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DIGITAL ERA IN AFRICA (IAIA2015) (V.2)

Digital Era without power sockets: IA in Africa

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1. Situation in Africa

1. Population growth

- Africa is the continent with the highest population growth



2. Economic growth

- Around 4-5% in the whole continent.
- Continuous (not cyclic) growth.



Unseen and unprecedented pressure on natural resources

2. Environmental pressures on natural resources

- A. Destruction of forests and woodlands and elimination of the vegetation from natural areas



Agriculture in a woodland



Production of coal from forest trees



Cities growing without proper planning

2. Environmental pressures on natural resources

- B. Intensive coastal changes



Wetlands squeezed and pushed by buildings



Beaches disappear because of stronger hydrodynamism (mangroves were removed)

2. Environmental pressures on natural resources

- C. Changes in the drainage and catchment river basins



Depletion of water in the river courses



Use of river sediments

3. Major impacts: Nemus' experience

Four areas where the impacts aren't being well contained.



1. Coastal areas

Salt marshes, mangroves, sand dunes and wetlands



2. Biodiversity

Quick ongoing loss of fauna and flora species



3. River basin management

Land use functions, pollution, dams and retaining structures, use of groundwater



4. Moving and resettlement of populations

Great progresses still need to be made to assure justice and dignity for all

4. Contributions to the AIA process

- Positive aspects about the AIA process:
 - It is **well accepted** and **recognised** in most countries
 - It is a way of letting people **know** and **engage** in important projects
 - It presents characterization, diagnosis and identification of impacts
- Many different systems in the AIA process:
 - Assessments with **great in-depth and complexity**, normally related to widely known investors (e.g. Oil & Gas companies).
 - Studies and assessments showing superficial analysis and poor identification of impacts leading to inadequate measures.



4. Contributions to the AIA process

- Critical point: *capacitation* of the environmental authorities
 - Authorities lack knowledge (theoretical)
 - Authorities lack power to impose measures and actions
- In most cases, the proposed measures are not applied with the desired efficiency

- Post-assessment:
 - Mostly not done
 - Existing data: insufficient
 - Data available: shows measures fail to be implemented in most cases



5. Conclusions

- The AIA process is necessary and unavoidable in Africa
- Still with potential to do **better**, to **improve**.

- What needs to change:
 - Degradation and destruction of vital natural resources of an entire continent
 - We need to do **more** and **better** to reach higher and more sustainable ways and practices



5. Digital Era in Africa

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Maputo, Mozambique: Capulana improvised curtains bought by Nemus to darken the meetings room



Small village, Malawi: Public participation regarding the construction of a water dam



Road do Ponta do Ouro, Mozambique: reached safe limit for field work (landmines)



Gaza, Mozambique: road disappeared in a flood event

Thank you

