

# **ECA'S ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS**

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Workshop on environment statistics in support of the  
implementation of the FDES 2013 for the ECOWAS countries

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# Outline

## I. Demand for environmental statistics and indicators in Africa

1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics
2. Sustainable development and the environment in Africa's development agenda
  - a. Agenda 2063
  - b. Common African Position
  - c. SDGs

## II. Challenges

## III. ECA's work on environmental issues

1. Major areas of work related to sustainable development and environment
2. Major activities and publications

# I.1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics

*“A country could exhaust its mineral resources, cut down its forests, erode its soils, pollute its aquifers, and hunt its wildlife and fisheries to extinction but measured income would not be affected as these assets disappeared”*

Robert Repetto, Environmental Economist, IISD

## GDP

- Best known measure of economic activity
- Proxy for a country's progress in general
- Environmental sustainability?
- Social inclusion?

# I.1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics

Major initiatives promoting sustainable development and a broader measure of progress:

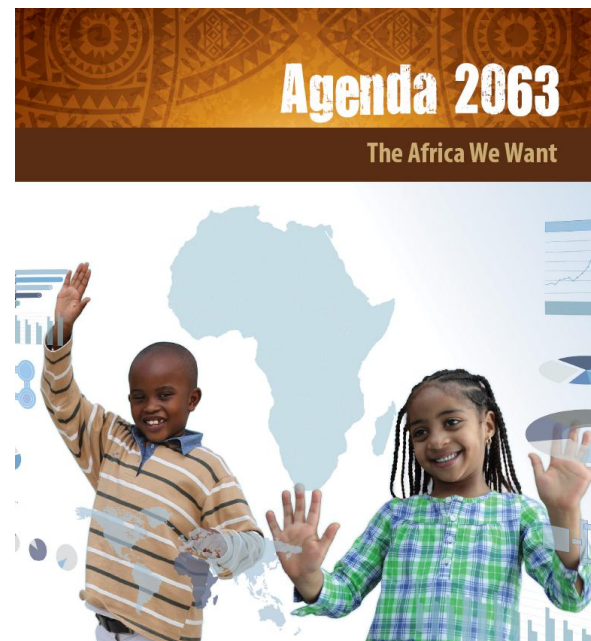
- OECD's Green Growth Strategy
- European Union's Beyond GDP initiative
- World Bank's Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)
- UNDP and UNEP's Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)
- Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)
- Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES)
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

# I.2. Sustainable development and the environment in Africa's development agenda

Statistics on sustainable development and the environment need to support policies aligned with Africa's development agenda and global goals:

a. Agenda 2063 enhanced by the African Union in 2013

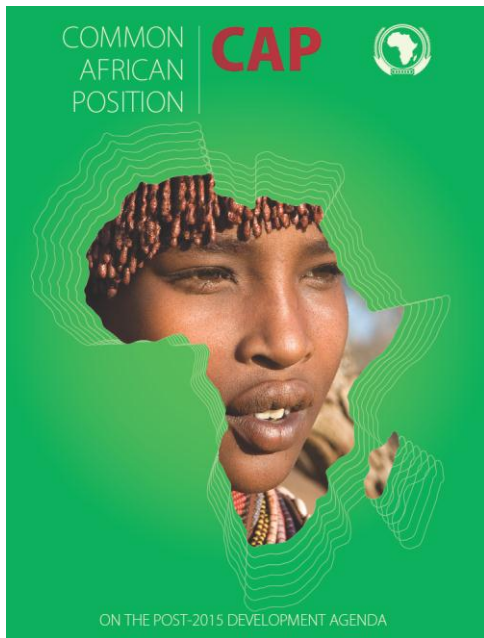
- ASPIRATION 1. A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development
  - Topics: water management, blue economy, sanitation, energy, agriculture, food security, environment, ecosystem, climate resilience, climate change mitigation, carbon emissions
- Speed up actions:
  - Transform, grow and industrialize our economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources
  - Consolidate the modernization of African agriculture and agro-businesses
  - Address climate change and preserve the environment



# I.2. Sustainable development and the environment in Africa's development agenda

## b. Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Agenda

- Pillar 1: Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
  - Topics: sustainable agriculture, food self-sufficiency and nutrition
- Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management
  - Topics:
    - Improving natural resource and biodiversity management
    - Enhancing access to safe water for all
    - Responding effectively to climate change
    - Addressing desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought
    - Natural disaster risk reduction and management



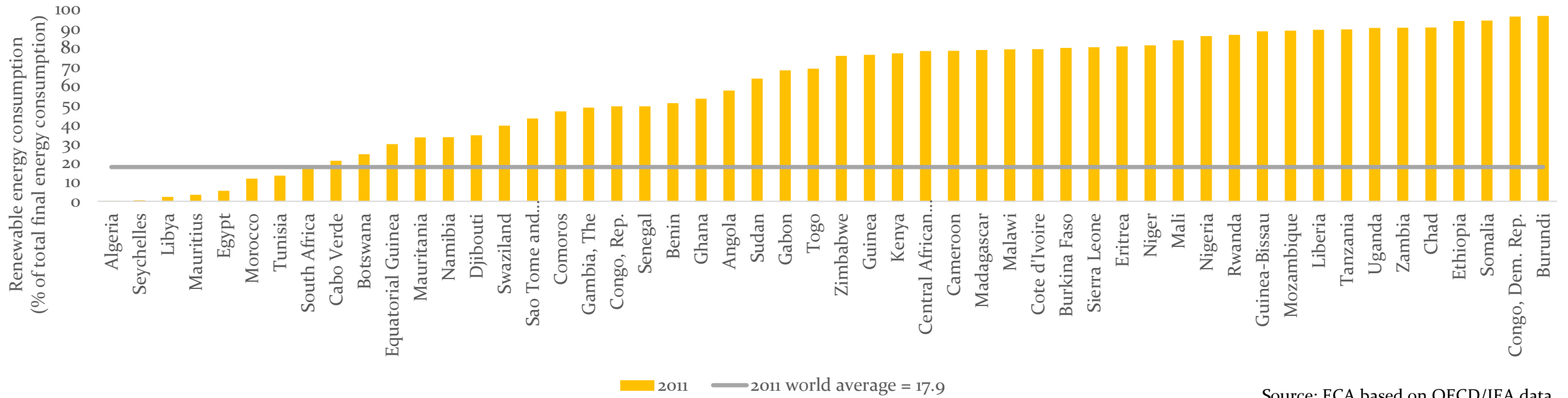
# I.2. Sustainable development and the environment in Africa's development agenda

## c. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Almost all 17 Goals touch upon issues related to sustainable development and the environment:
  - Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of **water and sanitation** for all
  - Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern **energy** for all
  - Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat **climate change** and its impacts
  - Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the **oceans, seas and marine resources** for sustainable development
  - Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of **terrestrial ecosystems**, sustainably manage **forests**, combat **desertification**, and halt and reverse **land degradation** and halt **biodiversity** loss
- Plenty of common indicators:
  - List of indicator for SDGs (final version by March 2016)
  - Basic Set of Environmental Statistics as part of FDES

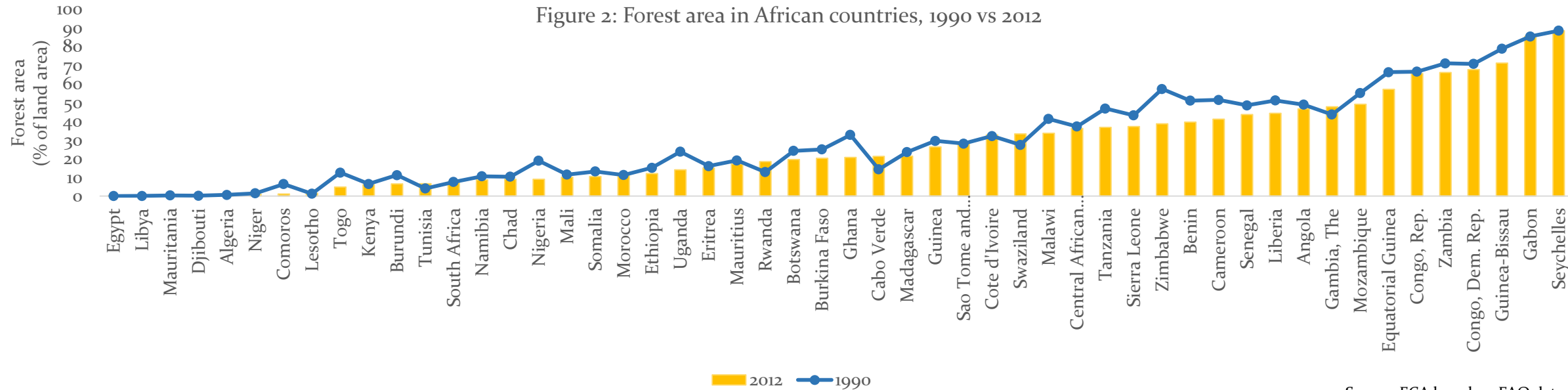


Figure 1: Renewable energy consumption in African countries compared to world average, 2011



Source: ECA based on OECD/IEA data

Figure 2: Forest area in African countries, 1990 vs 2012

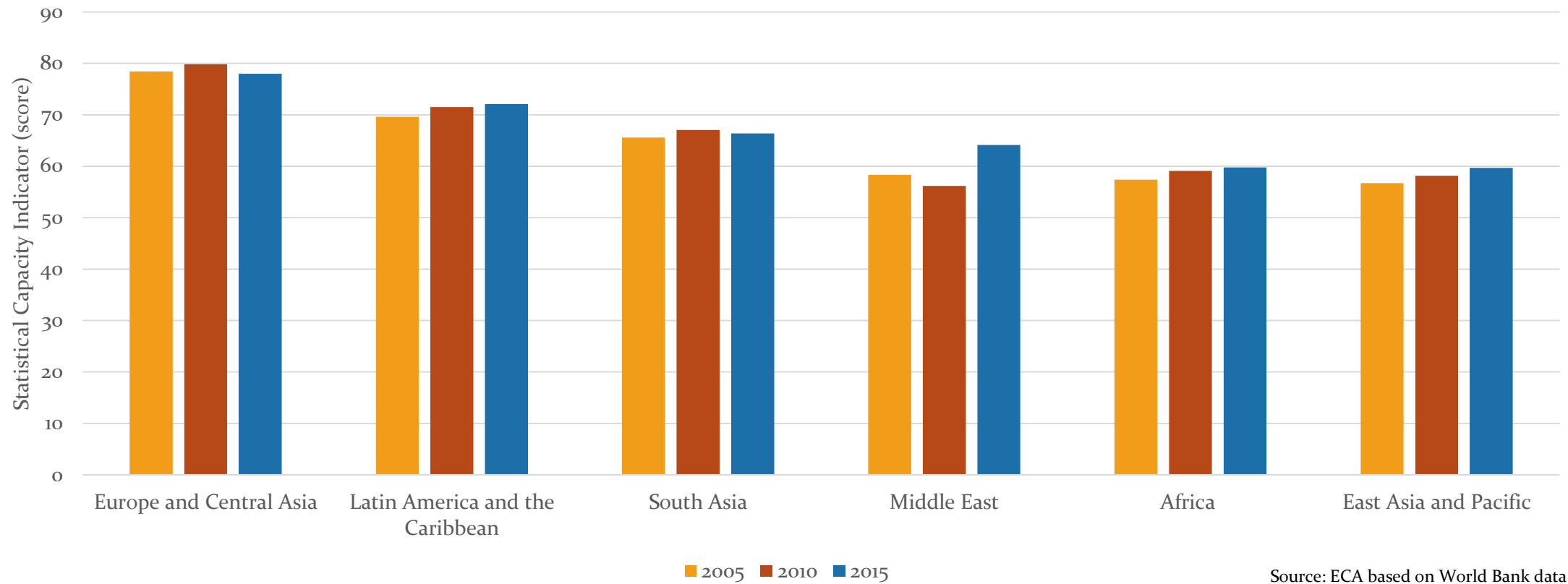


Source: ECA based on FAO data



# II. Challenges

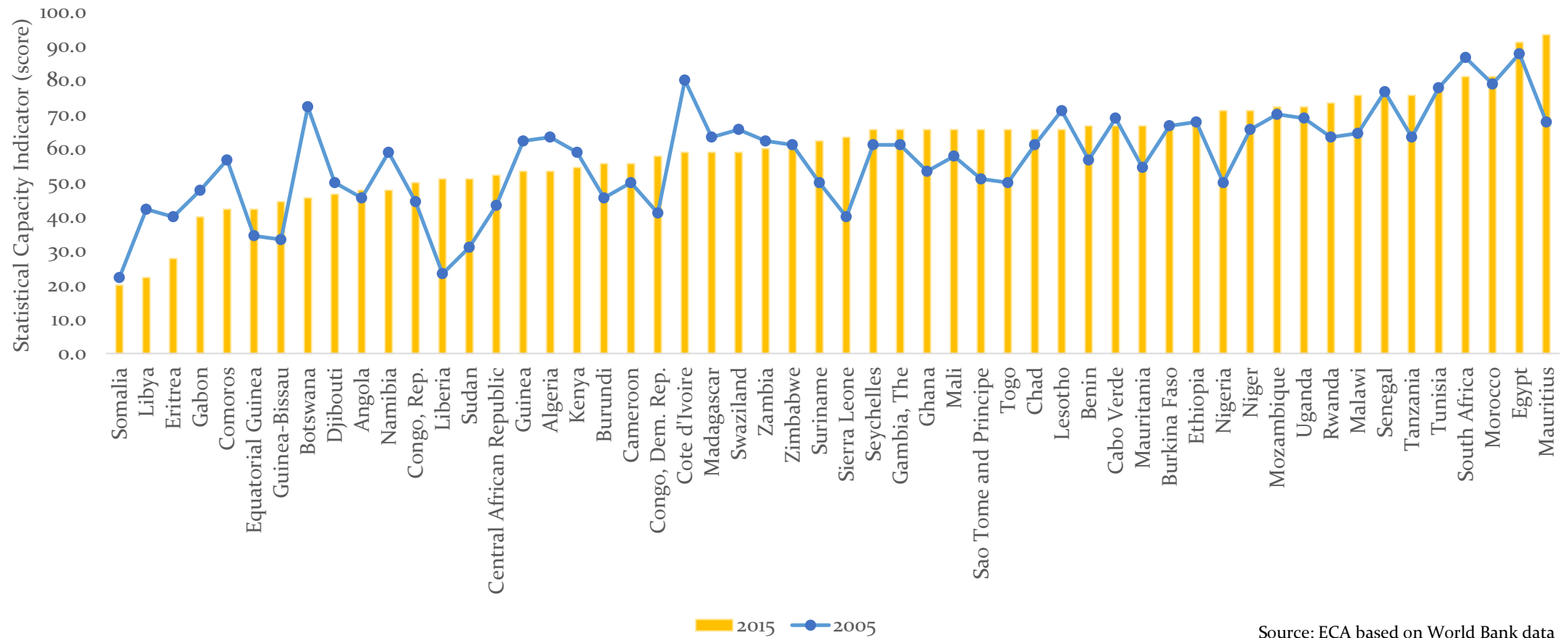
Figure 3: Statistical capacity in developing countries by region



Source: ECA based on World Bank data

# II. Challenges

Figure 4: Statistical capacity in African countries, 2005 vs 2015



Source: ECA based on World Bank data

## II. Challenges

- 2015 AfDB study on environmental statistical capacity (19 African countries, in AfDB Proposal of Strategic Pillars for a Plan to Improve Environment Statistics)
  - **Strengths:** almost all countries have included environmental in their national and/or sector development policy documents as well as in their national statistics development strategies
  - **Weaknesses:** weak environmental information systems; insufficient integration and consideration of information requirements for the evaluation of environmental impacts; absence of requisite specialized materials and technical skills; insufficient resources
  - **Opportunities:** increasing recognition of the importance of environmental accounting; international and regional mobilization to promote the implementation of SEEA in countries; gradual use of environmental accounts depending on data availability and country needs
  - **Risks:** poor mobilization of necessary resources; limited ownership of the system by national stakeholders; absence of plan/limited use of the results

## II. Challenges

Table 1: Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics by UNSD 2014 – Existence of EEA Programs in Countries

	Number of responses	No of countries w/o a program	No of countries with a program	% of countries with a program	No of countries planning a program	% of countries planning a program
Africa	15	10	5	33%	5	33%
Central, Eastern, Southern and South-Eastern Asia	12	4	7	58%	3	25%
Europe and Northern America	37	8	29	78%	3	8%
Latin America and Caribbean	10	4	6	60%	2	20%
Oceania	3	0	3	100%	0	0%
Western Asia	8	4	4	50%	2	25%
<b>All countries</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18%</b>

- Conclusion: efforts need to be scaled up for statistical capacity building in Africa to insure adequate environmental statistics and the monitoring of SDG indicators

# III. ECA's work on environmental issues

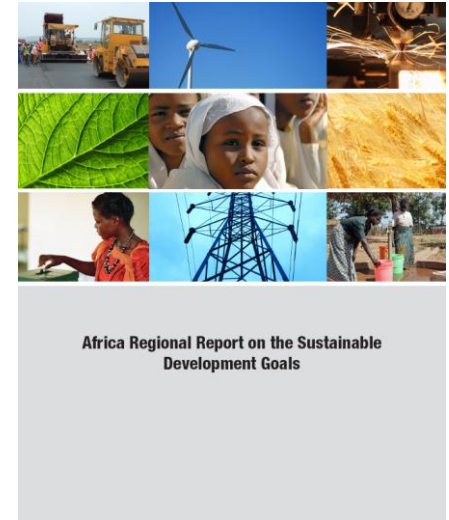
## 1. Major areas of work related to sustainable development and environment

- Special Initiatives Division
  - African Climate Policy Centre
  - African Minerals Development Centre
  - Green Economy and Natural Resources Section
  - Land Policy Initiative
- African Centre for Statistics
  - Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section (covering environmental statistics)
  - Demographic and Social Statistics Section
  - Statistical Development Section (covering agricultural statistics)
  - Geoinformation and Sectorial Statistics Section
  - Data Technology Section

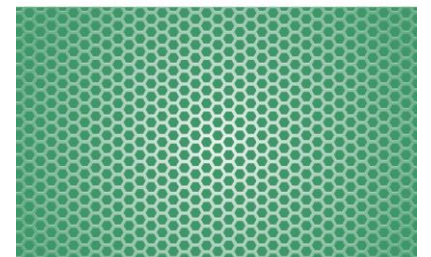
# III. ECA's work on environmental issues

## 2. Major activities and publications

- Post-2015 development agenda:
  - Facilitating the development of the CAP through Africa-wide consultations
  - CAP has largely been reflected in the SDGs
  - Related publication:
    - Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals
- Participation in developing an agreed set of indicators for monitoring the SDGs:
  - Sustainable Development Indicator Framework for Africa and Initial Compendium of Indicators

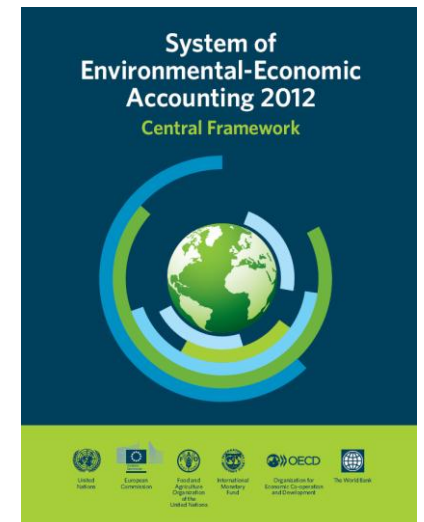


Sustainable Development  
Indicator Framework  
for Africa and Initial  
Compendium of  
Indicators



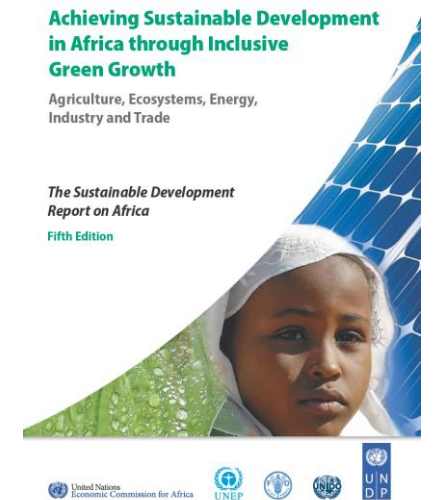
# III. ECA's work on environmental issues

- Capacity building:
  - Linking the SDGs to national planning frameworks to ensure effective implementation
  - Network of development planners to foster peer learning in the design, implementation and M&E of national plans
  - Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in June 2015
- Statistical capacity building
  - Supporting statisticians in the elaboration of baseline studies and in other areas including indicators, for effective review of progress at national levels
  - Training on SEEA (September 2014-February 2015)



# III. ECA's work on environmental issues

- Other flagship publications:
  - Sustainable Development Report on Africa (Fifth edition, 2015)
  - Economic Report on Africa 2016: Greening Africa's Industrialization
    - Agro-Industry: case studies on Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nigeria
    - Extractives: case studies on Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa
    - Manufacturing: case studies on Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia
    - Energy: case studies on Morocco, Tunisia
    - Transport: case studies on Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius





Thank you for your  
attention

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