

Regional Validation Workshop on Video Documentaries. Lehakoe Recreational & Cultural Centre – Maseru, Lesotho, 4 – 6 June 2014

The workshop which was organised jointly by Africa Institute and Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture attracted participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

Wide range application of chemicals has brought about positive benefits as well as negative impacts on mankind and environment. It is for this reason that a need for education and awareness has been identified locally and internationally as one of the most powerful tools to mitigate or minimise the associated impacts due to hazardous nature of such chemicals. Thus Africa Institute (AI) offered technical and financial assistance for the development of video documentaries covering five hazardous waste streams namely: used oil, pesticides and chemicals, electronic waste, used tyres and used acid lead batteries. The footage was shot in various locations in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. The aim of the coverage was to capture both bad and good practices in the management of these waste streams.

Hazardous waste is waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to our health or the environment. Hazardous wastes can be liquids, solids, gases, or sludge. They can be discarded commercial products, like cleaning fluids, electronic equipment or pesticides, or the by-products of manufacturing processes

The management of hazardous wastes and chemicals in member countries served by AI falls within the mandate of several Government ministries and is enforced through a number of Acts and regulations. In addition to that, AI member countries are parties to the Basel Convention (BC) on the control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in order to manage the threats posed by the transboundary movement of wastes and chemicals. The three Conventions list banned or severely restricted hazardous wastes and chemicals that pose serious threats to human health and the environment, and oblige parties to develop education and public awareness programmes in their countries to capacitate the public on safe handling and management of these chemicals.

The workshop had two basic objectives:

- To introduce and disseminate the Information, Education and Communication tools developed by the Institute and
- To get the member countries commit to their dissemination in their respective countries, by adopting a generic work plan