

## **Report on actions taken by the Secretariat to improve its environmental and economic sustainability**

### **Background**

Since 2011, a sustainability process is ongoing and a task force was set up in the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to work on environmental and financial sustainability issues, including through the development of assessment reports and recommendations on how to improve sustainability performance.

The baseline report on sustainability performance of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was published in April 2012 and a follow-up report on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the period 2010-2012 in December 2013. These assessment reports are available at <http://synergies.pops.int/ManagementReports/Sustainability/tabid/2756/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### **Progress on sustainability work**

Pursuant to the recommendations of the task force and the decision of the management team as of 5 December 2013, the Secretariat will take active steps towards becoming climate neutral. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions will be offset for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 biennia, through purchasing of carbon units via the respective travel budgets of the three conventions. A series of communications have been held with the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) and the UNEP climate neutral officer on the practical arrangements to join the UNEP climate neutral strategy for offsetting the Secretariat's GHG emissions prior to the end of the year.

In an effort to improve indoor air quality at the International Environment House (IEH), an indoor air sampling campaign was conducted by the task force within the Secretariat's offices, targeting persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Passive samplers have been used for this purpose and deployed in the offices in the period from May 2013 to January 2014. The analytical work was supported by the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX) through the projects of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic LM2011028 and LO1214. The survey was part of larger air quality study conducted at IEH, targeting physico-chemical parameters and microbiological contamination. The assessment report has been shared in March 2014 for considered by the Management and Coordination Committee of the building and a number of follow-up actions have been implemented since.

### **Further information**

Additional information on the Secretariat's activities on sustainability can be found at <http://synergies.pops.int/ManagementReports/Sustainability/tabid/2756/language/en-US/Default.aspx> and <http://www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-un-is-doing/secretariat-basel-rotterdam-stockholm-conventions>