

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname

Small Grants Programme on Plastic Waste Pilot Project

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) and the Suriname Waste Management Foundation (SUWAMA) are collaborating on the project titled 'Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname'. The project is supported by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat).

The project aims to help Suriname seek alternative solutions to deal with plastic at the source and is being accomplished through the following six (6) activities:

Activity 1 - Stakeholder consultation workshops

Activity 2 - Establish a baseline inventory of single use plastics (SUPs) in Suriname

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

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

Activity 5 - Prepare recommendations report and implementation plan

Activity 6 - Present proposed recommendations and implementation plan to decision makers

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

From October to December 2021, the following was undertaken:

Activity 1 - Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

Seven (7) stakeholder consultation workshops were hosted. The first six (6) workshops were held virtually with the following stakeholder groups, scientists and consultancy firms, private sector (local producers and manufacturers), community and youth organisations, larger trade associations, and two (2) recycling companies.

The seventh workshop was held in-person in December and was attended by stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality sector, consumer associations, national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and trade associations.



Photos from the Stakeholder Consultation Workshops (Middle and right photos courtesy the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation)

Through these workshops, SUWAMA has continued to collect information on how SUPs can be replaced in the entire chain from import to consumption in Suriname. Summary reports with the main findings, conclusions, and the proposed recommendations from each workshop were developed and shared with stakeholders.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 2 - Baseline Inventory of SUPs in Suriname

For this activity, SUWAMA has been working closely with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation (MEAETI), which is currently working on phasing out SUP items. MEAETI provided SUWAMA with a large portion of the raw data needed to develop the baseline inventory. The data provided includes import and export data (in kilograms) of SUPs that are categorised by particular HS codes.

SUWAMA has processed and analysed the data received using the inventory toolkit linked to the Consumption Lifespan Methodology from the 'Draft practical guidance on the development of an inventory of plastic waste' and has developed the first draft baseline inventory of SUP waste in Suriname.

SUWAMA also completed an accompanying report explaining the methodology used, assumptions made and the inventory results.



SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 3 - Pilot Project to replace SUP Bags

This activity involves thirty (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.

By October 2021, forty-one (41) women had registered to be part of this activity. When asked what motivated them to participate, many of the women mentioned that they were environmentally conscious and wanted to create a cleaner environment, as well as being creative and wanting to develop skills to earn additional income and become entrepreneurs.

The equipment needed to train the women was procured in Trinidad and Tobago and shipped to Suriname.

For this activity, Srapu Studio (part of BOSROKO Group) was hired to develop a video to promote and advertise the newspaper and reusable cloth bags as well as garner support for the transition from SUP bags to more sustainable eco-friendly alternatives.



SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

Activity 4 - Create 3 zero-plastic high schools

SUWAMA initiated this activity at three (3) pre-selected high schools in mid-November. At the kick-off events at each school, SUWAMA introduced students and teachers to the project and discussed the importance of replacing SUPs.



Photos from the kick-off events at the high schools

At each school, a waste audit was initiated to learn about plastic waste generation and a questionnaire was shared with students and teachers to gather information on how to replace SUPs.

Draft plans with measures the schools can implement to reduce their plastic waste generation and become zero-plastic were then developed. These plans included ideas proposed by students and teachers to replace SUPs, such as bringing their own reusable food containers to school and replacing plastic bags with paper bags at the canteen, as well as the results of the waste audit and questionnaires.

NEXT STEPS

From January to March 2022, the following is scheduled:

Activity 1 - Hosting two (2) in-person stakeholder consultation workshops, once national COVID-19 measures allow. Summary reports for the workshops will be developed and shared. The final deliverable for this activity, the Report on Stakeholder Consultations, will also be completed.



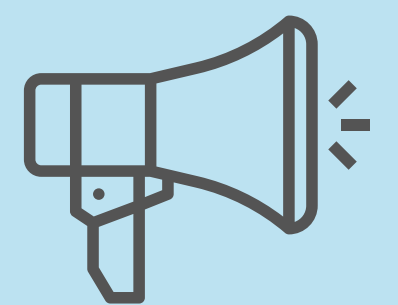
Activity 2 - To finalise the inventory, SUWAMA still needs to collect data on the local production of SUPs. To collect the necessary data, SUWAMA and MEAETI will have one-on-one meetings with local producers. Once that data is collected, it will be analysed, and the inventory updated and finalised.



Activity 3 - When the shipment of equipment is cleared through Customs, this event will officially kick off and the training of the registered women will begin. After the training, SUWAMA aims to produce 1,800 alternative bags, which will be sold to stores.



The promotional video to promote the sale of the bags will be completed and disseminated. Flyers and brochures will also be disseminated to promote the bags.



Activity 4 - The draft zero-plastic plans will be finalised by SUWAMA together with the three schools. The measures included in the plan will be implemented and the equipment needed will be procured. At the end of March 2022, the effectiveness of the plans will be evaluated.



PROJECT DETAILS

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



PROJECT TEAM AND ROLES

Funding
Agency:



Implementing
Agency:



BRS Secretariat

Executing
Agency:



National
Executing
Partner:



National Focal
Point:



**Ministry of Spatial
Planning and
Environment**

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

The BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA wish you all the best for a safe, happy, and prosperous 2022!

We appreciate your continued support to the project and look forward to working with you to make this project a success.

The last newsletter can be viewed: [SUWAMA Newsletter - September 2021](#)

