

**Sustainable development goals for the
Eastern Africa subregion**

Summary report

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Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AUC	African Union Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the international community decided to initiate a process to define sustainable development goals (SDGs). These goals would serve as a useful guide for focused and coherent action on sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels, and also help to mainstream sustainable development into the United Nations system. The Conference also recognized that the goals should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. In this connection, an open working group of the United Nations General Assembly was set up to propose sustainable development goals, incorporating the social, economic and environmental dimensions, as well as their interlinkages, and define clear and specific targets and indicators for assessing progress towards their achievement.

As a follow-up to the Conference outcomes, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting to deliberate on the main Conference outcomes and their implications for Africa. The Regional Implementation Meeting called for an effective, broad-based, bottom-up consultative process in Africa, to flesh out the goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs.

Furthermore, ECA, AUC, AfDB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized subregional and regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in Africa. These consultations were held in: Accra (November 2011); Mombasa (October 2012); Dakar (December 2012); and Hammamet, Tunisia (March 2013). The regional consultation in Hammamet was held to identify Africa's priorities and the enablers and critical success factors for the post-2015 Development agenda; and also to align the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and agendas, including Rio+20 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The consultation meeting adopted an outcome document in which it agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and those of Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations and United Nations forums.

The SDG report for the Eastern Africa subregion was prepared against this backdrop. It is one of five reports prepared to inform the engagement of African countries in the global SDG process and ensure that the goals to be agreed upon are well aligned with Africa's sustainable development priorities. The report, together with those of the other four subregions of Africa, informed the Africa regional report on SDGs. They were presented at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals organized jointly by ECA, AUC and AfDB and held from 31 October to 5 November 2013, in Addis Ababa. The meeting adopted its outcome document as a technical input for consideration by the Africa High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The present summary of the SDG report for the Eastern Africa subregion:

(a) Identifies and provides an analysis of the priority sustainable development issues and challenges in the subregion;

- (b) Identifies, analyzes and articulates the priority sustainable development themes, which would form the basis for the formulation of the SDGs for Eastern Africa;
- (c) Proposes a concise set of SDGs and associated targets and indicators for the subregion;
- (d) Provides recommendations for the operationalization of the proposed SDGs.

1.2 Methodological approach

The present report is based on an analysis of information obtained from consultations held with various stakeholders at country and subregional levels, through e-mails, telephone, face-to-face interviews and desk review of a wide range of key policy documents, strategies, country plans and reports, intergovernmental organizations, and regional economic communities covering Eastern African countries. The resulting draft report was peer reviewed at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, where all member States were represented. The report was finalized on the basis of comments and recommendations made at the meeting.

1.3 Report outline

The present summary report has five sections. Section two discusses major sustainable development issues in the Eastern Africa subregion. Section three presents the sustainable development priorities for the subregion. Based on the findings of the preceding sections, section four proposes sustainable development goals, targets and indicators for the Eastern Africa subregion, while section five proposes recommendations for the domestication and operationalization of the sustainable development goals.

2. Major sustainable development issues in the Eastern Africa subregion

2.1. Overview of the subregion

The Eastern Africa subregion comprises 14 countries situated in the Great Lakes region, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean islands. They are: Burundi, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. These countries face similar economic, social and environmental challenges, such as high poverty rates, unemployment, inequalities and resource degradation.

Eastern African countries have endeavoured to achieve a common regional integration agenda by establishing regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations, and fostering trade development or enhanced socioeconomic ties. Twelve of these countries (Burundi, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) are members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Five countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) are members of the East African Community (EAC), and seven countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda) belong to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). By working

together to develop and implement collective programmes, member States can tackle the challenges and pressures undermining sustainable development in the subregion more efficiently.

The East African Community, like other regional economic blocs, is focused on widening and deepening the integration process among its five member States so as to enhance growth and development for its growing population. The availability of accurate and reliable data facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of the Community's programmes and planning and decision-making.

In June 2009, the population of EAC was estimated at 129.5 million, with an average annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent, down from 2.8 per cent in 2007. The infant mortality rate in the region ranges from 52 per cent to 106 per cent, while the child mortality rate ranges from 74 per cent to 137 per cent. These mortality rates are generally declining. In the education subsector, indicators, such as enrolment, completion, transition and literacy rates, showed improvement¹.

In terms of economic performance, EAC recorded a decelerated average real growth rate of 4.7 per cent in 2009, compared to 7 per cent in 2008. Rwanda recorded the highest real growth of 6.1 per cent, followed by the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda at 6 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. In aggregate terms, the total gross domestic product (GDP) for the subregion amounted to \$74,047 million in 2009, compared to \$72,998 million in 2008. The dominant sector in all the countries of the community in 2009 was agriculture, followed by the wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing. The average annual underlying inflation rate dropped sharply from 12.8 per cent in 2008 to 6.6 per cent in 2009. In public finance, the ratio of tax revenue to GDP varied from 12.1 per cent (in Rwanda) to 23.4 per cent (in Kenya). In the same period, the tourism subsector experienced a rebound, with visitor arrivals growing by 4.0 per cent in 2009, compared to a decline of 7.4 per cent in 2008².

EAC has emphasized the importance of interregional development for its member States. This includes the development of infrastructure, such as road, air and marine transport, which has been given special attention by all EAC member States. Energy and information and communication technology (ICT) have also been given prominence at the national and subregional levels³. Infrastructure, energy and ICTs are important elements in any economy, owing to the catalytic role they play.

COMESA was established in 1994 to succeed the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa. COMESA has designed and carried out a wide range of programmes and activities in trade liberalization and facilitation, monetary integration, infrastructure development, ICT, investment promotion, private sector development, peace and security and gender mainstreaming. According to the COMESA investment report, the performance of member countries has been remarkable and shown overall improvement. Local mergers and acquisition purchases rose to 91 per cent, buoyed by increases of 67 per cent in the tertiary industries and 53 per cent in secondary industries.

Infrastructure development is crucial for stimulating investments in many countries in Eastern Africa, whose potentials are yet to be exploited. Infrastructure development is key to facilitating communication and easing the flow of goods and services and the movement of persons within the subregion. Currently, the poor state of infrastructure, particularly roads, is a major

¹ East African Community Facts and Figures report, 2010.

² EAC, Facts and Figures, report, 2010.

³ EAC, Development Strategy, 2006.

constraint to the performance of the other key sectors in all five EAC economies⁴. With regard to road transport, the launching of the East Africa Road Network Project, which is about 7,426 km long, has been a crucial step in tackling the infrastructure bottlenecks in the subregion. The objective of this project is to develop cross border links to facilitate trade.

The subregion experiences persistent economic crises, largely because of its severely degraded natural resources and the environment. This, exacerbated by recurrent droughts and other natural and man-made disasters, results in perpetual poverty and under-development, which, in turn, accelerate the degradation of natural resources and the environment in general, thereby continuing the vicious cycle⁵. The IGAD subregion has a wealth of natural resources, with the potential to drive economic growth and social development. Unfortunately, the full environmental and natural resource potential is not being realized, owing to the fast rate of growth of a largely rural and heavily natural resource-dependent population, natural disasters and institutional weaknesses.⁶

2.2. Priority sustainable development challenges and opportunities in the subregion

2.2.1 Challenges

Analysis of the information collected revealed the priority sustainable development issues and challenges, their causes and implications, and the linkages. They are summarized in Table 1. These issues are interrelated, share the same causes and consequences, and may also have direct or indirect consequences on each other.

The subregion has, in the last six years, experienced impressive economic growth, despite the global financial crisis. The average GDP growth rate from 2010 to 2013 was about 5 per cent. Ethiopia was the fastest growing economy, averaging 8.2 per cent over the period. South Sudan grew by 4 per cent in 2010, but the halt in oil production thereafter resulted in a 48 per cent decline in GDP. Overall subregional growth slightly increased by 0.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent in 2012, up from 5.2 per cent in 2011. The slow progress is largely attributable to the continued sluggishness of the global economy. The real GDP growth for Eastern Africa, however, was projected to further strengthen in 2014. Growth is being driven principally by the service, construction and transport sectors. With a few exceptions, agricultural performance remains poor, and variations in demand and prices of commodities, such as minerals, affect countries, depending on their degree of reliance on such commodities.

Countries should make it priority to add value to commodities, in an effort to diversify economic activities and overcome the raw material export syndrome so as to achieve sustainable inclusive growth. In addition to formulating appropriate macroeconomic and sectoral strategies, the subregion must: invest in infrastructure and human capital; improve domestic resource mobilization; reform the factor market; introduce incentives to support private sector employment; and increase productivity, in an effort to tackle the high unemployment rates, and accelerate the drive towards sustainable development.

While poverty levels have decreased significantly, the average poverty rate of 47.5 per cent for the subregion is still very high. Individual country poverty levels show worrying trends: Burundi - 67 per cent (2008), Ethiopia - 29.2 per cent (2010), Kenya - 46.6 per cent (2006), Rwanda -

⁴ EAC Development Strategy, 2006.

⁵ IGAD, environmental and natural resources strategy, 2007.

⁶ IGAD, environmental and natural resources strategy, 2007.

56.9 per cent (2006), Uganda - 24.7 per cent (2010), and the United Republic of Tanzania 35.7 per cent (2001). Individual country statistics point to the fact that over 100 million people in the subregion live below the poverty line. This implies tremendous challenges with other interlocking issues, such as education and employment, likely to have an impact on GDP at the country level.

Food insecurity is one of the most pressing problems in the Eastern African subregion. There are two dimensions to the issue. First, the level of food production in the subregion has declined considerably. Secondly, the price of food has dramatically increased in the last two years, making it unavailable to many households (World Bank 2010). The vulnerability associated with food shortages is exacerbated by the large number of small-scale farmers, who depend on the foodstuffs they produce for both food and income. This affects trade from the main economic activity and perpetuates increasing poverty trends.

New and emerging challenges to sustainable development in the subregion include climate change and the related extreme weather conditions; worsening water scarcity; the unfolding financial crisis; halting progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; the global food crisis and high food prices; the energy crisis, precipitated by the unprecedented volatility in energy prices; biodiversity loss; degradation of ecosystems, including marine ecosystems; inefficient and wasteful patterns of consumption and production; and a succession of natural disasters. The myriad of challenges justifies a change of economic policy, including the patterns of production, distribution and consumption, within the framework of green growth.

Table 1: Sustainable development challenges and their implications

N°	Sustainable development challenge	Main causes	Implications and linkages with other sustainable development challenges
Economic sustainability			
1.	High poverty levels	High population growth rates, estimated at 2.5 per cent annually; environmental problems, including land degradation; limited range and diversification of economic activities	High disease burden and poor health; low productivity, including in agriculture; food insecurity and poor nutrition; inability to afford and access adequate social services
2.	High unemployment rates	Inadequate access by many people (over 40 per cent) to social services, such as education and health, finance and productive assets, such as land and other natural resources	Poor productivity by the population; Inadequate access to basic needs; vulnerability to crime and rural-urban influx
3.	Inequitable economic growth and inequality	Predominance of farming; inadequate off-farm activities; high population pressures; Unequal land distribution; high unemployment rates; discriminatory cultural practices against women	Depletion and degradation of natural resources; environmental challenges and increased poverty levels
Social sustainability			
4.	High population growth	High fertility rates; poor accessibility to family planning services; and high poverty levels	Pressure on and degradation of natural and other resources; low productivity levels; production focus on subsistence
5.	Poor health and prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS	Inadequate access to and poor health facilities and services; poor nutrition; environmental degradation; low budget allocations;	High child and maternal mortality; low productivity and poor economic performance

		and poor cultural values	
6.	High illiteracy rates	High secondary school dropout rates; low enrolment ratio of girls to boys in higher institutions of learning	Persistent unemployment; lower wages and income; poverty; slow growth levels; inadequate access by women to resources, such as land; and inequitable growth
7.	Food insecurity and persistent hunger	High population growth rates (2.5 per cent); land exhaustion and loss of soil fertility, inadequate access to appropriate farm technologies; natural calamities such as floods and droughts	Poverty cycles; poor health and childcare; land degradation; food price volatility; and conflicts
Environmental sustainability			
8.	Unsafe water and poor sanitation	Inadequate water supply and sanitation facilities; and limited infrastructure	Water-borne diseases and poor health
9.	Air pollution	Unregulated emissions from industrial establishments; emissions from other sources; use of poor technologies	Climate change; non-communicable diseases
10.	Negative impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides	High carbon emissions from deforestation and land degradation; use of fossil fuels, particularly in the transport and energy sectors	Disruptions in farming activities; increased incidence of diseases and poor health; increased hazards such as landslides and high incidence of natural disasters; food insecurity; loss of biodiversity
11.	Land degradation and desertification	Population pressure; encroachment on forests; desertification; effects of climate change	Disruption of production; persistent drought; loss of soil fertility; and food insecurity
12.	Deforestation	Population pressure; farm encroachment; poor farming practices	Reduction in rainfall; loss of biodiversity; land degradation and loss of soil
13.	Unreliable energy sources	High reliance on biomass fuels; limited investments in clean and modern energy sources	Land degradation and deforestation; limited production levels; climate change effects; limited industrial development
Governance challenges on sustainable development			
14.	Increased security concerns and peacebuilding	Instability in the subregion; cultural attachments	Instability of the population; reduction in the performance of economic activities, such as agriculture; limited food production; many refugee camps in the subregion

2.2.2 *Opportunities*

The Eastern Africa subregion is endowed with many opportunities, which, if well harnessed, could accelerate growth and promote sustainable development. Indeed, coupled with value addition, these opportunities could help the countries of the subregion to tackle and eliminate development challenges and pave the way for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. These opportunities include:

(a) **Natural resources:** The subregion is endowed with natural resources, which are fundamental for development. It also abounds in fertile land, suited to intensive and mechanized agricultural practices. At present, farming is practised by smallholders, who produce for subsistence. The subregion has forests and national parks that could be catchment areas for environmental conservation. It also has abundant explored oil reserves. Indeed, it has been confirmed that billions of barrels could be produced in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. Other countries of the subregion are rich in

minerals and ore, such as gold, diamonds wolfram and tin. The subregion also has vast water sources, which could be used for hydropower generation, to stimulate growth in other sectors, including industry and manufacturing;

(b) **Regional integration:** The subregion has made tremendous progress towards economic integration, with subregional blocks such as SADC, EAC, IGAD and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries. Regional integration helps to boost trade through specific interventions, such as tax exemptions on certain goods and reduction of barriers through customs unions;

(c) **Ongoing development strategies and programmes:** Member States and the regional economic communities are implementing development strategies and programmes, as a quick response to subregional challenges and sustainable and inclusive growth and development. These strategies are aimed at achieving poverty reduction, gender integration and environmental protection;

(d) **High rate of urbanization:** Urbanization has provided basic opportunities for countries and individuals alike. For example, the high rate of rural urban migration provides an opportunity for dealing with land fragmentation and land consolidation issues, in an effort to boost production. The high population in cities and towns also provides an opportunity for formal and informal skills development, thus enabling the population to acquire gainful employment, which, in turn, provides livelihoods for families and revenues for Government, through taxes.

3. Priority sustainable development areas and themes

A review of national and subregional official documents revealed that countries and subregional groupings have set strategies and plans, with specific interventions, to address the challenges highlighted.

3.1 National-level priority sustainable development areas

Policies, strategies and programmes to tackle sustainable development issues are elaborated in national poverty reduction strategies, national development plans, and long-term vision documents. The documents reviewed included the Burundi vision 2025 strategy, the Rwandan Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Comoros poverty reduction strategy paper, the Djibouti poverty reduction paper, the Eritrea country strategy paper and national indicative programme, the growth and transformation plan for Ethiopia and other subregional strategic and planning documents. In the analysis of strategies and policies of the countries in the subregion, the following were identified as the main national-level sustainable development areas:

(a) *Poverty reduction/eradication:* Countries in the subregion have all identified poverty reduction as a priority goal. They have developed poverty reduction strategy papers or a country vision to guide work on the issue. In many of the country programmes, issues such as agricultural transformation, education, capacity-building, small and medium enterprise development and rural transformation have been identified as key interventions for eradicating poverty;

(b) *Infrastructure development*: This has been identified by many countries as a national priority and the basis for increased investments. Infrastructure includes roads, railways, schools and hospitals. Many country programmes have expanded infrastructure development to rural areas, where the majority of the population live and practise subsistence farming. Adequate infrastructure is crucial for marketing chains in the subregion;

(c) *Energy*: Many countries in the subregion have identified energy as a priority for sustainable development and essential for increased industrial growth and accelerated economic transformation;

(d) *Peace, security and good governance*: This will be promoted by enhancing justice systems, reducing corruption rates, and promoting reconciliation constitutionalism;

(e) *Increasing private investments*: The subregion's countries have identified private sector development and public-private partnership as a priority that would stimulate industrial growth;

(f) *Health*: Improved health for all groups of people, paying particular attention to maternal mortality rates, HIV/AIDS incidence rates and family planning efforts. Strategies have also been devised to effectively tackle non-communicable diseases, which have caused many deaths;

(g) *Sound environmental management*: This is a priority, which is highlighted in the development strategies of the countries of the subregion. In Rwanda, for instance, this has been handled as a cross-cutting issue. Various environmental protection mechanisms have been designed and are being implemented. Nearly all countries in the subregion have formulated national adaptation programmes to guide them in identifying resource requirements for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Mechanisms have been identified to reduce the emission of carbon gases and pollution rates among the countries. In Kenya, for instance, used cars imported into the country should be no older than five years.

3.2 Priority sustainable development areas for the subregion

At the level of subregional groupings, the required interventions have been stated in subregional documents such as the East African Community common market protocol, the Economic Commission for Africa publication entitled *Progress towards sustainable development for Eastern Africa*, IGAD strategies, World Bank reports and United Nations reports. The following were identified as the priority sustainable development areas for the subregion.

3.2.1 Economic priorities

(a) *High and sustained economic growth*: The focus for the subregion is to increase the pace of economic growth by: improving sectors, such as services; enhancing economic performance

through agriculture transformation, trade and increased exports; promoting private investments; and transforming the operations of small and medium enterprises, to lead to economic stability and equality;

(b) *Infrastructure development:* The subregion prioritizes infrastructure development as the basis for the transformation of the economies of its member countries. Regional economic integration bodies have backed the process by promoting linkages among countries, so as to accelerate growth in sectors such as health, agriculture, trade, manufacturing and processing;

(c) *Achieving food and nutrition security:* Ensuring sustainable food production in the subregion is a priority. Mechanisms promoting grain and cereal production have been identified in subregional and regional reports. They include sustainable fertilizer application;

(d) *Tackling unemployment:* The subregion acknowledges the prevalence of high unemployment rates and has focused on employment creation, especially for young people, by boosting private investment, diversifying into other sectors and increasing off-farm activities. Efforts to increase employment opportunities include creation of bank loan schemes, in a bid to lure young people into self-employment. In tackling unemployment, gender balance should be applied by providing equal opportunities and property rights. Equal opportunities in accessing quality education and health should also be a priority in development agendas.

3.2.2 Social priorities

(a) *Poverty eradication:* Efforts have been made under various programmes to eradicate poverty and reduce the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day. Programmes have been designed to extend infrastructure and social services to rural areas;

(b) *Tackling diseases and improving health:* Infrastructure, social services, health issues, specifically HIV/AIDS, malaria and non-communicable diseases and reproductive health have been highlighted as priorities for the subregion. Health is a priority in the subregion because of the negative effects of poor health on other sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing. Reducing the incidence of malaria and other diseases is the focus of most health policies and programmes;

(c) *Education and skills development:* Education and skills development has been set as a priority for reducing the high rates of illiteracy in the subregion. There is emphasis on developing vocational training, as a way of shifting from educating job-seekers to educating job-creators. Capacity-building has been targeted to provide the skills needed for transforming employment indicators and results. Programmes have been developed under the African Capacity Building Foundation, in an effort to enhance efficiency.

3.2.3 Environmental priorities

(a) *Sustainable land management:* The subregion recognizes sound land management as a priority for achieving sustainable development. Various programmes and policies have been formulated to ensure effective land management and productivity. Increased forestation, terracing and soil erosion control are some of the programmes underway to address issues related to land management;

(b) *Access to water and sustainable water resource management:* Water resources have been identified as having great potential in the subregion. The management of water resources is therefore a priority. Another priority is extending clean and safe water to the population, especially in rural areas;

(c) *Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction:* Climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation measures are also priority issues. Mechanisms have been introduced to manage watersheds and control flooding and other disasters, especially in disaster-prone areas.

Table 2 sums up the priority sustainable development areas for the subregion, namely:

(a) *Achieving sustainable inclusive growth and economic transformation*

The priorities here include tackling the issue of high poverty levels, promoting food security and increasing agricultural production. Other priorities are sound natural resource management, support to private sector development, sustainable infrastructure development, including energy supply and transport, and regional integration.

(b) *Achieving a healthy and productive population*

This entails dealing with the issue of high population growth rates, rapid and unplanned urbanization, poor sanitation, high unemployment rates especially among the youth, poor health and prevalence of diseases such as HIV and malaria, high illiteracy levels, gender inequality, and poor social protection. The main priority sustainable development interventions are: improving access to health facilities; improving the quality of education, gender equality and equity by empowering more women, reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, expanding social security coverage and transforming rural areas.

(c) *Achieving efficient use of natural resources and reversing environmental degradation*

This includes enhancing environmental productivity and integrity by tackling issues, such as poor sanitation, unsafe water supply and the negative impacts on climate change, including drought and flooding; air pollution and management of chemical products; desertification issues; and unreliable energy sources.

Table 2: Sustainable development thematic areas and priority actions

Sustainable development thematic area and main issues	Priority action
1. Sustainable inclusive growth and economic transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce poverty and achieve food security

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High poverty levels • Food insecurity • Unemployment rates • Infrastructure facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce unemployment and promote job creation • Develop infrastructure, including for energy, water, transport and sanitation
<p>2. Achieving a healthy and productive population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High illiteracy levels • Health concerns • Poor access to health facilities • High population growth • Low levels of security and stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable peace, security and stability • Improve access to health facilities • Improve the quality of education and facilities, including for professional, technical and adult education • Promote gender equality and women's empowerment • Reduce population growth rates
<p>3. Efficient use of natural resources and reversing environmental degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative impacts of climate change • Unsafe water and poor sanitation • Land degradation and desertification • High rates of deforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation and mitigation • Sound environmental and natural resource management • Natural disaster risk reduction and management

4. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

Table 3 sets out seven proposed SDGs, targets and indicators covering a range of economic, social and environmental development priorities in eastern Africa. It is proposed to achieve the goals within 15 years, that is, by 2030.

Table 3: Proposed sustainable development goals, targets and indicators for the Eastern Africa subregion

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Economic transformation	
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty	
Target 1: Eradicate extreme poverty, that is people living on less than \$1.25 dollars/national poverty line by 2030	1.1 Number of people living on less than \$1.25 dollar a day/national poverty line 1.2 Percentage of population living on less than \$1.25 dollars a day/national poverty line
Goal 2: Ensure food security and adequate nutrition	
Target 2: Reduce food imports by 50 per cent by 2030	2.1 Quantity of food imported as total food supply 2.1.1 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption 2.1.2 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
Target 3: Eradicate hunger by 2030	
Target 4: Reduce the number of people who have unbalanced diets by 80 per cent by 2030.	4.1 Nutritional status (per capita caloric intake)

Goal 3: Reduce the rate of unemployment	
Target 5: Increase private investment by 5 per cent by 2030 to stimulate employment opportunities	5.1 Private investment as a percentage of GDP
Target 6 Increase quality employment by 10 per cent by 2030	6.1 Average annual wage 6.2 Job tenure 6.3 Average usual hours of work 6.4 Proportion of employees with work related injury
Target 7: Increase diversification to more technical skills-based employment by 10 per cent by 2030	7.1 Percentage of skills-based jobs 7.2 Sector contributions to GDP 7.3 Share of employees receiving job training
Target 8: Reduce the unemployment rate among the youth and graduates by more than half by 2030	8.1 Unemployment rate of graduates and youth 8.2 Employment to population ratio
Target 9: Improve social protection accessibility benefits by more than 30 per cent by 2030	9.1 Social protection coverage Crime rates
Goal 4: Increase and improve existing infrastructure	
Target 10 : Improve national and cross-border infrastructure (roads, railways, and airports) by 20 per cent by 2030	10.1 Number of intercity connections 10.2 Total road density 10.3 Percentage of total road network paved 10.4 Number of road deaths and injures 10.5 Rail lines (total route-km) 10.6 Time value spent in city traffic
Target 11: Reduce the number of people without access to electricity by 20 per cent by 2030	11.1 Proportion of the population with access to electricity.
Target 12 Attain full access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation by 2030	12.1 The proportion of the population with improved water sources 12.2 Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities
Target 13: Increase investments in water to increase access to clean water by 10 per cent by 2030	13.1 Annual investment in water and sanitation
Social needs	
Goal 5: Improved access to health facilities	
Target 14: Achieve universal access to quality health care and reduce by half the rate of malaria infection and other diseases by 2030	14.1 Proportion of the population accessing health facilities 14.2 Doctor/patient ratio 14.3 Rate of malaria infections

Target 15: Reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection by half by 2030	15.1 HIV/AIDS prevalence rate
Target 16: Increase access to ARVs by 20 per cent by 2030	16.1 Percentage of persons living with HIV and AIDS with access to ARVs.
Target 17: Reduce the child mortality rate by half by 2030	17.1 Child mortality rate
Target 18: Reduce the maternal mortality rate by three quarters by 2030	18.1 Maternal mortality rate Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 19: Achieve universal access to reproductive health and reduce unmet family planning need to less than 10 per cent	19.1 Percentage of unmet family planning needs 19.2 Contraceptive prevalence rate 19.3 Adolescent birth rate 19.4 Antenatal care coverage
Goal 6: Improve education facilities	
Target 20: Provide universal secondary education to both girls and boys and increase enrolment by 20 per cent by 2030	20.1 Net rate of secondary enrolment 20.2 Net rate of primary enrolment 20.3 Dropout rate at primary level
Target 21: Increase the number of educational facilities by 20 per cent by 2030	21.1 Pupil to facility ratio(class room, toilet, computer)
Target 22: Increase technical and vocational training schools by 10 per cent by 2030	22.1 Number of technical schools built in a year
Environmental protection	
Goal 7: Promote efficient use of natural resources and reverse environmental degradation	
Target 23: Ensure that sustainable development principles are integrated into national development policies, strategies and plans	23.1 National development policies, strategies incorporating in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions in development policies, plans and programmes
Target 24: Reduce deforestation and forest degradation by half between 2015 and 2030	24.1 Proportion of land covered by forest (%)
Target 25: Reduce water pollution by half and ensure sustainable land management by 2030	25.1 Integration of sustainable land and water management in development strategies 25.2 Desertification rate 25.3 Levels of major water pollutants 25.4 Land and soil degradation rates
Target 26: Reduce air pollution by half by 2030	26.1 Ambient levels of major air pollutants in urban and rural areas
Target 27: Increase access to renewable energy sources by 10 per cent by 2030	27.1 Proportion of population with access to renewable energy

	27.2 Proportion of population dependent on biomass use
Target 28: By 2030, natural resources are managed and exploited sustainability, legally and through ecosystem based approaches	28.1 Percentage of degraded ecosystems restored
	28.2 Existence and effective enforcement of policies, plans, laws, regulations and standards for environmental protection and management
Target 29: Reduce gas emissions by 10 per cent by 2030	29.1 Carbon dioxide emission per capita
Target 30: Enhance resilience to climate change by 2030 through mainstreaming of adaptation and mitigation measures into development policies, programmes and investment projects	30.1 Integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation in development policies, plans, programmes and investment projects

5. Conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

In recent years, economic growth performance in Eastern Africa has been impressive. This has inspired political leaders and policymakers to set ambitious economic development goals, with some countries explicitly aiming to become middle-income nations within 20 years. Despite the impressive economic growth, challenges still remain.

The incidence of poverty and inequality in the subregion remains very high. The rate of unemployment and underemployment in the subregion was also very high. The eastern Africa subregion was therefore ranked low in terms of the human development index compared with other subregions in Africa. Moreover, eastern Africa has one of the highest fertility rates in Africa, resulting in rapid population growth of more than 48 million since 2005. This rapid population growth is translating into mounting pressures on social services as well as natural resources.

The subregion is also faced with the challenge of sustainable food security for all, with inadequate food, in terms of both quantity and quality. In order to reverse this trend, farmers need to support to access appropriate technologies for enhanced agricultural productivity. Infrastructure including road and rail transport networks need to be expanded and improved to facilitate the flow and exchange of food commodities.

Environmental resources, which underpin sustained economic growth and wellbeing in the subregion, are under threat. There is widespread and high land, forest and biodiversity degradation and loss, which can be attributed to high population pressure, given the predominant role of natural resources in poverty reduction, agriculture and energy source. For instance from 1990 to 2010, the subregion's forests shrank by more than 22 million hectares. Deforestation is expected to continue, as the population of the subregion continues to grow. These negative impacts are exacerbated by climate change.

The report has identified and analysed the social, economic and environmental priorities that need to be pursued in order to achieve national and subregional development objectives and overall sustainable development in the subregion. To that end, the report also recognizes the imperative of good governance and strong institutions. These have been translated into specific sustainable development goals and targets, accompanied by indicators that are intended to inspire focused and accelerated actions to promote sustainable development in the subregion

5.2 Recommendations

In order to translate the proposed goals and targets into concrete sustainable outcomes, the following are recommended for action by the countries:

(a) Commit themselves to mobilizing and allocating an increased share of public financial resources to sustainable development;

(b) Mainstream sustainable development into subregional and national development policies, strategies and programmes. This should entail establishing mechanisms to ensure the balanced integration of its three dimensions;

(c) Establish platforms for sharing experiences and scaling up sustainable development best practices and taking appropriate action to step up implementation;

(d) Strengthen mechanisms to ensure effective engagement and involvement of sub-national actors and local communities in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development policies, plans, programmes and activities;

(e) Strengthen formal and non-formal education and awareness raising on sustainable development in order to broaden domestication and implementation of sustainable development programmes and actions, particularly by local stakeholders;

(f) Establish sustainable development centres, including training institutes, where different actors can acquire appropriate knowledge and skills on sustainable development;

(g) Establish and promote policy and incentive schemes to enable the private sector to actively participate in sustainable development, and fulfill its corporate social responsibilities in the sustainable development agenda;

(h) Promote good governance and strengthen institutions that support sustainable development at subregional and national levels;

(i) Strengthen coordination and collaboration and among organizations within and outside the subregion, in order to harmonize interventions and foster the exchange of best practices and acquisition of knowledge, including technologies on sustainable development.