



3R Portfolio  
- Good Practices to Promote the 3Rs -

Country: South Africa

Major Activities

1. Promotion of Measures to Establish a Sound Material-Cycle Society in a Comprehensive and Planned Manner

- In 1999 South Africa adopted a National Waste Management Strategy. This strategy outlines goals to address waste management in the country namely: An effective institutional and legislative framework; pollution prevention; waste minimisation; holistic and integrated planning; partnerships and integrated waste management governance; empowerment and education; and international cooperation. The entire strategy is based on a 3R approach.
- In 2001 national government hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> National Waste Summit with stakeholders from the business community and civil society. All role-players reaffirmed their commitment to waste minimisation, reuse and recycling for sustainable development. This summit committed to reducing waste generation and disposal by between 20% and 25% by 2012 and to develop a plan for Zero waste by 2022.

2. Promotion of Proper Treatment and Reduction of Wastes

- Reinforcement of measures for recycling and proper treatment of wastes through formulation of the National Environmental Management Waste Bill, to be introduced to Parliament in 2005. Once enacted, this legislation will provide a comprehensive framework and set norms and standards for waste management. The outcome of this legislation will be a reduction in the scale of the country's waste, an increase in reuse and recycling and a coherent framework to address health and safety issues related to waste management.
- Formulation of basic policies and regulations based on Legislation and setting of targets for waste reduction (2005 → 2010)

	Municipal waste	Industrial waste
Waste generation	30% reduction	Keep the rate of increase below 10%
Waste recycling	10% → 50%	10% → 50%
Final disposal amount	60% reduction	30% reduction

3. Regulatory Environment

- In 2003 South Africa adopted regulations to regulate identified waste streams and to set charges for them. In terms of this the government has regulated the use of plastic bags and has used the revenues accruing from a levy on plastic bags to establish a not-for-profit company that now takes forward a waste minimisation strategy in the plastic bag industry.
- In line with the principle of extended producer responsibility, South Africa has made good progress in negotiating memoranda of understanding with the glass and tyre

industries designed to ensure that there is a coherent programme to ensure that their waste is reduced and recycled. These initiatives will make a huge contribution to managing these waste streams and will also open the way for job creation and enterprise development in these sectors.

- South Africa has also taken some important steps to address hazardous waste issues. During May 2005 the government will publish regulations to ban the use of asbestos products in South Africa. In addition, a study on secondary asbestos pollution and its impact on affected communities will also be completed later this year. Furthermore, South Africa has made substantial progress in addressing the legacy of mercury dumping in the country and are also leading an initiative to eradicate POP stockpiles in the SADC region.

#### 4. 3R link to Poverty Relief and Job Creation

- South Africa has invested substantially, through poverty relief programmes, to assist communities to roll out programmes that address waste and pollution management issues. Examples include recycling, waste buy-back centers, and community waste collection services. In this respect the government will increasingly form partnerships with public agencies and industry to support government.

#### 5. Promotion of Green Purchasing and Ecolabeling

- Will be considered in future policy development.

#### 6. Promotion of Research and Technology Development for the 3R's

- The Council for Science and Industrial Research under the Department of Science and Technology, promotes appropriate research and technology for Advanced Manufacturing Technologies and Cleaner Production.

#### 7. Establishment of the African Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

- A workshop for government officials of the competent authorities in African countries under the Basel Convention to share information and experiences is currently being planned.

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