



Basel Convention Regional Center for Central America and Mexico



Policy Update from Central America

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Introduction

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- Speaker's role and responsibilities
- Other agencies, organizations that have responsibility for WEEE management

Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

- ✓ Goals of the Basel Convention:
 - To minimize the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes (both in quantity and hazardouness).
 - To treat and dispose hazardous wastes and other wastes as close as possible from the source of origin in an environmentally sound manner;
 - To reduce to the minimum the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in consistency with ESM;

Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

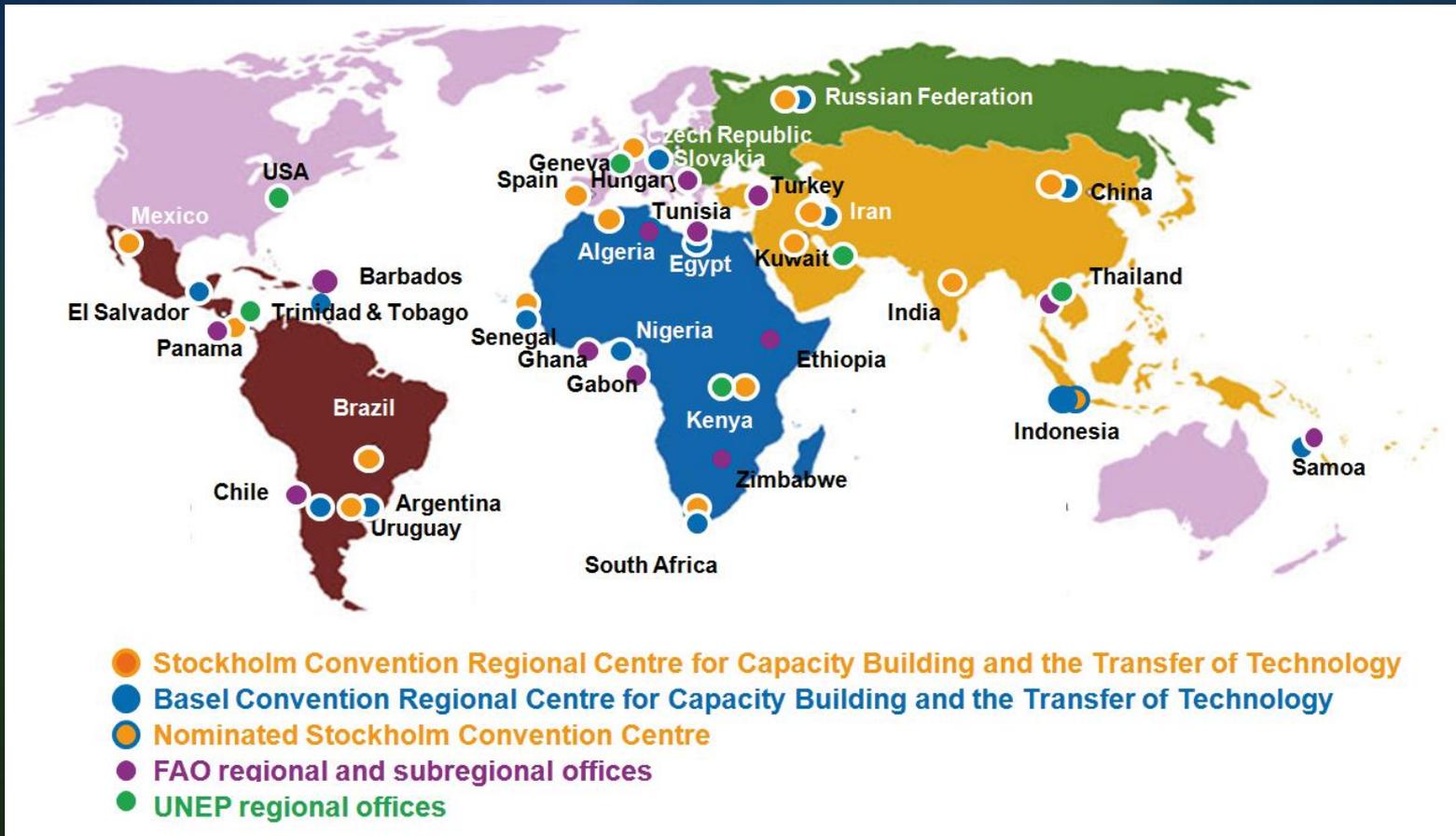
Network of Basel Convention Regional Centers



Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

Network of Basel & Stockholm Conventions Regional Centers and
FAO, UNEP Offices after the creation of the Secretariat of the
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

Location of BCRC-CAM in San Salvador, the “Brussels of Central America”, is strategic:

- ✓ BCRC-CAM operates from the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), to facilitate coordination with initiatives supported by the Council of Ministers of CCAD.
- ✓ At the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the System for the Integration of Central America (SG-SICA), which facilitates coordination with economic, social and cultural initiatives.

Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

✓ Mision:

To support governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, in the environmentally sound management of hazardous materials and other wastes...

through the implementation of the Basel Convention and other related conventions and initiatives...

promoting training, technology transfer and access to information, as well as raising the awareness of the general public to prevent damage to the environment and to the health of the population and to contribute to competitiveness and sustainable development.

Introduction

Introduction of BCRC-CAM

✓ Main areas of work:

- 1.ESM of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- 2.Chemicals Management Program of Excellence
- 3.Pilot project at the Municipal level
- 4.Institutional Strengthening

Introduction

Speaker's role and responsibilities

- ✓ Coordinator of the formulation of the WEEE Strategy for Central America.
- ✓ Co-Founder of the WEEE Central American Task Force (UNEP/ROLAC, UNDP, BCRC-CAM).
- ✓ Co-Chair of PACE Project Group 4.1 on Awareness Raising and Training.
- ✓ Member of StEP
- ✓ Member of GEF Advisory Technical Group on Chemicals and Wastes.
- ✓ Organizer of the ULAB global initiative and President of Green Lead.
- ✓ Member of the Basel Conv. Expert Working Group on the Country Led Initiative.
- ✓ Member of the GEM Network
- ✓ Member of ELAC
- ✓ Member of RELAC

Introduction

Agencies and organizations with WEEE responsibilities within the SICA and Mexico region

- Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (SE-CCAD).
- Belice: Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.
- Costa Rica: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications.
- Dominican Republic: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- El Salvador: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Guatemala: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- Honduras: Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Mexico: Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Nicaragua: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- Panama: Ministry of Health

Overview of E-waste Situation

Costa Rica - WEEE Strategy in implementation and advancing:

- Law of integrated waste management includes extended producer responsibility.
- Bylaw of WEEE which establishes the National System for the integrated management of WEEE and its Executive Committee (CEGIRE):
 - Allows for the establishment of individual or joint compliance units.
 - Currently there are two compliance units: Hewlett Packard and ASEGIRE.
 - There are 11 authorized WEEE managers, which are the only ones that can export WEEE.

Overview of E-waste Situation

Costa Rica - WEEE Strategy in implementation and advancing:

- Only importers registered before the Ministry of Health as part of a compliance unit can introduce imported electronic equipments into the national market and they are subject to a compliance plan, which requires that they facilitate the take back of used electronic equipments.
- If you import electronic equipment for your own use you do not need to be part of a compliance unit, but need to declare the authorized WEEE manager which will take back the electronic equipment once it reaches its end of life.

Overview of E-waste Situation

Costa Rica - WEEE Strategy in implementation and advancing:

- They expect to define early next year the initial recuperation targets.
- There is a proposal of a Bylaw which will propose that ULAB, domestic electronics and refrigerators, and air conditioners, are considered special management wastes, and applies to them extended producer responsibility.
- Ministry of Health has interpreted Basel Convention Art. 4, N. 9 b, allowing the importation of wastes for valorization.

Overview of E-waste Situation

Costa Rica - WEEE Strategy in implementation and advancing:

- New \$15 million Ulab recycling facility, inaugurated last year with Green Slag technology (PB Metals), received last April authorization for importing ULAB for valorization.
- This combined with the existing bilateral agreement with the US, could open the possibility for Costa Rica becoming a sub regional hub.

Turning WEEE into an opportunity



Turning WEEE into an opportunity



**ACUMULADORES IBERIA,
Guatemala**

Turning WEEE into an opportunity



PB METALS, Costa Rica

Turning WEEE into an opportunity



Verde Eco-reciclaje Industrial, Dominican Republic during joint Mission of BCRC-Caribbean and BCRC-CAM Directors

Overview of E-waste Situation

- Basic assessments carried out by ACEPESA in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.
- The Central American WEEE Task Force obtained approval of SAICM of \$250,000 on May 2012, out of a \$650,000 public-private sector project, to develop baselines and to implement pilot activities in Honduras and Nicaragua . This project is expected to start in first half of 2014.

Overview of E-waste Situation

- All of Central America, with exception of Belice and the Dominican Republic, are part of a new WEEE Regional Project for Latin America (13 countries of Central and South America), aimed at supporting policy formulation /implementation. This project will be implemented by UNIDO, financed by the GEF and it has national as well as subregional components (Central American one to be implemented by BCRC-CAM). Project design will start in the first half of 2014 and its implementation by the second half of 2014.
- 1st Latin American WEEE Academy for Managers to be organized by BCRC-CAM and StEP/UNU in San Salvador on March/April 2014.

Overview of E-waste Situation El Salvador

El Salvador:

- Repair and refurbishment Center for used computing equipment in El Salvador in operation since 2009.
- PACE assessment of used and end-of-life computing equipment in El Salvador (2011).
- Strategic framework developed in El Salvador (2012).
- PACE Pilot Project proposal for El Salvador under preparation (2013) .
- 3 WEEE take back campaigns launched in 2013 by private companies.
- 3 disassembly facilities in process of being installed.

Overview of E-waste Situation

Central America WEEE Strategy

- Central American WEEE Strategy, including ULAB, being formulated with financial support from the U.S. State Department through the Organization of American States.
- Its formulation started with the March 2013 PACE/ITU Workshop, which produced a 20 point agenda and brought together authorities of environment, health and telecommunications.

Overview of E-waste Situation

Central America WEEE Strategy

- National workshops being organized until October 2013 (Costa Rica, July 24, El Salvador September 17, Guatemala, August).
- A San Salvador Central American workshop, scheduled for November 2013, will produce a draft WEEE strategy.
- Strategy will be presented to CCAD Council of Ministers for approval next January 2014.

Overview of E-waste Situation Central America WEEE Strategy

- Strategy will incorporate pilot transboundary movements electronically tracked with possible assistance from Taiwan.
- Strategy may benefit from possible Central American project financed by Japan, aimed at supporting a framework for hazardous wastes, and pilot activities supporting ULAB, WEEE and wastes containing mercury.

Lessons Learned and Future Goals

- Priority should be given to:
 - Establishing good baselines
 - Advancing a strategic framework
 - Implementing some pilot activities, including a repair and refurbishment center.
 - Start by launching some frequent take back campaigns, to both gather information and raise awareness.
 - Start preparing an integrated waste management law and a WEEE bylaw.
 - Learn from leading countries (costa Rica, Colombia, Taiwan)

Questions for Discussion

- ✓ CRTs management
- ✓ Managing brominated plastics
- ✓ Public procurement
- ✓ Awareness raising
- ✓ Financing for South-South Study Tours (Colombia, Costa Rica, Taiwan)
- ✓ Breaking the paradigm of “you can’t do it in a developing country”.