

# Mainstreaming Sustainability in African Ports

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# Sustainability – African Ports

Most Sub-Saharan Africa ports in the past decade have been undergoing institutional restructuring to improve efficiency and contribute to socio-economic growth.

Some are showing significant growth - increasing vessel and cargo traffic.

Development intersects with sustainability becoming a guiding principle for long-term development.

Ports on the continent – as elsewhere - are expected to balance economic growth with ESG considerations and impacts - looking beyond commercial & profitability scope.



# Need for Coordinated Environmental Sustainability Action

Improving port environment & sustainability is challenging.

Issues range from climate vulnerability to emissions, discharges that pollute air, water & land; dredging and disposal of dredged material; traffic congestion; *inter-alia* with negative implications for port infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystems & public health.

Constraints are largely transboundary in nature & common for African ports.

Therefore require coordinated approaches to tackle.

However there is lack of recourse to environmental & sustainability linkages among African ports.



# Sustainability cannot be tackled by a single port or country

Cooperation is needed to tackle port sustainability.

Action for environmental sustainability presents itself as a driver for change for African ports.

It presents opportunities for African ports to cooperate towards a common path of sustainability

Mainstreaming sustainability will enhance their competitiveness – more compliant ports get more vessel calls (IMO's 2035 deadline).



# Key challenges to mainstreaming sustainability in African ports

Limited infrastructure & aging assets

High cost of sustainable technologies

Weak environmental governance structures

Limited private sector Incentives

Capacity and skills Gaps

Port–City interface challenges

Policy & regulatory gaps



## Practical, measurable steps

Basic environmental management practices

Establish an environmental unit or focal point

Enhance monitoring & reporting

Improve energy efficiency

Promote digitalization & reduce paperwork

Encourage green port awareness

Strengthen collaboration & knowledge sharing

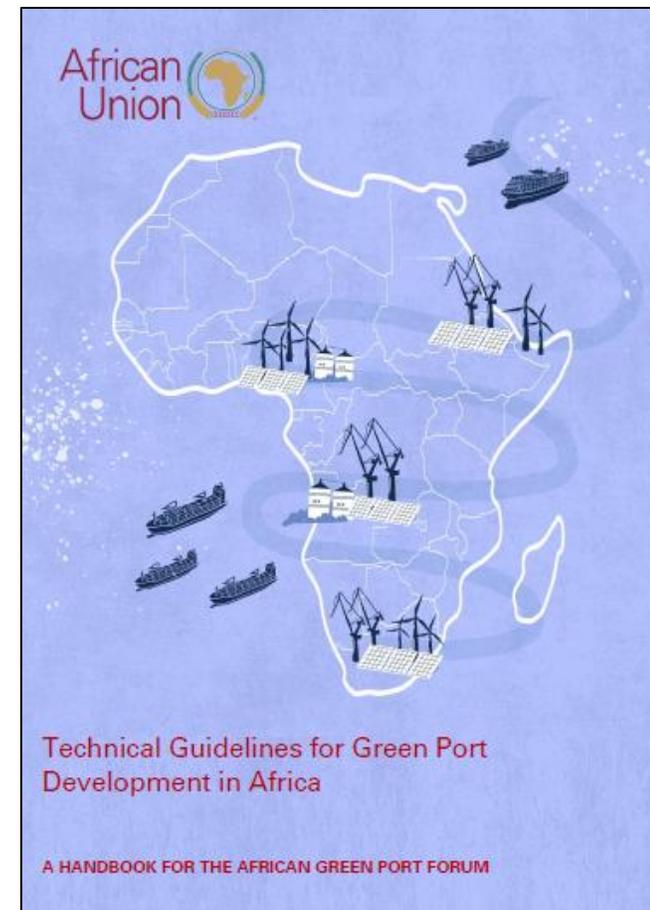


# Examples of initiatives

**African Green Ports Forum – headed by the African Union Commission**

**Toolkit for Green Port Development – led by the Nairobi Convention**

**Ports Environmental Network Africa (PENAF)**



Thank you for your attention.

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