UNLOCKING INVESTMENTS FOR CIRCULAR GROWTH: HOW ASIA CAN LEAD THE NEXT PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT

Rob Kaplan June 2025





THE PROBLEM: THE GLOBAL WASTE CRISIS IS WORSENING, IMPACTING PEOPLE, CLIMATE AND NATURE

Plastic consumption has

INCREASED 4X

in last 30 years, much faster than recycling capacity.
9% is recycled while 69% is incinerated or landfilled and 22% is mismanaged. Plastic waste is expected to

GROW 3X BY 2060

with the fastest growth in Asia, linked to population growth, rising living standards, and slower developing waste management systems. If nothing changes, by 2040,

20%

of the global carbon budget will be attributed to GHG emissions from the plastic lifecycle.

40,000,000

informal waste workers are responsible for 58% of plastics collected for recycling globally. The majority are women.

Circulate Capital I Private & Confidential | Sources: OECD (2022), Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options; WWF (2023), Plastics: The cost to society, the environment and the economy; UN Habitat (2022), Leaving no one behind: 2024, Ed Cook et al

THE \$100B INVESTMENT AND IMPACT OPPORTUNITY



GENERATE COMPETITIVE FINANCIAL RETURNS

\$100bn opportunity by 2030.¹

Driven by: policy, consumer demand, supply chains transparency.

60+ MTPA of new recycling capacity needed²



FIGHT POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Recycling mismanaged waste in SSEA = **229M tons CO** ₂**e avoided** (61 coal plants).⁵

Asia E-waste: ~50% of world's (30B kg), yet <12% was formally recycled, losing ~US\$91 billion in critical metals annually.



IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS

40M informal waste workers globally ⁶ (majority women)

Circular economy could create **7M+ new jobs** by 2030.⁷

1 McKinsey (2023), Scaling plastics circularity

- 2 McKinsey (2023), <u>Addressing the</u> <u>challenges of plastic waste: Circularity and</u> leakage
- 3 EIB (2023), <u>Cutting plastics pollution:</u> Financial measures for a more circular value chain
- 4 Lebreton et al, Nature
- 5 The Circulate Initiative (2023), PLACES
- 6 2024, <u>Ed Cook et al</u>
- 7 ILO (2019), Skills for a greener future

ASIA AT THE EPICENTER OF BOTH CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY



50% of global plastic production



46% of global plastic waste



~70% of ocean plastic leakage via rivers

THE SYSTEM HASN'T KEPT PACE. BUT THE SOLUTIONS AND THE PEOPLE BUILDING THEM ARE ALREADY HERE.



FINANCING IS INCREASING, BUT MISALIGNED



US\$190 BILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN PLASTICS CIRCULARITY GLOBALLY BETWEEN JANUARY 2018 AND JUNE 2023

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WHAT UNLOCKS CAPITAL

SUPPORTIVE POLICIES

Demand certainty through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Recycled content mandates

Stable regulatory frameworks



Bankable business models Scale and replication Secured offtake RISK-SHARING FINANCING STRUCTURES

Capital pooling platforms (e.g. Circulate Capital)

Guarantees

Public-private lending partnerships

Technical assistance

HOW WE DEPLOY CAPITAL:



INVESTMENT STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

- We invest across the system
- Investing in SMEs and growing businesses – for many, we are the first outside investment coming in
- Our capital: Growth equity or convertible debt
- Terms: Taking a minority stake
- Provide value add services such as:
 - Technical assistance
 - Off-take
 - Strategic partnerships
 - Product development
 - Leadership development

RESULTS TO DATE

\$265M AUM

1,550+ deals reviewed

21 portfolio companies

US\$ 300M co-investment or catalyzed

STRATEGIES AND PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Our portfolio

Scaling upcycling and adding value to recycled plastics



Scaling recycling of post-consumer plastics for food-contact grade applications in India INDIA



Transforming hard-to-recycle multi-layered plastics into valuable products INDIA



Fully integrated recycling of difficult-to-manage flexible plastic packaging INDIA



Converting low-value plastic waste to quality durable materials INDIA



Recycling PET bottles into rPET flakes in Indonesia INDONESIA | EXITED





Trailblazing bottle-to-bottle recycling in India with best-in-class technology INDIA



Consolidated platform leading bottle-to-bottle PET market BRAZIL

Polyrec

Scaling the flexible plastic LDPE, PP, and BOPP recycling with high set industry standards **COLOMBIA**



U Upcycling rPET with a differentiated collection model COLOMBIA



Converting long-term LDPE & LLDPE waste access into high-quality PCR MEXICO

Circulate Capital: Executive Summary | circulatecapital.com









Last week, **ADB joined leading DFIs to mobilize €6B** for ocean-positive investments by 2030

We look forward to exploring collaboration across SSEA with ADB and other commitment members.





IT DOESN'T **STOP** AT PLASTIC WASTE

E-Waste

Textiles

Paper, Metal, Glass Packaging

THE WINDOW IS NOW

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