



## Concept Note and Programme

**SWITCH Africa Green Regional Networking Forum:**

***“Advancing Circular Economy in Africa”***

**Trianon Convention Centre, Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius**

**4-6 October 2023**

### INTRODUCTION

SWITCH Africa Green programme is designed to support 7 countries (*Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda*) in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns. The programme aims to turn environmental challenges into opportunities based on the understanding that an inclusive green economy is at the core of sustainable development and has multiple benefits next to environmental protection, notably growth and jobs creation, poverty reduction, economic diversification, and income generation. The programme focuses on key enablers for the transition, including access to green financing, enabling policies and standards, circular practices, awareness and skills on eco-entrepreneurship, and innovative solutions.

Since its inception, SWITCH Africa Green has built a pool of resources, knowledge base and expertise within the four priority sectors: agriculture, integrated waste management, manufacturing and tourism sectors. The transition to an inclusive green economy requires scaling up on the cooperation and collaborations among countries as well as creating synergies with emerging trends to achieve the objectives – such as circular economy approaches and exploring a workable mechanism for access to finance for green investments among others.

Circular Economy approaches will moreover be part of Africa’s transformative efforts to ensure green business development. The SWITCH Africa Green programme promotes circularity approaches through the promotion of biogas technology, E-waste management, promoting organic agriculture, green manufacturing and eco-industrial park and standards, and labelling in the hotel industry, among others.

Implementation of the SWITCH Africa Green programme is also guided by global regional settings and priorities. During the 17th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Durban, South Africa, a regional framework on circular economy was proposed and reiterated - to focus on contextualizing the circular economy to the needs of African countries. The AMCEN session identified the circular economy as one of the areas where action needs to be taken to promote environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa. The discussions specifically highlighted the importance of contextualizing the circular economy to the needs and resource profiles of African countries and, on that basis, of developing a regional programme to promote and scale up the circular economy in the region. What is currently missing, and which informs the AMCEN decision, is to scale up and replicate the efforts across the continent in a more organised approach.

Circular economy approaches galvanize and spur green investments, partnerships and continued innovation. To this end, a system-wide approach and behavioural change is required to transition towards a more circular economy. This entails countries having very strong political messaging systems, awareness and capacity development programmes to drive the circular economy agenda. It also requires galvanising public and private financing mechanisms to ensure access to capital for firms of all sizes and a critical mass of people with the capacity to implement the circular economy principles.

With the foregoing, SWITCH Africa Green is organising a regional meeting to discuss the avenues and approaches to implementing circular economy and scaling up circular economy approaches in Africa. Further, the regional meeting is the culmination of the Switch Africa Green Programme's Phase 1 and 2 as the final meeting to close the programme that has been instrumental in supporting the transition of Africa to Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns.

#### **ABOUT THE REGIONAL MEETING:**

The regional meeting is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the **Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius.**

The forum will bring various stakeholders from the SWITCH Africa Green partner countries and other stakeholders involved in promoting an inclusive green economy and circular economy such as policy makers, business associations, private sector, financial institutions, regional economic communities, international development organisations and partners, and civil society organisations. The main objectives of the meeting are: -

- To enhance regional efforts to scale up green and circular business approaches and inspire continued national level policy making and implementation.
- To stimulate discussions on importance of circular economy in driving sustainable development.
- To discuss the opportunities and challenges of adopting circularity in Africa

- To disseminate the launched ‘Guidelines to Accelerate the Transition Towards a Circular Economy in Africa’ as a robust tool to drive implementation of circular economy in Africa.
- To consolidate the SAG phase 1 and 2 impacts and explore avenues of upscaling and replicating similar interventions in Africa.

**Exhibition:**

There will be an exhibition to showcase the Switch Africa Green Programme Phase 1 and 2 innovative interventions in the four Sectors of manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, integrated waste management and the cross-cutting sectors of energy efficiency, water efficiency, standards and labelling among others. The exhibition will also showcase innovations from other green business and circularity interventions in other countries in Africa.

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Time	Programme
<b>DAY 1 – 4 October 2023</b>	
<b>8.45 – 9.30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09.30 – 10.30</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction and opening</b></p> <p><b>Welcoming remarks by Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by United Nations <b>Resident Coordinator- Lisa Simrique Singh, UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles</b></li> <li>• Remarks by European Union Delegation in Mauritius, H.E. Mr Oskar Benedikt, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Mauritius</li> <li>• Keynote address and opening by <b>Honourable Kavydass Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change</b></li> </ul>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Group photo and Official opening of the Exhibition &amp; Health break</b>
<b>11:00- 11.30</b>	<b>Outreach on AEO for Business, Circular Guidelines and Assessment of Microfinancing in Africa</b>
<b>11.30 – 13.00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Setting the Scene</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Patrick Mwesigye, Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency and SCP Subprogramme, Africa Office, UNEP</b></p> <p>The session aims to provide an overview of the SWITCH Africa Green programme and its circularity and green business interventions, implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies in Africa, and networking and replication of successful practices.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWITCH Africa Green Programme Implementation and the Africa Environment Outlook for business, <b>Rhoda Wachira, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya</b></li> <li>• SwitchMed implementation, <b>Luc Reuter, UNEP</b></li> <li>• Regional Perspective- Switch Africa Green 'Guidelines to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in Africa'- <b>Betrand Yao Assamoi, Dalberg</b></li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>Followed by Q and A and key recommendations</b></p>
<b>13.00 -14.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.00-15.00</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Policy support for circular economy and green business in Africa</b>  <b>Moderator: Shiferaw Negash Bira, Director General - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Ethiopia</b></p> <p>This session will provide policy makers an opportunity to discuss the need for circular policies as well as to identify the policy gaps that need to be addressed. How can we create an enabling environment for scaling-up and replicating green business interventions in Africa?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting knowledge management and skills development policies in green business in Africa – <b>Ayub Macharia, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya</b></li> <li>• Sustainable Public Procurement and trade policies on green business – <b>Simon Nabyama, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda</b></li> <li>• Advocating policies that advance the growth and development of Circular Economy – <b>Daniel Digber, Principal Programmes Officer EPA/Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre</b></li> <li>• SwitchMed Policy development- <b>SwitchMed Country</b></li> </ul>
<b>15:00- 16:00</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Circular Business Models: Case studies</b>  <b>Moderator: Ing. Moses Yaw Pumpuni, Vulpec Engineering, Ghana</b></p> <p>The session aims at showcasing the impacts of the SWITCH Africa Green programme in Africa and beyond, and to outline the good practices in green business and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interventions to support integrated waste management - <b>Mr. Mazibuko Tshepo, K1 Recycling, South Africa</b></li> <li>• Implementation of circular economy policies in the manufacturing sector -<b>Timothy Muwonge, Sugar Corporation of Uganda (SCOUL)</b></li> <li>• Greening the Mauritian Tourism Industry – a case study - <b>Mr. Avinash Venkama, Association des Hotels de Charme, Mauritius</b></li> <li>• SwitchMed country case study</li> </ul>

<b>16.00</b>	<b>End of Day 1 and Tea / Coffee</b>
<b>DAY 2: 5 October 2023</b>	
<b>08.30-09.30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09.30- 10:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recap of the previous day proceedings</b></li> <li>• <b>Introduction to parallel sessions on policy</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Norah Mugita, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b></p>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
<b>10.30 –13.00</b>	<p>Plenary session to introduce the topics of the parallel sessions and their expected outcomes. The sessions will be dialogue - styled discussions</p> <p><b>Session 5: Parallel sessions for Advancing Circular Economy in Africa</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to engage experts in the region in providing key recommendations on regional frameworks on green business and circular economy in Africa. Each working group will be guided by presentations followed by panel discussion. Guided questions will be used for panel discussions.</p> <p><b>Group 1: Advancing Green financing opportunities in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Patrick Obadhi Lumumba, Group Director – Capacity Development., African Guarantee Fund</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for Green Financing – <b>Mrs. D. Pillay-Naiken, Lead Analyst, Financial Services, Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance</b></li> <li>• Transition to circular economy through innovative Financing opportunities–<b>Darius Waithaka, Value Chain Product Manager, ABSA Bank Kenya PLC</b></li> <li>• Opportunities for climate smart financing - <b>Nebyida Lamech KABORE Autorité Nationale Désignée (AND) Secrétariat Exécutif du Fonds Vert pour le Climat au Burkina Faso</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative financing models – financial institutions, insurance, cooperatives, etc.</li> <li>• Policies, laws and regulations for advancing green business</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 2: Sustainable Trade and Markets</b></p>

**Moderator: Mr. Charles Gachahi, ARSO**

**Panellists:**

- **Enhancing demand for green products through certification and Standards – Mrs. Amandine Hardowar De Rosnay, Head of Sustainability and Inclusive Growth, Business Mauritius**
- **Promoting green products for local and international markets: Case study of Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU)- Stephen Kirya, Assistant Commissioner Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda**
- **Enhancing the capacity of local entrepreneurs in green business and technology in Rodrigues: Long term impacts of the Switch Africa Green action - Marie Lourdes Raphael Robertson, Commission for Environment Rodrigues Regional Assembly**

**Discussions :**

- **Creating Sustainable Markets and Trade**
  - **Eco -innovation / Standards and labelling**
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**Group 3: Promoting Circular Economy principles in the private sector**

**Moderator: Mr. Raphulu Ndivhuho, National Cleaner Production Centre, South Africa**

**Panellists:**

- **Role of Cleaner Production Centres in advancement of a circular economy in Africa -Cleophas Migiro, Tanzania Cleaner Production Centre**
- **Knowledge management and capacity development in circular economy - Letitia Nyaaba, Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre**
- **SwitchMed country presentation**

**Discussion:**

- **Operationalisation of the regional circular economy framework guidelines**
- **Knowledge management and capacity development needs / guidelines and training on circular economy**

**Group 4: Policies, legislation and Institutions in a Circular Economy**

**Moderator: Dr (Mrs) Vimi Dookhun, Senior Lecturer, University of Mauritius**

	<p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular Economy: Policies and Innovation – <b>Leanne Richards, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa</b></li> <li>• Institutional arrangements for a circular economy- <b>Mr. Mern Gizachew, Industrial Park Development Corporation, Ethiopia</b></li> <li>• Integrating the circular economy policies into national plans, case of the Mauritius Roadmap and Action plan for a circular economy- <b>Mrs Nisha Manic, Ag. Divisional Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment Division)</b></li> <li>• <b>SwitchMed country presentation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws, regulations and policies for advancing circular economy.</li> <li>• Institutional framework set up for implementing circular economy programme in Africa</li> </ul>
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch and Exhibition</b>
<b>14.00 to 16.00</b>	<p><b>Session 6: Plenary session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Charles Akol- UNECA</b></p> <p>Group presentations from Session 5</p> <p><b>Followed by Q and A</b></p>
	<b>Coffee/ Tea</b>
<b>18:00- 20:00</b>	<b>Networking Event and Launch of the Green Financing Report</b>
<b>DAY 3: 6 October 2023</b>	
<b>9:00-9:30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recap of the previous day proceedings</b></li> <li>• <b>Introduction to parallel sessions on Switch Africa Green four Sectors and crosscutting themes</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Rhoda Wachira, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b></p>
<b>10:30-13:00</b>	<p>Plenary session to introduce the topics of the parallel sessions and their expected outcomes. The sessions will be dialogue - styled discussions.</p> <p><b>Session 7: Parallel sessions for</b></p> <p>The aim of the session is to engage experts in the region in key sectors by providing recommendations on regional frameworks on green business and circular economy in Africa. Each working group will be guided by presentations</p>

followed by panel discussion. Guided questions will be used for panel discussions.

#### **Group 1: Manufacturing Sector**

**Moderator: Gustave Aboua, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD) Cote D'Ivoire**

##### **Panellists:**

- Policies to promote Green Manufacturing- Green Manufacturing Strategy, Uganda- **Stephen Kirya, Assistant Commissioner, Uganda**
- Technical Assistance Models for Enterprises in the Manufacturing Sector- **PRE-SME Toolkit, - Steve Nyamori, Deputy Director, KNPCPC Kenya**
- Sustainable Trade and Markets- **Onyango George James, Kenya Leather Development Council, Kenya**

#### **Group 2: Tourism Sector**

**Moderator: Byamugisha Jean, Chief Executive Officer, Uganda Hotel Owners' Association**

##### **Panellists**

- Enabling policies for the implementation of circular economy in the tourism industry and beyond - **Dr (Mrs) Vimi Dookhun, Senior Lecturer, University of Mauritius**
- Technical Assistance Models for Enterprises in Sustainable Tourism- **Lynnet Kamonde, SUS Tour project, Kenya**
- Sustainable Tourism Markets- **Conservation South Africa, Caroline McCann, Market Specialist**
- **SwitchMed country presentation**

#### **Group 3: Sustainable Agriculture**

**Moderator: Lutalo Evelyn, Agricultural Specialist, Uganda**

- Green financing for Enterprises in sustainable Agriculture- **Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF), Sheila Karue, Project Officer, AATIF**
- Technical Assistance Models for Enterprises in Sustainable Agriculture- **Elizabeth Gathogo- WWF Golan Project, Kenya**
- Sustainable Trade and Markets- **Promoting Sustainable Local Agriculture through Green Retail and Green Hospitality (SUS-AGRI), Mauritius- Mr Bhoomitra Toolsy, Lecturer, University of Mauritius**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eco-Agriculture–Sesame Livelihoods and organic-green business Opportunities for Young Rural people, Lay Laban, National Organic Agriculture Movement Uganda</b></li> <li>• <b>SwitchMed country presentation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Group 4: Integrated waste management</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Gountiene Damiene Lankoande GRAAD, Burkina Faso</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Integrated Waste Management Policies for Local Governments - Ayub Macharia, Kenya</b></li> <li>• <b>Green financing for Integrated Waste Management- Making sanitation and waste treatment affordable- Okrofu Raymond, Safisana</b></li> <li>• <b>Technical Assistance Models for Enterprises in Waste management- Sustainable business models through import, export &amp; recycle of textile waste and plastic pet bottles. Somna Deoduth, Director, Soge Intl Company Ltd. Mauritius.</b></li> <li>• <b>Green Products from Waste – James Mwaura, Champion Shoes</b></li> <li>• <b>SwitchMed country presentation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Group 5: Innovative Solutions for Circular economy</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Alex Mangwiro, UNEP</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Industrial symbiosis- Tapping into underutilized resources through Industrial Symbiosis- Silver Ssebagala, Uganda CPC</b></li> <li>• <b>Alternative Energy Sources- Rhoda Wachira, Regional Coordinator Energy programme</b></li> <li>• <b>Circularity in Plastics waste management- Mr. Mazibuko Tshepo, K1 Recycling, South Africa</b></li> <li>• <b>E-waste management- Letitia Nyaaba, GNCPC/EPA Ghana</b></li> <li>• <b>SwitchMed country presentation</b></li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Exhibition
14:00- 15:00	<p><b>SwitchMed- Experience:</b></p> <p><b>Algeria- Ms. Assia FERRANI</b></p> <p><b>Algeria- Mr. Samir Grimes</b></p> <p><b>Egypt- Ms. Ghada Moghny</b></p> <p><b>Morocco – Ms. Merime Houzir</b></p> <p><b>Palestine- Mr. Zaghloul Samhan</b></p>

<p><b>15:00-16:00</b></p>	<p><b>Session 8: Plenary session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Meseret- UNEP</b></p> <p><i>This session will be an interactive discussion following brief presentations from the moderators from the five working groups on the lessons learned from each of the thematic areas in each group. It will further discuss the next steps to upscale and replicate these initiatives beyond Switch Africa green programme in the different sub regions in Africa.</i></p>
<p><b>16.00 to 17.00</b></p>	<p><b>Session 7: High level Session</b></p> <p><b>Closure of the Switch Africa Green Programme and presentation of the Port Louis communique</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Robert Wabunoha, UNEP</b></p> <p>The session will focus on the proposed regional framework for advancing promoting circular economy in Africa where the panellists will deliberate on the proposed structure, work areas and the menu of options based of regional conditions and priorities.</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUC- Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director, Sustainable Environment &amp; Blue Economy Directorate</li> <li>• UNECA- Charles Akol, Environmental Affairs Officer, Green and Blue Economy section, Technology Climate change and natural resources Management division</li> <li>• SADC-Mavimbela Sibongile, Senior Programme Officer - Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>• EAC- Dismas Mwikila, Environment and Natural Resources Management Specialist</li> <li>• Africa Circular Economy Alliance-Bonmwa Fwangkwal,</li> </ul> <p><i>Consideration of Draft Port Louis Communique on advancing circular economy in Africa Road map to actualizing the Communique.</i></p> <p>Closing remarks and official closer of the Switch Africa Green Programme</p> <p><b>UNEP:</b> Meseret T. Zemedkun- Head of the Southern Africa, Sub regional office- Africa Office</p> <p><b>EU</b></p> <p><b>Mauritius</b></p>

