



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Awareness-raising on e-waste management in Ethiopia

NGO: Pesticide Action Nexus (PAN) Ethiopia

Country: Ethiopia

Date: May 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Activities relating to identification and assessment of where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, participation in the workshop on electronic waste be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention and follow up recommendations and options for the SAICM OEWG and ICCM3 (ICCM2 decision II/4)

Definition of e-waste and near end of life items and the hazardous chemicals contained in them:

Electronic waste, e-waste, e-scrap, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is loosely discarded, surplus, obsolete, or broken electrical or electronic devices. It may also be defined as all secondary computers, entertainment device electronics, mobile phones, and other items such as television sets and refrigerators, whether sold, donated, or discarded by their original owners. Some electronic scrap components, such as CRTs, contain contaminants such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, mercury, and brominated flame retardants.

Description of the situation with regard to e-waste that is generated in the country vs. waste that enters the country:

Even though vastly growing, there is no data on the type and quantity of e-waste either generated in or entering into Ethiopia in general and in particular in the capital city, Addis Ababa. It was even indicated that the National Stakeholders' Workshop organized by PAN-Ethiopia was the first of its kind in the country to raise the issue of e-waste in detail.

Description of the current practices for dealing with e-waste and near end of life electrical equipment:

The current practice of dealing with e-waste is becoming worse because of the fact that there is no legal framework which restricts the importation and distribution of second hand e-items. One can, therefore, see advertisements of low prices of second hand gadgets in big cities of Ethiopia including Addis Ababa. Importing second hand gadgets are also subjected to less tax than that of new ones.

The only good start at this moment is the establishment of a computer refurbishment centre by the Ethiopian Information Communication Technology Development Agency (EICTDA). Even if the centre is restricted only to computers, it has a good start in refurbishing computers and de-manufacturing the unusable ones. Most of the materials (like copper, plastics, metals and the like) are reused or recycled. The computer mother boards and CRTS are, however, collected and there is not any plan yet on what to do with these hazardous items.

Description of any contaminated sites that have resulted from e-waste:

Even if mixed waste is thrown haphazardly in Addis Ababa, the biggest dump site which has been serving the city for over 40 years is the main one which receives mixed waste including e-waste.

E-WASTE CONTAMINATED SITE



Figure 1: Aerial View of Reppi Solid Waste Disposal Site, Addis Ababa- Ethiopia

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted:

1. One month consultation assessment of E-waste situation and the national stand of Ethiopia with regard to e-waste management;
2. One day national stakeholders' workshop conducted on April 30, 2010.
3. Follow-up visit of the computer refurbishment centre on August 13, 2010
4. Developed a two years project proposal on e-waste management in four cities of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Awasa (southern Ethiopia), Bahirdar (northern Ethiopia) and Diredawa (Eastern Ethiopia) and accepted for funding by the Federal EPA.
5. E-waste management project briefing for government officials in Awassa conducted on November 11, 2010
6. The project briefing activity for government officials in the cities of Bahir Dar and Diredawa planned for the near future.

Impact on target groups:

During the one month assessment, relevant stakeholders were consulted and invited for the one day national workshop. The stakeholders also provided us with other contacts including of the refurbishment centre of EICTDA so that we can follow the project up. After the two events, PAN-Ethiopia discussed the follow-up of the e-waste management activities with the EPA. The EPA informed us that they developed a project proposal in 2007, which is planned to be implemented in four cities of Ethiopia. EPA then asked if PAN-Ethiopia could adopt the project proposal and implement it. PAN-Ethiopia agreed and readjusted the proposal, which is planned to be implemented in two years.

Impact on target policies:

On the discussion PAN-Ethiopia had with the Federal EPA, the initiation of the target policy was an important action by PAN-Ethiopia, and it was determined that the actual policy formulation and its follow-up should be conducted by the federal EPA. The federal EPA, therefore, took the lead for the policy formulation and involved PAN-Ethiopia in the process.

Outreach to stakeholders:

The federal EPA is the main stakeholder taking the main initiative to follow this activity not only in Addis Ababa but also in other three cities of Awassa, Bahir Dar and Diredawa.

The Ethiopian Environmental Journalists Association has also been involved in the process and gave a half an hour Amharic (local language) radio coverage of our workshop on FM 102.1 radio program.

EICTDA is willing to bridge the gaps of refurbishment and handling of e-waste and they were incorporated as main stakeholders in the two years project planned in the four cities of Ethiopia.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

1. A one month consultation assessment and workshop proceedings
2. Media coverage of half an hour in local FM 102.1
3. PAN-Ethiopia became a member of a working task force which will be guided and monitored by Federal EPA.
4. PAN-Ethiopia will conduct a two years e-waste management project proposal for four cities of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Awassa, Bahir Dar and Diredawa) and received agreement from the federal EPA for the same. It will begin to be implemented in January 2011.

5. PAN-Ethiopia and the federal EPA did a project briefing for relevant government officials of Southern Regional State in Awassa and got endorsement. This activity was conducted on November 11, 2010.

Communication efforts:

The Ethiopian Environmental Journalists Association was involved in the process from the very inception of the project. The Association, therefore, gave a half an hour coverage describing the workshop and future plan with regard to e-waste management in Ethiopia.

SAICM National Focal Point:

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NGO Recommendations for next steps:

The activities planned to be implemented in the coming two years in the four cities of Ethiopia are:

1. Detailed inventory of four types of e-waste (computer and its accessories, television and other audio gadgets, mobile phone apparatuses and their accessories, and refrigerators) in the four cities of Ethiopia;
2. Awareness-raising about e-waste issues using different communication media;
3. Construction of e-waste sorting and storage sites in the four selected cities;
4. Development of training materials and organization of trainings on how to reuse, recycle, refurbish and handle e-wastes in an environmentally sound manner; and
5. Organization of a national workshop to relevant stakeholders.

PAN-Ethiopia, in collaboration with its local members, will start the implementation of the project and contact IPEN for further assistance especially in relation to technical trainings.

PAN-Ethiopia will also update IPEN on regular progress of the project implementation.