



MANAGING WASTE FOR CLIMATE

GCCA+ The Alliance for a changing world



#GCCAPlus #EUClimateAction #EUGreenDeal

2020

KEY ISSUES

Waste generation goes hand in hand with rapid urbanization, growing populations and rising incomes. According to the World Bank, waste generation levels are set to grow by 70% to around 3.40 billion tonnes per year by 2050, with 35% of the world's waste in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, waste treatment and disposal contributed around **5% of global greenhouse gas emissions** (GHGs). Without concrete and effective actions, these emissions will almost double by 2050.

Poor waste management disproportionately affects the poor. In low-income countries less than 70% of waste is collected and children exposed are prone to diarrhea and acute respiratory infections.

Improved waste management generates significant public health benefits. The way ahead is **resource efficiency, waste prevention, and secondary raw material use** – all of which reduce GHG emissions and contribute to **global climate change mitigation**.

GCCA+ ACTIONS

In 2018 the scope of **Global Climate Change Alliance Plus** (GCCA+) support was extended to include mitigation actions such as reducing emission from solid waste. 14 GCCA+ projects covering 13 countries tackle **one or more** elements of waste management.

Solid wastes when appropriately managed can be an **economic asset** providing secondary raw materials, instead of generating **chemicals and pollutants threatening** ecosystem services, contaminating water supplies and air quality. GCCA+ programmes on solid waste management are supporting better collection, recycling, composting, disposal systems **as well as waste prevention and monitoring**.

GCCA+ programmes have also targeted small-scale and large scale **biogas plants to convert organic waste** from agricultural and livestock production. Moreover a monitoring system for the waste sector is being set up in Nigeria, as well as a **wastewater treatment** for irrigation purposes in Djibouti.



Liberia: the huge fight of a small country

Home to around 320,000 people, Paynesville is a fast-growing urban sprawl which suffers from poor sewage, drainage, lack of clean water and waste management infrastructure. In 2014 the city – along with much of West Africa – was hit by the deadly Ebola outbreak.

The GCCA+ has stepped in to help with a programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve access to sanitation through more sustainable urban solid waste collection and disposal. The programme aims at improving solid waste collection, scaling up recycling and composting, and building a state-of-the-art landfill site to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as well as using methane for power generation.

See the full story on gcca.eu/stories

Cleaning up in the fight against climate change in Paynesville, Liberia © EU GCCA+

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

EU commitment for waste management

Several EU initiatives provide waste management support for developing countries. The **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, announced in 2019 the **City Climate Finance Gap Fund** for low-carbon and resilient urban infrastructure projects, such as scaling up waste management infrastructure in Benin or a climate action programme on integrated waste management in Greater Kampala, Uganda. The regional Covenant of Mayors for **Sub Saharan Africa** provides support for Sustainable Energy Access Climate Action Plans (SEACAP). The **global dimension of the EU Circular Economy Action plan** targets the potential value of waste, while the **fight against plastic pollution** is reflected in several external action programmes, from the Mediterranean Basin to the Ganga River in India.

The **EU Green Deal** external dimension is also expected to promote the sustainable product policy potentially reducing waste significantly.

International Developments

Although waste contributes around 5% of GHGs it is not a subject of UNFCCC negotiations.

Nevertheless, at the **United Nations level**, a number of conventions set legally binding international standards:

Basel Convention on hazardous waste

Bamako Convention on hazardous wastes within Africa

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, amended in 2019 to include plastic waste.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme on chemicals and waste focuses on four main programmes in the new four-year investment cycle (known as GEF-7). It supports GEF partners to meet their obligations and to reduce the prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste.

www.thegef.org 

GCCA/GCCA+ AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

14 projects **13** countries **78** million euros



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