

National policies regulating e-cigarette use in Africa

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Track J: Strides Towards Tobacco Policy And Development



**Institute for Global
Tobacco Control**

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Introduction

- E-cigarettes have increased in popularity globally
- The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) compiles the e-cigarette policies from around the world
- Some countries classify these products as tobacco products while others distinctly classify them as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes
- It is important to understand how these products are classified and regulated to improve public health surveillance and evaluation





Objective

- Describe national policies that classify and/or regulate e-cigarettes in African countries



Methods

Global e-cigarette policy scan



Categorizations



Key Results

	Product Classifications	Policy Domains							
		Advertising, Promotion & Sponsorship	Distribution	Importation	Manufacture	Minimum Age	Sale	Tax	Clean Air
The Gambia	ENDS	X	X	X			X		
Mauritius	Tobacco (imitation)		X				X		
Senegal	Tobacco product	X							
Seychelles	Tobacco (imitation)	X	X	X	X		X		
South Africa	Medicinal								
Togo	Tobacco (derivative)	X				X		X	X
Uganda	ENDS		X	X	X		X		



Limitations

Limited Information

The policy landscape presented here was limited to what information was reported by the country contacts identified

Missing Contacts

One challenge with the e-cigarette policy scan is finding contacts who can provide policy information and verify conclusions drawn

Incomplete Landscape

It is possible that other countries in Africa have e-cigarette policies that are not presented here



Conclusions

Information on 7 of the 54 African countries was part of the e-cigarette policy scan

- 4 of the 7 countries (The Gambia, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Uganda) restricted the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes
- South Africa only allowed e-cigarettes as medicinal products
- Senegal and Togo allowed the sale/distribution of e-cigarettes, but both have restrictions on advertising, promotions, and sponsorships
- Togo was the only country with minimum age, tax, and clean air policies
- No countries had policies regarding child safe packaging, HWLs, ingredients/flavors, nicotine volume/ concentration, reporting/notification, safety/hygiene, trademarks



Future Considerations

Frequent and sustained monitoring of the status of e-cigarette policies in Africa is necessary to track ever changing product and policy landscapes to support public health goals.

Why it matters: Monitoring can help public health practitioners understand the impacts of different policies and thus inform whether policies need to be adjusted in order to meet tobacco control goals.





Thank you!



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