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## **Sustainable Management of Toxic Pollutants in Central Asia: Towards a Regional Ecosystem Model for Environmental Security (SUS-CA-REM)**

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Beginning in April 2011, researchers from Turkey, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Germany and Romania have cooperated to conduct a regional study of the major sources of contamination and actual effects upon the environment, including polluted sites evaluation and implications for economic, cultural and political relations in the region.

A significant feature of this project is the enhancement of regional infrastructure of laboratories and personnel training of the involved research centres in the Central Asia region, to monitor contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and to help implement adequate best management practices to prevent potential large scale accidental contamination and/or use of damped persistent organic pollutants (POPs) for local terrorist attacks.

Finally, a novel dynamic *Regional Ecosystem Model for environmental security* will be developed, evaluated with real case studies and implemented in cooperation with the end-users for the purpose of sustainable management and elimination of toxic pollutants in Central Asia. A compendium of cross-border activities related to remedial actions at ecosystem level will be promoted with the national and regional policy makers.

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