

An overview of contaminated land in Africa

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Africa Institute

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Presentation Outline

- ▶ Background of the Africa Institute, its purpose roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Contaminated land sources
- ▶ International interventions to curb land contamination and related negative health and environmental impacts
- ▶ Initiatives to address land contamination in Africa
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Way Forward

Background of the Africa Institute?

- ▶ It is an intergovernmental Organisation
- ▶ Initially established as the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for all English speaking African countries
- ▶ Africa Institute is based in Pretoria, South Africa housed within the Department of Environmental Affairs.
- ▶ Established 2009, In accordance with Article 14 of the Basel Convention
- ▶ AI was endorsed in April 2011 to also serve as the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) in Accordance with article 12 of the Stockholm Convention.
- ▶ It serves as the Rotterdam Convention
- ▶ It serves 23 English speaking African Countries

The strategic goals of the Institute

- ▶ To develop the capacity of the members
 - To manage hazardous and other wastes
 - To participate and influence international negotiations related to hazardous waste and chemicals
- ▶ To enhance implementation of the hazardous waste and chemicals conventions by
 - Enhancing regional research and monitoring of chemicals and hazardous waste
 - Facilitating access to and transfer of technologies for sound management of hazardous waste and
 - Disseminating information on environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and chemicals.
- ▶ These strategic goals will be achieved through training programmes, projects, development of collaborative linkages between institutions, building networks within the region and beyond, and encourage sharing of experiences, expertise and resources

Countries that have ratified AI to date



Angola



Gambia



Liberia



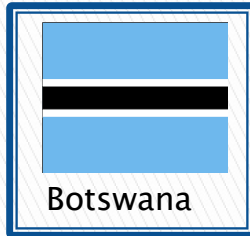
Namibia



Sierra Leone



Uganda



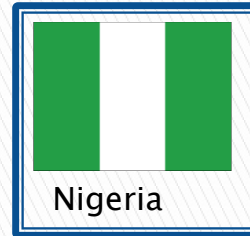
Botswana



Ghana



Malawi



Nigeria



South Africa



Zambia



Eritrea



Kenya



Mauritius



Rwanda



Swaziland



Zimbabwe



Ethiopia



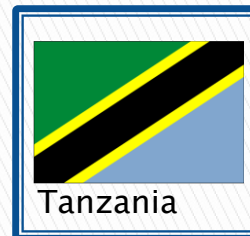
Lesotho



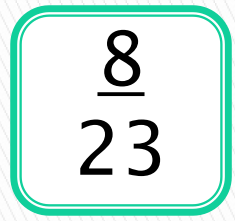
Mozambique



Seychelles



Tanzania



Other Regional Centres

- ▶ In Egypt for the Arabic speaking countries
- ▶ In Senegal for the French speaking African countries.

Contaminated Land Sources

- ▶ **Industrial and Commercial Developments**
 - PCB in transformers
 - Solvents, dyes wood preservatives and paints
- ▶ **Agricultural Activities**
 - Pesticides
- ▶ **Mining Activities**
 - Mineral processing
 - Acid Mine Drainage
 - Artisanal mining
- ▶ **Waste Management**
 - Indiscriminate waste dumping
 - Un-Engineered landfills
 - Onsite sanitation – pit latrines and septic tanks

Initiatives to address land contamination in Africa

- ▶ The Africa Stockpile Programme (ASP)
 - Most African countries relies heavily on agriculture – obsolete pesticides
 - Unsuitable products
 - Excessive donation and purchases
 - Poor stock management
 - ASP coverage was limited to a few countries
 - Obsolete Pesticides stocks still exist in most African countries
- ▶ LDC Legacy Sites project in SADC, ECOWAS and COMESA
 - Implemented by UNEP and UNIDO.
 - UNIDO Toolkit for Management of POPs Contaminated Sites (www.unido.org).
 - GIZ pilot project on clean-up of a small site : legacy of chemical production and storage.
- ▶ PCB elimination project.
- ▶ Training and workshops on contaminated land

Challenges in Managing Contaminated

- ▶ Limited resources
 - Expertise, Technology and Funds
- ▶ Remediation is lagging behind
- ▶ Abandoned sites
- ▶ Unknown obsolete chemicals and empty containers

Way Forward

- ▶ Prevent further land contamination
 - Statutory requirements
 - Land use zoning
 - Extended Producer Responsibility
- ▶ Inventory of contaminated land and obsolete stocks
- ▶ Africa Forum
 - United front as Africa
 - Identify challenges and common solutions
- ▶ Resources Mobilization
 - Expertise, Funds and Technology
 - Identify partners – lessons learnt from previous activities

Thank You for Your Attention