



AFRICAN  
CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY  
ALLIANCE

# 2024

# HIGHLIGHTS

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# ACEA'S GROWING MEMBERSHIP



ACEA expanded its reach and influence in 2024, welcoming **Ethiopia as its 14th member country**. This addition underscores ACEA's commitment to fostering a united African effort to advance the circular economy.

## 14 COUNTRY MEMBERS

*Founding  
country  
members*

-  **Nigeria**
-  **Rwanda**
-  **South Africa**

-  Benin
-  Burkina Faso
-  Cameroon
-  Côte d'Ivoire
-  Chad
-  Ethiopia
-  Ghana
-  Mauritius
-  Morocco
-  Senegal
-  Sudan



Furthermore, ACEA solidified its strategic partnerships by onboarding the **development agency of Belgium's federal government Enabel**, **Geological Survey of Finland GTK**, the **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** and the **International Trade Center (ITC)**.

These partnerships bring diverse expertise and resources, bolstering ACEA's capacity to support member states in implementing circular solutions.





## TECHNICAL PROJECTS

ACEA actively supported member countries through technical projects.



### The NCER project

Through the AfDB's African Circular Economy Facility (ACEF), ACEA has supported the implementation of the Multi-Country National Circular Economy Roadmap (NCER) project, which aims to equip five countries with strategies to embed circular economy principles into their development framework.

### The AfriCircular Innovators Programme

The AfriCircular Innovators Programme empowered 30 African entrepreneurs by providing mentorship to develop scalable circular solutions.



### Circular Food Systems for Rwanda Program



In partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and funded by the IKEA Foundation, ACEA supported Rwanda in advancing Circular Food Systems, focusing on innovative approaches to minimize food loss, enhance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable agricultural practices





## POLICY EFFORTS



ACEA, in collaboration with the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), has been actively advocating for establishing and adopting a unified rPET standard, supporting ARSO's efforts in developing this critical framework to promote sustainable plastic management across Africa.

These efforts address a pressing need for a cohesive framework to streamline recycling and production standards.

Discussions on harmonizing broader circular economy standards at the pan-African level have also progressed, signaling a move toward more unified and efficient policy landscapes for member countries.





## ACEA AT GLOBAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

ACEA's presence at key global and regional forums reinforced its position as a leader in Africa's circular economy transition. Some key events that ACEA actively participated in are highlighted below.



rPET standards session



UNEA 6



WCEF



Food systems in Rwanda



AMCEN



ACEA annual meeting





## The Alliance:

FEBRUARY 2024

### UNEA 6

Partnered for a side event on financing circular economy roadmaps at UNEA 6 in Nairobi.

MAY 2024

### FOOD SYSTEM RWANDA

Participated in a workshop under the Circular Economy for Food Systems project in Rwanda, advancing CE in agriculture and food systems

OCTOBER 2024

### ACEA MEETING

Held the ACEA Annual Meeting virtually, ensuring inclusivity and continuity

JANUARY 2024

### rPET standards session

Co-hosted a session on the need for a continental rPET standard in Morocco.

APRIL 2024

### WCEF

ACEA led key sessions, including "Does location matter for the energy transition?" and "Enabling CE in Africa's mining sector."

SEPTEMBER 2024

### AMCEN

Hosted the ACEA Ministerial Dinner alongside AMCEN's 10th Special Session in Abidjan, resulting in a declaration encouraging countries to join ACEA.





## ACEA WORKING GROUPS

All five ACEA working groups were activated in 2024, marking a significant achievement in collaborative governance. Led by country focal points, these groups advanced efforts across priority themes, fostering cross-country learning and ensuring that regional perspectives informed the circular economy agenda. This activation has strengthened ACEA's structure, creating pathways for more coordinated action and impactful outcomes.



To promote informed decision-making and policy development, ACEA launched the publication, “The Imperative for a Continental rPET Standard.” This paper highlights the environmental and economic benefits of a unified standard, offering actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders. The publication not only serves as a key advocacy tool but also exemplifies ACEA's commitment to bridging knowledge gaps and driving evidence-based interventions.

## ACEA KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT





# MOVING INTO 2025

## 01 ■ KNOWLEDGE & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

ACEA, through its engagement with partners, has identified critical emerging topics essential to advancing the circular economy in Africa. In 2025, ACEA will prioritize generating actionable knowledge in areas such as policy recommendations for its "5 Big Bets," the interlinkages between trade and circular economy, opportunities within the bioeconomy, and the integration of circular strategies into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). By producing targeted research and tools for policymakers, businesses, and stakeholders, ACEA aims to enable informed decision-making and drive impactful circular economy practices across the continent.

## 02 ■ TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBER PROJECTS

ACEA will continue to support member countries and partners with initiatives like National Circular Economy Roadmaps, the AfriCircular Innovators Programme, and food systems projects. In addition, ACEA will contribute to drafting the Global Circularity Protocol, ensuring that Africa's priorities are integrated into global circularity standards to enhance scalability and sustainability across the continent.

## 03 ■ STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

ACEA aims to strengthen African representation in global negotiations, advocating for the continent's priorities in forums like the Plastics Treaty and UNEA. It will actively participate in global events such as the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF2025) in Brazil, showcasing African innovations and engaging key stakeholders.

## 04 ■ AMPLIFYING AFRICA'S VOICE GLOBALLY

ACEA will work to expand its membership, targeting additional African nations and strategic partners. Outreach initiatives will emphasize mapping synergies between partners' strengths and ACEA's thematic focus. Regular engagement through technical committee meetings, knowledge-sharing sessions, and webinars will ensure a dynamic and collaborative CE network.

## 05 ■ OPERATIONALIZING WORKING GROUPS

Thematic working groups activated in 2024 will deepen collaboration with strategic partners, enabling thought leadership and actionable initiatives in priority areas like food systems, packaging, and electronics. These groups will serve as incubators for innovative CE solutions, ensuring measurable progress in scaling circular practices.







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