



Zanzibar Scraps and Environment Association (ZASEA) : Tanzania

Recycling plastic waste as an alternative to incineration and landfill

Project description

The initiative employs local people to collect, sort and recycle plastic waste. Plastic waste accounts for a significant portion of total municipal waste. By tackling this problem, the initiative provides job opportunities, improves the local environment and increases environmental awareness in the community.



Business model

The initiative contributes to sustainable plastic waste management by collecting and sorting plastic waste and processing it in the local recycling plant. Community members receive training and education on how to handle and process the plastic waste. The reclaimed plastic is then sold to the manufacturers of plastic products.

The solid waste management and recycling process is still poorly known in Tanzania. Thus another aim of ZASEA is to promote knowledge and stimulate community engagement using information disseminated via the mass media and educational sessions in schools.



Scaling up activities in 2012

- Construct a larger facility and expand the current collection network
- Expand waste management to include other types of thermoplastics
- Add an extrusion process to produce higher-margin plastic pellets
- Implement a broad environmental awareness training program

Immediate needs

- Financial support to buy new machinery and equipment in order to expand the current small-scale recycling plant
- Contacts with new investors
- Building up a network of collection partners to ensure the supply of plastic raw materials
- Scaling-up marketing and education measures



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Partnership

- ❶ **The Zanzibar Scraps and Environment Association** employs local people to collect, sort and recycle plastic waste.
- ❷ **The Department of Environment, Zanzibar** supports the initiative and provides technical support; it also carries out external monitoring and organizes the evaluation of the project.
- ❸ **Zanzibar Municipal Council** facilitates the solid waste collection and provides technical support.
- ❹ **Chumbe Island Coral Park** enables training programs in local schools.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: The impact of ZASEA on the standard of living of the community is twofold: first, it helps to clean up the city and so prevents the negative health impact of burning plastic waste; and second, it generates long-term sources of income for members of the community.

Environmental impact: Recycling plastic waste reduces environmental pollution. The initiative also improves environmental awareness in general. ZASEA not only

trains its employees but also educates schoolchildren and the general public through its projects and media campaigns.

Economic impact: The initiative provides employment opportunities for the local community, so far creating more than 300 full-time jobs as plastic collectors or directly in the manufacturing facility.

Contact

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SEED Partners

SEED's founding partners are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and SEED is hosted by UNEP-WCMC. Other current partners are the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the European Union; Conservation International; and SEED's corporate partner, Hisense.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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