



# AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

### Life on land:

**Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

2 - 4 May 2018  
Dakar, Senegal

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# Background



- Brief assessment of status and progress and interventions; Highlights challenges and key message - SDG 15 and Goal 7 of Agenda 2063
- Life on land is crucial for the attainment of most SDGs, Goals A2063 and theme of the Forum.
- Underpins diverse livelihoods and economic sectors, forms the foundation for poverty eradication, sustained and inclusive growth, and sustainable development in the region.
- Crucial to achieve SDG 15 and the corresponding A2063 goal 7: environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities

# Background



- Land the basis of economic and social progress
- Forest and wood resources contribute to 6% GDP in SSA
- Provide up to 80% energy in some countries,
- Ecosystem services comprise 50-90% total source of livelihoods among poor rural and forest-dwelling households
- Biodiversity critical for the pharmaceutical industry (75%, of top global commercial prescription drugs contain plant derivatives
- Tourism greatly relies on terrestrial ecosystems
- Loss or degradation of land loss of forests and biodiversity disproportionately vulnerable populations: gender, age, disability, poverty or minority status;
- Land, biodiversity and ecosystems play a key role in SDG 15, but also other SDGs



## Background

- Land degradation and loss of forests and biodiversity – a serious threats to social and economic stability and the long-term sustainable development in Africa.
- Disproportionate impacts imply inequality, many can be left behind
- At least 3.2 billion people worldwide are adversely affected by land degradation
- 500,000 Sq km or about 2 per cent of the continent's surface is degraded
- Every 5% loss of GDP (partly due land degradation) associated with a 12% increase in the likelihood of violent conflict
- Loss of forests in Africa remains high
- Expected: More pressure on land, forests and ecosystems with population to double to 2.5billion in 2050: SCP key
- Pertinent to achieve the SDG 15: Need to implement associated global and regional frameworks

# Progress: highlights



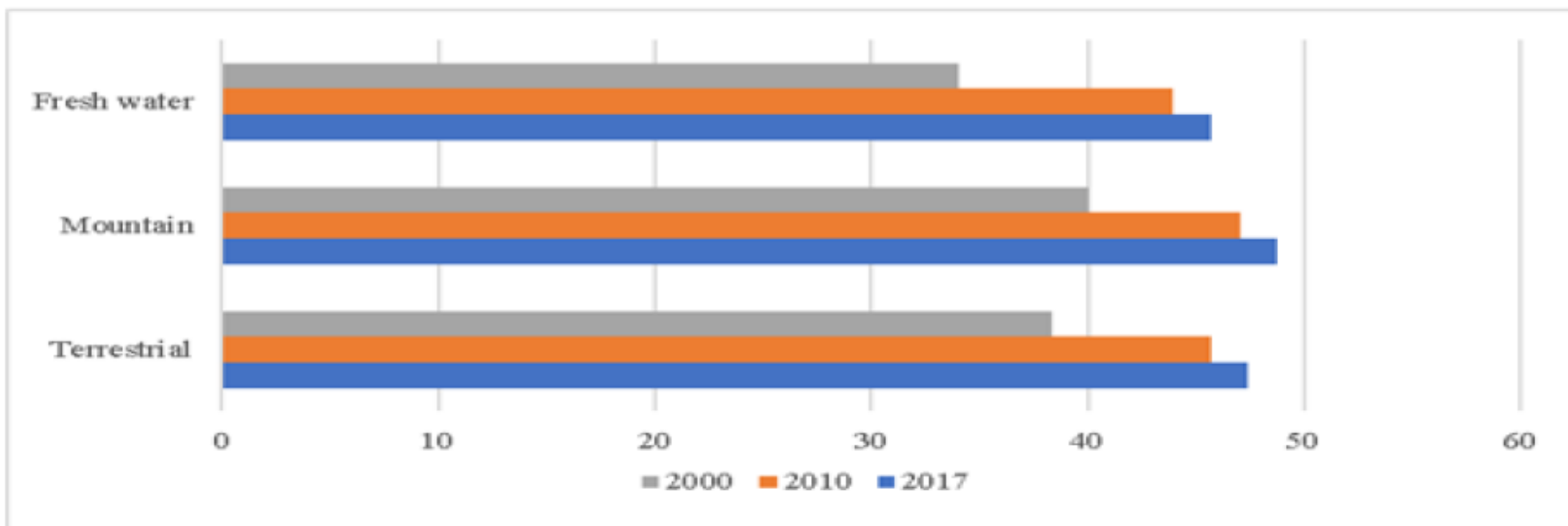
- SDG15 has 12 targets; Goal 7 of Agenda 2063 has 7 Commitments
- African countries are parties to key global conventions important for SDG 15
- 45 countries have signed the revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- **15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services**
  - ✓ Approximately 14 per cent (4 million km<sup>2</sup>) of the total land area of Africa is protected, including 6 per cent of the biodiversity-rich tropical evergreen broadleaf forest
- **15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests**
  - ✓ Loss of forests slowed down but forest loss remains significantly high
  - ✓ Countries have pledged more than 80 million ha under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative



- **15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world**
  - ✓ 50 African countries have committed and 28 have already set their land degradation neutrality targets and the remaining are in the process of doing so.
  - ✓ 11 countries in the Sahel region restoring degraded land through the AUC-led Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative
  
- **15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems**
  - ✓ Long-term conservation of nature target level for Africa reached and increased since 2000 for key terrestrial, mountain and freshwater biodiversity areas covered by protected areas



## Proportion of key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas in Africa (Per cent)





- **15.5:** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of ecosystems, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
  - ✓ A number of species in Africa are likely to become extinct.
  - ✓ The Red List Index for SSA decreased from 0.82 in 1993 to 0.75 in 2016
- **15.6:** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access
- **15.7:** Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
  - ✓ The illicit hunting of and trafficking in wildlife continues to undermine efforts to conserve wildlife in Africa.
  - ✓ Between 1999 and 2015, more than 25% illegal trafficking in wildlife was of African mammals, birds and reptiles basis





- **15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts**
  - ✓ Most African countries have developed and revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans
  - ✓ Countries have embarked on the implementation of their NBSAPs, including setting and implementing national targets to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
  - ✓ 12 African countries are party to the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa.
  
- **15.a: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management**
  - ✓ Bilateral ODA for biodiversity rose from \$250 in 2012 to 1.25 Billion in 2014
  
- **15.b: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species**
  - ✓ Several initiatives: Including REDD+



## Progress in Sum:

- Countries have laid the foundations to implement SDG 15 and Goal 7 of A2063
- Noticeable progress made in some targets but implementation needs to be accelerated if they are to be met in the set timeframe
- Concern: some of the targets have to be achieved by 2020: Time running out -: A review of these targets may be necessary
- A lot remains to be done to achieve the goals
- Scale and pace of national level implementation needs to be significantly increased

# Challenges and lessons learned



- In Africa, the availability of data on indicators, especially those relating to environmental sustainability, is weak.
- Countries need to embrace multidisciplinary and holistic approaches, break sectoral silos and pursue landscape approaches to development.
- The true value of land, forests and biodiversity needs to be appreciated and integrated into planning and decision-making processes in Africa.
- Integrated land-use planning is required to combat land degradation and restore land and for the conservation and sustainable management of forests and biodiversity.
- Land tenure systems and access to land and ecosystem resources are central to combating land, forest and biodiversity degradation.
- Attaining the financing and capacity development and technology support required for sustainable land and ecosystems management is an ongoing challenge.

# Key messages



- Investment to achieve SDG 15 is investment to achieve most of the other Goals and those contained in Agenda 2063: Need to substantially increase investment to combat land degradation and enhance the productivity and stability of diverse land, forest and biodiversity resources in Africa.
- Achieving the ambition of the sustainable management of land, forests and biodiversity, in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, requires moving from high-level policy and strategic goals and commitments to tangible, on-the-ground outcomes: This will not happen without the accelerated implementation of the global and regional treaties and frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels.
- Tools for mainstreaming natural capital into strategic regional, subregional and national development frameworks need to be strengthened and implemented: Target priority sectors; Scale up initiatives such those under Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa

# Key messages



- It is crucial to strengthen rights and access to land resources and participative approaches to the management of land, forest and biodiversity resources. Particularly by indigenous people, local communities and various groups disadvantaged by other factors.
- A lack of data and information on land and ecosystems is a risk factor and a major contributor to unbalanced reporting on progress, inadequate awareness and insufficient national policy attention on and actions for the sustainable management of these resources: Vital for countries to strengthen capacity to collect, manage and disseminate such data and information as an integral priority of national statistical systems.



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**THANK YOU!**

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