



20th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)

Nairobi, Kenya

8-11 February 2016

**Annual Report on the ECA
in Eastern Africa
2015**

Nairobi, Kenya, 8-11 February 2016

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEGM	:	Ad-hoc Experts Group Meeting
AU	:	African Union
CEPGL	:	Economic Community of the Great Lakes States
COMESA	:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	:	East African Community
ECA	:	Economic Commission for Africa
ICE	:	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
ICGLR	:	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICT	:	Information and Communication Technology
IDEP	:	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGO	:	Intergovernmental Organization
MYP	:	Multi-Year Programme
NEPAD	:	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NICI	:	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
RCM	:	Regional Coordination Mechanism
REC	:	Regional Economic Community
SRCM	:	Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism
SRO-EA	:	Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa
UNCT	:	United Nations Country Team
UNDAP	:	United Nations Development Assistance Plan
UNECA	:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

SUMMARY

This report presents a brief account of the status of implementation of the SRO-EA's 2014-2015 biennium work programme, with a particular focus on activities implemented in 2015. It includes a description of the results achieved, challenges faced and lessons learned during the course of implementation of the programme. The report also includes an update on the status of implementation of the 2013-2017 Business Plan of the Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa (SRCM) as well as an update on the implementation of sub-regional initiatives.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, serves the following fourteen (14) countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It also serves the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The current focus of SRO-EA's work is to undertake policy research and scale up the production of Country Profiles with a view to enhancing leadership and ownership of the structural economic and social transformation agenda in the Eastern Africa subregion. The office also works in close collaboration with the African Centre of Statistics and national statistical offices with a view to strengthening country statistics and continental data as basis for sound development planning.

The promotion of regional integration and strengthening of the capacity of its member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) to advance economic and social development in the sub-region remains central to the office mandate. Within the overall framework of NEPAD and specific sub-regional priorities, the work programme also seeks to facilitate the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

In addition to focusing on development, emphasis is placed on institutional and sectoral issues assuming a sub-regional dimension including natural resources management, energy, trade and tourism.

2 MAJOR PROGRAMME ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2015

The work of SRO-EA in 2015 focused on the delivery of policy analysis and advisory services in selected sectoral areas aimed at promoting structural transformation in Eastern Africa. This was achieved through the production of country profiles, whose diagnosis and identification of development challenges informed the design of high-level policy dialogues in Rwanda and Kenya, led by the Executive Secretary (ES). The implementation of follow-up actions benefitted from inputs of substantive divisions at HQ in a clear demonstration of Delivering as One ECA and contributed to the realisation of the ES' Compact and to deepen ECA's policy influence, credibility and trust in the sub-region.

SRO-EA's advisory services on tourism and energy development continued earlier efforts to provide member States in the sub-region with integrative ecosystem-based planning instruments for transformative development. Thus, the office helped Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Rwanda internalise the IGAD Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (STMP) launched in December 2013 in their respective policy instruments.

In line with the recommendations of the 20th ICE on "Harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's Development" held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, the office conducted pioneer work on the Blue Economy. This included the finalisation of a Blue Economy Background Study, a comprehensive report which seeks to inform Eastern African policymakers, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders - at regional, national and local levels - about the role and contributions of the Blue Economy to socio-economic growth and structural transformation in Eastern Africa. The background study also provides an overview of opportunities and required actions to create an enabling environment for the Blue Economy to thrive.

Equally significant was the booksprint exercise conducted in December 2015 to produce a Blue Economy Policy Handbook. The Handbook seeks to provide a step-by-step methodology to member States, regional economic commissions and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream blue economy-related principles into their respective plans and programmes.

SRO-EA's work programme for the biennium 2014-2015 comprised a total of thirty-six (36) legislated outputs. As of 31 January 2016, thirty-five (35) outputs were implemented, which represents an accomplishment rate of 97%. One output was terminated (ever since 2014).

Table 1 below provides a summary and a comprehensive representation of the state of work-programme implementation.

Table 1: Status of Implementation of SRO-EA's Work Programme for the Biennium 2014-2015

Status of Implementation	Legislated		Discretionary	Total
	Number	Percentage		
Not started	0	0	0	0
In progress	0	0	0	0
Terminated	1	3	0	1
Implemented	35	97	0	35
Total	36	100	0	36

Source: ECA Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), January 2016.

The office's work was aimed at achieving two (2) expected accomplishments (EAs), namely:

- a) Enhanced capacity of member States to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics and policy analysis in support of regional and sub-regional sub-priorities; and
- b) Strengthened capacity of the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to accelerate the implementation of sub-regional initiatives

The detailed account of the different activity areas and the level of implementation of the work programme is provided below. Emphasis is placed on results achieved, challenges faced as well as lessons learnt during 2015 and prospects for 2016.

The results are as follows:

2.1 Production and dissemination of quality and timely statistics and policy analysis in support of regional and sub-regional sub-priorities

At the output level, the preparation and updating of eight country profiles (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar, Djibouti, Madagascar and Somalia) using quality and timely statistical data provided by member States represented the main contribution to the realisation of this expected accomplishment.

During the 19th session of the ICE for Eastern Africa held in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 2-5 March 2015, SRO-EA provided a summary of the country profiles that were under production then. The rationale, content, innovations and timing of the CPs were explained to participants. The CPs aim to provide data, institutional and policy information, as well as forecasts, along with policy and risk analysis and recommendations for selected member States. ECA seeks to position the Country Profile as a critical reference document on national statistical systems, risk analysis, growth and development prospects, as well as an investment guidance tool.

The three primary innovations discussed were the African Regional Integration Index, the African Social Development Index (ASDI) and the assessment and tracking of forecasts. The country profiles focus is on two main issues: economic transformation and regional integration. The meeting was an opportunity to gain feedback from stakeholders and government ministries of their respective CPs.

Further to the Madagascar ICE, country profiles were produced by SRO-EA staff with support, collaboration and contribution from ECA's Macroeconomic Policy Division, the Regional Integration and Trade Division, the Africa Centre for Statistics and the Social Development Policy Division. The methodology used in the Country Profiles included a socioeconomic development assessment which was factored into the formulation of specific policy recommendations and which also considered capacity gaps in the policy recommendations. All research undertaken in the subprogramme and reports prepared included an assessment of the current situation in the subregion as well as the identification of shortfalls together with a set of recommendations to address specific problems/issues identified. SRO-EA staff provided substantial inputs into the updating of recurrent publications for example, for the country profiles of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania. Data collected for the country profiles were continuously compiled for upload in the ECA Databank.

Furthermore, to maintain a high and consistent quality of country profiles, SRO-EA ensured that data collected were verified and triangulated with other sources wherever possible as part of the validation process, and the first port of call was on National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to ensure credibility of official national level data. Country profiles and other policy research reports produced were subjected to internal review process. Going forward, SRO-EA as well as other SROs will convene external peer review and expert validation exercises on country profiles, to further ensure quality.

Information collected through the CPs were very useful in the design of high-level policy dialogues at country level. Of note was the High-level Workshop on Accelerating Economic Growth in Rwanda held in December 2015 (Box1).

Box 1: High Level Workshop on Accelerating Economic Growth in Rwanda

As a follow-up to the December 2014 high-level engagements of the ECA Executive Secretary with H.E. Paul Kagame and other Rwandan senior government officials as well as the policy discussions in February 2015 between Rwandan senior officials and ECA senior management team held in February 2015, the government of Rwanda and SRO-EA organised on 7-8 December 2015 a high-level workshop on "Accelerating Economic Growth in Rwanda". The two-day meeting was attended by Rwanda Ministers, Director Generals and Directors, international experts, the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR), and ECA experts.

The workshop explored alternative policy ideas and strategies directly applicable to the Rwandan context aimed at accelerating its economic growth and structural transformation. The event benefited from expert knowledge, presentations and deliberations ranging from macroeconomic frameworks for development success, smart industrial policies, how economies can ensure strategic positioning in the global export markets, policy frameworks for accelerating productivity, to policy frameworks for accelerating productivity and setting up a private sector fund for accelerating transformation in the Rwanda agricultural sector.

The dialogue was warmly received. The Minister of State for Planning of Rwanda hailed the meeting as 'the first of its kind'

2.2 Strengthening capacities of the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to accelerate the implementation of sub-regional initiatives

The 19th session of the ICE for Eastern Africa held in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 2-5 March 2015 under the theme "Harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's Development" was one of the most important events in the calendar year to build consensus on development priorities in the sub-region which in turn informs the design of sub-regional initiatives. The ICE also supported the office's agenda on policy influence. It was attended by more than 200 participants from member States, RECs, IGOs, Diplomats, CSOs and Private Sector representatives. The ICE was also an avenue to forge partnerships with organizations such as GRID-Arendal, UNDOALOS, IMO, IOC, IOC-UNESCO.

The attendance of high-level officials at the 19th ICE attested to the growing importance of the event as a platform for high-level dialogue on alternative development frameworks for Africa's structural transformation. Accordingly, the ICE was officially opened by H.E. Beatrice Atallah, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of Madagascar. Equally in attendance were H.E. Henri Rabesahala, Minister for Trade and Consumption also representing in interim H.E. Ralava Beboarimisa (Minister of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests), H.E. Mr. Ahmad, Minister for Fisheries and H.E. Bénédicte Johanita Ndahimananjara, Minister of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation. The Vice-President of Comoros, H.E. Mohamed Ali Soilihi participated in the dinner roundtable on the theme "The role of onshore and offshore mining."

The 19th ICE presented an opportunity for participants to explore the theme of the conference through presentations, high level panels, plenary and group discussions. The meeting noted the importance of the Blue Economy concept as a tool to support structural transformation and promote sustainable development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation in Small Island Developing States and coastal countries. The aim is to achieve sustainable growth by maximizing their access to and use of marine resources through sustainable

management of their ocean ecosystems. The Blue Economy concept was also recognized for its broader significance for the Eastern African sub-region.

Coastal and Island States are interconnected with landlocked countries and through infrastructure networks, trade linkages, resource interdependence and strategic partnerships, the benefits of a robust Blue Economy can contribute positively to the development of the entire sub-region.

Two ad-hoc expert group meetings (AEGMs) and a roundtable dinner were organized on the margins of the 19th ICE to review related publications with a view to increasing awareness, deepening understanding, sharing knowledge, and adopting concrete actionable recommendations around selected topical issues :

AEGM on Geopolitics and Natural Resources Management in the Western Indian Ocean region: The AEGM led to recommendations revolving around: 1) Elaboration of a charter on the Blue Economy building on the principles of the AU 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy; 2) Development and implementation of national and regional Blue Economy strategies; 3) Strengthening the Blue Economy related legal and integrated frameworks; 4) Addressing information, knowledge and research gaps; and 5) Supporting existing security frameworks in the Western Indian Ocean region among others.

AEGM on Maritime Exclusive Economic Zones and Deep-sea Mineral and Energy Development in Eastern Africa: this AEGM sought to deepen the policy discussion on the role of deep sea and ocean energy and mineral resources in Eastern Africa, review existing constraints and consider the potentials offered. It also sought to broaden the importance of the Blue Economy framework to landlocked countries through maritime transportation and trade facilitation.

Roundtable dinner on the “The role of onshore and offshore mining”: the meeting discussed Africa's readiness for discussions on a topic such as the Blue Economy. It was noted that there is a risk that the region may miss many opportunities if it does not explore this topic since 32 percent of hydrocarbon resources in the world are exploited from seabeds. There are also opportunities for the exploitation of further resources. More action from Member States is necessary to identify and act on these opportunities, while also maintaining the highest standards of environmental stewardship.

All the programmed advisory services aimed at strengthening the capacity of Eastern African member States and RECs to accelerate the implementation of sub-regional initiatives were implemented. These focused on the provision of advisory services on Tourism, Energy, and the Blue Economy. Further details are provided below:

Tourism

The main beneficiaries of SRO-EA work on tourism programme were Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia. The final draft of the Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for Ethiopia, the first of its kind for the country, has been concluded and it is anticipated to be launched early 2016.

The work on tourism has entailed high-level engagement with key government officials and building capacity at the country level on the key tenets of the IGAD STMP launched in December 2013. These policy guidelines are being systematically and consistently being domesticated in relevant policy instruments of the beneficiary countries, consolidating ECA's position as a partner of choice and its policy influence, credibility and trust in the tourism domain.

Tourism policy advice accorded to RECs and member States has been and will continue to be based on sound evidence. For instance, the work on Best Practice Approaches on implementation of regional tourism frameworks is based on an analysis of existing global frameworks, taking into account reasons for success or failure of such frameworks with a view to ensuring the successful implementation of the IGAD STMP. Likewise, the work being done on national tourism development instruments (e.g. the case of Ethiopia) entails an in-depth situational analysis based on both primary and secondary data to inform appropriate strategy formulation.

In view of the fact that tourism is relatively new area in ECA and by extension is being only recently embraced in a comprehensive and systemic manner by member States and RECs in the region, there is paucity of data. As a result, SRO-EA's work on tourism is based on primary sources - generated by the office- or secondary data sources from partners e.g. UNWTO, World Bank and World Travel and Tourism Council. In order to ensure the reliability of data from other sources, data collected from those sources was consistently cross-checked and corroborated by the member States. In order to present data to our stakeholders in manner that had impact on them, ICT was used employing use of visual effects both in written reports and presentations.

Energy

SRO-EA has continued to avail its expertise in the ongoing formulation of the Energy Security Framework for the East Africa Community (EAC) and its Vision 2050. The following policy tools were developed in support to member States and RECs:

a) An Energy resources assessment and their development planning in Djibouti ; b) Framework for sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies in Rwanda ; c)Energy Security Policy Framework for the EAC region; d) National Solar Energy Strategy and Action Plan of Rwanda expected by April 2016; e) energy resources assessment and development planning advisory service to Djibouti; and f) recommendation and advisory service to EAC Partner States on national and regional energy security policy .

The Energy Security Policy Framework for the EAC region is the first of its kind in any REC in Africa. Moreover, no African country has an explicit energy security policy articulated in a national policy paper. SRO-EA's initial work in the EAC region opens a significant opportunity to pursue a continent-wide energy security policy framework for Africa, followed by country support programs.

The Blue Economy

In the course of 2015 and in line with the recommendations of the 19th ICE, the background study on the Blue Economy was finalised and a book sprint exercise was conducted in December 2015 to produce the Blue Economy Policy Handbook. The two publications provide a comprehensive body of knowledge on the blue economy which will form the basis to mainstream the blue economy in the sub-region. These interventions will consolidate ECA's leadership and influence in the subject area.

In line with ECA's "Campaign Approach" to programme delivery, the table below, summarises the efforts made by SRO-EA directly or indirectly to maintain the momentum created during the 19th ICE and to ensure that the Blue Economy is center-staged in the development discourse of the member States, RECs and IGOs in the sub-region.

BLUE ECONOMY UPDATES		
1	UN Open-ended Information Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea	Mr. Tahiry Ratsimandao Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar (representative of the President of the Bureau of the 19th Intergovernmental Committee of Experts - ICE) participated in the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, USA, 6-10 April 2015) and took that occasion to present the outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) held on 2-4 March 2015 in Antananarivo, Madagascar.
2	Ocean Governance and Blue Economy Workshop, Partnerships Meeting, Science to Policy Meeting	SRO-EA participated and contributed to the Ocean Governance and Blue Economy Workshop, Partnerships Meeting, Science to Policy Meeting on 17-20 June 2015, which were preceding the 8th Conference of Parties (COP8) to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (22-24 June 2015). UNECA's work on the blue economy was acknowledged and underscored in COP8 decisions.
3	African Union Meetings on the celebration of the African Day of the Seas and Oceans	SRO-EA participated and contributed to the African Union Meetings on the celebration of the African Day of the Seas and Oceans (25 July 2015) and launch of the 2015-2025 Decade of African Seas and Oceans (26 July 2015). As a result, UNECA and the AU Commission teamed up in the production of a Blue Economy Policy Handbook.
4	Abdu Dhabi World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit on the Global Agenda 2015 and meeting of the WEF Global Agenda Council on the Future of Mining and Metals	The Director of SRO-EA, Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro as a leading member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) working group on Deep seabed mining participated in the Abdu Dhabi World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit on the Global Agenda 2015 (25-27 October 2015) and meeting of the WEF Global Agenda Council on the Future of Mining and Metals, of which he is a member. The agenda included discussions on New Resource Frontiers: Deep Seabed Mining.
5	4th Meeting of the Tripartite Technical Committee on Industrial Development (TTCID)	The SADC/COMESA/EAC Tripartite Technical Committee on Industrial Development (TTCID) sought the support of SRO-EA to help mainstream the Blue Economy in the regional roadmap on industrial development. A SRO-EA staff member at the 4th meeting of TTCID (7-11 September 2015, Nairobi, Kenya) to provide the necessary guidance.
6	Booksprint for the Blue Economy Policy Handbook	A group of high-level experts gathered in Rubavu, Rwanda, on 23-27 November 2015 for a Booksprint exercise to write a Blue Economy Policy Handbook, which provides a step-by-step methodology on how to mainstream the Blue Economy approach

		and principles into national and regional plans, programmes, policies, laws and regulations.
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Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa

The annual meeting of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa was organised by the Economic Commission for Africa, Sub-Regional Offices for Eastern and Southern Africa (SRO-EA & SA) and hosted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in Gaborone, Botswana on 10-11 December 2015 under the theme: *“Towards Effective Mainstreaming of the SRCM Business Plan into Stakeholders’ Planning Processes and Priority Setting”*. It was attended by a wide range of stakeholders including RECs, IGOs, UN agencies, and regional CSOs in Eastern and Southern Africa

Participants discussed effective means to mainstream the SRCM Business Plan principles and flagship initiatives in their work programmes thus maximising impact and ensuring the realisation of economies of scale in programme delivery. A review of the progress achieved in the implementation of joint flagship initiatives was conducted. The interface between the SRCM and the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as well as with the Regional Development Teams of the UN Development Group was equally discussed.

The meeting agreed to streamline the SRCM Business Plan with a view to making it leaner, more operational and focused (on selected flagship initiatives). The roles of the SRCM Chair, the ECA Secretariat and lead agencies was clarified. A new flagship initiative on the Blue Economy was included in the SRCM programme for 2016 under the leadership of the Indian Ocean Commission.

2.3 UN Inter-agency collaboration and partnership

SRO-EA efforts to deliver as one ECA and one UN were maintained. This was realised through collaboration with other ECA Divisions and SROs as well as with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Rwanda. Joint programme delivery with other ECA Divisions is exemplified by the collaboration with the Special Initiatives Division (SID) in the organisation of the booksprint exercise to produce the Blue Economy Handbook. Of relevance is also the collaboration with the Capacity Development Division (CDD) in co-organising the 4-5 February 2015 high-level policy discussions between ECA's top leadership and senior Government of Rwanda's officials that took place in Addis Ababa to explore ways of fast-tracking the country's structural transformation and inclusive growth as well as ways of strengthening mutual collaboration.

2.4 Resource Utilization

Under the programme-budget 2014-2015, relevant resources were provided for twenty -two (22) established posts including twelve (12) International Professional posts, eight (8) local General Services and two (2) National Professional Officer posts. The office has utilized 96.6 % of resources allocated for 2015, including funding for non-post requirements, to cover for, inter alia, ad-hoc expert group meetings; contractual services; general operating expenses; and replacement of furniture and equipment and office automation equipment.

2.5 Challenges, lessons learnt and emerging opportunities

Limited availability of timely official statistical data from member States still continues to be a challenge for SRO-EA, particularly in relation to the preparation and delivery of country profiles and other publications. On lessons learned, it is observed that since the country profiles are a new initiative/recurrent publication, close consultations and regular information sharing with NSOs/member States, RECs and partner organizations is key in creating awareness and “buy-in” of the initiative. There is thus need to create/establish formal mechanisms for data collection and validation, particularly NSOs to facilitate preparation of country profiles and non-recurrent publications as the unavailability of official statistical data continues to be a challenge. Also inadequate or unsecured commitments from key partners can sometimes lead to delays in programme implementation and low level of participation in statutory and ad hoc meetings. The limited technical and operational capacity of some partner institutions can at times lead to delayed implementation of joint projects/initiatives.

The Blue Economy is an emerging multidimensional topic that could make a huge difference for the Eastern Africa sub-region in terms of socio-economic development. There is strong interest for further expert advice and knowledge from the stakeholders including member States and corridor development related institutions that needs to be further tapped into (the handbook will be a useful output in that respect). ECA created a very important momentum through the 19th ICE, which requires to be maintained, thus the need to formalize a long-term strategy to pursue advisory services to member States and RECs/IGOs on the topic and facilitate the use of the BE policy handbook in the context of SDGs.

In the area of Energy, SRO-EA has made inroads in advocating for integrated planning in energy development, which has been well received by member States and RECs. Building on its current work, such as the EAC Energy Security Policy Framework, ECA has an opportunity to offer leadership with the view to strengthening member States energy sector planning capacity through assessments and follow-up capacity development efforts.
