

## AFRICA: DIGITAL GRAVEYARD

### NARRATION

CHILDREN WORKING THE  
DUMP

Tiny hands...

Nimble fingers...these children are trying to recover anything of value at this dumpsite in Accra, Ghana. It's dangerous work he says. Exposure to carcinogens, toxic fumes, and contaminated soil may prove deadly, experts say.

E-WASTE

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is the third fastest growing source of rubbish in the world. Some 40 to 50 million tonnes of cell phones, televisions, refrigerators, and computers are discarded every year worldwide.

SHIPS/CONTAINERS/MAP

Waste from computer circuit boards and batteries often contain mercury and cadmium - a human carcinogen that causes damage to the lungs and liver say health experts. Computers and other electronic waste have been shipped from developed countries to less developed nations for years.

STEINER ON-CAMERA

STEINER: (In English)

“...up to three quarters of these shipments of so called reconditioned computers or computers for second hand use are, in fact, not functional anymore.”

STEINER INTRO  
SHIPPING/COMPUTERS/  
CONTAINERS

NARRATION

UNEP is now launching a project to help track the flow of cell phones, computers and other electronic waste from the United States to Africa and Asia.

STEINER ON-CAMERA

STEINER: (In English)

“These waste dumps cost money. They need to be managed so if we can reduce the volume of waste, we have both an environmental and economic benefit.”

NATSOT MEETING

NARRATIO

MEETING OF GROUP

The group, called the E-Waste Alliance is comprised of eight companies dedicated to discovering ways to manage e-waste responsibly. The company “Just PC’s” in Cape Town, is an Alliance partner.

JUST PC’S

JUSTIN: (In English)

“We try to refurbish as much as possible, components and computers, so there’s less e-waste output in the end.”

SCRAP YARD

NARRATION

These ventures are bringing much-needed business to South African companies as well as creating jobs for the country’s

AFRICANS MAKING KEY RINGS unemployed.

AND CLOCKS

But many experts believe that a lasting solution rests not only with companies, but with consumers. They say that until people stop buying things they don't need with money they don't have, working the dump in Ghana will continue to be a reality