



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



REPORT

SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SAVOY RESORT AND SPA

WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2015, 9am to 4pm



A) WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

In 2012, Sustainability for Seychelles, a locally registered environmental NGO was awarded a grant from the SGP/GEF to fund a project entitled 'Engaging Civil Society in Sustainable Waste Management in Seychelles'. The project was designed to address the problem of increasing waste in the country, and our limited capacity to absorb waste in landfills due to limited land area. The waste problem can be addressed by promoting waste reduction, re-use and recycling, but all sectors of society need to be actively engaged to find ways to bring these strategies to life. Therefore, the project's main aim is to bring together partners from civil society, the private sector and government to discuss and forge more sustainable ways of managing waste in Seychelles.

The project made provision for the organisation of a stakeholder workshop with the following objectives:

1. To provide a forum for government, civil society and private sector stakeholders in waste management to learn, network and exchange ideas to improve the sustainable management of waste in Seychelles.
2. To draft a plan to improve waste management in Seychelles with the full participation of all key stakeholders
3. To compile recommendations to government for improving sustainable waste management policy, education and financing.

The workshop was facilitated by Michele Martin and Ginnie Laurencine from Sustainability for Seychelles, but organised in close collaboration with LWMA and the Department of Environment. In all 42 people participated in the workshop, including representatives from government, the private sector and civil society. A list of registered participants is provided in [Annex A](#).

B) WORKSHOP AGENDA

TIME	ITEM
8:30-9	Registration of participants
9-9:05	Welcome and overview – S4S
9:05-9:10	Opening speech – CEO LWMA
09:10-09:20	Ice breaker game – S4S
09:20-09:35	Presentation 1: Seychelles Waste Policy - MEE
09:35-09:50	Presentation 2: Landfill situation and trends - LWMA
09:50-10:00	Presentation 3: Waste & civil society - Results of S4S research
10:00-10:20	Presentation 4: Financial mechanisms for dealing with waste
10:30	TEA BREAK
11:00-11:30	Open brainstorm: Waste problems and barriers, then organisation of problems by theme
11:30-12:00	Group work: Setting up groups by theme, setting tasks for groups, start group work
12:30-1:30	LUNCH BREAK
1:30-1:40	Viewing of waste TV clips
1:40-2:45	Group work cont'd (tea break anytime groups ready)
2:45-3:30	Presentations by working groups and discussion
3:30 -3:45	Recommendations from workshop
3:45-4	Workshop evaluation

C) WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION AND FINDINGS

The workshop proceeded more or less according to the planned schedule, although the morning presentations took much longer than expected giving us less time in the morning for brainstorming. The group work session was started after the lunch break. In all we managed to achieve our objectives and produce a rudimentary action plan and recommendations to guide the next steps towards improving the sustainability of waste management with full participation of all stakeholders.

Presentations

A summary of the presentations is provided below:

1. Flavien Joubert provided an overview of the Department of Environment's position and role vis a vis waste management in Seychelles. He reviewed some of the international environmental agreements that provide the global context for the government's work in Seychelles. He provided an overview of some of the main programs and achievements including the introduction of the PET and can recycling programs, and the recently launched waste policy. He affirmed the need for civil society participation in the work ahead to find more sustainable ways for dealing with waste.
2. Lemmy Payet's presentation focused on the role and work of the Landscape & Waste Management Agency and how they are structured. Much of the work they do involves liaising with contractors undertaking waste collection and removal. He talked about the hierarchy of waste and how Seychelles needs to focus more on waste reduction rather than collecting it all and sending it to landfill, which should be the last option.
3. Michele Martin's presentation reviewed the findings of four surveys undertaken by S4S since the start of their GEF project on waste: e-waste in the domestic sector, public awareness and practices regarding waste, the status of waste management according to companies and other organisations involved directly with waste, and the types of waste and methods of disposal in several large companies in Seychelles.
4. Andrew Jean-Louis' presentation provided an overview of the current ways that government, and a proposal of several other mechanisms that could be further explored to make the system more sustainable and shift the burden of cost to polluters and producers of waste are funding waste management.

Each presentation was followed by lively discussion. A copy of the presentations is available upon request.

Brainstorm on waste issues

Participants were given paper and markers and asked to use them to jot down any issues related to waste management that are problematic at present, one idea per paper. Some participants also noted aspects of waste management that are working well.

A list of all the points raised can be found in [ANNEX 2](#)

A summary of the points raised is provided below:

RECYCLING

- Participants worried about the amount and types of waste being produced e.g. oil waste, plastic bags, takeaway boxes, PET bottles in hotels
- Many felt that more sorting, recycling and re-using was needed, the issue of scavengers was raised – positive and negative points

- Some noted good strategies in place like companies involved in recycling, current recycling schemes
- Some suggested strategies that could be used e.g. plastic bag levy, composting and use of green waste, water recycling, use of waste for art, establishment of public recycling collection points, incentives for recycling companies

ECONOMIC

- Some economic strategies for managing waste were mentioned such as putting value on waste, increasing levies on large items like cars and large equipment, subsidies for recycling companies, restricting imports of low quality appliances, and more government consultation with private sector to find solutions.
- Improving current levy collection and management system, raising the profile of existing recycling companies
- Some philosophic reflections on the green economy and the value of nature for life

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Some positive issues were mentioned e.g. the accessibility of public bins and regular collection, knowledgeable people working for government
- Some mentioned problems related to bins: vandalism, not enough, people not using them well.
- Other problems mentioned including challenges to sort waste, the waste smelling bad, the landfill being badly managed, not enough land space for recyclers, need for materials to cover landfill, poor infrastructure and mechanisms in place for waste diversion from landfill.
- Suggested improvements including getting the green waste composting going again at STAR, establishment of a scrap yard, and for decision-makers to listen to their own professionals in the field

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Some points raised were related to the issue of contracting – long term contracts and with only one company were seen as counterproductive and open to potential corruption
- Positive points raised were that there are lots of people, groups and organisations willing to work together to sort out the waste problem, the country is clean and we have excellent collection services, this workshop a good initiative, and the country has a well defined policy and some goals already in place
- The issue of government structure and leadership for improvement of waste management were raised as weaknesses, with too many agencies involved and not enough trained professionals in waste management, and no overall feasibility study done for disposal/recovery of different types of waste to find the best strategy, and no national waste sorting strategy in place.
- The need for control of imports to reduce waste at source was mentioned.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Many comments fell in this category.
- A lot of people mentioned the issue of people throwing litter everywhere, also the poor mindset vis a vis sorting waste, and the lack of understanding of the special challenges facing a small island when it comes to waste management, the need for more composting, and the problem of marine plastics
- Some suggestions including emphasizing waste management in education programs (for schools and the public), having a forum to exchange and learn from others, having a museum showcasing art and other objects made from recycled waste, involving the media more, getting civil society groups to advertise services of recycling companies
- Several comments suggested that there needed to be more opportunity for the public to be engaged, to share their ideas, to be involved in the process of finding solutions to waste

Group work to create draft action plans

Four groups were formed to try and take the points raised during the brainstorming session, prioritize the issues and come up with a short term draft action plan that could be rolled out over the next couple of years. The groups had about one hour for this activity. Each group chose a different theme and was asked to consider how all different stakeholder groups would play a part in implementing the actions. Once the draft action plans were ready, each group presented their ideas to the others for review and the audience made comments or suggestions for improvement.

The draft action plans are listed in [Annex 3](#) and are intended to provide the basis for further deliberation.

Some of the following issues were raised by the groups and other participants during their deliberations and the presentations that followed.

1) Education and awareness group:

Four of the five issues pointed out by this working group revolve around the lack of information received by the public, 'lack' here presumed to mean a deficit in both the quality and quantity of information shared with the general public. One of the main points that came out very strongly was that media, a key player in the dissipation of information to the public, greatly misses out on opportunities to present information on waste management. The absence of key media houses to the workshop, for example was noted.

It was also noted that the general public has a very poor mind set over the recycling process, and as such do not know the true (economic) value of waste. It was pointed out that this was due to the fact that people lack proper education on the benefits of recycling, especially that of composting. It was pointed out that people also lack the knowledge and necessary skills required to add revenue/value to waste. The last point to be noted by the group was a lack of exchange of best practices between countries of the region.

It was recommended that NGOs, government agencies, media houses and private recycling companies work together to boost the quality and quantity of information on waste management that is being shared by the general public. The following points were suggested as possible ways that different partners can advance the education of the public on waste management:

- That recycling companies appoint staff to promote the work that is being done by their companies. It was suggested that companies provide a company profile to media houses, and that they provide contact details to different institutions.
- That seminars, talks and workshops be organized to promote the 3Rs in Seychelles, and the economic value of waste as a resource.
- That all who have a stake in the sustainable management of waste in the country work in close collaboration with media houses to ensure their full participation. It was suggested that stakeholders provide media houses with articles that cover the different things that are going on with the issue of waste management, instead of just waiting to have actual coverage. It was also suggested that the different stakeholders approach TV/radio and suggest that they be featured on talk shows.

Economic issues Group

The fact that levies and taxes collected to finance the different Environment Funds that exist in Seychelles, is not necessarily being used for waste management was a point of concern. Stakeholders in this group felt that their needs to be greater accountability for these funds, and that better support should be allocated to the management of waste in Seychelles.

The group also pointed out the difficulties of maintaining sustainable revenue on business-oriented recycling of waste in Seychelles due to profitability challenges directly related to economies of scale and

the lack of viable capital market infrastructure. It was suggested that affordable loans/grants and subsidies are not readily available for recycling businesses that are struggling with economies of scale. It was also pointed out that there has been too much of a focus of forwarding the agenda of an economy based on fossil fuel consumption (the brown economy).

It was suggested that the government, commercial and development banks work together with recycling businesses to increase the profit margin, and maintain the economic sustainability of revenues earned through recycling. Government has been urged to enact more incentives geared at attracting business for recycling. Additionally, the group called for a swifter shift from the brown economy to a green one here in Seychelles, or at least a 'greener' one, through the promotion of eco-businesses and eco-tourism based on the concept of the 3Rs.

Recycling infrastructure Group

The group's main critique was of the fact that there exists very minimal waste sorting at the domestic level. It pointed out that even if waste sorting did occur on the level of households and institutions, there exists 'no middle-men between recycling companies and households', and that what exists instead is 'a straight road to the landfill, with no bypass to recyclers'.

The group also criticised the lack of awareness that exists as to who is undertaking the recycling of what. They showed great dissatisfaction towards the actuality that there is minimal value on waste recycling as a form of resource recovery.

It was suggested that recycling businesses as part of the private sector, come together with government to encourage and facilitate more waste sorting at source here in Seychelles. It was suggested that recyclers, together with policy-makers in government agencies and ministries facilitate and adopt a strategy for the routine collection of sorted waste, at household level.

Furthermore, it was also suggested that recyclers could be individuals which consider this as a full-time employment, and not necessarily the businesses themselves. Advertisements on media through documentaries or spots were recommended as relevant tools help lower the lack of awareness about who is who, and who does what, in the recycling businesses. The working group strongly impelled government agencies and ministries to promote, and further the concept of the 3Rs, urgently.

Management issues Group

An institutionally and politically weak waste management system was at the forefront of most of the discussions that came out from the group. There was strong criticism of the lack of finance, and capacity building that according to the working group, weaken government institutions dealing directly with waste management. Coupled to this is the fact that there is a low level of political commitment to the issue of sustainable waste management focusing on the concept of the "hierarchy of waste" – where the landfill is the LAST desirable option after waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

A lack of human resources, a lack of commitment on policy-level of government, and a lack of public awareness, all come together to reinforce the difficulties faced by relevant agencies to effectively enforce laws and policies in place to help us manage waste sustainably on a national level. In addition, the phenomenal number of vacant spaces used for illegal dumping was also highlighted as an issue of concern, in that the legwork involved with the tracking and monitoring of littering on these properties alone, far outnumber the human resources available to tackle the task at hand.

It was proposed that government take the lead in re-structuring agencies that deal with waste management through the following achievable points:

- Increase capacity building programs i.e. the training of staff.

- Promote financial mechanisms e.g. allocation of sufficient funds to manage waste in Seychelles.
- Increase government and public engagement in the management of waste.
- Block access to undeveloped vacant slots of public land and Enforce the law

D) WORKSHOP EVALUATION

At the end of the day, participants were asked to fill in a workshop evaluation form. There were only 26 participants left at this point. Their responses are summarized below:

<p>1. Please tell us at least one thing you learned in this workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling companies and their contacts, how to recycle (6) • How we can better manage waste in Seychelles (6) • Nothing (6) • The waste management policy (5) • The issues surrounding the new landfill and communal bins. (3)
<p>2. What did you like best about the workshop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussions; free deliberations; interactions (16) • Group work (4) • Good representation of all sectors (2) • Good presentations (2) • Nothing (1) • Lunch (1)
<p>3. What didn't you like about the workshop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response (7) • Workshop was too short (6) • Nothing (6) • Topic too limited (2) • More attendance (2) • All presentations (1) • Background info too vague (1) • Workshop was too long (1)
<p>4. Please suggest ideas for follow up workshops or activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on how this workshop helped to shape an action plan • Involve specialists with S4S's projects to ensure follow up action • Get more high ranking officials to participate • Creating an awareness campaign on waste • Help recyclers form an association • Expand the next workshop to 2 days, and organise it on a yearly basis • Organise a follow-up workshop

E) WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Presentations



Groupwork



F) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In all, the workshop proved to be a very productive forum allowing stakeholders from different sectors to come together and begin to understand the weaknesses and strengths of the current system, and what needs to be done to manage waste more sustainably in Seychelles. It was noted that this was the first time that such a workshop had taken place in Seychelles. There was open and sincere dialogue, exchange of views and debate. Many participants from the private sector were pleasantly surprised at the degree of knowledge and competence of individuals who are and have been involved in waste management on behalf of the government and with the contents of the waste policy. Participants were also inspired to learn that there were so many existing individuals and companies who are interested in dealing with their waste sustainably, and other companies who are making business from waste recycling.

Recommendations (to be addressed in 2015)

1. Increase government and civil society engagement in the management of waste.
2. The Department of Environment updates the solid waste master plan - this document should be the roadmap for implementation of the policy but it is very much out of date (the last plan pre-dates the new policy).
3. The Department of Environment designate one key focal person who is responsible for waste - looking into projects, policy implementation, networking with partners etc. (this may require some restructuring)
4. Recycling companies step up their marketing and communications programs so that waste producers are aware of their services – NGOs and government agencies can assist
5. NGOs and government agencies organise seminars, talks and workshops and media programs to promote the 3Rs in Seychelles, and the economic value of waste as a resource.
6. All waste stakeholders work in closer collaboration with media houses to ensure their full participation (sharing information, writing articles, advertising services, etc.)
7. Government increase capacity building programs in waste i.e. the training of staff.
8. Recycling businesses and government meet to explore how to implement and coordinate waste sorting at source, and collection of recyclables from point sources.
9. Government and other stakeholders work together to explore different financial schemes to incentivize business investment in waste recycling and re-use – create a more enabling environment for waste related businesses
10. The government allocates sufficient funds to manage waste in Seychelles.
11. Government and other stakeholders (e.g. community groups) implement strategies to reduce illegal dumping on vacant plots (block access and/or enforce fines)
12. S4S helps the Department of Environment organise a high level meeting with the ministers for environment and finance and a few large businesses leaders to look at ways to finance better waste management practices (in terms of the waste policy - the waste hierarchy they spoke of)

ANNEX 1 – LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2 – BRAINSTORM ON PROBLEMS CONCERNING WASTE

The following issues were posted up on the wall by participants who then grouped them into the themes seen here:

RECYCLING

- Plastic bag levy
- Amount of waste being produced
- Efficiency of scrap metal sorting
- Company recycling materials
- Recycling schemes
- Green waste to compost for farms/landscape
- Water recycling
- Public recycling centre collection point
- Not enough re-use being done
- Take away/cartons is waste
- Promote the 3Rs with the existing mechanism in place
- Use of plastic bottled water in hotels and restaurants
- It is very sad...I see art hidden under the garbage
- Oil waste, plastic bags, recycle
- Incentives to the recyclers

ECONOMIC

- Waste = Money but Nature = Life
- Put value on waste
- Recycling companies' profiles
- We should increase levy on large cars and heavy equipment = polluters must pay
- Levy collection and management system is not efficient
- Subsidies for recyclers
- The new trend is Green Economy
- The Govt engage private sector in finding solutions/incentives. No more taxes!!
- Big money solutions!
- Import restrictions for appliances

INFRASTRUCTURE

- People are not using bins well
- Land space for metal scrap recyclers
- The landfill is not well managed as all rubbish goes through there
- Need for an actual scrap yard
- Bad smell of waste
- Waste not properly disposed
- Its great that we have STAR-bins are quite accessible for people
- Green waste composting at STAR.
- Difficulty in sorting waste materials.
- Vandalism: damaged bins in the district
- Lack of infrastructures and mechanism to promote diversion from landfill.
- Regular, periodic collection.
- Improvement to infrastructure.
- Space filling material for landfill.
- Bins.
- Great body of technocrats in gov't, but who are listened to.
- Providence landfill.
- Get better scrap metal to be loaded on to recycle.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Gov't structure needs strengthening.
- No proper waste sorting strategy in place-it can be done.

- Long-term waste contract: bad idea.
- Groups willing to help support waste management.
- Contracting modality – do not outsource all waste to one company.
- Think what is best for the islands: we are all wonderful and intelligent people, we can come to a conclusion.
- Poor leadership.
- The country is clean enough, good collection.
- No actual feasibility done for disposal/recovery.
- Management of waste.
- Too many agencies on issue.
- Lack of competence in waste management.
- Political will needed.
- Corruption.
- Great initiative from S4S in piloting this project...well done S4S.
- Things are imported in small packages not bulk.
- So many poor quality items being sold in shops.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

- People throw litter everywhere.
- So many people litter.
- Education emphasis on waste management.
- Public opinion counts.
- People need to engage more in their efforts to manage waste in Seychelles.
- Low public involvement in waste management.
- Exchange and learn from others.
- People throwing litter out of their car windows.
- The ministry of environment need to build a gallery or museum and showcase work made from recycle waste.
- Lack of education.
- Increase national education and awareness (people do not realize the scale of the problem).
- Civil societies to assist in linking recyclers to households.
- Lack of communication and information.
- Media missing out.
- People must do more to compost.
- Not enough public sensitisation.
- The poor mindset over reduce, recycle
- Increase awareness also on the problem of marine plastics.
- Citizens are not using the 3Rs.
- Sensitise the public.
- Awareness campaigns for adults.
- We definitely need to provide some sort of education on waste disposal...need to categorise.
- We need more education.
- People don't understand challenges to recycling on an island.
- Public awareness.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Policies and goals in place already.
- Isn't working well.
- Problem does not exist: its the solution
- Scavengers of the landfill...good or bad.
- Plastic bags in shop.

ANNEX 3 – WASTE ACTION PLANS

Group 1: Education and Awareness

WHAT ARE THE <u>MAIN PROBLEMS</u> RELATED TO THIS THEME?	WHAT ARE THE <u>MAIN CAUSES</u> OF EACH PROBLEM?	WHAT <u>REALISTIC ACTIONS</u> COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS?	WHO SHOULD DO THE ACTIONS?
Media missing out	Their rating could go down, negative publicity for Seychelles	Write more newspaper articles, documenting	Public/private management
Poor mind-set over recycling	Lack of information	Value to waste Incentive	Govt
Lack of use of compost	People living in housing estates/apartments People do not know how to make compost	Eco business Green economy	Tourism Business
Lack of value for waste	No revenue/value out of it	Initiative/incentives/loans	Govt Bank
Exchange between countries	Refusing that we have a waste problem Lack of initiatives		

Group 2: Recycling/Infrastructure

WHAT ARE THE <u>MAIN PROBLEMS</u> RELATED TO THIS THEME?	WHAT ARE THE <u>MAIN CAUSES</u> OF EACH PROBLEM?	WHAT <u>REALISTIC ACTIONS</u> COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS?	WHO SHOULD DO THE ACTIONS?
one straight road to the landfill ~ no bypass to the recyclers	Readily available receptacle	Recyclers to adopt a strategy for routine collection to households	recyclers
Lack of awareness as to who is undertaken recycling of what		Advertisement on media, posters, documentary	Recyclers/government
Waste sorting at domestic level	Lack of motivation/initiatives, education	Education/initiatives	Government/recyclers
No value on the waste – by recycling at domestic level		Govt. initiative in logistics to recycle and allocation	government
No middle men between recyclers and households			

Group 3: Economic issues

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS RELATED TO THIS THEME?	WHAT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF EACH PROBLEM?	WHAT REALISTIC ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS?	WHO SHOULD DO THE ACTIONS?
one straight road to the landfill ~ no bypass to the recyclers	Readily available receptacle	Recycles to adopt a strategy for routine collection to households	recyclers
Lack of awareness as to who is undertaken recycling of what		Advertisement on media, posters, documentary	Recyclers/government
Waste sorting at domestic level	Lack of motivation/initiatives, education	Education/initiatives	Government/recyclers
No value on the waste – by recycling at domestic level		Govt. initiative in logistics to recycle and allocation	government
No middle men between recyclers and households			

Group 4: Management issues

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS RELATED TO THIS THEME?	WHAT ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF EACH PROBLEM?	WHAT REALISTIC ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS?	WHO SHOULD DO THE ACTIONS?
Government structures/institutions needs strengthening	Lack of finance/funds Lack of capacity building/exercise/programs Political will and individual commitment.....	Increased capacity building programs Proper financial mechanisms e.g. allocation of sufficient funds to manage waste in Seychelles	Govt
Inadequate enforcement of laws and policies	Lack of human resources Lack of government commitment/policies Lack of public awareness	Increase manpower Increase govt engagement Increase public engagement	Govt General public
Too many van-cant areas which encourages illegal dumping	Too much time for developers to develop vacant properties Vacant areas are too accessible and not properly guarded	Block access to vacant properties Owners to take ownership of their properties	Property owners