



ARSO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- ▶ Leveraging on the benefits of implementation of sustainability standards (AES) and the Eco Mark Africa certification Scheme
 - ✓ For Clean Energy, Green Industrialization, and AfCFTA Market Access

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Zanzibar June 2025



Outline

- ▶ Introduction to sustainability and why sustainability for Africa
- ▶ Standards as tools for driving sustainability
- ▶ The African Ecolabelling Standards (AES) and Eco Mark Africa as drivers of sustainability in Africa:
 - and achieving:
 - ▶ green energy
 - ▶ Industrialization
 - ▶ AcFTA and Global Markets Access

Significant reserves of the world's key minerals: gold, diamonds, platinum, uranium, cobalt, manganese, nickel, copper, lithium

Africa is bountifully endowed with Natural Resources and Human Capital:



Source: The World Mining Congress (WMC), World Mining Data Summary for 2021 | Data as of 2019

➤ 60% of the world's arable land.

➤ Rich Water resources.

➤ Natural forests





- Wide range of attractions, including **wildlife, natural landscapes, and cultural heritage sites.**



Renewable energy sources

- **Renewable energy potential** - solar, wind, hydro power, geothermal, biomass/biofuel.



solar energy



wind energy



hydroelectric energy



Africa Energy Portal
Kenya: Olkaria power

geothermal energy



biomass energy



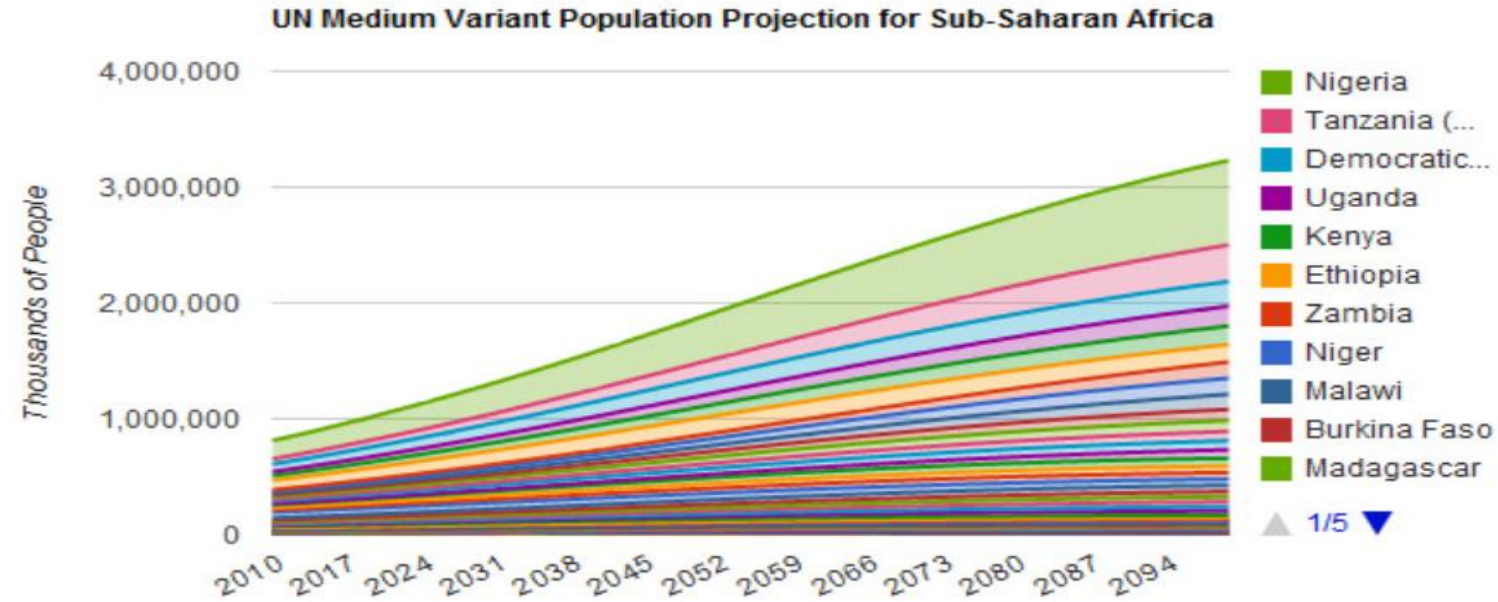
tidal energy

Human Capital

- ▶ **Large population** – about 2.5 billion people.
- ▶ a large population of **growing youth** – fastest growing population of youth – to reach 3.8B by 2100
 - ▶ Youth who are **tech-savvy**
 - ▶ increasing demand for more **sophisticated goods and services**.
 - ▶ Driving **innovations, economic growth, and social change**.

One in Three People Will Live in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2100, Says UN

June 8, 2011 | By Schuyler Null



INVESTING IN PEOPLE
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

► Sustainable Development

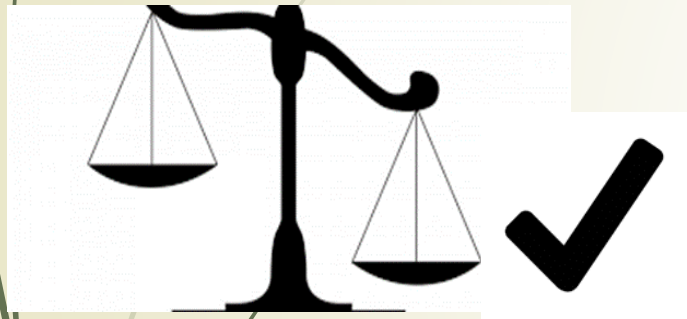
Development that **meets the needs of the present** without compromising the ability of **future generations to meet their own needs** (*Brundtland Commission, 1987*).

- 3 pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social sustainability.



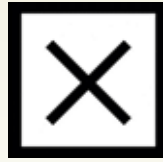
SD Achieved when there is a balance of these 3

principles of Sustainability

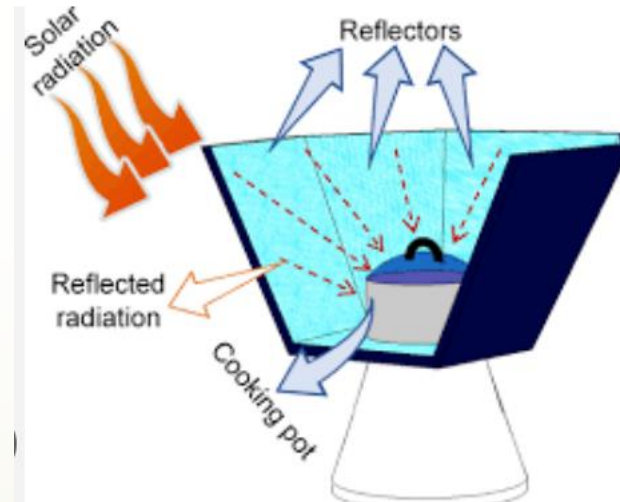
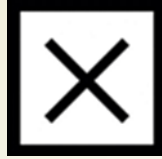


1. **Improve quality of life** without increasing environmental degradation & compromising resource **needs for future generations**.
2. **Reduce material intensity, wastes**, emissions from extraction, production, consumption and disposal activities – **reduce, reuse, recycle**
3. Promote **shift to materials** with **lower material and energy intensity**.
4. Apply **life cycle thinking** – impacts from all stages of production, consumption processes.
5. Guarding against **efficiency gains** from being cancelled out by **increases in consumption**

Healthy environment,
Sustainable agriculture



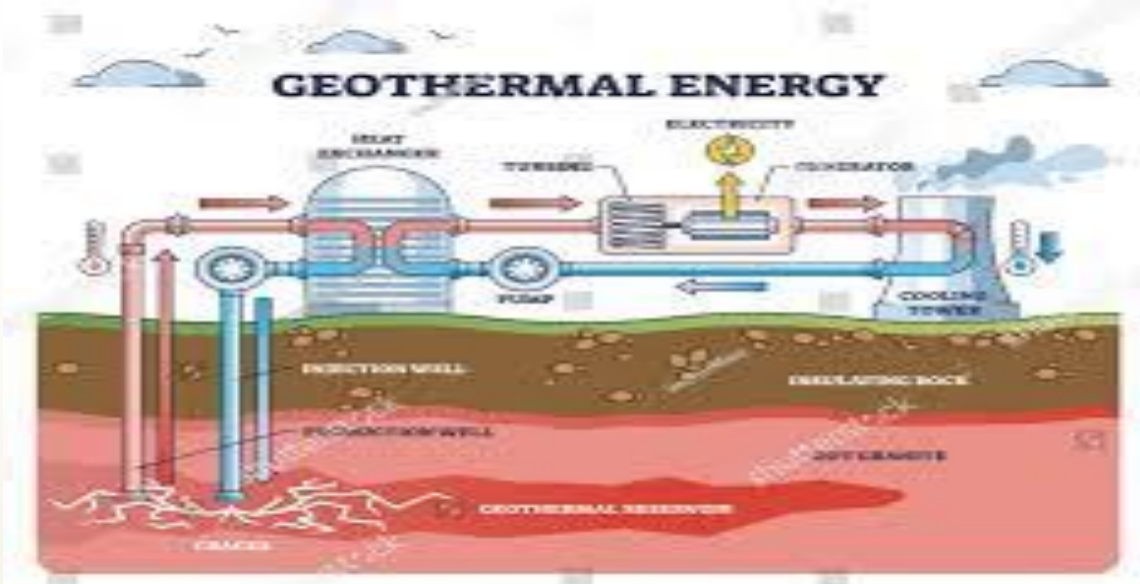
Clean energy - Home



Diesel Power Plant - Components, Layout & Working



Renewable Clean Energy - Industry



Sustainable Cities



Some strategies for promoting sustainability

- ▶ **SD and SCP Policies and policy instruments**
 - International, regional, national, sector specific , organisation, etc.
- ▶ **Regulatory instruments** - Regulations, taxes, Sustainable public procurement
 - ▶ **standards (voluntary/regulations) – National, regional, international**
- ▶ **Participatory Voluntary Agreements** – *SDGs 2030, Africa Agenda 2064, AfCFTA*
- ▶ **Informational instruments**
 - ▶ **Ecolabels (Eco Mark Africa)**
 - ▶ Research and development papers
 - ▶ Education and training
- ▶ **Programmes, Projects, Initiatives** - Switch Africa Green, AUDA-NEPAD (Africa Power Vision (APV), AU Africa Renewable Initiative (AREI))
- ▶ **Innovations/technologies** – energy saving products, renewable energy sources, etc.





Standards as tools for driving Sustainability

- **African Ecolabeling Standards (AES)**
- **Eco Mark Africa (EMA label)**

Standards

Standards are guidelines or rules or criteria (for products, processes, test methods, or materials) against which a product can be judged.

Provide guidelines for safety/performance attributes—eg. practice, size, quantity, color, etc - for a product or process

created to produce a level of uniformity, interchangeability, reliability, or means of comparison.

- National, regional, international, product, company etc.
- Reviewed, revised, updated regularly

ISO definition: a document, established by consensus, approved by a recognized body that provides for common and repeated use as rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities or their results.

Standards as tools of good practice, assurance, communication

- **Guide on good practice/provide specifications.**
- **Ensure good practice/quality/safety/uniformity of products**
- **Enable Certification** - a confirmation that a product meets defined criteria of a standard. **ISO:** “any activity concerned with determining directly or indirectly that relevant requirements are fulfilled”.
- **Enable use of Labels: a visual communication tool** showcasing products, services or companies that are produced based on compliance to standards or criteria.

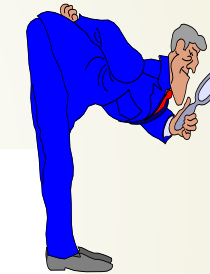


Requirements

**Processes,
Products/Services**

Evaluate compliance to the standard criteria.

**Certification
process**



**Evaluation and
decision**

**-Certificate of
compliance –
certificate to use label
on product**



Sustainability Standards

Standards that provide specifications or guidelines relating to **environmental, social/ethical responsibility, and economic viability**.

Certifications to these standards outlines and confirms that a product **meets the requirements of the standard and offers an environment/sustainability benefit**.

Products so certified **may display a label** which communicates its environment benefit status. Such labels are referred to as **ecolabels**.



eco-: relates to ecological or environmental terms.

Ecolabel on a product signifies that **standard requirements (of that product) for environmental attributes** have been met.

AES – African Sustainability standards Principles (Guiding Objectives)



- Compliance to all relevant and applicable legal requirements
- Social, Environment, economic management system
- **Energy efficiency**
- Ecosystem conservation – people, plants, animals, air, water, soil, microorganisms
- Wildlife protection
- Soil management and conservation
- Water conservation
- Occupational health and safety
- Fair treatment of workers
- Ethical business practices
- Good community relations



AFRICAN ECO-LABELLING STANDARD

Environmental Management

ARSO/TC 61, Eco-labelling, sustainability and resilient systems

ARSO/TC 62, Societal security (disaster and emergence management)

ARSO/TC 64, Environmental protection

ARSO/TC 65, Occupational health and safety

ARSO/TC 66, Air quality and emissions

Energy and Natural Resources

ARSO/TC 67, Equipment for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas systems

ARSO/TC 68, Bioenergy and biogas

ARSO/TC 69, Mining and mineral beneficiation

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Sustainability Certification/Ecolabels

- **Sustainability Certification:** is a confirmation that a product meets defined **sustainability relevant criteria** of a sustainability standard (relevant sustainability requirements are fulfilled).
- **Ecolabel:** a **visual communication tool** that communicates environment/sustainability compliant products, services or companies that have been evaluated based on sustainability standards or a defined criteria.



Types of certification



FIRST PARTY ASSESSMENT:

REFERS WHEN THE EVALUATION IS COMING DIRECTLY FROM AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENTITY MAKING THE CLAIM OR THAT BENEFITS FROM THE CLAIM.



SECOND PARTY ASSESSMENT:

WHEREBY EVALUATION IS PERFORMED BY AN INTERESTED PARTY SUCH AS A TRADE ASSOCIATION.



THIRD PARTY ASSESSMENT:

WHERE CERTIFIER IS INDEPENDENT OF THE PRODUCT MANUFACTURER, CONTRACTOR, DESIGNER AND HAS NO FINANCIAL INTEREST OR TIES TO THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT.

Third party certifications are most credible.

EMA Certification - Assurance of Credibility

Label Integrity

Labels have to be credible

- Standard
 - stakeholder involvement
 - Adequate for purpose & scope
 - Feasible to implement
 - Criteria easily evaluable & verifiable
 - Not pose barriers to trade
- Credible Certification process
- Effective traceability process



Sustainability standards



Provide a system for guiding businesses to implement good SEE practices

Innovations, Better use of natural resources, Circularity, Green industries, Renewable energy, increased efficiency, reduced wastage.wastes, jobs, fair wages/prices, gender equity, etc



Encourage businesses to

- **analyse social, environmental and economic risks** along the business operations and supply chain.
- Undertake actions to mitigate the risks.
- **Comply with relevant** legislations.
- Make business operation **choices that demonstrate responsibility to the environment, society and economic** well being.

Sustainability standards and ecolabels

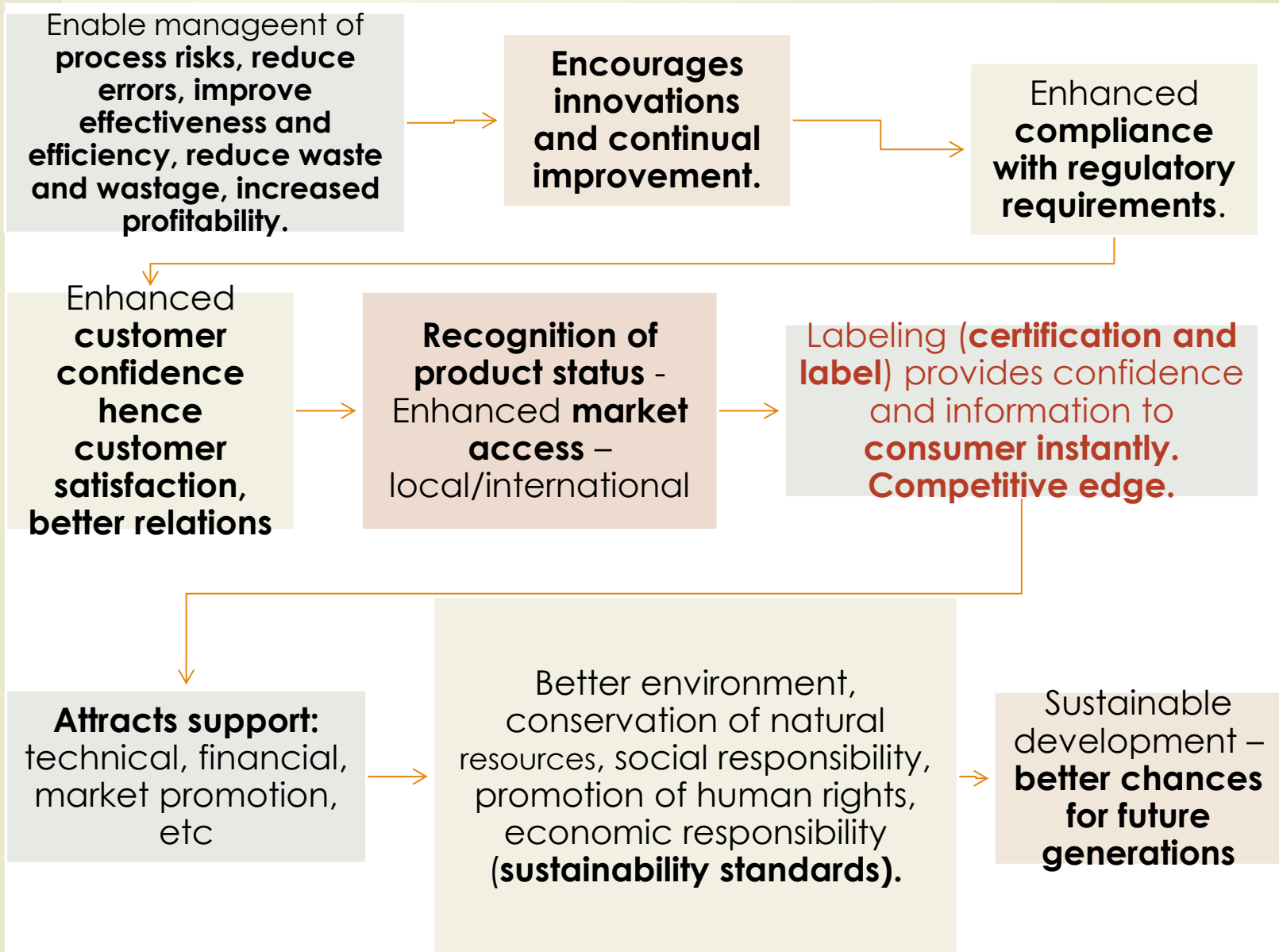


- Provides a system for traceability to sustainably managed resources along the production/value chain.



'ECO' labeled

Benefits of standards and certification

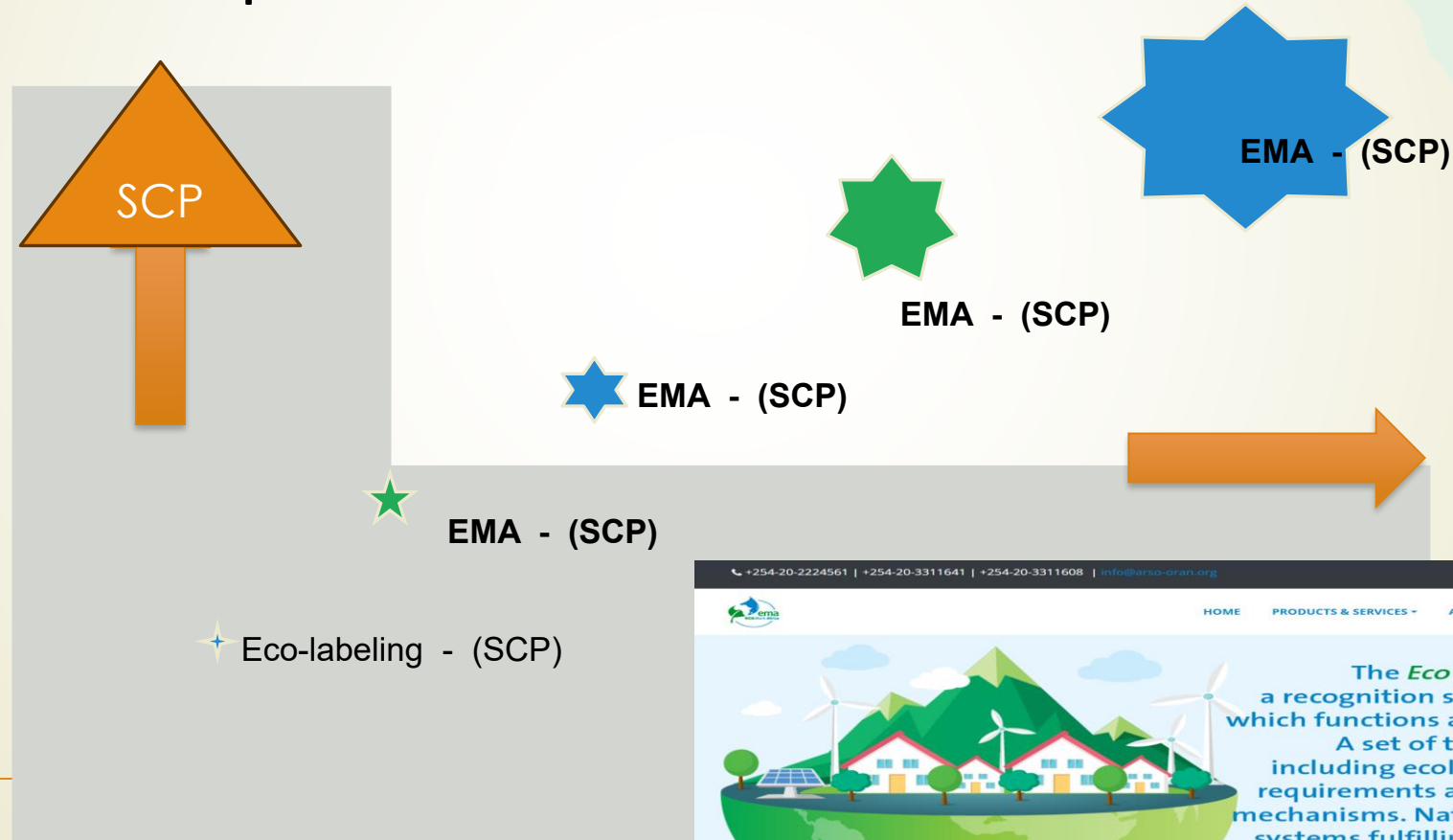
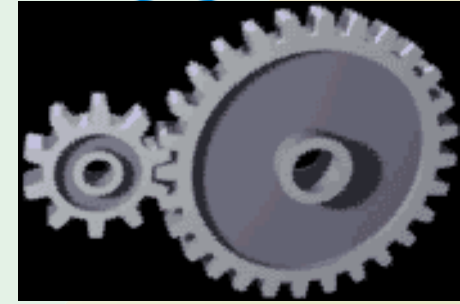


❖ Sustainability Certification provides system for businesses to showcase their SEE status to customers by way of ecolabels



EMA SCHEME

- Africa's multi-sectoral ecolabel Scheme, Operationalised by ARSO
- Promote SCP in Africa
- Provide a standards-based system for promoting Intra Africa trade
- Ensure African products attain the highest environmental profile that would make them competitive at international markets.



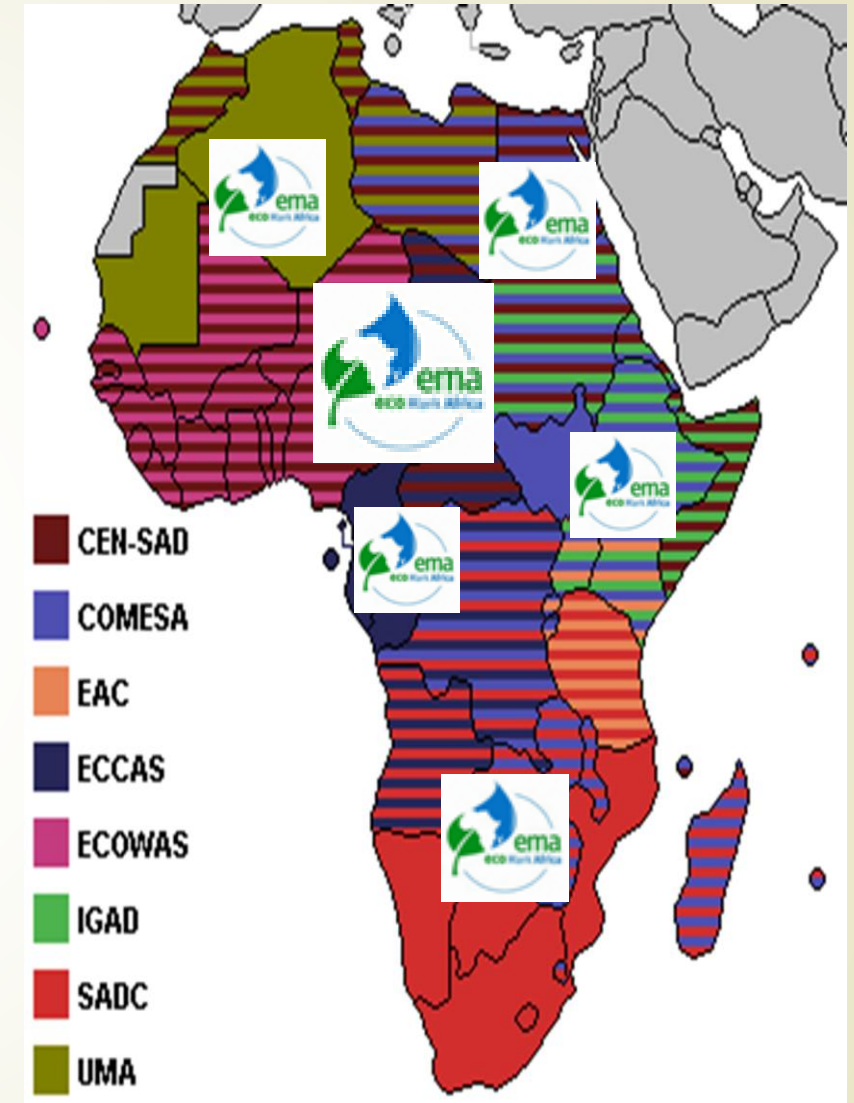
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HOME PRODUCTS & SERVICES - ABOUT US REGISTER - LOGIN CONTACT US

The *Eco Mark Africa (EMA)* has established a recognition system for sustainability standards which functions as a quality assurance mechanism. A set of threshold criteria has been defined including ecological, social and climate-relevant requirements as well as credible implementation mechanisms. National and international standards systems fulfilling these requirements will be able to use the *EMA label*

EMA SCHEME is providing opportunities for Africa

- ▶ **One scheme, one label across sectors - communicating one message – Green. Quality, From Africa**
 - ease of operationalization and **regional integration** (too many sustainability **standards/efforts cause confusion** and credibility concerns).
- ▶ **Visibility of Africa's 'green products'** – ease of identification, markets access - regional, global
- ▶ **Feasibility for Africa** - majority of producers are SMEs. (foreign owned commercial oriented schemes are onerous and expensive for Africa's producers).
- ▶ Will enable **awareness creation and drive capacity building, maturity model for growth** on sustainability – capacity for **certification, accreditation** in Africa





Accruing these wins necessitates wide multi-stakeholder involvement

Africa's kitchens are about to change forever



HARMONISATION OF AFRICAN STANDARDS FOR CLEAN FUEL SOLUTIONS FOR COOKING PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

- Government**
 - AU
 - RECs
 - Government partnerships
 - Sector Ministries & Institutions
 - NSBs, etc
- Civil Society**
 - Academia, Research
 - Consumer organisations
 - Others
- Private Sector**
 - Innovators, Producers
 - Traders
 - Retailers
- Development Partners, Investors**
 - ADB,
 - TMA,
 - OSP, others

Three Technical Committees:

ARSO/TC 67, Equipment for petroleum, petrochemical, and natural gas systems

ARSO/TC 68, Bioenergy, and biogas

ARSO/TC 70, Solar thermal systems and equipment

Creating a single, modern standards-repository for **safe cylinders, sustainable biofuels and sun-powered cookers**—unlocking **healthier homes, new green jobs and climate** wins across Africa

Get involved!

- Standards development
- Awareness creation, publicity
- Capacity building
- Other as may be relevant

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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Experts, SMEs, NGOs can enroll in ARSO TCs and working groups

ENGAGE & PILOT A SOLUTION

Governments and firms can co-fund sites or host field trials using African Standards

E

THANK YOU

