



*Developing a Conducive Legal Framework for  
Sustainable Management of E-Waste in Ghana:  
Experience and Way Forward.*

*World Resources Forum.*

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# *Outline of Presentation*

- *Ghana - Country data*
- *Background- A history of E-waste in Ghana.*
- *On-going initiatives*
- *Environmentally Sound Disposal and recycling of E-Waste*
- *Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)*
- *Challenges*
- *Way Forward*

## ***Ghana country data***

- *Ghana lies at the centre of the world: closest to intersection of longitude and latitude 0 degrees*
- *Land size: 240,000 sq kms.*
- *Population: 27 million*
- *Unitary state with 10 administrative regions and 216 districts*
- *GDP (nominal) per capita: US\$ 1,580 per annum*
- *Vegetation: Tropical rain forest /guinea savanna vegetation*
- *Climate- tropical climate*



# *Introduction/ Background*

- *Modernization coupled with increasing prosperity has led to increasing use of electric and electronic devices – computers, mobile phones, TV sets, fridges etc.*
- *Exacerbated by importation and use of 2nd hand devices which have a short life span and some estimated 15% not functioning at all.*
- *Increasing generation of toxic electronic/ electric waste.*
- *Not matched by proper management of the waste emanating therefrom.*
- *Mainly informal recycling through unacceptable, a bit irresponsible methods.*

# *Informal Recycling*

- *Collect directly from households and businesses, approx. 95% collection.*
- *Extract valuable fractions*
- *Simple, unsophisticated recycling methods/practices, simple cost structure.*
- *Recycling methods cause serious harm to human health and the environment.*
- *Recycling methods quite socially irresponsible.*
- *Contribute to Climate Change.*
- *However has a great potential*

# *Formal Recycling.*

- *A few formal recycling and Waste Management. Companies handling a small proportion of electronic waste.*
- *Socially responsible and environmentally sound recycling.*
- *Less profitable cost structure.*
- *Relatively uncompetitive against informal recyclers.*

# *On-going Initiatives on E-Waste Management.*

- *Sustainable Recycling Industries (SECO) [Swiss funding – Swiss Secretariat for Economic Development and implemented by the World Resources Forum through the Ghana Cleaner Production Centre]*
- *Switch Africa Green Project. (EU/ UNEP).*
- *Sustainable Management and Disposal of E-waste in Ghana project. (GIZ/ KfW)*
- *Passing and implementation of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)*

# *On-going Initiatives on E-Waste Management.*

## ***Sustainable Recycling Industries (SECO)-***

- Overall objective of sustainable integration and participation of small and medium enterprises in global recycling. The following has been achieved*
- Baseline assessment to know who is doing what in E-waste. Report published. (Baseline)*
- Preparing Technical Guidelines for E-waste recycling. (Conformity Assessment)*
- EPR training course organised for various stakeholders (Financing Mechanism)*
- Training courses organised in - Recycling Used Lead Acid Batteries AND E-waste plastic sorting and down stream marketing. (Technology Partnership)*
- Training of recyclers on safe dismantling; AND Developing a business case for dismantling activities.*
- Development of ISO/IWA guidance principles for sound recycling of precious metals*

# *On-going Initiatives on E-Waste Management.*

- ***Switch Africa Green Project. (EU/ UNEP)-***
  - ❖ *Overall objective of collection, dismantling/sorting, safe disposal of hazardous components and export of recyclables.*
- ***Sustainable Management and Disposal of E-waste in Ghana project. (GIZ/ KfW)***
- ***Passing / implementation of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)***

# ***Sustainable Management and Disposal of E-waste in Ghana. (GIZ/ KfW)***

*The FC (KfW) Component of the project seeks to create an incentive mechanism for sound recycling of E-waste, by reducing the recycling of worst polluting and hazardous e-waste by informal recyclers to help the emergence of sound recycling. The following will be done -*

- Set up a project grant for financing incentives for collection and sound recycling of hazardous E-waste*
- Construct a Handover Center (HOC) which will buy E-waste at a price slightly above the open market price*
- The accumulated waste will be auctioned to accredited Companies for sound recycling.*
- Fractions that cannot be properly recycled within country will be exported outside.*

# ***Sustainable Management and Disposal of E-waste in Ghana. (GIZ/ KfW)***

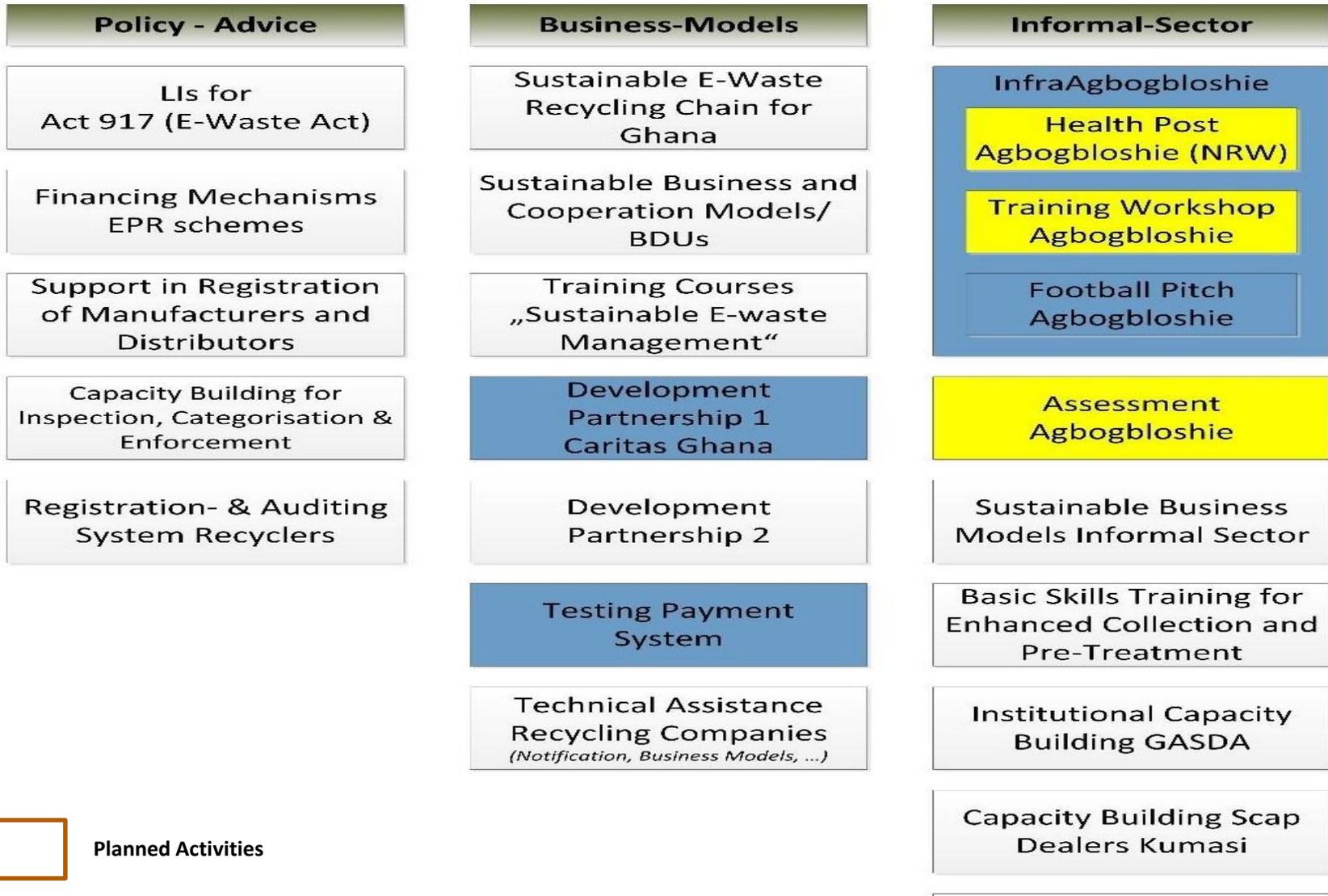
***The TC (GIZ) component seeks to -***

- *institutionalize space for genuine e-waste mgt by the informal sector.*
- *all stakeholders on board – especially the informal recyclers based on clearly negotiated and defined rights and responsibilities.*
- *identify and capture the positive elements of informal recyclers.*

***The TC component has three (3) areas of intervention –***

- *Support for Policy development*
- *Business Model for E-Waste Management*
- *Support for the informal sector in E-Waste*

# AREAS OF INTERVENTION



Planned Activities



In-preparation Activities:



On going Activities:

# ***Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)***

*To among other things provide efficient control, management and disposal of hazardous, electrical and electronic waste, the E-Waste Act (Act 917) was passed in July 2016.*

## ***Part 1- Hazardous & Other waste***

- Prohibits the import, export and transportation of Hazardous and other waste in, out and within Ghana.*
- The exception to this is to obtain a written authorization (from the Minister) under circumstances specified under the Act.*
- Any person “handling” hazardous waste should have an insurance cover, and should have it registered.*
- It specifies the sanctions in case of a breach. (1 penalty unit =Cedis 12.00)*
- What constitutes hazardous waste is listed in Schedule 1 of the Act*

# ***Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)***

## ***Part 2 – Electrical & Electronic Waste***

- Provides that Import /Export of Electrical and Electronic waste is allowed if a person is registered and obtains a Permit from the EPA after paying an Advance Eco Levy (AEL) for the item.*
- Manufacturers and importers of new or used electric/ electronic equipment shall pay an AEL. And the distributor, retailer or wholesaler of E&E equipment shall retain a copy of the receipt of payment of the AEL.*
- The Minister shall designate an External Service provider to collect the AEL*
- A Permit is required to import used Electrical/ electronic equipment for recycling without paying an AEL.*

# ***Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act 2016 (Act 917)***

## ***1. Electrical & Electronic Waste Management Fund***

- The Act introduces an import levy on all electronic equipment imported into Ghana*
- It establishes an **Electrical and Electronic Waste Management Fund** to finance the management of Electrical/ Electronic waste to reduce its adverse impact on human health and the environment.*
- The sources of money for the fund include the AEL among others (Section 25).*
- The disbursement of the fund (S.28) is mainly on recycling facilities for E&E waste.*
- The fund is to be managed by an Administrator appointed by the President.*
- Manufacturers, distributors of E&E equipment shall take back used equipment for recycling in an environmentally sound manner.*

## ***2. Legislative Instruments***

- The Minister is to pass LIs to make Regulations for implementation of the Act.*
- LI 2250 has been passed – The Hazardous, Electronic and Other Waste Control and Management Regulations.*

# CHALLENGES

## **1. Lack of Public Awareness**

- *There is the lack of public awareness on*
- *the negative effects of poor E-waste handling and recycling on human health and the health of the environment.*
- *The link between the salubrity / health of the environment and the health of the people, and by extension the economy.*

## **2. Poor infrastructural challenges**

- *Inadequate E-waste management infrastructure –no Junk yards, no Collection centers*

## **3. Inadequate capacity and knowledge of E-waste actors**

- *Limited knowledge and technical know-how in E-waste management.*

## **4. Low level of Producer Responsibility**

- *Importers and manufacturers have not lived up to their responsibilities of supporting initiatives in E-waste management*

# CHALLENGES

## **5. Illegal imports**

- *Despite all the efforts there is still a considerable amount of E-waste imports into Ghana.*

## **6. Limited Stakeholder engagement**

- *Lack of stakeholder collaboration*
- *Lack of cooperation between the formal and informal E-waste actors.*

## **7. Inadequate functioning of legal and regulatory frame work**

- *Absence of the necessary legislative instruments(Lis) to operationalize Act 917.*
- *Limited technical capacity to roll out the E-waste Act.*

## **8. Lack of financing system of support E-waste management activities.**

- *Limited funds for formal recyclers to purchase machinery for sound recycling.*
- *The little funds difficult to access and not readily available to Actors.*

## **9. Research into E-waste management and recycling.**

*Little research into E-waste management and recycling.*

# *WAY FORWARD*

- *While Act 917 and its proposed regulations seem adequate for the current circumstances, most of the supporting Lis are yet to be passed. Action should be expedited to pass the Lis.*
- *Steps should be taken to appoint the External Service Provider and fund manager. (Section 27).*
- *Discussions should be initiated to draft the TOR for the structure and functions of the office of the fund manager.*
- *Regulations for the establishment of the Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Management Committee should be developed.*

# WAY FORWARD

- *Encourage producers to live up to their responsibilities.*
- *Role out a massive education campaign on Act 917 and the supporting LIs.*
- *Institutionalize for a for exchanges / collaboration between actors in E-waste.*
- *Gradually work towards the formalization of the informal sector through simplified registration processes.*



*The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Ghana. The German Technical Agency (GIZ)*

***We appreciate your attention.***

***Thank you Geneva for your hospitality.***