E-Waste Management in Developing Countries – with a focus on Africa

Dr. Mathias Schluep (Empa)
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e-Waste as an issue in developing countries

Fast growing consumption of e-products (~1 billion mobile phones, ~1/4 billion note books 2008)

Fastest growing household waste in EU = e-waste
Important % of scarce metals ends in e-waste

Developing and emerging countries are seriously affected since …
- ... they produce a growing amount of e-waste by themselves
- ... some of them receive e-waste from industrialised countries
- ... they have many cheap and unskilled workers
- ... they face a lack in suitable laws and their enforcement
Since 20 years Empa assists e-waste management systems in Switzerland and abroad (e-Waste Team 8 / 800):

- Audits and R&D for Swiss system operators SENS, SWICO, (SLRS & INOBAT)
- represents Switzerland in the European WEEE Forum
- founding member StEP-Initiative
- Managing e-waste projects in e.g. China, India, South Africa, Peru, Colombia, Morocco, West- East Africa etc.
- Current e-waste research topics
  - flame retardants in plastics
  - no-emission recycling for LCD-displays
  - modelling of long term stocks and flows (crt-glass etc.)
  - recycling business models for informal sector
  - compare eco efficiency in recycling strategies
  - ...
A global programme resting on 2 pillars

**Capacity Building:**
cooperate with five countries: China, India, South Africa, Colombia and Peru to facilitate the development of sustainable e-waste management systems

**Knowledge Management:**
connect national stakeholders internationally to stimulate knowledge and knowhow exchange on e-waste management (e.g. StEP Initiative)
Empa’s recent and current activities in Africa

Morocco:
- e-Waste Management in Africa
  - Assessment Study
  - Feasibility Study
- Funding Agency: HP, GTZ
- Project Partner: DSF, CMPP
- Time Frame: 2007 - 2008

Uganda & Tanzania:
- Refurbishment Centre Initiative
  - Assessment Study
- Funding Agency: UNIDO, Microsoft
- Project Partner: UCPC, CPCT
- Time Frame: 2007 - 2010

Senegal:
- e-Waste Management in Africa
  - Assessment Study
- Funding Agency: DSF
- Project Partner: SENECLIC
- Time Frame: 2007 - 2008

Kenya:
- e-Waste Management in Africa
  - Assessment Study
- Funding Agency: HP
- Project Partner: DSF, KICTANeT
- Time Frame: 2007 - 2008

South Africa:
- Swiss e-Waste Programme
  - Facilitating the development of a national e-waste management strategy
- Funding Agency: SECO
- Project Partner: ITA, EWASA

Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria:
- The Basel Convention e-Waste Africa Project
  - Assessment Study
  - Training Pilot
- Funding Agency: SBC, EU
- Project Partner: African BCRCs, IMPEL, Öko-Institut
- Time Frame: 2009-2011

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Estimated based on ITU data and GDP/PPP correlations
PC penetration in Africa compared to the world

In 2005 Africa generated approx. 2% of the world’s PC waste.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Mio Pieces</th>
<th>kTonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>36,7</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>5,9</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>24,8</td>
<td>549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>2,0</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1,6</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>0,9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>25,7</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>97,7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2194</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Correlation GDP / PPP with e-waste generation

- Switzerland
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Morocco
- South Africa
- Ghana

GDP per capita, PPP (current international $)

e-Waste generation per capita (in kg)
(data based on country assessments)
New imports (64'000 tons)

Second hand imports (149'000 tons)
- Formal business importers
- Small scale / informal importers (e.g. by family members/relatives abroad)
- Imports of untested EEE (Grade D)
- It is estimated that around 30% already arrives as unsellable devices / e-waste (44'000 tons)

Private imports of new/second hand EEE (1'300 tons)
- Laptops, Cameras, DVD Players, Game Consoles, Mobile Phones and MP3 Players are privately imported (past customs) by people arriving at the airport
List of supplying markets for a product imported by Ghana
Product: 8471 Automatic data processing machines; optical reader, etc

comtrade.un.org
Simplified massbalance Ghana all of (W)EEE (cat. 1-4)
Estimation of dioxin emissions from cable burning in the greater Accra region

~1000 tonnes / year burnt cables in Greater Accra Region

- Thereof is ~38% plastic = 400 tonnes / year
- Thereof is ~62% copper = 600 tonnes / year

Preliminary estimation of total dioxin (PCDD/F) emissions to air from open cable burning in the Greater Accra Region:

- Source Strength = ~5 g / year

Compared with the European dioxin air emission inventory for 2005 (EU15 + Norway + Switzerland, Quass et al. 2004) this equals to:

- 0.25 – 0.5 % of total dioxin emissions
- 2.5 – 5 % of dioxin emissions from municipal waste incineration
- 15 – 25 % of dioxin emissions from industrial waste incineration

e-Waste recycling technologies for developing countries

- Analysis of the market potential of innovative technologies for the e-waste recycling sector in selected developing countries.

- Classification of countries according to their current market situations and framework conditions.

- Application of the UNEP Framework Technology Transfer Activities in Support of Global Climate Change Objectives

- Identification of innovation hubs

Classification of countries by ‘informality’

Without proper measures in African countries it is likely that informal activities will increase.
Appropriate knowledge and technology transfer

Group A (e.g. Benin, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal; Tanzania, Uganda) -> mainly “small” African country

- classified as promising for the introduction of pre-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building.

Group B (India, China) -> no African country

- classified as having a significant potential for the introduction of pre- and end-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building in the informal sector.
Appropriate knowledge and technology transfer

Group C (e.g. South Africa, Morocco) -> mainly African country with “stronger” economies

- classified as having a significant potential to adapt pre- and to some extent end-processing technologies to their own needs, following a technology and knowledge exchange.

Group D (e.g. Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria) -> mainly larger countries in West Africa

- classified as promising for the introduction of pre-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building in the informal sector, following a technology and knowledge exchange.
Informal collection and manual dismantling activities can be included in a formalized e-waste management framework

- Formalizing informal sectors is often not realistic, but connecting it to a formal system can be the first step
- The informal collection system is efficient in countries like India and China
- Deep-level manual dismantling in formal or informal environments is preferred over semi-automatic processes due to the abundant workforce and low labour costs
- All other informal activities such as wet-chemical leaching bear great adverse environmental and social impacts and are also often less attractive from an economical point of view than innovative technologies as identified above.

India: Efficiency and sustainability of gold recovery

Informal sector Bangalore

- only ≈ 20% gets recovered
- > 60% loss due to the manual dismantling process
- > 50 % loss due to the wet-chemical leaching process
- Emissions are dramatic: up to 400x European thresholds

State of the art smelter

- Recovery rate of up to 95%
- Plus other metal, e.g. palladium, silver, copper etc,
- High – tech off-gas control and treatment system
Having a market potential for e-waste recycling technologies doesn’t necessarily mean that an operation can be run in a self-sufficient way (paid by the sales of recycling output fractions or materials).

Sustainable recycling of e-waste will always demand for a proper managed framework and a financing scheme.

Support in e-waste management in Africa has to follow a holistic approach (e.g. Durban Declaration)
The Durban Declaration on e-Waste Management in Africa

The main issues related to an improvement of the current e-waste management practices encountered on the African continent and elsewhere were synthesized in the "Durban Declaration on e-Waste Management in Africa" during the WasteCon2008 in Durban, South Africa. It was agreed that every country requires its own process to define its specific roadmap, however, general recommendations were suggested:

1. Improve cooperation among stakeholders (3 recom.)
2. Establish an institutional framework (2 recom.)
3. Create awareness at all levels of governance & the general public (2 recom.)
4. Support markets (3 recom.)
5. Collect and manage data (3 recom.)
6. Develop a legal framework (5 recom.)
7. Develop a qualified and efficient e-waste recycling sector (5 recom.)
How to implement a holistic approach

Intervention Mechanisms:

**Policy & Legislation**
- Licensing
- Legislation

**Business & Finance**
- Take back scheme
- Technical control and fixed contracts
- New business models

**Technology & Skills**
- Knowledge and technology transfer
- Formalizing the informal sector
- Trainings

**Monitoring and Control**
- Standards
- Audits
- Monitoring Massflows

**Marketing & Awareness**
- Information Campaigns on all levels
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Assessment</th>
<th>South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, (Liberia), Senegal, Morocco, (Tunisia, Egypt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Strategy</td>
<td>South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot</td>
<td>South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, (Tunisia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>South Africa, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, (Tunisia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solutions shaping</td>
<td>South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, (Tunisia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solutions established</td>
<td>South Africa (certain)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

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www.empa.ch/tsl

Swiss e-Wast Programme:
www.ewasteguide.info

Swiss e-Waste Competence
www.e-waste.ch
Normally, a sustainable recycling system should grow towards the upper right corner of the graph.

**Small scale**
- (individual informal collectors and dismantlers)

**Established**
- (organized informal sector doing collection, pre-processing and refining)

**Informal sector is decreasing**

- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Senegal
- Benin

- Côte d’Ivoire
- Ghana
- Nigeria

- Colombia
- Peru
- South Africa

- Morocco

- India
- China

- (Mexico) (Brazil)

**Formal sector is increasing**

- Small scale
- (a few individuals or small companies doing mainly manual dismantling)

- Established
- (collection partly organized, operations of at least a few specialized SMEs doing also mechanical pre-processing)
Group A (e.g. Benin, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal; Tanzania, Uganda) -> mainly “small” African country

- includes countries featuring the formal and informal sector on a small scale, if existent at all
- e-waste volumes were too small for the formation of informal or formal recycling activities
- as e-waste volumes also increase over time, those countries typically could move towards more informal activities if appropriate measures are not taken
- classified as promising for the introduction of pre-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building.

Pre-processing technologies include:
- Manual dismantling/sorting of fractions
- De-gassing CFC, HCFC
- Semi-automatic CRT cut and cleaning
Tentative classification of countries – the way forward

Group B (India, China) -> no African country

- includes countries featuring an established informal and formal sector.
- e-waste volumes are large and in turn a well-organized informal sector was formed. The formal sector operates as a downstream partner and was not able to establish itself as a competitor for activities typically performed by the informal sector.
- provided a better control of the informal sector, these countries would have the technological and economical capacity to adapt sustainable recycling technologies.
- classified as having a significant potential for the introduction of pre- and end-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building in the informal sector.
Tentative classification of countries – the way forward

Group C (e.g. South Africa, Morocco) -> mainly African country with “stronger” economies

- Includes countries featuring a currently developing or already established formal recycling sector, while informal activities remain on a small or medium scale
- Typically include politically “stable” emerging economies
- (Domestic) e-waste volumes were large enough to support pioneering entrepreneurs
- Group C is classified as having a significant potential to adapt pre- and to some extent end-processing technologies to their own needs, following a technology and knowledge exchange.

Pre-processing technologies include:
- Manual dismantling/ sorting of fractions
- De-gassing CFC, HCFC
- Semi-automatic CRT cut and cleaning
- At a limited scale full-automated technologies (mid to long term)
Tentative classification of countries – the way forward

Group D (e.g. Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria) -> mainly larger countries in West Africa

- includes countries featuring a currently established informal recycling sector, while formal activities remain on a small scale
- Informal activities seem to be triggered by waste and second-hand imports, while domestic e-waste volumes play increasingly an important role
- Group D is classified as promising for the introduction of pre-processing technologies with a strong support in capacity building in the informal sector, following a technology and knowledge exchange.

Pre-processing technologies include:
  - Manual dismantling/ sorting of fractions
  - De-gassing CFC, HCFC
  - Semi-automatic CRT cut and cleaning
  - At a limited scale full-automated technologies (mid to long term)