

THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA

A MID-TERM REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Preparation

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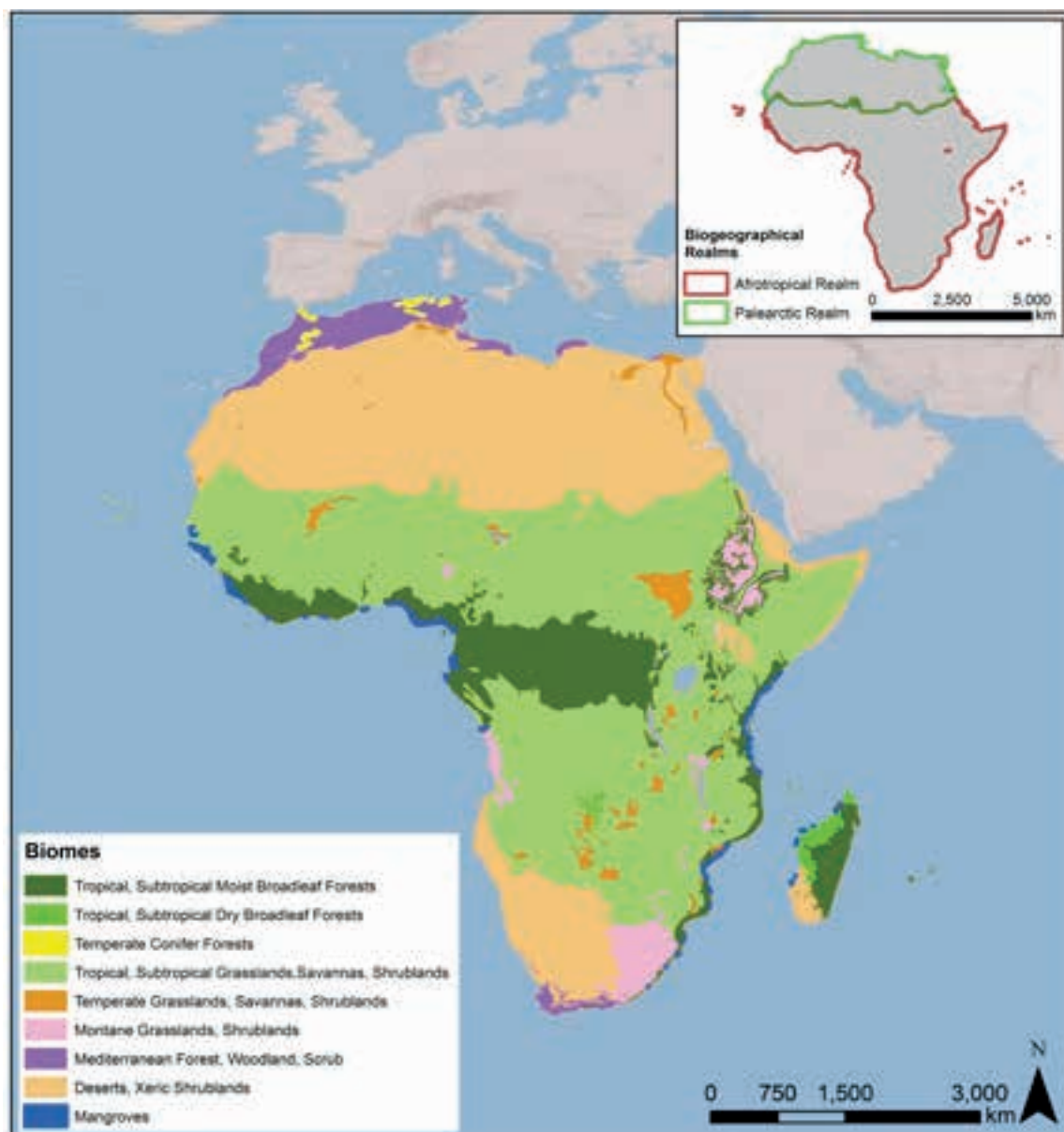
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Distribution of main biomes and biogeographical realms (inset) on land in the Africa region (map produced by UNEP-WCMC using data from Olson et al. 2001).



Map of countries and their Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) in the Africa region, based on the UNEP Live regional classification (UNEP 2015a).

FOREWORD

Africa is immensely rich in biodiversity. Its living organisms comprise around a quarter of global biodiversity and it supports the earth's largest intact assemblages of large mammals, which roam freely in many countries. Africa's biomes extend from mangroves to deserts, from Mediterranean to tropical forests, from temperate to sub-tropical and montane grasslands and savannahs, and even to ice-capped mountains. There are many examples of success and innovation in the conservation of Africa's biodiversity, yet Africa is also experiencing unprecedented rates of population growth, urbanization and agricultural development, which create immense challenges in reconciling human well-being with environmental and economic prosperity.

A strategic plan for biodiversity was adopted globally in 2010 by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* is a ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to conserve biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people. It is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and twenty ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A mid-term assessment of the implementation of the plan, at the global scale, was published in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4).

This second edition of *The State of Biodiversity in Africa* complements GBO-4 by analysing and assessing the status and trends of biodiversity in Africa against the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The report is a synthesis of existing material, though it does also include new analyses. It is a contribution towards the suite of regional assessments recently initiated by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and to the Sixth Edition of the Global Environmental Outlook.

The report identifies opportunities and challenges in implementing the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* in Africa and looks ahead to actions which need to be taken by national governments and other decision makers to enhance and accelerate progress towards its attainment.

Responding to these opportunities and tackling these challenges, requires collaborative effort across governments and many stakeholders within Africa. UNEP has a significant role to play in catalysing such action through stimulating trans-boundary action and collaborative effort across the region, building capacity within governments and within organizations active in sustainable development in Africa. It also can support planning for biodiversity through updating national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and facilitating policy coherence and mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors, innovation and piloting of new ideas and encouraging the mobilization of resources.

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