

# Benefits and lessons learnt in mainstreaming of science in the sound management of chemicals and wastes

*The example under the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention*



Magdalena Frydrych



**COPs**

# The Chemical Review Committee (CRC)

- ▶ The CRC is a subsidiary body to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Rotterdam Convention, established in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 18 of the Convention.
- ▶ **The main responsibility of the CRC is to review information submitted by Parties on 'banned' or 'severely restricted' chemicals and on 'severely hazardous pesticide formulations' and to make recommendations to the COP on the addition of chemicals to Annex III, which would result in the inclusion of the chemicals in the Convention's Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.**
- ▶ The CRC contains 31 government-designated members, who are experts in chemicals management, appointed by the COP on the basis of geographical balance.

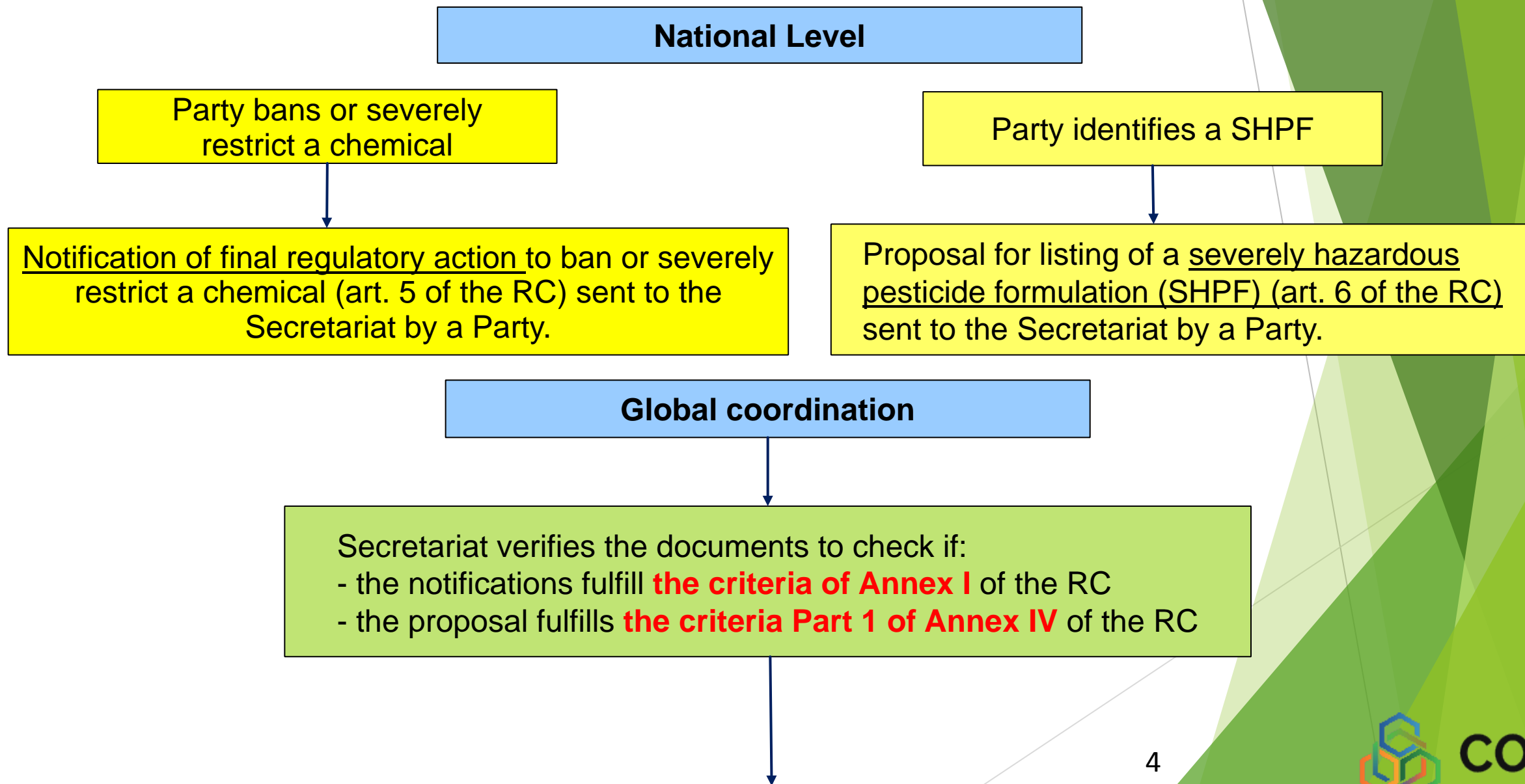


**Opportunities for  
mainstreaming science for  
the sound management of  
chemicals and wastes  
through the work of the CRC**

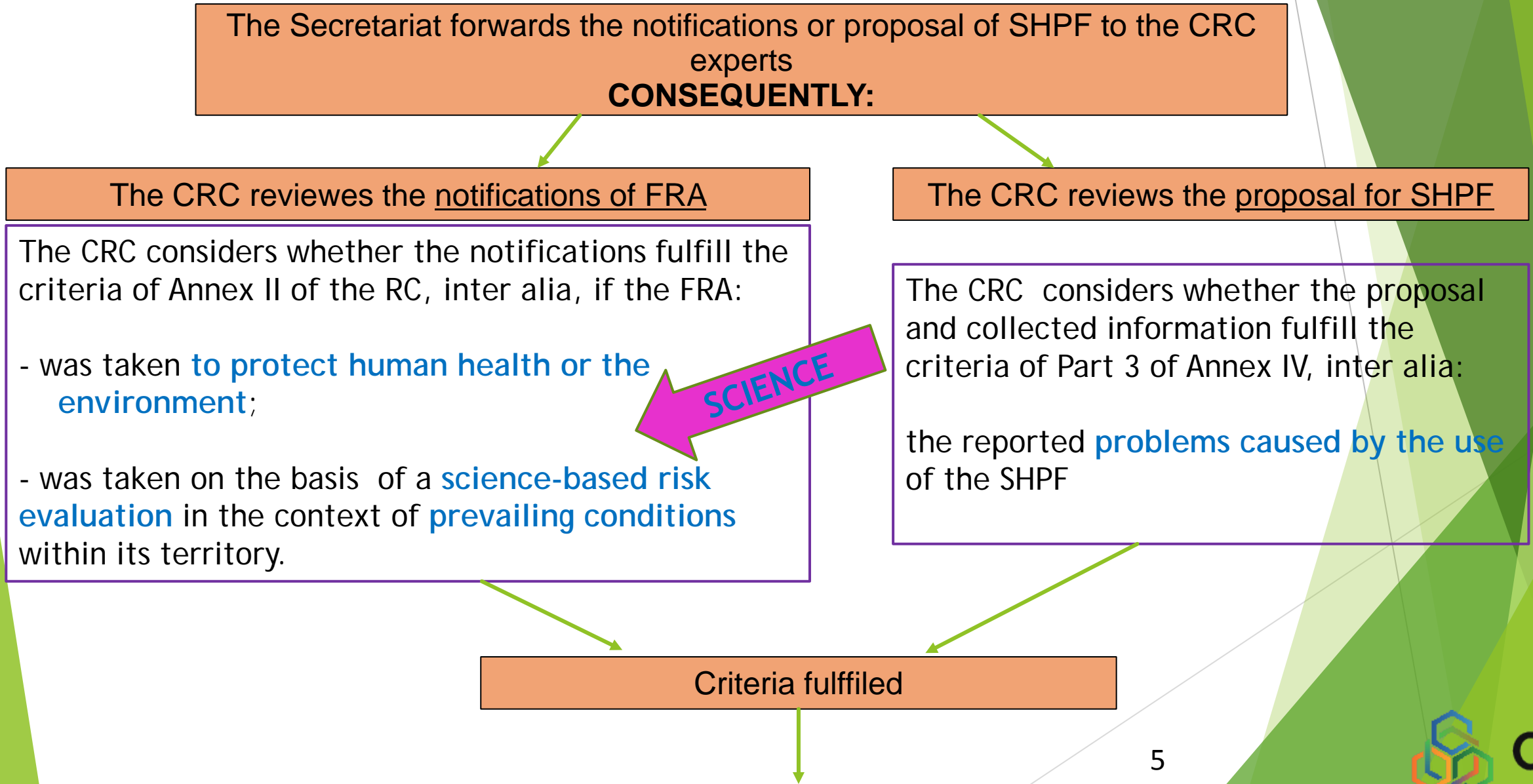


**COPs**

# Process of reviewing a notification or a SHPF proposal (1)



# Process of reviewing a notification or a SHPF proposal (2)



# Process of reviewing a notification or a SHPF proposal (3)

The CRC :

- develops a **rationale** that details the reasons for the conclusion why the criteria of the Annex II (FRA) or Part 3 of Annex IV (SHPF) are met,
- decides **to recommend** a the chemical for listing in Annex III.
- prepares a **Decision Guidance Documentation** (DGD) to submit to the COP together with the recommendation and rationale.

Tool of  
mainstreaming  
of science

Documents prepared by the CRC are sent to the COP for its decision on listing a chemical or-SHPF

**COP decides whether to list the chemical or SHPF**



**COPs**

# Criteria for listing of chemicals - summary

- ▶ The criteria for listing chemicals involve **science based sound management** of the chemicals.
- ▶ For example, the CRC is requested to review whether the following criteria are met:
  - that the final regulatory action (FRA) was taken on the **basis of risk or hazard evaluation**,
  - summary of the hazard and risk,
  - that the reason of the FRA was **to protect human health or the environment**,
  - that the data were **generated according to scientifically recognized methods**; and reviews were performed and documented according to **generally recognized scientific principles and procedures**,
  - that the **risk evaluation in the context of prevailing conditions** was basis of the FRA, for SHPF **clear description of the incidents**, including adverse effects
  - the **physico-chemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties of formulation**
  - **alternative** pest-control practices.



# Bridging information

- ▶ When the notifying Party has used a risk evaluation from another country or international body as the basis for its national decision and apply it to the conditions in their own country, we call it “**BRIDGING**”.
- ▶ Bridging information can be important for satisfying criterion (b) (iii) of Annex II to the Rotterdam Convention.
- ▶ CRC assesses the bridging information on case-by-case basis in particular the scenario of exposure or potential exposure, if the information is sufficiently detailed to allow the CRC to make an assessment.



# Review process - its transparency and scientific basis

## Source of information

- ▶ Documents submitted by parties through DNAs

They are the basis for the review process. They consist of inter alia science-based information and they are tools for communicating scientific information and best available knowledge in the management of chemicals.

- ▶ Additional information collected by the RC Secretariat, where the Convention requires

Prior to the review process, Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders can contribute to the collection of information on chemicals in accordance with Annex II or Part 2 of Annex IV of the RC.

## Transparency

- ▶ The notifications, proposals and additional information available to the CRC are published on the RC website.
- ▶ **The review** of notifications, proposals and supporting documentation available for the CRC **must be done in consistent and transparent** way taking into account the relevant information.



# Transparency in the review process

- ▶ CRC developed Policy Guidance and Working Procedures to facilitate their work and ensure consistency and transparency in its operation. They are available on the RC website
- ▶ Meetings of the Committee are open to observers.
- ▶ Observers are representatives from Parties, non-Parties, IGOs, NGOs and industry. Observers may participate in discussions and provide information, but they cannot participate in making decisions.
- ▶ Information about CRC members is available on the Convention website.



# Transparency of the outcomes of the CRC

- ▶ The results of CRC's deliberations and information related to the candidate chemicals are publicly available on the RC website.
- ▶ The reports of the CRC meetings are published on the RC website as well.
- ▶ COP decisions **together with the DGDs** are published on the RC website and circulated to Parties for their informed decision on future import of the chemicals.

Besides, there is the PIC Circular - source of information for stakeholders, including parties' import decisions, summary of notifications and proposals for SHPF.



# Cooperation between subsidiary bodies and their experts

- ▶ Since 2013 the CRC and the POPRC have back to back meetings which promotes exchanging of scientific information and the processes of listing chemicals in the RC and SC.
- ▶ *“Guidance to assist the Chemical Review Committee and Parties to the Rotterdam Convention when a chemical under consideration is a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention”* was prepared by the CRC and the POPRC experts together.
- ▶ Some members of both bodies are also experts of other international processes/ initiatives like the Basel Convention, SAICM, Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention. This gives opportunity for exchange of information and experience in science based sound management of chemicals and wastes<sup>12</sup> and promotes a holistic approach.



# SUMMARY

- ▶ CRC reviews the notifications of FRA and proposals for SHPF that contain **science-based** data on the chemical. This makes the science an important element of the work of the Committee.
- ▶ The process of reviewing notifications and proposals of Parties is transparent and consistent with the help of the working documents and policy guidance established (publicly available).
- ▶ The notifications of FRA and the proposals of SHPF, as well as supporting documentation are available on the website for the stakeholders.
- ▶ The results of CRC's work (rationales, recommendations and DGD) are published on the RC website.
- ▶ The CRC members are experts of chemicals management, often involved in various projects and international initiatives in the field of sound management of chemicals and wastes.



Thank you

