

Validation Workshop for the African and Indian Ocean Islands Circular Economy Action Plan

Event Title:	Event Type:	Event Dates:	Event Location:
African and Indian Ocean Islands Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)	CEAP draft validation workshop	27 th and 28 th January 2025	Mauritius

Background

The transition to a circular economy model offers significant opportunities for African and Indian Ocean countries to develop flourishing economies while ensuring their long-term environmental sustainability and resilience.

In 2023, and with technical assistance of the EU, the AUC and partners developed the African Union Circular Economy Action Plan (2024-2034) which was adopted in November 2023 by the 5th session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE). The action plan sets out the vision, mission, priority sectors, goals and actions to drive the transition to circular economy in the continent. It provides an implementation plan that among others calls for the development of CE roadmaps/action plans at regional, subregional, national and subnational levels.

Given the contexts of the African and Indian Ocean Island States, it is important that frameworks and others measures to foster CE transition in these are aligned with their specific challenges, opportunities and needs. That is why the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and partners took the initiative to foster a CE transition in African and Indian Ocean Island, including through development of CE action plan.

In September 2023, the Ministerial Conference on the Blue and Circular Economy for Africa and the Indian Ocean Island States convened in Mauritius to facilitate a dialogue among the states resulting in the Declaration of the Ministers and High Representatives of the Island States of Africa and the Indian Ocean for the Development of the Circular Economy.

As a next step, the United Nations Economic Commission Africa (UNECA) has engaged the expertise of the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) Foundation to provide technical assistance to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in developing a regional Circular Economy Action Plan and blue and circular economy innovative financing Mechanism for all African Island states, charting the pathway toward a regional blue and circular economy transition. This work includes well-considered regional strategic priorities and actions across the agricultural, fisheries, tourism, waste management, construction, energy and water sectors, which are very pivotal to the region's economic development.

In addition to consulting national and regional resource persons during the inventory and co-creation of the document, the validation workshop represents a crucial milestone in the shared vision creating process and finalising the action plan. Its primary goal is to bring together key stakeholders from government, industry, civil society, and academia to review, refine, and validate the proposed action plan. This collaborative process is essential to ensuring that the solutions are practical, inclusive, and aligned with the priorities of each country. This workshop will provide a great opportunity to foster alignment and strengthen key regional partnerships among all stakeholders, to ensure the successful implementation of the action plan.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop aims to achieve the following:

- a. Present the draft of the circular economy action plan and the circular and blue funding mechanism to key stakeholders for comprehensive review, input and validation:
 - Showcase importance of transitioning to a circular economy and its long-term benefits to increase knowledge and build widespread support, emphasizing circular economy's potential to drive economic growth, job creation, reduce waste, enhance resource efficiency, and create sustainable livelihoods.
 - Engage stakeholders in discussions to ensure the circular economy action plan and blue and circular funding mechanism are feasible, context-specific, and in line with the region's sustainable development goals and the priorities of the individual countries. Discuss and gather perspectives on potential barriers to the adoption of the action plan and identify strategies to overcome these challenges through capacity building, policy adjustments, and resource mobilisation across the countries.
 - Foster collaboration between governments, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and international partners to enhance regional implementation of circular economy initiatives.
- b. Organize a round table to engage technical and financial partners to identify roles and strengthen commitment to implement the action plan and proposed financing mechanism in partnership with IOC.
- c. Enhance knowledge of members of and launch the Working Group of Circular Economy Experts from African and Indian Ocean Island States:

Presentation of the terms of reference and the work plan of the working group for 2025

AGENDA

Day 1: 27th January 2025 - Validation of Strategic Priorities and Actions

Time	Activity	Location	Responsible
09:30 am – 10:00 am	Participant Arrival, Registration and Networking Tea	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Welcome Address and Open Remark	Plenary	IOC ECA
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Introduction of key Attendees	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
10:45 am – 10:55 am	Brief Overview of the Workshop Agenda, Objectives and Expected Outcomes	Plenary	ACEN Foundation

10:55am-11:05 am	Project Introduction: The Need and Significance of a Regional Circular Economy Action Plan for African and Indian Ocean Countries	Plenary	IOC and ECA
11:05am – 12:00 pm	Presentation: The importance of transitioning to circular economy, Challenges, opportunities, commitments and progress at national levels towards a Circular Economy	Plenary	ACEN Foundation Representatives of Member States
12:00pm – 13:00pm	Lunch Break and Networking		
13:00 pm – 13:20 pm	Presentation on the CEAP's Specific Priorities and Actions Part 1	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
13:20 pm – 13:35 pm	Open Floor for Questions and Comments	Plenary	ALL
13:35 pm – 14:25 pm	Breakout Discussions on the CEAP's Specific Priorities and Actions Part 1	Breakout Groups	ALL
14:25 pm – 14:45 pm	Presentation of Breakout Group Outcomes	Plenary	ALL
14: 45 pm – 15: 00 pm	Coffee Break		
15:00 pm – 15:20 pm	Presentation on the CEAP's Specific Priorities and Actions Part 2	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
15:20 pm – 15:35 pm	Open Floor for Questions and Comments	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
15:35 pm – 16:25 pm	Breakout Discussions on Specific Priorities and Actions Part 2	Breakout Groups	ALL
16:25 pm – 16:45 pm	Presentation of Breakout Group Outcomes	Plenary	ALL
16:45 pm – 17:00 pm	Summary of Discussions from Day 1 and Next Steps for Day 2	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
17:00 pm	Closing		

Day 2: 28th January 2025 - Validation of Implementation and Resource Mobilisation Strategy

Time	Activity	Location	Responsible

08:30 am – 09:00 am	Arrival of Participants and Networking Tea	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
09:00 am – 09:15 am	Welcome Address and Agenda Overview	Plenary	IOC/ECA
09:15 am – 09:40 am	Presentation on CEAP Implementation/Governance Framework	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
09:40 am – 10:30 am	Panel Discussion: The Role of Effective Governance in the Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan Moderator: ACEN Foundation	Plenary	Government representatives
10:30 am – 10:50 pm	Open Floor for Questions and Comments	Plenary	ALL
10:50 am – 11:40 am	Breakout Discussions on Implementation/Governance Framework	Breakout Groups	ALL
11:40 am – 12:00 am	Presentation on Breakout Group Outcomes	Plenary	ALL
12:00 pm – 13:00 pm	Lunch Break and Networking		
13:00pm-13:15pm	Presentation on the CEAP Resource Mobilisation Plan and innovative Financing Mechanism for blue and circular economy	Plenary	ACEN Foundation
13:15 pm – 14:15 pm	Panel Discussion: Blue and Circular Economy Financing for African and Indian Ocean Island Countries Moderator: ACEN Foundation	Plenary	AfDB and representatives of other financial institutions
14:15pm-14:30pm	Open Floor for Questions and Comments	Plenary	ALL
15:15pm-15:35pm 14:30pm-15:20pm	Breakout Discussions on the CEAP Resource Mobilisation Plan and Financing Mechanism	Breakout Groups	ALL
15:35 pm – 15:50 pm	Coffee Break		
15:50 pm – 16:10 pm	Presentation on Breakout Group Outcomes	Plenary	ALL
16:10 pm – 16:20 pm	Presentation: Strengthening of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Growth	Plenary	IOC
16:20 pm – 16:30 pm	Closing Remarks	Plenary	ECA IOC
16:30 pm	Vote of thanks and closing		

