



**CIRCULAR  
SOUTH AFRICA**  
Accelerating the Transition

# **A South African Circular Economy Platform – Insights on breaking silos and accelerating a Circular Economy**

**Katharina Gihring - September 2023**



# What is the circular economy?

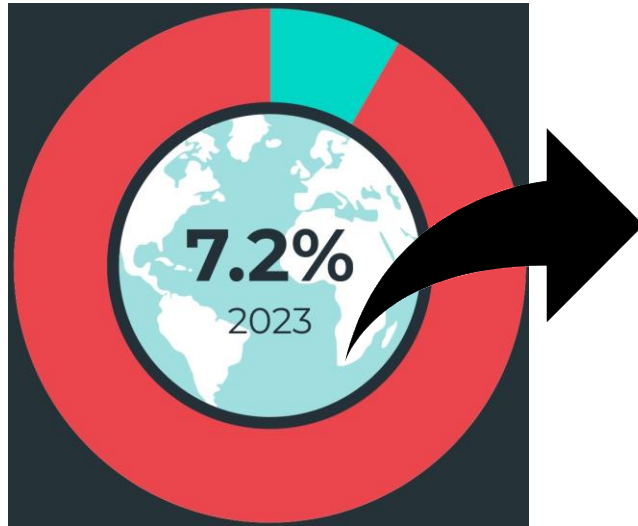
- There is not one definition (in progress)
- Narrative often waste/resource related especially in South Africa
- 3 Pillars:
  - Eliminating waste and pollution
  - Circulate products and materials (use less)
  - Regenerate nature (& humans?)
- At the heart, circular economy is restorative and regenerative by design and decouple economic growth from the use of resources.

AND

- “The circular economy is about national resource-security in support of socio-economic development – through sustainable resource utilisation.” – Professor Linda Godfrey (CSIR)



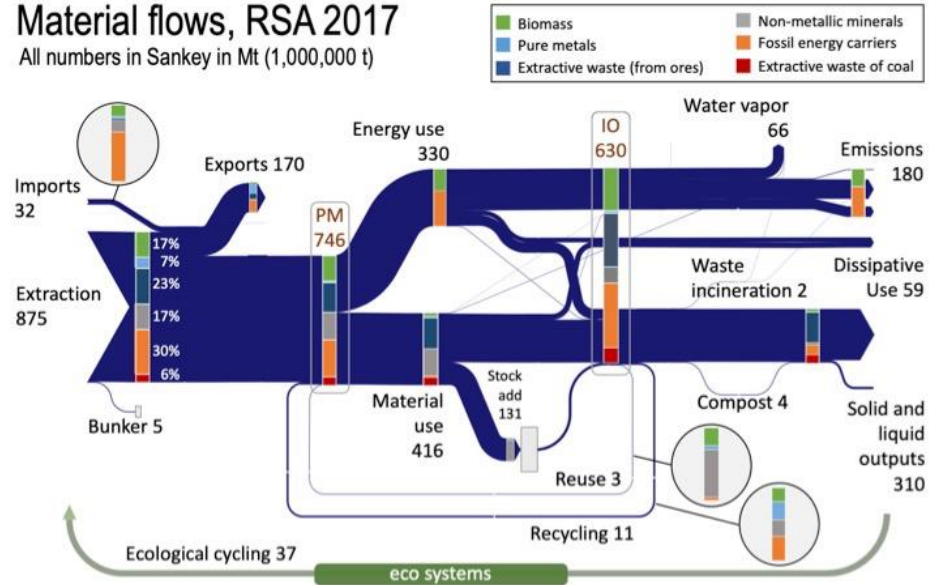
# South Africa's economy is around 7% circular



<https://www.circularity-gap.world/2023>

## Material flows, RSA 2017

All numbers in Sankey in Mt (1,000,000 t)



Von Blottnitz et al. (2021)



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- **Finding 1:** An economy materially dominated by export-oriented extractives.
- **Finding 2:** An economy energetically dominated by fossil fuels, notably domestic coal supported by imported oil.
- **Finding 3:** Low rate of domestic stock building.
- **Finding 4:** Pockets of high circularity in the domestic economy and significant informal activity around cascade use, reuse and recycling.
- **Finding 5:** Sizeable bio-based flows at 17% of domestic extraction, but with significant sustainability concerns about ecological cycling.

Von Blottnitz et al. (2021)



# **CIRCULAR SOUTH AFRICA**

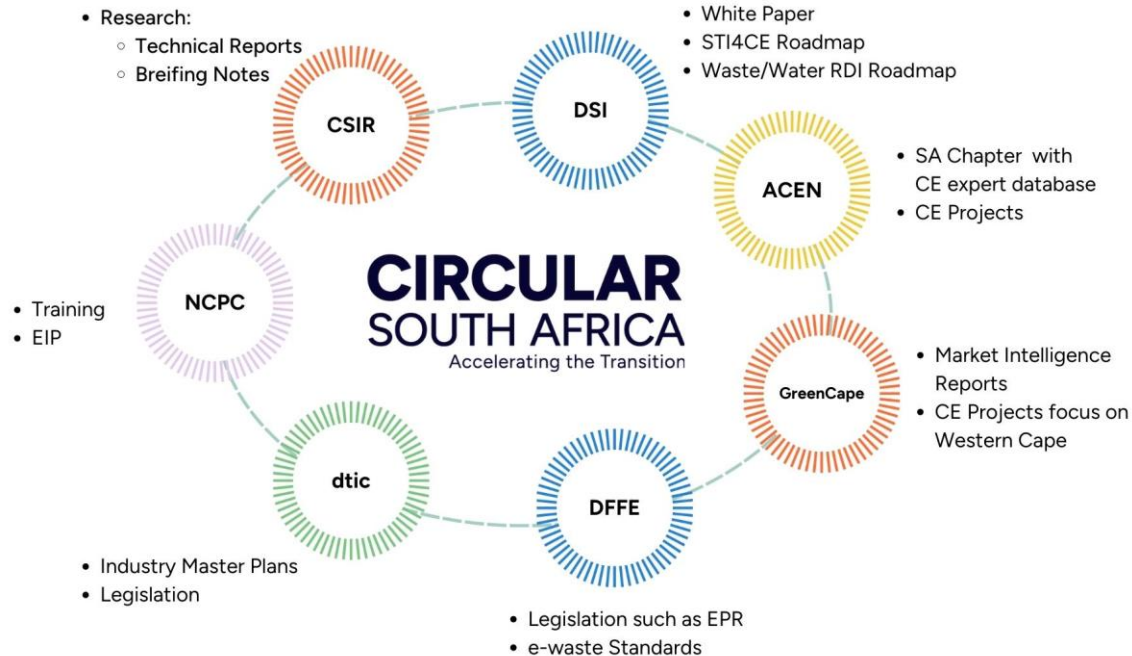
Accelerating the Transition

CSA's mission is to facilitate cooperation, coordination and networking between businesses, government, knowledge institutions and civil society organisations involved in the circular economy to accelerate the just circular economy transition in South Africa.





# Circular Economy Initiatives in South Africa



## Others:

- DRME
- WWF-SA
- SALGA
- HEIs & TVETs
- PCC etc

# THANK YOU!

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