

Our Strategic Approach: Circular Plastic Economy in Cape Verde

Project Overview

Location: Praia, Santiago

Status: Preparation Phase

Mission: Achieving a sustainable plastic-free future through innovative circular economy principles and community-driven solutions.

Planned Methodology

Phase 1: Strategic Collection

- **Community Network:** Develop collection points strategically distributed throughout Praia to facilitate easy and efficient plastic waste collection.
- **Partnerships:** Initiate discussions with local governments, hotels, schools, and NGOs to foster collaborative efforts.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Prepare educational programs focused on sustainable waste separation to increase community engagement and participation.

Phase 2: Advanced Processing

- **Processing Capacity:** Plan for a capacity of 120 tons of plastic per year to effectively manage and process collected materials.
- **Technology:** Research suitable automatic separation technologies, water-saving washing systems, and extruders to enhance processing efficiency.
- **Energy Supply:** Plan for 100% renewable energy usage via a solar energy system to power operations sustainably.

Phase 3: Circular Value Chains

- **Material Reuse:** Develop processes to transform waste plastic into valuable raw materials for further use.
- **Local Production:** Identify potential craftsmen to create new products from recycled materials, enhancing local economic contributions.
- **Economic Integration:** Design sustainable business models to integrate recycled material production into the local economy.

Intended Operational Centers

Santiago (Praia)

- **Main Processing Center:** Plan for the main processing center in the Industrial Zone with a capacity of 120 tons/year, utilizing 100% solar energy.

Future Expansion

- **Sal:** Focus on collection near tourist areas, emphasizing collaboration with the hotel sector.
- **Boa Vista:** Establish a collection system in tourist areas with a priority for protecting beaches.
- **São Vicente:** Develop as a logistics hub for the northern region.

Expected Impact

Environmental Impact

- Aim for a 70% reduction in plastic pollution on local beaches.
- Achieve significant CO₂ emission savings through sustainable processing practices.
- Promote water conservation with efficient recycling processes.
- Protect the marine ecosystem by reducing plastic waste in the environment.

Socio-Economic Impact

- Create local employment opportunities.
- Develop professional training programs to enhance skill sets.
- Foster educational partnerships with local schools for community involvement.
- Support local entrepreneurs in the circular economy sector.

Intended Collaborations

Dutch & Belgian Partners

- Engage in technical collaboration with recycling companies from the Netherlands and Belgium.
- Facilitate knowledge transfer and implement advanced recycling technologies.
- Access European markets for future processed materials, expanding economic opportunities.

Local Partnerships

- **Institutional:** Collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and municipalities.
- **Sectoral:** Partner with the Hotel & Tourism Association and NGOs for integrated efforts.
- **Educational:** Work with the University of Cape Verde to support educational initiatives.

Implementation Strategy

Short-term (1-2 years)

- Set up a pilot project in Praia to test and refine processes.
- Develop necessary infrastructure and technological foundations.

- Form core partnerships to support project goals.

Medium-term (2-3 years)

- Expand operations to Sal and Boa Vista to increase impact.
- Develop export channels for processed materials.
- Increase processing capacity to handle more plastic waste.

Long-term (3-5 years)

- Expand operations to all inhabited islands for comprehensive coverage.
- Develop the Vale do Paúl project on Santo Antão.
- Achieve full integration into the circular economy for sustainable growth.

Collaboration Opportunities

- **Technical Partners:** Share expertise in recycling to enhance project capabilities.
- **Investors:** Support infrastructure development to scale operations.
- **Volunteers:** Assist in setting up community actions and awareness campaigns.
- **Buyers:** Engage in the future purchase of high-quality recycled materials.

Contact

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