



The State of Planning in Africa

AN OVERVIEW

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Foreword

What had become known as the Durban Declaration was adopted in that South African coastal city in 2002 by planners across Africa. The adoption led to the formation of African Planning Association (APA). By 2012, 26 planning institutions had signed up to APA. The member institutions spanned across all the regions of Africa. In 2010, APA set for itself four activities that needed to be undertaken; the State of Planning in Africa Report, the launch of a website, creation of a logo and convening of regional meetings. Of all these, State of Planning in Africa Report was the most tasking. It had been aimed at achieving, amongst others, the following objectives of APA:

- i. Contribution to growth and development of Africa through better spatial/physical planning.
- ii. Creation of continent-wide linkages between African Planners.

However, this report which is the result of research is also aimed at providing “a perspective of the roles of city and regional planners within the process of settlement formation, urbanization and rural development”.

The report provides background to the development challenges, planning laws and frameworks and planning resources that exist in countries that responded to questionnaires sent to the member countries.

Though the report intended to focus on 26 countries that are APA affiliates, only 15 of them responded and are part of this report. They include **Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**. Countries that do not feature here are hampered in their participation by constraints beyond us. The Arab uprising is one of them. Other constraints include language barriers, bearing in mind that there are several official languages - Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Swahili. It is hoped that in future, when efforts are made to improve this report, every country on the continent will feature prominently.

There cannot be a better time than now to have this kind of report, more so when consideration is given to the myriads of challenges facing Africa. I believe appreciating where we are coming from, and where we are, will serve as a good platform for projecting into the future. For each of the 15 countries featuring in the report, information was gathered with regards to key development challenges; legal and policy frameworks for planning and development; planning and participation of community, civil society and government departments; the link between planning, budgeting and implementation, and assessment of planning resources capacity. The overview presented here is a summary of the country by country report which is available from the Association of African Planners.

For this report to achieve its objectives, the findings documented should chart a new course for planning activities on the continent. It is high time we swing into action and begin to tackle identified challenges. Whatever we have done right should be enhanced. Collaboration with key stakeholders such as governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and bilateral and multilateral agencies, cannot be overemphasized, as this is essential for achieving our objectives.

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*Number of countries that are APA affiliates.
15 of them responded and are part of this
report*

The report, while recognizing good practice and innovation in various dimensions taking place within the continent, also identified great challenges ahead. Rising urbanization and changing demographic dynamics without adequate infrastructure are the greatest of these. To surmount these challenges the report concludes that “planning capacity in terms of planning education, number of professional and technical planners and continuing professional development has to receive top priority”.

This report is to be regarded as ongoing because it needs to include all 54 independent African countries. Hopefully, the report will encourage others to join APA and subsequent editions will include all countries.

APA is grateful to UN-Habitat and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) for providing the funding that supported this report. We owe a lot of gratitude to Cecil Madell who took up the onerous tasks of research and report writing. For her comments and advise, APA is grateful to Laura Petrella, Leader, City Planning, Extension and Design Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat. The report would not have been produced if not for the commitment of the Country Report contributors from the 15 countries earlier identified.

Contributions from Kabir Yari (Nigeria), Ashraf Adam (South Africa), Yusuf Patel (SAPI chairperson), Nthato Gobodo (SAPI vice president and secretary APA), Musa Jack (GIZ), and Michael Kihato (SACN) are highly appreciated.

It is hoped that that the report will contribute to the knowledge of planning in Africa – from an African perspective.



Waheed Kadiri
Chairperson
APA

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Introduction



2002

The year African delegates from a number of planning organizations decided to establish the African Planning Association

Africa is experiencing significant economic growth¹ and associated demographic changes, including rising urbanization² without the requisite infrastructure, spatial and settlement planning. The proportion of urban residents living in informal settlements is higher in Africa, as a region, than any other part of the world (UNDP, 2012). Inhabitants of informal settlements often have inadequate access to basic utility services, lack security of tenure, and experience precarious environmental, health and slum conditions.

The current economic growth and urbanization in Africa should be guided by appropriate planning³ and land use management at continental, regional, national, sub-national, and local scales. This is to ensure that Africa's new towns, cities and rural areas are effective in terms of meeting the basic needs of all their inhabitants; and to ensure that economic and social growth are inclusive. Key questions considered by this *State of Planning in Africa Report* include the following: what role is planning playing at this juncture; what is the capacity across Africa for forward development, spatial planning and land use management; and how effective is planning?

Urbanization in Africa is stimulated by increasing investment in natural resource extraction (minerals and oil in particular), growth in commercial agriculture and other sectors, coupled with rural-urban migration and natural population growth. This growth is evident by the rapid expansion of existing settlements, as well as the construction of new towns and the inevitably changing character of rural areas, secondary towns and existing cities. This economic and physical growth brings opportunities for stimulating and increasing access to employment, health, education, and other social facilities and services. However, many recent arrivals in urban settlements are poor and have to negotiate with

public authorities and local communities to access land, housing and other urban resources within growing settlements. The provision of these urban services requires research, planning, implementation and monitoring of policies, frameworks, strategies, programmes and projects by a wide range of political, social, built environment, civil society, and community organizations and institutions through varied partnership arrangements.

This research aims to provide a perspective of the roles of urban and regional planners⁴ within the process of settlement formation, urbanization and rural development. Mostly, the intention of this research is to consider the spatial manifestation of the problems Africa faces and assess the legislative, policy, human, institutional and educational capacity that exist within the planning profession. It aims to evaluate the status of urban and regional planning and how the profession is being called upon, and is responding to the challenges of rapidly growing cities and changing rural areas in Africa.

BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

African delegates from a number of planning organizations decided at the Planning Africa 2002 Conference to establish the African Planning Association. Delegates identified the following key objectives for the association:

- Ascertain the status of urban and regional planning on the continent
- Contribute to the growth and development of Africa through responsive planning
- Determine how planners are responding to ongoing development challenges
- Review and improve systems of planning on a regional basis
- Create continent-wide linkages among African planners
- Develop and expand the planning profession capacity in Africa
- Facilitate capacity building amongst planners
- Facilitate better understanding, cooperation and improved networking amongst planners

1 The economic outlook for sub-Saharan Africa is positive, with growth rising to 5.3 per cent in 2012, and 5.6 per cent in 2013, over the pre-crisis average level of 5 per cent (World Bank, 2013)

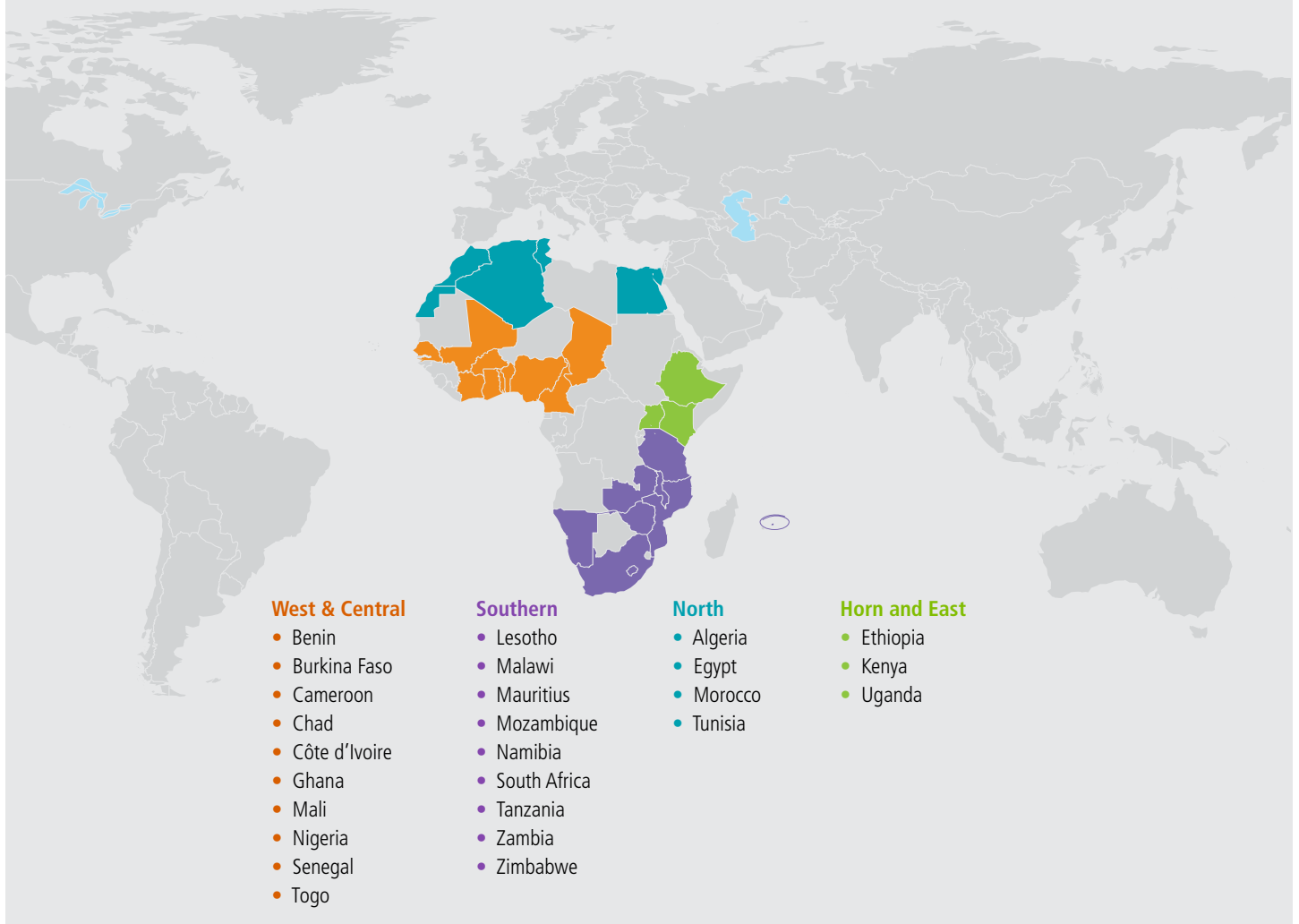
2 The urban population of East Africa is estimated at 21.7 per cent; West Africa, 44.95 per cent; Southern Africa, 48.0 per cent; North Africa, 51.5 per cent; and Central Africa, 58.4 per cent. UNDESA (2012)

3 The term 'planning' refers to all its dimensions, including spatial planning, forward planning, land use management, tenure reform, land ownership, housing/habitat development, slum upgrading, management of urbanization, etc. and across all scales: local, district, regional and national.

4 Also referred to as city or town and regional planners.

APA AFFILIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES

Planning institutions from the following 26 countries are affiliates of the African Planning Association:



APA initiated the *State of Planning Report in Africa* with the aim of producing a document that would provide an understanding of the status of urban and regional planning on the continent. The South African Planning Institute (SAPI) functions as the APA secretariat and assisted with the preparation of the Report, while the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH provided technical and financial support for this initiative. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this research will facilitate better understanding,

cooperation and improved networking amongst APA affiliates and its membership and amongst role players and decision-makers across the continent in general. This research will also engage with the initiative from the African Centre for Cities (ACC) based at the University of Cape Town, to build a platform for urban land reform in Africa south of the Sahara, as well as the efforts of the Association for African Planning Schools (AAPS), aimed at reforming planning education so that future urban practitioners could respond to city challenges meaningfully.

The report aims to determine how countries are equipped to respond to development challenges and the existing roles of planning in Africa

SCOPE OF WORK

The focus of the research is on APA affiliate countries and the findings have been captured per country. Countries were grouped in terms of broad geographic locations, recognizing that many countries belong to more than one political or economic development community. The main purpose with this approach is to facilitate subregional discussions amongst APA members.

The research has been captured in the following two reports:

- i. *The State of Planning in Africa (Full Report)* (This report is available from the APA on request)
- ii. *The State of Planning in Africa: An Overview*

The *State of Planning in Africa: Full Report* (approximately 160 pages) deals with the following aspects of the research, while this report serves as an overview and summarizes the main findings.

A. Background

This sketches the context of the relevant country, focussing on the demographic and economic indicators; the planning situation in the context of the precolonial, colonial and postcolonial periods; political and administrative systems; the key drivers of the economy; as well as urban and rural settings. The intention was not to be comprehensive, but rather

growth is defined, given that the current settlement development models are based on low densities, high mobility demand, reduced public facilities and amenities that are producing towns and cities that exclude the majority of their residents.

C. Planning Status Quo

This is the main focus of the report. It aims to determine how countries are equipped to respond to development challenges and the existing roles of planning in Africa. The report deals with the following research areas:

- An appraisal of the legal and policy frameworks that exist for planning
- An assessment of forward planning instruments and land use management systems, including development plans and how this impacts on economic development and environmental considerations
- The role and participation of community, civil society and government departments in planning processes
- An assessment of the link between planning, budgeting and implementation; within the context of efforts at decentralization of powers and functions from central to local authorities
- Examples of innovation in planning that have been successfully undertaken; that may constitute best practice and lessons that could be explored elsewhere
- An assessment of the planning resource capacity

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