



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## TENTH (10<sup>th</sup>) AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (ARSCP-10)

**Dear Colleague,**

The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) is pleased to announce the Tenth African Regional Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) to be held in September 2018 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. For the past 20 years our biennial roundtable meetings have remained the largest SCP gathering in Africa.

**Theme:** Refueling the Architecture of Transition to Circular Economy in Africa

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> September 2018 (subject to confirmation)

**Venue:** Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

**Duration:** 3 Days

**Participants:** ARSCP Members, 10YFP focal points, and SCP practitioners and the media houses all over the World.

**Partners:** Government of Burkina Faso, NEPAD, EU and UN Agencies.

**Expected Attendance:** 300-500 delegates from Africa and beyond comprising government, business, academia, NGOs, donors, development partners and international organizations. Attendance is by invitation upon receipt of your expression of interest to attend and/or making a presentation

**Presentations:** You are invited to share your experiences and stories aimed at accelerating the uptake of circular economy principles. Upon expression of interest, a detailed aide memoir in respect of this event will be emailed to you, including the Call for Abstracts of the Conference Papers, and later Papers themselves.

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Sincerely

**Dr Jane Bochareri Nyakang'o**  
**ARSCP PRESIDENT**  
**10 INTRODUCTION**





## 1.1 Background

The regional roundtables on SCP are forums that facilitate the exchange of information and experience among practitioners of SCP in Africa and the World. They are organized every two years by the ARSCP in collaboration with key global sustainable development partners. This announcement is for the tenth meeting.

Central to current global development pragmatism is a shift to a circular economy. The uptake of circular economy is becoming increasingly attractive paradigm for shifting societies to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns in the contemporary years. Beginning, albeit not succinctly, with the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development titled *Our Common Future*, and incrementally pronounced in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development followed by the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation through to the 2012 United Nations Rio+20 Declaration, , circular economy or green growth thinking has prominently featured in all global and regional discussions and formulation of roadmaps for sustainable development policies and actions. The key issue is how to use and manage finite natural resources for benefit of present and future generations.

Already there is a global movement towards a circular economy. Since the adoption of SDGs in 2015, all major global and regional meetings have encompassed a component on circular economy with a view of accelerating its uptake. Just to mention a few, World Economic Forum in Davos and the First World Circular Economy Forum in Helsinki both in 2017, the Stockholm World Water Week Seminar on Water and the Circular Economy, etc. Resulting from them, compelling volumes of pressure have been directed to country governments to explore programmes and embrace decision making approaches that support development from a circular economy perspective.

A circular economy differs from the contemporary linear economy. It is restorative and regenerative keeping products, components, and materials at the epoch of their utility and value at all times, as well as distinguishing between technical and biological cycles. This way it reduces the use of virgin materials and keeps our planet safe for current and future generations. Linear economy defies the sustainability fabrics of preservation and enhancement of natural capital, optimization of resource yields, and minimization of system risks by efficient management of finite stocks and renewable flows.

It is in the interest of promoting this imperative on sustainability ethics that African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) intends to organize its tenth round of regional forums (ARSCP-10) under the theme of ***Refueling the Architecture of Transition to Circular Economy in Africa***. It expects to bringing together SCP practitioners and professionals in Africa and beyond to deliberate on how best the region can adopt and develop in circular economic trajectory by exploring and learning from each other how circular economy and SCP are in tandem for sustainable development.





## 1.2 Profile of ARSCP

ARSCP is a not-for-profit organization established in 2004 as a platform for sharing information and networking with a view to promoting and facilitating development of national and regional technical capacity for SCP practices in Africa. Its secretariat is in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. From 49 founding members in 2004, its membership has grown to 284 comprising individuals, institutions and corporates in 41 countries. It is now the technical arm for AMCEN.

The founder members of the organization were 10 National Cleaner Production Centers, which had been established during the nineties through the stewardship of UNIDO. Today there are 15 in Africa. The ARSCP enjoys the patronage of AMCEN, UN Environment and UNIDO. It also works and receive support from other international donors and organizations such as the EU, GIZ, NORAD, UNDP etc.

A key responsibility of the ARSCP rests in promoting SCP in Africa and implementation of the regional ten years framework of programmes on SCP (10YFP). The organization has remained the key architect of the African 10YFP on SCP. The first was developed in 2004 in line with the JPOI and already has developed the second one which incorporates the 2015 global 10YFP and SDGs.

Over the years, the ARSCP has promoted SCP in the region through scientific studies, executing projects and convening meetings. Few examples include projects on water and energy saving initiatives, ecological based standards, resource efficient and cleaner technology skill development and waste management. It has organized nine regional roundtables on SCP since the year 2000 in different parts of Africa. The ARSCP boosts itself of being the biggest public platform on SCP in Africa, notwithstanding the fact that it is always strapped for resources.

## 1.3 Thematic focus of ARSCP -10, "Circular economy in Africa"

Circular economy is timely in Africa as the region is keen on sustainable development. A circular economy focuses on careful management of material flows throughout product life cycle, i.e. endless resource uses. It contributes towards resource efficient and low carbon economy reducing costs and supply chain risks generating economic and social value.

African countries are signatories of most international conventions on climate change and are on the lookout for proactive ways of implementing them. This is important for the region because not only does it suffer most from the effects of climate change but is also the least developed region. A broad spectrum of unsatisfactory circumstances have acted both singly and collectively to sentence the continent to vulnerable situation. The circumstances in question range from lack of technology and skills, low financial endowment, irregular incidences of organised dialogue spaces for professional communities, non existence of SCP policies, regulatory frameworks and field setting practices. That's why all recent development based meetings of the





region emphasized on careful use and mobilization of resources to alleviate poverty and maximization of benefits from regional natural capital (Agenda 2063-The Africa we want). A circular economy has a great potential for benefiting the people, eco system and the economy. It is a win win strategy.

Unlike countries in the North that have been in the forefront of putting in place structures and decision making frameworks that foster transition to circular economy, most of the African countries are still largely at experimental stages with this approach. Yet, it is in the latter contexts where the risks of failing to adopt the circular economy are highest given that they still rely on heavily extractive natural resource use production systems. Further, many African countries face the challenge of gross absence of reliable information and consistent data capturing and analytical systems that can aid in determining the patterns of resource utilisation levels and production and consumption efficiency needs at national and regional levels.

African governments are slow to integrate SCP into their development blueprints, thereby curtailing prospects for finding holistic solutions to cross-cutting issues that impinge insults on its natural capital. To date only one third of the regional countries have SCP integrated into their development plans.

It is on the face of these challenges that the next ARSCP regional meeting (ARSCP-10) intends to review current status of SCP, explore new modalities and stress circular economy as a potential tool for climate change and poverty alleviation, impact of SCP on circular economy, innovation and financing circular economy. The meeting will present an important opportunity for networking, pooling together SCP professionals and multiple actors in the development space to evaluate the risks and develop common grounds for fostering circular economy in Africa.

#### 1.4 Thematic Structure

Related subjects including resource efficient use for human, water, energy and materials, renewable energy, green procurement, agrifoods, eco labelling, habitat, green jobs, waste, green industry and business, international conventions, regulations, and the roles of governments, NGOs, development partners and donors will be explored and discussed. These topics are the key focus for this meeting.

- African 10YFP on SCP
- SWITCH Africa Green
- Resource efficient and cleaner production
- Waste management and Industrial Symbiosis
- Sustainable public procurement
- Eco innovation
- Ecolabelling
- Circular economy blueprints, business models, standards, technologies, financing etc.





## 2.0 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

### 2.1 Objectives of ARSCP-10

The overall objective of this forum is to support circular economy development in Africa through knowledge sharing. Its specific objectives will be:

- a) To learn about global and regional SCP development, programmes and initiatives
- b) To create awareness among policy makers, business, academia and NGOs and popularize the underlying principles, and emerging methods and tools for applying the concept of circular economy to achieve SCP patterns in Africa.
- c) To explore the challenges and opportunities for switchover to a circular economy in the context of Africa.
- d) To stimulate learning about what works and what does not work in African context on implementation of a circular economy approach based on success scenarios across the world.
- e) Reflect on the need for, and content of, 10YFP and how the framework, should be implemented in regional environmental management plans
- f) To endorse the second African 10YFP on SCP and other regional sustainable development frameworks.
- g) To create new partnerships and open windows for multi-actor networks and collaborations for transition to circular economy in Africa.
- h) To map out strategic development planning, management and policy pathways those African countries can explore to accelerate their transition to a circular economy.
- i) To review the activities of the ARSCP and propose ways on further strengthening the organization as well as recruiting new members

### 2.2 Expected Outputs

- a) Report of the proceedings of the forum, including reactions from participants.
- b) Documented cases and practical examples of successful applications of the circular economy concept.
- c) A framework of planned actions for accelerating transition to circular economy in Africa.
- d) Book volume from the scientific research papers presented and key note addresses delivered.
- e) Papers and materials for uploading onto various donor electronic repositories
- f) A compendium of relevant links for learning actions, policy making and practices about circular economy for Africa.

### 2.3 Expected Outcomes

- a) Improved awareness among SCP professionals and practitioners in Africa about principles, opportunities, obstacles, and trends in methods and tools relating to the concept of circular economy.
- b) Greater use of diverse insights on circular economy emerging from lessons learned across contexts by SCP planners, programmed developers and decision makers in Africa.
- c) Increased frequency of applying the circular economy concept to improve the efficiency performance in use and management of natural resources in Africa.





- d) Improved clarity about the links between African regional development frameworks and/or global sustainable development goals and propositions of the circular economy paradigm.
- e) Testimonials of improvements in capability and competences for transition to circular economy among SCP professionals and practitioners in Africa attributable to the actor-networks and collaborations grown from the Forum.
- f) Improved linkages among African SCP professionals, policy makers and practitioners, and with their comrades from other parts of the world.
- g) Increased mainstreaming of SCP into national and corporate development plans in the region

### 3.0 ARSCP 10 ORGANIZATION

#### 3.1 Organizers

The ARSCP 10 meeting is being organized by the Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment and the ARSCP. The conference will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The occasion will take 3 days. In September 2018

#### 3.2 Target Participant

The participants will be representatives of ARSCP members, special key note speakers, and SCP professionals and/or circular economy experts in respective sub-thematic areas. Attendance will be by invitation. About 300 participants are expected to attend.

#### 3.3 Presentation at the Meeting

You are invited to share your experiences and stories aimed at accelerating the uptake of circular economy principles. Calls for Abstracts of Conference Papers (and later Papers themselves for accepted Abstracts) have been published in the website <[www.arscp.org](http://www.arscp.org)>. Submissions will be evaluated by a Committee and notice of acceptance passed to successful applicants. Practical experiences in undertaking SCP will be given highest priority.

Presentations aimed at sharing scientific contribution of SCP in expediting attainment of circular economy is the key aim of this meeting. Contribution through sharing successful programmes, projects and activities at regional, sub regional national, local levels are most welcome for the meeting.

#### 3.4 Time lines for submission

*Interested contributors are encouraged to submit an abstract of their contribution to <[secretariat@arscp.org](mailto:secretariat@arscp.org)>. It should be about half a page with title of paper, name and address of author, and summary of the topic to be discussed. Upon being selected you will be asked to prepare the full paper and PPP presentation.*

Deadline for submission of abstract: 30th June 2018

Deadline for submission full presentation: 31st July 2018.

Enquiries for Exhibitions are welcome. Contact [[damien.lankoande@gmail.com](mailto:damien.lankoande@gmail.com)], to reserve space.





### 3.5 Components of the Conference Delivery

A highly dynamic, integrative and participatory approach will be employed in the conduct of the conference. Thus conceived, the delivery process will constitute the following aspects:

*Plenary sessions,*

Key note addresses by appointed prolific SCP professionals and Experts in circular economy in the respective conference thematic areas. These will be complemented by brainstorming sessions for purposes of bridging emerging knowledge gaps and responding to arising questions.

*Facilitated parallel breakout sessions,*

Presentation of papers by invited participants in line with the sub-themes of the conference and strategic objectives and activities of ARSCP

*Participatory Plenary Discussions,*

Critically galvanizing common responses to circular economy actions, and ventilating poignant policy, planning and programming considerations for moving Africa’s transition to circular economy forward.

*Working group sessions,*

Enable participants identify and prioritize strategies for bolstering important linkages central to accelerating the transition to circular economy in Africa.

*Poster Sessions,*

Visual demonstration of successful stories of the circular economy approach and experience on how to develop a road map and building blocks for its realization.

*Exhibitions:* Products, projects , success stories,

An Aide memoire available at [www.arscp.org](http://www.arscp.org)



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