

*The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this presentation and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. The countries listed in this presentation do not imply any view on ADB's part as to sovereignty or independent status or necessarily conform to ADB's terminology.*



# Policies for a circular economy

---

Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies

---

Maria Hughes  
Maria.hughes@un.org  
14.5.2024

# Content

---



1. The circular economy – why does it matter?
2. Scaling the circular transition through policy development
3. Resources

---

# The circular economy – why does it matter?

**Keeping materials in use at the highest possible value for as long as possible**

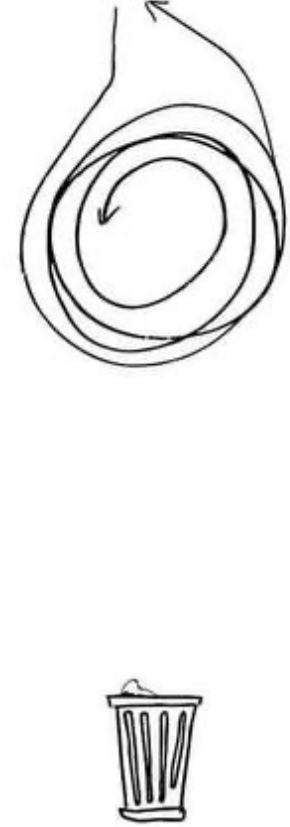
LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



# Why do we need a circular economy?

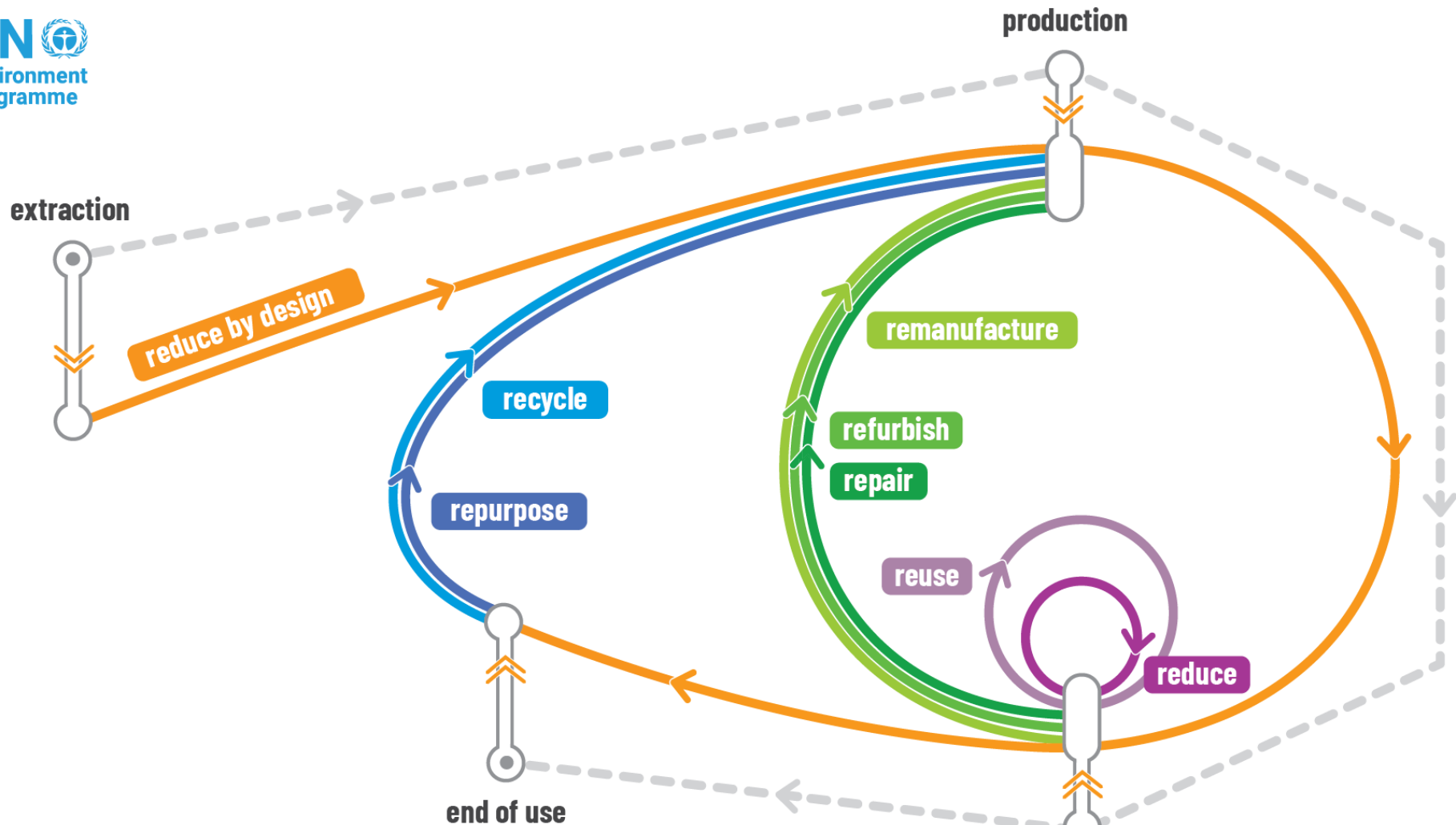
## The circular economy is NOT the end goal – it is a tool

- Triple planetary crises: biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution
  - Over consumption of materials is a major root cause for the triple planetary crises
- The linear economy generates waste that needs to be handled
  - Major social, environmental and economic causes
- While reducing material consumption, a circular economy approach has proven to be more resilient, it creates new business and employment opportunities and economic value



---

# Scaling the circular transition through policy development



**Circular economy processes**

- yellow Guiding principle
- blue Business to business
- green User to business
- purple User to user
- grey Linear economy model

# ASEAN: The ASEAN framework for Circular Economy

- Adopted in October 2021 under Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship
- Strategic goals:
  1. Standard Harmonisation and Mutual Recognition of Circular Products and Services
  2. Trade Openness and Trade Facilitation in Circular Goods and Services
  3. Enhanced Role of Innovation, Digitalisation, and Emerging/Green Technologies
  4. Competitive Sustainable Finance and Innovative ESG Investments
  5. Efficient Use of Energy and Other Resource
- Main focus on ensuring resilience in the changing world through policy development



# Vietnam: Law of Environmental Protection

- A cross-cutting approach towards a circular economy
- Circular economy embedded into the Law of Environmental Protection from 2020
  - A circular economy is officially defined as an economic model that encompasses design, production, consumption, and services activities aimed at reducing raw materials, extending product life, reducing waste generation, and minimising adverse impacts on the environment



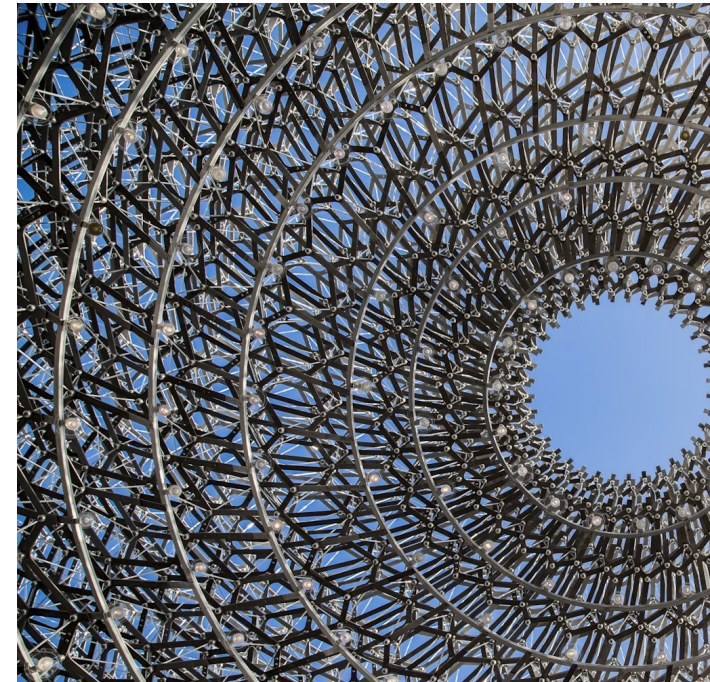
# Thailand: Green Public Procurement

- Green Integration Policy for GPP (2022-2027)
- An action plan to promote and support the integration of green procurement across sectors
- GPP is still under development but several regulations promoting ecofriendly procurement are in place
- GPP implementation in Thailand relies on voluntary submissions



# Indonesia: Integrating Green Economy polices into the National Medium-Term Development 2025-2029

- Sustainable Economic Development is one of the key pillars of Indonesia's upcoming NMTD 2025-2029
  - Green Economy transformation is one of the 6 strategies under the pillar
- Strategic sectors to scale “Green Indonesia”
  - Energy transition
  - Clean transportation
  - Sustainable land and farming
  - Sustainable Forests
  - Sustainable Water Resources
  - Circular Economy Through Waste Management
  - Blue Economy for Sustainable Marine and Coastal Environment



---

# Resources

# Resources: UNEP's role in supporting the development of circular economy policies

---

- A lifecycle approach for circular economy: [Understanding circularity - UNEP circularity platform \(buildingcircularity.org\)](https://buildingcircularity.org)
- Financing the circular economy: [Circular Economy – United Nations Environment – Finance Initiative \(unepfi.org\)](https://unepfi.org)
- [10YFP - 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](https://www.unep.org/10yfp)

# Thank you



---

Maria Hughes  
Associate Programme Management Officer  
[maria.hughes@un.org](mailto:maria.hughes@un.org)

---

UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)