

International Conference

“Contribution of sound waste management systems to sustainable tourism and the protection of marine ecosystems”

Let's talk EPR concept: success factors for EPR in the MENA region; 10/10/2022

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The Concept

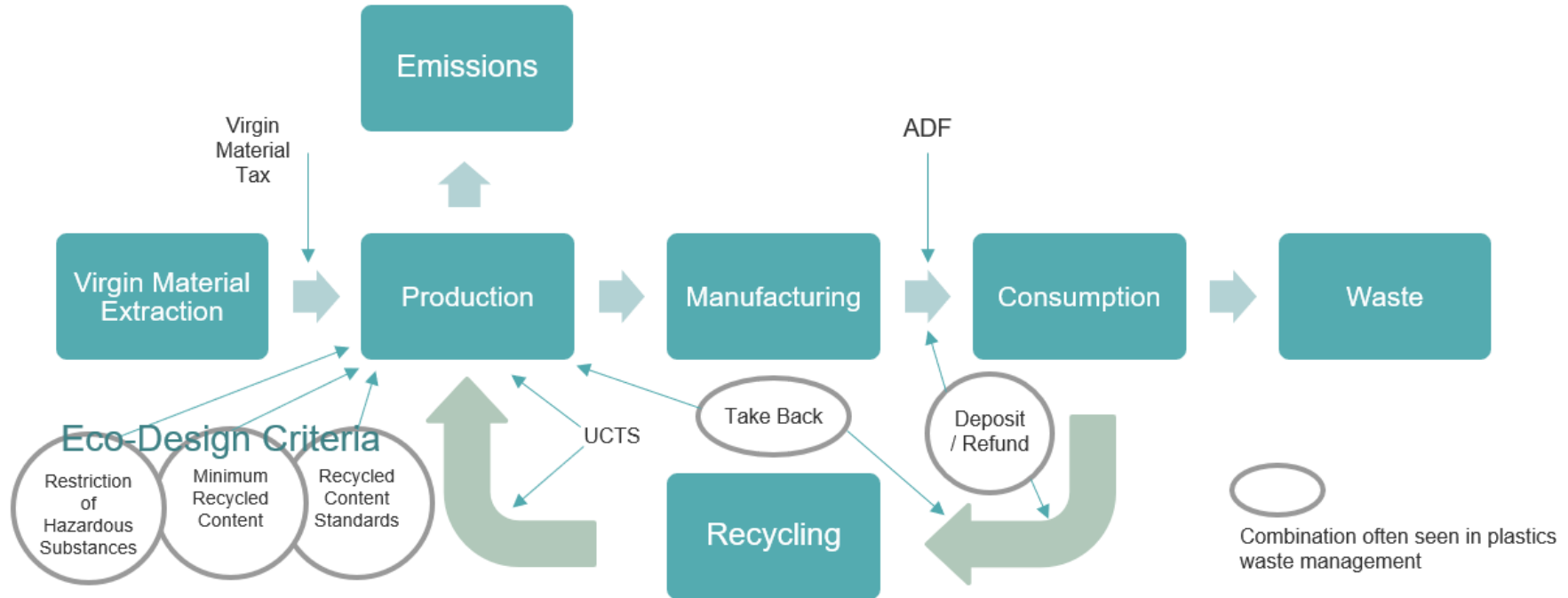
- EPR is an environmental policy approach in which a **producer's responsibility** for a product is **extended** to the **post-consumer stage** of a product's life cycle
- An EPR policy is characterized by:
 - the **shifting of responsibility** (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream **towards the producer**, away from municipalities; and
 - the provision of **incentives for producers** to consider environmental consequences when designing their products.



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EPR translates into various instruments

Several instruments can be combined for higher impact

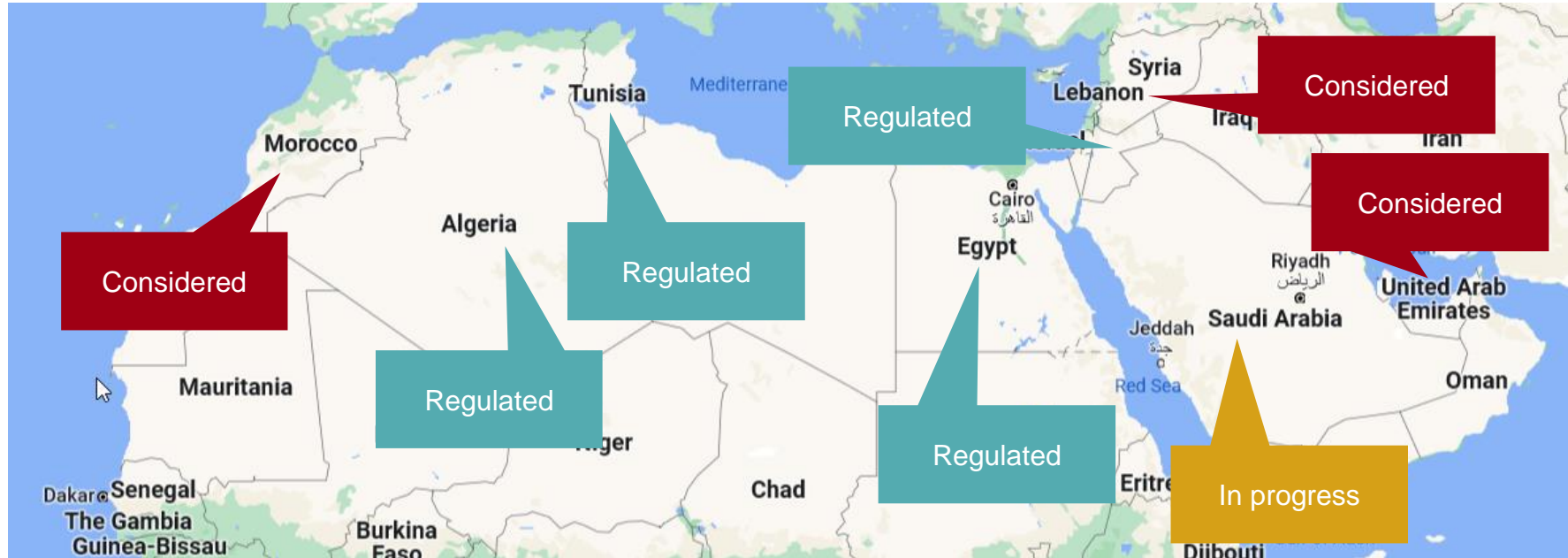


ADF: Advanced Disposal Fee UCTS: Upstream Combination Tax/Subsidy

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EPR in the MENA region







Regulated = at least partial regulatory framework exists



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Most successful EPR systems globally

What qualifies them?

- Implemented a long time ago, up to 30 years
- Benefit from an effectively **enforced**, **updated** regulatory **framework** 
- **Binding** quantitative **targets** 
- Strong collection and treatment **infrastructure** 
- Adequate technical standards
- Involvement of **all stakeholders** in the system with **clear responsibilities** 
- **Clear** system **financing** 
- Solid **data management** capability 
- Generally systems are operated by the **private sector**

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Most successful EPR systems globally

What qualifies them?

- Consider existing small formal collectors and recyclers, as they represent an active actor and to avoid any opposition to the system
- Ensure transparency is absolute necessary for effective government oversight
- EPR concept should be adapted to the situation of each country and its characteristics...
- Consider ecodesign criterias and restrictions on hazardous substances

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EPR in the MENA region

How is the situation different?

- Most systems are in the process of **being implemented** (exception Tunisia)
- Most frameworks are **incomplete** or in **need of overhauling**
- General **lack of** binding quantitative **targets** 
- Collection and recycling **infrastructure is lacking** 
- Lack of data management capability 
- System financing may compete with other mechanisms
- **Unsustainable financing** of the systems 
- Strong empowerment of the **public sector** to implement EPR 
- Significant role of the **informal sector** without being in the system

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Limiting factors

Compared to best in class

Short to mid-term fix



- Incomplete regulatory framework
- Lack of binding targets
- Data not available

Long term fix



- Building experience through system iterations
- Develop infrastructure to the required level

Specific regional aspects



- Competing finance flows
- Public sector empowerment
- Role of the informal sector

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Long term horizon

Realistic timelines have to be considered

- **EPR is a journey**, it takes time, and many iterations to refine the system
 - Countries like Germany and France, which EPR systems date back to the early 90's overhauled their system as late as 2019 and 2020, respectively → it is a continuous process
 - Having started later, MENA countries can however leapfrog and avoid mistakes made by their precursors
- Relevant **infrastructure requires time to build**
 - An enforced regulatory framework, with clear assignment of roles and responsibilities and binding targets is required to provide **visibility** and **legal security** to investors



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Short to mid term horizon

With structuring impact

- No regulatory framework can be considered complete in the region, for an efficient enforcement of EPR

- Some have to be drafted from A to Z
- Some have to be completed
- Some have to be overhauled



- Data collection systems provide visibility for planning and monitoring
 - **Producer registry** for identification and reporting of products entering the market
 - Operations reporting and **targets fulfilment monitoring**



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Specific regional aspects

Competing finance flows



- Pre-existing **tax-based mechanisms** may impair acceptance of new EPR fees due to a double payment
- EPR financing needs to be secured for success
 - through **direct assignment of EPR fees** to operations, or
 - ringfencing necessary legacy monies to the fulfilment of EPR goals
- **Stakeholder dialogue** is required to overcome this situation where applicable
- Demonstration of the long-term effectiveness of the EPR model vs. taxation models could be presented



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Specific regional aspects




Public sector empowerment

- While most EPR systems globally are run by private sector operators (under the supervision of the regulator), many MENA countries have opted for a full **public management of the system** (playing the role of regulation, controlling, supervision and operation) 
- However multiple factors may restrict the ability of the public sector to implement and develop EPR operationally: human and financial resources, technical capacity, engagement rules... 
- Alternative scenarios could be evaluated for enhanced effectiveness:
 - **PPP**
 - **Outsourcing** to private operators of part or all of the EPR processes
 - **Private sector initiatives** in addition or as a replacement (if in addition, coordination is needed)

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Specific regional aspects

Integration of Informal sector

- A large number of **informally organized people** in the region depend on waste collection and processing to ensure their livelihood 
- An EPR system built against or without them is likely to be combatted
- On the other hand, the EPR system may play a role in the **integration of the informal sector**, for instance through enforcement of a more **secure remuneration** models and a **clear organizational concept** 
- The EPR system can also set **incentives** to the informal sector for **collecting low value** plastic waste, either door to door, on the street or during beach cleaning activities 

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How can the Tourism Sector support EPR

- In the three TouMaLi project countries, EPR is at **various stages of development**
- However, the project is building for the tourism sector a **pilot waste handling infrastructure** in the partnering countries, hotels creating initial traction 
- The collection, sorting and preparation model can be a **blueprint for further deployment** 
- Specific plastics collection and handling **costs** can then be **passed on to obligated producers** 

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