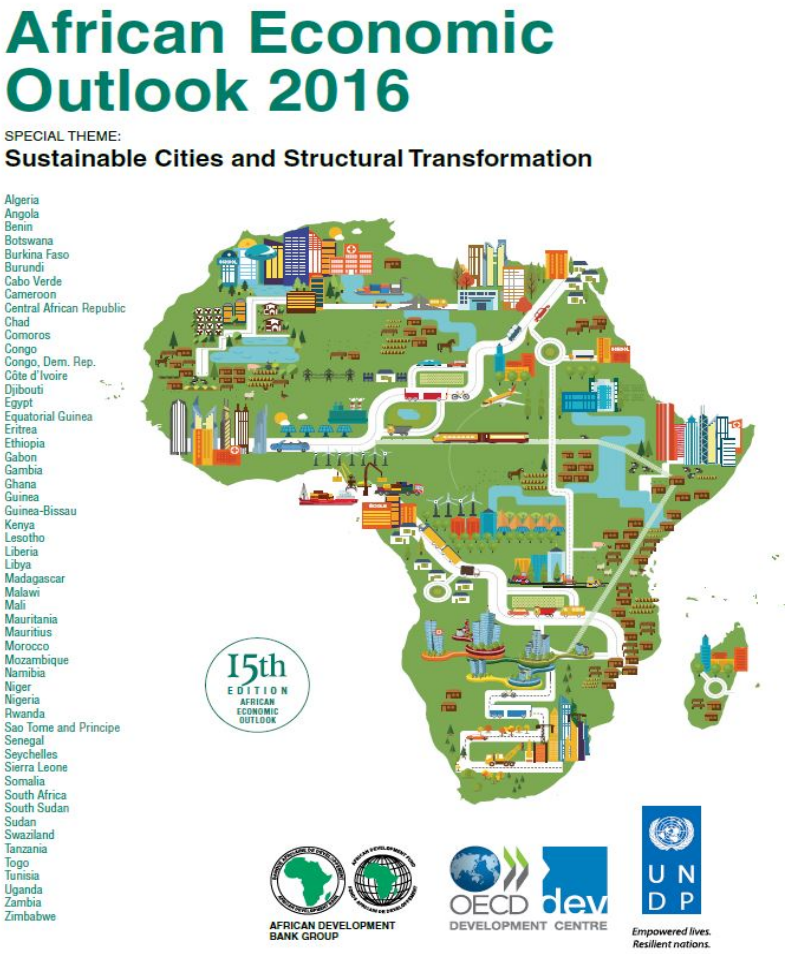
African Living Cities



Kookie Habtegaber,

WWF International

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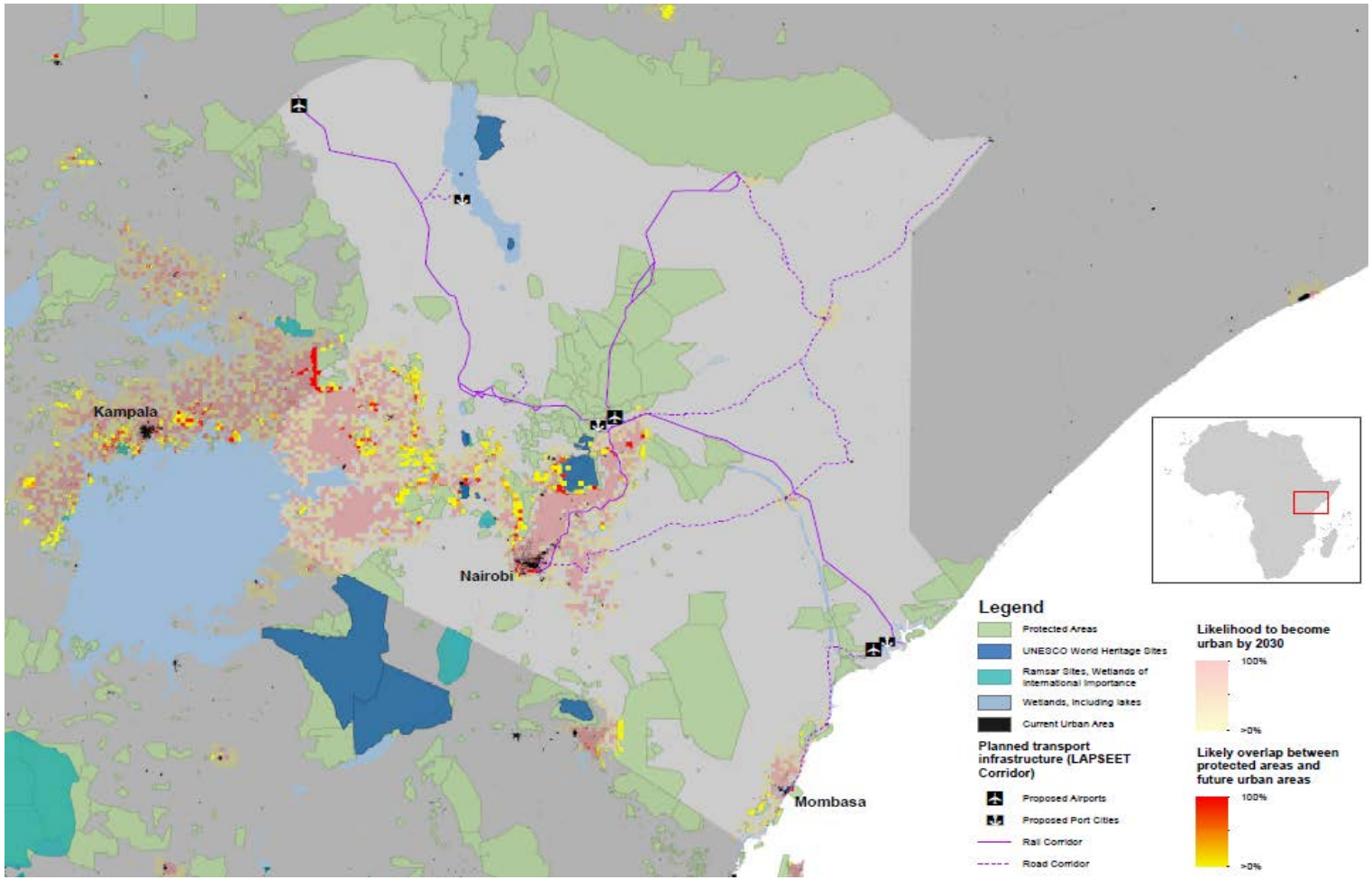
Findings

- **Better spatial planning and urban strategy linked with national development Planning**
  - Concentrating people in cities without proper management leads to land use changes, overexploitation of resources and degradation of ecosystems and ultimately impacts socio-economic development
  - Cities and towns face environmental risk such as water scarcity if they expand in the wrong places (wetlands & water catchment areas)
  - Urban wood fuel use is causing deforestation and forest degradation around many cities in Africa. 80% of household fuel in Africa and accounts for over 90% of harvested wood.

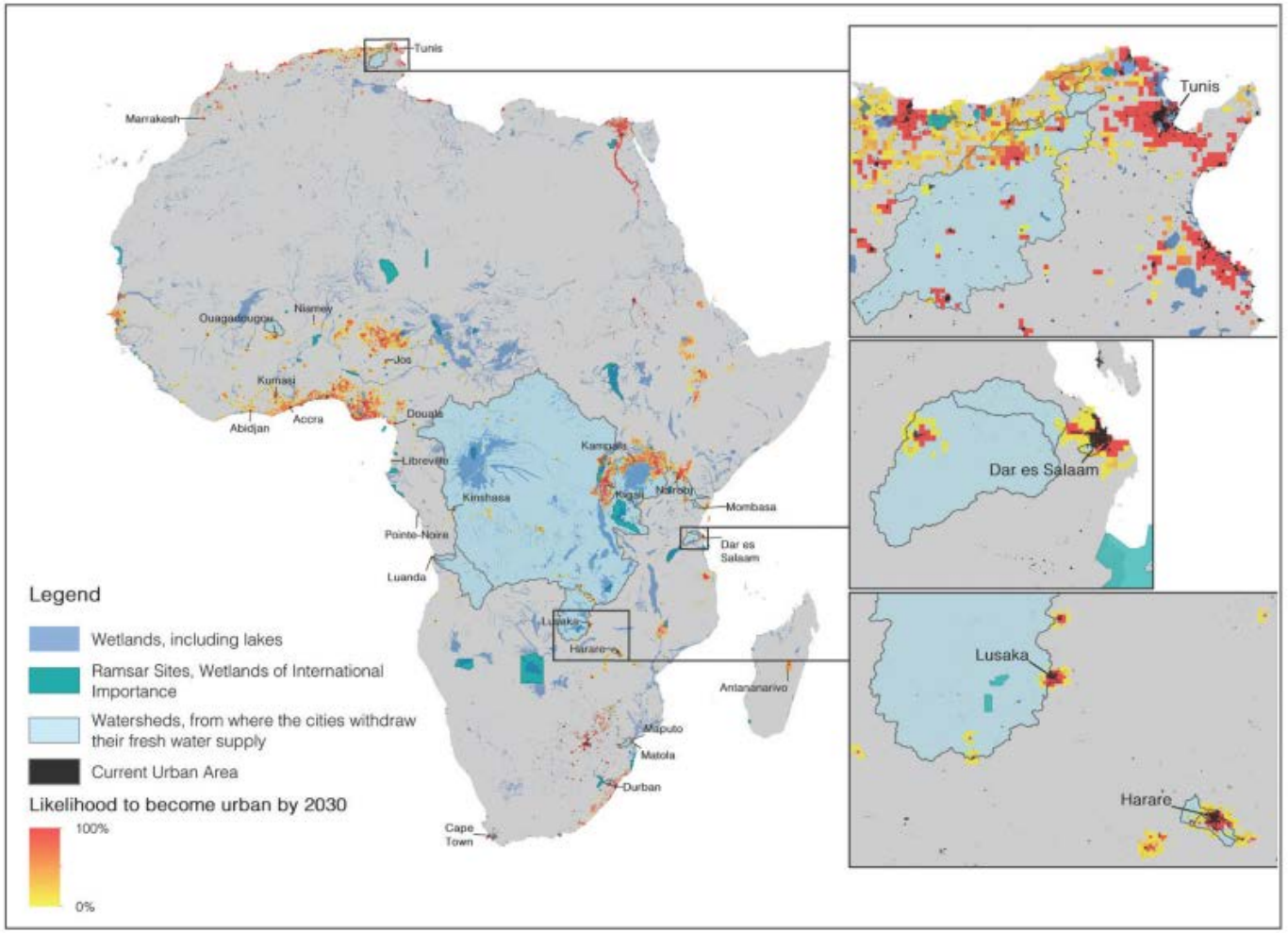
Planned road infrastructure in Kenya in relation to protected areas



Map by: www.mapographics.com

Multiple sources of water and overlays it with current and future urbanization

Map 7.4. Current and future urban areas in relation to watersheds in Africa



Source: WWF (2016), prepared for this edition of the *African Economic Outlook*, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC.

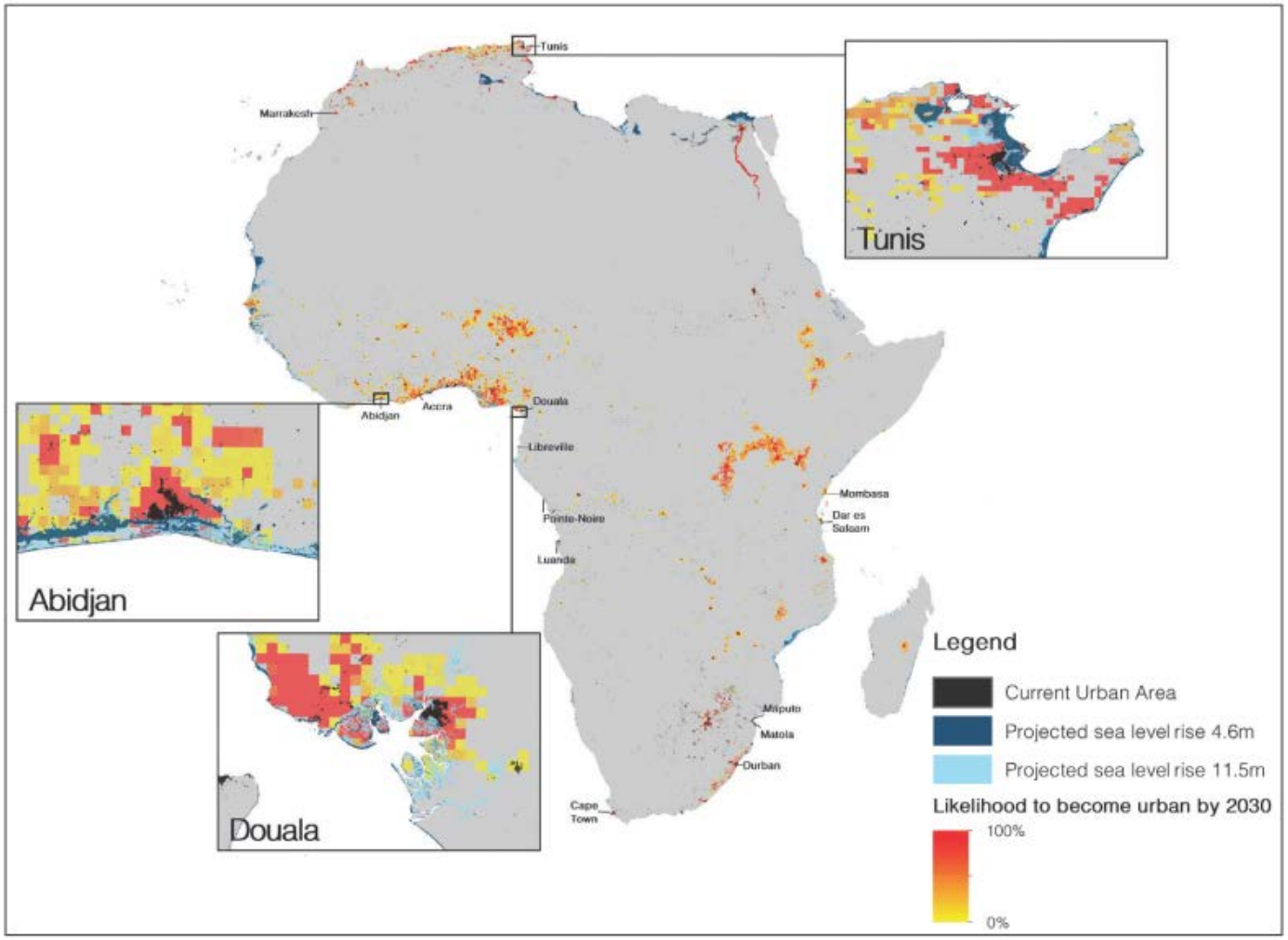
Map by: www.mapographics.com

Findings Cont.

- **Showing the "hidden value" of Nature for economic dynamism**
  - Need to recognize the regulating roles of ecosystems which are often far away from the urban/city centers.
  - Ecosystem services are often essential to provide basic services for informal settlements.
  - Estimated total value of wetland services in Africa = US$5.25 billion a year, far less than the $70 billion for Asia but, showing potential for greater returns.
  - Mangroves protect shorelines and boost fish numbers. Mangrove forests buffer coastlines against storms, ocean surge and sea-level rise; yet they are being threaten by port and other infrastructure without due study and valuation of their contribution to adopt to climate change impacts.
  - Half of the ten fastest growing economies in Africa have major centers of economic activity on the coast (Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Kenya) and yet, there have been few economic analyses of mangroves in Africa while CC will impact Africa more severely.

Coastal Cities. Climate Change. Urbanization

Map 6.2. African coastal cities affected by climate change



Source: WWF (2016), prepared for this edition of the *African Economic Outlook*, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC.

Map by: www.mapographics.com

Opportunities for African Cities

Africa can develop sustainable cities and lead the world in climate change adaptation and transition to a green economy.

- A low ecological footprint gives African cities a window of opportunity for sustainable development.
- Integrating environmental sustainability will avoid getting locked into a high carbon economy and reduce future costs of adaptation and pollution.
- Cities can make themselves attractive to investors by creating the enabling environment and policy for innovative financing mechanisms which can be used to sustainably manage resources and protect ecosystems (e.g.PES)

Some Conclusions

Africa's Current urban transition offers a window of opportunity to promote a more sustainable structural transformation

1. **Connecting cities the right way:** *Ensuring infrastructure policy, planning and implementation explicitly recognizes ecological assets, inside and outside city boundaries is a key step towards developing sustainable cities*
2. **Ecosystem valuation:** *both economic and in other terms – is an important precursor to understanding and properly building sustainable cities. National and city development plans need to recognize natural infrastructure and ecosystem services.*
   - *Spatial planning can be used to optimize multiple uses of natural resources and is essential to maintain ecosystem services*

Some Conclusions Cont.

3. Apply the landscape approach: *cities should be considered, not as separate entities, but an active part of a wider mosaic of land and water use to benefit people and the economy linking with rural communities. Spatial planning can be used to optimize multiple uses of natural resources and is essential to maintain ecosystem services*

NEXT STEPS

1. Integrate Environmental Indicators as part of the National Economic Development Plans:

- WWF calls on governments to start collecting relevant environmental data and information at the city and sub-regional level so that policy interventions will be evidence-based and account for local relevance and context.

2. Conduct Continent wide cost/benefit analysis of ecosystem services:

- WWF, together with partners, can help fill this gap and build the right knowledge and capacity analyzing the value of these ecosystems so they are maintained and continue to benefit present and future generations.
- In collaboration with RAMSAR and others, to value, collect data and better understand the contribution of wetlands to economic growth at the city level and national level.

NEXT STEPS Cont.

3. Be smart and leapfrog

- Link climate change policies, development plans and urbanization strategies (develop one in coherence)
- Provide Renewables and off-grid electricity for informal settlements
- Redirect fossil fuel subsides to invest in renewable (see: http://recalc.wwf.no/)

NEXT STEPS Cont.

Pollute now, clean up later is not an option for Africa

Cities and sustainable urban development offer a clear opportunity that can allows governments to plan, design, develop and finance economic development in a coherent and impactful way to improve the quality of life for their citizens , enable economic dynamism and make liveable cities a hallmark of Africa; this instead of unplanned and uncontrolled, unequal urban development that does not benefit everyone. The one key thing that is required, is: **Political will and long term thinking.**