



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# NEED FOR AND USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

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at

The Workshop on Environment Statistics in support of  
the implementation of the Framework for the  
Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013)

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# Outline of the Presentation

- A. Regional needs for and use of environmental statistics and indicators
  - 1. Common African Position (CAP)
  - 2. Agenda 2063
  - 3. SDGs
- B. The needs for statistical capacity building on the continent
  - 1. Statistical capacity
  - 2. Availability and quality of data
  - 3. An assessment of the system



# A. REGIONAL NEEDS FOR AND USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

# CAP: The Process...

- **Aim:** articulating a Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda.
- **Attendance :** 53 African countries (national, regional and continental level)
- **Stakeholders:** representatives of governments, Regional Economic Communities, civil society organizations including youth and women's organizations, parliamentarians, academic institutions and the private sector.
- **Organisers-** AUC, ECA, ADB, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa
- **Venues:** Consultations held in
  - Accra, Ghana (November 2011)
  - Mombasa, Kenya (October 2012)
  - Dakar, Senegal (December 2012)
  - Hammamet, Tunisia (March 2013)
  - Etc.



# CAP: Key Recommendations

- A. Pillar one: structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
- B. Pillar two: science, technology and innovation
- C. Pillar three: people-centered development
- D. Pillar four: environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management
- E. Pillar five: peace and security
- F. Pillar six: finance and partnerships



# CAP on Environment and Natural Resources

- A. Pillar One: Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
- B. Pillar Four: Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management
  - a) Improving natural resource and biodiversity management
  - b) Enhancing access to safe water for all
  - c) Responding effectively to climate change
  - d) Addressing desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought
  - e) Natural disaster risk reduction and management



# ECA: Policy Recommendations (Selected)

Based on the findings of the regional consultations, ECA suggested the following key policy recommendations:

- The post 2015 agenda should emphasize inclusive economic growth and structural transformation as a key element of sustainable development.
- The post 2015 agenda should take into account initial conditions of countries and recognize the efforts countries have made toward achieving the goals.
- Rio+20 outcomes and outcomes of Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations as well as UN forums such as ICPD+20 must be incorporated into the post 2015 development agenda.
- Countries must enhance statistical monitoring capabilities in order to accurately track progress.







# Key Features of the SDGs

- Universality; unlike the MDGs the SDGs apply to all countries
- Sustainability: unlike the MDGs the SDGs integrate the three dimensions of sustainability
- Follow-up mechanism: the SDGs anticipate a robust multi-stakeholder and multi-layered follow-up encompassing the national, regional and global levels
- The alignment of CAP with the SDGs eases the task of aligning SDGs with Agenda 2063



## ECA's Work Related to SDGs at Continental Level

- Facilitated the development of the CAP-Post 2015 through Africa-wide consultations. CAP has largely been reflected in the SDGs.
- Provided substantive inputs for the drafting of Agenda 2063.
- Supporting African Planners and statisticians familiar with the goals, targets and somehow the up-coming indicators.
- Supporting member States in linking the SDGs to national planning frameworks to ensure effective implementation.
- Set up a network of development planners to foster peer learning in the design, implementation and M&E of national plans.
- Supporting the process of developing an agreed set of indicators for regional follow-up.
- Supporting statisticians in the elaboration of baseline studies and in other areas including indicators, for effective review of progress at national levels.



# Supporting the Process of Developing an Agreed Set of Indicators for Regional Follow-up

- The intergovernmental negotiations have tasked the UN Statistical Commission to develop global indicators but requested that regional and national indicators will be developed by regional bodies and national governments respectively.
- ECA and partners have facilitated the development of indicators for the Common African Position.
- ECA and partners have also contributed to the development of indicators for the SDGs based on consultations with member states.
- ECA's groundwork in the development of indicators makes it uniquely positioned to support the development of regional indicators for the follow-up of the SDGs.



# Key Messages from ARFSD Related to Statistics

The just finished ARFSD was attended by more than 300 participants representing government officials from all dimension of SD; CSOs, private sector, etc. Among the messages to be conveyed to HLPF including the following:

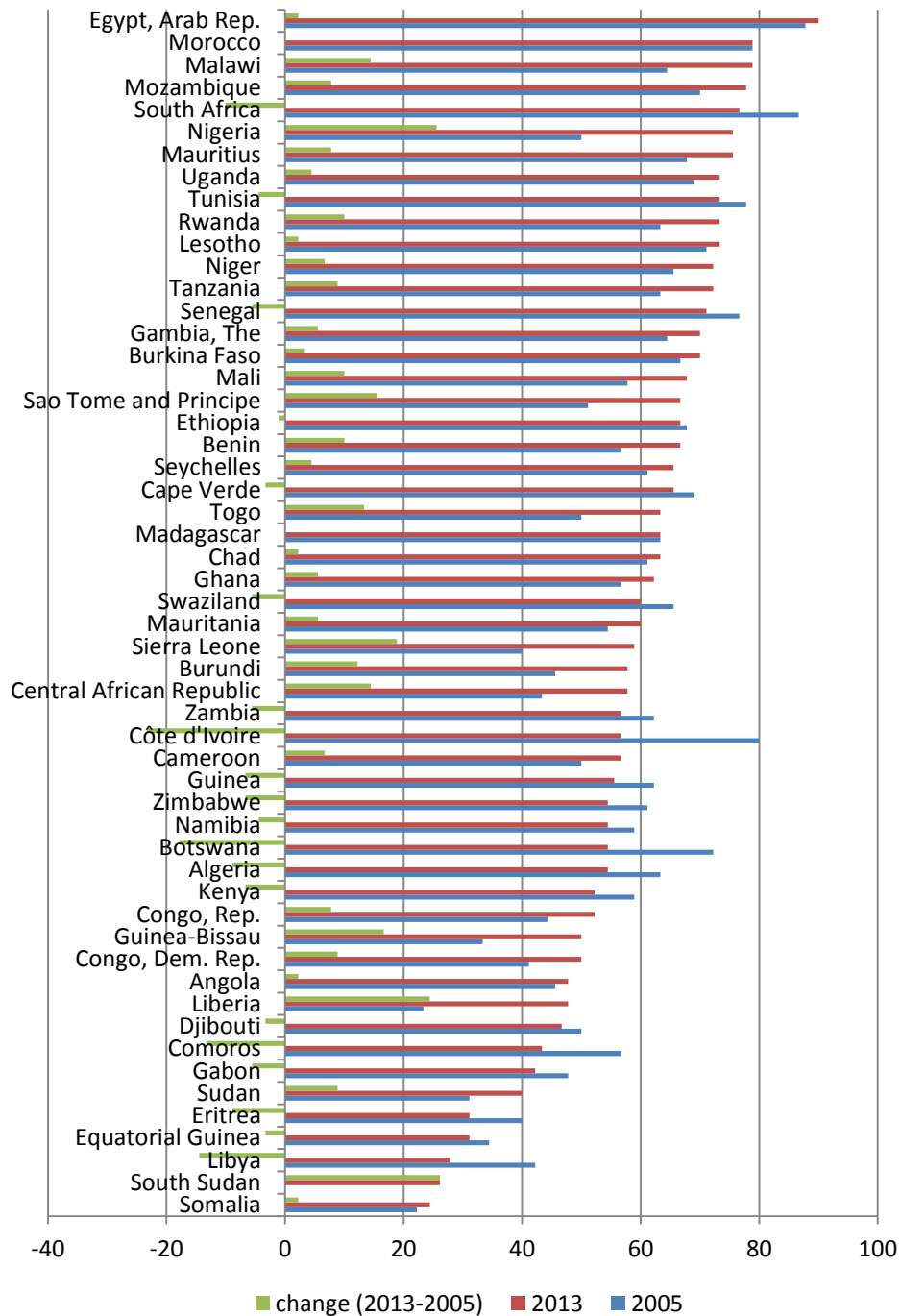
- The HLPF follow-up and review system must ensure the adequate provision of all the means of implementation for SD in a disaggregated manner. It must also ensure review of progress in all dimensions of SD.
- The HLPF and its regional bodies should ensure that all African countries have the necessary capacity to do proper follow-up and review at a national and local level, starting with adequate and quality national statistics.
- The effective operationalization of the SDGs' monitoring and evaluation framework at regional and subregional levels, calls for the meaningful engagement of ECA, AUC, AfDB, NPCA, RECs, UNEP, UNDP.



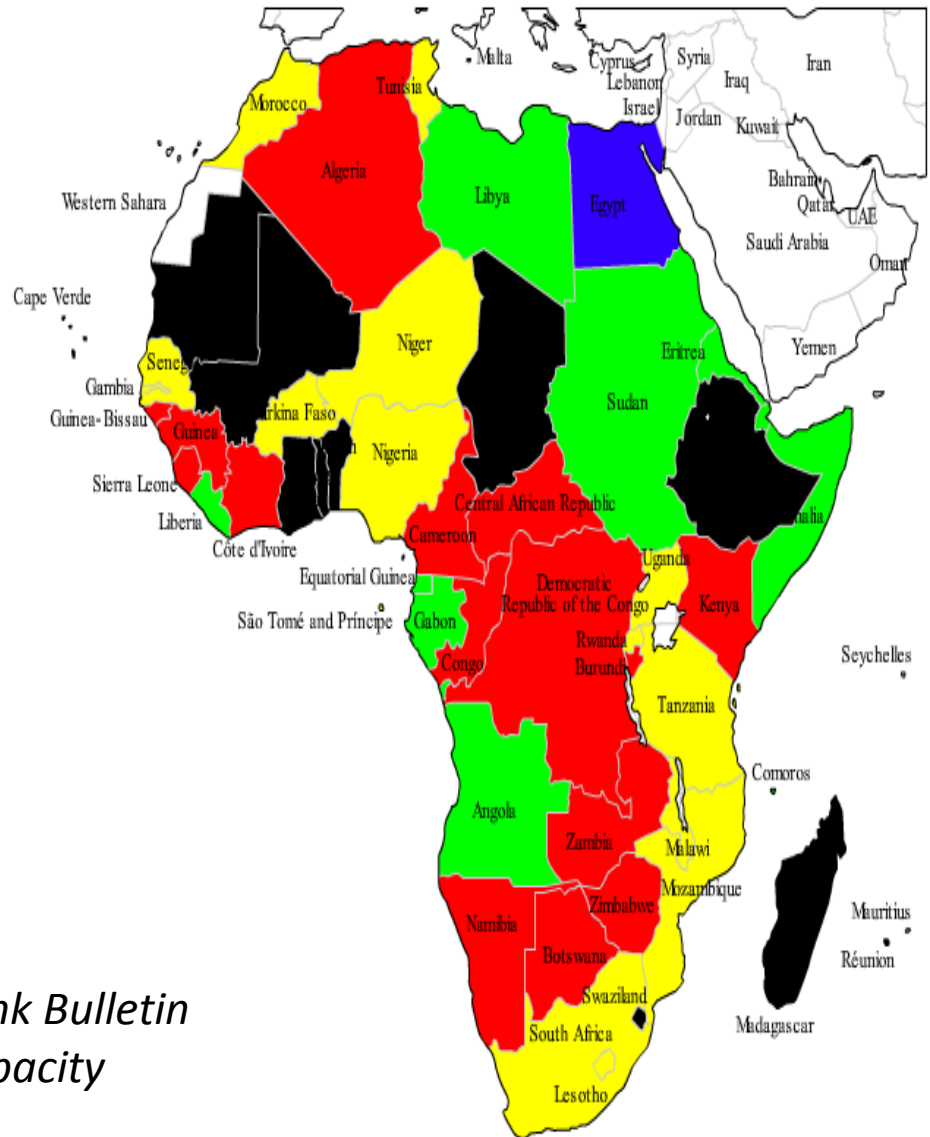
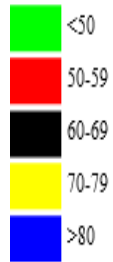
# THE NEEDS FOR STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING ON THE CONTINENT

# Overall statistical capacity indicator scores

*Data Source: World Bank Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity 2013*



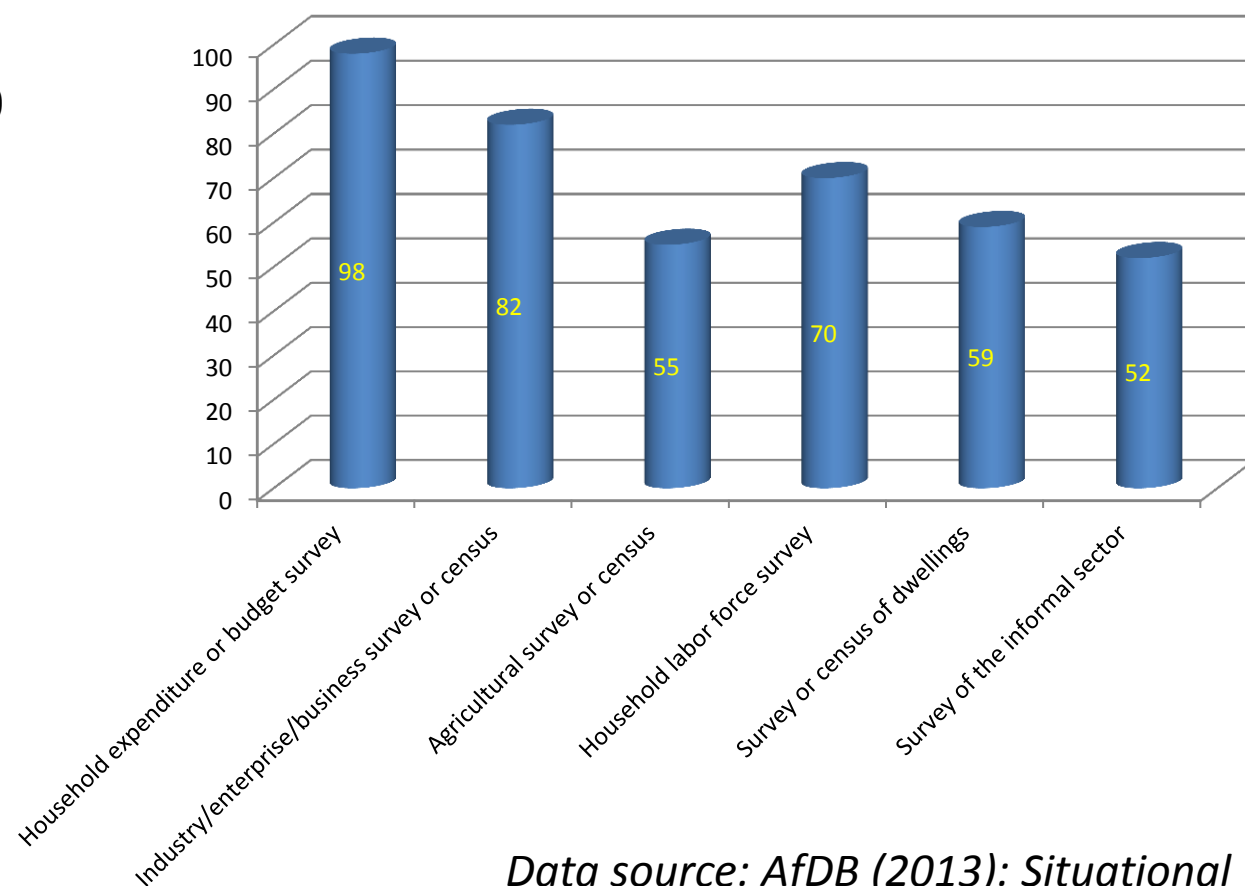
Statistical capacity score



*Data source: World Bank Bulletin  
Board on Statistical Capacity*

*2013*

## Percentage of countries in Africa that have conducted surveys and/or censuses since 2000

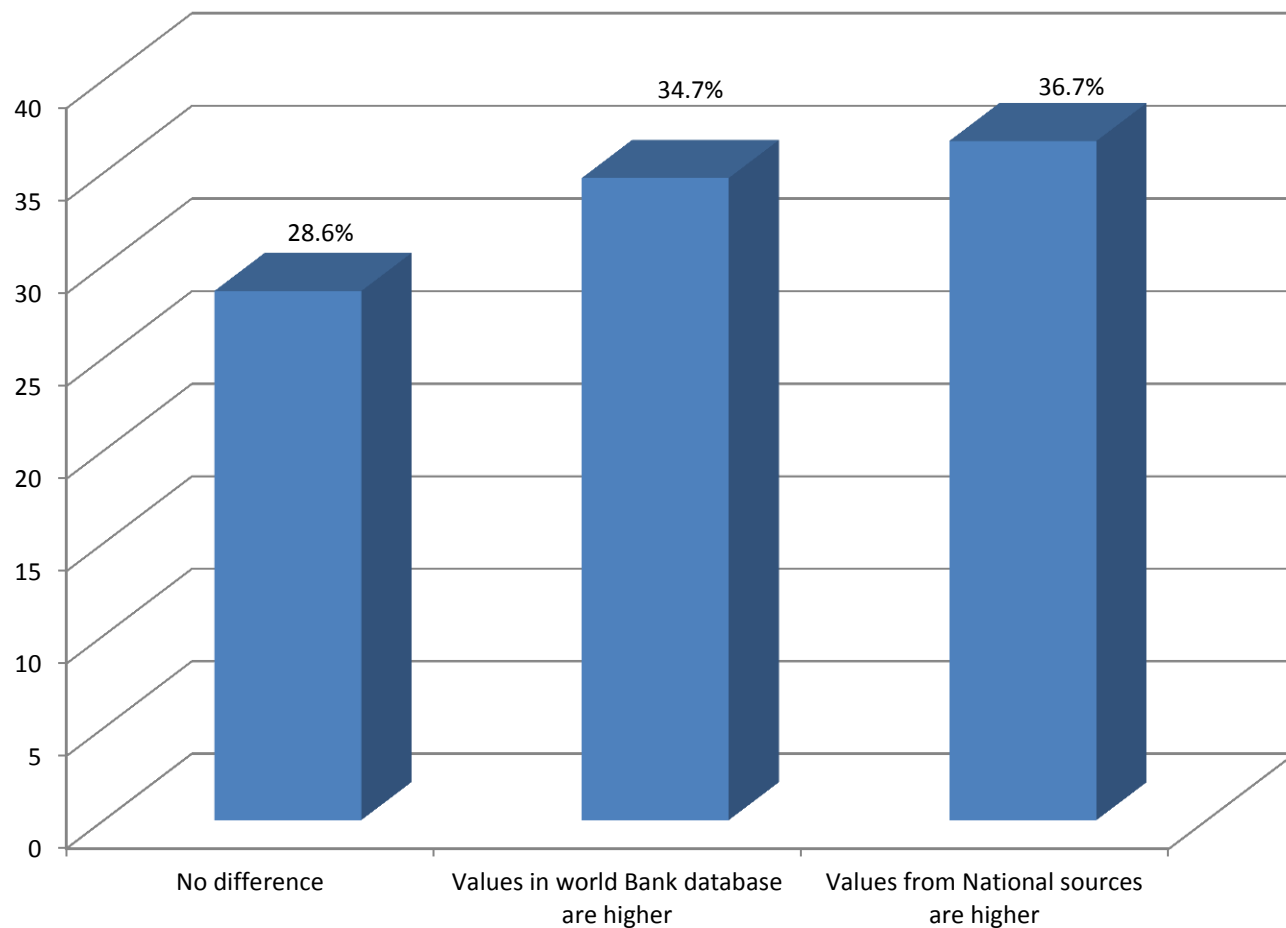


*Data source: AfDB (2013): Situational Analysis of the Reliability of Economic Statistics in Africa: Special Focus on*

*GDP Measurement*



## Proportion (%) of countries with differences in GDP growth rate data

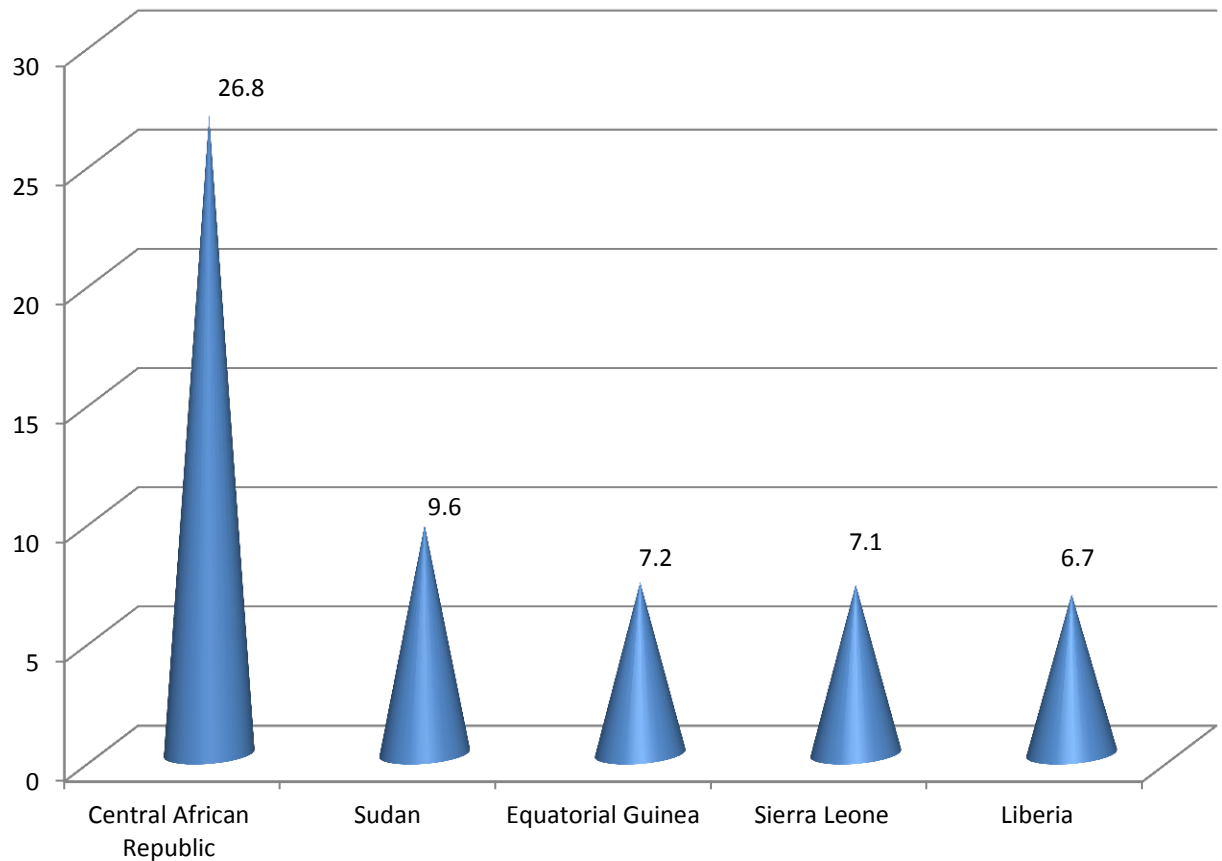


Source: Data from African Statistical Yearbook (2014) and database of the World

Bank

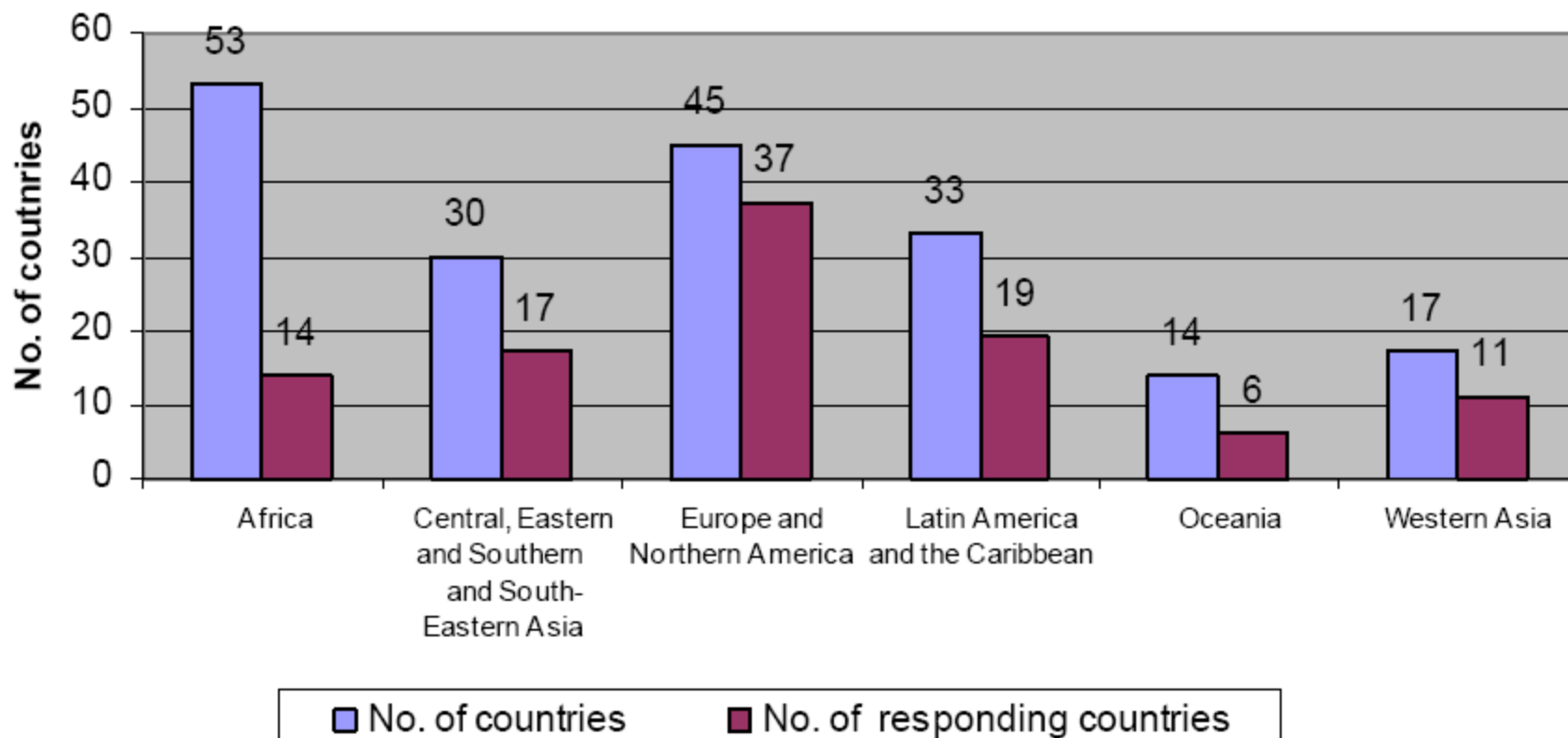
# Differences (%) in GDP growth data between countries and World Bank databases

*Source: Data from African Statistical Yearbook (2014) and database of the World Bank*

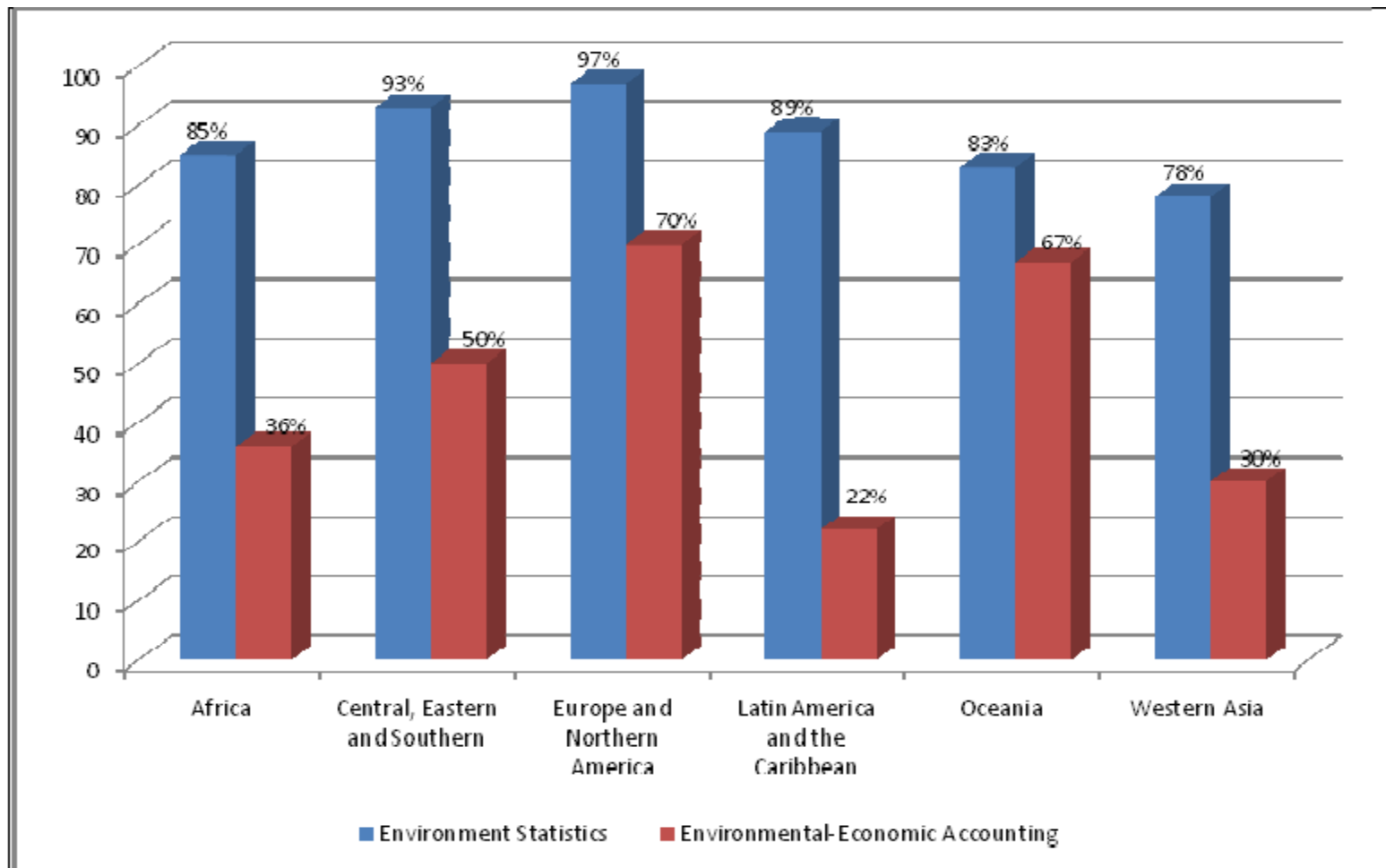


# Global Assessment of Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting by UNSD in 2007

## Response rates by geographical grouping



## Global Assessment of Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting by UNSD in 2007 - Existence of Environment Statistics and Environmental-economic Accounting Programs in Countries



Data Source: UNSD (2007). *Global Assessment of Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting*

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

	<i>Number of Responses</i> (1)	<i>Number countries* without a programme</i> (2)	<b>Existing Programme</b>		<b>Planning a Programme</b>	
			<i>Number of countries with a programme</i> (3)	<i>Percentage countries with a programme</i> (3÷1)	<i>Number of countries* planning a programme</i> (4)	<i>Percentage of countries planning a programme</i> (4÷1)
<b>All Member States</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>By Economic Region:</b>						
<i>Developed</i>	40	9	31	78%	3	8%
<i>Developing</i>	45	22	23	51%	12	27%
<b>By Geographical Region:</b>						
<i>Africa</i>	15	10	5	33%	5	33%
<i>Central, Eastern, Southern and South-Eastern Asia</i>	12	5	7	58%	3	25%
<i>Europe and Northern America</i>	37	8	29	78%	3	8%
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	10	4	6	60%	2	20%
<i>Oceania</i>	3	0	3	100%	0	0%
<i>Western Asia</i>	8	4	4	50%	2	25%

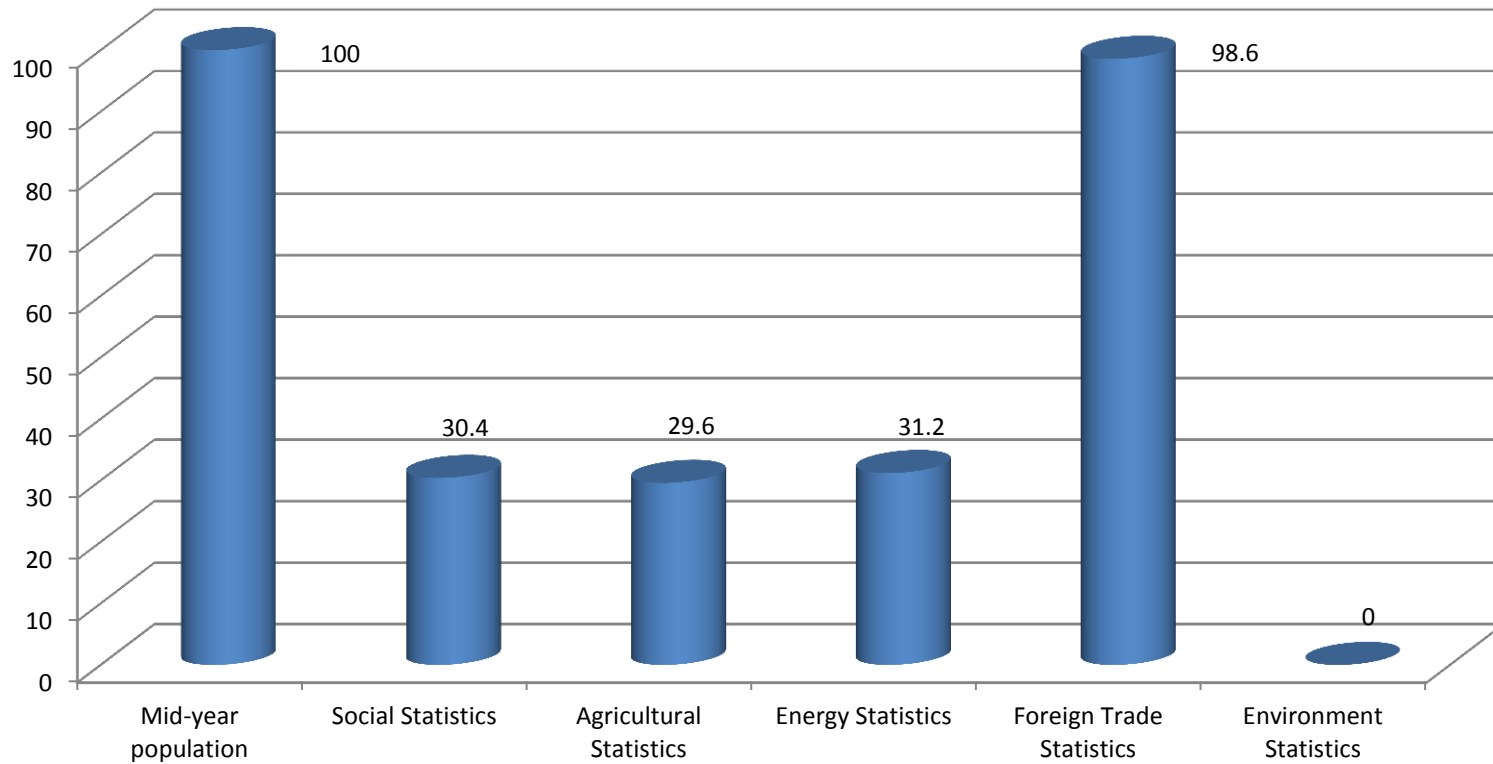
\*Where countries refers to those which responded to the questionnaire

# Remittances Received (US\$) in 2011

	Data Source		Difference (2)-(1)
	Country (1)	World Bank (2)	
Ethiopia	1,822,386	513,238,171	511,415,785
Kenya	891,129	934,149,203	933,258,074
Rwanda	166,180,000	103,146,379	-63,033,621

Source: Survey questionnaire by ECA in 2012.

# Availability of statistics as reported by CSA in 2012 (%)



*Data source: CSA, Ethiopia*

# Strengths

Awareness of environmental issues illustrated by the fact that almost all countries have included them in their national and/or sector development policy documents as well as in their national statistics development strategies

- Willingness to adopt international recommendations on environmental protection.
- Existence of statistical data at various levels depending on the responsibilities of the different structures
- Development of environmental information systems in most countries
- Clear willingness of countries to develop satellite accounts in key economic sectors and environmental accounting

Source: AfDB study on 19 African countries (2015).



## Weaknesses

- ❑ Weak national statistical systems in general and environmental information systems in particular
- ❑ Insufficient integration and consideration of information requirements for the evaluation of environmental impacts and user needs
- ❑ Lack or insufficient coordination of the different structures involved in the production of environment statistics because of the nature of the sector
- ❑ Insufficient, irregular and low coverage of basic environment statistics
- ❑ Absence/insufficiency of the requisite specialized materials and technical skills
- ❑ Most of the environmental information systems are not-operational due to insufficient resources (technical, human, logistical and financial resources)
- ❑ Limited availability of satellite and environmental accounts

Source: AfDB study on 19 African countries (2015).

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Risks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="79 239 871 439">❑ Increasing recognition at the regional level of the importance of environmental accounting</li><li data-bbox="79 454 871 725">❑ International and regional mobilization to promote the implementation of SEEA in countries</li><li data-bbox="79 739 871 953">❑ Gradual use of environmental accounts depending on data availability and country needs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="954 239 1727 368">❑ Poor mobilization of necessary resources</li><li data-bbox="954 382 1765 511">❑ Limited ownership of the system by national stakeholders</li><li data-bbox="954 525 1804 654">❑ Absence of plan/limited use of the results</li></ul>

Source: AfDB study on 19 African countries (2015).

# Summary and Conclusions

- A. Monitoring, evaluation, and report on the implementation of CAP, Agenda 2063, and SDGs have imposed a high demand for relevant environmental statistics and indicators.
- B. Unevenly distributed statistical capacities among countries, and inadequate availability and quality of data call for a scale-up effort for statistical capacity building on the continent.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**