

# COOPERAXION LIBERIA



80

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year will be saved by reusing plastic waste industrially to produce new goods.

3

water bags are consumed by each Liberian every day.

### **Sustainable waste management by young Liberian adults**

Cooperaxion is a Swiss Foundation based in Bern. By supporting local initiatives implemented exclusively by local partners, it has fostered new perspectives among affected communities since its start in 2005. In line with the International Decade of People of African Decent (2015–2024), Cooperaxion invests in recognition, justice, and development along the former slave trade route. The organisation is convinced that development cooperation requires an awareness of the past and an understanding of current consequences. Therefore, it works along the historical routes of the so-called triangular trade. The approaches of the various project partners differ. However, they all pursue the goal of providing sustainable perspectives for the local young population.

The Julius Baer Foundation supports the 'Plastic Recycling Project' which promotes a

clean environment, generates value from waste products, and creates new sources of income in Monrovia. Its local partner organisation is Green Cities, a social enterprise run by Liberians. They are doing pioneer work and contribute substantially to sustainable waste management in the capital. Apart from plastic, Green Cities recycles several other materials such as aluminium, electronic waste, batteries, and green waste. It is a serious engagement essential for the Liberian environment. Anyone can bring waste products to the centre and receive compensation per kilo depending on the material.

### **Creating awareness and a value chain for waste products**

Through Cooperaxion

- the mechanisation of cutting, washing, crushing, and producing new end products from recycled waste is institutionalised.

### Julius Baer Foundation

For more than fifty years, the Julius Baer Foundation has dedicated itself to making meaningful and impactful contributions to society. The grant foundation of the Julius Baer Group was founded in 1965 by Walter J. Bär to support all forms of art and culture, various sciences, and carefully selected charitable causes within Switzerland. The Foundation's reach has extended along with the growth of the Group, and today it collaborates with partner organisations worldwide in the core areas of Vocational Training, Recycling PLUS, and Wealth Inequality.

### How you can contribute

Clients and employees of Julius Baer can support the Foundation.

Your donation will be used specifically for the core area of your wish. IBAN: CH 94 0851 5072 8789 4200 9

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- awareness about reducing, reusing, and recycling different waste materials is raised in the biggest markets of Monrovia. This is also achieved through sensitisation workshops for schoolchildren and the formation of waste collection groups through youth organisations in different communities.
- the social business Green Cities will gradually be enabled to become self-sustaining and independent from funding: A decisive contribution in 2018 added to its own funds of only 10%. In the following two years, Green Cities' budget will consist of income generated through its own initiative up to 25% and 75% respectively. From 2021 onward, the organisation will be fully independent.
- the initiative shall be reproduced and multiplied by a franchising system in other big cities in Liberia.
- It is estimated that approximately two-thirds of all Liberians live in poverty, which is expressed in terms of low income and consumption, food insecurity and malnutrition, poor health, and inadequate education and infrastructure provision.
- Most parts of the metropolis do not have organised waste disposal. Incineration and recycling sites do not exist in Liberia.
- The country lacks policies and inspection mechanisms around this fundamental issue. Furthermore, the water production market has no state monitoring or control.
- The main items that are purchased in Liberia for recycling purposes are aluminium, scraps of metal, and copper wire. This waste makes up only 2% of the total waste that is produced. Dirty plastic waste is recycled only by Green Cities. More than 86% of the waste produced in Liberia goes unused.

### Facts and figures: Liberia

- According to the charity organisation WaterAid America, 3.7 million people in Liberia do not have access to adequate sanitation and 1.3 million people have no access to safe water.
- This could even be worse if there were no drinking water bags. Most Liberians consume up to three water bags a day at a price of LRD 3.33–5.00 for one 500ml bag (USD 1 equals LRD 130).

For more information about Cooperaxion please visit:  
[www.cooperaxion.org](http://www.cooperaxion.org)

“There is no such thing as ‘away’. When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere.”

Annie Leonard, American proponent of sustainability