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# 2020 CENSUS PREPAREDNESS

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AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STATISTICS



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

UNECA

**Preliminary Report on the Status of  
Country Preparedness for the 2020  
Round of Population and Housing  
Census in Africa**

Country Preparedness for 2020 Census Round Undertaking

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The findings reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Economic Commission for Africa. Every effort has been made to present reliable information as provided Member States.

The report was prepared under the overall leadership of Oliver Chinganya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics, and the supervision of Andre Nonguierma the Chief of the Geoinformation and Sectoral Statistics Section, Fatouma Sissoko the Officer-in-Charge of the Demographic and Social Statistics Section and Ayenika Godheart. The maps production team consisted of Aster Deneke, Peter Njagi, Meron Kinfemichael, Girum Asrat and Ayailnesh Asrat.

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## Introduction

UN Statistical Commission submitted the 2020 World Population and Housing Censuses Programme in March 2015 to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for adoption. The programme was adopted by ECOSOC on 5 August 2015 and five major points were endorsed for the 2020 World Programme namely: i) authorizing the 2020 round; ii) urging countries to conduct at least one population and housing census within the Programme; iii) underscored maintaining internationally recommended quality standards and compliance with fundamental principles of official statistics; iv) emphasized the importance of the programme to SDG's and v) requested the UN to develop standards, methods and guidelines and to monitor the implementation of the World Programme.

The underlying principles for the preliminary assessment on country preparedness for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in Africa is to build institutional capacity for surveillance so as to highlight specific areas for ECA and other stakeholders' interventions aimed at improving the capacities of countries in Africa to conduct the census within this round.

It has been noticed that many countries including ECA do not have clear idea of their ability to detect relevant signals in terms of preparedness for the census. Similarly, many country census preparedness assessing abilities are inadequate as the process of conducting gap assessment in census undertakings are rarely applied. ECA will in due course develop a comprehensive assessment tool that will guide the provision of technical support to countries during the 2020 round of census.

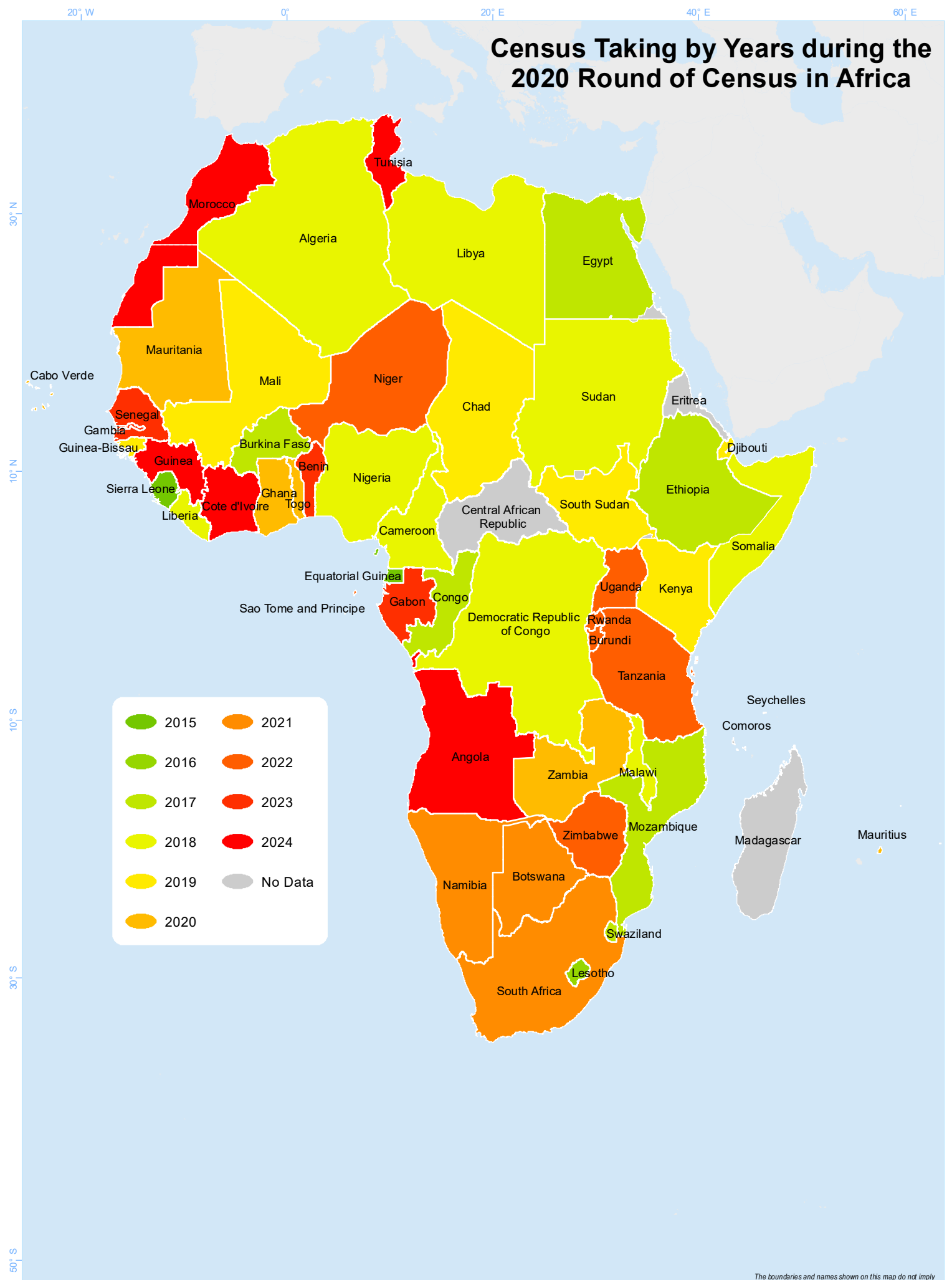
Many countries do not have adequate resources to enhance their ability to detect their readiness to conduct censuses every ten years as recommended by the United Nations. It is therefore recommended for Countries to identify needs as well as appropriate resources from national budgets and development aid programs.

A number of countries lack personnel with an understanding on census preparedness process and its implications for census surveillance. Over the years ECA has developed a census preparedness training modules for surveillance staff and decision makers thereby enabling countries to incorporate these principles in field census training programs. The link between national census surveillance capacity and census preparedness focal points is not always apparent or non-existence at times. Therefore, with the ECA countries have to designate institutional census preparedness focal points, with appropriate links to surveillance capacity and ECA will provide guidance on the structure and role of census preparedness focal points.

Purpose for the Country Preparedness assessment for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in Africa is to:

1. Determine the current status of countries preparedness for the 2020 round of Population and Housing Census, establish major challenges/best practices and key considerations for the 2020 Census.
2. Identify country preparedness gaps with a view to plan for missions and meetings as well as the development of monitoring mechanisms for a successful conduct of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in Africa.
3. Ensure that census content covers important core questions recommended at the International level especially the recommendations from the African Addendum of the Principles and Recommendations of Population and Housing Census enabling easy comparisons across countries and geographies.
4. Ensure that the 2020 round of censuses collect data that are relevant to national, regional and international policy, planning and reporting requirements.
5. Facilitate the creation of small working groups which will discuss technical challenges, problems and issues experienced in the 2010 round censuses, and plan for improvements in the 2020 round censuses.

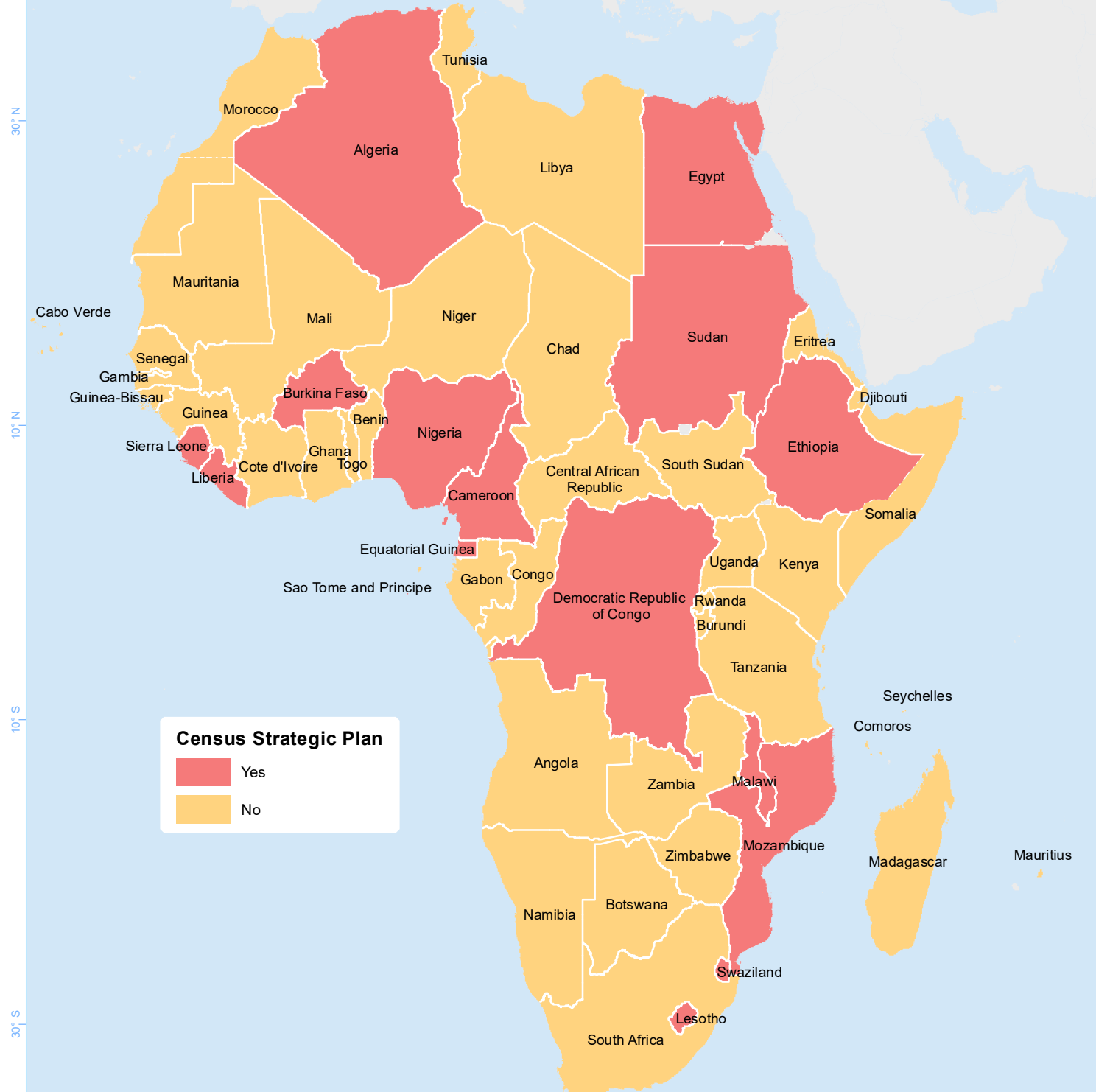
# Census Taking by Years during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/usaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
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# Countries at Various Stages of Developing Census Strategic Plan Documents for the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



**Census Strategic Plan**

- Yes
- No

Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/lusaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/legm/jordan/2016/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/legm/jordan/2016/list_of_docs.htm)  
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## Census Strategic Plan

These are work plans developed to improve the relevance, usefulness, timeliness, and quality of census data. Therefore, the strategic plan is a roadmap for the future. Presently, about 28% of countries are in the various stages of developing their plans. These countries will normally conduct a census within the next five years.

# Countries at Various Stages of Setting Up Census Committees for the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



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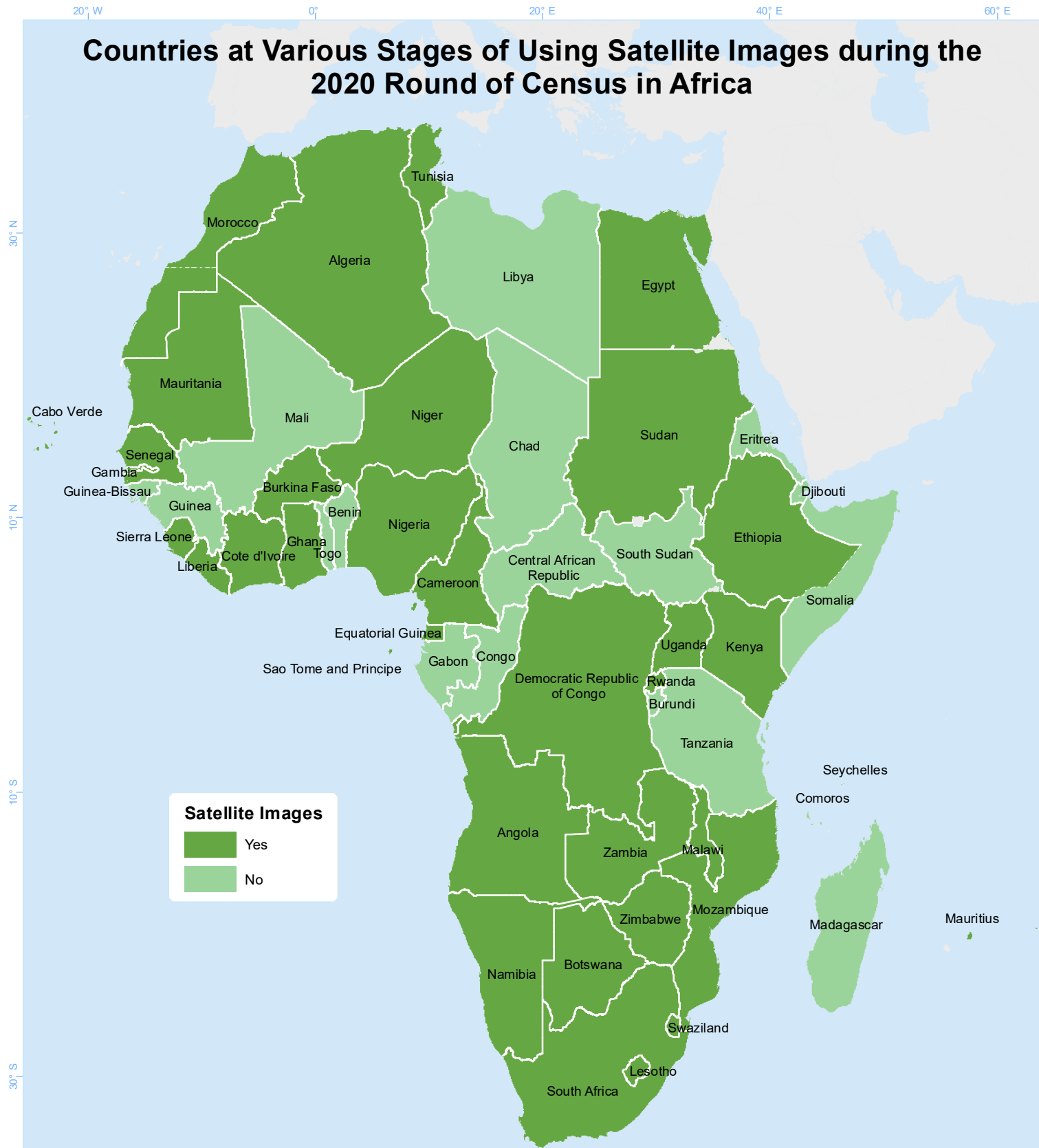
Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA, 2017

## Setting up of Census Committees

A committee for Census provides strategic support in the planning and implementation of the census. The committee also monitors and reviews the project's activities against the Project Plan, resolve the project's conflicts/disputes and accept responsibility for all project deliverables, approve project operations, identify external risks and agree to the achievement of the project milestones, among others. Presently, about 30% of countries are in the various stages of setting up their census committees.



# Countries at Various Stages of Using Satellite Images during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



**Satellite Images**

- Yes
- No

Data Sources:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/lusaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Jordan/2016/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Jordan/2016/list_of_docs.htm)  
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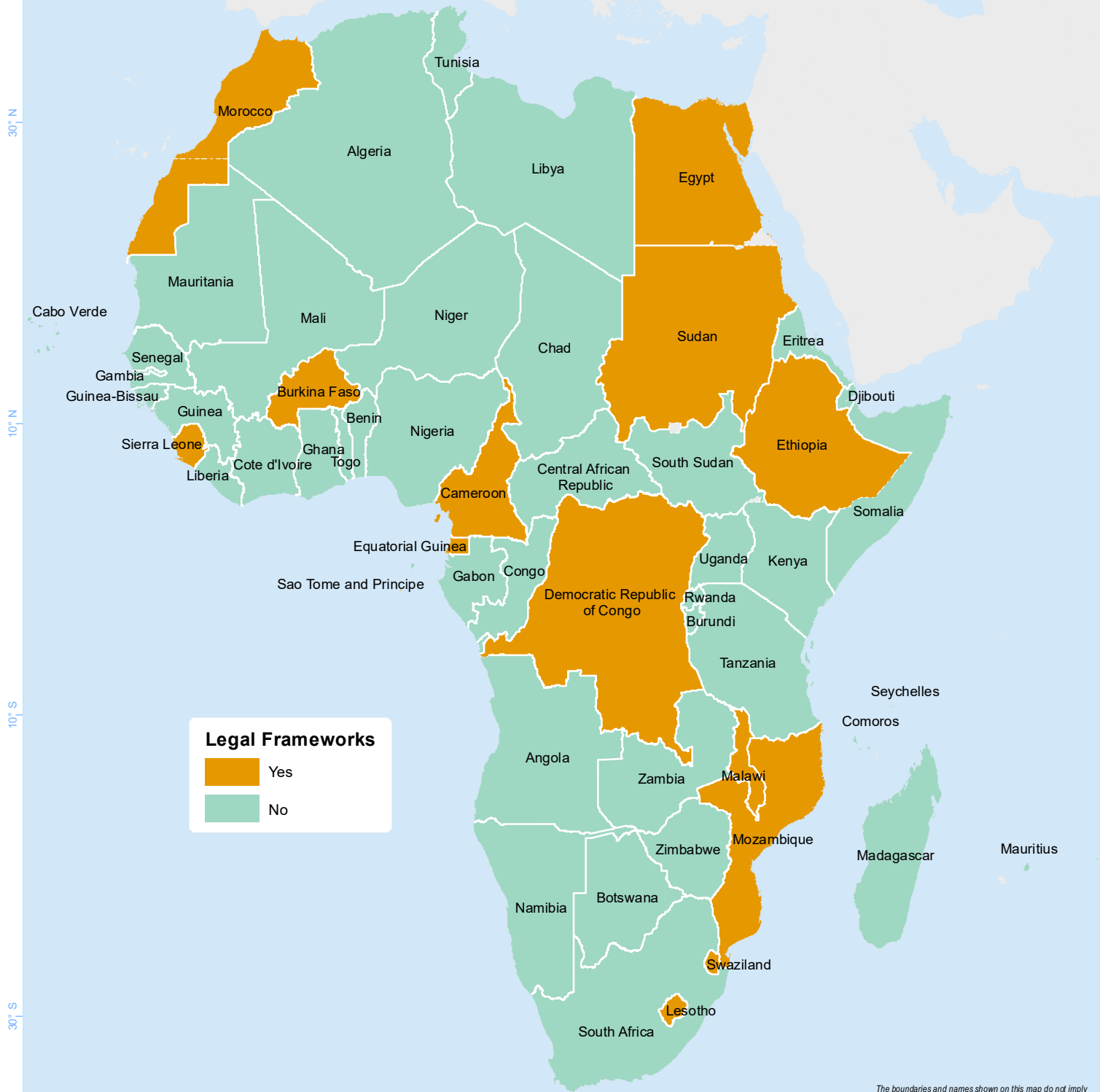
Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA, 2017

## Usage of Satellite Imagery in Census Taking

Satellite imagery consists of images of Earth or other planets collected by satellites. The spatial resolution of a satellite image is measured by the size of a pixel on the ground which varies from the sub-one-meter of the most popular high-resolution systems to hundred meters for low resolution systems. For most census applications, 5m or better spatial resolution is needed to identify housing units. Landsat may be considered in some cases only in rural areas. Online remotely sensed data such as Google Earth, GlobeExplorer, ArcGIS Explorer, and Microsoft Virtual Earth can be used as a first test, but the image quality may not be suitable for detailed EA mapping. Presently, about 65% of countries are in the various stages of using satellite imagery in census taking.



# Countries at Various Stages of Preparing Legal Frameworks for the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/lusaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legmi/jordan/2016/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legmi/jordan/2016/list_of_docs.htm)  
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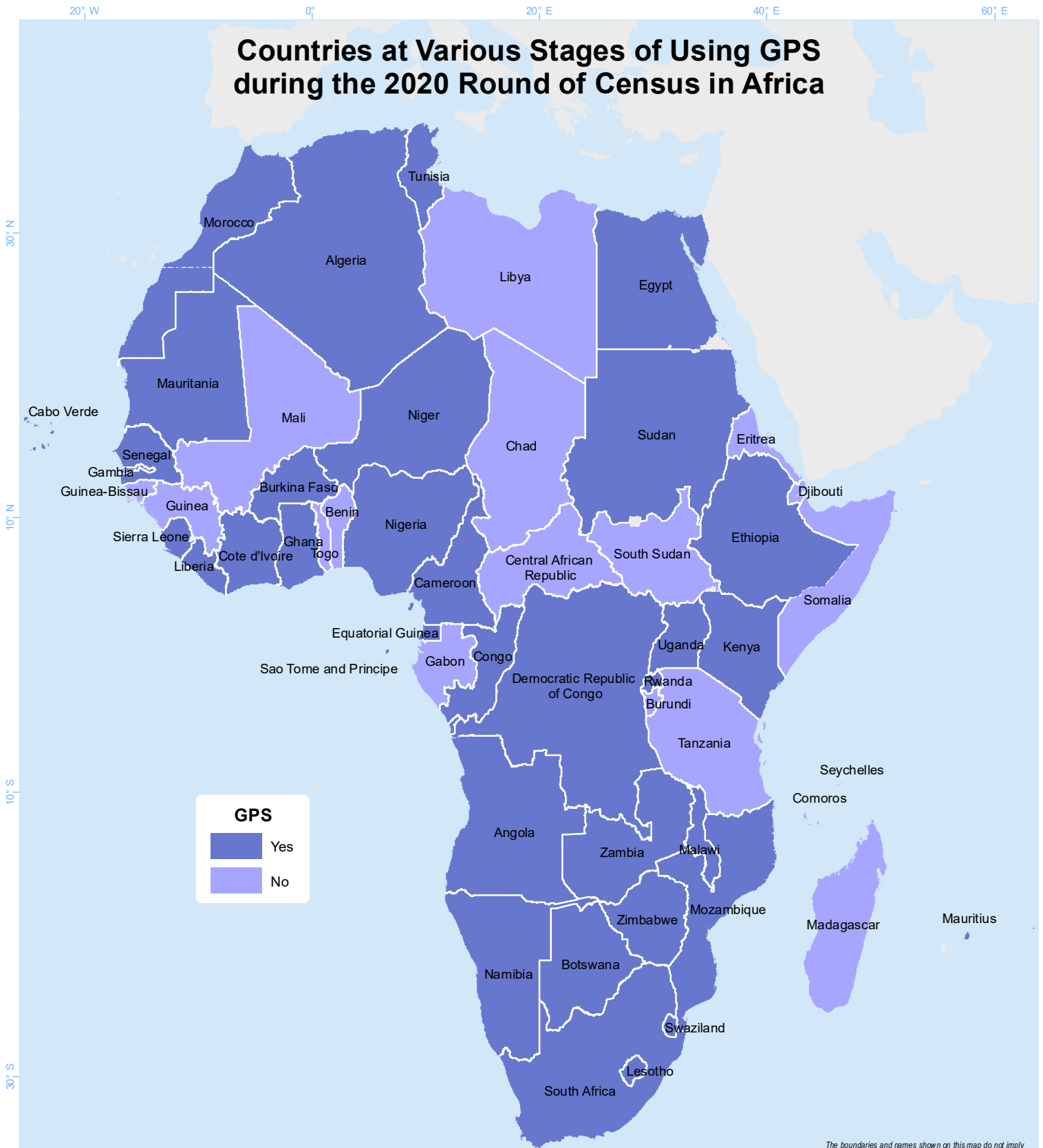
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Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA, 2017

## Census Legal Text

In most countries, the preparation and conduct of a census regardless of the methodology adopted requires a legal basis, which may include regulating issues such as: (a) the allocation of funds for the census operations; (b) the general scope, content and timing of the census; (c) the obligation of citizens to provide complete and accurate census information, and of the enumerator to record the responses faithfully, and the sanctions and penalties to be imposed for failure to comply; (d) the relationships between the agency responsible for the census and other public administrations involved in the census operations; and (e) the uses and linkage of registers to produce census data or to support field operations. Presently, about 24% of countries are in the various stages of developing the census legal documents.

# Countries at Various Stages of Using GPS during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/usaka-regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Jordan/2016/isl\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/Jordan/2016/isl_of_docs.htm)  
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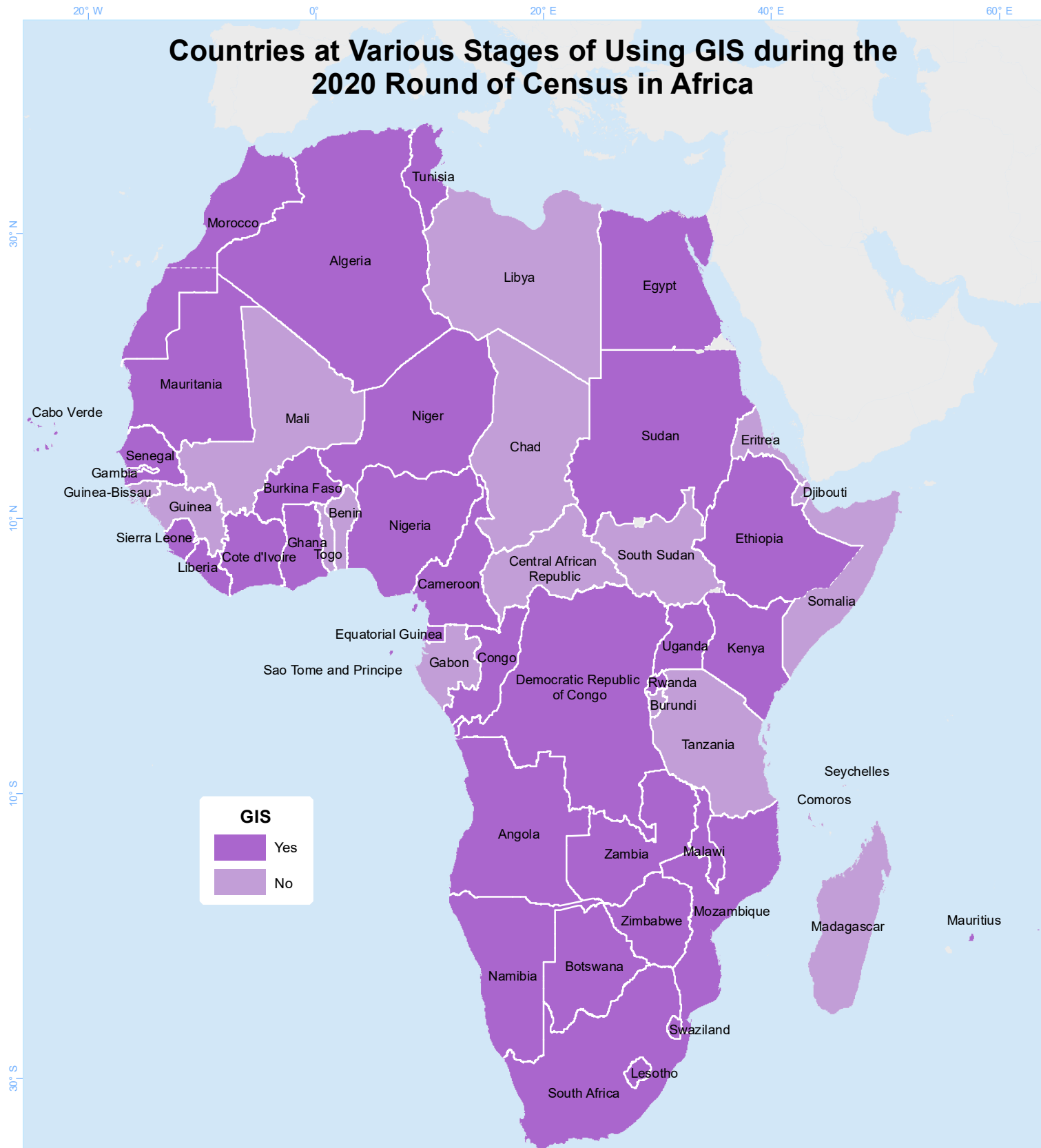
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Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA 2017

## GPS Usage in Census Taking

Global Positioning System (GPS) devices helps in determining current ground position of an object on earth. The place of usual residence can be geo-referenced to a pair of precise geographical coordinates and linked to an address point, or in the absence of such coordinates, to a precise and complete postal address for geocoding purposes. The link between the census information and the location of the place of usual residence should form a permanent and integrated part of the census information at individual record level. The purpose is to enable tabulations and spatial aggregations to be referenced to any small geographic or administrative subdivisions and, if possible, population grids. Presently, about 67% of countries are in the various stages of using GPS devices for the census.

# Countries at Various Stages of Using GIS during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/iusaka-regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
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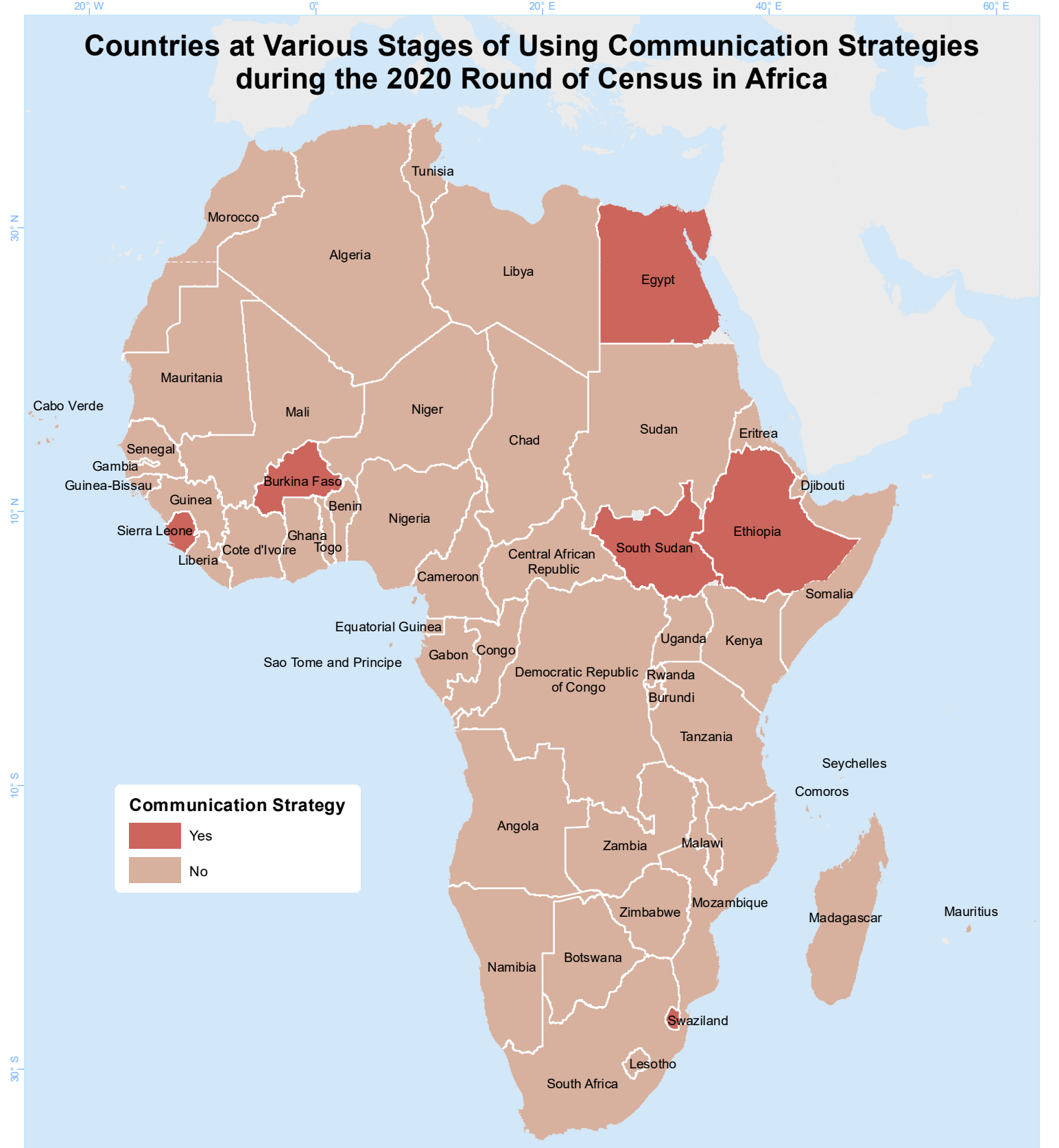
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Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA, 2017

## GIS in Census Taking

One of the distinguishing features of censuses of population and housing is the extent to which a comprehensive classification of geographic characteristics can be undertaken. Once the population base has been determined, it is then possible to examine how this population is geographically located. Geographic Information System (GIS) plays a fundamental role in the creation of Enumeration Area (EA) maps for a seamless collection of census data. Presently, about 67% of countries are in the various stages of using GIS for the census.

# Countries at Various Stages of Using Communication Strategies during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



**Communication Strategy**

- Yes
- No

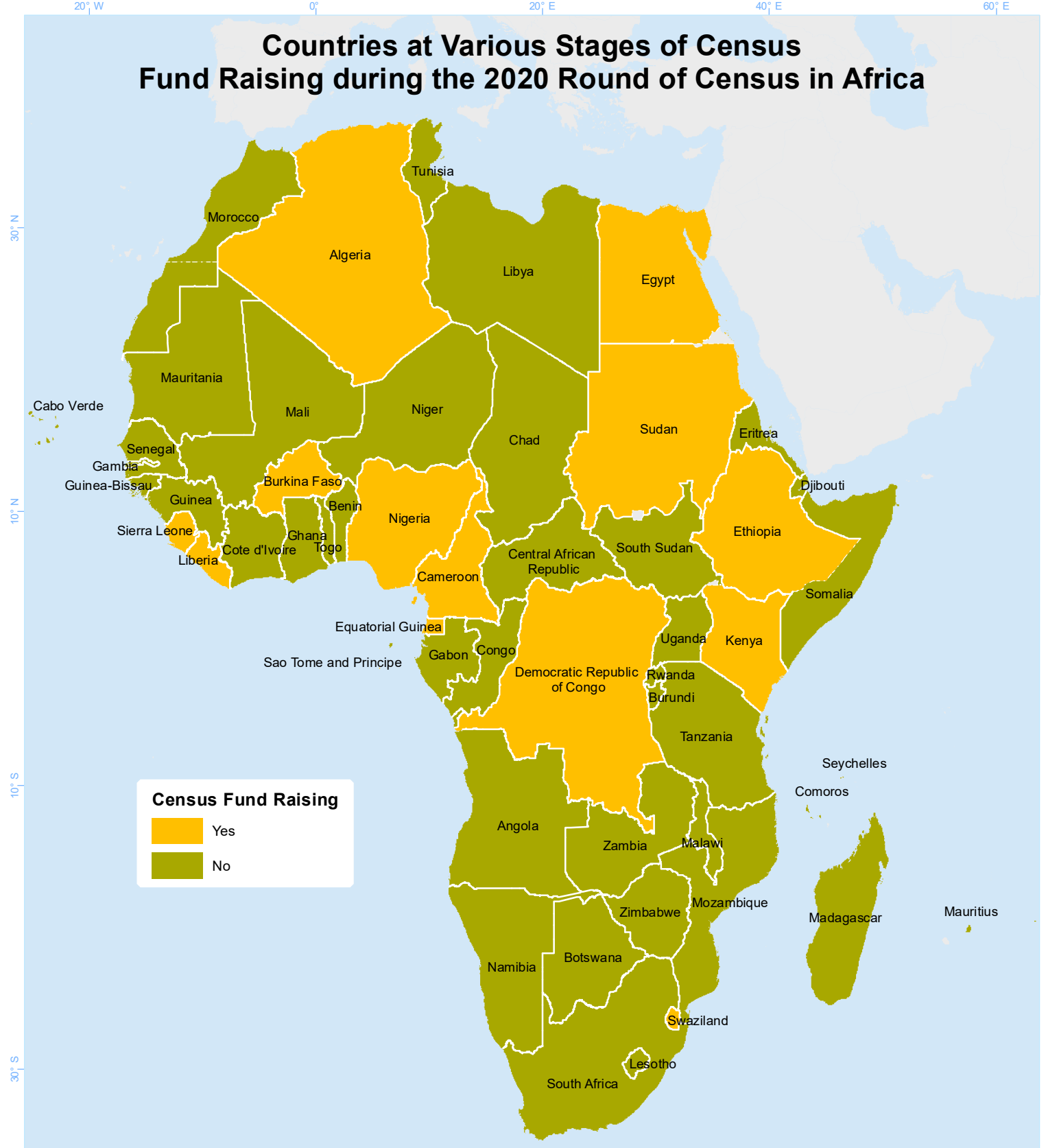
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## Census Communication Strategy

An effective communications strategy, together with far reaching publicity and information campaigns, play an essential role in ensuring the success of the census. This is especially so for those countries adopting a field enumeration methodology, where direct engagement with the public may be maximum, communication with key stakeholders is nevertheless important to ensure that acceptable levels of quality for such components as the relevance and accessibility of outputs can be achieved. Presently, about 11% of countries are in the various stages of their communication strategies.

# Countries at Various Stages of Census Fund Raising during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



**Census Fund Raising**

- Yes
- No

Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/usaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legm/Jordan/2016/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legm/Jordan/2016/list_of_docs.htm)  
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## Census Fund Raising

Since financial practices vary greatly among countries during census undertaking periods it is not possible, or appropriate, to recommend a single approach to census budgeting and cost control. First and foremost, effective planning and control of the various census operations are not possible without a careful financial estimate of the cost of the census operation, including all of its key components. For many purposes, it may be helpful to make use of the six main operational phases: (1) preparatory work, (2) enumeration/data collection, (3) data processing, (4) tabulation and the dissemination of results, (5) evaluation, and (6) analysis. Presently, about 24% of countries are in the various stages of developing their census fund raising.







# Countries at Various Stages of Using Aerial Photography during the 2020 Round of Census in Africa



Data Source:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/lusaka--regional-workshop-on-2020-census/>  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legm/Jordan/2016/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/legm/Jordan/2016/list_of_docs.htm)  
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Map by Geoinformation Systems Section, ECA, 2017

## Usage of Aerial Photography in Census Taking

Aerial photography is obtained using specialized cameras on-board low flying planes. The photos can be combined to produce a seamless mosaic image covering very large part of a territory and that can be used for census cartography and other analytical processes. Presently, about 37% of countries are in the various stages of using aerial photography in census taking.

