



Topic: Changing the paradigm: Sustainable consumption & Production for future generations.

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Background

✓ Rwanda, its Capital Kigali, among the cleanness cities, located in Central-Eastern Africa, bordered by the D.R. of Congo to the West, Uganda to the North, Tanzania to the East & Burundi to the South. The country size: 26,338 Km² and the population estimated to 12 Millions of hab.



Sustainable consumption and production

- ✓ Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP) is the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring about a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials, as well as emissions of waste and pollutants over the lifecycle of the service or product; so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.
- ✓ To tackle the issue, Rwanda has developed the National Sustainable Consumption and Production Program (NSCP) to bring about a shift towards a more sustainable mode of development. This program is intended to change our consumption and production patterns. *“We should produce more but with less resources in order to use our natural resources more efficiently; maintain a clean, healthy & wealthy environment”*

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- ✓ **Efficient and Cleaner Production Program,**
- ✓ **National Domestic Biogas Program,**
- ✓ **Improved Cook Stove Program**
- ✓ **Clean Development Mechanism(environ-care); among others toward sustainable developments .**
- ✓ **Prohibition of manufacturing, importation, use and sale of plastic bags in Rwanda**

Case of ban plastic bags

- ✓ Plastic bags are not easily decomposed and contribute towards the degradation of the environment.
- ✓ Plastic bag can take from 15 to 1,000 years to break down, depending on environment.
- ✓ Cost to recycle plastic bags outweighs their value. This is another reason why most of the plastic bags find their way to landfill sites.
- ✓ This results in huge pile of garbage that can be seen across the city releasing foul smell throughout the day and serving as distraction for the tourists.



Why plastic bags should be banned?

- ✓ Plastic bags do not only pollute our water but also our land
- ✓ The plastic bags are made from non-renewable sources and on this account, highly contribute to climate change.
- ✓ A lot of energy is used in producing these bags
- ✓ Plastic bags do not degrade
- ✓ Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life
- ✓ Plastic bags are harmful to human health
- ✓ Plastic bags are expensive and hard to clean or remove from the environment
- ✓ Plastic bags have external costs.
- ✓ Plastic bags are not easy to recycle
- ✓ Plastic bags tend to last more; perhaps forever and we even use so many of them.
- ✓ Even if we did decide to recycle plastic bags, these materials still do end up in oceans and landfills
- ✓ These plastic bags are impacting the environment negatively in that they are making the Great Pacific garbage patch bigger every minute
- ✓ Bans should be adopted because they are greatly effective at reducing plastic big waste

Case of Rwanda in adopting ban on plastic bags

- ✓ For the last ten years, Rwandans have demonstrated strong leadership in the fight against plastic bags.
- ✓ The Country's vision to "*maintain a clean, healthy & wealthy environment*"
- ✓ The GoR took the decision to ban the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags in the country in 2008.
- ✓ In 2004, the MoE/ REMA began to conduct studies on the use of plastic bags in Rwanda.
- ✓ At that time people had started to see plastic invading everywhere , black, yellow, red colored bags causing even visual pollution."
- ✓ Plastics were also scattered on agricultural land with non-biodegradable materials preventing water penetration and preventing plants to grow, choking to death many species of fish, etc.....



Illustration packaging, dumping & dust disposal due to plastic bags in Rwanda before 2008

Low & Regulations

✓ **LAW N° 57/2008 OF 10/09/2008 RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF MANUFACTURING, IMPORTATION, USE AND SALE OF POLYTHENE BAGS IN RWANDA**

✓ **In this Law, a “polythene bag” or plastic bags is a synthetic industrial product with a low density composed of numerous chemical molecules ethene with a chemical formula; (CH₂=CH₂). In most cases the bag is used in packaging of various consumable products**

- ✓ It is now common knowledge that when coming to Rwanda, any plastic bags in your luggage remain at the border entry points & then a life without them begins in a clean environment
- ✓ The policy instruments applied to ban plastic bags was made public by sensitization through the school, church & meetings of the local community & community work, called Umuganda
- ✓ awareness campaign in social media as well as in TV and radio programs.
- ✓ Use paper bags in packaging as an alternative way.



Penalties/ Sanctions

- Article 7 :

Penalties Any person who contravenes provisions of Article 3 of this Law shall be punished as follows :

✓ Industries which manufacture polythene bags, commercial companies or any person found in possession of prohibited polythene bags shall be punished by an imprisonment of six (6) months to twelve (12) months & a fine of one hundred thousand (100.000 Rwfs) to five hundred thousand (500.000 Rwfs) Rwandan francs or one of the two penalties.

✓ Any person who sells polythene bags shall be punished by a fine ranging from ten thousand (10.000 Rwfs) to three hundred thousand (300.000 Rwfs) Rwandan francs.

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- ✓ Any person who uses polythene bags shall be punished by a fine ranging from five thousand (5000Rwfs) to one hundred thousand (100.000 Rwfs) Rwandan francs & his/her bags shall be confiscated.
- ✓ All persons mentioned in this Article shall be dispossessed of their Polythene bags and the bags shall be taken to the appropriate stores established by REMA. In case of recidivism, the penalty shall be doubled.

Conclusion

When you arrive in Rwanda at Kigali airport or in borders of the country you will see a large sign reading, "Use of non-biodegradable polythene bags is prohibited". That's right, the country as a whole has banned the use of plastic bags. ... Instead of using plastic carrier bags, businesses have made the transition to using paper as an alternative. In sum up the ban of plastic bags results the country cleaned





Today the country is cleaned, with common mind to "maintain a clean, healthy and wealthy environment"

