



# Africa Circular

The 1st pan-African conference on the Circular Economy

Tentative date: 2022

Potential location: Nairobi, Kenya

Organised by:





## Background

As the pressure on resources and raw materials increases globally, **the African continent will be particularly affected if no action is taken.**

Africa's environmental footprint continues to increase due to population growth, increasing urbanisation & rapid economic growth in various regions.



## Take – make – dispose?

Many African economies rely on resource extraction and its industries are based on the traditional linear economic model and philosophy: take – make – dispose.

More waste is produced, and needs to be disposed of. This is particularly the case in Africa's megacities.

Decoupling economic development from environmental destruction becomes increasingly urgent and necessary; and Africa with its growing populations, cities and economies is no exception.



# From Waste To Resource

## Why a paradigm shift is needed

For generations, the African continent has been showing resource consumption and small scale production patterns using circular principles. There are endless opportunities to maintain those principles, and take advantage of benefits of innovative business models, products and services based on a Circular Economy approach.

**Unlocking those opportunities will increasingly become a necessity.** From agriculture and the agro-industry to manufacturing, waste management and other industries, it is becoming evident that the Circular Economy has the ability to contribute significantly to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, and limit adverse environmental impacts in Africa.

# AFRICA CIRCULAR

Opportunities and Challenges in the  
Transition to a Circular Economy in Africa

The first pan-African conference on the Circular Economy will identify examples, opportunities and challenges of / for Africa-appropriate Circular Economy blueprint initiatives, actions and policies – and bring the right people together to drive, fund and implement a necessary circular transformation.



# AFRICA CIRCULAR

Making it happen

- ▶ What?
- ▶ Who?
- ▶ When?

# Africa Circular



## What?

- **Inform, raise awareness and advocate**
- **African CE Solutions for Circular Africa: Opportunities and Challenges**
- **Take stock, review and map**
- **Engage corporate and political decision-makers, and funders**
- **Connect the CE Players**
- **Drive Africa's CE agenda and its circular transformation**

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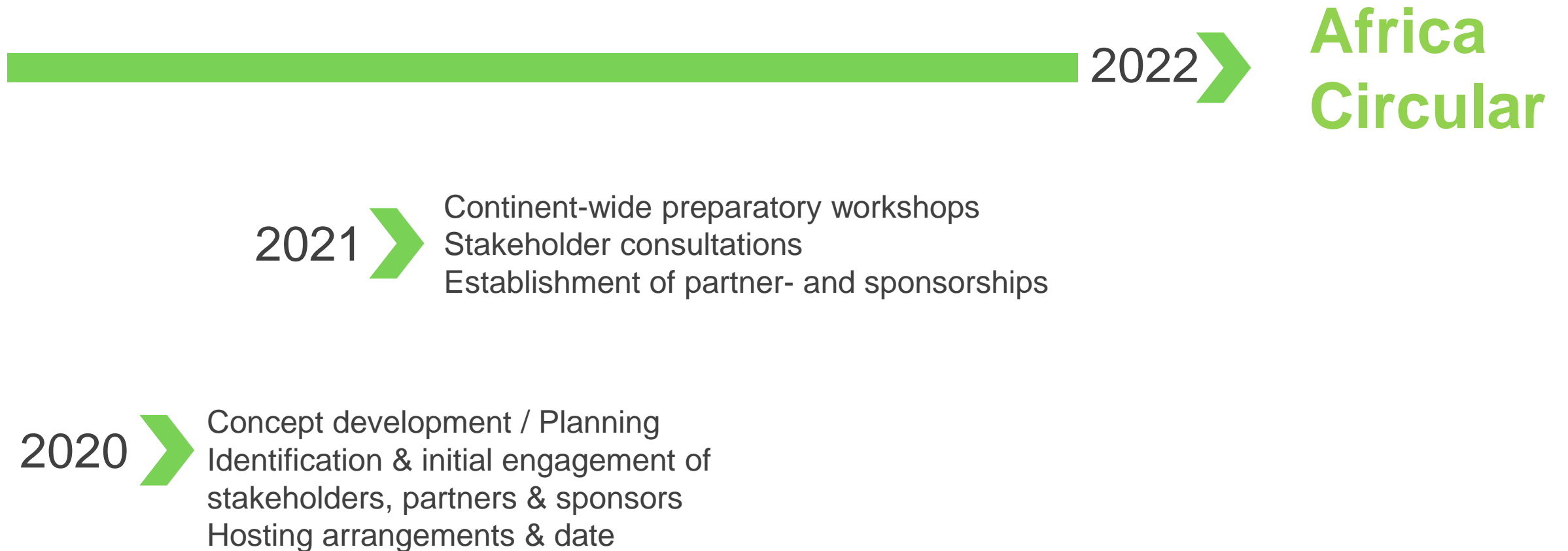
## Who?

- **Entrepreneurs** showcase CE businesses & their challenges
- **Industry** representatives present business opportunities with CE potential
- **Governments** present related initiatives, listen & learn
- **NGOs** present their CE projects and activities
- **Consultants** present opportunities, solutions & CE business models
- **Academia** presents scientific evidence & potentials
- **Public & private banks, other funders** present & learn about investment opportunities



# Africa Circular

# When?



# Calendar of important events



# AFRICA CIRCULAR

## Key Features

- **Continent-wide preparations**
- **High-level participation**
- **Formal and informal sector**
- **International exposure**
- **Solution-driven**
- **Key stakeholders**

# Africa Circular

# Key features

## High-level participation

Attracting high-level corporate and political decision-makers will be important. They shall be attracted by the unique opportunity to learn about the CE, promising business opportunities and potential solutions to African challenges.

## Solution-driven

**5 regional preparatory workshops** will develop regional recommendations, enable participants to exchange information, learn from each other, and engage in the beginning of a major initiative to support Africa in the transition to a circular economy.



## Big Conference

**2-3 days-event** with keynote speeches, roundtables, workshops, on-site visits and exhibition.

Date: 2022

Location: TBC and broadcast live in at least 4 African cities.

## International exposure

European and Asian countries with strong national Circular Economy strategies (Finland, Scotland, Netherlands, France, Singapore...) will be invited. Media engagement will help to inform about and advocate for the Circular Economy in Africa.

## Formal and informal sector

For a more Circular Africa economic activities in both, the formal and informal sector, will be considered. The organisers will aim to ensure representation and insights from the informal sector.

**ONE EVENT**  
**Big impact**

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## Potential partners, sponsors

# Key Stakeholders

- **African governments & institutions:** African Development Bank, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, African Circular Economy Alliance.....
- **UN and other International organisations:** Ellen Mc Arthur Foundation, WEF, Circle Economy, UNEP, UNDP...
- **Corporate sector in Africa** with CE ambitions, and **global corporations** that look into their entire value chain.
- **Private banks and consultants driving CE (finance):** ABN AMRO, Accenture, KPMG...
- **Governments & institutions leading the Circular Economy:** Finland, Scotland, Netherlands, Slovenia, Canada, EU Commission...

## Preparatory workshops

### 5 regional workshops are planned to take place in 2021

The goal: to develop a roadmap for accelerating CE in African countries, identify barriers, develop recommendations and solutions for each region. At the end of this workshop series, **an official ACEN publication will** summarize the learnings. Each workshop - northern, western, eastern, central and southern Africa - will gather **up to 60 participants**, with attendees from the host country as well as from neighboring ones. Each workshop will **be online** with example program as below:



#### Training workshop

Introduce key concepts and stakes of CE and contextualize to the region. Open to general public & media.



#### Keynotes & testimonies

Speeches from personalities and organizations having successfully implemented CE projects. Open to general public & media.



#### Collective intelligence workshops

Selected participants / invitation-only.



#### On-site visits

Learning expeditions to understand contexts and challenges related to circular projects. Selected participants / invitation-only



# Africa Circular

## Current Partners



# African Circular Economy Network

## The organisers

**The African Circular Economy Network (ACEN)** is a registered Non-Profit Organisation in South Africa. The vision of ACEN is “to build a restorative African economy that generates well-being and prosperity inclusive of all its people through new forms of economic production and consumption which maintain and regenerate its environmental resources. It achieves this through research, training, networking, events, knowledge shares and supporting on-the-ground projects”.

ACEN cooperates with specialists in government, business, academia and NGOs required to build an African Circular Economy. It currently has 96 representatives in 31 countries in North, West, East and Southern Africa.





Become a partner  
Become a sponsor

Join us !

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**AFRICAN CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY NETWORK**

