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The International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in
Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Global Day of Action on POPs in Colombia

RAPALMIRA (RAP-AL)

**Colombia
April 2005**

About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

This report is available in the following languages: English and Spanish

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The NGO Rapalmira, member of IPEN and RAPAL coordinated the following activities:

On April 21, presented a conference titled "Environmental and Health Effects of POPs" in Cali in the Department of Cauca, with the sponsor of Rapalmira, an NGO member of RAPAL and ECOFONDO (a wide network of NGOs in this country), Ecofondo Valle/Norte del Cauca, and Teatro Esquina Latina. It was attended by peasants, technicians, NGO representatives and afro-colombian communities.

The executive summary of the egg report was distributed with stickers of the logo of the campaign "Keep The Promise Eliminate POPS" and information about POPs. One topic of discussion was the attempt by the government to incinerate organochlorine pesticides in cement kilns in the Departments of Antioquia and Boyacá and the problem of open burning of plastic domestic waste.

Another topic of discussion was the proposal to include as new POPs the insecticide endosulfan, that is still used illegally on coffee crops in Colombia despite being prohibited and creating a threat of pest resistance of one pest "broca del café" (*Hypothenemus hampei*). The proposals from some sectors in the government to reuse DDT that is in storage in the cities of Honda and Bogotá were also discussed. Finally, there were demands for the ratification of the Stockholm Convention which is currently under discussion in the National Congress.

*Elsa Nivia, Directora Ejecutiva Rapalmira
Coordinadora RAP-AL Colombia y miembro de IPEN.*