

Remarkable! - June 2012

Waste Management and Recycling in the Galápagos Islands

The Galápagos Islands attract more than 160,000 tourists annually and are today home to more than 30,000 people. Following the increasing wealth that sustainable tourism brings to the Islands, more and more people move to Galápagos. Besides an accelerated demand for energy and water this trend also caused an increasing generation of waste of all kinds and improper waste management practices. Since 2006, WWF and Toyota have been working together in the Galápagos Islands on issues related to waste management and recycling systems.

WWF and Toyota developed the Waste Management Blueprint for the Galápagos Islands and provided financial resources, on-site technical assistance, and technical support to the Municipality of Santa Cruz Island -the most populated island of the archipelago- to implement an effective waste management and recycling system, including waste separation at source, improvement of recycling processes, environmental outreach campaigns and the development of environmentally safe disposal and treatment options, among others. This effort also included the collection of waste and used oil generated by tourism boats operating in the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR).

WWF and Toyota have also provided technical expertise and worked together with the Municipality of Santa Cruz to design, create and implement the first Municipal Environmental Department in Galápagos. They also supported the Municipality to implement environmental policies, and develop environmental standards and guidelines. Through a four-year education campaign on recycling practices, to date, 16,698 people on Santa Cruz have been reached, 99% of the island's population, which represents 55.6% of the overall population in the archipelago.

Currently, the waste management and recycling system on Santa Cruz Island is considered the most efficient initiative in Ecuador. Nearly 50% of the overall waste generated on Santa Cruz Island is currently being recycled, and the system has become a model that should be replicated in other places. Through the implementation of this initiative WWF Galapagos has learnt several lessons to ensure the long-term sustainability of such projects.

WWF and Toyota's vision is that by the year 2020, an integrated waste management and recycling system will be implemented on all inhabited islands in Galápagos.

A publication that might be of interest for you is "Waste Management Blueprint for the Galapagos Islands." You can download it by visiting the link

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/wherewework/galapagos/publications.html>

Source: Irma Larrea, Senior Program Officer, World Wildlife Fund, Whashington D.C.

Photos: ©COPLARE



At the entrance of a restaurant in Santa Cruz



In front of the football stadium in San Cristobal



In front of houses and shops in Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristobal

Reciclando, estamos ganando !!!

Gobierno Municipalidad de SAN CRISTÓBAL GALÁPAGOS

Estimado Visitante:

El Gobierno Municipal de San Cristóbal le da la bienvenida y le solicita que por la alta fragilidad del ecosistema en la isla, colabore en la campaña obligatoria de separación de basura como se indica en los recipientes:

Dear Visitor:

Galápagos is a very fragile ecosystem; therefore San Cristóbal Municipality is carrying out mandatory program for proper classification of solid waste on the island, please help to preserve this ecosystem classifying the garbage according to the following types:

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>VERDE</p> <p>Orgánico Restos de comida, frutas, verduras, huesos, carne, pollo, pescado, desechos de jardinería.</p> | <p>GREEN</p> <p>Organic Waste food, fruits, vegetables, bones, meat, chicken, fish, garden refuse.</p> |
| <p>AZUL</p> <p>Reciclable Papel, cartón, plástico, vidrio, latas, tetra pack (sin residuos)</p> | <p>BLUE</p> <p>Recycling Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, cans, tetra pack (without waste food)</p> |
| <p>NEGRO</p> <p>No Reciclable Papel higiénico, servilletas, toallas sanitarias, pañales desechables, zapatos, ropa, espuma flex, tarrinas y vasos desechables.</p> | <p>BLACK</p> <p>No Recycling Toilet paper, napkins, sanitary towels, reject diapers, shoes, clothes, foam flex, tubs and cups desechables.</p> |



Workers of the Recycling Center, Santa Cruz Island © WWF/Lee Poston.

Table 2
Summary of Current Waste Management Activities, by island

| | Isla Santa Cruz (including Baltra Island) | San Cristobal Island (including Floreana Island) | Isabela Island |
|--|---|---|--|
| Waste Collection | Separated, 100% coverage. | Separated, 90% coverage. | Not separated. No detailed information available |
| Final Waste Treatment | No Sanitary Landfill. Basic management of dumpsite. | No Sanitary Landfill. Open-sky dumpsite. | |
| Reciclaje | Recycling System since 2006. Estimated Efficiency (2008): - Non-Recyclables: 10m ³ -12m ³ /day - Recyclables: 10m ³ /day - Organics: 1m-2m ³ /day | Recycling System since 2007. Efficiency: No information available. Estimation: less than 10% in weight. | No Recycling System. |
| Scrap Metal and Used Tires | Basic Scrap Management System - Separated Collection - Primitive Scrap yard - Exportation of scrap metal and used tires to the mainland | No Scrap Management System. Scraps and used tires get dumped at the dumpsite. | |
| Hospital and Bio-hazardous Waste | Separated and weekly collection of Hospital and Bio-hazardous Waste. Incineration in special Incinerator. | No reliable information available Incinerator existing. | No collection of hospital and bio-hazardous waste. No incinerator. |
| Special Waste (Computers, Cell phones, Air Conditioners, etc.) | No Separation, No Collection, No Treatment. | | |
| Toxic Waste | No Separation, No Collection, No Treatment. | | |
| Waste Oil Collection | Oil Collection System since 2000 (RELUGAL). No Collection of Oil Filters, Brake Fluids, Cooking Oil. | Oil Collection System since 2007 (RELUSAN). No Collection of Oil Filters, Brake Fluids, Cooking Oil. | No Oil Collection System. No Collection of Oil Filters, Brake Fluids, Cooking Oil. |
| Environmental Education Campaign on Recycling Practices | Continuous Environmental Education Campaigns on Recycling Practices since 2007. | Sporadic Environmental Education Campaigns on Recycling Practices since 2007. | No Environmental Education Campaigns on Recycling Practices. |
| Monitoring and Control System | Continuous Monitoring and Control of Waste Separation. Continuous Monitoring and Control of Waste Separation. | Sporadic Monitoring and Control of Waste Collection System. Continuous Monitoring and Control of Waste Separation. | No Monitoring and Control. |
| Municipal Ordinance on Waste Management and Recycling | Existent, has to be revised and improved. | Existent, has to be revised and improved. | Non existent. |
| Street Cleaning/Sweeping/Litter | Municipal Street Cleaning System existent. Has to be improved. Lack of basic equipment: Public dustbins, efficient equipment for street cleaning. Environmental Campaign on Not-Littering is missing. | Municipal Street Cleaning System existent. Has to be improved. Lack of basic equipment: Public dustbins, efficient equipment for street cleaning. Environmental Campaign on Not-Littering is missing. | Municipal Street Cleaning System existent. Lack of basic equipment: Public dustbins. Environmental Campaign on Not-Littering is missing. |

Source:
WWF and Toyota. 2010.
Waste Management Blueprint for the Galápagos Islands.
WWF. Puerto Ayora, Galápagos.