



THIMOTHY THAMAE, NUL

Informal Sector Integration into EPR in Lesotho

UNSUNG STEWARDS OF LESOTHO'S ENVIRONMENT

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) cannot succeed in Lesotho by replacing the informal sector; it can only succeed by integrating and professionalizing them.

"Integration": Shifting from viewing waste pickers as hustlers to recognizing them as vital green entrepreneurs.



WE PRODUCE MORE WASTE THAN WE RECOVER

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Stats

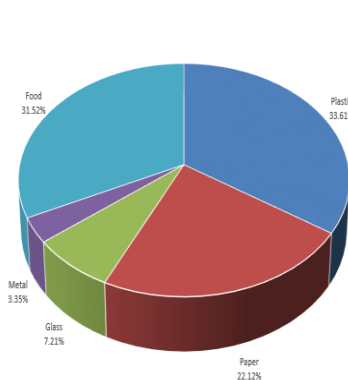
1. Total Municipal Generation: 137,510 tonnes/year
2. Collected Waste: 27,500 tonnes/year (about 20%)
3. Unmanaged Waste: 110,000 tonnes/year (about 80%).

United Nations Development Programme Stats

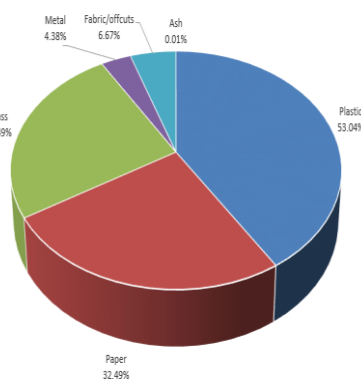
1. Studies show that a significant portion of urban waste (approximately 69%) is plastic waste.



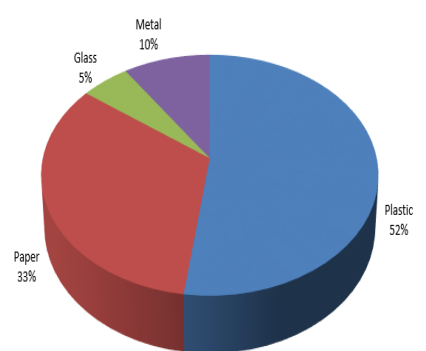
WASTE COMPOSITION 2018



HOUSEHOLD WASTE-
MASERU



DUMPSITE WASTE-
MASERU



DUMPSITE WASTE-
MAPUTSOE

WHO FILLS THE GAP?



FROM TŠOSANE TO TŠOENENG

When a dumpsite closes or relocates to a modern landfill, informal waste pickers are historically locked out and lose their entire livelihoods overnight.

May use Tšoeneng transition as a launching pad to formally register waste pickers and integrate them into source-separation programs before the gates close at Ha Tšosane.



RELEASES OF FUMES AND GROUND CHEMICALS POSE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS



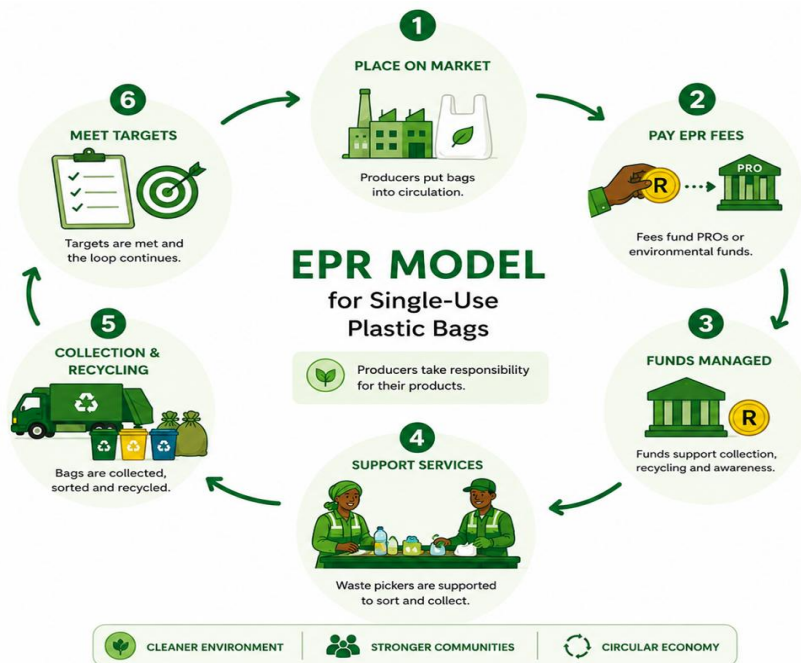
ROADMAP



HOW EPR TRANSFORMS INFORMAL RECYCLING

- Under EPR, producers and importers pay fees into a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO).
- The Payment Model: These fees shouldn't just buy trucks; they must fund a "Service Fee" to waste pickers. Reclaimers should be paid not just for the weight of the plastic they sell, but for the *environmental cleanup service* they provide to the nation.
- Source Separation: Moving waste pickers off dangerous dumpsites and into door-to-door or community-level collection hubs.





THANK YOU!



Facebook

NUL Research and Innovations



Twitter

@NUL Research and Innovations



Email

tm.thamae@nul.ls



Phone

5221 3000