

# PROJECT NEWSLETTER

## Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname

### Small Grants Programme on Plastic Waste Pilot Project

## PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Between July 2021 and October 2022, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) and the Suriname Waste Management Foundation (SUWAMA) collaborated on the project, 'Replacing single use plastic commodities in the economy of Suriname'. The project aimed to help Suriname combat the issue of single use plastics (SUPs) at the source and involved the completion of six (6) project activities.

The project was funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and supported by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat). In Suriname, the project was supported by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and invaluable local stakeholders.



Logos of the project partners

With all six (6) of the project activities completed, the BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA are pleased to present the final project newsletter documenting work undertaken from July to October 2022.

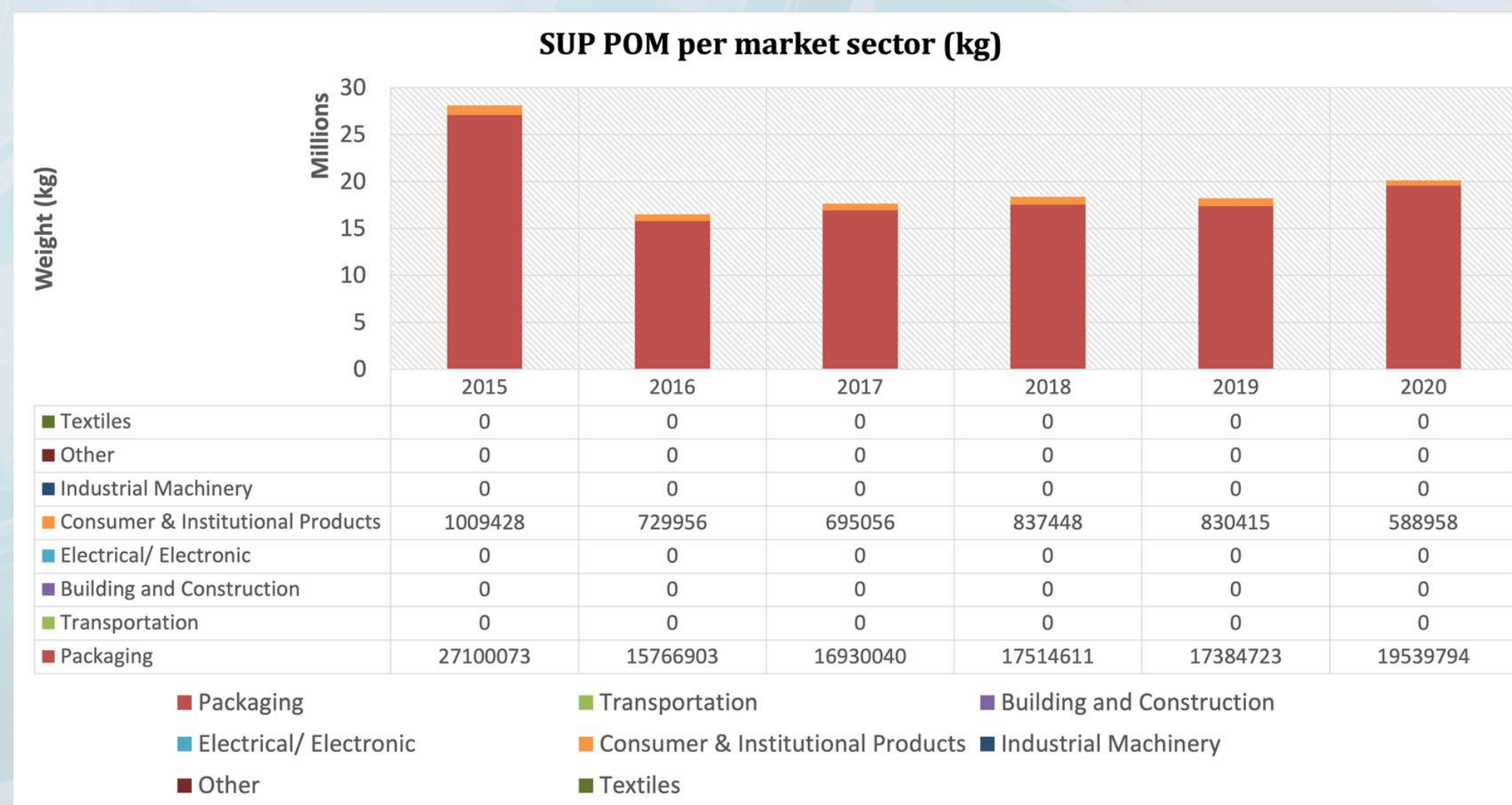
# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

## Activity 1 - Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

This activity was completed in June 2022 with the finalisation of the overall report on the consultation workshops. Through this activity, SUWAMA held nine (9) workshops with a variety of stakeholders to gather feedback on how SUPs could be replaced in Suriname. SUWAMA also hosted a validation workshop to share and validate the final results with stakeholders.

## Activity 2 - Establish baseline inventory of SUP waste

Through this activity, the Suriname Single Use Plastic Waste Inventory (SSUPWI) was developed. The inventory found that from 2015 to 2020, an average of 19,821 metric tons of single use plastics were put on the market (POM) annually in Suriname and that in 2020, a total of 20,309 metric tons of single use plastic waste was generated in the country. This activity saw the establishment of the first baseline inventory of SUP waste in Suriname, which can be updated in the future.



# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

## Activity 3 – Run a pilot project to replace SUP bags with reusable cloth and newspaper bags

By August 2022, SUWAMA and the 25 trained women completed the production of 1,400 reusable cloth bags. With this, the activity target to produce 1,800 alternative bags (400 newspaper bags and 1,400 reusable cloth bags) was met!

Five (5) pharmacies participated in the pilot project with the newspaper bags and provided SUWAMA with valuable feedback as to how the bags could be improved in the future. With the reusable cloth bags, by October 2022, a total of 987 bags (70.5% of the 1,400) were sold, helping to meet the activity target to sell 60% of the bags during the duration of the project.

The sale of the reusable cloth bags was initiated in August 2022 and was supported by the promotion of the bags through the Promotional Videos, which were broadcasted on a variety of television stations in Suriname. The bag sales were also accomplished through door-to-door sales, approaching companies and SUWAMA's partners, advertising on Facebook, and sales at markets and fairs.



SUWAMA at the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment

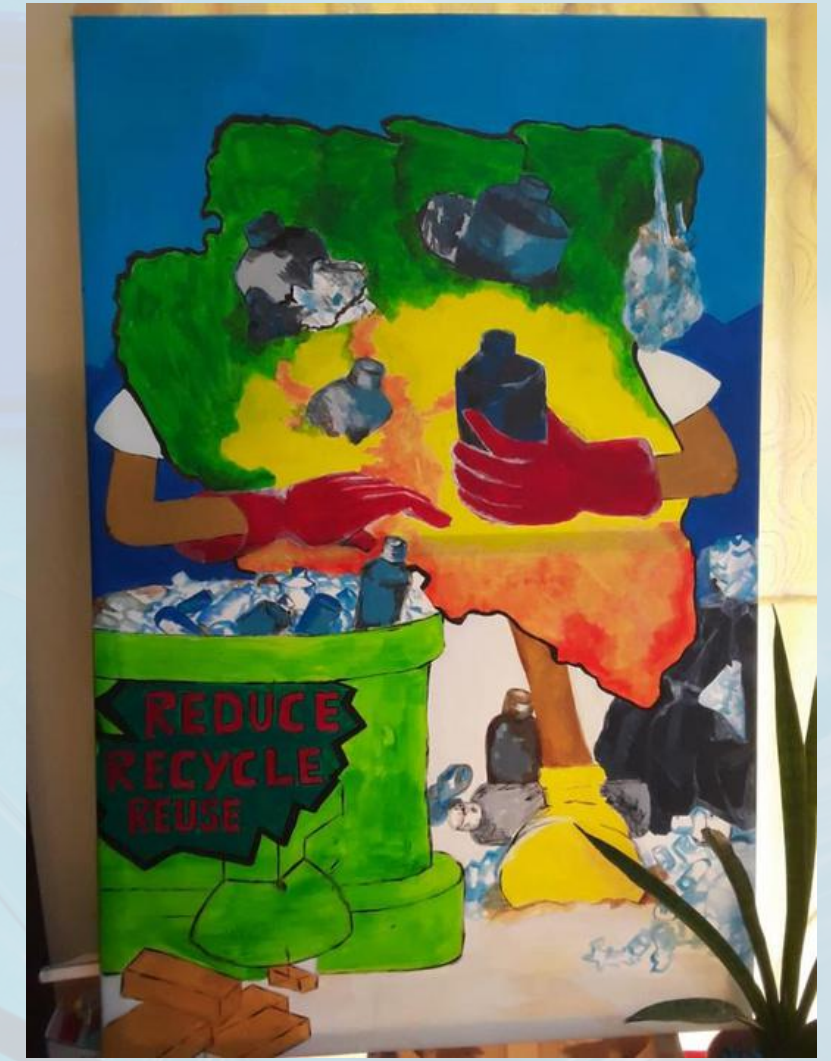


Promotional Video created by Srapu Studio (part of BOSROKO Group)

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

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

By July 2022, the interactive awareness programme, a measure from the zero-plastic plans, was completed at the three (3) high schools. The programme involved teachers using awareness raising materials to teach the students about SUPs as well as a competition for the students to create videos, artwork and songs about SUPs and their impacts. The competition winners were awarded their prizes in August 2022.



Artwork created by students at the 3 high schools

Activity 4 was completed by the effectiveness of the developed zero-plastic plans being evaluated through a second waste audit and questionnaire. SUWAMA found that two (2) of the schools met the activity target to produce 50% less SUP waste, however, it was noted this result may have been because there were less students present at the schools when the waste audits were done. The third school was found to have an increase in the segregation of SUP waste for recycling, which indicated the students had become more aware of why SUPs should be separated from other waste. Overall, positive changes in the behaviour and awareness level of students regarding SUPs prevention and recycling were observed, indicating the success of this activity!

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

## Activity 5 – Prepare recommendations report and implementation plan

In July 2022, SUWAMA began to prepare the recommendations report and implementation plan to assist decision makers in Suriname with the phasing out of SUPs. SUWAMA used the findings and results of Activities 1-4 to develop recommendations as to how SUPs can be phased out in the short and long term, which included improving policy and legislation regarding SUPs, education and awareness and improving data collection. SUWAMA also developed an implementation plan as to how the proposed recommendations could be put in place over a five (5) year period. Feedback gathered from stakeholders was used to update and improve the recommendations and implementation plan.

## Activity 6 – Present proposed recommendations and implementation plan to decision makers

In late October 2022, SUWAMA presented the recommendations report and implementation plan to decision makers and other project stakeholders. A total of 14 participants from ten (10) different organisations attended the event and provided SUWAMA with feedback that was used during the finalisation of the recommendations report and implementation plan.



SUWAMA and Presentation Participants

# BCRC-CARIBBEAN AND SUWAMA MEET

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In October 2022, the BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA teams met in Paramaribo, Suriname. This marked the first in-person meeting of the teams after working together virtually since 2020. Topics discussed at the meeting included progress made and lessons learnt.



SUWAMA and the BCRC-Caribbean teams

## NEXT STEPS

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### Lessons Learnt Webinar

In early 2023, the BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA will be hosting a lessons learnt webinar to share insights from the project. Further details will be shared soon.

# THANK YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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The BCRC-Caribbean and SUWAMA extend our deepest appreciation for your support to the project. Your participation and input were invaluable and helped ensure the project's completion and success.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy new year! May your 2023 be bright and filled with less SUPs!

The last four (4) newsletters can be viewed here: [Project Newsletters](#)

De BCRC-Caribbean en SUWAMA spreken onze diepste waardering uit voor uw steun aan het project. Uw deelname en inbreng waren van onschatbare waarde en hebben bijgedragen aan de voltooiing en het succes van het project.

We willen ook van de gelegenheid gebruik maken om u en de uwen een gelukkig nieuwjaar te wensen! Moge uw 2023 helder en gevuld zijn met minder SUP's!

De laatste vier (4) nieuwsbrieven zijn hier te bekijken: [Project Newsletters](#)

