



Economic Commission for Africa

Enhancing Science and Technology Policy Capacity for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa

... through ESTNET



Structure of Presentation

I. What is ESTNET ? Why?

II. ESTNET development

III. ESTNET main components

IV. ESTNET future

I. What is ESTNET?

- **ECA Science and Technology Network...** a web-based network established
- To facilitate **networking** and **partnering** among the African and global science and technology policy community, and
- In order to increase the contribution of **science and technology** to food security and sustainable development



A Virtual Framework

- For accessing and exchanging relevant information
- For dialoguing and sharing knowledge
- For collaborating on S&T policies, strategies, initiatives and projects
- For building capacity in the area of food security and sustainable development



Why is ESTNET needed?

- Because relevant, timely, accurate and up-to-date information is needed for effective policy formulation and implementation in an increasingly complex and information-intensive global economy)
- Because building coalitions of resources and joining forces in S&T are required to meet the numerous and monumental development challenges facing the African region



II. ESTNET Development

- ESTNET was initiated in 1998 by an Expert Group convened by ECA
- Several development and promotion activities are carried out under the guidance of and with the assistance of a Steering Committee
- An ECA interdivisional effort led by FSSDD in collaboration with ISS, the Communication Team, the Intranet Team and the Internet Team, and a web development partner outside ECA

Designed to meet specific needs

- ❑ Comprehensive portal or gateway has been developed to facilitate knowing what information exists and to facilitate access by users
- ❑ No need a long experience of ICT and Internet to benefit
- ❑ CD-ROMs for off-line browsing and training will facilitate operation in difficult environments (hardware, power supply, transmission speed, expensive telephone and internet connection)

ESTNET's significance

- Becoming one of the most elaborate site of its kind in the world
- Growing databases on S&T related to Africa
- Over 1000 gateways have been programmed for easy access to relevant various S&T information and policy resources
- Much value has been added (research, identification, categorization, summaries...)
- Still ESTNET is at an early stage of development

III. Overview of ESTNET main components

- **ESTNET website**
- **ESTNET databases**
- **ESTNET facilities**



ESTNET Website

- Designed for quality branding
- ESTNET logo and graphic visible throughout the website
- Colors chosen to provide coherence within the UN ECA web presence
- Technologies used facilitate navigation

ESTNET Branding

- Images symbolize the nexus and the interlinkages between population, gender, environment, agriculture and food security in the context of global scientific and technological development





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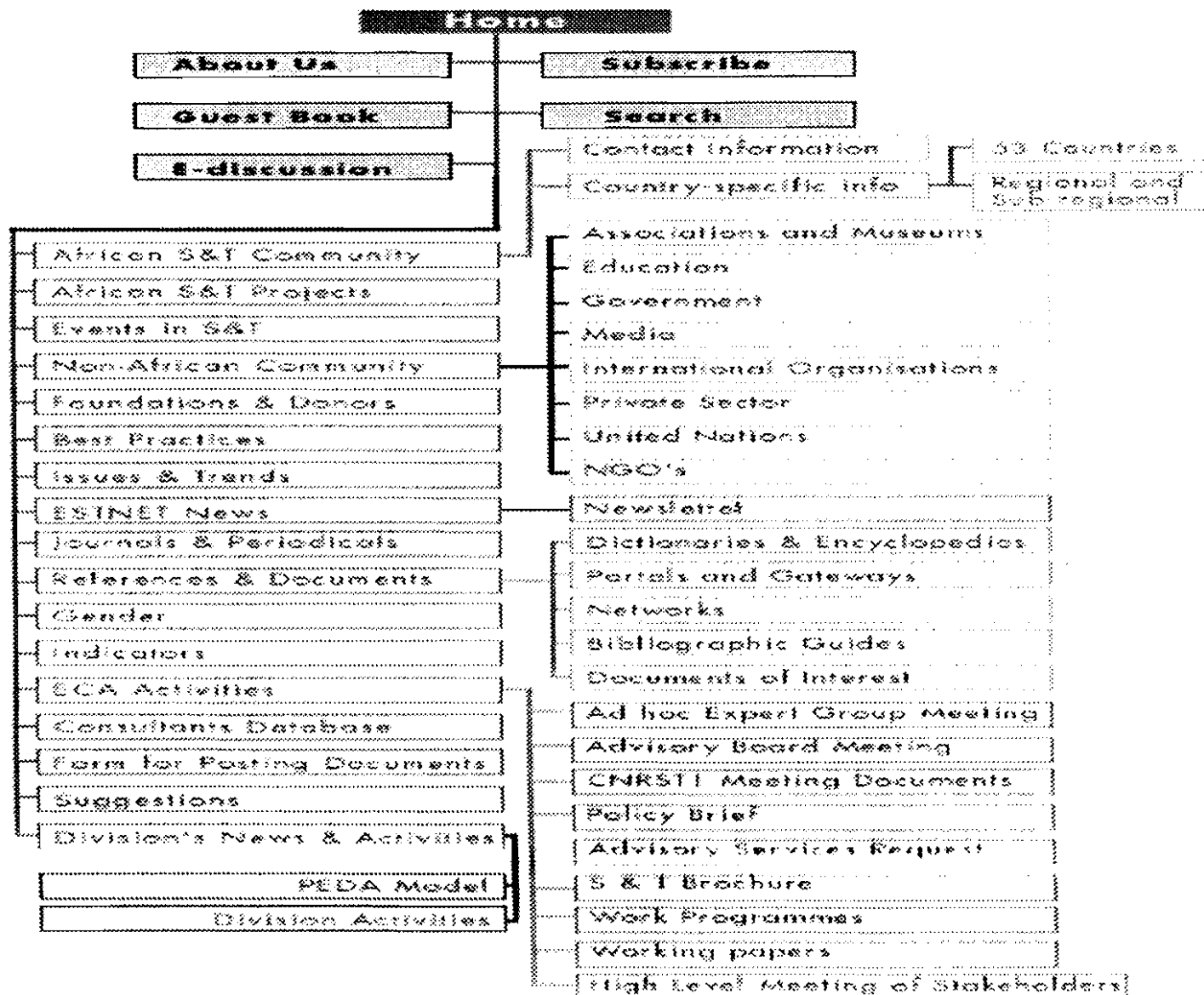
ESTNET is an Online Resource and Gateway for Science and Technology Policymakers in Africa Enhancing Science and Technology Policy and Capacity in Africa

The ESTNET web presence aims to enhance and enable community building, collaboration and sharing among Science and Technology policymakers and practitioners of Africa's development program. It is a virtual space in which policymakers and institutions can network and dynamically share information on science and technology policy, issues and management.

ECA's goal is to ensure that Science and Technology policymakers and institutions in Africa will have access to better information and be better equipped to formulate and implement sound and effective policies. ESTNET wishes to leverage off existing relevant networks whose constituents are stakeholders in African Science and Technology development and provide enabling information and channels for dialogue.

Main function: To provide a communications- and information exchange framework for African science and technology policymakers and other African stakeholder institutions.

Main objectives: To assist ECA member States in building and using their science and technology capacities and enhancing the roles of science and technology for African sustainable development.



ECA Science & Technology Network

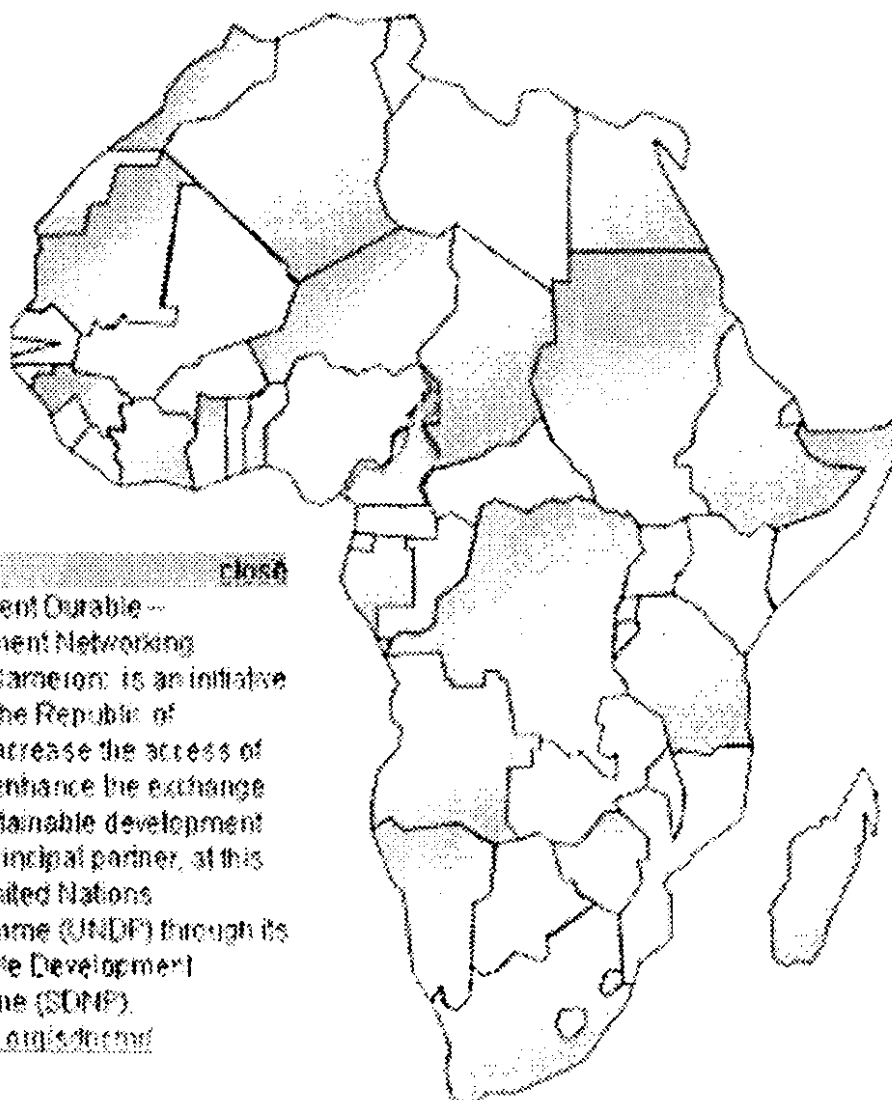


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Sub-regional/Regional information

Click on a country for information and click the close button to close the window



Cameroon

close

Reseau de Development Durable -- Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) Cameroon: is an initiative of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon (GOC) to increase the access of stakeholders to, and enhance the exchange of, information on sustainable development. In this endeavor the principal partner, at this point in time, is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its world-wide Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP).
<http://www.sdnp.undp.org/sdnpcam/>



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Best Practices

Best practises contain information on countries's experiences and lessons learnt. Search database for more information.

Tips on searching

You can search for a specific country or project in the database. If you are not sure of your spellings you can search for anything like what you want e.g if you are not sure about the Togo spelling, you can just type 't' and you get your results.

Search in

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Type search query

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Submit Query

Click here to upload [Best Practices](#)



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PEDA for Africa

1. *Population*
2. *Environment*
3. *Development*
4. *Agriculture*

What is PEDA ?

PEDA is an interactive computer model demonstrating the long term impacts of alternative national policies on the food security of the population

PEDA is a population based model



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ECA Initiatives

■ Contains information on ECA initiatives in the area of science and technology

☞ **Africa Knowledge Networks Forum** is an initiative led by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to facilitate knowledge-sharing and research partnerships between professional networks, and between them and key knowledge end-users, including policy-makers, trainers at institutions of higher learning, civil society organisations and the private sector.

<http://www.unsia.org/aknf>

☞ The **African Information Society Initiative** (AISI) is the African mandate to use information and communication technology to accelerate economic and social development in Africa. The implementation of the Initiative has concentrated on seven component areas: policy awareness, national information and



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**K. Y. AMOAKO, UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of ECA**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to welcome all to this First Meeting of the Advisory Board on Science and Technology for Africa's development. I would also like to thank you for your commitment to the budding Science and Technology Programme of the ECA.

This group of advisers is indeed an important one. Advisers are key personnel in the work of the ECA as they embody expert knowledge that is needed to enunciate interventions that would make desirable impact in ECA member countries. Some of you are not new to the ECA having participated in the meeting of the Ad-hoc group of experts that



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Report

**First Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group of Experts
on Science and Technology for Food Security
and Sustainable Development**

Addis Ababa, 9-12 February 1998

OPENING SPEECH

K.Y. AMOAKO

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this inaugural meeting of experts invited to make a contribution to the efforts of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, by helping bring Science and technology (S&T) to bear on the Food



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Welcome Statement

Delivered by Mr Asrat Bulbula

**Commissioner Ethiopian Science and Technology
Commission at the First Meeting of the Committee
on Natural Resources and Science and
Technology Addis Ababa, 15 November 1999**

**Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Honorable ministers,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is a pleasure to welcome you to Addis Ababa
and to this important meeting on Natural Resources**



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OPENING STATEMENT

K. Y. Amoako

United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA

Distinguished Honourable Ministers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this First Executive Dialogue of Ministers on Science and Technology for Africa's Development. I am aware of your very tight schedules and wish to place on record my deep appreciation of your effort to attend this important meeting.

Your presence here today confirms your support



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Policy Brief No 1

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**
ECA Briefing Paper Series June 1998

1 - INTRODUCTION

This Briefing Paper is intended to serve as a medium through which the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the ECA can sensitize policy-makers, development planners and stakeholders on the African continent and elsewhere to emerging issues and challenges in science and technology that need to be addressed in order to accelerate socioeconomic development in Africa. It is also intended to share ideas on science and technology policies with a wider audience engaged in development activities, including scholars, administrators, NGOs, international organizations, etc. The Briefing Paper also provides information about some recent and planned ECA's activities and initiatives in science and technology.

2. ECA'NEW VISION



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE RENEWED ECA

Background: The Problem

In spite of wide-spread recognition of the critical role of science and technology (S&T) in the development of nations, and over three decades of science and technology efforts in Africa, science and technology-led development has had little effect on the mainstream of socio-economic activity in the region. Per capita food production has been declining; population has been growing faster than the rate of food production, and environmental degradation has accelerated. The continent suffers from recurrent droughts, malnutrition and diseases. Internal and external factors have been blamed for this problem. However, current trends toward globalisation, privatisation, commercialisation and greater



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**ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR
AFRICA
Sub-Regional
Development Centre
(SRDC - North Africa)**

**COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE
POUR L'AFRIQUE
Centre de Développement
Sous-Régional (CDSR -
Afrique du Nord)**

**POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA**

BY SOODURSUN JUGESSUR*
ALL AFRICA BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
8-10 SEPTEMBER, 1999
ALGIERS, ALGERIA

** The views expressed in this paper are those of*



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Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development Presentation

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Sub-regional /Regional Information

The African Academy of Science (AAS)

Strives to be a citadel of learning, discovering and innovation so that Africans can access new independent and unbiased ideas. The Centre has developed a vigorous programme of activities that include Networking, Publication, Policy, Research and Capacity Building in Science and Technology.

<http://www.oneworld.org/aas/org.htm>

- The Academy of Science Publishers (ASP) offers markets, and distributes journals, books, and proceedings of conferences and workshops as a service to institutions and professional societies.
<http://www.oneworld.org/aas/asp.htm>
- The Africa Journals and Support Development Centre (AJSDC) implements three programmes: Africa Periodicals Exhibit (APEX), Africa Journals Distribution Programme (AJSDP) and Research Training and Education Programme.
<http://www.oneworld.org/aas/asp.htm>
- The Capacity Building in Science and Technology (CBST) programme runs the following projects: Capacity Building in Forestry Research (CBFR), Soil and Water Management



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Maghreb Technologie - Réseau Maghrébin pour l'Intégration de la Science et la Technologie dans le Développement au Maghreb

(MAGHTECH) a pour objectif de mener une réflexion renouvelée et approfondie sur l'intégration de la Science et la Technologie dans le Développement des économies Maghrébines face aux enjeux de la transition qui se manifeste au niveau conceptuel et théorique, au niveau des pays maghrébins et à l'échelle mondiale.

<http://www.fraternet.org/maghtech>

The International Society of African Scientists

Provides a medium through which the technical expertise of scientists and engineers of African descent is channeled to help solve the technical problems facing countries in Africa.

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Org_Institutes/ISAS_abt.html

The Association of African Universities

Aims include to promote interchange, contact and co-operation among African universities, disseminate information on higher education and research in Africa, promote cooperation among African Institutions in curriculum development and determine equivalence among degrees.

<http://www.zamnet.zm/zamnet/aaui/aaui.htm>

The African Virtual University

uses modern information and communication technologies to give the countries of sub-Saharan Africa direct access to some of the highest quality academic faculty and learning resources throughout the world.



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Links to Documents of Interest [[Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#)]

Contains a number of selected documents of interest on science and technology, including speeches.

Debt Relief for Science and Technology

Debt Relief for Science and Technology: Proposal and guidelines for stakeholders UNESCO – This paper explores ways by which science and technology may benefit from debt relief efforts in the context of the poorest countries in the world. It begins with an overview of current thinking about economic development and the recent initiative led by the World Bank and the IMF but subscribed to by bilateral donors, the private sector and many NGOs.

<http://www.unesco.org/pao/>

Globalisation of Industrial R&D Policy Issues

Globalisation of Industrial R&D Policy Issues, Online free publication of the Directorate of Science Technology and Industry

<http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/>



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Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

Links and information of Encyclopedias and Dictionaries related to Science and Technology

McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology

The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology is offered online by AccessScience and delivers high-quality information synonymous with the print publication. The encyclopedia consists of over 7100 articles, 115,000 dictionary terms, hundreds of daily Research Updates, over 2000 in-depth biographies of leading scientists, weekly updates on breakthroughs in the world of science and technology, and links to sites for further research. (AccessScience offers four weeks of free access)



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Networks, Discussion Fora and Email Lists

Sites of Science and Technology related networks, discussion forums and lists:

GIEWSAlerts-L

[GIEWSAlerts-L](#) is setup by the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) to disseminate its "Special Reports" and "Special Alerts" on countries facing food supply shortages. These reports are often the result of rapid evaluation missions in the countries and give information on the crop production, the food supply situation at national and sub-national level, and the food aid needs.

<http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/ECONOMIC/GIEWS/english/listserv.htm>

Web Forum for Sustainable Agri-Food Production and Consumption

[The Web Forum for Sustainable Agri-Food Production and Consumption](#) helps users access information on key issues related to agri-food



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Bibliographic Guides and Online University Search Facilities related to Science and Technology

Information & Communication Technology in Africa: A Bibliography of online references

Information & Communication Technology in Africa: A Bibliography of online references offers links to educational institutions, policy centers, and research organizations.

<http://www.untpdc.org/incubator/africa/afriei.html>

SciTech Reference Plus

SciTech Reference Plus provides a bibliographic information service for science and technology.



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Journals & periodicals

Journals and periodicals with articles of relevance to African S&T development

ScienceDirect

ScienceDirect is a gateway to more than 1,100 scientific, technical and medical research journals across 16 fields of science, including the social sciences. The ScienceDirect platform provides users with a powerful search engine, intuitive navigation, and unprecedented access to full-text information.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com>

Science Online

Science Online is electronic supplement of Science Magazine, which is a weekly, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original scientific research, plus reviews and analyses of current research and science policy.

<http://www.scienceonline.org>



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Portals and Gateways

Sites with S&T resources in the form of portals, gateways, directories, and virtual libraries

Advanced Technology Program: Challenges and Opportunities

Advanced Technology Program: Challenges and Opportunities, National Research Council. Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy **[full entry]**

Web Directory on Science and Technology Policy

The **Web Directory on Science and Technology Policy** links to academic institutions, government, and databases related to policies, economics and social studies of S&T.
<http://www.ige.unicamp.br/~mpolli/stp.htm>

SD Gateway

SD Gateway offers over 1,200 documents available in Sustainable Development Topics, provides services such



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ESTNET News

ESTNET is a network of science and technology policy-makers, analysts and managers focused on Africa's sustainable development. It is being initiated by the UNECA to foster regional cooperation in science and technology through the exchange of information, experiences and expertise related to science and technology issues, policies and strategies.

The new network is in construction and the current draft website is made accessible for development and testing purposes. Your comments are welcome.



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- **Gender and Science and Technology Association** (GASAT) is an international association of people concerned with issues arising from interactions between gender, science and technology. GASAT made vital contributions towards the inclusion of science and technology in the Platform of Action during the 4th UN Conference on Women and has been an active member of the Once and Future Action Network (OFAN).
<http://www.gac.edu/~simpson/gasat/homepage.htm>
<http://www.gasat.org.uk>
- **Women in Technology International** (WITI) offers a vertical portal site on the Internet for women who have a high reliance on technology in both their careers and their businesses.
<http://www.witi.org>
- **Information Society - Gender Working Group** (AIS - GWG) aims to ensure that African women participate fully in the development of an

Events in S&T - Description and Examples

- The Events page contains information about major events of particular interest for African science and technology community, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc.
 - ⇒ The **OECD Conference on International S&T Co-operation for Sustainable Development** will take place in Seoul, Korea during 15-17 November 2000 and will discuss ways to promote and facilitate international co-operation in the development and diffusion of environmental technologies, with a focus on cleaner technologies between developed and developing countries.
http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/s_t/news/cont-e.htm
 - ⇒ The **International Council for Science - Committee on Data for Science and Technology** (CODATA) is holding its 17th International Conference on Data and Information for the Coming Knowledge during 5-19 October 2000 in Baveno, Italy.
<http://www.codata.org>



- UN and its Agencies

- Links to UN Organizations with activities and programmes of relevance to African Science and Technology
 - ☐ The **UNESCO's Initiative on Science and Technology in Africa** works with Member States to strengthen existing science and technology (S&T) capacities in areas that are both appropriate and sustainable. This effort includes nurturing tools for thought through training in basic and applied science, since Africa's main resource to carry it through the next millennium will be the creativity of its people.
<http://www.unesco.org/opi/scitech>
 - ☐ The **United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa** (UNU/INRA) is a research and training centre of the United Nations University. Its mission is to strengthen the capacity of Africa's existing Universities and Research Institutes to conduct research and produce well-trained, well-equipped and motivated individuals capable of developing, adapting and disseminating technologies that promote the sustainable use of the continent's natural resources.
<http://www.unu.edu/inra/index.htm>

International Associations

- Links to international and multilateral organizations dedicated to Science and Technology
 - ☞ International Association for Management Technology
The International Association for Management Technology (IAMOT) is a non-profit organization with purposes of sponsoring/co-sponsoring the international conferences on Management of Technology and other relevant conferences, supporting the publication of conference proceedings volumes, supporting research and application projects, world wide, either in cooperation with government or private organizations or on its own initiative, and cooperating with other organizations operating in this field.
<http://mot.cprost.sfu.ca/~iamot>
 - ☞ <http://www.comsats.org.pk>

Governmental...

- Contains information on Non-African Governmental and Government-sponsored Science and Technology Agencies, Policy Research Institutes and Think Thanks
 - ☐ The **British Council Services in Science, Engineering and Technology** aims to demonstrate Britain's vitality and excellence in the fields of science, engineering and the environment, and to promote collaborative links between British and overseas research partners in these fields.
<http://www.britcoun.org/science/science/science.htm>
 - ☐ The **Advisory Council of Science and Technology** (ACST) provides the Canadian government with expert, non-partisan advice on national science and technology goals and policies and their application to the Canadian economy.
<http://acst-ccst.gc.ca>

- Private Sector Firms

- Contains links and information on Non-African Private Agencies working on Science and Technology
 - ☞ The **African Technology Forum** (ATF) provides practical information to corporations, individuals and institutions in the US, Africa and the rest of the world, publishes a quarterly publication, provides consulting services and networking opportunities for those involved in business and research ventures affecting science and technology in Africa.
<http://web.mit.edu/africantech/www>
 - ☞ The **Communication Initiative** advocates the importance of communication for sustainable development, advances the extent and quality of communication and information, improves strategic communication thinking on development issues, expands dialogues, and debates and reviews key communication issues and programs. <http://www.comminit.com>

- Education and Training

- Contains information on training and research institutions in Science and Technology
 - ▢ **Studies in Technology, Innovation and Economic Policy (STEP)** support policy-makers with research on all aspects of innovation and technological change, with particular emphasis on the relationships between innovation, economic growth and the social context.
<http://www.step.no>
 - ▢ **Mercer University's Master of Science in Technology Management** degree is designed to provide the knowledge and skills required to manage successfully in today's complex, technology-oriented organisations. The interdisciplinary program will provide the student with the ability to exercise managerial responsibilities in various technical fields in industry and government.
<http://www.mercer.edu/ssbe/Atlanta/mstmintro.htm>

Associations and Clubs

- Offers links to Science Clubs, Science and Technology Centres, Associations and Museums around the world.
- The **Association of Science and Technology Centers** (ASTC) is an organization of science centers and museums dedicated to furthering the public understanding of science. ASTC provides professional development for the science center field, promotes best practices, supports effective communication, strengthens the position of science centers within the community at large, and fosters the creation of successful partnerships and collaborations. <http://www.astc.org>
- **African Studies Association** (ASA) is a nonprofit organization open to all individuals and institutions interested in African affairs. The ASA also provides useful services to the Africanist community. Currently four periodicals and several occasional publications are produced annually. With 3,000 individual and 600 institutional members, the Association is the leading North American organization which promotes African Studies. <http://www.africanstudies.org>



Media

- Contains links and information on media resources on science and technology
 - ☞ The **World Technology News** provides technology coverage including information regarding computers, the Internet and digital technologies, and emerging technologies. It also provides links to other technology-covering newspapers, magazines, and publications. <http://www.worldtechnews.com>
 - ☞ The **CNN Technology Section** offers scientific news coverage and reporting on engineering, applied sciences, natural sciences, space research, human and animal studies, military technologies, environment, robotics and industrial development. <http://www.cnn.com/TECH>

Foundations and Donor Organisations

- Provides basic information and links to selected donor organisations and funding sources in science and technology.
 - ⇒ **Information for Development** (infoDev) is a global grant program managed by the World Bank to promote innovative projects on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for economic and social development, with a special emphasis on the needs of the Poor in developing countries.
<http://www.infodev.org>
 - ⇒ The Carnegie Corporation grants have been made to link science and technology policies with economic policies and to share knowledge and innovations among scientists and policymakers, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.
<http://www.carnegie.org>



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[FAX: \(226\) 315003](#)

Burundi



ESTNET Facilities

- For posting/uploading information
- For discussing and dialoging
- For searching
- For commenting and getting feed-back
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- For requesting services



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E-Discussion Fora

- Enable general and specific topic electronic discussions
- Provide framework for sharing views, announcing and promoting initiatives, opportunities for collaboration



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United nation

Expatriate Forum

Expatriate

Forum For Collaboration

Forum 3 Description.

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1

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Last Post

09-19-2000 03:19 PM

09-22-2000 08:17 AM

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Guest Book Entry

YOUR NAME

EMAIL

CITY / STATE

COUNTRY

YOUR URL

HOW DID YOU GET HERE

YOUR MESSAGE

http//	

Add To Guestbook

Guest book

IV. ESTNET Future

- Continue to muster support from experts and potential users and generate interest
- Secure adequate and sustainable extra-budgetary funding
- Further develop the African and issues content of the databases
- Pre-launch the Network

In the medium term

- Demonstrate ESTNET to (the 53) member States, institutions, SRDCs, subregional communities, etc.
- Build sustainable collaborative partnerships and institutional arrangements with key stakeholders
- Market the Network to all potential users (Newsletters, booklets, CD-ROMs, banners, meetings, workshops...)

ESTNET results

- Improved policy-making capacity in S&T
- Strengthened relationships and partnerships
- Reduced costs of information, documentation and communications
- Enhanced regional cooperation and integration
- Fortified community of S&T policy-makers

Long term impact of ESTNET

- Strengthened science and technology capacity for meeting the critical challenges of food security and sustainable development in Africa