

Clean Lighting in Action: East African Community and the Southern African Development Community

Countries across the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions are frequently burdened by the import of toxic, inefficient technologies from developed countries. Driven by the Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) project, the member countries in both regions are adopting technology neutral MEPS (SADC HT 109:2021 and EAS 1064) which will phase out all technologies (including mercury containing lighting products) that do not meet the specified requirements.

A global phase out would supplement Africa's efforts by eliminating the risk of mercury lighting entering the region through porous borders.



IMPACTS & BENEFITS

From 2023-2050, these harmonized MEPS will cumulatively:

- Mitigate 110.61MT of CO2 emissions
- Avoid 173.51TWh
- Save 21.14 billion USD in electricity use
- Eliminate 757 kg of mercury

The Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) Project aims to spark a holistic and transformative shift in the energy-efficient lighting and appliances market throughout EAC and SADC. The project empowers private sector-driven initiatives, paving the way for extensive use of energy-efficient, top-tier lighting and appliances.

TIMELINE

August 2019

1st Project Steering Committee meeting on the EELA Project

April 2021

SADC adopts voluntary MEPS – implemented thus far by Namibia, Mozambique, Eswatini and South Africa

December 2022

EAC adopts mandatory MEPS – implemented thus far by Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and DRC - and continues providing testing kits and trainings to all member states to support policy compliance.



Because of the energy efficiency clean lighting pushes for, we'll have lower consumption of energy, energy that will go into other economic activities. **Daniel Kitui, Kenya Bureau of Standards**

