

E-waste Africa project

The e-waste Africa project is a comprehensive programme aiming at enhancing the environmental governance of e-wastes and at creating favorable social and economic conditions for partnerships and small businesses in the recycling sector in Africa.

Timeframe: November 2008 to March 2012

Overall coordination: [Secretariat of the Basel Convention](#)

Implementing organizations: the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre based in Nigeria, the Basel Convention Regional Centre based in Senegal, [the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology \(EMPA\)](#), [the Institute for Applied Ecology \(the Oko Institute\)](#), [the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law \(IMPEL\)](#), in cooperation with the [Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment \(PACE\)](#).

Financial support: European Commission, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the Dutch Recyclers Association (NVMP).



Project objectives

The project goal is to enhance the capacity of West Africa and other African countries to tackle the growing problem of e-waste. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Improve the level of information on flows of e-products and e-waste imported to West African countries and other African countries to enhance decision-making;
- Increase the capacity of partner countries to manage end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste at the national level;
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing environmentally sound materials recovery operations;
- Enhance the capacity to monitor and control transboundary movements of e-waste and to prevent illegal traffic.

Project activities

Flows on used and end-of-life e-products and e-waste between Africa and Europe

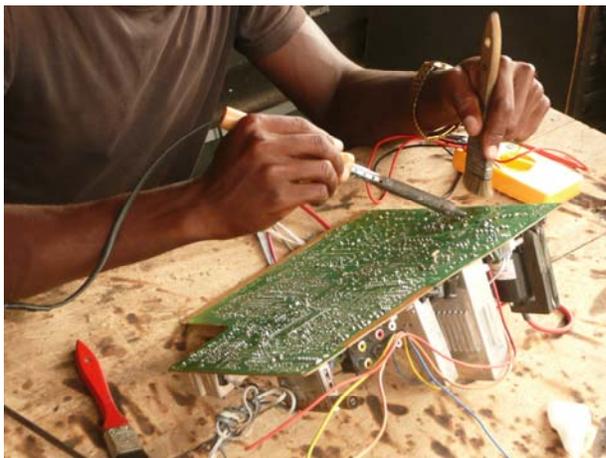
Under this project component, a fact-finding study on flows of used and end-of-life e-products and e-waste imported into West African countries by land and by sea, in particular from European countries, has been carried out. Local personnel were trained by international experts to undertake field research and the collection of data. Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and Nigeria countries participated in the study, as well as two export ports in Belgium and the Netherlands.



OKO Institute

National assessments and e-waste management plans

On the basis of the results from the first component, i.e. the volume and type of imported end-of-life e-products and re-exportation in the sub-region, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria undertook national assessments of used and end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste and the preparation of national environmentally sound management plans. The country assessments encompass: (i) the description and review of e-waste management practices in the formal and informal sectors, including their economic and social impacts and potential impact on human health and the environment, (ii) an assessment of needs to ensure environmentally sound management, and (iii) a detailed description of the legal and regulatory systems in place. The results of the country assessments were used for the preparation of national e-waste management plans.



Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA)

Social-economic impacts of the e-waste sector in Nigeria

An in-depth socio-economic study on the operation and sustainability impacts of the e-waste sector in Nigeria has been prepared. The focus of the study is on both the positive and negative impacts of the sector, including the identification of meaningful improvement options in environmental, social and economic terms. International co-operation between African small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and recycling companies operating in industrialized countries by combining their specific competitive advantages in e-waste disassembly and material recovery has been explored.

The study includes recommendations to policy-makers and the recycling industry, as well as to other interested stakeholders, with a view to developing new market niches for the African e-waste recycling sector.



OKO Institute

Monitoring and control of transboundary movements of end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste

The implementation of an enforcement programme for key importing states on the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of used and end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste and the prevention of illegal traffic commenced in 2010 and are being carried out in 2011. A training curriculum aimed at port and customs authorities, governmental officials and accreditation authorities will be developed by specialized institutions.

The curriculum will address tools for customs control, characterization and classification of used and end-of-life e-equipment, institutional coordination, regulatory framework development, and criteria for the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life e-equipment. In the context of this collaborative effort, the project proposes measures for the prevention and control of exports from Europe to Africa of used and end-of-life e-products and e-waste, and will facilitate the training of enforcement officers from African countries and the development of a scheme for exchanging information on end-of-life e-equipment and e-waste between exporting and importing states.

For further information, please contact:

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WHAT IS NEW?

The project team is preparing training workshops for enforcement and regulatory authorities in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Egypt and Tunisia. The workshops in Benin, Nigeria and Ghana are tentatively scheduled for July 2011.

Other related news:

- [International Summit on the Regulation & Management of E-Waste, 24-25 February 2011](#)

[International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products](#) [International workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electronic and electrical products](#), organized by the Basel Convention jointly with UNIDO and the Stockholm Secretariat. Vienna, Austria, 29-31 March 2011.