

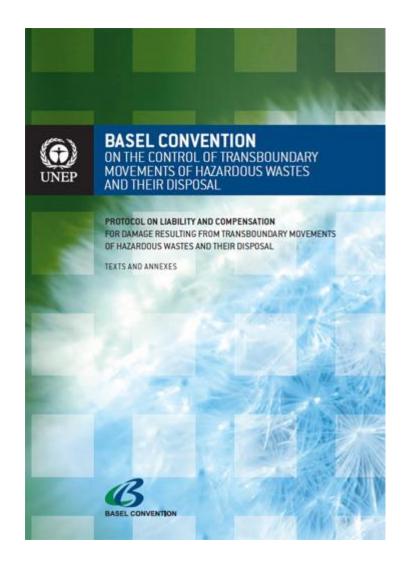
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Main provisions

Introduction



- Global agreement on hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Entered into force in 1992, 187
 Parties now
- Aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes and other wastes



Key provisions



- Minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Obligations to ensure the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous and other wastes globally
- Limit transboundary movements (TBM) of hazardous wastes
 - Control system for transboundary movements of hazardous wastes based on the concept of Prior Informed Consent (PIC procedure)

Wastes covered by the Convention



Concerned with hazardous wastes and other wastes:

- Wastes (Art.2): substances or objects which are disposed of; intended to be disposed of; are required to be disposed of
- Hazardous wastes (Art.1): those listed in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. waste streams: waste oils/water, substances containing PCB or wastes constituents: cadmium, mercury, lead, asbestos...) AND have "Annex III" characteristics (e.g. explosive, corrosive, toxic, etc.)
- Other wastes (Art.1): those listed in Annex II i.e. household waste and residues from their incineration

Wastes excluded from the Convention BASEL CONVENTION

Excluding:

 Radioactive wastes (subject to other international control systems) (Article 1.3)



 Wastes which derive from the normal operations of a ship, the discharge of which is covered by another international instrument (Article 1.4)



Conditions for TBM



No export to a Party:

- That has prohibited the import of hazardous and other wastes;
- When the exporting Party has reason to believe that the wastes will not be managed in an ESM;
- When the importing Party has not given its consent.

No TBM allowed with non-Parties (unless art 11 agreement)

Where trade is permissible:

The Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure should be applied

The Plastics Amendment





May 2019: BC-14/12: Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention

Enters into force in January 2021

Only batches of particular sorts of plastics that are sorted, clean, and uncontaminated and effectively destined for recycling can be freely traded globally

All other types of plastic waste will require the importing country's prior informed consent before it can be exported



Basel Convention and Liberia

How we got here

Scope of presentation



- How Liberia's difficulties in reporting engaged the institutions of the Basel Convention
- How the institutions of the Basel Convention responded
- The plans in place to address those issues



Liberia (CHW/CC/9c/2010/5)



The Committee's procedures can be triggered by specific submissions - from a Party or the Secretariat - concerning compliance-

- "Submission by the Secretariat to the Committee concerning possible difficulties faced by this Party to comply with its reporting obligation under article 13 paragraph 3 of the Convention"
- Liberia had never submitted a national report

ICC response



Committee Decision 8/6: Liberia

(a) Concludes that Liberia is facing difficulties in complying with its reporting obligations under article 13 paragraph 3 of the Convention, and expresses its concern about this situation;

Committee decides to elaborate, together with Liberia and the Secretariat, a voluntary compliance action plan

In a later decision (CC-12/7) the Committee

- Approves the action plan
- Recommends funding for it.

The action plan





Action plan as set out in findings covers three areas

- Area of intervention 1: Legal, institutional and policy frameworks
- Area of intervention 2: Development of a national inventory of hazardous wastes and other wastes
- Area of intervention 3: Awarenessraising, training and information exchange

The Conference of the Parties (COP)



The governing body of the Convention meeting every couple of years -

- adopts policies, strategies and measures
- makes amendments
- adopts programme of work
- creates subsidiary bodies

COP creates the **Implementation** and Compliance Committee (ICC) in 2002 by a decision (Decision VI/12).



The ICC



Objectives of ICC -

- assist Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention
- facilitate, promote, monitor and aim to secure implementation and compliance

N.B. **not a court**, and does not make findings of guilt or fault, but helps to bring about compliance





In order to implement plan, an Agreement between Liberia and Secretariat of Basel Convention

Provides for hiring of consultants

Two work streams

- assessment of Liberia's legal and institutional frameworks (me!)
- development of a sustainable inventory for the purpose of national reporting (Kees)

Key meetings



- Inception meeting
- Awareness-raising and training workshop
- Evaluation meeting to refine the methodology for the inventory, and endorse the final draft legal and institutional mechanisms/ measures



Liberia (CHW/CC/9c/2010/5)



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Conclusion



- Work required on inventory and legal and institutional framework
- Resources available for this work
- We are part way through a process to
 - prepare a national inventory on hazardous and other wastes in Liberia;
 - draft legal and institutional mechanisms/measures to implement the Basel Convention and ensure the sustainability of Liberia's compliance with its national reporting obligations



For further information

Visit the Basel Convention Website:

www.basel.int