

Emergency mechanism

What is the emergency mechanism?

In cases of emergency resulting from incidents arising from transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal, developing countries or countries with economies in transition can apply for assistance from the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of the Basel Convention.

The Conference of the Parties by decision V/32 decided to enlarge the scope of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. This emergency mechanism allows the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, upon request, to use the funds allocated to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund:

- ❑ To assist a Party which is a developing country or a country with economy in transition in case of an incident occurring during a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes covered by the Basel Convention in order:
 - To estimate the magnitude of damage occurred or damage that may occur and the measures needed to prevent damage;
 - To take appropriate emergency measures to prevent or mitigate the damage;
 - To help find those Parties and other entities in a position to give the assistance needed;
- ❑ To assist a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition in developing its capacity-building and transfer of technology and in putting in place measures to prevent accidents and damage to the environment caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal.

Further information on the mechanism and procedures through which emergency assistance can be sought by Parties can be found in the Interim guidelines [<http://www.basel.int/EmergencyFund/guidelines>].

What to do in case of an incident

In case of an incident, developing country parties and parties with economies in transition wishing to apply for emergency assistance need to complete and submit to the Secretariat the Standard form [<http://www.basel.int/EmergencyFund/standardform>] which is available in all six official United Nations languages on the website of the Basel Convention.

Resources

The contributions available for emergency assistance are in the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in line with decision V/32.

Contacts in case of emergency:

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

United Nations Environment Programme

15, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Geneva | Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 8212
Fax: +41 22 797 3454
Email: BRS-Mail@brsmeas.org or nelson.sabogal@brsmeas.org
Web: www.basel.int | www.pic.int | www.pops.int

and/or

Environmental Emergencies Section (joint UNEP/OCHA)

Emergency Services Branch Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Palais des Nations - bureau D-119
CH 1211 Geneva 10 | Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 1815
Mobile: +41 79 477 0872
Fax: +41 22 917 0257
E-mail: nijenhuis@un.org, OCHA-EES@un.org
Web: www.unocha.org/unesp
www.facebook.com/UNOCHA
www.reliefweb.int
www.irinnews.org

Standard form for request for emergency assistance

Standard form for request for emergency assistance from the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund by developing and other countries

Details of the State requesting assistance	
Name of country requesting assistance:	
Name and address of requesting authority including details of the Basel Convention focal point and a contact point for this request: <i>(Please include full name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address)</i>	
Name and contact points of any other United Nations organizations or other bodies contacted in connection with this incident:	
Technical details of the incident and those involved	
Date and location of the incident: <i>(Please attach a map and/or other means of identifying where the incident occurred, and/or sketch of the incident or other material, e.g., photographs of the pollution or damage caused)</i>	
Information that defines the material involved as waste (e.g., especially where there is no accompanying documentation stating as such with the shipment):	
Specific details on the incident, including: (i) a description of how the incident occurred and who was involved; (ii) when it was discovered and by whom; (iii) whether the waste involved was subject to written consent under the Basel Convention notification procedure; (iv) any data from samples taken.	
Description of hazardous wastes or other wastes involved (name, origin, physical form, major constituents, typical contaminants, volume/quantity, waste code) and how it was packaged and labelled; ¹ <i>(Please supply photographs)</i>	
Type and extent of damage that has occurred and is likely to occur (e.g., dilution factors, dispersion problems, rate of spread): <i>(If trajectory models are used please give brief details)</i>	
Names and roles of other States involved in the transboundary movements in question (e.g., state of origin, transit or destination) and the names of relevant competent authorities: <i>(Please include full names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses)</i>	
Names and addresses of persons involved in the transboundary movements in question (e.g., exporter, importer, notifier, carrier, disposer): <i>(Please include full names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses)</i>	
Names and addresses of insurers, ² if any: <i>(Please include full name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address)</i>	
Actions required to be undertaken for which assistance is requested	
Measures taken in response to the incident:	
Requests for assistance from other countries involved in the incident:	
Any legal or other relevant information, for example if there is an ongoing investigation into illegal traffic in respect of the incident that may include gathering or use of this information as evidence:	
Preventive measures that are necessary to mitigate damage:	
Breakdown of costs for the preventive and other measures:	
Type of emergency assistance required, such as financial assistance, materials, equipment, expertise or other resources (please indicate priority and timing if possible):	
Signed:	Date:
Position (e.g., Director, Minister, etc.):	
On behalf of (Government name):	

¹ Further to paragraph 7 (b) of article 4 of the Basel Convention.

² Further to paragraph 11 of article 6 of the Basel Convention.

For further information please contact:

Secretariat of the Basel Convention
 UNEP/SBC
 International Environment House I
 13-15 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine
 Geneva, Switzerland

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