

Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production policies and circular models: Best practices and recommendations

Online consultation with Member States in the Africa region, 22 September 2020

[UNEA-4 Resolution 1](#): Innovative pathways to achieve SCP

Minutes

I. Agenda

The meeting agenda included the presentation of the progress in the inventory of coherent product policies, which was enriched with the presentation from South Africa on the theme: “Shaping a Circular Economy in Africa”. Likewise, the state of the compilation of examples of good design practices of products and services in the Africa region was presented.

The final part of the online consultation was participatory discussion. The following questions were put forward to all participants:

1. Product policies

How product policies in your country have been instrumental to preserve the environment?

What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?

How to create further coherence among product policies?

2. Innovative Design Practices

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?

What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

3. Role of the International Community

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

The agenda that was followed is in *Annex 1*.

II. Participants

Representatives of the following Member States and institutions participated: Burkina Faso, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome' and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe as well as representatives of UNEP and CSIR. Representatives from the private sector – notably SMES and beneficiaries of the [Switch Africa Green programme](#).

The list of attendees is in *Annex 2*.

III. Meeting's Arrangements

The meeting was held in English using the Zoom platform. The meeting was held at 3.00 p.m. EAT.

3.1 Welcome

The welcome, the introductory remarks and the moderation of the meeting in general, and of the online discussion with Member States in particular, was in charge of Cecilia Njenga – Head of the UNEP Office in South Africa.

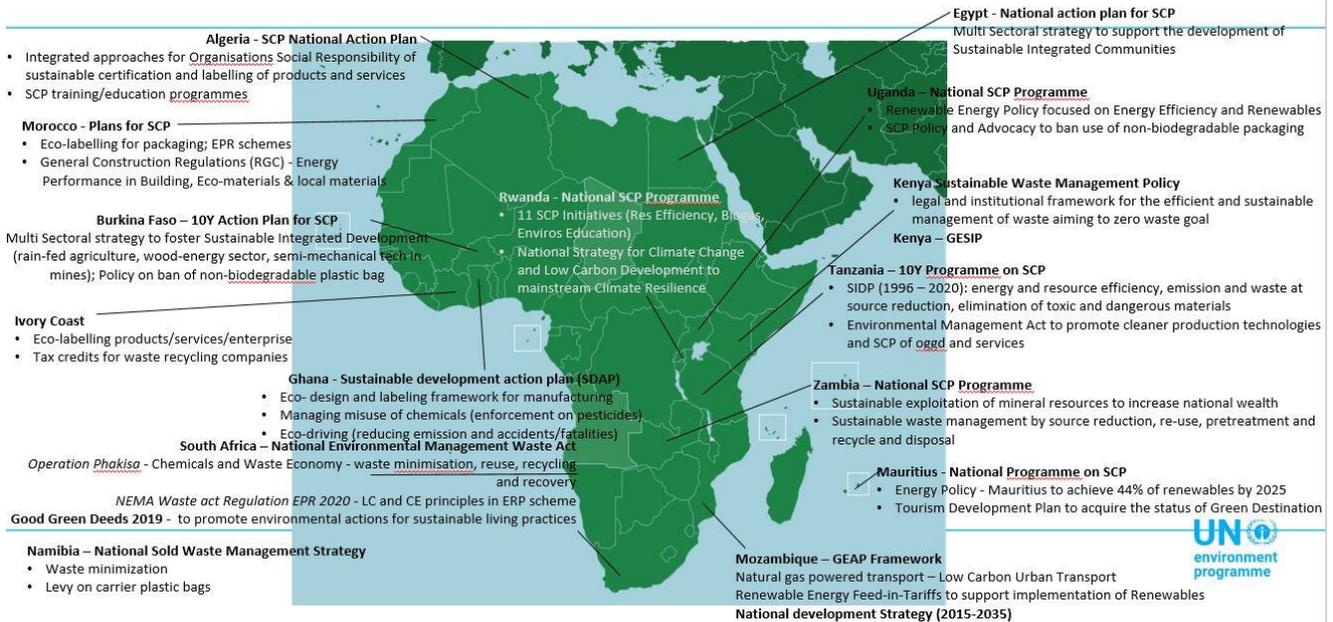
Claire Thiebault – Associate Programme Management Officer, UNEP Economy Division, presented the objectives of the virtual consultation, i.e. collect feedback and experience of Member States of the Africa region to inform recommendations which will be put forward at UNEA-5. She also introduced the concept of “product policies” on which today's meeting and the on-going information collection by UNEP and CISR is focussed.

3.2 Inventory of coherent product policies and good design practices of products and services in the Africa region

Mr Lee-Hendor Ruiters from NCPS-SA presented the inventory of existing coherent product policies in the Africa region, the summary of which is shown in the following graph. In addition, Dr Henry Roman, Director, Environmental Services and Technologies, Department of Science and Technology in South Africa, presented the South Africa perspective on “Shaping Circular Economy in Africa”.

Status overview of the inventory of product policies (1/2)

Information collected through online questionnaire, bilateral interviews, literature review



Furthermore, Lee-Hendor Ruiters, presented two illustrative stories of successful Innovative Design Practices collected to date, namely the **Kampala Jellitone Suppliers (Uganda)** and **Champion Shoes – Thika (Kenya)**.

3.3 Results

In *Annex 3*, a transcription of the comments of the participants in relation to each question has been made. The results are summarized below.

Product policies

How product policies in your country have been instrumental to preserve the environment?
What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?
How to create further coherence among product policies?

The participants in the workshop have shared what product policies are in place or being developed in their countries. The policies mentioned focus on supporting a green or circular economy, water demand management and energy efficiency. Sectoral product policies were mentioned for Kenya on plastics, Rwanda on carton waste and textiles, Zimbabwe on single use expanded polystyrene. Mauritius introduced plastic bag bans, bans on straws and financial incentives for PET bottle recycling.

The following examples highlight **how some countries have aimed to create coherent product policies to achieve increased impact**. In Kenya, the informal waste sector's capacity is enhanced whilst symbiotic business relationships are encouraged with waste

producers. In Nigeria, it was highlighted that partnership with the private sector (e.g. for recycling) is necessary to mainstream the Green Economy Initiative in Waste Management.

Kenya also reported on the **Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP)** outcomes and its ongoing contributions to the development of Green Procurement Guidelines. GESIP regulations were taken up well in the districts where they were deployed and mainstreamed.

Circular approaches are becoming more common practice to create coherence at sectoral level, for example in the **Tourism Sector**. This involves aspects related to reducing of food waste, plastic usage and recycling, raising awareness on alternative approaches and products, creating guidelines for actors in the value chain to become more sustainable and use fewer resources. **Training** is a vital part of this and **working with SMEs** but also **access to finance** to promote innovative solutions.

Product policies have been instrumental to preserve the environment and to support increased competitiveness of emerging economies: e.g. "Made in Rwanda" policy provides modern technology access in which avoidance, reduce, re-use, recycle the waste are promoted, as well as industrial symbiosis with the objective to turn waste into valuable raw materials and new products while generating new jobs and preventive negative impacts to the environment.

The Ghana National Energy Efficiency Action Plan is an example of the **creation of coherent approach**, since it provides minimum standards for energy equipment performance, together with labelling and standardization. It also includes a rebate scheme for domestic users to exchange old fridges for more efficient ones, a ban on importation of old fridges and ACs, and incentives to phase out of incandescent lamps for CFL and LEDs.

Zimbabwe is another country example where **product policies started to be integrated and amended to include more concrete SCP actions**. The country has various legislation (National Constitution, the Environmental Management Act and Statutory Instruments) which control the use and disposal of waste, especially plastic. In addition, the country developed an **Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan**, which supports the sustainable management of waste thereby promoting SCP. Furthermore, legislation was amended to phase out single-use plastic products (e.g. polystyrene for food packaging), whereas reusable and biodegradable carrier packaging and food containers have been promoted. Zimbabwe also launched a National Clean-up Programme which enables all citizens to participate in creating a clean environment. A **holistic approach** was introduced to **promote the inclusion of resource efficient and sustainable economic models such as the circular economy**.

Innovative Design Practices of products and services

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?

What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

The following inputs were shared by the participants:

- In South Africa, **Innovation hubs for SMMEs**, with a focus on green and clean technology support the development of innovative products and services (from ideas to businesses);
- The Annual Blue **Certificate Award** in Uganda (created in 2019) for SMEs triggered a competitive environment for improved environmental performance on efficient water use and pollution prevention,
- Promoting **cross-sectoral synergies is instrumental**: e.g. in Mauritius, engagement with stakeholders from the textile and plastics (pet bottles) sectors since 20 years, which also materialized with financial assistance to PET bottles recyclers and exporters;
- **Introducing sustainable procurement provisions into legislation** can ensure that environmental criteria are systematically taken into consideration by public procurers;
- **Engage relevant stakeholders** to facilitate the uptake of cradle to grave principle by the industry. E.g. in Zimbabwe, Delta Corporation, one of the largest beverage producers, established a recycling company which majors in PET. The recycling company has set up collection cages around the country;
- Adopting-a multi-stakeholder approach is instrumental when designing innovation (Kenya);

The following requirements for a wider uptake of innovative design practices were also pointed out by the attendees:

- **Training and awareness** to drive SCP
- **Working with SMEs and providing financial support**: many SMEs have interest to adopt best practices but indicated financial constraints;
- **Support to the creation of demand** for sustainably produced goods would incentive more businesses to rethink their design practices;
- Recognition of indigenous knowledge;
- **Support for youth** to access green infrastructure to further encourage innovation while counteracting unemployment;
- **Technical support for the formulation of conducive policies and guidelines.**

Role of the International Community

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

The participants responded to the question on the Role of UNEP and the wider international community in addressing gaps and challenges raised today with the following proposed interventions:

- **Technical support from UNEP** is key: for the formulation of policies, guidelines and subsequent rollout; for resource mobilization, and advocating for mainstreaming in most international and national strategies, as well as scaling up best practices;
- Facilitate the **dialogue between public and private stakeholders** to work collaboratively towards common goals;
- Engaging **cross-sector collaboration** often overlooked, especially in complex and fragmented sectors like Tourism;
- **Fund directly the interventions required to green processes** (including by connecting green projects with green finance). Promoting these innovations on UNEP platforms is also instrumental.
- Support needed to enable countries to attract funds and lead reforms;
- UNEP can assist to **finance impact evaluations** so that successful programmes can be up-scaled according to standardised approaches; Also need for regional data and metadata to better understand impacts (e.g. promoting GLAD);
- UNEP should promote **knowledge exchange such as Look-and-Learn tours** among developing countries to promote best practices/initiatives and policies;
- Provide assistance in **developing eco-labels** for innovative products;
- Help to **address technical capacity gaps** of officers in charge of analysing and interpreting SCP issues in programs and plans;
- Fostering an **International Recognised Green Accreditation Systems for sectors** (e.g. eco-tourism);
- Support development of **standards on Sustainable sourcing**;
- Support to increase exchange between countries in regions like East Africa
- Support to address the issues related to the transboundary movement of materials and products; There is a need to prioritise production in the region.
- Support and fund Research and Development on SCP in developing countries;
- **Recognise the importance and role of the informal sector in developing countries by empowering it on the uptake of green technologies**, bookkeeping and scaling-up of innovations;
- Support developing of policies on food production and waste, as food production also impacts a lot on the natural resources and environmental degradation.

Next Steps

Cecilia Njenga from UNEP Office in South Africa thanked the participants for their contributions and indicated that there is still time to send contributions and information. To do this, she asked to consider the following:

- **Submit written inputs to formulate recommendations until October 9th to:**
Ms. Claire Thiebault, Economy Division, Claire.Thiebault@un.org
Ms. Rhoda Wachira, Africa Regional Office, rhoda.wachira@un.org
- **Share inputs on national product policies and good examples of design practices until October 30th to:**
Dr. Valentina Russo, CSIR, Vrusso@csir.co.za
Mr. Lee-Hendor Ruiters, CSIR, NCPC-SA, Lruiters@csir.co.za

ANNEX 1

Agenda

3:00 pm – 3:05 pm Introduction on the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on SCP, and on the key components of the follow-up - *Cecilia Njenga – Head UNEP Office in South Africa*

3:05 pm – 3:10 pm Presentation of the consultation objectives and key questions - *Claire Thiebault – Associate Programme Management Officer, UNEP Economy Division*

3:10 pm – 3:20 pm Status overview of the inventory of product policies in the Africa region - *Lee-Hendor Ruiters – Regional Manager NCPC South Africa*

3:20 pm – 3:30 pm Shaping a Circular Economy in Africa – *Dr Henry J. Roman – Director, Environmental Services and Technologies, Department of Science and Technology in South Africa*

3:30 pm – 3:35 pm Status overview of the collection of examples of innovative design practices in the Africa region - *Lee-Hendor Ruiters – Regional Manager NCPC South Africa*

3:35 pm – 4:25 pm Interactive discussion

4:25 pm – 4:30 pm Closure and next steps

ANNEX 2 - List of Registered Participants, 22nd September 2020

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ANNEX 3 - Transcription of interventions

First question:

*How product policies in your country have been instrumental to preserve the environment?
What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?
How to create further coherence among product policies?*

Florence Adongo: Uganda newly National Environment Act 2019 fully adopts circular economy. As a framework law, sectoral policies and laws are being revised to implement the 2019 Act. The country also prepared Uganda Green growth development strategy and plan 2017, which give direction in addition of best green practices. There is the National Climate change policy emphasise low carbon production, efficiency in value chains practices. Water policy is under revision and will take in best practices from Switch Africa Green in water use efficiency, pollution prevention, industrial symbiosis and water demand management.

Eric Guantai – Recykla Intl- Kenya: In Kenya with reference to Plastic pollutions; Kenya private are doing their best to mainstream sustainable product design in their business process. On the end the government have programs aligned with Green Economy and Climate change mitigations. Therefore, the informal waste sectors capacities are being enhanced while symbiotic business relationship being encouraged with waste producers.

Steven Niyonzima – Rwanda Cleaner Production and Climate Innovation Centre. Product policies have been instrumental to preserve the environment. For example, *Made in Rwanda policy* is supporting the increased competitiveness of Rwandan Economy. This policy provides modern technology access in which we promote avoidance, reduce, re-use, recycle the waste, industrial symbiosis with objective to turn waste into valuable raw materials and new products at the same generating new jobs and preventive negative impact to environment. Simple concrete example: Carton waste are used in biomass boiler and we are targeting to recycle old clothes into textile fibres.

Erick Guantai (Kenya): I welcome everyone to visit our circular economy village in Ngara Nairobi, Kenya. This circular economy village host a cocktail of waste entrepreneurs + enterprises handling different waste streams & sustainable value addition.

Ghana: The National Development Planning Commission in Ghana is preparing to develop the National Medium Term Policy Development Framework which will cover the years 2022-2026 and to guide planning at sub-national level. Following the Switch Africa Green programme many projects have been undertaken in the areas of e-waste, plastics, organic waste etc. However, these are still not extensive enough. There is the need to upscale SCP practices by ensuring that issues covering this sector are strongly factored into the development framework and prioritized by the various institutions for implementation.

Adballah (Ghana): Every project goes with water harvesting facility to reduce water demand. National Energy Efficiency Policy is also in place. Project with US AID also

focussed on women; Resiliency in North Ghana; Livelihood and nutrition, sanitation. Livelihood component: compost without chemicals. Nutrition component: soya beans.

Joyce Chapungu – The Environmental Management Agency in Zimbabwe. The Country has pieces of legislation which comprise of the National Constitution, the Environmental Management Act and Statutory Instruments which control the use and disposal of waste, especially plastic. In addition, the Country develop an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, which provides for the sustainable management of waste thereby promoting sustainable consumption and production. The purpose of these policies is to create a clean safe and healthy environment for all. Furthermore, legislation was amended to phase of single use plastic products such as thin plastic with a thickness of less than 30 micrometers and expanded polystyrene popularly known as *kaylite*, particularly in the food industry. Instead, reusable and biodegradable carrier packaging and food containers have been promoted. Zimbabwe also launched a National Clean-up Programme was launched which enables all citizens to participate in creating a clean environment. A holistic approach was introduced to the program which promoted the inclusion of resource efficient and sustainable economic models such as the circular economy. The Country is also on a path towards the phasing out of all single use plastic and engagements are underway with the interested parties principally the manufactures so that they initiate the shift towards production of alternatives.

Norah Mugita: hold enterprises | entrepreneurs handling e-waste, plastic waste, off-grid waste just mentions

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Mainstreaming of GESIP in Narok and Nyandarua Counties Agricultural Plans; Made contributions to the development of Green Procurement Guidelines (ongoing). GESIP regulation taken up well in Nakuru district. Published findings on public procurement regulation to include Green Procurement. Need to skill other countries to take up GESIP.

Hombakazi – DEFF (SA): Specially DEFF developed and reviewed policies which are aimed at minimising environmental harm (NMWS 2020).

Caroline McCann: Charity foundation – the aim was to rescue food which could have gone to landfill and the food was directed to those who needed the most.

Newton Owino – Kisumu, Kenya: I am in fish wastes management. As SME, there is need to intervene in the levies charged on innovation products.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard) – Kenya: Awareness raising of SCP practices and training. EPR schemes: Collecting plastic bottles and selling them to textile sector.

Barbara Schott (Kenya): Plastic ban, collaboration with industry associations. Industry support for EPR solutions. T4 collecting plastic bottles to use in textiles. Support plastic ban (5 June 2020). Ban plastic use from protected areas.

Nigeria: In Lagos there was a need to introduce separation at source in order to implement the green economy initiative in Waste Management. Waste collection bins to collect recyclables. Private sector partnership (recycling). Waste to energy.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): Published EPR scheme and in consultation with industry.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): Recently published the amendment of plastic regulations

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): Use locally products to replace plastics.

Barbara Schott: The tourism sector is a sector where circular approaches are becoming more common. This involves e.g. questions of reducing food waste, plastic usage and recycling, raising awareness on alternative approaches and products, creating guidelines for actors in the value chain to become more sustainable and use less resources. Training is a vital part of this and working with SMEs but also access to finance to promote innovative solutions.

Letitia Nyaaba: The Ghana National Energy Efficiency Action Plan makes provision for minimum standards for energy equipment performance, labelling and standardization. There was a rebate scheme for domestic users to exchange old fridges for more efficient ones, ban on importation of

old fridges and ACs, the phasing out of incandescent lamps for CFL and LEDs. Minimum standards for electronic equipment imported and produced in Ghana. The Hazardous and Electronic Waste Act that sets up an advanced eco- levy to be collected for the end-of-life management of these. The use of local technologies.

Second Question:

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices for products/services which aim at minimizing harmful environmental impacts? What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

Florence Adongo: there are several best practice from Switch Africa Green project in Uganda on Demand side management of Water use with significant SMEs/private sector investments going on till now after realizing profits and other benefits including compliance to environmental regulations and standard. A lot that should now upscaled. Many SMEs have interest to adopt best practices but indicated financial constraints. The principle and practice is widely accepted. Enabling environment as is adequate. It's the programe based strategy and financial capacity for take-off that is lacking to have significant impact.

Norah Mugita: In my opinion financing + recognizing the roles of indigenous knowledge is critical

Suzan Oelofse: In South Africa we have an innovation hub, where SMMEs are supported to develop ideas into businesses

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Identification- Do a needs and capacity assessment, build capacity of the players, agree on specific SCPs, link to financial institutions, linkages to markets for the sustainably produced goods

Norah Mugita: We need to expand financing to include informal waste entrepreneurs in Kenya, they self-finance their operations

Florence Adongo: Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda designed an annual blue certificate award since 2019 for SMEs on efficient water use and pollution prevention. This triggered competition for recognition by the minister.

Norah Mugita: Absence of financing hinder operations expansion thereof market expansion.

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Adopt a stakeholder approach in the designs of the innovations.

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Support youth to access essential infrastructure(green) as we promote the innovations as they form a bigger percentage of the population and a big percentage are unemployed

Simon Nabyama: Ours is still work in Progress and from a Policy perspective, we realised Government in its acquisition placed minimal emphasis on environment while acquiring Goods, Works and Services. Today we have a policy that advocates for Sustainable Procurement and have amended our procurement Act to take into consideration the environment in every procurement.

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Awareness creation is also key as it drives the production and consumption.

Joyce Chapungu: As part of implementing the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan in Zimbabwe, we have engaged industry, which is the major stakeholder in production of goods that eventually produce waste, so that they incorporate the cradle to the grave principle. This ensures that manufacturers follow their products throughout its lifecycle. As a result, Delta Corporation, one of the largest beverage producers established a recycling company which majors in PET. The recycling company has set up collection cages around the country.

Deoduth Somna - from Mauritius. We are engaged in textile and plastics pet bottles since 20 years. Mauritius implement innovative strategies for environment protection, such as Plastics bags banned, plastics straw banned, financial assistance to pet bottles recyclers and exporters.

Barbara Schott: Access to market collaboration with Industry. Innovation Hubs focussed on tech. However, not focus only tech solutions, otherwise other sectors are left behind. Green Finance allows multiplications.

Letitia Nyaaba: Scale-up of finance is important. Access to markets needs to be addressed. In order to scale up those design practices, there is a need for funding.

Kenya: Large innovation taking place in Green Finance.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): Awareness creation is also key as it drives the production and consumption.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard) – Kenya: Design Practices Mainstreaming (GESIP). Coffee, dairy and mango value chains. Awareness raising and individual coaching sessions to localise green technology.

Third question:

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

Norah Mugita (Zimbabwe): Technical support is key for the formulation of policies, guidelines and subsequent roll out.

Barbara Schott: UNEP: Facilitating policy dialogue and interventions in key sectors.

Letitia Nyaaba: Directly funding the interventions required to green processes. Also promoting these innovations on their platforms.

Norah Mugita: An international recognised green accreditation system, especially for the eco-tourism sector.

Elizabeth Gathogo, WWF Kenya: Support development of standards on Sustainable sourcing

Joyce Chapungu: Support and fund Research and Development on SCP in developing countries

Barbara Schott: Engaging cross-sector collaboration often overlooked, especially in complex and fragmented sectors like tourism

Florence Adongo: Support in resource mobilization, advocate for mainstreaming in most international and national strategies, policy preparations, dialogue, and scaling up best practices, circular economy has significant impact in climate change mitigation and adaptation including innovations and technology transfer. Support us to position ourselves to attract funds and lead reforms

Barbara Schott: There is a need for regional data and metadata to better understand impacts and also increase exchange between countries in regions like East Africa

Joyce Chapungu: UNEP should make follow ups from member countries to ensure that they are progressing in formulating and implementing product policies.

Elizabeth Gathogo - WWF Kenya: Support development of food loss and waste polices as food production also impacts a lot on the natural resources and environmental degradation

Norah Mugita: UNEP can assist to finance impact evaluations so that successful programmes can be up-scaled and that there is a standardised approach.

Joyce Chapungu: UNEP should promote knowledge exchange such as Look-and-Learn tours among developing nations to promote best practices.

Newton Owino – Kisumu, Kenya: UN needs to assist in developing eco-labels to innovative products.

Judicael Zongo: Bring together Publics and privates to work together towards common goal and shape together environments that induces the target changes.

Rose Bentsil-Quaye-Ghana: Need to address technical capacity gaps of officers in analysing and interpreting SCP issues in programs and plans.

Rhulani Baloyi (South Africa): Governments should provide a conducive policy environment and reduce red tape to promote and stimulate the uptake of circular economy by SMMEs as well as providing incentives and dismantle barriers to entry by all participants.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): Circular economy has significant impact in climate change mitigation and adaptation including innovations and technology transfer. Support us to position ourselves to attract funds and lead reforms.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard): An international recognised green accreditation system, especially for the eco-tourism sector.

No-Name (verbal input captured on Stormboard) – Kenya: Connect Green project with Green Finance.

Erik Guantai (Kenya): Transboundary movement of materials and products. Need help from UNEP on this matter. There is a need to prioritise production in the region. Recognise contribution of informal sector. Empower informal sector to understand health technology. Bookkeeping and scale-up their innovation.