



Exploring the scale of Climate Change - Eco Mark Africa Certification System and Sustainability Standards for Africa Climate Action



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Why is Africa more vulnerable to Climate Change?

- Its **geographical characteristics**: the majority of land situated across the warming tropics
- **Population and limited capacity** (human, technical, social and economic) to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- **Dependency on climate-sensitive primary sectors**, such as agriculture and fisheries, which continue to be affected by increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, and increasingly variable rainfall



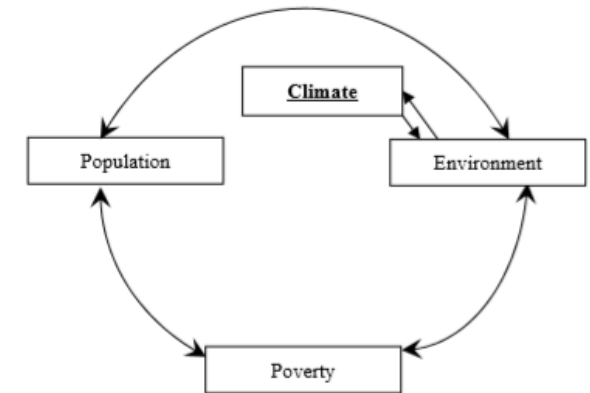
Source: UNEP 2012.

Results

- Overconsumption and environmental/ecosystems/biodiversity degradation
- Deforestation, soil erosion, extreme weather patterns (floods, drought & desertification), pollution (air and water), increasing threats to health, access to water, food security.

Leading Questions

- Then how do we raise awareness about the Overconsumption and its attendant results?
- Does it require a change in how the population thinks, or a change in production and consumption culture or a change in governmental priorities and policies?
- Is the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) initiative (1972-2030) meaningful to Africa, and how? What are the challenges?
- How does Eco Mark Africa fall within the International and Africa's Climate action Agenda? **Climate action (SCP) is central to the African Union's Agenda 2063, given that key economic sectors in Africa, such as agriculture, forestry, Mining and Tourism, offer potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions**



Source: Jason Bremner, *Environmental Review*, Vol. 11, Nos. 2/3, 2010.

EMA - From Vision to Practice – Does EMA fit in the SPC Global Agenda?

- Recommended for development by the African 10-Year Framework Programme on SPC
- Approved by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in March 2005
- Ratified by the Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and production (ARSCP-4) June 2006.
- **Purpose: Mitigate the climate action in Africa, while ensuring the production of eco-friendly African products for better regional and global market access, within SDG13, AU Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 1, Goal 7)**



1972 – 1987 - 1992

World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)

- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation: 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10-YFP on SCP)

Marrakech Process on SCP (since 2003)

- Elaboration of 10-YFP on SCP
- Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa
- African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), ARSCP, BMU

African 10-YFP on SCP (2006)

Identification of an African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM) as one of its five key activities, 4th ARSPC -2006.

Follow-up project (2006-2007)

Development of a strategy document for the African Eco-labelling Mechanism

Institutionalisation of the AEM (2010-18) and creation of its label **Eco Mark Africa**

In response to the global Rio+20 –(2012) programmes for Sustainable consumption and Production (SCP).

Implementation of the Eco Mark Africa Certification System

- EMA is a certification recognition system for sustainability standards with an EMA label.
- The **rationale for certification is to link the products and services to an Eco Mark life-cycle assessment**
- EMA aims at **effectively managing trade/industries' and environment relationships**
- Functions as a quality assurance system with developed Conformity Assessment Criteria and mutual recognition Arrangement Scheme under the ARSO Conformity Assessment Programme (ACAP)
- Designed to **accommodate a large number of smallholder producers and small businesses in Africa**
- Four Standards (Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Tourism) have been harmonised under the ARSO THC 09, Environmental Management to address ecological, social and climate concerns, and to ensure credible governance and implementation



EMA Stakeholders meeting on 27th February 2018, Nairobi, Kenya



EMA Capacity building Nairobi, Kenya, 12th - 14th March 2018

Strategy – Eco Mark Sustainability Standards

The Current EMA Standards are:

1. ARS/AES 01: Agriculture— Sustainability and Eco-labelling— Requirements

- **Provides requirements for the sustainable production, processing and trading of agricultural products**, including food, beverages and non-food products; livestock and livestock products, bee products; wild harvested products; agricultural fibre products, while addressing climate challenges within the Agricultural sector.

2. ARS/AES 02: Fisheries— Sustainability and Eco-labelling— Requirements

- **Provides requirements for the sustainable harvesting of fish** up to the point at which the fish are landed and applies to marine and inland capture fisheries only, including ARS/AES 05 on African Catfish and ARS/AES 05 on Tilapia, both for Aquaculture development, as well as addressing the Ecosystem issues.

3. ARS/AES 03: Forestry— Sustainability and Eco-labelling— Requirements

- **Provides forest owners and managers with environmental, economic, social, and cultural criteria as well as requirements that support the sustainable management of forests.** It is intended for application to any forests being managed for the production of forest products and services.

4. ARS/AES 04: Tourism— Sustainability and Eco-labelling— Requirements

- Aims at establishing a common understanding of sustainable tourism, and **specifies the minimum that any tourism management services wishing to be sustainable, should aspire to reach**, while promoting Eco Tourism and environmental conservation.



EMA Capacity building in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 19th – 20th March 2018



EMA Capacity building in Kigali, Rwanda on 6th – 8th March 2018

Results and Impact

The Certification to Eco Mark standards are expected to have a beneficial impact on the following dimensions

Producers: **Stimulating market demand for environmentally sustainable goods and services, export diversification and international and regional market access.** As well as a boost towards sustainable production methods, especially regarding the adaptation to climate change

Consumers: Improving transparency on the origin of products as well as environmental and social conditions of production in Africa and providing information about the environmental, social and economic impacts of selected goods and services, hence consumer safety. **Eco Mark Africa is intended as a 'seal of approval to make it easy for consumers to take environmental concerns into account in view of their choice of products whose production processes have been assessed to be less harmful to the environment.'**

Trade and Industry: **Opportunity for Integrating climate-relevant criteria into companies' sustainability policies,** and integrating EMA as a credible and truly African brand into their marketing strategies and market-ready products.

African Continent: Providing the industry with a unique opportunity to tap new sustainability supply sources in Africa and beyond the continent. **African Governments are expected to regard the EMA as complementary to their own national environmental and bilateral policies.** Opportunities offered for mutual recognition arrangements are a potential for less trade disputes among African countries. Governments can use eco-labels to encourage behavioral change among producers and consumers, leading to greater sustainability.

Thank you!

Standards for SDGs – ISO and UN – 2018



**ARSO Conformity
Assessment Experts Meeting**



**ARSO-COMEA Business
Council Meeting Conformity
Assessment Experts Meeting**



How Do EMA Sustainability Standards Address specific Climate Action Issues?

Principles	Agriculture	Fisheries	Forestry	Tourism
Legal Compliance –WTO TBT/SPS	✓	✓	✓	✓
S & E Management System	✓	✓	✓	✓
Good Social Practices/Labour relations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conservation of Biodiversity	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Management			✓	
Soil Management	✓		✓	
Water Management	✓			✓
Energy Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	
Air and GHG Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pesticide Management	✓		✓	
Waste Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Good Business Practices	✓	✓	✓	✓



Source:
<https://helpsavenature.com/simple-ways-to-save-environment>

Challenges, Lessons Learnt, Potential for Replication and Immediate Opportunities – Are there Any?

Challenges

1. The acceptance and credibility of standards is closely related to how the standards were developed, the standards themselves, and the accrediting or certifying process by which the organizations will be evaluated against the standard.
Lack of capacity among the African CBS/ Auditors on the Eco Mark Africa
2. Poor Quality Infrastructure in Africa making the certification costly.

Lessons Learned

1. Greater need for awareness creation about ecolabels as well as for benchmarking with other labels
2. Creation of partnerships to support the programme and the piloting of the standards – currently benchmarking with Fairtrade Africa
3. Capacity Building for the African CBS and Auditors. This already has been started (Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe)

Potential for Replication in other Sectors

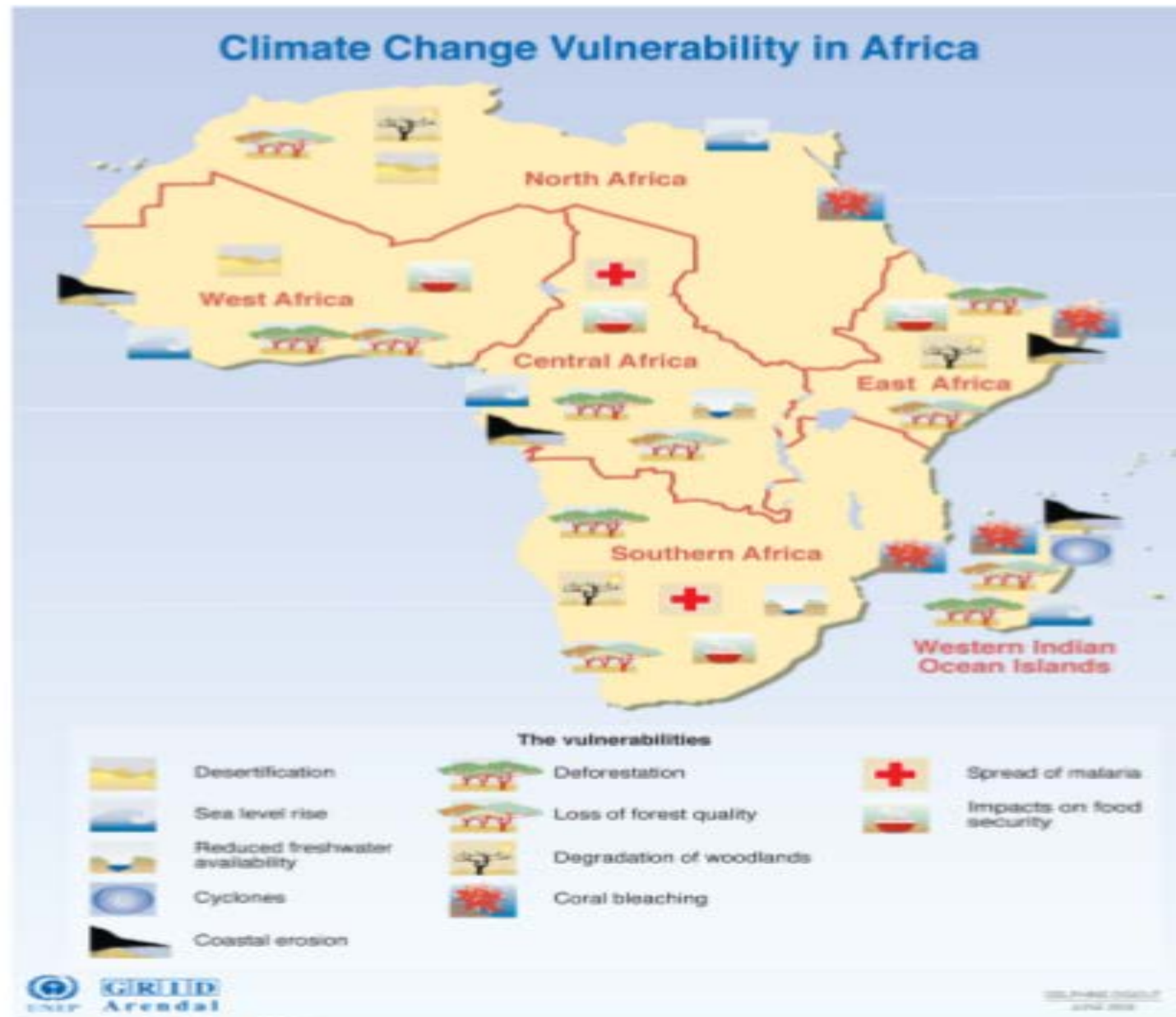
1. Mining and extraction, including the Energy Sector
2. Textile and leather
3. Building and construction to target the green buildings
4. Benchmarking with other certification schemes for dual certification marks and linking to European market
5. Developing capacity of Cleaner Production Centres (CPCs) to facilitate the certification.

Immediate Opportunities:

1. **Advocacy** - 1st Africa Environment Partnership Platform, 20 - 21 September, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. Theme : “**50 years of Environmental Governance and Sustainability in Africa**”, since the adoption of the “**African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources** (also known as **Algiers Convention**) in 1968. The theme is also looking at sustainability in line with the Paris Agreement, SDGs and Agenda 2063.
1. **The AU/NEPAD cooperation on the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI) for the forest and ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate smart agriculture, and rangeland management in conjunction with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) to bring 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested land, in Africa, under restoration by 2030.** The initiative will contribute to improved soil fertility and food security, improve access to clean water, combat desertification, increase biodiversity and habitat, create green jobs, bolster economic growth and livelihood diversification, and increase the capacity for climate change resilience and adaptation.



Figure 1: Overview of Climate Change Vulnerability in Africa



Sources: Anna Ballance, 2002.

Population growth forecasts

Billions



Source: UN population division forecasts

Effects of Climate Change in Africa by 2020

- 75 - 250 million people - Exposure to increased water stress d
- 50% reduction of Yields from rain-fed agriculture
- 50% of the continent's population at risk of undernourishment as a result of Global warming of 2°C
- 2% - 4% annual loss in GDP in the region by 2040.
- US\$ 50 billion per year by 2050 on Climate adaptation costs.
- Source: UNEP

<https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change>



AU Agenda 2063 : The Africa we Want – Does it Address the Climate Action Challenge?

Aspiration 1

A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

Goal 7

Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

Priority Areas

1. Sustainable natural resource management
2. Biodiversity conservation, genetic resources and ecosystems
3. Sustainable consumption and production patterns
4. Water security
5. Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and prevention
6. Renewable energy

<https://archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf>

7 Aspirations of Agenda 2063





UN Secretary General António Guterres.

World Opinion and why the Eco Mark Africa Remains Relevant.

The world risks crossing the point of no return on climate change, with disastrous consequences for people across the planet and the natural systems that sustain them, the United Nations [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) warned on Monday, 10/9/2018, calling for more leadership and greater ambition for climate action, to reverse course.

Oceans are becoming more acidic, threatening the foundation of the food chains that sustain life, Corals are dying in vast amounts, further depleting vital fisheries., And, on land, the high level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is making rice crops less nutritious, threatening well-being and food security for billions of people.

As climate change intensifies, we will find it harder to feed ourselves. Extinction rates will spike as vital habitats decline. This past May, the World Meteorological Organization reported that the planet marked another grim milestone: the highest monthly average for carbon dioxide levels ever recorded. The mountain in front of us is very high. Put simply, we need to put the brake on deadly greenhouse gas emissions and drive climate action. We need to rapidly shift away from our dependence on fossil fuels. We need to replace them with clean energy from water, wind and sun.

We must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm. We need to embrace the circular economy and resource efficiency. How we heat, cool and light our buildings will need to be rethought so we waste less energy.

Every day we fail to act is a day that we step a little closer towards a fate that none of us wants -- a fate that will resonate through generations in the damage done to humankind and life on earth.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1018852>

