

National WEEE Assessment 2026

The Bahamas



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The Bahamas

Abstract & Authors

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

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
ACHS	Advisory Council for Health and Safety
BAHSFA	The Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority
BAP	Best Available Techniques
BCRC – Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

Abbreviations	
HCL	Human Capital Index
kg	Kilograms
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSO	National Statistical Office
NPEP	New Providence Ecology Park
PoM	Put on the Market
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SUWAMA	Suriname Waste Management Foundation
UNITAR – SCYCLE	United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Sustainable Cycles programme
USD	United States Dollars
UNU – KEYS	United Nations University KEYS
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 (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 that 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.

High-income countries average 109 EEE items per capita, while low-income countries can average as few as 4 items per capita.

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% 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 ISLAND project. 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 ISLANDS project, this national assessment report provides an overview on the WEEE management situation in the country of **The Bahamas**, 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.

E-waste management poses a pressing challenge in the Caribbean region.



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 The Bahamas, 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 The Bahamas.
- [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 report 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.

An in-country mission was carried out in The Bahamas by representatives of the UNITAR consultancy team from 31st May - 4th June 2025. The mission plan and overview of meetings held is included in [Annex 3](#), together with pictures from the visit. During the in-country mission, bilateral interviews and site visits were carried out as part of the methodology used for the drafting of this national report.

In terms of gender representation, only one stakeholder compiled the online survey, gathering information from a few public entities, and she identified herself as female.

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

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 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 The Bahamas only limited information was shared by private stakeholders – therefore the analysis of the economic impact described in [chapter 4](#) is mainly based on qualitative information collected through the survey and during the in-country mission.

The draft national assessment report was shared with stakeholders for review and additional input and was presented to the country's representatives on 31st October 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

The Bahamas is an archipelago of more than 700 islands and islets. The capital is Nassau, located in the New Providence Island – which hosts more than 70% of the total population of the country (OCHA 2022). The overall population is 401 283, 83% of which lives in urban areas.

The Bahamas



Figure 1. Map of The Bahamas

Source: Ocha 2022 | Map Sources: UNCS, Gov't. of USA. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Aug 2013.

Table 1. Socio-economic indicators, World Bank

Population (total, 2024)	401 283
Population growth (annual %) (2024)	0.5
Human Capital Index (HCI) (scale 0-1)	n.a.
GDP (current US\$) (2024 billion)	15.83
GDP per capita (current US\$) (2024)	39 455.4
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %) (2024)	0.4
Access to electricity (% of population) (2023)	100
Individuals using the Internet (% of population) (2023)	95

Source: World Bank, [The Bahamas](#).

Socio-economic environment

The Bahamas is a high-income economy, heavily dependent on the tourism and financial service sector. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is estimated at USD 32 080, with an increase of + 25% from 2021 to 2022 (IMF 2020) – and, in general, it has risen steadily for the past three decades (OCHA 2022).

However, the country has experienced low growth rates and mounting levels of debt since the global financial crisis. Due to its small size, high reliance on foreign investment and lack of economic diversification, the country is highly vulnerable to disasters.

The tourism sector, together with tourism-driven construction and manufacturing, accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the country's GDP and directly and indirectly employs close to half of the population. The compounded impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have had profound effects on the most vulnerable, resulting in job losses, particularly in low-income households, informal workers and women, with lower human development and increase in poverty expected in the coming years (OCHA 2022).

The global climate change is considered as a key issue in the country, which is among the top five Small Island Developing States (SIDS) impacted by Sea Level Rise (SLR), with most of the impacts felt on the population as 100 per cent lives 25 km off the coastline and 82.8 per cent lives in low elevation zones.

The situation is further exacerbated as urbanization expands and is expected to triple by 2050, leaving a great proportion of the population vulnerable to the impacts of SLR (OCHA 2022).

Waste management system

The management of solid waste is an ongoing concern throughout the country, given the volume of solid waste discarded annually, which is around 300 000 tons. The New Providence islands contribute with about 77% of the total solid waste generated, and 17% is generated by Grand Bahamas.

The tourism sector generates substantial amounts of solid waste in The Bahamas: tourists generate twice as much solid waste per capita as local residents.

Recycling practices are limited, with landfills taking up valuable space that become unusable for extended periods, after they reach their capacity (BCRC, GEF Islands 2021¹). In the attempt to avoid also dump fires related to waste landfills, the Government of The Bahamas entered a contract with a private firm to create the New Providence Ecology Park (NPEP) which took over the site in March 2019. NPEP is also currently in charge of managing e-waste, as further explained in [chapter 3](#).

1.2 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

As reported in the national legal and institutional capacity assessment developed under the ISLAND Project (2024), The Bahamas has not formulated an overarching policy to address the management of hazardous chemicals, products, materials, and wastes.

Under the provisions of the 2019 **Environmental Planning and Protection Act**, a National Environmental Policy Framework is required to be developed and should include a National Persistent Organic Pollutants and Toxic Chemicals Management Policy. As of September 2022, this Policy Framework had not been created.²

The draft **National Development Plan**, which was not yet completed as of March 2024, includes actions such as harmonizing and enforcing legislation, regulating hazardous waste disposal, and promoting recycling and reuse aimed at implementing a modern waste management strategy. Specific reference is also made to some specific product and waste streams, including the establishment of collection points to enable the recycling of used mobile phones.

¹ *Framework for the Control and Management of Chemicals and Wastes in The Bahamas | GEF Islands*.

² Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean, Government of The Bahamas Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. 2022. The Bahamas Minamata Initial Assessment Report https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/Bahamas-MIA-2022.pdf

The table below provides an overview on the country's status of ratification to the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

Table 2. Status of Multilateral Environmental Agreements
– The Bahamas

Multilateral Environmental Agreement	Entry into force
Basel Convention	1992
Ban Amendment	Not party
Rotterdam Convention	Not party
Stockholm Convention	2006
Minamata Convention	2020

Source: National legislative and institution assessment report – The Bahamas, 2024

In The Bahamas, currently there is **no specific legislation regulating the management of WEEE**.

Article 149 of the Customs Management Regulations (2013) imposed an environmental levy on the import of goods specified in the Second Schedule. This section was amended in 2023 by The Customs Management Regulations – the levy was imposed on EEE including cell phones, landlines and printers. However, the regulations do not provide whether the levy funds will be dedicated to the disposal of WEEE. The Customs and Excise Department's website defines the environmental levy as a "fee imposed to assist government, via the Ministry of Environmental Health with the disposal of items that are hazardous to the environment and require special waste disposal treatment".³



³ <https://www.bahamascustoms.gov.bs/resources/faqs/>



Chapter 2.

WEEE Flows Assessment: A Country Perspective

2.1 METHODOLOGY

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).

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 UNU. 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 Guidelines, 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.

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 for a specific year. The data source used in this calculation are the Comtrade trade statistics⁴ and The Bahamas Customs Office.

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

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 Office (NSOs).

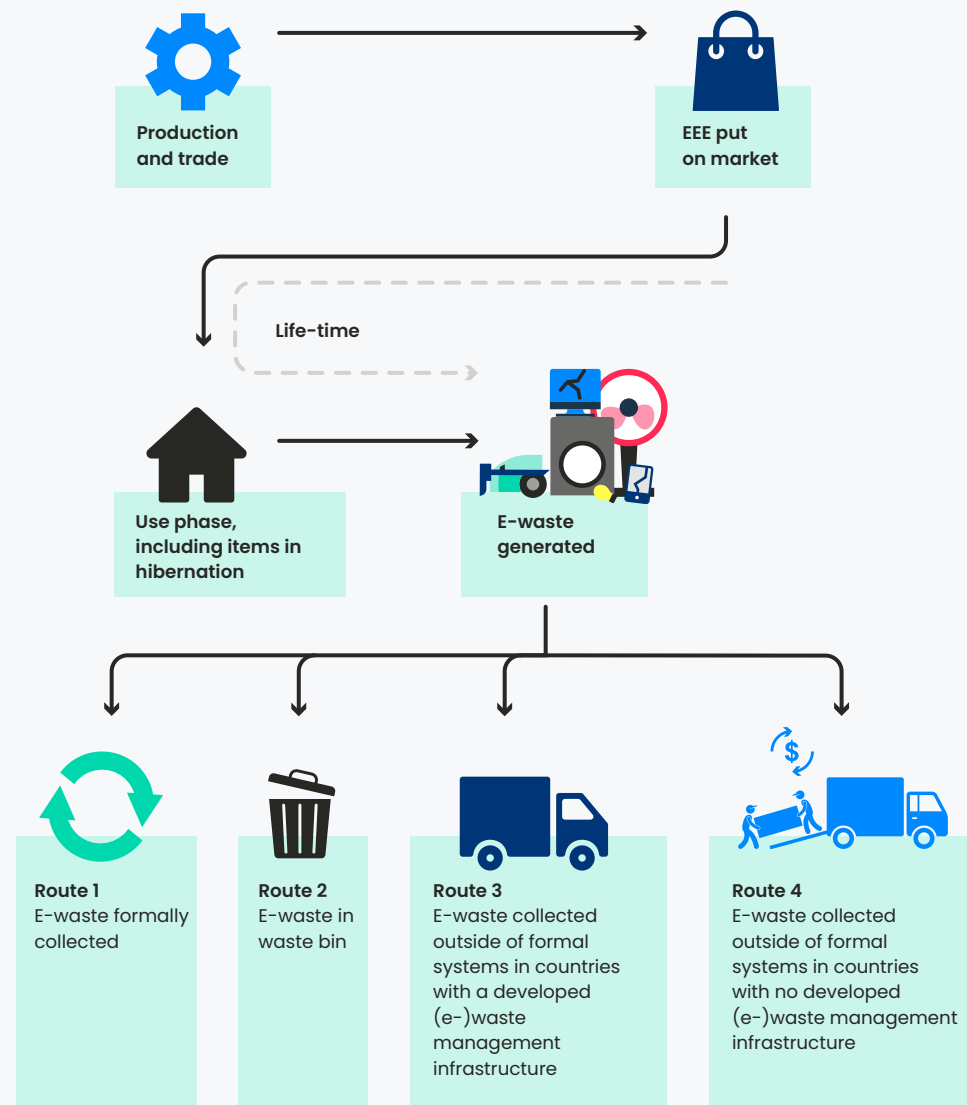


Figure 2. E-waste Statistics Framework

⁴ <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>

In The Bahamas, the following bodies are responsible for collecting data on e-waste:

1. National statistical body	2. Ministry of Environment (or other governmental institutions)
3. WEEE collection companies	4. WEEE treatment companies

However, there is no annual or regular reporting system in place on EEE and e-waste at national level.

The Customs authorities in the country, in the framework of the current E-waste Management consultancy, have provided official data on import and export of EEE in The Bahamas, from 2020 to 2024. These data have been inserted by UNITAR SCYCLE in its WEEE calculation tool⁵, to obtain updated data on the following indicators, as illustrated in the following section:

- EEE Put on the Market
- WEEE Generated

No official data on e-waste collected or recycled has been shared by authorities in The Bahamas.

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 The Bahamas, from 2010 to 2030.

From 2020 to 2024, trade data were provided by The Bahamas Customs Office, which were used to calculate the EEE POM and e-waste generated for the same years. For the period 2010 to 2019, POM data is based on the historical country's data from the Comtrade database, estimated with the apparent consumption methodology. Data from 2011 to 2019 was scaled using an adjustment factor that bridges the gaps between the original estimates and the higher figures provided from the country. This adjustment factor has also been applied to the forecast data (2025 to 2030) to reflect the higher 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**. Figure 3 and Figure 4 below, represents a time series from 2010 to 2030 of the EEE POM in The Bahamas, respectively.

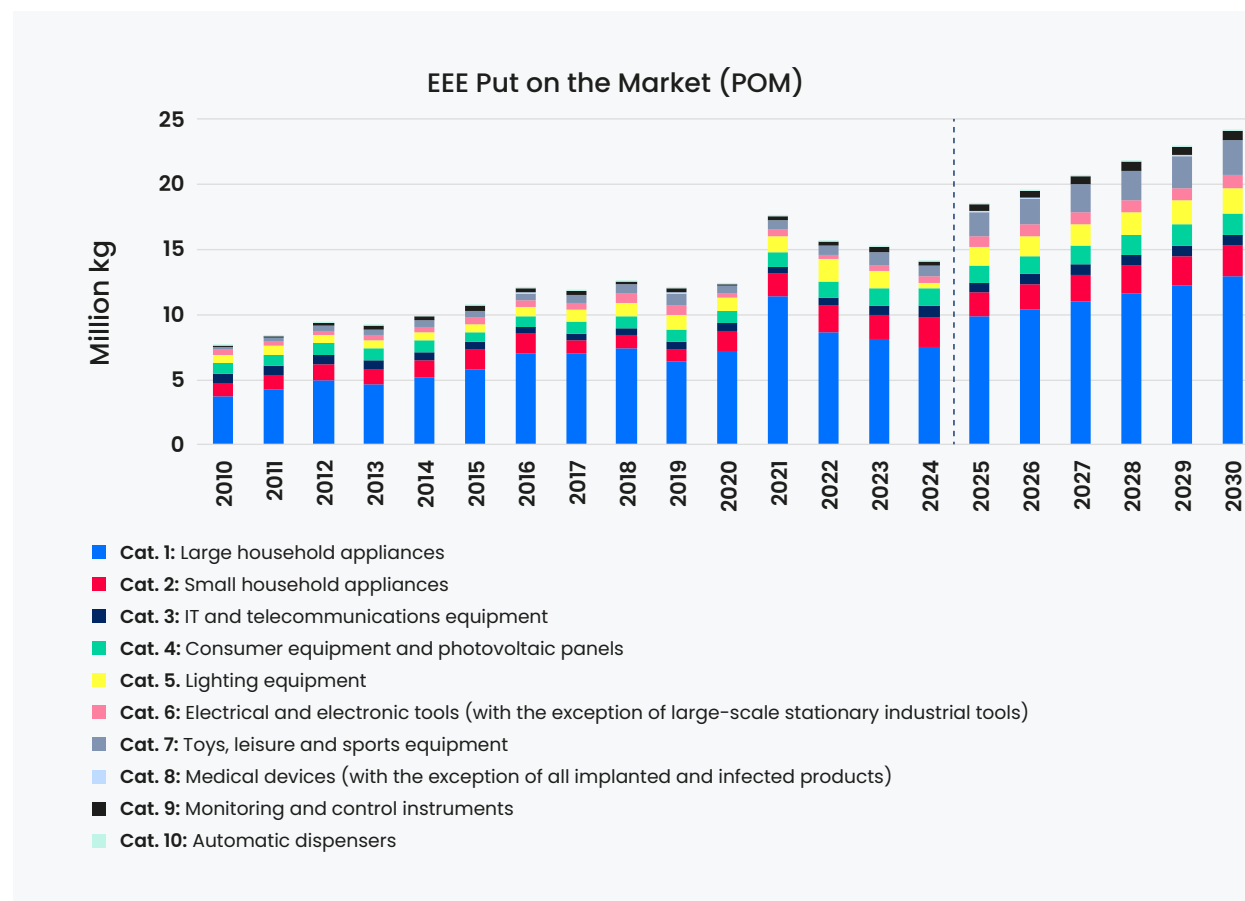


Figure 3. EEE POM in The Bahamas, 2010 – 2030

⁵ Tool developed by UNITAR SCYCLE to calculate the amount of EEE POM and e-waste based on the country's production, exports, and imports.

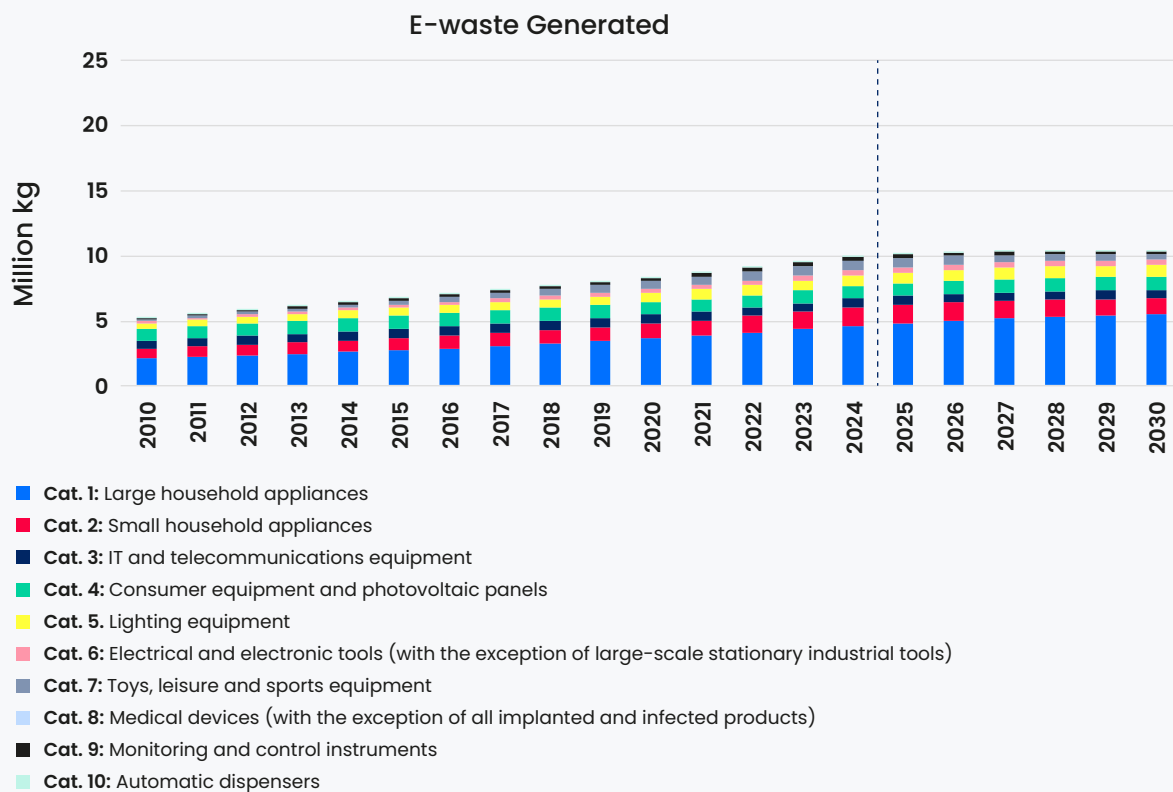


Figure 4. E-waste Generated in The Bahamas, 2010 – 2030

In The Bahamas, the amount of EEE POM annually has been increasing steadily since 2010, when 7.61 million kg were placed on the market, peaked in 2021 with 17.55 million kg sold, and lowered to 15.18 million kg in 2024. The EEE POM is projected to increase annually until reaching 24.13 million kg in 2030.

During the same period, the amount of e-waste generated has steadily increased annually from 5.16 million kg in 2010 to 9.92 million kg in 2024, and it is expected to keep increasing, with 10.31 million kg of e-waste generated projected in 2030.

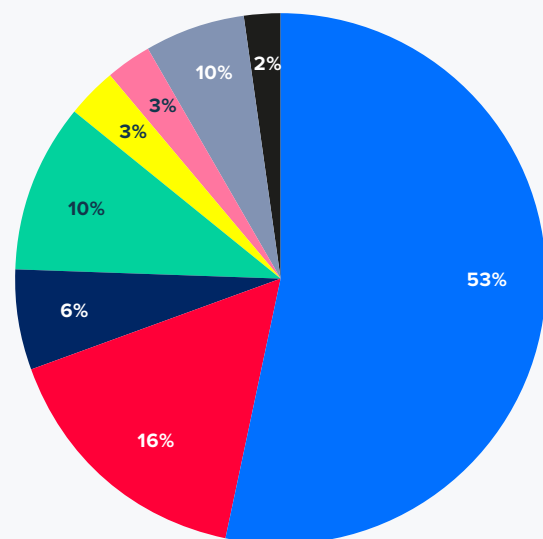


In 2024, as it can be seen in Figure 5, the largest contributors to the POM in the country were Category 1 (53%), Category 2 (16%), and Category 4 (10%). When it comes to e-waste generated, as seen in Figure 6, Category 1 (46%), Category 2 (14%), and Category 4 (9%) are also the largest contributors.

Globally, The Bahamas 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) **The Bahamas generated 17.7 kg/inhabitant⁶ in 2022⁷, ranking 35th worldwide** – comparable to countries like Portugal, Bahrain, and the Republic of Korea. Within the Caribbean region, The Bahamas is the third country with the highest of e-waste generation per capita, after Aruba and Puerto Rico.

The largest contributor to the EEE POM, in terms of mass, are large household appliances (Category 1), which account for 7.48 million kg of the POM in 2024 (53% of the total): this is 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 doubled, although with some fluctuations, since 2010. It is projected to almost doubling again up to 2030, when 12.92 million kg are expected to be put on the market. Category 1 is also the largest contributor to the e-waste generated, with 4.56 million kg in 2024, accounting for 46% of the total e-waste generated in The Bahamas that year. The amount of e-waste generated has doubled since 2010, and it is expected to slightly increase until 2030.

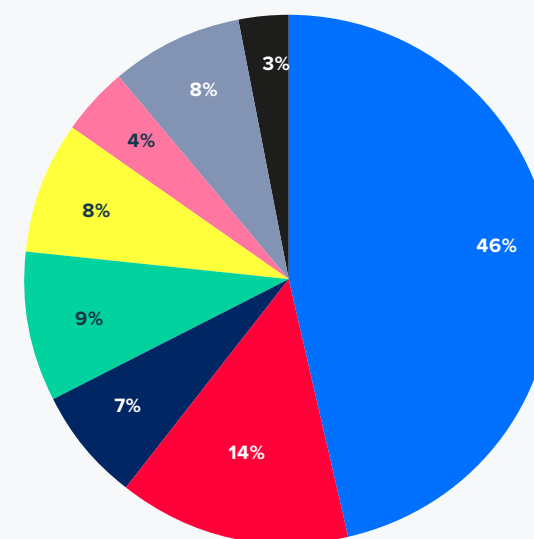
EEE POM per Category in 2024



- 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
- 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 The Bahamas, 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
- 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 The Bahamas, 2024

⁶ According to the data calculated using the apparent consumption method.

⁷ 2022 data is used for comparison, as global values originate from the E-waste Monitor 2024, which is based on 2022 figures.

Small household appliances (Category 2) are the second largest contributor to EEE POM, accounting for 2.30 million kg in 2024 – which corresponds to a 16% of the total. The amount Category 2 equipment sold per year has been overall steadily increasing, although with fluctuations, and it is projected to continue to do so. Regarding the e-waste generated, Category 2 accounted for 1.41 million kg in 2024, a 14% of the total e-waste generated in the country. The amount of e-waste generated has been increasing from 2010 to 2024, and it is forecasted remain relatively stable.

IT and telecommunications equipment (Category 3) accounted for 0.88 million kg of EEE POM in 2024, a 6% of the total. The amount of equipment from Category 3 POM over the years have been relatively stable, and it is forecasted to continue this trend up to 2030. The amount of e-waste generated from Category 3, accounting for 0.71 million kg (7% of the total) in 2024, has also remained very stable during the years – with minimal fluctuations. Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels (Category 4) account for 1.36 million kg EEE POM, 10% of the total. Category 4 shows an increasing trend between 2010 and 2024, and it is forecasted to keep increasing until 2030. The e-waste generated from Category 4 accounted for 9% of the total in 2024, 0.94 million kg. The amount of e-waste generated has been overall increasing since 2010 – although with some fluctuations – and it is projected to continue this trend.

Lighting equipment (Category 5) POM reached 0.44 million kg in 2024, representing 3%. It has been increasing during the years, and it is projected to continue doing so. Category 5 accounted for 0.83 million kg in 2024, a 8% of the total e-waste generated in the country. The amount of e-waste generated has been relatively stable during the years. Electrical and electronic tools (Category 6) POM have been steadily increasing during the years, with 0.45 million kg sold in 2024 – a 3% of the total – and are forecasted to maintain this trend up to 2030. E-waste generated from Category 6 accounted for 0.38 million kg in 2024, 4% of the total, and has been increasing steadily from 2010 until 2024, and it is forecasted to follow this trend up to 2030.

Toys, leisure and sports equipment (Category 7) and monitoring and control instruments (Category 9) POM follow a trend similar to other categories, where values have been steadily increasing overtime and it is expected to continue doing so. In 2024, Category 7 accounted for 0.83 million kg of the EEE POM in the country and Category 9 for 0.31 million kg, a 6% and 2% respectively. E-waste generated has remained very stable, although continuously increasing since 2010, peaking in 2024, and slightly decreasing afterwards. Category 7 accounted for 0.77 million kg (8%) of e-waste generated in 2024, and Category 9 for 0.30 million kg (3%).

Medical devices (Category 8) and automatic dispensers (Category 10) only account for 0.02 million kg and 0.01 million kg of EEE POM in 2024, which corresponds to less than 1% of the total. The e-waste generated from categories 8 and 10 also account for less than 1% of the total, 0.01 and 0.02 million kg in 2024. The amount of Category 8 and 10 equipment being POM and e-waste generated annually has not undergone significant changes.

Regarding the e-waste management, there is no quantitative data available on the e-waste being formally collected and recycled in The Bahamas currently, and the qualitative information that has been compiled presented in the next chapter.

2.3 TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF WEEE

During the data collection phase, the relevant authorities informed that **no import or export of e-waste is taking place in The Bahamas.**

The Bahamas is an archipelago of nearly 700 islands and cays, but only around 30 are inhabited. Some of the most well-known and visited islands include New Providence on which Nassau is located (contains almost 75% of the population), Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, Cat Island, Long Island, San Salvador, Bimini, Inagua, and Acklins & Crooked Island.

Customs explained that all imports are done via New Providence and then distributed to other islands. To the knowledge of the national authorities, WEEE is not recycled on the other islands, because any processing and shipment will have to be done via New Providence and there should be knowledge of it.

From an analysis of the national reports submitted by authorities in The Bahamas to the Basel Convention Secretariat, only one shipment of e-waste have been reported by the country, in 2018, and it concerned 25 tons of 'Transformer, capacitors and wastes polluted with PCB', classified under Basel Code A3180, shipped to Spain via Belgium for final disposal – as reported in Annex IV A (code D9).



Chapter 3.

Technical and Infra- structural Capacity for WEEE management

As previously highlighted, chapter 3 provides an analysis of the responses to the online survey collected at national level, integrated with additional inputs gathered through bilateral interviews and meetings conducted by the consultancy team during the in-country visit, held in May-June 2025, and during virtual follow-ups.

The objective is to outline the current situation in the country regarding the overall 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 The Bahamas.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Operational bodies in The Bahamas have **very little adequate resources, expertise and infrastructure** to effectively manage WEEE, as reported by relevant authorities through an assessment survey (i.e. Department of Environmental Planning and Protection).

The current level of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers and waste managers) in The Bahamas' waste management sector is defined by national authorities as **somewhat effective** – meaning that stakeholders do communicate regularly, however coordination could be improved in certain areas, including in the WEEE sector.

National stakeholders reported not to be aware of voluntary initiatives or measures put in place by the industry to contribute to WEEE management.

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

In The Bahamas, the **electronics** market is defined as an **emerging market**, with limited local production, mainly relying on imports and still with underdeveloped supply chains.

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
- Private sector contributions: voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- International aid and grants: funding from NGOs or global organizations

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

EPR SCHEMES

Advanced deposit fee and deposit refund fee (when 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 (when a non-refundable fee is added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs).

COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In The Bahamas there is no official WEEE collection scheme in place.

During the hurricane season and sometimes based on the need in a certain constituency⁸, collection bins are placed strategically, in which sometimes WEEE is disposed of. However, the domestic waste collectors do not accept the WEEE and would leave it if it is recognizable and not comingled with other waste types. Households and companies, as a result, either bring their own WEEE to the landfill, pay a contractor to do so, or have it picked up by local informal waste collectors. Sometimes the WEEE is also taken by individuals for private use.

During ad hoc interviews with local stakeholders, it was reported that a lot of people store their WEEE in their backyards and will not easily dispose of it, because they say it has some worth and they can one day sell it to get some money. There are backyards with a lot of WEEE stored for this purpose.

In terms of **dismantling and recycling facilities**, there is currently 1 facility in the country, which is the earlier mentioned New Providence Ecology Park (NPEP), **partially implementing** so called best available techniques (BAP) and best environmental practices (BEP).

The landfill at NPEP has a dedicated unit for WEEE acceptance and dismantling.

The NPEP complies with environmental standards and is also equipped with tools to manually disassemble WEEE. Personnel are trained and safety equipment is available and provided, however there is 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? The Bahamas



During the national validation workshop, held virtually on 31st October 2025, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation stressed the need to partner with the DEPP – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, to develop a coordinated effort toward waste management in the tourism sector, including e-waste. They would find beneficial to establish a data dashboard, for stakeholders in the tourism sector to register when the purchase EEE, to keep track and better organize their end-of-life management.

⁸ The Bahamas is divided into 38 constituencies for election purposes, of which 23 are in New Providence and the boundaries are based on population size and geography.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

At present, in The Bahamas **there is nothing in place** to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling. No awareness or education programs are in place at country level.

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. It is also important to note that WEEE is collected by this sector to especially salvage metals such as copper and aluminium, after which the remains are disposed of at the landfill.

Overall, its size is estimated as less than 25% of the overall WEEE management system – however it is not clear if the remaining 75% it is actually covered by the formal system, as currently only the NPEP is present in the country for dismantling and recycling of WEEE.

And there is no program or initiative in place or planned, aimed at integrating the information system into the formal one, at national or local level- according to what reported by the assessed stakeholders.

Informal workers in the WEEE management sector in The Bahamas are not duly trained to handle collection, dismantling and recovery processes – these types of **skills** are only **partially present**.

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 **no reported good practices** at country level in The Bahamas or outside related to **EPR scheme**, on **e-waste** but not even on other waste streams.

According to the surveyed authorities, the following public and private actors should be involved in the implementation of an EPR scheme for WEEE, in an order of relevance:

Public and private actors to be involved for the implementation scheme – The Bahamas

MOST
LEAST

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



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

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



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

Transparency and reporting mechanisms, together with improved collection and recycling systems are ranked as most important elements to support an EPR implementation at national level.

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



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The surveyed governmental representatives did not report any evidence of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed in a non-environmentally sound manner.

WEEE accepted at the NPEP landfill is stored separately for processing. No data has been shared by the NPEP or other stakeholders on how much WEEE is formally collected/received and recycled.

In terms of social impact, there is **no evidence of possible jobs creation** in the WEEE sector and/or in the green sector for the upcoming years; there is also **no formal evidence of involvement of vulnerable sectors**, including women or children, 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:

What are the current limitations of the WEEE management systems – The Bahamas

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

REGIONAL COOPERATION

In terms of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation at regional level for WEEE management, now this is reported as **non-existent**, so no formal cooperation or coordination is in place between countries in the Caribbean region. This is mainly due to the existing **regulatory barriers**, thus legal or policy restrictions hinder cross-border cooperation. **No legal or practical initiatives** are in place at regional level related to WEEE management.

The BOX below provides a short description of a case study conducted by a research centre⁹ on the Eleuthera island, where e-waste has proved to be an increasing concern for the local communities.

BOX – Case study on e-waste, Eleuthera island¹⁰

Eleuthera, a narrow island in The Bahamas stretching approximately 110 miles in length and just over a mile in width at its narrowest point, with a population of around 11,000 residents scattered across various settlements, faces significant waste management challenges, and the island's waste management infrastructure is under considerable strain. Research on pollution in Eleuthera has, however, primarily focused only on marine plastic debris, leaving other significant pollution issues, such as **e-waste, largely unexamined**.

Concerning waste disposal, this is largely managed through open sky dumping sites, leading to an increasing accumulation of waste, including e-waste, for which there is no effective contingency plan, posing serious environmental risks (Sealey and Smith, 2014). This is mainly due to the release of toxic substances from decomposing material, including electronic materials, mainly electronic devices, such as smartphones and mobile devices, computers and laptops, televisions and monitors, household appliances and batteries as the most common e-waste items, contaminating soil, groundwater, and oceans. These sites are used not only by the municipal government for household waste but also by companies investing in the island, including those involved in tourism and development. Furthermore, recent developments in Eleuthera, including increased urbanization, tourism expansion, and technological advancements are likely to exacerbate the island's e-waste issue.

The construction of new resorts has led to a surge in tourism, bringing an influx of modern electronic devices and appliances used by visitors and staff.

⁹ Cape Eleuthera Institute, Eleuthera, The Bahamas.

¹⁰ <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2024.1459794/full>.



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 economic assessment of WEEE management in The Bahamas reveals a **WEEE management system in its formative stages, with limited formal infrastructure and operational maturity**. The New Providence Ecology Park (NPEP) is the only collection facility that is currently operating in The Bahamas territory.

COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

All categories of WEEE are accepted at the NPEP; however, the facility currently operates a drop-off only model, with no active collection service in place. **The system is financed primarily through government funding**, including municipal budgets and taxes. Informal actors are also active in the system, indicating a hybrid approach that combines both formal and informal systems for handling e-waste.

Currently, four people are involved in e-waste-related activities at NPEP, underscoring the limited scale of operations. The facility is not yet charging for WEEE dismantling however these costs are currently being calculated. As a result, the operational costs for dismantling per tonne has not been quantified as of the latest data.

TREATMENT AND MATERIAL RECOVERY

E-waste is treated domestically at NPEP, but no components have been shipped abroad to date. **Manual separation and dismantling** are the primary processing methods used. Output fractions identified include:

- Ferrous metals
- Cables
- Hard drives
- Printed circuit boards
- Compressors
- Copper and copper alloys
- Inductors
- Other fractions (e.g. rubbers, glass, speakers, ink, motors)

The average sale price of these fractions has not yet been communicated, and no confirmed data is available on the quantities of material recovered or sold. It was however stated that recovered metals are sold locally and that the remaining fraction will be exported. Quantities are currently however not sufficient and finding a market for these fractions remains a challenge for the NPEP, reflecting the facility's early operational phase.

OPERATIONAL COSTS AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The operational expenditure at NPEP is supported by public funding, and there is currently no cost recovery mechanism in place such as producer fees or extended producer responsibility (EPR) frameworks. Additionally, while material outputs are separated, the economic potential from secondary raw materials remains untapped, pending formal sales channels and price benchmarks.

As of now, the net treatment cost per tonne of e-waste cannot be precisely determined due to the absence of consistent cost or revenue data. Nevertheless, the initiation of manual dismantling activities and internal segregation of fractions indicates the early foundation for potential economic gains, should processing volumes increase and markets be secured for recovered materials.

Chapter 5.

Conclusions and Way Forward

CONCLUSIONS

- In 2024, The Bahamas counted 14.07 million kg of EEE POM and 9.92 million kg of e-waste Generated. Category 1 (large household appliances), category 2 (small household appliances) and Category 4 (consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels) are the biggest contributors to both EEE POM and e-waste generated. Category 1 only represents 53% of the national EEE POM and 46% of the e-waste generated.
- From 2020 to 2024, trade data were provided by The Bahamas Customs Office, which were used to calculate the national EEE POM and WEEE generated for the same years. For the period 2010 to 2019, POM data is based on the historical country's data from the Comtrade database, estimated with the apparent consumption methodology. Data from 2011-2019 was scaled using an adjustment factor, and the same factor has been applied for forecast data from 2025-2030, to reflect the higher values observed in the country values, with respect to the previous estimates performed based on the apparent consumption methodology values (which were lower).
- No official statistics were made available on WEEE collected and recycled.
- At national level there is one facility mandated and funded by the government, in charge of managing WEEE. The landfill at NPEP has a dedicated unit for WEEE acceptance and discarding. However, at present, there is no official WEEE collection scheme in place.
- WEEE is collected by the informal sector, to especially salvage metals such as copper and aluminium, after which the remains are disposed at the landfill. However, informal workers in The Bahamas are not duly trained to handle collection, dismantling and recovery processes.
- At present, there are not good practices at country level or outside related to EPR scheme implementations, on e-waste but not even on other waste streams. 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 reporting mechanisms and improved collection and recycling systems.
- Cross-border cooperation at regional level is reported as non-existent at present, mainly due to regulatory barriers.



WAY FORWARD

Considering the current situation with regard to WEEE management in The Bahamas, 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 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.
- WEEE facilities in The Bahamas should further comply with environmental standards and should be further equipped with proper tools and safety equipment.
 - NPEP could be the focal point for dedicated technical trainings on WEEE dismantling, recycling, safety measures etc.
- 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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LIST OF WEBSITES

<https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/>

<https://www.bahamascustoms.gov.bs/resources/faqs/>

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
The Bahamas	Customs Office in The Bahamas Nassau	Mr. Trevor Rolle	June 2 nd , 2025	Thompson Blvd. P.O. Box N-155
	New Providence Ecology Park	Mr. Nelson Bowe	June 3 rd , 2025	Tonique Darling, Williams Highway, Nassau, The Bahamas
	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection	Ms. Keysha Charles	June 3 rd , 2025	Charlotte & Shirley Streets, Nassau



Hazardous waste facility where WEEE is treated at New Providence Ecology Park – NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



WEEE dropped off and temporarily¹⁴ stored at the NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



Current work area/tables for manual dismantling of WEEE at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



Light bulb crusher and storage at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)

¹⁴ The storage and processing room for WEEE was being reconstructed at the time of the visit on the 3rd of June in 2025.



Segregation / temporary storage of different components of WEEE after dismantling at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



Segregation/ temporary storage of different components of WEEE after dismantling at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



Segregation/ temporary storage of different components of WEEE after dismantling at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)



Segregation/ temporary storage of different components of WEEE after dismantling at NPEP (June 3rd, 2025)





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