



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ECA'S ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

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at

Training Workshop on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting with a
focus on Water and Energy Accounting, 7-10 November 2016

Outline

I. Demand for environmental statistics and indicators in Africa

1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics and accounting
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

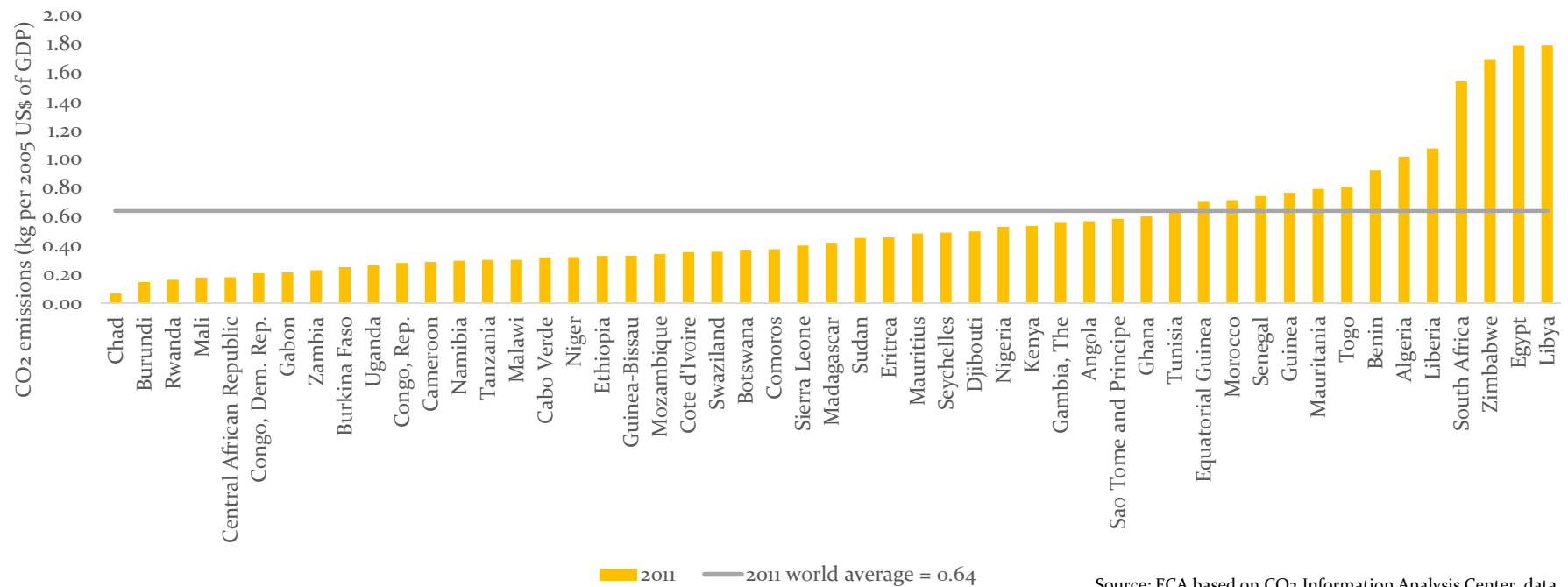
GDP

- 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: Data for policy making

Emissions data can help to answer: How much pollution an economy is generating compared to other countries? What national targets to set? How do emissions evolve in time? Checking disaggregated data, which sectors are the main emitters?

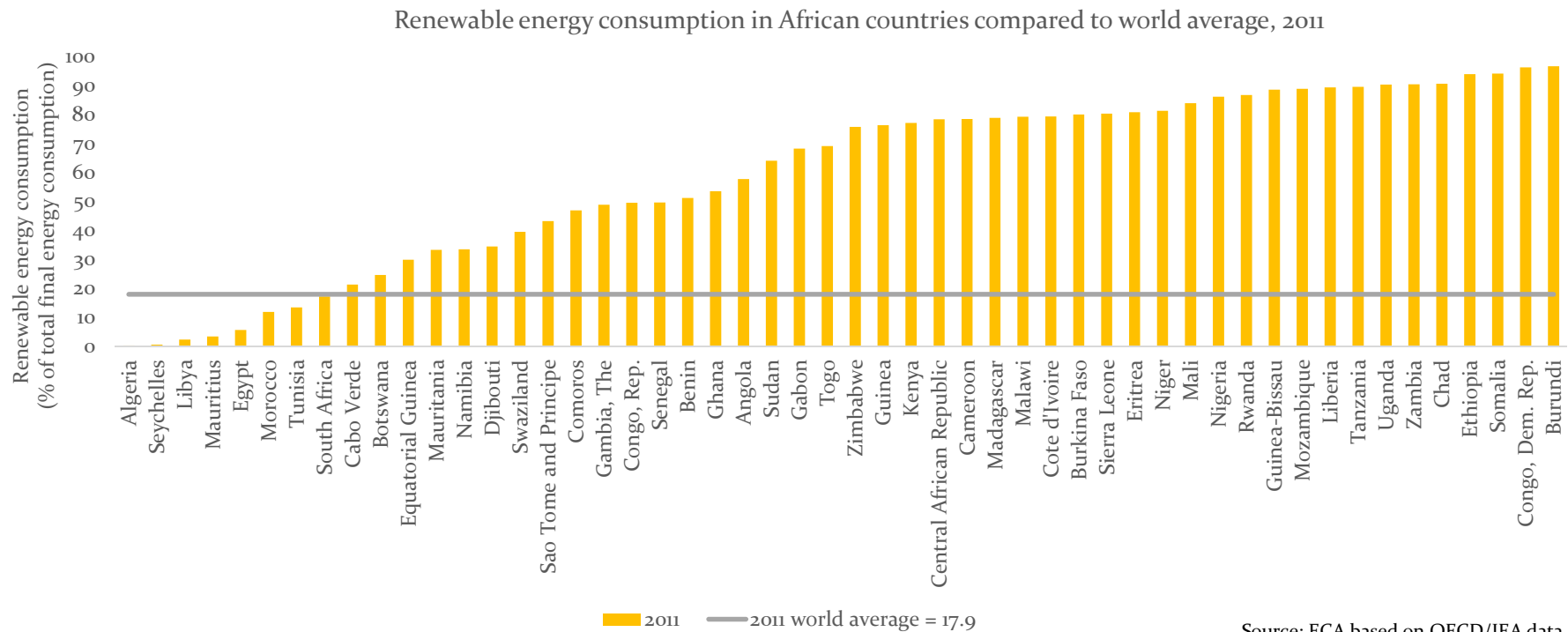
CO₂ emissions in African countries compared to world average, 2011



Source: ECA based on CO₂ Information Analysis Center data

I.1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics: Data for policy making

Energy data can help to answer: How sustainable is a country's energy consumption? How is a country's position compared to others? What national energy mix targets to set? How are different energy sources expected to evolve in time? How much energy a country can export or should import?

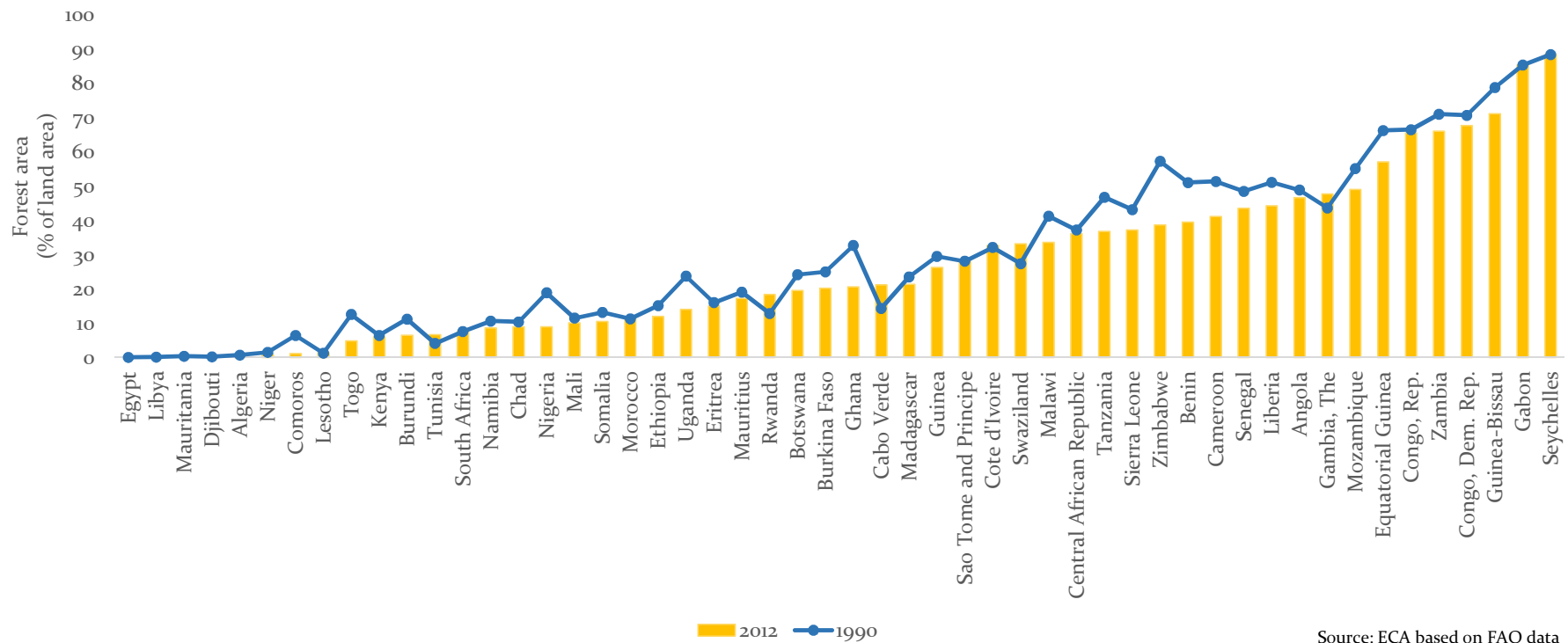


Source: ECA based on OECD/IEA data

I.1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics: Data for policy making

Data on forests can help to answer: What is the level of deforestation in a country? How sustainable is a country's forest exploitation? In the knowledge of regionally disaggregated data, which areas need protection/intervention measures?

Figure 3: Forest area in African countries, 1990 vs 2012

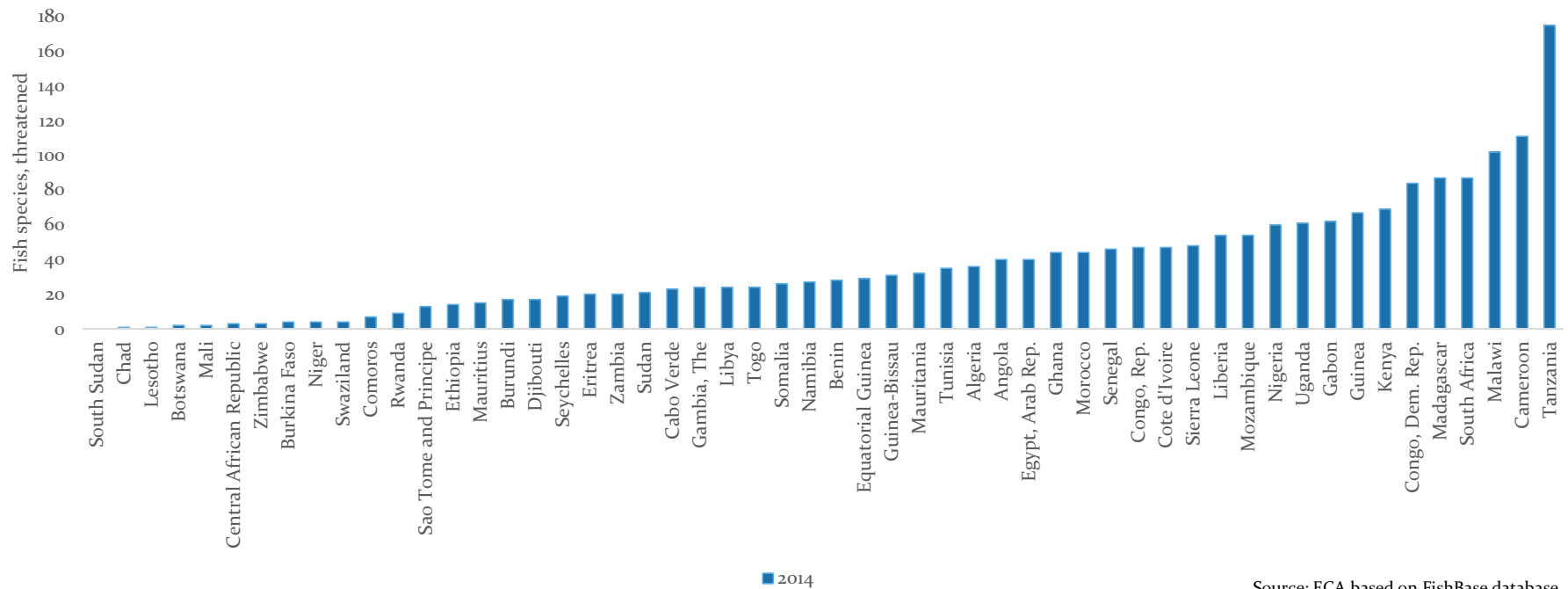


Source: ECA based on FAO data

I.1. Emerging demand for environmental statistics: Data for policy making

Data on threatened species can help to answer policy questions related to biodiversity: How sustainable is a country's fishing sector? Which species are threatened?

Figure 4: Threatened fish species in African countries, 2014



Source: ECA based on FishBase database

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

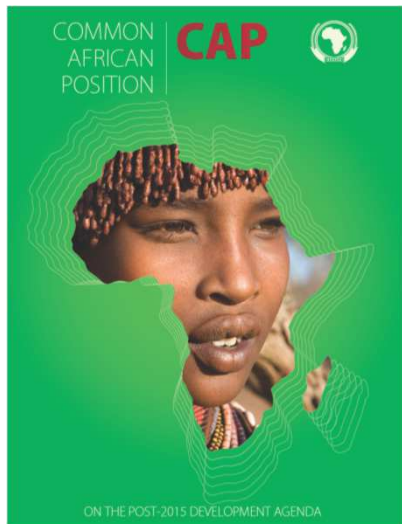
- ASPIRATION 1. A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development
 - Topics: water management, blue economy, sanitation, energy, agriculture, food security, environment, ecosystem, climate resilience, climate change mitigation, carbon emissions.
- Speed up actions:
 - Transform, 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

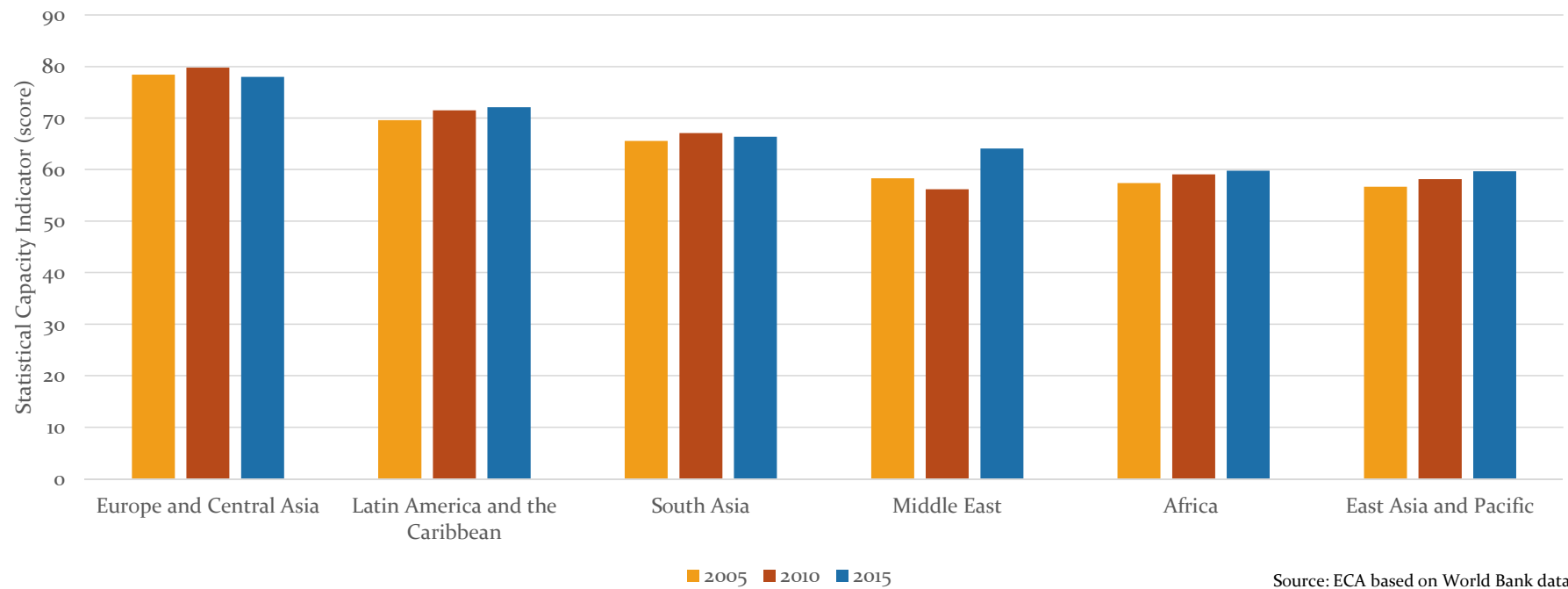
c. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 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 proposals (11 August 2015) for SDGs
 - Basic Set of Environmental Statistics as part of FDES



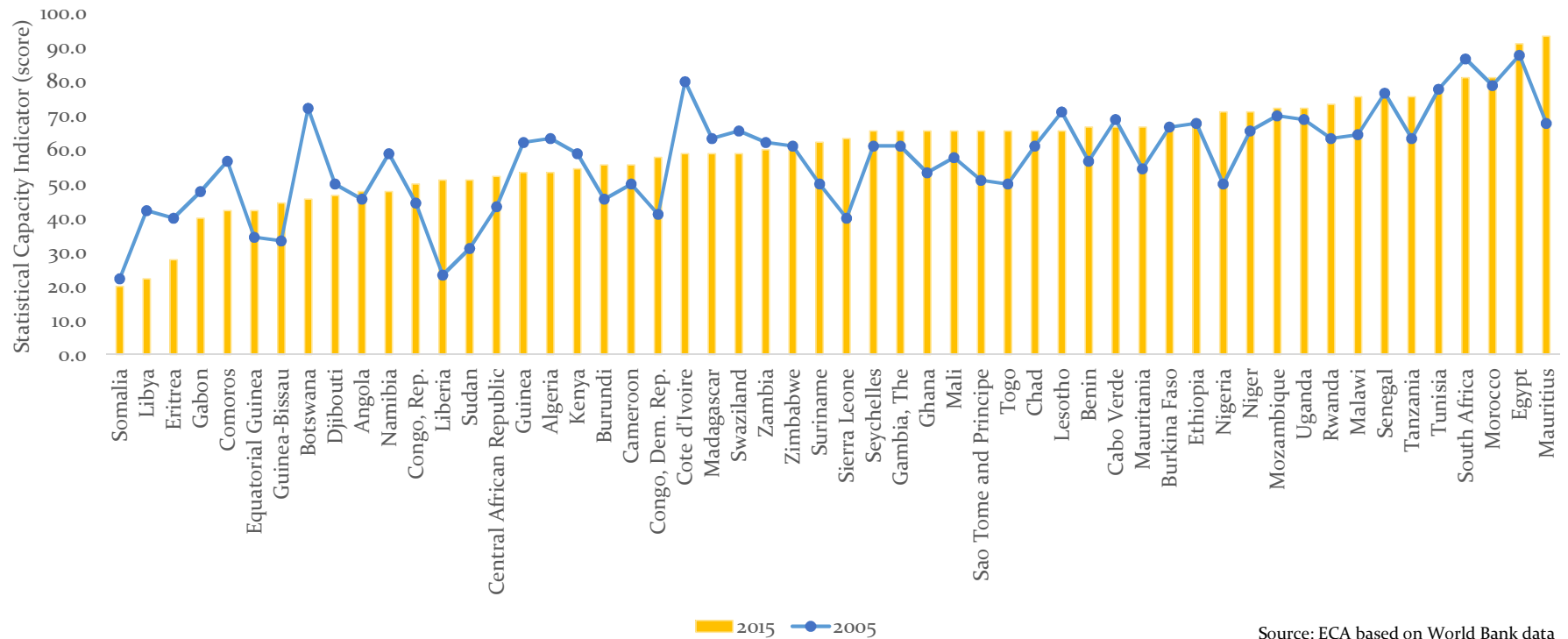
II. Challenges

Figure 5: Statistical capacity in developing countries by region



II. Challenges

Figure 6: Statistical capacity in African countries, 2005 vs 2015



Source: ECA based on World Bank data

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%
All countries	85	31	54	64%	15	18%

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
- **Conclusion:** efforts need to be scaled up for statistical capacity building on the continent to insure adequate monitoring of SDG indicators

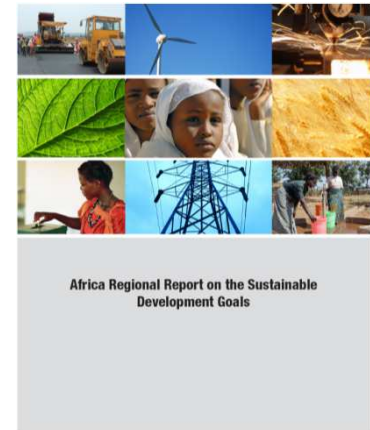
III. ECA's work on environmental issues

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

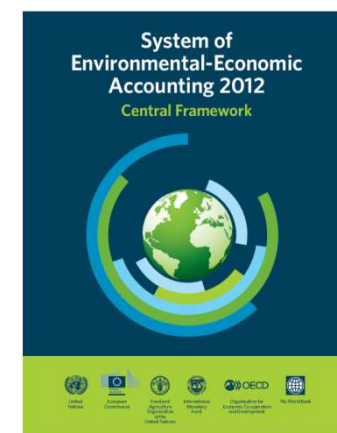
- Post-2015 development agenda:
 - Facilitating the development of the CAP through Africa-wide consultations
 - CAP has largely been reflected in the SDGs
 - Related ECA publications:
 - Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals
- Participation in developing an agreed set of indicators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



III. ECA's work on environmental issues

2. Major activities and publications

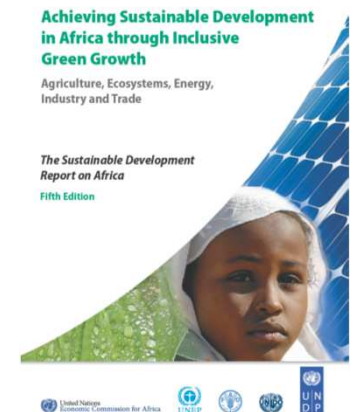
- Capacity building:
 - Linking the SDGs to national planning frameworks to ensure effective implementation
 - Network of development planners to foster peer learning in the design, implementation and M&E of national plans
 - Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in June 2015
- Statistical 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)
 - Recent training on FDES in EAC and ECOWAS by UNSD



III. ECA's work on environmental issues

2. Major activities and publications

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



Thank you for your attention

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