

Evaluating Indonesia's Circular Economy Policies to Integrate Sustainability Transitions with ASEAN Regional Frameworks

Introduction

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest population and economy, has recognized the circular economy (CE) as a strategic pathway for achieving sustainable growth, resource efficiency, and climate resilience. National policies such as the *Low Carbon Development Initiative (LCDI)*, the *Indonesia Circular Economy Roadmap (2020–2024)*, and sectoral commitments under *Indonesia's Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050 (LTS-LCCR 2050)* signal growing political will to transition toward more regenerative systems.

However, translating these ambitions into actionable, cross-sectoral policies has proven challenging. Institutional fragmentation, limited monitoring mechanisms, and low private sector engagement hinder large-scale impact. At the same time, the *ASEAN Circular Economy Framework*, launched in 2021, offers an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation through policy harmonization, innovation exchange, and knowledge sharing.

This concept note proposes a systematic mapping and assessment of Indonesia's national circular economy policies and how they align (or not) with the regional ASEAN CE vision. The project seeks to identify policy synergies, gaps, and potential leverage points for deeper integration and implementation, while amplifying Indonesia's leadership in shaping ASEAN's circular future.

Aim

To evaluate Indonesia's national circular economy policies with ASEAN regional frameworks, identifying key opportunities, gaps, and pathways to enhance policy coherence and regional collaboration.

Objectives

- To map and assess existing national policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks related to the circular economy in Indonesia.
- To identify alignment and divergence with the ASEAN Circular Economy Strategic Framework.

Research Questions

- To what extent are Indonesia's national circular economy policies aligned with the ASEAN Circular Economy Framework?
- What are the key opportunities yet gaps to enhance Indonesia's circular economy policy's coherence with ASEAN Circular Economy Strategic Framework?

Methodology

This study will assess the feasibility of aligning Indonesia’s circular economy (CE) policies with ASEAN priorities by leveraging access to national-level policy documents, SEI’s existing policy databases, and key stakeholders such as Bappenas, the Ministry of Environment, Waste4Change, and relevant industrial actors. The methodology will involve a desk-based policy mapping exercise, stakeholder interviews across government, private sector, and NGOs, and a qualitative assessment of policy coherence using a matrix benchmarked against ASEAN CE priorities. The expected outputs include a policy alignment matrix, a gap and opportunity report, and a concise policy brief tailored for both Indonesian and ASEAN-level policymakers.

Timetable

Activities	Month					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Literature review						
Stakeholder mapping						
Interviews						
Data Analysis						
Drafting and Feedback						
Finalization and Submission						

SDG Relevancy

This project supports multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting circular economy practices to reduce waste and resource use; SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by encouraging innovation in sustainable production systems; SDG 13 on Climate Action through strategies that minimize emissions and environmental impact; and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals by maintaining multi-stakeholder collaboration across government, industry, and civil society to advance circular economy implementation.