



E-Waste Management in Uganda: *Current Perspectives*

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Presentation Outline

- Brief about UCPC
- Overview of the E-Waste Situation in Uganda
- E-Waste Drivers
- E-Waste Management Case studies
- Lessons Learned
- Way forward



Uganda Cleaner Production Centre (UCPC)

- UCPC was established in October 2001
- Joint Project of GOU/UNIDO
- Located in Kampala – Uganda’s Capital City
- CP Programmes effectively started in 2002
- Capacity building in CP in the Private Sector
- Member of a family of over 35 NCPCs worldwide

NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES



**Cleaner enterprises
are more competitive enterprises**

* The UNIDO Regional Cleaner Production Network for Latin America and the Caribbean includes UNIDO and non-UNIDO National CP Centres and Programmes.

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UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Programmes

- Eco-Benefits Programme
- EMS/ISO 14001 Certification Programme
- Eco-Design and Product Innovation
- Energy Efficiency (EE)
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Technology Transfer
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Assessment
- Regional Programmes and International Programmes
- E-Waste Management



E-Waste Situation in Uganda

- Televisions, Stereos, Fridges, Computers, Copiers, Fax machines, and Phones are the main elements
- E-Waste inflows largely from overseas
- Formal collection of E-waste vastly outstripped by the non-informal schemes
- E-Waste specific legislation is non-existent
- E-waste Management practices largely crude







E-Waste Drivers

- Continued growth of the Telecoms industry following liberalisation. *By Dec 2007 the number of telephone connections had risen to 5,329,202 with 5,163,414 cellular lines and 165,788 fixed lines*
- Continued growth in internet usage as a result of private and government initiatives in the deployment of wireless access infrastructure. *Estimated internet users in 2002 were 233,675 compared with 1,600,000 in 2006*
- Lack of E-Waste specific regulations in the National Environment Act despite Uganda signing up to the Basel convention
- Demand for certain E-Waste components by local industries – particularly metal smelters
- High taxes on brand new electronic goods with the exception of computers where there is a zero taxation policy



E-Waste Management Case studies

SECOND LIFE UGANDA

- ❖ One of 2 formal refurbishers
- ❖ Refurbishes computers, copiers & printers
- ❖ Operational since 2005
- ❖ Stock mainly sourced from the Netherlands
- ❖ Average number of computer imports – 2,500 annually
- ❖ 6% of imports non-functional
- ❖ Products sold in 3 Outlets in Uganda



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E-Waste Management Case studies Cont....

MIDCOM SERVICE CENTRE LTD

- ❖ One of 2 Nokia Authorised customer care centres
- ❖ Established in 2006 and has 250 outlets
- ❖ Set up mobile phone “take-back” collection points at all its centres
- ❖ Some refurbishment done in house
- ❖ Other components (defective batteries, LCDs, phone covers, microphones, speakers, microchips) shipped to a Material Return Centre (MRC) in Hungary
- ❖ 9-10 boxes shipped quarterly
- ❖ Occupational Health & Safety issues are of paramount importance at the service centre in keeping with Nokia’s regulations & Standards

NOKIA
Care



**Authorised
Service Centre**

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NOKIA PHONE



NOKIA
LIFE
MIDCOM

NOTICE
CUSTOMERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO
MEET DIRECTLY WITH THE ENGINEERS
OR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WHOSE
DUTY IS TO SERVICE CUSTOMERS.
PLEASE CONTACT THE RIGHT SIDE
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Service

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JOBSHEET
FOR THEIR

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NOKIA
Connecting People



**ATTENTION
ESD PROTECTED AREA**

**OBSERVE PRECAUTIONS
FOR HANDLING
ELECTROSTATIC
DISCHARGE
SENSITIVE
DEVICES**







Lessons Learned

- Sourcing of E-waste remains a problem locally
- Existing refurbishment centres could be overwhelmed by a sudden surge in e-waste supply given their current size
- Publicity of the functions carried out by the refurbishment centres has remained weak
- E-waste not accorded the same importance as conventional waste
- OHS issues largely overlooked



Way Forward

- Publicity and Awareness
- Amendment of existing Waste management regulations to include an e-waste specific one
- Use of incentives to promote e-waste “take-back” schemes
- Pre-inspection & verification of E-waste Consignments prior to shipment
- Forming an E-waste Association with a formalised code of conduct for its members
- Cleaner Production Training as part of a preventive strategy for solving the E-waste problem – for electronic goods dealers, E-waste collectors and refurbishers, vocational institutions, Local Authorities, Lead Agencies/Statutory bodies etc.



Thank You!