

National WEEE Assessment 2026

Suriname



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National WEEE Assessment 2026

Suriname

Abstract & Authors

This national assessment report provides a comprehensive assessment of WEEE management in Suriname, including material flow analysis, economic evaluation, infrastructure assessment, and technical capacities.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
BAP	Best Available Techniques
BCRC – Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer in the Caribbean
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
Caricom	Caribbean Community
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
ELV	End-of-life vehicle
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GSB	General Statistics Bureau
HCI	Human Capital Index
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
kg	Kilograms
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

Abbreviations	
NCD	Noncommunicable diseases
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
OGA	Openbaar Groen en Afvalbeheer
PCBs	Printed Circuit Boards
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POM	Put On the Market
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SLR	Sea Level Rise
Suresur	Support Recycling Suriname
SUWAMA	Suriname Waste Management
TELESUR	Telecommunications Company of Suriname
UNITAR SCYCLE	United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Sustainable Cycles Programme
UNU – KEYS	United Nations University KEYS
USD	United States Dollars
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Introduction

Global and regional e-waste situation

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) refers to all products that have circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply (StEP Initiative, 2014). EEE encompasses a wide range of products used by households and businesses, including refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, and hairdryers, as well as electronic devices such as mobile phones, wireless headphones, and tablets.

High-income countries average 109 EEE items per capita, while low-income countries can average as few as 4 items per capita (Baldé et al. 2024). EEE becomes e-waste, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), once it is discarded by its owner with no intention of reusing the item (StEP Initiative, 2014). In this study, the authors decided to use both the term WEEE and e-waste, the first one being more in line with the European Union (EU) terminology and the second one having a more global meaning. The classification of WEEE is illustrated in the next sections ([see chapter 2](#)).

According to the recently published Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024), in 2022 a record 62 billion kg of e-waste or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was generated globally (equivalent to an average of 7.8 kg per capita per year). However, only 22.3 per cent of this e-waste mass was documented as formally collected and recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5. When the total benefits from viable recovery of metals as secondary resources (USD 28 billion) and the monetized savings of avoided greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (USD 23 billion) are deducted from the costs of e-waste treatment (USD 10 billion) and externalized costs to human health and the environment (USD 78 billion), the result is a net loss of USD 37 billion in the world's current e-waste management practices.

According to the Global E-waste Monitor, 13.8 billion kg of global e-waste undergoes environmentally sound treatment at a cost USD 0.36/kg; this is 3 times more than the average cost of e-waste disposed of as residual waste, recycled outside compliant recycling schemes or managed by the informal sector (USD 0.12/kg). The higher treatment costs are mostly attributable to the costs of depolluting e-waste and auditing, administration and attaining the minimum environmental health and safety standards associated with compliant management of e-waste.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5.

The situation related to WEEE management varies significantly in different regions of the world. In the Caribbean, the amount of e-waste grew by more than 60 per cent from 148 million kg in 2010 to 241 million kg in 2022. This equals the generation of 7.6 kg/capita per year of e-waste and is close to the global average of 7.8. The documented formal e-waste collection rate in the Caribbean region was close to 0 per cent in 2022, which is significantly lower than the global average of 22.3 per cent.

Hence, e-waste management poses a pressing challenge in the Caribbean region, in the absence of specific regulations and policies addressing the issue and the absence of a formal e-waste management infrastructure. E-waste management responsibilities in different Caribbean countries are shared among various entities.

Overview of the consultancy

The Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme of UNITAR, Division for Planet, has been contracted by the BCRC-Caribbean to conduct the activities related to Output 3.1 of the GEF 10279 and GEF 10472 projects under the GEF ISLANDS programme. Representatives of the Suriname Waste Management foundation (SUWAMA), a local organization in Suriname dealing with waste management issues, were hired as individual consultants by UNITAR SCYCLE for assistance and support.

UNITAR SCYCLE is the global scientific leader in e-waste research and information provision to various stakeholders and the public. SCYCLE's mission is to promote sustainable societies. Its activities focus on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as well as for other ubiquitous goods. SCYCLE leads the global e-waste discussion and advances sustainable e-waste management strategies based on life cycle thinking. Thanks to its scientifically recognized methodology to quantify the e-waste management, which is recognized at the global level, SCYCLE puts its methodology at the service of the project implementation, as further specified below.

As part of **Deliverable 2** of Output 3.1 of the GEF 10279 project, this national assessment report provides an overview on the WEEE management situation in the country of **Suriname**, including some conclusive remarks and recommendations on next steps to be taken at national level to further improve the management of a challenging waste stream such as the WEEE.

In the Caribbean, the amount of e-waste grew by more than 60 per cent.



SCYCLE's mission is to promote sustainable societies.

The report is structured as follows:

- first, a [methodological note](#) explains the main data sources used for the analysis and the analytical approach used for both the qualitative and quantitative sections.
- [Chapter 1](#) presents a country overview, including a socio-economic background introduction and an overview on the legislative landscape specific on e-waste or, when e-waste is not covered by national legislation, the relevant policies and legislations which includes indirectly also WEEE.
- [Chapter 2](#) presents the result of the WEEE flows assessment at national level, from 2010 and with projections up to 2030. When information was available, a short paragraph is also investigating the transboundary movements of WEEE.
- [Chapter 3](#) presents the analysis of the information collected through the project survey, distributed among representatives of both the private and the public sector in Suriname, giving an initial overview and assessment of the technical and infrastructural capacity for WEEE management at national level.
- [Chapter 4](#) goes more into detail in the economic impact assessment of WEEE management in Suriname.
- [Chapter 5](#) presents the main conclusions of the analysis, and some targeted recommendations on possible way forward to improve the WEEE management sector at national level.



Methodological Note

The methodology used for the data collection and analysis for the national assessment reports is mixed, both qualitative and quantitative.

The qualitative part included the following main tools:

- A comprehensive survey, mainly distributed online, targeting the main stakeholders in each project country, including governmental officers/policy makers, EEE producers/importers, recycling companies, WEEE importing and exporting companies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other relevant organizations.
- Follow-up semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups, based on predefined guidelines and adapted according to the specific needs, also based on the possible gaps in the data collection through the survey.

The structure of the online survey is included in [Annex 1](#).

For Suriname, 9 respondents compiled the survey. However, 3 did not complete the survey, while 6 did. For the analysis, the answers of the incomplete surveys were used where applicable. 6 respondents were from the public sector, while 3 were from the private sector. 2 recycling companies were also interviewed. In terms of gender balance in Suriname, the distribution of respondents was unequal: 6 identified as Male and 5 identified as Female.

An overview of the meetings held is included in [Annex 3](#).

In addition to the qualitative approach, quantitative data was collected and analysed. These include data on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Put on the Market (POM); WEEE generated, collected and recycled (if available), economic costs and benefits related to WEEE management by national facilities; Customs data on import and export of EEE. The methodology applied on the quantitative data analysis is further detailed under [paragraph 2.1](#), for what concerns the WEEE flows.

The template of the data gathering structure for the economic impact analysis is presented in [Annex 2](#).

However, it must be noted that, for Suriname, no financial information was shared by private stakeholders – therefore the analysis of the economic impact described in [chapter 4](#) is rather based on qualitative information collected through the survey and the Validation Workshop.

The draft national assessment report was shared with stakeholders for review and additional input and was presented to the country's representatives on October 13th 2025 during the national validation workshop. All the additional inputs, information to fill in existing gaps and relevant comments are reflected in the final version of the report.





Chapter 1.

Country Profile

1.1 COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Suriname is an upper-middle income country, sharing borders with Brazil to the south, Guyana to the west, French Guyana to the east and bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the north. Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, is situated in the northern coastal region and is home to 67% of the nation's population. The coastal (urban) area, which is the most developed part of the country, accommodates over 87% of Suriname's inhabitants. Suriname is governed by a presidential republic system. As per 2023, Suriname had an estimated population of 639 000 (GSB, 2024).

Suriname



Figure 1. Map of Suriname¹

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Table 1. Socio-economic indicators, World Bank

Population	639 000 (2024)
Population growth (annual %)	0.9 (2024)
Human Capital Index (HCI) (scale 0-1)	N.A.
GDP (current US\$)	4.71 billion (2024)
GDP per capita (current US\$)	5 686 (2024)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	16.2 (2024)
Access to electricity (% of population)	99.6 (2023)
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	78 (2023)

Source: World Bank, 2024 ([Suriname](#)) and General Statistics Bureau (GSB), 2025

Socio-economic environment

Suriname is categorized as an upper-middle-income economy, driven largely by its natural resources, including gold, oil, and timber. The mining sector alone generates close to 50% of government revenues, with gold accounting for over 75% of total exports. Agriculture also plays a key role in the country's income. According to the 2022 United Nations Human Development Index, Suriname ranked 124th out of 193 nations, scoring 0.690—placing it in the medium human development tier. Additionally, a recent poverty assessment estimated that around 17.5% of the population lived below the World Bank's upper-middle-income poverty threshold of US\$6.85 per day in 2022. (World Bank, 2024). As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)², Suriname benefits from market access and trade agreements within the economic union.

As per 2025, Suriname's GDP per capita is estimated to be USD \$6 860 (GBS, 2025) – almost 1 500 USD higher if compared to 2023 figures but lower than 2024 ones.

¹ Source: [linkedin.com/in/kaartvansuriname](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaartvansuriname).

² The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a group of twenty-one countries: fifteen Member States and six Associate Members. For more information see: <https://caricom.org/our-community/who-we-are/>

In 2022 Suriname experienced a moderate economic recovery (GDP expanding by 2.4%), due to the successful implementation of its macroeconomic stabilization program. Suriname's GDP is projected to grow by 3.2% in 2025, however high inflation and currency instability remain challenges for Suriname.

Suriname's coastal geography and densely populated northern region make it highly vulnerable to the existential threats posed by climate change, particularly flooding and sea-level rise (SLR). The country frequently experiences severe flooding triggered by heavy rainfall, which worsens when coinciding with spring tides. Compounding the problem, inadequate drainage systems in urban coastal areas, especially in the capital, Paramaribo, intensify flood risks for much of the population. In response, the country has initiated different initiatives focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. For example, it has via the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiated projects, including those related to sustainable forest management, renewable energy, and improving environmental management in the mining sector. These projects aim to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and other environmental challenges in Suriname (GEF, 2025).

According to UNICEF's 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) in Suriname conducted by the GSB, while 85% of children complete primary school, retention rates drop sharply at higher education levels, with only 23% finishing upper secondary school (UNICEF, 2019). Suriname's healthcare system grapples with significant disparities in access and quality, particularly affecting remote Indigenous and Maroon communities (World Bank, 2018)³. While maternal and child health has improved, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and hypertension now cause over 60% of deaths, worsened by lifestyle factors. (PAHO, 2022).

Waste management system

In Suriname, waste management falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Works and Spatial Planning (previously the Ministry of Public Works), specifically its sub-directorate 'Openbaar Groen en Afvalbeheer' (OGA). The sub-directorate 'Afvalbeheer' (Waste Management) oversees nationwide domestic waste collection, which is collected and dumped at 4 dumpsites throughout the country. The Ministry of Oil, Gas and Environment (previously the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment), plays a pivotal role in policy development aimed at enhancing the quality of the living environment (SUWAMA, 2025). It also serves as Suriname's focal point for the Basel Convention, Paris Agreement and other conventions mentioned in table 2 in chapter 1.2. In 2022, the ministry developed a framework for an integrated waste management plan based on the principles of refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle (ILACO NV, 2022), although its implementation is pending.

While the government is mainly responsible for managing domestic waste, it launched the 'koni doti' pilot plastic recycling project in a single resort in Suriname in 2022, which is still ongoing. However, the remaining waste recovery and recycling initiatives are all private sector owned, and focus on waste types such as plastics, metals, cardboard, paper and WEEE to mention some. Non-governmental organizations especially take a role in awareness raising and education on waste management (SUWAMA, 2025; ILACO NV & Royal Haskoning DHV, 2018)

Despite different efforts from both the public and private sector, waste management and recycling pose ongoing challenges, with a significant portion of waste still ending up in landfills. Constraints are especially the limited governmental budget for adequate waste management, the low interest rate under private sector investors and the low awareness level amongst the community (SUWAMA, 2025; ILACO, 2022).

³ Remote indigenous and tribal communities in Suriname, especially located in the interior, lack adequate healthcare due to a complex combination of barriers such as difficult to reach due to lack of infrastructure (only accessible by boat, airplane), lack of development and standard facilities such as medical care, clean water and electricity amongst others. Source: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099090924182013594/pdf/BOSIB17fb0b98d0eb1a5da1d723b744f554.pdf>

WEEE recycling in Suriname is entirely driven by private actors, with both formal and informal sectors contributing significantly. The country lacks a centralized WEEE recovery and recycling system. Currently, six formal companies are engaged in WEEE collection and dismantling: BAP Waste Management Company, Green Circle Recycling NV, Makandra Community-based Circular Waste Management Solutions, Kairos Solution NV, Bux Engineering, and Nicole 'Aannemings en Constructie Bedrijf (NAB). Additionally, the informal sector plays a notable role, particularly in extracting and reselling metals from WEEE to metal recyclers (BCRC, 2022).

1.2 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Suriname does not have specific legislation or policies in place for WEEE management as reported under the 'National legislative and institutional capacity assessment report on Suriname' developed under Output 1.1 of the GEF 10279 project (2024) and the 'Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (E-waste) assessment report for the republic of Suriname (2022).

There are however some pieces of legislation that may be of general application:

1. Environmental Framework Act of May 21st, 2024 (Milieu Raamwet S.B. 2020 no. 97 z.l.g. bij S.B. 2024 no. 56): This act covers general waste management. Articles 33, 34 and 35 authorize the National Environmental Authority (NMA) to:
 - a. Establish norms and procedures for the handling, storage, transport, use, disposal, the reuse and recycling of waste, which will also be included as requirements for licenses.
 - b. Prohibit the following (based on research and information, as well as measurements conducted by itself and other agencies):
 - i. The import or export of any waste.
 - ii. The emission into the environment of any waste suitable for reuse or recycling.
 - c. Support programs that enhance reuse/recycling
 - d. Determine which substances are considered hazardous to the environment and which substances are prohibited and develop procedures for importing, exporting, safely storing, handling, transporting, using, and disposing of these hazardous substances.

2. DECREE of 12 February 2025 for the implementation of Articles 22(1) and 25 of the Environmental Framework Act (S.B. 2020 No. 97) (*Environmental Impact Assessment Decree*). This decree requires all recycling industries to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
3. Criminal Law Act (1990): Articles 225a and 225b of this act specify penalties for individuals who intentionally dispose of waste into the environment.
4. Act on the movement of goods S.B. 2003 no 58- Act on the Movement of Goods and State Order Negative List. While there is no specific reference to WEEE under this legislation, the importation of waste in general is prohibited.
5. Draft Waste Act (2007): Although developed in 2007, this act has not yet been approved and is currently under review by the government.

Suriname has ratified all the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) relevant for waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE).

Table 2. Status of Multilateral Environmental Agreements – Suriname

Multilateral Environmental Agreement	Entry into force
Basel Convention	20/09/2011
Ban Amendment	No
Rotterdam Convention	24/02/2004
Stockholm Convention	19/12/2011
Minamata Convention	02/08/2018

Source: National legislative and institution assessment report – Suriname, 2024





Chapter 2.

WEEE Flows Assessment: A Country Perspective

This paragraph describes the methodology used by the UNITAR SCYCLE team to compile the WEEE flows assessment and analysis, under chapter 2. It is based on the standardized methodology developed by the SCYCLE team, in cooperation with other international agencies, as also explained in the international statistical guidelines (Forti et al. 2020)⁴.

2.1 METHODOLOGY

Due to the wide variety of EEE products available in the market, it is essential to categorize them in groups that reflect their key characteristics. The United Nations University KEYS (UNU-KEYS) and the categories in the EU WEEE Directive can be used to classify EEE products, as explained below:

- The UNU-KEYS are a product categorisation comprised of 54 categories developed by UNU⁵. The UNU-KEYS are constructed in such a way that product groups share comparable average weights, material compositions, end of-life characteristics, and hazardous profile and lifetime distributions. The UNU-KEYS encompass all possible EEE (more than 900 products), and their classifications can be linked to the EU categories.
- The EU WEEE Directive currently covers 6 categories, as listed in Annex III of the WEEE-Directive 2012/19/EC, entered into force in 2018, and before there were 10 categories that are linked to the UNU-KEYS classification system. The data in this study is presented according to the WEEE Directive's 10 categories for harmonization purposes. The 10 e-waste Categories can be found in Table 3.

Table 3. E-waste 10 Categories

E-waste category	Description
CAT. 1	Large household appliances
CAT. 2	Small household appliances
CAT. 3	IT and telecommunications equipment
CAT. 4	Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
CAT. 5	Lighting equipment
CAT. 6	Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
CAT. 7	Toys, leisure and sports equipment
CAT. 8	Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)
CAT. 9	Monitoring and control instruments
CAT. 10	Automatic dispensers

Understanding the quantities, characteristics and pathways of e-waste – along with collecting accurate and up-to-date data – provides a solid foundation for monitoring e-waste generation and management. The measurement framework, developed by UNITAR-SCYCLE and detailed in the E-waste Statistics Guidelines⁶, follows a mass balance approach over the EEE's entire life cycle. The methodology covers production, trade, placing on the market, e-waste generation, e-waste management, and other e-waste related activities, as represented in Figure 2. It covers any product supplied to the national market for consumption that is used by households, businesses, or public authorities.

^{4/5/6} http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6477/RZ_EWaste_Guidelines_LoRes.pdf

The methodology follows four steps:

1. The EEE put on the market (POM) is calculated using the apparent consumption method, as the sum of the domestic production and imports of EEE minus the EEE exported in a specific year. The data source used in this calculation are the Comtrade trade statistics and national statistics⁷ offices.

$$POM(t) = \text{Domestic production } (t) + \text{Imports } (t) - \text{Exports } (t)$$

2. After the EEE is placed on the market, it remains in use until the product is discarded – this period is referred as the product's lifetime. A product's lifetime profile indicates the obsolescence rate per year following its sale. The total amount of equipment in households, businesses, and the public sector is referred to as the stock.
3. After a certain lifetime, the product is disposed and it becomes waste, which is referred as the e-waste generated, prior to collection. The quantity of e-waste generated is calculated from the product's POM time-series, taking into account their respective rates of obsolescence in the evaluation year.
4. The e-waste follows different flows, including the formal and compliant collection. Data on the e-waste collection is requested to countries and provided by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

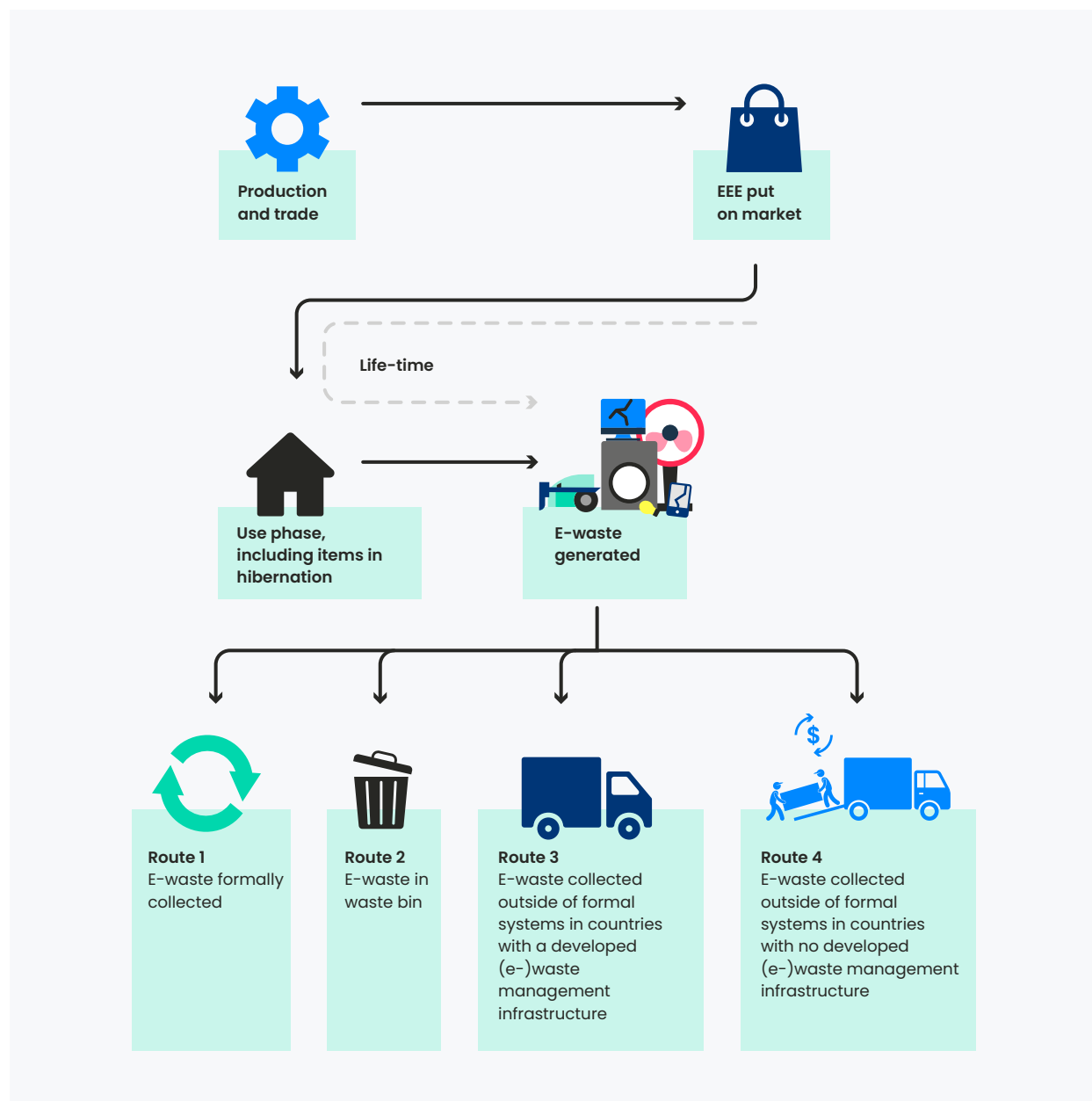


Figure 2. E-waste Statistics Framework

⁷ <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>

The General Statistics Bureau (GSB) in Suriname, in the framework of the current E-waste Management consultancy, has provided official data on the EEE put on the market, from 2010 to 2021. These data have been inserted by UNITAR SCYCLE in its WEEE calculation tool⁸, to obtain updated data on the following indicators, as illustrated in the following section:

- EEE Put On the Market
- WEEE Generated

However, no official data on e-waste collected or recycled has been shared by authorities in Suriname.

2.2 WEEE FLOWS AND OUTLOOK, FROM 2010 TO 2030

This paragraph describes the flows of EEE Put On the Market (POM) and e-waste generated in Suriname, from 2010 to 2030.

From 2010 to 2024, trade data were provided by the Suriname General Statistics Bureau (GSB), which were used to calculate the EEE POM and e-waste generated for the same years. Data from 2025 to 2030 was scaled using an adjustment factor that bridges the gaps between the original estimates from the UNITAR datasets (retrieved from UN-Comtrade website) and the figures provided from the country. This adjustment factor reflects the lower values observed in the country values, with respect to the original estimates. The existence of data gaps between datasets shows the **importance of in-country monitoring, in order to obtain accurate information on the country's situation**.

According to stakeholders, the difference between data from the UNITAR dataset and GSB could be attributed to the fact that in Suriname the customs system relies on 6-digit HS codes, which are often extended to 8 digits by simply adding two zeros—without adding any meaningful detail. To accurately classify imported goods, a more detailed 8- or 10-digit coding system is required. Addressing this gap will however require engagement with customs authorities to obtain more specific HS code data for the different items entering the country.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 represent a time series from 2010 to 2030 of the EEE put on the market and the e-waste generated in Suriname, respectively.

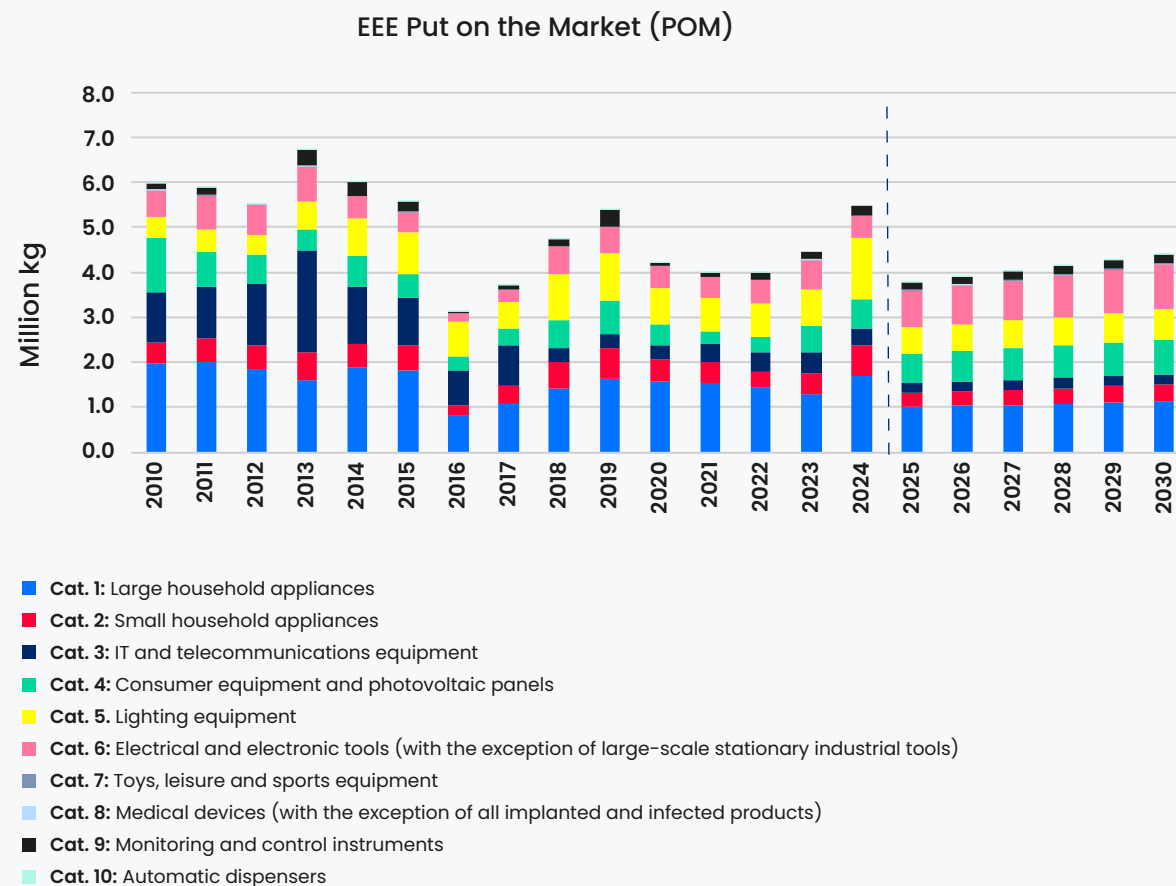


Figure 3. EEE POM in Suriname, 2010-2030

⁸ Tool developed by UNITAR SCYCLE to calculate the amount of EEE POM and e-waste based on the country's production, exports, and imports.

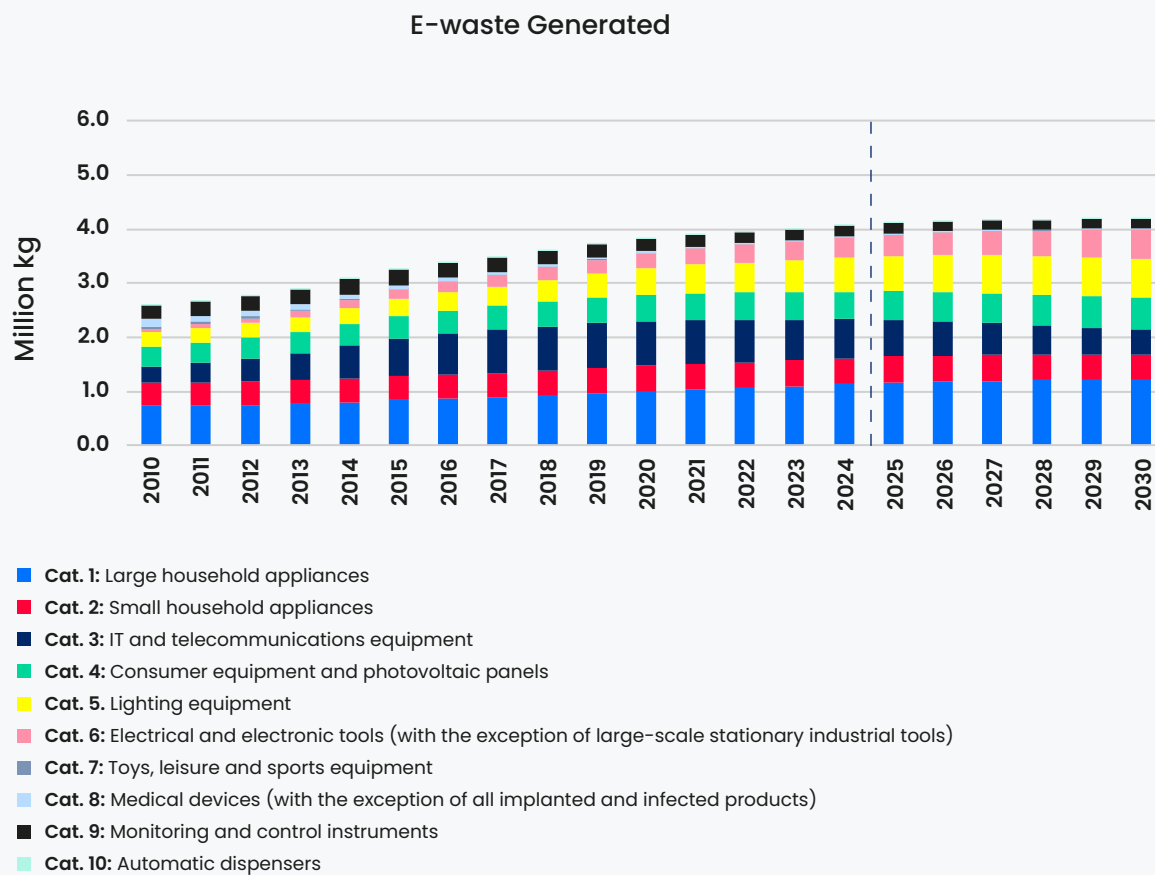


Figure 4. E-waste Generated in Suriname, 2010-2030

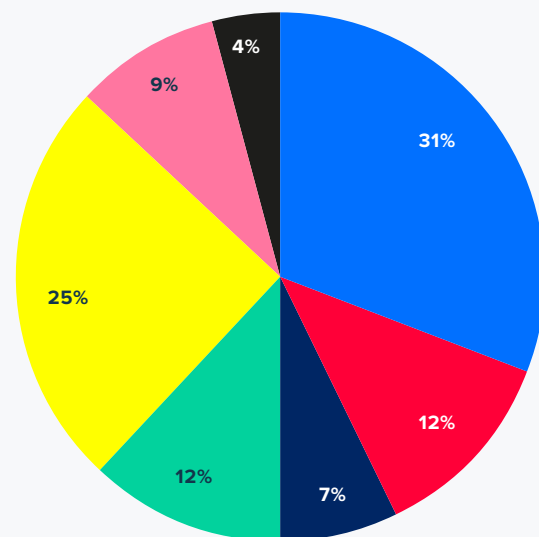
In Suriname, the amount of EEE placed on the market (POM) annually has suffered some visible fluctuations during the years from 2010 to 2024, and it is projected to increase steadily annually until 2030. According to stakeholders, these fluctuations could be attributed to the economic crisis in Suriname from 2012, with an economic recession in

2016 and then the influence of the Covid 19 pandemic. A total of 5.98 million kg was placed in the market in 2010, the amount of POM reached a maximum in 2013 with 6.71 million kg and a minimum of 3.13 million kg in 2016, and 5.49 million kg were placed on the market in 2024.



During the same period, the amount of e-waste generated has steadily increased annually from 2.60 million kg in 2010 to 4.06 million kg in 2024, and it is expected to keep increasing, with 4.18 million kg of e-waste generated projected in 2030. In 2024, as it can be seen in Figure 5, the largest contributors to the POM in the country were Category 1 (31%) and Category 5 (25%). When it comes to e-waste generated, as seen in Figure 6, Category 1 (28%) and Category 3 (18%) are the largest contributors.

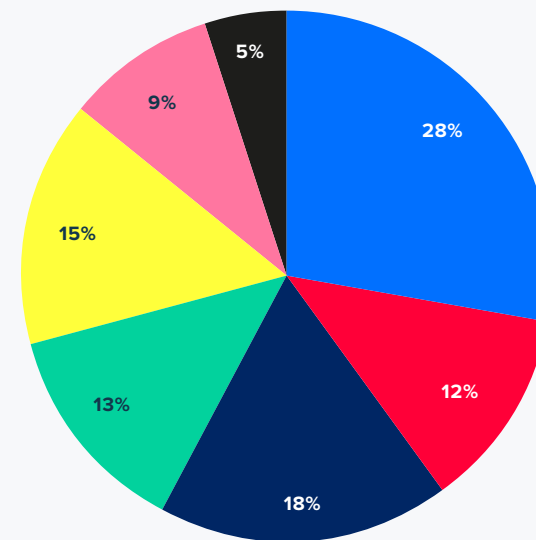
EEE POM per Category in 2024



- **Cat. 1:** Large household appliances
- **Cat. 2:** Small household appliances
- **Cat. 3:** IT and telecommunications equipment
- **Cat. 4:** Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- **Cat. 5:** Lighting equipment
- **Cat. 6:** Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- **Cat. 7:** Toys, leisure and sports equipment 0%
- **Cat. 8:** Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- **Cat. 9:** Monitoring and control instruments
- **Cat. 10:** Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 5. EEE POM per category in Suriname, 2024

E-waste Generated in 2024



- **Cat. 1:** Large household appliances
- **Cat. 2:** Small household appliances
- **Cat. 3:** IT and telecommunications equipment
- **Cat. 4:** Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- **Cat. 5:** Lighting equipment
- **Cat. 6:** Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- **Cat. 7:** Toys, leisure and sports equipment 0%
- **Cat. 8:** Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- **Cat. 9:** Monitoring and control instruments
- **Cat. 10:** Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 6. E-waste Generated per category in Suriname, 2024

Globally, Suriname is not a high contributor to the e-waste generated, as the largest contributions come from more populated countries. However, in terms of e-waste generated per capita, according to the Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024) **Suriname generated 11.1 kg/inhabitant in 2022⁹, ranking 46th worldwide** – comparable to countries like Saint Lucia, Serbia and Venezuela. Within the Caribbean region, the e-waste generation per capita ranges from 1.1 kg/inhabitant to 20.7 kg/inhabitant, placing Suriname in the mid-high range of e-waste generation per capita.

The largest contributor to the EEE POM, in terms of mass, are large household appliances (Category 1), which account for 1.69 million kg of the POM in 2024 (31% of the total) due to the high average weight of the products included in this category (e.g., fridges, washing machines, dishwashers). The amount of equipment from Category 1 being put on the market yearly has slightly decreased since 2010, when 1.98 million kg were put on the market, and it is projected to decrease until 2030. Category 1 is also the first largest contributor to the e-waste generated in the country, accounting for 1.14 million kg (36%) of the e-waste generated in 2024. The amount of e-waste generated annually has slightly increase since 2010, and it is expected to keep this trend until 2030.

Lighting equipment (Category 5) is the second largest contributor to the EEE POM with 1.37 million kg in 2024, a 25% of the total. Category 5 equipment sold in Suriname annually have more than doubled from 2010 to 2024, though with some fluctuations. Category 5 is projected to decrease until 2030. E-waste generated from Category 5, accounting for 0.63 million kg in 2024 (15% of the total), has increased

steadily during time and it is projected to continue this trend.

Small household appliances (Category 2) and consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels (Category 4) account for a 12% of the EEE POM in the country in 2024 each, 0.68 and 0.64 million kg respectively. For Category 2, equipment put on the market annually has increased since 2010 while Category 4 has decreased significantly since 2010, both with notable fluctuations. This could once again be attributed to the previously mentioned crisis, recession and COVID19 pandemic. The amount of EEE POM per year is expected to decrease for Category 2 and increase for Category 4 until 2030. With respect to the e-waste generated, 0.48 million kg were generated from Category 2 (12% of the total) and 0.51 million kg from Category 3 (13% of the total) in 2024. Category 2 and 4 e-waste generation have been relatively stable during the years, and it is projected to slightly decrease in the following years due to the decrease of EEE sold under these categories.

Electrical and electronic tools (Category 6) accounts for 9% of the total EEE POM in the country in 2024. The placing on the market of Category 6 products has decreased in recent years, from a maximum of 0.78 million kg in 2013 to 0.48 million kg in 2024, and it is expected to increase significantly until 2030. Regarding the e-waste generated from Category 6, 0.36 million kg were generated in 2024 (a 9% of the total), and has also risen significantly in the last years due to the increase on equipment put on the market and their relatively short lifespan.

In 2024, 0.38 million kg of IT and telecommunications equipment (Category 3) were placed in the market, a 7% of the total EEE POM that

year. The amount of Category 3 equipment has decreased steadily since 2010, when 1.14 million kg were sold, and it is projected to keep decreasing steadily until 2030. With respect to the e-waste generated, 0.72 million kg were generated in 2024 from Category 3 equipment (18% of the total) and have been steadily increasing since 2010, and it is expected to decrease in the coming years due to the decrease in equipment put on the market.

Monitoring and control instruments (Category 9) account for 0.24 million kg of the EEE POM in the country in 2024, 4% of the total. Equipment sold corresponding to Category 9 has been steadily increasing during the years, and the amount of EEE POM in the following years is expected to slightly decrease up to 2030. E-waste generated from Category 9 account for 0.20 million kg in 2024, 5% of the total, an amount that has been decreasing annually since 2010 and it is projected to continue this trend in the next years.

Toys, leisure and sports equipment (Category 7), Medical devices (Category 8), and automatic dispensers (Category 10) account together for less than 1% of the EEE POM and the e-waste generated in 2024. The amount of equipment put on the market and generated as e-waste has not undertaken remarkable changes during the time period presented.

Regarding the e-waste management, there is no quantitative data on the e-waste being formally collected and recycled in Suriname currently, and the qualitative information that has been compiled is going to be presented in the next chapters.

2.3 TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF WEEE

From the interviews collected with the recycling facilities in Suriname treating, among others, also e-waste, it has emerged that components such as Printed Circuit Boards (PCB) and metals are exported to Europe. However, no additional information on the quantities, the prices and the final treatment at the receiving companies have been shared in more detail.

Only one company's representative reported that their company ships about 2 x 28-ton containers on a yearly basis to Europe, of which about 5–7 tons consists of electronic parts and the rest other components.

From an analysis of the national reports on hazardous waste submitted by authorities in Suriname to the Basel Convention Secretariat, only two shipments of e-waste have been reported by the country, in 2018, and it concerned in total 11.5 tons of 'Computer parts scrap', classified under Basel Code B1110, shipped to Belgium and the Netherlands for 'Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds' classified as R4 (Annex IV).

The same year (2018), Suriname exported in total almost 4300 tons of hazardous waste for recycling purposes, including ferrous, aluminium, copper and lead scraps – of which e-waste only represented a very minimal component.

No other e-waste export is reported; in addition, reports are not available on the BC platform from 2021 to 2023 for Suriname.

⁹ 2022 data is used for comparison, as global values originate from the E-waste Monitor 2024, which is based on 2022 figures.



Chapter 3.

Technical and Infra-structural Capacity for WEEE Management

As previously highlighted, chapter 3 analyses the survey responses and insights gathered through bilateral interviews.

The objective is to outline the current situation in the country regarding the overall technical and infrastructural capacity and the status of other conditions (e.g. level of public awareness, public and private support and funding, etc.) necessary to ensure the establishment and development of a durable and sustainable WEEE management system in Suriname.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

According to stakeholders, the operational bodies in Suriname have **very little adequate to not adequate at all** resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE in the country.

Their assessment of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers, and waste managers) varied between **'ineffective'** (indicating stakeholders rarely coordinate, resulting in inefficiencies in waste management and unclear communication channels) and **'somewhat effective'** (indicating regular communication but room for improvement).

Two stakeholders from the private sector reported that there were voluntary initiatives or measures put in place, that contribute to WEEE management. These initiatives were driven by the Telecommunications Company of Suriname (TELESUR), which promotes WEEE awareness and bins for WEEE collection and the Foundation for Support Recycling Suriname (Suresur), also promoting WEEE awareness and bins for WEEE collection. The latter was financed by the IDB¹⁰ and ended in 2024. However, coverage of both initiatives is limited.

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

In Suriname, the **electronics** market is defined by the majority of stakeholders (63%) as **nascent** or **underdeveloped**, with no local production, few market players, and heavy dependence on imports with weak industry infrastructure. On the other hand, some stakeholders considered the market as **growing but still in development**, with some established players, expanding market potential, but with room for growth.

The financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in the country include:

- Government Funding – Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds.
- Landfill Tipping Fees – Charges for waste disposal at landfills.
- Waste Collection Fees – Businesses pay for waste services.
- Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses.
- International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations.
- Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes.

In addition, the following other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support the WEEE management:

EPR SCHEMES

Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)

Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)

Other: Environment Fund to support waste collection in remote areas, given limited to non-commercial viability of collection systems due to small scale and per current BAT and BEP

¹⁰ <https://climatetrackercaribbean.org/citizen-journalism/ngos-tackle-e-waste-awareness-in-surinamese-neighborhoods/>

COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There is no official WEEE collection system in place in Suriname.

However, WEEE and metal recyclers (from both the formal and informal sector) collect WEEE at a household and company level. Households and companies also drop off their WEEE at these recyclers.

There are, as previously mentioned, **six (6) WEEE dismantling and recycling facilities in Suriname**, namely BAP Waste Management Company, Green Circle Recycling NV, Makandra Community-based Circular Waste Management Solutions, Kairos Solution NV, Bux Engineering, and Nicole 'Aannemings en Constructie Bedrijf (NAB).

These facilities primarily dismantle WEEE to recover metals and circuit boards. The metals and plastics are typically sold to local recyclers, while the more valuable circuit boards are exported. According to one facility, his focus is shifting from bulky items like refrigerators to IT equipment. The reason for this shift is that after removing the valuable circuit boards, the large, empty shells of refrigerators occupy significant space and must be dumped, making them less economical to process.

It is however unknown whether these facilities are implementing best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).

Regarding compliance with environmental standards, most stakeholders stated that the facilities do not comply. It is also not known if the companies are equipped with proper tools and safety equipment or if workers are duly trained to handle collection, dismantling, recovery processes etc. It is also important to note that two(2) WEEE recycling companies stated that they do train their workers and ensure that they have right equipment, noting that there is always room for improvement.

The following elements have been ranked, from the most to the least relevant, as needed to scale up the existing facilities for WEEE dismantling and treatment:

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling / treatment facilities? – Suriname



Additionally, recycling facilities proposed several key improvements to enhance the sector's effectiveness:

1. **Formalized Collaboration:** Establish a centralized platform or association for recyclers to improve coordination and knowledge sharing.
2. **Government Recognition & Legitimacy:** Obtain formal government accreditation. This official status, documented on paper, would facilitate access to waste from businesses and government facilities, legitimizing their collection efforts and "opening doors" to larger volumes of WEEE.
3. **Specialized Training:** Provide professional training programs in safe WEEE management and advanced dismantling techniques.
4. **Regulatory Support:** Receive government assistance in navigating and obtaining necessary operational licenses.

5. **Financial Incentives:** Develop financial mechanisms, such as subsidies or access to grants, to support business sustainability and investment.
6. **Advanced Technology:** Invest in technology for the automated dismantling of WEEE to efficiently recover base components and precious metals (e.g., gold, silver, vanadium, nickel).

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

Suriname does have public awareness campaigns and education programs on waste management and recycling in general and these are primarily led by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Environment. However, these initiatives focus on general recyclable materials and do not include a dedicated program for WEEE. Consumers dispose of their WEEE via formal and informal waste collectors and send it to the landfill with other waste types.

INFORMAL SECTOR

In terms of the involvement of the **informal sector** in the WEEE management, it was reported that it is mainly active in the **collection, sorting and dismantling of WEEE for metals, circuit boards and other parts that are usable**. These metals are, as previously mentioned, sold back to metal recyclers, with the remaining parts going to the landfill. The size of this informal sector, in the WEEE management is unknown.

Furthermore, stakeholders were not aware of any program or initiative in place or planned, aimed at integrating the informal system into the formal one, at national or local level.

READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, particularly for take-back, recycling, and final disposal. In the context of electronic waste (e-waste), EPR shifts the financial and operational responsibility for collection, recycling, and safe disposal from

governments and consumers to manufacturers. This encourages producers to design more sustainable, durable, and recyclable electronics.

This approach is increasingly adopted worldwide, including in developing countries. As an example, in India, the E-Waste (Management) Rules mandate that producers of electronic goods must collect and channel e-waste to authorized recyclers through EPR plans approved by the Central Pollution Control Board. This policy has led to the formalization of parts of the informal recycling sector and improved compliance with environmental standards (OECD 2024).

At present, there are **reported good practices** at country level in Suriname related to **EPR scheme, however not on WEEE, but on plastics**. Currently the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Environment is researching EPR for plastic waste Prevention of Marine litter.

According to stakeholders, the following public and private actors in Suriname should participate in implementing an EPR scheme. The list below ranks these actors in order of priority, as indicated by stakeholder feedback.

Public and private actors to be involved for the implementation of EPR scheme - Suriname

MOST
LEAST

1. Government agencies
2. Private sector/ producers
3. PROs
4. Recycling facilities/ industry experts
5. Consumers
6. NGOs / CSOs
7. Other



The following challenges in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management in Suriname have been ranked, from the most to the least important:

Main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management sector – Suriname



As legal and regulatory challenges seem to be the most impactful in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management in the country, according to the stakeholders, the elements most needed in the legal framework, to effectively support the EPR implementation are the ones below, ranked from the most to the least important.

Elements most needed in the legal framework to effectively support the EPR implementation – Suriname



A clear definition of EPR, funding and financial mechanisms together with transparency and reporting requirements and consumer engagement are ranked as most important elements to support an EPR implementation at national level.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Stakeholders reported that their WEEE is disposed of at the landfills with other waste types, however while they have heard of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed of in a non-environmentally sound manner, they have no evidence.

In terms of social impact, stakeholders stated that while it is possible, they **do not have evidence of possible jobs creation** in the WEEE sector and/or in the green sector for the upcoming years; it is also **unknown** if children and/or other vulnerable groups are involved in the informal sector.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

The following current limitations of the WEEE management system have been ranked, from the most to the least important by stakeholders. At the top of the list is the lack of political commitment, which remains the strongest barrier to the development of effective WEEE systems. This is closely followed by gaps in infrastructure and lack of financing, both of which hinder the establishment of sustainable collection, recycling, and disposal mechanisms. Another significant challenge is the issue of illegal exports, which undermines formal waste management efforts and leads to loss of valuable materials.

What are the current limitations of the WEEE management systems – Suriname

- 
1. Lack of political commitment
 2. Gaps in infrastructure
 3. Lack of financing
 4. Illegal exports
 5. Lack of consumers' interest and commitment to proper dispose of WEEE
 6. Gaps in legislation
 7. Lack of effective enforcement
 8. Political and economical stability
 9. Competition from the informal sector
 10. Other

REGIONAL COOPERATION

In terms of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation at regional level for WEEE management, stakeholders had different opinions, and this was reported as Moderate, Minimal and even Non-existent. It was also mentioned that regulatory barriers, such as legal or policy restrictions hinder cross-border collaboration. However, **there are ongoing discussions and efforts are in progress to establish cross-border partnerships.**

With regards to legal or practical initiatives at a regional level related to WEEE management, the BCRC – Caribbean was the only organization recognised to support regional initiatives to improve e-waste management.

Opinions on a regional approach to facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme differed. The majority of stakeholders (more than 80 %) stated that a regional approach would facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme as follows:

1. It would reduce implementation costs – shared infrastructure and systems can help reduce the financial burden on individual countries
2. It would create harmonized regulations – a regional approach can ensure consistency in EPR requirements across borders, making compliance easier for producers and stakeholders
3. It would enhance cross-border cooperation – collaboration between countries can improve recycling and waste management systems, benefiting the region as a whole

However, some stakeholders stated that a regional approach towards EPR would not facilitate its implementation, because each country context is too different and local needs and conditions may require tailored, country-specific EPR schemes rather than a regional approach.



Chapter 4.

Economic Impact of WEEE Management Facilities at National Level

In consideration of the lack of precise financial data related to WEEE management and infrastructure (see also the Methodological note), the present paragraph provides an overview of elements offering insights on the economic impact of such activities at national level, mainly based on the qualitative information gathered.

The WEEE management system in Suriname, while not new is still in a **fragmented stage, with limited infrastructure, weak enforcement, and no formal Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** scheme in place. Although some specific products—such as mobile phones, laptops, televisions, refrigerators, and electric toys, are identified in policy documents as requiring attention, there is **no comprehensive WEEE legislation** beyond general waste regulations under the Environmental Framework Act (No. 97 of 2020).

Operational bodies are perceived as lacking adequate resources, expertise, and infrastructure, while coordination between stakeholders remains relatively ineffective.

The electronics market is described as emerging, with no local production, high reliance on imports, and underdeveloped supply chains.

COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Suriname does not operate a national, centralized WEEE collection system. **Consumers dispose of e-waste in multiple ways: dropping it off at designated points or recycling facilities, handing it to informal collectors, or discarding it with general household waste.** A public awareness initiative by SuReSur has been established, promoting community clean-ups and placing e-waste collection bins in public spaces, however coverage is still limited and not continuous.

Survey data and desk research indicate that WEEE, especially Category 3 WEEE (IT and telecommunications equipment) are collected in a formal system operated by several private companies, namely BAP Waste Management Company, Green Circle Recycling NV, Makandra Community-based Circular Waste Management Solutions, Kairos Solution NV, Bux Engineering, and Nicole 'Aannemings en Constructie Bedrijf (NAB). The collection and processing/dismantling by these companies is self-financed. The 2 companies interviewed stated that approximately 10 people are directly involved in collection and dismantling activities at their facilities. No data on collection cost per tonne or historical sales price for exported materials were shared, however.

While the above dismantling or recycling facilities exist, their technical capacity and **compliance with best available techniques are uncertain.** No national financial instruments specific to WEEE are in place, although potential measures such as government funding, international aid, and advanced disposal fees have been suggested.

No broader quantitative data emerged from the surveys regarding total collection volumes, national treatment capacity, or costs per tonne for other WEEE categories. However, of the two companies interviewed, one company mentioned that it ships about two 28-ton containers on a yearly basis to Europe. Of which, about 5–7 tons consists of electronic parts and the rest other components. These amounts exclude metals and plastics as these are sold locally. The other company, which is an emerging recycler, stated that they collect about 1 ton of WEEE from Category 3 alone on a yearly basis.

TREATMENT AND MATERIAL RECOVERY

Dismantling or recycling facilities are present in Suriname as mentioned in the previous sections. The process at these facilities involves **manual separation and dismantling, currently focussing on especially Printed Circuit Boards (PCB) as the main separated output fraction, as this is feasible and there is a market.** Further dismantling into additional fractions is also done. Information on sale prices or trading destinations were not shared.

For other WEEE categories, the extent of local treatment remains unclear, and no detailed data on output fractions, treatment capacity, or export destinations were provided. Survey responses confirm that the informal sector participates in collection, sorting, and dismantling, but no initiatives are in place to integrate these actors into formal systems.

Suriname does export some e-waste, though not always in compliance with the Basel Convention, and the receiving countries were not disclosed in the survey.

OPERATIONAL COSTS AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Due to the absence of complete quantitative data, it is not possible to determine the overall operational costs, revenue streams, or profitability of Suriname's WEEE management activities. However, the existence of 6 dismantling and or recycling facilities indicates that there is potential.

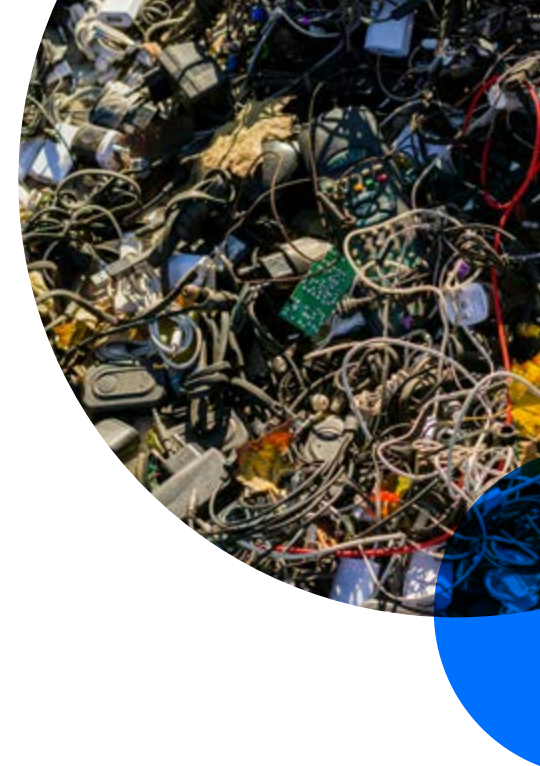
Targeted investments in legislation, infrastructure, technical training, and market development, combined with structured engagement of the informal sector, could unlock significant economic and environmental benefits for Suriname's WEEE sector.

Chapter 5.

Conclusions and Way Forward

CONCLUSIONS

- The amount of yearly EEE at country level has fluctuated notably during the period from 2010 to 2021, when 4.04 million kg were placed in the market. The amount of e-waste generated has steadily increased during the years, and 3.96 million kg were generated in 2021.
- The largest categories contributing to EEE POM in 2021 were Category 1 (large household appliances) and Category 5 (lighting equipment), representing 38% and 18% respectively. The largest categories contributing to the WEEE generated were Category 2 (small household appliances) and Category 1, representing 25% and 22% respectively.
- From 2012 to 2021, trade data were provided by the Suriname General Statistics Bureau, which were used to calculate the national EEE POM and WEEE generated for the same years. Data from 2022–2030 was scaled using an adjustment factor to reflect the lower values observed in the country values with respect to the previous estimates performed based on the apparent consumption methodology values (which were higher).
- No official statistics were made available on WEEE collected and recycled.
- While there is no national WEEE recycling scheme in place in Suriname, there are currently six private owned dismantling or recycling facilities in Suriname: BAP Waste Management Company, Green Circle Recycling NV, Makandra Community-based Circular Waste Management Solutions, Kairos Solution NV, Bux Engineering, and Nicole 'Aannemings en Constructie Bedrijf (NAB).
- The informal sector is involved in WEEE collection and dismantling. They especially collect WEEE to salvage metals such as copper and aluminium, which are sold to metal recyclers. The remains go to the landfill. No information is available on if this sector is trained to handle WEEE.
- Currently the implementation of EPR schemes at the national level remains non-existent for e-waste. Only one reported case of good practice exists, which concerns plastics, not WEEE. Legal and regulatory challenges seem to be the most impactful in the adoption of an EPR for e-waste management at country level, together with high implementation costs, insufficient funding and reporting and improved collection and recycling systems.
- Cross-border cooperation at a regional level is reported as moderate to non-existent at present, mainly due to regulatory barriers. However, there are ongoing discussions and efforts are in progress to establish cross-border partnerships.



WAY FORWARD

Considering the current situation with regard to WEEE management in Suriname, summarized above in the conclusions, the following items are indicated as possible recommendations and way forward, to improve the current system:

- Establish a coordinated effort in the waste management at national level, including on WEEE management
- Establish dedicated WEEE management regulation and support relevant authorities in the following enforcement phases
 - EPR policy recommended, involving all relevant actors
- Establish dedicated WEEE management regulation and support WEEE dismantling and recycling companies with the following:
 - Professional training programs in safe WEEE management and advanced dismantling techniques.
 - Advanced technology in automated dismantling of WEEE
 - Government Recognition & Legitimacy
 - Financial mechanisms, such as subsidies or access to grants, to support business sustainability and investment
- Establish a system for regular monitoring of e-waste flows through dedicated data collection and analysis
 - The analysis showed that by applying SCYCLE methodology with the use of official data provided by national authorities (e.g. Customs office), estimates on EEE POM and WEEE generated are rather more accurate
 - Include in the monitoring system, measures to quantify the WEEE collected and recycled at national level (including costs of fractions, shipments costs etc.)
- More accurate estimates of WEEE generated and relevant future projections could help in establishing an efficient system for WEEE management what would take in consideration the current situation but also the expected needs
- Support the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanisms, to exchange information and good practices on WEEE collection and recycling – leveraging on countries with more advanced infrastructure and knowledge and working on the elimination of legal barriers.



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Annex 1. Online Survey

1. THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO GATHER QUALITATIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CURRENT WEEE MANAGEMENT SITUATION IN THE SURVEYED COUNTRIES.

The survey covers the following aspects: legislative and regulatory framework; institutional and organizational structure; financial mechanisms; collection, recycling and disposal infrastructure; data and monitoring; public awareness and participation; informal sector; readiness towards EPR system; environmental and social impacts; transboundary movements; challenges and barriers; regional cooperation.

Countries in scope: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Target audience: main actors involved in the WEEE management and in the possible establishment of a regional EPR system. This includes national stakeholders from the 12 project countries, including governmental authorities, recycling companies, WEEE importers/exporters, EEE producers (if existing), CSOs, NGOs, representatives from the informal sector etc.

Instructions: Kindly answer all sections / questions relevant to your field of work/expertise. You can skip those questions that are not relevant to your area of work.

Contacts: If you require assistance, including if you'd like to discuss a different way to compile the survey (through interview, offline format etc.), please contact the Project Coordinator elena.dangelo@unitar.org.

2. GLOSSARY

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE): all products with circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply. It encompasses a wide range of products such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines and hairdryers, mobile phones, wireless headphones and tablets, etc.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE or e-waste): EEE that has been discarded by its owner as waste, without the intent for reuse

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling and disposal. It aims to reduce waste and encourage sustainable product design by shifting the burden from governments to manufacturers. In practice, EPR can involve setting up take-back systems for recycling, paying fees to fund collection and recycling programs, or ensuring products are designed for easier recycling.

Best Available Techniques (BAT): refers to the most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation, which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing the basis for emission limit values and other permit conditions designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole. In the context of waste management facilities, BAT includes techniques that are economically and technically viable for reducing emissions and environmental impacts.

Best Environmental Practices (BEP): are the application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies. BEP aims to prevent or minimize the generation of waste and its harmful effects on the environment. This includes practices such as waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and proper disposal methods.

Informal sector: the informal sector in waste management refers to unregulated, small-scale activities where individuals or groups collect, sort, and recycle waste materials outside formal systems, often without legal recognition or protection.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

Email Address

Organization

Country

Gender: How do you identify?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other

4. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

If WEEE legislation of WEEE-related policy are in place in your country, which are the products covered? (Please copy paste the list of products from the relevant legislation/policy).

If there is no specific WEEE legislation in the country, are any of the products listed in the 'Correspondence table with UNU-KEY' (included in the data gathering excel) covered in the general waste legislation or specific legislation? If yes, please provide below the official title of the legislation and possibly a link to access it.

Which elements are most needed, in your country's legal framework, to effectively support the EPR implementation? (Please rank from the most to the least needed).

- Clear definition of producer responsibilities – law must outline the obligations for producers to manage end-of-life products _____
- Improved collection and recycling systems – regulations should enhance the creation or support of infrastructure for collecting and recycling products _____
- Capacity building – initiatives to train stakeholders in maintaining collection and recycling systems _____
- Enforcement mechanisms – strong measures to ensure compliance with EPR requirements, including proportional penalties for non-compliance, combined with capacity building for inspectors _____
- Funding and financial mechanisms – legal provisions for financing EPR schemes, such as producer fees or eco-taxes _____
- Transparency and reporting requirements – laws should mandate regular reporting and transparency in the handling of waste and recycling efforts, supported by capacity building initiatives _____
- Consumer engagement & Awareness – regulations to promote public participation and education on EPR practices _____
- Other _____

5. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Do you believe the operational bodies in your country have sufficient resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE?

- ☐ Not adequate at all
- ☐ Very little adequate
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Fully adequate
- ☐ I don't know

How would you assess the current level of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers and waste managers) in your country's waste management sector? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Very effective – there is already strong collaboration, with clear roles and effective communication between stakeholders
- ☐ Somewhat effective – stakeholders communicate regularly, but coordination could be improved in certain areas
- ☐ Ineffective – stakeholders rarely coordinate, resulting in inefficiencies in waste management and unclear communication channels
- ☐ Uncertain – it is unclear how well stakeholders coordinate in the waste management sector
- ☐ Other _____

Which main public and private actors in your country should be involved in the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please rank from the most – 1 – to the least important – 7).

- Government agencies – responsible for setting regulations, monitoring compliance and ensuring enforcement _____
- Private sector / producers – accountable for financing/organizing collection and recycling systems + ensuring product design for recyclability _____
- Producers Responsibilities Organizations (PROs) – coordinating collection, recycling and reporting compliance with EPR regulations _____
- Recycling facilities / industry experts – managing the infrastructure for recycling and disposal of WEEE, ensuring efficient processing _____
- Consumers – engage in proper disposal and circular strategies (reuse, recycle..) _____
- NGO / Civil society – support in public awareness, education and monitoring efforts to promote effective recycling/circular strategies _____
- Other _____

Are you aware of voluntary initiatives or measures put in place by the industry to contribute to WEEE management?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please specify below, by providing title/info or the link to the relevant initiatives.

6. FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

How would you describe the structure and maturity of the electronics market in your country? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Well-developed and competitive – mature market with strong local and international producers, diverse product offerings, and advanced supply chains
- ☐ Growing, but still in development
- ☐ Some established players, increasing local production, and expanding market potential, but with room for growth
- ☐ Emerging market
- ☐ Limited local production, reliance on imports, and underdeveloped supply chains
- ☐ Nascent or underdeveloped
- ☐ Minimal local production, few market players, and heavy dependence on imports with weak industry infrastructure
- ☐ Other

What are the financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in your country? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding
- ☐ Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees
- ☐ Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes

- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Which other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support WEEE management / EPR system (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding – Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees – Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes
- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other

7. COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Is there a WEEE collection system in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How is WEEE collected in your country? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection points (e.g. bin/boxes in streets or retail stores, collection centers etc.)
- ☐ Pickup at household by informal sector (e.g. informal waste pickers, local collectors)
- ☐ Door-to-door collection system (formal sector)
- ☐ Other

Are there dismantling / recycling facilities in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are existing facilities implementing best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BET)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Do WEEE recycling and disposal practices in your country comply with environmental standards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are dismantling / recycling facilities equipped with proper tools and safety equipment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are workers in the WEEE management sector duly trained to handle collection, dismantling, recovery processes etc.?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling / treatment facilities? (Please rank from the most to the least relevant).

- Expansion of facility capacity and land availability _____
- Investment in advanced recycling technologies _____
- Increased access to specialized equipment for dismantling _____
- Technical expertise for the efficient management of the other WEEE categories _____
- Training and development of skilled workers _____
- Better waste sorting and pre-processing system _____
- Other _____

8. DATA AND MONITORING

Who is responsible for collecting WEEE data? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ National statistic body
- ☐ Ministry of Environment (or other GOV institutions)
- ☐ International organizations
- ☐ WEEE collection companies
- ☐ WEEE treatment companies
- ☐ Other

Is there a regular (e.g. annual) reporting system in place on EEE and WEEE.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not yet, but it is planned
- ☐ I don't know

9. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

What is currently in place in your country to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Efficient network of collection points
- ☐ Public awareness campaign and education programs
- ☐ Incentive programs (e.g. consumers are rewarded through financial incentives for returning WEEE to formal collection points or recycling centers)
- ☐ Other

Can you specify which awareness and education programs are in place?

How do consumers typically dispose of their WEEE ? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Drop off at designated collection points or recycling centers (formal channel)
- ☐ Dispose through informal collectors
- ☐ Dispose with other waste (e.g. household waste)
- ☐ Uncertain or unknown

10. INFORMAL SECTOR

At which stages is the informal sector involved in WEEE management? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection
- ☐ Sorting
- ☐ Dismantling
- ☐ Treatment
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other

Can you assess the size of the informal sector, in the WEEE management sector in your country?

- ☐ <25% of the overall WEEE management?
- ☐ Between 25–50%
- ☐ Between 50–75%
- ☐ >75%
- ☐ Unknown

Are there any programs/initiatives aimed at integrating the informal sector into formal systems? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

11. READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Are the main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management sector in your country? (Please rank from most (1) to least (6) important).

- Legal & regulatory - lack of specific legislation, enforcement challenges or unclear responsibilities _____
- Financial & Economic - High implementation costs, insufficient funding mechanisms or resistance from producers _____
- Technical and infrastructure - Limited recycling facilities, collection systems, or technology for proper WEEE processing _____
- Stakeholder Cooperation - Lack of coordination among government, businesses and informal sector _____
- Public awareness and participation - Low consumer awareness or engagement in proper WEEE disposal _____
- Other _____

Do you have good practices related to EPR scheme in your country or outside to share (e.g. some steps taken to implement in EPR in WEEE or in another waste stream such as plastic waste etc.)? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

12. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Do you have evidence, in your country or in the region, of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed of if a non-environmentally sound manner (including mixed with other types of waste, ELVs, metals etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I've heard about them but never saw them
- ☐ I don't know

Have new jobs related to the WEEE sector been created in the last 5 years in your country?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and data are available from responsible entities (please provide information)

Are there plans, at national level, that envisage the creation of new jobs related to the WEEE sector and/or green sector in the next 5 years?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and references are available from the responsible entities (please provide reference information)

Are women, children and/or other vulnerable groups involved in the informal sector – e.g. in the collection, dismantling of WEEE?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

13. TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS

Does your country export WEEE for treatment purposes?

- ☐ Yes, to other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main receiving countries.

Does your country import WEEE for treatment or other purposes?

- ☐ Yes, from other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, from other countries globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main sending countries.

14. CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

What are the current main limitations of the WEEE management systems (please rank/order them from the most to the least important).

- Gaps in legislation _____
- Gaps in infrastructure, technology and expertise related to WEEE management _____
- Lack of financing _____
- Lack of political commitment _____
- Lack of effective enforcement _____
- Competition from the informal sector _____
- Illegal exports _____
- Political and economic stability _____
- Lack of consumers' interest and commitment to properly dispose of WEEE _____
- Other _____

What are your suggestions for improvements of the WEEE management system in your country?

15. REGIONAL COOPERATION

What is the current level of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation in the region for WEEE management (please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Well established - Formal policies, agreements and active collaboration exist between countries
- ☐ Moderate - Some cooperation exists, but it is limited in scope or effectiveness
- ☐ Minimal - Few cross-border initiatives, with occasional ad-hoc cooperation.
- ☐ Non-existent - No formal cooperation or coordination between countries

- ☐ Regulatory barriers - Legal or policy restrictions hinder cross-border collaboration
- ☐ Ongoing discussions - Efforts are in progress to establish cross-border partnerships
- ☐ Other

Are there any legal or practical initiatives in place at regional level related to WEEE management (e.g. bilateral or regional agreements, regional recycling centers etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please provide details.

Would a regional approach facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Yes, it would reduce implementation costs - shared infrastructure and systems can help reduce the financial burden on individual countries
- ☐ Yes, it would create harmonized regulations - a regional approach can ensure consistency in EPR requirements across borders, making compliance easier for producers and stakeholders
- ☐ Yes, it would enhance cross-border cooperation - collaboration between countries can improve recycling and waste management systems, benefiting the region as a whole
- ☐ No, it may create additional complexity - differences in national laws, political systems, and waste management capacities might complicate a regional approach
- ☐ No, each country context is too different - local needs and conditions may require tailored, country-specific EPR schemes rather than a regional approach
- ☐ Uncertain - it is unclear whether a regional approach would be beneficial for EPR implementation in my country
- ☐ Other

Annex 2.

Economic Impact Analysis Template

COLLECTION INFORMATION

COLLECTION						
Which e-waste category is collected in your country?	Comment (if the 10 categories are not used, please provide national code or description of the products collected)	How is the category (Column A) or product (Column B) collected in your country?	How is the system (Column C) currently financed ?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column D, further detail here)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the collection in your country?	What is the estimated price for the collection of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [USD\$]
Example						
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 2		Informal	Self-financing		200	120
Cat 3		Informal	Self-financing		200	160
Cat 4		Informal	Self-financing		200	300

TREATMENT OPERATION

TREATMENT

Is the collected e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) treated in your country?	If 'No, outside the country' (Column H), to which country the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) is sent to?	What is the average sale price of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) exported for recycling [+ or - USD\$]	What is the treatment capacity of the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [tonne]	Comment (Column K – specify if the treatment capacity refers to a mix of e-waste categories, codes or products)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the treatment in your country?	Which processes are mainly used to dismantle, treat or recycle the e-waste category (Column A), code or product (Column B) in your country?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column N, further detail here)	What are the main output fractions that are separated?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column P, further detail here)	How much of the output fraction (Column P) is produced yearly in your country? [tonne]	What is the average sale price of the fraction (Column P)? [+ or - USD\$]	Where is this fraction (Column P) usually traded?	To which country this fraction (Column P) is traded to?
Example													
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Metal frame		250	50	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Compressor		5	25	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 4	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Metal fraction		90	30	In the Caribbean region	SUR
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 5	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Plastic fraction		80	-10	In the Caribbean region	TTO
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500	this is valid for cat 1 and 6	50	Physical Treatment – separation		PCB		2	72	Outside the Caribbean region	USA
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Magnet		6	20	Outside the Caribbean region	MEX, USA
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, EU	-50	150		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Ferrous metals		20	50	I do not know	
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, NLD	100	200		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		4	20	I do not know	
I do not know	MEX, USA, NLD	100	350		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		2	20	I do not know	

Annex 3.

In-country Mission Plan and Stakeholders

OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS/SITE VISITS

Country	Organization/company	Representative	Date	Address
Suriname	Makandra Circular Community based Waste Management Solutions	Mr. Joshua Bendt Ms. Alyscha Comvalius	April 24 th , 2025	Industrieweg Zuid
	Nicole Aannemings en Constructie Bedrijf (NAB)	Mr. Babel	May 27 th , 2025	Online
	Project Officer at the Ministry of Environment	Mr. Liam Sebastien	June 10 th , 2025	Financial Centre Building, Roseau, Dominica.





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