



AFRIGEO INITIATIVE AND THE CONNECTIVITY ISSUES IN AFRICA

By Phoebe Oduor, Servir E&SA, RCMRD
PoC AfriGEO Secretariat

ABOUT AFRIGEO

AfriGEO is an initiative of the African community in GEO aimed at providing a coordination framework and platform for Africa's participation in GEO. In addition, it is a:

- Pan African initiative to raise awareness and develop capacity on EO for governments, research organizations and the commercial sector;
- Framework for strengthening partnerships and collaborations within Africa;
- Gateway into Africa for international partners; and
- Support mechanism for the implementation of GEO objectives and programmes in Africa.

AFRIGEO OBJECTIVES

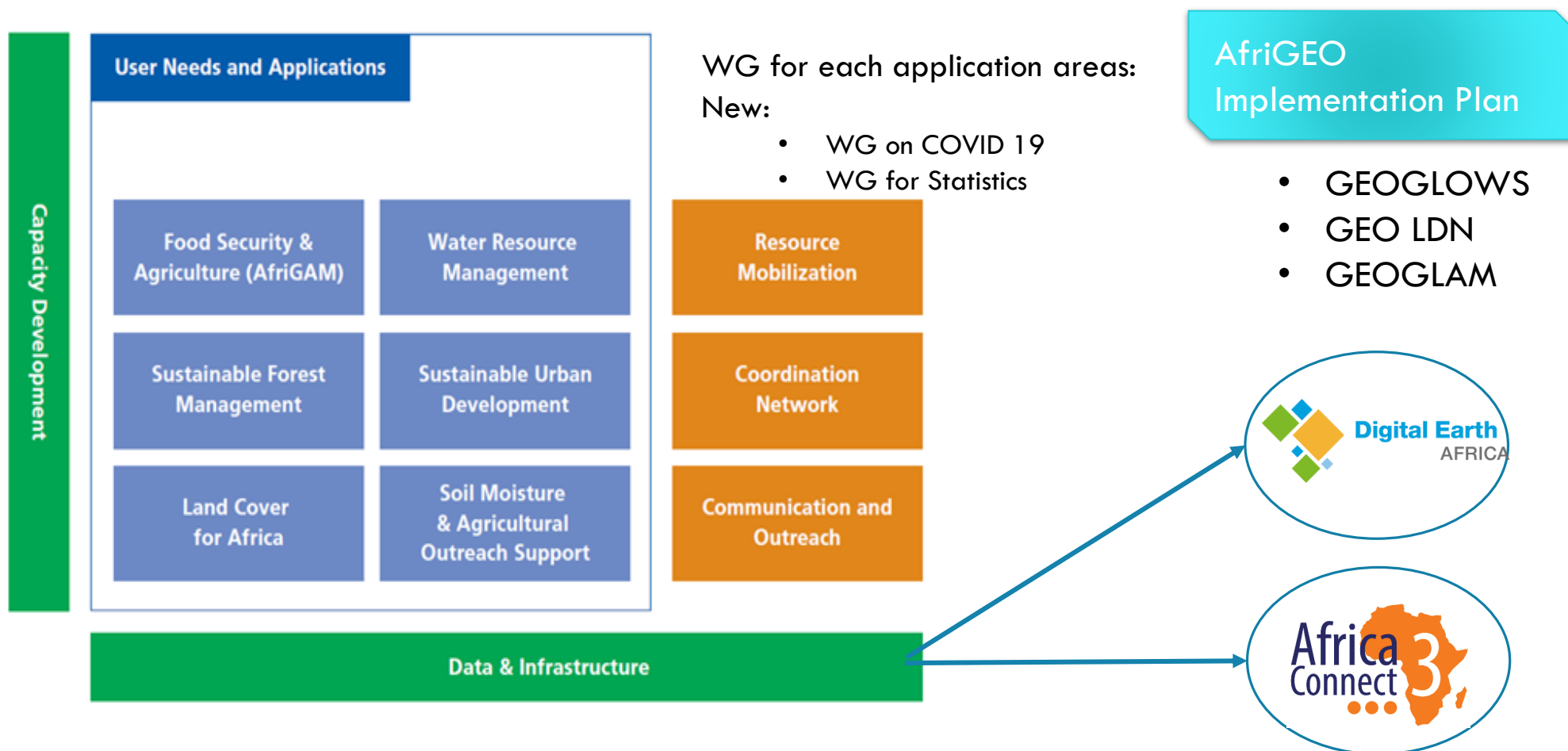
- Strengthen connection with the current GEO Principals in national government agencies in Africa, participating organizations and enlarge the GEO partnership in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs): ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), AMU(Arab Maghreb Union) , COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), CENSAD (Community for Sahel Saharan States) , EAC (East African Community), ECCAS (Economic Community for Central African States), IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), SADC(Southern African Development Community) and with the African Union;
- Increase uptake of EO in Africa through the promotion of long-term Human Capital Development programmes;
- Facilitate and drive programmes towards achieving the Global, RECs and Africa wide goals and objectives i.e. AU Agenda 2063, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement;
- Support international collaboration by connecting national and regional institutions and programmes with GEO and other Regional GEOs;
- Foster creation of synergies to reduce duplication of efforts across Africa;
- Liaise with the GEO secretariat to ensure synergic and streamlined operations;
- Advocate for the uptake of EO in decision making and raise awareness on benefits of Earth observations for the continent;
- Develop a strategy of access and dissemination of Earth observation data and information throughout Africa and
- Ensure communication, outreach, awareness, user engagement, and mobilization of resources.

MEMBERSHIP



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Algeria | 1. Mauritius |
| 2. Burkina Faso | 2. Morocco |
| 3. Cameroon | 3. Niger |
| 4. Central African Republic | 4. Nigeria |
| 5. Republic of the Congo | 5. Rwanda |
| 6. Cote d'Ivoire | 6. Senegal |
| 7. Egypt | 7. Republic of Seychelles |
| 8. Ethiopia | 8. Sierra Leone |
| 9. Gabon | 9. Somalia |
| 10. Ghana | 10. South Africa |
| 11. Guinea | 11. Sudan |
| 12. Guinea-Bissau | 12. Tunisia |
| 13. Kenya | 13. Uganda |
| 14. Madagascar | 14. Zimbabwe |
| 15. Mali | |

SIX (6) ACTION AREAS THAT SUPPORT WORK PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION:



CONNECTIVITY ISSUES IN AFRICA

Enhanced Digital Access Index (EDAI) Global distribution

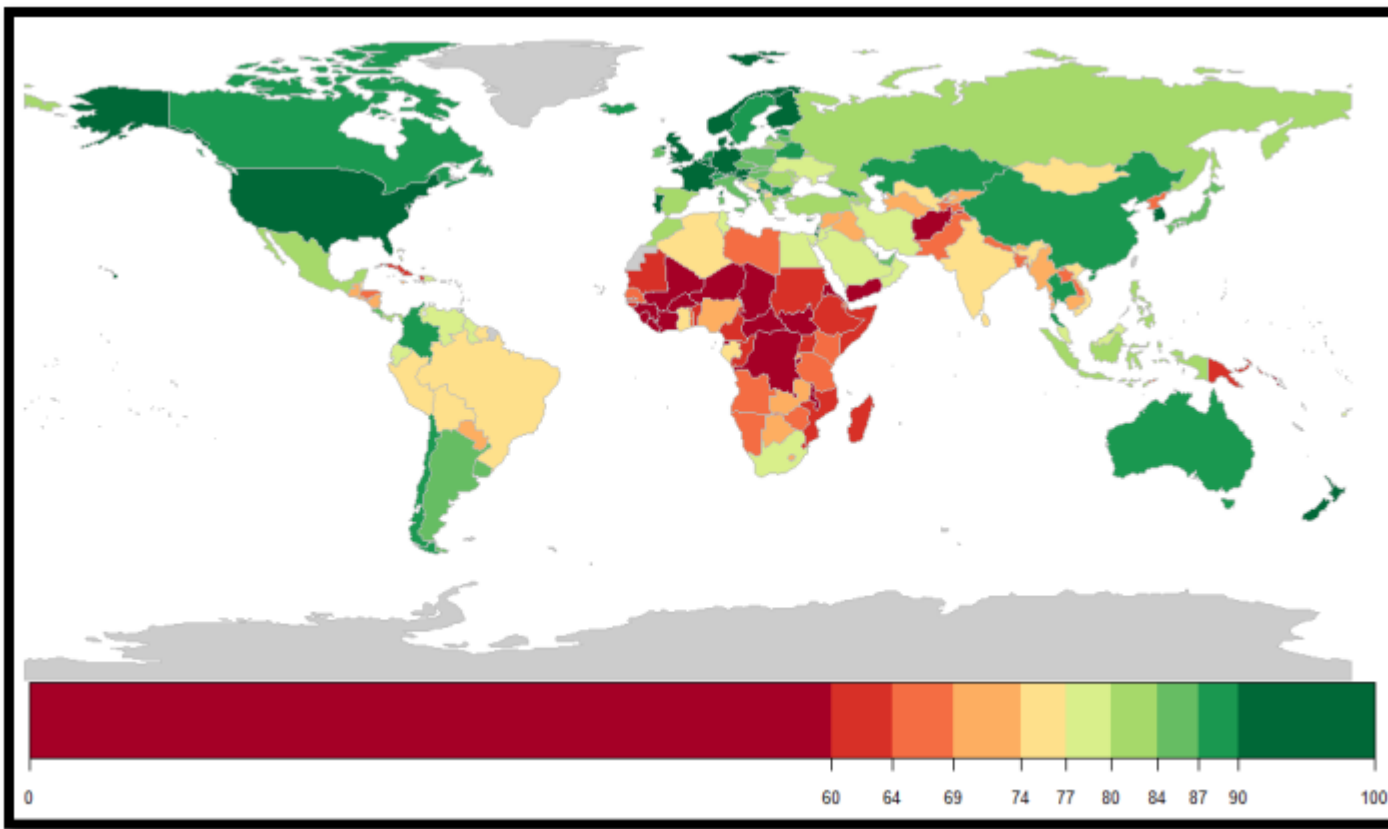


Figure indicates the heterogeneity within SSA, with countries like Botswana, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, and South Africa ranking highest in the region in digital connectivity.

Source: IMF, WP, 19/210

Sources: ITU's ICT Indicators database, UN's E-Government Survey, UNESCO's UIS and authors' calculations.

CONNECTIVITY BASED ON SUB INDICATORS

Table 1. Sub-indices values

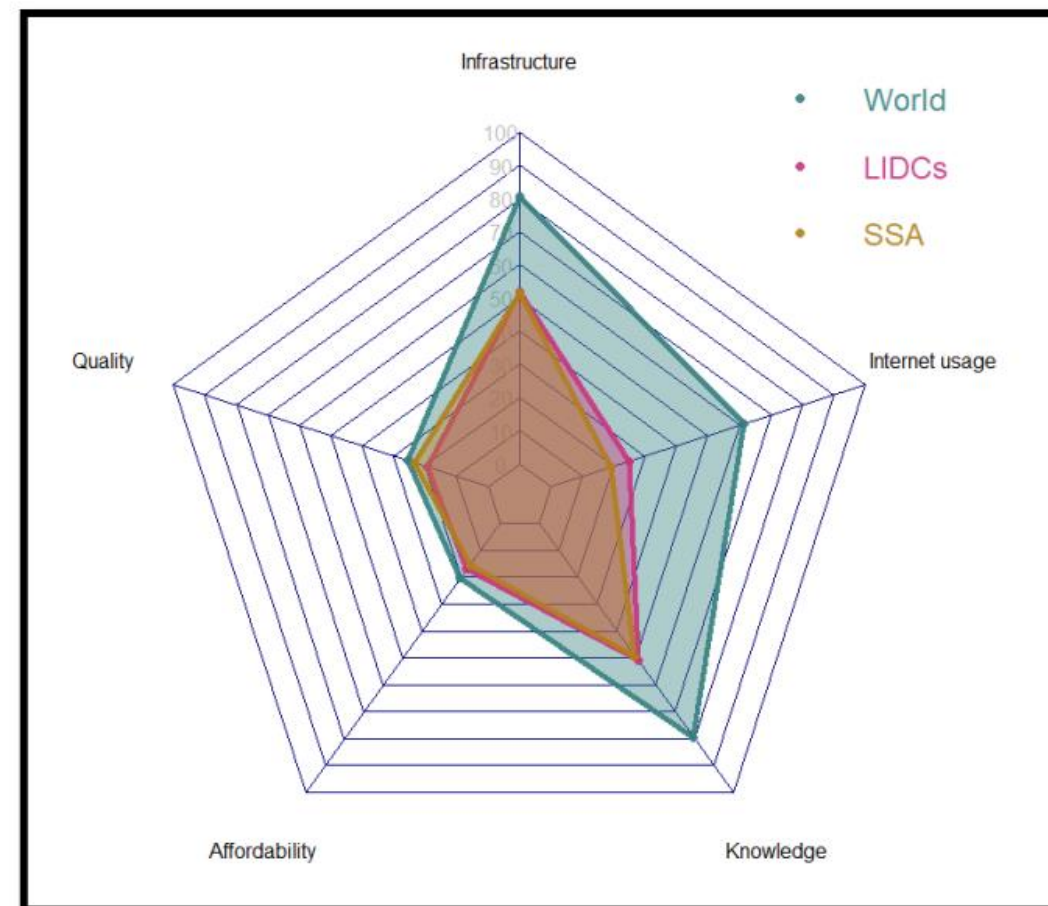
Sub-Index	World	AEs	MICs	LIDCs
Infrastructure	80.23	87.83	78.11	54.64
Quality	25.21	31.26	22.06	15.62
Affordability	20.47	22.55	19.18	18.65
Knowledge	78.99	92.06	73.54	48.28
Internet Usage	60.94	84.80	48.28	24.67

Source: Authors' calculations.

Source: IMF, WP, 19/210

where:

- Advanced Economies (AEs),
- Emerging Market and Middle-Income Countries (MICs)
- Low Income Developing Countries (LIDCs), and the SSA economies



DIGITAL ECONOMY CHALLENGES

World Economic Forum in 2019, indicates the challenges to be:

- High Costs of internet-Only a quarter of Africa's population regularly uses the internet. On average, 1GB of data is 9% of monthly income.
 - Another author ([the Africa Report](#)) smartphones proliferation now(44%) as smartphones have become cheaper, is a indication of an improved connectivity, however, Africa is also the continent where 4/10 countries globally people tend to have multiple sim-cards, and multiple phones, an issue associated with connection challenges, with Kenya (87%) and Nigeria Leading the pack.
 - Africa still has the world's most expensive prepaid mobile data plans.
- Infrastructure deficit particularly on Energy- hinders service provisions and users
- Digital literacy is also low.

Thank You!

Phoebe Oduor/ 19th August, 2020
@Poduor24 / poduor@rcmrd.org