



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Civil society activities



Germany: Air pollution in the Schorfheide-Chorin biosphere reserve

On June 9, 2022, the *Umwelt Institut* (Environmental Institute) in Munich published a [report](#) revealing the presence of nine active pesticide substances in the air in and around the UNESCO biosphere reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin in the state of Brandenburg, even in the middle of the core area, which is protected from any human intervention. For the organization, this air pollution is a real threat to this jewel of nature, which is home to strictly protected habitats and rich in species.

Measurements were taken at four sites, between September 2018 and September 2019, inside the reserve, but also on the edges of the reserve.

If the presence of pesticides was not a surprise for the scientists, because the reserve is surrounded by intensive conventional crops, not to mention the few crops grown within the reserve itself, it is the presence of nine pesticide active substances, out of the 26 sought, and the simultaneous presence of several substances in the collected samples that worry the scientists. Indeed, there is very little data on the "cocktail" effects of pesticides (the combined effects of several different substances), both for human health and for the environment.

DTT, which has been banned in Germany [since 1986](#), appears in the air analyses of the Schorfheide-Chorin reserve, thus confirming its persistence, even in this protected area.

The *Umwelt Institut* recommends reforming the current regulatory framework, starting with a ban on the use of pesticides in protected areas, as well as the delimitation of areas around protected areas, the so-called "buffer zones", in which the use of pesticides should be prohibited, to prevent, or at least limit, the spread of these pollutants into sensitive habitats.

If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?

Justice Pesticides needs you.

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