

Integrated Plastic Waste Management Project: Project Summary Sheet

Cooperative agreement No. 624-A-00-05-00011 (Enterprise Works)

Start date: 02-14-2005

Finish date: 08-31-2006

Overview:

This pilot project will investigate the consequences of, and develop potential solutions to, the environmental degradation caused by increasing volumes of plastic film waste in Accra, Lome and Niamey.

The project will investigate the problems associated with plastic film waste and the initiatives taken thus far to address them; draw up profiles of the major stakeholders and, following intensive discussions with public and private players, initiate pilot practical activities in some of the worst hit communities to address the problem. Some of the planned activities will include public education campaigns, 'take back' schemes and assistance to selected recycling enterprises.

Goal:

Improve community health, living standards, and environmental conditions threatened by the proliferation of plastic film waste in urban West Africa

Objectives:

1. Raise awareness among key stakeholders of the threat plastic waste poses to community well-being
2. Develop enterprise-based solutions for effective management of plastic waste

Proposed Interventions:

EnterpriseWorks believes that the most promising solution to the plastics waste menace lies in creating a commercial environment where plastic film waste has some monetary value thereby giving profitable private enterprises the incentive required to divert plastic film from the streets and landfill sites back into plastics processing industries. Plastic waste management is a new area and to fully understand its dynamics, it is important to firstly direct some efforts at deepening our understanding of the problem before proceeding to pilot some practical solutions to the problem via the following interventions:

1. Defining the current status of plastic waste film – problems and solutions
2. Development of waste management profiles
3. Public education campaign
4. Technology development

Expected Impacts:

- Improved baseline information on plastic waste management, making this information readily available to stakeholders, including private and public sector decision-makers;
- Heightened awareness among all stakeholders of the threats, constraints, opportunities and options for addressing plastic waste management;
- Inter-regional agreements established (especially between the three municipalities) to promote collaboration and information exchange on plastic waste management.
- Synergy developed among a range of institutions and organizations in the three participating municipalities.
- Plastic Waste Management Action plans for municipalities developed and approved by appropriate institutions and distributed to NGO, donor community and other interested parties for financial and technical support.
- A set of pilot demonstration activities that are operational, productive and generating enterprise opportunities in all municipalities.
- A preliminary set of “best management practice” options derived from the phase one lessons learned analysis widely distributed throughout the region and used to enrich dialogue and debate over policy and legislative reform.
- Funding and partnerships established for follow-on activities building on initiatives in the three municipalities and expanded to other urban centers in West Africa.