



PREVENT
Waste Alliance

E-waste Compensation as an international financing mechanism in Nigeria (ECoN) | Factsheet

Project period:	01.2021 – 06.2022
Country	Nigeria
Project partners:	Öko-Institut e.V. Closing the Loop
Local partners:	Hinckley Recycling SRADev Nigeria Verde Impacto Nigeria
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More details:	http://www.prevent-waste.net/en/pilotprojects/nigeria

The ECoN project aims to expand a business model known as ‘waste compensation’. This proven international financing mechanism funds sustainable collection and treatment of e-waste from countries where this type of waste is often mismanaged. Based on the notion of ‘buy one new device, fund the collection of one scrap device’, waste compensation has been widely adopted and, in early 2020, recognized as a green (or ‘waste-free’) procurement solution for phones, laptops and tablets. This pilot aims to expand that product range to include batteries and monitors.

An opportunity is created for the electronics industry and its customers to participate in this project. The goal being: deliver on the growing global demand for more sustainable consumption of electronics, while strengthening the e-waste recycling sector in Nigeria.

Project target groups:

- Electronics industry and users of electronics
- E-waste recycling companies and service providers
- National and international decision-makers

Why Nigeria?

E-waste management in the country is infamous for heavy pollution and human health risks. It is generally accepted that sustainable recycling is not profitable in the given context.

Expected Solution:

Create an additional source of income that can be used to finance sustainable recycling practices.

Activities:

Research and development of pilot treatment options including funding mechanisms for two critical e-waste waste streams: lithium-ion batteries and flat panel displays.

Locally adapted techniques are needed to recycle batteries and screens in Nigeria and other countries as these fractions pose a major environmental problem, including end of life batteries resulting from solar projects. The project will investigate, develop and implement effective, environmentally friendly, inclusive solutions.

Furthermore, the informal recycling sector will be involved e.g. for collection and possibly further activities in disassembly and proper disposal of fractions of the electrical devices. By integrating the informal sector, a high local added value is achieved.

Project outcomes

The project aims to collect and soundly recycle 20 tonnes of batteries and monitors, while strengthening the local recycling sector in Nigeria. It also aims to attract launching customers for waste compensation of monitors or batteries, and to have the compensation of monitors or batteries certified by an independent eco-label.

Closing the Loop operates a waste compensation mechanism for mobile phones, tablets and laptops. For this mechanism to be applied to other devices such as monitors and batteries, effective comparison criteria for collection and treatment must be introduced.



If effective mechanisms for batteries and monitors can be piloted and demonstrated through the project, this could be scaled as a funding mechanism in many other countries and can also be used as a blueprint for developing local policies and financing instruments in countries like Nigeria. This is a necessary, innovative first step towards

establishing a long-term sustainable, inclusive e-waste recycling in partner countries.

Finally, for the effective application of e-waste comparison criteria, a broad acceptance by national and international civil society is key. Therefore, the project sets a special emphasis on stakeholder involvement.

PREVENT Waste Alliance

The PREVENT Waste Alliance serves as a platform for exchange and international cooperation. Organisations from the private sector, academia, civil society and public institutions jointly engage for a circular economy. The PREVENT members contribute to minimising waste, eliminating pollutants and maximising the reutilisation of resources in the economy worldwide. They strive to reduce waste pollution in low- and middle-income countries and work together for the prevention, collection, and recycling of waste, as well as the increased uptake of secondary resources.

This project was selected in a call for innovative and scalable solutions to build a circular economy.

The PREVENT Waste Alliance was launched in 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



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More information: www.prevent-waste.net/en/

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