



INDIAN OCEAN  
COMMISSION



## Policy brief no.1

Regional and national frameworks for the circular economy:  
a lever for a sustainable blue economy in African  
and Indian Ocean Island States

## Executive statement

In the current Blue Economy (BE) agenda adopted by many island states, the Circular Economy (CE) offers the opportunity to build a strong and sustainable blue economy through the reduction of material consumption and waste generation, the reuse of natural biomass, the recycling of organic and plastic waste, and the valorization of waste into energy. This requires real political commitment and clear, inclusive, cross-sectoral strategies.

### Key facts about plastic pollution in the ocean

- Annual plastic consumption of over 450,000 tonnes in 2010.
- 12.7 million tonnes (metric) per year, of which microplastics, particles smaller than 5 mm (and even smaller nano plastics) account for around 20%.
- 550,000 tonnes of particles smaller than 0.01 mm are deposited every year, almost half of them ending up in the ocean. Over 80,000 tonnes fall on isolated areas covered in ice and snow, risking further melting as the dark particles absorb the sun's heat.
- Every year, over 200,000 tonnes of tiny plastic particles are blown from roads into the oceans.
- Up to 28% of microplastics in the oceans come from tires, which shed their synthetic rubber as they wear.
- Over 1.6 billion new tires are manufactured every year, and around 1 billion used tires are generated. 100 million tires a year are processed by the recycling industry.

## Background

As a continent with over 30,000 kilometers of coastline, 38 of the 55 member states of the African Union are coastal or island states, and over 60% of its land mass is covered by a network of freshwater resources. The African Union has included the blue economy in its institutional reform process. The island states of Africa and the Indian Ocean have jurisdiction over a vast combined marine area of around 7 million km<sup>2</sup>, with a coastline of some 15,000 km, multiple maritime boundaries, and complex international and national legal frameworks. In addition, of the five African countries with the largest exclusive economic zones (EEZ), three are island members of the IOC. Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar rank 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively among African countries with the largest EEZ. They are followed by Cape Verde in 6th place, Comoros in 18th and Sao Tome and Principe in 19th. This amounts to a total surface area of 4,931,101 km<sup>2</sup>. These vast ocean areas represent a new development horizon for Africa's island and coastal states, and only 18% of them are marine protected areas (MPAs), or 910,690 km<sup>2</sup>. They play a major role, given the economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical interests of island states.

### Current status of the circular economy (CE)

African islands' involvement in implementing circular economy (CE) concepts varies. They engage in diverse resource management initiatives like fisheries, aquaculture, and renewable energy, but not in activities such as oil, gas, and offshore renewables. There's room to establish CE-aligned policies. Progress has been made in protecting natural systems, but safeguarding marine areas is limited, except in Seychelles and Mauritius. CE success for African islands, relying heavily on oceans, involves regeneration. Efforts for energy recovery, feedstock extraction, and conservation are small-scale and localized. The implementation of CE within the existing frameworks differs due to socioeconomic diversity and CE novelty.

Challenges include limited technical know-how, inadequate waste management, scarce data on material use, and lack of attractive recycling employment. Capacity building is needed for CE strategy, energy recovery, recycling expansion, material recovery, data collection, and project assessment. African islands need skills in refurbishment, remanufacturing, and reinforcing environmental policies. Awareness campaigns are crucial, given limited funds often reliant on foreign aid. Countries differ in CE priorities, with advanced ones addressing waste, while less advanced focus on extractive economies. Adopting CE can lead to sustainable development, but it requires a shift in less advanced countries' paradigms.

## National policy frameworks

In the context of transitioning to a circular economy, the national policy frameworks of the eight AIODIS countries exhibit a range of efforts and challenges:

While all countries acknowledge the importance of sustainable development and environmental conservation, the extent to which circular economy principles are incorporated into policies varies significantly.

Mauritius emerges as a standout country in its approach to CE. The nation has undertaken a comprehensive strategy by drafting a circular economy roadmap and legislative framework that aligns with global sustainable consumption and production strategies.

In Seychelles, initiatives such as the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label and the Seychelles Made Policy underscore the focus on sustainability within specific sectors. A concerted effort from the private sector and civil society has contributed to a better understanding of CE concepts. Nonetheless, financial incentives need further refinement, comprehensive policy frameworks are necessary, and the integration of circular principles across various sectors remains a challenge.

Conversely, some countries face challenges in creating a cohesive regulatory environment for the circular economy. Comoros and Guinea-Bissau, for instance, struggle with the lack of streamlined regulations. While these nations have legal texts referencing circular economy principles, these laws lack the harmonisation necessary to address the multifaceted complexities of circular models. São Tomé and Príncipe, too, has made strides in certain sectors like agriculture and fisheries. However, the absence of comprehensive policy frameworks tailored to CE hinders its broader adoption. The government acknowledges the importance of sustainable practices, but the challenges lie in effectively monitoring and evaluating circular initiatives within the country.

Common themes and recommendations emerge across these countries. Regulatory frameworks need to be developed with more cohesion and specificity to address circular economy complexities. The creation of robust financial incentives, including tax reductions, subsidies, and operational guidance, is vital to encourage businesses to adopt circular practices. In addition, increasing awareness and understanding of circular economy concepts, extending circular principles across diverse sectors of the economy, and implementing effective governance mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation are crucial steps towards facilitating a successful transition to a circular economy across these diverse nations.

## Regional policy framework

Some CE activities must be done at the regional level for economies of scale. Therefore, a strong regional policy framework is needed that should include the following key elements:

**Adoption and application of regionally agreed CE principles:** harmonised principles across AIODIS are necessary to provide a unified vision and approach to the CE. These principles should cover designing products for durability and recyclability, optimising resource use, reducing waste, and encouraging extended producer responsibility. They promote sharing and collaborative consumption, leverage digital technologies, and foster circular business models.

**Establish specific CE regulations:** Although laws and regulations that promote the principles of CE exist in the AIODIS, most AIODIS countries lack a clear target for CE and a detailed plan of implementation. The AIODIS governments need to adopt a statement committing to circular economy objectives, harmonise legislation to address CE directly and develop specific legislations to fill the legal gaps to foster a CE. African countries can learn from each other as these legislations are often present within the AIODIS. These legislations include texts on the ban of single use plastics, laws on water management, waste generation, waste control, and the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

**Improve CE literacy through awareness and education campaigns:** To achieve a circular economy in the AIODIS, it is essential to increase literacy on the CE at all levels, especially in key sectors such as the blue economy. The concept of CE is still new throughout the AIODIS, the populations and governments have not yet fully explored the potential and benefits of this sector. There is a need to support and replicate existing initiatives and other educational activities in place at the level of government, businesses, and the local community.

Improve material stock management: Countries need to better monitor industrial waste and reinforce the implementation of fines and introduce material use understanding across sectors such as tourism, fisheries or agriculture. The solution lies within supporting or creating a program for industrial waste monitoring and a subsequent penalty system that is enforced on the entirety of the system. Local authorities can then issue trade licences and request payment of fees per quantity of waste generated.

Restore and better manage the use of natural flows: AIODIS countries generally have high levels of extraction of living resources. To achieve a sustainable use of natural resources within a CE, AIODIS countries need to upscale and further support existing initiatives. They should aim at regenerating natural flows especially in the blue economy sectors such as fisheries, tourism, oil and gas exploration, and bioprospecting. A first step could be to improve existing monitoring practices and capabilities while preventing ongoing harmful practices through fines. To address regeneration of natural flows, a parallel step is to introduce, support and upscale existing activities such as fishery management plans, mangrove restoration, Locally Managed Marine Areas and Marine Protected Areas. In terms of extracting feedstock, initiatives such as compost making are part of practices that help extract feedstock and regenerate nutrients in soil.

Provide support to CE related businesses: To promote the adoption or transition to a CE business, governments thus need to provide structural and financial support to businesses, including through the creation of a circular economy office within one or several of the government departments, and undertaking a dialogue with the industry to create valorisation of waste materials. The creation of company grouping according to business activity, material use, equipment requirements and proximity also needs to be supported to improve material use and infrastructural efficiency while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them among a group of firms. Finally, a tax relief scheme could be introduced, such as a 3 to 5 year starting period complete tax-free or reduced tax and cutting repair and refurbish value-added tax to encourage reuse businesses.

## Commitments

The CE is a sustainable source of job creation that countries should tap into and build their economy around to ensure sustainable development and the achievement of international sustainable development commitments. Based on the existing status of the CE in AIODIS, there are a series of short- and medium-term commitments that are needed to operationalise the CE concept:

- **National CE Framework:** Countries should adopt a national CE policy framework that should be, among others, a pillar of their blue economy policy under development and implementation.
- **Supporting businesses and entrepreneurs:** From policy incentives to bank facilities, clear signals should be given to entrepreneurs who want to integrate circularity into their existing businesses or those starting out based on circularity principles.
- **Regional policy:** Due to island size, IOC region, and more broadly RECs of Africa, should adopt a regional CE policy since some CE activities need to be handled at the regional level for economies of scale.
- **Regional coordination:** At IOC level, a regional coordination body for the CE should be set up and should be aligned with the regional Blue Economy unit.

## Recommendations for operationalizing a coherent policy framework to accelerate the transition to CE

The national and regional policy frameworks set out to define alternatives to improve existing legislation for the further development of CE, while aiming to identify additional opportunities to increase the overall efficiency of materials. They are structured around five pillars to which national decision-makers must commit.

## **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

It is essential that the government adopt, on one hand, framework legislation promoting the integration of players and the harmonization of actions towards CE; and on another hand, specific legislation to encourage CE, notably texts on recycling.

## **Pillar 2: Form awareness and education campaigns.**

Mobilize stakeholders for CE by increasing the body of knowledge, at all levels, especially in key sectors of the blue economy, through:

- Continuing the awareness-raising campaigns launched and engaging society.
- Building collaborations between major industrial partners and public authorities.
- Reintroducing campaigns in schools to raise awareness among young people.
- Increasing interaction between companies to raise awareness of the need to adopt circular business models.

## **Pillar 3: Improve materials inventory management.**

In order to optimize the value of waste, it is necessary to:

- Increase collection points, establish sorting procedures, and introduce a more sustainable treatment method than landfill.
- Establish an incentive mechanism for companies that improve waste management processes.
- Adopt a national waste management system.

In order to improve the efficiency of waste treatment plants, it is important to commit to:

- Implement high-performance recycling and biogas production.
- Improve waste recovery systems within existing companies.
- Create new waste treatment companies with circular motives.

In order to reduce pollution through improved waste management, it is essential to:

- Support the existing industrial waste monitoring program by setting up a control system in the tourism, fishing and agriculture sectors.
- Set up a subsequent penalty system, by establishing fines.

## **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources within a CE, it is expected that the government will commit to:

- Increase restoration activities by strengthening the increased protection of the exclusive economic zone and the monitoring of marine protected areas as well as area-based management.
- Improve monitoring practices and strengthen national capacities.
- Develop a better understanding of the use of natural resources and provide decision-support indicators for resource extraction.
- Support and improve the closure of marine protected areas to fishing during the breeding season, to enable the regeneration of natural flows.

## **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

To promote the adoption of CE by the private sector and develop public-private partnerships in the realization of blue and circular economy activities.

- Improve structural and financial support for businesses, including:
  - the creation of a CE office within one or more government departments.
  - the creation of a company grouped according to activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructural efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage in dialogue with industry to create value from material waste.
- Support tax relief schemes such as ecotax, tax benefits based on environmental practices, or a three- to five-year tax vacation during the launch period, full zero-rating or reduced tax.
- Reduce VAT on repairs and renovation to encourage re-use.
- Promote existing tax reduction schemes, sector funds and operational advice within companies.

## **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

The government must:

- Adopt a declaration of commitment to the circular economy and close legal loopholes.
- Adopt framework legislation that promotes the integration of stakeholders and harmonization actions towards a CE.
- Adopt specific, including:
  - Recycling legislation
  - Public-private partnerships and EPR legislation
  - Anti-waste legislation to promote producer accountability and increased collaboration along the waste value chain.
  - Texts relating to the right to repair by small businesses (garages, shoemakers, repair of electronic products and household appliances, furniture upholstery, second-hand shops...)
  - Texts on entrepreneurship for innovative waste recovery projects, including the production of compost and organic fertilizers for agriculture.
  - Legislation to combat illegal dumping, obliging manufacturing industries to reuse materials in the food, cosmetics and printing industries.

## **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

It is essential to increase knowledge of CE at all levels, particularly in key sectors of the blue economy.

To achieve this, the government must commit to:

- Pursue existing CE awareness-raising campaigns involving society as a whole (university conferences, forums, expert support, advice in the tourism sector to promote clean beaches and towns, in agriculture to use organic fertilizers and increase sustainable and healthy production, in fisheries to manufacture raw materials for feed)
- Support initiatives already put in place by organizations and institutions to promote the circular economy
- Strengthen collaboration between companies and national authorities
- Accentuate and expand school campaigns to raise young people's awareness of environmental protection and the promotion of CE with waste sorting at source
- Increase interaction with companies in favor of the adoption of circular business models.

## **Pillar 3: Improve management of materials stocks.**

In order to improve the waste management processes currently in place, the government must commit to:

In terms of waste collection and sorting:

- Increase waste collection points and introduce/improve sorting procedures
- Reinforce the existing waste sorting and recovery site (CTVD) into a more sustainable processing site and avoid simple landfill.
- Develop other waste sorting and recovery sub-centers on the other islands, encouraging inter-municipality.
- Promote the national collection and sorting system, by supporting existing or newly created collection and sorting companies

In terms of improving waste treatment efficiency:

- Implement high-efficiency recycling and biogas creation.
- Support existing companies and encourage the creation of new ones to process waste in a circular way.

In terms of landfill and litter, to reduce pollution for better waste management in cities and on beaches:

- Reinforce support for existing industrial waste monitoring programs and ensure enforcement of fines.
- Optimize collaboration and coordination between regional and national players to improve waste management.
- Eliminate legal barriers and encourage companies to develop sustainable practices.
- Introduce an understanding of the use of materials in tourism, fishing and agriculture.

#### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

To promote the regeneration of natural flows in the blue economy sectors (fishing, tourism or agriculture), the government must:

- Continue efforts to increase protection of the exclusive economic zone, through marine protected areas (MPAs), strengthening surveillance of existing MPAs and area-based management, and increasing restoration activities.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capabilities.  
Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools.
- Support mangrove restoration activities, locally protected marine areas and MPAs.

#### **Pillar 5: Motivate companies to adopt circular business models.**

In order to promote the transition to a green business, the government must provide structural and financial support to companies, including:

- Creating a circular economy office within one or more government departments;
- Create clustering of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
- Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years completely exempt from tax and reduced rate.
- Reduce value-added tax for repair and refurbishment activities to encourage reuse businesses.
- Include in national policy the obligation to consider the circular economy concept and the 3R principle (reduce-recycle-reuse) for every entrepreneur or agricultural or fisheries cooperative, prior to the design of their business plan and project document, in order to promote investment in eco-responsible machinery or products.

## **Guinea-Bissau**

#### **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

The government must adopt a declaration of commitment to the circular economy and fill legal gaps, including:

- Adopt framework legislation that promotes stakeholder integration and harmonization actions towards a CE.
- Integrate the commitment to transition to a CE into the country's development policies.
- Adopt specific legislation including
  - Recycling legislation,
  - PPP (Public-private partnership) and EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) legislation.

#### **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

It is essential to increase awareness of CE at all levels, particularly in key sectors of the blue economy. To achieve this, the government must become aware of the importance of CE and commit to:

- Pursue existing awareness-raising campaigns, involving society.
- Strengthen collaboration between major industrial partners and the authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns to raise awareness among young people.
- Increase interaction with companies to present the benefits of adopting circular business models.
- Support and replicate existing initiatives and educational activities at government, business, civil society and grassroots levels, in the various economic sectors (agriculture, agro-industry, tourism, fisheries, natural resource management, energy, transport).

### **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

In order to improve waste management processes currently in place, the government needs to make commitments at three levels:

In terms of waste collection and sorting:

- Increase collection points
- Improve sorting procedures
- Introduce a more sustainable treatment site than the current landfill.
- Set up a national collection and sorting system, by supporting existing companies that collect and sort waste responsibly.

In terms of improving the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of existing facilities
- Introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Implement high-efficiency recycling and biogas creation.
- Support existing companies to process waste in a circular way.

In terms of reducing waste and marine pollution, the government must commit to:

- Support existing initiatives and create a program to monitor industrial waste, with the associated system of penalties ("establishment of fines").
- Introduce an understanding of the use of materials in the tourism, fishing and agriculture sectors.

### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to encourage the regeneration of natural flows in blue economy sectors (fishing, tourism or agriculture), the government must commit to:

- Increase protection of the exclusive economic zone through MPAs, strengthen monitoring of existing MPAs and area-based management, and increase restoration activities.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capabilities
- Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools.
- Support mangrove restoration activities and MPAs

### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

In order to encourage the regeneration of natural flows in blue economy sectors (fishing, tourism or agriculture), the government must commit to:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
  - Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
  - Create clusters of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
  - Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
  - Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years completely exempt from tax and reduced rate.
  - Reduce value-added tax for repair and refurbishment activities to encourage reuse businesses.
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# Madagascar

## **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

The government must adopt a declaration of commitment in favor of the circular economy and close legal loopholes, including:

- Adopt framework legislation that promotes the integration of stakeholders and harmonization actions towards a CE.
- Integrate the commitment to transition to a CE into the country's development policies.
- Adopt specific legislation including
  - Recycling legislation,
  - PPP and EPR legislation.

## **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

It is essential to increase awareness of CE at all levels, particularly in key sectors of the blue economy. To achieve this, the government must become aware of the importance of CE and commit to:

- Increase existing awareness-raising campaigns, involving society as a whole. Strengthen collaboration between major industries and national authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns to raise awareness among young people.
- Increase interaction with companies to introduce them to circular economy models and make them understand their necessity.
- Support and replicate existing initiatives and educational activities at government, corporate, civil society and grassroots levels, in the various economic sectors (agriculture, agro-industries, tourism, fisheries, natural resource management, energy, transport).

## **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

In order to improve waste management processes currently in place, the government needs to make commitments at three levels:

In terms of waste collection and sorting:

- Increase collection points
- Improve sorting procedures
- Introduce a more sustainable processing site than the current landfill.
- Set up a national collection and sorting system, by supporting existing companies that collect and sort waste responsibly.

In terms of improving the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of existing facilities
- Introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Implement high-efficiency recycling and biogas creation.
- Support existing companies to process waste in a circular way.

In terms of waste reduction in cities and on beaches, and the management of marine pollution, the government must commit to:

- Support existing initiatives and create a program for monitoring industrial waste, with the associated system of penalties (setting fines).
- Introduce an understanding of the use of materials in the tourism, fishing and agricultural sectors.

#### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to encourage the regeneration of natural flows in the blue economy sectors (fishing, tourism or agriculture), the government must:

- Continue efforts to increase protection of the exclusive economic zone, through marine protected areas (MPAs), strengthening surveillance of existing MPAs and area-based management, and increasing restoration activities.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capabilities.
- Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools.
- Support mangrove restoration activities, locally protected marine areas and MPAs.

#### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

In order to encourage a transition to a circular economy, the involvement of businesses is essential. To achieve this, the government must:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
- Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
- Create clusters of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
- Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years completely exempt from tax and reduced rate.
- Reduce value-added tax for repair and refurbishment activities to encourage reuse businesses.

## **Maldives**

#### **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

The government must adopt a declaration of commitment to circular economy and close legal loopholes, including:

- Framework legislation that promotes stakeholder integration and harmonization actions towards a CE.
- Legislation to phase out single-use plastics - focused on industry, awareness-raising and implementation in the various sectors, and incentives for the fishing sector with related sanctions.
- Implementation of a communication plan on single-use plastics that enshrines EPR in law.
- A relevant legislative framework to implement the marine spatial planning work under the Noo Raajje program.

#### **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

It is essential to increase awareness of CE at all levels, particularly in key sectors of the blue economy. To achieve this, the government must become aware of the importance of CE and commit to:

- Organize ongoing workshops at locations involving society.
- Establish collaboration between major industrial partners and national authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns to raise awareness among young people.  
Increase interaction with companies to introduce them to circular economy models and help them understand their benefits.
- Support and replicate existing initiatives and educational activities at government, business, and grassroots level, in the various economic sectors (tourism, fishing).

### **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

In order to improve waste management processes currently in place, the government needs to make commitments at three levels:

In terms of waste collection and sorting:

- Increase collection points
- Improve sorting procedures
- Set up a treatment facility to enable waste recovery and sustainable practices that go beyond incineration in the long term.
- Set up a national collection and sorting system, through support for existing companies that collect and sort waste responsibly.
- Set up a clear waste management structure to better distribute responsibilities throughout the treatment process.

In terms of improving the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of existing facilities.
- Introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Implement high-efficiency recycling and biogas creation and improve the sustainability of incineration plants on the two islands of H. Dh Kulhudhuffushi and Fuvahmulah.
- Set up a system to assess energy recovery, sorting and waste recovery practices within the plants.
- Support existing companies and improve their practices for waste processing in a circular waste recovery perspective.

In terms of waste reduction in towns and beaches and marine pollution management, the government must commit to:

- Support existing industrial waste monitoring programs with the subsequent penalty system applied to the entire management system for large industrial waste streams.
- Introduce an understanding of materials use in the manufacturing, tourism and fishing sectors.

### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources within a CE framework, the government must commit to:

- Further develop and support existing sustainable blue initiatives in the fisheries, tourism, oil and gas exploration and bioprospecting sectors.
- Intensify the protection of the exclusive economic zone through MPAs, strengthening the monitoring of existing MPAs and zonal management, increasing restoration activities while introducing financial penalties for offenders.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capacities, while preventing ongoing harmful practices through fines.
- Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools.
- Support mangrove restoration activities, locally managed marine areas and MPAs.

### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

In order to encourage a transition to a circular economy, the involvement of businesses is essential. To achieve this, the government must:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
- Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
- Create clusters of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.

- Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years with tax exemption or reduction.
- Remove VAT for repair and refurbishment to encourage reuse businesses.
- Introduce incentives such as subsidies, grants, tax breaks and operational advice to encourage entrepreneurship in EC.

## Mauritius

### **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

In order to accelerate the transition to the blue and circular economy, the government must commit to:

- Endorse a charter of commitment to CE and close legal loopholes.
- Adopt a framework law promoting the integration of players and harmonization actions facilitating CE.
- Integrate commitment to CE into existing or future blue economy strategies.
- Adopt specific legislation including:
  - A ban on single-use plastics,
  - Legislation on EPR, water management, waste production and waste control.
- Meet recycling rate targets for circularity.
- Reassess green tax to meet circularity targets and promote strategies including recycling.
- Strengthen green tax enforcement policies, with severe penalties for all polluters, including public and private sector players.

### **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

To achieve a CE in Mauritius, it is essential to increase knowledge at all levels, particularly in the key sectors of the blue economy and the manufacturing sector. The government must commit to:

- Pursue ongoing environmental culture workshops engaging society.
- Strengthen collaboration between major industrial partners and national authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns to raise awareness among young people.
- Increase interaction with companies to present circular economy models and convince them of their necessity.
- Raise awareness among buyers and consumers of the underlying costs of used and discarded products.
- Strengthen media campaigns promoting circular products such as local produce and circular projects.
- Support and replicate current initiatives and other educational activities at government, business, and grassroots levels.

### **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

To improve current waste management processes, the government must commit to intervening at three levels:

Optimize existing collection and sorting systems, through the following actions:

- Increasing the number of collection points
- Introduce sorting procedures.
- Implement a deposit-refund system for recycling.
- Considering a more sustainable processing site than landfill
- Set up a national collection and sorting system, supporting existing organizations working at this level on a smaller scale.
- Set up a clear waste management structure to clearly allocate responsibilities throughout the treatment process.

Improve the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of current facilities and introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Create new businesses at transfer stations and replace landfill sites to reduce transport costs.
- Facilitate recycling so that waste can be processed with circularity in mind.
- Implement the commitment to create an easily accessible transfer station in every district.

- Create community recycling centers close to where people live to promote a recycling culture.
- Consider sorting waste at source at household level.
- Promote and finance source separation and the use of recyclable materials in the circular economy.

In terms of reducing marine pollution through better waste management, the government must commit to:

- Create an industrial waste monitoring program with the subsequent penalty system applied to the entire management system for large industrial waste streams.
- Introduce a system for local authorities to issue commercial licenses and demand payment by quantity of waste generated (polluter pays principle).
- Introduce an understanding of the use of materials in the manufacturing, tourism and fishing sectors.

#### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

To achieve sustainable use of natural resources and regeneration of natural flows within a CE framework, the government must commit to:

- Further develop and support existing sustainable blue initiatives in the fisheries, tourism, oil and gas exploration and bioprospecting sectors.
- Intensify the protection of the exclusive economic zone through MPAs, strengthening the monitoring of existing MPAs and area-based management, increasing restoration activities while introducing financial penalties for offenders.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capacities, while preventing ongoing harmful practices through fines.
- Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools.
- Support fishing closures beyond lagoons, mangrove restoration, locally managed marine areas

#### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business mode**

To encourage the transition to a circular economy, the involvement of businesses is essential.

To achieve this, the government must:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
- Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
- Create clusters of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
- Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years with tax exemption or reduction.
- Reduce VAT for repair and renovation to encourage re-use businesses.
- Set up a training and support system for individuals and entrepreneurs wishing to engage in CE activities such as recycling.

## **SaoTomé and Príncipe**

#### **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

To accelerate the transition to a blue and circular economy, the government must commit to:

- Adopt framework legislation that promotes stakeholder integration and harmonization actions towards a CE.
- Integrate the commitment to CE into existing or future blue economy strategies.
- Adopt specific legislation to harmonize with existing laws and to create a mechanism that will facilitate the banning of plastic use, waste and resource management, the institution of EPR, ERP or PPP..

## **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

To achieve a CE, it is essential to increase knowledge at all levels, particularly in the key sectors of the blue economy and the manufacturing sector. The government must commit to:

- Pursue ongoing environmental culture workshops involving society as a whole.
- Strengthen collaboration between major industrial partners and national authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns to raise awareness among young people.
- Increase interaction with companies to present circular economy models and convince them of their necessity.
- Support and replicate current initiatives and other ongoing educational activities at government, business, and grassroots levels.

## **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

To improve current waste management processes, the government must undertake to intervene at three levels:

Optimize existing collection and sorting systems, through the following actions:

- Increase collection points, transport, and collection equipment.
- Improve sorting procedures.
- Introduce a processing site that enables waste recovery and sustainable practices that go beyond incineration.
- Set up an adequate and sustainable treatment system for hospital and medical waste.
- Encourage the creation of long-term, responsible waste collection and recovery businesses, with the accompanying incentives.
- Set up a clear waste management structure to clearly allocate responsibilities throughout the collection and treatment process.
- Mettre en place une structure claire de gestion des déchets pour mieux répartir clairement les responsabilités tout au long du processus de collecte et de traitement

Improve the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of current facilities and introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Evaluate the modernization of recycling plants.
- Implement the waste recovery system, exploring energy recovery through biogas and organic compost production.
- Create new waste processing companies with circular motivations within a common framework and structural system.

In terms of reducing marine pollution through better waste management, the government must commit to:

- Create an industrial waste monitoring program, with a subsequent industry-wide penalty system, to manage large industrial waste streams.
- Introduce a system for local authorities to issue business licenses and demand payment by quantity of waste generated (polluter pays principle).
- Introduce an understanding of materials use in the manufacturing, tourism and fishing sectors.

## **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources and regeneration of natural flows within a CE framework, the government must commit to:

- Further develop and support existing sustainable blue initiatives in the fisheries, tourism, oil and gas exploration and bioprospecting sectors.
- Intensify the protection of the exclusive economic zone through MPAs, strengthening the monitoring of existing MPAs and area-based management, increasing restoration activities while introducing financial penalties for offenders.

- Strengthen close collaboration with ERHC Energy Inc. to increase control and sustainable use of the EEZ while evaluating renewable energy options.
- Enhance existing monitoring practices and capabilities while preventing ongoing harmful practices through fines.
- Provide evidence-based data on natural resources for future decisions on the rate of resource extraction.
- Support fisheries closures, mangrove restoration, locally managed marine areas and MPAs.

#### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

To encourage the transition to a circular economy, the involvement of businesses is essential. To achieve this, the government must:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
- Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
- Create clustering of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
- Introduce a system of tax relief such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years with tax exemption or reduction.
- Reduce value-added tax for repair and refurbishment to encourage reuse.
- Set up public support systems for entrepreneurs and incentives such as subsidies, grants, tax breaks and operational advice to encourage entrepreneurship in the CE sector.

## **Seychelles**

#### **Pillar 1: Establish regulations and standards for the country's circular economy.**

To accelerate the transition to a blue and circular economy, the government must commit to:

- Adopt framework legislation that promotes the integration of stakeholders and harmonization actions towards CE.
- Integrate commitment to CE into existing and future blue economy strategies.
- Integrate CE principles into the implementation of policies relating to the Blue Economy roadmap.
- Adopt specific legislation in favor of CE, including EPR legislation.

#### **Pillar 2: Create awareness and education campaigns.**

To achieve a CE, it is essential to increase knowledge at all levels, particularly in the key sectors of the blue economy and the manufacturing sector. The government must commit to:

- Pursue ongoing environmental culture workshops involving society.
- Strengthen collaboration between major industrial partners and national authorities.
- Reintroduce school campaigns or integrate them into the school curriculum to raise awareness among young people.
- Increase interaction with companies to present circular economy models and convince them of their necessity.
- Develop a CE awareness policy or guide.
- Facilitate access to credit for CE projects and programs.
- Support and replicate ongoing initiatives initiated by the private sector, civil society and other current educational activities at government, business, and grassroots levels.

#### **Pillar 3: Improving materials stock management.**

In order to improve current waste management processes, the government must undertake to intervene at three levels:

Optimize existing collection and sorting systems, through the following actions:

- Increase collection points and capacity.
- Improve sorting procedures

- Introduce a processing site that enables waste recovery and sustainable practices that go beyond incineration.
- Support existing collection and sorting companies to recover waste in a sustainable and responsible manner and replicate them nationwide.

Improve the efficiency of waste treatment sites:

- Increase the efficiency of existing facilities and introduce more sustainable sites such as landfills with gas congestion, incineration with energy recovery, waste sorting and cleaning sites, recycling stations.
- Create new businesses and strengthen the support and development of existing businesses (installation, technology deployed, effective reuse and recycling techniques) that treat waste with a circularity perspective.

In terms of reducing marine pollution through better waste management, the government must commit to:

- Support the existing industrial waste monitoring program and strengthen enforcement of the penalty system and implementation of fines.
- Introduce an understanding of materials use in the manufacturing, tourism and fishing sectors

#### **Pillar 4: Restore and better manage the use of natural flows.**

In order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources and regeneration of natural flows within a CE framework, the government must commit to:

- Further develop and support existing sustainable blue initiatives in the fisheries, tourism, oil and gas exploration and bioprospecting sectors.
- Increase protection of the exclusive economic zone through MPAs, reinforced monitoring of existing MPAs and area-based management, and increased restoration activities.
- Improve existing monitoring practices and capabilities, while preventing ongoing harmful practices through fines.
- Make better knowledge of natural resources available in decision-support tools for resource extraction.
- Support activities to implement fisheries management plans, license period restrictions or caps on annual catches of vulnerable species, mangrove restoration, locally managed marine areas and MPAs.

#### **Pillar 5: Motivating companies to adopt circular business models.**

To encourage the transition to a circular economy, the involvement of businesses is essential.

To achieve this, the government must:

- Provide structural and financial support for businesses.
- Create a circular economy office within one or more government departments.
- Create clusters of companies based on activity, material use, equipment needs and proximity to improve material use and infrastructure efficiency, while reducing supply chain and waste treatment costs by sharing them between a group of companies.
- Engage with industry to create a waste value chain.
- Introduce a tax relief scheme such as a start-up period of 3 to 5 years with tax exemption or reduction.
- Remove VAT for repair and refurbishment to encourage reuse businesses.

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **References/Further information**

Accueil | Commission de l'océan Indien ([commissionoceanindien.org](http://commissionoceanindien.org))



**SWIOFISH2 | INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION**

Blue Tower - 5th Floor | Rue de l'Institut, Ebène, Mauritius  
Tel: (+230) 402 61 00 | E-Mail: [secretariat@coi-ioc.org](mailto:secretariat@coi-ioc.org)