

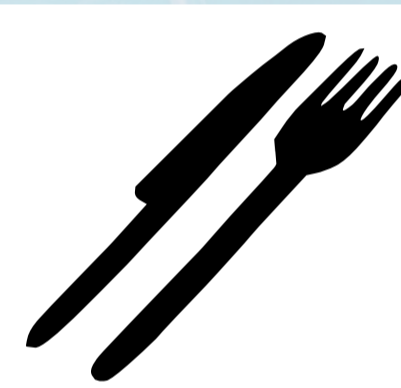
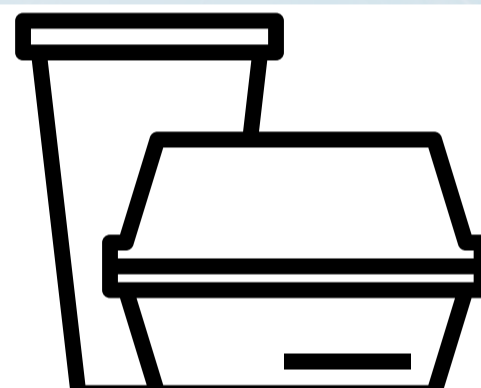
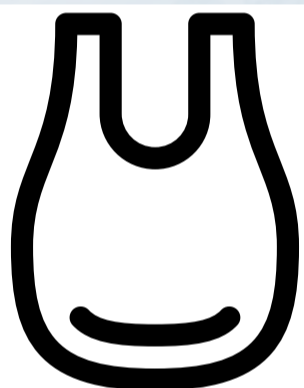
PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname

Small Grants Programme on Plastic Waste Pilot Project

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

According to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2018 report titled **'Single-Use Plastics': A Roadmap for Sustainability**, single use plastics (SUPs) include plastic items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled and are commonly used for plastic packaging, such as grocery bags, bottles, and food containers.



While plastic products have become ubiquitous and are beneficial in many aspects of life, when they are inappropriately disposed, they can have negative impacts on the environment and human health.

In Suriname, less than 10% of all plastic waste is recycled resulting in most plastic waste being landfilled, burned, or dumped into the environment, including in rivers contributing to marine pollution. As recycling options are limited and managing plastic waste remains a challenge in Suriname, alternative solutions to deal with plastic at the source need to be sought. For this reason, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) in collaboration with the Suriname Waste Management Foundation (SUWAMA) is undertaking a year-long project titled 'Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname'.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This project is part of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions' Regional Centre Small Grants Programme on Plastic Waste that aims to improve the management of plastic waste in partner countries and contribute to the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution.



The project objectives will be accomplished through the following six (6) activities:

Activity 1 - Stakeholder consultation workshops

To gather information on how SUPs can be replaced across the entire supply chain.

Activity 2 - Establish a baseline inventory of SUPs in Suriname

This will be done primarily using the Consumption Lifespan Methodology from the 'Draft practical guidance on the development of an inventory of plastic waste'. The inventory toolkit developed under the BRS-Norad-1 Project, which uses a Material Flow Analysis approach will also be used.

Activity 3 - Run a pilot project to replace SUP bags with bags made from newspaper and reusable cloth bags at stores in Paramaribo

For this activity, SUWAMA will train women from different local women's organisations to produce the alternative bags.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 4 - Create three (3) zero-plastic high schools

At each selected high school, this activity will involve completing a waste audit, developing a zero-plastic plan, and then implementing and monitoring the plan.

Activity 5 - Prepare recommendations report and implementation plan

Using the findings of Activities 1-4, recommendations on how SUPs can be replaced will be developed along with an implementation plan setting out how the recommendations can be implemented throughout Suriname.

Activity 6 - Present proposed recommendations and implementation plan to decisionmakers

The recommendations report and implementation plan will be presented to the Government of Suriname and other stakeholders.

PROJECT TEAM AND ROLES

Funding
Agency:



**Norwegian
Agency for
Development
Cooperation**

Implementing
Agency:



**Secretariat of
the Basel,
Rotterdam and
Stockholm
Conventions**

Executing
Agency:



BCRC
CARIBBEAN
Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training
and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean

National Executing
Partner:



SUWAMA

National Focal
Point:



**Ministry of
Spatial Planning
and Environment**

PROJECT TEAM AND ROLES

BCRC-Caribbean - Executing Agency providing technical and financial management and guidance to the project.

SUWAMA - National Executing Partner providing on the ground support for the execution of the project activities.

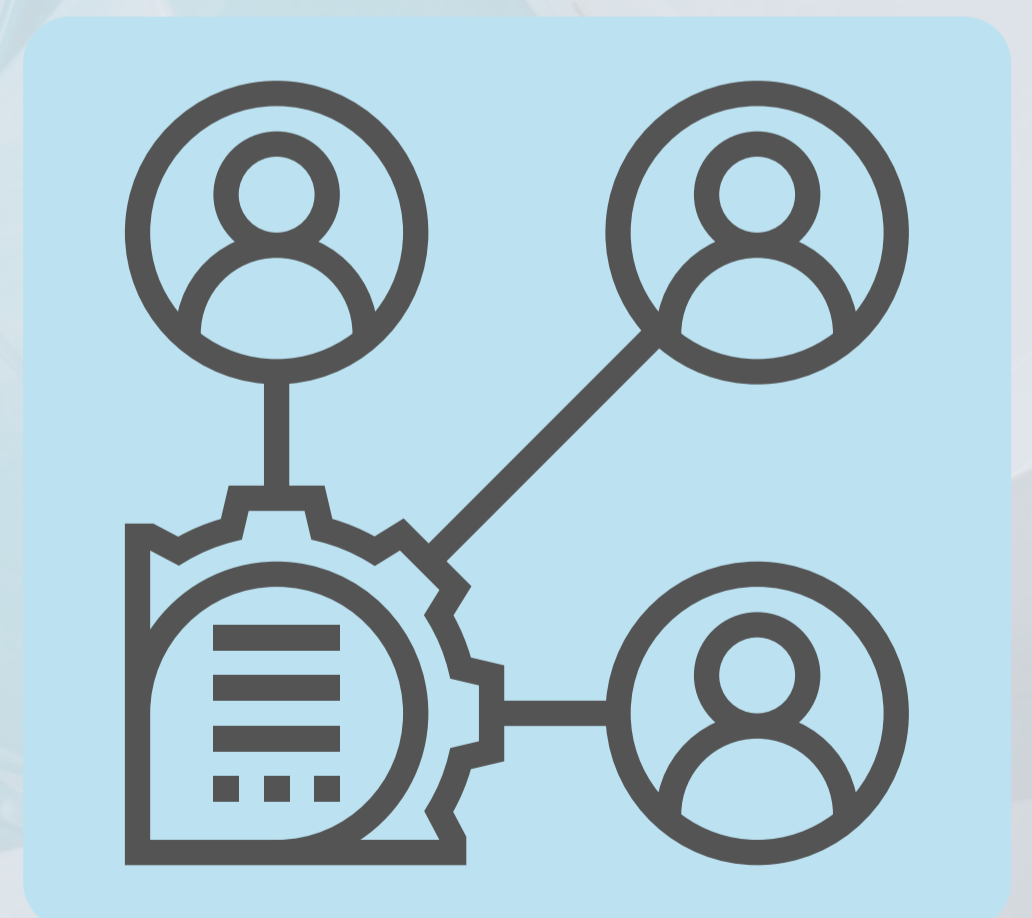
Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (Directorate Environment) - Project National Focal Point providing national oversight and guidance for the project.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

From July to September 2021, the following was undertaken:

Stakeholder Listing Developed

Stakeholder participation is crucial for the success of the project, as such, a list of stakeholders was developed. In the early stages of the project, these stakeholders will be invited to the Project Inception Workshop, stakeholder consultations under Activity 1 and approached to collect data needed for the baseline inventory under Activity 2.



SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Project Inception Workshop

The Project Inception Workshop was held on 27 July and served as an opportunity to introduce the project to stakeholders, explain their importance to the project's success and to kick-off the project.

A total of 51 participants attended the Inception Workshop with 44 participants joining from Suriname.



Snapshots of participants at the Project Inception Workshop

Activity 1 - Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

SUWAMA began the planning and organisation of ten (10) stakeholder consultation workshops, which are scheduled from September 2021 to January 2022. The workshops involve gathering preliminary information from different stakeholder groups on how SUP can be replaced. A workshop concept note, providing background to the workshops, was developed along with online questionnaires to be used to gather data from stakeholders unable to attend the workshops.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 1 - Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

In September, two (2) stakeholder consultation workshops were held with stakeholders from local Government ministries and local and international environmental organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations. Summary reports with the main findings, conclusions, and the proposed recommendations from each workshop will be developed and shared with stakeholders.



Participants at a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Activity 2 - Baseline Inventory

In August, SUWAMA and the BCRC-Caribbean meet with colleagues from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) to discuss different plastic waste inventories. After the meeting, SUWAMA decided to complete this activity, primarily using the Consumption Lifespan Methodology from the 'Draft practical guidance on the development of an inventory of plastic waste'. The inventory toolkit developed under the BRS-Norad-1 Project that uses a Material Flow Analysis approach will also be used.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 2 - Baseline Inventory

To collect data for the inventory, SUWAMA contacted stakeholders from Customs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Statistical Bureau, and the Chamber of Commerce. Importers and local manufacturers were also contacted.

In September, SUWAMA and the BCRC-Caribbean attended a webinar titled, Guidance on Plastic Waste Inventory Toolkit, hosted by the BRS Secretariat. In that webinar, further details on the Consumption Lifespan and Material Flow Analysis approaches were provided.



Developing Plastic Waste Inventories and ESM Strategies

Small Grants Programme (SGP) on Plastic Waste

Webinar, 22 September 2021



SUWAMA met with the Ministry of Economic Affairs to gather data and discuss how they can collaborate. Data collection for the inventory also continued.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 3 - Pilot Project to replace SUP Bags

This activity involves 30 women being trained and equipped to produce newspaper bags and reusable cloth bags to replace SUP bags. The alternative bags will then be sold to stores in Paramaribo and the income from the sales of the bags will be used to sustain future bag production and provide the women with a small income.



Sample newspaper and reusable cloth bags

In August, SUWAMA reached out to eight (8) women's organisations to begin gathering women to participate in this activity and developed the training programme with the hired trainer. Procurement of the items needed for the training also began. By September, 26 women registered to participate in the training.

To promote the newspaper and reusable cloth bags, a promotional video will be developed. SUWAMA and the BCRC-Caribbean developed and advertised a Terms of Reference for a qualified service provider based in Suriname to assist in the production of the promotional video.

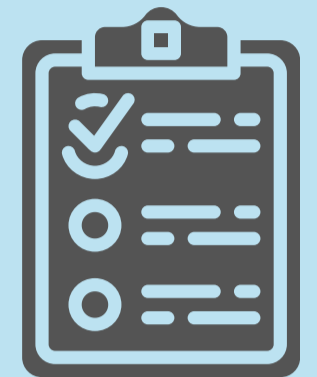
NEXT STEPS

From October to December 2021, the following are scheduled:

Activity 1 - Hosting of the remaining eight (8) stakeholder consultation workshops and sharing of the summary reports.



Activity 2 - Collection of the raw data needed for the inventory will continue and the development of a draft inventory using the inventory toolkit created for the Consumption Lifespan Methodology.



Activity 3 - The registered women will be equipped and trained to produce the newspaper and reusable cloth bags. After the training, SUWAMA aims to produce 1,800 alternative bags, which will be sold to stores.



A service provider will be hired to develop the promotional video, which will be used to promote the sale of the bags. Flyers and brochures will also be created to promote the bags.

Activity 4 - Once schools re-open, SUWAMA will initiate this activity at three (3) pre-selected high schools with the completion of a waste audit.



THANK YOU

The BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA extend our appreciation for your support to the project thus far. Your participation and input are invaluable and will ensure the project's success.

