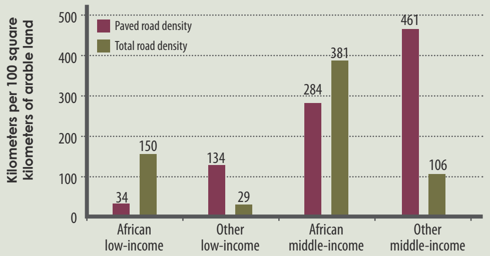
STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

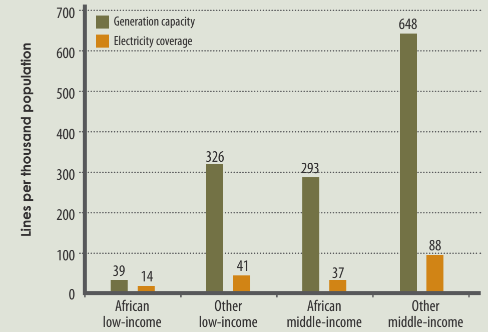
WIDESPREAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT

Despite the proliferation of programmes to remedy Africa's infrastructure deficit, the continent remains plagued by a crippling lack of energy, transport and telecommunication infrastructure. Current annual investment needs are estimated at USD 93 billion, with more than one third remaining unfunded and insufficient maintenance creating additional needs for expensive rehabilitation. The World Bank estimates that if Sub-Saharan Africa could improve its infrastructure to the levels comparable with those in Mauritius, its growth of real GDP per capita would increase by 2.3 per cent a year.

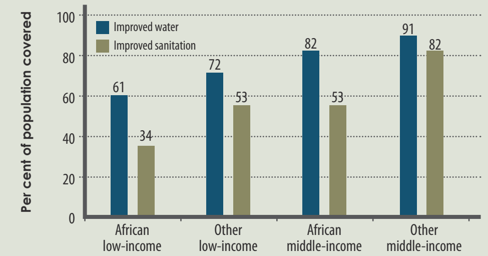
ROAD DENSITY



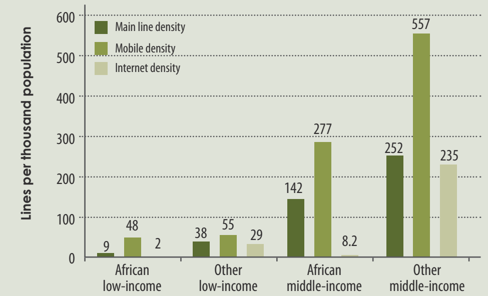
ELECTRICITY



WATER AND SANITATION



TELEPHONE



Source: Yepes, Pierce and Foster in World Bank and the Agence Française de Développment (2010) Africa's Infrastructure

UNFAVORABLE GLOBAL RULES

The unbalanced global economic system and its out-dated set of rules heavily disadvantage Africa. Bloated subsidy regimes, quotas, as well as high tariff and non-tariff barriers constrain its potential to escape unfavourable trading patterns and diversify its economies.

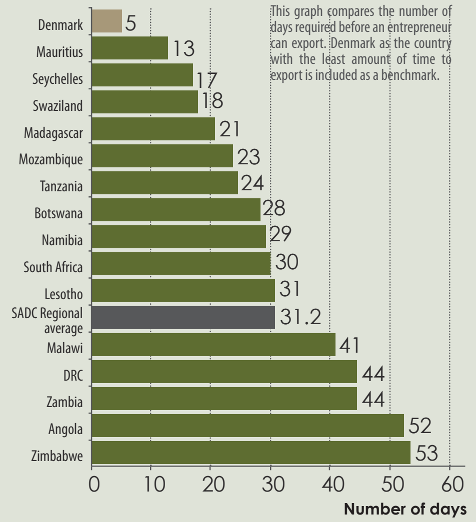
POOR MARKET QUALITY

The majority of African markets are plagued by their small market sizes, ethnic segmentation, high-percentage of informal activity, significant productivity gaps, skill mismatches, and low competitiveness. Particularly financial markets are still poorly developed.

POOR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS

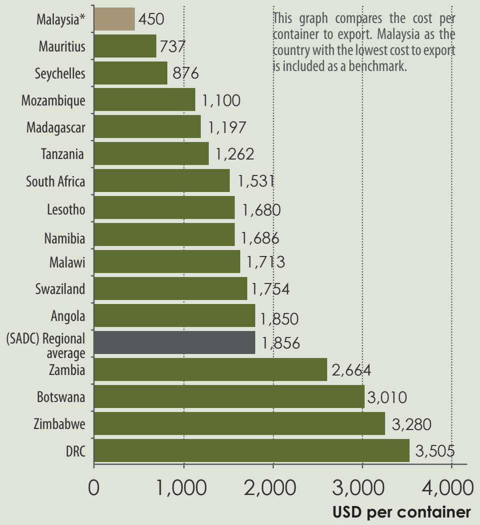
Despite notable reforms in some countries, Africa remains a difficult place for entrepreneurs which face greater regulatory and administrative burdens, and less protection of property and investor rights than in other regions. Complex tax codes and high compliance burdens imposed by an inefficient tax administration are powerful incentives for small enterprises to remain informal.

TIME TO EXPORT



Source: World Bank 2011, Doing Business Report: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs. SADC Regional Profile

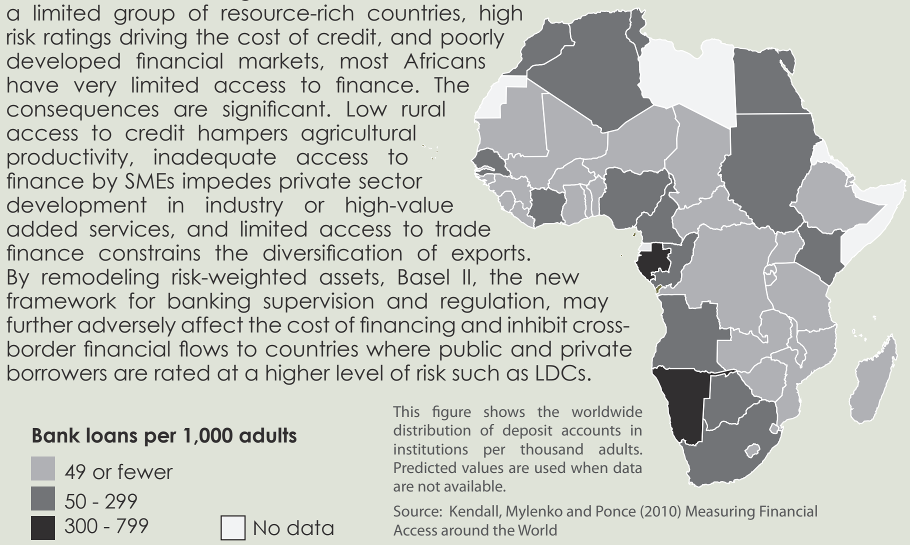
COST TO EXPORT



Source: World Bank 2011, Doing Business Report: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs. SADC Regional Profile

INSUFFICIENT ACCESS TO FINANCE

With FDI concentrating in the extractive sectors of a limited group of resource-rich countries, high risk ratings driving the cost of credit, and poorly developed financial markets, most Africans have very limited access to finance. The consequences are significant. Low rural access to credit hampers agricultural productivity, inadequate access to finance by SMEs impedes private sector development in industry or high-value added services, and limited access to trade finance constrains the diversification of exports. By remodeling risk-weighted assets, Basel II, the new framework for banking supervision and regulation, may further adversely affect the cost of financing and inhibit cross-border financial flows to countries where public and private borrowers are rated at a higher level of risk such as LDCs.



This figure shows the worldwide distribution of deposit accounts in institutions per thousand adults. Predicted values are used when data are not available.

Source: Kendall, Mylenko and Ponce (2010) Measuring Financial Access around the World

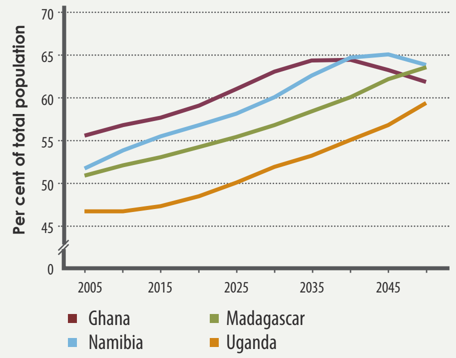
STRUCTURAL DRIVERS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

In contrast to what is happening in much of the rest of the world, Africa's labour force is continuing to expand. The continent currently has more than 500 million people of working age. By 2040, their number is projected to exceed 1.1 billion. Over the last two decades, three-quarters of the continent's increase in GDP per capita came from an expanding workforce, the rest from higher labour productivity. While population growth can create intense pressure on resources, public institutions and social stability, it also provides an enormous opportunity for the continent.

EXAMPLES OF GROWING POPULATION

(AGES 15-59)

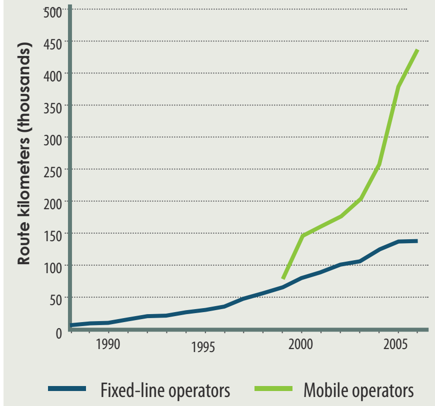


Note: Data through 2050 are based on the United Nations medium variant projection series.
Source: Ashford (2007) Africa's Youthful Population: Risk or Opportunity? Population Reference Bureau. USA.

SPREAD OF TECHNOLOGY

Whether by connecting people with each other, linking rural areas to the world, spreading knowledge, improving healthcare delivery or providing a basis for small businesses through mobile banking, the rapid spread of information and communication technologies has changed how Africa's people interact and its economies function. But the benefits of new technologies are in other sectors, such as manufacturing, where they are allowing African countries to leap frog development stages.

THE GROWTH OF THE MOBILE NETWORK



Source: Williams (2010), Broadband for Africa: Backbone Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa, World Bank, USA.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Africa has enormous potential for energy production from renewable sources – solar, hydro, wind and geothermal. Almost all Sub-Saharan African countries have sufficient renewable resources, exploitable with current technologies, to satisfy many times their current energy demand. (See chart on page 45.)

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Deepening regional integration holds enormous potential for economic growth and social development across the continent. According to UNCTAD, an investment of $32 billion to improve the main intra-African road network alone could generate around $250 billion in additional trade over a period of 15 years. As part of a broader development strategy, regional integration can enhance productive capacity, intensify economic diversification, and improve competitiveness. Pooled resources and economies of scale would also allow African countries to participate more effectively in the global economy.

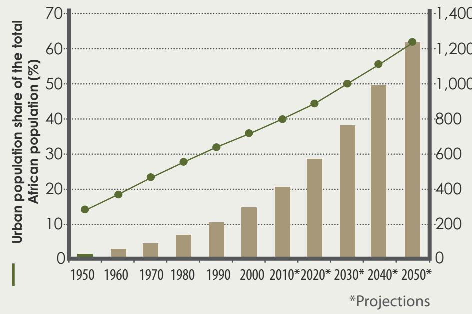
RISE IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

By 2014, the number of households with income of $5,000 or more is expected to reach 106 million. Africa already has more middle-class households (defined as those with incomes of $20,000 or above) than India. Africa's rising consumption will create more demand for local products, sparking a virtuous cycle through a growth in discretionary income. As a result, consumer-facing sectors such as retailing, banking, and telecom are set to grow fast.

INCREASING URBANIZATION

The high urbanization rate of the African continent which exceeds that of any other region can be a great asset by boosting productivity, demand, and investment by creating economies of scale. There is a clear need to avoid urban crowding and "slumification".

AFRICAN URBAN POPULATION TREND

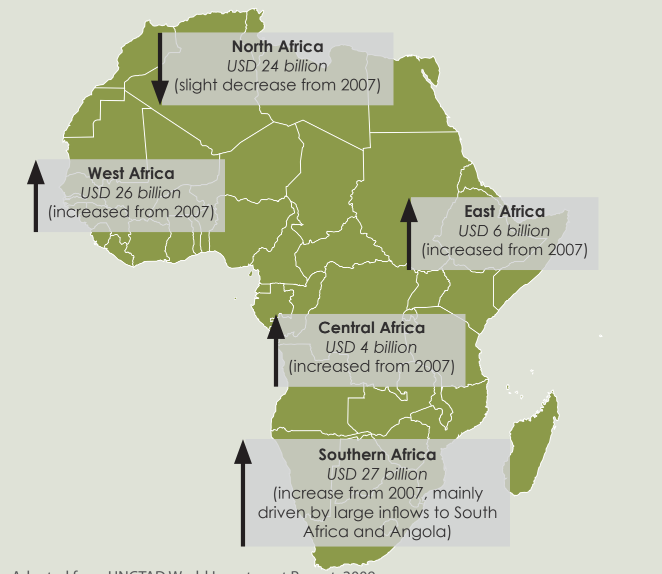


Source: World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision in UN-Habitat (2010) The State of African Cities.

RISE IN GLOBAL DEMAND

Africa will continue to profit from rising global demand for oil, natural gas, minerals, food, and arable land. Fast growing demand for raw materials has both positive and negative effects. On the negative side, it may discourage or at least slow the build up of other sectors. On the positive side, it will induce FDI not only to explore the resources, but also to develop infrastructure to reach and transport them which are bound to have positive spill-over effects.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF FDI IN AFRICA



Source: Adapted from UNCTAD World Investment Report 2009