

PCB Management in the Islamic Republic of Iran

March 2016



Agency	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	
Project Title	PCB Management in the Islamic Republic of Iran	
Project Objective	To remove technical and economic barriers presently hindering the environmentally safe management of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) as required by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).	
Thematic area	Environment	
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary of the National Authority for Chemical Conventions • Relevant ministries and organizations • Private industries 	
Project Budget		US\$ 6,700,000
Funding required		US\$ 4,000,000
Estimated Project Duration	Five years	
Relevance to SDGs	5, 15	

Project Description

Toxic chemicals are found in all ecosystems on earth. They affect biodiversity, agricultural production and water resources.

Many chemicals, such as POPs and mercury, have the ability to travel over large distances through air, migratory species or water currents. They have been found in high concentration areas, such as the Arctic, where these chemicals are not used. PCBs, which are classified as POPs, were widely used as dielectric and coolant fluids in electrical apparatus, cutting fluids for machinery operations, carbonless copy paper and in heat transfer fluids. PCBs cause cancer in animals and are probable human carcinogens.

As a party to the Stockholm Convention on POPs, Iran has mobilized resources to manage and dispose PCBs. A preliminary inventory performed in the course of Iran's National Implementation Plan preparation, based on a questionnaire survey and an investigation using PCB detection kits performed at selected sites, revealed that the amount of

equipment containing over 2 ppm contamination amounts to 11,000 tons



PCBs as dielectric and coolant fluids in electrical apparatus.

Within the power sector, there are currently at least 20 PCBs storage sites all over the country where leakage has been managed, and of which only 4 have been decontaminated. In addition, there are myriad contaminated and storage sites outside of the power sector that need to be identified and managed. Currently, facilities for the disposal of equipment that have been highly contaminated by PCBs are not available. Moreover, there is a lack of technical and analytical capacities to test the level of contamination.



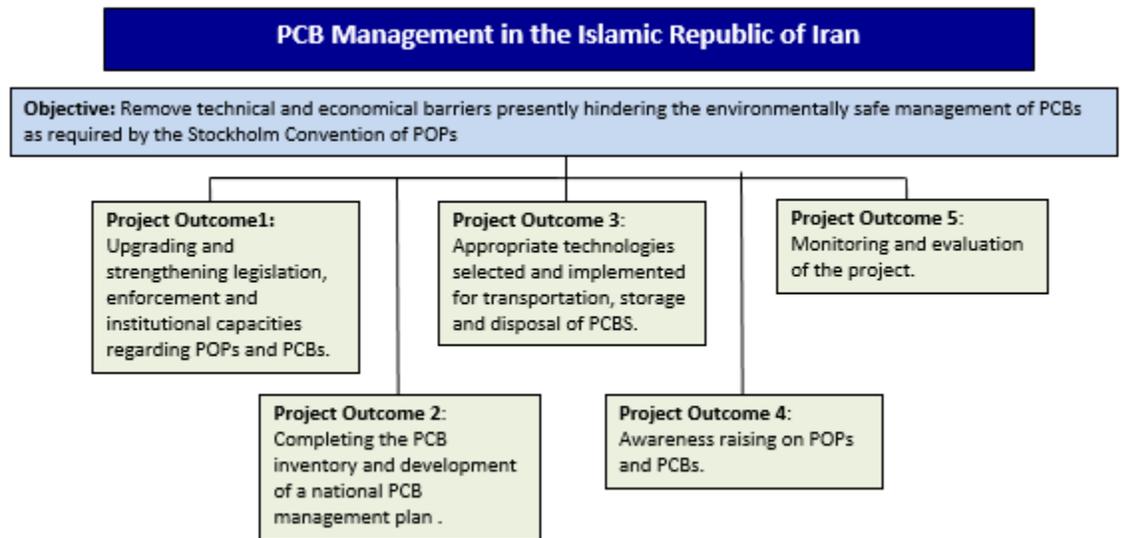
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) contaminated equipment which are hard to dispose

This project will amend and strengthen existing legislation on POPs and PCBs. It will also strengthen institutional as well as capacities of civil society to enforce legislation

and manage PCBs. It aims to assist Iran to complete/upgrade PCB inventory and labeling. The project will draft a national PCB management plan for the decontamination, phase out and disposal of PCBs. Based on the PCB management plan, an incentive scheme for PCB owners will be developed and demonstrated in 5 PCB Management Zones in Iran.

The project will strengthen technical capability on PCB sampling and analysis, identify and implement the best optimized technologies for transportation, storage and disposal of PCBs. Project activities will be used to raise awareness on PCBs issue through appropriate communication and advocacy channels.

Proposed Project Outcomes



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