



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Policy brief no.7

Key elements of a Roadmap for the Development of
Regional Value Chains in Used Tire and Electrical and Electronic
Waste Recycling - Insights from Mauritius and Reunion Island

Executive statement

Waste categorization is crucial for effective waste management and recycling. It involves classifying materials based on their recyclability, composition, and recycling requirements. E-waste and used tire recycling are considered complex due to material variety, contamination, and recycling infrastructure. Both need specialized facilities for resource recovery and environmental impact reduction. Despite their distinct properties, they share common characteristics and are confronted to similar challenges and opportunities. In the African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States (AIODIS), these value chains face significant obstacles, shaping the necessary response mechanisms:

- **High Recycling Cost:** Recycling e-waste costs nearly ten times more than disposing of it, while used tires often carry a “negative value waste” label.
- **Recycling Challenges:** The intricate material mix complicates recycling, especially in terms of collection, sorting, and disassembly. Municipal systems often lack the capacity to handle such complexities, thus creating an opportunity for NGOs and the private sector to get involved in these value chains.
- **Lack Scale Economies:** Smaller island states struggle due to lower waste volumes, increasing fixed costs per unit, making recycling a less attractive business proposition. Export opportunities and regional aggregation face regulatory challenges such as the Basel Convention.

The key insight from ‘The Knowledge Exchange Mission’ in Mauritius and Reunion (September 4th to 9th, 2023) is that recycling operations in these value chains are driven by a dynamic push-pull interplay between the public and private sector. Citizens’ commitment to pollution reduction, combined with NGO, startup, and private sector engagement to greater social corporate responsibility (SCR) and innovation, pushes breakthrough in the sector. Meanwhile, government policies and regulations provide the necessary pull to move the sector ahead. This synergy has played a pivotal role in launching recycling businesses and processes within these two value chains in Mauritius and Reunion. The key elements include:

- **Shift from Linear to Circular Business Models:** Paradigm shift through awareness building and educating stakeholders.
- **Building awareness and educating stakeholders:** Private Sector Stewardship for collaborative arrangement between Companies, NGOs and Associations to de-risk and ensure that waste collection and segregation processes are carried out effectively.
- **Legal and Regulatory Framework:** Implementing the ‘Polluter Pays Principle’ and Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) frameworks.
- **Fiscal and Business Incentives:** Transparent, accountable and trackable incentives mitigate costs and protect investments.
- **Economies of Scale through Exports:** Neighboring collaboration with neighboring regions and export opportunities help overcome volume limitations, overall limited scope to export due to limiting regulations.

¹ A timid response to overcome limited volumes - Reunion's collaboration with Mayotte (French overseas department) and thus subject to the common EU Directives on E-waste. Mauritius exports to Asia but faces a long lead time to build up volume.

- **African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States Vision in E-Waste and Used Tyres Value Chain: Zero Waste by 2030**
- **Ministers in charge of Circular economy ‘Call for Action’ to promote circularity in E-Waste and Used Tyres Value Chain for the African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States:**

Call for Action at Continental Level – The African Union in the area of Circular Economy, Blue Economy and Climate Change

- Recognises the the specificities of African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States (AIODIS);
- Ring-fencing of funds for African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States (AIODIS)
- Recognise the Indian Ocean Commission, as the 'Port Parol' of the African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States (AIODIS)

Call for Action at Regional Level – The Indian Ocean Commission in the area of Circular Economy, Blue Economy and Climate Change

- Capacity Enhancement: Craft a regional response for improving waste collection, sorting, and processing capabilities at a regional level and providing capacity building and knowledge exchange support to public and Private Sector.
- Advocacy for Regulatory Reform: Seek regulatory changes and promotion of ERP and Polluter Pay Principles. Lobby for exemptions for 'Transboundary Movement of Waste' to facilitate export and aggregation.
- Roadmap Development: Create a roadmap for advancing regional value chains in waste tire and E-waste recycling.
- Promote innovation and Regional Start up Programmes: Harnessing Startup Innovation and Technological Advancements via Incubation and Acceleration Programs
- Exchange Platform: Establish a regional platform for ERPs and Public-Private Partnerships across AIODIS and B2B exchange. The creation of a dedicated Regional ERP Platform for AIODIS represents a pivotal step in the realization of the Regional Roadmap for E-Waste and Used Tires. This dynamic platform will serve as the central repository for all the essential components of the Roadmap, consolidating them into a user-friendly online environment.
- Incentive framework: Developing Effective Incentive Frameworks, Mechanisms, and Tools at regional level
- Decent Job initiative: Initiating a Regional Charter to Advocate for Decent Jobs and Safe Work Practices in the Recycling Sector
- Stakeholder Engagement: Organize regular exchanges among AIODIS stakeholders in E-Waste and Used Tire Value Chains.

National Level – Member States

- Regulatory Frameworks: Develop national regulatory frameworks based on the 'Polluter Pays Principle' and ERP frameworks.
 - Data Strengthening: Enhance statistics departments for better E-Waste and Used Tire data collection.
 - Circular Economy Strategies: Implement strategies with clear short, medium, and long-term targets.
 - Business Involvement: Chambers of Commerce and Investment Promotion Agencies can set policies and benchmark progress in E-Waste and Used Tire Value Chains. TWG set up to follow the progress in E-waste and used Tyre Value Chain
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References/Further information

Accueil | Commission de l'océan Indien (commissionoceanindien.org)

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