

# E-waste Compensation as an International Financing Mechanism in Nigeria (ECoN) | Factsheet

**Project period:** 01.2021 – 09.2022

**Project partners:** Öko-Institut e.V.  
Closing the Loop

**Local partners:** SRADev Nigeria, Verde Impacto, Hinckley Recycling

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The project *E-waste Compensation as an International Financing Mechanism in Nigeria (ECoN)* further developed *Waste Compensation* – an innovative international financing mechanism for sustainable collection and treatment of e-waste to include batteries and flat panel monitors. Thus, the project creates an opportunity for the electronics industry and users of electronics to actively contribute to strengthening and further developing the e-waste recycling sector in Nigeria as well as helping to further advance this concept internationally.

### Project target group:

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

### Challenges in Nigeria:

Approaches for sustainable e-waste recycling are not profitable in the given context in Nigeria. This leads to heavy pollution and human health risks due to current very critical

e-waste processing as generally proper treatment is not available.



### Milestones:

- Collected and processed 30 t of e-waste sourced locally in Nigeria (overachieving project goal by 10 t)
- Sold waste compensation of screens to a client (MMD, Philips monitor manufacturer)
- Partnering with 4 local downstream solution actors and 1 re-use case
- Held 4 in-person and virtual trainings on manual dismantling and occupational safety with the informal sector and recyclers

### Solution:

The project works with financial support provided by producers and consumers of IT financing sustainable e-waste recycling practices forwarded by a functioning business model called *Waste Compensation*.

Waste compensation effectively enables sourcing of e-waste. A high local added value is achieved by involving around 30 collectors

in the informal sector providing employment, income and training.

Several local treatment pathways for monitors and batteries were explored ranging from reuse of components, and remoulding of recycled plastics to co-processing in the cement industry, for example, a project reuses PMMA (better known as a trade mark “Plexiglass”) for lamps made from re-purposed batteries.

By doing so, hazardous fractions stemming from screens are taken care of in an environmentally friendly manner. Secondary resources from e-waste fractions are reused locally that are otherwise costly in sourcing enabling access to certain materials at the same time.

Furthermore, the project developed general criteria and a model for waste compensation and contributed to a comparison metric of electronic waste products for compensation. The model was also effectively integrated with an ICT certification scheme.

#### Outlook – future project

Through this project, effective mechanisms for batteries and monitors were piloted and demonstrated. Subsequently, it can be standardised and scaled as a funding mechanism in many other countries and also be used as a blueprint for developing local policies and financing instruments in Nigeria. This is a necessary, innovative step to establishing long-term sustainability, including e-waste recycling in partner countries.

Finally, for the application of e-waste comparison criteria in the compensation scheme, a broad acceptance by national and international civil society is key. Therefore, the project set 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/](http://www.prevent-waste.net/en/)

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