

Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname

Lessons Learnt Webinar

BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA Foundation
February 09, 2023



Norad



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VAN RUIMTELIJKE ORDENING
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AGENDA

TIME (GMT-3)	TOPIC	Contributors & Facilitators
9:00-9:10 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	<p>Ms. Jewel Batchasingh Director, BCRC-Caribbean</p> <p>Mr. Ritesh Sardjoe Permanent Secretary, Directorate for the Environment, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment</p> <p>Mr. Jost Dittkrist Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat)</p> <p>Mr. Humphrey Bergraaf Secretary/Treasurer, Suriname Waste Management (SUWAMA) Foundation</p>
9:10-9:20 a.m.	Introduction of participants	All Participants
9:20-9:45 a.m.	Project Overview (Activities, Successes, Challenges, Lessons Learnt)	<p>Ms. Lalieta Somwaru Environmentalist/Programme Manager, SUWAMA</p> <p>Ms. Amara Prevatt Project Execution Officer I, BCRC-Caribbean</p>
9:45-10:00 am	Feedback from Participants	
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Final Remarks and Meeting Closure	

Welcome Remarks ~ Welkomstwoord

Ms. Jewel Batchasingh

Director
BCRC-Caribbean



Opening Remarks ~ Openingstoespraak

Mr. Ritesh Sardjoe

Permanent Secretary
**Directorate for the Environment,
Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment**



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Opening Remarks ~ Openingstoespraak

Mr. Jost Dittkrist

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



Opening Remarks ~ Openingstoespraak

Mr. Humphrey Bergraaf

Secretary/Treasurer

Suriname Waste Management Foundation



Introduction of Participants

Introductie van deelnemers



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Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname

Project Overview
Activities, Successes, Challenges, Lessons Learnt



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Successes, Challenges, Lessons Learnt

Project Aim and Background

- In Suriname, **less than 10% of all plastic waste is recycled.**
- Most plastic waste is **landfilled, burned, or dumped into the environment**, including into rivers contributing to **marine pollution.**

This project aimed to help Suriname seek alternative solutions to deal with plastic at the source.

Project Budget – US\$118,140 | Project Duration – July 2021 – October 2022

Project Partners

Funding Agency:	Implementing Agency:	Executing Agency:	National Executing Partner:	National Focal Point:
 Norad		 BCRC CARIBBEAN Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean	 SUWAMA Suriname Waste Management	 Ministerie VAN RIJMTIELIJKE ORDENING & MILIEU

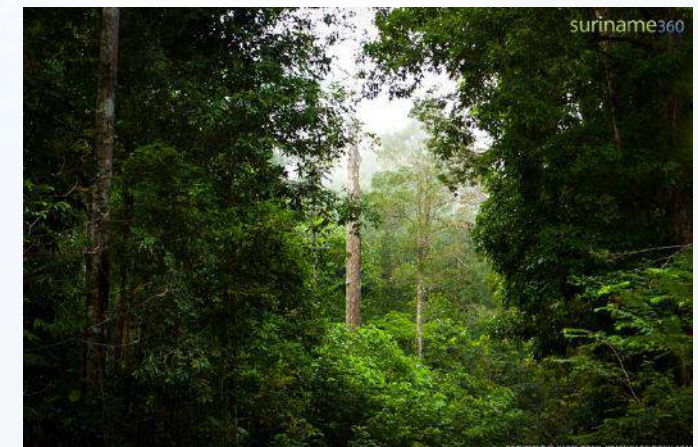
Project Objectives

- **Consult with stakeholders** at all levels on replacing single use plastic (SUP) across entire supply chain (import to consumption).
- **Establish a baseline using the inventory toolkit** developed in the BRS-NORAD 1 project.
- **Run a pilot project** at stores in Paramaribo, the capital, to replace SUP bags with more sustainable and locally available options (cloth bags and bags made from newspaper). The sustainable bags will be made through collaborations with local women's organisations.



Project Objectives

- **Create three zero-plastic high schools** with collaboration with the schools and Anton de Kom University.
- **Propose recommendations and an implementation plan for decisionmakers** on how to replace single use plastics using project findings.
- **Involve locals** in the production of replacement bags to help boost local economy.
- Indirectly, **reduce environmental pollution caused by plastics**, including marine pollution and air pollution.



Project Activities

Activity 1

Stakeholder consultation workshops to gather information on how SUP can be replaced across entire supply chain

Activity 2

Use the BRS-NORAD 1 Project Inventory toolkit to establish a baseline inventory of SUP waste in Suriname

Activity 3

Run a pilot project to replace SUP bags with cloth and newspaper alternatives

Collaborate with women's orgs to produce the sustainable bags

Activity 4

Create 3 zero-plastic high schools

At each chosen school:

- complete a waste audit,
- craft a zero-plastic plan,
- implement and monitor plan

Activities 5 & 6

Prepare recommendations report and implementation plan

Present recommendations and implementation plan to decision-makers

Activity 1

- **10 stakeholder groups** were engaged, including non-government organisations, the private sector and recycling companies.
- From Sept. 2021 to Feb. 2022, SUWAMA hosted **9 stakeholder consultation workshops** (7 workshops were held virtually) and in April 2022, an in-person **validation workshop was held**.
- This activity was completed in close collaboration with the **Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation** and was **completed in June 2022**.



Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on in-person meetings.
- Meeting fatigue of stakeholders.
- Lack of participation during virtual consultations.
- If possible, develop working relationships with government ministries, non-government organisations and the private sector to accomplish and collaborate on goals.

Activity 1



Activity 2

- An inventory methodology detailed in the **Draft practical guidance on the development of an inventory of plastic waste** was used along with the inventory toolkit developed by **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**.
- The methodology is based on a consumption-lifespan approach and involves:
 1. The **estimation of plastic products put on the market (POM)** based on domestic production, import and export data;
 2. The **calculation of plastic waste generated** based on the age of products and the probability of such products becoming waste.
- SUPs examined included **products wholly or partially packed in plastic and for products made entirely or in part of plastic with a short lifespan**:
 - Packaging sector – boxes for eggs, bottles, baby food packaging
 - Consumer and institutional products sector – lighters
- Inventory results include:
 - An average of 19,821.23 metric tons of SUP POM per year from 2015 to 2020.
 - SUP waste generated based on the POM was 20,309.45 metric tons in 2020.



Activity 2

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Determination of which inventory methodology is best suited for the local situation.
 - Local SUP producers were reluctant to share production data citing confidentiality concerns.
 - Difficulty in accessing trade data due to the Disclosure Prevention Policy.
 - Limited research involving primary data gathered on the amount of plastic waste generated in Suriname. Existing research was based on estimates from waste management sector stakeholders.
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- Organise one-on-one meetings and/or calls with local producers to appease their concerns.
 - Access global trade databases, such as UN COMTRADE, to collect the required data.
 - Develop working relationships with government ministries, non-government organisations and the private sector to accomplish and collaborate on goals.

Activity 3

- A total of 25 women were successfully trained.



BE THE FIRST TO HAVE YOUR SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING BAG

- * VERY DURABLE AND STURDY
- * STYLISH AND GREAT FOR BOTH THE CLASHY WOMAN AND MEN WHO LOVE TO SHOP WITH CARE
- * CAN BE REUSED IN MANY WAYS
- * EASY TO FOLD AND STORE IN YOUR PURSE OR BAG
- * HEAVY DUTY EFFECTIVE
- * SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

BE HIP BE GREEN

NO PLASTIC MEANS NO PLASTIC WASTE FOR A SAFER AND CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

This Norad-funded project is a cooperation between the SUWAMA Foundation, BCRC, Caribbean, the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Together we are aiming at reducing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname.

The 'sustainable bags' activity has been initiated to replace single use plastic bags by producing environmentally friendly and durable bags made from cotton and newspaper by women from different local women's organizations. This will not only help to save and improve the environment, but it will also contribute to the livelihoods of these women.

Norad UN Women ASGP BCRC Suwama Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment

ORDER NOW 08636559

Address: Henck Aaronstraat #109 E-mail: info@suwama.org
Facebook: Stichting Suwama Website: suwama.org

- 400 newspaper and 1,400 reusable bags were produced.
- By Nov. 2022, 70.5% of reusable bags were sold.

Activity 3

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Delays in clearance of equipment needed for the activity, which resulted in delays to the training and development of the promotional videos.
- With the newspaper bags pilot, three (3) of the eight (8) pharmacies were no longer able to participate.
- Slow initial sales of the reusable bags.

- Do regular follow-ups with those involved (shipping company, Customs, etc.)
- Keep relevant stakeholders update on progress (informed the women about the delays to the training, etc.).
- Develop working relationships with government ministries, non-government organisations and the private sector to accomplish and collaborate on goals.

Activity 4



- This activity included waste audits & the development, implementation and evaluation of zero-plastic plans to **help schools reduce SUP waste generation**. The plans included measures such as raising awareness, buying reusable bottles & installing water coolers.

Activity 4

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Delays to the delivery of procured items.
- Unforeseen changes to project timeline to accommodate schools' schedules and delays.
- Limited student feedback during the later half of this activity due to examinations and internships.
- Unforeseen expenses required for smooth activity execution.
- Do regular follow-ups with those involved (schools and local vendors).
- Consider to extending the Activity beyond one academic year.
- Even if the activity targets are not all met, ensure there is still an impact.



Activities 5 and 6

- Using data and findings from Activities 1-4, a **Recommendations Report and Implementation Plan** was prepared.
- The report and plan were presented to the stakeholders in October 2022.
- Stakeholder feedback was used to finalise the report and plan.



Activities 5 and 6

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- Delays to other project activities resulted in a delay to these activities.
- Timing the review period to avoid stakeholders' vacation periods.
- Provide stakeholders with sufficient time for their review of reports.
- Consider one-on-one meetings with stakeholders to get feedback if limited feedback is received.
- Send stakeholders regular reminders about providing feedback.



Feedback from Participants



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Final Remarks and Meeting Closure



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Thank you!



Dank u wel!



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