

**SWITCH to Circular Economy in Eastern and Southern Africa (SWITCH-2-CE in ESA)**



**Annex 1 - Technical specifications**

**SWITCH-2-CE in ESA**

**Competitive Multiple Framework Contract to establish an enabling policy framework for circular economy in ESA region**

**January 2026**

**I. Context**

Sub-Saharan Africa faces worsening waste management issues, especially with plastics and e-waste, due to low recycling rates and limited infrastructure. To address this, the European Union, co-funded by BMZ, launched the SWITCH to Circular Economy in Eastern and Southern Africa ([SWITCH-2-CE in ESA](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zambia/switch-circular-economy-east-and-southern-africa-switch-2-ce-esa-0_en)) programme, implemented by GIZ and Expertise France, supporting East and Southern Africa's transition to a circular economy. The programme seeks to contribute to the mitigation of climate change by promoting green and circular business models and strengthening the regulatory and policy framework for circular economy.

SWITCH-2-CE in ESA programme is structured around three main objectives (outcomes), with two priority value chains: “packaging/plastics waste” and “electronics/e-waste”. The three main objectives are:

**Outcome 1:** Establish an enabling policy framework for circular economy across the ESA region.

*Under Outcome 1, the Project efforts will seek to improve access to resources on inclusive circular economy (CE) best practices by Policymakers, support integration of CE principles into policy frameworks and grow public sector capacity to support CE through Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.*

**Outcome 2:** Enhance the participation of formal and informal workers and SMEs, including women and youth, in circular economy models.

*Under Outcome 2, the Project efforts will seek to support the integration of CE topics into Higher Education and TVET with gender-sensitive approaches, improve the availability of inclusive CE training to women, youth, and informal workers, and improve firm’s access to CE knowledge and best practice materials across the region.*

**Outcome 3:** Improve access to and use of financing by circular economy businesses.

*Under Outcome 3, the Project efforts will seek to improve access to financial services to CE start-ups and SMEs, especially those led by youth and women, and improving availability of incubation and advisory support for business planning, financial readiness, and technology development.*

In terms of definitions, **E-waste** encompasses discarded electrical and electronic equipment with a plug or battery, including items like smartphones, laptops, televisions, refrigerators, and small household appliances. **Plastic packaging** includes plastic materials used to contain, protect, handle, or deliver products, such as bottles, containers, wrappers, films, and single-use plastics like bags, straws, and takeaway food packaging.

**II. Outcome 1**

Outcome 1: Establishing an Enabling Policy Framework for Circular Economy in East and Southern Africa

Outcome 1 aims to establish an enabling, coherent and inclusive policy framework for the transition to a circular economy (CE) across the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region. Outcome 1 addresses the macro-level policy and regulatory conditions necessary to accelerate circular economy adoption, with a particular focus on the two Priority Value Chains (PVCs): plastics and packaging and electronics and e-waste.

The Outcome recognises that effective circular economy implementation requires well-informed, capacitated and coordinated policymakers at both national and regional levels. Outcome 1 supports agenda-setting, policy mainstreaming, regional harmonisation and practical policy implementation, notably through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. Activities under Outcome 1 prioritise regional cooperation, South-South exchange and demand-driven policy support, while allowing for targeted national-level interventions where political commitment and enabling conditions exist.

Outcome 1 seeks to achieve the following:

* Increase the prioritisation of circular economy at political and institutional levels in ESA countries;
* Build a shared regional understanding and vision of circular economy principles and applications;
* Enable regional coordination and harmonisation of CE-related policies and instruments;
* Support national governments in mainstreaming CE into policy frameworks; and
* Strengthen public capacities to design and implement EPR systems as key policy tools for circular economy.

Through these efforts, Outcome 1 will contribute to creating the regulatory and institutional foundations necessary for inclusive circular economy models to emerge and scale across the ESA region.

Outputs under Outcome 1

**Output 1.1: Knowledge, Awareness and Learning for Policymakers**

Output 1.1 focuses on ensuring that regional and national policymakers have access to high-quality, relevant and actionable knowledge on circular economy, particularly related to plastics/packaging and electronics/e-waste.

Key activities include:

* Development of regional knowledge products such as studies, reports, tools and policy briefs on CE best practices, policy instruments, standards, certifications and linkages to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
* Support to regional and international thematic organisations through grants to strengthen knowledge production and dissemination via digital platforms, webinars, conferences and peer-to-peer exchanges;
* Awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives targeted at regional economic communities (RECs) and their Business Councils, including communication packs, events and training on CE principles and policy approaches;
* Capitalisation of lessons learned from policy-support and pilot activities implemented under Outputs 1.2 and 1.3, ensuring continuous feedback into regional and national policymaking processes.

These activities aim to create momentum, foster a common understanding of CE across ESA countries and position circular economy as a policy priority.

**Output 1.2: Mainstreaming Circular Economy into Policy Frameworks**

Output 1.2 supports the formulation, coordination and mainstreaming of CE policies at regional and national levels, through structured dialogue and a flexible, demand-driven Policy-Support Facility.

Key activities include:

* Strengthening regional public-private policy dialogue through Regional Working Groups, high-level regional conferences and South-South twinning exchanges;
* Facilitation of study tours and peer learning within the region or with European counterparts;
* Establishment of a Policy-Support Facility to respond to on-demand technical assistance requests from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), their Business Councils and national government institutions;
* Provision of tailored technical assistance to support CE governance mechanisms and policy measures, such as CE strategies and roadmaps, public procurement policies, fiscal incentives, green taxonomies, sectoral policies and integration of CE into NDCs.

The Policy-Support Facility will operate based on transparent selection criteria, ensuring alignment with project objectives, complementarity with EU and donor interventions, institutional commitment and balanced geographical representation across ESA.

**Output 1.3: Strengthened Public Capacities for EPR Schemes**

Output 1.3 focuses on strengthening the design and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes as a cornerstone policy instrument for circular economy in the two PVCs.

Key activities include:

* Conducting a regional landscape analysis of EPR policies, systems and institutional arrangements;
* Developing EPR knowledge products covering best practices, stakeholder roles, compliance, monitoring and enforcement, building on existing international tools and platforms;
* Establishing an inclusive regional Community of Practice (CoP) on EPR to foster peer learning, harmonisation and exchange, in coordination with existing initiatives such as the SADC EPR/CE platform;
* Setting up an EPR helpdesk to support member states with technical queries and implementation challenges;
* Supporting the pilot implementation of a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) model in a selected ESA country, to demonstrate feasibility and generate practical learning for regional replication.

Under outcome 1, outputs 1.1 and 1.2 are coordinated by Expertise France while output 1.3 is coordinated by GIZ.

**III. assignment**

The Competitive Multiple Framework Contract (CMFC) will focus on Outcome 1 and support the implemented of outputs 1.1 and 1.2. The implementation of output 1.3 is outside the scope of this CMFC.

To achieve the objectives of outcome 1, the Project seeks to commission regional studies on CE topics of interest and relevance to the ESA region policy makers, support dialogue and consensus building on CE topics through regional policy dialogues, support advocacy organisations and establish and implement a Policy Support Facility.

Work Package 1: Regional Studies

Under Outcome 1, the Project seeks to improve the availability and access to knowledge on CE, especially in the two PVCs, among regional and national policymakers by producing regional studies. Unlike the Policy Support Facility, the topics for the Regional Studies will not require a formal request from the partners but will be identified based on the demand for the particular topic in the ESA region. The knowledge generated from the Regional Studies will support the formulation of strategies and legislation to facilitate the transition to an inclusive CE.

Some potential areas to investigate include:

* How RECs can develop a harmonised, practical, and scalable CE data framework that aligns national methods and enables regional comparability.
* The current regional material and trade flows for plastics, packaging, and e-waste, and how tracking systems can be strengthened to improve data quality and policy design.
* Effectiveness of plastic bans, EPR schemes, and voluntary private sector initiatives in the region, and factors that explain their success or limitations.
* The extent to which national and regional policies incorporate eco-design and circularity standards, and gaps that must be addressed to support harmonisation.
* What an effective, resource-sensitive CE data collection pilot can look like for selected member states, and indicators which should be prioritised (e.g., plastics, e-waste).

Work package 2: Regional Policy Dialogues

Establishing enabling policy frameworks for circular economy in the ESA region requires that policymakers actively integrate CE principles into both regional and national policy agendas. This necessitates inclusive policy formulation processes that ensure the resulting frameworks reflect the aspirations and priorities of the respective countries and the region as a whole. To this end, it is essential that policymakers are provided with platforms for dialogue where they can articulate their vision for CE, identify key challenges, engage in constructive debate, and build consensus on actionable recommendations.

In this context, the Project aims to support the formation and operationalization of regional working groups (RWGs). These groups will serve as platforms to foster dialogue on circular economy concepts, principles, and ongoing initiatives, thereby strengthening collaboration and promoting regional policy harmonization across the two priority value chains.

The overall objective of the regional policy working groups is to foster an enabling policy and regulatory framework for CE across the ESA region by facilitating dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of best practices among policymakers**.**

Work package 3: Policy Support Facility

To support an inclusive transition to circular economy in ESA, the Project will set up an on-demand Policy Support Facility (PSF) to provide technical assistance (TA) to regional policy makers on CE policy frameworks. The overall objective of the PSF is supporting regional and national policy makers to create enabling policy frameworks for CE. The specific objectives include capacitate national and regional policy makers on CE models, promote regional CE cooperation and harmonisation, and mainstreaming CE into national policy frameworks. The target beneficiaries for the PSF are Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Business Councils, National Governments and local and international thematic organisations involved in CE

While the PSF is designed to be non-prescriptive in terms of the topics it will address, a number of potential areas of support have been identified. These are outlined in the bullet points below and would be prioritised based on the needs and priorities expressed by regional and national partners.

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| **CE Policy measures and Coordination Mechanisms** |
| Regional Level     * Regional harmonisation of CE standards, certifications and labels for plastic packaging and electronics/e-waste (taking into account EU labelling obligations and schemes). * Common definition of waste, waste management and circularity in ESA. * Regional CE Strategy, Action Plans, Roadmaps. * Standardise CE data collection methods. * Harmonise CE data framework. * Establish regional Guidelines for safe handling, recycling and disposal of waste via regional working groups.     National Level     * Inter-ministerial CE coordination mechanism/committee * Circular Economy Committees * Public-Private Dialogue Platforms National CE Strategy, Action Plans, Roadmaps. * Integration of CE in national policies (i,e sectoral policies like industrial, climate, biodiversity, etc). * International Env. Regulations and Negotiations Training - International Plastic and e-waste (i.e., Basel Convention and Plastic Treaty). * Strengthen national data systems. * Strengthen municipal governance in waste management systems. * Public Procurement (link to businesses), Nationally Determined Contributions and Fiscal Policies and incentives. |

Work Package 4: Capacity Building

Regional and national policymakers across the ESA region currently face limited awareness, technical understanding, and practical guidance on how to embed Circular Economy (CE) principles—particularly within the plastic/packaging and electronics/e-waste value chains—into policy and regulatory frameworks. This capacity gap hampers the development of coherent and prioritised CE policies at both national and regional levels. While a separate assignment will conduct the in-depth capacity and awareness assessment, this assignment focuses on responding to the already identified need for strengthened policymaker capacities. Under this CMFC, the service providers will provide tailored training on Circular Economy Policy to policy makers and influencers and organising targeted online and in-person events for policymakers on CE principles, opportunities, and their application to the two priority value chains. The assignment will contribute to building the capacities of Regional Economic Communities and their Business Councils to integrate CE into regional policy frameworks and to effectively guide Member States. Through these interventions, the project aims to equip policymakers with the knowledge and tools needed to advance an inclusive and harmonised transition toward a Circular Economy in the ESA region.

Work Package 5. Advocacy Support

The effective integration of CE principles into policy frameworks in the ESA region requires targeted and sustained advocacy directed at policymakers. While technical evidence and policy guidance are essential, progress in mainstreaming CE particularly in the Packaging/Plastics and Electronics/E-waste value chains depends on the ability of influencers and advocacy organisations to raise awareness, translate technical concepts into policy relevant messages and engage decision-makers throughout the policy cycle. Civil society organisations, consumer associations, think tanks, media actors and private sector platforms play a critical intermediary role in shaping policy discourse. However, their advocacy efforts are often constrained by limited resources and access to tailored tools, coherent messaging and structured engagement opportunities. This work package, therefore, supports the implementation of the Advocacy Action Plan, currently under development by Expertise France through a separate assignment, to strengthen the role of these actors in advocating and promoting CE principles to policymakers.

**IV. Scope of work**

The assignment requires a consultancy services to implement the Policy Support Facility, regional policy dialogues, capacity building, conduct regional studies and provide technical assistance to CE advocacy organisations and activities implemented by Expertise France. The service providers will be required to create of pool of qualified experts on the five work packages to provide technical assistance when required within the shortest possible time under subsequent contract.

Work Package 1: Regional Studies

Under this work package, the consultancy requires conducting and producing high-quality regional analytical studies on key thematic areas of Circular Economy in the ESA region to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

1. Analyse priority CE themes and knowledge gaps relevant to policymakers in the ESA region.
2. Produce regional analytical studies (e.g., CE in NDCs, CE standards and certifications, CE financing mechanisms, CE business models, etc.) that synthesize current practices, opportunities, and policy recommendations.
3. Facilitate validation and dissemination of study findings to regional and national stakeholders.
4. Provide actionable recommendations to guide the development of CE strategies, frameworks, and legislation

Work Package 2: Regional Policy Dialogues

Under this work package, the consultancy requires supporting the implementation and facilitation of Regional Working Groups (RWGs) on Circular Economy in the ESA region, providing technical, coordination, and knowledge management support to enhance policy dialogue and cooperation.

1. Support the planning, creation, organization, and facilitation of regional policy dialogues under the established RWGs.
2. Provide technical inputs and background materials to inform discussions and decision-making within the RWGs.
3. Document and synthesize the outcomes of the dialogues, capturing best practices, challenges, and actionable policy recommendations.
4. Support the development and dissemination of knowledge products and communication materials arising from the RWG activities.

Work Package 3: Policy Support Facility

Under this work package, the consultancy requires providing technical, analytical, and coordination support to the Policy Support Facility (PSF) to enable policymakers in the ESA region to design and implement enabling policy frameworks for Circular Economy.

1. Support the operational implementation of the PSF, including coordination of technical assistance requests and delivery of policy support services.
2. Provide technical and analytical expertise on CE policy mechanisms, instruments, and measures at regional and national levels.
3. Strengthen the capacity of policymakers and institutions to integrate CE principles into national and regional policies, plans, and legislation.
4. Facilitate stakeholder consultations and meetings during policy formulation processes to ensure inclusive participation and consensus-building across government institutions, private sector actors, and civil society.
5. Promote regional cooperation, policy harmonisation, and knowledge exchange through the PSF platform.

Work Package 4: Capacity Building

Under this work package, the consultancy will provide technical and capacity-building support to strengthen policymakers’ understanding of Circular Economy (CE) principles in the ESA region, with a focus on plastics/packaging and electronics/e-waste. The consultancy will develop learning materials, support advocacy efforts, and organize policy-focused events.

1. Design and deliver tailored training modules on Circular Economy (CE) policy frameworks, with emphasis on plastics/packaging and electronics/e-waste value chains, adapted to the needs of ESA regional and national policymakers.
2. Develop practical policy guidance materials (e.g., briefs, toolkits, case studies) to support policymakers in integrating CE principles into national and regional regulatory frameworks.
3. Organise and facilitate targeted online and in-person capacity-building events for policymakers and influencers, focusing on CE concepts, policy opportunities, and sector-specific applications.
4. Engage with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Business Councils to align training content with regional priorities and reinforce their capacities to guide Member States on CE integration.
5. Monitor, document, and report on training activities and outcomes, including participant feedback and capacity improvements, to inform future policymaker support initiatives.

Work Package 5: Advocacy Support

Under this work package, the contractor will provide technical and coordination support to the implementation of the Advocacy Action Plan by:

1. Supporting regional influencers and organisations to advocate for and raise awareness on CE principles among regional policymakers in the ESA region, with a focus on the Packaging/Plastics and Electronics/E-waste value chains.
2. Developing clear, user-friendly and visually engaging knowledge and communication materials, including policy briefs, fact sheets, infographics, toolkits and presentation materials, tailored to policy makers.
3. Ensuring advocacy materials are evidence-based, policy-relevant and aligned with regional policy priorities and CE best practices.
4. Coordinating and facilitating advocacy and awareness-raising activities, including online and in-person conferences, workshops and knowledge-sharing events involving CE influencers and policymakers.

**V. Geographical scope**

The SWITCH-2-CE ESA Project would be implemented in 13 ESA countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The identification of these countries is provisional and may be further validated or adjusted based on the outcomes of the inception and analysis phase.

**VI. Nature of the contract**

* **Competitive Multiple Framework Contract (CMFC) with subsequent contracts (purchase orders)** 36-months contract beginning April-May 2025 (end date is March - April 2029 to leave time for Project closure modalities).
* This CMFC will be a framework agreement with a maximum of three service providers. It establishes general terms, such as prices, types of needs under the WPs and other conditions, with the pre-qualified providers who will sign the CMFC. When a specific need arises, a mini-competition will be held among the providers, and the best offer will be awarded the subsequent contract. Total value of the cumulated subsequent contracts under the CMFC would be approximately €1,000,000 (one million Euros).

**VII. Methods**

Organisation

The service provider should work closely with the Project Management Unit (PMU) throughout the engagement. For each subsequent contract, Expertise France will provide the successful service providers with the Project’s materials relevant to the execution of tasks under the subsequent contracts.

The service providers will work closely the Technical Lead for Outcome 1, who shall be the contract manager and will oversee the implementation of activities under the CMFC.

**VIII. Required expertise**

Professional Qualification and Experience

Service providers with the following qualifications and experiences are invited to apply:

* A consulting firm (or the equivalent) which is specialised in circular economy, with a regional presence (i.e. through representation or networks in the ESA region, or through partnerships with other consultancies in the region).
* Proven experience in supporting circular economy transitions in the ESA context, policy formulation processes, policy dialogues and working groups, policy advocacy organisations, conducting CE studies, developing CE ecosystems, and particularly in the two PVCs (plastics/packaging and e-waste).
* Good knowledge of key actors and issues within the context of international development cooperation.
* A dynamic team comprising, but not limited to, a Team Lead, Senior and Junior International experts and Regional Experts, to support policy formulation and implementation in the ESA region, combining strong academic credentials, proven policy experience, and well-established stakeholder networks to deliver high-quality, politically informed advisory support.
* *General experience requirements*: Academic or professional qualifications in relevant fields such as Public Policy, Environmental Science, Sustainability, Circular Economy, Resource Management, Economics, and Development Studies and and professional proficiency in English.
  + *Specific experience required:* Demonstrated experience in policy research, formulation, and advisory support, particularly in circular economy, green transition, governance, and institutional reform, including drafting policy documents, supporting or leading consultations, and facilitating multi-stakeholder or high-level policy dialogues.
  + *Regional experience required:* Proven professional engagement in the ESA region, with established networks across national ministries, regional organisations, development partners, private sector, and civil society, and the ability to convene and engage senior decision-makers.
* A Team Lead / Managing Expert with a Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field and at least 10 years of relevant professional experience.
* Senior Experts (International and Regional) with a Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field and at least 10 years of relevant professional experience.
* Intermediate International Experts with a Master’s degree or higher in a relevant field and at least 5 years of relevant professional experience.
* Junior Experts (International and Regional) with a first degree in a relevant field and at least 1 year of relevant professional experience.
* Skills in data collection, analysis, and mapping, or other relevant mapping tools.
* Project management skills, ability to plan, execute, and deliver project outputs on time and within budget.
* Communication and report writing, ability to produce high-quality reports, policy briefs, and presentations tailored to different audiences.
* Experience with donor-funded projects or international organizations, including of monitoring & evaluation for EU-funded projects.
* C2 Speaking and writing skills in English is a requirement.
* Portuguese would be a strong asset.

*All regional experts mobilised under this Framework Contract will have demonstrable experience supporting regional/national policy formulation processes and well-established professional networks with policy makers and key* *stakeholders within the ESA region, enabling effective access, coordination, and policy uptake.*