

# **Achieving Sustainable And Sound E-waste Management In African Cities Through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes**

**Percy C. Onianwa**  
**Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region**  
**Ibadan, Nigeria**

## What is EPR?:

'An environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle including its final disposal' (OECD)

## Mandated Product Take-back:

- *Product take-back mandate and recycling rate targets*
- *Voluntary product take-back mandate and recycling rate targets*
- *Mandatory take-back and targets with a tradable recycling scheme*

## Economic Instruments:

- Advanced recycling fee
- Recycling fee combined with recycling subsidy
- Deposit refund system
- Material taxes
- Upstream tax/subsidy

## Allocation of Financial Resources:

- Access to waste
- Containers
- Transport
- Treatment
- Enforcement
- Audit
- Awareness Raising

## Formats:

- Full government control, funded by producers
- Control by PROs, regulated by govt

Effective Solution to E-waste management in Developed countries, e.g. OECD

Only few African countries have considered adopting an EPR scheme: e.g. Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria

# Policy Instruments Used for Implementation of EPR

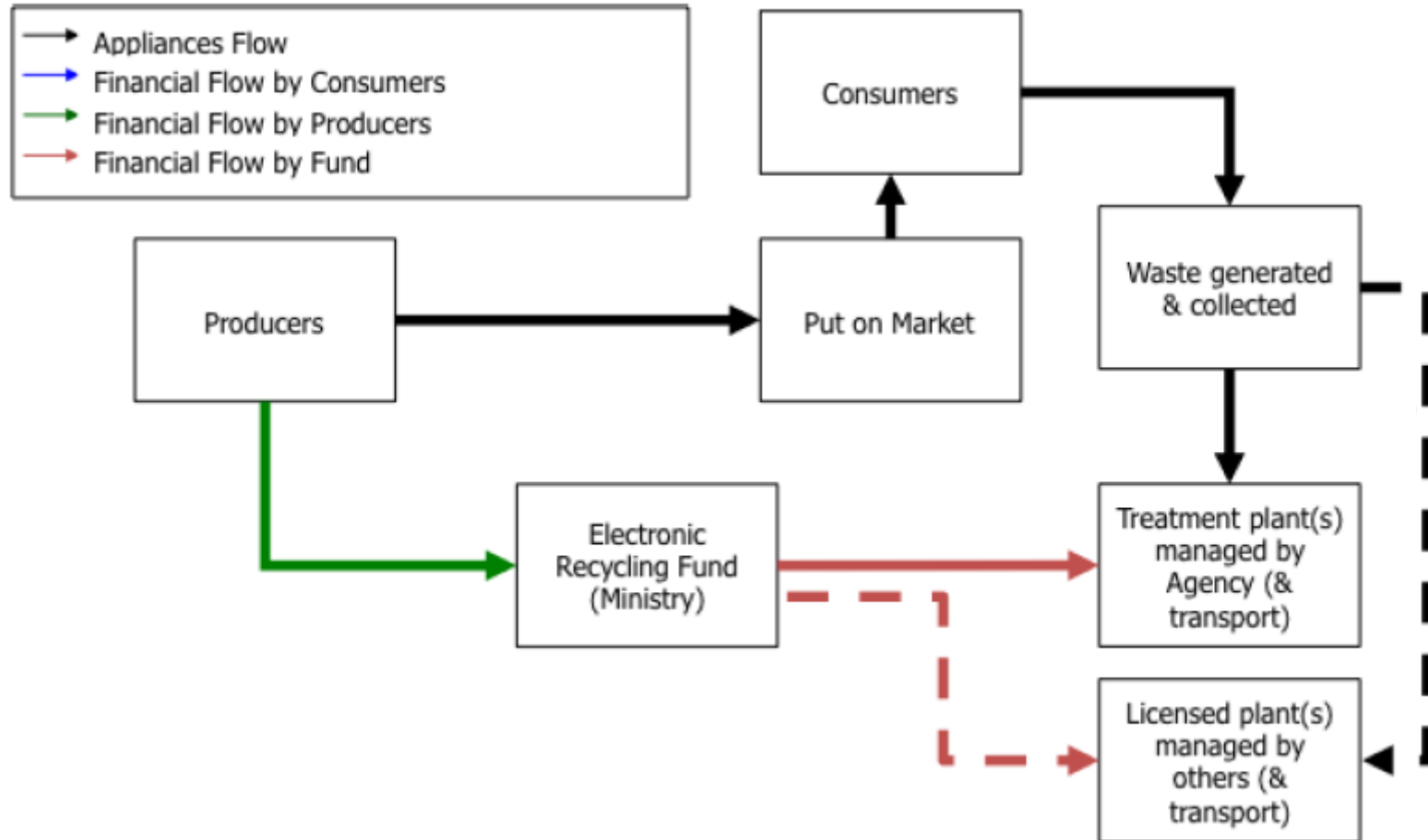
Types of policy instrument	Examples
Administrative instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collection and/or take-back (mandatory or voluntary)</li><li>• Reuse and recycling targets</li><li>• Setting emission limits</li><li>• Recovery obligation</li><li>• Product standards technical standards</li></ul>
Economic instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Material/product taxes</li><li>• Subsidies</li><li>• Advance disposal fee systems</li><li>• Deposit-refund systems</li><li>• Upstream combined tax/subsidies</li></ul>
Informative instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental reports/labelling</li><li>• Information provision to recyclers</li><li>• Consultation with authorities about collection network</li></ul>
Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social contracts</li><li>• Gentlemen's agreement</li></ul>

Source: Forslind, 2005; Langrova, 2002; Nahman, 2010; Nnorom and Osibanjo, 2008; Widmer et al., 2005.

## Ghana:

- Producers responsible for the financial input
- Government through Ghana EPA bears organizational responsibility Producers and importers pay an “eco levy” according to market share, to the Ghana Revenue Authority
- EPA is responsible for management of an e-waste recycling plant to be set up.
- Agency is also responsible for transportation of e-waste from collection points to the plant and for maintenance of collection infrastructure
- Agency approves licenses for other private operators
- Commenced with parliamentary Act in 2016

# Ghana's EPR Financial & Physical Flows



## Kenya:

Not yet operational / To be - Dominated/Controlled fully by Government through the **National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)** which will:

Register “Producers” of Electrical/Electronic Equipment

Establish and maintain an EEE Registry

Determine market share for each Producer

Operate the Registry through multi-stakeholders participation

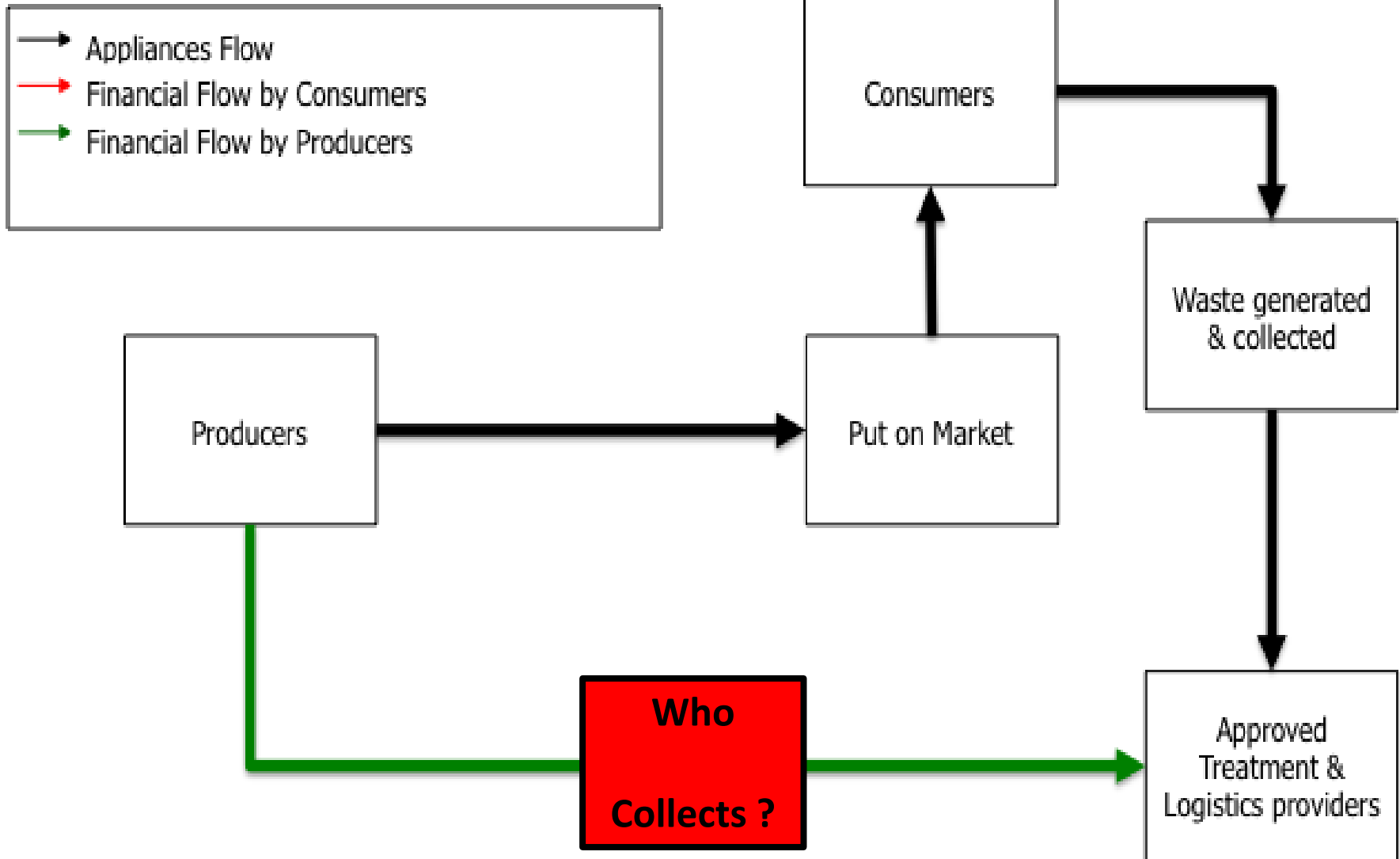
Licence Recyclers

Approve Collection Centres

Give permits for imports of e-waste for recycling

Establish a framework through which to give incentives to actors in the ewaste value chain

# Kenya's EPR Financial & Physical Flows

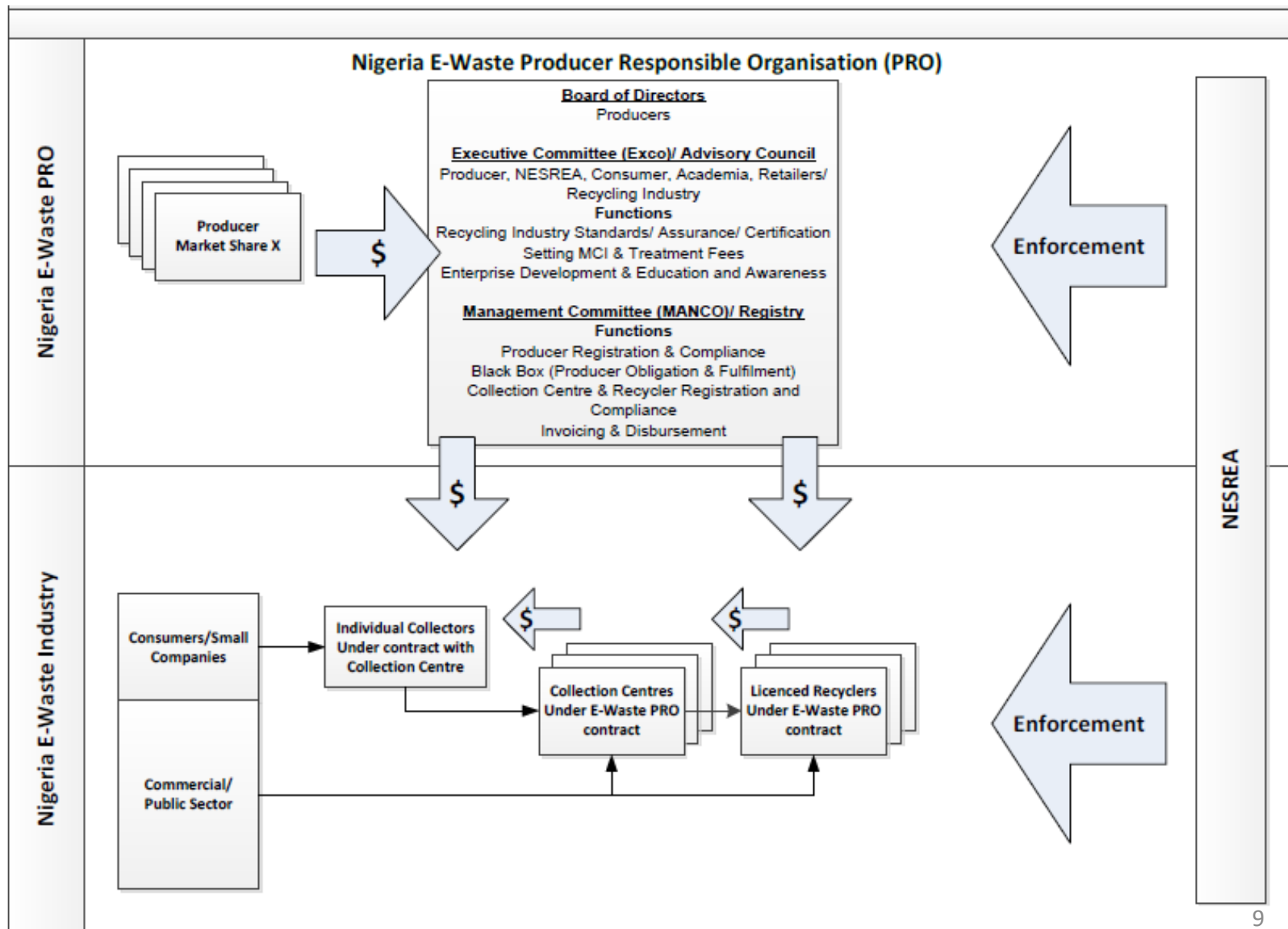


## Nigeria:

- Private sector-led initiative of the E-waste Solutions for Africa (The Alliance)
- Govt regulates activity of the PRO, Recyclers, Collectors, Producers
- EPRON established in 2018 as the sole PRO
- EPRON to establish a Registry which will determine market shares of producers
- EPR levy on producers to be paid to EPRON
- EPRON to utilize funds to support recyclers and collectors, raise awareness, conduct research, establish standards, supports its own administration
- Effectiveness hampered by lack of adequate take-off funds
- EPR scheme now being supported by GEF-UNEP funding



# Nigeria: Structure of the EPR Scheme



**EPR has worked effectively in many developed. Can also work in Africa**

**Environment Regulators will need to be very strengthened for achievements**

**More African countries need to commit to establishing functional EPR schemes**

**Socio-economic needs and interest of the informal sector and vulnerables should be protected**

**Problems:  
Free-riders  
Cherry picking  
Sabotage of collection**



**EPR ????**

