



Africa's Circular Edge

Transforming Economic Development

Bypassing the "Take-Make-Dispose" Model

Key Sectors Driving Circular Innovation

Strategic focus areas for Africa's Circular Economy transformation



Food Systems

- Regenerative agriculture
- Composting
- Post-harvest loss reduction

Example: Askema Engineering (Ethiopia) - Brake pads from slaughterhouse waste, employing 268 people

Packaging (Plastics)

- Recycling initiatives
- Reducing single-use plastics
- Waste prevention

Example: Kubik, Inc. (Addis Ababa) - Plastic waste recycled into bricks, enabling 600 female waste collectors

Electronics (E-waste)

- Collection systems
- Strategic recycling
- Product design for reuse

Example: Mr Green Africa (Kenya) - In-house recycling process, purchasing from 2,500 informal workers

Fashion and Textiles

- Extended use
- Recycled fibers
- Sustainable materials

Example: Bekia inc (Cairo) - Cashback waste collection, collecting 12 tonnes of PET per month

Built Environment

- Design for disassembly
- Material reuse
- Reducing demolition waste

Impact: Reducing demolition waste (500M tonnes annually) and enabling material reuse valued at billions

Waste-to-Wealth

- Plastic waste transformation
- Informal sector integration
- Local enterprise development

Example: Entrepreneurs converting plastic waste into handbags, paving stones, and school furniture

Opportunities and Implementation Challenges

Economic benefits and scaling hurdles for Africa's Circular Economy



Economic & Social Gains

Job Creation

11 million new jobs by 2030, addressing youth employment

Cost Reduction

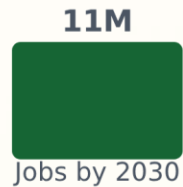
30% extension of asset lifespans, 10-15% reduction in costs

Local Value Capture

\$30B infrastructure gap addressed through circular practices

Environmental Benefits

Up to 30% reduction in manufacturing emissions



Scaling Challenges

Funding Gap

\$89.6M across 131 deals in nearly a decade

Policy & Infrastructure

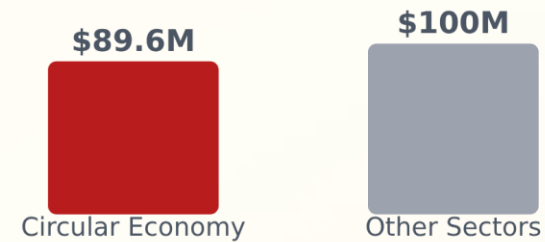
Lack of frameworks and waste management infrastructure

Administrative Barriers

Complex procedures and limited financing access

Informal Sector Integration

Limited access to formal financing and support



Strategic Path Forward and Enablers

Driving Africa's Circular Economy Transformation



Key Institutions

- African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA)
 - Founded by Rwanda, Nigeria, South Africa, UN Environment, and World Economic Forum
 - Facilitates sharing best practices for legal frameworks, partnerships, and project financing
 - Ensures national efforts converge, enabling shared learning and strengthening Africa's collective voice
- Africa Circular Economy Facility (ACEF)
 - Managed by African Development Bank (AfDB)
 - Multi-donor trust fund providing grant financing
 - Supported national circular economy roadmaps in Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, and Uganda

Digitalization

- Industry 4.0 technologies (AI, IoT, Big Data, blockchain)
- Facilitate material flow loops and enhance product design
- Improve waste management systems
- Focus on foundational digital infrastructure for low-income nations

Collaborative Action

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Public-private collaboration
- Regional integration
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building

Policy Frameworks

- Comprehensive enabling policy frameworks
- Institutional capacity building
- Support for MSMEs
- Regulatory reforms to support circular practices

Call to Action

Unlocking Africa's full circular advantage requires:

- De-risking investments in circular solutions
- Strengthening policy frameworks
- Fostering education and skills development

