



THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

SA - OECD Circular Economy Workshop | November 21, 2022

Kgauta Mokoena, DFFE



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

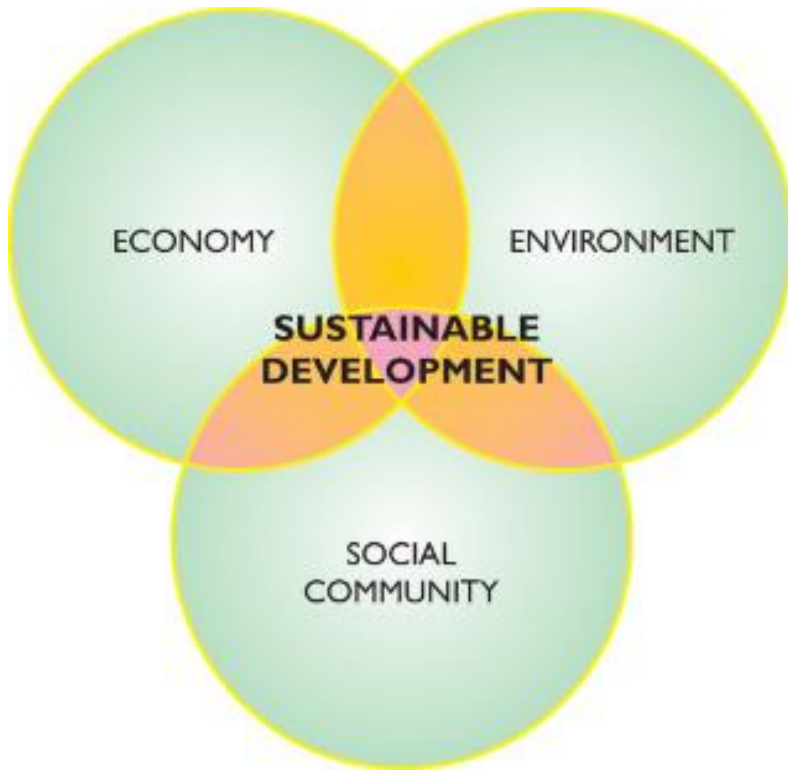
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Circular Economy as a National Environmental Priority



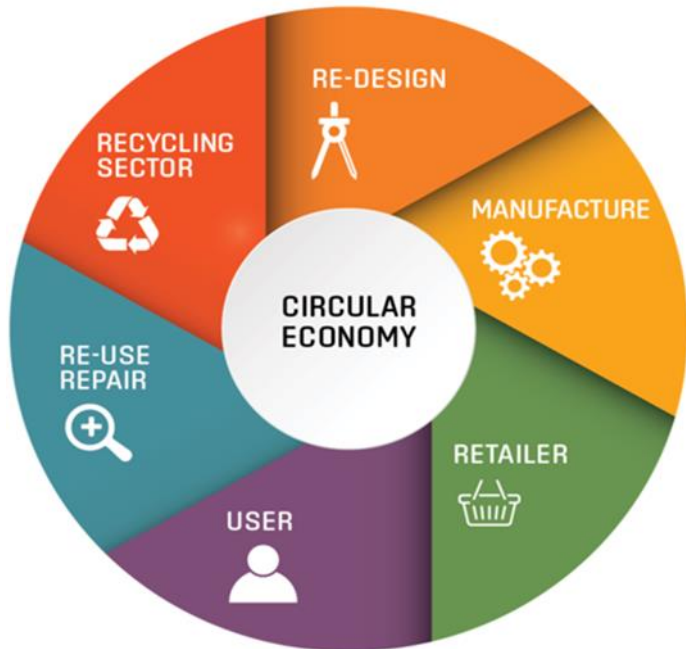
Adoption of Circular Economy



- The department supports the adoption of circular economy as **one of the sustainable development models**
- **Acknowledge** that significant **economic and environmental benefits** could accrue to the country, particularly **poorer communities**, through the **development of green jobs** within the **circular economy**.
- Opportunities for job creation exist in **moving waste away from landfills** and towards **alternative waste treatment options** across the **entire waste hierarchy**.
- This can be achieved through **cleaner production, industrial efficiency, and re-use**, as well as **new methods of collection, sorting, reprocessing and manufacturing**
- Provides a means to achieve **sustainable consumption and production**



Transition and alignment to CE



- Government recognizes the **role of the CE** in developing a **sustainable, low carbon, resource-efficient** and globally **competitive economy**
- That **green industries can open up new possibilities for sustainable development.**
- **Waste management sector in the country has a strong potential to innovate and improve socio-economic conditions, and contribute to sustainable development and resource use.**
- Key strategies that are **aligned to circular economy concept** are paramount as these will assist in **promoting approaches to the design of products and packaging that reduce waste and increase participation in waste circularity.**



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Key
government
strategies and
legislation



National Waste Management Strategy, 2020 – CE interventions

- **Aligned and responsive** to the (SDGs) and (NDP): Vision 2030
- An approach to **minimizing the environmental impact of economic activity** by reusing and recycling processed materials to minimize the need to extract raw materials from the environment and the need to dispose of waste.
- **NWMS 2020** has the **concept of the “circular economy”** at its centre
- Within the **NWMS implementation plan**, one of the **key interventions** on waste minimization is the
 - *identification of waste streams that have high potential for circularity and*
 - *to develop a National CE Action Plan*



National Waste Management Strategy, 2020 – CE interventions cont'd

- **Market Assessment and Research on Waste Circularity in South Africa**
 - Responds to the **NWMS CE interventions** on waste minimization and
 - the **Africa Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) CE Prioritization Framework**
 - The **findings and recommendation from the assessment will inform the policy instrument** to be developed to **standardize the design and packaging of products that reduce production of waste, maximizes resource recovery for recycling or re-use** and supports consumption of materials and products with a prolonged life
 - **The identified waste streams with high potential for circularity includes;** Construction & Demolition waste, Ewaste, Packaging waste, Timber & Pulp, Leather, AHP waste and Waste Tyres
 - **Key enablers for achieving circularity includes;**
 - introduction of EPR schemes for problematic waste,
 - Incentives for CE initiatives (Design out waste, Clean Production, Waste Reduction, Recycling)
 - Support the development of effective and environmentally sound waste collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure, including incentives or requirements for @ source separation.
 - Support the development of CE projects in priority economic development areas



CWE Phakisa Initiative on Product Design and Waste Minimization - Packaging Guideline and Regulations

Rethinking
Packaging
Design



Increase the recyclability of
packaging
Increase the use of packaging
recyclate



- ✓ Initiated the revision of the **Packaging Guideline** - accelerate adoption of guidelines and **increase collaboration between recyclers, designers and brand-owners**



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Initiatives on Product Design and Waste Minimization - EPR Scheme and Regulations

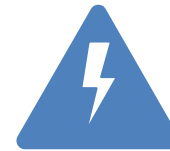
- **EPR Regulations** a framework to ensure the **effective and efficient management of the identified end-of-life products**; and to **encourage and enable the implementation of the circular economy initiatives**.
- To **encourage and enable the implementation of chemicals and waste economy and circular economy initiatives**
- Key measures to be implemented by producers include amongst others, to:
 - **develop and establish secondary markets for recycled content**;
 - **transformation** and
 - **integrate the informal sector into the post consumer waste collection value chain**



EPR Scheme for the
Lighting sector



EPR Scheme for Paper,
Packaging and some
single use products



EPR Scheme for Electrical
and Electronic Equipment



NWMS Interventions on Construction & Demolition Waste



- **Development of a strategy** for diversion of waste from landfill - based on **building a secondary resources economy** around the **beneficiation of waste** as part of the **circular economy**
- Initiative for supporting the **development of enterprises producing building aggregates and other construction inputs from C&D waste**
- Need to **stimulate supply and demand of C&D waste** – government to start procuring these materials for **use as alternatives to raw materials e.g road works, housing infrastructure**
- As part of the **ACEA's Five Big Bets for the Circular Economy in Africa** – C&D has been identified as a waste stream that has **high potential for circularity within the built environment**



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CE
interventions,
partnerships
and
collaborations



Transition to CE in alignment with ACEA + GACERE + WCEF

- **Circular Economy Dialogues and collaboration** regionally and internationally
- South Africa is **one of the founding members of the ACEA, a Co-chair** and has played a strong leadership position.
- **SA Recycling Week** – host CE Dialogue
- ACEA Centralized **platform for knowledge-sharing and best practices identification, the creation of enabling legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as the building of partnerships** for financing and **creation of circular economy projects in Africa**
- **SA is a member state** (co-chair)
- Key interventions include the development of **ACEA CE Prioritization Framework**
- **Five Big Bets for the Circular Economy in Africa** – Market Assessment Report that **highlights the sectors with significance in driving the circular economy**
- **Fashion & textiles** - emerging industry opportunities with **potential and momentum**



Transition to CE in alignment with ACEA + GACERE + WCEF

- Centralized platform for knowledge-sharing and best practices identification, the creation of enabling legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as the building of partnerships for financing and creation of circular economy projects in Africa
- Platform that supports the transition to a circular economy at the national, regional, and continental levels through:
 - *policy development,*
 - *leadership and*
 - *advocacy support in scaling CE businesses and projects.*



AFRICAN
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
ALLIANCE



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Transition to CE in alignment with ACEA + GACERE + WCEF



Food systems

Converting food waste to organic fertilizer to increase circularity in food systems.



Packaging

Recycling plastic packaging to increase circularity within the packaging industry.



Electronics

Promoting circularity in the large and growing electronics sector through substantial recycling & collection facilities.



Fashion & Textiles

Converting fashion and textiles waste into garments for commercial export markets.



Built environment

Redesigning how we build by using mass timber as a more sustainable input resource for expanding the built environment.



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Transition to CE in alignment with ACEA + GACERE + WCEF



Global Alliance
on Circular Economy
and Resource Efficiency

- **The Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)** is an alliance of governments at the global level willing to work together on and advocate for a global just circular economy transition and more sustainable management of natural resources at the political level and in multilateral fora.
- **GACERE was launched in February 2021**, in the margins of the first segment of fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1).
- **SA became member from Feb 2021** and has been participating in webinars and high-level meeting
- **GACERE works in close collaboration with the regional circular economy networks, including the African Circular Economy Alliance**



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Transition to CE in alignment with ACEA + GACERE + WCEF



- The **World Circular Economy Forum 2022** brings together forward-looking thinkers and doers and presents the game-changers in the circular economy for the first time in Africa.
- **WCEF Africa 2022 – SA is supporting the Republic of Rwanda to host the event through ACEA, ACEN and The Finnish Innovation Fund, SITRA on 6-8 December 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda, and online**
- **WCEF Side Events (July – November)** - ACEN is hosting a series of online Preparatory African Workshops leading up to the main Forum in December, themed **Circularity in Africa based on the African Circular Economy Alliance’s (ACEA) Five Big Bets**
- **WCEF2022 Global Studio - organised by ACEN**, will take place in several cities across the continent with a capacity of up to 100 participants per studio – **SA Studio will be in Cape Town.**



THANK YOU!

Kgauta Mokoena

Branch: Chemicals and Waste Management

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.za>

Address: The Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

SAWIS: <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/>

Thank You



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

