

Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
“Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”

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Kigali, (hybrid)

Life on Land: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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1. Introduction

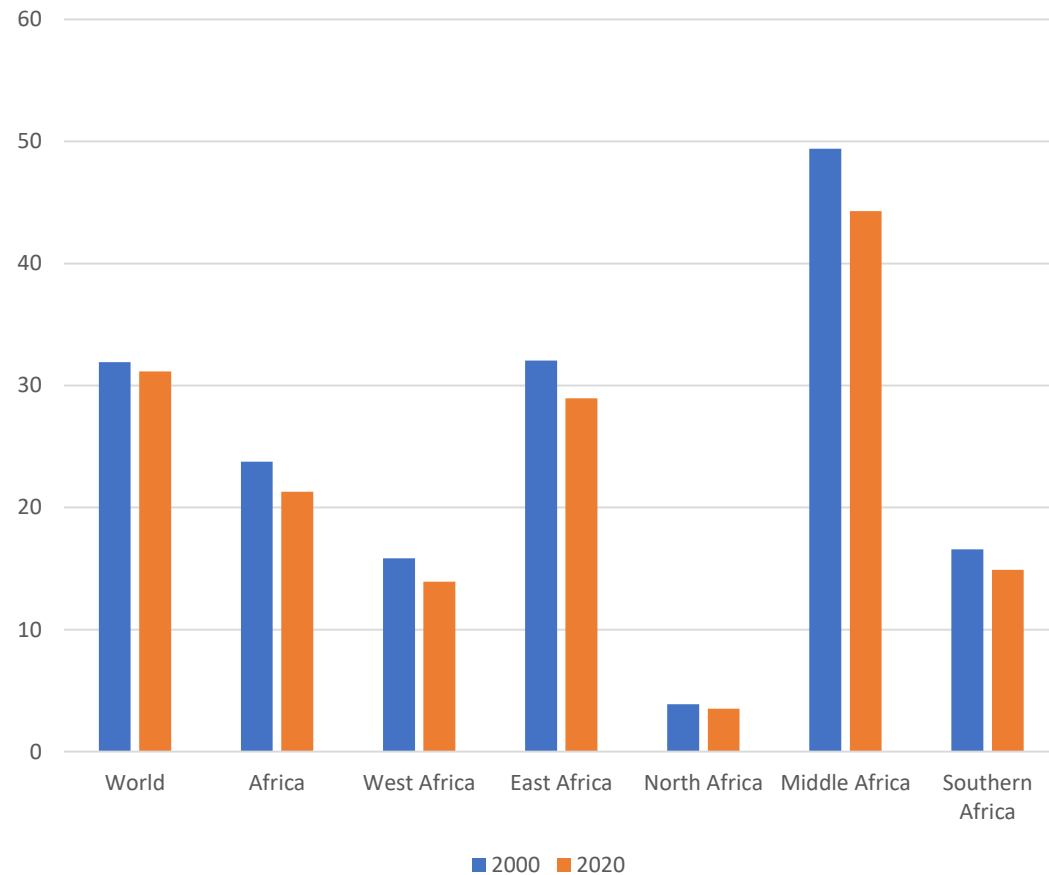


- **Drawn from the Background Report: Ref ECA/RFSD/2022/8**
- **Prepared through partnership**
- **Highlights trends and progress towards the achievement of SDG 15 aligned high is aligned with goal 7 of Agenda 2063**
- **Also outlines challenges, opportunities, key messages to build back better from COVID-19 and accelerate implementation.**
- **Report has shown that sustainable management of forests, land and biodiversity is indispensable for sustainable development.**

2. Trends and progress towards achievement of the 12 targets of SDG 15 and goal 7 of Agenda 2063 (1/2)



- In general, the trend is for forest areas to be negative, with a loss rate either stable or increasing for all subregions in Africa
- Overall, the proportion of forest area in Africa declined by 2.5 percentage points, to 21.3 per cent, over the period 2000–2020
- As of December 2021, 32 African countries had committed themselves to restoring 128 million hectares of land



2. Trends and progress towards achievement of the 12 targets of SDG 15 and goal 7 of Agenda 2063 (2/2)



- **None of the 20 biodiversity targets (Aichi Biodiversity Target) have been fully met.**
- **52 African countries among the 120 countries worldwide setting land degradation neutrality targets.**
- **11 countries in the Sahel region are receiving support in their efforts to restore degraded land through the AUC-led Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative**
- **The average proportion of mountain key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas in Africa has increased notably between 2000 and 2020.**
- **A number of species in Africa are likely to become extinct.**
- **Regarding agricultural biodiversity: As of 2020, 148 countries had ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 46 of them in Africa.**
- **32 African countries among the 128 countries globally that have pledged more than \$20 billion of public and private funds to reverse forest loss by 2030.**

3. Challenges



- i. Inadequate Finance and constraints imposed by debt stress.**
- ii. Harmful subsidies: the challenge is to reduce or redirect the \$500 billion per year.**
- iii. Inadequate integration of biodiversity and nature into development frameworks.**
- iv. Shortcomings in land resources tenure regimes.**
- v. Lack of quality data and statistics on biodiversity, forests and land resources.**
- vi. Strengthening governance systems, tackling the inadequate finance and strengthening monitoring and reporting systems.**
- vii. Addressing the overall risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks originating from wildlife: fueled by loss and degradation of ecosystems.**

4. Opportunities



- i. Adoption of a robust post-2020 Biodiversity framework**
- ii. 16 Africa countries have signed up in September 2021 (Biodiversity summit) to undertaking urgent actions put nature and biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030**
- iii. Scaling up targeted green investments**
- iv. Congo Basin Blue Fund: Needs to fully operationalized**
- v. Liquidity and Sustainability Facility developed by ECA and partners**
- vi. Developing green value chains through ACFTA**

5. Key Messages 1/2



- i. Governments and businesses need substantially to increase investment in efforts to combat land degradation and enhance the productivity and stability of diverse land, forests and biodiversity resources in Africa. As part of this, it is crucial to strengthen and support systems to channel public and private funds down to the decentralized levels of government and local initiatives;**
- ii. Given the huge financing needs for nature and existing gaps in such financing, governments and their partners need to strengthen their capacity to mobilize funding by exploring new and innovate sources such the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, debt swaps for biodiversity and sustainability; and green and blue bonds.**
- iii. Governments and their partners should ramp up efforts to strengthen the integration of natural capital, nature-based solutions, and climate-friendly agriculture in voluntary national reviews and voluntary subnational reviews, in plans and programmes, and in budgets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063.**
- iv. African governments and their partners should adopt and implement green strategies and spending plans for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

5. Key Messages 2/2



- v. **Systems following the One Health approach are needed and should be strengthened in national governments (Comprehensive human and ecosystem health systems).**
- vi. **Governments, the private sector and their partners need to ensure full implementation of Nairobi Declaration adopted at the seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2021, to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the outcome, goal and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**
- vii. **It is crucial to strengthen land rights, tenure systems and access to forest and biodiversity resources and participative decision-making in the management of those resources, in particular for women, indigenous people and local communities.**
- viii. **It is vital that countries strengthen their capacity to collect, manage and disseminate quality data and information on environment-related sectors as an integral priority of national statistics systems.**



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Ideas
to
Action