

Period	01.2021–06.2022
Countries	Tanzania
Project partners	World Resources Forum, Vice President Office Tanzania, Tanzania National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), East African Communications Organisation (EACO)

Control mechanisms for UEEE imports into Tanzania

One challenge for the Tanzanian government is that imports of Used Electronic and Electrical Equipment (UEEE) are often mixed with e-waste and inspectors cannot distinguish them at the point of entry. Even when they are identified, it is not clear in many low- and middle-income countries what to do with e-waste. Improved data on and control related to imports of used and waste electronics can help to address illegal imports of e-waste. Further actions required are local implementation and harmonisation of transboundary waste shipments throughout the East Africa region.

The project

The project “ReduCE-Waste – Controlling E-Waste Imports in Tanzania” supported the Tanzanian government in setting up mechanisms to reduce and control the import of e-waste. It promoted capacity development to reduce and control illegal imports of e-waste by implementing the Basel Convention.

The project analysed transboundary e-waste and UEEE flows and contributed to the development and piloting of a national strategy to operationalize the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines in Tanzania. It also helped to strengthen local capacities for import

control. The project can be scaled to other East African countries.

Activities of the project included:

- Analysis of imports
- Drafting of a national implementation plan of the Basel Convention Guidelines (for Tanzania), including a checklist for inspectors providing clear guidelines and instructions for the control, classification and recording of imports
- Workshops with authorities to clarify roles and responsibilities in import control
- Enforcement training on inspection, detection, enforcement, management and control of UEEE (Used Electronic and Electrical Equipment) and WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment). The training comprised practical examples on how to distinguish between WEEE and UEEE and how to perform functionality tests.



Achievements

1. Draft of a national implementation plan of the Basel Convention Guidelines (for Tanzania).
2. 60 inspectors from port authorities received enforcement training on inspection, detection, enforcement, management and control of UEEE and WEEE. Thus, it is expected that the inspection routines introduced in this pilot project will become part of the usual inspection routines in Tanzania. This will produce relevant data that can be used by authorities in Tanzania in decision making processes for the implementation of the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines.
3. Provided Tanzania with tools to fulfill its mandates with regards to the implementation of the Basel Convention in the control of transboundary movements of waste. This will reduce the imports of e-waste into Tanzania and consequently help in mitigating the adverse impacts of unsound e-waste management in Tanzania.
4. Replicating the approach in the East African region is made possible: the approach can be easily replicated, and the checklist developed can also be used by other authorities in the region to detect illegal imports of e-waste in the countries.

PREVENT Waste Alliance

The PREVENT Waste Alliance serves as an international ‘think and do tank’ for circular economy practitioners. As a platform for knowledge exchange and international cooperation, it brings together organisations from the private sector, academia, civil society and public institutions. PREVENT’s mission is to advance the circular economy in low- and middle-income countries by minimising waste, eliminating pollutants, and maximising the reuse of resources in the economy worldwide.

This project was selected in a call for innovative and scalable solutions to build a circular economy.

The PREVENT Waste Alliance was launched in 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
PREVENT Waste Alliance
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn
Germany

T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
contact@prevent-waste.net | www.giz.de

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More information: www.prevent-waste.net/en/