



Concept Note and Programme

SWITCH Africa Green Regional Validation Meeting:

“Guidelines for Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Africa and Assessment of Green Financing Mechanisms for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa”

24-25 August 2022

Accra, Ghana

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with European Union and in collaboration with other regional and national partners, is implementing the SWITCH Africa Green Programme in Africa. The Programme supports participating countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in the transition towards an "inclusive green economy which generates growth, creates jobs and reduces poverty".

During the SWITCH Africa Green regional meeting on integrated waste management in Africa, held in June 2019 in Accra, Ghana, it was emphasized that Africa should develop a regional framework on Circular Economy (CE). In addition, at the SWITCH Africa Green Regional meeting held in February 2020 in Kampala, Uganda under the theme “Advancing Green Business and Circular Economy in Africa” the importance of circular economy and green financing in Africa was again reiterated.

Furthermore, during the review of the implementation, opportunities and challenges of the SWITCH Africa Green Programme from 2014 – 2020, access to finance was identified as one of the major challenges faced by MSMEs in the uptake of SCP and green practices in the region. UNEP, through the SWITCH Africa Green programme, seeks to develop *Guidelines for Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Africa and Assessment of Green Financing Mechanisms for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa* and contracted Dalberg Catalyst to execute the assignment.

These guidelines will enhance the ongoing efforts to promote green business and circular economy in the region. For example, the guidelines will inform the Africa Union Commission’s



(AUC) regional strategy and action plan on CE in Africa, enhance the regional activities on circular economy with the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and compliment the work of UNEP in promoting circularity in Africa.

The work will support the implementation of various commitments and resolutions including the 17th session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Durban in November 2019, that identified Circular Economy as one of the areas where action needs to be taken to promote environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa. In addition, the UNEA 5.2 Resolution no. 11 on Enhancing Circular Economy (CE) as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production adopted in March 2022.

The Green financing assessment report aims to provide an up to date and broad understanding of the financial instruments, models, policies and tools available and their access to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for green financing.

Objective of the regional Validation meeting

The overall objective of the regional validation meeting is to provide a platform for various stakeholders in the region to review and validate the two raft reports to ensure they capture the relevant inputs following the national and regional consultations. Targeted participants include selected national and local government representatives from African countries, Africa Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners, development banks, UN agencies, private sector, financial institutions, research institutions and academia, and non-state actors.

The event, with funding from the European Union, will be jointly organised by UNEP and the Ghana Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) with technical support from Dalberg Group and will have 60-70 participants attending.



Agenda

Time	Programme
DAY 1 – 24 August 2022	
8.00 – 9.00	Registration
09.00-09.45	<p>Session 1: Introduction and opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks: Executive Director of the EPA, Dr. Henry Kwabena Kokofu • Opening remarks: Ms. Angele Luh, West Africa Sub region, Africa Office, UNEP • Keynote address: Dr. Kwaku Afriyie, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation
09.45- 10.00	Group photo
10.00 – 11.00	<p>Session 2: Round table – Advancing circular Economy in Africa</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Patrick Mwesigye, Regional Sub programme Coordinator, Resource Efficiency and SCP, Africa Office, UNEP</p> <p>The session aims to provide an overview of efforts taken to advance circular economy in the region, highlighting existing opportunities and challenges faced.</p> <p>Panellists (tbc) each 3-5 minutes intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Bisong, Circular Economy Working Group, Nigeria • Mr. David Kiyingi, Commissioner, Procurement Policy and Management Dept, Uganda Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. • Mr. Kari Herlevi Project Director, Circular Economy, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. • Dr. Ayub Macharia, Director, Environmental Education and Awareness. Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya. • Prof. Toolseeram Ramjeawon, Consultant and Academic Expert, University of Mauritius (former) <p>Q and A from the floor</p>



	Wrap up by the moderator
11.00 – 11.30	Health Break
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 3: Presentation: Guidelines for Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Africa. Dalberg Group</p> <p>Q and A from the floor</p>
13.00 -14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	<p>Session 4: Group discussions</p> <p>Group 1: The required legal and regulatory framework, institutional arrangements and the enabling policy environment.</p> <p>In this group the participants will have an opportunity to discuss the policy gaps, legal and regulatory frameworks and institutions that are identified in the report. How can we create an enabling environment for advancing circular economy in Africa? Are there any omissions in the report that need to be addressed?</p> <p>Chair: Elizabeth Ntoyi, South Africa</p> <p>Group 2: Funding and financing options required</p> <p>In this group the participants will discuss the funding and financing options identified in the report. How can we finance the transition to a circular economy in the countries? Are there any gaps in the report that need to be addressed? Has the report identified all the available options that countries can tap into for funding and financing options?</p> <p>Chair: Simon Nabyama, Uganda</p> <p>Group 3: Capacity development and awareness creation to ensure uptake of CE principles by the public and private sector.</p> <p>In this group the participants will discuss the required awareness and capacity development measures that need to be implemented to ensure there is a critical mass for the uptake of CE principles in the region. Participants will</p>



	<p>ensure the report has captured the relevant measures that need to be put in place.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Augustine Kenduiwo, Kenya</p> <p>Group 4: Successful interventions that need to be scaled up. In this group the participants will have an opportunity to deliberate on the best practices identified in the report and ensure the final best practices are sufficient, relevant and applicable for the region. Countries will be able to identify with these best practices and look at prospects of scaling up and replicating the best practices.</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Nazia Outim, Mauritius</p>
<p>15.30 – 16.30</p>	<p>Session 5: Plenary Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Peter Dery, Director, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana</p> <p>This will be an interactive session following brief presentations from the moderators from the four working groups. The brief presentations will highlight the gaps identified in each group.</p> <p>The moderator will also facilitate discussions on the next steps including finalising the <i>Guidelines for Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Africa</i> report.</p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Dalberg group</i></p>
<p>DAY 2: 25 August 2022</p>	
<p>08.00-09.00</p>	<p>Registration</p>
<p>09.00 – 10.00</p>	<p>Session 6: Round table – Green Financing Mechanisms, challenges and opportunities in Africa</p> <p>The session will highlight some best practices of funding and financing tools and processes for enhancing green financing opportunities for MSMEs in Africa. The session will also review the opportunities and challenges they present as well as prospects for scaling up and replicating in different countries in Africa.</p>



	<p>Moderator: Charles Akol, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECA</p> <p>Panellists (tbc) each 3-5 minutes intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrick Lumumba, Senior Capacity Development Officer at African Guarantee Fund • Mr. Kingsley Adofo-Addo, Head, SME Banking, Commercial Banking Department, Eco Bank, Ghana • Mr. Hillary Korir, Climate Finance Expert, National Treasury, Kenya • Ms. Manjula Basant Rai, founder and CEO, Spaanda, UK. Representing the private sector and green financing <p>Q and A from the floor</p> <p>Wrap up by the moderator</p>
<p>10.00 – 10.30</p>	<p>Health Break</p>
<p>10.30 – 12.30</p>	<p>Session 7: Presentation: Assessment of Green Financing Mechanisms for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa. Dalberg Group</p> <p>Q and A from the floor</p>
<p>12.30 -13.30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13.30-15.00</p>	<p>Session 8: Group discussions</p> <p>The session aims to provide a review of the financing mechanisms identified in the report for enhancing green financing opportunities for MSMEs in Africa. The session will also review the opportunities and challenges they present and prospects for scaling up in different countries in Africa.</p> <p>Group 1: Developing national green banks – establishing independent but government mandated and partially capitalized green banks</p> <p>In this group the participants will discuss the prospects for developing national green banks. I.e., opportunities to establish independent, but government mandated and partially capitalized Green Banks e.g. FONERWA and DBSA in Rwanda and South Africa respectively. The group will discuss feasibility of scaling up and replicating these models in other countries.</p>



	<p>Chair: Ms. Sylvie Mugabekazi, Rwanda</p> <p>Group 2: Strengthening existing financial institutions in Africa to lend green/greening MSMES In this group the participants will discuss opportunities for equipping financial institutions to access and deploy green finance. The group will also discuss the required support for MSMEs with project preparation to improve the bankability of applications for green finance. Chair: Mr. Lee Hendor, South Africa</p> <p>Group 3: De-risking green lending through targeted technical assistance and guarantees In this group the participants will discuss how to De-risk Climate-smart Investments e.g. attracting investors both internal and external for various CE investments in the countries. Participants will identify various measures identified in the report including blended finance and any existing gaps. Recommendations on how to implement the selected options will be highlighted. Chair: Ms. Sophie Oumila, Lineage Invest. Mauritius</p> <p>Group 4: Enabling carbon finance by improving market access, supporting project preparation, and providing access to flexible upfront finance In this group the participants will have an opportunity to deliberate on access to carbon finance to support investments including mechanisms of lending this type of finance to SMEs in the region. Chair: Mr Lelissa Daba, Ethiopia</p>
<p>15.00-16.00</p>	<p>Session 9: Plenary Discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Patrick Yaw Nimo, Chief Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana (tbc)</p> <p>This will be an interactive session following brief presentations from the moderators from the four working groups. The brief presentations will highlight the gaps identified in each group.</p> <p>The moderator will also facilitate discussions on the next steps including finalising the ‘Assessment of Green Financing Mechanisms for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa’ report.</p>



	<i>Rapporteur: Dalberg group</i>
16.00-16.30	Session 10: Closing remarks and way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Remarks on the way forward - Ms. Angele Luh, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)- Closing remarks – Mr. Clemens Beckers, European Union Delegation, Ghana.- Closing Remarks – Mr. Peter Dery, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana
17.00 - 19.00	Networking Event