

ISLANDS Webinars: SIDS-to-SIDS best practice sharing on End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Management

Introduction:

Used vehicle import in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has increased in the last decades, due to the growing vehicle ownership and lack of domestic manufacture. The increase has been steep; for instance, imports in Mauritius doubled during 2006–2016. Jointly, the United States, Japan and the European Union exported 14 million used passenger cars between 2015 and 2018 with around 70% ending up in developing countries.¹ This underregulated import of used vehicles led to increased end-of-life vehicle (ELV) generation in developing countries, including in SIDS. ELVs are motor vehicles which, when no longer serviceable, are dismantled, shredded abandoned or otherwise disposed of. Each year, it is estimated that more than 50 million vehicles reach the end of their service life globally.

The problem with ELVs however runs deeper than unsightly pieces of deformed coloured metal left to rust in fields across island nations. ELVs pose a threat to human health and the environment and require careful management. Unless recycled and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, ELVs pose significant risks – releasing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) including tetraBDE, PentaBDE and DecaBDE – to ecosystems and human health. POPs are found in the plastic components in cars – including the dashboard and steering wheel, as well as in seats, treated with flame retardants.

ELVs are one of the key thematic issues being addressed by GEF ISLANDS in activities across the Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean and Atlantic regions. The Programme

¹ Skibell. A., Used Car Exports Threaten Climate Goals, 2021, Scientific American; available at: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/used-car-exports-threaten-climate-goals/>

includes regional ELV activities such as a study tour in the in the Caribbean, and an economic feasibility assessment of ELV recycling in the Pacific region. ISLANDS also identifies and shares ELV management best practices in ISLANDS SIDS.

Based on the initial two case studies from Mauritius and Saint Lucia, overarching findings were presented at the [GEF ISLANDS ELV Working Group Meeting](#) on the sidelines of the [Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention \(BRS COP\) 2023](#) on 4 May. Common challenges identified in the working group meeting included:

- Expense of managing ELVs
- Need and incentives for private sector involvement (including small and medium recyclers who dismantle vehicles and sell scrap abroad)
- Lack of de-pollution process and knowledge of POPs among ELV recyclers.

A key takeaway from the working group meeting has been that ELV management can begin with either the public or private sector; but both sectors are required to effectively and sustainably manage ELVs long-term.

GEF ISLANDS is convening a [follow-up webinar on ELV management](#) to facilitate in-depth SIDS-to-SIDS experience-sharing and learning. During the webinar, ELV stakeholders will share their specific approaches to ELV management. This includes legislation, fiscal measures, private-public sector collaboration, and operationalizing facilities. Participants will have an opportunity to share questions and thoughts during the interactive Q&A session.

The webinar will also launch the [ELV Community of Practice](#) on the [Green Forum](#), which will be the GEF ISLANDS-wide space for exchange on safe and sustainable management of ELV.

Objectives:

1. Learn from specific achievements in management of ELV in the Caribbean and Pacific Regions from and beyond the GEF ISLANDS best practice case studies.

2. Bring interested stakeholders together from both the public and private sectors to share approaches and practical entry points to ELV management.
3. Understand the challenges facing SIDS in managing ELV by building on the takeaways from the [ELV Working Group meeting](#), and identify opportunities for collaboration.
4. Launch the [ISLANDS community of practice on ELV](#) and encourage webinar participants to engage in community discussions.

Date and time:

Wednesday 24 May 2023

22:00–23:15 (Geneva time, CEST)(GMT+2)

In the regions:

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: 16:00–17:15 (AST)(GMT-4)

Next Day (25 May) 8:00–9:15 (Suva, Fiji) (GMT+12)

Agenda (AST) (GMT-4):

*The event provides simultaneous interpretation in English, Spanish and French.

16:00–16:05	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Melanie Ashton ISLANDS CCKM Project Manager</p>
16:05–16:15	<p>Lessons learned from Belize: Policy landscape and public and private sector collaboration for ELV management</p> <p>Anthony Mai Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environmental Protection, Belize</p>
16:15–16:25	Lessons learned from Kiribati:

	<p>Operationalizing ELV initiatives for clean-up, recycling and exporting</p> <p>Alice Leney Kiribati Solid Waste Management Programme</p>
16:25-16:45	<p>Lessons learned from Tonga and Vanuatu</p> <p>Success and practical challenges of private sector recyclers in ELV management</p> <p>Ofa Tu'ikolovatu Vice President of Tonga Recyclers Association, Tonga</p> <p>Andrew Hibgame Managing Director, RecycleCorp Vanuatu, Vanuatu</p>
16:45-16:55	<p>ELV management by promoting cleaner and energy efficient vehicles</p> <p>Melissa Le-Blanc Project Coordinator, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda</p>
16:55-17:10	<p>Interactive Q&A Session</p>
17:10-17:15	<p>Official Launch of the Green Forum ISLANDS ELV Community of Practice</p> <p>Closing reflections</p> <p>Melanie Ashton</p>

	ISLANDS CCKM Project Manager
--	------------------------------

Contact:

Melanie Ashton
Project Coordinator and Private Sector
Engagement Specialist, ISLANDS
Email: melanie.ashton@un.org

Partner Background

About ISLANDS

The Global Environment Facility Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme supports 33 Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) across the Atlantic, Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Ocean to safely and sustainably manage chemical and hazardous waste. A global project connects and facilitates SIDS-SIDS learning across and between project regions including through dedicated communities of practice on the Green Forum.

About the UN Environment Programme

The UN Environment Programme is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

About the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer

The BCRC-Caribbean is one of 14 global regional and coordinating centres established under The Basel Convention. The Centre serves 15 Caribbean countries that are Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions and assists them with implementing their international obligations to manage wastes and chemicals and protect human health and the environment.

About the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

The SPREP is the regional organisation established by the Governments and Administrations of the Pacific charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. SPREP has 21 Pacific island member countries and

territories and promotes cooperation in the Pacific region and provides assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.