

POPs IN AFRICA

HAZARDOUS WASTE TRADE 1980 - 2000

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKPILES

A GREENPEACE INVENTORY

GREENPEACE

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POPs in Africa

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Africa hardly produces any POPs.

Africa is suffering from them.

**Most come from OECD countries in the form of hazardous waste
and pesticides**

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HAZARDOUS WASTE EXPORTS TO AFRICA 1980 – 2000

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKPILES

INTRODUCTION

Hazardous Waste

In the 1980s, Africa had the unfortunate distinction of being the first choice for the dumping of European wastes. The continent fell victim to some of the most infamous transshipments of toxic wastes: in places like Koko, Nigeria; Kassa Island, Guinea; Cato Ridge and South Africa, not to mention a constant barrage of schemes offering parcels of poison sweetened with much needed foreign cash.

But Africa was the first to respond politically to the threat of such waste colonialism. In unprecedented numbers, African nations attended the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) negotiations in the late 1980s for the drafting of a new global treaty to regulate hazardous waste trade - the Basel Convention. Throughout the Basel Convention negotiations, African nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) called for bans to be adopted within the Basel Convention. However, when the Basel Convention was adopted in 1989, their concerns were largely ignored due to a handful of industrialized nations such as the UK, Germany, France and the US. At that time, such countries insisted on their right to sweep their hazardous waste problems out of their back door onto others.

Africa was and still is vulnerable to the uneven economics of waste trade because it includes most of the world's most severely impoverished countries. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) lists the majority of African countries among the "Least Developed Countries" (LDC) of the world. Most of these countries are debtor countries in dire need of foreign exchange.

Following the failure of the Basel Convention to protect them, the African countries agreed to refrain from signing pending a joint position and response on the Convention and the continuing threat of waste trade. This responsibility was taken up under the auspices of the OAU. The OAU wasted little time in taking up the gauntlet laid down at Basel. The OAU provided the leadership for the drafting of an African convention to prohibit all hazardous, including radioactive waste imports into Africa - the Bamako Convention, adopted in 1991 which entered into legal force in April 1998. In addition, prior to the adoption of the Bamako Convention, the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Community agreed in the Lomé IV Convention, a total import ban for the ACP countries on all hazardous, including radioactive wastes for any reason.

However, even after the adoption of the Bamako Convention, and the implementation of the Lomé IV Convention ban, the threat to Africa by unscrupulous dumpers remained, although such traffic thereafter would be considered illegal.

As a consequence, and pursuant to the leadership role of Africa on the issue of hazardous waste trade, the African nations, individually and collectively under the OAU, did not stop there. Indeed, African leadership on this issue has changed the course of history at national, regional and global levels through the prohibition of the worst of the hazardous waste trade. Africa can take great pride in these critically important contributions toward solving the hazardous waste crisis, and thereby advancing society toward sustainable development.

Having taken self-defence measures - the adoption of the Lomé IV Convention ban, and the Bamako Convention ban - Africa continued to advocate a ban within the global Basel Convention regime at the Basel Convention Conference of Parties. The ban envisaged was a no-exceptions ban on all hazardous waste exports for any reason from the most industrialised countries (OECD Member States) to the non-OECD States. This was viewed as necessary at the global level in response to the hazardous waste crisis. In addition, such a global ban was seen as an important mechanism for strengthening enforcement capacity by ensuring preventive action at the export country (OECD country) side, to respect the African bans.

During preparatory meetings of the 1992 Rio Conference (UNCED), the African Group proposed and advocated the no-exceptions ban on all hazardous waste exports from the industrialised to less industrialised countries. The African Group's appeal and efforts led to the ban becoming a common position of the G-77, a group of now some 130 Third World countries, and China leading up to UNCED. The ban, however, was blocked during the UNCED process by industrial countries, such as the United States, Canada and Australia.

The Basel Ban

Subsequently however, the G-77 again proposed the ban, this time at the first Conference of Parties (COP1) to the Basel Convention in 1992. A compromise was reached which postponed the ban decision until the Second Conference of Parties, held in 1994. The ban was gaining momentum as the G-77 and China were joined by Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Italy during COP1. Then at COP2 in 1994, primarily due to a strong, firm position of the G-77, the European Union countries and others joined the G-77 and China, and the ban was adopted by formal Decision (Decision II/12) by consensus. The ban adopted was a no-exceptions ban on all hazardous waste exports from the OECD to non-OECD countries starting 1 January, 1998. At the third Conference of Parties to the Basel

Convention (COP3) held in 1995, the ban was transformed into a formal amendment to the Convention.

The European Union in 1997 implemented the Basel ban in their legislation as a no-exceptions ban on all hazardous waste exports from the 15 EU Member States (all OECD States) to non-OECD countries. This number constituted over half of the OECD States prohibiting the worst of the hazardous waste trade. The EU Ban has been legally binding since 1 January 1998. In addition, other non-EU, OECD States such as Norway, Iceland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Turkey fully supported the EU position and partly implemented the Basel ban in the same way. Therefore, in 1997, well over half of all OECD States (21 States) strongly supported the Basel ban and its implementation. This situation greatly assists the enforcement of African and other regional bans, by prohibiting the trade at the OECD export end.

Unfortunately, a very few OECD States continue to attempt to weaken the ban, e.g., Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and South Korea. These countries in bad faith attempts, after having lost in their opposition to the ban during negotiations, have tried to weaken the ban by calling for a mechanism within the Basel Convention which would allow non-OECD countries to be added to a list (Annex VII) so that such countries would continue to be the recipients of OECD generated hazardous waste. They also have tried to argue, contrary to the rest of the Basel Parties' views, that bilateral agreements could be entered into to circumvent the OECD to non-OECD ban.

However, again Africa took leadership to stop such attempts at weakening the Basel ban. Led by the African countries, the ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific countries - former colonies of now European Union states) proposed at the 1997 ACP-EU Joint Assembly a resolution specifically opposing any and all such weakening attempts. The resolution was adopted by consensus.

The resolution called on all ACP and countries and the EU Commission (representing the 15 EU Member States) to reject any changes to the Basel Convention Annex VII which would allow non-OECD countries to be added such that they could be recipients of OECD hazardous waste exports. And, it called on the ACP and EU governments to attend the Basel Convention COP4 in February 1998 to ensure that such weakening attempts are defeated.

Indeed at COP4 in Kuching, Malaysia, this position was embodied in the agreement and decision on the Annex VII issue. Specifically, requests from Israel and Slovenia to be added to the Annex VII were rejected at COP4 and it was agreed by consensus with support from the new Executive Director of UNEP, Klaus Töpfer, a former West German environment

minister, that no changes to Annex VII may be entertained prior to the entry into force of the ban amendment.

In addition to the global-level influence of Africa in the Basel Convention, African influence also has been experienced in other regions. The Bamako Convention was used as a model piece of legislation in Central America in the drafting of that region's hazardous waste import ban treaty. The Bamako Convention also influenced the South Pacific region to adopt regional bans. And in the Mediterranean Sea region, the North African countries were instrumental in the adoption of a waste trade protocol under the Barcelona Convention which also bans all hazardous waste exports to non-OECD countries.

African Leadership

As is readily apparent, the above-mentioned world-wide developments toward solving the hazardous waste crisis can be attributed, to a very large extent, to the leadership of Africa. The results, provided that the political resolve remains strong, are expected to be far reaching indeed. These efforts not only end the worst of the hazardous waste trade (OECD to non-OECD countries) and thereby the transfer of OECD pollution to others with less capacity. These efforts and developments also help force OECD industries to employ clean production methods, as well as pursue additional research and development in the field of clean production such that hazardous waste is not generated in the first place. No longer can OECD industries legally avoid this responsibility by exporting their wastes to cheaper non-OECD facilities.

The work is not yet over however, as African States will have to remain vigilant, together with the EU and others, to ensure no future weakening of the no-exceptions Basel ban. In addition, all efforts are needed to encourage States to ratify the Basel ban, as well as the Bamako Convention and other regional bans, so that all bans enter legal force as soon as possible. And enforcement measures will require continual efforts.

African leadership in the field of hazardous wastes is impressive. Indeed the world owes great appreciation to African resolve and dedication in seriously addressing the issue.

The same can be said for African countries' significant contributions to ending the destructive practices of ocean dumping of industrial wastes and ocean incineration. Both of these practices were banned under the London Convention in 1993. In particular Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire played a critically important role in helping to lead the international community toward these historic decisions. There is no doubt that ending the worst of the hazardous waste trade, ending ocean dumping of industrial wastes, and ending ocean incineration are milestones along the path toward sustainable development.

With these destructive practices banned under international law, the environmental and human health will greatly benefit. And, with these cheap disposal methods closed off, industries generating hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals will have much greater incentive to implement clean production methods that do not result in the use and release of toxic substances in the environment.

The POPs treaty

The subsequent issue in need of global focus, and continued African leadership was, and is the issue of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Under the auspices of the UNEP, the international community began negotiating a global treaty in 1998 to ban the worst of the toxic chemicals. To be adopted in May 2001 in Stockholm, the POPs treaty includes necessary provisions that resulted, to a large extent, due to the continuing political leadership that Africa, among others, has provided.

After five official Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings (INCs) to draft the POPs Convention, the international community, led by Africa (and other developing countries with China), and the European Union (EU) have moved in the right direction to produce a treaty for the purpose of preventing new POPs and eliminating existing POPs. The POPs treaty, or Stockholm Convention will now depend on the necessary political and industrial will to ensure its expeditious and effective implementation.

But leadership and strong resolve was again necessary during the final negotiations of the POPs treaty in order to produce the provisions capable of adequately addressing the toxics crisis. The same political dynamic existed in the POPs context as in the other issues, e.g., waste trade discussed above. A few wealthy industrialised countries led by the US continued to attempt to create a weak ineffective draft text at the expense of our future. Fortunately, the will and resolve of the majority of States led by the EU and Africa prevailed over these few industrialised governments unwilling to make the needed changes toward sustainable development.

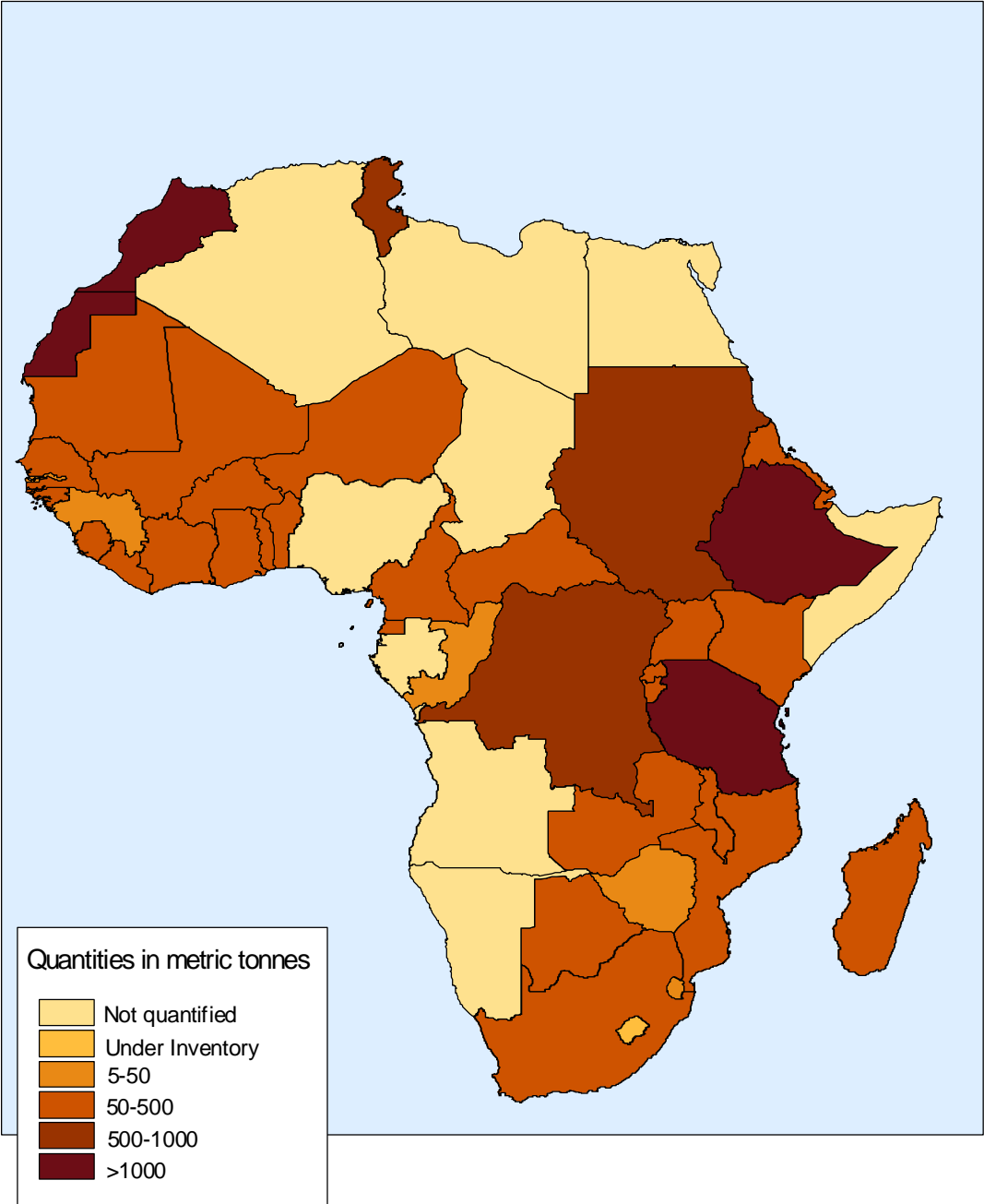
In addition to the POPs treaty having the potential to phase out all POPs, it provides an opportunity to mobilise the international community to finally address and solve the legacy and on-going crisis of obsolete pesticide stockpiles, a significant portion of which are POPs.

OBSOLETE PESTICIDES

The problem

In the developing countries and in many Central and Eastern European countries, there are huge stockpiles of pesticides, estimated to be 500,000 of tonnes.¹

Map: Inventory of obsolete and unwanted pesticide stockpiles



Source: FAO 1999

¹ This figure is higher than in previous reports considering, for example, that a total of nearly 65,000 tonnes exist in Poland alone.

These are known as unwanted, obsolete pesticide stockpiles, some of which are already banned in many States of the world. They pose a serious threat to human health and the environment due to their persistency and hazardous properties that damage water supplies, land use, human health, animals and plants.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has compiled an inventory of obsolete stockpiles for 45 countries in Africa and the Near East and a few countries in the Far East, Latin and Central America and the Caribbean. In most cases, the inventory includes producers, suppliers and responsible donor organizations. The total stockpiles estimated to exist in Africa including heavily contaminated soils and empty and contaminated pesticide containers is nearly 50,000 tonnes and is likely to increase above this total.²

These obsolete chemicals are either stockpiled in sub-standard storage facilities, or kept in the open or under trees with little or no safeguarding. They have been left to endanger or contaminate soils, ground and drinking water and agricultural irrigation systems. Some are strewn across the environmental landscape of receiving countries and some have been introduced through illegal markets or cross-border smuggling.

Some originated from supplies under different aid packages of assistance over a number of years. Unfortunately new stockpiles of hazardous and poisonous chemicals continue to accumulate.

Basically these substances are produced and exported by the 8 most powerful multinational chemical companies, namely, Aventis, BASF, Bayer, Dow AgroSciences, Dupont, Monsanto, Sumitoma and Syngenta collectively dominating over 80% of the world's market. Some of these companies have either merged, changed names or have expanded their business into larger conglomerates. Pesticide sales earn companies over US\$ 30 billion per year.

The seats of these companies are in rich industrialised countries, all members of the thirty-country global Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Obsolete pesticide stockpiles are a serious international environmental problem that has attracted little public attention as yet. Nonetheless, vigorous efforts are underway to assist affected countries by the responsible United Nations bodies, particularly FAO and UNEP. There is also a heated debate among responsible producers and suppliers and governmental aid organizations such as the German GTZ or USAID.

² Preliminary list of countries with known obsolete pesticide stocks – Countries in Africa, www.fao.org
News Highlights (=FAO 2001)

A new approach: the Stockholm Convention on POPs

At the beginning of the third millennium, the debate is heating up. The international community, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has for the first time adopted a worldwide ban on a group of 12 environmental poisons, the "dirty dozen" that are particularly hazardous and persistent (i.e. they belong to a family of hazardous chemicals referred to as Persistent Organic Pollutants or POPs). The Stockholm Convention, or POPs treaty adopted in May 2001 contains the legal provisions for eliminating POPs from the planet.

This will at first cover the production of, trade in and use of:
Pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene.
Industrial chemicals: hexachlorobenzene (also used as pesticide), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).
Unintended by products: dioxins, furans.

The Convention includes in its article 12 provisions for the destruction/ elimination of stockpiles of POPs. Priority is given to alternative destruction methods that do not create POPs themselves. Waste incinerators which are known as a major source of POPs in the form of dioxins and furans are to be discouraged in favour of alternative destruction technologies. It is important to note that the international community has called for the implementation of the Convention, including the eradication of obsolete stockpiles without waiting for the treaty to enter into legal force. The POPs crisis is considered too serious to allow any delays in taking measures to eliminate POPs. A further important issue is who shall pay for the stockpiles spread across the globe in recent decades as products of the OECD world.

To provide input to this debate, it might be wise to look at the FAO data base of stockpiles which generally confirms that a third of the inventory is made up of POPs from UNEPs black list.

FAO recommends that obsolete and hazardous pesticides should be returned to their country of origin, i.e., to the conglomerate producers with global operations ("return to vendor"). They should be liable for their safe destruction. These companies should take action similar to the aid organizations that have been involved in providing assistance, e.g. GTZ, DANIDA, the Dutch government, USAID, etc..

Over the last ten years, development and aid organizations such as the above-mentioned have provided support for removing hazardous obsolete pesticides from a number of countries. These stocks have been repackaged, entirely or in part, removed and brought to European hazardous waste treatment facilities. The

substances were combusted in hazardous waste incinerators, mostly in the Netherlands (AVR Rotterdam) and Great Britain (Shanks, formerly Rechem).

However, waste incinerators worldwide are a significant source of POPs themselves. To facilitate safe destruction, the new POPs treaty includes specific provisions for the safe disposal of obsolete stockpiles of POPs using appropriate, non-incineration destruction technologies that do not create POPs.

The few countries that benefitted from the aid/development support included: Niger (1991), Uganda (1993), Madagascar (1993), Mozambique (1994), Tanzania (1995/96), Zambia (1997), Seychelles (1997) Mauritania (1997) and the Gambia (2000), and now Ethiopia (2001), as far as Africa is concerned.³

Product responsibility

In the meantime, industry under its umbrella GCPF⁴ has in principle recognised its product responsibility. It promised to dispose of obsolete pesticide stockpiles that can be traced to it. This is yet to be seen. At the same time, however, the world organization of pesticide producers stresses that it is not responsible for stocks already held by recipient countries or governments.⁵

The industry organization has stated its willingness to provide support to governments like Chad, Mozambique or Somalia with the disposal of obsolete stocks owing to difficult circumstances that these countries are facing.⁶ This too, is yet to be seen .

The industry has committed itself, through its umbrella organization GCPF, to bear "one quarter of the disposal costs or "\$ 1 per litre/kilogram"; but according to FAO, the industry "is yet to be seen fulfilling its commitment".⁷

Alarmingly, the GCPF has also said that in "hunger countries like Ethiopia" obsolete pesticides should rather be sprayed over the land instead of unertaking costly retrieval actions.

FAO states that as of 1999 only 5% of all obsolete pesticides identified so far have been removed from Africa. It is stated that if the present pace continues, the whole process of eliminating obsolete pesticides from Africa would take fifty years. FAO calls for a concerted international action to solve the problem more quickly.

³ FAO 1999, 2001, GCPF 2000

⁴ Global Crop Protection Federation

⁵ Global Crop Protection Federation: "Obsolete Stocks of Crop Protection Products". GCPF Position, May 1999; www.gcpf.org

⁶ "... assistance ... on a case-by-case basis ... will be an individual company decision." (ibid.)

⁷ A. Wodageneh interview with Greenpeace; see also: Pesticide Action Network North America PANNA: "Obsolete Pesticides - An Ongoing Dilemma"; www.chebucto.ns.ca

GCPF defines itself as „the industry“, and praises, e.g., Shell for having removed outdated pesticides from Mauritania. However, Shell was not a member of GCPF and furthermore was only marginally involved in the action. It is true that Shell contributed a sum of about US\$ 300,000 (37.5% of the total) for dieldrin that it had produced. This contribution only happened after a disastrous loss of image due to the company’s plans to dump a decommissioned oil installation, the „Brent Spar“, in the sea. At the same time Shell was under heavy criticism because of it’s collusion with the Nigerian military regime in the Ogoni land.

Shell’s engagement regarding “obsolete pesticides“ ceased abruptly thereafter, but the image campaign is still ongoing. Shell praises itself on the Mauritania case in advertisements in major International magazines such as Newsweek, Times Magazine, The Economist, and the Washington Post. under the slogan “Clean-up-or-cover-up“. The money they spent over the last years for advertising their little clean up project would have been able to pay for a clean up of stocks in another country.

GCPF in 2001 gives an impression as if it’s member companies were actively involved in clean-ups in 15 countries around the globe.⁸ This is not correct. In reality, GCPF companies were actively involved in only two cases:

1. It contributed directly US\$ 58,000 for its own supervision of the Gambia disposal of about 12 tonnes. An additional sum also was contributed to the same operation by ODA in UK. (see country section Gambia).
2. A second direct contribution of US\$ 133,000 was made for a disposal of obsolete pesticides from Madagascar. But this action also received contribution by from Government of Madagascar both in kind and finances, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, and GTZ.

Any disposal operation that has taken place by GCPF, in Africa or elsewhere, only involved cleaning up their own vending stores, and had nothing to do with fulfilling their responsibility for the problems they have created nor with respect to the international collaborative effort to eradicate obsolete pesticide/chemical stockpiles.

⁸ Chris Waller, GCPF spokesman, in Poznan, Poland at the 6th HCH and Pesticides Forum 21.3.01, see also www.gcpf.org, March 2001

„It is not the policy of the industry to take the lead“ (Dr Chris Waller, GCPF)

Financial contribution by source between 1994 and 2000

No	Contributor	US\$	% Contribution
1	Netherlands *	11,524,795	38.88
2	Denmark	6,000,000	20.24
3	Germany-GTZ & KfW	3,315,000	11.18
4	South Africa	2,000,000	6.68
5	USAID	1,980,000	6.68
6	Sweden/Sida	1,456,000	4.91
7	Bilbao-Spain from Basque	1,000,000	3.37
8	FAO/TCP	1,002,000	3.38
9	Yemen loan from W/Bank and IFAD	770,000	2.60
10	Shell	300,000	1.01
11	GCPF ⁹ for Gambia (\$58,000)& Madagascar (\$133,000)	191,000	0.64
12	Islamic Bank	100,000	0.34
	Total	29,638,795	100

Note:
Contributions of the Netherlands:
US\$640,000 + 406,800 to Yemen in 1996 and 2000 respectively
US\$400,000 to Zambia
US\$100,000 to Seychelles
Are part of the US\$ 2,609,975 project 1994-2000, GCP/INT/650 and GCP/YEM/027
Shell was not a member to GCPF

“The industry” contributed 0.64% of the disposal costs so far.¹⁰

GCPF insists on „reformulation“ of obsolete pesticides for further use. But for example, the reformulation that took place in Senegal was „a disaster as initially appropriate reformulation was not strictly applied“ (FAO).

So it is true: “It is not the policy of the industry to take the lead“ (Chris Waller in Poznan, Poland at the 6th HCH and Pesticides Forum 21.3.01, asked about the industry’s position.)

This has to be changed.

After the POPs treaty language of the Stockholm Convention, with it’s obligation “to eliminate“ existing stocks, it is clearer

⁹ GCPF, Global Crop Protection Federation (www.gcpf.org)

¹⁰ : FAO, Rome, presentation at the „6th HCH & Pesticide Forum“ in Poznan, Poland, March 2001

than ever that the chemical industry has a historical, collective responsibility to act now. A responsibility from which they can no longer hide.

The Western industry invented, formulated, produced and marketed these substances into every corner of the globe, sometimes using rather aggressive and reckless trading strategies. They can no longer say, let others clean up the mess.

And, Greenpeace documents in this report, how for example Cameroon continues to accumulate new stockpiles today, exacerbating and perpetuating the problem.¹¹

Greenpeace demands that,

- producers, suppliers and countries of origin assume full logistic, technical and financial responsibility,

- a swift programme of action is put in place in order to take comprehensive inventory of all stockpiles in the developing world and Central and Eastern Europe, and to secure them through repackaging, shipping them back and destroying them in an environmentally sound manner using appropriate destruction technologies that do not create POPs.

Greenpeace proposes that,

-alternative destruction options of disposal should be pursued other than incineration. More environmentally sound alternative destruction technologies that have been recently developed and operated should be used due to the fact that incineration is a significant source of POPs worldwide (e.g., dioxins and furans).¹²

The legal and political tools for solving the toxic crisis are finally being put in place. It is time to ensure they are mobilised and used NOW, by the international community, regional efforts, and national governments to safeguard the environment and human health in Africa and all over the world. Indeed sustainable development depends on, and requires nothing less. When the work is done, we can thank Africa for their foresight, and dedication to the needed solutions.

¹¹ See Cameroon Section of this report

¹² In this context FAO has contributed the following statement:

"The FAO/UNEP/WHO guidelines on disposal of bulk quantities of stocks indicate that the preferred means of disposal at the moment is high temperature incineration. It would be useful to use alternative methods of disposal than incineration and this is the ultimate desire of FAO. " (A. Wodageneh, letter to Andreas Bernstorff, November 20, 2000)

POSITIONS OF AFRICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Economic Community of West African States

The 11th Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in Lomé, Togo, in June 1988. The purpose of the meeting was to promote solidarity in economic policies, but waste trade emerged as a major issue of concern. The host president, Gnassingbe Eyadema, explained that “our efforts for the economic development of our states and for the progress of our people will be in vain if we do not...preserve the lives of our people and the environment.”¹³

At the summit, ECOWAS leaders adopted a resolution condemning toxic waste exports and agreed to enact national legislation against dumping of foreign wastes. A statement by a member country represented the ECOWAS position: “We cannot accept that at a time when industrialized nations refuse to buy our commodities at reasonable prices, these same countries are selling us death for ourselves and our children.”¹⁴

ECOWAS organized a committee called “Dumpwatch” whose main duty is to monitor waste trade and dumping in West Africa.

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

On May 25, 1988, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held a summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Foreign ministers at the summit unanimously adopted a resolution “to refrain from entering into agreements or arrangements with any industrialized countries on the dumping of nuclear and hazardous industrial waste on African territories.” In addition, the foreign ministers declared that “the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa is a crime against Africa and the African people.” Resolution CM/Res. 1153 (XLVIII) of the council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on Dumping of Nuclear and Industrial Wastes in Africa, May 25, 1988, and the subsequent additional Resolution CM/RES. 1225 (L), July 1989 created a very strong and clear African policy and message on the issue of hazardous waste trade.

The African States entrusted the OAU with the task of convening expert meetings which resulted in the adoption in 1991 of the Bamako Convention, transforming these African resolutions and common policy into a legal instrument with enforcement mechanisms.

OAU health ministers passed a resolution in Kampala, Uganda, in May 1989, calling for the establishment of a regional environmental surveillance agency for Africa to monitor radioactive and toxic waste contamination in Africa.

¹³ Africa News, July 11, 1988

¹⁴ Ibid.

States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Representatives from 22 countries attended a meeting on the South Atlantic from July 25-29, 1988, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Countries attending the meeting included: Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uruguay and Zaire.

The meeting adopted a final resolution which “strongly condemns the transfer of hazardous wastes from other parts of the world into the region, which have serious and harmful consequences for the environment in the South Atlantic Region.”

At the meeting, Nigeria proposed that South Atlantic states join forces to establish a “Dumpwatch” to monitor movements of ships carrying cargoes of toxic wastes. “We call on all states of the zone to join in a cooperative effort to seek, identify and blacklist states which willfully dump wastes in less developed countries,” Nigerian ambassador P.D. Cole said at the meeting.¹⁵ Sierra Leone's ambassador, Tom Kargbo, emphasized his country's concern about the international waste trade: “I consider it as important as the atomic bomb.”¹⁶

Waste Trade Statistics

The preceding paragraphs document the quick response and decisive action taken by Africa to address the growing problem of waste colonialism. The importance of such action, of course, lies in the actual impact on hazardous waste trade to Africa. A review of the actual number of waste trade schemes known to Greenpeace, which involve Africa, indicates that the impact has indeed been a significant decline in attempts to ship hazardous waste to African countries.

Attempted and Successful Imports of Hazardous Waste to African Countries 1980 – 2000*

Year	1980-87	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Attempted and successful Imports	10	34	15	9	0	9	0
Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Attempted and successful Imports	2	1	4	1	0	0	1

*Obsolete pesticide stockpiles not counted

¹⁵ Reuters News Reports, July 27, 1988

¹⁶ Letter to Greenpeace from Nigeria High Commission to the United Kingdom, August 12, 1988

In the years up to and including 1990 Greenpeace identified 68 attempted/actual cases of hazardous waste imports to African countries. Since 1990, Greenpeace has identified only 18 attempts, most of which have failed.

The primary reason for the decline in hazardous waste traders targetting Africa was the adoption of a very clear and strong common African policy on the issue - condemning all such imports into Africa for any reason. In particular, the OAU resolutions, the Lomé IV Convention, and the Bamako Convention were all adopted between 1988 and 1991. This sent a strong message to the rest of the world that Africa is off-limits for such trade. Individual African States also took strong measures to stop the hazardous waste trade. (See country sections, esp. Nigeria).

Also many African media, cultural activists and pop stars like Youssou N'Dour¹⁷ in Senegal have contributed their part by educating the public about the problem.

Another reason for the downward trend was the fall of the Berlin Wall and the opening of the former Eastern bloc economies to Western European enterprises, including waste traders.

A similar development of opposition against “waste colonialism” began to take place in Central and Eastern Europe around 1992, although not as unified and strong as that in Africa. There, numerous return to sender activities, which were often instigated by Greenpeace actions and subsequent national import bans, have helped improve the situation. The result is that today the focus of waste traders appears to be in South Asia.

This global development can even be demonstrated by a geographical shift of individually known waste traders. For example, the Swiss “Africa specialist”, Gianfranco Ambrosini, turned to the Baltic states at the beginning of the 1990s. Roger Cottenie, a Belgian trader, who failed with his proposal in Senegal (1990), turned up in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia at the Black Sea with the same scheme in 1992, and was stopped with the help of Greenpeace. He then tried again in India in 1994.

However, the threat of toxic waste trade to Africa is still actual as can be seen from new proposals like the ODM scheme (see REGIONAL SCHEMES section in this report) to use African coastal waters to dump radioactive and other waste in the seabed. Consequently, African activities and efforts are still needed, e.g., acceding to the Bamako and Basel Conventions (for those States which have not yet done so) and ratifying the Basel ban, as well as continued strengthening of enforcement measures.

¹⁷ Especially with the song “Toxical Waste” on his album “SET”, 1991

Obsolete Pesticides

Main sources for all information on „Obsolete Pesticides“ in this report are:

1. Comprehensive databases and reports from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, mainly *Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete and Unwanted Pesticide Stocks in Africa and the Near East: Inventory of Obsolete, Unwanted And/Or Banned Pesticides*, Rome, 1999 (Stocks by country)”; quoted as “FAO 1999“
2. Reports and correspondence from and with the German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GTZ and Pesticide Action Network UK
3. Greenpeace research in North Africa and Cameroon.
4. A new source was used in this version of the report, namely the updated webpage and public presentations of the „Global Crop Protection Federation“, GCPF (homepage www.gcpf.org).

However we found that the industry’s information is in many cases highly misleading – therefor our comments on some of them. (see also above: product responsibility)

REGIONAL WASTE TRADE SCHEMES

Waste import schemes: **Scheme: Zatec Targets African Countries**
Date: 1988
Type of Waste: Chemical and Industrial Wastes
Source: Unclear
Exporter: Zatec Services (The Netherlands)
Pretext/Fate: Building of Landfills
Status: Apparently abandoned

A Dutch firm, Zatec Services, planned to ship “chemical and industrial wastes” to three unnamed African nations where an unnamed British contractor would build landfills. The first landfill, according to the president of Zatec, was to be ready to accept foreign wastes in late 1988 or early 1989.¹⁸

Scheme: ODM Targets African Coastal Waters
Date: 1988
Type of Waste: Radioactive and Asbestos Wastes
Source: Belgium, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, USA
Exporter: Ocean Disposal Management (ODM)
Pretext/Fate: Sub-Seabed Disposal
Status: Proposed

On 7 December, 1995, at the 18th Consultative Meeting of the London Convention (LC)¹⁹ Greenpeace denounced the fact that the company OCEANIC DISPOSAL MANAGEMENT INC. (ODM) had sought authorisation from South Africa’s nuclear agency to construct and operate penetrators for the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes into the seabed, in the vicinity of Cape Town. These plans were in violation of the London Convention, which in 1993 had banned all activity of this type.²⁰ It was also a violation of the Basel Convention as well as African policy as reflected in the OAU waste trade resolution, Bamako Convention and Lomé IV Convention.

The Preliminary Project Explanation sent to the Atomic Energy Corporation of S. Africa (AEC) on 26 May, 1995 by Mr. Giorgio Comerio, technical director at ODM, refers to Belgium, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the USA as potential client countries for this sub-seabed disposal venture. According to Comerio, a similar project was under negotiation with the French government and a shipyard on the French Atlantic coast.

ODM envisaged a maximum yearly construction rate of 540 penetrators. Profits would be around USD 660 million per year.

¹⁸Christian Science Monitor, July 1, 1988.

¹⁹ The London Convention, the global treaty regime which addresses ocean disposal issues.

²⁰ Fax from ODM to the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa Ltd. Earth and Environmental Technology Dept., 26 May, 1995

As many as 35,834 penetrators were expected to be used to dump the radioactive wastes currently stored in the European Community alone.

On 19 December, 1995 the AEC gave public, firm assurances that it was not and would not become involved in the project proposed by ODM. Had the proposal been accepted, ODM would have guaranteed financial gains of up to USD 660 per annum, and employment for 1857 workers for a maximum construction of 540 penetrators. 560 more jobs would have been created thanks to activities connected to the construction of special catamarans to be used for the shipping of the penetrators to the disposal site. ODM stated they were ready to invest USD 40 million in South Africa.²¹

On 10 January, 1996, upon request from the Contracting Parties to the LC, the Chairman of the Convention wrote a letter to ODM informing them that their planned disposal activities were not sanctioned by the LC and asking them to fundamentally reconsider their plans. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna was asked to send a similar message. The IAEA failed to do so as of November 1997.

ODM continued to promote its project by all the means at its disposal, and even expanded its scope to include asbestos disposal.

During 1994 and 1995 ODM had already contacted at least 16 African countries through consulates and embassies in Italy, France, and Belgium or through mediators: Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, and Zaire - seeking dumping sites for radioactive waste.²²

For example, in 1994, ODM approached the military junta in Sierra Leone with a proposal to install a penetrator construction facility on Mes-Meheux island. A harbour would be built on the island to load the penetrators, which would then be dumped at sea, 100 km off the coast, within the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sierra Leone.

A letter of intent between ODM and Sierra Leone, to be signed in London, included the construction of the following facilities (among others):

- a) an airport on Dublin Island for the import of radioactive wastes;
- b) an incinerator for national and foreign wastes;
- c) a nuclear power plant;

²¹ Greenpeace International, "Oceanic Disposal Inc." cit.

²² Testimony of public prosecutors Franco Scuderi and Francesco Neri from the District Council of Reggio Calabria before the Italian Paliamentarian Commission on waste management (Commissione Parlamentare sul ciclo dei rifiuti), Rome 21 Nov. 1995

- d) several desalinisation plants;
- e) one shipyard for the construction of the special vessels to be used for emplacement of the penetrators; and f) a school for the education and training of the local workforce. A private security force of 150 would be set up in order to protect the facilities.²³

Altogether, in Sierra Leone the planned investment mounted to USD 77 million, ²⁴ more or less 12% of the Gross Domestic Product in 1993 and 40% higher than the total reserve of the Central Bank of Sierra Leone.

In Angola, Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Congo, Comerio introduced himself as European investor in the industrial field. In October 1996, a representative of The Gambia confirmed to Greenpeace that ODM had asked to install a “low-waste production” nuclear power plant in The Gambia. The project included sub-seabed disposal of the waste produced by the facility.²⁵

In June 1994 Comerio tried to get in touch with Ali Mahdi, one of the Somalian war lords. This is cause for deep concern, as Comerio is just the latest in a long list of international waste traders who have been trying to conclude “contracts” for waste disposal with the different fighting fractions.²⁶

The Ocean Disposal Business

ODM was incorporated under the International Business Companies Ordinance of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) on 15th July, 1993, through Arias & Fabrega Co. Their legal address is: Omar Hodge Building, Wickham’s Cay Road Town, Tortola (BVI).

Background: The Network

Greenpeace believes that the Network of waste trade includes personalities who have long been active in the field of international trade and illegal disposal of waste. Several pieces of circumstantial evidence lead to the conclusion that these people operate within the framework of a well-structured and coordinated international organisation which has its main operational base in Italy, with outposts in Austria, France, Germany and Russia - while its headquarters and financial background are in Switzerland. Benefiting from positions of strength built up during the past 10 years, the members of the organisation have been concluding deals with public entities and big multinationals and have been awarded public contracts for the collection and disposal of industrial, household and hospital waste.

²³ Letter of intent between ODM and the Government of Sierra Leone. Greenpeace Italy, 1995

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Greenpeace International.

²⁶ Avvenimenti, 20 March 1996.

The methods of the organisation are highly sophisticated; the financial part is strictly separated from the operational part, where large profits are accumulated as a result of illegalities in waste management activities. These profits are recycled into perfectly legal activities by Swiss, Italian and British financial companies and trusts, and by numerous offshore companies located in places like Panama, Guernsey, BVI, Liechtenstein, and Ireland.

The organisation is not a static structure. Its various businesses are constantly being restructured in a search to maximise profits, both legally and illegally. It works on an international scale, and can therefore influence politicians and public administrations.

Several members of the network have a remarkable record of environmental and criminal law violations.. The corporate conduct of the network is characterised by fraud, bid-rigging, forgery, and corruption in order to gain illegitimate political influence. Some elements are allegedly linked to covert freemasonry lodges, and to Cosa Nostra.

Greenpeace has reconstructed, insofar as possible, a map of companies through which the principal representatives of the network serve their ends. Between 1991 and 1996 the network has attempted to dispose of waste in Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela. The network's operative branch in Italy includes at least 26 companies handling an estimated 3000 tonnes of waste per day, with a total value of about USD 4.8 million. Reports are commonplace of hazardous waste being declassified and illegally dumped and of shipping papers and waste registers being forged. Sometimes waste simply disappears while moving from one place to another. Given its monopolistic control of waste management in the area, the organisation has free access to the harbour of La Spezia (Italy), one of the busiest container terminals in the Mediterranean.

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE STOCKS IN AFRICA 2001

Preliminary list of countries with known obsolete pesticide stocks		
Countries in Africa	Pesticide stocks total (tonnes)	Disposed of
Algeria	207	
Benin	421	
Botswana	18 247	
Burkina Faso	75	
Burundi	169	
Cameroon	225	
Cape Verde	43	
Central African Republic	238	
Dem. Rep. of Congo	591	
Rep. of Congo	2	
Cote d'Ivoire	828	821
Egypt	591	
Equatorial Guinea	146	
Eritrea	223	
Ethiopia	3 401	
Gambia	21	21
Ghana	72	
Guinea-Bissau	9	9
Guinea-Conakry	47	
Kenya	56	
Libya	44	
Madagascar	64	64
Malawi	111	
Mali	13 761	
Mauritania	297	200
Morocco	2 265	
Mozambique	443	
Namibia	245	202
Niger	151	
Nigeria	22	
Rwanda	451	
Sao Tome and Principe	3	
Senegal	289	110
Seychelles	12	12
Sierra Leone	7	
South Africa	603	603
Sudan	666	
Swaziland	9	9
Tanzania	1 136	57

Togo	86	
Tunisia	882	
Uganda	254	90
Zambia	360	360
Zanzibar	280	280
Zimbabwe	27	
Total	48 081	2 838

ALGERIA

BASEL	LOME IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
15.09.98 ratified		Signatory

National Policy:

According to the Embassy of Algeria to the United States, although Algeria has never been targeted so far for the disposal of foreign wastes, the Algerian government has on several occasions in [1988] severely condemned waste trade which has affected mostly the African Continent.”²⁷

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Algeria there are altogether 207 tonnes of obsolete pesticides²⁸ among them possibly 20 tonnes of Dieldrin.²⁹

ANGOLA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Angola, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Waste Import Schemes:

Scheme: Kuenzler Waste Incinerator

Date: Started 1988

Type of Waste: 5 Million Tons of Western Industrial Waste

Source: Europe

Exporter: Arnold Andreas Kuenzler

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, \$2 Billion and 15,000 Jobs.

Status: Refused

In 1988, an enormous waste trade scheme was reported to be

²⁷ Letter from the Algerian Embassy to Greenpeace USA, August 25, 1988.

²⁸ Preliminary list of countries with known obsolete pesticide stocks, 2001, www.fao.org (= FAO 2001)

²⁹ FAO 1996/99

under negotiation between the Angolan government and a major Swiss arms trader, Arnold Andreas Kuenzler.

The scheme reportedly would bring over 5 million tons of western industrial waste to Angola for incineration and storage in exchange for \$2 billion and the construction of a new city, port, and airfield which would provide 15,000 jobs.

According to the Lisbon weekly, *O Independente*, the Angolan government entered a preliminary agreement on the proposal on November 5, 1988. However, Angola's official news agency reported that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos denied having signed any preliminary agreement on the scheme.

Kuenzler said, "We want to build in Africa the same installations that Ciba-Geigy [a major chemical manufacturer] has in Basel [Switzerland.] If it is good for the Swiss, it is good for the blacks!"³⁰

The waste was to be imported through the southern port of Namibe, Angola, and then incinerated in southern Angola. The incinerator would have produced toxic waste water and residual ash, which would have been buried in the Angolan desert.

According to the proposed contract, a copy of which has obtained by the European Environmental Alliance, the Angolan government was to receive USD 2 million for "national projects of an urgent nature."

The proposed contract gave a waste importation license to Kuenzler, who, with his partner Roland Straub, told *O Independente* that they hoped to clear between USD 5 and USD 10 million from the deal.

The project was to be financed by three U.S. corporations: Texas Alley Bank, the Millen Bank (also of Texas), and the U.S. Casualty Agency insurance company. Disposal of the ash and waste water was to be handled by another Swiss firm, Landis and Gyr.

The Angolan government denied that any such deal had been signed. The Angolan ambassador in Paris, Luis de Almeida, said that Angola was not and never would be a "dustbin" for any power. Another Angolan official was quoted as saying that all reports of the deal were "only aimed at smearing the credibility of our country." The secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, Ide Oumarou, also said that such reports were false.

Kuenzler, however, when asked in a radio interview, "Are you certain that you will export this waste or build this factory in

³⁰ Journal of Commerce, December 23, 1988; La Liberte (Switzerland), November 14, 1988.

Angola?” responded, “Oh yes, we are going to export, the deal is clinched.”³¹

Obsolete Pesticides: Angola is listed among the African countries where no FAO survey has been conducted yet (FAO 1999).

BENIN

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
04.12.97 Ratified	Party	Ratified/ Party to

National Policy: The country of Benin, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Benin is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On May 20, 1988, Archbishop Christophe Adienou of the Beninoise port of Cotonou met with Benin’s president, Brigadier General Mathieu Kerekou, to discuss “rumors circulating at present about the notorious issue of industrial wastes.” Archbishop Adienou claimed that the president said “he had not yet made a decision about the waste and that no blind decision would be made.”

On May 22, 1988, the Pan-African News Agency reported that Kerekou had issued a “strict order” to suspend “all activities” in connection with “the importation or transformation” of industrial waste. According to the news agency, the government claimed that it had been considering a proposal to construct a factory in Cotonou for the transformation of industrial waste into usable products.

Kerekou met with Nigerian president Ibrahim Babangida on September 21, 1988, in Seme along their shared border. At the meeting they restated their support for the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) decision to develop an international dumpwatch to monitor movements of ships carrying toxic cargo and they condemned the dumping of foreign wastes in Africa.³²

Waste import schemes: **Scheme: Sesco Waste Dumping**
 Date: 1988
 Type of Waste: Millions of Tons of Hazardous Wastes
 Source: Europe and North America
 Exporter: Sesco Ltd.

³¹ West Africa, January 16-22, 1989; Multinational Environmental Outlook, January 5, 1989; Luanda Radio, December 20, 1988; Radio France International, December 19 and 21, 1988; “Business Day,” Johannesburg, December 2, 1988; “O Independente,” December 4, 1988.

³² Pan-African News Agency via BBC Monitoring Service, Summary of World Broadcasts, May 24, 1988; LOME IV/ Cotonou Radio via BBC Monitoring Service, Summary of World Broadcasts, May 23, 1988; Xinhua, September 22, 1988.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping and \$12.5 Million Per Year
Status: Cancelled

A waste trade contract signed on January 12, 1988, was cancelled in May by President Kerekou.

A European firm, Sesco Ltd., planned to dispose of hazardous wastes from Europe and North America in Benin. Sesco has offices in Gibraltar and the UK, but is reported to be based in South Africa.

Sesco planned to ship between 1 and 5 million tons of wastes each year for a period of ten years. Sesco pledged to pay Benin \$2.50 per ton of wastes, giving the government of Benin potential earnings of up to USD 12.5 million per year. In addition, Sesco also pledged to include a 50-cents per ton investment in local agriculture, mining and industry. The deal was made public when Benin's Health Minister, Colonel Andre Atchade, denounced the plan. Atchade was dismissed by Kerekou on July 29.

Kerekou tried to break off the contract, but Sesco has demanded the return of 100 million CFA Francs in advance payments. Benin was reportedly planning to bury the wastes near Nigeria or Togo.³³

Scheme: Cogema Rad Waste

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Two Shiploads of Radioactive Waste

Source: France

Exporter: Cogema

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

According to the April 1988 newsletter, *Africa Analysis*, Benin agreed to import and dump two shiploads of radioactive waste from France. The newsletter stated that Kerekou "has decided that the waste will be buried on the outskirts of Abomey, near the village of the former leading opposition figure, Michel Aikpe, who died in 1975. The Abomey region is one of the centers of opposition to Kerekou."

A French firm, Cogema, allegedly was involved in this scheme. The accuracy of this report has been questioned. According to the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*, "The French ambassador in Lagos, had to categorically deny information contained in a local paper which claimed that the French firm Cogema had

³³ James Brooke, "African Nations Barring Foreign Toxic Wastes," New York Times, September 25, 1988; European Parliament; Greenpeace Belgium; Alan George, "The Nuclear Dumps of West Africa," Observer, May 29, 1988; Agence France-Presse, June 3, 1988; Africa Concord, June, 1988; "Africa: The Industrial World's Dumping Ground?," African Business, July, 1988.

reached a ‘secret agreement’ with Benin to dump” radioactive waste in Benin.³⁴

Scheme: Soviet Radioactive Waste

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Radioactive Waste

Source: Soviet Union

Exporter: Soviet Government

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

In April 1988, the BBC reported that the Soviet Union may have dumped radioactive wastes in Benin. However, on August 18, 1988, Soviet radio commentator Aleksey Litvinov called the BBC’s reports “rumors and falsehoods. We in the Soviet Union firmly support the struggle waged by the African people against ecological imperialism, and together with them come out against any burial of nuclear or other industrial waste” in Africa.³⁵

Scheme: Ciraltar

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Toxic

Source: Europe

Exporter: Ciraltar, Ltd.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

On November 23, 1988, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Benin made allegations that the Beninose government had agreed to accept European waste. According to the Committee, the government signed a contract with a London firm, Ciraltar Ltd., on January 8, 1988. The Beninose Ambassador to Nigeria, Patrice Hougavou, denied the Committee’s charges. According to the ambassador, Benin “did not and will never sign any agreement to import poison.”³⁶

Scheme: German copper slags

Date: 1992

Type of Waste: Copper Slag

Source: Germany

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Actual

On October 8, 1992 the German television channel ZDF aired footage showing copper slags in plastic bags in a Benin port. The reporter said that according to the freight papers it was “copper slag from Germany”. He said an analysis had shown high amounts of PCBs and Ortho-xylol.

34 A. George, Observer (U.K.), May 29, 1988; “Scandal of Toxic Waste Dumped on Africa,” Manchester Guardian Weekly, July 10, 1988; West Africa, June 20, 1988.

35 Tass via BBC Monitoring Service, August 9, 1988; Moscow Radio via BBC Monitoring Service, August 18, 1988.

36 Xinhua, November 29, 1988.

Scheme: The Syndicate I

Date: probably 1992
Type of Waste: Industrial toxic and radioactive
Source: Europe
Exporter: Unknown
Pretext/Fate: Dumping
Status: Proposed by Nigerian business people

In an undated letter from Nigeria there is mention of a plan to dump toxic and radioactive waste from Europe in Benin:

“...we, a group of international businessmen, in consent with key personnel in the government of NIGERIA, TOGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA and REPUBLIC of BENIN have developed a closed syndicate which specializes in the clandestine importation and disposal of industrial toxic and radioactive wastes on behalf of industrial concern in the west for a fee ...”³⁷

For a more exhaustive quote see: Nigeria Section of this report: “Waste Trade Schemes II”

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Benin there are altogether 421 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 9 different locations. The following substances were identified, among others: Dieldrin. Countries of origin named are: Japan, Germany. Companies identified are: Ciba Geigy, SOCHIM, SPIA, Procida, SOFACO.³⁸

BOTSWANA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
20.05.98 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Botswana, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Responding to a draft of the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP’s) Global Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the government of Botswana stated that “nothing short of a complete ban on all exports of hazardous waste will solve the problem.” The government accused the draft convention, which controls rather than prohibits the international waste trade, of “asking developing countries to divert scarce resources to the safe managing and disposal of the developed countries’ waste.” By allowing waste to continue to be exported to developing countries, “the present

³⁷ Document filed with Greenpeace
³⁸ FAO 1999,2001

draft convention is regarded as merely legitimizing a process which should never really be encouraged.”³⁹

Obsolete Pesticides: In Botswana there are altogether 18,247 tonnes of Pesticide wastes including heavily polluted soil caused by originally 426 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in various, mainly two, different locations.⁴⁰ Companies identified are, among others: BAYER-RSA, ELANCO, Ciba-Geigy, Rhone Poulenc.⁴¹(FAO 1999)

BURKINA FASO

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
04.11.99 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy: The country of Burkina Faso is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Obsolete Pesticides: In Burkina Faso there are altogether 75⁴² tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 11 different locations. Countries of origin named are: Canada, China, Denmark, Japan. Companies identified are, among others: Atlas, Bayer, Calliope/Callivoire, Ciba Geigy, HOECHST, ICI, Rhone P., Roussel, Shell, Saphyto, Sochim, Sofaco.⁴³

BURUNDI

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
06.01.97 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy: The country of Burundi, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Burundi is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On July 14, 1988, the foreign minister of Burundi, Cyprien Mbonimpa, called for a unified African stance toward “issues of common interest” for African countries, including attempts to dump foreign wastes in Africa.

Obsolete Pesticides: In Burundi there are altogether 169 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in one location. Companies identified are: Bayer, Sumitomo.⁴⁴

³⁹ Letter to UNEP from Z.J. Ntakhwana, Botswana Secretary of External Affairs, October 14, 1988.

⁴⁰ FAO 2001

⁴¹ FAO 1999, 2001

⁴² FAO 2001

⁴³ FAO 1999

⁴⁴ FAO 1999,2001

“From 1985 to 1997, Burundi, a very minute country imported different types of huge quantities of pesticides. This amounted to 14,000 tonnes. This total is equal to 71% of the total stocks of obsolete pesticides estimated to exist in Africa.

This is a wonderful example as to how poor countries in Africa and other developing countries continuously but innocently drawn into serious environmental hazards, health damage and loss of precious financial resources. The case is something that all other developing countries should learn from.”⁴⁵

CAMEROON

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Cameroon, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Cameroon is both a signatory and has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On February 28, 1989, Cameroon President Paul Biya told the Ministerial Council that Cameroon should not import any wastes because the associated risks are too great to accept. Biya warned his government to be on the lookout for any attempts to dump foreign wastes in Cameroon.

A year later, the Cameroon National Assembly passed a law making Cameroon the second West African country to impose the death penalty on unauthorized waste traders. Anyone introducing, producing, stocking or transporting toxic or other dangerous wastes without authorization in Cameroon risks being sentenced to death. Nigeria, the target of various waste trade schemes in 1988, has also called for the execution of illicit waste traders.⁴⁶

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Cameroon there were altogether 225 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 7 different locations.

The following substances were identified: DDT (FAO 1996), Dieldrin, Lindane

Companies identified are: Bayer (41 t from Germany), Calliope, Ciba, DOW/Elanco, Rhone Poulenc, Sandoz (23 t from Switzerland), Shell. (FAO 1996/99)

“In July last year (2000), the local industry association (UPAC) offered its co-operation to the Ministry of Agriculture in Cameroon to progress a disposal project. It is believed that several hundreds of tonnes of obsolete crop protection products

⁴⁵ A. Wodageneh in FAO 1999, Burundi section
⁴⁶ West Africa, February 12-18, 1990.

exist in the country.”⁴⁷

In November 1999, GTZ specialists visited a warehouse in Garoua in the North province of Cameroon and saw “about 1,000 litres of Dieldrin”.⁴⁸

Trade in Obsolete Pesticides:

A Greenpeace investigation carried out in October 2000 concentrated on the obsolete pesticide stockpiles listed by FAO in Cameroon. The three storage sites in question were found in Kumba and Bafoussam, in the rural west of the country. In Kumba, two storage sites were inspected and documented together with the responsible officials.

Both the government officials of the South West Development Authority (SOWEDA) and staff of the South West Farmers Cooperative (SOWEFCO) state that the substances listed by FAO have not been disposed of.

Instead, they were moved out of the central storage sites in 1998 to make way for new deliveries. In the course of a privatization wave that took place at the same time, the formerly government-owned stocks were distributed to unknown destinations. It is from these private depots that the market continues to be supplied to this day with obsolete pesticides.

On 8 October, 2000 in Bafoussam, the Greenpeace team was able to document at a dealer a recently emptied 50-litre drum (PCP and Lindane) and a full, sealed, 25-litre canister containing Lindane. Two 50-gram sachets containing outdated Lindane powder were purchased as evidence.

New stockpiles accumulating?

In Kumba, the storage administrator complained that he had been delivered excessive amounts of pesticides from Europe and North America, some of which could not be distributed in time (i.e. before the expiry date) to clients.

In late 1998, five annual deliveries for a project designed to extend over seven years suddenly arrived in one consignment in the Cameroonian port of Douala. On government instructions, they had to be secured at great cost, transported to Kumba and stored there. The project was run by a consortium of companies and the central government of Cameroon in Yaoundé, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB).

Even this logistical task could not be mastered adequately. First of all, obsolete pesticide stocks had to be moved out in order to

⁴⁷ Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF): Disposal of Obsolete Crop Protection Products: Country Progress Reports, January 2001 (= GCPF 2001)

⁴⁸ GTZ in interview with Greenpeace Nov.2000

make place at all (see above).

Because the available space was still too tight, a warehouse was used which, owing to inadequate ventilation, was not approved for pesticide storage. Cartons were piled – and were still found in this condition on 5 October, 2000 – in up to ten layers even though, due to the great pressure, only five layers are permitted if damage to the bottom cartons is to be avoided.

Some pesticides came too late for application during the growing season, others were entirely unknown to the farmers and could not be sold. For a number of other pesticides, the farmers saw no need to use them at all and thus did not buy them.

This example highlights how, despite the worldwide debate on obsolete pesticide stockpiles in developing countries, the same companies continue to supply whatever they can to wherever they can, without concern for the application and fate of their products.

The responsible storage administrator said:

"We are not happy ... these pesticides were forced upon us by foreign suppliers."

As far as can be ascertained from the cartons, the foreign suppliers are mainly:

BAYER (D), Ciba Geigy (CH), DOW Elanco (USA), Rhone Poulenc (F), Zeneca (GB) ⁴⁹

CAPE VERDE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
02.12.94 Ratified	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Cape Verde there are altogether 43 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in one location. ⁵⁰

"The Ministry of Agriculture has requested the assistance of the Royal Netherlands Embassy Dakar (Senegal) in disposing of an estimated 42 tonnes of potentially obsolete products. GCPF is involved in discussions to combine this project with those in Mauritania and Senegal to be initiated in 2001. " ⁵¹

⁴⁹ Greenpeace photo & video documentation

⁵⁰ FAO 2001

⁵¹ GCPF 2001

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy: The Central African Republic, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. The Central African Republic is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Waste import schemes: **Scheme: Unspecified European Hazardous Waste**
 Date: 1988
 Type of Waste: Industrial and Pharmaceutical
 Source: Europe
 Exporter: Unknown
 Pretext/Fate: Dumping, \$500,000
 Status: Unclear

In 1988, government officials in the Central African Republic denied allegations in the French press that in 1986 they agreed to import 70,000 tons of hazardous wastes in exchange for USD 500,000. The wastes, which were from industrial and pharmaceutical sources, would originate in Europe. According to official radio broadcasts, Central African Republic President Andre Kolingba ordered an investigation of the reported waste trade scheme.⁵²

Responding to allegations that the toxic wastes had been buried in the Bakouma region of the Central African Republic, Interior Minister Christophe Grelombe stated on November 7, 1988, that an ad hoc commission of inquiry had found “no evidence” to these claims.

However, according to the French publication *Le Lettre Du Continent*, the wastes, which were in barrels marked “agricultural fertilizers,” were unloaded in 1986 at the port of Pointe Noire in the Congo, whereupon half of the cargo was transported up river to Mobaye and eventually to Bakouma. It is unknown where the other half of the wastes were shipped.

Grelombe said the commission had visited areas other than Pointe Noire where waste was said to have been buried. But the Commission claimed to have found no evidence and concluded that this was simply “a press campaign aimed at tarnishing the image of the CAR and destabilizing the regime.”

According to some reports, the CAR government received 2.9

⁵²Brooke, New York Times, September 25, 1988; Reuters, August 25, 1988.

million francs in exchange for the wastes.⁵³

Obsolete Pesticides:

In the Central African Republic there are altogether 238 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 3 different locations. The following substances were identified: DDT, Methyl-parathion. Companies identified are: Laprovet (F), Rhone Poulenc, Shell, Sochim.⁵⁴

CHAD

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Chad there is an unknown quantity of obsolete pesticides which have to be disposed of.⁵⁵

COMOROS

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
31.10.94 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Comoros, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. The government of Comoros believes that “the only way to guarantee the protection of the environment is to prohibit the export of hazardous wastes completely.”⁵⁶

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: FMW

Date: 1995

Quantity: 100 - 200,000 tonnes/year

Country of Origin: Germany, Austria; Belgium/ Italy ?

Exporter: Foerderanlagen und Maschinenbau AG (FMW), Vienna, Austria

Recipient/ Destination: Dogmoch, Comoros

Pretext/Fate: interim storage/ later incineration

Status: proposed, unknown

In Spring 1995, FMW made an offer to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of the Comoros (half a million inhabitants) to build one or several incinerators for “industrial waste” with the code numbers “11/12/13/14/17/18/19 53 59/97” for imported toxic wastes from German and Austrian industries (same numbers as in the Sri Lankan case).

These code numbers refer to:

⁵³Le Lettre Du Continent, June 8, 1988; BBC Monitoring Service, Summary of World Broadcasts, November 8, 1988.

⁵⁴FAO 1999, 2001

⁵⁵FAO 1999

⁵⁶“Analysis of Government Responses to the Executive Director’s Notes on Hazardous Waste Convention,” United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP/WG.189/Inf. 1, 12 October, 1988, pg. 3.

“wastes to be specifically monitored” (the German term for hazardous and toxic wastes) from food industries, animal production, contaminated woods, pulp, pesticide and pharmaceutical industries, chemical and hospital wastes.

These are practically the bulk of “burnable” hazardous wastes in the German toxic waste catalogue (with the exception of wastes from the petrochemical, paint and lacqueur industries, and halogenated solvents). The quoted “code 19” is not existant in the catalogue. (Zweite allgemeine Verwaltungsvorschrift zum Abfallgesetz - Second general administration directive re General Waste Law)

The investment sum for the installation was to be 9 million USD, the amount of wastes imported was 100,000 tons per year to create 18 to 50 Megawatts of electric energy each (no time period stipulated). Every kind of domestic waste generated in the Comoros would be treated for free.⁵⁷

The reason why only USD 9 million has been calculated in this case is not understood as in all other cases FMW has calculated USD 300 million for each facility.

A key person in the respective negotiations is Kamel Zouai, a well-known politician in the Comoros because he had already played an important part in the country’s foreign affairs. Of Algerian descent, he became a “Special Advisor” to the president of the country, Said Mohamed Djohar, and has held a diplomatic passport since November 1994. He is the second person in the Embassy of the Comoros in Paris, responsible for commercial affairs. He signed a mandate to empower a French engineer, Claude Deret (“passport no. 178/89 valid until 25 April 1999”) “to negotiate with German and Austrian authorities” in the name of the Comoros. The aim was to have “one or several” treatment facilities built “type F.M.W.” This mission was declared strictly confidential. This mandate was signed and stamped in a Paris lawyers’ office of “Bechara Parabe, 12 Ave. Pierre 1er de Serbie”, on March 22,1995.

In the same document there is talk about letters to be sent by Deret to the Belgian and Italian ministers of the environment.

A second document obtained by Greenpeace is an unsigned, undated “Protocole d’Accord” between FMW, The Republic of the Comores, represented by Claude Deret, and the “Group Dogmoch”, obviously the company acting on the Comorian side. According to this document, FMW and Dogmoch are to construct one or several power plants for the Comores generating “minimum 18-50 MW each”, but it does not say in which time frame.

⁵⁷ Ahmed Ali Amin, “Déchets toxiques: Comores dans la ligne de mire des trafiquants”, Weekly newspaper Al-Watwan, 12 May 1995

The process was to be administered by one “maître (lawyer) Sauvage, 19, rue D’Athenes, Paris”, the financial side would be in the hands of Bechara Parabe (see above).

FMW representative Armin Warneke told a business contact in Austria that FMW had “bought” important members of the Comoros’ administration and some Members of Parliament (Assemblée Nationale).

Reacting to the first Al-Atwan article an FMW representative wrote a counterstatement and succeeded in changing the editors’ critical attitude so that they published the full text, he said. Al-Watwan is a government paper. In fact, the 12 May article was very critical about the project and called it “an impardonable crime”, but at the same time downplayed the role of Kamel Zouai.

Other media such as “Radio France D’Outre Mer” (RFO), and “Europe 2”, both broadcast from Mayotte, the only French island of the Comoros archipelago, specifically stressed his role and reminded their audience of past “scandals” he was involved in. They also expressed concern that censorship would soon put an end to the public debate on toxic waste imports.

The Paris based Indian Ocean Newsletter, ION, (weekly) comments in its 20 May, 1995 edition that “this kind of information in the pro-government weekly is unusual to say the least” and could only be explained by “the ongoing war of nerves” between different clans and power groups in the country.

“It’s silent now”, said Patrick Braindot, Europe 2 reporter, in a phone conversation with Andreas Bernstorff of Greenpeace Germany on August 28, 1995. ⁵⁸

Note: FMW offered the same or similar types of incinerator, always to be pre-financed by toxic waste imports, to the following countries: North Korea, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Panama, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Romania, Slovenia, Russia, Turkey, and Spain.

Obsolete Pesticides: No information available; forgotten country: Comoros is not even listed among the African countries where no FAO survey has been conducted yet.

CONGO, People’s Republic of

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

⁵⁸ “FMW: A Global Waste Trader - Prepared for the Third Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention” in Geneva, 18-22 September, 1995 (30 pages, English and German).

National Policy:

The People's Republic of Congo (capital Brazzaville), as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

On June 16, 1988, Congo President Denis Sassou-Nguesso declared, "We flatly refuse to be the garbage dump for the industrialized world."

On August 15, 1988, Sassou-Nguesso criticized the media for not putting enough pressure on foreign firms and countries that are engaged in the international waste trade. In an interview with Radio France International, Sassou-Nguesso expressed surprise at the way the media handled the recent Congolese toxic waste import scandal.

The president said, "One does not really feel that the press puts pressure on these companies, on the governments of the industrialized countries, as it is more or less certain that if real action was taken by ... industrialized countries against the export of this industrial waste to Third World countries, the ships would not have left those countries so easily."⁵⁹

Waste import schemes:**Scheme: Diosso Gorge**

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Industrial

Source: U.S. and Europe

Exporter: Export Waste Management, Inc.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, \$176 Million

Status: Rejected

Congo nearly became a major recipient of wastes from the U.S. and Europe in early 1988. On April 20, 1988, the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville announced that the government of Congo agreed to take 1 million tons of industrial wastes from the U.S. and Europe.

The embassy quoted Congo's agreement as follows: "I, the undersigned Director of Environment at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Environment, authorize the Société Congolaise de Récupération de Déchets Industriel (CRDI) to import industrial non-radioactive wastes for storage of up to one million tons. This authorization covers a twelve month period from the date of signature, April 16, 1988."

According to the U.S. EPA, this was the first official authorization by an African country to accept hazardous wastes from the U.S.

The wastes were to be imported via Export Waste Management

⁵⁹Radio France International via BBC Monitoring Service, August 17, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 16, 1988; West Africa, August 29-September 4, 1988.

Inc., a U.S. waste broker firm based in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey (phone number 201-969-1816). This firm was working in consortium with Interspace Products Inc., a shipping firm based in western New York.

The American firms were working with two European firms – Van Santen B.V. of Moerdijk, Netherlands (a shipping firm) and Bauwerk A.G. (a broker firm) of Liechtenstein. *West Africa* magazine reported that Van Santen was to have paid the Congolese government an average of \$31 per ton of wastes delivered, with the entire contract worth \$176 million over eight years. This deal would have brought over 5.5 million tons of wastes to Congo over that time period.

Van Santen was preparing the first shipments of wastes from Europe (via Rotterdam) to commence in September.

The wastes were to be dumped in Congo's Diosso Gorge. The *New York Times* described Diosso Gorge as "a stunning gorge of plunging, pink cliffs draped with green Central African jungle."

The types of wastes that were to be shipped included solvents, paint and pesticides sludges from the U.S. and chemical wastes from Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and West Germany.

On April 26, 1988, Interspace Products sent a letter to waste generators in the U.S. Peter Hurd, Interspace president (phone number: 716-823-3841), wrote, "Export Waste Management and Interspace Services are prepared to export your hazardous wastes TODAY. We will be accepting material ... delivered dockside Georgia Port Authority, Savanna, Georgia, or Port Authority, Richmond, California. We are presently accepting orders for June loading and space is on a reserved basis."

Greenpeace does not believe that the June loading occurred. In mid-May 1988, Congo informed the U.S. government that it was retracting the agreement.

In late May, the Congolese government arrested five people, including Dieudonne Ganga, advisor to the prime minister; Marius Issanga Gamissimi, environment director; Abel Tchicou, external trade director; Alexis Vincent Gomes, lawyer; and Jean Passi, artisan and Italian businessman, for their involvement in ascheme to set up a sham waste importing company. Passi was subsequently banned from Congo.

Shortly after Congo cancelled the deal, Information Minister Christian Gilbert-Bembet strongly denied that such a deal had ever been planned, stating that "Congo, known for its moral grandeur, prefers to stay poor with honor." But on July 20, Bembet was dismissed from his ministerial post for his role in advancing the \$84 million Diosso Gorge dumping contract.

On June 2, Van Santen announced it was pulling out of the project because of the “negative publicity” arising from the deal.

On June 7, the five arrestees, including the director of the environment, pleaded guilty to conspiring to import wastes into Congo.

According to the U.S. EPA, the government of Guinea (Conakry) rejected a similar proposal by Export Waste Management in early 1988.⁶⁰

Obsolete Pesticides: In Congo there are 2 tonnes of obsolete pesticides (methyl bromide, a highly toxic substance and ozone depleter) of unknown origin which have to be disposed of. (FAO 1999)

**CONGO, Democratic Republic of
(formerly Zaire)**

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
06.10.94 Ratified	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy: The Democratic Republic of Congo (capital Kinshasa) is a country which has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Waste Import Schemes: **Scheme: Petry**
 Date: 1989
 Type of Waste: Industrial waste, filter dust
 Origin: West Germany
 Exporter: Disposal companies
 Pretext/Fate: Incineration as “substitute fuels”, construction material
 Status: died ?
see: Kenya Section of this report

Obsolete Pesticides: In the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, there are altogether 591 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 5 different locations.

According to FAO countries of origin are: USA, Japan
 Companies identified are: Dupont, Mitsui, Sumitomo.⁶¹

But Dr. Dany M. Kankonda of the “Direction des Etablissements Humains et Protection de l’Environnement” (DEH-PE) who is also the Focal Point for the Basel Convention in the country said there were no stocks stemming from US

⁶⁰African Concord, June 21, 1988; Agence France Press, June 21, 1988; Brooke, New York Times, September 25, 1988; Reuters, May 31, 1988; U.S. EPA and State Department Records, 1988, including cable from U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville to Secretary of State, Washington, D.C., April 20, 1988; West Africa, June 20, 1988.

⁶¹ FAO 1999

American companies. He himself had made the original inventory, he added.

(Personal conversation with Andreas Bernstorff, Rabat, Morocco, Jan 10, 2001)

COTE D'IVOIRE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
01.12.94 Ratified	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Cote d'Ivoire, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Cote d'Ivoire is both a signatory and has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On July 6, 1988, Cote d'Ivoire adopted a law prohibiting the importation of toxic or nuclear wastes into the country. Under this law, individuals convicted of waste import will face prison terms up to 20 years and fines up to \$1.6 million. Furthermore, any guilty parties must clean up the wastes at their own expense. The government said, "we can't accept that the industrialized countries sell us death while at the same time they refuse to pay reasonable prices for our agricultural products."⁶²

*Obsolete Pesticides:

In Cote d'Ivoire there were 828 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, 821 tonnes including contaminated soil and sludge etc. were removed by FAO and Shell in 1997/98.⁶³

DJIBOUTI

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Djibouti, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Djibouti is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Jelly Wax I

Date: 1987

Type of Waste: Highly Toxic

Source: Italy

Exporter: Jelly Wax

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

⁶²Agence France Presse, July 6, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 30, July 7, 1988.

⁶³ FAO 1999, 2001

In 1987, the government of Djibouti turned away the vessel, *Lynx*, which left Marina di Carrera, Italy, for Djibouti in February. The *Lynx*, loaded with over 2,000 tons of highly toxic wastes, was prohibited from unloading the wastes, turned around, and traveled to Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. ⁶⁴

For a complete account of this story, please see the waste export schemes section under Italy.

Obsolete Pesticides: No information available. Djibouti is on the FAO list of African countries which “still require countrywide survey”.⁶⁵

EGYPT

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
08.01.93 Ratified		Signatory

National Policy: The country of Egypt is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

In a conversation with Doctor Elmohamadi EID, Director of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Greenpeace was informed that Egypt has banned both the import and export of hazardous waste. ⁶⁶

Egyptian delegates to the 32nd session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) proposed a resolution asking IAEA to develop an international trade law on nuclear wastes, which would allow these shipments only with the permission of the import, export and transit countries involved. ⁶⁷

Waste import schemes: **Scheme: Sweetch 31/I**

Date: 1989/90

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The freighter *MV Sweetch 31* was denied entry to Egyptian ports and next tried Nigerian ports. On board there was an unknown amount of toxic waste from unnamed European countries. ⁶⁸

Note: Sweetch 31/II in the Nigeria Section of this report

⁶⁴Greenpeace Italy.

⁶⁵ FAO 1999

⁶⁶Greenpeace International, Conversation, December 21, 1989.

⁶⁷Xinhua, April 18, 1988.

⁶⁸Fn: Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19,1990

Scheme: Bruna Americana I

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Netherlands

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The freighter *Bruna Americana* under the flag of Cyprus was denied entry to Egyptian ports and next tried the port of Mombasa, Kenya and Nigerian ports. On board there were 20,000 tonnes of toxic waste which the ship had taken on in the Netherlands.⁶⁹

Note: Bruna Americana II and III in the Kenya and Nigeria Sections of this report

Scheme: Taurus pesticides

Date: March, 1992

Type of Waste: Expired pesticides

Source: Germany

Exporter: Taurus Umweltschutz

Pretext/fate: Further use ?

Status: Stopped

In March, 1992, Greenpeace detected and blocked a warehouse full of partly rotten barrels containing pesticides from old East German production. In total there were 180 tonnes, among them mercury and highly chlorinated substances. These pesticides were no longer in use in Germany, some were banned, most of them were expired and many barrels were rusting and leaking. They had been hidden by the broker company Taurus Umweltschutz to be exported "to Egypt or maybe Tunisia", Taurus manager Ulrich Frommherz said. Taurus had pocketed the disposal fees and, by exporting the waste pesticides, had hoped to get around the disposal costs.⁷⁰

The authorities seized the barrels and had them incinerated.

More on Taurus: see next scheme.

Scheme: Metallgesellschaft Frankfurt

Date: 1992

Type of Waste: Contaminated plastics

Source: Germany

Exporter: Metallgesellschaft Frankfurt

Pretext/Fate: Recycling, incineration of residues

Status: Actual / rejected

⁶⁹ Die Tageszeitung, Berlin, (AFP quoting the Sunday Times) January 15, 1990
Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19, 1990

⁷⁰ Relevant documents on file with Greenpeace Germany

The Danish coast freighter *Cito* with toxic waste from Germany was turned back home after her unsuccessful mission in March, 1992. She carried 950 tonnes of shredded plastic housings which were leftovers from the recycling of starter batteries, capacitors and transformers. The wastes were contaminated with antimony and lead dust. Under German law, antimony dust is a carcinogenic working substance. The material stemmed from a lead smelter “Blei- und Silberhütte Braubach BSB” (Lead and Silver Smelter) near Koblenz, Germany, then a subsidiary of the biggest European Metals Holding, Metallgesellschaft Frankfurt. The port authorities in Alexandria, Egypt, had stopped the vessel from unloading her toxic cargo after a warning from Greenpeace and the Dutch government.

The *Cito* had been chartered by the German waste broker Taurus Umwelttechnik. Taurus told Greenpeace the wastes were to be “hand sorted” for further recycling in Egypt and the non-recyclable parts were to be burnt in a cement kiln, Turah, near Cairo. “As the waste is contaminated with 17,000 mg (= 17 grams) per kg of lead it could heavily pollute the environment and the construction material. Such a procedure would be strictly forbidden in Germany” said Greenpeace campaigner Andreas Bernstorff. Taurus was not able to identify the location of the “hand sorting” process and according to Greenpeace research, the cement kiln, Turah, was only able to process oil, and not solid waste.

In total, more than 20,000 tonnes of the waste were contracted to be shipped to Egypt during 1992. 1,600 tonnes arrived in January 1992 on the same boat, according to the captain. The export of the waste as a commodity “for recycling” had been permitted by German authorities.

Greenpeace forced German authorities to allow the *Cito* entry into the port of Emden and denounced the broker “Taurus” as a “crooks company” (see below: Background on Taurus), but the “Metallgesellschaft” still refused to take the waste back saying that the “expertise of the company (Taurus) is out of question”. On May 7, 1992 Greenpeace blocked the entrance of the Metallgesellschaft’s headquarters in Frankfurt using 16 barrels full of waste from the *Cito*.⁷¹

In August the waste was reloaded from the *Cito* by workers wearing full body protection and masks, and shipped for final storage to a salt dome 700 meters deep at the cost of Metallgesellschaft. Storage fees are DM 1,000 (then USD 750). The one thousand tonnes already in Egypt have never been retrieved. In this way Metallgesellschaft saved almost a million Deutschmarks (then USD 750,000).

71 Die Tageszeitung, Berlin, May 8, 1992

Background information on Taurus:

The man behind the scenes at TAURUS Umwelttechnik in Schopfheim near the Swiss border was Ulrich Frommherz. Up until 1990 he had run a company called FROBELIT ("Fassadenbeschichtungen", which means plating or building fronts) which went bankrupt, allegedly in a fraudulent way. Behind the front of FROBELIT, Frommherz was part of the following toxic waste brokerage schemes in 1989 and 1990:

- a huge project to dump all kinds of toxic waste from the non-ferrous metal industries in the mountains of Transkei, South Africa. This plan was stopped by Greenpeace and the South African group Earthlife in 1990 (see South Africa Section of this report).
- a scheme to dump highly toxic Aluminium waste from Switzerland on the edge of a Norwegian fjord. This dumpsite was closed for imports after a campaign by Greenpeace Switzerland and Norway in 1991.

In this scheme Frommherz collaborated with the infamous Gianfranco Ambrosini, a Swiss waste trader who had horrified half of Africa in 1988. (Ambrosini: see also Guinea Bissau, Senegal, and South Africa Sections of this report)

- 500,000 tonnes of "toxic waste for incineration" in non-existent facilities in Argentina, Paraguay, Guayana, El Salvador, and Venezuela, were to be moved out of Europe. Frommherz's partner here was another waste broker, H.I.S. of Lakeland, Florida and Hamburg. H.I.S. was detected with 1,111 toxic waste barrels bound for South America in the North German port of Bremen, using fake import licences. H.I.S. was accused of fraud and sentenced in numerous cases by US courts.

- FROBELIT developed a "dump project" in a desert area in the province of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates with a UAE partner SQUADR.

Together with his Arab friends Frommherz was dealing with "Petrodollars", allegedly in a fraudulent way again, as a German public prosecutor said who had recently begun a formal court procedure. "Many hundreds of thousands of Deutschmarks" have been pocketed in this way by Frommherz, he says.

Possibly these Petrodollars were the starting capital for Frommherz's new firm, TAURUS, which obviously worked with an international network from the beginning. The list of addresses of the "TAURUS group" included the United Arab Emirates (Sharjah), Cairo, Tokyo, Texas, France, Switzerland. (as of 1992)

Taurus's manager, Ulrich Frommherz, was convicted of fraud in 1991, and sentenced for tax evasion (DM 1.1m, then USD 800,000) by the District Court of Freiburg in 1992. He was sentenced to five years' prison, was released and started new businesses including toxic waste related ones in Switzerland together with people from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. ⁷²

Scheme: Unknown from Europe

Date: 1996

Type of Waste: Leaking toxic waste", 30 tonnes

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

"...A cargo-load of leaking toxic waste docked at Kenya's port of Mombasa last year after being turned away by Tanzania. The cargo, weighing more than 30,480 kgs, was also banned from passing through the Suez Canal in the Red Sea by Egypt.

The European-registered ship, with 16 containers of chemical waste, was finally escorted by the Kenyan marine authorities into international waters for the start of its long journey to a disposal site in Britain via the Mozambican port of Beira.

But six hours before the vessel's departure, a group of Somali leaders here, acting on what they said was a tip-off that the cargo was to be dumped off the Somali coast, warned the ship owners to avoid Somali territorial waters ..." ⁷³

Obsolete Pesticides:

See also the above scheme: "Taurus pesticides"

Egypt was on the FAO 1999 list of African countries countries which "still require countrywide survey".

According to a 2001 document there are 591 tonnes in Egypt. ⁷⁴

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Equatorial Guinea, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Emvatrex

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Mixed Chemical Waste

⁷² Relevant documents are on file with Greenpeace

⁷³ Inter Press Service, 12-Aug-97, Title: EAST AFRICA: Protecting Endangered Marine Plants and Animals, by Moyiga Nduru, origin: Harare

⁷⁴ FAO 2001

Source: Europe
Exporter: Emvatrex (UK), Axim (USA)
Pretext/Fate: Dumping, Millions of Dollars
Status: Unclear

In May 1988, the newsletter *Africa Analysis* reported that a waste trade deal between an unnamed British company and the government of Equatorial Guinea was nearing completion. The scheme was to provide the firm with 200 hectares of land on Annobon, a volcanic island off the West African Coast. Under a contract that expires in 1997, the firm could store 2 million drums of “mixed chemical wastes from Europe.” The wastes were to be dumped in a large hole being dug by convict labor. According to *Africa Analysis*, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who allegedly personally approved the plan, received a down payment of \$1.6 million.

It was later learned that the British firm was Emvatrex of Buckinghamshire, UK. Greenpeace also learned that a U.S. firm, Axim Consortium Group of New York City, was also involved in the scheme.

The residents of Annobon Island were not consulted about the plan, according to *Africa Analysis*. There was concern that the waste storage facility would leak and damage the environment, including the fisheries resource, which is the main source of livelihood for most islanders.

In a letter dated September 14, 1988, Equatorial Guinea’s Industrial Minister, Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obam Asue, wrote to Axim Consortium Group that, “given the uncertainty stemming from the lack of mutual understanding, we have decided to suspend this project and all of our relationships until we can obtain by ourselves an accounting of the risks...involved in the international traffic in wastes.”

It is unclear whether Equatorial Guinea has suspended all waste trade negotiations. In late September 1988, President Mbasogo denied that the country had any plans to bury foreign wastes on Annobon Island. And in mid-October 1988, the U.S. EPA confirmed that Equatorial Guinea would likely not accept any foreign wastes.⁷⁵ However, in a letter to the editor of *New African* magazine, the Society of Physicians of Equatorial Guinea in exile in West Germany announced that President Nguema had signed a contract with UK of Buckinghamshire to dump toxic wastes on the island.⁷⁶

Greenpeace does not have evidence of waste actually being imported in this scheme.

⁷⁵*Africa Analysis*, May 27, 1988; A letter from Equatorial Guinea Minister Asue to William Miles of Axim Consortium Group, September 14, 1988; Conversation with Wendy Greider, U.S. EPA, October 13, 1988.

⁷⁶*New African*, January, 1989.

Scheme: The Syndicate II

Date: probably 1992

Type of Waste: Industrial toxic and radioactive

Source: Europe

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: proposed by Nigerian business people

In an undated letter from Nigeria there is mention of a plan to dump toxic and radioactive waste from Europe in Equatorial Guinea:

“...we, a group of international businessmen, in consent with key personnel in the government of NIGERIA, TOGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA and REPUBLIC of BENIN have developed a closed syndicate which specializes in the clandestine importation and disposal of industrial toxic and radioactive wastes on behalf of industrial concern in the west for a fee ...” ⁷⁷

For a more exhaustive quote see: Nigeria Section of this report: “Waste Trade Schemes II”

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Equatorial Guinea there are altogether 146 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in mainly 2 different locations. ⁷⁸

ERITREA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	

National Policy:

The state of Eritrea was founded on May 27, 1993.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Eritrea there are altogether 223 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 41 different locations.

The following substances were identified, among others: DDT, Dieldrin, Lindane

Countries of origin are: Denmark, Japan, UK

Companies identified are: Akoyahogo, Ciba Geigy, Sumitomo. ⁷⁹

ETHIOPIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
12.04.2000 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Ethiopia, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

⁷⁷ Document on file with Greenpeace

⁷⁸ FAO 1999

⁷⁹ FAO 1999,2001

Waste import schemes: Scheme: Foreign Nuclear Wastes

Date: 1988
Type of Waste: Nuclear
Source: Italy
Exporter: Unknown
Pretext/Fate: Dumping
Status: Unclear

In January 1988, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front alleged that "certain Italian companies" planned "to discharge and bury nuclear waste along the sea-coast of Eritrea with the blessing of the Italian government and other powers." The EPLF alleged that the Ethiopian government planned to secretly dump nuclear wastes in the port city of Massawa. The EPLF wrote, "such inhuman conspiracy poses danger not only to the Eritrean people, but will inflict (damages) on the marine resources of the Red Sea."

According to Weldegaber Berhane, an Eritrean expatriate living in California, the government of Ethiopia admitted to having been asked by the government of Italy for land for the disposal of Italian wastes. Berhane alleged that wastes, which were ultimately dumped in Lebanon were originally intended for disposal in Ethiopia.

Conversely, in late July 1988, the Ethiopian government accused "rebels" in Eritrea of planning to dump radioactive wastes in Ethiopia. According to the accusation, Eritrean "rebels" would receive military assistance in exchange for disposing the wastes from unnamed Western countries.⁸⁰

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Ethiopia there are altogether 3,401 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 900 different locations.

The following substances were identified, among others: Aldrin, DDT, Dieldrin, Lindane.

Countries of origin are: UK, India, China

Companies identified are, among others: BASF, Bayer, Calliope, Chevron, Ciba Geigy, Chevron, Dow, Hoechst, ICI, Monsanto, Rhone, SANDOZ, Schering, Shell, Sumitomo.⁸¹(FAO 1996/99)

"Following a request to the crop protection industry by the Federal Government of Ethiopia for assistance with the removal of an estimated 1,500 tonnes of obsolete crop protection products and 500 tonnes of contaminated soils, GCPF member companies have indicated their willingness to support the disposal of those products they originally manufactured or supplied. The project, launched in 1998, became active in the third quarter 2000.

⁸⁰Weldegaber Berhane, "Nuclear Waste in Eritrea," African Concord, July 26, 1988; "An Important Warning," (press release of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front," January 27, 1988; Reuters News Reports, July 27, 1988.

⁸¹ FAO 1996,1999,2001

Industry has asked for a more detailed inventory in order to determine whether some of the stocks are still usable.”⁸²

In fact, only 50% of the required sum to dispose of the 3,401 tonnes have been made available by donors. GCPS companies have not committed to anything so far as of May, 2001. Dr Chris Waller, GCPS spokesman, has stated that in "Hunger Countries like Ethiopia" the substances should rather be distributed over the land than be disposed of at high costs.

GABON

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Gabon, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

According to Africa No. 1 Radio, on July 29, 1988, the Gabonese government issued an “unambiguous” statement declaring that no chemical, radioactive or other waste from abroad has ever been, or ever will be, dumped in any part of Gabon.⁸³

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: SOGABEN Nuclear Waste Facility

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Uranium Tailings

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

In 1988, plans to construct an international nuclear waste treatment facility in a remote location on Gabon’s Atlantic coast were publicized by the National Reform Movement (NRM), a political opposition group based in Paris. The NRM obtained copies of two bills proposed in early 1988 that called for the waste treatment facility.

The facility was to be built by a company called Sogaben (Société Gabonaise d’Etudes Nucléaire). The daughter of Omar Bongo, Gabon’s president, was listed on the pilot company’s board of directors. The Environment Minister of Gabon, Herve Moutsinga, allegedly headed the company.

Gabonese officials responded to reports about the nuclear disposal company by explaining that the plans were rejected by the Parliament in late June.

⁸² GCPF 2000

⁸³Africa No. 1 Radio, (Libreville) via BBC Monitoring Service, August 1, 1988.

According to French environmental officials, the Gabonese government wanted to set up a disposal facility under International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines, and requested French assistance. A French official stated that, given the “political implications” of such a move, “nothing ever came of it.”

Earlier in the year, the *West Africa Hotline* newsletter reported that in 1987 President Bongo met with the board of directors of Denison Mining of Canada. Bongo allegedly agreed to take uranium tailing wastes from the companies mines in Colorado. According to *West Africa* magazine, the first shipments were expected to arrive in Gabon by the end of June 1988.⁸⁴

Obsolete Pesticides:

No information available. Forgotten country: Gabon is not even on the FAO list of African countries which “still require countrywide survey”.

THE GAMBIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
12.12.97 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of The Gambia, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

On July 4, 1988, The Gambia passed a bill establishing strict fines for anyone convicted of dumping local or foreign hazardous waste in the country. The bill sets fines ranging from USD 1.5 million to USD 7.6 million, and jail terms of from 5 to 40 years for anyone convicted of waste dumping. In addition, dumpers may be required to pay the Gambian government the price of the vessel used in transporting the wastes. Once the government has ordered removal of wastes, the responsible individual or corporation will be fined an additional USD 6,700 daily until the wastes are removed.

In a July 9, 1988, interview with U.S. public radio, the Prime Minister of the Gambia, Omar Sey, denounced foreign waste shipments to Africa. Prime Minister Sey said his country has been approached by U.S. firms that “wanted us to agree to dump nuclear and industrial waste on Gambian soil. Obviously, we are not interested in that sort of thing.”⁸⁵

Gambia responded to the Basel Convention by stating that a worldwide ban on all exports of hazardous wastes is the only

⁸⁴Brooke, New York Times, September 25, 1988; Nucleonics Week, September 15, 1988; West Africa, June 20, 1988.

⁸⁵Banjul Radio via BBC Monitoring Service, July 9, 1988; “All Things Considered,” National Public Radio, USA, July 9, 1988; “Law Against Waste Dumping,” West Africa, July 18, 1988.

guarantee for protection of the global environment. In addition, Gambia stated that the country of export should have continuing liability and responsibility for hazardous waste generated within its borders.⁸⁶

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Gambia there were altogether 21 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 11 different locations. The following substances were identified, among others: DDT

Companies identified are: BASF, ICI, Kumai, Monsanto, Nippon Soda, Ohtsouka, Procida-Rou (?) Roussel, Senchim, Sorex.⁸⁷

“Starting in 1997, GCPF member companies managed and funded this small project in collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) of the UK. Some 15 tonnes of obsolete products were collected and incinerated by Shanks (UK) early 2000.”⁸⁸

The British Government via the Overseas Development Corporation ODC funded USD 58,000.⁸⁹

GHANA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
Signed	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Ghana, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

The government of Ghana has stated that it “would like to see a ban on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, particularly between developed and developing countries.”

In August 1988, the government of Ghana formed a five-member “Toxic Task Force” to check imports at customs. The task force, composed of chemical experts, would travel to all entry points of the country to examine drums and containers.

Also on August 4, 1988, Ghana’s leader, Jerry Rawlings, called on all African countries “to stop this evil and degrading practice of allowing waste to be dumped within their borders.” Rawlings said that efforts to dump foreign wastes in Africa showed the perpetrators’ contempt for Africa. Similarly, on August 10, 1988, the chairman of Ghana’s National Commission for Democracy, Justice D.F. Annan, called for coordinated efforts by

⁸⁶Letter to UNEP from Minister of Health, Gambia, September 29, 1988.

⁸⁷ FAO 1999, 2001

⁸⁸ GCPF 2000

⁸⁹ FAO

less-industrialized countries to stop the import of wastes into their territory.

On September 9, 1988, Ghana's executive chairman of the Environmental Protection Council, called on West African countries to be extra vigilant against the dumping of toxic waste in their territories.⁹⁰

V.A. Sackey, director of the Castle Information Bureau in Ghana, wrote a letter to *West Africa* in response to concerns of Ghanaians about waste dumping in their country. Sackey assured them that "Ghana has no arrangement with any country for the dumping of toxic wastes, nor will she ever have." In order to ensure that no waste enters the country, Sackey explained, Ghana's Environmental Protection Council monitors all possible points of entry for imported toxic wastes.⁹¹

Obsolete Pesticides:

According to FAO, in Ghana there are altogether 72 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 15 different locations. The following substance was identified, among others: Lindane
Countries of origin named are: Britain, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland.⁹²

Frank B. Antwi from the Ghana EPA confirmed they were still there in January 2001.⁹³

GUINEA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
26.04.95 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Guinea (-Conakry), as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste imports to its territory. Guinea is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Guinea has called for a "global offensive in the struggle against the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes."⁹⁴

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Bulkhandling

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Toxic Incinerator Ash

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Bulkhandling, Inc. (Norway)

Pretext/Fate: Raw Materials for Bricks

⁹⁰ Brooke, New York Times, September 25, 1988; West Africa August 22, 1988, August 29 - September 4, 1988; Xinhua, August 1, 1988, August 4, 1988, September 9, 1988.

⁹¹ West Africa, December 19-25, 1988.

⁹² FAO 1999, 2001

⁹³ Personal conversation with Andreas Bernstorff, Rabat, Morocco, Jan 11,2001

⁹⁴ UNEP, p. 23.

Status: Actual, Returned

On February 4, 1988, the *Bark*, a vessel owned by Bulkhandling Inc. of Norway, quietly left U.S. territorial waters carrying a load of 15,000 tons of toxic incinerator ash from the city of Philadelphia's garbage burners. The *Bark* intended to dump its load of ash in Haiti, but the firm decided that Haiti would likely refuse to accept the wastes when the vessel arrived. Bulkhandling's managers subsequently changed the vessel's destination to Guinea.

Bulkhandling, Inc., arranged a deal with a local Guinean firm, Alco Guinee, to import the waste as "raw materials for bricks." In late February and early March, the wastes were unloaded onto Kassa Island, near the capital city of Conakry. The few bricks that were produced from the ash were unusable. After Greenpeace informed the Guinean ambassador to the U.S. that the vessel was carrying toxic waste, not construction material, the Guinean government ordered an investigation into the ash dumping incident.

In April, the Guinean government ordered immediate removal of the ash. But Bulkhandling balked at the order, claiming that it no longer owned the ash. In response to Bulkhandling's delays, an honorary Norwegian Consul General and agent of Bulkhandling, Sigmund Stromme, was arrested by Guinean law enforcement officials in June. A June 11 Radio Conakry (Guinea) broadcast labeled him as "the brain behind this affair."

On June 15, Radio Conakry (Guinea) reported that "all those involved in this case will be arrested." The next day, police reported that at least 10 Guinean Ministry of Commerce officials were arrested. Two trade ministry officials had previously been arrested, in addition to Stromme.

On July 2, Bulkhandling's vessel, *Banja*, picked up the ash on Kassa Island and left Guinean waters. Two days later, Guinean General Lansana Conte pledged that all involved with the affair would be punished. Conte said, "We will make them regret their actions so that society will know that they are at fault. This will discourage others from doing the same thing."

The *Banja* returned the cargo to Philadelphia on July 22, 1988. On September 7, a Guinean court announced a verdict for five people involved in the dumping scheme. Four Guinean government officials, two of them from the trade ministry, were convicted and sentenced to four years imprisonment each.

The Norwegian honorary consul, Sigmund Stromme, was found guilty of complicity and was fined US \$600 and given a six-month suspended sentence. Stromme was a representative from the Oslo-based Klaveness Shipping Group which was also

involved in the scheme.⁹⁵

Scheme: Hazardous Waste Mismanagement

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Hazardous

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Export Waste Management

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

According to the U.S. EPA, the government of Guinea rejected a proposal by Export Waste Management to dispose of U.S. hazardous wastes similar to that firm's proposal to the Congo. (Please see the Congo, Diosso Gorge.)

Obsolete Pesticides: In Guinea 47 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, mostly from Japan, which have to be disposed of.⁹⁶

GUINEA BISSAU

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy: The country of Guinea Bissau, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Guinea Bissau is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On May 30, 1988, Guinea Bissau's Minister of Natural Resources and Industry, Filinto Barros, stated that his government has "suspended all work on studies for a possible industrial toxic waste dump" on its territory.⁹⁷

Waste import schemes: **Scheme: Khian Sea**

Date: 1987

Type of Waste: Incinerator Ash

Source: Philadelphia, USA

Exporter: Henry Dowd

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Guinea Bissau rejected attempts by the vessel, *Khian Sea*, to unload its cargo of 14,000 tons of incinerator ash from Philadelphia in 1987.

See special section on the voyage of the *Khian Sea*.

⁹⁵Greenpeace USA; Mark Jaffe, "Guinea Asks Firm to Take Philadelphia Ash," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 14, 1988; Radio Conakry via BBC Monitoring Service, June 11, 15, 16, July 4, 1988; Reuters, June 15, September 17, 1988; Ramona Smith, "Philadelphia Ash to Get Mississippi Ride?," *Philadelphia Daily News*, May 25, 1988.

⁹⁶ FAO 1999, 2001

⁹⁷Angolan News Agency via BBC Monitoring Service, June 2, 1988.

Scheme: Intercontract/Lindaco

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Industrial

Source: U.S., Europe and Australia

Exporter: Intercontract S.A. (Switzerland) and Lindaco

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, and A Large Sum of Money

Status: Postponed

In late May 1988, Guinea Bissau postponed a deal with U.S. and European waste brokers that would have brought 15 million metric tons of foreign industrial wastes into the country over a five-year period. The proposed payment was \$40 per ton of waste. The total potential payment of \$600 million is four times the country's gross national product, and twice the country's foreign debt. The industrial wastes would have been imported through Binta, Guinea Bissau. An official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency described the port of Binta, where the wastes would have been offloaded, as "a rickety little dock."

The wastes would have been dumped in one or two landfills near the Senegal border. The land was reportedly owned by Carlos Bernard Vieira, brother of the president of Guinea Bissau. According to geological consultants hired to survey the proposed dumping site, the land is porous and waterlogged during the rainy season. According to numerous reports, the waste deal was masterminded by Gianfranco Ambrosini, an Italian waste broker who has arranged numerous shipments of Italian wastes to less industrialized countries. Ambrosini is the manager of Intercontrat S.A. of Fribourg, Switzerland. Other firms involved in the deal included:

- **BIS Import-Export Ltd.** of London. Reporters from South Magazine searched in vain for the company's offices in London. The company was registered at 11 Eccleston Square, London, but there was no evidence that the company had ever been located at that address. The company was believed to have been formed exclusively for this deal.

- **Hobday Ltd.**, Isle of Man. In a March 24, 1988 memo from the director of the Guinea Bissau Applied Technology Research Center, Hobday was listed, along with BIS Import-Export Ltd., as having signed a contract that would bring 1 to 3 million tons of European wastes to Guinea Bissau each year. However, in a July 27, 1988, letter to Greenpeace, the director of Hobday stated that Hobday had "not signed any agreements with anyone and is not connected with this distasteful industry in any way whatsoever...It is true that the company was approached in connection with waste disposal but the directors rejected the offer."

- **Lindaco Ltd.**, Delaware, U.S. Lindaco, formed in March 1988 by A. Robert Zeff, was the U.S. broker in this venture and was to have been responsible for shipping over 4 million tons of wastes from the U.S. to Guinea Bissau. A Detroit News article describes Zeff as “a Detroit lawyer with a background in oil and gambling but not in running a waste company.”

- **Processamento de Resíduos Industriais** of Portugal, was to have been responsible for the offloading and final disposal of the wastes in Guinea Bissau.

According to a Lisbon radio report on April 14, 1988, wastes would also have been imported from Australia.

In an April 1988 letter to the U.S. State Department, Guinea Bissau’s minister of natural resources wrote that, “an ‘agreement in principle’ for the receipt of wastes was signed between our government and two European agencies/firms of export; one of them being associated with an American export agency.” The minister said that his government would grant final consent to receive the wastes once a technical study on this project was completed, and asked for technical information and assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In early 1988 Guinea Bissau’s health minister, Andre Atchade, sent a confidential memo warning his President that waste import schemes represented “a real threat to the security of our resources and people.” He also noted that “even a small rumor of pollution would be sufficient to hit our tourist industry.”

In May 1988, international aid workers in Guinea Bissau obtained contracts and other official documents related to this deal. The documents were distributed by European Parliamentarian François Roelants du Vivier, and the scheme was immediately decried by numerous environmental groups and by European and African government officials.

In a mid-June 1988 telegram to Richard Zeff of Lindaco, Filinto Barros, Guinea Bissau’s minister of natural resources and industry, expressed his regret that the project was postponed. “An international campaign was launched against Guinea Bissau with negative domestic reaction,” wrote Barros. “Thus faced with this campaign, we regretfully took upon (ourselves) to suspend all activity and negotiations undertaken within the scope of this project ... due to a pressured situation.”

In early July 1988, the trade and tourism minister for Guinea Bissau explained why his country was reluctant to postpone the waste import deal: “We need money,” he said.⁹⁸

⁹⁸“Africa: The Industrial World’s Dumping Ground?,” African Business, July, 1988, pp.10-11; Agence France Presse, May 20, 1988, May 31, 1988; “Donors to give \$300 Million to Guinea Bissau,” Reuters News Reports, July 5, 1988; “The Dumping Grounds,” South, August, 1988, p.38; Letter from Andrew S. Roy, PPS Ltd., to Greenpeace, July 27, 1988;

Scheme: Soserco Dumping

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Industrial and Household

Source: Unclear

Exporter: William Lake and Yvan Greg, Soserco Company (Switzerland)

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

In 1988, a Swiss company, Soserco, approached the governments of Guinea Bissau and the Dominican Republic with a scheme to import a million tons of industrial and household wastes for a period of 3 to 5 years. Soserco offered the governments USD 7 per ton of waste. According to two Soserco representatives, William Lake and Yvan Greg, the proposals were refused because there were insufficient harbor facilities and not enough government interest.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Guinea Bissau there were altogether 9 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, which were removed and disposed of.⁹⁹

KENYA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
1.06.00 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Kenya, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

On July 23, 1988, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, S. Lesrima, said that Kenya had instituted strict monitoring measures at every entry point into Kenya to ensure that no toxic or radioactive wastes entered the country. "All the necessary precautions have been taken," he said. "Kenya would not like to find itself in a compromising situation like some West African nations," he said.

On September 6, 1988, Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi denounced the international waste trade. "Africa has rejected allforms of external domination," he said. "We do not want external domination to come in through the back door in the form of 'garbage imperialism.'¹⁰⁰

In late January 1989, Kenya's assistant Minister for Environment

Lisbon Radio, via BBC Monitoring Service, April 14, 1988; Memo by H. Menezes D'Alva, Director of Guinea Bissau Applied Notification Research Center, March 24, 1988; Notification of Intent to Export, from Ronald Schy, Lindaco Inc., to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, March 28, 1988; Unsigned waste disposal contract between the government of Guinee-Bissau and an unnamed Swiss firm, undated; U.S. State Department Telegram, undated; U.S. State Department translation of letter from Minister of Natural Resources and Industry, April 19, 1988; Richard Willing, "Detroiters Wants to Ship Waste to Africa," Detroit News, June 19, 1988, pp.1+.

⁹⁹ FAO 1996, 2001

¹⁰⁰ Dar es Salaam Radio via BBC Monitoring Service, July 27, 1988; "Kenya Alert on Toxic Waste," Xinhua, July 23, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 24, 1988.

and Natural Resources, Josiah Kimemia, explained his country's position on waste dumping in Africa by stating that "there should be a total ban on the importation or dumping of hazardous wastes." He emphasized that the appropriate method to deal with wastes is to minimize its production and dispose any that is produced in the country of origin."¹⁰¹

However, in a report in May 1989, the Xinhua news agency reported that a senior Kenyan government official said that his country was planning, with the help of the Atomic Energy Agency, to import toxic and radioactive materials for disposal. An official said that boats entering Malindi Port were being investigated for toxic and radioactive imports and the government was searching for a permanent site for dumping the materials. It is unlikely that such waste imports were ever officially approved by the Kenyan government, especially since the introduction of the Lomé Convention and directives of the Organization of African Unity.¹⁰²

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Petry

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Industrial waste, filter dust

Origin: West Germany

Exporter: Disposal companies

Pretext/Fate: Incineration as "substitute fuels", construction material

Status: died ?

In September 1989, Joachim Petry, a West German business consultant working in Nairobi made an offer to various German companies to dispose of industrial waste and filter dusts from incineration in salt deserts, recycling facilities, and cement kilns in various "Indian and African states", among them Kenya and Zaire. "Fuel substitute" was to be free of charge for the receiver. Petry intended to charge the generator / disposer DM 20/metric tonne (USD 15). He demanded "about 300,000" marks (USD 225,000) from his European partners to be able "to bribe", as he said, African officials to get the import permits.

Petry's partner in Nairobi was Damco Agencies Ltd - Agents of hardware & cements, Moktar Daddah str, Islamia House opp. Jevanjee Gardens, he said. Executive Director David M. Gitao was the vice president of the Kenyan Chamber of Industry and Commerce at that time, he added.

According to the newspaper *Nairobi Standard*, Petry was shot dead on September 23, 1990 in Nairobi "in the street".¹⁰³

101Xinhua, January 31, 1989.

102Xinhua English Language News Service, May 2, 1989; Greenpeace.

103 Nairobi Standard's City News Editor Harun Wandalo, Greenpeace Germany

The German FBI, as of March 1991, asked by Greenpeace, had no information whether Petry's death had any connection with his business. ¹⁰⁴

Scheme: Bruna Americana II

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Netherlands

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The freighter *Bruna Americana*, under the flag of Cyprus, was denied entry to the port of Mombasa. On board there were 20,000 tonnes of toxic waste which the ship had taken on in the Netherlands. ¹⁰⁵

Note: Bruna Americana I in the Egypt Section of this report

Scheme: Unknown from Europe

Date: 1996

Type of Waste: "leaking toxic waste", 30 tonnes

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

"...A cargo-load of leaking toxic waste docked at Kenya's port of Mombasa last year after being turned away by Tanzania. The cargo, weighing more than 30,480 kgs, was also banned from passing through the Suez Canal in the Red Sea by Egypt.

The European-registered ship, with 16 containers of chemical waste, was finally escorted by the Kenyan marine authorities into international waters for the start of its long journey to a disposal site in Britain via the Mozambican port of Beira.

But six hours before the vessel's departure, a group of Somali leaders here, acting on what they said was a tip-off that the cargo was to be dumped off the Somali coast, warned the ship owners to avoid Somali territorial waters ..." ¹⁰⁶

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Kenya there are altogether 56 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 38 different locations.

The following substances were identified, among others: Aldrin, DDT, Dieldrin, Heptachlor. ¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Bundeskriminalamt Wiesbaden = German FBI

¹⁰⁵ Die Tageszeitung, Berlin, (AFP quoting the Sunday Times) January 15, 1990

¹⁰⁶ Inter Press Service, 12-Aug-97, Title: EAST AFRICA: Protecting Endangered Marine Plants and Animals, by Moyiga Nduru, origin: Harare

¹⁰⁷ FAO 1999

LIBERIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

National policy:

The country of Liberia, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

In July 1988, Liberian Minister of Health Martha Belleh said that she was developing a code of conduct regarding waste trades. A National Coordinating Committee would be established that would evaluate all waste imports based on this code.

In May 1989, the Liberian minister of Lands, Mines and Energy, William Freeman, declared that African countries must enact laws to protect their environment against toxic and other hazardous wastes. At a workshop financed by the United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations and organized by the Liberian government, Freeman asked European and North American countries to ban the export of hazardous waste. He also called on African governments to abide by the Organization of African Unity's 1988 resolution which condemns the use of their territories as a dumping ground for hazardous waste. "We must act together so that the future of our land, waste and people is secure," he said.¹⁰⁸

On August 3, 1989, Liberia banned the import of hazardous wastes. Under the new law, anyone convicted of importing wastes will be imprisoned for a 10 to 25 years, and any vessels or aircraft used for waste trade will be confiscated.¹⁰⁹

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Redell Development

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Any Kind of Hazardous Waste

Source: UK

Exporter: Redell Development (Possibly Randell Development Corp.)

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, \$800 Per Ton

Status: Unclear

Responding to reports of alleged toxic waste dumping by British firms, the Liberian government sent out a scouting team to locate dumpsites in their country. The British Ambassador to Liberia, Michael Gore, also claimed to be concerned about the dumping and initiated another investigation into illegal waste trade from the UK

¹⁰⁸Xinhua English Language News Service, May 9, 1989, Item #:184.

¹⁰⁹HazNews, October, 1989.

These actions followed an article in the *London Sunday Times* on November 20, 1988. Two reporters, posing as chemical company representatives, approached an English waste broker firm, Redell Development, to negotiate a waste trade scheme. Redell's director, Charles Deck (who also goes by the name of Baker) offered to get rid of any type of hazardous wastes for \$800 a ton. Deck said that he had a six ton ship that could transport the waste, falsely labeled as liquid fertilizer, to an illegal dumpsite near a port in Liberia. According to Deck, crops were grown on the 500-acre site, which his company owned, to hide the toxic dumpsite.

Deck reassured the reporters that his firm would not question the contents of the wastes sent to Liberia. "We don't want to know what is really on board", he explained, "You can give us a false invoice on false headed paper. Nobody will ask any questions. We have about 50 local officials who we pay each month to keep their mouths shut. Even if it is radioactive, it doesn't matter." When asked about possible health and environmental threats the wastes pose to Liberia, Deck responded that "If anything happens to the Africans because of the waste, that's too bad. It's not our problem."¹¹⁰

A Liberian newspaper, the *Daily Observer*, subsequently accused the Randell Development Corporation (Possibly Redell Development) of dumping thousands of tons of wastes near the Liberian town of Buchanan, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of the capital, Monrovia. In December 1988, Liberia's Justice Minister, Jenkins Scott, announced that a government inquiry was underway. He declined to make any further comment.¹¹¹

Scheme: Three Companies Struck Down

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Toxic

Source: Western Industrialized Countries

Exporter: Three Unnamed Firms

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, Money, Hospital and USD 1 Million in Medicine

Status: Rejected

On June 23, 1988, Health Minister Belleh announced that Liberia had rejected three separate requests from western firms to dump toxic wastes in Liberia. Belleh did not disclose the name of the firms or their location. Each proposed scheme was turned down because of concerns over the health and environmental impacts of accepting toxic wastes.

According to Belleh, one firm offered to build and equip a hospital in exchange for a waste disposal contract. The firm

¹¹⁰Xinhua English Language News Service, December 8, 1988; The Sunday Times, November 20, 1988.

¹¹¹West Africa, December 19-25, 1988.

offered to purchase medicines worth USD 1 million. Another firm proposed disposing wastes in old iron ore pits in Bomi Hills, Liberia.¹¹²

Obsolete Pesticides: No information available. Liberia is on the FAO of African countries which “still require cuntrywide survey.”¹¹³

LIBYA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
		Ratified / Party to

National Policy: On June 29, 1988, the Foreign Ministry of Libya condemned attempts to dump foreign wastes in Africa. The Libyan government derided the importation of wastes as “this ugly crime against the African people, which brings great pain as well as shame.” Libya also urged African governments to criminalize waste imports and to force countries responsible for dumping the waste to take it back.¹¹⁴

Obsolete Pesticides: In Lybia there are altogether 44 tonnes of obsolete pesticides.¹¹⁵

MADAGASCAR

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
02.06.99 Ratified	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides: In Madagascar there were altogether 147 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 4 different locations. The following substance was identified, among others: Dieldrin, Lindane¹¹⁶

In 1992, the German agency *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) discovered a total of 47 tonnes of Dieldrin (insecticide) in the Southern part of Madagascar. The Pesticide Disposal Project of the GTZ financed and carried out a disposal operation and removed all of it in 1993. The insecticide was transported to the UK for final disposal. Shell, the original manufacturer, provided technical guidance and on-site supervision. (GTZ-Brochure, 2000¹¹⁷). During parts of the operation a person from Shell, the original manufacturer, was present.

¹¹²West Africa, July 11, 1988; Agence France Presse, July 4, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 24, 1988.

¹¹³ FAO 1999

¹¹⁴“Libya Condemns Disposal of Chemical Waste in Africa,” Reuters News Reports, June 29, 1988.

¹¹⁵ FAO 2001

¹¹⁶ FAO 1999

¹¹⁷ “Obsolete Pesticides – a Dangerous Legacy”. Results of a Pilot Project on the Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides; GTZ-Brochure, 2000

“Local authorities, GTZ, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), GCPF member companies, and the local association (PHYTOMAD) were the major stakeholders in an operation initiated in 1996. GTZ managed the project locally. The inventory listed 160 tonnes of older crop protection products of which finally 80 tonnes remained unusable. These were collected and packed for export and disposal. Shipment to Switzerland took place early 2000, and incineration in the hazardous waste plant of Valorec AG in Basel was completed in early June. The costs of the disposal operation - estimated at USD 320,000 - were covered by the Swiss Government, GTZ, and four involved GCPF member companies”¹¹⁸.

GCPF reports that the substances were “incinerated in the UK”¹¹⁹. In fact, they paid for the incineration only.

In 2001, FAO listed 64 tonnes of obsolete pesticides in Madagascar.¹²⁰

MALAWI

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
21.04.94 Ratified	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Malawi there are altogether 111 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 18 different locations.

The following substances were identified, among others: DDT, Lindane, Parathion.¹²¹

“Approximately 120 tonnes of product were listed as obsolete when the project was initiated in 1997. Fortunately, most of them were still usable in the country, some after reformulation and repackaging. An inventory update by the local Ministry of Agriculture, funded by Sumitomo, has recently been made available and will be the basis for the next steps to be implemented by the government.”¹²²

MALI

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Mali is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

¹¹⁸ GCPF 2000

¹¹⁹ GCPF 2001

¹²⁰ FAO 2001

¹²¹ FAO 1999,2001

¹²² GCPF 2001

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Mali there are altogether 13,761 tonnes of obsolete pesticides including heavily polluted soils caused by 238 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 15 different locations.

The following substance was identified, among others:

Dieldrin.¹²³

The first country wide survey in Mali was carried out by GTZ in 1996, financed by the Stroemme Foundation (Norway). Around 90 tonnes of obsolete pesticides were identified, among them 56 000 litres (56 tonnes) of Dieldrin. During the survey, they discovered in Tin Essako, a former pesticide basis of the Plant Protection service of Mali (270 Km from Kidal, in the southern Sahara) that the soil of the station was heavily contaminated with a cocktail of pesticides. Soil analyses discovered residues of pesticides with a concentration up to 6,750 mg/kg Lindane. The pesticide store was destroyed during the Tuareg rebellion (1991/92). The only well in the whole area is less than 100 m away from the contaminated area.¹²⁴

“Following a meeting in Bamako in October 2000, an update of the provisional inventory of 240 tonnes of potentially obsolete product (sic!) is awaited by industry. It is hoped that this will be available by mid 2001.”¹²⁵

MAURITANIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
16.08.96 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Mauritania, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Waste Import Schemes:**Scheme: MCL**

Date: December 1987

Type of Waste: Industrial

Source: Belgium

Exporter: Maritime Chartering and Liner Shipping

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unknown

According to documents obtained by Greenpeace Belgium, a Belgian company, Maritime Chartering and Liner Shipping (MCL), requested authorization to deposit industrial waste of a “low level of toxicity” in Mauritania. The waste was said to be of Belgian origin but could not be buried in Belgium because of the country’s dense population and the danger of the waste. The documents also revealed that the waste fell within Article 2 of the

¹²³ FAO 1999,2001

¹²⁴ GTZ-Report, 1997

¹²⁵ GCPF 2001

Belgian Royal Decree of February 9, 1976, which defines what is considered "toxic waste." The waste came primarily from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.¹²⁶

Scheme: S.O.P./Palmero

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Hazardous

Source: Southern Germany

Exporter: Sondermuell Organisation und Problemlösung

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, Over USD 7 Million Per Year

Status: Abandoned ?

In 1988, a Stuttgart waste disposal firm, Sondermuell Organisation und Problemlösung (S.O.P.) owned by Austrian businessman Rainer Deyhle, negotiated with Mauritanian politicians for the disposal of 40,000 to 100,000 tons per month of hazardous waste from southern Germany.

The negotiations were carried out by two Madrid lawyers, Mr. Palmero and Mr. Sainz. The Mauritanian consul general in the Canary Islands, Mohamed Lemine Ould Moulaye Zeine, established contact with the politicians. According to waste trade brokers, the following politicians were allegedly contacted by Palmero on May 16 and 17 and consented to the scheme:

Mohamed Ishaq Ould Rajel, secretary-general and representative of the Ministry for Industry and Mining and the Ministry for Energy and Hydraulic Engineering;

Baha Aliou, secretary-general to the Mauritanian State Department;

Mohamed Muahmad Ould Mohamed Val, director of the European section of the State Department;

Soumare Oumar, Minister of Energy and Hydraulic Engineering; and

Colonel Brahim Oul Alianne N'Diaye, vice-president of the military committee which has been the official government of Mauritania since 1979.

Brahim, holding the key position in Mauritanian politics as well as in the planned scheme, would have received a lump sum of 1 million Deutschmarks (about USD 600,000). Lemine would have received a lump sum of 81,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 50,000) and 24,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 15,000) annually. The consul general would have received a lump sum of 32,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 20,000) and "several little presents per year." The lawyer would have received a lump sum of 113,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 69,000) and 65,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 40,000) per year. The Mauritanian government would have officially earned 15 Deutschmarks (about USD 9) per ton of waste, and was guaranteed a minimum

¹²⁶Greenpeace Belgium; International Environment Reporter, April 1989, p. 184.

of one million Deutschmarks (over USD 600,000) per month.

A German firm, Schaal and Mueller, would have collected and packed the wastes. Shipping offers were made by a Soviet state-owned firm in Frankfurt, Transnautic.

The contract was to be signed on June 15, 1988, in Nouakchott, Mauritania. However, this signing was prevented by the reorganization of the Mauritanian government.

After further S.O.P. waste trade projects became public (see also Morocco), S.O.P. manager Otto Blosch said he would change business and become an advertising and estate agent.¹²⁷

For more information on a related scheme, please see Morocco and Western Sahara.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Mauritania there were altogether 297 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 11 different locations, “mainly for locust control“.

The following substances were identified, among others: Dieldrin, Lindane.¹²⁸

175 tonnes of “Dieldrin” produced by the Dutch branch of Shell during past decades were sent to Holland for incineration.

Near the town of Ayoun el Atrous a stockpile of 78,000 litres (78 tonnes) of the insecticide started leaking and contaminated the soil. During 1994, GTZ started a immediate action and safeguarded 28 000 litres of Dieldrin.

1997 GTZ and DRAP, the Plant Protection Department of Mauritania, carried out a disposal operation and safeguarded 175 tonnes of Dieldrin and collected thousands of empty pesticide drums (50 tonnes) from the whole country. GTZ shipped 225 tonnes of the waste to AVR’s waste incinerator in Rotterdam. The project costs were fully covered by the German ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ).

Later, Shell paid the cost for the transport and the incineration which were 37,5% of the whole operation.¹²⁹

However GCPF gives, again, a different impression: “In August 2000, around 30 tonnes of contaminated sand were removed from the former Dieldrin store in the town of Rosso, in a joint project involving the same collaborators. The sand was taken to the Netherlands for decontamination. The operation was paid by Shell, and carried out in collaboration of Shell, GTZ-Mauritania and AVR.¹³⁰

The fate of the remaining obsolete pesticides is still unclear.

¹²⁷Documents obtained by Greenpeace, 1988.

¹²⁸ FAO 1999,2001

¹²⁹ GTZ letter to Andreas Bernstorff, Greenpeace Germany <date>, GTZ-Report 1998

¹³⁰ GCPF 2001

MOROCCO and WESTERN SAHARA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO

National Policy: Morocco is not a member of the OAU.

Waste Import Schemes: **Scheme: Allied Technologies**
 Date: 1987
 Type of Waste: Dioxin Wastes
 Source: Love Canal, New York, U.S.
 Exporter: Allied Technologies, Maryland, U.S.
 Pretext/Fate: Dumping
 Status: Rejected by State of New York

According to the New York Department of Environmental Quality, in 1987, a small Maryland firm, Allied Technologies, applied to take dioxin wastes from Love Canal, New York, and dump them in Morocco. However, the state of New York refused to turn over the wastes.

Scheme: S.O.P. (Western Sahara)

Date: 1988
 Type of Waste: Hazardous
 Source: West Germany
 Exporter: Sondermuell Organisation und Problemloesung
 Pretext/Fate: Dumping
 Status: Abandoned ?

On June 3, 1987, S.O.P. explained a waste trade scheme to the Stuttgart regional board, which is in charge of licensing waste exports. S.O.P. hoped to export at least 40,000 tons per month of hazardous wastes from companies in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

S.O.P. manager Otto Blossch admitted to the German Green Party that he hoped to dump the wastes in phosphate mine pits in the state of Western Sahara, which is currently occupied by Morocco.

The wastes would have been collected in West Germany by the firm of Schaal and Mueller and shipped to the abandoned mines via ship and train. There, the wastes would have been stored temporarily until sufficient funds could be raised to bury the wastes in landfills.

The three representatives of the regional board raised no concerns about the project, but stated that prior consent of Moroccan authorities was necessary. Blossch claimed he was promised consent by the Moroccan royal family. Blossch also

talked to the Baden-Wuerttemberg state environment ministry and met with no opposition. It was not until the German Green Party published the protocol of a meeting of June 6, 1987, that the ministry dissociated itself from Blosch and called him untrustworthy.¹

Scheme: Midco Toxic Waste Incinerator

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Toxic

Source: North America and Europe

Exporter: Midco (UK)

Pretext/Fate: Incineration

Status: Unclear

In May, 1989, Morocco's leader, King Hassan II, rejected a plan by a British-based consortium, Midco, to construct "the largest toxic waste disposal plant in the world" on the western edge of the Moroccan Sahara. King Hassan rejected the scheme after a London newspaper, *The Guardian*, uncovered and reported the story on its front page. According to *The Guardian*, the planned toxic waste incinerator would burn up to 2,000 metric tons of North American and European waste each day.

Claude Cornet, who left Midco because he was concerned about the abilities of Midco and Morocco to handle the waste, was delighted that the plan had been vetoed. Cornet stated, "There is a very sensitive Arab summit coming up to discuss the future of the Sahara, and *The Guardian* story on this project had caused the King considerable embarrassment. That is probably why he has moved so quickly to kill the scheme."¹³²

The issue appeared dead until it was raised again by journalists in the downwind Canary Islands in articles appearing in August 1989. The articles assumed that the plant was still being planned.¹³³

Mr. Benyahia from Morocco's Department of the Environment told Greenpeace the Midco story was "not true" and promised to send a written statement which did not arrive so far.¹³⁴

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Morocco there are altogether 2,265 (2 thousand +) tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in unnamed locations. A joint survey and risk assessment was carried out by a joint US-AID / GTZ team in 1991. Appraisal of options for disposal has been made, but were rejected by Morocco.

The following substances were identified, among others: Endrin, DDT, Dieldrin, Heptachlor, Parathion.¹³⁵

¹³¹ German Green Party and Stuttgarter Zeitung, June 24 and 29, 1988.

¹³² Xinhua English Language News Service, May 2, 1989; *The Guardian*, (U.K.), May 16, 1989.

¹³³ *El Diario de las Palmas*, August 11, 1989; *The Guardian*, May 15, 16, 1989.

¹³⁴ Personal conversation with Andreas Bernstorff, Jan 10, 2001 in Rabat, Morocco)

¹³⁵ FAO 1999

The government of Morocco advocates the incineration of unusable stocks in the country's cement kilns.

MOZAMBIQUE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Mozambique there are altogether 443 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 40 different locations. The following substances were identified, among others: Aldrin, DDT, EDB, Endrin, Parathion.¹³⁶

1993 GTZ and DINA, the Plant Protection Service of Mozambique undertook a disposal operation and managed the removal of 160 tonnes of Monochrotophos/DDT and contaminated soil. The wastes were shipped to the UK for incineration. The project was fully financed by BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development¹³⁷.

A project of the Danish agency DANIDA to adjust a cement kiln to enable it to destroy the wastes has failed "due to stiff resistance by environmental NGOs"¹³⁸, among them Greenpeace.

"In 1991, at the urgent request of the Government of Mozambique, Shell collected and repacked 72,000 litres of Monocrotophos/DDT from a government warehouse in Beira, cleaned the storage area and transferred the product to a safe facility near Maputo to await disposal. In 1994, using German funding, Shell bore the full costs of the collection from Beira and the first re-packaging and contributed assistance to the final collection from Maputo.

In direct connection with this disposal operation the GTZ initiated the first countrywide survey for obsolete pesticides in an African country. During a period of 12 months, a local team, trained by GTZ, documented 610 different batches in 41 governmental stores and paragonmental organisations through the country. 510 tons of obsolete pesticides were taken in the inventory, analysed and evaluated. The result, around 50 percent had to be declared as "obsolete". The survey was financed and guided by the Pesticide Disposal project of the GTZ and supervised by a local DANIDA-expert.¹³⁹

¹³⁶ FAO 1999

¹³⁷ GTZ-Brochure, 2000

¹³⁸ FAO 1999

¹³⁹ GTZ-Brochure, 2000

This survey with its database was the starting point for the following project:

“In 1999, the crop protection industry was approached to support a project initiated in 1997 by the Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Danish Government through DANIDA. The latest inventory shows approximately 1000 tonnes of collected products to be disposed of. The industry has significantly contributed to the product verification process and has offered to cover the incineration costs of 400 tonnes that originate from GCPF member companies. Many of the products only became obsolete after collection and the industry regrets this avoidable waste.”¹⁴⁰

In 1999 the Pesticide Disposal Project of the GTZ removed in a second disposal operation in Mozambique 73 tonnes of various pesticides and agrochemical from a former pesticide formulation plant of the BASF in Chimoio. The waste was shipped to the BASF incineration plant in Ludwigshafen / Germany. BASF paid the costs for the whole disposal operation

NAMIBIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
15.05.95 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

Hanno Rumpf, Permanent Secretary for Wildlife Conservation and Tourism for the newly independent government of Namibia, told an environmental symposium in February 1990 that “we do not intend to become the rubbish storage for the industrialized world, be it for nuclear material, nuclear or chemical waste.”

The statement followed an article appearing in the newspaper, *The Namibian*, which raised concerns over the possibility of past and future negotiations between SWAPO, the Southwest African Peoples Organization, and various international waste brokers (see related story on California Waste Broker). SWAPO led the struggle for Namibia's independence from South Africa. It is well known that SWAPO was approached in 1988 by the notorious waste trader, Arnold Kuenzler of Basel, Switzerland. The deal would have involved massive amounts of European chemical wastes in exchange for over one billion US dollars. The deal was suspended in late 1988.

In June 1990, Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob reaffirmed that his “country will not allow any foreign countries to dump toxic wastes on its territory.”¹⁴¹

¹⁴⁰ GCPF 01/2001

¹⁴¹ Xinhua English Language News Service, June 13, 1990, Item # 87.

Namibia, which achieved independence on March 21, 1990, now belongs to the ACP countries which have banned all hazardous waste imports to their countries under the Lomé IV treaty. In addition, Namibia has gained membership to the Organization of African Unity. As a member of these two international fora, Namibia will join their respective prohibitions on the import of toxic and nuclear wastes.¹⁴² In fact, Namibia's constitution states that "... the government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory."¹⁴³

On April 20 1994, Namibia and Germany signed a bilateral agreement to ship hazardous waste from Namibia to Germany, but not the other way round. The Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry, Hidipo Hamutenya, subsequently expressed in an interview his interest in obtaining certain secondary raw material from Germany in the future.¹⁴⁴

Around October 1, 1994 a German Journalist, Sigrid Nielssen, was found dead in Windhoek. Nielssen (see also Scheme "Weser Zink") had been on a research tour on imports of nuclear and hazardous waste to Namibia. Authorities said no documents were found with the body and Nielssen obviously died of a heart attack.¹⁴⁵ Neither the German FBI (BKA) nor the German Foreign Office knew anything about Nielssen's death in October 1994

In a meeting of various political parties on 27 January, 1995, Prime Minister Hage Geingob proposed that members of the National Assembly establish a Standing Committee which was to immediately investigate allegations made by ANC's Peter Kayser. Kayser made allegations during his contribution to a debate on Namibia's accession to the Basel Convention that a senior government person was involved in plans to dump waste in Namibia. Allegations and rumors about toxic waste dumping have been circulating since independence.¹⁴⁶

On October 8, 1992, in a TV broadcast on Germany's ZDF channel, unknown material in the desert of Namibia was shown. A Geigercounter suggested radioactivity. The reporter said the material might be from the former East German uranium company Wismut, but no evidence was put forward. Later, Greenpeace virtually excluded Wismut from its investigations. The wastes were more likely to have come from East German copper smelters or even be Namibian uranium of "natural

¹⁴²Reuters News Reports, February 25, 1990.

¹⁴³Environment Matters, June, 1990, 10/15.

¹⁴⁴"Vereinbarung mit Deutschland unterzeichnet," Sigrid Nielssen,Tempo, 5th June 1994; Greenpeace German has a copy of the document.

¹⁴⁵Chris Albertyn, Earthlife Afrika, in a conversation with Greenpeace, 4.10.1995

¹⁴⁶"NA toxic probe to be launched today," Chris Ndivanga, The Namibian, Jan.30,1995

origin”.¹⁴⁷ Copper ores from different places have very specific radioactivity patterns.

Waste Import Schemes:

Scheme: Copper Sludge from West Germany

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Copper Sludge

Source: West Germany

Exporter: Unnamed Firm

Pretext/Fate: Reuse ?

Status: Actual

According to the government of West Germany, in 1988 copper sludge was being shipped in “big bags” by an unnamed firm to an unnamed “iron and steel works...with modern and appropriate facilities” to an unnamed place in Namibia for “reuse”.¹⁴⁸

Scheme: California Waste Broker

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: All Kinds

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Jack P. Derringer, Raremin Co., California, U.S.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

The independence of Namibia did not mean the country was free from the threats of the world's waste traders, who hoped to persuade the country to import toxic wastes in exchange for much-needed hard currency. One such unscrupulous waste marketer was Jack P. Derringer, director of Raremin, a California-based company.

Derringer contacted Prime Minister Geingob in 1990, hoping to locate a waste repository for 7 million tons per year of sludge, general garbage, plastic waste, toxic waste, infectious waste and nuclear waste. Derringer suggested that 50 billion pounds of plastic waste could be “mutually profitable,” while nuclear waste would “pay well in hard foreign currency.”

According to SWAPO's United Nations representative, Hinyangerwa Asheeke, the Raremin proposal “is an insult to the Namibian people. The whole idea of using Namibia as a dumping ground is totally unacceptable.” Raremin was reportedly exploring possibilities for disposing of waste in other African countries and Poland. Derringer sent out form letters to the “Prime Ministers” of some 12 African countries, including Nigeria.

It is unlikely that Raremin's scheme will succeed, because many of the countries Derringer has contacted have led the global battle

¹⁴⁷Gerhard Schmidt, Oeko-Institut Darmstadt, Germany, in an expertise for Greenpeace, October 1995

¹⁴⁸Greenpeace West Germany.

against waste trade.¹⁴⁹

Scheme: Metaleurope Weser Zink GmbH

Date: since 1987

Type of Waste: residues containing copper, arsenic and cadmium

Quantity: 1.000 t/Y

Country of Origin: Germany

Generator: electrolytic zinc process

Exporter/Broker: Metaleurope Weser Zink GmbH

Recipient/Destination: Tsumeb TCL, Namibia

Pretext/Fate: recovering

Status: unclear

The company “Weser Zink”, Nordenham is owned by the French “Metaleurope S.A”. Since 1987 around 1,000 tonnes each year of a so-called “copper-concentrate” or “copper-cement” has been shipped to the copper-smelter TCL in Tsumeb in northern Namibia. The “copper-cement” was generated by the process of producing electrolytic zinc and it also contains copper, arsenic and cadmium. These heavy metals (copper, arsenic, cadmium) were being recovered in the Namibian copper-smelter. Experts say 1,000 tonnes of copper cement contain 80 tonnes arsenic and it is unknown how much can be recovered and how much will be released into the environment.

In 1995 the company “Gold Fields Namibia Ltd.”, who run the TCL-smelter, asked the Namibian Government to create a legal basis to import the copper cement from Germany. According to German trade statistics, the copper cement was being shipped to Namibia until October 1994. The statistics do not say whether the shipments stopped before May 1994 or not.¹⁵⁰

Scheme: Boedecker

Date: 1992

Type of Waste: Toxic Waste

Source: European countries

Exporter:

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

Mr. Horst Boedecker, a Windhoek businessman, claimed in June 1990 that during informal discussions with Namibian government officials, suggestions to import waste were not rejected. Boedecker claims he had made an offer of 5 million tonnes of toxic waste for disposal in Namibia, with a further 45 million tonnes in the pipeline. The responsible official in the National Assembly, A Toivo ya Toivo, was expected to make a statement on the government’s position later. Greenpeace is not

¹⁴⁹ Namibia Information Service; Chicago Defender, January 20, 1990; Greenpeace, USA; Greenpeace West Germany.

¹⁵⁰ “Vereinbarung mit Deutschland unterzeichnet,” Sigrid Nielssen, Tempo, 5th June 1994;

Letter from Tsumeb Corporation Limited to Oekopol, Hamburg, 14th June 1995; Earthlife Afrika.

aware of the Namibian government's position.¹⁵¹

Scheme: A Rumor, Olympia Reisen

Date:

Type of Waste: Toxic waste

Source:

Exporter:

Pretext/Fate: Disposal in the Skeleton Coast

Status: Rumors

Some Namibian citizens, South African journalists and a Nature Foundation alarmed Greenpeace in several letters and phone calls about possible waste imports through the German travel agency Olympia Reisen and the owner, Kurt Steinhausen. After research, Greenpeace could not find any evidence of possible waste imports through Olympia Reisen to Namibia. None of the interviewed Namibians were able to give any hard facts about the rumor. The suggested involvement of Mr. Steinhausen in waste export schemes to Romania is definitely wrong. Greenpeace believe that the rumor was created by employees of a competitor of Steinhausen.

Scheme: No details, Picido

Date: 1994

Type of Waste:

Source:

Exporter:

Pretext/Fate:

Status: unknown

The South African registered company "Picido" and its owner, Mohamed Hassan, were reportedly involved in waste trafficking. Hassan, an Egyptian businessman, also operated in Namibia and, according to *The Namibian*, therefore got into some trouble. Hassan's multi-million-dollar investment projects, the biggest since independence, are looking shaky since Interpol are searching for him. On 23 August, 1994, the Namibian police confirmed that Interpol was asking for details of Hassan's whereabouts. Earlier, the Namibian Ministry of Finance was moving to confiscate Hassan's Bulgarian tractors in return for unpaid import duties.¹⁵²

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Namibia there were altogether 245 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in one location.

The Plant Protection Department of Namibia sent an official request to GTZ, to evaluate the situation in a store of a

¹⁵¹ Environment Matters, June 1990;
Earthlife Namibia;

Copies of Boedeckers original proposal are available in Greenpeace Germany.

¹⁵² Earthlife Africa;

"Multi-million Picido investment projects totter", Tom Minney, *The Namibian*, 24.8.1994

Government Research Farm near Keetmanshoop, in the South of Namibia. The GTZ carried out an analytical survey and a risk assessment.

The identified product, 208 (or 202 ?) tonnes of BHC was produced in South Africa. The Government of South Africa took over responsibility and repatriated the insecticide to South Africa and thereafter to the UK for final disposal. South Africa took over the costs for the incineration and safeguarding, GTZ the costs for the transport and supervision of the operation.¹⁵³

NIGER

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
17.06.98 Ratified	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Niger, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Niger is both a signatory and has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

A Niger newspaper, *Saheldimanche*, reported in late February 1990 that all kinds of import, transit, storing, buying and selling of toxic wastes in the country are forbidden by the government of Niger. Anyone found violating the new restrictions would be heavily fined and sent to prison for 10 to 30 years. The order states that the fine may be as high as USD 1.5 million, illustrating that “criminals committing such crimes cannot benefit from attenuated circumstances or suspended sentences, while political and government officials involved in such crimes will be punished with maximum sentences.”¹⁵⁴

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Van Santen

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Unclear

Source: Europe

Exporter: Van Santen (The Netherlands)

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

According to an official Yugoslav radio broadcast on May 27, 1988, a Dutch firm, Van Santen, had signed an agreement with the government of Niger for the disposal of European waste in Niger.

However, on June 1, 1988, the government of Niger denied reports that it has been negotiating an agreement with Van Santen. According to an official statement, Niger “had never envisaged and would never envisage such a development. Niger

¹⁵³ GTZ-Brochure, 2000

¹⁵⁴Xinhua English Language News Service, March 2, 1990.

concurs fully with resolutions passed by the Organization of African Unity and no external constraints will force it to deviate” from this policy.¹⁵⁵

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Niger there were altogether 151 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 14 different locations.

The following substance was identified, among others: Lindane
Named origins are, among others: “Donation/Imported“ (France, Japan).

56 tonnes of Dieldrin (Shell, Netherlands) were removed in 1991 and incinerated in the Netherlands. This was a joint disposal operation by USAID, Shell and GTZ.¹⁵⁶

“USAID co-ordinated the project. Shell arranged the international logistics and provided expert supervision for the field activities. The total project cost came mainly from USAID and the balance from Shell. GTZ took over the costs for the necessary chemical analyses which were carried out in the GTZ-Laboratory in Germany.

The project showed how such work could be undertaken...”¹⁵⁷

Note: Shell was not a GCPF member at the time.

NIGERIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
13.03.91 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Nigeria, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Nigeria announced in June, 1988, that anyone, including foreigners, convicted of dumping foreign toxic waste in Nigeria will be executed. “There will be no mercy on this issue,” said a Nigerian spokesman.

Nigeria has led the international movement for the establishment of a “Dumpwatch” -- a semi-formal network of governments, environmental groups, shipping agencies and others pledging to inform each other about international waste trade schemes.¹⁵⁸

Nigeria’s federal government passed a decree in December 1988, outlawing the purchase, sale, import, transport, and storage of

¹⁵⁵ Reuters News Reports, June 13, 1988.

¹⁵⁶ FAO 1999

¹⁵⁷ BCPF 2001

¹⁵⁸African Concord, June 21, July 26, 1988; Africa Guardian, June 20, 1988; Greenpeace Italy; Greenpeace Netherlands; Newswatch (Nigeria), July 25, 1988, July 4, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 17, July 26,27,29,31, August 25, 1988; West Africa, June 20, September 5-11, November 14-20, 21-27, 28-December 4, 1988; Xinhua English Language News Service, August 21, 1988.

toxic wastes. It also reduced the maximum sentence for waste trafficking from execution to life imprisonment. The new law covers any person convicted of dumping foreign toxic wastes in Nigeria.

The director and the corporate body of any corporation involved in illegal dumping are also subject to severe punishment. Diplomatic immunity will not extend to crimes involving hazardous waste. In addition, any means of transportation and land used in illegal waste dumping will be forfeited to the government. The decree authorizes police to enter and search land, buildings, or vehicles suspected of involvement in illegal waste schemes.¹⁵⁹

The Nigerian government was constructing a laboratory to monitor waste imports as well as to test domestic waste. The main lab was to have been located in Lagos with regional offices in Kano, Kaduna, and Port Harcourt. The Soviet Union, Japan, and the U.S. donated a total of USD 1.6 million worth of equipment for the lab, which was expected to be finished in November, 1989.¹⁶⁰

Allegedly “Nigeria increased the penalty for importing waste from life imprisonment to death” again during 1992 after “European chemicals companies have received letters purporting to be from several apparently different companies in Lagos offering to import waste. The Nigerian companies say containers should be labelled ‘edible oil’ or ‘pharmaceutical product’ to get around the fact that exporting waste to Nigeria is illegal under both Community and Nigerian laws.”¹⁶¹

Note: see also quotes from such letters with a Greenpeace evaluation below in this report.

Waste Import Schemes I: Foreign companies using Nigeria as a dumpsite

Scheme: Jelly Wax/Ecomar, Koko Beach

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Toxic

Source: Italy

Exporter: Jelly Wax/Ecomar

Pretext/Fate: Misrepresented as Materials “Related to Building Trade”

Status: Actual

Between August 1987 and May 1988, almost 4,000 tons of toxic wastes from Italy were dumped in Nigeria in an illegal

¹⁵⁹SWB via BBC Monitoring Service, December 28-29, 1988.

¹⁶⁰West Africa, June 19-25, 1989.

¹⁶¹New Scientist, 21 November 1992, Debora MacKenzie: Would-be waste smugglers face execution; see also New Scientist of 19 September 1992.

arrangement between Italian businessmen and Nigerian officials. In the tiny delta port of Koko, a Nigerian citizen, Sunday Nana, agreed to rent his backyard to an Italian businessman, Gianfranco Raffaelli, for approximately \$100 a month. The property then was used for the storage of 8,000 drums of hazardous wastes, including highly toxic PCBs.

The wastes were exported from Pisa and other Italian ports. The Koko waste disposal scheme was masterminded by Raffaelli and Renato Pent, who control the waste broker firms of Ecomar and Jelly Wax, respectively. The receiving firm was Nana's Iruerken Construction Company. The wastes were imported as substances "relating to the building trade," and as "residual and allied chemicals."

The leaking, randomly stacked barrels of wastes discovered in Koko had labels with the names of the following companies:

Dyno-Cyanamid (Norway)
Elma (Italy)
Euro-Citrus (Netherlands)
ICI (Italy)
Lanvik Pigmentfabrikk (Norway)
PPG (Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.)
Varn Products Ltd. (U.K.)

Five shipments occurred, totaling 4,330 tons, using the following vessels:

August 26, 1987 (MV Baruluck) -- 1,800 tons.
Sept. 21, 1987 (MV Danix, Danish vessel) -- 187 tons.
Nov. 19, 1987 (MV Line, West German vessel) -- 487 tons.
March 15, 1988 (MV Line) -- 900 tons.
April 28, 1988 (MV Juergen Vesta Denise) -- 700 tons.

In early June, in response to the dumping, Nigeria recalled its ambassador from Italy and seized an Italian freighter, the *Piave*, which was not involved in waste trade, in order to pressure Italy to remove the wastes.

On July 26, 1988, Nigeria released the *Piave* and its 24-member crew. The owners of the *Piave* are demanding USD 1 million in compensation from the Italian government. As the Koko scandal broke, Raffaelli fled Nigeria, but an Italian employee of Iruerken Construction, Desiderio Perazzi, and at least 54 others involved in the scandal were jailed by the Nigerian government.

On July 17, 1988, the Italian government agreed to direct the removal of the wastes from Nigeria and return them to Italy. Over 150 Nigerian workers, most from the Nigerian Port Authority, were employed in the removal of the wastes. The Nigerian government provided mechanical equipment, protective

clothing, and gas masks for the workers, but the quantity of protective clothing was insufficient and many workers did not have gloves to wear. A number of workers were hospitalized for ailments including severe chemical burns, nausea, vomiting blood, partial paralysis, and at least one went into a coma.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Brigadier Mamman Kontagora, awarded each worker with a certificate of commendation and a 500 naira (USD 107) cash bonus. Kontagora ordered 50,000 naira (about USD 10,000) worth of drugs and medical equipment for the workers. The senior medical officer at Koko General Hospital, Dr. Solomon Ogbemi, expressed concern that shortages of blood and ambulances may further complicate the removal operation. The workers were also concerned and demanded risk allowances, life insurance policies, and regular medical monitoring.

In another demonstration of the toxicity of the Koko dump site, Dr. Ogbemi reported that seven premature births occurred in the Koko area in just two weeks in July 1988. Residents of Koko, however, rejected plans to evacuate the town.

Over 2,000 tons of wastes were removed from Nigeria aboard the Italian chartered *Karin B* at the end of July. The remaining wastes were loaded on a second ship, *Deepsea Carrier*, on August 15, 1988. The Nigerian ambassador to Italy returned to his post in September 1988.

Although the wastes had been removed, contaminated soils remained to be cleared.

The people of Koko continued to suffer from exposure to the wastes that were stored in their village for over 10 months. Kontagora visited a hospital near the dump site in November. Doctors at the hospital told Kontagora that the waste-dumping scheme caused significantly higher rates of cholera and premature births in the area.

The Nigerian government did not quote a price for the complete clean up operation, but the London-based Friends of the Earth estimated the cost to be 1 million pounds or 8 million naira (about USD 1.85 million). According to the Xinhua News Service, the Nigerian government had already spent over \$1 million on the clean up project.

In early November 1988, Nigeria's Justice Minister and Attorney General, Prince Bola Ajibula, announced that his government filed an official complaint against Italy at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.¹⁶²

Toxic repercussions from the dumping of Italian wastes in Koko, Nigeria may go on “indefinitely,” according to one Nigerian official. Kontagora announced that decontamination efforts will have to continue far beyond the originally planned three years due to the fact that pollutants have sunk deeper and deeper into the soil and have contaminated underground water supplies.¹⁶³

On June 9, 1989, following the excavation of the site where toxic wastes were dumped by Italian firms in 1987 and 1988, the government of Nigeria announced that Koko was safe for visitors. The Environmental Protection Agency of Nigeria hoped that crops would soon grow where toxic wastes once lay. While the village was being decontaminated, the Nigerian government had banned any unauthorized visits to the town and port of Koko. The excavation operation began in February 1989, and was completed in May 1989.

As of April 7, 1989, 15 persons implicated in the waste import scheme continued to await trial in Nigeria, facing the prospect of having to pay damages to the inhabitants of Koko as well as a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Major-General Mamman Kontagora announced that a memorial complex with a modern hospital will be built at the site.¹⁶⁴ On March 3, 1990 Sunday Nana, the “toxic waste landlord”, died of “cancer of the throat”.

Scheme: Soviet Radioactive Wastes

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Radioactive Cobalt 60

Source: Soviet Union

Exporter: Soviet Government

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Unclear

The Nigerian government has refuted rumors of illegally buried nuclear wastes at a steel plant in Ajaokuta. The possible dump was discovered after the Nigerian government ordered a search of the entire country to locate any illegally imported waste. Initial reports alleged that several tons of radioactive Cobalt 60 had been buried at the steel complex. At least one newspaper reported that the waste had been imported from the Soviet Union. After an investigation by scientists, geologists, and security officials, the Ministry of Works and Housing retracted the allegations and said that no nuclear wastes were found buried at the site.¹⁶⁵

Scheme: Arctic Trader

Date: 1988

¹⁶³West Africa, January 9-15, 1989.

¹⁶⁴West Africa, June 19-25, 1989; Xinhua English Language News Service, August 2, 1989.

¹⁶⁵West Africa, August 22-28, 1988.

Type of Waste: Contaminated
Source: Unknown
Exporter: Unknown
Pretext/Fate: Unknown
Status: Rejected

An Egyptian vessel, *MV Arctic Trader*, was released from detainment in late August 1988. The ship was held at Tin Can Island Port in Lagos for 15 weeks after attempting to bring over 9,000 tons of contaminated wastes into Nigeria. The Chief of General State Office and the State Security Office ordered the ship to be released and returned to Egypt.

Scheme: Radioactive Beef

Date: 1989
Type of Waste: Radioactive Beef
Source: Europe
Exporter: Fish & Richardson Limited (U.K.)
Pretext/Fate: Food
Status: Rejected

In late 1989, Nigeria was on the lookout for a rash of ships carrying toxic beef to Lagos, including beef believed to have been contaminated during the 1986 accident at Chernobyl. Three incidents of ships carrying toxic beef occurred in a two-month period.

The first ship to arrive in Lagos was the *MV Arion 1*, a Maltese-owned, Panama-registered vessel. Patrols along the coast of West Africa were warned that contaminated beef could be on its way from Europe so Nigeria was ready to deal with the *Arion*. The 546-ton cargo is believed to be part of a 6,000-ton shipment of Irish beef that was rejected by Venezuela in 1987 due to detected high levels of radioactivity.

Hot on its trail was the *MV River Oli*, a Nigerian ship, which was laden with five containers of allegedly radioactive beef in 3,125 cartons. The company responsible for shipping the beef is believed to be Fish & Richardson Limited of London. This ship too, was turned away.

However, according to one Nigerian source, the ship was “released after a toxicity test proved negative”.¹⁶⁶

Bringing up the rear in this beef convoy was the *Baltic Universal*, a ship from Lushing Seaport, the Netherlands. Soldiers and customs officials all along the Nigerian coasts were vigilant, having been ordered to refuse the discharge of any of the cargo.

¹⁶⁶ Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19, 1990

The first vessel, *MV Arion I*, was escorted out of Nigerian waters after being detained for 17 days. There was no indication where the vessel was headed next.

Following this wave of radioactive waste trading ships, the Nigerian government announced on December 7 that it would outlaw all beef imports. The decree also bans the import of chicken, fish and other expired food products.¹⁶⁷

Scheme: Toxic Recoil

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Toxic Mosquito Coils

Source: Unclear

Exporter: Unclear

Pretext/Fate: "Useful Products"

Status: Rejected

In another battle against an onslaught of toxic waste, expired and contaminated food, and hazardous consumer goods, the Nigerian government banned the importation of toxic mosquito coils. The toxic mosquito coils were another in a long list of dangerous wastes exported as "useful products" to Nigeria. Col. Anthony Etukudo of the Standards Organization of Nigeria announced the ban, saying that "the government was worried by the rate at which all manner of toxic substances were being dumped in the country."¹⁶⁸

Scheme: Sweetch 31 II

Date: 1989/90

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The freighter *MV Sweetch 31* was denied entry to Egyptian ports and next tried Nigerian ports. On board there were unknown quantities of toxic waste from unnamed European countries.¹⁶⁹

Note: Sweetch 31/I in the Egypt Sections of this report

Scheme: Esquimo

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

¹⁶⁷West Africa, June 19-25; Xinhua, August 2, 1989.

¹⁶⁸West Africa, December 18-24, 1989.

¹⁶⁹Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19, 1990

Nigerian authorities were alerted of a toxic waste ship *MV Esquimo* beginning 1990. ¹⁷⁰

Scheme: Reefer Freighter

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The *MV Reefer Freighter* with Unknown amounts of toxic waste from unnamed European countries was denied entry to Nigerian ports. ¹⁷¹

Scheme: Bruna Americana III

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Unknown, toxic industrial waste

Origin: Netherlands

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

The freighter *Bruna Americana* under the flag of Cyprus was denied entry to Egyptian ports and next tried the port of Mombasa, Kenya and Nigerian ports. On board there were 20,000 tonnes of toxic waste which the ship had taken over in the Netherlands. ¹⁷²

Note: Bruna Americana I and II in the Egypt and Kenya Sections of this report.

Waste Import Schemes II: Nigerian Companies and Citizens Invite Foreign ToxicWaste:

From 1991 to 1999 years Greenpeace again and again got hold of letters from private persons, business people in Nigeria and even Nigerian officials to Western companies offering toxic waste disposal opportunities in Nigeria. One of the letters also mentions “TOGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA and REPUBLIC of BENIN” and another unnamed “West African country”.

The content of these letters - some of them quoted below - has caused some irritation in Europe and other parts of the world. Unfortunately they have even led some European and North American politicians and industries to say that “African

¹⁷⁰ Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19,1990

¹⁷¹ Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19,1990

¹⁷² Die Tageszeitung, Berlin, (AFP quoting the Sunday Times) January 15,1990
Daily Champion, Lagos, Nigeria, February 19,1990

COUNTRIES want our waste, why should they then not get it”.

Greenpeace wants to make it very clear that:

- a) these letters were written by people who KNOW and are very well aware that they are proposing ILLEGAL business - as can be proved from the wording of many letters, most of them demanding strict confidentiality,
- b) these letters can therefore in no case be seen as government positions even though certain officials are allegedly involved in some of the proposals,

but on the contrary,

- c) the official position of the Nigerian government has always been in line with the OAU position, the Bamako Convention, the Lomé IV treaty and clearly in favour of the “total ban” decided by the Basel Convention.

QUOTES:

“Lagos, September 10, 1991

Dear Sir,

We wish to inform you of our desire to import your industrial waste products to Nigeria... We are ready therefore to import and dispose of the above mentioned material by bur(y)ing it in our dumps. Our existing dumps measures about sixty feet(60 ft.) below the earth surface and can take a minimum of ten thousand tonnes ...

Our expertise not only guarrantees the confidentiality of this deal but also the fast precision with which the deal will be sealed up...”

“Lagos, October 25, 1991

...These officials have agreed to keep the transaction secret as long as they get their share financially. With money every aspect of the trade is safe.

As a result of the secretive nature of the trade, I may suggest that if you wish to send your representative down here for an on the spot assessment of the arrangements and to meet some of the officials concerned...”

“Lagos, 28/10/91

(handwritten fax:) ... WE ALSO WISH TO ASSURE YOU ONCE MORE THAT EVERY ASSPECT (sic) OF THE TRANSACTION HAS BEEN PROPERLY ARRANGED OVER HERE. WE THEREFORE WISH TO START

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SHIPMENT AND PAYMENT OF
THE WASTE WITH UNDUE DELAY...”

“LAGOS 20TH JANUARY, 1992

... business government officials, who are interested in using their position to make a good living for themselves and their relations ... in view of the unsteady nature of government ...

I want to use my good office to solicit (sic) if you have any waste i.e. (Industrial/Toxic waste) in your company.

My position in government had made it easy for me to bring any waste into the shores of Nigeria without any eyebrow from any corner. ...”

Unidentified location - 09.04.92

“...This is to let you into confidence that we have a client who has facilities to assist large industries dispose industrial/toxic waste... there is a West African country where an arrangement has been completed ... for toxic waste to be accepted as chemicals. This is unofficial and highly confidential and has to be treated as such. ...It will be expected to run for years ... Make your homework as swift as possible and straight to the point...”

“Lagos, 04/06/92

...My father has about two (2) square kilometer of land situated at a very hidden area in Nigeria where “Toxic Waste” could be dumped without being discovered.

If you have toxic Waste and want to place to dump them I can make it possible for you here in Nigeria.

The charges are as follows:

1. 40ft container will be \$90.000 each. US Dollars
2. 20ft container will be \$50.000 each. US Dollars ...”

Unidentified location in Nigeria

“26th OCT, 1992

“...We would like to remind you that all matter relating to this type of transactions are always done confidentially and as such certain precaution should be taken by both parties. To explain more about the Terrain we have two of such land, one is in a villiage called Abiba in Abia State while the next land is in Aba also in Abia State and both lands are 10 Hectares each.

Understand very well, that due to the nature of the business we are unable to provide you with names of our past partners for security reasons. We are dumping this chemical without the

concent of government. You are aware that no company or individual will like to be identify for dumping killer chemical to any place. This is done where the local villagers will feel that you are about to start an industrial projects which we bought the land for. The involvement of other bodies is to allow for smooth passage untill the chemical gets to the site.

You never mention the type of chemicals you wish, we handle...”

“Lagos, (Undated, possibly 1992)

...I have decided with some Colleagues in ... (a bank in Benin) and the ... ministry to contact you privately on this business for the arrangement of transferring the sum of 20,500,000 U.S. Dollars (Twenty Million and five hundred thousand united states dollars) to your company’s account through the... (bank) ...This money emanated from over invoicing in a contract awarded to a foreign firm to secretly clear a toxic waste product dumped in Benin during the political era of Kerekou. The contact was done and the current amount was paid remaining the above amount as the excess...”

Unidentified location, undated, probably 1992

“Dear Sir,

PROPOSAL FOR IMPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE

In view of the high cost of treating toxic and radioactive wastes in the industrial countries and propelled by the acute need for foreign exchange in less developing countries in AFRICA, we, a group of international businessmen, in consent with key personnel in the government of NIGERIA, TOGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA and REPUBLIC of BENIN have developed a closed syndicate which specializes in the clandestine importation and disposal of industrial toxic and radioactive wastes on behalf of industrial concern in the west for a fee.

In consonance with our code of strictest confidentiality, we may not be able to furnish you the names of our former and current clients, as references, neither can we provide you with an avalanche of documents to prove that we are permitted to treat or import toxic wastes as they do not exist, but be rest assured that we are acting as agents of the various governments mentioned above and we have never failed to honour an obligation in this respect. Moreover, in all our agreements, provisions have been made to protect the interest of our clients as well as ours within an atmosphere of trust and strict confidentiality. In other words, we will not require payment until the job has been done...

LABELLING:

Toxic and radioactive wastes to be imported must be re- labelled (Pharmaceutical, cosmetics etc.), as may be determined after the consideration of the nature of the wastes and the country of origin ... ”

Unidentified location in Belgium

“24-05-93

Dear Sir,

I am a Nigerian living here in Belgium. My uncle is a traditional ruler in “Orlu-Imo State” eastern part of Nigeria. He briefed me in confidence over a deal related to toxic waste chemical disposals. He has many acres of land to bury toxic waste chemical disposals. He is willing to welcome any foreign company that is interested in shipping toxic waste chemical disposals out of their country...”

“Lagos, 24TH MAY, 1993

“...The agency (i.e. F.E.P.A. = Federal Environment Protection Agency of Nigeria) has mapped out large hectares of land off the coast of Calabar Sea Port and Oron River Port in the south eastern part of Nigeria for the dumping of non-toxic wastes. It is in the Light of the above, that I, in collaboration with my colleagues in the customs, navy and ports management office have decided to convert a large portion of the area for the dumping of toxic wastes from companies that have toxic waste for disposal.

I assure you of the confidentiality of the transaction taking into consideration the legal implications in Nigeria...”

“Lagos, August 6, 1993

“...Now, my organisation has the guaranteed ability to dispose of such “wastes” effectively, discreetly and efficiently here in Nigeria within a specified period of time. However my organisation specializes in disposal of “waste” only if they are brought into the country by SEA i.e. by shipping vessel. This is because we are affiliated with top officials of Relevant Government Ministries and Parastatals. These officials cooperate with my organisation to guarantee the smooth arrival, offloading and processing of the vessel containing the waste. From the point of arrival of this vessel, my organisation can guarantee complete and successful disposal of this waste within 96 hours. I am in the position to give you my unreserved assurance on this...”

“Lagos, MARCH 1ST, 1994

...We wish to make a formal contact with you in respect of providing you access to dispose of some of your toxic waste at certain areas in Nigeria.

Although it is illegal to bring in such wastes into the country, we have the necessary connection within the Nigerian government and the traditional authorities of the dump sites to pull off the deal..."

“Lagos, 18th April 1994

...after United Nations (UN) has placed embargo on the disposal of toxic and other radioactive wastes in the international waters, request that you help us source for wastes.

I wish to seize this opportunity to formally apply for registration as your toxic waste disposal contractor. A handsome percentage awaits you in any contract I execute through your assistance..."

Unidentified location

“Jan 18/95

Subject: 30,000 METRIC TONS OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

REFERRING TO OUR TELECON OF ... WE HEREBY CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

...We are ready and able to dispose of various types of industrial waste, which may be classified as being the solid or liquid, toxic or nontoxic material...

...We can accept 5.000 to 10.000 tons of the said material...

...For the service that we are providing we charge in U.S. \$ 5.000 per ton that the material delivered to discharging port as final destination that we will nominate before any ship or vessel sails..."

“Lagos, 4/7/97

“... To introduce myself, I am the Executive Director of ... I have developed and established a discreet and efficient organisation ... which specialises in handling issues related to Disposal of Unwanted Chemical Wastes including wastes that are toxic in nature ...

We are affiliated with top officials of relevant government ministries and parastatals ... to guarantee the smooth arrival, off-loading and processing the vessel containing the waste... guarantee complete and successful disposal of this waste within 96 hours in a controlled area that will be designated for such purpose.

... you ... make use of our service thereby making savings of over 70% of your present costs for your company and also to avoid incessant disturbances by environmental groups in your country ... utmost confidentiality is required ...¹⁷³

Note:

In most cases the names of the Nigerian companies and personal names are known to Greenpeace, and in some cases also the names of receiving companies in Europe. In all cases fax and phone numbers of companies in Lagos are known to Greenpeace.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Nigeria there are 22 tons of obsolete pesticides.¹⁷⁴

“An inventory co-financed by the local industry association (AAN) and the Nigerian Government is now available and shows some 22 tonnes of confirmed obsolete products. It has been sent to FAO and will serve as the basis for a disposal project”, reports GCPF.¹⁷⁵

FAO stresses that the activity was partly financed by them.

RWANDA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Rwanda there are 451 tonnes of obsolete pesticides from Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland which have to be disposed of.¹⁷⁶

SÃO THOMÉ AND PRINCÍPE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In São Thomé Príncipe there are 3 or 7 tonnes of obsolete pesticides among them DDT and Malathion of unknown origin which have to be disposed of.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷³ All relevant documents on file with Greenpeace

¹⁷⁴ FAO 2001

¹⁷⁵ GCPF 2001

¹⁷⁶ FAO 1999, 2001

¹⁷⁷ FAO 1999, 2001

SENEGAL

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
10.11.92 Ratified	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Senegal, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Senegal is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On June 10, 1988, Senegal's Director of Environment, Bakary Kante, stated that, as long as he is in office he will not allow his country to receive foreign wastes. On August 4, 1988, Senegal's ambassador to Ghana, Saloum Kande, called for all African countries to unite and wage a relentless war against the dumping of foreign wastes in Africa. Senegal's former president, Dr. Leopold Senghor, said on June 28, 1988, that Africa should act firmly against the influx of wastes into the continent.¹⁷⁸

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: *Khian Sea*

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Incinerator Ash

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Henry Dowd

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

According to U.S. newspaper columnist Jack Anderson, the government of Senegal rejected an attempt by the notorious ash-hauling vessel, *Khian Sea*, to dump its cargo in Senegal in June 1988.¹⁷⁹

For more information, see Feature Waste Trade Scheme section on the *Khian Sea*.

Scheme: Commercial Overseas Development

Date: 1987

Type of Waste: Various

Source: Europe

Exporter: Rene Lehman (Swiss) and Hubert Lefebvre (French)

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Proposed, Stopped, Unknown

Swiss businessman Rene Lehmann and his French partner, Hubert Lefebvre, planned to export European wastes of all kinds to a dumpsite in Thies, one kilometer north of the Senegalese capital of Dakar. After preparations in 1987, the project was

¹⁷⁸Personal conversation with Bakary Kante in Caracas, Venezuela, June 10, 1988; "Rawlings Calls for Resisting Toxic Waste Dumping in Africa," Xinhua English Language News Service, August 4, 1988; "Senegalese Former President on Africa," Xinhua English Language News Service, June 28, 1988.

¹⁷⁹Jack Anderson, "The Khian Sea's Curious Voyage," Washington Post, August 18, 1988.

stopped by the authorities in Senegal.

On January 12, 1988, a powerful businessman in Senegal, Mansur Bouna Ndiaye, who is also a cousin of President Diouf, signed a contract to import at least 1,000,000 tons of wastes from Gianfranco Ambrosini, an Italian waste broker. However, the environmental minister of Senegal, Bakary Kante, commissioned an environmental impact study of the wastes and ruled against the import.

(Ambrosini: see also Egypt, Guinea Bissau, South Africa)

Scheme: Intercontract

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Unknown

Source: Unknown

Exporter: Intercontract (Switzerland)

Pretext/Fate:

Status: Rejected

A Swiss firm, Intercontract, reportedly tried to negotiate a contract with a Senegalese firm, Sodilo, for use of a disposal site 40 kilometers north of Dakar, Senegal. However, in early June 1988, the environment minister of Senegal declared that his country is off limits to foreign wastes.

Scheme: GEI Inc.

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Household

Source: U.S.

Exporter: GEI Inc.

Pretext/Fate: "Processing"

Status: Unclear

GEI Inc. of Brooklyn, New York, (phone: 718-238-0464) planned to submit a proposal to the Senegalese government for the processing of U.S. household wastes in Dakar. According to Walter Szablowski, the firm's president, the garbage would have originated on the East Coast of the U.S.¹⁸⁰

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Senegal there were altogether 289 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 7 different locations.

The following substances were identified, among others: Dieldrin, Lindane, Parathion

Countries of origin named are: China, France, USA.

110 tonnes were disposed of.¹⁸¹

"The disposal of the obsolete stocks in Senegal has been dealt with in three stages. The *first stage* was the reformulation of

¹⁸⁰Letter to Greenpeace from Walter Szablowski, GEI Inc., August 30, 1988.

¹⁸¹ FAO 1999, 2001

some 100 tonnes carbaryl oil formulation originating from Rhône-Poulenc (now part of Aventis) into a low strength dust product. Jointly funded by Rhône-Poulenc and USAID, this step was completed 1998/99.

The *second stage* will be the reformulation of another 21 tonnes of carbaryl oil formulation which will take place in 2001, financed jointly by the Netherlands Royal Embassy and Aventis Crop Science.

In the *third stage*, an estimated 200 tonnes of remaining stocks will be confirmed for collection and disposal. A number of GCPF member companies will be contributing to the cost of disposal of those products they originally manufactured. This phase is expected to start during early 2001.”¹⁸²

SEYCHELLES

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
11.05.93 Ratified	Party	Signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In the Seychelles there were altogether 12 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in one location.

The following substances were identified, among others: DDT,(Ethyl) Parathion.

The pesticides were from Germany (Bayer) and other origins, most of which had been kept on the main Island Mahé, and they were “successfully destroyed” under FAO support.¹⁸³

SIERRA LEONE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Sierra Leone, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Waste import scheme:

Scheme: Nedlog Technology

Date: 1980

Type of Waste: Hazardous

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Nedlog Technology, Colorado, U.S.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping, US\$25 million/year

Status: Rejected

A proposal by Nedlog Technology to dump millions of tons of

¹⁸² GCPF 2001

¹⁸³ FAO 1999,2001

U.S. hazardous wastes created a furor in 1980. The Colorado-based firm offered to pay “up to \$25 million” a year to the government of Sierra Leone. The wastes, described as all forms of hazardous waste except radioactive waste would have been shipped through the port of Pepal and brought inland by an existing rail line.

Sierra Leonean students in the U.S. picketed against the project and both Nedlog and the Sierra Leone embassy to the U.S. received threatening phone calls and bomb scares. Sierra Leonean President Shiaka Stevens eventually rejected the proposed dumping scheme in 1980.

The president of Nedlog, James Wolfe, said his company would pursue the plan with other African countries. Nedlog was formed in 1977 with assistance from the Roldiva Corp., a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.-based firm.¹⁸⁴

For information on a related scheme, please see Chile.

Scheme: Dumba International

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Hazardous

Source: U.K.

Exporter: Larry Spencer Hicks, Dumba International, Birmingham, U.K.

Pretext/Fate: “Construction Material”

Status: Actual

In early July 1988, the government of Sierra Leone launched an investigation after 625 bags containing hazardous wastes from the U.K. were discovered near the capital of Freetown. The wastes were dumped in a garbage dump called Bomeh. Police claim that the wastes were illegally shipped to Sierra Leone in September 1987. On July 8, police arrested Minette Golley, the wife of a high-ranking judge in Sierra Leone and a Lebanese businessman, in connection with the waste dumping.

According to Golley, the bags contain road construction material imported from Europe that was dumped because it was poor quality.

According to Sierra Leonean press reports, the dumping deal was masterminded by British businessman, Larry Spencer Hicks, who was representing a firm called Dumba International of Birmingham. In addition to the original 625 bags of waste, another 20 bags, imported with false papers, were discovered while still aboard a ship in Freetown Harbor.

¹⁸⁴Environmental Report on Central America Report, August 7, 1987; Christopher McLeod, “Dumping for Dollars,” Science for the People, September/October, 1980; Pollution Probe, July-August, 1980; Bill Richards, “U.S. Fights Export of Hazardous Waste,” Washington Post, January 26, 1980.

Tests run on the wastes determined that they were hazardous. In a report released August 1, Professor Ernest Wright, head of the chemistry department at the University of Sierra Leone, revealed that the wastes contained toxic wastes including ammonia, formaldehyde and carbon monoxide. Wright added that the wastes had been leaking into a nearby estuary.

Sierra Leone's Health Minister, Wiltshire Johnson, said, "people living around the site were contaminated with certain vapors which caused a fair amount of choking."¹⁸⁵

Scheme: Biskupek

Date: 1987/90

Type of Waste: Aluminium Salt Slags

Origin: Hanover, Germany

Exporter: Biskupek Aluminium-Schmelzwerk und Metallhandel, Hanover

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

The Biskupek Aluminium-Schmelzwerk und Metallhandel (Aluminium Smelters and Metals Trade), based in Hanover, Germany, applied to German authorities in 1987 to be allowed to export 2.500 tonnes of aluminium salt slags to Sierra Leone. The slags are a by-product of aluminium recycling which emit toxic gases in contact with water or high humidity e.g. hydrogen sulphide, H₂S.

The application was rejected by the German authorities.¹⁸⁶

Scheme: Madiva

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Solid Municipal Waste

Origin: USA, East Coast

Exporter: US Communities / MADIVA TRUST Reg.

Pretext: Waste to Energy

Status: Proposed

Greenpeace is in possession of an elaborated feasibility study of one "Madiva Trust Reg." (French language). 3 million tonnes per year of solid waste were to be incinerated after generating biogas from them. The residues after incineration were to be used in road construction.

Besides Sierra Leone other countries were interested in importing wastes from the United States, among them Gambia, Poland, the Philippines and one more unnamed country in Western Europe. As part of the scheme, also the "American disposal company

¹⁸⁵African Concord, July 26, 1988; Agence France Presse via BBC Monitoring Service, August 3, 1988; Reuters News Reports, July 9,10,12, 1988, August 2, 1988; West Africa, July 11, 1988.

¹⁸⁶ Documents on file with Greenpeace Germany

U.S.W.C.Inc.”.¹⁸⁷

(Note: maybe this scheme is another variation of the following: “Roger Cottenie”.)

Scheme: Roger Cottenie

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Solid

Source: U.S. and Western Europe

Exporter: Roger Cottenie (Mechelen, Belgium)

Pretext/Fate: Waste to Energy

Status: Rejected

A consortium consisting of three European firms plans to burn solid wastes from the U.S. and from Western Europe in an energy-generating waste incinerator in Sierra Leone. The project was planned and coordinated by Roger Cottenie of Mechelen, Belgium, who introduced the scheme during a press-conference in Freetown.

France is to deliver the incinerator-related technology while Austria supplies the technology to build the disposal site and produce methane gas. The participants in the scheme allegedly plan to fill up the disposal site with waste for two to three years, until enough foreign currency is earned to build the waste incinerator.

In a letter to the *New African* monthly, Cottenie defended his project as using only garbage and “no toxic wastes,” and said it would help the country to solve its energy problems.¹⁸⁸

Greenpeace visited Sierra Leone in early May 1989 and was assured by the Minister of Development, Dr. Sheka Kanu, that the deal was off. An official government statement dated February 9, 1989, said that “The government shall not entertain any proposal for importing foreign or any other waste from anywhere into the country.”¹⁸⁹

After the failure of this project Cottenie tried the same scheme in Georgia, a former Soviet Republic bordering to the Black Sea in 1992. Greenpeace disclosed the project and it was stopped by the authorities. In 1994 Cottenie’s company “Sports & Imports” tried again in India and was opposed by local groups. As of November 1997 Greenpeace has no knowledge re the fate of this project.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Sierra Leone there were altogether 7 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 5 different locations.

Companies identified are: ASE, Bayer, Cabe, Detia, Hodogaya,

¹⁸⁷ Relevant documents on file with Greenpeace Germany

¹⁸⁸ *New African*, May 1990.

¹⁸⁹ Greenpeace International, Conversation with Dr. Sheka Kanu; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Press Release, February 9, 1989.

ICI, Kocide, Mitsui, Nippon (?), Rhone Poulenc, Shell, Sumitomo.¹⁹⁰

SOMALIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAHO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Somalia, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Somalia is also a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Agriswiss Waste Storage and Treatment

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Foreign Municipal and Industrial

Source: Unknown

Exporter: Agriswiss

Pretext/Fate: Storage and Treatment

Status: Planned

On behalf of the Agriswiss Corporation of Panama, Zurich lawyers Alther, Uhlmann and Müller confirmed in a letter to Mr. H.H.M.G. Prinz von Hohenlohe-Langenburg and Mr. Sinanovic of Munich that Agriswiss had been granted permission by the Somali government to rent areas in some Somali districts for the storage and treatment of foreign municipal and industrial wastes. The permission allegedly also included the permission for construction of port and transport facilities, apartments, medical facilities and technical equipment. Boris Janus allegedly was an authorized representative of Agriswiss for this scheme. A teletype of the authorization was sent to the German waste broker firm, S.O.P. Janus informed S.O.P. that he had earlier been trading mainly in weapons systems.¹⁹¹

Scheme: U.S. Incinerator Ash

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Incinerator Ash

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Road Construction Material

Status: Unclear

According to dockworkers in Mogadishu, several shiploads of U.S. incinerator ash were imported in 1987 and 1988 to be used in road construction. It was also alleged that contracts with the Somali government existed that would bring still more incinerator ash to Somalia during the next years.

¹⁹⁰ FAO 1999, 2001

¹⁹¹ Andreas Bernstorff, Greenpeace West Germany.

The “toxic asphalt” had not yet been used, but was allegedly stored in three prohibited areas of the military; near Gardo (Province of Migiurtinia), Dus a Mareb (Mudugh) and Iscia Baidos (Upper Juba).¹⁹²

Scheme: Unknown

Date: 1992

The *New Scientist* mentioned that in 1992 “a plan to ship wastes to Somalia made it apparent that the OAU ban was being ignored.” Greenpeace has no further details on this.¹⁹³

Scheme: Unknown from Europe

Date: 1996

Type of Waste: “leaking toxic waste”, 30 tonnes

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Pretext/Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

“...A cargo-load of leaking toxic waste docked at Kenya’s port of Mombasa last year after being turned away by Tanzania. The cargo, weighing more than 30,480 kgs, was also banned from passing through the Suez Canal in the Red Sea by Egypt.

The European-registered ship, with 16 containers of chemical waste, was finally escorted by the Kenyan marine authorities into international waters for the start of its long journey to a disposal site in Britain via the Mozambican port of Beira.

But six hours before the vessel’s departure, a group of Somali leaders here, acting on what they said was a tip-off that the cargo was to be dumped off the Somali coast, warned the ship owners to avoid Somali territorial waters ...”¹⁹⁴

Obsolete Pesticides:

No information available. Somalia is on the FAO list of African countries which “still require countrywide survey”¹⁹⁵

SOUTH AFRICA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
05.05.93 Ratified	Party	

¹⁹²Andreas Bernstorff, Greenpeace West Germany.

¹⁹³ New Scientist, London *, 21 November 1992, Debora MacKenzie: Would-be waste smugglers face execution.

¹⁹⁴ Inter Press Service, 12-Aug-97, Title: EAST AFRICA: Protecting Endangered Marine Plants and Animals, by Moyiga Nduru, origin: Harare

¹⁹⁵ FAO 1999

Note: The section on South Africa has not been updated since 1990 except for some information provided by the FAO (see: Obsolete Pesticides paragraph)

National Policy:

In late September 1990, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs declared its country off-limits to waste imports. However, South Africa's law will do nothing to bar waste imports from the U.S.-based company American Cyanamid, which exports mercury laden sludge to Thor Chemicals several times a year. According to government officials in South Africa, mercury sludge is considered a "raw material." For a detailed account on the dangers of this mercury waste, please see Greenpeace publications including *The International Trade in Wastes: A Greenpeace Inventory (Fifth Edition 1990)*.

Scheme: Prodev - South Africa Eyes Botswana

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Extremely Hazardous

Source: U.S.

Exporter: Prodev (South Africa)

Pretext/Fate:

Status: Rejected

A South African waste hauling company has been encouraging neighboring African countries to participate in a collective effort to import and bury waste from the U.S.

The governments of Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique have been approached by Prodev, which originally wanted to bury the waste in South Africa but was met with strong protests from environmentalists. Subsequently, Prodev proposed to lease land in the Kalahari Desert in Botswana and then turn the land back over to the government once the waste dumping was finished. The waste was to be buried in four hundred-foot trenches, six feet deep, with four feet of earth covering it.

The waste consisted of pesticides, chlorine and phosphorous compounds, lead sludges, heavy metal oxides, asbestos, pharmaceuticals and effluent sludges. Much of the material is known to be carcinogenic.

According to a London newspaper, *The Guardian*, a spokesman for the government of Botswana said, "We were not in favor of the scheme at any price."¹⁹⁶

Scheme: U.S. PCB Wastes

Date: 1980

Type of Waste: PCB's

Source: Texas, U.S.

Exporter: Diamond Shamrock, Quanex and Arbuckle Machinery

¹⁹⁶The Guardian, May 31, 1989.

Pretext/Fate: Dumping
Status: Actual

Three Texas U.S.-based firms -- Diamond Shamrock, Quanax and Arbuckle Machinery -- allegedly shipped PCB wastes that they had generated to Mexico, South Africa and the Dominican Republic in 1980.¹⁹⁷

Scheme: Mercury

Date: 1988
Type of Waste: Mercury Sludge
Source: U.S.
Exporter: American Cyanamid
Pretext/Fate: Recycling
Status: Active

In a deal between Thor Chemicals of Natal, South Africa and American Cyanamid of New Jersey, 120 drums of mercury-contaminated wastes have been exported from the U.S. to South Africa each year since 1986. Annual shipments total 32,400 pounds.

The wastes are exported at least twice a year via Jersey City, New Jersey and are imported via Durban, South Africa. The wastes are then shipped to Thor Chemicals in Cato Ridge, Natal, where the sludge is burned in a smelter.

Most of the waste is sludge; but in 1986, the shipments included contaminated steel pipes and rings, "cleanout liquids," and mercury-contaminated lime.¹⁹⁸

For a complete story on Thor Chemicals and American Cyanamid, please see Greenpeace publication *The International Trade in Wastes: A Greenpeace Inventory (Fifth Edition 1990)*.

Scheme: Ciba Geigy

Date: 1989
Type of Waste: Chemical
Source: Switzerland
Exporter: Ciba-Geigy
Pretext/Fate: Incineration
Status: Active

Swiss wastes are being exported by chemical giant Ciba-Geigy to South Africa for incineration. Although Swiss regulations prohibit waste exports to South Africa, Ciba-Geigy has managed to get permits from West Germany and Great Britain to export the wastes through Rotterdam, Holland to a subsidiary in South

¹⁹⁷McLeod, Science for the People, September/October, 1980.

¹⁹⁸U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Export Notice Records, 1986-1987; Peter Younghusband, "Toxic Waste Shipment to South Africa Defended," Washington Times, July 14, 1988.

Africa.¹⁹⁹

Scheme: Sanders

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Toxic

Source: Europe and the US

Broker: S.D. Sanders

Pretext/Fate: Incineration, Domestic Disposal Facility

Status: Unclear

In February 1989, the South African Minister of the Environment Affairs, Gert Kotze, said that his country was considering importing toxic wastes in order to make a local toxic waste facility viable. Kotze said that his earlier statements proclaiming South Africa off limits to foreign waste dumping still stand, but that in the future South Africa would have to process its own waste, and, it may be necessary to have a large enough facility to accept foreign waste. Kotze asked the Council for the Environment to study the issue.

Following Kotze's announcement, the South African government secretly began studying plans to build a toxic waste dump site near Alexander Bay, which is along South Africa's border with Namibia. If the South African government approves the plan, 500,000 tons of toxic wastes could be dumped each year along the South Africa-Namibia border.

In 1988, a developer named S.D. Sanders of Newlands, South Africa, first proposed building a waste landfill and incinerator at Saldanha Bay, near Cape Town whose population is about 700,000. The South African Council for the Environment turned down the Saldanha plan on environmental grounds in November 1988.

Sanders' plan resurfaced after he and government officials agreed that building a massive waste disposal plant in Alexander Bay (rather than Saldanha) was "opportune and advantageous for the development of the region." The Regional Development Council, a government body, called the project a "strategic necessity." On May 16, 1989, the South African government gave a conditional approval to Sanders' plan. The project remained secret until early July 1989, when it was uncovered by South African journalists. Sanders denied the existence of the waste import scheme, telling a reporter that "you must have your wires crossed."

Economic pressures likely are fueling South Africa's desire to import foreign wastes. Sanctions have sharply cut the flow of foreign currency into South Africa, and a toxic waste dump would be a tremendous money earner: this particular proposal

¹⁹⁹West German Radio Station DRS, 1989; Greenpeace Switzerland.

could earn the government hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

The government has shelved the plan and it is unclear whether or not it will be considered again.²⁰⁰

Scheme: Ambrosini I / Transkei

Date: 1990

Type of Waste: Slags containing heavy metals

Source: Western Europe

Exporter: Intercontract, Verbiers, Switzerland (Gianfranco Ambrosini)

Pretext/ Fate: Dumping

Status: Stopped

In 1990 it became known to Greenpeace that the infamous waste trader Gianfranco Ambrosini had offered Western European industries the possibility of disposing of huge amounts of toxic slags from metallurgical processes in abandoned pits in the mountains of Transkei. Among the wastes were to be aluminium salt slags from aluminium recycling plants (cf. SIERRA LEONE in this report). Documents from the East London port authorities in South Africa, confirm these plans and say that the technical capacity for each delivery was over 1,000 tonnes. The wastes were to be handled in a part of the port specially dedicated for the purpose and then shipped to the mountains via a special railway.

²⁰¹

General Bantu Holomisa stopped the plans after Greenpeace had made them public via South African media and the International Press Service, IPS. .²⁰²

Scheme: Ambrosini II / Ciskei

Date: October/November 1990

Type of Waste: Various Toxic Wastes

Source: Western Europe

Exporter: Intercontract, Verbiers, Switzerland (Gianfranco Ambrosini)

Pretext/ Fate: Dumping

Status: Unknown, probably abandoned

After Ambrosini failed in Transkei (see previous scheme) he obviously set his eye on Ciskei and visited the military government in October, 1990. 200,000 tonnes of wastes of many kinds were to be shipped to the small and poor area. The front company for processing the deal was to be the Austrian company

²⁰⁰The Star, February 24, 1989; South African Focus, July 7, 1989; The Argus, July 6,7, 1989.

²⁰¹ All relevant documents on file with Greenpeace Germany.

Details of this scheme and documents reproduced in Winfried Schnurbus: Deutscher Müll für alle Welt (German waste for all the world), Munich 1993, Knauer publishers, p. 67-75.

²⁰² Inter Press Service International News, Nov. 30, 1990 Environment: Industrial Poison to be sold in South Africa, Eddie Koch, Johannesburg, Nov.30 (IPS)

“ABC” with participation of the British Leigh Environmental. Leigh’s top manager Malcolm Wood also came to Ciskei to coordinate the multi-million dollar deal.

Ciskei’s head of government, the general Oupa Gqozo had allegedly given the go ahead for the deal during a visit to Austria in November 1990. In connection with the Ciskei scheme there was also talk about chemical wastes, PCBs and industrial sludges. Unnamed government officials said the Ciskei government had set up a team of experts to develop a huge incinerator (rotary kiln) to destroy the most harmful of the toxic substances to be imported. The amount of the business was to be USD 600 million per annum.

Upon Greenpeace requests the government confirmed the plans in principle in November 1990, but after detailed questioning they said: “Get lost”.

These shipments were to be processed, as in the case of Transkei, via the South African port of East London. But the South African government opposed these plans during a process of re-evaluation of their own waste trade policy. It was suspected by some that Pretoria wanted to make the deal for themselves. The Ciskei administration thereupon started deliberations to maybe build a port of its own so to be independent from the South African government in Pretoria.

Ambrosini’s representatives were allegedly active during that time also in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique. ²⁰³

Scheme: Pasmenco

Date: September 2000

Type of Waste: Mining wastes containing lead and arsenic

Source: Australia

Exporter: “mining & smelting giant” Pasmenco

Importer: Mintek, parastal South Africa

Pretext/ Fate: “research”

Status: actual

South African Environment Affairs Minister Valli Moosa defended a government decision to allow 60 tonnes of hazardous mining waste to enter Durban in September 2000 for research purposes.

South Africa had not yet ratified an amendment to the Basel Convention prohibiting the transboundary movement of hazardous material which was destined for disposal, he said in a statement.

He said nevertheless, the country was committed to responsible

203 *ibid.*

global management of hazardous waste, including contributing to research and exchange of information to rid the world of such problems.

Moosa was reacting to claims by two local environment watchdog bodies that a South African parastatal had imported 60 tonnes of toxic waste from Australia which contained dangerously high levels of lead and arsenic.

Moosa said South Africa had issued the permit to mineral and metallurgical technology company Mintek with a clear understanding that the shipment must have a liability insurance; the material would be returned to Australia after the research was finished; and the results of the research would be shared between the two governments.

“Furthermore, this information will assist the Basel Convention to manage this waste in a responsible and environmentally sound manner,” Moosa said. “The research work undertaken by Mintek is a contribution to promoting the globally agreed hierarchy of waste management, which places a preference on recycling above disposal,” he said.²⁰⁴

The Parliament in South Africa questioned the government and the Minister of Environment promised a statement.

The environmental group “Earthlife Africa” wrote “a second strongly worded” letter to the Minister on this issue with the support of at least 8 other organizations.

Arsenic damages many tissues, including the nerves, stomach, intestines and skin. Breathing inorganic arsenic increases the risk of lung cancer and ingestion increases the risk of skin cancer and tumours of the bladder, kidneys, liver and lungs.

Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body. Exposure to lead is more dangerous for young and unborn children.

Harmful effects include premature births, smaller babies, decreased mental ability in the infant, learning difficulties, and reduced growth in children.

The environmentalists feared that the 60 tonnes of hazardous Australian toxic mining waste was the forerunner of a dumping programme.

They feared it could lead to the construction of a recycling plant, not unlike that of Thor Chemicals (see above).

²⁰⁴ XINHUA, JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 6, 2000

It was allowed to circumvent the world ban on developed countries dumping waste in undeveloped countries because South Africa had not signed the agreement, say environmentalists.

“It's the first time the dumping ban has been intentionally violated, it is the first time an African country has intentionally imported toxic waste since 1994,” said Jim Puckett of BAN, the Basel Action Network.

“This is also the first time the 1994 Basel Convention's dumping Ban decision has been intentionally violated,” he said.

Bryan Ashe, co-ordinator of Earthlife Africa Durban, said their challenge was to prevent more “recycling plants” such as Thor Chemicals from being allowed to start up in South Africa, as this was not the solution to the problem of toxic waste.

Linda Ambler, an environmentalist, said African nations had unequivocally said “no” to foreign toxic-waste dumping on the continent. “We demand this never happens again, that South Africa renounces its part in waste trafficking for ever and agrees to respect, ratify and implement the Bamako Convention and the Basel Ban Amendment as soon as possible.”²⁰⁵

Obsolete Pesticides:

In South Africa there were altogether 603 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 9 different locations which were disposed of. The following substances were identified, among others: Aldrin, DDT, Dieldrin.²⁰⁶

The author of the FAO report estimates the total amount to be “much much higher, maybe 20,000 tonnes” (personal conversation with A.B.)

GCPF reports:

“The South African Government and the local crop protection and animal health industry association (AVCASA) collaborated to collect a total of 1,040 tonnes of obsolete products across South Africa, Swaziland and Namibia in 1998. Of these 280 tonnes were considered persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The disposal operation was financed by the South African government and driven by AVCASA. 740 tonnes were successfully incinerated in the UK, and other disposal options are being discussed for the 300 remaining tonnes.”²⁰⁷

²⁰⁵ Vince Gilbey Sep 25, 2000

²⁰⁶ FAO 1999, 2001

²⁰⁷ GCPF 2000, identical: GCPF 01/2001

SUDAN

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy: The country of Sudan, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

Waste Import Schemes: **Scheme: U.S. Incinerator Ash**
 Date: 1988
 Type of Waste: “Non-hazardous” Incinerator Ash
 Source: U.S.
 Exporter: Columbia Materials Exchange Corporation
 Pretext/Fate: Glass Manufacturing, Road Bed Construction, Soil Building
 Status: Rejected

On April 20, 1988, the government of Sudan was offered \$25,000,000 to \$350,000,000 per year in exchange for accepting millions of tons of “non- hazardous” incinerator ash from the U.S. The scheme was initiated by Eugene Rane of a U.S. firm, Columbia Materials Exchange Corporation. Rane suggested that Sudan use the ash for making glass, in road bed construction, as a soil builder or as the nutrient base for deep rooted grasses. The proposal was quickly rejected by the Sudanese government.²⁰⁸

Obsolete Pesticides: In Sudan there are altogether 666 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in about 30 different locations. The following substances were identified, among others: DDT, Lindane, Parathion, Toxaphene and large quantities of Methyl bromide. Countries of origin named are: Denmark, Egypt, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands (“Holland“), Switzerland, UK, USA. Companies identified are: Bayer, Ciba Geigy, Cyanamid, Dow Elanco, Sandoz, Shell, Sumitomo.²⁰⁹

FAO also mentions 17,375 tonnes from Germany (BAYER) and 5,946 tonnes from Switzerland (1999).

An explanation for this inconsistency seems to be that the bulk of the waste was redeclared usable after expiry date:

“Organised by the local industry association (SAGA), the Sudanese government held a meeting in May 1998 at which an action plan was drawn up. FAO agreed to update the product inventory, and the industry funded analyses confirming that a number of stocks were still usable. Some of these products have subsequently been applied to crops. In the meantime, the Government has been seeking financial assistance for the disposal of the remaining stocks believed to amount to about 600

²⁰⁸ Proposal submitted to Sudan’s Minister of Finance and Economy from Eugene Rane, President of Columbia Material Exchange Corporation, April 20, 1988.

²⁰⁹ FAO 1999, 2001

tonnes.”²¹⁰

SWAZILAND

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy: The country of Swaziland is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Obsolete Pesticides: In Swaziland there were 9 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 2 different locations which were disposed of. The following substances were identified, among others: Dieldrin, EDB. Countries of origin named are: South Africa
Companies identified are: Ciba Geigy.²¹¹

TANZANIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
07.04.93 Ratified	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy: The country of Tanzania, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Tanzania is both a signatory and has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

In October 1988 the government of Tanzania formed a task force to prevent the import of foreign wastes. According to Tanzania's National Environmental Management Council, “although Tanzania has always been on the alert against the disposal of nuclear and other hazardous wastes, the task force will ensure that the country will not be used as a dumping ground.” The task force members include government officials as well as experts in the fields of science, marine studies, and tropical pesticides.²¹²

Waste Import Schemes: **Scheme: Expired Pesticides**
Date: 1988
Type of Waste: Expired Pesticides
Source: Pesticide Manufacturers
Exporter: Unknown
Pretext/Fate: None, Were Once Products
Status: Active

Expired chemical products, shipped to the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar several years ago, are now posing disposal problems.

²¹⁰ GCPF 01/2001

²¹¹ FAO 1999, 2001

²¹²Xinhua English Language News Service, October 24, 1988.

Approximately 200 tons of herbicides and pesticides, which were never used for sugar plantations and malaria control as intended, were stored incorrectly and are now useless toxic wastes.

Zanzibar's government has asked for foreign aid to help dispose of the wastes.²¹³

Scheme: Unknown from Europe

Date: 1996

Type of Waste: "leaking toxic waste", 30 tonnes

Origin: Unknown

Exporter: Unknown

Fate: Unknown

Status: Unknown

"...A cargo-load of leaking toxic waste docked at Kenya's port of Mombasa last year after being turned away by Tanzania. The cargo, weighing more than 30,480 kgs, was also banned from passing through the Suez Canal in the Red Sea by Egypt.

The European-registered ship, with 16 containers of chemical waste, was finally escorted by the Kenyan marine authorities into international waters for the start of its long journey to a disposal site in Britain via the Mozambican port of Beira.

But six hours before the vessel's departure, a group of Somali leaders here, acting on what they said was a tip-off that the cargo was to be dumped off the Somali coast, warned the ship owners to avoid Somali territorial waters ..." ²¹⁴

Scheme: Zanzibar Denies

Date: July 1997

Type of Waste: Various Toxic Wastes

Status: Unknown, probably abandoned

"Zanzibar denies authorizing toxic waste plant:

The Zanzibari revolutionary government has denied signing an agreement with a foreign company for the construction of a factory to burn toxic waste originating from outside the country. The minister of state for planning and investment, the Hon Ali Juma Shamhuna, told the press today that the government had never held talks nor reached any agreement for the construction of the factory.

He said reports by CUF [Civic United Front] and reports published by some local newspapers on the factory's construction bore no truth and that their aim was to smear the government.

213Xinhua English Language News Service, October 2, 1988.

214 Inter Press Service, 12-Aug-97, Title: EAST AFRICA: Protecting Endangered Marine Plants and Animals, by Moyiga Nduru, origin: Harare

The Hon Shalhuna said as far as he knows, the government and a Lebanese company, Salmiyyah [phonetic], have agreed to investigate the feasibility of constructing a power plant in the free areas of Fumba using ocean wave energy and plant waste.

Some sections of the media and CUF members have been spreading reports that the Zanzibari government has signed an agreement for the construction of a toxic waste disposal factory in Micheweni, Pemba.

The minister stressed that Zanzibar, being part of Tanzania, would continue upholding international treaties which fight environmental pollution and that it would not allow its territory to be used as a dump for toxic waste.”²¹⁵

Obsolete Pesticides:

(See also above Waste Import Scheme: Expired pesticides)

On the island of Zanzibar there were 971 tonnes of obsolete pesticides partly from Germany. They were destroyed in 1995 with financial support from the Netherlands' Government. ²¹⁶ (1996/99)

A total of 57 tonnes of DNOC (Dinitro-ortho-Cresol), an insecticide, were disposed of in Tanzania mainland in 1996. The Pesticide Disposal Project of the GTZ started a pilot project for the incineration of waste in a cement kiln:

Upon request of the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) 1992 the Pesticide Disposal Project of the GTZ carried out a survey and risk assessment in the bushes and march lands of Tanzania and Zambia.

The result of the assessment was an immediate action to safeguard 71 000 litres of the insecticide DNOC in both countries.

In a joint GTZ/IRLCO-CSA disposal operation 57 000 litres of the DNOC from Tanzania were incinerated in a cement kiln near Dar Es Salaam.

This was the first time, that the disposal of an obsolete pesticide stockpile took place in a developing country.²¹⁷

“The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) of Tanzania initiated inventory taking in 1997, supported by the Dutch Government. About 1,000 tonnes from 300 warehouses were identified, and most are likely to require incineration. Only 20 to 25% of the listed stocks are estimated to originate from GCPF member companies. GCPF participated in the stakeholder meeting held in September 1998 and has recently received a

²¹⁵ Source: Voice of Tanzania, Zanzibar, in Swahili 1600 gmt 15 Jul 97, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, July 22, 1997

²¹⁶ FAO 1996,1999

²¹⁷ W. A. Schimpf : Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides in a Cement Kiln in Tanzania;; presented at the 5th International HCH and Pesticides Forum; Leioa/Spain (June 1998); see also GTZ-Brochure, 2000

revised inventory. Industry has committed its support for the project.”²¹⁸

TOGO

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Togo, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Togo is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

On September 7, 1988, the Togolese government passed a strict law banning the import, sale, transport, or storage of toxic or radioactive wastes. The law, known as the Environment Code, imposes heavy fines and up to life in prison for offenders.

Earlier, on May 20, 1988, the Togolese cabinet called on all Organization of African Unity (OAU) member countries categorically to refuse to accept wastes “no matter how enticing the promises made to them.” The ministerial communiqué continued, “this activity shames those countries which, in order to protect their own people, turn to our continent to dump their harmful waste material without thinking of the dangers they expose us to.” Shipments of wastes to Africa “jeopardize the future of our nations already faced by indebtedness, drought, desertification and the threat of locusts.”²¹⁹

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Jelly Wax

Date: 1988

Type of Waste: Industrial Residues and Pharmaceutical Products

Source: Italy

Exporter: Mr. Renato Pent, Jelly Wax, Italy

Pretext/Fate: Dumping

Status: Rejected

Renato Pent, the director of Jelly Wax, a major Italian waste broker firm, claims to have received letters from the governments of Togo and a number of other countries granting permission to dump toxic wastes.

The Togolese Minister for Public Health Aissah Agbeta, denied such permission in a public statement on October 5, 1988. Agbeta said that an “authorization in principal” was granted to a Togolese promoter last February. The authorization allowed restricted industrial residues and pharmaceutical products to be imported but prohibited toxic, radioactive, explosive, or

²¹⁸ GCPF 01/2001

²¹⁹Lomé Radio via BBC Monitoring Service, May 23, 1988, September 9, 1988; Reuters News Reports, May 21, 1988, September 8, 1988; West Africa, September 19-25, 1988; Xinhua, May 21, 1988.

inflammable substances. The Togolese promoter, Kao Tchakpana, verified Agbeta's statement. He said that Pent had approached him to arrange to dump wastes in Togo but found the authorization too restrictive.²²⁰

Scheme: The Syndicate III

Date: probably 1992
 Type of Waste: Industrial toxic and radioactive
 Source: Europe
 Exporter: Unknown
 Pretext/Fate: dumping
 Status: proposed by Nigerian business people

In an undated letter from Nigeria there is mention of a plan to dump toxic and radioactive waste from Europe in Togo:

“...we, a group of international businessmen, in consent with key personnel in the government of NIGERIA, TOGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA and REPUBLIC of BENIN have developed a closed syndicate which specializes in the clandestine importation and disposal of industrial toxic and radioactive wastes on behalf of industrial concern in the west for a fee ...”²²¹

For a more exhaustive quote see: Nigeria Section of this report: “Waste Trade Schemes II”

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Togo there are altogether 86 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 11 different locations. The following substances were identified, among others: Dieldrin, Heptachlor, Lindane, Parathion. Countries of origin named are: Germany, France. Companies identified are, among others: BASF, Bayer, Calliope/Calloivoire, Degesch, DuPont, ICI, Procida, Rhône Poulenc, Shell (Agrishell), Sofaco, Sumitomo.²²²

TUNISIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
11.10.95 Ratified		Ratified / Party to

National Policy:

The country of Tunisia is a signatory to the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Waste Import Schemes:

Scheme: S.O.P.
 Date: 1987
 Type of Waste: Municipal and Hazardous Chemical
 Source: West Germany

²²⁰West Africa, October 10-16, 1988.

²²¹ Document on file with Greenpeace

²²² FAO 1999,2001

Exporter: Sondermuell Organisation und Problemloesung
Pretext/Fate: Dumping and USD 9 per ton
Status: Unclear

In a letter dated September 4, 1987, West German waste broker Sondermuell Organisation und Problemloesung (S.O.P.) asked officials of the Tunisian government to provide them with a deserted 10 square kilometer area with a railroad line for the “storing of municipal waste...and hazardous waste of the chemical industry.” Under S.O.P.’s plan, the waste would have been dumped in landfills. The reaction of the Tunisian government to the proposal is unknown.

The Tunisian government would have earned at least 15 Deutschmarks (about USD 9) per ton, starting with a minimum of 500,000 Deutschmarks (about USD 300,000) per month, leading to 1 million Deutschmarks (over USD 600,000) per month later on. Under this scheme, the amount of waste shipped to Tunisia would increase from an initial 8,000 tons per month to 40,000 tons per month.²²³

Scheme: H.I.D.

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Aluminum Smelting Residues

Source: Germany

Exporter: Human Industry Development (Hamburg, West Germany)

Pretext/Fate: Resource Recovery

Status: Unclear

According a 1989 broadcast from West German Radio Station, Radio Nord 3, Human Industry Development (H.I.D.) of Hamburg plans to transport aluminum smelting residues of Unknown origin from Hamburg to Tunisia. The alleged shipments are supposedly for “resource recovery.”²²⁴

Scheme: ENI Ambiente/Joint Venture

Date: 1989

Type of Waste: Urban, Industrial and Ship Ballast

Source: Italy

Exporter: ENI Ambiente

Pretext/Fate: Incineration

Status: Unknown

Greenpeace Italy has obtained documents outlining a proposal to establish a joint venture between ENI Ambiente in Italy and the government of Tunisia to develop an “integrated system” consisting of offshore platforms to incinerate urban, industrial, and ballast wastes.

223 Documents on file with Greenpeace Germany

224 Greenpeace Germany.

One of the systems is proposed for Sicily and the other probably in Tunisia. The proposal states that the system could take “industrial wastes from abroad, carried by tankers and container transport ships.”²²⁵

Scheme: Taurus pesticides

Date: March, 1992

Type of Waste: Expired pesticides

Source: Germany

Exporter: Taurus Umweltschutz

Pretext/fate: Further use ?

Status: Stopped

In March, 1992, Greenpeace detected and blocked a warehouse full of partly rotten barrels containing pesticides from old East German production, in total 180 tonnes, among them mercury and highly chlorinated substances. These pesticides were no longer in use in Germany, some of them were banned, most of them were expired and many barrels were rusting and leaking. They had been hidden by the broker company Taurus Umweltschutz to be exported “to Egypt or maybe Tunisia”, said Taurus manager, Ulrich Frommherz. Taurus had pocketed the disposal fees and, by exporting the waste pesticides, had hoped to get around the disposal costs.

The authorities seized the barrels and had them incinerated.²²⁶

More on Taurus: Egypt Section of this report.

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Tunisia there are altogether 882 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in at least 20 different locations.²²⁷

See also above Scheme: Taurus pesticides

UGANDA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
	Party	Party/signatory

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Uganda there were 254 tonnes of obsolete pesticides, of which 90 tonnes were removed and disposed of.²²⁸

A total of 50 tonnes of Dieldrin were removed from Uganda in 1993. Agencies involved in disposal were the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Capital

²²⁵Greenpeace Italy.

²²⁶ Relevant documents on file with Greenpeace Germany

²²⁷ FAO 1999

²²⁸ FAO 1999, 2001

Development Fund (UNCDF).²²⁹

“Early this year (2000), Novartis (now Syngenta) returned some 40 tonnes of a cotton herbicide to Switzerland from Uganda for incineration. The product had been purchased by the Ugandan Government in the mid eighties but its use had been minimal due to political unrest and changes in the local cotton support policy. Incineration was completed in the waste incinerator of Valorec AG in Basel and the full project cost was paid by Novartis.”²³⁰

(ZAIRE, see: CONGO, Democratic Republic of)

ZAMBIA

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMAKO
15.11.94 Ratified	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Zambia, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory.

According to the Ambassador of Zambia to the U.S., Nalumino Mundia, there has been no dumping of foreign wastes in Zambia. “Nonetheless, some international companies had contacted this embassy to find out whether they could dump their waste into Zambian land at a nominal fee. This, of course, was entirely rejected.”²³¹

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Zambia there were altogether 360 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stored in 7 different locations which were removed and disposed of.

The following substance was identified, among others: DDT.²³²

In 1994 the GTZ in Zambia asked the GTZ-Pesticide Disposal project for support to carry out an analytical survey and risk assessment. A large dump of a cocktail of pesticides, approximately 150 tonnes, was discovered in an industrial area of Lusaka. The soil around the dump was heavily contaminated. A few hundreds meters away is one of the deep wells of the water system of the city. There was an acute risk of contaminating the water resources of Lusaka. After the survey the government closed the well.

FAO and GTZ started a joint disposal operation:

“In March/June 1997, the above mentioned total of 360 tonnes

²²⁹ FAO 1999

²³⁰ GCPF 2000

²³¹ Letter to Greenpeace from Ambassador of Zambia to the U.S., Nalumino Mundia, August 10, 1988.

²³² FAO 1999, 2001

has been successfully removed and destroyed under a joint collaborative and financial support from the Governments of the Netherlands and Germany (BMZ/GTZ) and the FAO/TCP towards the end of 1997.”²³³

In connection with this disposal operation, 19 000 litre DNOC from the IRLCO-CSA (see TANZANIA section of this report) were shipped to the UK for incineration.

ZIMBABWE

BASEL	LOMÉ IV / COTONOU	BAMA KO
	Party	Signatory

National Policy:

The country of Zimbabwe, as a party to the Lomé Convention, totally bans waste shipments to its territory. Zimbabwe has ratified the Bamako Convention which bans the import of hazardous waste.

Zimbabwe’s President, Robert Mugabe, spoke out against waste dumping in Africa before the UN disarmament session in May 1988. On June 20, 1988, Zimbabwe’s semi-official newspaper, *Herald*, called dumping of foreign wastes in Africa, “an inhuman venture which must be stopped. African countries must unite and fight this menace through the United Nations Environment Programme.”

On July 22, 1988, Zimbabwe’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nathan Shamuyarira, warned that his country would take stern measures against any foreign nationals or companies attempting to dump toxic wastes in Zimbabwe. Shamuyarira said that “very discreet inquiries” had been made by representatives of an Italian company about the dumping of wastes in an abandoned mine, and that his government took “appropriate pre-emptive action.”²³⁴

In 1989, Zimbabwe’s Health Minister, Felix Muchemwa, called for legislation to protect African countries from being dumped on by heavily industrialized countries. Said Muchemwa: “Each of us has the responsibility of safeguarding our environment and so apart from ensuring the safe management of our own hazardous wastes, we need to take a resolute stand against transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.”²³⁵

Zimbabwe’s Labor Minister, John Nkomo, who is also president of the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) three-week annual assembly, spoke against waste trade and encouraged labor

²³³ GTZ-Brochure 2000, FAO 1999

²³⁴Barbara Day, “Third World Communities Serve as Toxic Dumps,” *Guardian* (U.S.), June 22, 1988; Reuters News Reports, June 20, 1988; Zimbabwean News Agency via BBC Monitoring Service, July 25, 1988.

²³⁵Xinhua English Language News Service, February 1, 1989.

interests to get involved in the issue. Nkomo said that industrialized countries are turning Asia, Africa and Latin America into chemical waste dumps. "We deplore totally these blatant mercenary-type machinations." He urged delegates to the ILO to develop international labor standards and legislation on the use, handling, and disposal of chemicals in order to protect workers who come in contact with harmful materials.²³⁶

Waste import schemes:

Scheme: Useless Waste Mixture

Date: 1984

Type of Waste: Toxic Chlorinated Wastes

Source: Ohio, U.S.

Exporter: Jack and Charles Colbert

Pretext/Fate: Drycleaning Chemicals and Solvents

Status: Actual

In 1983, arms merchants Jack and Charles Colbert, through their firms Sigma and SCI, set up a contract to ship virgin perchlorethylene and trichlorethylene to Zimbabwe. A Zimbabwean firm, Chemplex Inc., planned to use the chemicals in drycleaning and degreasing heavy machinery. Instead, the Colberts shipped a toxic, useless, chlorinated waste mixture to Zimbabwe.

In March 1984, the Colberts specifically ordered 240 fifty-five gallon drums of mixed chlorinated solvents from Alchem-Tron, a waste disposal firm in Cincinnati Ohio, and then falsified all documents concerning the wastes to make them appear to be useful chemicals.

In June 1984, Jack Colbert arranged the shipment of 227 drums of the Alchem-Tron wastes to Chemplex in Zimbabwe. The Colberts subsequently drew a payment of USD 53,000 on a letter of credit from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), which provides hard currency to firms in developing countries to buy U.S.-manufactured products through its Commodity Import Program. A U.S. AID audit discovered the scheme, but not until the wastes had already been shipped to Zimbabwe.

The wastes were originally shipped to the city of Bulawayo. Upon discovering that the Colbert barrels contained wastes, not virgin chemicals, the wastes were shipped to Harare, and then to the final disposal site, an abandoned mining shaft.

The Colbert brothers have been involved in similar fraudulent and hazardous business practices for years. In October 1981 they offered to sell military hardware, including plutonium, to someone who they believed to be a representative of a Middle Eastern country, but who was in fact a U.S. FBI agent.

²³⁶Reuters News Reports, June 7, 1989.

According to James de Vita, the U.S. prosecuting attorney in the Zimbabwe case, in early 1983 the Colberts purchased bacteria-infected personal hygiene products, including toothpaste, claiming that they could “sell the material to overseas purchasers in Third World countries.”

They also shipped chemical waste to a corporation known as Kuwait Sponge again misrepresenting the waste as virgin chemicals. Similarly, in 1979, the Colberts sent scrap industrial polyvinyl chloride resins to India.

When the Colberts could not find a company in the developing world to take the wastes that they had obtained from U.S. industry and government agencies, they simply abandoned the wastes in over 20 warehouses across the U.S., often in heavily populated areas.

In 1984 a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report found that the Colberts’ abandoned wastes were often “leaking copiously, creating a serious risk of chemical reaction, fire and the generation of toxic fumes.”

According to de Vita, the Colberts operating method “is, thus, obvious. They selected that portion of the hazardous waste they could pawn off on foreign customers and abandoned the balance. They expected to get away with fraud relying on their Third World customers’ supposed ignorance, distance, the dilatory tactics of their attorneys, and frequent changes of the corporate names under which they did business.”

According to Charles L. Brieant, the federal judge who heard the Colbert case, “This case involves two well educated people, having no remorse [involved] in a crime motivated by greed. It is part of a continuous course involving dealing in hazardous materials. Essentially the Court is faced here with a rather serious two-man crime wave and [it] believes...that the case requires specific deterrence as well as a sentence which will express society’s disapproval of what was done here.”

The Colberts are now serving 13-year prison terms in a medium security federal penitentiary in New Jersey. All attempts at appeal have failed. They have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government charging, among other things, “cruel and unusual punishment.” To date, 12,485 gallons of U.S. hazardous waste remain in the abandoned mine shaft in Zimbabwe.²³⁷

Obsolete Pesticides:

In Zimbabwe there are 27 tonnes of obsolete pesticides.²³⁸

²³⁷U.S. vs. Colbert, Case Number CR-85-01134-01, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York; Conversation with U.S. Information Service Bureau in Harare, Zimbabwe, January 24, 1989.

²³⁸ FAO 2001