



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# **SOUTH SUDAN**

## Country Handbook

HIGHLIGHTS OF ECA'S SUPPORT TO SOUTH SUDAN  
2019-2022





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# ABOUT ECA



*Antonio Pedro, Secrétaire exécutif a.i.*

**Our mission is to deliver ideas and actions for an empowered and transformed Africa, informed by the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.**



## **ECA's Core Functions:**

Conducting multisectoral research and analysis that nurture the regional integration.

Providing platforms for policy frameworks and action plans at the regional and subregional levels.

Providing policy advice and analytical work to support countries' sustainable development.

## ECA's Strategic Directions:



### **BUILD**

ECA analytical capabilities



### **FORMULATE**

Macroeconomic and structural policy



### **DESIGN**

Innovative financing models



### **INTEGRATE**

Regional and subregional initiatives



### **ADVOCATE**

Continental ideas at the global level



*Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of ECA*

ECA's Overall objective is to promote inclusive and sustainable development in support of accelerating the economic diversification and structural transformation of Africa, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want



**Mama Keita,**  
Director of ECA's Office for Eastern Africa

# About ECA in Eastern Africa

Located in Kigali, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) covers the following countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. The Subregional Office also serves two regional economic communities (the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and three intergovernmental organizations (the Indian Ocean Commission, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region).

The work of the Subregional Office informs policymaking and decision-making, contributes to the harmonization of national policies in support of subregional integration efforts, and generates high-quality knowledge products that cater to the needs of member States and other entities.

The Subregional Office specializes in deepening subregional integration in East Africa for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The Subregional Office has expertise in many pertinent areas related to the effective implementation of the Agreement. The previous work of the Subregional Office hinges on issues related to trade in goods and services, the movement of labour, social cohesion, women in cross-border trade, the mainstreaming of regional integration, energy, tourism, the blue economy, private sector development and industrial policy.

## Development of the national implementation strategy for the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area

In March and August 2022, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa provided technical assistance to the Government of South Sudan for the development of its national implementation strategy for the Agreement.

Developed in consultation with key government and private sector institutions, the strategy includes a set of actions and recommendations that will help South Sudan to benefit fully from the Agreement. The strategy is intended to serve as the blueprint for identifying key products, services and markets that South Sudan will prioritize to tap into the opportunities provided by the Agreement. The strategy also contains information on how women and young people can participate in trade as workers, producers, small-scale traders and entrepreneurs.

The process and status of the Agreement were discussed throughout the consultations and capacity-building sessions conducted jointly by ECA and the Government. Government officials committed not only to signing and ratifying the Agreement, but also to carrying out the national strategy for its implementation.



## Discussion of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area with members of parliament

On 11 August 2022, ECA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Sudan, held a meeting with members of parliament to explain the benefits of the Agreement. ECA urged members of parliament to ratify the Agreement and to incorporate the provisions it contains into national laws.

The Agreement opens up new market access opportunities for South Sudan to expand its intra-African trade beyond the East African Community to the wider African market to export its goods and services on a duty-free market.



Although South Sudan expects to benefit from the Agreement, such opportunities will only arise if the Government and the private sector make concerted efforts to implement the actions identified in the national implementation strategy.



**Hon. Ocum Karlo, Undersecretary for the Ministry of Trade and Industry making remarks during the discussion of the AfCFTA National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy**



## Support for the accession of South Sudan to the World Trade Organization

In March, June and August 2022, ECA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Sudan, conducted a series of training sessions for senior trade officials of Somalia and South Sudan on negotiations related to their accession to the World Trade Organization. Each country was invited to send a delegation to the headquarters of the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa in June 2022 for a two-day intensive capacity development session. The delegation of South Sudan was led by the Minister for Trade and Industry, Kuol Athian Mawien.

The Government of South Sudan is facing many challenges linked with insufficient capacities in the public sector to develop, negotiate and implement trade policies. As a result, the Government requested technical assistance from ECA in training the trade negotiation teams that can facilitate the country's integration into the African Continental Free Trade Area and its accession to the World Trade Organization. The assistance has helped South Sudan in its efforts to put in place the institutional and legal frameworks to join the Area and the Organization.



**Hon. Kuol Athian Mawien, the South Sudan's Minister of Trade and Industry receiving a certificate after completion of training on negotiations related to accession to the WTO**



**WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION**

## Active participation in policy dialogues of the Economic Commission for Africa

South Sudan participated actively in the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for East Africa, held in October 2021 and November 2022, respectively, at the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa. The theme of the twenty-fifth session was on strengthening resilience for a strong recovery and attracting investment to foster economic diversification and long-term growth in East Africa, while the theme of the twenty-sixth session was on strengthening resilience, economic growth and diversification in a context of instability and shocks and the role of special economic zones, innovative financing, tourism and the Area.

At the twenty-fifth session, a group of young people representing South Sudan appealed to

all countries to harness the advantages of the Agreement and to create a healthy business environment by adopting business-friendly approaches and reducing bureaucratic processes across the region. The twenty-sixth session was attended by high-level officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry who made significant contributions to the discussions and deliberations on the theme of the session.

South Sudan also participated actively in the fifty-fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Dakar in May 2022 on the theme: “Financing Africa’s recovery: breaking new ground”.



## Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia transport corridor project

The Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia transport corridor project is a flagship subregional project that is aimed at providing transport and logistics infrastructure for seamless connectivity between Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. The project connects a population of 160 million people in the three East African countries. Additionally, the corridor is part of the larger land bridge that will connect the east and west coasts of Africa between the port of Lamu, in Kenya, and the port of Douala, in Cameroon.

ECA spearheaded the establishment of the Business Council for the corridor to facilitate the participation of the private sector in the implementation of the corridor programmes. The Council brings together private sector representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. It is the premier advocacy arm and platform for private sector cooperation and engagement to accelerate the expected outcomes of the project, including seamless connectivity, new jobs and transformative infrastructure.





In South Sudan, the UN contributes towards national development priorities and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through the United Nations Cooperation Framework, a joint cooperation agreement between the UN and Government of South Sudan.



## About the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), is a pan-African institution established in 1962 under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Primarily, it was created to support newly independent African countries to build their human resource capacities towards sustaining independence and fostering socio-economic development. Towards the fulfilment of this purpose, between 2019 and 2022 IDEP has trained 27 participants from South Sudan on a vast number of areas in economic policy making, development planning, economic development,



and management. Although the primary targets for training are public sector officials, IDEP also provides training to interested participants from the private sector, African parliaments, and civil society.



## Support for national efforts towards recovery from the coronavirus disease crisis

From the onset of the COVID pandemic, protective measures such as the wearing of masks, and vaccination were identified as crucial to ensuring the socio-economic recovery of countries. Specialized suppliers and laboratories around the world were quickly able to offer protective items and equipment and later on vaccines on the market, but access to them was difficult and costly due to limited quantities.

At the same time, African countries and many others were faced with the problems of dwindling government revenues and foreign reserves

as immediate effects of the pandemic caused by containment measures, mainly lockdowns. Through its support to the Africa Medical Supply platform and to the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, which are built on principles of pooled procurement, ECA has facilitated access to COVID protective equipment and vaccines in 41 countries, including South Sudan. The aim was to help these countries end lockdowns, reopen their economies, and build forward better while battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

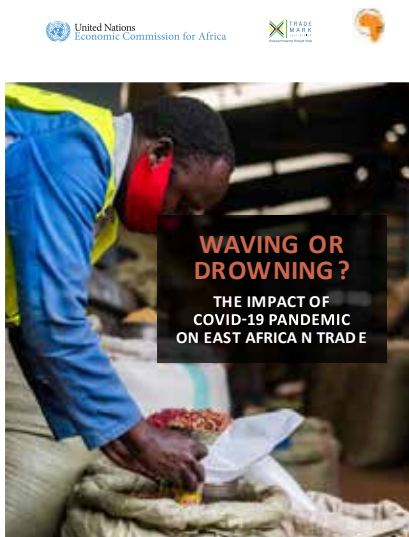


## Some of our publications



### Creating a Unified Regional Market: Towards the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area in East Africa

The report is focused on one particular Achilles heel: limited intraregional trade and investment constrain the structural transformation of economies in the subregion and make it difficult for countries to achieve global, regional and national development goals.



### Waving or Drowning? The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on East African Trade

Despite the severe economic and social repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economies of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania) have, by global standards, proven to be relatively resilient. The focus of the report is the analysis of the performance of merchandise trade in the subregion during the period of disruption to global commerce.

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS







## Sustainable tourism investment financing in Eastern Africa

The study is a review of tourism investment and financing models that could facilitate sustainable growth and development for the sector in East Africa.



## Macroeconomic and Social Developments in Eastern Africa - Benchmarking Performance towards National, Regional and International Goals

Following growth of 6.6 per cent in 2018 and 6.1 per cent in 2019, the subregion was expected to record strong growth again in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought the economies of East Africa close to recession.

**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



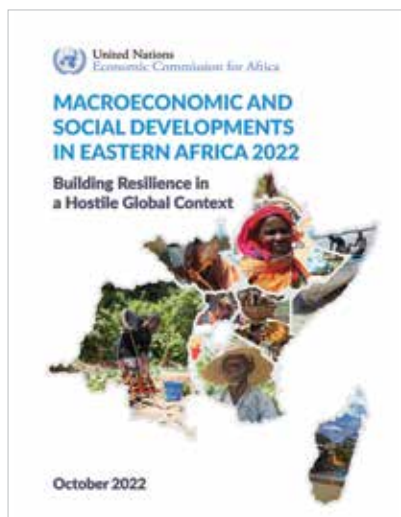


## Some of our recent publications



### **Rocking the Boat: the Socio-Economic Impact of Maritime Threats in the Western Indian Ocean**

This report seeks to understand the costs associated with the many maritime threats to the WIO region, examining the most pertinent threats to maritime security in the region today in greater detail. The cost of maritime threats is not strictly quantifiable in dollar terms. Insecurity in the maritime domain has proven implications for physical security, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity, and public health. Moreover, given that many of the maritime crimes discussed in this report are inherently clandestine activities, the full extent of these crimes is not fully documented. The socio-economic costs to vulnerable coastal populations and to those whose livelihoods depend on the sea.



### **Macroeconomic and Social Developments in Eastern Africa 2022: building resilience in a hostile global context**

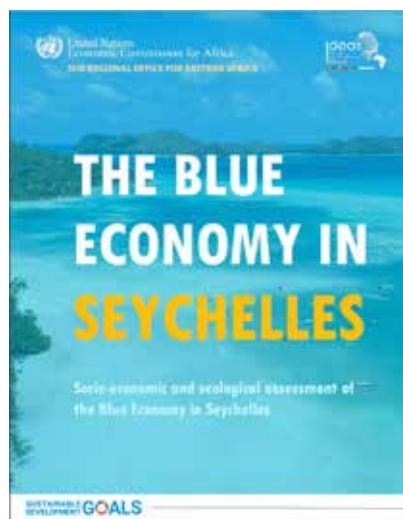
This report is focused on the period of economic recovery from the global pandemic, a recovery that started in 2021 and should have gained pace in 2022, were it not for an unfortunate set of circumstances, including severe drought in the Horn of Africa, conflict in the subregion and the breaking out of the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in February 2022. Serious climatic events seem to be becoming the norm for the region, with Madagascar badly affected by a prolonged drought on the southern part of the island, while South Sudan suffered major flooding in early 2022.

## Some of our recent publications



### The Socio-economic and ecological assessment of the Blue economy in Djibouti

The report provides insight into Djibouti's blue economy potential and gives a snapshot of the blue economy's contribution to the country, across its three dimensions. It provides information on the institutional environment and the place of the blue economy in national and sectoral development strategies.



### The Socio-economic and ecological assessment of the Blue Economy in Seychelles

This analytical report presents the results of a refined assessment of Seychelles' Blue Economy using the Blue Economy valuation toolkit (BEVTK) framework. The report provides sound context relating to the Blue Economy in Seychelles, as well as the findings of the analysis relating to the economic, social and ecological dimensions of the Blue Economy.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



# Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK) User Manual

The blue economy valuation toolkit was developed to guide in-depth subregional and national socioeconomic assessments to support informed decision-making. It can be used for socioeconomic assessments in order to provide an accurate snapshot of the potential of the blue economy.

United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



## BLUE ECONOMY VALUATION TOOLKIT USER MANUAL

Updated: June 2021



Africa's Blue Economy facilitates 90% of trade, generates \$100 billion in tourism revenue, and employs 50 million Africans in fisheries, tourism, transport, energy and other aquatic-based industries. It has the potential to accelerate Africa's structural transformation in a way that is inclusive and sustainable.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







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