



**The international online space for global participants to collectively assess, address, and celebrate the advancements of methane reduction with Environmental Justice in the waste sector.**

**Hosted by GAIA Global and GAIA Africa, 30 April 2026**



**WELCOME!**



# House Rules

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- ❑ **Choose your language:** French, Portuguese, and Spanish interpretation is available. Click the language button at the bottom of your Zoom.
- ❑ **Rename yourself:** Change your display name to your language, name, organization, country.
  - Example: SP - Mariel Vilella - GAIA - UK
- ❑ **Show your face:** If you can, please keep your camera ON
- ❑ **Bring yourself in:** Stay present, engage, contribute, assuming the best intention in everyone.

# MODERATOR

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**DESMOND ALUGNOA**

Zero Waste & Climate Program Manager  
GAIA Africa

# Agenda for today

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- ❑ **Welcome and introductions**
- ❑ **Food Loss, Food Waste, and the UN Zero Waste Day**
- ❑ **Food Loss, Food Waste: Best Practices in Africa**
- ❑ **Updates and Reflections**
- ❑ **Q&A**
- ❑ **Closing**

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

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## Food Loss, Food Waste, and the UN Zero Waste Day



**Lara Van Druten**  
UN ZW Advisory Board



**Cecilia Allen**  
Director  
GAIA Global Zero Waste Program



**Sedat Gundogdu**  
Professor  
Istanbul Policy Center, Sabancı University , Türkiye

# LARA VAN DRUTEN

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- ❑ Topic
- ❑ UN Zero Waste Advisory Board
- ❑ Email Address:



# CECILIA ALLEN

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- ❑ Topic: UN Zero Waste Day
- ❑ GAIA Global Zero Waste Program Director
- ❑ Email Address: [cecilia@no-burn.org](mailto:cecilia@no-burn.org)



# Co-Benefits of Zero Food Waste Systems

## ENVIRONMENTAL

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- ★ Cuts methane
- ★ Restores soil
- ★ Protects nature

## ECONOMIC

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- ★ Creates jobs
- ★ Reduces public costs
- ★ Strengthens circular economy

## SOCIAL

L

- ★ Improves nutrition
- ★ Supports justice
- ★ Includes informal workers

## Chronic Underfunding: Amount of Climate Finance for Organic Waste Management



Organic waste management  
only receives **0.00116%** of  
the total climate finance

*(US\$ 22 million out of US\$ 1.8 trillion)*



# US\$1.9 trillion

Total Climate Finance

## US\$29 billion

Climate Finance for the waste sector

## US\$13.7 billion

Total methane abatement finance

## US\$6.1 billion

Methane abatement finance for the waste sector  
(including solid waste and waste water sub-sector)

## US\$4.1 billion

Methane abatement finance  
for the solid waste sub-sector



WTE incineration

● **US\$3.86 billion (94%)**

LFG capture and anaerobic digestion

● **US\$223 million (5%)**

Organic waste management

● **US\$22 million (1%)**

\*Climate Finance and waste sector data is from 2023 (CPI, 2025a), while the rest of the numbers are from 2021/2022 (CPI, 2023).



➔ [no-burn.org/united-nations-day-of-zero-waste/](https://no-burn.org/united-nations-day-of-zero-waste/)

# SEDAT GUNDOGDU

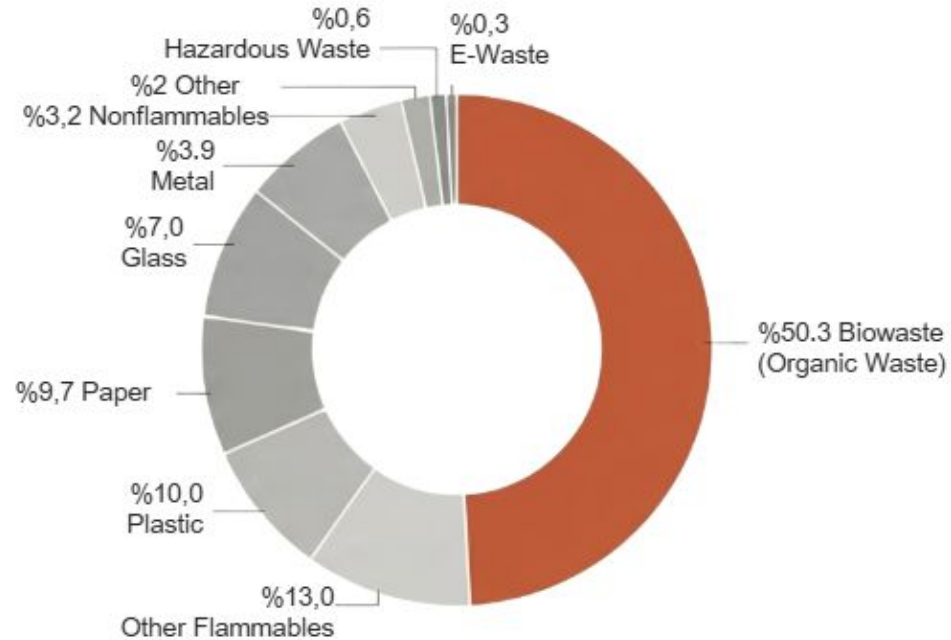
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- ❑ Super Pollutants in Türkiye: The Climate Impact of Poor Waste Management
- ❑ Professor, Istanbul Policy Center Sabancı University , Türkiye
- ❑ Email Address:  
[sedat.gundogdu@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:sedat.gundogdu@sabanciuniv.edu)



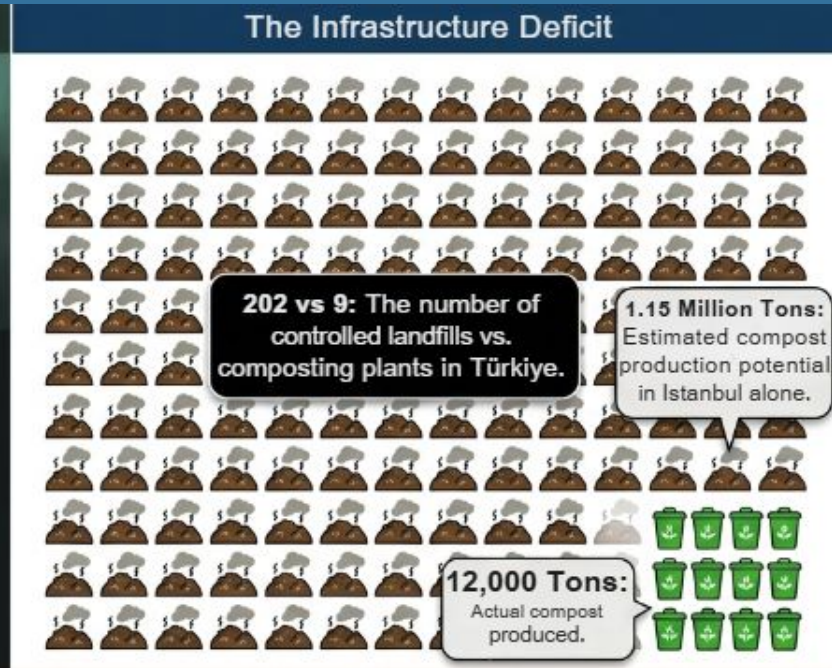
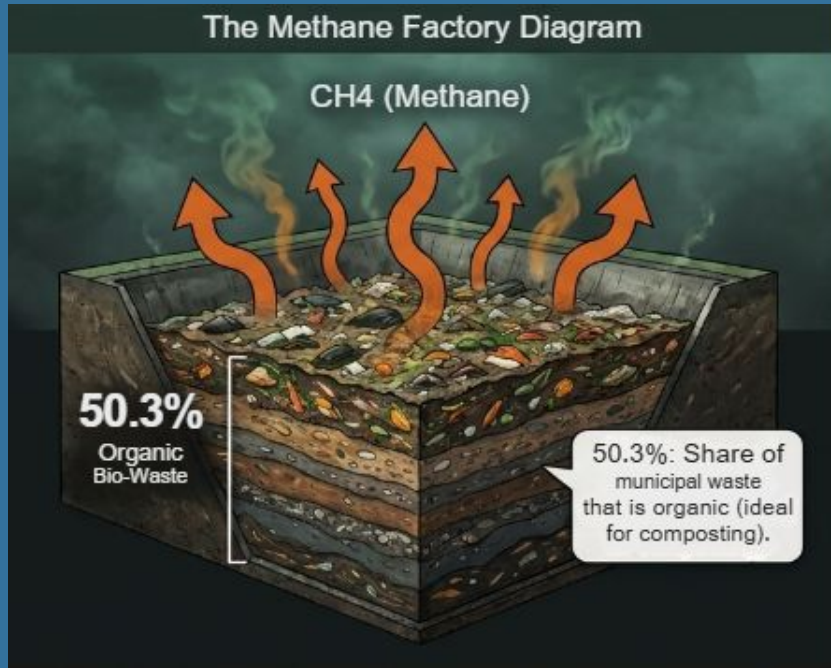
# Waste Generation in Türkiye

**~33 Milyon Ton**  
**Total Municipal Waste (2024).**



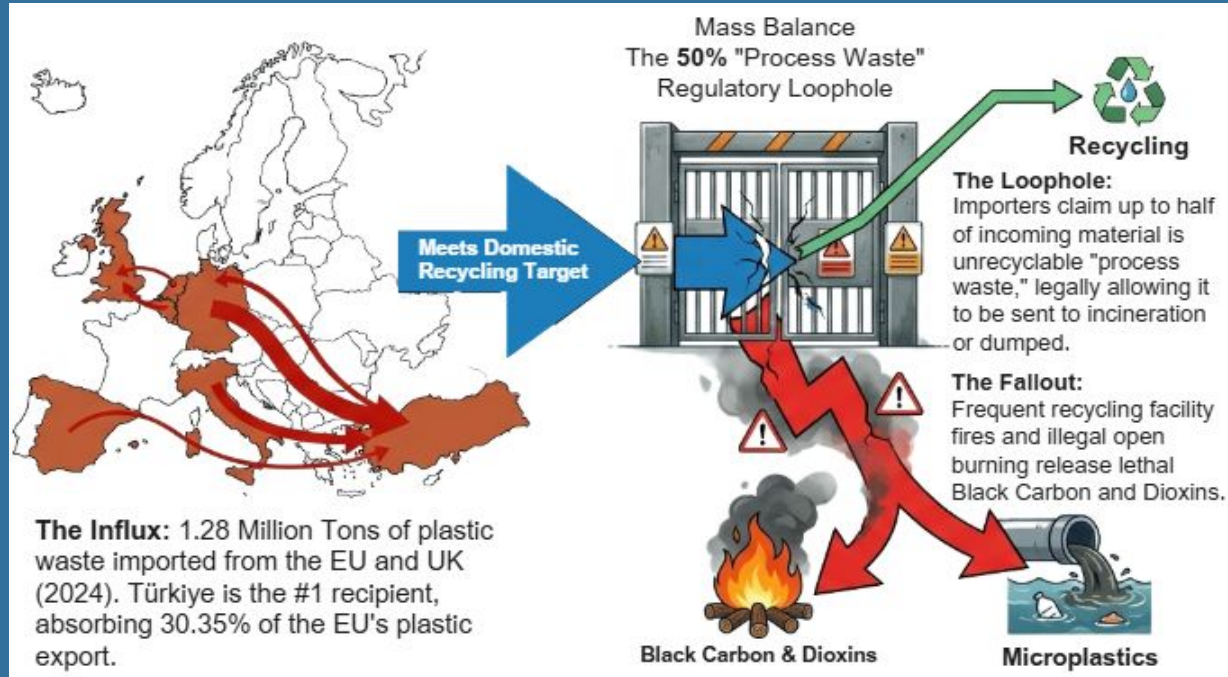
- ❑ In Türkiye, more than half of the municipal waste produced each year is food waste.

# Leakage 1: The Domestic Methane Factory



- ❑ Depriving organic waste of oxygen in unsegregated landfills turns a massive agricultural resource into a severe climate liability.

# Leakage 2: The Toxic Import Loophole



- ❑ How 'Recycling' becomes the cover for international dumping and super pollutant release.

# Leakage 3: The Only Functioning Link

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- ❑ Over 500,000 informal waste pickers ('çekçekçi') are the unrecognized backbone of segregation, bearing immense health costs.
- ❑ Without integrating and protecting informal workers, a formal 'Zero Waste' transition is structurally impossible



# The Zero Waste Diagnostic: Data vs. Reality



	The Official Claim	The Ground Truth	The Structural Fix
Recycling Rates	36.08% recycling rate (2024 target). 	International estimates (World Bank) place (Official) actual recovery at just ~11.9%. 	Mandatory source separation infrastructure is almost non-existent.
Landfill Diversion	"End sending waste to landfills by 2023."	~70-90% of all municipal waste is still buried in 202 active landfill/dump sites. 	Absolute lack of domestic composting capability for the 50%+ organic waste stream.
Waste Trade Oversight	Only 99% pure recyclable plastics can be imported. MOTAT tracking ensures safety.	Importers utilize the "mass balance" process waste loophole; tracking fails between customs and facilities.	Complete ban on plastic waste imports to prioritize domestic collection.

**A true Zero Waste strategy requires radical data transparency. We cannot fix what we refuse to accurately measure**



**Marion Schruoffeneger**  
Zero Waste Senegal



**Eskedar Ergete**  
Director  
Eco-justice Ethiopia



**Solomon Nii Noi**  
Head of Waste Management Department  
Accra Metro



**Melody Ifechukwu**  
Program Manager  
CODAF



# TALK SHOW ON BEST PRACTICES



**Moderator**

**Jennifer Ambolley**  
The Chronicle Newspaper  
Ghana



**Marion Schruoffeneger**  
Zero Waste Senegal

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# ZERO WASTE SENEGAL ASSOCIATION



A Senegalese association for environmental protection campaigning for waste reduction and more sustainable waste management in Senegal

# Zero Waste Senegal Association



- **A Senegalese association for environmental protection campaigning for waste reduction and more sustainable waste management in Senegal.**
- Founded in 2018
- Association composed of citizens, environmental activists, social entrepreneurs, sustainable development experts, etc.
- Member of the international networks GAIA, Break Free From Plastic, Cleanseas, UNEP
- Member of the national networks Andandoo bayyi plastik, Dak'clim
- Three branches: Dakar since 2018, St Louis since 2021, Ziguinchor since 2024



#breakfreefromplastic



Àndandoo wàñni plastik  
Réduisons ensemble la pollution plastique



# Our actions

Through its various divisions, the Zero Waste Senegal Association:



**Informs and raises awareness**



**Equips and supports**

# International Zero Waste Day 2026



**Topic : Food waste and organic waste recovery**

### **3 specific projects :**

- Fighting against climate change through organic waste recovery (composting/methanisation) - Global Methane Hub
- Launch of Yaatal application, first app to tackle food waste in Senegal
- My Zero Waste Restaurant

# 4 labels 'My Zero Waste Restaurant'



# My Zero Waste Restaurant project



- **4 labels to unite and promote Senegalese restaurants committed to reducing waste and promoting more sustainable catering**
- **1 project, 3 goals**
  - Raising awareness about the impact of zero waste
  - Supporting and uniting Senegalese restaurants
  - Raising awareness among the population through committed restaurants



# A significant impact



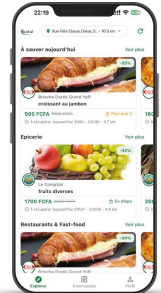
- **72** labeled restaurants, including 9 ambassador restaurants
- **154** effective labels
- **63** labels straws, **28** labels bottles, **33** labels coffee, **30** labels organic waste
- **4** areas of operation : Dakar, Saint-Louis, Petite Côte, Sine Saloum
- Each year, **120 431** avoided straws, **46 468** avoided plastic bottles, **41 247** avoided coffee pods
- Within a year, **30** restaurants labeled with the Organic waste recovery label



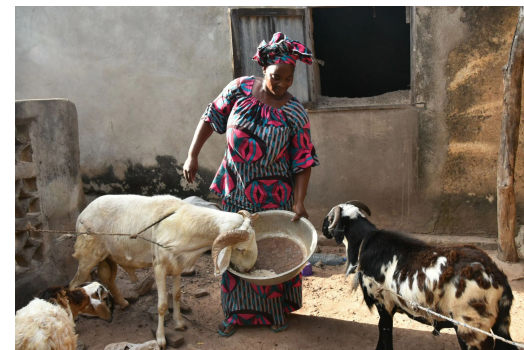
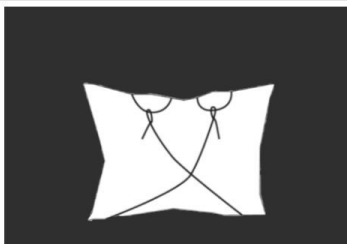
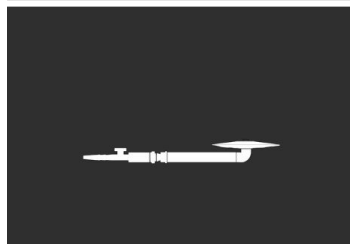
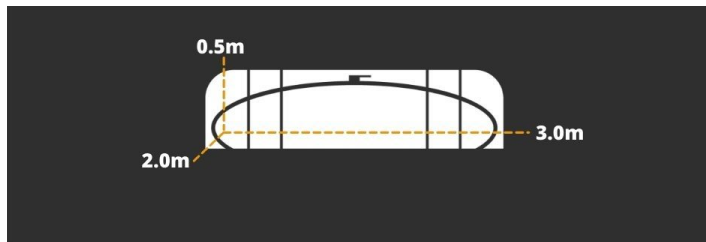
# Our solutions to tackle food waste/loss



- ❑ **Optimised stock** and supply management
- ❑ **Reusing and repurposing food preparation scraps and unsold items:**
  - Sharing cooking tips to combat food waste within the community of labeled restaurants
  - Inviting members to join the Yaatal app
- ❑ **Involving customers:** portion-controlled meals, doggy bags, and encouraging customers to bring their own containers
- ❑ **Learning to sort organic and non-organic waste, and proposing solutions for the recovery of organic waste**



# Our solutions for organic waste recovery



# Questions / Answers?

## Contacts

- **My Zero Waste Restaurant Coordinator : Marion Schruoffeneger**  
projets@zerowastesenegal.org / marion.schruoffeneger@gmail.com

**Eskedar Ergete**

Director

Eco-justice Ethiopia



# Ecojustice Ethiopia

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## Why Tackling FLW & Methane?



Climate Impact



Methane Emissions



Equity & Justice



Livelihoods

**Eskedar Ergete**

Founder & Executive Director  
Ecojustice Ethiopia

# Our Strategy

## Why Tackling FLW & Methane?

### Evidence & Legal Reform



- Research & Policy Advocacy
- Regulatory Reform
- Accountability & Rights

### Community-Driven Solutions



- Food Recovery Programs
- Composting Initiatives
- Inclusive Participation

### City Demonstration Projects



- Market Pilots
- Waste Diversion
- Urban Solutions

Ecojustice Ethiopia

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# Current Work

*Justice-Centered Solutions in Action*

## National FLW & Methane Mapping



- National FLW & Methane Mapping
- Regulatory Reform
- Accountability & Rights

## Addis Ababa Market Pilot



- Addis Ababa Market Pilot

## Informal Sector Inclusion



- Informal Sector Inclusion
- Market Pilots
- Waste Diversion

**Ecojustice Ethiopia**

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# Challenges & Responses

Addressing Barriers to FLW & Methane Action

## Fragmented Mandates



### Our Response:

- National ELW & Methane Mapping
- Regulatory Reform
- Accountability & Rights

## Pilots in Addis Ababa



### Our Response:

- Low-Cost Local Solutions
- & Training on BSF

## Funding Gaps



### Our Response:

- Partnerships & Grants
- Resource Mobilization

## Youth Innovation Labs



### Our Response:

- Inclusion & Rights-Based Advocacy

A Just, Circular, Methane-Smart Future for Africa

Ecojustice Ethiopia

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# Our Vision for Africa

*Addressing Barriers to FLW & Methane Action*

**Ecojustice Ethiopia**   
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## Fragmented Mandates



Circular & Low-Waste Food Systems



Methane Reduction at the Source



Inclusive, Climate-Resilient Cities

Empowered Communities & Workers

***A Just, Circular, Methane-Smart Future for Africa***

**Solomon Nii Noi**  
Head of Waste Management  
Department Accra Metro



**Melody Ifechukwu**  
Program Manager  
CODAF





# MAMRN Project

*Multi-Solving Actions for Methane Reduction in Nigeria*

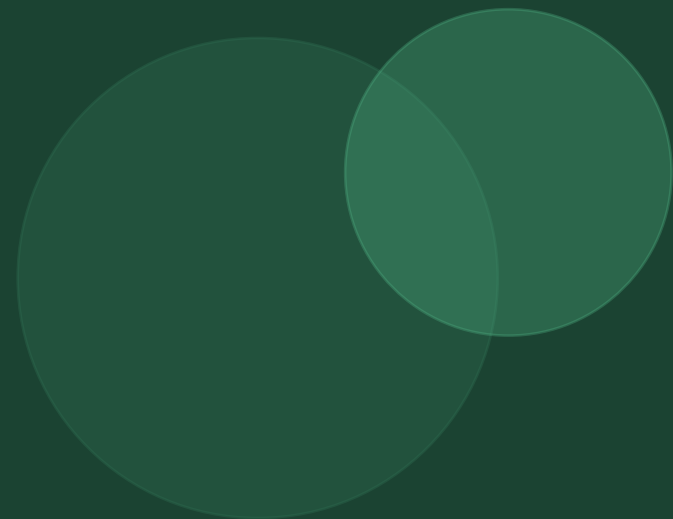
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Strengthening Community Action on  
Food Waste, Composting & Food Security

Presented by:

**Melody Enyinnaya**

Programme Manager, Environment



# Strengthening Community Knowledge

Food Waste · Composting · Food Security



## Zero Waste Ambassadors (ZeWA)

20 young ambassadors trained to lead door-to-door household education, market sensitisation & school outreach, turning the invisible methane threat visible.



## Zero Waste Farmers Network

Farmers educated on composting, BSF bioconversion & organic fertiliser value. The MRF Demonstration Garden proves compost from community waste grows healthy crops.



## MRF Learning Centre

A solar-powered hub where residents, students & farmers experience how waste becomes compost, animal feed & marketable products in Epe.



# Food Waste Shouldn't End in Dumpsites

*The methane problem — and CODAF's resource recovery solution*

~40%

of Lagos waste formally collected — rest ends in open dumpsites

20×

more potent: methane vs CO<sub>2</sub> over the short term: a climate emergency

10 pits

compost chambers at MRF processing organic waste into nutrient-rich compost

**CODAF's MRF model** diverts organic waste from dumpsites to composting, BSF bioconversion & the Demonstration Garden — making resource recovery the default, not the exception.

# Key Challenges During Project Implementation

## Waste Segregation at Source

Ingrained mixed-disposal habits persist despite ZeWA campaigns, affecting organic waste purity reaching the MRF.

## Collection Gaps

Only ~40% of Lagos waste formally collected; large volumes from households, markets & restaurants remain outside the system.

## BSF Technology Adoption

Community scepticism around Composting and Black Soldier Fly bioconversion required dedicated education before farmer acceptance grew.

## Scale vs. Resources

The methane reduction challenge in Epe far exceeds a single MRF's capacity, replication are urgently need.

# Policy Hindrances

01

## No Organic Waste Diversion Policy

Nigeria lacks national/Lagos State mandates for source separation, composting or landfill diversion — making enforcement of organic waste channelling impossible.

02

## Incineration Bias

Policymakers favour waste-to-energy incineration as a modern fix. CODAF's Zero Waste Parliament and Expanded Zero Waste Parliament was created to challenge these false solutions.

03

## Informal Sector Exclusion

Waste frameworks exclude waste pickers from the value chain. CODAF is pushing for formal recognition in the Lagos Waste Master Plan.

04

## Slow Regulatory Endorsement

Government engagement with Ministry of Environment & LASEPA has been slow with gradual progress.

05

## No Incentive Structures

No tax incentives, subsidies or procurement preferences for organic waste valorisation exist in Lagos or federally, weakening the financial case for voluntary compliance.

# How CODAF's Work Impacts Market, Hotels & Restaurants

*Key waste-generating sectors as supply partners*



## Markets

- Primary organic waste supply partners for the MRF
- Vendors generate food waste, vegetable trimmings & residues daily
- ZeWA market sensitisation shifts traders to 'waste as resource'
- Cleaner market environments & reduced dumpsite pressure



## Hotels & Restaurants

- Identified as significant food waste generators in Epe
- Building awareness to channel waste to MRF as organised stream
- Formal organic waste collection agreements planned at scale
- Reduces food waste reaching open dumpsites measurably



## Schools

- Central pillar of the ZeWA campaign
- Students become household behaviour-change ambassadors
- MRF site visits as field education & living science labs
- Sustainability values instilled from childhood — lasting impact



# MRF Work with Waste Pickers & Integration Advocacy

*"The MRF offers waste pickers an organised system, better earnings, and a healthier working environment."*

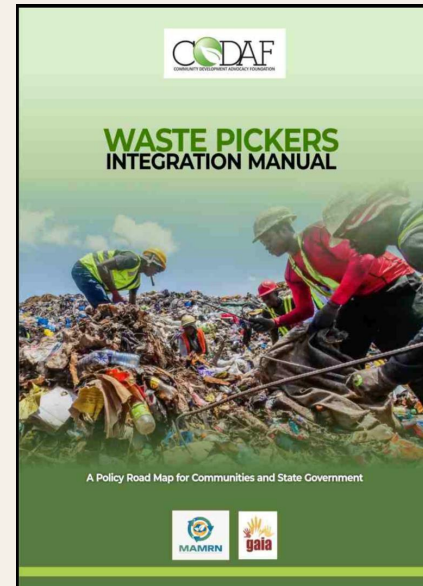
— Hakeem Genti, Secretary, Waste Pickers Association

## From Marginalisation to Partnership

Epe Waste Pickers Association formally invited into MAMRN as valued partners with structured roles that respect their expertise. Strengthened Waste pickers' knowledge of sorting plastics, metals, electronics & organics and integrated into MRF sorting operations.

## Zero Waste Parliament & Expanded Zero Waste Parliament Advocacy

WaP and EZWaP created critical dialogue on waste workers' rights. CODAF launched Waste Pickers Integration Manual and advocates for formal recognition in the Lagos State Waste Master Plan.



# CODAF as a Climate Action Leader

*Avoiding methane emissions & eliminating food waste through zero waste model*

## **Anti-Incineration**

CODAF rejects waste-to-energy incineration as a harmful false solution. As a GAIA member, we champion community-led resource recovery over industrial-scale disposal.



## **Methane as Climate Emergency**

Leading with methane — 20× more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> short-term — frames organic waste management as critical climate action, not just sanitation.



## **Community-Led Narrative**

CODAF proves African communities can solve environmental challenges without externally managed industrial solutions — a replicable proof-of-concept model.



## **Zero Waste as Economic Value**

Compost, and BSF feed, products from organic waste demonstrate that avoiding methane is commercially compelling — creating jobs and saving farmers money.



## **Baseline & Evidence**

Comprehensive baseline study provides measurable, credible methane reduction data, positioning CODAF for climate finance conversations.

# Food Security, Agroecology & Enabling Policies

## Food Security & Agroecology

### Compost Fertiliser

Reduces smallholder dependency on expensive chemical fertilisers — improving yields sustainably.

### BSF Protein Feed

Local, affordable larvae feed for fish & poultry — supporting protein-rich feed availability in Epe.

### Urban-Rural Loop

Closes the nutrient cycle: urban organic waste returns as compost to surrounding farmland.

### Soil Carbon

Compost improves water retention & biological activity thereby building climate resilience in farming.

## Policies Supporting CODAF

### Nigeria NDC 2021

Waste sector identified as GHG priority; composting & organic waste diversion recommended.

### NESREA Act

Regulatory basis for CODAF advocacy against open dumping & burning.

### Paris Agreement / Global Methane Pledge

Nigeria committed to 30% methane reduction by 2030 — MAMRN directly contributes.

### SDGs 2, 11, 12, 13, 15

Zero Hunger, Sustainable Cities, Responsible Consumption, Climate Action & Land — all underpinned.

# The Challenge is Real.

*The Community Will — and the Solutions — Are Here.*

- ✓ Community-led organic waste management is technically feasible, socially transformative & climate-relevant
- ✓ MAMRN creates a replicable blueprint for tackling the organic waste & methane crisis in Nigerian cities
- ✓ Solving urban waste simultaneously advances food security, livelihoods & agroecological resilience
- ✓ Continued investment in this model is both justified and urgent



## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

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## Updates & Reflections



**Ama Acheampomaa Asiedu**

Zero Waste & Climate Program Associate  
GAIA Africa



**Cecilia Allen**

Director  
GAIA Global Zero Waste Program

# Waste Pickers & Organic Waste

Reducing Methane,  
Building Communities

#ThisIsZeroWaste



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GAIA Africa



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Director  
GAIA Global Zero Waste Program





English ▾



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## GAIA TECHNICAL GUIDANCE SERIES FOR POLICYMAKERS AND FINANCIERS ON FAST ACTION ON WASTE AND METHANE

Following the commitments within the Global Methane Pledge and the COP29 Declaration to Reduce Methane from Organic Waste ([ROW declaration](#)), signatory countries have pledged to significantly reduce waste methane emissions by 2030. While this will pose an increase of political and financial resources driven towards the waste sector, there is a need to ensure the implementation of measures to reduce methane emissions is in alignment with the [Environmental Justice Principles for Fast Action on Waste and Methane](#).

In order to support policy makers and implementers to ensure effective solutions to reduce waste methane, GAIA, with support from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Global Methane Hub presents this series of technical publications to address challenging issues related to methane emissions in the waste sector.

### Managing Organics with Waste Pickers: A Briefing for Policymakers

AVAILABLE ON MAY 25, AFRICA DAY



SCAN THE QR CODE



# Q&A

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# What's Next?

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- ❑ **Next call schedule:** July 23, 2026
  - Co-organized with GAIA LAC and US/Canada

<http://tinyurl.com/GlobalActionHub8>

# Thank you for joining us!

## Get in touch

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Global facebook: @GAIAzerowaste

Global linkedin: GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives)

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