

DRAFT RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

**Validation Workshop for the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector
Pack**

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Arboretum, Nairobi

Date: 18 February 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Rapporteur: Doris Jeruto

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Background

A Validation Workshop for the **Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack** was convened on February 18th, 2026, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Arboretum, Nairobi. The workshop brought together over 40 key stakeholders from government, private sector, development partners, civil society, and industry associations to review, validate, and provide input on the draft Sector Pack.

The primary objective of the workshop was to ensure that the Sector Pack accurately reflects sector priorities, opportunities, policy frameworks, and investment needs, while aligning with national sustainability and circular economy goals.

Workshop Objectives

- Refine and sharpen the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Prospectus
- Strengthen the Circular Economy and Waste Investment Case
- Prioritize scalable, high-impact investment opportunities across the waste value chain
- Define enabling conditions (technical, financial, policy, and partnerships) required to unlock capital and enable scale
- Identify clear pathways to move from validation to implementation and action

Opening session-Welcoming remarks

The meeting commenced at **11:05 AM** with welcome remarks from **Pius Rotich, Director of Manufacturing , Invest Kenya**, who also served as the moderator.

He welcomed **John Mwendwa (OGW), CEO, Invest Kenya**, who delivered the keynote opening remarks.

Remarks from the CEO – Invest Kenya

The CEO welcomed participants and acknowledged partners and collaborators for supporting development of the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack. He specifically appreciated the technical partnership supporting development of the circular economy investment prospectus.

He emphasized that waste management is a universal and daily reality affecting how societies live and conduct business, particularly in rapidly urbanizing economies. As Kenya advances its economic transformation agenda, circular economy management will be a central pillar of sustainable development.

He further highlighted that:

- The circular economy presents significant **economic value beyond current perception**
- The sector is a **high job-creation opportunity**
- The priority should be **bankable opportunities rather than theoretical perfection**
- Progress should follow a “build and refine” approach — implementation should not wait for a perfect framework

- Government is committed to supporting the sector across all levels

“There is more value in this sector than many people currently see. Waste is not just a problem to manage, it is an economic resource. This is a high job-creating sector with significant potential for enterprise development, innovation, and industrial growth if we structure it properly.”

He stressed the importance of developing a clear roadmap beyond the official launch of the Sector Pack, noting that the launch marks the beginning of implementation rather than the conclusion of the process.

“The launch is just the beginning. What matters most is what happens after March 27th. We must define a clear roadmap, align our stakeholders, and agree on what success will look like years from now. This prospectus should catalyze implementation, partnerships, and capital deployment — not sit on a shelf.”

Participants were encouraged to focus on establishing a compelling value proposition capable of attracting investment and catalyzing action across the ecosystem.

The CEO concluded by reaffirming government commitment and encouraging stakeholders to produce actionable outputs from the workshop.

Keynote remarks-waste management ,Green Investments opportunity &Climate Action

Speaker :Yvonne Nyokabi, on behalf of UNDP Kenya and Evelyn Koeh, Team Leader – Environment & Resilience

Yvonne Nyokabi delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of the sector within development and economic transformation priorities.

She noted that UNDP identifies frontier sectors capable of creating jobs while addressing persistent economic and environmental challenges, and positioned waste management and circular economy as central to this agenda.

“Waste and circular economy sit at the heart of sectors that can simultaneously create jobs and solve long-standing development challenges.”

She highlighted that the sector remains largely informal, presenting a significant opportunity for formalization and investment-driven transformation.

“By mobilizing investment, we can transform a sector often perceived as a burden into a central driver of economic development.”

She further emphasized UNDP’s collaboration with Invest Kenya across sustainability initiatives, including clean cooking and waste sector engagement platforms aimed at amplifying innovations emerging from entrepreneurs and enterprises.

Yvonne stressed the importance of a holistic approach to ensure the prospectus resonates across stakeholders and allows all actors to see their role within the system. She also noted that Kenya’s

regulatory leadership; including measures on single-use plastics ; positions the country as a continental example.

Speaker: Dr. Selly Kimosop remarks - Dr. Selly Kimosop (Environment secretary)

On behalf of Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno, Principal Secretary, State Department for Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry

Dr. Selly Kimosop conveyed remarks on behalf of the Principal Secretary and thanked Invest Kenya and private sector stakeholders for convening the validation workshop. She noted that the engagement represented a shift in national thinking — from viewing waste as an environmental burden to recognizing it as an economic opportunity.

“Today’s meeting is about validating a new economic narrative for Kenya — one where waste is no longer an environmental liability but a driver of green growth, industrial innovation, and decent jobs.”

She outlined progress made under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda to strengthen the enabling framework for circular economy investments. Key milestones include:

- The Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations
- County-level waste management plans
- Increasing enforcement against illegal dumping and open burning

She explained that these reforms are designed not only to improve environmental outcomes but also to create investor confidence and support private sector participation.

“The government sets policy direction and creates an enabling environment, but it is the private sector that mobilizes capital, drives innovation, and scales solutions.”

Kenya’s Strategic Investment Position

Dr. Kimosop stated that investment opportunities span the full value chain, including integrated collection systems, material recovery facilities, plastics and e-waste recycling plants, organic waste processing, waste-to-energy technologies, circular industrial parks, and digital traceability platforms.

She urged stakeholders to ensure the prospectus clearly articulates opportunities that are technically sound, financially viable, and environmentally responsible, and aligns with national climate commitments and green industrialization priorities.

Call to Action

She concluded by affirming Kenya’s ambition to lead in Africa’s green transition and positioning the prospectus as a signal to global investors:

“With this investor-ready prospectus, Kenya sends a clear message to the world: we are open for green investment, rich in innovation, and committed to a sustainable and prosperous future.”

Dr. Kimosop then officially declared the workshop open.

Overview of the sector pack & its Development

Speaker: Mary Ngechu, Founder, TakaTaka Ni Mali

Mary explained the purpose of the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack:

The Sector Pack is not a funding proposal or a finished strategy.

It is a market-shaping document, designed to move Kenya from fragmented pilots and isolated projects toward coordinated investor systems in waste management and circular economy.

Kenya already benefits from strong policy frameworks, a growing base of circular businesses, and increasing investor interest. However, capital is not flowing at the scale required.

She elaborated on the process of developing the draft Sector Pack:

“After engaging with investors, operators, PROs, policymakers, and development partners, one message was clear: the opportunity is undeniable, but the path to invest at scale is not yet defined.”

The draft Sector Pack was informed by:

- One-on-one engagement with circular businesses across the value chain
- Discussions with investors and financiers
- Input from government institutions and regulators
- Review of global case studies from markets that have successfully unlocked circular economy investments

Mary emphasized that the Sector Pack is grounded in practical realities, addressing real constraints, investor questions, and delivery challenges on the ground.

“Today’s session is about validating whether the Sector Pack captures the real opportunities in Kenya, whether the right pathways are reflected, and identifying what may be missing to move from strategy to action. Your feedback will shape the sector pack, guide private sector prioritization, and inform the design of coordinated execution.”

Mary concluded by emphasizing the need for alignment across capital, policy, infrastructure, and delivery, stating:

“Kenya does not lack ideas, pilots, or innovations in the circular economy. What we need is alignment, this Sector Pack is an invitation to build that alignment together. Welcome to the discussion.”

Presentation of the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack

SYSTEMIQ Ltd Team — Veerle Haagh (Senior Director, Sustainable Finance) and Thijs Kramer (Project Manager)

The SYSTEMIQ team was introduced to present the draft Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack. The presentation was led by **Thijs Kramer**, who guided participants through selected sections of the prospectus and key preliminary findings.

The presentation explained the logic and structure of the prospectus around three central framing questions:

- **Why Invest?**
- **Why Now?**
- **What Opportunities Exist?**
- **How to Unlock Investment?**

Thijs Kramer also introduced the four **investment archetypes** used to categorize circular economy opportunities in the sector pack :

- Process and product innovation
- SME growth and scaling
- Circular services and platform
- Infrastructure and industrial assets

He shared insights from the earlier technical working session held between **8:00 AM – 10:30 AM**.

Stakeholder Feedback Exercise

Following the presentation, participants were invited to provide immediate reactions using an interactive Mentimeter exercise guided by three questions:

1. What should the prospectus highlight to position Kenya's waste and circular economy as a strong investment opportunity?
2. Which companies provide strong, bankable examples for investors?
3. Which enabling factors are most constrained due to lack of initiative or coordination?

Targeted interventions from Key stakeholders

Speaker – Faith Chelangat on behalf of ALN (Anjarwalla & Khanna LLP)

Representing Carlotta Dal Lago, Head – Business Development, Marketing & Communication

Faith Chelangat delivered remarks on behalf of **Carlotta Dal Lago** and **ALN**, highlighting the firm's role at the intersection of legislation, policy, and market development in East Africa since 2019. She emphasized ALN's experience in the plastics sector and its focus on bridging the gap between environmental necessity and commercial viability.

She noted that while regulation is often viewed as a primary driver of change, experience demonstrates that **markets and ecosystems are what truly enable scaling**:

“Regulation alone does not create markets; ecosystems do. Our role is to design the governance architecture that allows circular business models to scale.”

She explained that the **Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack** serves as a roadmap for regional investment:

- It maps the ecosystem and identifies **infrastructure and financing gaps**.
- It aligns policy mandates with **commercial realities**, giving businesses confidence to invest in recovery and alternative materials.
- It formalizes value chains, moving circularity from the informal margins into the economic mainstream.

Speaker – Anita Siro, Environment and Biodiversity Lead, British High Commission, Kenya

Anita Siro highlighted the British High Commission’s support for Kenya’s emerging circular economy sector and its alignment with broader sustainable development objectives. She welcomed the opportunity to engage in the development and validation of the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack.

She emphasized the importance of **continuing to advance circular economy approaches in Kenya**, both to strengthen the sector and to create broader socio-economic and environmental benefits.

“We are very supportive of Kenya’s emerging sector economy agenda and welcome opportunities to collaborate as this prospectus is developed.”

Anita also highlighted ongoing efforts to engage investors and promote circular economy solutions that generate **green jobs and sustainable investment opportunities**. She outlined the High Commission’s work to **scale circular economy and resource efficiency interventions**, including a forthcoming **green manufacturing platform** designed to bring together multiple actors to provide technical expertise and support innovation.

“We are working on a green manufacturing platform within the High Commission, which will mobilize expertise across different areas to help scale circular economy interventions in Kenya.”

She concluded by reinforcing the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and technical collaboration to ensure the sector pack translates into actionable, investment-ready opportunities.

Speaker – Brian Gisore, Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association

Brian Gisore delivered a powerful address titled “*A Whisper from the Waste Pickers*”, representing the 46,000 members of Kenya’s waste picker community. He emphasized the **critical role of waste pickers as the backbone of Kenya’s circular economy**, noting that their work underpins both collection and recycling systems.

Gisore highlighted the challenges faced by waste pickers, including the lack of social protection, insecure contracts, and minimal recognition, while underscoring their contribution to the efficiency and economic viability of recycling systems.

“We are the last mile of collection and the first mile of recycling. Without us, the economics of your investment collapse. Without us, waste remains in the streets, choking our rivers and flooding our cities.”

He called on investors and policymakers to **integrate waste pickers into business models and regulatory frameworks** to ensure both social and economic sustainability:

“We are not asking for handouts. We are asking for partnership. We are asking for a seat at the table where the decisions are made.”

His remarks underscored the need for inclusive policies and investments that formally recognize and empower waste pickers, positioning them as **key enablers of a bankable and socially responsible circular economy in Kenya**.

Speaker – Mr. Richard Kainika, Chair, Kenya Association of Waste Recyclers (KAWR)

Mr. Richard Kainika highlighted the strategic potential of the waste and recycling sector beyond traditional sanitation concerns, emphasizing that **“Waste is an industrial resource, not a sanitation issue.”**

He noted the significance of the recently launched **National Carbon Registry**, which positions Kenya as a potential global hub for high-integrity carbon credits. This development creates opportunities for the waste and recycling sector to participate in **carbon finance markets**.

“Activities such as organic waste composting, landfill diversion, and material recovery, with the carbon registry in place, can now be linked to transparent, verifiable carbon credits, opening doors to climate finance-aligned investors.”

He further highlighted the key financing gaps in the sector, including:

- Capital and equipment financing for MSMEs
- Blended and results-based financing mechanisms
- Carbon-linked financing opportunities

Mr. Kainika stressed that these emerging carbon-linked investment opportunities should be **clearly reflected in the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack**, ensuring that investors can recognize both the environmental and financial potential of the sector.

Speaker :Dr. Jackson Kinyanjui Koimbori -Head of KEPSA Consult, Circular Economy and Climate Change

Dr. Jackson Kinyanjui Koimbori emphasized the **transformative potential of the Waste Management & Circular Economy Sector Pack**, noting that it could serve as a tool to guide both **investments and policy improvement or reform**.

He highlighted Kenya’s enabling environment, stating that the country has **the will and the manpower** to translate circular economy opportunities into tangible outcomes.

Dr. Koimbori shared insights from the **EU SWITCH program**, awarded by the European Union and running for 42 months. The program targets **4,500 Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), business service providers, and community organizations** within the circular economy space, focusing on sectors such as textiles, organic waste, and plastics. It is designed to enable MSMEs to **adopt green**

technologies, access green finance, and enhance environmental sustainability. They will begin to map out in March 2026.

Speaker – John Nguitui, CEO, Greenleaf Services

John Nguitui presented Greenleaf Services’ innovative approach to integrating informal waste management actors into formal systems through a model they call “**Sustainable Social Economics**”, which is driven by waste.

He explained that the model is being proposed to county governments to **develop formal systems in an informal environment**, linking upstream and downstream actors across the value chain.

“We are bringing informal actors into the formal space, creating a pipeline for community-based organizations (CBOs), forming cohorts, providing infrastructure, consolidating at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), marketing recyclables, and ensuring that money trickles back down to the community organizations.”

Nguitui highlighted that this approach not only **formalizes the sector** but also ensures that **economic benefits are shared with community organizations**, creating a sustainable, socially inclusive circular economy model.

Additional Insights

Speaker :Dorothy Otieno, Centre for Environment Justice and Development

Dorothy Otieno emphasized the importance of **designing materials to be circular** and supporting the adoption of **sustainable alternatives**. She highlighted the need for **decentralized support mechanisms**, ensuring that actors across different regions are empowered to operate effectively in their local contexts.

“How are we supporting the design of materials to make sure they are circular, and how are we supporting the alternatives? Decentralization is key, we need to support actors wherever they are so they can participate meaningfully in the circular economy.”

Speaker :Wambui Mbarire -CEO RETRAK

“Everything needs to start with ourselves; policy effectiveness follows behaviour change. Separate waste at source , let it begin with you.”

Speaker:Frank Onyango-Kenya Development Cooperation

In delivering our mandate, we value partnerships. Under the World Bank–supported Kenya Jobs and Economic Transformation (KJET) project, KDC is financing green investments through the establishment of a Green Investment Fund. The fund will raise early-stage capital for SMEs, issue open calls to eligible businesses, and inject equity into qualifying enterprises. Interested businesses are encouraged to reach out.

Speaker : Irungu Waggema -NSE

We have established a Sustainable Finance Sector of Excellence where we collaborate with organizations operating in the circular economy and waste management space, while structuring and bringing diverse

financial instruments to market. In addition, we run an incubator–accelerator programme called **Ibuka**, through which we support companies to become investor-ready by strengthening governance, financial management, and growth strategies.

Speaker :Sixtus Odumbe,Programmes Manager at the Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA)

Residents are frontline actors in waste generation and therefore central to any effective waste management system. Through a programme supported by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, KARA is promoting solid waste segregation at the household level. Active engagement of residents enables separation of waste at source, which significantly improves collection efficiency and downstream recycling outcomes.

Way forward

In his closing remarks, **Thijs Kramer** of **SYSTEMIQ** thanked participants and outlined the agreed next steps:

- Integrate insights and recommendations from the workshop into the investment prospectus
- Circulate the revised draft to institutional stakeholders for validation roundtable — **13 March**
- Share the final prospectus with the stakeholder group — **18 March**
- Officially launch the prospectus at the **Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO 2026)** — **27 March**

Report has been prepared by the Rapporteur based on proceedings and stakeholder contributions during the workshop.