

# 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 project, 'Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname' is being completed by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) and the Suriname Waste Management Foundation (SUWAMA). The project aims to help Suriname combat the issue of single-use plastics 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

The project is funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and also supported by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment in Suriname and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat).

The BRS Secretariat recently shared a video highlighting the work being done in Suriname to promote the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste, through the [Small Grant Programme \(SGP\) on plastic waste](#). The video can be viewed [here](#).



# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

During the months of April to June 2022, the following work was undertaken:

## **Activity 1 - Stakeholder Consultation Workshops**

A physical validation workshop was held on April 27, 2022, to present the results of the nine (9) stakeholder consultation workshops held between September 2021 and February 2022 and to provide the stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback and validate the results. A total of 17 persons from 11 organisations participated. At the workshop, participants were also given a preview of the Baseline Inventory of SUPs being completed under Activity 2.

The final deliverable under this activity, Overall Workshop Report, is to be finalized by the end of June.



Photos from the Stakeholder Validation Workshop held in April 2022.

## **Activity 2 - Baseline Inventory of SUPs in Suriname**

SUWAMA and the BCRC-Caribbean have been reviewing and updating the baseline inventory and its corresponding report. The inventory and report are to be finalized by the end of June.



# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

## Activity 3 - Pilot Project to replace SUP Bags

In early April, SUWAMA held a meeting with the 25 trained women and presented them with their training certificate, instructions for the bag production and the packages of material to start production. One target goal of this activity is to produce 400 newspaper bags, and 1,400 cotton/canvas bags. Thus far, all the newspaper bags have been produced and are being sold to eight (8) pharmacies. Approximately 800 of the cotton/canvas bags have been completed and sales of the bags are projected to begin in July.



Photo showing the women receiving their certificates for completing the training.

Two (2) promotional videos were created by Srapu Studio (part of BOSROKO Group) to promote the sales of the sustainable bags and garner support for the transition from SUP bags to more sustainable eco-friendly alternatives. The two (2) have been completed in Dutch with English subtitles and in Sranan Tongo with Dutch subtitles to reach as many people as possible. The videos can be viewed here: [Promotional Videos](#).





# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

## Activity 4 - Create 3 zero-plastic high schools

Under the Activity 4, the implementation of the plans developed to create three (3) zero plastic high schools began. One measure included in the plans was the roll out of an awareness programme on the impacts of SUPs. The interactive programme will see students creating videos, art pieces and other creative media to spread awareness about SUPs and how their use can be prevented. The roll out of the programme started in June and will be spread out into July to accommodate the schools' examination period.

Another measure included the supply of alternatives to prevent the use of SUPs at the schools and involved the installation of water dispensers and provision of reusable water bottles to prevent PET bottle use. The materials to implement this measure were purchased.

The schools also received plastic waste recycling bins to ensure that the remaining SUPs (after prevention) are collected to be recycled.



Photos showing the plastic waste recycling bins, water cooler and reusable bottles that have been implemented in the project high schools.



# **BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM (BRS) CONVENTIONS CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SIDE EVENT**

In June, the in-person segment of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions took place in Geneva, Switzerland. With the support of colleagues from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and the BCRC-Caribbean who attended the COPs, SUWAMA and the BCRC project team participated in a side event titled, "Tackling Plastic Pollution in countries through strengthened implementation of the BRS conventions". The presentation given by our colleagues gave background to the project along with an update on the baseline inventory being completed, the zero plastic high schools activity and the sustainable bags activity.



Photo showing the panel of speakers presenting at the above captioned event.



## NEXT STEPS

---

From July to September 2022, the following are scheduled:

### **Activity 2**

The finalized baseline inventory report will be shared with UNITAR and the BRS Secretariat for their review.

### **Activity 3**

SUWAMA aims to continue production of the remaining reusable bags, while the 400 completed newspaper bags will continue to be sold and delivered to eight (8) pharmacies. The promotion and sale of the cotton bags will begin, including the use of a promotional video and dissemination of flyers.

### **Activity 4**

The awareness programme will be completed at the three (3) high schools and the remaining measures of the plans, such as the installation of water dispensers and the distribution of reusable water bottles, will be carried out.

The effectiveness of the plans will be evaluated and then a report on the measures implemented at the schools will be completed.

### **Activity 5**

Using the results gathered from the other activities, SUWAMA will begin the drafting of the recommendations report and implementation plan on how SUP commodities can be replaced in Suriname. The report will be shared with key stakeholders for their review and updated accordingly.

### **Activity 6**

Once the recommendations report and implementation plan have been drafted, SUWAMA will organize to present the proposed recommendations and implementation plan to decision makers and key stakeholders for their buy-in and support.



# 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.

The last three (3) newsletters can be viewed here: [Project Newsletters](#)

De BCRC-Caribbean en SUWAMA spreken onze waardering uit voor uw steun aan het project tot nu toe. Uw deelname en inbreng zijn van onschatbare waarde en zullen het succes van het project garanderen.

De laatste drie (3) nieuwsbrieven zijn hier te bekijken: [Project Newsletters](#)

