

## Pan-African Forum on E-waste

**United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya  
14 - 16 March 2012**

### Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Solution

Join us in Nairobi and be part of a new initiative  
to address the e-waste problem facing Africa

**T**he growing e-waste volumes generated worldwide and specifically in Africa together with the lack or even absence of well-organized collection and management systems made impacts on the environment, the health of local communities and national economies. In many African countries e-waste is routinely disposed on uncontrolled dump sites, where waste volumes are periodically reduced by setting them on fire. Thereby a whole range of toxic substances is released from e-waste, heavily contaminating air, soil and water resources. Even unburned, in tropical climate, many e-waste fractions will soon release major pollutants, damaging human and environmental health. All this is gradually mounting up to a serious environmental problem, which is only starting to attract the wide public interest.

**B**esides pollutants, electronic equipment also contains a whole range of valuable metals like palladium, indium and germanium that are inevitably lost if not recovered in an early stage of waste treatment. From a global perspective, this loss of scarce metals has to be compensated by intensified mining activities, which again lead to severe sustainability impacts in mining areas worldwide.

**G**iven the constantly rising demand for scarce resource, the present e-waste management in Africa does not only pollute natural resources and endanger people's health; it also misses out on business opportunities in material recovery and recycling. Although the high-tech know-how for environmentally sound recovery of metals is not yet in sight in Africa, international business cooperation could link strategic advantages of recycling industries in Africa and industrialized economies.

**T**here are a number of activities and initiatives which have been or are being undertaken by various actors, including the United Nations (UN) agencies, research organizations, the private sector and NGOs to tackle the e-waste issue. However, seeking and implementing sustainable solutions is a long process which requires well-coordinated and timely efforts of many partners.

**T**he aim of the Pan-African Forum on E-waste is to bring together the relevant stakeholders to identify possible options for a sustainable solution to e-waste in Africa.

Issues to be addressed by the Forum include:

- National level assessments of e-waste problem
- International and regional policy and regulatory frameworks
- Creating value through environmentally sound collection and recycling of e-wastes
- Exchange of information and experiences among African countries
- Financing e-waste solutions
- International, regional and national collaboration
- Regional approach to e-waste solutions in Africa



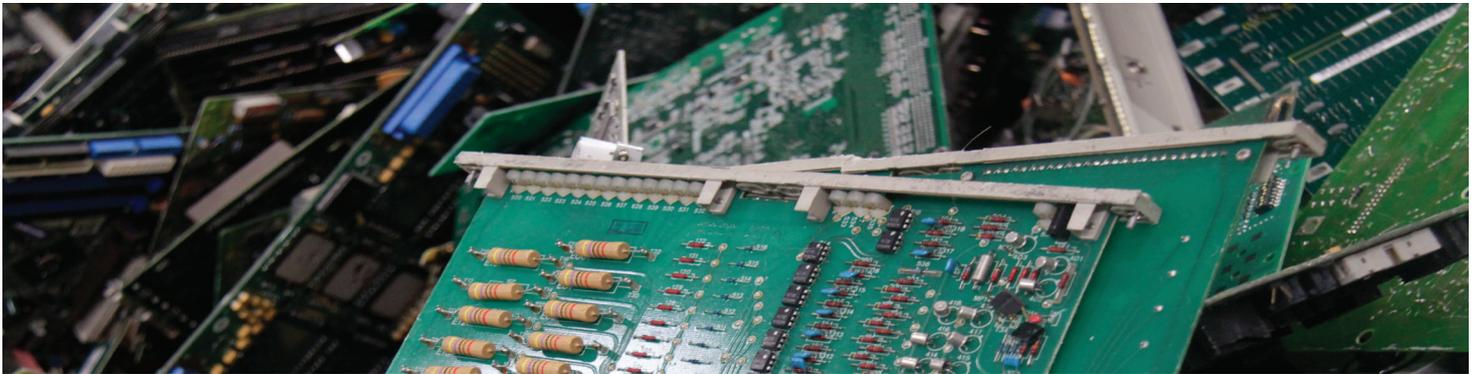
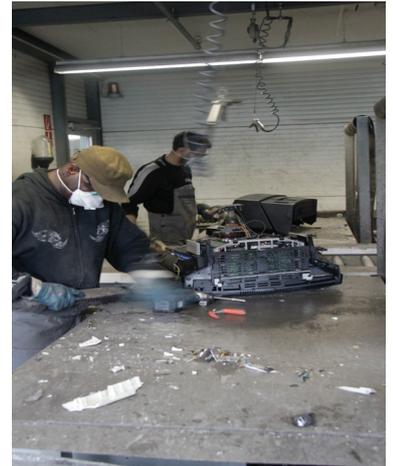


**BASEL CONVENTION**



## Why Participate?

- **Be part of the solution** to Africa's e-waste problem.
- **Network** with over 150 attendees from over 15 nations.
- **Learn** about the e-waste related work of UN agencies, academia, StEP, PACE and other stakeholders.
- **Partner** with UN agencies, financial institutions, global corporations, and others to create business opportunities and develop new e-waste-related projects.
- **Discuss the following issues:**
  - Attracting investment and financing mechanisms for e-waste management
  - Regulatory frameworks
  - Stakeholder engagement and collaboration
  - Creating value through environmentally sound collection and recycling
  - Ensuring a level playing field through data management and enforcement
  - Capacity building needs for sound management of e-waste



***Do not miss out on this opportunity to meet with e-waste professionals and practitioners from across the Africa region!***

***If you are interested in providing financial or in-kind contributions to this event, please contact us.***

**For more information, please contact :**

**Bella Lawson** (Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions). Tel.: +41 22 917 83 01, e-mail: [bella.lawson@unep.org](mailto:bella.lawson@unep.org)

**Tatiana Terekhova** (Secretariat of the Basel Convention). Tel.: +41 22 917 84 70, e-mail: [tatiana.terekhova@unep.org](mailto:tatiana.terekhova@unep.org)



Financial support provided by:



In collaboration with: EMPA, IMPEL, Nokia, OKO-Institut, StEP, UNIDO, UNU and the Government of Kenya