Turning waste into resources for development

Principles for Inclusive Recycling in Global Value Chains

Sonia Valdivia, World Resources Forum

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Content

- World Resources Forum and SRI programme
- ISO IWA 19 Guidance Principles for the Sustainable and Inclusive informal sector
- Next steps
The World Resources Forum Association (WRFA) is an independent non-profit international organization serving as a global platform. It connects and fosters knowledge exchange on resources management amongst business leaders, policymakers, NGOs, scientists and the public. Flagship activity is the annual WRF Conference.
The Sustainable Recycling Industries programme builds on the success of implementing e-waste recycling systems together with various developing countries since more than ten years.
Developing countries are endowed with a variety of resources in large amounts.
The Challenge of e-waste

#1
Fastest growing waste stream in the world

Global quantity of e-waste generated (in million metric tons)

$52\text{ bn}$
Estimated cost to the global economy (2014)

Sustainable Recycling Industries
Recycling offers opportunities. In developing countries more than 90% of recovered metals is done informally.

Informality

~ 25 000 people recycle plastic in New Delhi, India

Opportunities

"Urban Mining"
The informal recycling sector is the champion of the circular economy. 33% of plastic is back to the Indian economy thanks to the informal sector. Figure: Plastic flows in India (2015). Size is relative to mass. Unit: million tonnes per year.
...but recycling by the informal sector poses risks and threats

**Threats**

**Child labour**

**Worst practices**

- Environmental pollution
- Health hazards
- Other

But recycling by the informal sector poses risks and threats.
The challenge of the informal sector

Informal sector integration (existing knowledge) is key to build a formal recycling industry.
Do existing guiding documents and standards address issues on sustainable and inclusive recycling?

CENELEC 50625, R2, eSteward, Fairtrade Gold; Aluminum Stewardship Initiative (ASI) standards; Responsible Jewellery (RJC) Council standard
Guidance Principles - Filling in the gap!

  Guidelines for addressing sustainability in standards
- ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards
- GRI Sustainability Guidelines & Mining and Metals Sector Supplement

Guidance Principles for the Sustainable Management of Secondary Metals

Standards on specific metals: Fairtrade Gold; ASI standards; CENELEC 50625; Responsible Jewellery Council; eSteward; R2; among others
SRI launched a global multi-stakeholder process to create a framework for inclusive recycling.

- The ISO IWA 19 aims to guide economic operators of secondary metals value chains, including the informal sector, in the efficient and credible implementation of improved recycling practices, in particular in emerging and developing economies.
Five Principles and 17 Objectives to Support Sustainable and Inclusive Recycling of Secondary Metals in Developing Countries.

1. Enabling safe, healthy and equitable working conditions

2. Building and strengthening local community relations and resilience

3. Conserving and protecting the environment and natural resources

4. Improving recovery of secondary metals

5. Implementing a sustainable management approach
This supports the implementation of The ISO IWA 19 and to move away from Worst Practices
Life cycle assessment: Provides a baseline for improvement.
This publication aims to support the development of national policy frameworks for the sustainable management of wastes such as WEEE.
Pilot Testing in 6 Countries (2017)
Training in 2018
Adoption of the ISO IWA 19 in process

- Honduras
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Ghana
- South Africa

- Official Business Activities
- Unofficial Business Activities
- Training on internal ISO IWA auditing, or on 'moving from worst practices'
- Adoption in process by ICONTEC and INACAL
Internal auditors: Critical mass
Next steps

- Adoption of the Spanish version by ICONTEC (Colombia) and INACAL (Perú) by March 2019
- Webinar on ‘Increasing the quality and quality of metal recovery while segregating and dismantling’ (by April 2019)
- Review of the ISO IWA 19 Guidance Principles by 2019 and conversion into an ISO international standard
- Training for internal auditors, implementers and trainers of ISO IWA 19 in Africa and Latin America (2019 and 2020)
Tales of Trash / Relatos de Residuos
5 Principles for Inclusive Recycling

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THANK YOU!
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