

Global Programme *Go Circular*

Establishing a circular economy – conserving resources, protecting the climate and the oceans

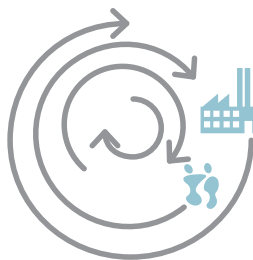
The goal of a circular economy is to retain the value of products, materials and resources for as long as possible. It is an alternative that stands in direct contrast to the current linear economic model – the ‘take-make-waste’ economy. In a circular model, products and materials are designed from the outset to be reusable, repairable and, at the end of their lifespan, recyclable.

Internationally, the circular economy is gaining traction at an increasing pace – at the United Nations and in the EU Green Deal, for example, but most of all among companies. As a real lever for socio-ecological transformation, the circular economy secures and preserves global natural resources and makes a significant contribution to achieving climate goals. At the same time, it creates new sustainable industries and trade flows, and green jobs. Last but not least, circular approaches prevent waste from entering the environment and the oceans.

The circular economy thus directly addresses four major challenges of our time:

1. Protecting the climate
2. Protecting the environment and the oceans
3. Conserving biodiversity
4. Sustainable economic development

The objective of the Go Circular global programme is to support the transition to a circular economy at global level and in three partner countries: Colombia, Ghana and Viet Nam.



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Project name	Global Programme ‘Go Circular’
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Countries	Global and country components in Colombia, Viet Nam and Ghana
Lead executing agencies	Viet Nam » Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) Ghana » Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Colombia » Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente)
Term	July 2022 to June 2024

The programme currently addresses three material flows:

- 🌐 Plastics
- 🌐 Electrical and electronic equipment, batteries
- 🌐 Organic waste

Cross-cutting issues

- 🌐 **Climate and the circular economy**, including integration with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from the Paris Climate Agreement
 - 🌐 **Study » Circular Economy as a Cornerstone for Meeting the Goals of the Paris Agreement**
- 🌐 **Digitalisation and the circular economy**, for better documentation of resource-relevant data in value chains
 - 🌐 **Factsheet » Digital Approaches for the Circular Economy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**
- 🌐 **Financing and the circular economy**, including public and private instruments and mechanisms
 - 🌐 **Study » Financing Circular Economy – Insights for Practitioners**



The global programme works in three priority areas:

🌐 **Promoting innovation** » The programme advises public institutions, business associations and companies on innovative technologies and business models – for example, to increase the use of recyclates or to replace single-use packaging with reusable packaging in the hospitality sector. It holds innovation competitions to promote new approaches and ideas, with a particular focus on process innovation, for instance in the use of digital tools to track material flows. The priority area also works on innovative financing models such as circular impact bonds.

🌐 **Scaling up solutions** » Working with public and private actors, the global programme disseminates tried-and-tested solutions and adapts them to local contexts. Examples include systems for extended producer responsibility (EPR) and business models for avoiding packaging, recycling batteries and processing organic waste. The programme also provides advice on suitable promotion and financing concepts, carries out training measures and advises on adapting solutions.

🌐 **Action in global alliances** » The global programme works closely with international initiatives and private and public organisations. These include UNEP, UN Habitat, the NDC Partnership, the Global Battery Alliance and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. It also runs the secretariat of the [PREVENT Waste Alliance](#), a major international alliance for the circular economy that brings together representatives from the private sector, public institutions, academia and civil society. Through the PREVENT Waste Alliance, the programme

is practice-based and forms part of a tightly-knit worldwide network including regional alliances such as the African Circular Economy Alliance and the Circular Economy Coalition Latin America and the Caribbean.

Priority countries

Colombia

- 🌐 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the circular economy, especially by improving organic waste management
- 🌐 Managing plastic waste to reduce marine litter
- 🌐 Policy advice on implementing financing systems such as EPR

Ghana

- 🌐 Reducing single-use plastic products and packaging
- 🌐 Managing plastic waste and avoiding marine litter

Viet Nam

- 🌐 Promoting innovative, circular business models and technologies
- 🌐 Managing plastic waste and avoiding marine litter
- 🌐 Policy advice on implementing national strategies for the circular economy

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