Climate protection through circular economy in Tunisia (ProtecT)

Background

Tunisia has made significant achievements in the field of waste management and urban sanitation in recent years. The most important milestones for this sector are: the development of strategies (PRONAGDES and PRONGIDD); the creation of the National Waste Management Agency (ANGed); the promulgation of certain regulatory drafts; the construction of Waste Landfill Centers and Waste Transfer Centers; and the development of a few waste recovery channels.

While involving the private sector in the operation of controlled landfills and transfer centers is also a strategic option, the current partnership with the private sector remains to be optimized, especially with the development of recovery options.

In addition, the country has created a new policy in recent years, thus constituting a paradigm shift in the sector, with an orientation towards a circular economy. Material or energy recovery emerges as the main orientation. In relation to the national assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste is not considered to be a very significant sector. With emissions of 2.2 MteCO2 (Million tons of CO2 equivalent) in 2012 it represents 5% of gross national emissions.

However, with an average annual growth estimated at 5.3%, these emissions are likely to become significant in the future.

On the other hand, Tunisia has updated its NDC (National Determined Contribution), by raising its mitigation ambitions, in particular through the reduction of the national carbon intensity by 45% by 2030, compared to its 2010 level. To achieve this objective, the waste sector aims to increase its commitment to GHG mitigation under the NDC so that it will contribute 6% to this effort. Thus, in 2030, according to the low-carbon (BaC) scenario, emissions from the waste sector would reach 4 MteCO2, i.e. 1.2 MtCO2 (23%) below the emissions set in the Business-as-Usual (BaU) scenario.

Approaches

Based on the Tunisian German technical cooperation agreements, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) has commissioned GIZ to carry out the project entitled “Climate protection through circular economy in Tunisia (ProtecT)”, which main objectives are to improve the capacities of national and local actors, the integration of aspects related to the circular economy (CE) and climate change (CC) in the management of solid waste, while promoting the creation of employment and gender equity. Carried out jointly by the Ministry of the Environment, ANGed and GIZ, the project will adopt different approaches:

1. Improving the strategic framework for the implementation of a job-creating, climate-friendly and gender-sensitive circular economy;
2. Strengthening of institutional capacities at national and local level;
3. The promotion and development of partnership models to increase private sector participation in this area;
4. Sensitization of political decision-makers, civil society actors and in the education system for CC and CE.
Outputs, activities and expected results

Project outputs will be achieved through activities to establish a climate-friendly circular economy that promotes employment and gender aspects according to the following axes:

Axe n° 1
An improved strategic framework
• Strategic action plan
• Developed Portfolio of climate projects
• A developed climate policy for the waste sector

Axe n° 2
Enhanced institutional capacities
• Organizational development plan
• Training of national and local actors on EC and CC

Axe n° 3
Development of private and public partnerships
• A transversal analysis of waste streams as a base for integrating the private sector
• 2 demonstration pilot projects of PPP

Axe n° 4
Awareness and Communication
Communication and awareness initiatives at national and local level on CE and CC for decision-makers, pupils and civil society

Expected Impacts

The expected impacts of this project will be:

- Policy makers have the necessary instruments (e.g. action plans) for a better integration of CE and CC;
- Partners use innovative concepts for their medium and long term development or institutional repositioning;
- The climate change unit within ANGeD is strengthened and able to provide data as well as the monitoring needed for the implementation of the NDC and the reporting required by the Paris Agreement;
- Local actors and municipal employees are trained in the field of CE and CC;
- Public-private partnership (PPP) models and climate-friendly technology solutions will be used;
- The Civil society and the educational system are better informed about the CE and CC.

Covid-19 response action

Following the health emergency and the increased production of large quantities of waste from health care activities with infectious risks (DASRI), and considering the increased environmental load, appropriate responses and countermeasures must be taken to prevent and minimize the damage associated with this waste. To this end, ProtecT will support ANGeD and the National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPE) in:

- The development of a digital platform to better manage these DASRI stream,
- The supply of protective equipment and logistical material for the monitoring operation,
- The creation of a communication and awareness-raising campaign on proper management of these waste.

Published by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Headoffice Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
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Update
December 2021

Design
COM’IN, Tunis

Photo credit
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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Commissioned by
The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
North Africa Division, Mediterranean Policy
www.bmz.de

In cooperation with
The Ministry of Environment (MEnv)
National waste management agency (ANGed)