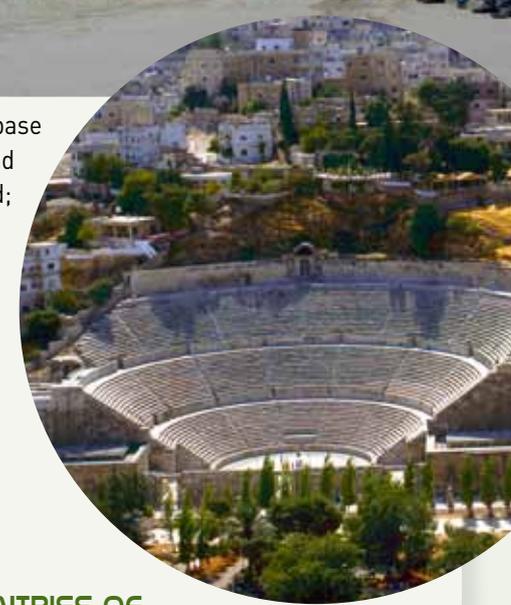




THE REGIONAL SOLID WASTE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE NETWORK IN THE MENA REGION



THE NETWORK'S MAIN GOAL

SWEEP-Net works on institutionally anchoring the principles of a sustainable and integrated solid waste management in the Middle East and North Africa Region including all the network's partner countries.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

- Promote the development of waste management in the MENA Region and create favourable conditions for sound and sustainable waste management;
- Develop national capacities in the field of waste management;
- Support regional cooperation to improve solid waste management.

MAIN MISSIONS

- Implement a regional platform for the exchange of experiences and expertise;
- Conduct training and Capacity development activities;
- Promote South-South and North-South cooperation and know-how transfer;
 - Develop guiding documents, studies, tools for decision makers and pilot operations.

THE MAIN NETWORK PRODUCTS

- Updated reports on waste management;
- Regional solid waste management symposiums and workshops;
 - A regional solid waste management portal: www.sweep-net.org;

- A comprehensive database on key stakeholders and information in this field;
 - Training workshops and E-Learning activities;
 - Technical and advisory services;
 - Field missions and technical visits;
 - Support with Pilot projects;
- And other activities...

THE PARTNER COUNTRIES OF THE NETWORK

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestinian Territory, Tunisia and Yemen.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS OF THE NETWORK

The ministries and agencies responsible for solid waste management in the partner countries. The network is represented by one National Coordinator in each Partner Country.

THE NETWORK MEMBERS

Experts, private sector, cities, NGOs, research institutes, consultants, donors, ministries and public institutions, other networks, etc.



• • • WWW.SWEEP-NET.ORG • • • CONTACT@SWEEP-NET.ORG • • •



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The German Federal Government through the GIZ
The Tunisian Government through the ANGED
Other countries and partners could join the network

AMMAN DECLARATION

MOVING UPSTREAM: WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

15 MAY 2014

Participating countries and organizations: Representatives of the network members from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen; representatives of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Romania, Serbia, Spain, UK, and USA; representatives of the network supporting partners: the German Government through the German Embassy in Jordan, the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and the Tunisian Government through the National Waste Management Agency (ANGed); representatives of the Ministry of Environment in Jordan and Greater Amman Municipality; representatives of the Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery EPA, Horizon2020 of the EC, EEA, AFD, UNEP, US Department of State, US Embassy Jordan, UNRWA, SESWA, UNEP, JICA, CMI representative of the German Bank for Development (KfW) and the representatives of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and the Center for Mediterranean Integration of Marseille (CMI);

We, the above-mentioned participants in the Fourth Regional Forum of the Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network in Mashreq and Maghreb Countries (SWEEP-Net) organized in Amman, Jordan from 13 to 15 May 2014, on "Moving Upstream: Waste And Resource Management With Social And Economic Benefits", agree on the following declaration: We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for:

- The Kingdom of Jordan for successfully hosting the Fourth Regional Forum of the network;
- The German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German International Cooperation (GIZ) for their technical assistance to the regional network SWEEP-Net;
- The Tunisian Government through the Tunisian Waste Management Agency (ANGed) for its support to SWEEP-Net;
- The SWEEP-Net secretariat for their efforts in organizing this forum, which is considered an ideal platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences and information in the field of waste management in the MENA region;
- The participants in the sessions of the SWEEP-Net 4th Amman Forum, from national and local administrations, civil society, academia and private sector, the partners and donors, for their contribution and useful discussions and recommendations.

Considering the importance of the solid waste management sector, the required efforts to guarantee its development in an integrated and sustainable way, the environmental, economic and social challenges in concerned countries as well as the necessity to establish a mechanism for cooperation and consolidation of efforts in this domain, we recommend the following:

I. Transforming Waste Management into Resource Management:

- Mainstreaming 4Rs in overall policy, planning, and development instead of just trying to cope with ever-increasing amounts of waste through treatment and disposal;
- Motivating social, behavioural, and lobbying for necessary political changes towards sustainable resource use and management;
- Establishing a circular economy (or a sound material-cycle society);
- Encouraging the private sector to further participate in the matters of waste management by releasing more authority from the government to the private sector;
- Agreeing that waste management is not a luxury, but is an important instrument to prevent nuisances and protect public health.

II. Informal Sector Involvement in the Solid Waste Sector

- Involving the informal sector in the public waste management services through establishing companies or cooperatives;
- Integrating and institutionalizing the informal sector in a way that leads to income increase and job creation;
- Defining structural integration strategies and partnerships through participative decision-making of stakeholders and informal sector.

III. Waste as Alternative Fuels and Source of Energy

- Acknowledging the high risks for local communities that Waste to energy projects bear in case of improper planning and operating. Appropriate institutional and regulatory frame conditions are compulsory;
- Realizing the necessity to start with a pilot project or small scale projects. This way experience can be made and capabilities developed;
- Using and capitalizing experiences made by Arab countries in comparable projects, like RDF in Morocco.

IV. Regional Reporting on SWM and Benchmarking System

- Introducing a benchmarking system based on reliable data for continuous follow ups and updates of the waste management developments. It can be used on a local – national and a regional level to measure the progress achieved in waste management.

V. Extending Policy to Waste Prevention / Waste Governance

Agreeing that legislations should be practical and implementable and it should be developed in coordination and consultation with all related stakeholders including community and civil society organisations;

- Establishing strong enforcement mechanisms to govern the end-use of all waste streams to ensure the successful implementation of such policies;
- Identifying key policies, legal and institutional issues in relation to promoting moving upstream in waste and resource management;
- Agreeing that waste tariffs should be based on equality in order to instil and attain better waste management services taking affordability into account. The level of services provided should be proportionate to the assigned tariffs and cost recovery mechanisms should be transparent and simple.

VI. Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Transfer

- Agreeing that SWEEP-Net is an excellent platform to exchange experiences and meet partners from the MENA Region;
- Identifying indicators, benchmarking and monitoring are important factors for project's appraisal;
- Acknowledging case studies, which show that projects and partners benefit from technical and financial cooperation;
- Committing to E-Learning as an efficient approach to provide training on regional level.

VII. Private Sector Involvement on Municipal Level

- Promoting well-established partnerships for moving upstream in the SWM hierarchy;
- Acknowledging that there are different prerequisites for private sector participation in SWM in the SWEEP-Net Partner Countries. An enabling environment must be created in order to achieve successful and transparent partnerships under these different conditions;
- Allowing to contract private companies to operate public-owned facilities and in the development of new services and facilities.

VIII. Marine Litter: Producer and Consumer Responsibility

- Linking mass clean-ups to awareness activities in order to introduce new legislation, particularly to ban plastic bags;
- Coordinating support from ministries of environment and tourism to promote the reduction of plastic bags, bottles and other packaging materials used by hotels and tourism operators;
- Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems in the region. These should include the informal sector and/or deposit-refund systems to ensure effective recovery of plastic packaging.

IX. Cost of Environmental Degradation due to Solid Waste Practices

- Committing to the support from all relevant stakeholders to ensure reliability of COED studies. These studies should provide solid decisional bases to support the decision making process by central and local government entities;
- Integrating research and academia in such decision making tools in order to ensure studies that are constantly updated and customized to local requirements. Responsibilities and rights should be clarified in the legislations along with suitable mechanisms for implementation;
- Understanding of the COED as a measure of the lost welfare of a nation due to solid waste management practices.

X. CCAC: Reducing Methane and Black Carbon through Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Practices

- Promoting organic diversion programs, composting and anaerobic digestion ;
- Using landfills as disposal option of last resort and not as a top of the hierarchy solution;
- Using sustainable financing mechanisms for Integrated Solid Waste management options.

We would like to emphasize our commitment towards the implementation of these recommendations and towards their dissemination at the level of decision-makers of participating countries and all SWM stakeholders. Finally we, as SWEEP-Net, take this opportunity to thank all participants in this 4th Regional Forum for supporting the objectives and recommendations of this meeting and for promoting the activities of SWEEP-Net, as well as engaging the network in providing necessary policy advice for decision-making in matters related to the solid waste sector.

During the forum, an important milestone towards SWEEP-Net's establishment as a regional organization could be achieved through the ratification of its founding statutes by the Government of Yemen on 14.05.2014. We congratulate SWEEP-Net for this achievement and re-confirm our commitment to further push forward the process of the organizational independence. We ask all partner countries to do all necessary legal steps to achieve this joint vision.



Amman, May 14th 2014