

PLASTIC POLLUTION WITHIN EAST AFRICA

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Karim S. Anjarwalla

Outline

2

- Introduction
- United Nations Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (COP26)
- Global Plastic Pollution Agreement
- Single Use Plastics (SUPs)
- SUP Legislation within the East African Community
- Country Context: Rwanda
- Country Context: Kenya
- Country Context: Tanzania
- Country Context: Uganda
- Regional Challenges
- The draft SUP Bill
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

United Nations Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (COP26)

4

- The United Kingdom hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (**COP26**) in Glasgow on 31 October – 13 November 2021.
- The COP26 summit brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact at a Glance

5

- The result of COP26 was “The COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact”.
- The salient features of COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact include:
 - ▣ Mitigation
 - ▣ Adaptation
 - ▣ Finance
 - ▣ Collaboration

Global Plastic Pollution Agreement

6

- At a meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (**UNEA-5**) held on 2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, 175 countries passed a resolution on a legally binding global treaty to end the plastic pollution crisis by tackling the material's entire supply chain from source to sea.
- Work now begins on how to implement this landmark treaty by 2024 including agreeing on which elements will be legally binding and how the deal will be financed.



A&K and ALN's efforts

7

- We at A&K and ALN celebrate the success of the UNEA-5 meeting.
- Focus on:
 - ▣ Awareness
 - ▣ Advocacy
 - ▣ Innovation
 - ▣ Legislation
 - ▣ Partnership with The FlipFlopi Project.

Single Use Plastics (SUPs)

8

- SUPs include grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.
- Difficult to recycle and/or reuse.

SUP Regulation in the East African Community

9

- 34 out of 54 African countries have passed legislation banning certain SUPs, with varying levels of implementation.
- The EAC member states have each taken legislative action in relation to certain SUP items (mainly plastic bags).
- Original EAC bill was never adopted.



Country Context: Rwanda

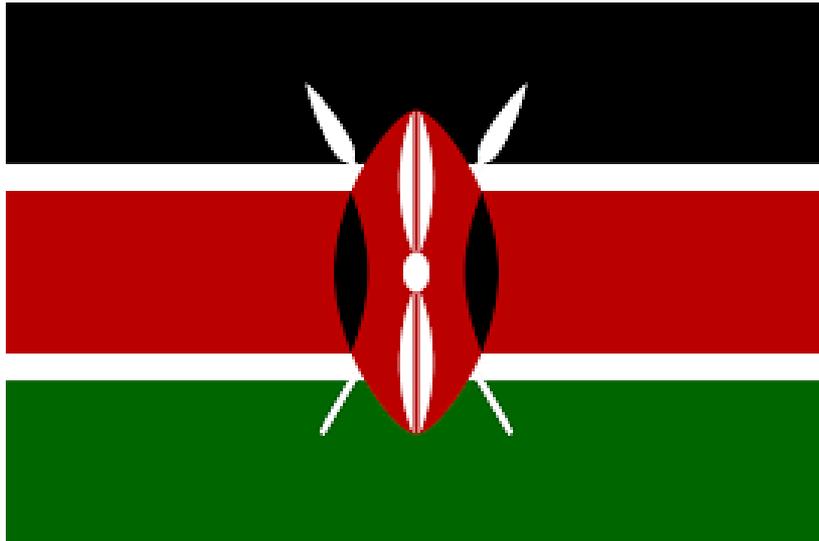
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- ❑ Rwanda was the first country in the EAC to implement a ban on plastic bags and SUPs.
- ❑ 2004: Prohibition of manufacture, use, importation or sale of plastic carrier bags under 60 microns.
- ❑ 2008: Prohibition of manufacture, sale, importation, or use of polyethylene bags.
- ❑ 2019: Prohibition of manufacture, importation, use and sale of plastic carry bags and SUP items such as straws, food containers, cutlery, and bottles.



Country Context: Kenya

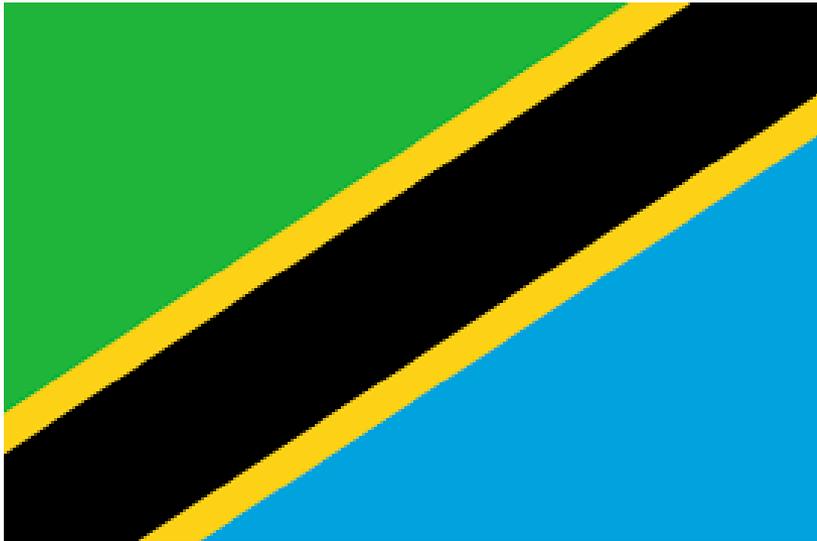
11



- 2017: The world's strictest ban on the manufacture, importation, and use of plastic carrier bags and flat bags for commercial and household packaging.
- 2020: Ban on SUP's in protected areas including conservation areas, forests, beaches, national parks, national reserves and any other designated wildlife protected areas.

Country Context: Tanzania

12



- 2017: Ban on the manufacturing, importation and use of plastic sachets for packaging distilled and other alcoholic beverages.
- 2019: Ban on the importation, exportation, manufacturing, sale, storage, supply and use of plastic carrier bags.
- 2021: Ban on the use of plastic drinking straws and soft plastic covers on the caps of water bottles.

Country Context: Uganda

13



- 2019: Ban on the importation, exportation, manufacturing, use or re-use of plastic carrier bags and plastic products of below thirty microns.

The draft SUP Bill

14

- A&K and the Flipflopi Project have jointly prepared the draft East African Community Prohibition of Manufacturing, Importation, Use and Sale of Single Use Plastics Bill, 2022 (the **draft SUP Bill**).
- The draft SUP Bill proposes a complete ban on the following single use plastic items by the end of 2022: cutlery, plates, cups, cotton buds, straws, stirrers, wet wipes, carrier bags, balloons, food containers and sweet wrappers.

Salient features of the draft SUP Bill

15

- ❑ cost of awareness-raising measures and waste collection
- ❑ exemptions
- ❑ measurable quantitative reductions
- ❑ public awareness campaigns
- ❑ incentives
- ❑ compliance notices

Conclusions and Recommendations

16

- Pressing need for further legislative action at a regional level.
- Huge gap in:
 - ▣ legislative alignment
 - ▣ consistent enforcement
 - ▣ uniform standards
 - ▣ common language
 - ▣ clear targets

Conclusions and Recommendations

17

- A&K, ALN and the Flipflopi Project propose to work together with the EAC member states to submit the draft SUP Bill to the East African Legislative Assembly.
- Our intention is to lay the groundwork for the adoption of streamlined legislation and collaborative action within the EAC.

NAIROBI

Anjarwalla & Khanna LLP

ALN House, Eldama Ravine Close, Off Eldama Ravine
Road, Westlands

P.O. Box 200-00606, Nairobi, Kenya

T +254 (0) 20 364 0000, + 254 (0) 703 032 000

E info@africalegalnetwork.com

W: www.africalegalnetwork.com

MOMBASA

Anjarwalla & Khanna LLP

SKA House, Dedan Kimathi Avenue

PO Box 83156 – 80100, Mombasa, Kenya

T +254 41 2225090/6

E mba@africalegalnetwork.com

ALN



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