



Report of the

SWITCH Africa Green Regional Meeting

24 – 25 February 2020
Kampala, Uganda



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INTRODUCTION

A SWITCH Africa Green regional meeting on the theme “Advancing Green Business and the Circular Economy in Africa” was held in Kampala, Uganda, on 24 and 25 February 2020. More than 300 participants attended the meeting, which drew senior government officials from over 25 African countries and representatives from the European Union, regional economic communities, financial institutions, academia, United Nations agencies and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The full list of participants can be viewed in annex 6.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda.

The meeting objectives were:

- ▶ To enhance regional efforts to scale up green and circular business approaches and inspire national-level policymaking and implementation;
- ▶ To prepare strategies for harmonizing policies on advancing green business and the circular economy in Africa.

The meeting was designed to build a body of knowledge and encourage the sharing of expertise and experience on policy enhancement and on scaling up the activities of SWITCH Africa Green beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

The agreed outcome document of the meeting, the “Kampala communiqué” (see annex 1), outlines actionable interventions to advance the circular economy and green business in Africa through four thematic areas: i) green financing to advance enterprises involved in green business; ii) sustainable trade and markets; iii) promoting the circular economy in Africa; and iv) strengthening institutions for green business and the circular economy.

The concept note and agenda of the meeting are set out in annex 2, links to the presentations made during the two-day meeting can be found in annex 3, and the photographs and videos of the meeting are in annex 4. The meeting received ample media coverage both during and after the event; links to press releases and articles can be found in annex 5.

OPENING SESSION

The meeting opened with remarks by Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Deputy Director, UNEP Africa Office, Mr. Ioannis-Pavlos Evangelidis, Head of Cooperation for the delegation of the European Union to Uganda, and Mr. Tom Okurut, Executive Director of the Uganda National Environment Management Agency (NEMA), on behalf of the host country, Uganda.

Mr. Turyatunga began by looking back over the SWITCH Africa Green journey, which had begun in 2013 and had continued to gain momentum into the new decade. The programme supported the transition to a green economy in Africa and made a valuable contribution to participating countries in their quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production, but also Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, Goal 8 on decent jobs and economic growth and Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals.

During the seventeenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held 11–15 November 2019 in Durban, South Africa, a regional framework for the circular economy had been proposed to adapt the concept of circularity to the context of African countries. It was hoped that the meeting would present a platform for crystalizing Africa’s aspirations for the circular economy. Circular economy approaches were part of Africa’s transformative efforts to achieve sustainable development. SWITCH Africa Green already promoted circular approaches, such as biogas technology, e-waste management and organic agriculture, supported by such things as green manufacturing and eco-industrial parks and standards and labelling in the hotel industry. It was important for the lessons learned and knowledge shared among countries to result in regional harmonization of policies and to ensure maximum impact and effective implementation

at the national level. Notably, the programme had had positive impacts, by creating jobs, with 80% of the beneficiaries being women and young people. It had improved livelihoods through income generation and had advanced environmental protection. In addition, a pool of resources in the form of toolkits, guidelines and best practices was now readily available for use in the replication and scale-up of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) activities across Africa.



Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Deputy Director, Region of Africa Office, UNEP, delivering his statement.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SWITCH Africa Green stood out as a successful One United Nations initiative. UNEP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services, worked closely in each country to support private-sector development, in particular green business development. Mr. Turyatunga thanked the European Union for the continuous support for the transition towards green growth and sustainable development through the SWITCH programme, which was also being implemented in Asia and the Mediterranean region, and also thanked the Government of Uganda for graciously hosting the regional meeting.

Mr. Evangelidis, in his statement, said that the European Union had been indefatigable in advancing the sustainable development paradigm. The new president of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula Von Der Leyen, had identified the European Green Deal as one of three overarching issues to be given priority under her mandate, aiming for it to become Europe's hallmark. The European Green Deal was not just about environmental sustainability, it was the European Union's growth agenda.

The European Union had a record of championing the circular economy, including through adopting and completing the 2015 Circular Economy Action Plan, and then building on its many achievements to sketch out future challenges to shaping the economy and paving the way towards a climate-neutral, circular economy where pressure on natural and freshwater resources and ecosystems was minimized. The European Union was currently formulating a second circular economy action plan, as part of the European Green Deal, which would reinforce that ambition.

In Uganda, the European Union's commitment to advancing green growth had translated into a focus on the inclusive green economy for cooperation under Uganda's National Indicative Programme for the eleventh European Development Fund. European Union cooperation supported the implementation of the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy. Integral to implementing

Uganda's long- and medium-term strategies, as well as meeting the country's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other international and regional agreements, the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy articulated green growth along five catalytic investment areas: sustainable agriculture production and value chains; natural capital management and development; planned green cities; sustainable transport; and energy for sustainable livelihoods and development.



Mr. Ioannis Pavlos Evangelidis, Head of Cooperation for the delegation of the European Union to Uganda, making his statement.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SWITCH Africa Green provided useful support, notably through two projects supported under phase II of the programme, which were centred on the promotion of a sustainability certification scheme for the country's tourism accommodation sector and eco-geographical indication for coffee. Those projects, as well as those funded under phase I, were relevant to European Union priorities, aiming to pilot best practices and disseminate them to encourage scale-up.



Mr. Tom Okurut, Executive Director of NEMA, delivering the keynote address.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Mr. Okurut began his keynote address by thanking the European Union and UNEP for their financial and technical support for “switching Uganda green”. He also acknowledged the members of the National Technical Coordination Committee and the grantees, beneficiaries and civil society organizations that had implemented SWITCH Africa Green in Uganda. In Uganda, the programme had built a pool of resources, a knowledge base and expertise in the three priority sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. The transition to an inclusive green economy required replication and scale-up of the cooperation and collaboration among sectors and creation of synergies with emerging trends to achieve Uganda’s Vision 2040 and the objectives of its third national development plan. Tackling the emerging environmental challenges might also mean seizing opportunities like an inclusive green economy that were core to sustainable development and had multiple benefits, including environmental protection and growth and job creation. Key enablers for the transition included access to green financing, enabling policies and standards, awareness, networking and green businesses with innovative solutions.

Positive initiatives were being undertaken by Governments, regional platforms such as the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the private sector, civil society, and individuals, to replicate and scale up SWITCH Africa Green interventions, thus contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12. With the support of SWITCH Africa Green, Uganda had developed the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy, as well as a green manufacturing strategy, a sustainable public-sector procurement policy and the Greening of Tourism Act. Africa should champion the greening of policies, strategies, laws and regulation in a bid to ensure sustainable development.

SETTING THE SCENE

MODERATOR: MR. JOSHUA MUTAMBI, MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES, UGANDA

The session aimed to provide an overview of the SWITCH Africa Green programme and its green business development interventions, the support for sustainable consumption and production policy implementation in Africa, the networking facility and the replication of successful practices.

SWITCH AFRICA GREEN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

PRESENTER: MR. PATRICK MWESIGYE, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, UNEP AFRICA OFFICE

Phase I of SWITCH Africa Green, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNEP in collaboration with the European Union delegations and National Technical Coordination Committees, had been implemented in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda, in four priority sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and integrated waste management. The programme had three interconnected components, all geared towards promoting sustainable consumption and production in Africa: policy support, green business development and a networking facility.

Policy support

The policy support component aimed to create an enabling environment for green business development in Africa by responding to the specific needs of each country to strengthen institutions and develop appropriate policy instruments and tools. The policy support component was guided by the National Technical Coordination Committee and stakeholder consultations.

The first SWITCH Africa Green Regional Policy Dialogue had been held in Ghana in 2017 to facilitate discussions with policymakers on how to explore mechanisms that could strengthen existing national planning and strategic frameworks for transformation to green economies and sustainable consumption and production. National policy dialogues had also been held in Burkina Faso (2018), Ghana (2019) and Uganda (2019).

Policy support interventions achieved through SWITCH Africa Green included enhancing existing sector policies to incorporate green indicators, such as the greening of Kenya’s Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy and

Uganda's Public Sector Procurement Policy. The programme also supported development of specific guidelines, standards to facilitate the implementation of specific policy objectives and new policy tools.

With SWITCH Africa Green support, e-learning courses on sustainable consumption and production in Africa for policymakers and practitioners had been developed and conducted in 2016 and 2019 respectively, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The training had been delivered to over 170 participants from 48 countries in Africa.



Mr. Patrick Mwesigye, Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency, UNEP Africa Office, providing an overview of the implementation of SWITCH Africa Green in the six participating African countries.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Green business development

The green business development component supported the transformation to an inclusive economy by providing MSMEs with services that enabled them to start and develop resource-efficient green businesses based on sustainable consumption and production practices. SWITCH Africa Green had supported over 3,000 MSMEs in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda in adopting sustainable consumption and production practices and improving their business management skills.

Following the implementation of SWITCH Africa Green, 81% of the MSMEs reported that the technical capacity of their staff had been enhanced by the programme training. The MSMEs had also benefited from increased sales, and 72% reported having significantly reduced their production costs after implementing sustainable consumption and production practices such as water and energy efficiency. About 10,000 new jobs, including casual and part-time jobs, were created during the programme implementation period, with 32% of them going to women and 36% to young people.

Networking facility

The networking facility component was designed to foster networking, knowledge-sharing and communication within and across countries and support the distillation of knowledge from project implementation to facilitate wider replication and policy uptake. The networking facility allowed practitioners of and stakeholders in the green economy and sustainable consumption and production to learn from each other through participation in regional, national and global forums.

SWITCH Africa Green national networking forums had been held in all six participating countries. In partnership with the SWITCH to Green facility, SwitchMed and SWITCH-Asia, SWITCH Africa Green had showcased the success stories of entrepreneurs who had transformed their small businesses in Africa by incorporating green practices.

At the regional level, SWITCH Africa Green had facilitated discussions by Africa's environment ministers on the potential of green business development during the sixteenth and seventeenth regular sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Gabon (2017) and South Africa (2019). SWITCH Africa Green had organized and held regional networking forums in Kampala (2016) and Ouagadougou (2018) to provide a networking opportunity for green entrepreneurs, industry leaders, government officials, development partners and non-State actors. Four regional sector meetings had also been held to discuss strategies and mechanisms for upscaling the successes of the programme in the agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and integrated waste management sectors. Globally, beneficiaries of the programme had participated in the Sustainable Innovation Expo at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and during European Development Days.

Phase II of SWITCH Africa Green had started in 2018, with the awarding of 14 grants in seven countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda). Joint networking activities had been conducted among phase I and phase II grantees and beneficiaries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12 ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN AFRICA

PRESENTER: CHARLES ARDEN-CLARKE, HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

The presentation focused on how SWITCH Africa Green and the One Planet network could collaborate to report on Sustainable Development Goal 12 and on the achievements made by the respective MSMEs after implementing sustainable consumption and production practices. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized sustainable consumption and production as one of the most cost-efficient, effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce impacts on the environment and advance human well-being.

The One Planet network was a multi-stakeholder partnership that served as the global implementation mechanism for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 12. It had gathered more than 700 partners, including 140 national focal points, 20 United Nations agencies, and countries and partner organizations engaged in promoting sustainable consumption and production across six thematic and sectoral programmes. The partners brought experience, expertise, technical resources, tools and knowledge and, to a certain extent, financial resources for implementation.

The network was established to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 to accelerate the sustainability shift in all countries. The implementation of the 10YFP was the first target under Sustainable Development Goal 12, and could help achieve progress under at least 12 of the other Sustainable Development Goals. The One Planet network worked through six programmes: public procurement, buildings and construction, tourism, food systems, consumer information, and lifestyles and education.

There was an opportunity to increase the visibility of SWITCH Africa Green at the international level, notably through

the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development, which had the central role of following up on the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level. SWITCH Africa Green grantees and beneficiaries could report their achievements and results through the One Planet network and be part of defining the current state of knowledge on sustainable consumption and production, organizing tools and best practices and strengthening the network and collaboration.

Opportunities for cooperation between SWITCH Africa Green and the One Planet network

The sectors covered by SWITCH Africa Green and the programmes of the One Planet network presented opportunities for collaboration between the two initiatives, notably in connection with the programmes on sustainable food systems, sustainable tourism and plastics under the One Planet network.

The sustainable food systems programme was a multi-stakeholder partnership focused on catalysing more sustainable food consumption and production patterns. The programme promoted a holistic approach, considering the interconnections and trade-offs between all elements and actors in food systems. Its focus areas were raising awareness on the need to adopt sustainable consumption and production patterns in food systems; building enabling environments for sustainable food systems; increasing access to and fostering the application of actionable knowledge, information and tools to mainstream sustainable consumption and production into food systems; and strengthening collaboration among food system stakeholders to increase the sector's related performance.

The sustainable tourism programme supported the development, promotion and scaling up of sustainable consumption and production practices in the tourism sector that boosted the efficient use of natural resources while producing less waste and addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The One Planet network initiative on plastics was focused on addressing plastic packaging's contribution to marine litter and facilitating the uptake of innovations in the "use" stage of the plastic value chain. The initiative aimed to take action to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and move from single-use to reuse models.



Left: Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Head of the 10YFP Secretariat, describing how SWITCH Africa Green could collaborate with the One Planet network to report on Sustainable Development Goal 12.

Right: (From left) Mr. Patrick Mwesigye, Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency, UNEP Africa Office, and session moderator Mr. Joshua Mutambi, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda, posing with Mr. Arden-Clarke after the session.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Based on the discussion, the key messages were:

- ▶ Continuous engagement was needed between policymakers, academia and the private sector to promote sustainable consumption and production and green business development in Africa.
- ▶ There was a need to explore how best to leverage existing national systems, such as approaching parliamentary committees within countries to incorporate sustainability into policies.

- ▶ Initiatives such as SWITCH Africa Green had established the viability of green business, and there was now need for proof of scale to get the buy-in of financiers.
- ▶ Development and/or public banks (national development banks, community development banks, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks) had a role in taking the lead when scaling up green investments before private financial institutions could fully embrace the viability of impact projects.
- ▶ There was a need to develop the capacity of local banks to embrace business plans with proposals for green innovations.
- ▶ Stakeholders needed to leverage existing international platforms like the One Planet network to report on the success stories, achievements and results of interventions such as those under SWITCH Africa Green.

POLICY SUPPORT FOR GREEN BUSINESS

MODERATOR: MR. AYELE ANABO, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION, ETHIOPIA

This session was an opportunity to discuss the need for sustainable policies and laws, identify the policy gaps that needed to be addressed and explore ways to create an enabling environment for scaling up and replicating green business interventions in Africa.



*Left: Mr. Ayele Anabo, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, Ethiopia, moderating the session.
Right: Mr. David Kiyingi, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda, making his presentation.*

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES FOR BIOGAS IN AFRICA

PRESENTER: MR. MOSES YAW PUMPUNI, VULPEC ENGINEERING, GHANA

Biogas technology (conversion of organic waste under anaerobic conditions to energy) was still in its infancy both in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa but the conditions for its process occurred naturally in Africa. In Ghana, the relevant policies and institutions included the Environmental Sanitation Policy, Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Energy Commission, with its Strategic National Energy Plan and Renewable Energy Act, 2011 (Act 832).

- i. **Environmental Sanitation Policy:** The overall goal of the new policy was to develop a clear and nationally accepted vision of environmental sanitation as an essential social service and a major determinant for improving health and quality of life in Ghana. The policy was a necessary tool for shaping all efforts in dealing with the overwhelming challenge of poor sanitation in Ghana. The principal components of environmental sanitation included collection and sanitary disposal of wastes, including solid wastes, liquid wastes, excreta, industrial wastes, health care and

other hazardous wastes; stormwater drainage; and waste from cleansing of fares, markets and other public spaces.

- ii. Ministry of Works and Housing: The new National Building Code made the issuance of a building permit subject to a requirement to ensure onsite treatment of liquid waste.
- iii. Ministry of Food and Agriculture: There was a huge potential for biogas technology to handle the waste generated by livestock.
- iv. Energy Commission: The commission periodically generated policies and documents that reflected the extent of advocacy and the growth of the various energy streams. Those included the Strategic National Energy Plan and the Renewable Energy Act, 2011 (Act 832), as well as the Ghana Renewable Energy Master Plan and the Bioenergy Policy.
- v. Strategic National Energy Plan: The Energy Commission was required by law to prepare, review and update periodically indicative national plans to ensure that all reasonable demands for energy were met in a sustainable manner. The goal of the Strategic National Energy Plan was to contribute to the development of a sound energy market that would provide sufficient, viable and efficient energy services for Ghana's economic development through the formulation of a comprehensive plan identifying the optimal path for the development, utilization and efficient management of the country's energy resources. All the energy streams were listed, with their projected energy feed forecast.
- vi. Renewable Energy Act, 2011 (Act 832): The act provided for the development, management, utilization, sustainability and adequate supply of renewable energy for the production of heat and power and for related matters. It also provided the framework to support the development and utilization of renewable energy and the enabling environment for investment in the sector and the building of indigenous technical capacity.

Gaps that needed to be filled to enhance the uptake of biogas in Ghana:

- ▶ A deliberate campaign and strategy for biogas uptake, which would increase the uptake of liquified petroleum gas from almost zero to 10% to 12% in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa;
- ▶ Approval and full implementation of the national biogas strategy in Ghana, which had been stuck at the parliamentary committee level since 2015;
- ▶ Development of a biogas policy by the Ministry of Agriculture, which, with all its knowledge, still had no policy on biogas from livestock waste, despite the growing number of livestock farmers;
- ▶ A set curriculum for schools and institutions on biogas technology;
- ▶ Updating of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development's national Environmental Sanitation Policy to suggest that "the first station of sewage treatment plants should be a biogas plant".

In terms of the opportunities and challenges associated with biogas technology, biogas was frequently promoted as an alternative source of cooking energy, but enhanced organic compost was of equal importance, although technical, economic, sociocultural and institutional barriers had limited its dissemination. Whereas available quality feedstock was not scarce in Africa, the scarcity of water aggravated by climate change would be a challenge for the upscaling of the technology among rural peasant livestock farmers. Although its overall supply potential was rated modest to medium, households could use the technology to cover all their cooking energy needs if they had enough feedstock (readily available animal/human waste) and access to water, which was the new threat among rural farmers. Policies were needed to tackle the technical and socioeconomic hurdles associated with the fuel, however, such as by promoting simple and affordable designs and the use of local materials.

Countries that had strong institutional support for biogas programmes, such as China, had registered significant success in promoting the technology. Even in African countries with renewable energy policies, there was often still a general lack of coherent strategies for the promotion of commercial biogas technology.

Another important problem was the increasing volume and the often inefficient handling of wastes in most cities. Furthermore, out of the 44 sewage treatment plants in Ghana, only 7 were operational, as managers lack the capacity to manage them. Biogas production technology would address both those problems. For instance, in Nigeria, the population was an advantage; however, progress in biogas technology was hampered by, among other things, the lack of government commitment, inadequate policies to support the sector, lack of adequate processing skills, ineffective waste management, insufficient knowledge of the technology and its associated benefits, and lack of interest due to public perception and the high costs associated with construction, and the same could be said for most African countries. Nigeria could also produce 88 million tons of organic fertilizers annually, which would reduce the use of synthesized fertilizers, resulting in a significant impact on agriculture, the level of deforestation and public health and, in the long run, economic improvements.

Based on the discussion, the recommendations were as follows:

- ▶ Promote specific policies that would help the sector.
- ▶ Develop standards for the design and construction of biogas plants.
- ▶ Establish monitoring systems to ensure that biogas plants are operational and address complaints.
- ▶ Conduct research and development to enhance the benefits associated with the design and construction of biogas plants.
- ▶ Support policies that are passed into law to ensure the uptake of biogas technology as the main source of waste management.

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND TRADE POLICIES FOR GREEN BUSINESS

PRESENTER: MR. DAVID KIYINGI, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, UGANDA

Globally, the role of public-sector procurement had been recognized as an important tool for socioeconomic and environmental sustainability but had not yet fully exploited by Governments in their transition to a green economy. Sustainable public procurement had emerged as a powerful way to stimulate more sustainable consumption and production patterns for society.

Public-sector procurement served as a key policy tool for Governments to drive the circular economy agenda forward and achieve shifts in market practices. It provided a market for innovations and promoted sustainable products through the setting of minimum standards, such as by incorporating green criteria into bid documents.

Currently, in Uganda, sustainable procurement had been incorporated in the primary law and there was a committee responsible for integrating sustainable procurement into the system. A local content implementation strategy was also in place. The challenges in expanding the concept were the lack of an adequate legal framework, political will and market readiness.

BUSINESS TAX POLICIES AND LABOUR POLICIES TO SUPPORT GREEN BUSINESS

PRESENTER: MR. EDWIN KIBUTHU, ETIMOS FOUNDATION

Business tax policies

A country's tax regime was a key policy instrument that could negatively or positively influence investment, innovation and growth of industries and sectors. A poorly designed tax regime, where the rules and their application were not transparent or were overly complex or unpredictable, could discourage investment, adding to project costs and uncertainty. Governments and policymakers were therefore encouraged to ensure that their tax system imposed an acceptable tax burden that could be accurately determined and that kept tax compliance and tax administration costs in check.

A central challenge for policymakers aiming to encourage environmental sustainability was carefully weighing the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternative tax policy choices that would be attractive to green businesses. Global experience and analysis showed that green taxation and tax incentives were among the many factors that could encourage the growth of green business.

Green taxation principles

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Energy Agency, green taxes are "those whose tax base consists of a physical unit (or similar) of some material that has a negative, verified and specific impact on the environment". Green taxes are designed to discourage behaviour that harms the planet's health and to reward practices that sustain the environment. Green taxation principles are based on the simple principle that those who pollute pay, while those who intentionally apply environmentally sustainable policies and practices in doing business are offered incentives. There is almost total unanimity on the benefits of green taxation as a key tool for moving towards environmentally sustainable development.

Some of the main benefits that justify the existence of such taxes and incentives are:

- ▶ Negative externalities are internalized.
- ▶ Energy saving and the use of renewable sources are promoted.
- ▶ Anti-ecological behaviour is discouraged.
- ▶ Companies are motivated to innovate in sustainability.
- ▶ Government revenues are generated, allowing other taxes to be lowered or environmental projects to be carried out.
- ▶ The environment is protected.

Green taxes and incentives support the greening of MSMEs in Africa by helping MSMEs to focus on their emissions and externalities to ensure that they are environmentally sustainable. Examples of such instruments are:

- ▶ Carbon pricing, which is a cost-effective approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; carbon can be priced via an emissions trading system (cap-and-trade with emissions permits at market-determined prices) or with a direct tax;
- ▶ Water pricing, which involves the integration of the ecological costs of water and streamlining the rate based on the amount of water used, reducing water waste and encouraging water recycling by MSMEs;
- ▶ Emissions fees, which represent a surcharge on the pollution created while producing goods and services; such fees aim to discourage the emission of gases and other production by-products that can be harmful to the environment;
- ▶ Congestion pricing, which is a dynamic pricing strategy designed to regulate demand by increasing prices without increasing supply, a common play in the transportation industry, where the goal is to decrease both congestion

and air pollution by charging more for entering especially congested areas of a city; MSMEs are thus encouraged to minimize unnecessary movement or use transport pooling strategies to avoid the charges;

- ▶ Feed-in tariffs, which enable payment to households or businesses that generate their own electricity through the use of methods that do not contribute to the depletion of natural resources, proportional to the amount of power generated; MSMEs with power-generating capacity can capitalize on the income generated through such tariffs and also provide the extra power capacity to other households or businesses.

Challenges and opportunities for green taxation

Economists and international organizations placed great hope in environmental taxes, mainly because of their cost-effectiveness and incentive advantages. In Africa, however, green taxation instruments and incentives and cost-effectiveness were less important than other concerns, meaning that the effectiveness of environmental taxes in reducing the rising environmental problems of Africa would likely be limited. Nevertheless, the environmental taxes imposed in a few African countries had helped to mitigate environmental problems, although in a somewhat different manner from that predicted by economic theory.

In many African countries, the effectiveness of environmental taxes was limited by the inadequacy of organizations and of the enforcement of formal institutions (statute law, common law, regulations, etc.). Improvements to governance structures in African countries were thus a prerequisite for successful broad implementation of environmental taxes in Africa.

For countries with functioning administrations, environmental taxes could be important building blocks in the policy mix used to mitigate environmental problems; however, such taxes were likely to be opposed by voters, interest groups and industry.

Labour policies

Over the last decades, it had become clear that economic growth had to be environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Economies would therefore have to go through a process of structural transformation induced and guided by green policies. Such structural change towards an environmentally sustainable economy would have, and had already had, considerable effects on labour markets and incomes.

According to the World Bank, 200 million people, most of them young people, were unemployed and actively seeking jobs, and to maintain the current employment rates, 600 million jobs would need to be created over the next 15 years. Employment opportunities were critical for inclusive growth. The statistics and literature clearly showed that MSMEs were critical for both employment and employment growth; MSMEs accounted for more than 50% of total net job creation, with variations by country income group and region.

“Green business growth” referred to economic activity that benefited job creation or economic growth and was compatible with or driven by reduced emissions, improved efficiencies in the use of natural resources and the protection of ecosystems. Green businesses were not only currently contributing to the creation of new job opportunities, they might also open the way for more and better jobs in the future.

Based on the discussion, the policy recommendations are:

- ▶ First and foremost, provide an enabling market environment in terms of providing appropriate market infrastructure and regulatory stability and flexibility, which is key for innovation by green businesses and therefore for creating opportunities for employment.
- ▶ Create and strength inclusive and green innovation opportunities, which involves providing incentives and making pricing mechanisms work for poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.
- ▶ Support inclusive and green innovation ecosystems that enable and facilitate interaction and cooperation between different kinds of organization to effectively overcome the multiple challenges and thus increase the jobs that emerge through the spillover effect.

ADVOCATING POLICIES THAT ADVANCE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN INDUSTRIES

PRESENTER: MR. STEPHEN DJABA, ASSOCIATION OF GHANA INDUSTRIES

Seeking to increase the contribution of renewable energy to the overall national energy supply mix, the Association of Ghana Industries introduced biomass cook stoves for agro-processors in Ghana with support from SWITCH Africa Green, building improved cook stoves for “gari” processing, fish smoking and “pito” brewing in the Ghana-Volta, Central and Northern regions. The introduction of the improved cook stoves had reduced workloads and environmental issues and had improved the livelihoods of the women in the project areas.

Key challenges for green manufacturing that had been identified were consumers’ lack of appreciation of green products; poor marketing of green products; a lack of green funding; the inexistence of special industrial zones for green manufacturing; technological challenges; a poor regulatory environment and poor enforcement of regulations; the seemingly high cost of production; the high cost of credit and electricity; and competition from imports and counterfeit products. Critical measures for promoting green business are therefore as follows:

- ▶ Promote policies and laws that support green business.
- ▶ Ensure that the laws and policies are effectively enforced.
- ▶ Use government procurement systems to encourage companies doing green business.
- ▶ Institute an award and recognition system to encourage companies doing green business.
- ▶ Work with development partners to promote green business.

Proposed policy directions include:

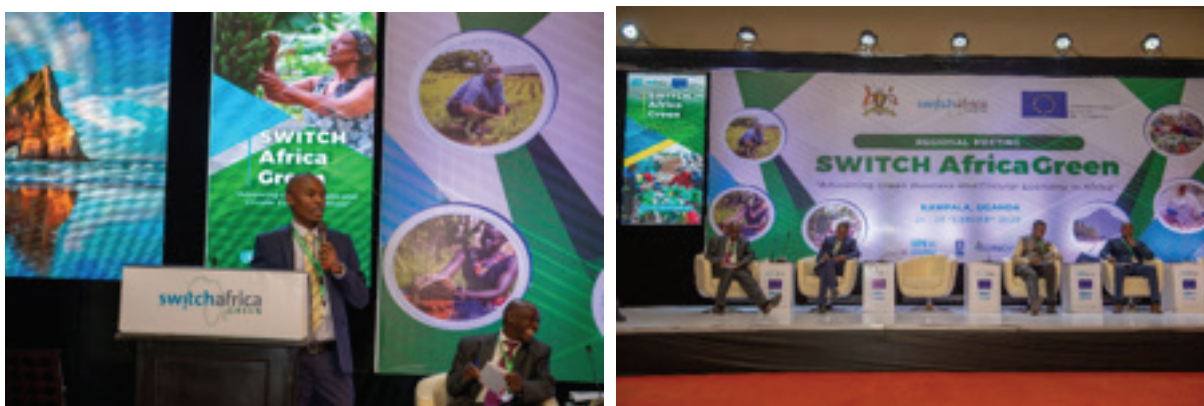
- ▶ Enact legislation to enforce standards on biomass cook stoves.
- ▶ Promote innovative financing schemes to support consumer purchases.
- ▶ Provide incentives for the local manufacture and assembly of advanced biomass cook stoves and fuels.
- ▶ Provide incentives to the private sector for the development and production of more efficient cook stoves and fuels.
- ▶ Allocate adequate resources to support the development and use of biomass fuels and end-use devices.
- ▶ Develop standards and enact regulations for biomass conversion technologies.
- ▶ Promote agroforestry practices.
- ▶ Provide incentives to attract private-sector investment.

Specific strategies for promoting biomass cook stoves in Ghana are:

- ▶ Promote the sustainable cultivation and utilization of wood-fuel resources.
- ▶ Promote sustainable tree harvesting methods.
- ▶ Provide incentives to attract private-sector investment.
- ▶ Promote the cultivation of fast-growing and multipurpose tree species and promote the use of agricultural and wood wastes.
- ▶ Establish sustainable, cost-effective and marketable wood-fuel production methods.
- ▶ Promote the development and use of clean biomass cook stoves.
- ▶ Promote the development and use of efficient and clean biomass conversion technologies.
- ▶ Increase public awareness of the benefits of efficient biomass cook stoves and alternative fuels.
- ▶ Train entrepreneurs in stove design, production and marketing.

Following the discussions, recommendations for a way forward were as follows:

- ▶ Government should encourage the development of green products through sustainable public procurement policies.
- ▶ Big companies should provide subcontracting opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises manufacturing green products.
- ▶ Create special awards for green manufacturers and products.
- ▶ Improve marketing of green products.
- ▶ Establish fiscal policies that encourage greening, such as tax incentives for green manufacturers.
- ▶ Ensure strict enforcement of regulations on good manufacturing practices.
- ▶ Introduce a green fund for manufacturers.



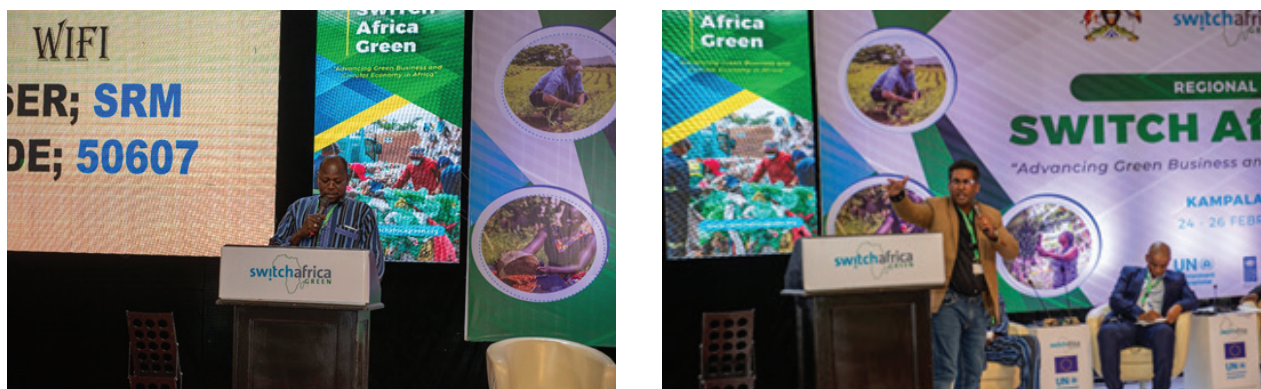
Left: Mr. Edwin Kibuthu, Etimos Foundation. Right: Mr. Stephen Djaba, Association of Ghana Industries (third from left) and Mr. Moses Yaw Pumpuni, Vulpec Engineering, Ghana (far right).

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GREEN BUSINESS INITIATIVES

MODERATOR: MR. PAMOUSSA OUEDRAOGO, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, GREEN ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, BURKINA FASO

The session was aimed at showcasing the impacts of SWITCH Africa Green in Africa and beyond and outlining good green business and sustainable consumption and production practices.



Left: Mr. Pamoussa Ouedraogo, Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Burkina Faso, moderating a session on policy recommendations from green business initiatives. Right: Mr. Venkama Avinash, Association des Hôtels de Charme, Mauritius, making his presentation.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

PRESENTER: MR. MAZIBUKO TSHEPO, K1 RECYCLING, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa was a growing economy with great potential but also its fair share of challenges. One of the fast-growing challenges was waste management; as the population grew, the amount of waste generated was increasing exponentially. Integrated waste management was viewed as the solution.

K1 Recycling, with SWITCH Africa Green support, had ventured into the integrated waste management sector, first through recycling and later expanding into making plastic pellets. The company had created 13 permanent jobs and had built a network of over 800 suppliers.

The Government of South Africa had provided an enabling environment by setting rules on transparency and good governance by all players from industry and civil society.

K1 Recycling was continually exploring new business ventures and was currently entering a new market sphere with the introduction of technology into recycling through the Packa-Ching project. Packa-Ching was a mobile buy-back centre that travelled to communities to purchase recyclable materials, paying individuals for their materials by transferring funds to their cell phone e-wallets, which they could then use to purchase airtime, withdraw cash, transfer money or pay at participating shops.

Since partnering with SWITCH Africa Green, K1 Recycling had become an integrated waste management solution provider and strove to be a positive influence on the community through development initiatives such as green education, awareness campaigns in schools, entrepreneurial advice and community education on recycling.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY POLICIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN UGANDA

PRESENTER: MR. TIMOTHY MUWONGE, SUGAR CORPORATION OF UGANDA LIMITED

At Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited, molasses, a sugar processing by-product considered as waste, whose excess volumes were resulting in uncontrolled pollution and negative social impacts, was sold to local distillers. One of the interventions facilitated by SWITCH Africa Green was the installation of a 30,000-litre distillery to transform the molasses into neutral alcohol through dilution, fermentation and distillation. The intervention resulted in annual cost savings of \$19,000.

Carbon dioxide produced by the fermentation process was captured and purified to make food-grade CO₂ and dry ice. As a Clean Development Mechanism project, the intervention also earned the company carbon credits. Spent water from the distillation process, a low-quality by-product that was a hazard for soil and water, was treated to produce methane that was fed to the boiler to produce the steam that ran the distillation plant, going a long way towards ensuring the self-sufficiency of the distillery. The treated spent wash, filter mud and boiler ash were mixed and fed back into the sugarcane fields after 30 days of composting. The intervention had also resulted in eliminating the discharge of effluent to the river where the company drew its water, leading to lower pumping costs and permit fees and improved housekeeping.

The two main reasons policies are needed in the manufacturing sector are to increase uptake of industrial symbiosis among enterprises and provide a favourable enabling environment for the adoption of industrial symbiosis. With resource scarcity, it was becoming urgent to preserve and extend what was already made, the idea being that as long as products were in use, manufacturers would maintain, repair and upgrade their systems to maximize their lifetime through take-back strategies.

Waste could be transformed into a resource by utilizing waste streams as a source of secondary resources. Manufacturers

could set up internal systems to manage waste streams, or alternatively could use industrial symbiosis, which could be internal or external. Frameworks were needed, however, to link the various actors that could mutually benefit from re-imagining “waste” as “by-product”.

The Government, through the lead agencies, issued permits for abstraction, use and discharge, which were subject to specific regulations. The Uganda Cleaner Production Centre, through collaboration with SWITCH Africa Green, tackled issues to do with efficiencies and utilization, such as recycling and reuse. The permits were mandatory, but the interventions to achieve the objectives were optional for the manufacturer.

Numerous acts and regulations had been passed in Uganda to facilitate the emergence of a circular economy within the various manufacturing sectors, including parts IV, VI, VII and VIII of the Environment Act, on environment planning, pollution control, product management and control and waste minimization, and hazardous wastes, and Regulation 52/1999 on waste management and cleaner production methods.

POLICIES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN MAURITIUS

PRESENTER: MR. VENKAMA AVINASH, ASSOCIATION DES HOTELS DE CHARME, MAURITIUS

Tourism was constantly evolving, with a predicted 6.2 billion tourists travelling by 2020. Tourism could have a positive or negative impact, depending on how it was planned, developed and managed. Sustainable tourism development supported a positive impact by incorporating private-sector orientation, destination planning and development, fiscal and government investment policies, finance and investment and local investment generation.

SWITCH Africa Green had worked with the Association des Hotels de Charme to preserve Mauritius and Rodrigues Island as pristine destinations and assist small and medium-sized hotels in their greening process. At the initial stages of the project, a gap analysis was conducted focusing on four key areas: sustainable management (including sustainable consumption and production and resource-efficient and cleaner production), social benefit to the community, cultural heritage and environment. Among the gaps identified were the absence of a sustainable management policy and local “green” purchasing policy.

One barrier to green tourism was the lack of awareness of its benefits. Through partnership with SWITCH Africa Green, the project provided a foundation for sharing knowledge, information and experience that created awareness for public, private and civil society actors, including through the development of an eco-manual by the Ministry of Tourism. The manual drew a direct link between the service providers and the proposed sustainability actions, which led to the formation of business-to-business partnerships. This was unique in Mauritius and greatly helped hoteliers to source or access funds collectively.

Within the private sector, a number of practices needed to be encouraged to ensure that sustainable tourism thrived, including the creation of enabling environments for industry engagement in conventional and mass tourism, as well as in niche areas such as ecotourism, adventure tourism, rural tourism, community-based tourism, sports fishing, cruise tourism and, more recently, health tourism. The development and review of a best practices manual for environmental management systems supported industry-oriented decision tools that accelerated the adoption of green practices. The manual was aligned with the International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001:2008 standard and Mauritian standard MS 165:2014, among others. It provided a comprehensive description of best practices, tips and techniques for sustainability, checklists and tools for developing the required documentation and records, and recommendations on the way forward based on individual gap analysis.

In Mauritius, destination planning and development strategies would be critical for the greening of tourism. Tremendous coordination would be needed among ministries and local authorities, along with a systematic approach to policy development using data and analysis. Including a green tourism strategy would mitigate carbon emissions and encourage companies to substitute environmentally harmful practices with more sustainable ones, choose sustainably sourced goods

and materials, conserve biodiversity, develop waste management systems and manage water demand and supply, while considering and mitigating impacts on sociocultural and built heritage.

The following recommendations were outlined for policy interventions in green business initiatives:

- ▶ The problem was not waste but waste management; thus, there was a need to create an economy where what was perceived as waste became perceived as a by-product, fostering industry symbiosis and the potential for zero discharge.
- ▶ It was important to ensure policy implementation to actualize green business development, the circular economy and efforts to scale up both concepts.
- ▶ Policymakers should integrate circular economy concepts into environmental impact assessments and audits, thus influencing the issuance of permits and licenses in various industries.
- ▶ Government interventions and activities should be streamlined and harmonized across government ministries to ensure that businesses were able to comply with the various standards and policies and contribute to the policymaking process.



Left: Mr. Mazibuko Tshepo, K1 Recycling, South Africa. Right: Mr. Timothy Muwonge, Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



Ms. Rhoda Wachira of the UNEP Africa Office summarizing the day 1 sessions.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

ADVANCING GREEN BUSINESS AND PROMOTING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AFRICA

The session engaged experts from the region in dialogues for the purpose of formulating recommendations on regional frameworks for green business and the circular economy in Africa. The dialogues were conducted in four parallel group sessions: on advancing green business through policies and green financing; on sustainable trade and markets; on promoting circular economy principles in the private sector; and on policies, legislation and institutions in the circular economy. Each dialogue had panellists who set the scene and provided a basis for discussions. The discussions focused on key policy areas: actions by policymakers; MSMEs; the private sector; and subregional and regional bodies, including financial institutions.

ADVANCING GREEN BUSINESS THROUGH POLICIES AND GREEN FINANCING

MODERATOR: MR. FELIX OKURUT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND FISHERIES, UGANDA

The panellists were Ms. Sheila Karue, UNEP, who spoke on the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund; Mr. Michael Omwony, Uganda Development Bank, who spoke about innovative financial instruments and mechanism for MSMEs; and Mr. Godfrey Twinamatsiko, Stanbic Bank Uganda, who spoke about increasing prospects for green financing. The group explored innovative financing models through different avenues, including financial institutions, insurance and cooperatives, and policies, laws and regulations for advancing green business. The challenges identified in connection with access to green financing included a low level of policy dissemination; a lack of green financing infrastructure; a narrow base of green finance instruments; high interest rates; an inadequate collateral base; and a lack of technical skills at MSMEs. The following solutions were identified:

- ▶ Develop policies that facilitate access to financing for MSMEs.
- ▶ Ensure policy dissemination and implementation, which is critical to an enabling environment.
- ▶ Develop a database of information on green financing.
- ▶ Explore other green financing instruments for raising capital, such as green insurance bonds and capital/venture markets.
- ▶ Benchmark against other countries in Africa with low interest rates, such as Mauritius (3%).
- ▶ Focus on non-collateral securities like debentures.
- ▶ Build MSMEs' capacity through technical assistance to develop their expertise in preparing bankable proposals and in proper accounting to facilitate access to financing.

The group provided the following recommendations for Governments:

- ▶ Encourage blended financing, such as a mix of grants and loans.
- ▶ Focus on value addition, tax contributions, employment and environmental impacts.
- ▶ Prepare green financing policies and strategies.
- ▶ Incentivize sustainability through waste reduction, tax holidays and value-added tax waivers.



Left: (From left) Panellists Mr. Michael Omwony, Uganda Development Bank, Mr. Godfrey Twinamatsiko, Stanbic Bank Uganda, and Ms. Sheila Karue, UNEP. Right: Mr. Felix Okurut, Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda, moderating the dialogue on advancing green business through policies and green financing.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND MARKETS

MODERATOR: MR. MALICK KANE, UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The panellists were Ms. Grace Nderitu, Ecotourism Kenya, who spoke on green certification models for sustainable tourism; and Mr. Naushad Ally Luttoo, Mauritius Bureau of Standards, who spoke on enhancing demand for green products through certification and standards. The group discussed creating sustainable markets and trade for green products and developing eco-innovation standards and labelling for green business. The key issues emerging from the discussion were:

- ▶ Development of standards and guidelines;
- ▶ Creation of awards schemes;
- ▶ Adoption of a demand-driven approach;
- ▶ Enhanced collaboration within the value chain;
- ▶ Promotion of trade in domestic, regional and international markets;
- ▶ Enabling green business through regulations, policies, compliance and enforcement and public investment.

The group made the following recommendations to enhance access to markets and sustainable trade:

- ▶ Develop a platform for green MSMEs, taking into account their needs and capacity.
- ▶ Design and implement specific support services in the areas of business development, marketing and finance; promote cross-sectoral linkages and value addition; and develop outreach programs that bring support services closer to MSMEs.
- ▶ Adopt a holistic approach for green products and sector promotion.
- ▶ Ensure enforcement of existing market regulations and implementation of existing market policies.
- ▶ Mainstream sustainability requirements into public procurement.
- ▶ Include green exports in national and regional trade strategies and policies.
- ▶ Connect suppliers and producers with the finance sector (fairs and exhibitions).
- ▶ Promote cooperation (including public-private partnerships) among standard-setting and certifying bodies to ensure that standards are adapted to the national context while meeting international standard requirements in order to facilitate recognition.

- ▶ Design and implement a communications campaign (web and social media) to improve consumer recognition of green standards and certified green businesses.
- ▶ Create a portal for showcasing green business opportunities derived from SWITCH Africa Green projects, matchmaking, benchmarking, networking and information-sharing.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for the creation of new markets through the introduction of circular economy practices, including industrial symbiosis.
- ▶ Harmonize regional standards to enhance market accessibility for green products and take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.
- ▶ Identify and promote high-potential regional value chains, building on the experiences of SWITCH Africa Green projects.



Left: Mr. Malick Kane, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, moderating the dialogue on sustainable trade and markets. Right: (Centre) Panellist Ms. Grace Nderitu, Ecotourism Kenya; (right) Mr. Naushad Ally Luttoo, Mauritius Bureau of Standards.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

PROMOTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

MODERATOR: MR. RAPHULU NDIVHUHO, NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRE, SOUTH AFRICA

The panellists were Mr. Peter Ssekaja, Uganda Cleaner Production Centre, who spoke on the role of National Cleaner Production Centres in advancing a circular economy in Africa; and Mr. Percy C. Onianwa, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, who spoke about knowledge management and circular economy capacity development. The group discussed the formulation of a regional circular economy framework, as well as circular economy knowledge management and capacity development. The group identified the following key challenges to circular economy capacity development:

- ▶ The notion of circular economy is not well understood regionally.
- ▶ A circular economy can prevail within an organization but usually has to involve partners from other fields of expertise to convert a waste product into a consumable.
- ▶ Recycled products are sometimes more expensive than raw materials but should be encouraged with a view to protecting the environment. Incentives should be developed in such cases.
- ▶ The technology for reusing waste is very complicated and expensive, and grouping of resources is therefore required for economic viability.
- ▶ The technologies involved are not always available in terms of skills, raw materials and equipment.
- ▶ Green funding mechanisms are complex and not easily accessible.
- ▶ Second-hand environmental consequences imported into Africa should be well-defined. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal sets out criteria for the control of hazardous wastes. Customs regulations need to be country-based, but networking between continents needs to be established for win-win situations.

- ▶ Some countries do not have the specific recycling companies required to close the loop of the circular economy.

The group provided the following recommendations to support the development of a circular economy in the region:

On education and capacity-building

- ▶ There should be sharing of knowledge, such as a pool of experts that would be available to SWITCH Africa Green beneficiary countries.
- ▶ Training needs to be vocational/technical/hands-on, not always academic.
- ▶ Training and capacity-building should be aligned with national frameworks.
- ▶ Training should be available at all levels of education, with an effort by Governments to include circular economies in school curricula and to engage vulnerable groups in rural and remote areas.
- ▶ Private consultants or experts are important for making recommendations to accompany the circular economy.
- ▶ Research and development is of the utmost importance for the circular economy.

On policy

- ▶ The National Cleaner Production Centres that have already been established help with sustainable consumption and production, and a centre should be established in each country.
- ▶ Each country should have a circular economy committee or focal point to ensure that the circular economy was being optimally managed. Certification and rewards schemes should then be established and widely promoted using apps and social media.
- ▶ The agendas of large international forums need to include the circular economy and sustainable development.
- ▶ Enablers, being governments with basic infrastructures, will be required; however, appropriate synergies should be created.
- ▶ Large awareness-raising campaigns are required to encourage the population at large to promote the circular economy, and should be incorporated into the school curriculum.

On funding

- ▶ Invest in research and development.
- ▶ Capacitate the financial institutions to provide funds for recyclers.
- ▶ Private-sector technologies are expensive and government intervention is needed.
- ▶ Develop reduce/reuse/recycle apps for calculating production costs.
- ▶ Use fiscal incentives to encourage investment in the circular economy.
- ▶ Establish cooperative societies to enable beneficiaries to access low-interest funds.



Left: Mr. Percy C. Onianwa, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, making his presentation. Right: Moderator Mr. Raphulu Ndivhuho, National Cleaner Production Centre, South Africa (third from left) preparing to present the recommendations of the group on promoting circular economy principles in the private sector.

POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

MODERATOR: MS. SARITA MEEHEELAUL, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, MAURITIUS

The panellists were Ms. Leanne Richards, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa, who spoke on policies and innovation in a circular economy; Mr. Gizachew Mern, Industrial Park Development Corporation, Ethiopia, who spoke about institutional arrangements for a circular economy; and Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana, who spoke on integrating circular economy policies into national and regional development plans. The group explored the relevant laws, regulations and policies for advancing the circular economy and discussed the institutional framework set-up for implementing a circular economy programme in Africa. The group discussion highlighted the fact that there was a lack of circular economy capacity in Africa; consequently, knowledge management on circularity principles was poor, policymakers had a poor grasp of the concept and good monitoring systems for the circular economy were lacking. Key recommendations emerging from the discussion were as follows:

- ▶ Enhance dialogue between practitioners of green economy and academia and ensure engagement of all relevant stakeholders.
- ▶ Promote designing for sustainability in production.
- ▶ Promote the review and updating of existing policies and legislative frameworks to incorporate green economy and circular economy principles.
- ▶ Promote the development of sector guidelines for the circular economy.
- ▶ Promote and sustain capacity-building programmes and promote the circular economy with evidence-based messages and advocacy.
- ▶ Enhance indigenous knowledge-sharing and mainstream education on the circular economy at all levels.



Left: (From left) Panellist Ms. Leanne Richards, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa, moderator Ms. Sarita Meeheelaul, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius, and panellist Mr. Gizachew Mern, Industrial Park Development Corporation, Ethiopia. Right: Mr. Lambert Faabeluon, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana, making his presentation.

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION ON REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The final session was officiated by Ms. Beatrice Anywar, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, in the presence of Ms. Frenesh Gobena, Deputy Commissioner for Ethiopia's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, Mr. Okurut, Mr. Arden-Clarke and Mr. Mwesigye, and was moderated by Mr. Robert Wabunoha, Regional Coordinator, Environmental Governance, UNEP.

To start the session, Mr. Wabunoha presented the draft Kampala communiqué on green business and the circular economy in Africa. The communiqué had been developed on the basis of the discussions over the previous two days and the group dialogue discussions. The communiqué was subsequently adopted (see annex 1).

Mr. Arden-Clarke then delivered remarks on behalf of UNEP, noting that to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, regional and national policies needed to be strengthened. SWITCH Africa Green had contributed to resource efficiency and to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use, while creating decent jobs and economic opportunities and contributing to poverty eradication. The regional meeting had allowed stakeholders to share information and knowledge on green business initiatives and opportunities for replicating and upscaling best practices. Phase II of SWITCH Africa Green was an opportunity to continue the great work.



Ms. Frenesh Gobena, Deputy Commissioner, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission of Ethiopia.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Mr. Okurut, in his closing remarks, noted that there was a need to complement the financing of greening initiatives to strengthen the scale-up and replication of those interventions. Most of the SWITCH Africa Green beneficiaries had seen a positive impact in terms of job creation, reduction in materials used and improved business skills and incomes, which translated into improved livelihoods and helped the environment. He appealed to stakeholders to champion the greening process of national policies, strategies, laws and regulations in a bid to ensure sustainable development, and to the Government of Uganda to hasten its uptake of sustainable policies, which would lead to the wise use of resources and

would boost Uganda's economy.

Ms. Gobena applauded SWITCH Africa Green, which had recently held its inception meeting in Ethiopia. Ethiopia was new to the programme and was looking forward to the great results witnessed in the other six countries. Green business development was an innovative avenue to achieving sustainable development in Africa and provided access to sustainable livelihoods. She noted the importance of providing an enabling environment through appropriate policies, regulations, access to green financing and the reskilling and retooling of MSMEs to engage in green business.

The official closing remarks were delivered by Ms. Beatrice Anywar, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, who applauded the collaboration between the European Union, UNEP and the Government of Uganda on SWITCH Africa Green. She noted the success of the regional meeting, which had been attended by over 25 African States. She reiterated the importance of a green economy and its impact of improved livelihoods in the region and acknowledged the need to harness Africa's natural resources for development in a sustainable manner, including through sustainable consumption and production patterns. She affirmed the contents of the communiqué and called for a road map to realize the ambitions it expressed. She officially closed the regional meeting, thanking all who had organized and participated in it.



Ms. Beatrice Anywar, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, making her remarks at the high-level session on regional frameworks.

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After the two-day deliberations and constructive discussions, the meeting produced a clear indication of the way forward for Africa with regard to resource-efficient and cleaner production and the future for green business development.

The main conclusions were:

- ▶ Green business development offered vast opportunities for economic growth through increased profits and income, both socially, by creating decent green jobs, including for women and youth, and environmentally, by minimizing waste, pollution, degradation and other negative environmental impacts.
- ▶ It was crucial to provide an enabling environment for green business development by developing sustainable policies and laws, creating green financing options, developing capacity, exploring circularity principles, looking into innovative technologies and creating synergies between stakeholders, as well as encouraging public-private partnerships.
- ▶ It was important to encourage strong political will and strong commitment by Governments to an inclusive green economy by providing a regulatory framework that promoted sustainable consumption and production patterns; designing trade policies that encouraged the import of green and environmentally friendly technologies and the export of locally produced green technologies; providing sustainable consumption and production capacity-building and training programmes; and developing a package of market-based incentives.
- ▶ MSMEs should explore innovative opportunities to replicate and scale up existing successful sustainable consumption and production interventions.
- ▶ Waste was wealth, and was therefore a secondary resource; in a circular economy, the emphasis was on reuse, recycling and recovery of materials. Africa should focus on understanding the economic and social opportunities in waste and how such opportunities could be used as a lever to overcome the challenges in solid waste management and at the same time create business opportunities.

The recommendations from the meeting could be summarized as follows:

On green business development

- ▶ Design and implement specific support services in the areas of business development, marketing and finance; promote cross-sectoral linkages and value addition; and develop outreach programs that bring support services closer to MSMEs.
- ▶ Connect suppliers and producers with the finance sector (fairs and exhibitions).
- ▶ Establish cooperation societies to enable beneficiaries to access low-interest funds.
- ▶ Build MSMEs' capacity through technical assistance to develop their expertise on preparing bankable proposals and proper bookkeeping to facilitate access to financing.

On policy support

- ▶ Ensure enforcement of existing market regulations and implementation of existing market policies.
- ▶ Mainstream sustainability requirements into public procurement.
- ▶ Include green exports in national and regional trade strategies and policies.
- ▶ Promote cooperation (including public-private partnerships) among standard-setting and certifying bodies to ensure that standards are adapted to the national context while meeting international standard requirements in order to facilitate recognition.
- ▶ Harmonize regional standards to enhance market accessibility for green products and take advantage of the

African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

- ▶ Promote the reviewing and updating of existing policies and legislative frameworks to incorporate green economy and circular economy principles.
- ▶ Promote the development of sector guidelines for the circular economy.
- ▶ Encourage blended financing, such as a mix of grants and loans.
- ▶ Focus on value addition, tax contributions, employment and environmental impacts.
- ▶ Prepare green financing policies and strategies.
- ▶ Incentivize sustainability through waste reduction tax holidays and value-added tax waivers.
- ▶ Explore other green financing instruments for raising capital, such as green insurance bonds and capital/venture markets.
- ▶ Focus on non-collateral securities like debentures.
- ▶ The National Cleaner Production Centres that had already been established helped with sustainable consumption and production, and a centre should be established in each country.

On networking

- ▶ Design and implement a communications campaign (web and social media) to improve consumer recognition of green standards and certified green businesses.
- ▶ Create a portal for showcasing green business opportunities derived from SWITCH Africa Green projects, matchmaking, benchmarking, networking and information-sharing.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for the creation of new markets through the introduction of circular economy practices, including industrial symbiosis.
- ▶ Identify and promote high-potential regional value chains, building on the experiences of SWITCH Africa Green projects.
- ▶ Promote and sustain capacity-building programmes and promote the circular economy with evidence-based messages and advocacy.
- ▶ Enhance indigenous knowledge-sharing and mainstream education concerning the circular economy at all levels.



Participants at the meeting.



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