



InTex

InTex

www.unep.org/intex

UN 
environment
programme

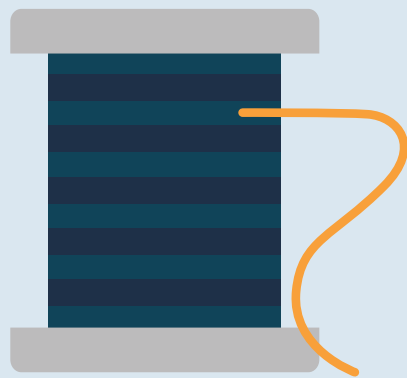


Funded by
the European Union

What is InTex?

The project "Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in the Textile Value Chain" (InTex) is a three-year UNEP project funded by the **European Union (EU)**.

The InTex project has **five components**. Two components have global reach and three components focus on national implementation in three countries in Africa: **Kenya, South Africa, and Tunisia**.



Project duration



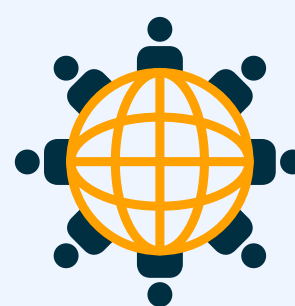
From September 2020 to August 2023.



Global components



- **Increase access to environmental and lifecycle data** so businesses and policymakers can make better-informed decisions and implement relevant strategies.



- **Provide evidence of the environmental and socio-economic impacts** of the different sustainable economic models in the textiles value chain, to help **bridge the science-policy gap and raise awareness** on the potential impacts of adopting and fostering innovative sustainable and circular policies and practices.

“Achieving circularity in textiles will require entirely new business models and conducive policy frameworks to evolve from an industry producing large volumes of disposable items, to one producing valuable items that remain in use for a long period before being repurposed or recycled.”

(UNEP 2020, *Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain – Global Stocktaking*, www.oneplanetnetwork.org/new-report-launched-sustainability-and-circularity-textile-value-chain)

3 key concepts



Eco-innovation

UNEP's **Eco-innovation approach** guides SMEs in incorporating circularity and resilience into every aspect of their business strategy and underlying business models, operations, products, and processes to reduce the environmental and social impact of human activity.

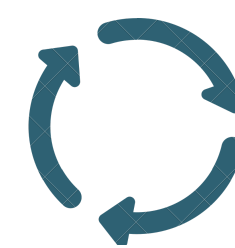
This results in an agile, reactive, and competitive company. UNEP provides a manual, sector guidance, and other tools to apply the eco-innovation approach. The UNEP eco-innovation website can be found here: <http://unep.ecoinnovation.org/>



Product Environmental Footprint

The **European Commission's Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)** measures the environmental performance of a good or service throughout its life cycle (from extraction of raw materials, through production and use, to final waste management).

As it is a standardized methodology, SMEs can gain competitive advantage and credibility by using PEF, providing a robust way for consumers to compare the environmental footprint of their products to that of similar products or to the European benchmark.

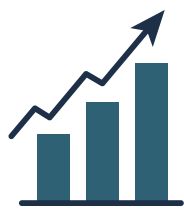


Circularity

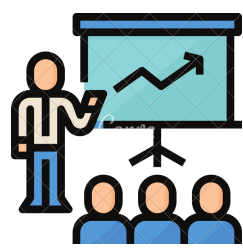
Circularity provides a model to transform the current economic system towards a sustainable future.

As outlined in the **UNEP circularity platform** (www.unep.org/circularity) circularity's underlying objective is that materials should be kept at their highest possible value as they move and are retained within the value chain. Circularity builds on a guiding principle: "Reduce by design", as well as value-retention processes: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose and Recycle.

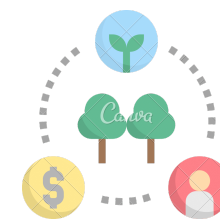
3 national components



- Increase SMEs and policymakers knowledge on resource efficiency, life cycle thinking, circularity and eco-innovation in the textile value chain



- Train stakeholders on eco-innovation and product environmental footprint (PEF)



- Accompany businesses in transforming their approach and business models to increase sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain



Tunisia

Textiles is considered a cornerstone of the Tunisian industry, as it contributes to more than 20% of the national GDP. It is the first manufacturing sector in terms of employment (161,425 jobs) and number of enterprises (1,581 companies).

Country partner: The International Centre for Environmental Technologies of Tunis (CITET) is a non-administrative public institution, under the supervision of the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, specialized in the protection of the environment in the context of sustainable development.



Kenya

The textile sector is the second biggest manufacturing activity in Kenya. The sector contribution to the national GDP is expected to grow from 10% in 2019 to 15% by 2022. The sector employs 30% of the manufacturing workforce, and 14% of the total active population.

Country partner: Moi University is a public university located in Kesses and established in 1984 with an intention of making it a science, technology and development oriented institution.



South Africa

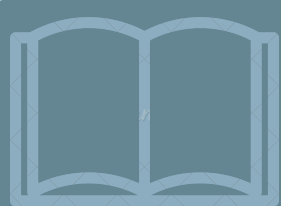
The South African clothing and textiles industry contributes to 3% to total manufacturing activity. Considering both the manufacturing and retail subsectors, there are about 212,000 formal jobs in the whole textiles value chain in South Africa, with 92,000 jobs in manufacturing and 120,000 jobs in retail.

Country partners:

- The Centre for African Resource Efficiency and Sustainability (CARES) aims to support small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) by creating awareness and giving access to sustainability tools and skills.
- The National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA) promotes the implementation of resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) methodologies to assist industry to lower costs.



How will SMEs benefit from the project?



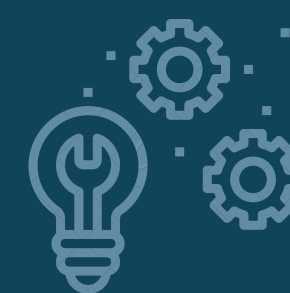
Knowledge building

- Learn about eco-innovation, PEF and circular business models
- Gain access to tools and guidelines that can help make your business more sustainable, circular and resilient



Data analysis

- Learn how to calculate and communicate the environmental footprint of your textile product
- Access PEF-compliant LCA datasets, learn how to collect relevant LCA data and generate PEF studies



Technical assistance

- Develop a new business strategy and underlying business models, and receive support in implementing these, following the eco-innovation approach
- Get support in analyzing your product environmental footprint to guide decision-making on improved product design and manufacturing.