

# Plastics | SA

## The Role of the Private Sector in the Management of Plastics as an Environmental Challenge

*WIO and WIOMSA Science to Policy Meeting*

24 March 2021



**Plastics|SA** represents all sectors of the South African Plastics Industry including polymer producers and importers, converters, machine suppliers, fabricators and recyclers.

Together with our associations, we play an active role in the growth and development of the SA industry and strive to address plastics related issues, influence role-players and make plastics the material of choice.

**Raw material producers**



**Converters**



**Recyclers**



# Plastics SA core focus areas



✓ Member Services

✓ Training

✓ Advocacy

✓ Research

✓ Communication

✓ Sustainability – one of the core focus areas





# SA Plastics Industry – Statistics 2019

**Plastics production: 1 841 700 tons of polymer**

- 1 504 000 tons virgin material
- 337 700 tons recycle

**60 000 people employed by the plastics industry**

**49% of ALL polymer went into packaging**

**Plastics per capita consumption of approximately 27 kg/person**



# Plastics products in East Africa (WIO)

## Plastics products

- No raw material producers
- Net importer of manufactured products BUT opportunity exist in the production of plastics products to meet the domestic demand

**Increased demand for plastics packaging products**

## Plastics industry investment in East African countries

- Market access to more than 145million people
- Numerous investment opportunities
- Abundant labour force (Educated, English, skills)
- High level of intra-trade and cross border investments



# Plastics - waste management challenges

## East Africa



**Nairobi, Kenya**



**Pemba, Mozambique**

Pictures: Douw Steyn, Plastics SA





# Plastics - waste management challenges

## South Africa



# Waste generation in South Africa (2018)

**Waste generated** (per annum)

**General waste- 54 Mt**

**Hazardous waste – 52 Mt**

*57 million people generated up to  
2.5 kg of waste per day per person*

**Recycling rate**

(plastics, glass, metals, paper)

**<40%**





# Waste collection services in SA (2017)

- municipality or private service provider
- metropolitan areas have access to waste management

88%

- SA households have their waste collected

59%

- Dispose waste at communal dumpsites

34%

**Little or no separation @ source**



# Plastics waste collection for recycling

## Waste – pickers



## Buy-back Centres



## Mobile recycling units



## Co- operatives



## Material Recovery Facilities

### Separation @Source



# Plastics waste recycling

## Transportation



## Processing



## End markets for recycled materials





# Plastics Recycling in South Africa (2019)



## Recycling Survey 2019

- ✓ Plastics production – 1 841 700 tons
- ✓ Plastics waste collected – 503 600 tons
- ✓ Recyclables collected from landfill – 70.4 %

**Input recycling rate**  
**45.7%**

### Europe 2018

Input recycling rate = 32.5%  
Energy recovery rate = 42.6%  
Landfilled = 24.9%



# Plastics Industry Challenges



# Global Plastics Industry Collaboration

## Plastics Industry Initiatives, engagement and collaboration



### Global Plastics Alliance



### SA Initiative To End Plastics Waste

**Plastics Waste Management Solutions**

**Advocacy and Outreach**

**Marine litter solutions**

**Research**

**Communication**

**Education and awareness**

**Clean-up campaigns**





# Plastics Industry Collaborations - partnership

## Government and other engagement and collaboration



**AFRICAN  
marine waste  
NETWORK**  
A programme of Sustainable Seas Trust

**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union



INCORPORATING

OCEANOGRAPHIC  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE



Helping people to care for our ocean



# EPR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

## EPR Regulations and Notices to be implemented by Producers

The South African Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries – requires the paper and packaging, lighting equipment, and electrical and electronic industries

PRO's (Producer Responsibility Organisations) to develop extended producer responsibility measures. This will support access to feedstock, and support demand for recovered materials.



**Initiative that bring together key stakeholders to implement solutions towards a circular economy for plastics**

**By 2025 take Action to:**

- **Eliminate unnecessary and problematic plastics packaging**
- **100% of plastics packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable**
- **70% of plastics packaging effectively recycled**
- **30% average recycled content across all plastics packaging**





# SA Initiative To End Plastics Waste

**Board and  
Secretariat**

**Standards**

**Waste  
pickers  
(collectors)**

**Education  
and  
Awareness**

**Collaborative Forum and  
working groups from full plastics  
value chain**

**Infrastructure**

**Technology  
and  
Innovation**

**Bioplastics  
and  
Composting**



# Plastics SA Projects – River Catchment Projects

## Taking ACTION with full value chain

- **Waste Management**  
(Research, facilitation, infrastructure)
- **Education and Awareness**  
(schools, community)
- **Litter prevention solutions**  
(Litter booms/traps)
- **Clean-up Campaigns**  
(on land, rivers, beaches)





# Private Sector Support

- ☐ Plastics Industry and the full value chain must show commitment, support and action to end plastics waste in our environment
- ☐ Innovation and new technologies
- ☐ Investment support to plastics waste collection, recycling infrastructure, new technologies
- ☐ Change human behaviour re littering
- ☐ EPR, Circular Economy, Design for Recycling
- ☐ Research – science based, knowledge generation

## African Plastics Waste Management Strategy





# Private Sector Support (eg. Kenya)

## End –use markets for recycled plastics



### Gjenge Makers - Building bricks

Nzambi Matee, Kenyan recycler turns plastics waste (polyolefins) into building bricks – stronger than concrete



### Petco Kenya

PET plastics industry company specialising in recycling of PET bottles







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