
Concept for a follow-up partnership to the PACE



Follow-up Partnership to PACE

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I. Introduction

1. A creative and innovative partnership, the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) has successfully advanced in laying the ground for significant steps towards achieving the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used and waste computing equipment which is one of the largest growing waste streams in the world today.
2. The PACE, launched in 2008 by decision IX/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP) as a follow-up of the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste from COP8, was developed as a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership. It was based on the positive experience of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) which developed guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones. Membership of the PACE working group and participation as invited experts was open to Parties and signatories to the Basel Convention, intergovernmental organizations and all other stakeholders, including manufacturers, recyclers, refurbishers, academia, public interest non-governmental organizations and Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs/BCCCs) which had specific expertise and experience required for the activities of this group to tackle environmentally sound refurbishment, repair, material recovery, recycling and disposal of used and waste computing equipment. PACE delivered high value products, such as guidance documents, pilot projects, regional awareness raising and training workshops and a productive platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue. According to decision BC-12/12, the PACE working group has been requested to complete some outstanding tasks from the 2014-2015 work programme up to 2017.
3. Although PACE has contributed substantially to finding solutions, the challenges of achieving ESM of used and waste computing equipment are neither solved nor diminishing; on the contrary, they continue to grow. There are also up-stream challenges, taking into consideration a life cycle approach. These challenges have similarities with wider waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE or e-waste) issues which are also on the rise.
4. There is an urgent need to bring action on the ground and to involve more industries, donors and other stakeholders into the implementation of concrete activities at regional and local level. It is suggested to establish a follow-up partnership to PACE with the aim to coordinate and strengthen the implementation of ESM for waste computing equipment as well as waste mobile phones and other e-waste, at the national and regional levels in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into consideration a life cycle approach. The follow-up partnership could be supported by a working structure, similar to the one used by PACE and where necessary adapted to regional or local structures, but with a strong leadership involvement by the BCRCs and BCCCs and tapping into the capacities and experience of the centres and the already built PACE network.
5. As first step, it is proposed that a group of Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres¹ with support from interested stakeholders will take the lead and coordinate, subject to the availability of funding, the implementation of activities listed in the work programme contained in the appendix I below. Based on the work undertaken and as need is defined more specifically on national and regional level, the group will propose to further develop the concept for a follow-up partnership to PACE on regional and/or international level.

II. Partnership approach

A. Scope

6. The follow-up partnership should cover strengthening the ESM of used and waste electrical and electronic equipment, at regional and national levels. In addition, a life cycle approach should be taken into consideration, including issues related to used electrical and electronic equipment; in this respect, duplication of work under SAICM in relation to the emerging issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products² should be avoided.
7. The current momentum of ESM advances, e.g. within the Expert Working Group on ESM of the Basel Convention, calls for initiatives that are oriented towards action and provide practical solutions. The enforcement coordination initiatives to prevent illegal traffic, e.g. the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE), also opens the opportunity to redirect informal sector activities related to e-waste, while simultaneously advancing towards integrating informal operations and combating illegal transboundary movement of e-waste.

¹ Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in Argentina, China, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Slovakia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago

² See http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=708

8. PACE experience in promoting ESM of used and waste computing equipment and its multi-stakeholder platform will be tapped for advancing ESM on used and waste electrical and electronic equipment which is of relevance to the Basel Convention and to other conventions when looked at with a synergistic lens (e.g. Stockholm Convention in the case of brominated flame retardants, Montreal Protocol in the case of ozone depleting substances found in refrigerators, Minamata Convention in the case of mercury used in backlighting of screens). Moreover, in the case of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, considering economies of scale and the real risk of rapid expansion of crude material recovery practices, it could make sense to set up one e-waste ESM program which gradually grows on its coverage of post consumption items.

B. Objective

9. To strengthen the ESM of used and waste electrical and electronic equipment, at regional, national and local levels, taking into consideration a life cycle approach.

C. Target groups

10. The follow-up partnership will capitalize the opportunity for expanding the reach of the work developed under PACE while at the same time be able to capture topics that are highly relevant to Parties of the Basel Convention and of other related chemicals and waste conventions, as well as to national, central and local governments, and other related stakeholders like original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), international organizations, associations and chambers, recoverers, recyclers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and academia where the value added of PACE can be tapped to support implementation, knowledge and information sharing and experience exchanges.

D. Stakeholders

11. The follow-up partnership focuses on developing a multi-stakeholder partnership, including OEMs, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its counterparts at the regional and national levels, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, academia and NGOs, led by the BCRCs and BCCCs (see Appendix II below).

E. Working principles and structure

12. The follow-up partnership will focus on activities at the national and regional levels, which cannot be carried out alone by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC). Nonetheless, it is also clear that the partnership will continue to require an important global coordination role towards facilitating the strengthening of information and experience sharing and discussion on emerging issues within the wider e-waste agenda.

13. The follow-up partnership will make the best possible use of the ESM guidelines developed within the framework of the Basel Convention, in particular those developed by MPPI and PACE and the ESM Expert Working Group.

14. As first step to define more specifically activities of the follow-up partnership on national and regional level, a group of Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres³ with support from interested stakeholders will take the lead and coordinate, subject to the availability of funding, the implementation of activities listed in the work programme contained in the appendix I below. A two-tier approach for the organizational structure is proposed:

(a) A global coordination group to facilitate information and experience exchange and discussion on emerging issues, led by the group of BCRCs/BCCCs and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions..;

(b) Regional coordination groups to facilitate the implementation at the regional, sub-regional or national level, under the responsibility of BCRCs/BCCCs.

15. The group of BCRCs/BCCCs will report to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the activities and will propose to further develop the concept for the follow-up partnership on regional and/or international level, as need arises.

III. Work programme for 2018-2019

16. A detailed work programme for 2018-2019 is included in Appendix I below. The work programme includes activities on information exchange, training, stakeholder dialogues, support of national activities, life-cycle approach and awards.

³ Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in Argentina, China, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Slovakia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago

Appendix I: Work programme for 2018–2019

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Priority (to be set at regional and/or national level)</i>
Information exchange				
a) Distribute the MPPI and PACE guidelines, as toolkit, at the regional and national levels, including their translation to national languages	1st quarter 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MPPI and PACE guidelines are translated into national languages 2. MPPI and PACE guidelines are distributed in all countries in the Asia/Pacific, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regions 	All BCRCs/BCCCs	
b) Disseminate the document “Manual of steps to establish and implement ESM of used and waste computing equipment” and the report on “Strategies, actions and incentives to promote ESM of used and waste computing equipment” as supporting documents for projects at regional and national levels	1st quarter 2018	Documents and reports are distributed to relevant partners as supporting documents for regional and national projects at regional and national levels in the Asia/Pacific, Africa, CEE, LAC regions	All BCRCs/BCCCs	
c) Set up an information sharing web portal which provides and disseminates up to date information on expertise and knowledge available and ongoing activities, business models and producer responsibilities systems to the ESM of waste mobile phones and computing equipment and other e-waste in different regions of the world, taking into account other relevant work on ESM, e.g. work carried out under the ESM expert group under the Basel convention and supplementing existing information systems of the Regional Centres, ENFORCE, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other related networks	1st -2nd quarter 2018	Information sharing web portal is set up	BRS Secretariat	

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Priority (to be set at regional and/or national level)</i>
d) Disseminate information on the establishment of national registers of obliged persons which is the basis for extended producer responsibility (EPR) applied to e-waste	1st – 4th quarter 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on establishment of national registers of obliged persons is collected and summarized; 2. Information on the establishment of national registers of obliged persons is disseminated 	<p>Coordinating group of BCRC/BCCC</p> <p>All BCRCs/BCCCs</p>	
e)-Disseminate information on registered e-waste certification bodies in the different regions	3rd quarter 2018 – 4th quarter 2019	A system to disseminate information on registered e-waste certification bodies in the different regions is set up	<p>1 BCRC in Asia/Pacific,</p> <p>1 BCRC in CEIT,</p> <p>1 BCRC/BCCC in Africa,</p> <p>1 BCRC/BCCC in LAC</p>	
Training				
f) Develop a tool kit, a workshop and training programme based on the MPPI and PACE guidelines and experience from MPPI and PACE, and other e-waste relevant materials, including a possible e-learning course, webinars in coordination with related e-waste regional and national projects	1st – 3rd quarter 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 toolkit per region is developed 2. 1 training programme and other e-waste relevant materials, including a possible e-learning course, webinars are organized per region 3. 1 workshop per region is organized 	<p>1 BCRC in Asia/Pacific,</p> <p>1 BCRC in CEIT,</p> <p>1 BCRC/BCCC in Africa,</p> <p>1 BCRC/BCCC in LAC</p>	
g) Organize national workshops or trainings in national language(s) as appropriate with participation of national stakeholders from governments, public or private sectors, NGOs and other national and international organizations, associations and chambers	4 th quarter 2018 – 4 th quarter 2019	Up to 4 national workshops or trainings per region are organized	All BCRCs/BCCCs	

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Priority (to be set at regional and/or national level)</i>
Stakeholder dialogues				
h) Organize regional and national dialogues on ESM of e-waste, bringing together among others government representatives of environment, customs, health, labor, telecommunication, transport, economics and trade ministries, departments and agencies ; as well as related stakeholders from the private sector, academia and NGOs and other national and international organizations, associations and chambers	1 st quarter 2019 – 4 th quarter 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each BCRC/BCCC has organized 1 regional dialogues on ESM of e-waste Each BCRC/BCCC facilitates the organization of up to 4 national dialogues on ESM of e-waste 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All BCRCs/BCCCs All BCRCs/BCCCs in cooperation with national authorities 	
i) Facilitate donor round tables and contacts with funding institutions, foundations and investment partners in support of programmes, projects and initiatives on ESM of e-waste at regional and national levels	1st – 2nd quarter 2018; 1st – 2nd quarter 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each BCRC/BCCC has organized 1 donor round table at regional level Each BCRC/BCCC has facilitated the organization of up to 4 national round tables 	All BCRCs/BCCCs in cooperation with national authorities and donors	
Support of national activities				
j) Assist initiatives on the inclusion of ESM of e-waste as part of the national development plans (mainstreaming) and strategies, e.g. on the development of legal and enforcement systems for ESM of e-waste, the implementation of the electronic notification for the Prior Inform Consent (PIC) procedure, public procurement, building of systems of registered e-waste certification bodies, the infrastructure for collection systems, dismantling and refurbishment facilities and EPR schemes, development of partnerships of stakeholders based on the PACE model, promotion of public awareness programmes, activities and events.	4th quarter 2018 – 4th quarter 2019	Each BCRC/BCCC has established cooperation with up to 4 national projects and supported the inclusion of ESM of e-waste into the national development plans and strategies	All BCRCs/BCCCs in cooperation with national project partners	

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Priority (to be set at regional and/or national level)</i>
Life-cycle approach				
k) Organize international, regional and/or national stakeholder workshops on the life cycle of EEE (while seeking synergies with the work under SAICM), bringing together concerned stakeholders from the private sector, such as designing, producing and recycling industries, consumer organizations, academia and NGOs and other national and international organizations, associations and chambers, as well as among others government representatives of environment, but also energy, health, labor, telecommunication, transport, economics and trade ministries, departments and agencies;	1st quarter 2019	1 international workshop + 1 follow-up workshop are organized	Specific project group of the partnership	
Awards				
l) -Establish an international, a regional and/or national award on ESM of used and waste EEE, taking into consideration a life cycle approach, including material extraction, design, production, use, reuse, refurbishment, repair, recycling, material recovery	1st quarter 2019	1 international, 1 regional and/or 1 national award is/are established.	Coordinating group of BCRC/BCCC	

Appendix II: Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs/BCCCs)

1. The Basel Convention benefits from a network of fourteen Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer (BCRCs/BCCCs). The Basel Convention has set up a regional network of autonomous institutions which operates under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, the decision-making organ of the Convention, composed of all the countries party to the Convention.

2. The BCRCs/BCCCs are established under two types of agreement: by being hosted in an inter-governmental institution or by vesting a national institution with a regional role to support countries within a region in their implementation of the Convention.

3. The BCRCs/BCCCs deliver training, dissemination of information, consulting, awareness raising activities and technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and to the ESM of hazardous and other wastes in the countries they serve. The specific activities are training workshops, seminars, pilot projects on the management of priority waste streams, the production of information material and guidelines.

4. The Centres are located in the following regions:

Africa and West Asia:	Egypt Nigeria Senegal South Africa
Asia and Pacific:	China Indonesia Islamic Republic of Iran South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (Samoa)
Central and Eastern Europe:	Russian Federation Slovak Republic
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Argentina El Salvador Trinidad and Tobago Uruguay

5. Each Centre services several countries in its respective region and has a Steering Committee which is composed of members of the Centre's host country and of the countries served by the Centre.

6. BCRCs/BCCCs website: <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/2334/Default.aspx>