



Sustainability action · Project Climate Change

Velafrica

Velafrica recycles used bicycles in Switzerland and exports them to African countries. While enabling social integration for unemployed or disabled people in Switzerland, the project promotes carbon-free mobility and business opportunities in Africa.

Project

While there is a tremendous demand for affordable mobility in Sub-Saharan African countries, there is a large output of used but still recyclable bicycles in European countries. By exporting high quality recycled bicycles from Switzerland to several African countries, Velafrica helps to promote low carbon mobility.

Velafrica works in cooperation with the integration workshop Drahtesel which received the prestigious "Swiss Social Entrepreneur" award in 2009. Velafrica shipped in 2012 the 100 000th bicycle to Africa, and alone in 2013 exported 33 containers with a total 15,000 bikes to the south - with increasing numbers. For the repair of the recycled bikes more than 20 partner workshops in the social sector are involved. In all of Switzerland there are more than 500

collection points. The bicycles are then exported by container ship to Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Tanzania. Local partners in these countries facilitate the distribution of bicycles regionally and provide training and support for local start-up bicycle workshops.

With the recycled bicycles, people in African countries get access to an affordable, carbon neutral and petrol independent means of transport. Compared to a motorbike, 3 tons of CO₂ are saved with every exported bike. Every ton of CO₂ reduced in this project is matched with a verified Gold Standard credit.

Besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the project also features outstanding social co-benefits. In Switzerland, the project enables the social and occupational integration of people without employment or with psychological or physical impairments. In the African countries, the project increases the access of stakeholders to local markets and employment. It also creates business opportunities for local start-up bicycle workshops and hence generates new sources of income and employment.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Annual CO ₂ -reduction	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 435	every ton of avoided CO ₂ is matched with a verified GS credit	By an UN accredited auditor	Provided by the Gold Standard Registry	40,000 tCO ₂ e	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures and HD video available



Location

The organisation is active in Switzerland as well as in the sub Saharan African countries of Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Tanzania.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- The recycling workshops in Switzerland enable vocational qualifications and social integration for people without employment or with psychological or physical impairments.
- Recycled bicycles are an affordable means of transportation for locals in the African counties. They improve the stakeholders' access to markets and employment and hence contribute to poverty alleviation.
- The bicycles reduce the travel times to work, to education and to health centres, providing stakeholders with more time for other activities.
- Bicycle mobility contributes to women empowerment, as women take care of most daily transportation tasks.
- The project creates new opportunities for small local businesses. The distribution of bicycles enables start-up enterprises to establish bicycle workshops and hence creates local employment and income.

Environmental impact

- The project provides stakeholders in African countries with a carbon neutral means of transportation which is independent of fossil fuels. The project reduces greenhouse gas emissions by promoting carbon-free mobility.
- The recycling of used bikes helps to reduce waste and contributes to a more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

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