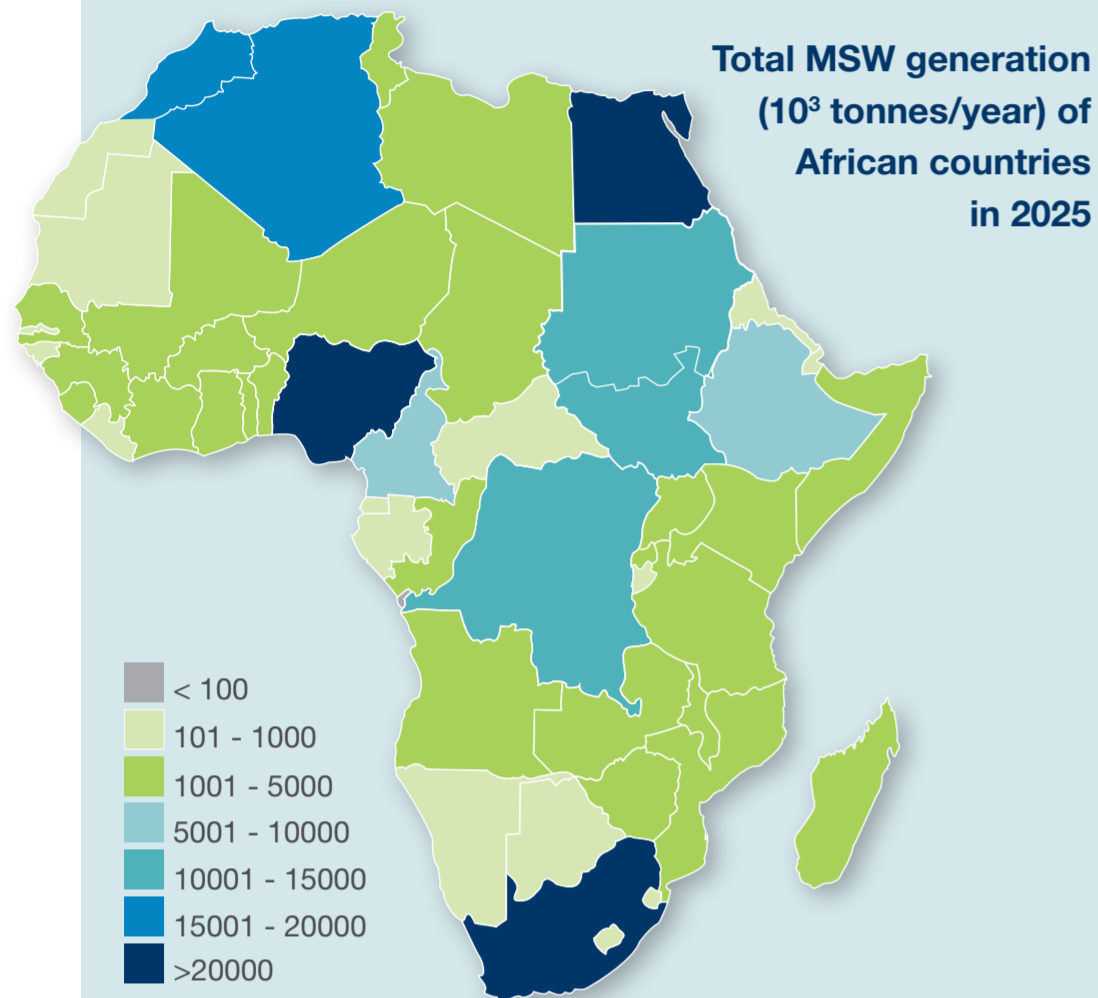


THE CHALLENGE

Africa is currently recycling only 4% of its waste

A far cry from the African Union vision that “African cities will be recycling at least 50 per cent of the waste they generate by 2023”.

Africa Waste Management Outlook 2018



GENERATION 125 million tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) was generated in Africa in 2012, which is expected to double by 2025. The growth in waste generation in Africa is expected to be so significant, that any decrease in waste generation in other regions globally will be overshadowed by Africa.



WASTE COLLECTION services in most African countries are inadequate. The average MSW collection rate is only 55%.



DISPOSAL More than 90% of waste generated in Africa is disposed of at uncontrolled dumpsites and landfills, often with associated open burning. 19 of the world's 50 biggest dumpsites are located in Africa, all in Sub-Saharan Africa.



COMPOSITION On average, 13% of MSW generated in Africa is plastic and 57% is organic waste, the bulk of which is currently dumped but which could provide significant socio-economic opportunities for countries.



RECYCLING has emerged across Africa, driven more by poverty, unemployment and socio-economic need than by public and private sector design. An estimated 70–80% of the MSW generated in Africa is recyclable, yet only 4% of MSW is currently recycled.

Informal waste pickers are active in recovering valuable resources from the waste at little to no cost to municipalities and private companies.

THE SOLUTION



1

Bring waste under control

The first priority for Africa is to address the public health imperative, by ensuring that all citizens have access to proper waste management services. Comprehensive, reliable and regular city cleansing and controlled disposal of waste is the foundation of every integrated waste management system.

PROPOSED GOAL: All citizens have access to adequate waste collection services and environmentally sound management of all waste by 2030. Uncontrolled dumping and open burning of waste has been eliminated.

2

Harness the opportunities of 'waste as resource'

The second priority for Africa, to be addressed in parallel, is to unlock the socio-economic opportunities of waste as resource, by moving waste up the waste management hierarchy away from disposal towards waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery.

PROPOSED GOAL: African countries are diverting at least 50% of the waste they generate towards waste reuse, recycling and recovery by 2030, and measures are in place to encourage waste prevention.

AFRICA Waste Management Outlook 2018

The Africa Waste Management Outlook is the result of contributions by experts and researchers from the African continent, led by the CSIR (South Africa) and United Nations Environment Programme. It provides an analysis of the state of waste management in Africa, its impact on the continent and proposed solutions for improved waste management in the region.

Published by United Nations Environment Programme, through its International Environmental Technology Centre, the full report and summary document are available for free download at www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources

