



Turning waste into resources for development



SRI builds capacity for sustainable recycling in developing countries.

The programme is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) and is implemented by the Institute for Materials Science & Technology (Empa), the World Resources Forum (WRF) and ecoinvent.

It builds on the success of implementing e-waste recycling systems together with various developing countries since more than ten years.

www.sustainable-recycling.org

Life Cycle Inventories

SRI develops basic data for the assessment of environmental and social life cycle performance for industrial activities through the improvement of local and regional expertise in Brazil, India and South Africa.

Recycling Initiatives

SRI improves local capacity for sustainable recycling together with private and public institutions, as well as the informal sector in Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, India, Peru, and South Africa.

SRI Roundtable

SRI facilitates a stakeholder consultation for the development of sustainability criteria for secondary raw materials.

09/2015

Knowledge partnerships since 2003



In developing countries, the recovery of materials from waste is mainly carried out by thousands of individual workers in what is referred to as the “informal” sector. This involves numerous risks, such as environmental pollution, health hazards and the cross-contamination of hazardous substances. In general there is a lack of quality and sustainability standards. The State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) has been developing knowledge partnerships in the area of e-waste since 2003. As part of the “**Swiss e-Waste Programme**”, Switzerland has supported India, China, South Africa as well as Columbia and Peru in their efforts to improve their e-waste management systems. Meanwhile, appropriate regulations have been enacted in virtually every partner country.

A follow-up programme

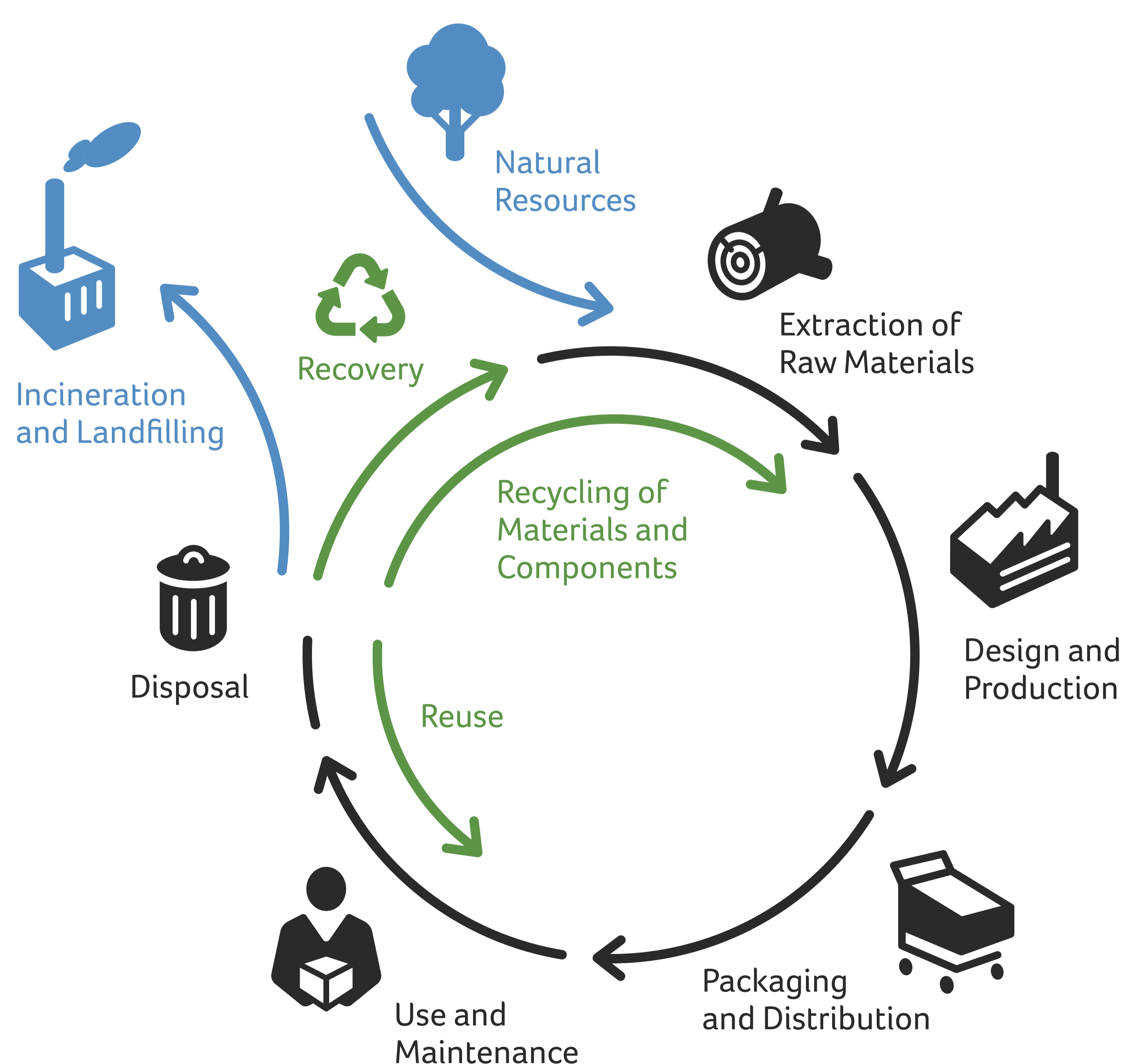
These results have led to the development of a comprehensive approach in the form of the “Sustainable Recycling Industries” (SRI) follow-up programme. The development objective of SRI is the sustainable integration and participation of small and medium enterprises from developing and transition countries in the global recycling of secondary resources. The Programme organization includes experts in the field and builds strong local partnerships with governmental organizations, industry and the civil society.

Life Cycle Inventories

The SRI Life Cycle Inventories project develops basic data for the assessment of environmental life cycle performance for industrial activities through the improvement of local and regional expertise in developing countries.

With the ecoinvent Centre, as the leading global supplier of transparent Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) data, SRI develops the basis for regional LCI data in South America (Brazil), Northern and Southern Africa (Egypt and South Africa), and Southern Asia (India).

The project concentrates on setting up regional LCI networks, developing local expertise, and building background LCI data for the use in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies, environmental product declarations, carbon foot-printing and similar assessment tools. The collected and processed data will represent resource consumption and environmental emissions of technologies used in the focus countries and will be reviewed according to international quality standards (ISO).



Recycling Initiatives

The SRI Recycling Initiatives support the development of sustainable recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE or e-waste) in developing countries.

Capacity Building

The SRI Recycling Initiatives improve local capacity for sustainable recycling together with private and public institutions, as well as the informal sector in 5 partner countries.

Activities concentrate on improving framework conditions with focus on building technology partnerships, implementing standards and improving conformity, developing a system for financing sound recycling, and training of main stakeholders.

Egypt

Government lead e-waste initiatives have created some momentum and activities, where SRI is building upon with it's support.

Partner: Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Sofies, Öko Institute

Ghana

The country's biggest e-waste recycling cluster Agbogbloshie has gained the doubtful title as one of the world's most polluted place. SRI is providing alternative business models to the informal sector for sustainable e-waste recycling.

Partner: Ghana National Cleaner Production Center, Sofies, Öko Institute

India

Plastic recycling provides a livelihood to 20 000 – 25 000 persons in Delhi alone and is mostly uncontrolled. SRI is helping to reduce the cross-contamination of recycled plastics with heavy metals and flame retardants.

Partner: Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Toxics Link

Peru

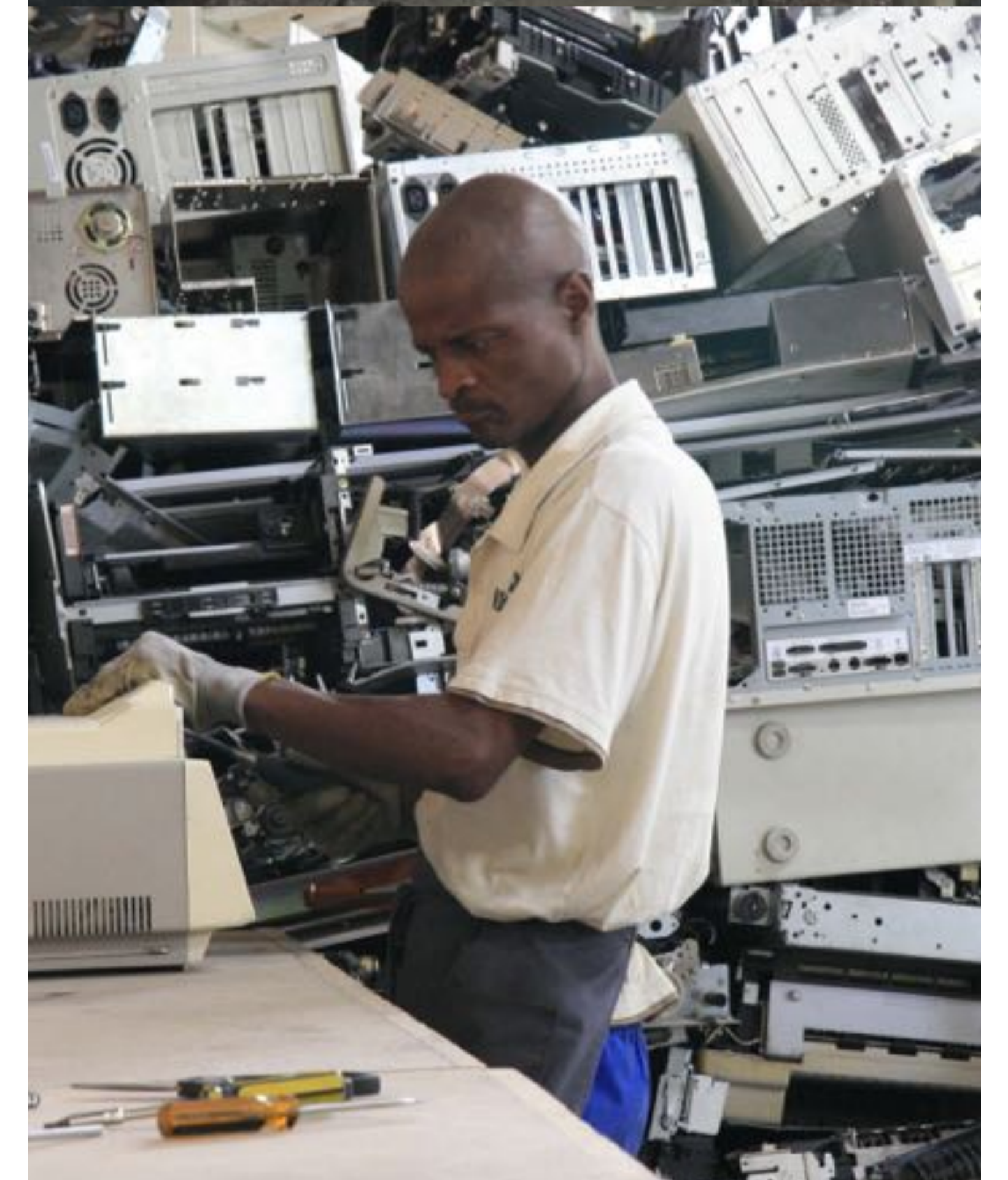
Peru's e-waste related policy framework includes the "National regulations for WEEE management" and 3 Peruvian technical standards. SRI supports the implementation of this framework, the growing e-waste recycling industry and producer's take back systems.

Partner: IPES Promocion del Desarrollo Sostenible

Colombia

Colombia has a specific legal framework for e-waste based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This has led to the creation of the collective take-back system Ecocomputo. SRI supports the implementation of Colombia's legal framework and the further development of related take-back schemes.

Partner: Centro Nacional de Produccion Mas Limpia y Tecnologias Ambientales(CNPMLTA)



SRI Roundtable

The SRI Roundtable addresses sustainability criteria in secondary resources management in developing countries. Whilst international efforts on standards and traceability mechanisms to ensure sustainable mining of raw materials exist, similar tools for secondary resources are still missing.



Guidance Principles

SRI is convening an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) to consult with key and affected stakeholders the development of Guidance Principles for secondary metals. The IWA is a consensus building process under ISO, includes four working sessions, followed by public reviews, and runs until October 2016.

The Guidance Principles aim to influence the development of international, national and local policies, regulations and frameworks on secondary resources management, related corporate codes of practice, and standards and certification schemes. In particular, they shall ensure that sustainability aspects of secondary metals management (collection, recycling and disposal) are taken into account in the context of micro, small and medium enterprises and the informal sector in developing countries.

This activity is directed by the Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV) on behalf of ISO and supervised by WRF, which hosts the SRI Roundtable Secretariat.

Field testing

In order to build and strengthen local capacities and disseminate the results in SRI participating countries and in the global value chains, field testing of conformity assessment and traceability schemes will be conducted.

Join the process

The SRI Roundtable is a multi-stakeholder platform. Interested parties related to the topic are encouraged to join the activities by contacting us at sri@wrforum.org.



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