



E-waste management efforts led by Mobile Operators in LMICs and GSMA e-waste policy study



Mobile for Development

 **93.8 million lives impacted to date**



We drive innovation in digital technology to reduce inequalities in our world





Reducing inequalities in our world

CLEANTECH

Leveraging digital technology as an enabler for emerging countries' transition towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies

ASSISTIVE TECH

Improving the accessibility and affordability of mobile services for persons with disabilities

M4D UTILITIES

Unlocking access to affordable and improved energy, water and sanitation services

MOBILE FOR HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION

Accelerating the delivery and impact of digital humanitarian assistance



MOBILE MONEY

Accelerating the digital financial ecosystem for the underserved

CONNECTED SOCIETY

Addressing access and usage barriers to increase mobile internet adoption

CONNECTED WOMEN

Reducing the gender gap to increase digital and financial inclusion for women

DIGITAL IDENTITY

Enabling robust and unique digital identity for greater inclusion

ECOSYSTEM ACCELERATOR

Delivering social impact and scale through mobile innovation

AGRITECH

Digitising the agri value chain to drive mobile financial inclusion for small holder farmers

GSMA CleanTech work on e-waste

According to GSMA research* the 85 countries studied produce

17.7 million tonnes of e-waste per year



Equivalent to the weight of:

285 million people

The population of Germany, UK, France, Spain and Switzerland



150,000

Blue Whales



100,000

empty Boeing 747s



- In early 2020 the CleanTech team conducted an e-waste policy study covering 85 countries across Africa, South and Southeast Asia.
- We wanted to create a tool to support Mobile Operators and our Partners by mapping out:
 - Existing e-waste policies;
 - Whether these are legally binding policies;
 - Identifying any updates or upcoming policies;
 - Identifying EPR policies that are active or being developed.
 - To review policies covering mobile waste or prescribing industry action.
- We also identified the e-waste management efforts led by MNOs in these markets.

MNO led e-waste management efforts:

In 40 out of the 85 countries MNO voluntary e-waste management initiatives were found.

67 MNOs have reported on their e-waste efforts.

38 on customer awareness

43 on collecting e-waste

30 on collection of mobile phones







25 on internal network waste management

GSMA created a [blog series](#) covering the most comprehensive MNO-led e-waste practices in LMICs.

Clicking on the below MNO Logos to access respective articles.



MNO led e-waste management efforts

 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect m-waste from staff• Recycling partner in country• Strong EMS	  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect phones in offices• Strong partnerships• Recycling partner in country	  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create public awareness• Collect all types of e-waste in their offices• Work with many other collection partners• Recycling partner in country• Export the remaining parts (to recycle)• Plans to link informal sector
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspired the National E-waste Management programme	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect phones from internal projects• Repair and resell phones	

E-waste policy and legislation in LMICs

Out of the 85 countries, 78 per cent do not have legally binding regulations on e-waste.

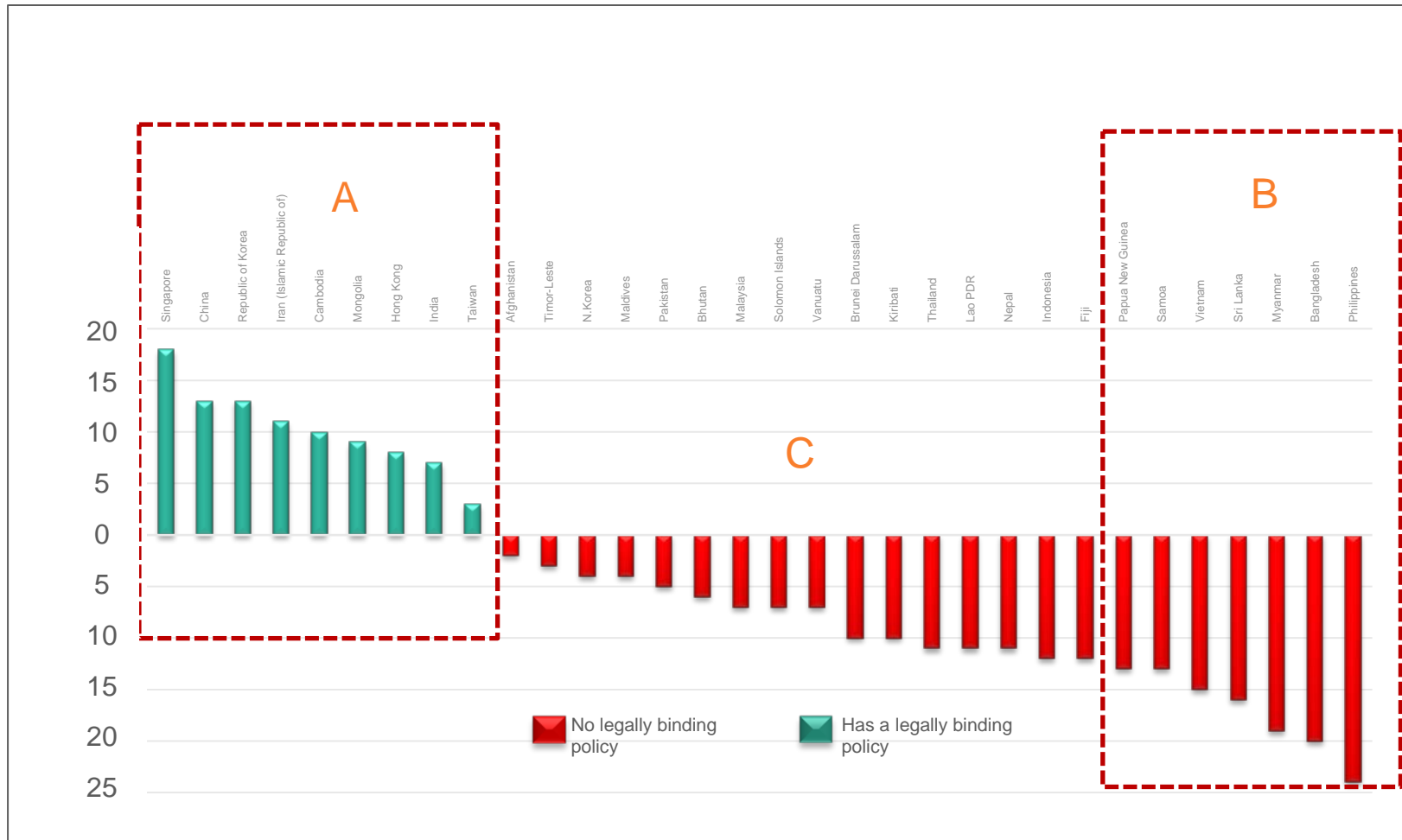
Only one country has a (draft) policy on mobile waste.

In majority of countries mobile waste is captured broadly under all 'e-waste' types.

In some countries Telecom regulators have set guidelines for MNOs to collect mobile waste from customers.



Legally binding e-waste policies in Asia



No. of e-waste policies found in South and South East Asia

Based on e-waste policy environment in South/South East Asia, three broad categories seen:

- **A** – Countries with a legally binding e-waste policy framework,
- **B** – Countries with more than five e-waste related policies, yet no legally binding policies.
- **C** – Countries with less than five e-waste related policies and no legally binding policies.

Ongoing policy discussions

Ongoing policy discussions in 14 African countries and 16 Asian countries.

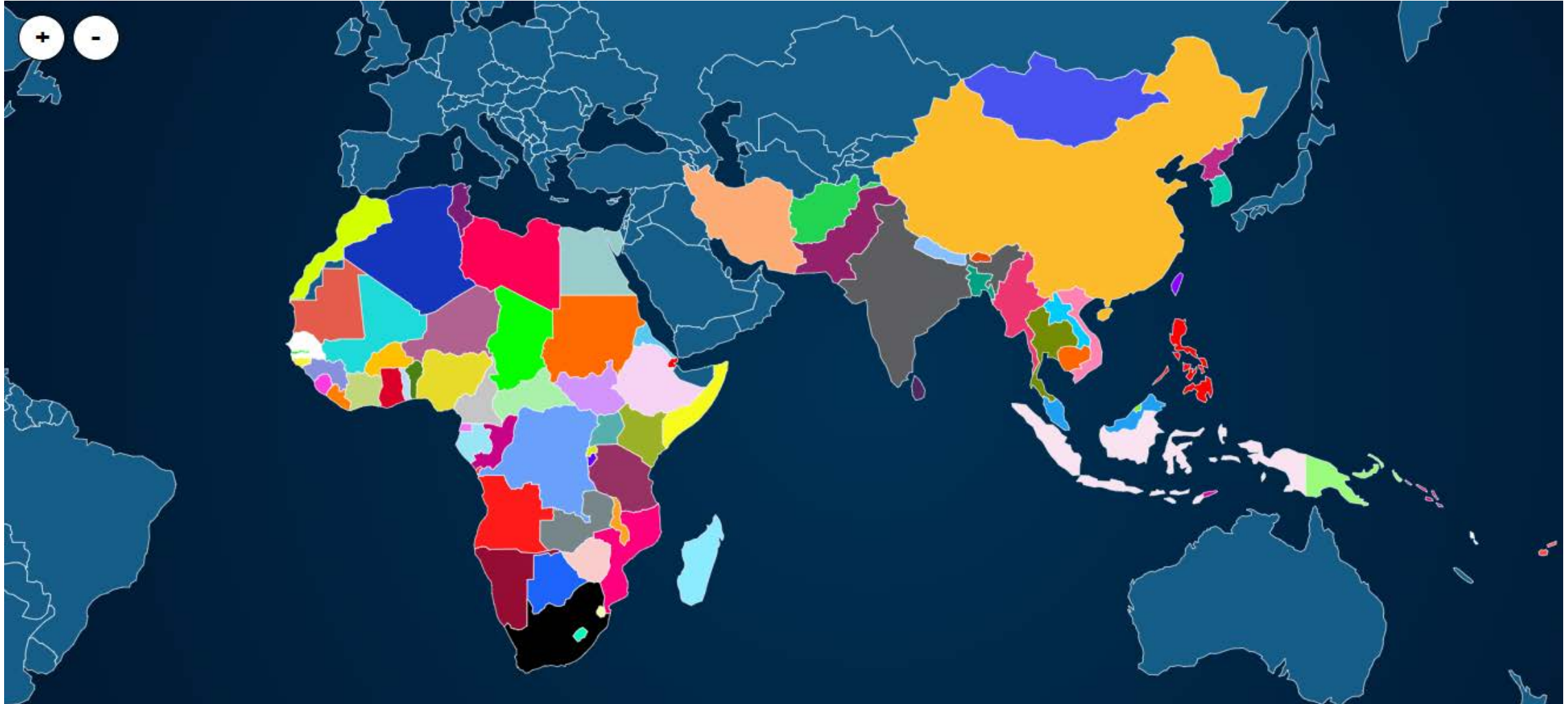
In these countries the legislation is either still in discussion or pending approval

Private sector members across these markets, could use this as an opportunity to actively participate to influence the wider e-waste policy environment.

Ex: Safaricom is actively working with the e-waste steering committee in Kenya alongside the national e-waste policy development efforts.



GSMA online e-waste policy database



Beyond 2020

- We are currently conducting a research to understand how digital technology can be used to manage plastics. The leanings of this study will be useful to link e-waste efforts as well.
- We are currently discussing with ITU and UNU colleagues to understand best way to use the policy database as a building block to create a more comprehensive global resource.



Thank you

This initiative has been funded by UK aid from the UK government and is supported by the GSMA and its members.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

