

In collaboration with



Sustainable Manufacturing and
Environmental Pollution



Policy Brief | Controlling Single-Use Plastics at a Regional
Level in East Africa

Insights from Trade in Plastics & Non-Plastic Substitutes in the Region

ALN.AFRICA

ONE REGION
ONE VISION
ONE ALN

Kenya banned plastic bags. The plastic kept coming

USD 40 Million

Kenya's annual
SUP imports (2022)

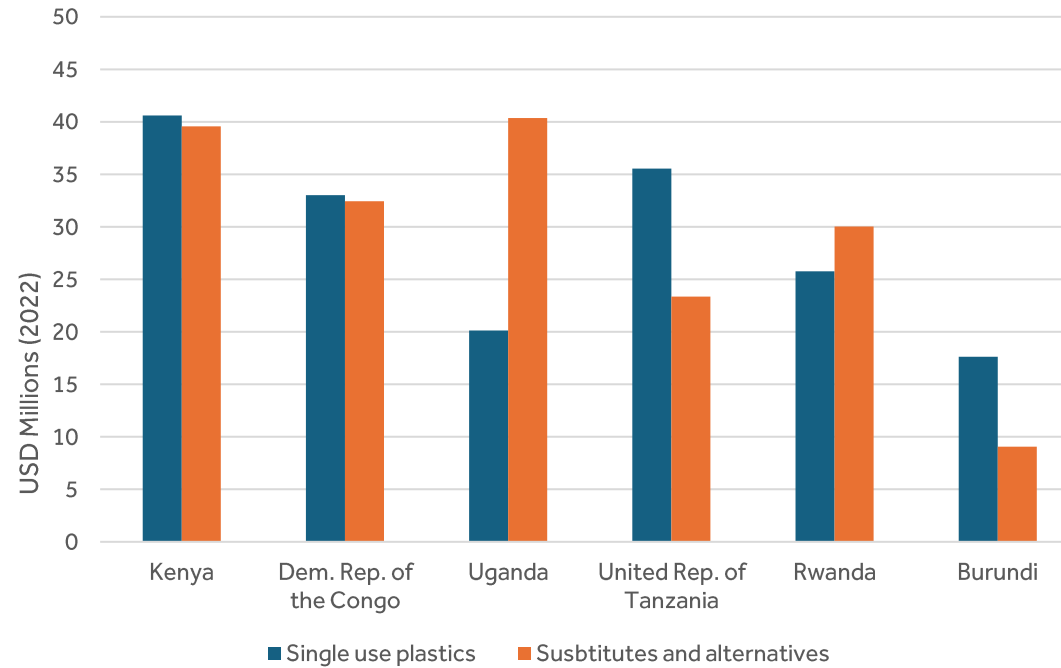
8

EAC Partner States
with fragmented rules

2026

Target passage year
for EAC SUP Bill

Single-Use Plastics imports by East African Community countries



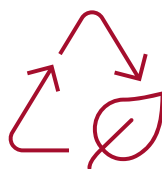
(UNCTAD DATA, 2022)

East Africa imports the plastics, and the alternatives too. The region is paying to import both the problem and the solution. The EAC SUP Bill creates the market signal to change this.

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The EAC SUP Bill is not just environmental legislation. It is economic architecture



ENVIRONMENT

Lifecycle controls on 12 prohibited SUP categories across 8 Partner States



TRADE

Harmonised standards closing cross-border loopholes and regulatory arbitrage



ECONOMY

Regional market for sustainable alternatives; paper, glass, jute, bio-based

Impact and commercial value are not in competition. They are the same thing, understood at different time horizons.

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