

Session #2	Sustainable Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Title of presentation	Sustainable Management of E-Wastes from the ICT Sector in the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean - A Regional Approach to Reducing Impacts.
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Abstract

The vulnerability of the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean to the environmental and human health hazards associated with used and end-of-life electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) is high owing to the unavailability of environmentally sound management (ESM) alternatives to landfilling and burning. Challenges to and opportunities for the ESM of WEEE in the region need to be identified and for this to occur, data and information on the current status of WEEE and its management are required. To gather such data on a regional basis, country data has to be collected, analysed and interpreted. The studies conducted by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) aimed at quantifying the regional WEEE generation volumes and to map the current regional WEEE management system, including identifying all key actors involved in generation and management, are discussed in this paper on the basis of work completed in the pilot countries of Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. The methodology employed included stakeholder interviews, the collation and analysis of trade and recycling data, and the performance of a mass flow assessment. Identified obstacles to the ESM of WEEE in each country included (a) inadequate WEEE-related data and information to inform proper management decisions, (b) lack of appropriate legislation to monitor and control the ESM of WEEE and (c) a largely informal structure for the treatment of WEEE. Opportunities however included (i) the possibility of establishment of WEEE treatment facilities at a regional cluster level given expected volumes of WEEE generation, (ii) the opportunity to train customs officials and other stakeholders in WEEE data management against the background of data gaps and inadequacies, (iii) the confirmed viability of establishing a WEEE recovery, dismantling, resource recovery and recycling system at a regional level and (iv) the viability of public sector and civil society groups partnerships with key stakeholders in the ICT sector in used and end-of-life equipment take-back and recycling systems. Finally, it was determined that the results of the assessments conducted in the pilot countries can act as a guide for other small island developing states (SIDS) in assessing their situations with respect to WEEE management in developing a regional approach to the ESM of the waste stream.

KEY WORDS

Waste electronic and electrical equipment, e-waste, waste management, assessment, SIDS, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname.