopts.
- The recommendation for this review will center on the use of the independent evaluation units of both FAO and UNEP with a first report in 2013.
- The ExCOPs may also agree on a process for follow up work on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions.

# Reports on information received ED of UNEP and the secretariats

- The UNEP ED will prepare a report on synergies at the national level.

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