**Projects and activities implemented by the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres and Stockholm Convention Regional and Subregional Centres**

**A. Africa**

1. **The Basel Convention regional centre for French-speaking African countries located in Senegal (BCRC Senegal)** implemented a project in 2019 entitled “Dissemination and adaptation of the guidelines for the methodology of inventories, recycling, reuse, refurbishment and environmentally sound disposal of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)”. The major outputs of the projects included, adaptation and translation of WEEE toolkit followed by a training of network administrators of the following countries: Cote d’Ivoire, Morocco, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Togo. This project also included the development of online training modules on e-waste; online training on WEEE of focal points of Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Togo was held. Also under this project an online platform on e-waste was created and shared, promoting action networks. More information including on the training modules on WEEE are available online at: [www.formation.crcbsaf.org](http://www.formation.crcbsaf.org).
2. BCRC Senegal also participated in the E-waste World Conference and Expo held in Frankfurt, Germany from 14-15 November 2019. This exposure supported the implementation of the programme of work of the follow-up partnership to PACE. The two-day conference and exhibition aimed at discussing the latest recycling technology, materials recovery solutions, green electronics, sustainable materials, non-toxic substitutes, and end of life strategies, as well as, regulatory and business models to help reduce the environment impact of all consumer and industrial E-waste.

**B. Asia**

1. **The Stockholm Convention regional centre in India (SCRC India**) organized a Brainstorming Workshop on E-waste Management in India on 6th March 2020 at CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur, India. It was organized in the context of an existing scenario of e-waste management in India aiming to provide an outlook in a sustainable and cost-effective method so as to attain a sustainable resilient environment and health and safety. The workshop gathered a wide range of stakeholders and around 150 participants including those from Government, academic institutions, industrial sector and NGOs to address the existing issues with regards to e-waste management. The main objective of the workshop included: addressing the existing e-waste management rules in India; identifying gaps in the implementation of the rules in India; role of extended producer responsibility (EPR); providing methodologies for the urgent need for city specific data on inventory and management of E-waste; formalizing the informal sector; promoting resource recovery and circular resource management.
2. From May to June 2019, the **Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (BCRC China)**, in cooperation with China National Resources Recycling Association (CRRA), undertook research on newly added 9 types of WEEE, including electric water heaters, gas water heaters, printers, copiers, fax machines, monitors, mobile phones, and telephones, including on their dismantling and treatment procedures and with the on-site survey in specific WEEE recycling enterprises in China. This group formulated a dismantling atlas and guidelines. Finally, the draft standard and management guidelines for 9 kinds of WEEE dismantling and treatment has been submitted to the competent authority in charge of WEEE management in China.
3. BCRC China is furthermore implementing a project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE FECO), to compile a book named “Environmentally Sound Management of POPs released throughout the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and associated wastes”. The project aims to improve the awareness of local officials, industrial operators and the public and share the successful experience and outputs under the project “Reduction of POPs and PTS release by environmentally sound management throughout the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and associated wastes in China”. The book mainly contains 5 chapters, including knowledge on POPs and WEEE, regulatory policy, treatment and disposal technology, risk control technology, and the demonstration outcomes.
4. In 2019, BCRC China has conducted a desk investigation of the waste management status, including the movement of materials to be processed for recycling and of the equipment to be repaired, in several countries.

**C. Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

1. **The Basel Convention Regional Centre located in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)** has organised a regional workshop in June 2019 aimed to present PACE and its products. Furthermore, the centre coordinated a project that collected information on the status of legal and institutional arrangements on the extended producer’s responsibility in e-waste sectors in Belarus and Georgia in March 2020. The centre coordinated a regional project in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro aimed at implementation of the EPR on e-waste. Furthermore, the centre has also managed a project to establish and implement EPR for e-waste in Moldova.
2. Due to the lack of resources for the ongoing work of other projects and partnerships under the Basel Convention, the Basel Convention regional centre in Russia (BCRC Russia) focused on dissemination activities and analyses of guidelines for translation if necessary. The Centre is looking forward to collecting information from Parties of the region on relevant pilot project activities.

**D. Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. **The BCRC Argentina** is participating in the implementation of the project titled “Strengthening National Initiatives and Improvement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries” with focus on Argentina (**WEEE Argentina**). More information is available at “<https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/raee-argentina-2/>
2. The project has a duration of five years and its scope is regional. Besides Argentina, also Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica; Ecuador, Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru; Uruguay and Venezuela, participate in the project.
3. The United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) is the Implementing Agency, the Executing Partner of the Project in Argentina being the Basel Regional Center for South America (CRBAS) and the GEF (Global Enviroment Facility) the Financing Entity. It also has co-financing from the National Government, Universities and the Private Sector.
4. The general objective of the project is to achieve the environmentally sound management of WEEE, focusing especially on the management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), by strengthening national initiatives and improving regional cooperation.
5. This project seeks to strengthen public policies in relation to WEEE management, improving and / or expanding the national capacity of the facilities / infrastructure for the dismantling and recycling of electronic waste. Likewise, promoting policies that allow the recycling and use of materials is another of the project's objectives.
6. It also seeks to provide advice to relevant sectors and interested parties, in addition to being able to expand knowledge on the subject and disseminate the results obtained throughout the project through training aimed at officials, the private sector, society in general and the media.
7. At the regional level, the project will work to harmonize key aspects of e-waste policies, strengthening regional cooperation, information exchange systems, and knowledge management.
8. Within the framework of the project, various regulatory proposals were worked on to promote the proper management of this type of waste. Likewise, the analysis of the installed capacity available for the management of WEEE will allow us to know what the current situation is and identify opportunities for improvement.
9. In this way, the project seeks to direct Argentina towards the correct management of WEEE within the framework of the circular economy and with a view to introducing the principle of extended producer responsibility. To this end, promoting the long-term sustainability of business models dedicated to this task constitutes a central link in promoting reuse, recovery and ultimately the final disposal of this type of waste.
10. The BCRC Argentina is also coordinating the implementation of the abovementioned regional project in Ecuador **(WEEE Ecuador)**. More information is available at: <https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/raee-ecuador-2/>
11. The BCRC Argentina is a member of the International e-waste Management Network (IEMN). More information is available at: <https://bcrc-argentina.net.ar/international-e-waste-management-network-iemn/>
12. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the [Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (Taiwan EPA)](https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/collaboration-environmental-protection-administration-taiwan-epat) have collaborated through this [International  Environmental Partnership](http://www.iep-global.org/) since 2011 to build global capacity for the environmentally sound management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). To support this goal, U.S. EPA and Taiwan EPA coordinate the International E-Waste Management Network (IEMN).
13. Participation in IEMN 2019. Taiwan EPA partnered with US EPA to host the 9th Meeting of International E-waste Management Network
14. The 9th annual meeting of the International E-waste Management Network was held in Bangkok, Thailand from December 2-4, 2019. Over 50 experts and scholars from nine countries shared their experiences with building partnerships concerning E-waste management, recycling management systems and innovative technologies, thereby strengthening the sharing of information on international E-waste management.
15. The Taiwan EPA pointed out that Taiwan has helped to establish successful recycling policy models in many countries. This year, the meeting focused on the communication between countries to improve E-waste management systems. Experts from Brazil shared information on their challenges and on the implementation of a new E-waste reverse logistics system plan. This will be an important incentive for partner countries to set up resource recycling systems, and also demonstrates the impact over the years of Taiwan-US cooperation and partner meetings in the field of international e-waste management.
16. **The Stockholm Convention regional centre in Panama** During the meeting, Taiwan shared information on its successful recycling system with the partner countries and presented several new sustainable innovations for recycling, thus promoting Taiwan’s recycling industry to the world.
17. The Stockholm Convention regional centre in Panama, together with the Ministry of Health of Panama, started the implementation of the project entitled “Strengthening of national initiatives and enhancement of regional cooperation for the environmentally sound management of POPs in electronic or electrical equipment (WEEE) waste in Latin-American countries” with the support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)/GEF. The project was launched on October 11, 2019 in Panama. The national project contains two major components: 1) Strengthening of national e-waste management initiatives, and, 2) Strengthening of national capacities on e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities/infrastructure. Under this project the activities thus far implemented are as following:
18. A WEEE intersectoral commission having responsibility to review, evaluate, and make decisions about the project has been created. The commission is represented by the Government Institutions (Ministry of Health, University of Panama, Technology University of Panama, National Customs Authority, Urban and Residential Cleaning Authority, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of Education and National Secretariat of Energy), non-profit organizations (Association of Municipalities of Panama) and private sector (Industrial Syndicate of Panama). Participation according to gender is: 45% of the members are male and 55% are female. The commission has meetings every month and discusses progress of activities of the project;
19. The current legal framework was reviewed and discussed with the members of the WEEE Intersectoral Commission. Similarly, a review of the international legal framework was made, considering the countries of Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Spain. The e-waste policies from Colombia and Costa Rica were characterized as the most completed of the region. The commissioners conclude the importance of including some concepts for a national policy of WEEE management such as: Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP), creative incentives, resource recovery, among others;
20. A review of existing financial mechanisms in other countries is carrying out to design a national sustainable system;
21. As part of component 2 of the project, visits have begun to companies that currently have permit procedures to carry out activities related to WEEE management in Panama;
22. Approaches have been made with the authorities of the universities to identify the universities that have an academic offer of careers related to the subject of WEEE, whether they have experience or show a greater interest in adding WEEE to their educational activities, continuing education and research. The two main state universities in Panama: University of Panama (February 23, 2020) and Technology University of Panama (a meeting will be held after the state of emergency established by COVID-19);
23. The Sub-Commission for Training and University Relations has initially prepared a pilot training plan for eight municipalities in the Republic of Panama, including government agencies, private companies, universities, NGOs, media, members of social organizations, distribution companies, and WEEE managers. The project will establish a “support team” from the result of the participation of the different actors from the public and private sectors, to create trainer of trainer in each sector. Equally, the awareness and dissemination of the project in primary, middle and upper educations will be included.
24. **The Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean region (BCRC Caribbean)** is working to develop a project proposal on the management of e-waste for the Caribbean region for the consideration of GEF. The Centre has also developed some communication materials which are expected to be launched on 5 June 2020 as it relates to POPs contained in e-waste.

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