



## Summary report Virtual Workshop #11 - Circular Economy

Climate Chance Association	Website (English): <a href="https://www.climate-chance.org/en/">https://www.climate-chance.org/en/</a> <i>If you are interested in contributing to the Circular Economy roadmap, please write to us at <a href="mailto:association@climate-chance.org">association@climate-chance.org</a></i>
ICLEI Africa	<a href="https://africa.iclei.org">https://africa.iclei.org</a>
African Circular Economy Network (ACEN)	<a href="https://acen.africa">https://acen.africa</a>
Rwanda Association for Local Governments Authorities (RALGA)	<a href="https://ralga.rw">https://ralga.rw</a>
City of Kigali	<a href="https://kigalicity.gov.rw">https://kigalicity.gov.rw</a>
La Goutte d'Ô	<a href="https://www.lagouttedo.com/">https://www.lagouttedo.com/</a>

The first meeting for this Circular Economy Coalition took place last year at the [Climate Chance Summit Africa during the Workshop held in Accra, Ghana](#). The objective of this Virtual Workshop is to outline the roadmap for Circular Economy in Africa. This roadmap will be co-drafted with all the circular economy actors present via the coalition.

### **Paul Currie - Director of the Urban Systems Unit at ICLEI Africa**

The big challenge for ICLEI Africa and their work on the circular economy in Africa: how to support local authorities in the circular economy? Local governments are the interface with local people. In Africa, the focus has to be on people, citizens, not just on material efficiency. Improving the quality of life of African populations is a priority.

- A great challenge is very often the collection of data in African countries to be able to follow the changes and needs in terms of circular economy.
- ICLEI Africa is trying to show local governments the importance of the informal economy and how it can become legitimate through policy development.
- ICLEI Africa collaborates with NGOs, the private sector, and other actors to accompany local governments.
- The actors involved in the circular economy are often from the private sector, but there are other programmes that support the circular economy in cities (e.g., on waste, nature etc). Cities seek to innovate their recycling and food supply systems.

- For example:

- In Dodoma, an ongoing project on food waste in public spaces
- In Cape Town, a project is underway on industrial symbiosis where different industries exchange results to influence industrial parks. (this project is also emerging in Nairobi, Kigali etc).



- Some cities are taking a stand and making the circular economy a priority, for example Accra and Rabat.

### **Joanna Bingham - African Circular Economy Network**

The aim is to share and support circular economy projects taking place in the region. This is done through events and workshops.

- The opportunities for the circular economy in Africa are particularly linked to the fact that Africa still has time to do things differently, i.e. to choose the circular economy as a development model. The initiative comes from African actors. The objective is to put the citizens and the social at the heart of the project with a focus on getting out of poverty.
- A great opportunity in Africa comes from waste and soil regeneration. We must learn from the mistakes of the "industrialised" countries.
- In Accra for example, 65% of waste is organic, it is a burden on the municipalities, and it creates health and soil problems. At the same time, it is a great resource. Soil management is important, we are dealing with soil regeneration.
- 60% of the infrastructure in Africa still has to be built by 2050 so this is a great opportunity to create a social environment at the centre of the constructions that are coming. The transport system is a big issue too.
- For a large-scale transition, cooperation between companies, NGOs and associations is very important. The private sector could test things from the circular economy and then inform the legislators about the results of these tests.
- The aim is above all to have a holistic approach.

### **Ladislav Ngendahimana, Secretary General of the Rwanda Local Government Authorities Association (RALGA)**

RALGA exists because the government seeks to decentralise and develop the capacity of cities and infrastructure. At the local level, the work focuses on the implementation of programmes and policies, translating them into the local context to find the right targets.

- Major circular economy activities:
  - Waste collection mainly in cities
  - Recycling (plastics, but also paper, electronics etc) and waste management
  - Studies on the potential of the circular economy

There are ongoing meetings with the City of Kigali to discuss waste management issues because the city is growing, the population is growing, and we need to find the right solutions adapted to the needs of the city.

In Rwanda, and in Kigali in particular, are there awareness campaigns aimed at reducing waste?

- The key word is 'circular', the government is in charge of creating policies and local governments are responsible for implementing them. They complement each other and as a local government, campaigns are organised, including two in Kigali "My City" to make people think about how to make the city more sustainable, clean, smart etc.



**Serge Miquel, President of the Goutte D'Ô**

The association is based in Montpellier, France, and is involved in decentralised cooperation actions to bring scientific, technical, cultural, and societal knowledge to partner local authorities. The association works on the theme of water but also on biodiversity.

In the circular economy, water has an especially important meaning, a natural resource that can be abundant, but this is less and less the case for two reasons: increasing pollution and the context of climate change. The objective is therefore to reduce the impact on withdrawals but also to use water efficiently. By reusing wastewater, it is possible to benefit from a more circular economy and development.

Generation of added value:

- Economic value: there will be additional resources through efficient water use
- Social value because a better distribution of the resource within the population
- Environmental value because the resource is better preserved and therefore linked to biodiversity.

It is therefore possible to create positive value through the optimised use of water.

The reuse of wastewater in Tunisia for example: in Ajim, a small town of 20,000 inhabitants, there was an opportunity to have a wastewater treatment plant which aims to adapt to climate change through a project for the reuse of treated wastewater (REUT) in the agricultural world in order to create economic value in the rural context.

Several difficulties: the REUT is overly complex. For this reason, the association has decided to engage in a feasibility study that will allow the technical, economic, societal, and other aspects to be reasoned out. This study is fundamental.