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SUB-REGIONAL SURVEYS IN AFRICA

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In 1964 the ECA began to prepare a series of economic surveys covering the sub-regions of Africa. The first survey to be completed was in two parts - the first part covered the fourteen countries in the West African sub-region; the second part covered South Africa. There was a considerable lack of data for a number of the countries in the West African sub-region but an attempt was made to cover the period from the early 1950's to approximately 1963/64 in the information presented. Data were also available from a number of development plans which gave indicators for later years; Ghana at that time had a plan running to 1969 whilst that for Mauritania ran to 1966. The published version of this survey appeared in 1967.

The second survey which was published in this series covered the North African sub-region and for the six countries concerned the section on economic growth covered the years 1950 to 1963 whilst the section on development plans covered varying periods ranging up to 1967 for Morocco and up to 1970/71 for the Sudan. This survey was published in 1968.

The remaining two surveys for Central African and East African sub-regions were both completed in 1968/69 but neither has yet been published. It is difficult to obtain any firm indication of a date of publication, but the delay in publication of the East African Survey, due to printing delays, is likely to be about two years. Because these two surveys were completed later than those for the other sub-regions the data cover slightly later periods.

The division of countries according to the sub-regions was as follows:

<u>West Africa</u>	<u>North Africa</u>	<u>East Africa</u>	<u>Central Africa</u>
Nigeria	U.A.R. (Egypt)	Ethiopia	Congo Democratic Republic
Ghana	Sudan	Somalia	Cameroon
Upper Volta	Libya	Kenya	Chad
Mali	Tunisia	Uganda	Burundi
Ivory Coast	Algeria	Burundi	Rwanda
Guinea	Morocco	Rwanda	Central African Republic
Senegal		Tanzania	Congo Republic
Niger		Zambia	Gabon
Sierra Leone		Malawi	Equatorial Guinea
Dahomey		Rhodesia	Sao Tome and Principe
Togo		Madagascar	
Liberia		Mauritius	
Mauritania			
Gambia			

It will be observed that Burundi and Rwanda have been included in the two sub-regions of East and Central Africa. Because of the Belgian influence in Central Africa in the past, they were combined as Rwanda-Urundi and were part of a larger economic area dominated by the then Belgian Congo. Since attaining independence, both countries have expressed a desire to join the proposed economic community of East Africa and in view of their geographical proximity to Uganda and Tanzania they have both been included in the area designated as the East African sub-region.

There are a number of countries in Africa which are in the position of economically being part of more than one sub-region. Thus even though Sudan has been included in the North African sub-region, there have been recent developments which suggest that this country would also like to be considered as in the economic orbit of East and Central Africa.

Certain countries in Africa have not been covered in the four survey reports. These include Mozambique and Angola and the three territories in the South which used to be called the High Commission Territories, namely Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. As regards economic interest, the last three territories up to the early 1960's were dominated by South Africa, whilst Mozambique and Angola were (and are still) tied very closely to the mother country of Portugal and their economic development has largely been influenced by this tie. However, both Mozambique and Angola are important transit territories for certain land-locked countries in Africa and their transport systems have been developed to serve these other countries and also to serve the foreign trade of the Congo Democratic Republic.

Recent meetings of the Executive Committee of the ECA have suggested new groupings of countries in Africa and the proposed sub-regional groupings (seven in all) are being studied by the individual countries in Africa. The suggested sub-groupings are as follows:

- (a) North Africa, which covers Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, the United Arab Republic and Sudan;
- (b) North-West Africa, which covers Mauritania, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Portuguese Guinea;
- (c) West Africa, which covers the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey and Nigeria;
- (d) Central Africa, which covers Cameroon, Gabon, Congo People's Republic, the Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea;
- (e) South-Central Africa, which covers the Congo Democratic Republic, Rwanda, Burundi, South-West Africa (Namibia) and Angola;

- (f) East Africa, which covers Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia;
- (g) South-East Africa, covering Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique.

It will be noted that apart from North Africa all the remaining sub-regions proposed are different from the sub-groups used when writing the four surveys mentioned above.

South Africa and Rhodesia are not included in any of the proposed sub-groups.

As already indicated the countries concerned have not yet accepted the proposed groupings and until this particular point has been clarified it is difficult to be able to consider writing new surveys for the sub-regions of Africa.

There is also the problem of printing delays which have become particularly acute for the E.C.A. when reliance is made on the very limited facilities available in Addis Ababa.

A further very real handicap is the delays in translating documents from English into French or vice versa at E.C.A.. With a survey report running into hundreds of pages the delays occasioned in translating have in the past run into many months.

These practical factors are mentioned because it is the present view of the Survey Section in the Research and Statistics Division that a new series of sub-regional surveys should not be attempted at this time. The position could be reviewed at the next Conference of Planners when firstly the question of the sub-regions in Africa should have been clarified, secondly the printing delays might have been reduced to bearable proportions and thirdly the present steps being taken to strengthen the translation section should have produced worthwhile results.

As a matter of interest the table of contents of the East African Sub-regional Survey and the list of tables are reproduced below to indicate the content of a typical survey.

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