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**TRANS-BOUNDARY HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATION IN ETHIOPIA: THE
LAW AND THE PRACTICE**

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Abstract

Protecting environmental and human rights globally necessitates the involvement of the international community, which has established systems to uphold these rights. International instruments require states and stakeholders to implement appropriate measures for this purpose, with managing trans-boundary hazardous waste being a key aspect of environmental responsibility. Ethiopia has undertaken measures for trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation in line with its international obligations. This research examines the actions taken by the Ethiopian government in regulating the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste. Utilizing a qualitative research design that includes both doctrinal and non-doctrinal legal approaches, the study aims to evaluate how Ethiopian laws align with international standards, identify barriers to implementation, and propose effective compliance strategies. Additionally, it discusses the legal and institutional practices of both national and international communities in managing trans-boundary hazardous waste, while exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with this issue.

- *Key words: trans-boundary hazardous waste, environmentally sound regulation, Compliance strategies, and human rights*

Introduction

Trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation is a pressing global issue due to its severe impacts on the environment, wildlife, and human health. The consequences of improper disposal extend beyond national borders, affecting communities and economies over generations. In Africa, toxic waste dumping presents significant challenges, often leading to ecological disasters and threatening public health. The Basel Convention, established in 1989, aims to regulate hazardous waste movement internationally; however, it has faced criticism for its ineffectiveness, as waste trade has reportedly increased since its implementation. To address these shortcomings, the Cartagena Declaration was adopted to enhance commitment among parties to minimize

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hazardous waste generation. Additionally, other treaties like the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions focus on specific hazardous materials and pollutants. In Africa, the Bamako Convention prohibits the import of hazardous waste, motivated by the failures of the Basel Convention to protect developing countries from toxic dumping. Despite these frameworks, enforcement remains weak, as seen in Ethiopia's challenges with unregulated hazardous waste from outdated electronics and industrial processes. Global organizations like the United Nations Environment Program and regional bodies such as the African Union are working towards better regulation practices, yet political will and capacity for effective implementation remain significant hurdles.

Methodology

As the study examines the law and the practices on the regulation trans-boundary hazardous waste, it has employed both doctrinal and non-doctrinal research methodology. The doctrinal research methodology is used to analyze the laws and official documents, while the non-doctrinal (empirical) research methodology is used to assess the practices.

Research Approach and Design

The study used a qualitative research approach to assess the perception and opinion of the relevant stakeholders of trans-boundary hazardous waste. Also, the study adopted descriptive and analytical research designs to describe the practical regulation of trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation and make a critical analysis of different materials.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The study used to collect the qualitative data from respondents, a semi-structured interview has been designed. Thus, an interview has been conducted with officials and experts from the Ethiopian environmental authority, FDRE Customs Commission, FDRE Ministry of Industry, FDRE Ministry of Plan and Development and legal professional on environmental law. Also materials from the archives of the above government institutions have been used as a source of data collection up on their prior consent and permission. In addition to the interview, primary documentary sources such as the international legislations on trans-boundary hazardous waste

regulation and domestically the FDRE Constitution, different Proclamations on environment, Proclamations on defining Powers & Duties of the Executive Organs of Ethiopia, other laws and regulations of the federal government as well as official documents and materials were also analyzed. Furthermore, the study also employed the relevant literature, books, journals, and articles as secondary sources.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected from primary and secondary sources were organized and presented in subsections based on their similarities and relations. As the study employed a qualitative research approach, the thematic analysis method was used to analyze and interpret the data. A qualitative analysis of relevant theoretical concepts, international and national rules on Trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation, and other collected data is conducted. The data collected from the key informants through interviews, personal observation, and other documents were analyzed qualitatively based on a descriptive analysis method. Moreover, a comparison of the Trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation laws of Ethiopia with international legal frameworks on Trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation was also made to make the findings more reliable and complete.

Organization of the Paper

The study has been organized in four sections. Accordingly, the first section is an introductory. The second section is a conceptual underpinning, and keen with the concepts of Trans-boundary hazardous waste, reasons justifying the need of regulation of trans-boundary hazardous wastes and a general overview of the Basel and Bamako conventions. The third section, devoted on analyzing the regulatory and institutional setups of hazardous waste regulation in Ethiopia in line with the international commitments of the agreement exploring the challenges and prospects in the implementation process; and examines the domestic compliance. The final Section, forwarded conclusion and possible recommendations.

I. Concept of Trans-Boundary Hazardous Waste Regulation

Basic concepts related to trans-boundary hazardous waste and subsequent issues dealt under this paper. Accordingly, the definition of waste, trans-boundary movement, waste regulation, the causes for trans-boundary hazardous waste movement, and the mechanisms of hazardous waste regulation are briefly covered.

A. The Causes of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes

Causes of Trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes are attributable to a wide variety of factors. The reasons behind The escalation of waste generation by countries around the world is the first cause for the trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes. The amount of hazardous waste annually generated worldwide has increased from roughly five million metric tons in 1947 to in excess of 300 million metric tons in 1988, which is the clear reflection of the amount of hazardous waste produced in the world grows continuously.²

Another cause is The Escalation of Waste Disposal Cost and The volume of hazardous waste production is showing rapid development, and the business of waste regulation, transportation, treatment, and disposal reached alarming stages. Due to the high increase of the cost in other area, the developed countries have turned to developing countries for disposal of hazardous waste in transactions often arranged by waste brokers which allows developing countries to dispose of hazardous waste at far lower costs, while still providing the receiving nation with substantial revenue.³ Despite such transaction leave an open door for health and environmental problems for receiving nations.

Higher Environmental Standard and The development of tight environmental standards by waste generating state is another factor which has contributed its part for widening of trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes. The development of the awareness of the public concerning the danger of hazardous waste facilities has resulted in widespread pressure on regulators and

² Mehari Gebre Amlak, 'African Countries and the Conventions on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes' (Master's thesis, McGill University Montreal, 1992,P.7

³ David P. Hacket, 'An Assessment of the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal', American University International Law Review 5, no. 2,1990, P.295

local citizen groups and conservationists pressure politicians to fight against opening additional landfills and to tighten the standards and laws.⁴

B. The Mechanisms of Trans-Boundary Hazardous Waste Regulation

Trans-boundary Hazardous waste generating countries have different systems to dispose of the waste generated in their boundary rather than transporting it to other countries in compliance with legislation,

The system of recycling hazardous waste regulation is a sustainable strategy to minimize the Trans-boundary hazardous waste's harmful impact and make it safe to reuse and later dispose of the waste and considered as the most environmentally sound disposal method since a large portion of the harmful substances can be recovered and is not yet released from the production circle.⁵

Due to its low cost, landfilling is the most commonly employed method on a global scale for Trans-boundary hazardous waste disposal. It is the least expensive option and, in the simplest case, it only requires a suitable storage ground, hence it is the preferred disposal method especially in developing countries.⁶

Incineration of Trans- boundary hazardous wastes aims at the final destruction of the wastes and the neutralization of the harmful substances.⁷ It is a method to burn toxic organic constituents of hazardous waste and reduce waste volume. Incinerators are commonly used for waste destruction/treatment purposes and to recover the material, chemicals, and energy from the waste. The significant benefits of incineration include avoiding groundwater pollution, energy recovery, and using relatively small space to manage waste. But the main disadvantage is it generally poses a significant threat to human health and the environment.⁸

⁴ Supra note 2, P.10

⁵ J. Albers, 'Responsibility and Liability in the Context of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, Hamburg Studies on Maritime Affairs 29, 2015,P. 16

⁶ Id

⁷ Ibid.,P. 16, Par.3.

⁸ Ashutosh Kumar and others, 'A critical review on sustainable hazardous waste management strategies: a step towards a circular economy, Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 2023,P.105042

Also, the process involves methods of marine disposal or dumping at sea of Trans-boundary hazardous waste, particularly where no international regulation applies to the respective flag State or State of origin. It is also a cheap and easy method of hazardous waste disposal.

The composting strategy treats yard waste, sewage sludge, and agricultural waste with negligible concentrations of Trans-boundary hazardous organic substances and it reduces waste size and volume, allowing it to be disposed of more easily.⁹ As composting has the ability to handle wastes emitted from different sources, it is regarded as a promising strategy.

Pyrolysis is another hazardous waste disposal method employed widely by states. The system involves a thermal degradation process of organic compounds without air or oxygen and it is considered as one of the promising technologies for converting Trans-boundary Hazardous waste into valuable products pyrolysis has been proved to be an advanced waste of valuable product conversion technology.¹⁰

C. Trans-boundary Movement of E-Wastes

With technological advancement and boosting of economy in the world, dependence and rapid obsolescence of electronics increased, Trans-boundary Hazardous e-waste has become the world's fastest-growing domestic waste stream.¹¹ Despite the absence of agreed definition for the term e-wastes globally, it can be understood as a term which is used to cover all waste items of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and their parts and items which are intentionally discarded, without the intent of reuse, are also called Waste EEE (WEEE). It indicates that shipments containing Trans-boundary hazardous waste materials still circumvent internationally agreed conventions by passing through busy environments, illegally, through methods such as mislabeling.¹²

⁹ Id

¹⁰ Ibid, P.105043

¹¹ Thomas Maes and Fiona Preston-Whyte, Case study on 'E-waste it wisely: lessons from Africa, SN Applied Sciences, 2022, P. 1

¹² Ibid, P.4

D. The International and Regional Legal Framework on Trans-boundary Hazardous Wastes

Internationally high efforts have been made to develop a binding multilateral agreement on the Trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes. In this regard, there are conventions related to the issue; namely: the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Regulation (SAICM) and the Minamata Convention have contributed to the development of a global regulatory framework in the regulation and disposal of Trans-boundary hazardous wastes.¹³ The focus of this sub-section is only on Basel and Bamako conventions.

The Basel Convention was developed in response to the dumping of hazardous waste from developed countries in the developing world.¹⁴ Adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992, it aims to protect human health and the environment by regulating trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes. The Convention promotes environmentally sound regulation, reduces waste generation, and restricts movements unless they adhere to environmental standards.¹⁵ It was a compromise between nations wanting a ban and those opposing it, resulting in a regulatory approach rather than a complete prohibition.¹⁶ Today, it has been ratified by 187 countries.

The Basel convention put Responsibility of State Parties to the Convention to ensure that the trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal is regulated in a sound manner that protects the environment and human lives; the Convention imposes specific obligations on member states. The Convention places a complete prohibition on trade in hazardous waste between Parties to the Convention and non-parties¹⁷ and reinforces the sovereign right of any Party to prohibit the import of hazardous waste.¹⁸ To achieve the Convention's objective of minimizing the trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste, the Convention requires that

¹³ Kenji Omi, Current situation, analysis and observations on waste control at borders by Customs, World Custom Organization Research Paper No.50, Dec, 2020, Pp.12-13

¹⁴ Akiho Shibata, 'Ensuring Compliance with the Basel Convention - its Unique Features' in Ulrich Beyerlin, PeterTobias Stoll and Rüdiger Wolfrum (ed), Ensuring Compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Academic Analysis and views from practice, 2006, P. 69

¹⁵ Basel Convention Overview <<http://www.basel.int/theconvention/overview/tabid/1271/default.aspx>> last accessed March 2024

¹⁶ Elena Faga, The Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes: a Comparison between the Basel and the Bamako Conventions, Faculty of Law, Tilburg University, 2016, P. 22

¹⁷ Basel Convention, Art. 4(5)

¹⁸ Id

such movements only be allowed where the state of export does not have the technical capacity and suitable disposal sites, or where the wastes are required by the importing state as raw materials for recycling or recovery industries based on the general principle of prior informed consent(PIC).¹⁹ For illegal activities the Convention imposes liability on the state at fault to dispose based on environmentally sound manner.²⁰

African states were dissatisfied with the Basel Convention due to its perceived weakness in protecting developing countries from hazardous waste imports. This dissatisfaction led to the creation of the Bamako Convention,²¹ which aims to establish a stricter regional system for controlling hazardous waste movements. The Bamako Convention was adopted to address the failures of the Basel Convention and to protect African populations and environments from the risks associated with hazardous waste.²²

The Bamako Convention has several key objectives: it prohibits the import of all hazardous and radioactive wastes into Africa, minimizes trans-boundary waste movements within the continent, and bans dumping in oceans and inland waters.²³ It also promotes environmentally sound waste disposal and cleaner production methods. The Convention emphasizes the precautionary principle²⁴ and requires prior informed consent²⁵ for waste shipments. By making the import of hazardous waste a criminal act, the Bamako Convention provides a more stringent framework than the Basel Convention for managing hazardous waste in Africa

II. Trans-Boundary Hazardous Waste Regulation In Ethiopia: The Law, Institutional Framework And The Practice

Many developing countries, including Ethiopia, face challenges in managing trans-boundary hazardous wastes due to weak legislation and inadequate cooperation. Ethiopia has enacted Proclamation No. 1090/2018 to address these issues, incorporating trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation and compliance with the Basel and Bamako Convention. Despite these efforts,

¹⁹ Basel Convention, Art. 4(9)

²⁰ Basel Convention, Art. 8 and 9

²¹ Elena Faga, The Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes: a Comparison between the Basel and the Bamako Conventions, Faculty of Law, Tilburg University, 2016, P.26

²² Bamako Convention, preamble (16).

²³ Bamako convention, Art. 4(1)

²⁴ Bamako convention, Art. 4(3)(f)

²⁵ Bamako convention, Art. 4(3)(s)

domestic laws remain fragmented and weak, necessitating adherence to international legal frameworks like the Basel and Bamako Conventions to mitigate environmental and health impacts. Ethiopia's participation in international dialogues and ratification of these conventions aim to improve waste regulation practices and reduce environmental harm.

A. The Ethiopian Policy and legal framework on trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation

The Ethiopian Environmental Policy (EPE) addresses trans-boundary waste regulation under its sections by prioritizing waste collection and safe disposal to enhance environmental sanitation.²⁶ This is part of a broader policy goal to improve the health and quality of life of Ethiopians by managing natural and human-made resources sustainably. The policy aims to support social and economic development while ensuring that current needs are met without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. Despite implementation challenges, the policy is considered comprehensive in promoting environmentally sound waste regulation to protect the environment and ensure a high quality of life.

Also, The 1995 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia provides a foundation for environmental rights, including the right to a clean and healthy environment.²⁷ This right empowers individuals to seek legal action if their environment is compromised. The Constitution also mandates federal and state organs to ensure a clean environment and imposes a duty on citizens to protect it.²⁸ This framework supports specific regulations like the Hazardous Waste Regulation and Disposal Control Proclamation.

The 2018 Hazardous Waste Regulation and Disposal Control Proclamation is another domestic legislation in Ethiopia promulgated to create a system for managing trans-boundary hazardous waste to prevent harm to human health, animals, and the environment. It focuses on controlling the generation, storage, treatment, recycling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste.²⁹ The proclamation defines hazardous waste based on categories and characteristics outlined in its annexes, aligning with international conventions like the Basel and Bamako Conventions. It

²⁶ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Environmental policy of Ethiopia. Environmental Protection Authority., (1997). section 3.7

²⁷ Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 1/1995, Art. 44

²⁸ Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 1995, Art. 85(1) and 92 (1) & (4)

²⁹ FDRE Proclamation No. 1090/2018: Hazardous waste management and disposal control. Federal Negarit Gazette, No. 58, 2018, the preamble Para.3 & Art.3(emphasis added)

emphasizes the importance of sound regulation of trans-boundary hazardous waste movements, though it lacks a specific definition for trans-boundary movement.

Under The 2018 Hazardous Waste Regulation and Disposal Control Proclamation the regulation of trans-boundary hazardous waste involves several key principles and regulations. Firstly, national measures are taken to set standards for hazardous waste generation, aiming to reduce or eliminate waste during production and promote recyclability. The law aligns with international conventions like the Basel and Bamako Conventions, emphasizing prevention and proper handling of hazardous waste.³⁰ Another principle under the proclamation is the precautionary principle; it requires clear delineation of hazardous waste facilities and segregation from non-hazardous waste.³¹ Another issue addressed under the proclamation is Import and export of hazardous waste; it requires prior authorization from the Environment Protection Authority, ensuring compliance with environmental impact assessments and international agreements. Importation of hazardous waste is generally prohibited,³² and illegal transactions are penalized with re-exportation at the offender's cost, along with potential imprisonment and fines. Exportation must adhere to the Basel Convention's prior informed consent requirement, respecting the sovereignty of transit states.³³ Also The proclamation imposes severe penalties on those who violate provisions related to trans-boundary hazardous waste, including unauthorized import and export.³⁴

Ethiopia's Environmental Pollution Control Proclamation No. 300/2002 is another domestic legislation promulgated for the regulation trans-boundary hazardous waste. it broadly defines pollution, encompassing various environmental hazards.³⁵ It incorporates principles like "polluter pays" and the precautionary principle, and introduces environmental public interest litigation, allowing anyone to sue over environmental issues without needing a vested interest.³⁶

³⁰ Hazardous waste management & disposal control, proc, Art.5

³¹ Hazardous waste management & disposal control, proc, Art.6 and Art.7

³² Hazardous waste management & disposal control, proc, Art.17

³³ Hazardous waste management & disposal control, proc, Art.18

³⁴ Hazardous waste management & disposal control, proc, Art.21

³⁵ FDRE Environmental Pollution Control Proclamation, No. 300/2002, Federal Negarit Gazeta, No. 12,2002, Art. 2(7)

³⁶ FDRE Environmental Pollution Control Proc, Art.11

B. The Comparison between Hazardous Waste Regulation And Control Proclamation And The Basel Convention On Hazardous Waste Regulation

The proclamation closely aligns with the Basel Convention in several key areas. It mirrors the convention's categorization and disposal methods for hazardous wastes, requiring authorization for trans-boundary movements. Both also penalize illegal waste transactions and promote environmentally sound disposal methods, such as recycling when possible. Despite these similarities, the Basel Convention provides a more comprehensive framework for managing hazardous waste.³⁷

The Ethiopian Hazardous Waste Regulation and Disposal Control Proclamation No. 1090/2018 and the Basel Convention differ in their approaches to trans-boundary hazardous waste movement. The proclamation does not explicitly detail the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure, instead referencing the Basel and Bamako conventions. It lacks specific enforcement mechanisms for illegal transactions, unlike the Basel Convention, which provides a comprehensive framework including PIC, enforcement, liability, and reporting requirements. Despite these differences, the proclamation aligns with the Basel Convention by considering transactions that contravene it as illegal.³⁸

C. Institutional Framework On Sound Regulation Of Trans-Boundary Movement Of Hazardous Waste In Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the institutional framework for environmental protection, including hazardous waste regulation, has experienced frequent changes. Starting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1995, it evolved into various forms such as the Ministry of Environment and Forest, and later the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The most recent transformation occurred in 2018, when it became the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, and later the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority. These changes reflect ongoing efforts to improve coordination and efficiency in environmental regulation. The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) plays a crucial role in trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation and environmental protection. It ensures the realization of environmental rights and objectives outlined in the Constitution and international agreements.

³⁷ Hazardous waste management & disposal Control proc. & Basel convention.

³⁸ Hazardous waste management & disposal Control proc.Ar.17-18 & Basel convention.

D. The Practice of Sound Regulation of Trans-boundary Transaction of Hazardous Waste in Ethiopia

The environment is vulnerable to various forms of degradation, including pollution, contamination, and destruction, with human activities playing a central role in both its improvement and deterioration. Economic development, recognized as a fundamental right, often leads to environmental damage due to the direct and indirect impacts of economic activities. In Ethiopia, managing the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste is challenging due to administrative and regulatory complexities. Despite the existence of specific laws like Proclamation No. 1090/2018, the implementation falls short of international standards and legal requirements. The gap between legislation and practice is attributed to various factors, including individual and governmental shortcomings. Key stakeholders, such as the EPA, FDRE Custom Commission and the Ministry of Plan and Development, are involved in addressing these issues, providing crucial insights for research on hazardous waste regulation in the country.

E. Challenges of sound regulation of Trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste in Ethiopia

Legislative failure vs. prior tracing challenges: Ethiopia's laws on trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation lack a mechanism to trace such wastes before import, leading to difficulties in managing illegal imports with expired shelf life. This oversight causes challenges in disposal and raises concerns about effective waste regulation.³⁹

Access to Justice: In Ethiopia, despite legal provisions allowing individuals to pursue environmental cases, and environmental legal expert from EPA witnessed about some judges rarely addresses environmental damage due to a lack of training and experience in environmental litigation. This results in few cases being brought to administrative or judicial bodies.⁴⁰

Lack of Technological, Human, and Resource Capacity: Effective regulation of trans-boundary hazardous waste requires balancing human health, environment, and economy. However, governments often lack the necessary technology, skilled personnel, and financial

³⁹ Interview with FDRE Customs Commission, Kality Branch Store Administration Head, May 31, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

⁴⁰ Interview with EPA Environmental legal expert, May 08, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

resources, leading them to rely on companies for assistance rather than developing their own capacities.⁴¹

Lack of implementation infrastructure: In Ethiopia, effective regulation of trans-boundary hazardous waste is hindered by the lack of disposal sites and impartial environmental impact assessments. The absence of such infrastructure complicates the sound regulation of hazardous waste, while assessments are often conducted by parties with potential conflicts of interest, potentially leading to biased results.⁴²

Lack Of Institutional Alignment: In Ethiopia, environmental protection and trans-boundary hazardous waste regulation face challenges due to a lack of alignment among various governmental institutions. Despite legal requirements for collaboration, many institutions fail to communicate or cooperate effectively, hindering successful regulation of these issues.

F. Importation And Exportation Hazardous Wastes

The law in Ethiopia has made significant strides in combating the environmental degradation caused by trans-boundary hazardous waste by prohibiting its importation. However, despite these legal provisions, indirect forms of hazardous waste trading persist, such as importing used goods like car batteries and electronics with low shelf life, which effectively amounts to dumping trans-boundary hazardous waste.⁴³ The challenge lies in tracing and evaluating the quality and danger of these goods after they have entered the country. Customs authorities have reported handling large quantities of trans-boundary hazardous industrial chemical wastes with shelf lives below national standards, which were disposed of in collaboration with other government agencies.⁴⁴ While Ethiopia has taken impressive measures to manage hazardous waste, including international collaborations, it does not export hazardous waste except in specific projects like

⁴¹ Interview with EPA chemical and hazardous waste Administration desk expert, June 07, 2024, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

⁴² Interview with EPA chemical and hazardous waste Administration desk expert, June 07, 2024, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

⁴³ Interview with EPA legal department head, May 08, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

⁴⁴ Interview with FDRE Customs Commission, Kality Branch Store Administration Head, May 31, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

those with UNEP.⁴⁵ Overall, the country continues to face challenges in effectively enforcing its prohibitions on hazardous waste importation.

III. Conclusion

The trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste poses significant challenges for developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, where inadequate infrastructure and regulation capacity lead to severe environmental and human rights issues. Developed nations often exploit these vulnerabilities by exporting hazardous waste disguised as used goods, resulting in environmental degradation and health risks for local populations. In Ethiopia, despite existing legal frameworks aimed at managing hazardous waste, implementation gaps persist due to insufficient infrastructure, poor institutional coordination, and arbitrary licensing practices that allow hazardous materials to be improperly imported and disposed of.

Ethiopia has made some progress in controlling the movement of hazardous waste through legislative measures and collaborations with organizations like the UNEP. However, ongoing challenges such as ineffective inter-agency communication and a lack of designated disposal sites hinder effective regulation. The fragmentation of authority among various governmental bodies complicates enforcement efforts, leading to improper disposal practices that further harm the environment. To improve the situation, Ethiopia must enhance its regulatory frameworks, foster cooperation among agencies, and invest in public education about the risks associated with hazardous waste regulation.

⁴⁵ Interview with EPA chemical and hazardous waste Administration desk expert, June 7, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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C. Interviews

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