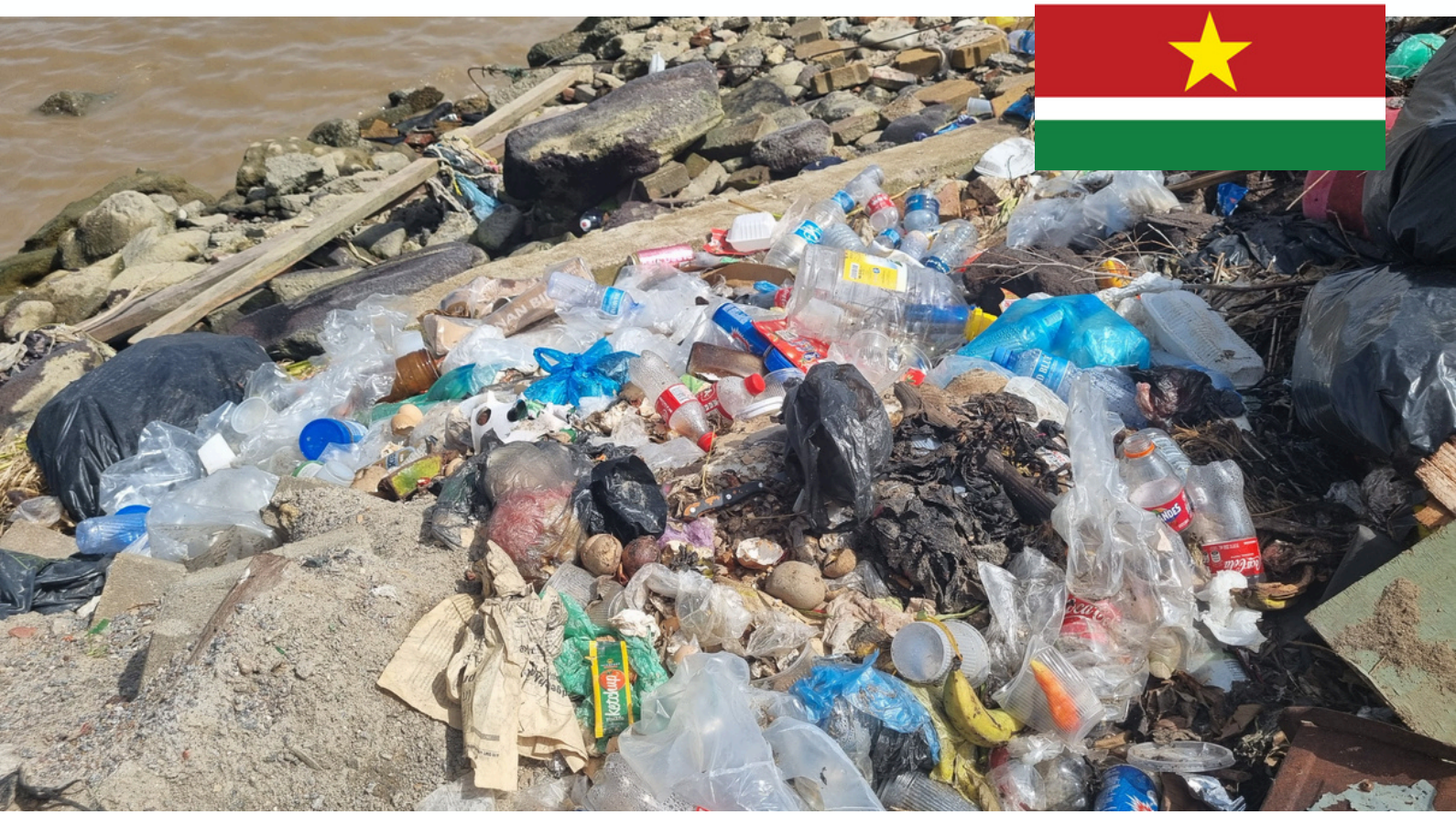
Policy Brief

(Input Paper)

Suriname
Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea



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Federal Ministry
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based on a decision of
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Abbreviations

BMUV	The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany
CCS	Cartagena Convention Secretariat
DRS	Deposit Return Scheme
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene
ILACO	ILACO Suriname, consultancy and engeneering firm.
KIDV	Knowledge Institute for Sustainable Packaging / Kennisinstituut duurzaam verpakken
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
N.V.	Public Limited Company / Naamloze Vennootschap
NBSLME	North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMA	National Environmental Authority / Nationale Milieu Autoriteit
PP	Polypropylene
PRO	Producer Responsibility Organizations
PROMAR	Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea
SRD	Surinamese Dollar / Surinaamse Dollar
SSB	Suriname Stnadards Bureau
SUP	Single-use Plastics
SuReSur	Support Recycling Foundation Suriname / Stichting Support Recycling Suriname
SUWAMA	Suriname Waste Management Foundation / Stichting Suriname Waste Management Foundation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1 Introduction

Packaging waste is a growing global environmental challenge. In particular, non-biodegradable plastic packaging waste, which accumulates in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems harming human health and biodiversity. The challenges presented by an overabundance of plastic packaging waste are especially concerning in Suriname, where the current waste management system faces several challenges of its own in effectively handling solid waste. Solid waste in Suriname is currently disposed of through open dumping at the largest open dump site in the country, Ornamibo, with limited amounts of waste entering the formal recycling infrastructure. Furthermore, waste collection services are not always consistent and limited resource allocation negatively impacts the ability to monitor and address littering and illegal dumping, especially in communities outside of the capital. Altogether, these challenges often lead to widespread littering and illegal dumping, enhancing the threat and negative impacts of plastic pollution on the health of ecosystems and communities.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies are increasingly being adopted globally, to address packaging waste by holding producers, importers, and brand owners accountable for managing the lifecycle of their packaging materials. By shifting financial and operational responsibility from municipalities and taxpayers to producers. EPR encourages sustainable packaging design, waste reduction, and investment in recycling infrastructure. In Suriname, where waste management is primarily handled by municipal authorities with limited resources, implementing an EPR framework or other policy instruments could significantly improve waste collection, recycling rates, and overall environmental sustainability.

This policy brief is part of the **Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) project,** funded by the BMUV and implemented by adelphi and the UNEP's CCS United Nations Environment Programme's from 2020 to 2026. PROMAR is a regional initiative dedicated to the prevention of marine litter in the Caribbean Sea, facilitating local action and supporting policy to promote the circular economy for plastics, with a focus on packaging and single-use plastics. Accordingly, this document will explore strategies for addressing the considerable adverse effects of plastic packaging waste on the environment, human health, and the economy. While also exploring strategies that promote a circular economy for plastics in Suriname. All informed by consultations with local and national authorities, and local private sector actors, including producers and importers of plastic packaging materials, and recycling companies.

2 Background

Background to the country

At approximately 163 thousand square kilometers, Suriname is one of the largest countries in the Caribbean and one of the most sparsely populated in the world, with a young population of approximately 600,000. The majority of Suriname's population, approximately 87%, lives in and around its 386 km long coast. Unfortunately, waste management in the country lags in comparison to the rate of generation of single use plastic (SUP) waste. SUPs are a visible issue in densely populated urban areas of Suriname, and although less visible, are also a considerable issue in semi-urban and rural areas.

The status of recycling and waste collection

In Suriname, there is no organized sorting of collected municipal waste, and waste segregation is not commonly practiced by households. However, there are organizations, such as the Support Recycling Suriname Foundation (SuReSur), that stimulate the segregation of household waste and collect recyclable waste by way of large collection bins, more than 140 installed nationwide. There are three recycling companies in Suriname that sort and process ferrous metals, paper, aluminum, and plastic packaging materials. Currently, there are no other recycling facilities for single use plastics. Recyclables that are not transported to these recycling companies eventually end up in a landfill.

The Ministry of Public Works is mandated to manage and coordinate the collection of waste in Suriname, cleaning up litter and illegal dumping sites, and the management designated dumping sites of which Ornamibo is the largest. Furthermore, the Ministry manages and coordinates its responsibilities via its Public Greenery and Waste Management Directorate. Household waste collection in the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, Para, Commewijne, and Saramacca is coordinated directly by the Ministry of Public Works and deposited at Ornamibo, predominantly by government contractors. Meanwhile, household waste collected in the districts of Brokopondo, Marowijne, and Nickerie is deposited at dumping sites in the respective districts, designated by the Ministry of Public Works. In the remaining 2 districts, Coronie and Sipaliwini, household waste collection is managed by the respective district commissariats of the Ministry of Regional Development and Sport, and deposited at designated dumping sites in each respective district, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works.

A situational analysis of the waste management system in Suriname, conducted by ILACO in 2022, estimated that a total of 253 kilo tons of waste was generated in 2022, of which 140 kilo tons were household waste and 28 kilo tons were industrial waste. Furthermore, 95% of this annual waste was estimated to be deposited at designated dumping sites, such as Ornamibo, and the remaining 5% of all waste would be reused or recycled. Meanwhile, a partial plastic waste inventory for Suriname, conducted by the Suriname Waste Management Foundation (SUWAMA) estimated that in 2020, 20,309 metric tons of single-use plastic waste was produced. Of which the majority is dumped at designated dumping sites. Only a small percentage is reused or recycled, and an increasingly concerning percentage of this plastic waste is illegally dumped and/or burnt. Unfortunately, there are no official statistics for the exact amount of household waste that does not enter the formal waste collection system. However, illegal dumping and open burning of household waste is noticeable in urban and semi-urban areas.

The Growing Impact of Plastic Waste on Suriname's Environment and Economy

The widespread use of plastic packaging and single-use plastic products in Suriname is creating significant challenges. While many of these issues are already evident in the short term, their long-term consequences are also concerning. The growing plastic waste problem affects various aspects of society, from environmental degradation to public health risks. Some of the short-term problems caused by plastic packaging and single-use plastic products include:

1. **Increased Littering and Pollution –** The streets in urban and semi-urban areas,

rivers, canals, and coastal ecosystems are rapidly accumulating plastic waste. Creating an immediate environmental, public health, and aesthetic issue.

2. **Harm to Marine Life and Wildlife –** Plastic litter is an immediate threat to the biodiversity in terrestrial and aquatic environments. In particular, the ingestion of and entaglement in plastic debris can lead to injuries, illness, and death of wildlife, especially aquatic species.

3. **Overflowing Landfills and Illegal Dumping –** In recent years illegal dumping has become a growing issue in residential areas all over Suriname, with a growing number of neighborhoods complaining about the illegal dumping of trash and bulky waste in their community. Whereas in the past illegal dumping was done in the outskirts of the capital or sparsely populated areas. Waste management systems are struggling to keep up with the rise in illegal dumping, especially in cities like Paramaribo. Ultimately, the increased illegal dumping and littering in residential areas often leads to clogged drainage systems and flooding in residential areas.

4. **Health Risks from Burning Plastic –** In areas without proper waste disposal, plastic is often burned, releasing toxic fumes that pose respiratory and other health hazards to nearby communities and wildlife.

5. **Negative Impact on Tourism –** Popular tourist sites in urban areas, including downtown Paramaribo, and the interior of Suriname are affected by plastic litter, potentially harming the tourism industry.

6. **Contamination of Water Sources –** Plastic waste in rivers and drainage systems can lead to blockages, increasing the risk of flooding and polluting drinking water supplies.

7. **Attraction of Pests and Disease Outbreaks –** Accumulated plastic waste creates breeding grounds for pests, such as mosquitoes, rats and mice, and the diseases that they carry, and can directly increase the risk of illness and death.

8. **Immediate Financial Burden on Waste Management Services –** The increasing volume of plastic waste demands more resources for collection and disposal, putting pressure on local governments and sanitation services.

Meanwhile, the major long-term impacts of plastic waste include:

1. **Increased Marine Pollution:** Suriname's coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as others in the NBSLME, face considerable threats from plastic pollution (Acosta, Glazer, Ali, & Mahon, 2020). In Suriname, the coastal and marine areas have become polluted with plastic waste from urban areas, affecting ecosystems and fish populations crucial for local diets and livelihoods. This pollution will only increase if the plastic issue is not handled, enhancing the adverse effects on the health of ecosystems and humans alike.

2. **Impact on Tourism:** The decline in aesthetic appeal and an increase in the presence of pests and disease due to plastic pollution can contribute to a decline in tourism. Already, key tourist attractions in the capital, Paramaribo, and the interior are experiencing increased plastic pollution, threatening the tourism sector, which

contributes to local economies and the national economy.

3. **Overburdened Waste Management:** The waste management system in the two most populated districts, Paramaribo and Wanica, is overburdend leading to illegal dumping and overflowing landfills. Particularly in areas or neighbourhoods where waste collection services are limited or inconsistent.

4. **Health Risks to Communities:** The common practice of burning solid waste, which increasingly contains plastic packaging, at dumping sites and by households, is a considerable acute and long-term threat to human health, due to the emission of toxic fumes. Furthermore, plastic litter can increase the likelihood of flooding and the presence of pests, which can both lead to harmful and potentially fatal disease and illness.

5. **Strain on Local Fisheries:** The accumulation of plastic waste in waterways can create adverse long-term effects on local fisheries. The ingestion of plastic debris by targeted fish species, or their prey, can negatively impact fish health and ultimately lead to their death. Meanwhile, large plastic debris can trap or entangle fish, which often results in fatality. Declines in fish health and population threaten the livelihoods of fisherfolk and those employed in the fishing sector, and their ability to support their families. Additionally, declines in local Ca will negatively impact food security in Suriname, where fish is an important source of protein (FAO, 2019).

3 Policies, Important Actors and Initiatives

Legislation, Policies and Regulations

Article 6g and **Chapter 7** of the Constitution of Suriname establish a commitment to the sustainable management of the nation's natural resources to foster development and enhance the well-being of its people and territory, while safeguarding the environment from degradation (De Nationale Assemblée van de Republiek Suriname, 1987). **Article 6g** mandates that the government establish and promote conditions that are necessary for the protection of nature and the preservation of ecological balance. **Chapter 7** emphasizes responsible use of natural resources for development, while imposing restrictions on economic activities that may harm public interest or health. Plastic pollution is a considerable and direct threat to the well-being of communities and individuals and contributes to the degradation of the environment. Unfortunately, no single piece of legislation or policy is currently in place that directly addresses plastic pollution in Suriname. However, there is legislation and there are policies that can be used to address plastic pollution and to improve waste management.

Suriname's ***Politiestrafwet*** **(Police Penal Code** or **Police Criminal Act) of 1915**, specifically, **Article 39** and **39a** prohibit littering and illegal dumping of waste on public roads and public places (De Nationale Assemblée van de Republiek Suriname, 1915). This specific piece of legislation allows the sanctioning of individuals for littering and illegal dumping. Meanwhile, **Article 6** of the ***Hinderwet*** **(Nuisance Act) of 1930** can be used to hold businesses or industry accountable for pollution, a public nuisance, that affects the well-being of the community (De Nationale Assemblée van de Republiek Suriname, 1930). Addittionally, a recent amendment to **Article 44 paragraph 1** of the **Environmental Framework Act of 2020**, enacted on the 21st of May 2024, added a penalty or fine of at least SRD 1,000 and up to SRD 500,000 for

illegal dumping of waste (De Nationale Assemblée van de Republiek Suriname, 2024). Altogether, these legislations can be leveraged to address illegal dumping and solid waste pollution in general.

The **Environmental Framework Act** was approved by parliament on the 7th of May 2020, as a broad framework for enacting national legislation for environmental conservation and preservation, sustainable practices, and addressing pollution. This framework legislation also established the National Environmental Authority (NMA) as an independent administrative body, responsible for environmental protection and addressing challenges such as plastic pollution in Suriname.

Furthermore, Suriname's **Multi Year Development Plan for 2022-2026** identifies at least 10 priority areas that are relevant to improving waste management and addressing plastic pollution, for example, the introduction of a national plastic and glass deposit system, and laws and measures to regulate the collection and processing of waste (Stichting Planbureau Suriname, 2021). Lastly, a national voluntary standard for waste collection and processing, specifically, the collection of households, medical, industrial, and bulky waste was developed and approved in 2019 (Suriname Standards Bureau, 2019).

Important Actors

The following actors, governmental organisations and private sector actors, are important for the development and implementation of strategies for reducing plastic packaging waste using a circular economy framework.

The ***Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment***; is an important actor when it comes to policy and regulations for the conservation and protection of the environment. With the mandate to ensure that environmental standards are met, the ministry supports sustainable development initiatives and oversees waste management strategies. Furthermore, the Ministry has a leading role informing and guiding legislation and regulations that safeguards the environment and promotes sustainable practices, such as EPR and other circular economy strategies.

The ***Ministry of Finance and Planning*** in particular, the Tax Directorate of the Ministry plays a critical role with regards to the fiscal aspects of EPR in Suriname. The Ministry's role in shaping national development plans is crucial for development and implementation of any EPR related economic instruments, such as taxes, subsidies, and/or import duties.

The ***Ministry of Public Works*** in particular, the Public Greenery and Waste Management Directorate, is essential to addressing plastic packaging waste in Suriname. The Ministry, through this directorate, is directly responsible for managing and coordinating the collection, transportation, and disposal of household waste. Furthermore, the ministry is also mandated to manage public spaces and cleanliness, through its direct role in cleaning up illegal dumping sites and litter, and the collection of fines in accordance with the Police Penal Code or Police Criminal Act (*Politiestrafwet*). Lastly, the Ministry has the necessary experience and infrastructure to support waste reduction initiatives, such as household waste separation and recycling.

The ***Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation*** is an essential actor for the development of an EPR scheme in Suriname, through its direct role in policies and regulations that shape economic activities, such as the production and import of plastic or sustainable packaging materials. Therefore, the Ministry is essential to the transition towards sustainable packaging materials, any reduction in plastic packaging materials, and

the promotion of circular economy principles for plastics.

The ***Ministry of Education, Science and Culture*** plays a critical role in the implementation of the widespread and dedicated awareness campaign targeting youth that will be necessary to ensure the success of any circular economy strategies for plastics. The promotion of sustainable practices, the reduction of waste, and the importance of waste management amongst the youth of Suriname is crucial, and the Ministry plays a central role in the implementation of educational campaigns and public engagements at primary and secondary schools.

The ***Ministry of Public Health*** in particular, the Bureau for Public Health is an important actor for addressing plastic pollution and promoting sustainable waste management due to its role in enforcing the *Nuisance Act* (*Hinderwet*). Accordingly, the Ministry can actively contribute to efforts to reduce plastic pollution by withdrawing or withholding permits to businesses whose activities are deemed to cause a public nuisance, such as pollution. Furthermore, the Ministry's Bureau of Public Health can play an important role in raising awareness for the impact of plastic pollution on public health and the importance of sustainable waste management practices.

The ***National Environmetal Authority*** is an important actor in the successful development and implementation of strategies for reducing plastic packaging waste using a circular economy framework. Specifically, the authority plays a central role in the design of policy and regulation, the development of a legal framework, and the enforcement and monitoring of compliance. Additionaly, the authority can also play an important role in the building technical capacity and raising public awareness. Ultimately, its involvement is important to ensuring effectiveness and long-term sustainability of an EPR scheme or other circular economy strategy.

Producers and Importers of plastic packaging materials in Suriname, and other packaging materials, such as glass bottles and aluminium cans, are fundamental actors in the development and implementation of an EPR scheme in Suriname. As the sector responsible for the introduction and proliferation of plastic packaging materials into the market, producers and importers are essential to creating meaningful reductions in plastic packaging waste. For example, the promotion of innovative packaging designs and sustainable packaging materials, and the sharing of costs and responsibilities for collection and recycling of packaging waste. Furthermore, certain producers in Suriname have technical experience implementing their own internal recycling and reuse strategies.

Recycling companies provide the necessary expertise and infrastructure to process collected recyclable packaging waste, and the reduction of plastic materials entering and contaminating the environment. These actors are crucial to ensuring the sustainability and economic viability of any EPR scheme and the establishment of a circular economy for plastics. Currently, there are three major recycling companies in Suriname: Amazona Recycling Company N.V., Clear Packaging & Recycling N.V., and Green Circle Recycling N.V. Altogether, this sector is capable of processing ferrous metals, cardboard and paper, aluminium cans, and various plastic materials. Unfortunately, access to a steady consistent stream of recyclable materials remains a challenge in Suriname.

The ***Suriname Standards Bureau*** is an important actor in the development of national standards and the identification of existing national standards to support the development and implementation of an EPR scheme or other circular economy strategies. The SSB has the mandate to establish mandatory and voluntary national standards that promote a circular

economy for plastics, and the improvement of waste management in Suriname. Accordingly, the SSB has already developed national standards relevant to packaging, labelling, and circular economy, and waste management (Suriname Standards Bureau, 2019).

Waste Separation Initiatives

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as the Support Recycling Suriname Foundation (SuReSur), are directly involved in the collection of plastic bottles, plastic bags, and aluminium cans, and encouraging households to separate their waste and recycling by way of large collection bins placed in central locations. SuReSur started in 2015 and already has more than 140 recycle bins in various districts. These bins have been placed with the financial help of international organizations as UNDP in cooperation with the Australian Aid Fund from the Government of Australia, WWF, Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname, and with contributions from local producers and importers of plastic bottles and aluminium cans.

Currently, the collection of recyclables from the recycling bins and maintenance of the supporting infrastructure are sponsored voluntarily by the private sector, particularly certain local producers and importers of plastic materials. Most doing so through their Corporate Social Responsibility programs. However, participation in the SuReSur initiative is not mandatory and the majority of local plastic producers and importers do not yet support this initiative for the separation of household waste and collection of recyclables for recycling. Nevertheless, the materials collected by SuReSur are transported to a local recycling company, where the collected materials are sorted, bailed, and shipped abroad. Estimates by SuReSur suggest that only 4% of the plastic packaging material that enters the Surinamese market is collected through its collection structures. According to these estimates, the remaining 96% mostly ends up in the environment, i.e., dumping sites designated by the authorities, illegally dumping sites, streets, gutters, canals, and rivers.

In February of 2022, the Koni Doti pilot project was launched by ILACO in collaboration with the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and the Ministry of Public Works, with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Koni Doti project was initiated to encourage the separation of household waste and collection of separate household waste in the resort of Blauwgrond, in the capital Paramaribo. Separated household waste was collected once a month. In the first 6 months of implementation, 53% of the households in Blauwgrond were encouraged to separate their waste, and a total of 4,855 households registered to participate in waste separation. In total, 21,370 kg of recyclable waste, including plastic and aluminium cans, was collected in the first 6 months of implementation.

The Koni Doti pilot project and the work of SuReSur indicate that households in Suriname can be encouraged to separate their household waste for collection. Furthermore, the successes of both initiatives suggest that household waste separation can be a successful strategy to be included in future EPR schemes or other strategies that promote a circular economy for plastic packaging in Suriname.

Other smaller initiatives also suggest that waste separation can be a successful strategy for promoting a circular economy for plastics. These include the Greener Together project initiated by four Rotary Clubs in Suriname in collaboration with the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, SuReSur, SUWAMA (Rotary District 7030, 2022; de Ware Tijd, 2022). Initiated in 2022, the Greener Together project contributed to the installation of SuReSur collection bins at 15 schools and awareness and training sessions

were provided (Rotary Club of Paramaribo Residence, n.d.). Initially implemented as a pilot project from 2022 – 2023, collection of separated waste from the established collection bins is still ongoing.

Recycling and Reuse Initiatives

In addition to waste separation initiatives there are initiatives to recycle and reuse plastic packaging in Suriname. One such initiative is the FUSE Caribbean Kitchen (FUSE Kitchen) project launched by the Fernandes Group together with FUSE Caribbean to recycle HDPE and PP waste into final products, such as building materials. In March 2025, the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment signed an MoU with the Fernandes Group to collaborate on reducing plastic pollution and to support the FUSE Kitchen project (de Ware Tijd Online, 2025). Other recycling initiatives are implemented internally by local companies that produce their own plastic packaging products. These companies recycle residual waste from their packaging production into finished products, such as garbage bags and agricultural plastic, using their own internal recycling units. Similarly, certain companies that produce their own plastic packaging implement reuse initiatives for their own plastic packaging products, such as bottles and jugs. Consumers are encouraged to return specific plastic containers via a DRS where the containers are deposited at designated retail locations or directly to the company. The returned containers are then reused by the respective companies.

These private sector efforts speak to the feasibility of developing and establishing an EPR scheme or other strategies to promote a circular economy for plastics. The recycling and reuse initiatives discussed indicate that there are companies in Suriname that have taken important steps towards circularity for plastic packaging materials. Accordingly, the technical experience in developing and establishing these initiatives, and the commitment to circularity, can be leveraged to inform the design and implementation of an EPR scheme or other circular economy strategies for plastic packaging materials in Suriname.

4 Problem Analysis

Suriname faces growing challenges in managing its waste, particularly its plastic packaging waste. These challenges are exacerbated by increasing consumption of single-use plastic products, limited capacity within the current waste management system, and the absence of dedicated policy and regulations for sustainable waste management and to address plastic pollution. The lack of targeted legislation is a key policy gap that undermines a coordinated and sustainable approach to addressing plastic pollution and promoting circularity for plastics.

Current legal instruments, such as the Police Penal Code / Police Criminal Act of 1915, the Nuisance Act of 1930, and the Environmental Framework Act can be leveraged to sanction illegal dumping and pollution. However, enforcement is inconsistent due to limited resources, especially in areas outside the capital. Furthermore, these legislations were not designed with the growing plastic pollution crises and waste challenges in mind and cannot be leveraged to support an EPR scheme or other circular economy strategies for plastics. While Suriname's Multi-Year Development Plan for 2022-2026 identifies relevant priority areas, such as a national plastic and glass deposit system, development of relevant strategies has been limited, and initiatives or mechanisms to drive progress have not been established.

Institutionally, the roles of various ministries and agencies often overlap, with no single entity

clearly responsible for developing and implementing circular economy strategies for plastics. Furthermore, coordination between governmental actors and governmental and private sector actors is weak, hindering the development of circular economy strategies, such as EPR, and coordination to advance sustainable waste management. This leaves the Ministry of Public Works to bear the burden of waste collection and disposal, despite their limited operational and financial capacity. Consequently, communities increasingly exposed to the adverse short- and long-term impacts of plastic pollution.

Additionally, data collection and monitoring systems are underdeveloped, making it difficult to track plastic flows and the impact of initiatives, such as the Koni Doti project and SuReSur's collection bins. While private sector and NGO-led recycling and reuse initiatives exist, they remain voluntary and fragmented, with limited reach and support from national policy frameworks.

In summary, Suriname's existing policies are not adequately equipped to address the escalating plastic packaging waste crisis. Additional, legislation and regulations are necessary to facilitate sustainable waste management and the implementation of circular economy strategies for plastics, such as EPR. Bridging these gaps requires the development of comprehensive, enforceable policies and stronger coordination, financing, and monitoring mechanisms to support a transition toward a circular economy for plastics.

5 Recommendation

The way forward

Addressing the growing impact of plastic waste on Suriname's environment and economy requires targeted initiatives to improve recycling infrastructure, enhance public education, and implement stricter regulations on plastic usage to foster a more sustainable environment. These initiatives can be strengthened by a successful EPR scheme.

A successful EPR scheme requires commitment from producers and importers and the government. Additionally key elements, such as clearly defined roles and responsibilities for producers and importers, mandatory collection targets based on packaging types, and robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are necessary. Furthermore, transparent financing structures that ensure efficient allocation of resources for awareness, collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure are important to the sustainability of any EPR scheme.

Considering the status of recycling and waste collection in Suriname, the successes and lessons learned in the Koni Doti project and the work of SuReSur, and other waste separation and recycling and reuse initiatives, a phased multi-policy approach is recommended. This approach will demand collaboration between the important actors discussed. In particular, the relevant ministries and associated governmental institutions, local producers and importers of plastic packaging material, and recycling companies, with support from non-governmental actors and civil society. Accordingly, it is further recommended that an EPR scheme be developed and implemented. Such a scheme will demand strong commitment from the public and private sector, and the establishment and enforcement of sound policies and legislation.

Two EPR related strategies are put forth for reducing plastic packaging waste in Suriname. These strategies and others are considered in detail and evaluated in a comparative analysis, within the Options Paper: Reduce the Flow of Plastic to the Sea, also developed within the

PROMAR project in Suriname.

The two EPR related strategies are:

1. **Collection System –** Direct collection of separated recyclables, with an emphasis on plastic packaging, from households and public recycling bins placed at strategic locations. This strategy involves collecting separated waste from households once a week. Households will be motivated to place their separated plastic and aluminium waste for collection on set days. Collection bins for plastic and aluminium will also be placed at various locations. This combined collection system can build on the successes and lessons learned from the Koni Doti project and the ongoing work of SuReSur.

   Advantages of this strategy:

   a. This strategy can facilitate a shorter start-up time (a large part of the infrastructure for this strategy is already in place).

   b. Comparatively lower costs due to existing infrastructure and past experiences.

   Disadvantages of this strategy:

   a. This strategy will require considerable investment in large scale awareness campaigns to educate and encourage the public to separate their household waste and to participate in the system. If done correctly this strategy will provide the opportunity to collect more than just plastic bottles and aluminium cans, it will also be able to collect plastic bags and plastic film/wrap.

2. **Deposit System –** A DRS, either via deposit at various stations or bulk deposit of recyclable packaging materials, with an initial focus on plastic packaging materials. Establishing a DRS in Suriname will require considerably high investment to establish the intensive infrastructure necessary to support the system. Additionally, the system will require the establishment of complete infrastructure in order to collect the relevant packaging materials. Two approaches have been identified for establishing a deposit refund system in Suriname:

   I. Depositing specific packaging materials at supermarkets for a refund. This approach can accommodate the collection of PET bottles and aluminium cans by refunding the deposit of these materials. Unfortunately, this approach will not accommodate the collection of plastic bags and other plastic bottles, and it is more susceptible to fraud than automated systems. However, this approach is the most cost effective when it comes to the establishment of a complete collection infrastructure.

   II. Depositing specific packaging materials via bulk automated collection systems. This system requires larger investments in complex infrastructure that will also require more physical space to set up and high voltage electricity. However, these systems can collect more PET bottles and aluminium cans than a smaller deposit system at supermarkets.

Consultations with private sector actors indicated an interest within the sector in a direct collection system, i.e., direct collection of separated recyclables from households and public recycling bins. Successful development and execution of this collection system will require a

coordinating organization akin to a Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO), established with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including producers and importers of plastic packaging materials and aluminium cans. Accordingly, participation in the collection system should be made mandatory by law for producers and importers. Furthermore, the PRO should manage participation in and compliance with the collection system, and ensure that all members, i.e., producers and importers, are remitting their fees according to their market share. Lastly, the PRO will be expected to coordinate awareness activities to increase and maintain participation in the system by the public and advancing the prevalence of sustainable packaging materials.

Considering the role of the PRO a supervisory board should be established, with representatives from the members, the government, and civil society. The supervisory board will be expected to ensure transparency and efficiency in the compliance management, financial administration, and the coordination of stakeholders and public awareness activities of the PRO.

Recommendation for short-term actions

There is no streamlined legislation that addresses waste management and especially not for single use plastic packaging materials and other recyclable waste. Consequently, an EPR scheme can be utilized in Suriname to align important actors and establish enforceable mechanisms that mandate commitments to the reduction of plastic packaging waste. However, establishing a successful EPR scheme is a long-term endeavour. Therefore, the following actions that are short-term endeavours, relative to the establishment of a successful EPR scheme, can be developed and executed to reduce plastic packaging waste directly.

1. **Actions towards reduction**
    a. **Enforcement & Supervision** – Stricter regulations and sanctions to combat litter and illegal waste processing. The involvement and responsibility of the government must be increased. This is especially the case for compliance with current regulations and legislation and future regulations and legislation. Without strict supervision and the necessary sanctions from the government, many actors within the whole will not participate or will not participate sufficiently.
    b. **Make use of the restrictions already present** within national, bilateral and multilateral cooperations such as Caricom. Currently, for example, a levy of 80% must be paid for the export of water from Suriname because of the packaging. Suriname can also ensure internally that there is a higher tax on products that enter the country containing plastic packaging.
    c. **Implement a ban** on the production and import of lightweight single-use plastic bags, plastic cutlery (spoons and forks), and straws and promote sustainable alternatives.
    d. **Compostable Packaging** – Incentives and tax benefits to promote eco-friendly alternatives.
    e. **Implementation of Sustainable Packaging Standards.** All packaging placed on the market should be required to comply with **essential environmental criteria**, ensuring:
        i. Minimization of material volume and weight.

ii. Increased reusability, recyclability, and overall resource recovery.

iii. Mandatory labelling on all plastic packaging regarding the plastic type to promote improved recycling.

f. **Promoting refill mentality** - Setting up refill systems to reduce plastic packaging consumption.

g. **Increase awareness** - Raise awareness of waste separation.

i. This can be done by developing playful advertising messages that communicate to adults as well as youth. Companies could (co)-finance this and add their logo to this campaign to showcase their commitment.

ii. Promoting youth participation and involvement.

2. **Actions towards knowledge and data collection**

a. **Government research -** The government should take initiative to conduct an in-depth study on the health effects and economic impact and costs of plastic pollution in Suriname. In addition to collecting separated waste, the government's costs for cleaning canals, trenches and added health care costs must also be considered. This will make the financial effects and loss of plastic pollution clearer for all parties involved.

b. **Knowledge Institute (KIDV)** – Established partnership with international knowledge institutes with regards to packaging, e.g., with KIDV Netherlands to advise on sustainable packaging and regulations.

c. **Packaging Weight Reporting** – Mandatory weight tracking for plastics, aluminium cans, and other materials.

d. **Mandatory Labelling for Plastic-Containing Products.** Specific products that contain plastic should be required to display a mandatory warning label indicating their product contains plastic as well as the associated environmental and human health risks. This requirement can be applied to products, such as wet wipes, feminine hygiene products, tobacco products, plastic-containing drinking cups

3. **Actions towards removal / cleanup**

a. **Fishing Gear Waste Collection Targets.** Fishermen should be required to collect at least **60% of waste from fishing gear** within the first five years, with annual incremental increases in this target. Considering that discarded fishing gear, often referred to as *ghost gear*, accounts for approximately **10% of marine debris,** this measure could play a crucial role in reducing marine litter (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2023).

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