



# **E WASTE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EAST AFRICA REGION**

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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## E waste

- E waste is discarded electrical and electronic devices or appliances that have ceased to be of any value to their owners (NEMA, 2018)

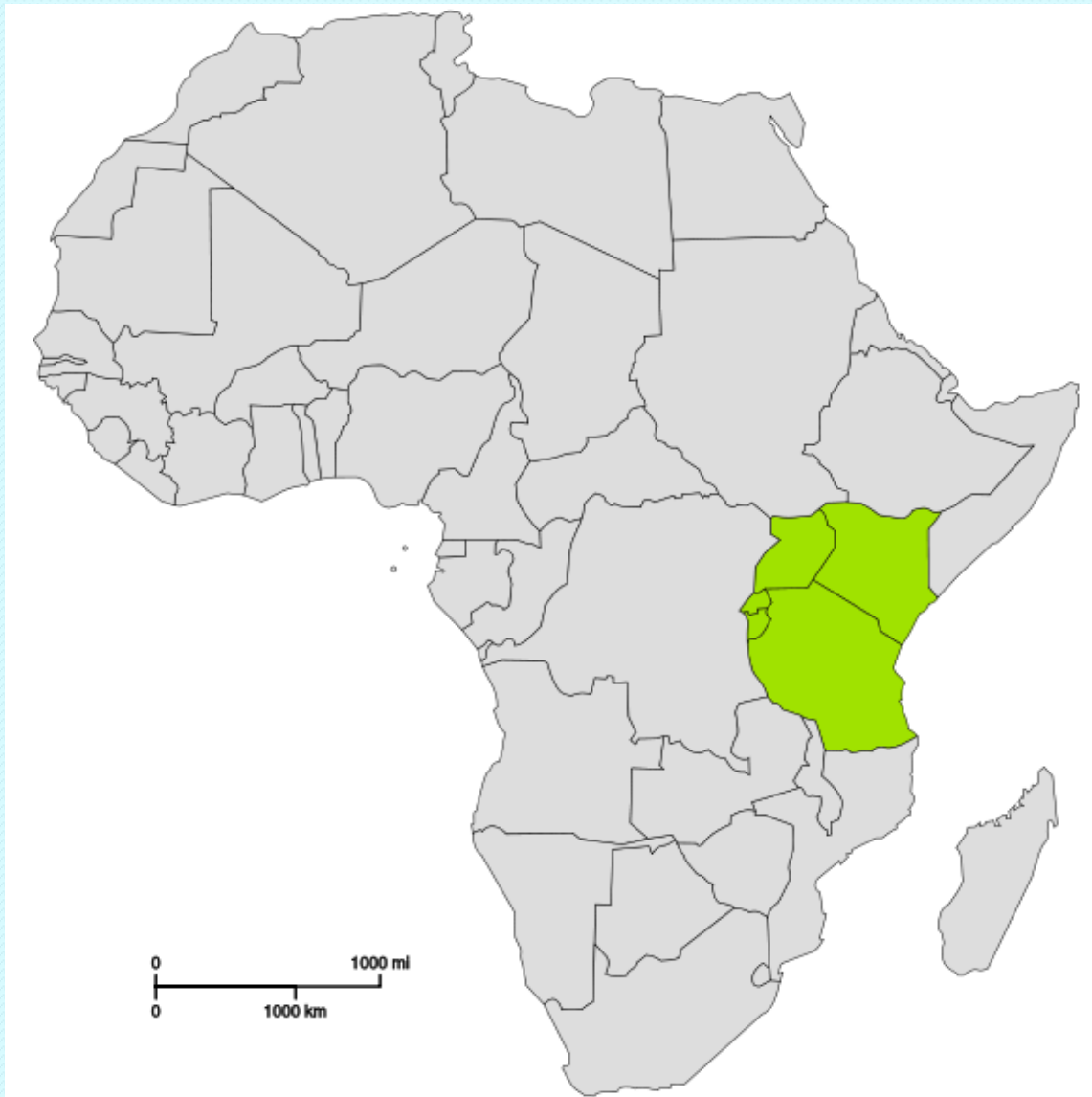
## East Africa Region

- EAC is a regional intergovernmental organization of 6 Partner States: *(Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan (newest member), Tanzania, and Uganda)*
- It's home to 158 million people (22% is urban population)
- With a land area of 2.42 million square kilometers
- A combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$ 169.5 billion *(Source: EAC Statistics for 2015)*
- EACO has membership from *Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan*

## Multimedia University of Kenya

- Founded in 1948 as Central Training School (CTS) to serve East African Posts Training School (EAPTS).
- Now a fully fledged/chartered public university in Kenya with a niche in Telecommunication, ICT and Media studies
- With a population of over 5,000 students who are mostly government sponsored

# THE MAP OF AFRICA



Burundi  
Kenya  
Rwanda  
Tanzania  
Uganda

# Major challenges for the Region

- Lack of e waste awareness mechanisms (Definition, classification etc)–So much sentimental value attached to electrical and electronic equipment
- Lack of e waste Regulations in some countries. Those that have guidelines, lack proper implementing procedures esp. on ERP/take back system due to influx of counterfeit products
- Insufficient studies/research/survey to inform on the percentages/volumes etc of e waste and its impact on society, environment and human health
- Increasing volumes of e waste imported illegally in the region due to porous borders and unscrupulous dealers
- Lack/inadequate skills on handling e waste. *Major question is, What happens to my data?* Other questions include, **Is the handler qualified? Is the handler safe?**
- Poor infrastructure for recycling e waste – No funding for e waste management activities, no/minimal investment plans for investors to finance proper recycling facilities

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REGION

## 1. Lack of e waste awareness mechanisms (Definition, classification etc)

- Create right linkages with right partners
- Get the right information on e waste and share it correctly with the public
- Define your specifics and handle them as such /Do research and come up with innovative ways of handling e waste
- Find a balance between sentimental value of e waste and their negative impact- Be innovative

**NB: Majority of the population are still unaware of what e waste is and the impact it has on them and the environment**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REGION

## 2. Lack of e waste Regulations

- Continue putting pressure on governments (lobby)
- Have and participate in more stakeholders forum so as to be heard
- Improve on the already drafted regulations
- Work as a block/EA Region
- Sensitize the public on available policies/guidelines etc so that they do not dwell on the existing gaps
- Learn from other countries that have success stories  
*(Rwanda is a great example)*

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REGION

## 3. Insufficient studies/research/survey

- The area is still raw/untapped
- Governments should set aside funds for research, innovation and development of sustainable e waste management mechanisms
- Scholars/Researchers/statisticians etc should pull together and unmask the monster
- Partner with Academia and research institutes – They have the capacity to handle such magnitude



## 5. Counterfeit electronic products

- (80%) of counterfeit good in Kenya are electronic products (ACA, 2016)
- Create and enforce laws on handling illegal/counterfeit electronic products
- Sensitize the public and stress on benefits of buying genuine products to self and environment
- Create a conducive environment for genuine businesses to operate



## 6. Lack/inadequate skills on handling e waste

- Training/Capacity building of different stakeholders (*Informal collectors/ other collectors/handlers, users, enforcers, regulators, academia etc*)
- Sensitization to the public on safe disposal of e waste
- Universities and middle level/tertiary colleges to incorporate in the education system, and promote new and innovative ways of handling e waste
- Inculcate e waste management skills in lower levels of education to create a mindful culture

**NB: Very few institutions offering e waste training. The region outsources training services overseas**

## 7. Poor infrastructure for recycling e waste

- Set up of e waste Recycling/Processing Plant for the region
- Collection points be accessible and available
- As technology grows, the skill of handlers should also be developed – *New challenges call for new solutions. Keep updating the skill to keep up with technology.*
- Benchmarking with international best practices– Partnerships with well established e waste management organizations/facilities
- Accountability and proper management of the available resources is key

# Parting short

Training, Research, Awareness, Partnerships and  
Enforcement (TRAPE)

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