



## Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy (2024-2026)

### Description of the Project

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and how to monitor this dimension. On 2 March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 5/11 on Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production, which invites Member States to integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans. In this regard, the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy, formed of international, regional and national organizations, developed the statistical framework that is intended to be the international statistical framework used to measure the progress of countries in shifting to a circular economy. UNEP will implement the European Commission funded project on Enhancing countries' capacities for measuring progress on the transition towards a circular economy.

This project aims to build capacity to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in the context of sustainable development at different levels. Enhancing institutional technical capacities to regularly produce circular economy and waste datasets is imperative to inform and develop evidence-based policies. The need to enhance capacities focuses on 3 areas: (i) development or enhancing methodologies at the global level, (ii) regional capacity building and dialogue between data users and producers, and (iii) enhancing national statistical capacities.

The project also encourages countries to build their internal capacity building. Given that environment statistics has limited human resources in National Statistical Offices, the workshops will encourage people with improved skills to share the knowledge with colleagues from within and outside of the national institutions to ensure knowledge's sustainability.

The project focuses on various Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators concerning Sustainable Consumption and Production (8.4.1/12.2.1, 8.4.2/12.2.2), food waste and loss (12.3.1a and 12.3.1b), waste (11.6.1, 12.4.2a, 12.4.2b and 12.5.1) and water (6.4.2). Regional workshops are planned in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Knowledge-sharing and targeted capacity development on data and indicators will equip the 6 project beneficiary countries with the technical knowledge to further strengthen their statistical capacity towards achieving a circular economy.



## Project activities

There are two main **outputs** for the project:

A. Development of tools and provision of training to build capacity of countries to measure, monitor and report on the SDG indicators included in the core set of the framework for measuring circular economy

➤ **Guidelines for measuring circular economy (2024)**

Guidelines for measuring circular economy will be developed based on the adopted core set of indicators, with a special focus on SDG indicators included in the “Material life cycle and value chain” and “Interactions with the Environment” categories from the Framework on Measuring Circular Economy.

➤ **Regional workshops (2024-2025)**

Workshops are planned for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. They will focus on advancing the use of circular economy indicators in policymaking and supporting the participation among national SDG 12 indicators focal points to the Networks of government experts.

➤ **National capacity building activities (2025-2026)**

Six project beneficiary countries will receive tailored assistance to enhance the collection and dissemination of relevant SDG indicators. Two countries are selected from each targeted region to receive national capacity building. The national activities will be implemented in collaboration with regional/national UNEP offices, UN Country Teams, National Statistical Offices and line ministries in the countries.

B. Identification and methodology development for one selected waste stream

➤ **Development of methodology and guidelines (2024)**

One waste stream will be evaluated and identified for further methodological development and related guidelines.

➤ **Pilot testing (2025)**

The methodology and related guidelines for one waste stream will be pilot tested in at least 3 project countries.

➤ **Dissemination and uptake (2026)**

The final methodology and related guidelines for one waste stream will be disseminated and taken up.

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## Objectives

- Build capacity to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in the context of sustainable development at global, regional and national levels
- Enhance the technical capacities of National Statistical Offices and relevant line ministries to regularly produce circular economy and waste datasets to inform and develop evidence-based policies

