

# Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)

## Input to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

*Implementation of Paragraph 28(d) of the outcome of the First Global Stocktake*

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### 1. Policy Brief Summary

#### 1.1 Key Message

Transitioning away from fossil fuels requires addressing **not only energy systems but also fossil-fuel-dependent material systems**, particularly plastics and petrochemicals.

Grassroots-led **reuse economy systems** represent an under-recognized climate mitigation pathway capable of reducing fossil fuel demand while advancing inclusive economic opportunities for women, youth, and informal waste workers.

Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws) works across multiple African countries supporting community-driven circular economy systems that prevent plastic pollution while strengthening local livelihoods.

Evidence from CAPws initiatives shows that **community reuse systems can reduce single-use plastic consumption by 60–80% within participating markets**, demonstrating significant potential to reduce fossil-fuel-derived plastic production.

## 2. Context: Fossil Fuels, Plastics and Climate Mitigation

Plastic production remains closely linked to fossil fuel extraction and petrochemical industries.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that global plastics use could **nearly triple by 2060**, while lifecycle greenhouse-gas emissions from plastics could exceed **4 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually**.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlights the importance of **demand-side mitigation strategies including material efficiency and circular economy systems in achieving global climate targets**.

Additionally, the International Energy Agency identifies petrochemicals as one of the **largest drivers of future oil demand growth**, particularly through plastics production.

These trends highlight the importance of addressing fossil-fuel-derived materials as part of climate transition pathways.

## 3. CAPws Experience: Grassroots Circular Economy Systems

CAPws works with grassroots organizations, youth networks, women-led cooperatives, and informal waste workers to develop **community-driven circular economy systems**.

Key program components include:

- reuse and refill systems
- circular micro-enterprises
- citizen science monitoring
- ecosystem restoration initiatives
- participatory environmental governance

These interventions demonstrate how **community-based circular economies can simultaneously reduce plastic pollution, lower fossil fuel demand, and create sustainable livelihoods**.

## 4. Evidence from the RestorationX10000 Initiative

The **RestorationX10000 Initiative (2021–2025)** integrates ecosystem restoration with plastic pollution prevention and circular economy innovation.

Key outcomes include:

- engagement of **over 100 grassroots organizations and community leaders**
- mobilization of **thousands of youths and women in circular economy initiatives**
- establishment of community monitoring systems tracking plastic pollution

These integrated approaches demonstrate how **circular economy systems can deliver climate mitigation and environmental protection simultaneously.**

## 5. Democratizing Environmental Governance

CAPws research highlights the importance of **grassroots knowledge systems in environmental governance.**

Reference:

Tiamiyu, A., Adigun J. G. (2026).

*Grassroots-Led Democratized Plastic Governance as a Pathway to Advancing Planetary Health. Challenges*, 17(1), 9.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/challe17010009>

The study demonstrates how **citizen science and community monitoring systems can complement scientific research while strengthening policy accountability and community participation.**

## 6. Policy Recommendations

CAPws recommends the following priorities to support implementation of paragraph 28(d).

### 6.1 Integrate Reuse Targets into Climate Strategies

Governments should incorporate **reuse and material efficiency targets** into:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- national circular economy policies
- sustainable consumption frameworks.

### 6.2 Support Community-Led Circular Economy Infrastructure

Climate finance mechanisms should support:

- reuse hubs
- refill logistics systems
- repair and reuse enterprises

- circular entrepreneurship programs.

## **6.3 Advance a Just Transition for Informal Waste Workers**

Policies should support:

- formal recognition of waste worker cooperatives
- integration into circular supply chains
- access to training and social protection.

## **6.4 Empower Youth and Women as Circular Economy Leaders**

Supporting **youth entrepreneurship and women-led circular enterprises** can accelerate inclusive climate transitions.

## **7. Key Messages for Policymakers**

1. Fossil-fuel-derived plastics must be addressed as part of fossil fuel transition strategies.
2. Reuse economy systems represent scalable demand-side climate mitigation solutions.
3. Climate finance should support grassroots circular economy infrastructure.
4. Just transition policies must integrate informal waste workers, women, and youth.
5. Climate action should align with global efforts addressing plastic pollution.

## **8. Relevance to COP30**

As host of United Nations Climate Change Conference COP30, Brazil has emphasized the importance of **inclusive climate action, nature protection, and Global South leadership**.

Community-driven circular economy systems align strongly with these priorities by reducing fossil-fuel-derived plastic production while empowering frontline communities.

## **Annex**

# **Proposed Indicators and Monitoring Framework**

## **Fossil Fuel Reduction**

- reduction in virgin plastic production
- share of reusable packaging systems
- lifecycle emissions reductions from plastics

## **Circular Economy Development**

- number of community reuse hubs
- growth of circular enterprises
- volume of materials circulating through reuse systems

## **Social Inclusion**

- number of informal waste workers integrated into circular systems
- participation of women in reuse enterprises
- youth-led circular innovation initiatives

## **Environmental Outcomes**

- reduction in plastic leakage into waterways
- ecosystem protection outcomes
- community monitoring programs established

# **About Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)**

Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws) is a civil society organization working across Africa to address plastic pollution, strengthen circular economies, and advance community-led environmental governance.

CAPws programs focus on:

- grassroots reuse economy systems
- citizen science monitoring of plastic pollution
- youth and women-led circular entrepreneurship
- ecosystem restoration initiatives
- policy engagement and knowledge democratization

Through partnerships with communities, research institutions, and policymakers, CAPws aims to advance **inclusive and sustainable solutions to plastic pollution and climate challenges.**