Fifth "5<sup>th</sup>" International Seminar about Persistent Organic Pollutants – Progress and Challenges of PCBs Management

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Trainin and Technology Transfer for the Caribbea

# The Quest for a PCB-Free Caribbean

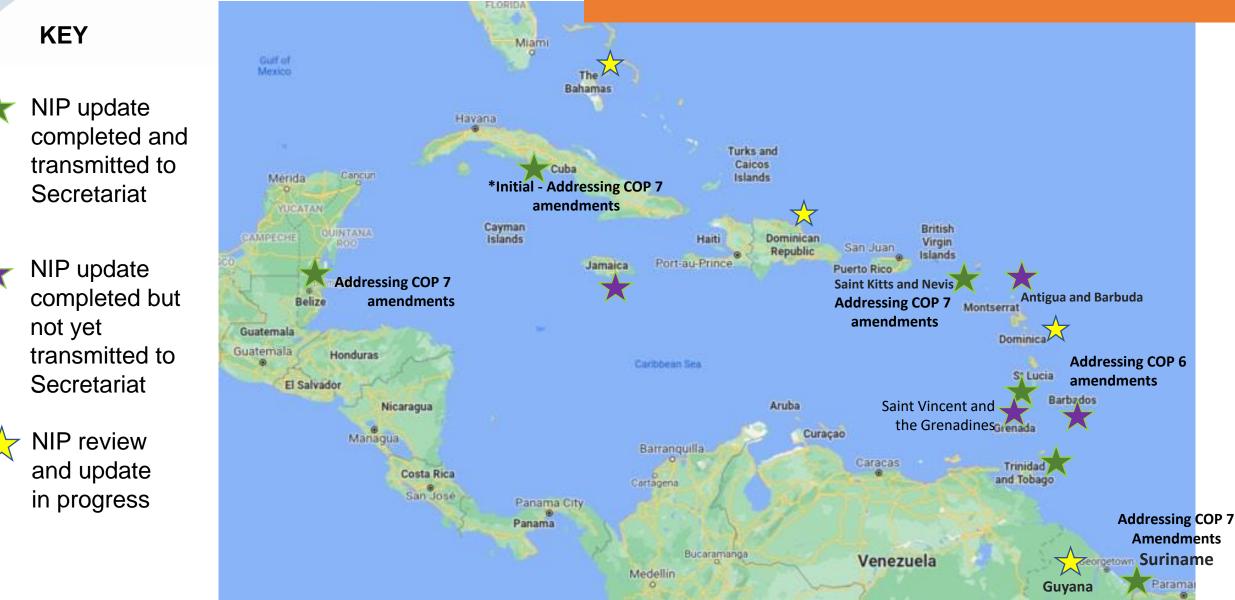
#### **PRESENTING:**

**Ms Maurissa Charles and Laura Teixeira** 

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer in the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean)



#### Status of the Development and Transmission of NIPs to the Secretariat



## Capacity Building through the GEF 5558 Project



To Build Institutional and Human Resource Capacity to Deal with the Impacts of POPs and Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs) in 8 Caribbean Countries, who are Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC).

**TIMELINE:** 7 years (Dec 2015 – December 2022)

**\$ BUDGET:** USD 30,534,239.00 (GEF Funding and Co-financing)

**Component 1** - Creating an enabling regional mechanism for effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);

**Component 2** - Reducing UPOPs emissions be improving poor waste management practices at landfills;

**Component 3** - Assessing the potentially contaminated sites to determine the level of soil and groundwater contamination by POPs and developing appropriate remediation strategies;

**Component 4 -** Developing management and disposal plans for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs); and





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Component 5 - Project monitoring and evaluation.

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## History of PCBs Use in the Caribbean

- PCBs were imported into the Caribbean for use in the power generation industry, agriculture, and in heavy oil and gas industry, particularly as a dielectric fluid in electrical equipment such as transformers manufactured prior to the mid 1980s.
- Although utility companies, no longer imported PCBs after 1985, due to the harmful impacts to human health and the environment, many of the equipment still remain in service due to its long life of usefulness.

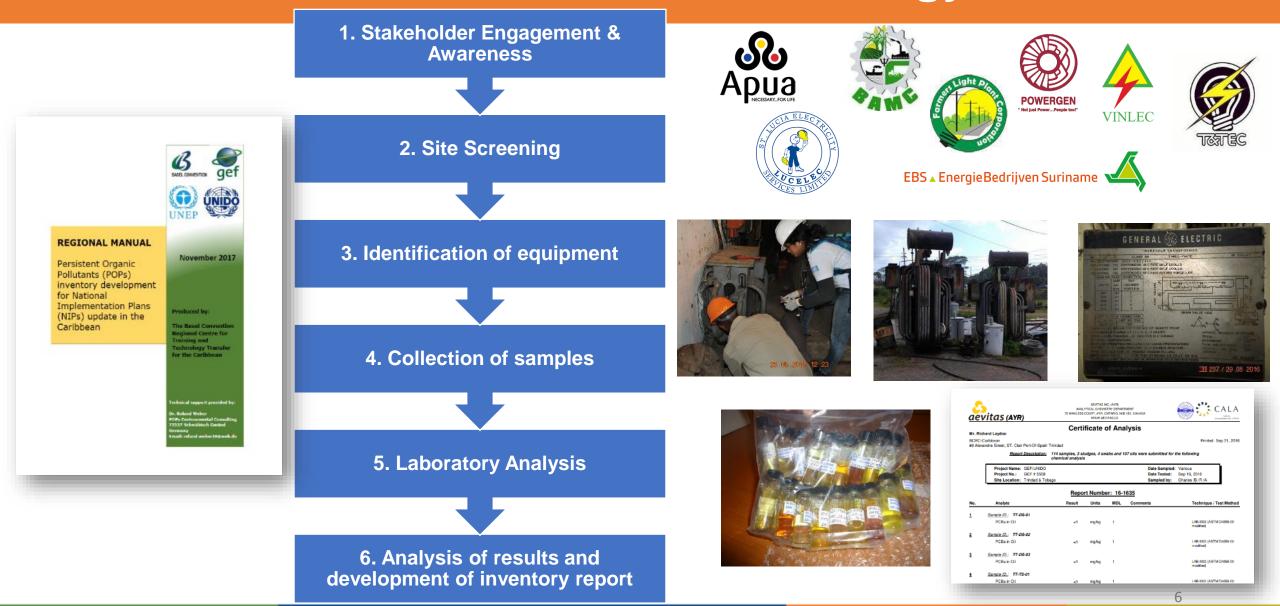
#### □ For those no longer in use,

- There often was no option for the environmentally sound management or disposal of PCBs in the Caribbean, which has led to stockpiles of PCB- contaminated equipment and oils until they can be exported for safe management and disposal
- □ In some cases, however, PCB-containing oils may have been indiscriminately disposed and the equipment sold for scrap metal

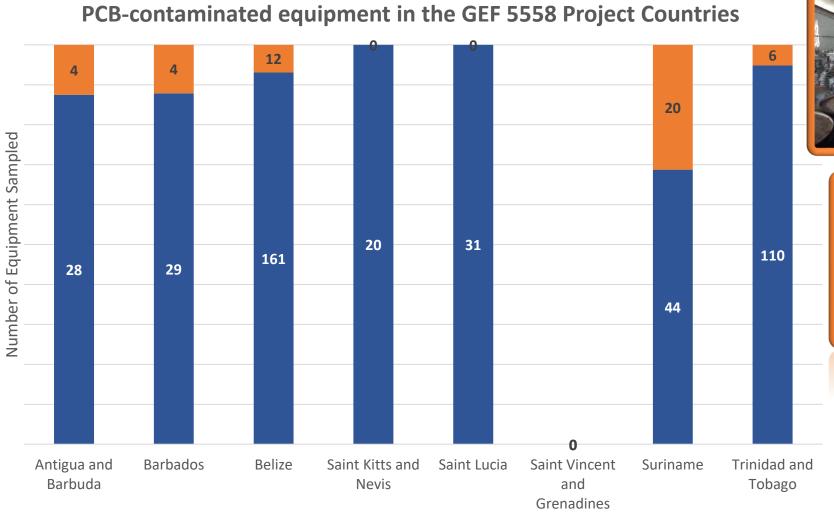




## **GEF 5558 PCB Inventories - Methodology**



## **GEF 5558 PCB Inventories - Results**







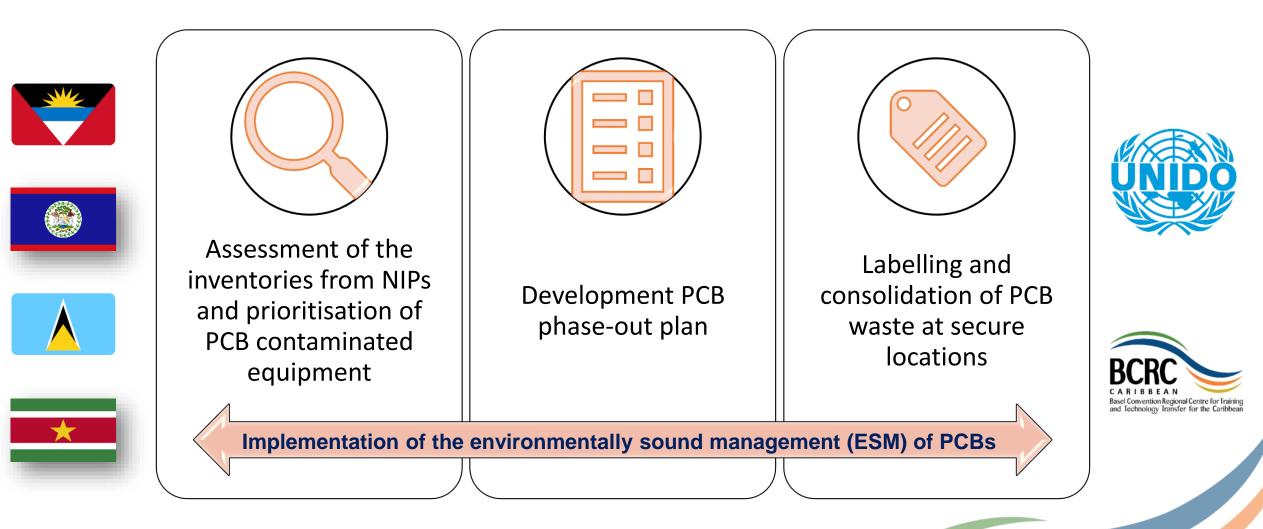
Overall, 15 tonnes of PCB contaminated oil and 43.6 tonnes of PCB contaminated equipment and oils were identified for disposal under the FAO/GEF #5407 project.

Number of PCB-contaminated equipment



## Meeting the 2025/2028 Global Targets for Elimination of PCBs

## Management of PCBs under GEF 5558 Project



## Mechanisms for the Management of PCBs in the Caribbean

- There are no facilities available in project countries which carry out the environmentally sound management (ESM) of POPs.
- Collection and interim storage pending export is therefore practiced.
- Under the GEF 5558 project, model front-end engineering designs for interim hazardous waste storage facilities (I-HWSF) were developed for three (3) Caribbean countries.

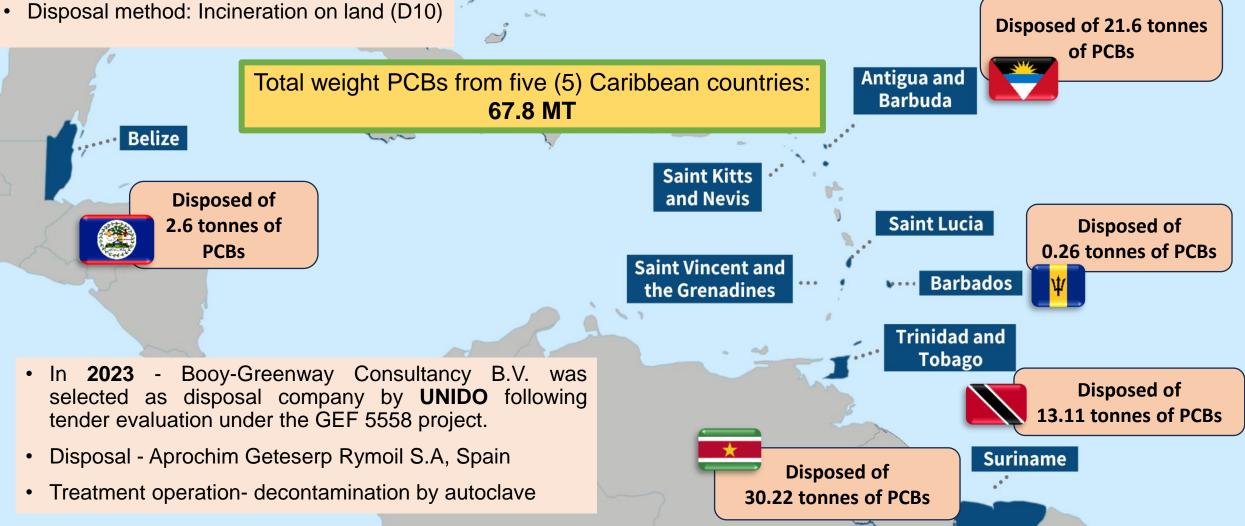


 A country-specific design was completed for Antigua and Barbuda, co-financed construction of the I-HWSF is ongoing



- In 2021 PolyEco S.A. was selected as disposal company by FAO following tender evaluation under the GEF 5407 project. Facility located in Tredi, Saint Vulbas, France.

### **GEF 5558 Project - Handling,** Safeguarding, & Export of PCBs for Disposal



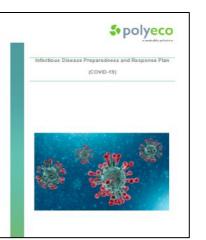
## Considerations - Handling, Safeguarding, & Export of PCBs for Disposal

- Administrative involved:
  - Basel Convention Prior Informed Consent Procedure

procedures

- Clearance documents and export permits
- Health and Safety Plan
- Transport and Logistics Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (COVID-19)

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## Considerations - Handling, Safeguarding, & Export of PCBs for Disposal

- Technical procedures:
  - Procurement of procuring safeguarding materials and shipping these to each country prior to the commencement of the transboundary movement.
  - Training of Local contractors to enhance national capacity for future safeguarding operations.
  - Adequate and safe preparation of the equipment for export
    - Use of UN approved steel drums
    - PPE and spill kits
    - Use of acceptable packaging media









## **Considerations - Export of PCBs for Disposal**

- Following repackaging, waste was temporarily stored in empty shipping containers at a dedicated area of the generator sites.
- Containers loaded with PCB repacked waste was transported to the port for customs clearance procedures and final loading to the booked Vessel.
- Contractors supervised loading of PCB waste with shipping line.

Table 16: Monitoring of containers from Antigua & Barbuda till final disposal

| Container no. | Incineration<br>facility | Date of<br>departure<br>from Antigua | Date of<br>arrival in<br>France | Receipt date<br>by the<br>incineration<br>facility | Date of<br>disposal<br>completion |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| CXDU2130318   | TREDI                    | 23/2/2021                            | 2/4/2021                        | 13/4/2021  | 17/8/2021                         |

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|          | 200              | El Liquist                      | - Min                   |                | 5        | 2315    | 641-6      | 84        |           |              | 10           | 2/3031<br>CXDU   |
| 2        | LD               | Drums                           | OIL                     |                | 4        | 2315    | 621.6      | 84        | 5726      | theretyle    | 4            | 213031 8         |
| 3        | LD               | Drums                           | OIL                     |                | 1        |         |            |           |           | 1 atta       | 12           | CXDU             |
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| 4        | OT               | Ormen                           | (1) Capacitor           |                | 5        | 2315    | 45         | 15        | 30        | the hatel    | 5            | CXBU<br>ZISOSIO  |
| 4        | OT               | () Open top                     | os wheels               | -              |          | -2.13   | -          |           | 1000      | 1            | -            | CXDU             |
| -        | 01               | 2) Emoty                        | Bolidwaste              |                | 5        | 2315    | 65         | 15        | 50 1      | Andatto      | 4            | 2130310          |
| 4        | 40               | Ginning Drams                   | Emphy                   |                | -        | 2315    | -          | 30        |           | disk         | 1/2          | CXDU             |
|          |                  | Coloring the state              |                         | -              |          | 6215    |            | 30        | 20 0      | Marger.      | 4            | CX DU            |
| -        | XX               | Sheeks and sheek                | (1) Transformer         |                | S        | 2315    | 3.45       | 75        | 3540      | 七百种          | CH           | 2130310          |
|          | XX               | Sugars and                      | (1) Transformer         |                | e        |         |            |           |           | 1 stt        | 124          | CXDU             |
| -        | 100              | Polyethylene                    |                         |                | 12       | 2315    | 6.75       | 2.95      | 4,90      | ilet the     | etty         | 2110310          |
| -        | XX               | Polyethylene<br>Sheets Pilo     | (1) Transformer         |                | S        | 2315    | 16.95      | 3.04      | 13.40     | that the     | · 1/04       | CXDU<br>ZISOBIO  |
|          | XX               | Polyethylene the                | ID BREAKER              |                | 1000     |         |            |           | 1         | Lath         | 300          | CXDU             |
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|          | XX :             | Stretch film                    | 6 Breaker               |                | S        | 2315    | 4-42       | -         | 10.00     | Hills        | A            | CXDH             |
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#### Waste Acceptance Document

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Waste Disposal Certificate

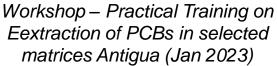
## Working towards a PCB-Free Caribbean

### Training, Capacity Building and enhancing Analytical Capacity



Workshop – SC Article 15 Reporting, Trinidad (Jan 2020)









## Working towards a PCB-Free Caribbean

#### **Development of PCBs Phase out and Management Plans**

| | A. PCB Management in<br>Belize  | <ul> <li>Guidance on the development of a National Environmentally Sound<br/>Management (ESM) Plan for PCBs and PCB-Contaminated<br/>Equipment</li> <li>Interim recommendations towards the Environmentally Sound<br/>Management Plan for PCBs and PCB-Contaminated Equipment in<br/>Belize</li> <li>Maintenance of the national inventory</li> <li>Labelling and analysing PCBs and PCB-containing equipment, and<br/>general technical prevention measures</li> <li>Development of a technical plan for the management of PCBs and<br/>PCB-containing equipment (storage, transport, final elimination etc.</li> <li>Awareness, Education and Collaboration with relevant stakeholders</li> <li>Development of a financial plan</li> <li>Explore domestic or regional solutions for the decontamination of<br/>PCB-containing equipment</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | B. PCB Disposal Plan for<br>Belize (under the GEF 5558<br>Project 2021) | <ul> <li>Summary of PCB Contaminated Equipment and Oils (Belize<br/>Inventory 2020/2021)</li> <li>Management and disposal of the PCB Contaminated Equipment and<br/>Oils</li> <li>Outline of the PCB phase out plan for Belize</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |  |
| June 30, 2021  | C. Upgrade of Analytical<br>Capabilities                                | <ul> <li>Assessment of Current Capability</li> <li>Inventory informed the need for national analytical upgrades/support</li> <li>DOE Laboratory GC-MS Equipment</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |  |

## Working towards a PCB-Free Caribbean

## **Public Education and Awareness**



#### Stop the POPs Main - Stop the P 🗙 🕂

dustry (PCR (

Safeguard Yourself From

BCRC

If you live or work near altes (power generation stations or transformer storage sites) where zransformer oils containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) chemicals such as Polychlorinated Biphenyis (POBs) have been used or stored, your health and the environment may be at risk.



HOME POPS - AUDIENCE - RESOURCES - CONTACT US ESP NL

### Stop the POPs!

Say no to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), sometimes known as "forever chemicals" are a group of toxic chemicals that can survive for long periods of time in the environment. They can be found in households, workplaces, agricultural products and even the very food we eat. It's time to protect yourself and "Stop the POPs" today!



0

global environment facility





**Identify, Learn & Act!** 

Identify, Learn & Act!







# Continuing the Work Towards a PCB-Free Caribbean

## **Ongoing and Planned Activities**





- Twenty-seven (27) oil samples were submitted for chemical analysis from the main power company
- Eleven (11) samples were found to be contaminated with PCBs between 290 and 1200 ppm

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### Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS)









Development of strategy to validate inventories of PCBs for disposal abroad



To identify and address regional barriers for implementation of Stockholm Convention



Regional labelling standard will be developed to support identification of POPs in products













## THANK YOU!



Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean



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