



HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

COTE D'IVOIRE AND TOXIC WASTE

15:09:17

universal time

ABIDJAN



...RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY ILLEGALLY DUMPED TOXIC WASTE WAIT TO CONSULT DOCTORS AT THE MAIN HOSPITAL OF COCODY IN ABIDJAN ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2006...

In August 2006, thousands of tonnes of hazardous waste from overseas were dumped at various sites around Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, leading to a humanitarian crisis. Sites including a lagoon, the sewage system and areas close to water sources were affected. Several people died as a result of the contamination and thousands reported health problems ranging from nose bleeds to respiratory problems and vomiting after inhaling fumes.



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COTE D'IVOIRE AND TOXIC WASTE



15:18:24

universal time

NAIROBI

...UNEP ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND CONVENTIONS DIRECTOR BAKARY KANTE AND COTE D'IVOIRE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE SAFIATOU BA-N'DAW ADDRESS THE ABIDJAN CRISIS...

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been struggling to cope with the multi-million dollar costs of collecting and dispatching the toxic wastes abroad for decontamination. The Joint UNEP-OCHA Environment Unit deployed environmental experts to join the UN Disaster and Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) team that was sent to help national authorities assess and deal with the situation. UNEP and the Basel Convention, to which Côte d'Ivoire is a party, are supporting follow-up activities. UNEP has established a trust fund to assist with the clean-up.





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15:32:50

universal time

ABIDJAN



...THE CONVENTION COVERS TOXIC, POISONOUS, EXPLOSIVE, CORROSIVE, FLAMMABLE, ECOTOXIC AND INFECTIOUS WASTES...

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes. It has over 160 Parties and aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.

