

# To Know Or Not to Know...

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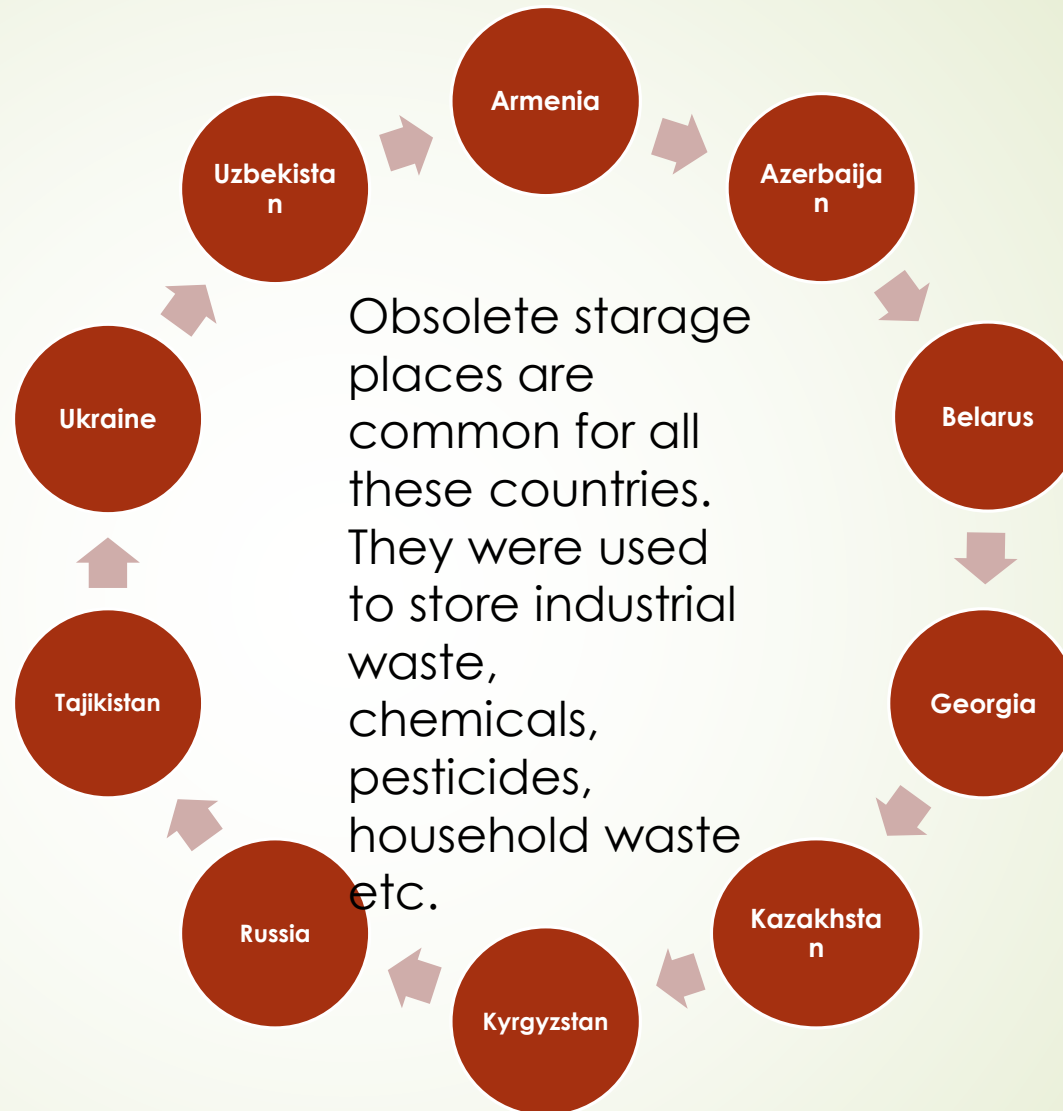
Global Round Table

“PRTRs: Promoting informed decisions for a Sustainable Future”

November 8, 2018 – Palais de Nations Geneva, Switzerland

**Basis for this presentation is our NGO survey done in 2015 and updated in 2018 where we wanted to know what happens to the places where industrial waste from the past is stored. Aim if this work was/is to raise the issue within the PRTR community and seek solution to this growing problem.**





# Armenia

- Storage place for hazardous industrial waste, containing Arsenic (Alaverdi, Lori Marz) but no exact data on this
- Special storage place with more than 500 tons of banned and obsolete pesticides with more than 30 different types of pesticides, including 60% of organochlorine pesticides: DDT hexachlorocyclohexane and others

# Azerbaijan

- Hazardous waste landfills are located mainly on the Absheron Peninsula and contain vanadium, nickel and its compounds, mercury, acid tars (data from 2011) etc.
- Most of hazardous waste is stored at enterprises and does not comply with environmental standards and regulations. The accounting of hazardous wastes is not reliable and the official statistical reporting does not reflect the real situation.

# Belarus

- Hazardous waste is located in different place, like "Complex for processing and disposal of toxic waste of the Gomel region", Soligorsk etc
- They contain waste from the processing of mercury lamps, worn tires (rubber-containing waste), possibly waste of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), pesticides, chemicals, toxic waste of 1-2 hazard class prohibited for disposal in municipal solid waste landfills etc.

# Georgia

- Old storage places containing banned pesticides. It is estimated that there are about 3057 tons of obsolete pesticides in Georgia and most of them located in the area of Yalguja. The work of the old storage facilities and dumping of pesticides and hazardous chemicals is included in the list of priority issues of the National Action Program for POPs. No detailed information about other obsolete storage places in the country was provided.



# Kazakhstan

- In total in Kazakhstan there are 5 functioning and 7 closed repositories. Strategic industrial and defense facilities with stationary electrical equipment often filled with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Much of the waste remaining at Ust-Kamenogorsk condenser plant from production PCB condensers and rehabilitation activities after the ban of PCBs in 1989 was drowned in the waste ponds of the plant. Akmola, Kostanay, Almaty and Pavlodar oblasts
- In terms of POPs waste stocks, the Republic of Kazakhstan ranks second among the countries of Eastern and Central Europe after the Russian Federation. Recycling / destruction of hazardous waste (including obsolete pesticides), storage / disposal of waste (obsolete, prohibited, unsuitable for use chemicals), the presence in food products of hazardous chemicals (including pesticides) are among the most serious problems in chemical safety, requiring immediate decision.
- Large amounts of obsolete pesticides were buried at the landfill sites in the 60-80s of the last century, and there is no information about the location and number of buried pesticides in the archives.

# Kyrgyzstan

- The bulk of industrial toxic waste associated with the mining industry is in the territory of Issyk-Kul (61.4%) and Batken (25.8%) regions. In Issyk-Kul oblast, the amount of waste has increased dramatically since 1997 due to the commissioning of the gold mining company.
- Over a long period of economic activity in Kyrgyzstan has accumulated a large number of industrial waste containing heavy metals (cadmium, lead, zinc, mercury, antimony), toxic substances (cyanide waste, acids, silicates, nitrates, sulfates, etc.) as well as obsolete pesticides.
- In addition, currently obsolete and POPs pesticides are located in 42 warehouses (warehouses of the former "Kyrgyzselkhozkhimii", collective farms and state farms). Most of the plots are located on the outskirts of settlements in obsolete, semi-disassembled buildings and do not have reliable protection from environmental exposure and access of the population and animals

# Russia

- Country has a large number of places where waste from past activities is placed. The biggest of them - conserved sludge collector of "Khimprom" titled "White Sea" (covered with lime and lime-containing waste which began to form in the 50s) a length of 1.4 km and a width of 150-200 m, 4 million. Sludge storage placed in open areas, sometimes they are equipped with protective screens. Sludge contains chlorides, calcium, phenol, toluene, mercury, methyl chloride, chloroform, methylene chloride, DDT, HCH (hexachlorocyclohexane), Granosan (mercury-containing pesticides) etc

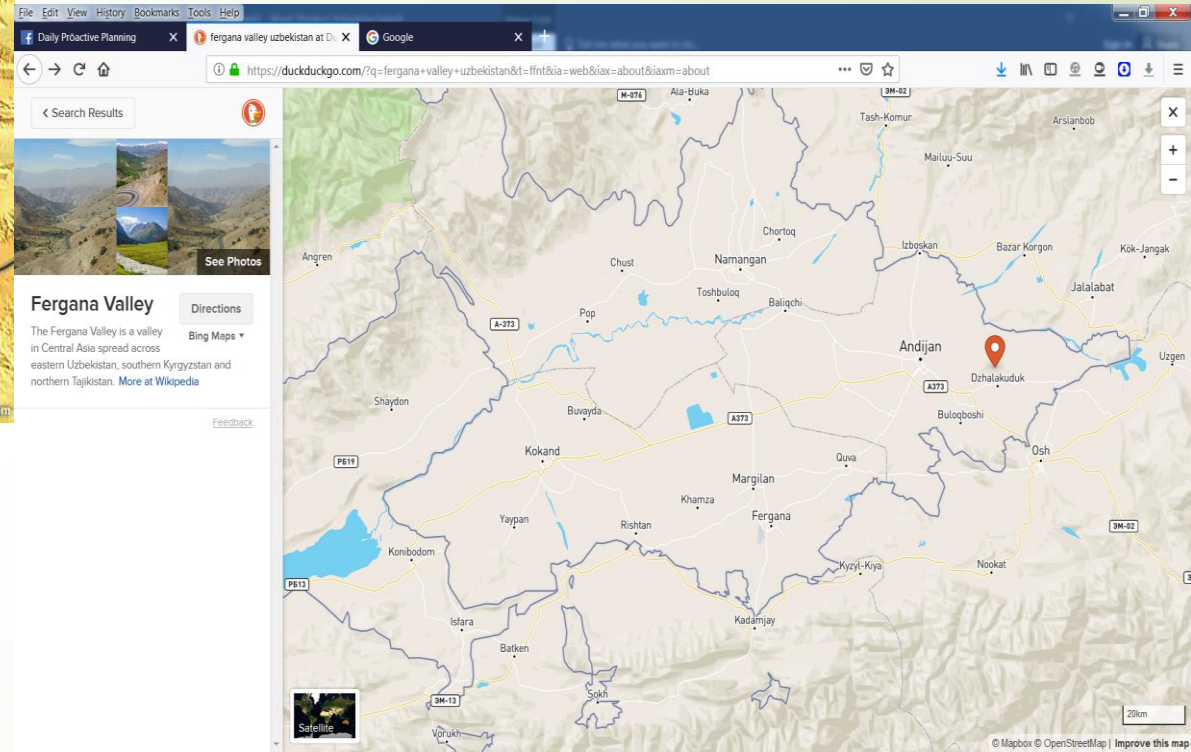
# Tajikistan

- The public organization "Peschap" has 145 potential hazardous toxic pollution facilities in Tajikistan in its list. Most of the objects are warehouses of pesticides of the Soviet past of the country. Of these, 56 were studied. Of the 56 objects currently cleaned 5 objects. The last two objects are being cleared at this moment in Kulyab and Farkhor (administrative districts of Tajikistan. The list of objects is being updated.
- The state bodies are ready to assist in the intention of cleaning up the territories by third parties, there is simply no funding from the state authorities for these purposes. The state provides comprehensive political support in Tajikistan.

# Ukraine

- there are 931 objects where 308.07 thousand tons of hazardous chemicals are stored or used in the production.
- high concentration of industrial waste is in mining basins - Donetsk, Krivoy Rog, Lviv-Volyn and partly in other regions. The area they occupy, more than 160 - 165 thousand hectares. Due to the lack of sufficient equipment and grounds for removal, disposal and destruction of hazardous waste in most regions of Ukraine they are stored on the territory of enterprises, or removed in the unorganized storage space.
- The most common hazardous chemicals in the chemical industry in Ukraine are: ammonia, chlorine, nitrogen dioxide, acrylonitrile, sulfur dioxide, concentrated nitric and sulfuric acid, methanol, benzene, urea ammonium nitrate, sodium hydroxide, formalin etc.

## CENTRAL ASIA AND THE FERGANA VALLEY





# Uzbekistan

- Fergana Valley is located in the eastern part of Uzbekistan. This deep and structurally complex intermountain depression of an ellipsoidal shape is surrounded from all sides by high mountains (Kuramin, Chatkal, Fergana, Alay and Turkestan ranges), only in the west it has a narrow passage to the Hungry Steppe. There are 15 waste places in the region, their area is 153.1 hectares. To date, the necessary documents have not been drawn up at the dumps and environmental expertise has not been carried out.
- In the Fergana Valley there are 3 provinces of Kyrgyzstan (Osh, Jalalabad, Batkent), 1 region of Tajikistan (Sughd) and 3 regions of Uzbekistan (Andijan, Namangan, Fergana). From the valley there is an exit that is the Zhujand Gate. Therefore, all emissions and discharges of pollutants into the environment remain in the valley.
- The problem of transboundary industrial waste near the city of Bekabad (Uzbekistan) remains unresolved. Waste and dumps with a height of 5-20 meters on an area of at least 15 hectares from the Bekabad Metallurgical Plant are located in Tajikistan. In the immediate vicinity is a large dump of municipal waste Bekabad. Waste storage conditions do not meet the environmental requirements of both countries, however, dialogue to solve the problem does not develop.
- Kanibadam toxic waste site (toxic chemicals, biological preparations, expired or prohibited to use) near the district center, near the Great Fergana Channel and the Kairakum reservoir. Here from 1973 to 1990 about 4 thousand tons of various toxic wastes were dumped and mixed. There is no waterproof layer and drainage at the landfill, underground horizons are not protected from the penetration of toxic chemicals, there is no fencing, there are no complete data on the volume / types of hazardous substances







# To sum up

- All EECCA countries have unaccounted storage of obsolete waste
- Detailed information about these places and what they contain is often lacking
- Public sources may have the basic information but do not have detailed information on types of pesticides and other hazardous substances
- **Inclusion of obsolete stocks in the PRTs would be a tool that encourages the identification and registration of these storage places leading to their cleanup and closing**
- Until this is done these places continue to pollute air, water and soil and most importantly do a huge damage to the health of those people living in affected areas
- **SOLUTION HAS TO BE FOUND AND WE NEED IT NOW!!!**



# Thank you for listening!

- For more information, please contact

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