



UNEP



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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed
Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Chemical Review Committee**

First meeting

Geneva, 11–18 February 2005

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Inclusion of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention:
review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban
or severely restrict a chemical: chlordecone**

Chlordecone: supporting information from Switzerland

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, the documentation provided by Switzerland in support of its notification of final regulatory action on chlordecone.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/1.

Annex

Chlordecone **Focused Summary of the Notification of a Final Regulatory Action by Switzerland**

I. Introduction

Chlordecone (Kepone) is a pesticide that has not been in use for some time and is considered to be obsolete (WHO class O). In occupational settings, accidents resulted in neurological disorders and the substance is classified as a Group 2B carcinogen (IARC; *sufficient evidence for possible carcinogenicity in humans*). Chlordecone is very stable and persistent in sediments, thus representing a major hazard for aquatic ecosystems; it bioaccumulates in the food chain and has a high acute and chronic toxicity. The Ministerial Declaration of the Third International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea in 1990 included Chlordecone in Annex 1b, Part c. Substances with similar properties that were also included in the North Sea Conference Annex 1b had been banned in Switzerland in 1986. In order to ensure equal treatment of such substances, the manufacture, supply, import and use of Chlordecone has thus been banned in 1995, when the substance was added to Annex 3.1 of the Ordinance relating to Environmentally Hazardous Substances.

II. Risk Evaluation

At the time of the ban in 1995 Chlordecone had already been out of use for several years. Experts from the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health and Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture did not perform risk evaluations for Switzerland but based their reasoning for the ban on the hazard properties of the substance, reports of environmental risks from other countries and the listing in Annex 1b of the North Sea Conference.

III. Risk Reduction and relevance to other States

Chlordecone has been banned in many countries and is considered by WHO to be obsolete.