

ADB

Environment and Nature

LEARNING WEEK 2025



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THIS TRAINING IS ORGANIZED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Presentation

Aligning Circular Economy Goals with International Commitments



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Rationale and Background



**BIODIVERSITY LOSS and
ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION**

POLLUTION

CLIMATE CHANGE

**Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework**

**Multilateral Environmental
Agreements (MEAs)**

Paris Climate Agreement



International policy momentum with the Global Plastics Treaty forthcoming, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, alignment with Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework

- All reinforce the urgency of systemic resource efficiency and pollution control



ADB can assist in preparing for and implementing obligations under MEAs

- Includes supporting policy reforms and investments



Implementation and Integrating international commitments into broader circular economy frameworks across sectors such as waste management, urban development, water and agriculture, etc.



Potential Scope



Implementation of Treaty Obligations

National legislation, regulatory systems, institutional frameworks

Compliance and Accountability

Reporting and monitoring, technical assistance, policy reform

Financing

Scaling investments in circularity e.g. circular value chains, waste infrastructure

Innovation and High-Level Technology

Best practices, private sector alignment

Regional cooperation

Knowledge-sharing and partnerships



Internal: To mainstream circular economy approaches in ADB operations by supporting implementation of international commitments and embedding circularity across policy and investment planning



External: To establish enabling environments that integrate circular economy principles into policy and investment (supporting the effective implementation of commitments)

Guiding Frameworks



International Frameworks

- Global Plastics Treaty (GPT)
- Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions
- Minamata Convention
- MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Guidelines

Crosscutting

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Paris Agreement
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Regional Frameworks

- ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris
- ASEAN Framework for Circular Economy.
- COBSEA and Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
- Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy
- South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Regional Marine Litter Action Plan

Integration of Circularity into ADB Work Programs



Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) as a Strategic Entry Point

- Support DMCs in establishing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, waste management systems and reduction targets
- Mobilize financing for circular infrastructure, innovation

Synergies with Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

- Chemicals and Wastes Financing Partnership Facility (CWFPF) in partnership with UNIDO, contributes to the implementation the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions

Holistic Approach to Circularity

- Expand circular solutions to other major waste streams, including agricultural and industrial waste, and electronic waste, across sectors
- Expand to upstream in the value chain, reducing waste generation and resource consumption.

Internal Areas of Support



Capacity Building and Knowledge Integration



Project Design Support and Guidance



Metrics and Project Performance Indicators

Guidelines for Consideration



Anchoring Circularity in ADB's ESF, Environmental Action Plan and Corporate Results Framework

- Ensure alignment with the Corporate Results Framework by strengthening circular economy project definitions, criteria, and metrics
- Prioritize projects that demonstrate clear circularity benefits in pollution prevention, waste diversion, and lifecycle management

Leveraging GPT and MEA Implementation as a Policy Entry Point

- Support DMCs in developing and financing implementation roadmaps, including institutional coordination, legal reforms, infrastructure development, and financing strategies

Embedding Circularity in Country Partnership Strategies (CPS)

- Including circular economy considerations when conducting country diagnostic studies to inform CPS
- Leveraging the CPS process to identify synergies among circular economy, climate goals (NDCs), and biodiversity

Enhancing Private Sector Participation and Resource Mobilization

- Structuring projects and utilizing innovative finance, e.g. PPPs, blended finance, outcome-based finance
- Providing technical assistance to SMEs and startups to improve access to finance and scale circular economy services

Integration into Design and Monitoring Frameworks (DMF)

- Mainstreaming CE-specific outcomes and outputs e.g., policy adoption, waste diversion, recycling rates, footprint reductions in DMFs.
- Using standardized performance indicators e.g., tons of plastic diverted, % material recovered, # of producers registered under EPR

Potential Ways Forward



Transition

- **Preparing for Scale-up.** Initiating planning for broader, long-term integration of CE and treaty implementation into core operations
- Initiate a scoping process for the next generation of regional CE programming

Medium Term

- **Potential Technical Assistance (TA) for Scaling Circular Economy.** Supporting GPT implementation and broader MEA compliance across DMCs.
- Scale circular economy policy reforms and infrastructure investments
- **Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Country Programming and Projects.** Embedding CE in Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs)
- Prioritize CE-aligned investment areas, such as EPR systems, recycling infrastructure, sustainable materials, and circular value chains.
- Incorporate CE metrics and objectives into project design

Long Term

- **Full Mainstreaming in Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs) and DMC Development Planning**
- Systematic integration of CE and GPT /MEA implementation priorities in CPS and national development plans.

THANK YOU!

