

The Waste Tyre Crisis

Why we need to act now

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Ishita Garg, Program Manager

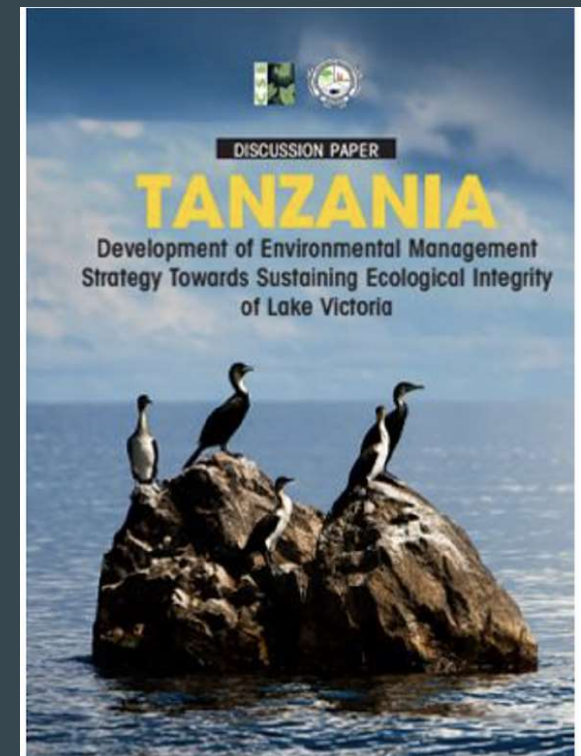
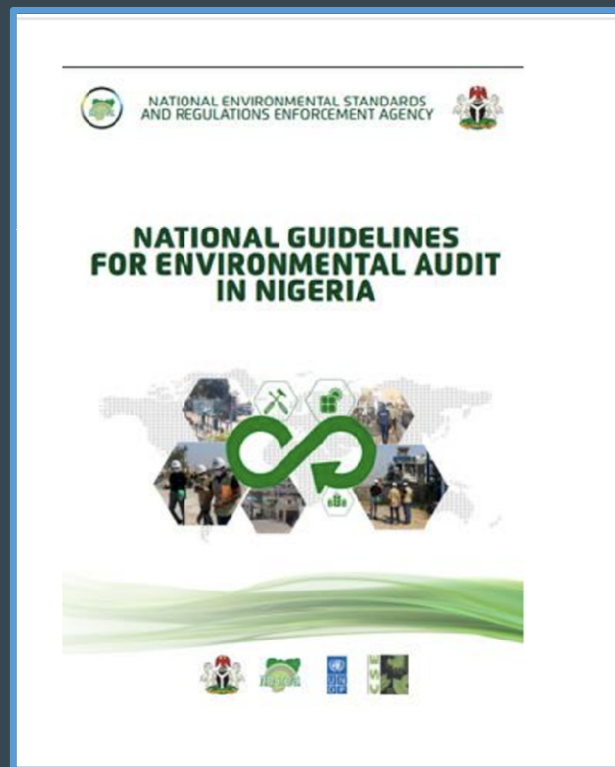
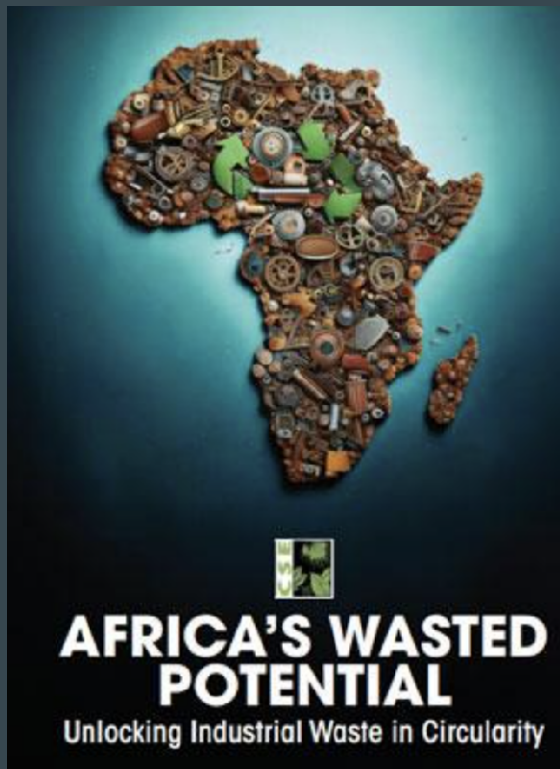
Webinar on Tyre Waste Management

September 24, 2025



CSE in Africa: A Decade of Action on Industrial Pollution & Waste

Partnered with regulators across the continent to tackle industrial pollution and build pathways for sustainable waste management.



The overlooked surge in waste tyres

Used Vehicles Import

Comprise **60 percent** of total vehicles registered annually in Africa!

In 2018, 1.45 million used vehicles imported

In 2023, **expanded to 1.6 million.**



Forecasted growth

In 2023, 2.6 million total vehicles registered.

Expected to grow four to five times by 2050 (~10 million).

80-90 percent of this growth will come from imported used vehicles.



Rise in Waste Tyres

Assuming 4 tyres per car, **~ 10 million** waste tyres in Africa estimated for 2023.

Used vehicles means tyres are rejected early!



A Pan-African Concern

Kenya

Environmentalists raise concern as air pollution chokes cities, towns during protests

Tuesday, July 23, 2024



A boda boda rider drives past a burning tyre along Tom Mboya Street in Nairobi on July 16, 2024 during the anti-government protests. Francis Nderitu | Nation

Climate change; Slaughterhouses, Highest Pollutants Of Environment In Nigeria ,as thousands of waste tyres were used for roasting animal skin"kpomo" on daily basis

By African Climate Reporters December 15, 2022

L'engagement écologique pour l'Afrique !
Informez - Polarisez - Postiguez

ECHO VERT ECO-INNOVATION PIONNIERS DU CHANGEMENT CONTACT

Don't let Africa go up in smoke: The hidden danger of burning tires




Nigeria

Ghana

Open burning is illegal, killing many people - AMA

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File photo

Burning any waste material, be it plastic or used sanitary towels anywhere is unlawful, Director, Metro Public Health Department has disclosed.

This is because it is one of the sources of the person engaged in the act of burning beyond.

The particulate matter emitted in the air causes infertility, low birth weight, premature birth


OPINION | 170 000 tonnes of waste tyres a year and counting: SA's ticking time bomb

Wayne Schwab news24

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South Africa's Tyre Recycling Limbo – How Did We Get Here?

Jul 1, 2025 Featured Landfill Resource Cover Story



Stacey Jansen, director of REDISA

"In 2012, when the government approved our tyre strategy, REDISA managed to get on top of South Africa's tyres. The country was seen as a leader in space. Now things look vastly different," says Stacey Jansen, director of REDISA.

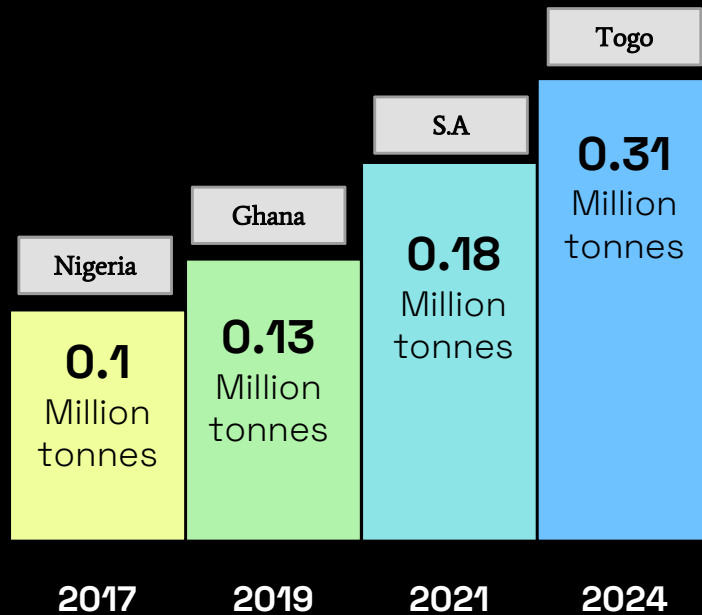
During their stint, REDISA managed 250 000 tyres a year, and at the end of 2017, they had a 20 000 tonne backlog, something Jansen says, "was manageable."

Now, South Africa has an estimated 900 000 tonne backlog of tyres, a stark increase and a shocking statistic showing how tyres become a problem if left unchecked.

Between the years 2023-2017, the Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa (REDISA) managed the collection and recycling of South Africa's tyres. During this time, the company managed 250 000 tyres per year.

South Africa

Scattered Tyre Data



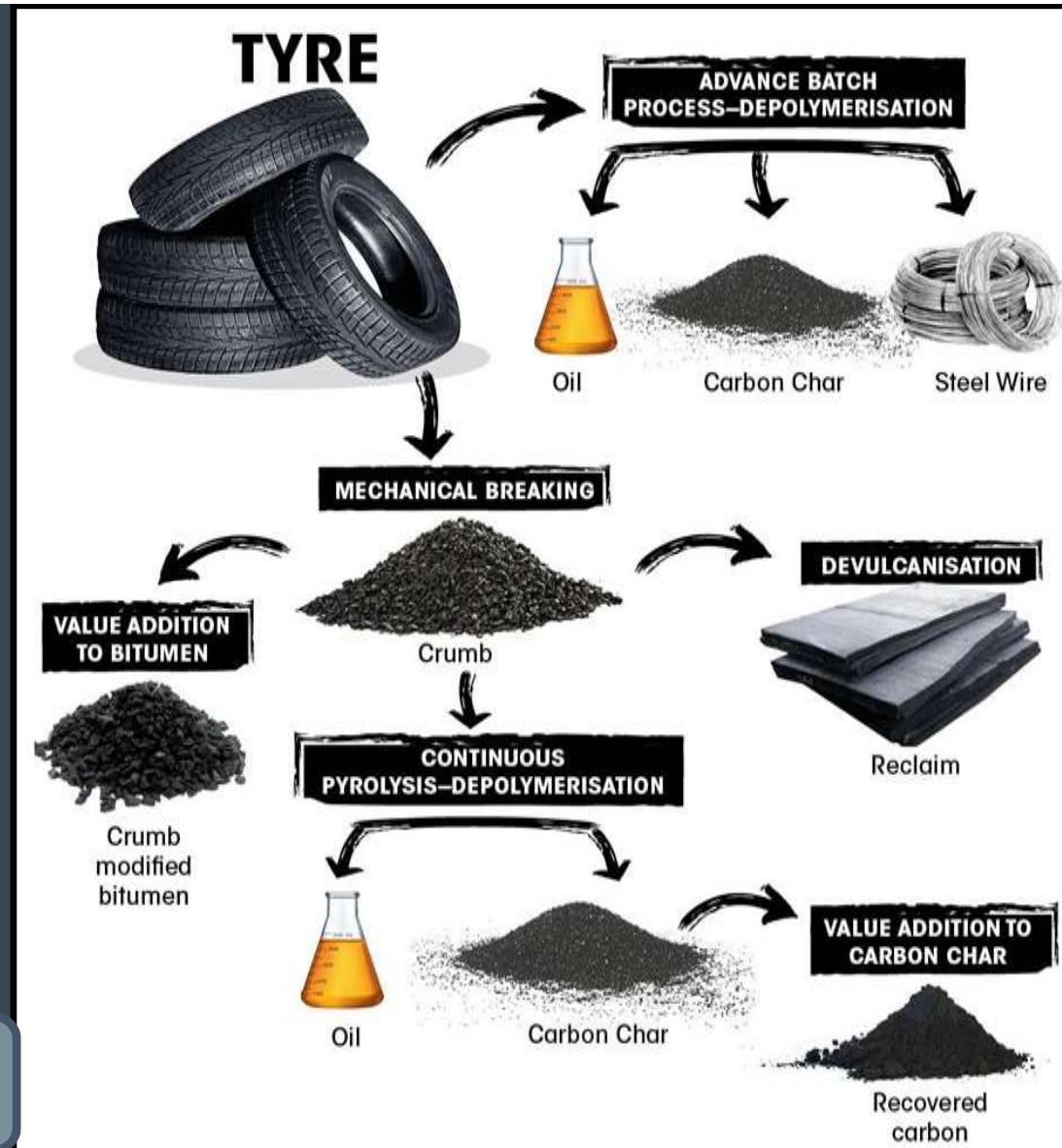
Waste not measured is waste non-managed

- National-level data missing!! – most countries lack data on total volume of waste tyres generation on public domain.
- Where available, it is scattered and inconsistent.
- Reliable tyre waste recycling data is not available.



Recycling solutions

Current recycling rates are **~10%-12% ONLY**





Thank you!

